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Local News Is Our Aim

# THE ARCHER



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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*

## Supermarket Dashed?

By Diana Cormack

Hundreds of residents packed All Saints Church in Durham Road to air their views at the Warning On Waitrose (WOW) meeting. Feelings were running high in the cross-section of our community, ranging in age from eight to 80. Despite chairwoman Annette O'Gorman encouraging opinions both for and against the proposed supermarket, only those opposed seemed moved to speak. Indeed, so many locals wanted to be heard that applause had to be cut out in order to provide more speaking time.

### Traffic concerns

The public's concerns generally reflected those of WOW: The expected increase in traffic could cause more congestion, pollution and parking problems. The superstore seems to be for the benefit of people driving in from other areas rather than those in the locality. Despite Waitrose and Barnet Council stating that it would "regenerate" East Finchley by bringing more customers to High Road shops, most local shopkeepers and their customers believe it would be detrimental to trade.

Many people expressed anger that Barnet Council seems ready to destroy the village atmosphere and community feeling which East Finchley enjoys. There has been no public consultation and the Council cabinet were even proposing to discuss compulsory purchase before any formal plans had been lodged.

### It stinks

Addressing the WOW audience, MP Dr. Rudi Vis said that the move by the Cabinet was "Underhand" and added, "whoever the administration might

be, Conservative, Labour or anyone else, this is wrong and it stinks!"

### A giveaway

Doubts were cast as to the wisdom of the Council's proposal to give away Park House, whilst in return leasing the new library building back from Waitrose. It was suggested that, were Park House (estimated value over £1 million) to be sold, there would be plenty of money to refurbish our present library, thus allowing it to remain in its more sensible location. Any threat to Martin School field might then be eliminated.

### Local representation

East Finchley councillors Alison Moore and Colin Rogers said they would represent local opinion. Representatives from property developers Kiafield also spoke at the end of the meeting, but failed to convince their audience. (*Kiafield answers back - see page 4*).

To contact Warning On Waitrose write to 22A, Aylmer Parade, London N2 0PH or see [www.stopsuperstore.co.uk](http://www.stopsuperstore.co.uk)



Full house - the WOW meeting at All Saints Church. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Decision Postponed

An agenda item for Barnet Council's Cabinet that dealt with the proposed Waitrose supermarket and library complex in East Finchley was withdrawn at the last minute on Monday 20 January. The reason given on the night by Cllr. Brian Salinger was that the Cabinet had not been given enough time to adequately prepare.

### Recommendations

The paper, available on Barnet Council's web site, recommended that the Cabinet approve a number of items, including: The redevelopment of the site for a supermarket, library and car park (if necessary, and

subject to the developers providing supporting evidence, to make a compulsory purchase order on the outstanding interests in the lands and buildings on the site) and to sell Park House to the developers at nil value in exchange for a 125 year lease on the new library at a pepper-corn rent.

### Underhand

News that the Council was contemplating this move angered residents and businesses alike, particularly as the Cabinet meeting was, coincidentally, taking place at the same time as the 'Warning on Waitrose' meeting in East Finchley.

At the time of going to press, no date has been set for the paper to be considered by Cabinet, and no formal planning application has been submitted regarding the proposed redevelopment of the site in question.

Kiafield's reply and more Waitrose news on page 4.

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

### Your contributions

*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.*

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

**14 February is the copy deadline for the March issue.**

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## Residents Fear More Road Deaths

Residents of the 'county roads' are petitioning Barnet council to install speed cushions to slow traffic cutting through between the High Road and Fortis Green. People living in the roads say it is only a matter of time before somebody is knocked down and killed.

The petition was started by Michael McMenemy, of Huntingdon Road, who claims to have strong backing from both parents and children. "It took a woman's death on Fortis Green to get a pedestrian crossing," he said. "We are not prepared to wait for a funeral before anything happens here."

Anne Isaac, also of Huntingdon Road, describes the incident when her eight-year-old son, Fred, saved his younger brother Jack. "The lorry must have been doing 60 mph," she said. "Luckily, Fred had the sense to grab Jack and pull him out of the way. It's really getting very bad. I'm not a great one for these local battles, but I think this has just got out of hand."

Several pets have already been run over. Residents say the danger is increased by the difficulty vehicles have in passing

each other in the roads, with cars typically being parked along both sides. Drivers accelerate to get to the end of the roads before somebody comes the other way.

### Speed bumps or what?

The petition has been presented to the council's local 'Agenda 21' partnership, but Peter Hale, its traffic and transport co-ordinator, is warning that the council's leadership does not seem to favour speed bumps, and that residents may have to consider other ideas.

"The new administration is still working out their policy, but we think they are not keen on any kind of speed cushion," he says. "I've lived in the county roads myself and I'm well aware of the problem. It's a tricky one."

"We're not going to let this put us off, though. We have got to decide how best to use this petition."

## New Contractor for Station Car Park

London Underground has signed a new five-year contract with a private firm, Vinci Park Services UK Limited, to manage a number of its car parks across London, including the one at East Finchley.

Vinci will be responsible for day-to-day management and running of the car park, and have promised a number of improvements, including lighting, fencing and a better surface.

They also intend to replace the signs and Pay-and-Display

machines and ensure that all stations are covered by CCTV. Their ambition is to achieve the Police-assessed 'Secured Car Park' award. We offer them our encouragement in achieving this goal, but do wonder whether a rise in parking fees might be in the air.

## Traffic News

### High Road and Fairlawn Avenue

Alterations to the traffic flow between the Underground and the Bald Faced Stag may be in the pipeline. Improved signs and physical measures to enforce the one-way system in Fairlawn Avenue will be considered in the 2003/2004 Traffic Budget. This is in response to a petition with 36 signatures, which was presented to the November Finchley Forum.

The Council is also considering shortening the High Road bus lane, in order to reduce the right turn queue and eliminate the temptation to rat-run through Fairlawn Avenue.

## FINCHLEY FORUM REPORT

### 14 January at Northside School

By Daphne Chamberlain

### Bishop Douglass School extension

A Manor Park Road resident complained about lack of planning consultation. She said that she learned about proposed extensions when a neighbour drew her attention to a notice in the street.

Speaking later to *THE ARCHER*, she told us that she had to travel to Hendon Central library to see development plans, as they were exhibited there and at Whetstone – but not at East Finchley.

### School worries over T.A. site

Fears were expressed that the proposed building of 140 flats on the former Territorial Army site would make it even more difficult for children to be accepted for the schools of their choice. One speaker said that his daughters were refused entry to the Compton School, although they lived very near. The good news that the Compton is being extended could be nullified by the influx of families in the proposed flats, which would be between the North Circular and the Warner Village. He was told that this was being taken seriously by the planning committee.

### Public toilets in the Arts Depot?

Several people wanted verification that toilets in the Arts Depot would be open to the public, as had been implied at the last Forum. The answer was that they would be available only to users of the Depot. In which case, it was pointed out, they should no more be listed as public toilets than were those in pubs. Councillor John Marshall asked whether public conveniences were included in the plans for the revamped North Finchley shopping centre. This was not known.

### War shelter at Friern Barnet Town Hall?

There were objections about the proposed sale of the former Friern Barnet Town Hall. In light of the 'safe rooms' at Buckingham Palace, it was suggested that the World War 2 building, complete with reinforced steel, bomb-resistant basement with its own air-filter system, should be kept as a shelter for 600 people, while doubling up as a museum. Deputy Chief Executive Brian Reynolds said he would still recommend it for sale.

The next Forum is at 6.30pm on Wednesday 19 March at Avenue House, N3





## Front Garden Competition in Muswell Hill

The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association has launched a new Front Garden Competition which is expected to play a major role in slowing down the trend to make local front gardens into parking pads, and help keep the neighbourhood beautiful. Entry forms went out with the January issue of the Association's Newsletter and are also available at the February meeting, in local libraries, some shops and, of course, on the Association's website: [www.muswellhillandfortisgreenassociation.co.uk](http://www.muswellhillandfortisgreenassociation.co.uk)

Capital Gardens are participating in this community event, which is open only to members including, of course, those joining in order to compete.

Entries must be submitted by 17 April and preliminary judging will take place between 10 and 25 May. Final judging of the ten best gardens will be done between 31 May and 7 June by an expert from the Muswell Hill and District Horticultural Society. There will be three prizes and the top ten entries will receive one year's free membership of the horticultural society. The prizes will be presented on Sunday, 29 June.

### Horticultural Highlight

There are six criteria the judges will look for: makes you want to stop; design;

planting and maintenance; overall 'feel'; does it suit the house? and is it in keeping with the street? This competition is expected to be a major highlight for the Association's activities in 2003 and follows on from previous successful competitions such as the Muswell Hill Picture Show and last year's Green Poetry competition. The competition is being organised by a sub committee chaired by Association Chairman John Hajdu (8883 8114 if you would like further details), committee members Denise Feeney and Peter Thompson and member Bill Jago.

## Not Just Child's Play

By Diana Cormack

**Do you have a growing collection of miscellaneous objects which you can't throw away because one day they might possibly come in useful? If so, read on, for there is a place for some such things and it's not very far away.**

Barnet Play Association is housed in the Old Barn Community Centre, Tarling Road. It is a registered charity which aims to represent the play needs of children throughout the borough.

### Crafty Collection

Central to this is the Scrap Project where resources for after school clubs, mother and toddler groups, refugee centres, etc. are sorted and stored. Organiser Marie Michelson showed me wonderful samples of material, fabric and buttons donated by places like Harrods, Liberty's, John Lewis, River Island and the clothing factories around Finsbury Park. There was also an assortment of paper and card from shop displays and, at this time of year, old decorations, Christmas lights and cards are well received. Birthday cards are always welcome, along with wrapping paper, used postage stamps – in fact anything which could be used creatively.

