



Diamond Day

By John Dearing

Gladys and Donald Rowe celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on Saturday 14 June with a gathering of friends and relatives at their home in Homefield Gardens. Visitors included their daughter Dorothy, their two granddaughters and one great granddaughter. Then they were off to a party in their honour at the Homefield Gardens hall, which was specially decorated for the event

60 Years Together

Donald was born in Church End 85 years ago. He joined the army in 1939, serving in the Artillery in Northern Ireland for two years, before going to Liverpool. Gladys was born in Knotty Ash and went to the same school as Ken Dodd. She used to go to the NAAFI dances on Monday nights, and there Gladys and Donald met.

They were married in Huyton in 1943, but were not together long before the war called and Donald was involved in the D-Day landings in Normandy. Re-united in 1945, they lived briefly in Temple Fortune, before returning to Finchley, settling in Sedgemere Avenue, where they lived for 43 years.

Commuting

Donald spent most of his working life in stationery and office furniture sales, commuting to town, while Gladys worked at a variety of activities including 12 years in the Women's Voluntary Service doing meals on wheels and 8 years as the afternoon cashier at The Phoenix.

THE ARCHER and all its readers congratulate them both and wish them all the best for the future.



Turan Turan shows Noel Lynch an air-bag restraining device. Photo by Erini Rodis.

Our Community Fire Station

By Erini Rodis

It's not all helmets and hoses at the Fire brigade in Long Lane, as Green Party London Assembly Member Noel Lynch found out when he visited in early June. Noel was appointed to the Fire Brigade Authority in mid May and met station commander Turan Turan for a tour of the changes inside the art deco building.

The station's mobilising system – the shockingly loud bell – has been replaced by a clear woman's voice to inform them of a call-out, just like on the tube... and thanks to strict health and safety guidelines visitors are no longer allowed to slide down the fireman's pole.

Getting technical

On the appliance (which we tend to call a fire engine) breathing apparatus with gas and radio attached have been made 'intrinsically safe' – which means they can work in hostile environments. A rapid intervention kit now includes a combination tool with a 3 ton cutting capacity – ideal for opening lift doors or cutting open car wrecks. Airbag restraining devices allow the bag off sideways instead of in a fire fighter's face, and all

of these, plus water hydrants, need to be checked and maintained on a regular basis.

Prevention

Operations have become more focused on community fire prevention than emergency response. "It's great when someone who has done a rescue turns out to be a child who's followed a plan they learned at school" says SDO Alan Payton, "It's great to

bring them in and thank them for that – and it's the icing on the cake for them."

Free alarms

As part of a London-wide initiative, Mr Turan says he will "supply a smoke alarm to any elderly person who doesn't already have one, and we'll fit it free of charge."

For details including where to fit it, contact the station on 020 7587 4753

Another Clean Sweep

In May THE ARCHER carried a request from the RSPCA clinic in Park Road, for a volunteer cleaner.

The appeal was rapidly answered by fifteen-year-old Charlotte Lea-Robbins, of Park Hall Road. She was looking for a service to do as part of her silver medal in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Having successfully completed the bronze section when she was fourteen, Charlotte is a year ahead and cannot go on for the gold award until she is eighteen.

Charlotte, a former pupil of St James CE Primary School, Muswell Hill is in Year 10 at The Mount School in Mill Hill. She enjoys netball, ice-skating at Alexandra Palace and attends Majorie Millons ballet classes in East Finchley. Charlotte loves cats and she has three of them. She also has a hamster, which probably has one of the cleanest cages in the area.

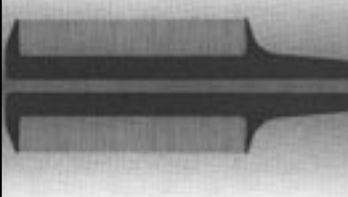
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