



THE ARCHER

PO Box 3699

LONDON N2 8JA

Tel (voicemail)/Fax:

Editorial/enquiries: -
08717 33 44 65

Advertising/finance: -
08717 33 45 28

e-mail: the-archer@
lineone.net
<http://www.the-archer.co.uk>

PUBLISHER
East Finchley
Newspapers

EDITOR
Kevin Finn

EDITORIAL TEAM
David Hobbs
Daphne Chamberlain
Diana Cormack

PICTURE EDITORS
Daniel Ferri
Erini Rodis

SUB-EDITOR
Frances Loveday

DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Alison Roberts
Tony Roberts
Paul Northam

ADVERTISING
John Dearing
Toni Morgan

FINANCE
Sue Holliday

DISTRIBUTION
Pam Kent
Alison Roberts

CONTRIBUTORS
John Dearing
Geoff Garfield
Robert Moore
Jane Revell
Emma Seery
Sonia Singham
Femke van Iperen

Thank you to Madden's Ale House for providing us with a meeting place.

THE ARCHER team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

Your contributions

If you have a news item, memory or anecdote please send it in to us at the above address.

THE ARCHER aims to publish on the first weekend each month. To maximise the chance of publication, all contributors are urged to submit their articles early the preceding month:

14 October is the copy deadline for the November issue.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Utilities (for N2)

Eastern Energy 0800 783 8838
London Electricity 0800 096 9000
OFTEL 020 7634 8700
Thames Water 0845 920 0888
Three Valleys Water 0845 782 3333
Gas consumers cncl. 0645 060708
Transco Gas Emerg. 0800 111 999

Councils

Barnet
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Health Authority 020 8201 4700
Com'ty Health Cncl 020 8349 4364
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8975 9700

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
Cophall Sports Ctr. 020 8361 8658
E. Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
Gt North Leisure Pk. 020 8343 9830
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8883 2233
Tourist Info Service 0870 126 4018
Warner Cinema Village 020 8446 9933

**Calls to 09065 numbers are charged at £1.50 per minute.*

Help & Advice

Barnet Racial Equality Council 020 8446 0445
Childline 0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau 020 8349 0954
Cruse Bereavement Care 020 7431 7122
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935
E Finchley Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape Crisis Centre 020 7837 1600
Relate 020 8445 0888
Samaritans 020 8889 6888
Refuge National Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDS Helpline 0800 567123
Alcoholics Anonymous 020 7352 3001
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
CancerLink 0800 132905
Carers National Assoc. 020 8343 3665
Drinkline 0800 9178282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Information Service 0800 665544
Homeopathic Helpline 09065 343404*
MIND 020 8343 5700
N. London Blood Service 020 8258 2700

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Barnet OAPs Welfare 020 8441 4853
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
Counsel & Care 0845 300 7585
Help the Aged 0800 096 2541

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8200 1212
Golders Gr. Police 020 8209 1212
Muswell Hill Police 020 8442 1212
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 020 8343 4435

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Edgware General 020 8952 2381
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 3121
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070
Western Eye Hosp 020 7886 6666

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 484950
City Airport 020 7646 0000
Greenline 020 8668 7261
LT Enquiries 020 7222 1234
Grey-Green 020 8800 8010
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow 020 8759 4321

Animal Welfare

Nat Strays Bureau 09065 123999*
RSPCA 0870 5555999



The memorial service. Photo by Toni Morgan

Memorial to Valentine

By Daphne Chamberlain

They played the Last Post, laid a poppy wreath and quoted Winston Churchill. 138 years after his suicide, the Army paid tribute to Valentine Bambrick, the disgraced VC buried in an unmarked grave in East Finchley's Islington Cemetery.

Nobody knows his actual resting-place, but he now has a commemorative plaque in the funeral chapel.

The story of the VC who was stripped of his medal and committed suicide in Pentonville Prison was told in *THE ARCHER* last year, but it was Barnet Archivist Andrew Mussell who first brought it to light locally with a talk in East Finchley Library.

In 1863, Bambrick - a 26 year-old honoured for "conspicuous bravery" - marked his last night in the Army by a fight with another soldier. He is said to have been protecting a woman from a beating, but the other man, whose medals disappeared after the fight, accused him of assault and robbery.

That was the version his trial

judge chose to believe, attributing Bambrick's behaviour to drink, and he was not inclined to be lenient. Bambrick lost his VC and his pension, and was sentenced to three years penal servitude. After only three months he hanged himself.

Mrs Diddy Grahame of the VC and GC Association, whose research uncovered the story, told *THE ARCHER* that he was not the only VC to suffer traumas and reversals of fortune, which were not understood at the time. She believes that the judge was unsympathetic, though Bambrick's attitude in court didn't help him.

A heroic fighter

General Wallace, from his old regiment, agreed. "I suspect he was a typical rifleman - sometimes unhappy with orders, but

dour and tenacious. We want to remember him as a heroic fighter, and forget the rest. It's doubtful whether he would have been found guilty today."

Half a century later, George V ruled that a VC could never be taken away - even on the scaffold, but that was too late for Bambrick. When he was sentenced, he said, "It is of no consequence what you do now... I don't care what you do with me".

What would he have thought of last month's ceremony, attended by Islington's Mayor and Barnet's Deputy Mayor, as well as the military?

Derek Warren of the Finchley Society, who helped lead the campaign to recognise him, said simply, "It was really rather touching".

EAST FINCHLEY ADVICE SERVICE

42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

General Advice.

Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.
Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Immigration Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appointment only.

Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

You can contact
East Finchley's Community Police Officer, PC Paul Carter,
at The Community Office,
Golders Green Station,
Tel: 020 8733 5562 or e-mail:
paul.carter@met.police.uk

Forum Report - East Finchley focus

By Daphne Chamberlain
The September Forum was held in the Green Man Centre at Strawberry Vale. Waitrose

Apparently no planning application has been received. The Forum was told that as the matter is still at the discussion stage, it would be inappropriate to comment. If and when an application comes in, local residents will be consulted.

Cherry Tree Wood

Residents of Cherry Tree Road complained about noise and vandalism since the park has been kept open all night. Recently two windows have been broken along the road. The complaint was noted.

Ossulton Way crossing

The new signals are in operation. The delay was attributed to resurfacing at the junction and repairs to a signal pole. The pole had been damaged in an accident.

Friern Barnet Town Hall

It was suggested from the floor that this should be maintained and used as a museum and archive centre.

The next Finchley Forum will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 6 November at Avenue House, East End Road, N3. See page 5 for news of buses.

4th Brookland Art Show

A selling exhibition by local artists and craftspeople for the benefit of Brooklands Schools.

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 October 11am - 5pm

Admission free
Brooklands Schools, Hill Top, London NW11.