Consumables like glue, glitter and feathers along with a wide range of other craft materials are available. There is a badge maker for hire (which is popular at East Finchley's Community Festival) and kits such as candle making, jewellery and mosaics can be borrowed by members of the association for workshops of up to twelve children.

### Learning to play

The centre organises training courses in craft activities and Marie herself goes into after school clubs and summer play schemes. As well as giving advice on funding, staff recruitment and support for those working in the area of play provision, within the voluntary sector or not, the association also offers play worker training courses.

At present they are the only play association in the country involved in the Inclusive Play Opportunities Project. IPOP will supply help so that disabled youngsters can participate in a club, providing inclusive play of all sorts for the children and giving their parents a regular break. Phone IPOP on 8441 0404 for further details.

For any other information ring Marie on 8371 0281.

## Road Works

**According to notice given last November by the borough's Highway Authority, carriage-way resurfacing is scheduled to begin along a length of Fortis Green (A 504). This covers an estimated length of 259 metres in the Barnet Borough section of the road.**

At the time of writing the expected start date was 28 February 2003.

## Green Giant Centre?

By Daphne Chamberlain

**The Green Man Community Centre is continuing to grow in importance to East Finchley. It provides a wide range of facilities and services for us all – not just for the residents of Strawberry Vale.**

Taking a selection from what is currently on offer, you could find your way around the Internet, take up Colombian dancing or Tai Chi, brush up on reading, writing and maths skills, find a job through a 'return to work' class, take advice on debt problems, receive psychotherapy for emotional troubles, and be sociable in the community café.

Courses are either free or at low cost. The Centre is a venue for Contact, East Finchley Advice Centre, Barnet College, the U3A and the Credit Union.

### One community

"Pity it's right up the other end of East Finchley" is a complaint I've heard from several 'villagers'. At a time when our library might well be relocated at the opposite end, together with the Underground and most of the shops,



Martin O'Donnell at the Green Man. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

it could be seen as keeping a balance. We are all one community, which was emphasised last year when children taking part in the carnival procession to the Festival prepared their faces and costumes at The Green Man, and started their procession from there.

A lot of the Centre's activi-

ties depend on volunteers. If that might interest you, call Martin O'Donnell on 020 8883 4916.

The Green Man Centre is just off the High Road at the top of Strawberry Vale.

## Free Interview Skills Workshop

**On Monday 10 March a free workshop on interview skills will be held at the Green Man Community Centre.**

Run by North London Information, Advice and Guidance (the adult careers service), the course will cover varied aspects of interview technique and preparation.

Refreshment will be provided, and each participant will receive a free interview skills information pack.

Places are limited, and need to be booked in advance. Please call Dorothy Evans on 020 8446 5554, or e-mail [Dorothy.evans@prospects.co.uk](mailto:Dorothy.evans@prospects.co.uk).

## Wheelchair Fall

By Daphne Chamberlain

**At about 11am on Thursday 12 December, Sippy Azizollah was passing East Finchley Underground station in her wheelchair.**



Looks like too much sand in the cement mix to me... A small hole making big trouble. Photo by Sippy Azizollah

The chair caught an uneven spot around a manhole and Sippy was pitched out. It was a horrible experience, leaving her badly bruised and shaken.

Amazingly, she remembers two young men, "probably in their late 20s/early 30s", simply walking straight past her. In contrast, another passer-by and a member of the Underground staff went to her assistance. "They were very kind," she says. "Unfortunately I haven't got either of their names, but I would really like to thank them."

Sippy wonders whether Finchley is undergoing a slight landshift. She comments, "I've noticed even newly laid pavements sinking and becoming uneven lately. I know the Council can't help that, but I think they should be making more attempts to put things right. It would be in their own interests to protect themselves from being sued. If – God forbid – a pedestrian had tripped over that manhole they could have broken a leg."

Were that to happen, we can only wish them luck with the people passing by.

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## Kiafield Seeks to Allay Waitrose Fears

By Kevin Finn

**Mr. Philip Pearce, a Director of Kiafield Developments Limited, the firm acting on behalf of Waitrose, has assured residents of a full public consultation once the development plans are finalised.**



Philip Pearce snapped by Erini Rodis

He made it clear that the plans had not yet been finalised and that, until they are completed and submitted, the discussion of any detail would be inappropriate and unfruitful. Once the plans are complete then "of course we will engage in full public consultation" he told me, and indicated that the plans would be made freely available, meetings with residents, business and other groups could be held and that an exhibition staffed by experts may be on the cards.

When asked about the location of the store, he reiterated his comments of Monday evening, stating that it was now Government policy to site such developments within town centres in order to prevent the blight often associated with out-of-town superstores. The whole purpose of the Government's policy is to enhance the viability and vitality of town centres such as East Finchley. Furthermore research had shown that East Finchley was not well served by a good quality retail food store, and that a significant number of local people were travelling out of East Finchley to shop elsewhere, mostly by car.

### No more traffic

Expanding on the traffic issue, Mr. Pearce raised the point that the construction of a shop does not create any additional traffic, although it does influence the movement of existing traffic. He went on to explain that one effect would be that rather than drive to other stores, local people will travel to the local store, resulting in shorter journeys and a net reduction in travel. Whilst accepting that traffic may come in from neighbouring areas, he again stressed that no additional traffic was being created. As for the roads and the fears of congestion he assured me that a full traffic impact analysis, along with proposals for road improvement and traffic management will be part of their plans, and will be submitted to the highways department.

### Bigger library

When asked about the library, Mr. Pearce was clear in stating that his company had been instructed to include the provision of a new, modern library as part of the proposal. He also pointed out that the library would be some 60% bigger than the current one. Even if the library were not included, Waitrose would still be very interested in the site, and feels that it would be of great benefit to East Finchley.

*THE ARCHER* is very keen on engaging with representative on all sides of the contentious issue, and would like to hear from anyone who also believes that this development could be of benefit to East Finchley.

## A Word from your Councillors



L-R East Finchley Councillors Alison Moore, Colin Rogers and Phil Yeoman Photo by Erini Rodis

### “ Dear Reader,

Many of you will have heard or read about the anticipated Waitrose proposal to build a new store opposite the tube station. Concerns have been raised locally and we are keen to hear all your views. In order to do this we have circulated a questionnaire across East Finchley.

If you haven't received your copy of the questionnaire, please ring the Labour Party office (020 8883 0411) and we'll make sure you get one.

If you have already received our questionnaire, please take time to fill it in and return it to us now!

We want to hear from as many of you as possible, so that we can accurately represent your views in Barnet Council.

Yours faithfully

Councillors Alison Moore, Colin Rogers & Phil Yeoman ”

## Documenting the Story

**A proposal to make a documentary about the community's struggle to oppose the new Waitrose is being considered by a number of residents, all of whom work professionally in the media.**

They would like to hear from anyone who can help them with their research by providing them with factual information on issues such as traffic, environment, local business and concerns people may have regarding the Council's handling of this proposal. Please contact Fiona Ring on 0771 822 4234 or e-mail [johnfiona@johnfiona.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:johnfiona@johnfiona.fsnet.co.uk)

## Can you help?

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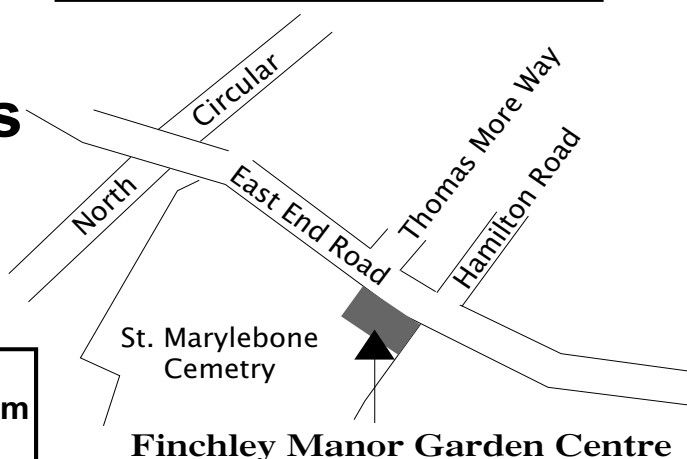
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This evening, admission-free, will be the first of the Spring meetings for the members of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association, but the recital will be open to all and it is hoped the evening will be supported by many local residents. The recital is in aid of the restoration of the magnificent Harrison & Harrison organ in St James's. It is one of the finest in the country but now urgently needs refurbishment. The organist will take the audience on a musical tour of all the fabulous sounds it can produce.

## Pipe sponsors needed

Jennifer Bate, who will play extracts from favourite pieces, is in the top rank of award-winning organists with a repertoire from the 18th century to modern virtuoso scores. A composer

herself, she has made countless recordings, and gives master classes all over the world. She is the world authority on the organ works of Olivier Messiaen. The organ appeal is worldwide, too, and donations, however small, will be welcome.

There is a pipe sponsorship scheme and donors will be recorded in a Golden Book. The organ contains over 3,000 pipes, varying in size from 16 feet to one inch. One foot can be sponsored for £20, two feet for £50, four feet for £100, eight feet for £250 and 16 feet for £500. Donations of more than £1,000 will be recorded on an Honours Board, permanently displayed near the organ as Platinum (£20,000 plus), Gold (£10,000 plus), Silver (£5,000 plus) or Bronze (£1,000 plus) sponsors.

# Avenue House Estate

By Bill Tyler

**Grade 2-listed Avenue House is under new management. After three and a half years of negotiation, Barnet Council – the Custodian Trustee – handed over management of the house and grounds last November. Avenue House Management (AHM), a new non-profit making charitable company, is now leased for 125 years to run the estate for the benefit of the local community.**

Avenue House offers rooms for receptions, parties, conferences, etc., as well as offices for charitable organisations, and Cubs and Scouts use the old stables.

