



End of an East Finchley Era

By Diana Cormack



Another long-established business in East Finchley has closed down. Only a short time after Tom's Butchers closed its doors, Finchley Pets has had to do the same. So, after more than 50 years, there is no longer a pet shop in East Finchley.

The first was set up by Peggy Darvill and her husband, who rented space in part of another shop near Barclays Bank. When the business grew they moved to 1 Lincoln Parade, at the corner of Lincoln Road and the High Road, where Finchley Pet Stores traded for over 40 years.

Some of the customers were residents of The Bishops Avenue

and Winington Road. Notable amongst these was the immensely rich Sultan of Brunei, whose staff took large monthly deliveries of cat and rabbit food along with fish food supplies for the royal carp. Peggy also served members of the East Enders cast and TV personality Katie Boyle, before they all moved out of the area.

Loss of service

Now Mike Ryan and his son-in-law Gerry have had to

move too. Although, as reported in December's ARCHER, trade for them was not what it used to be, there are many pet owners in East Finchley who relied on Finchley Pets. Not only could they get food and other necessities for their pets, but also good, useful and free advice as well. All their customers, particularly the old, the infirm and children, will be hit by this closure and will have to look hard for a similar service.

East Finchley loses another pub -

Red Lion Closed

By Hugh Petrie

On 26 November 2002, The Red Lion closed. Established before 1715, when Anne Wyatte left it to her sister Elizabeth Heard, it was originally *The Rabbit* (by 1720s *The Three Rabbits*). A clapperboard house with a red tiled roof, it was at the extreme edge of the 18th century hog market. For drovers, coming from as far away as Wales, the sign of *The Three Rabbits*, would have signalled the beginning of the largest hog market in Middlesex. Once the pigs had been penned, the drover would have gone to *The George* to sell his stock to local pig dealers, whilst his men would have piled into *The Three Rabbits* for a well earned drink.



The Red Lion in its heyday. Photo by Ray Swan

In 1786 a London printer and bookseller, called James Barker, bought the house, calling it *The Red Lion* and giving the area its name. In the 1820s the parish constables described

the house as disorderly, stating that it was open when 'divine service' was being held at the parish church of St Mary's (Church End). The Claridge family held the house from around this period until the 1860s, and had for a time a slaughterhouse for pigs. By the 1870s the market had finished as a weekly event, and in 1888 (when Meux Brewery bought the property) skittles and a pleasure garden show that the house was no longer connected with pigs. At the end of 1901 work commenced on Elmfield Road - a new road between Long Lane and Red Lion Hill - and the building standing today was erected. The old house was then pulled down. The new occupier of the *Red Lion Hotel* was William Bishop.

For the Young-at-Heart

The Church Farmhouse Museum in Hendon is going back to childhood for its latest exhibition.

British-made Playthings 1900-1990 is a reminder of the importance of Britain's once-thriving indigenous toy industry at a time when most toys and games sold in this country are actually made abroad - even if they bear British companies' names.

The exhibition will concentrate on dolls and soft toys from the collection of doll enthusiast Brenda Faris. There will also be a chance to get 'hands-on' with plenty of toys and games for children - and adults.

Japhet and Happy

The second part of the exhibition features children's cartoons by JF Horrabin.

Horrabin, who lived in Hendon from the 1950s until his death in 1962, was a cartoonist and map-maker whose "Japhet and Happy" cartoon strip ran in the *News Chronicle* from the 1930s to the 1950s. At its height *Japhet and Happy* was as popular as *Rupert the Bear* in the *Daily Express*, with its own annuals, souvenirs and children's club.

The exhibition runs until 23 February and admission is free. Museum opening times are: Mon-Thur: 10am-12.30pm, 1.30-5pm. (Fri: Closed). Sat: 10am-1pm, 2-5.30pm. Sun: 2-5.30pm.

New Year, New Look

By Diana Cormack

If you made a New Year resolution to sort out your surroundings but don't know where to start, help is at hand. Forget those TV programmes that solve all your paraphernalia problems in half an hour - it can take a two hour session just to clear out a wardrobe. At least that's what Sue Kay of East Finchley says and she should know, for Sue is an expert in the art of 'decluttering'.

After her 40th birthday Sue took a new direction in life. A book influenced her to have a major 'decluttering' of her possessions and this led to her helping family and friends to do the same. She decided to let her old life go and set up in business on her own. Decluttering and organising really appeal to Sue because they make use of her skills and experience. Her degree in psychology gives her an insight into the emotional reasons for holding onto things and the benefits of letting them go.

Since last May Sue has been running her London-wide "no more clutter" from Fairlawn Avenue. Her background in information and design helps her to set up organisational systems geared to the individual client. But who are her clients? Often they are people who have reached a point in their lives when they feel ready for a change, whether it be for the home or workplace. Sue will do small jobs like reorganising your wardrobe or she can blitz your whole house or office. But don't worry about

being bullied or made to throw away things that you use and love. She will work alongside you, offering a calm, impartial perspective.

Let it go

Charities can benefit from your unwanted goods or you can sell them and treat yourself on the proceeds. Instead of feeling overwhelmed and disorganised,

you can relax in stress free surroundings where you are more in control. Letting go of the old stuff can free you emotionally to allow new opportunities and experiences into your life. Now that sounds like a really good way to start the New Year!

For details phone 07974 076 675 or email sue@nomoreclutter.co.uk.

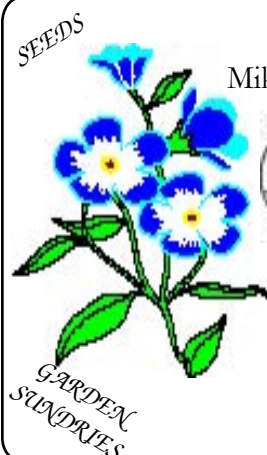


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