In the 10-acre grounds are many fine specimen trees and shrubs – some envied by Kew Gardens! – a pond and waterfall, lawns and a children's playground. This magnificent setting for the fine Victorian house makes the outdoor café a popular rendezvous on fine summer days. Users of the house can now enjoy fresh tea and coffee and excellent buffet meals.

The new team and the house staff have already made an impact. They have provided new chairs in all ground-floor rooms, restored light fittings, cleaned windows, and rearranged the entrance hall furniture. Gutters and drains have been cleaned and repaired to prevent any more water leaks, and burglar and fire alarm systems overhauled.

There is still a great deal of maintenance to do. The big October storm caused several thousand pounds worth of damage to slate roofs – and fixtures and fittings that should

have been replaced several years ago remain to be tackled when funds allow.

## Our House

The trustees of AHM, who are elected from members of local organisations, Barnet councillors, and tenants and users of the house, are eager for local people to help run the estate on a voluntary basis. Volunteers can assist with office and practical work, and with fundraising, which will be essential. Using and recommending the house for functions will mean that AHM has more money to plough back into the estate.

Weekend 'Open House' mornings, which will be widely advertised, will give everyone an opportunity to look around the house and grounds. The trustees hope many people will attend, to see what the house has to offer, and what they may be able to offer to the house.

Ink magnate Henry C. 'Inky' Stephens generously left the estate to the public. Its future is now in our hands.

Avenue House is at 17, East End Road, N3 3QE. Contact AHM on 020 8346 3702 or [info@avenuehouse.org.uk](mailto:info@avenuehouse.org.uk) or [www.avenuehouse.org.uk](http://www.avenuehouse.org.uk).

# Can You Help The Bobath Centre?

By Vicki Stanton

**The Bobath Centre is dedicated to treating children and adults with cerebral palsy and other neurological disabilities. We have been based in Bradbury House, East Finchley since 1993. Our building was originally the Holy Trinity school, designed by Anthony Salvin, opened in 1847. These premises have been specially adapted for use by people with disabilities.**

Dr & Mrs Bobath developed the concept of Bobath treatment in the 1940s and it is now an internationally recognised approach to managing the problems faced by children with cerebral palsy. They established the Western Cerebral Palsy Centre in 1957. In 1985 it was renamed the Bobath Centre in recognition of Dr and Mrs Bobaths' pioneering work.

There are Bobath Centres in Cardiff, Glasgow and London. The London Centre provides specialist Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy to approximately 400 children a year from all over England.

## Teamwork

The Bobath Centre is a major training centre; high proportions of NHS therapists are Bobath trained. Bobath therapists work together as a team, combining their disciplines to improve the quality of posture and movement for each child. The whole family participates in ongoing activi-



Physiotherapy Photos supplied by Bobath Centre

have specific equipment that must be purchased and we also try to fund children that

would like to visit the Centre, please contact Vicki Stanton at The Bobath Centre, Bradbury House, 250 East End Road, London N2 8AU or telephone 020 8444 3355.



Communications skills used in speech & language therapy

ties, which are included in the child's daily routine, in order that children may reach their full potential. Bobath therapy also aims to improve the child's communicative ability, increasing the child's confidence, which improves the quality of life for both the child and their parent or carer.

The Bobath Centre's costs are only partly met by therapists' course fees and treatment fees, leaving a massive deficit that the Centre must cover through fundraising initiatives and generous donations from local individuals, businesses and larger Trust Funds. However, the Bobath Centre is in desperate need of further refurbishment, we

require individual Bobath treatment but are refused funding by their Primary Care Trust and cannot afford to fund themselves. All donations are therefore vital and make a huge difference to our work at the Centre.

To find out ways in which you can help us, or if you



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Miss H.C. MIKELLIDES BSc (Hons)  
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facial treatments also available.



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Stress, Joint Pain, Backache, Emotional Imbalance etc.

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# The Ancient Lanes of East Finchley

By Hugh Petrie

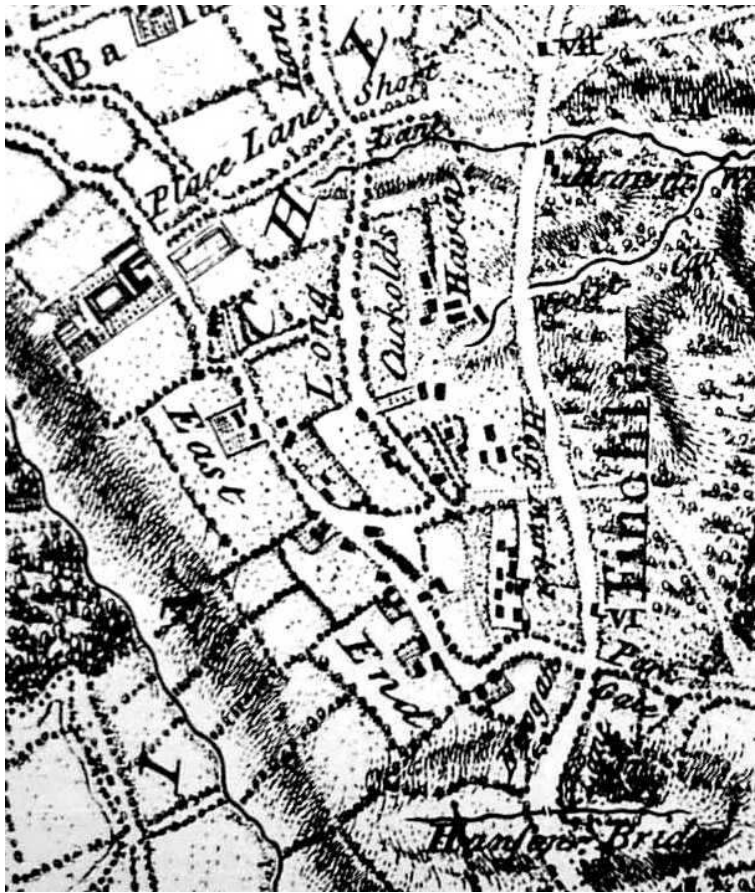
I gave this as a talk at East Finchley Library in December and was asked to write it down. Sorry no Roman roads; but with all their straight utility, they lack the charm of East Finchley's old lanes. In John Rocque's survey of the County of Middlesex (1754), much is recognisable. East End Road, Long Lane, Fortis Green, Church Lane, and even King Street. I believe that the first two were part of an older pre-1700s route north, but what follows is considered speculation.

East End Road (or Manor Road,) was a communication between the manor house (c1240), and the Barnet Road (at Muswell Hill). A new route (c1300s), cut through the Bishop of London's Hornsey Park, at Highgate, forded Mutton Brook, and turned eastward. Wheeled vehicles would have had difficulty traversing the side of East Finchley's ridge, so they went up the old path behind Holy Trinity old school. The Causeway was possibly used by travellers on horse and foot.

## The Walks

Following the ridge round, the Bishop's Road (so named in the 1500s) forked away from East End Road, at Stanley Road,

passed the door of the Five Bells (c1750), and joined Long Lane (Ferrous Lane c1430s) near New Oak Lane. Waste land either side of these broad lanes created Hunts Green (c1430s). By the 1480s the wood as far east as the walkshad been cleared, and small holdings established around Hunts Green. When the woods were further cleared during the 16th century, and Finchley Wood became a Common, travellers were provided with a short cut around the edge of these estates, along what we call The Walks. At the junction of Church Lane and The Walks, was a bull field, which gave its name to the lane which led to Hunts Green, only becoming Church Lane in the 1880s.



East End from John Rocque's map of 1754. Courtesy of Barnet Archive.

## HELP is HERE 4U

### Finchley Christian Fellowship

The Place to be - Every Sunday 11:00am

Your local Multi-National Community Church

A great welcome and time awaits you

The Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road East Finchley

Enquiries - 020 8805 2867

## East Finchley Baptist Church

just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

for more information contact 8446 3571

Visitors always welcome



The National Neurological Hospital - Photo by Erini Rodis

# The National Hospital in East Finchley

Part 1, 1870-1898

By Alison Stein

In 1860 a group of philanthropists, led by the two Chandler sisters from St Pancras, and their brother Edward, founded the first specialist hospital for sufferers from 'nervous diseases', the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, in Queen Square, London. At the time, epileptics were virtually excluded from any kind of paid employment.

Such was the popular fear of 'fits' that until the Poor Law was amended in 1868, epileptics and the paralysed were regularly consigned to the 'insane wards' of workhouses. Even in the late 1890s, letters to the Lancet debated the question "Should epileptics marry?" Not one convalescent home in the kingdom would accept patients suffering from 'nervous diseases'.

By 1870 the National Hospital had grown in size and in reputation, and decided to establish its own convalescent home, or 'Country Branch'. East Finchley was an ideal choice, since it was within easy reach of London, but still set in open, attractive countryside. Appeals raised the £3,000 needed to buy and adapt two semi-detached villas 'within a short walk of the railway-station' to house twenty female epileptic patients. We have not been able so far to discover the exact location of 'The Elms, East-End, Finchley', but the Home certainly flourished here up to 1897.

## Care in the country

On a sunny day in July 1871 guests assembled for the opening ceremony, followed by an informal tea-party on the lawn. Prominent among them were Miss Johanna Chandler, and her brother Edward, who had been given free rein to lavish his artistic talents on fitting out the new Home. As well as being homelike, bright and welcoming, it was furnished in the latest style, as the National Hospital fervently believed that the quality of their environment contributed to the patients' recovery.

To conclude the afternoon's festivities, Edward Chandler

had hired a 'ladies' band' from an agency. The 'Blondinettes', wearing identical blond wigs and skimpy blue dresses, leapt from the shrubbery, and started to play for the bewildered guests. Thus the association of the National Hospital with East

Finchley began on an unconventional note; it would continue, but on a somewhat larger scale, in a new building next to the Railway Station. And this time the opening ceremony would be graced not by a bevy of Blondinettes, but by a Duchess.

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

## Ain't it Great when a Dream Comes Together?

I had a dream, and in this weird and wonderful world of dog eat dog, everyone has to have dreams. My dream was of proper supermarkets with proper car parks and proper service.

I dreamed, not of Jeanie, or Genies, but of multi-storey car parks, deli counters, sun dried tomatoes, exotic fruit and veg and shelf upon shelf of fine wines, beers and spirits. I dreamed of something better than 'the world's worst supermarket'. And I dreamed of the perfect location - opposite the station. Back in the late 90s I wrote about my dream and the gods of shopping have smiled kindly and well, ain't it great when a dream comes together!

Back then the 'not in my backwater brigade' did what the complaining classes always do. The small-minded scribblers ranted about the impact on the value of their houses and the danger that people might actually want to shop in East Finchley. Not that they do: have expensive car, will travel to Sainsbury's, Tesco or Waitrose. No doubt the Ground Glass and Vitriol Company is already working overtime to keep up with demand and Whinging Over Waitrose has probably placed a bulk order. Even this paper is starting to sound like the 'voice of middle class anxiety' and I was starting to wonder if I am the only one who wants decent supermarkets selling decent food.

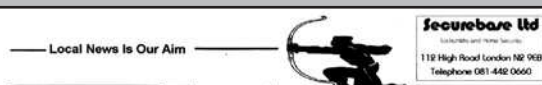
## Follow that dream

It's about time someone spoke up for all those people who aren't members of 'Whinge'. It might be a dirty job but someone's got to do it. So, if you want to walk out of the tube station, cross the road and get good food from a good supermarket or shop locally rather than drive or get the bus to find a decent store, now is the time to speak up. Not just for the supermarket, but also for the new hi-tech library with its e-mail and Internet and bigger book stack. Yes, now that the dream might come true we've got to defend it. Now is the time for a new pressure group - Backing Advanced Shopping Technology And Retail Development, be a B.A.S.T.A.R.D., sign up today, the dream must not die!





## Now We Are 10 ~ The Archer 1993 - 2003



THE ARCHER January 1993 Number 1 (Pilot)

## Policing East Finchley

What a dangerous area we live in, no wonder the Insurance Companies treat East Finchley as a high risk area.

Today I attended a press briefing for the first time at Golders Green Police Station given by DCI Ron Laverie and Sgt Bernard Forbes. And very hospitable they were too, gave each of us a cup of something hot from the canteen, there weren't any strong hanging out so I believe it was coffee.

## Festival to go ahead Despite Funding Problems

East Finchley Community Festival could have its grand day in 1993 in line with Barnet Borough Council's newly adopted policy on the funding of community events.

However, the event is planned to go ahead in June 1993 and, weather permitting, will be a most enjoyable day.

There was a small crowd of people who turned up to the event, who claimed that it had been a success.

After the event, a number of people were interviewed and they all agreed that the event was a success.

East Finchley Community Festival will be held on a fine day and many local residents thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Local residents who support the event will have to make up their minds whether they want to go or not.

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THE ARCHER January 1993 Number 1 (Pilot)

A lot of the information was given as background and not the printed version of the people concerned have all been told. However, I imagine you can see the point, and, remember, all this was over one week, not an entire month.

Reps in East Finchley - Total sales in 1992: Domestic: 10,000; Commercial: 10,000; Total: 20,000.

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## Why the strange name?

Deciding to create a new community newspaper is one thing, but giving it a catchy and meaningful name is something else. This was the predicament that a small band of volunteers found themselves in just over ten years ago. A brainstorming session ensued during which a number of ideas were discussed. Many obvious names such as East Finchley Recorder or N2 Echo came up, but were quickly dismissed. We needed something that represented East Finchley, and also reflected the fact that the newspaper was different.

What is different? Well, consider this. *THE ARCHER* is produced by local volunteers; nobody gets paid for any aspect of the newspaper, except the commercial printing firm that actually produces it on Newsprint. Yet it is written, designed, edited, transcribed, typeset, photographs are taken, meetings are attended, local news items investigated, people are interviewed, advertising is sold and designed, and, eventually, it is pushed through your letter box. Some people believe that we are supported by government or other grants. This is not true. The only source of income is from payments made by local businesses and organisations in return for display advertising, and from the occasional donation from generous readers. So, that is one big difference when comparing *THE ARCHER* with other local newspapers.

The other big difference is our content. We intended to



Archie photo by David Tupman

be, and believe we are, a cross between a local newspaper and a 'Parish' newsletter. We have no political affiliation, no religious connection and try to represent the views of all the population of East Finchley.

## Vive la difference

So, being different, we needed a different name. Late into the evening we started thinking about local landmarks, and eventually the statue by Eric Aumonier,

standing proudly on our tube station came to our attention. No one knew the name of the statue; it was, simply, 'The Archer'. A brief silence ensued, followed by several pairs of eyes lighting up with enthusiasm. The rest is history.

'*THE ARCHER*' is a different name for a newspaper. Like the organ itself, the name is unusual, local and quirky. Long may it remain so.

Seems like a long time - a brief history of *THE ARCHER*

Former Editor, David Hobbs, takes a personal look at ten years of *THE ARCHER*.

Is it really ten years since that first conversation in the pub that led to the start of *THE ARCHER*? Have we really printed and delivered nearly one million papers to the residents of East Finchley? Well, it looks like we have and this is what filled those pages.



Issue 2 - March 1993

## 1993

## January

Andrew Taylor founds *THE ARCHER*. The first issue is a small, A4 paper printed by J.G. Brysons of East Finchley. We call for "someone in every street to be our street representative".

## March

The first tabloid issue printed by Eastway Offset - our printers to this day. No photos; Kevin Finn starts his first stint as editor and Andrew Taylor writes that *THE ARCHER* was launched to "enhance the community atmosphere".

## June

We reveal plans for a Red Route through East Finchley and preview the festival. Edna Hobbs explores the murder of "Lord" George Sanger in 1911.

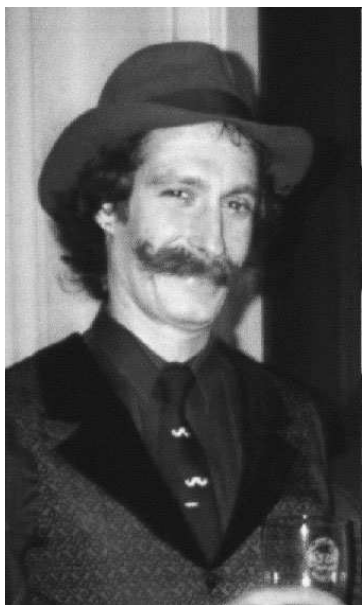
## July

The paper gets a "new look" with more photos as Malcolm Griffiths redesigns it. Festival and the campaign to save Finchley Lido covered.

## August

More people join and, after our infamous "team building" meeting,

Andrew Taylor leaves. Paul Savill takes over as editor, Kevin switches to advertising and Peter Maslen becomes Chairman. We start our long war on the pigeons. Welch's bar manager Mark Penfold and his handlebar moustache are featured.



Mark Penfold photo by Frank Tytmkov

## September

It's the last chance to save the lido and the brothers Chivers celebrate 25 years in East Finchley.

## October

Designer Malcolm Griffiths sets up his own paper, the Muswell Record.

## December

Early plans for a CPZ, the lido debate continues.

## 1994

## February

Recognition at last! The Guardian says, "Whilst other titles stumble from one issue to the next, East Finchley's community newspaper goes from strength to strength".

## March

We get "political" and preview the



July 1994 - The paper gets a facelift.

local elections. Local residents object to plans to convert Park Lodge into a centre for the homeless.

## April

We become the official festival newspaper; report on protests against plans for Park Lodge and Daniel Atrill gets a facial. Sunflower competition launched.

## May

There's a four page profile of East Finchley, David Tupman writes about our "ship shape tube" station, the editorial team make a personal point about the closure of the toilets in East End Road.

## Hens Teeth Antiques

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French Polishing of Period  
and Modern Furniture  
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Mobile 07970 625 - 359

June  
Redevelopment of the Lucas site announced.

## July

Festival fever, protesters win their battle against the homeless centre.

## August

Alison Roberts and Pete Maslen take over production of *THE ARCHER* and the Cats' Protection League complains about our editor's gardening methods, pointing out that "The anti-cat bazooka is not something we recommend".

Michael Kreisky remembers The Goons and proclaims that "Blue-bottle was here".

## October

Helen Davis wins our sunflower competition with her 11-foot high monster. Elsewhere there's more on the Lucas site.

## November

Vandals destroy the statue of Henry Croft, the original pearly king in St Pancras.

## December

"Support your Local Shops!"



Making a point or taking the pee? May 1994. Photo by David Tupman

SEEDS SOIL

Mike, Tricia & Jimmy welcome you to flowers by

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London N2  
Tel: 020 8883 3598 & 020 8444 9569  
EST 35 Years

GARDEN SUPPLIES PLANTS





Heavy pecking: the late Bob Welch &amp; his bird

## 1995

## February

For reasons lost in the mists of time we move our anniversary to February and wish ourselves a happy birthday.



February 1995

## March/April

We beg for money to help us keep going, the Clissold Arms reopens, complete with Kinks Corner.

## May

Main feature is 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, full of memories and photos. Gwen Conacher contributes some ration book recipes. Elsewhere McDonalds' plans to open a "restaurant" are announced.

## June

Locals protest at McDonalds' plans and "Bertie the Bollard" gets bashed again.

## July

Desecration of graves in the cemetery makes the front page.

## August

Tourism spoof gives ten reasons to holiday in sunny East Finchley.

## September

Archer stalwarts John Dacum and Kevin Finn take over the catering at Welch's. "Fat & Finn" offer "Sino-Franglais" cuisine - don't ask!

## November

David Tupman writes the definitive article on "Archie", Eric Aumonier's statue at East Finchley station.

## December

Welch's bar manager Mark Penfold's tragic death is reported and THE ARCHER pleads for money (again).

## 1996

## February

THE ARCHER becomes the first community newspaper to have its own web site (the address was longer than the content). Shopkeeper and former ARCHER volunteer, Noel Lynch - famously misquoted in a national tabloid ("Baby For Sale") - puts paid to rumours of grave robbing in East Finchley!

## March

McDonalds abandon restaurant plans.

## April

Finchley lido complex opens to complaints and it is revealed that the Aga Khan Foundation is financing an Islamic community centre on the old church site in East End Road.

## July

THE ARCHER welcomes Sue Holliday, Diana Cormack, Daphne Chamberlain and Toni Morgan to its ranks.

## August

Arnold Schwarzenegger visits the Warner Brothers Cinema complex and we feature East Finchley's pubs.



October 1996

## October

Stephen Tompkinson, Bill Owen and Neil Morrissey are amongst the stars who unveil a plaque celebrating the Phoenix's role in the history of cinema in Britain.



February 1996: Two firsts for The Archer - a new website and a national exclusive. Plus THAT picture of mayor Suzette Palmer.

## November

East Finchley Traders Association launched, cuts in fire service.

## 1997

## January

Arguments rage over plans to stop Baronsmere Road being used as a rat run. We profile local poet Alan Smith.

## February

There's controversy at Bishop Douglass over the showing of "Trainspotting" to students, Barnet Health Authority launches its "war on drugs", and we run a health and fitness feature.

## March

£1.4 million grant for Strawberry Vale announced, the Baronsmere Road debate continues and Sonia Singham retires as head of Holy Trinity.

## April

College Farm saved from developers, North London Hospice Walk raises £30,000.

## May

Labour's Rudi Vis beats John Marshall to become our new MP. Diana Cormack interviews anti-apartheid activist and former cell mate of Nelson Mandela's, Denis Goldberg.

## June

Festival preview. By now Sue Holliday has transformed our finances from dubious to viable.

## July

Festival report: A case of I came, I saw, I got soaked. McLibel verdict announced and a profile of former GLH Car Hire owner Cyril Wilds.

## August

Holy Trinity School celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, Rudi Vis writes about life as an MP.

## September

Environment special, the war on pigeons continues.

## October

The George in Market Place threatened with closure.

## November

New tube trains sighted. In the aftermath of Princess Diana's death, we profile local funeral directors, Leverton and Sons, the official undertakers to the Royal Family.

## December

Row over plans for the Cherry Tree Wood pavilion. Lawrie Chivers and other members of the traders association organise Xmas lights on the High Road.



November 1996 and East Finchley Traders Association is launched. L-R: Roger &amp; Lawrie Chivers and the late Sofo Sofocli of AI Motor Stores. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Open House for Archer Party

THE ARCHER is celebrating its tenth birthday this month, and is marking the occasion with a community party. Invitations are going out to all contributors, deliverers and advertisers for the party, which will be held at Maddens Ale House, 130 High Road, at 7:30pm on Saturday 1 March 2003.



Angie, The Archer's favourite barmaid. Photo by John Dearing

This party is a community event, to which any reader, past or present will be welcome. Live music, a small buffet, and lots of community spirit should make for a wonderful evening. If you have no other social engagements on the 1<sup>st</sup>, please do come along - we would all love to meet you, and hear your opinions of our newspaper.

## 1998

## January

Pupils at Bishop Douglass suspended over drug abuse, East Finchley Village signs announced.

## April

Turpin's Oak to be re-erected.

## May

Change in the catchment area for Fortismere School looks likely to exclude East Finchley children, face-lift for Strawberry Vale announced, feature on Cherry Tree Wood and the future of the pavilion.

## June

Rachel Abedi starts campaign for pedestrian crossing on Fortis Green; we profile the organisers of the festival.

## July

The controlled parking zone (CPZ) returns to the front page, the crossing campaign continues. After five years Paul Savill "retires" as editor, David Hobbs takes over.

## August

Park Lodge demolished, traders propose alternative to CPZ. We pay tribute to longstanding ARCHER team member, Gwen Conacher, who dies after a long illness.

## September

Neurological Hospital closure announced.

## October

Haringey performs a neat U-turn on Fortismere School, Ofsted praise Martins Junior.

## November

Plans for the Eruv approved, consultation promised over Cherry Tree Wood. We remember the Great War on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice.

## December

Murder of Carol Parsonage at her home in Durham Road, closure of Territorial Army base announced.



September 1997. As always traffic and the environment dominate the issue





## 1999

## January

Concerns that new Strawberry Vale community centre will be outside estate, plans for Neurological Hospital revealed.

## February

Council announces consultation on future of Cherry Tree Wood. Plans to halve services at fire station.

## March

Town centre manager to be appointed, fire station cuts confirmed, concerns about GM food.

## April

Concerns about redevelopment of Friern Barnet Hospital site, results of Cherry Tree Wood consultation, local Agenda 21 group launched, death of Alan Randle of East Finchley Library.

## June

Crossing campaign accelerates as BBC1's Crimewatch shows a reconstruction in an effort to find the motorcyclist.

## July

Public meeting to campaign for crossing, festival review and trial and conviction of Michael Parsonage for the murder of his wife.

## August

"Green light for Crossing" reads our headline as Barnet Council gives go ahead. Baronsmere Road scheme approved, The George in Market Place closes and, after seven years of wrangling, the Eruv is "only weeks away".

## September

Neurological Hospital finally closes, but "green estate" plan abandoned



April 2000: Campaigner Rachel Abedi and her family try out the new Fortis Green crossing. Photo by Erini Rodis

## May

Mrs Maria Bussandri knocked down and killed by speeding motorcyclist on Fortis Green. Her tragic death rekindles campaign for pedestrian crossing. Neil Jordan films part of "The End of the Affair" at the Phoenix.

and site still for sale. Appeal for help in funding Xmas lights and Michael Parsonage committed to secure hospital as court hears that medical blunder led to him killing his wife.

## November

Shortage of secondary school places highlighted.

## December

Local businesses protest at impending CPZ, row looming over local selective schools, "hen night" at the Constitutional Club causes uproar.

## 2000

## January

Row at the Finchley Forum over the CPZ, secondary school selection makes the front page as Rudi Vis gets involved.

## February

Barnet Council announces plans to make language support service



July 1999

## Thank you to all our Advertisers, past, present, and future

By John Dearing

On the occasion of our tenth birthday, we would like to thank all our advertisers for their support: without you there would be no ARCHER, and that would mean that people in East Finchley would be without their communal voice.

Everyone in the team – writers, editors, producers, and distributors (and anyone else not included in that list!) – is a volunteer, but we rely upon advertising revenue to pay for printing the paper. The support we have received from businesses and individuals over the years is magnificent. Having said that, we believe that advertising in THE ARCHER offers value for money, a unique way of communicating with the people of East Finchley through the only newspaper that concentrates on the life and times of East Finchley. Long may our partnership continue!



Our spiritual home: Some of The Archer team outside Welch's in 1994

## Home From Home

By David Hobbs

The story of THE ARCHER is not only about the news we print or how we produce the paper, it is also about where we do it and, since we started in 1993, we have had several homes.

When the paper first started the team met in the founding editor, Andrew Taylor's, flat. The first time I went along to a meeting there were twelve of us crammed into his front room, balancing ourselves on any available surface. When, in August 1993, Andrew decided to leave us to our fate we had to find somewhere else to meet.

If our first home had been cramped, but comfortable, our second was rather different. Pete Maslen, the Chair of the team, managed to get use of the old Strawberry Vale Community Centre. This grand sounding building was a couple of portacabins. Although the cabins are long gone, there should be a blue plaque to mark the scene of the most momentous of all ARCHER team meetings, the one where the team dug deep in their pockets to find the money to keep the paper going. In summer the portacabins were fine, but as autumn turned to winter cold we moved on.

### Welcome home

As the original idea for THE ARCHER came out of a conversation in Welch's Ale Bar, our editor, Paul Savill, approached

Bob Welch who agreed to let us meet in the pub before opening hours every Saturday morning. When Bob sold the pub to Kieran and Margaret Madden he ensured that we could continue to meet there. All good things come to an end and when, in late 1997, Kieran started renovating the pub we had to move on.

The Old White Lion, next to the station, had just been renovated and was happy to offer us

a new home. Although we were delighted, we all missed Maddens and, in mid 1998, moved back to our spiritual home.

Since then we have been welcomed by Angie the bar manager every Saturday morning and Kieran and Margaret have supported the paper, not only by letting us have meetings there, but also parties and other events. Without Maddens there would still be THE ARCHER, but it would not be as much fun.



Reporters Femke van Iperen (left) and Diana Cormack at the Saturday morning meeting. Photo by John Dearing

teachers redundant, we report the sad death of Bob Welch of Welch's Alehouse and also that of Arthur Wood, former chair of the allotments society.



February 2000

## March

Gala premier of "The End of the Affair" at the Phoenix, War

declared on graffiti and burned out cars in the cemetery dominate. London Underground proposes ticket barriers at the Causeway entrance

## April

Pedestrian crossing on Fortis Green opens and Baronsmere Road scheme gets go ahead.

## May

Brent Cross extension proposals rejected to the delight of local businesses, London Underground bows to local pressure and thinks again, retracting its plans for barriers at Causeway entrance to station.

## June

Birds being shot with air rifles in Cherry Tree Wood and plans to build flats on the corner of Park Road and Leslie Road provoke protest from residents.

## July

Baronsmere Road scheme implemented, heat wave for festival

and Barnet Council appeals Brent Cross decision.

## August

It's the Queen Mother's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this month, armed robbery at the Texaco Service Station, the history of the Alexandra in Church Lane.

## September

The Windsor Castle and Maddens come first and second in Barnet's "Best Blooming Pub".

## November

The Phoenix gets Grade II listed building status, Barnet promises to spend £2 million to clean up the streets and there is the possibility of a Farmer's Market for East Finchley.

## December

Profile of Martin O'Donnell, the manager of Strawberry Vale Community Centre, plans for a CPZ in Muswell Hill covered and anger mounts over the ever-growing queues at the station.





## 2001

**January**

English Heritage hits back at LUL after being blamed for lack of ticket machines at the station. The Credit Union is launched. We record the death of our former motoring correspondent, Michael Kreisky in a plane crash over Christmas.

**February**

Concern mounts over large number of new building developments in area; Finchley Forum is dominated by Baronsmere Road.

**March**

One-woman crime wave hits East Finchley as a con woman roves the streets targeting gullible residents. We run a special feature on the development boom.

**April**

Salvation Army closes local mission after 104 years.

**May**

Milkman attacked in Leslie Road, another con artist spotted and war on graffiti continues.

**June**

The Alexandra in Church Lane raises £1000 to help needy children have holidays.

**July**

Trine, a King Charles spaniel, receives the top RSPCA award after saving her owners from a fire. Rudi Vis beats John Marshall again to remain as our MP. David Hobbs steps down as editor and Kevin Finn returns. Sadly we report the death of our former chairman and founder member Pete Maslen.

**August**

Concerns about policing surface after police fail to respond to incident in Bedford Road.



Our 100th issue in 2001

**September**

It's the 100th issue of THE ARCHER.

**November**

The revamped Bald Faced Stag reopens; the Constitutional Club celebrates 100 years.



Phoenix projectionist Peter Bayley who was awarded an MBE in February 2002. Photo by David Tupman

**December**

First rumours of Waitrose coming to East Finchley surface, it's the 10th anniversary of the Hospice Shop.

## 2002

**January**

Increase in crime on the High Road, initial Waitrose plans revealed, Rudi Vis interviewed.

**February**

Phoenix projectionist, Peter Bayley, awarded the MBE, police announce plans to tackle street crime.

**March**

Weight loss pills scam reported, Phoenix reopening delayed.

**April**

Local doctor, Timothy Healy, remanded for trial at the Old Bailey charged with sex offences involving young boys, the Phoenix reopens and plans for a makeover of pigeon corner announced.

**May**

Barnet loses battle to force developer to include affordable flats on the Texaco garage site, Plans for pigeon corner. Conservatives regain control of Barnet Council.

**June**

Mobile phone masts cause concern, Phoenix gala reopening and "pop group for the third age", S Club Seniors are featured.

**July**

Jubilee celebrations special, festival review and good news for Strawberry Vale as Tesco agrees to restart deliveries to the estate. New Tory Council administration attempts to replace some Arts Depot facilities with office space.

**August**

Mini cab driver, Modiuddin Bhuiya fatally assaulted in High Road, Prince Edward visits the hospice, council plans for Arts Depot raised at Finchley Forum.

**September**

Council backs down; Arts Depot to

go ahead as planned, the Eruv is nearly here at last and the old toilets in East End Road are to become a dental surgery.

**October**

Police to reopen Muswell Hill Police

Station, plans to extend 234 bus route to Woodside Avenue, the history of the Phoenix is recounted and we pay tribute to Russell Saczek, friend of THE ARCHER, who died recently.

**November**

The café in Cherry Tree Woods is burnt out; Waitrose plans are revealed in detail.

**December**

More on Waitrose development and effect on library, plans for Neurological Hospital site outrage residents, the Dick Turpin is 100 and there's an Audience with Tony Benn in aid of the hospice.

## 2003

**January**

Waitrose still dominates, as people fear it will be pushed through by the council irrespective of local views. Finchley Pet Stores and the Red Lion close.



August 2002 - sporting the redesigned masthead.

**February**

Well, we're here, we are now ten years old and, residents of Baronsmere Road (and others) please note, Ricky Savage is only joking about Waitrose.



Archer team members in Maddens in 2001. Photo by John Dearing

## From Paste to Cut & Paste

*How things have changed through technology*

By Kevin Finn

**When we first embarked on the great adventure of producing THE ARCHER, the technological landscape was a far cry from today's climate of high-speed personal computers and broadband Internet. In fact, only a few of us had any computer at all.**

In those heady days, the majority of articles were received as hand-written submissions or carefully typed manuscripts, most of which arrived by post. These were then sorted and marked with editors notes prior to being delivered to one of a number of dedicated 'typists' who diligently re-drafted each story using a computer word-processor.

Having achieved that, we were able to use one or two of our more powerful 386 machines (!) to run our donated copy of PageMaker (a professional type-setting program) in order to lay out the newspaper on screen, and save it to disk. Our poor equipment was being pushed to the limit by the software and often crashed.

**Sticky fingers**

The newspaper was printed on our 'industrial strength', second-hand, laser printer, which could only print on A4 paper. Having coped with various crashes, paper jams and other delaying tactics often employed by the technology of the day, we had our newspaper in hard copy. Hours of careful use of a scalpel, a tin of 'Spray Mount' glue and special 'past-

ing' sheets followed, from which the full-sized ARCHER would finally materialise. Adverts were often re-used, and so were recovered from the previous month's 'paste-up' and stuck to the new issue. Finally, photographs were marked up and THE ARCHER was then shipped to our printer in East London. All in all, a time consuming and frustrating process.

Nowadays things are a little easier in that we have high speed computers, and most of our submissions arrive by email

already typed. The Production Team have improved software which allows them to use their skills to produce a bigger and better newspaper, and we have our own photo-scanning and editing equipment. Adverts and photographs are digitally set directly onto the page, which is then transmitted to the same East London printer, by email. Technology has its critics, but for THE ARCHER it has definitely brought many benefits, not least is that sticky hands and carpets resulting from spray glue are but a distant memory.



Editors past and present: L-R: Kevin Finn, David Hobbs & Paul Savill at The Archer's 100th issue celebrations. Photo by John Dearing

### All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.  
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.  
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life and a riotous Youth Club for church members. Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy, on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children. Experienced singers are always welcome. Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>





A couple of tables full of Archer volunteers celebrating joint birthdays in 2002. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Workers' Playtime

By Sue Holliday

**Happy birthday to us. Yes, we are 10 years old. We, the Archer team, think this is a great achievement, as we are a group of volunteers from all walks of life who get together to produce this monthly newspaper. Our only source of income is from our advertisers – all local traders – and we thank them very much for their support.**

We think this is truly something to celebrate, so we are going to, on Saturday 1 March at Maddens. And we would like you to come and party with us.

Yes, it can be hard work at times but it really is enjoyable – especially when we get praise from you, our readers. We do enjoy receiving your letters and emails, even if they are to complain.

We also have lots of social events; in the summer there are barbecues and we all have great fun at the festival. We have even organised a guided walk around East Finchley. Then there are

those meals out where we try to go to different local restaurants to sample their menus. Several of us have been to various concerts together. So you can see it is not all work.

### Come and join us

The main team who meet each Saturday are a group of about a dozen people, none of whom have any professional knowledge of the newspaper world. So, if you are thinking of joining us and are not sure what skills you have, let me just say that any are valuable; we may even be able to teach you some.

Then there are our

invaluable deliverers, over 80 people who go out in all weathers to deliver the papers to your door. To them we are so very grateful as without them we would not reach you.

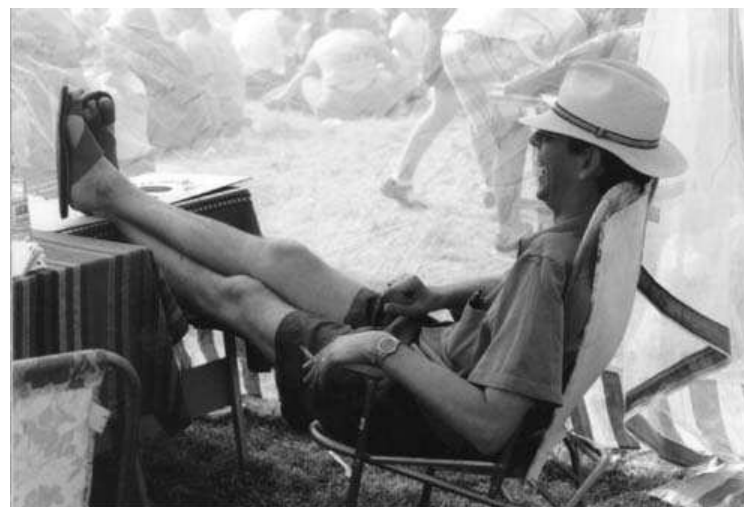
### Social circle

So if you are new to the area why not come and join us, widen your circle of friends, and help produce something that is appreciated by the community.

We meet at Maddens on the High Road every Saturday, at 11am or, if you'd like to know more, look us up on the website, [www.the-archer.co.uk](http://www.the-archer.co.uk).



Fun at the Community Festival.



Editor Kevin Finn working hard on the stall. Photo by Toni Morgan



Party time in Maddens. Photo by John Dearing



Barbecue in the moonlight. Photo by Sue Holliday

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## YOUNG ARCHER

# Lucky for Some

By Diana Cormack

If you think about the nursery rhymes and stories you heard when you were little, you may notice that many of them contain the number three. There were the Three Blind Mice, Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and even Baa Baa Black Sheep had three bags full of wool.

Often the subject of the story is given three wishes or three chances, like the princess having three guesses to find out Rumpelstiltskin's name. Maybe that's why we can have three tries at something or say "Best out of three" and "Third time lucky." Some people really do believe that three is a lucky number and it has had a special place for hundreds of years.

It was used a lot in Greek and Scandinavian mythology and is important in many religions, including the Holy Trinity of the Christian church. An Ancient Greek mathematician called Pythagoras thought that three was the perfect number because it has a beginning, a middle and an end. This year

ends with the number three, so let's hope that there will be some luck in it for all of us.

### What's your lucky number?

But would you like to know what your lucky number really is? Some people believe that you can work it out by using your birth date, which can never be changed, so your lucky number should always be the same too. This how you do it.

Use your birth date numbers by adding together all the digits, for example if you were born on 27 March 1993 (27.3.1993) you set it out as: 2+7+3+1+9+9+3=34; then you continue to add and you get 3+4=7

So your lucky number is 7!

## Happy Birthday to Us!

**THE ARCHER is ten years old this month and we are having a special party to celebrate. All the people who help with the paper have been invited. I don't know if there will be a cake with candles or if we will sing "Happy Birthday to You," which is supposed to be the most sung song in the world.**

It was originally written a hundred and ten years ago by an American teacher Patty Smith Hall and was called "Good Morning to All." Her sister Mildred J. Hill wrote the music. In 1935 Clayton F. Summy put in the words we sing today and the copyright for the song is presently owned by singer Michael Jackson.

## Birthdays

**This old rhyme says that the sort of person you are depends on which day of the week you were born. Is it true for you or your friends?**

Monday's child is fair of face,  
Tuesday's child is full of grace,  
Wednesday's child is full of woe,  
Thursday's child has far to go,  
Friday's child is loving and giving,  
Saturday's child works hard for a living,  
And the child that is born on the Sabbath day  
Is bonny and blithe and good and gay.

## Hokey Cokey

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Stephen Woolley ("May I Have This Dance?", January issue) must have known the Hokey Cokey backwards. Or was it really the Hokey Pokey, or the Okey Cokey, or even the Hinkum-Booby? Furthermore, was it British or American?**

We all know what it means. In the words of one of its professed inventors, "Everyone is in a circle, and it gets them all involved". In 1956, it got him and another composer, involved in an acrimonious lawsuit – settled out of court.

Both had copyrighted the song – one in 1944 and one in 1950. By that time, starting in the 1940s, the Hokey Pokey had been recorded all over the US, in all kinds of versions.

### Shake it all about

Predating them all, though, in 1940 it was reported that Kentucky Shakers had a traditional song called the Hinkum-Booby. This began, "I put my right hand in, I put

my right hand out. I give my right hand a shake, And I turn it all about".

Just a minute, though. A 1945 edition of Dance magazine described an English novelty song called the Okey Cokey, which American GIs had learned in England.

I have certainly been told that it was danced here as early as the 1920s.

Whatever its origins, it's one of the very few aspects of Stephen Woolley's dance world which are still going strong today.

How long ago did you first dance the Hokey Cokey, and do you have memories of Finchley dance halls?

## Diary Of A Princess

Daphne Chamberlain reviews Heather Maisner's book

**She was 17 years old when she set out to meet her bridegroom, with an escort numbering about 3,400. The journey lasted two years, and at its end only 18 of the travellers survived.**

One of the survivors was Marco Polo, who would certainly win a few votes in any poll to name the greatest ever explorers.

We do not know whether Kokachin, a 13th century Chinese princess, kept any record of her experiences, but her terrible sea journey to marry the Khan of Persia is included in Marco Polo's journals. For him, his escort of the princess, who was in his charge, was also his release from the service of Kublai Khan, Emperor of China. After 17 years he was on his way home to Venice.

### The writer's craft

Heather Maisner, an author whose mother lives in East Finchley, was so intrigued by the story that she has written a book about it. *Diary of a Princess*, written for 7-11 year-olds, is in picture-book format, beautifully illustrated by Sheila Moxley.

Heather says that the idea lay dormant for three or four years. She had discovered the reference in Marco Polo's diary while researching for her award-winning book, *The*



Heather Maisner

*Magic Hourglass*, but always knew she would return to it. Such dramatic material could obviously have been given very different treatment for an older audience, but author and artist have concentrated on Kokachin's childlike naivety. Monsters real and imaginary are experienced through her eyes.

"You need to find the right voice. The text for this type of book is so brief, each word has to work - almost like writing a poem. The length of the finished article doesn't indicate the amount of research put into it."

The fact that writing is actu-

ally work is something that schools are interested in teaching. Heather spends a lot of time talking to school classes about the process of producing a book. Once, her publisher produced a book almost as big as she is to help get the point across.

Heather herself was 16 when she won The Daily Mirror Children's Literary Competition out of 35,000 entries. She has worked as an editor, translator and teacher, as well as writing many books 'for children of all ages'.

*Diary of a Princess* - ISBN 0-7112-1854-4 - is published by Frances Lincoln.

## The 143 Bus

By Mal Jacobs

The 143, the 143!

It's a bus, not a train, used by you and me.  
The minutes go by as you wait at the stop,  
And an hour or two later you may blow your top.

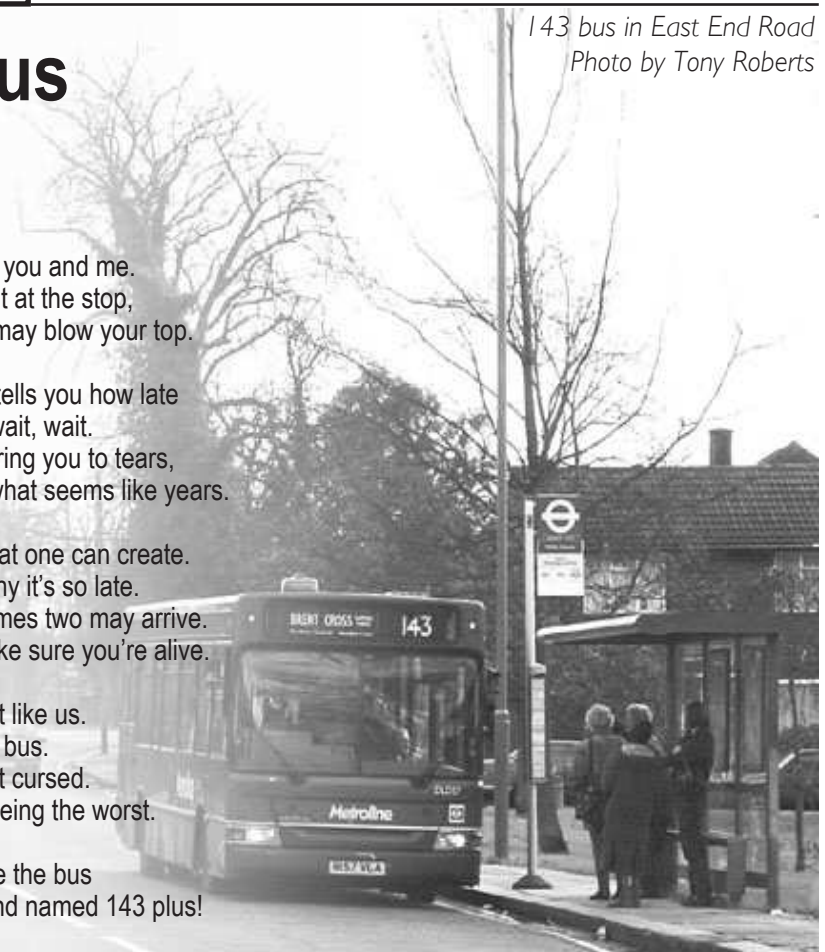
Just remember the timetable tells you how late  
The 143 bus is, as you wait, wait, wait.  
The countdown system can bring you to tears,  
As you watch the screen for what seems like years.

We've heard most excuses that one can create.  
The one they can't cover is why it's so late.  
When waiting for one, sometimes two may arrive.  
It's a "two for one" offer to make sure you're alive.

Don't give up hope. Be patient like us.  
It may take a day to wait for a bus.  
The 143 would seem the most cursed.  
It deserves a gold medal for being the worst.

The answer may be to replace the bus  
With a horse – run on time, and named 143 plus!

143 bus in East End Road  
Photo by Tony Roberts







### Where are they now?

John Doyle (2nd from right) and the Boys pictured in 1958. Does anyone know what became of them? If so please let THE ARCHER know. Photo submitted by the regulars of the Duke of Cambridge.

## Dial-a-Ride Debacle

By Sippy Azizollah.

**Every year around Christmas time Dial-A-Ride update their records. A form is sent out to each user to see if their circumstances have altered in any way.**

This time I received an envelope from Dial-A-Ride, but, instead of my name I found someone else's name, and my address. I spent half an hour trying to get through to the office and when I finally did, I was told that all the North London Dial-A-Ride users were in the same pre-

dicament.

### What a blunder!

The person I spoke to told me to put my name and user number in the correction box on the form, and return it. I have since heard that other users were told to destroy them. I am also aware that some users sent them back with 'unknown

at this address' written on the envelope.

How could this have happened?

It can't be blamed on the computer, can it? I have no idea how much this blunder cost, but I think we'd all like to know how this could have happened.

## Cold Comfort for Winter

By Mal Jacobs

**Hypothermia, the dictionary states, is "a condition of abnormally low body temperatures". Not a very pleasant thought is it? But certainly one we have to think about and avoid during the cold winter weeks. For the older generation it is a time for being a little extra careful when doing some of the things that we normally do.**

For instance, making sure we have some good hot soups plus a mixture of five different types and colours of fruit and vegetables during the day, as recommended to maintain good health. Kiwi fruit is an extremely good and economical source of vitamin C to help boost our defences. It all helps to give us extra nourishment and energy as a defence against winter colds. A flu jab is now becoming quite a popular feature at this time of year, as a preventative measure.

### Hot tips

There is now quite a good range of thermal clothing in all shapes and sizes that is quite affordable and even more so at the sales! Most of us may look a little larger with the

extra padding worn in winter but, after all, the most important factor is to keep warm! It is wise to have a good pair of shoes and boots that are warm and fit snugly, with soles that grip the surface rather than ones that act as skis! None

of us look our best lying flat on the ground injured and alone. As most of the body's heat rises through the head it makes sense to cover it with a shawl, hat, baseball cap or anything that keeps the heat in and the cold out.

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## The New Pension Service

By Mature Ed

**So what's new? The rare occurrence of something new for pensioners is worth checking out at any time! The leaflet I saw by chance stated: "Regular surgeries to be held at the Green Man Community Centre on the first and third Monday of each month from 2-4pm. Further information and advice from 0845 60 60 265 or website [www.thepensionservice.gov.uk](http://www.thepensionservice.gov.uk)" It sounded wonderful.**

Surely some basic rules for starting any new business venture are: to deliver a service that most people want, to let them know about it and to provide it in the most practical location. This new local business is called The Pension Service. I went to the Green Man Community Centre on Monday 6 January at 2pm. After a fifteen-minute wait, the receptionist and I decided they weren't coming today. Not deterred, of course, I decided to phone them. The recorded voice informed me that "All the operators are busy, please ring later". That cost me 20p. That sort of service sounds familiar doesn't it?

Let's compare the present arrangements with pensioner needs:

### • Regular surgeries are held at the Green Man.

The surgeries need to be held in a more central position in East Finchley. Or why not go to the people? Hold surgeries at all retirement-type homes (sheltered etc.) first as they usually require help the most.

### • Surgeries are held twice a month.

These need to be held at least once a week on alternating days. Pensioners very often have appointments or treatments on regular specified days.

### • Surgery hours are 2-4pm.

These need to be earlier, preferably 11am-1pm, as people often need to take one or two buses or Dial-a-Ride and 4pm can be dark and busy.

### • Further information advice from 0845 number.

I got no advice - except a recorded message telling me to try again later and that cost me 20p. Why not inform me how many calls are waiting or have an answering machine that takes a message and ring the person back? Better still, have a free-phone number.

So that all pensioners in the area are informed of events like the introduction of this scheme, why not use the old familiar method that's been around since 1635. It's called the Postage Stamp! So what's new?

## Mistresspiece

By Daphne Chamberlain

**A mistresspiece is 'a feminine masterpiece'. That's what I read the other day. So is this a dubious attempt at political correctness? If you thought not, you are absolutely right. In 1971 the Oxford English Dictionary listed it as a word in use from the 1640s to the early 1900s.**

Anyway, writers of all pieces should submit them with a wish for a happy St. John Bosco's Day. Who he? The patron saint of editors. (His day is 31 January, but don't let that bother you.)

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## Your Waitrose letters

## Residents' Opinion Mixed

By Kevin Finn

Following *ARCHER* reports on two key local development proposals for East Finchley, the Waitrose supermarket and library complex, and the relocation of the adult education institute, *THE ARCHER* has received a number of letters, faxes, telephone calls and, email messages voicing many and varied concerns, such that there is insufficient space available to print them all. What follows is therefore a summary of these concerns, and I should stress that these are the opinions of our readers, not the paper, which aims to report on opinion, rather than to form or influence it.

Most correspondents are opposed to the schemes, but a few have come out in favour, particularly of the new supermarket. (It should be born in mind that people who wish to oppose such schemes will tend to be more vocal than those in favour, so the proportions may or may not represent East Finchley residents as a whole.)

**Winners and losers**

Many readers feel that a new supermarket would benefit commuters and those living in the vicinity, and provide more choice for their general shopping. It is felt however that although the HGS Institute and its users would benefit from new premises, ultimately local residents may not.

**Traffic concern**

Traffic is a major concern: The spectre of juggernauts making their way down the High Road to the supermarket is a worry for many, as is the expectation that residents of adjoining areas will be using the already heavily congested roads of East Finchley to come shopping. Similar fears surround the new Institute and a worry about where the many students attending the facility will park is a common theme, with the realisation that the resident parking spaces, which operate for only one hour per day, could be clogged with shoppers' and students' vehicles when weary residents arrive home from work.

**Environ-mental**

With the additional traffic comes a secondary effect of pollution, noise and a threat to the environment. There is a general fear that the loss of green space and trees caused by both these projects will damage the look and feel of the area, and may ultimately destroy the 'village' atmosphere.

**Jobs for the boys?**

With the potential destruction of existing businesses and homes that the Waitrose project would involve comes another worry: the effect on our local businesses. Whilst the supermarket may bring more jobs to the area, it will also threaten and destroy some of our local businesses. One reader considers that far from bringing additional trade to the area, the result is likely to be a net loss of jobs and a loss of the diversity and quality of local shops. *THE ARCHER* has been promised research showing how developments in similar areas around North London have impacted local communities. On the same theme, demolition of period buildings and the loss of the parade leading up to Baronsmere Road is cited as a good reason for opposing the scheme.

**Blight**

There is a perceived planning blight (which one reader claims to have had confirmed by a local estate agent) that is adversely affecting the value of homes in the immediate vicinity of both proposed projects. The effect on

the immediate residents' quality of life is of major concern.

**A question of trust**

Other correspondents fear the disposal of the existing library and, perhaps, the school playing field, and most would prefer the existing library to be upgraded, rather than being replaced.

Throughout there is fear and scepticism about the role or motivation of local government in both schemes. Demands for an open, public consultation are common.

One reader points out that there are over 20 supermarkets within 4 miles of the proposed site, half being 2 ½ miles or less away. This reader poses the question 'Do we need another supermarket?'

**On the other hand**

Not everybody of course is opposed. Some people would welcome a supermarket (though many would prefer a much smaller store than that which has been proposed) and point out that Waitrose would represent a high quality, convenient store with a wide choice of goods, which is currently lacking in East Finchley. Another positive point is that a modern library may serve the general population better, especially in respect to access and parking, which the current library lacks. Far from being a threat to the town centre, this project could ensure its future by acting as a focus for shoppers in and around East Finchley. As always, we await your response.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.

Old school  
for new students?

By Helen Bennett

I'm tired of hearing how wonderful the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute is. Yes, it's the 'Village Institute' for residents of the Hampstead Garden Suburb, but only one-third – at the most – of its students live there. The Institute has transformed itself into the largest provider of adult education in the Borough. It's a commercial organisation! And it needs to be, if it's to survive in these hard times. It makes a lot of money by teaching English to young, overseas students, but it's getting ever more difficult to attract them.

Imagine you're a student and you're coming to London to learn English. Language schools are falling over each other to attract you. Which one do you choose? I have a suggestion for Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute to grab a commercial advantage over its competitors.

1. Barnet Council are selling off the former Finchley School.
2. Many local people would hate to see that building demolished.
3. It's right opposite the Finchley Leisure Park, with its many attractions for the young.
4. Why not convert Finchley School into an Adult Education Institute and watch the students roll in?

Instead of the Institute frittering their millions on a new building with virtually zero parking, they can modernise the Finchley School buildings to the highest standards, knowing that, just across the High Road, in addition to cinema, bowling and leisure pool, a free car park awaits. Think about it.

And what's to be done with the National Hospital site adjoining East Finchley station? Well, if lack of disabled access is the REAL reason why the local Library has to close down, why not move East Finchley Library into the building which was designed specifically to provide wheelchair access for people with disabilities - over 100 years ago!

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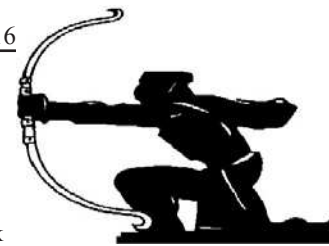
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Mr Andrew in the early 1900s, photo courtesy of Paresh Shah.

## Andrew's Pharmacy

By Diana Cormack

There has been a pharmacy at 32 High Road and the corner of Baronsmere Road since the 1880s. CW Andrew owned the business there from 1904 – 1939, when he sold it to John Bolton. By that time Mr Andrew was approaching his eightieth birthday, but in our photograph he was a lot younger. Pharmacist Paresh Shah, who supplied the photo, believes that it was taken before the First World War.

In those days it was also a Post Office. As well as making out the writing on the shop front, eagle-eyed readers may be able to decipher the sign above the front door, which says "for money order, savings bank, parcel post, telegraph, insurance and annuity business". Andrew and Co business

hours were from 8am – 9pm, except for early closing at 5pm on Thursdays and on Sundays, when accessories only were supplied twice a day.

Mr Bolton, now in his nineties, still lives in East Finchley and must surely have a tale or two to tell about all the changes he has seen in the area.

## Binnie Barnes and Black Bess

By Daphne Chamberlain

Shirley Hodson of Elm Gardens has supplied another piece of the Binnie Barnes story. Not only did the Hollywood star of the 1930s and 40s live in East Finchley, but she was said to be a regular at the Black Bess transport café (in the Hertford Road/ Bedford Road area of the High Road).

Shirley's late father, who was born in 1904, a year after Binnie, remembered her well. She was, he said, "A bit of a girl", and he wasn't commenting on her size.

His memories also confirm that she lived in Prospect Place with her mother. As she must have been at least a teenager when she frequented the Black Bess, they may well have moved here after the death of her father, William, – around 1917.

### Down on the farm?

So was the Arthur Barnes listed in the street directories

of that time a relative, maybe a brother or an uncle? And did Binnie and her mum ever actually move to a Kentish farm after her father died, as her biographers maintain? Why does the official version of her life never mention Finchley?

Many thanks to Shirley Hodson for putting us further in the picture. If anyone else knows anything further, however slight, do let us know. Write, phone or e-mail, or just do what Shirley did, and drop a word in the ear of someone on *THE ARCHER* team. Help us rewrite history!

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