



Local News Is Our Aim



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# 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 DO Ron Laveric and Sgt Bernard Forbes. And very hospitable they were too, gave each of us a cup of something hot from the canteen, there wasn't any string hanging out so I believe it was coffee.

### Festival to go ahead Despite Funding Problems

East Finchley Community Festival could lose its grant in 1993 in line with Barnet Borough Council's newly adopted policy on the funding of carnivals and community events.

However the event is planned to go ahead on June 19 next year and, weather permitting, will be successful yet again.

The event was cancelled two years ago, blocked by the council, who claimed that it had become "political". After an initial court hearing, and subsequent appeal, the festival was cleared of the charges made and awarded costs. Last year the event went ahead on a fine day and many local residents thoroughly enjoyed the day.

If Barnet withdraws its support, organisers will have to make up the £400 awarded last year (of which the council effectively deducted £100 for "indemnity documents") from elsewhere. One potential problem could be the provision of marquees. Last year the festival acquired two such tents from Haringey and Hammersmith & Fulham Councils at just £50 each, instead of the £1,800 that these would normally have cost.

It is a shame that such a popular event as this has to rely on the goodwill of council authorities outside our own borough. Is it too much to ask that our local council fund an event that it should be more than happy to be associated with?

We await Barnet's official policy regarding the festival, and hope that local companies and residents will offer help to the organisers.

For further information, or to offer help, please contact Jacqui Suffling on 444 4051. Their next meeting is on Tuesday January 5th 1993 at 8:00pm at the East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, N2.

### Bookies Pay Out As Crime Business Booms

Golders Green police warned residents to be extra-vigilant this Christmas as they told of how a branch of William Hill the bookmakers in East Finchley were unwitting hosts to unwelcome punters who had decided to have a gamble last month, and as a result paid out to the tune of £3,220 in cash.

One of an increasing number of local victims of crime, William Hill on the High Road, suffered a forced entry through their front door. Once inside, the perpetrators were able to place the firm's safe onto a trolley and simply wheel it out of the rear entrance, along with its contents.

In the same week, Walters the greengrocer in the High Road had a charity box stolen by "two

pimpily youths", who also matched the description of youths who attempted to steal a similar charity box from Finchley Wines opposite.

Police also warned the public to check the identity of officials who call at the door after confidence tricksters, posing as Water Board inspectors, gained entry into the home of a Kitchener Road pensioner and made off with £200 cash.

Other crimes in the same week include one rape, a serious assault that could result in death, two cases of indecent behaviour including one towards children, seven burglaries and numerous reports of vandalism, criminal damage, theft and other crimes.

A lot of the information was given as background and can't be printed because the people concerned have still to be tried. However I can give you some excerpts and, remember, all this was over one week, not an entire month.

Rape in East Finchley - Trial soon in Harrow  
Domestic violence - death may occur - N2

Ossulton Way, two fifteen year olds were smiled at by a fat 60 year old man in a woolly cap who was holding himself with both hands.

Neil Close. Racist telephone calls, BT changed the number.  
Charity Box stolen by two pimply faced youths from Walters the Green grocers in the High Road.

Angry drunk refused service by Shillilapi Indian Restaurant punched and shattered the plate glass window as a farewell gesture.

Sedgemere Avenue N2 - ground floor flat in broken into. TV, video, telephone answering machine, and microwave stolen. Sash window forced.

Dennison Close N2 - ground floor flat broken into, tv, silverware and jewellery stolen. Kitchen window smashed. Front door locked so thieves had to leave by the broken window.

Cornwall Close N2 - Window forced, cash, computer, video camera stolen, forced window for entry whilst owners slept.

Durham Road N2 - Top floor flat broken into, pushed in door, camera's lenses etc stolen to the value of nearly £3,000.

East End Road N2 - Sub PO broken into 5.10am, thieves took £100 cash, cigarettes and lighters to value of £1600 whilst owners in flat upstairs.

High Road N2 - Andrews the chemist, ground floor wooden panel below window smashed. Passer by saw pair of legs disappearing inside and called police who turned up within three minutes. Nothing stolen but £100 damage.

Kitchener Road, N2 - Bogus waterboard official stole £200 from unsuspecting pensioner. Home help called police, not caught.

Creighton Avenue N2 - Ashler Court, forced entry by using plas-

tic card to slip the door. Hi-Fi, cd's and jewellery totalling £1105 stolen.

High Road N2 - William Hill the bookmakers - thieves broke in through the front door, put the safe into a trolley and left via the back door, £3220 cash in the safe.

High Road, three juveniles stole a Vauxhall Cavalier and were chased around London, two of which had the thrill of being bitten by police dogs.

In addition to this there were other crimes including vehicles broken into, drunks etc but too numerous to list here.

There are many solutions, hire a policeman at a cost of £300 a day, another is to protect your house with alarms and good secure locks, yet another is to form a neighbourhood watch scheme in your street or if there is already one there, to call a meeting to discuss the lawlessness now happening in East Finchley. Yet another is to do nothing and pay increasingly higher insurance premiums each year or be happy to replace everything that may be stolen!

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## THE ARCHER at 20

Twenty years ago, Andrew Taylor, Kevin Finn and Nick Lawrence led an army of volunteers who produced and distributed the first edition of *THE ARCHER*. The paper then came out as a four-page, black and white edition printed on A4 paper before going tabloid in time for issue three.

Forgive the indulgence if we use this page to celebrate our birthday and look back at the highlights of those early days.

*THE ARCHER* has changed in many ways since January 1993 but at its heart it is still the volunteer-led community newspaper it set out to be from the start.

Now we're running at 12 pages each month, printed in full colour, and we're also spreading news online on our own website and via Facebook and Twitter.

### Memories

#### and suggestions

Do you have any memories of *THE ARCHER* over the years? Get in touch and we'll feature

your recollections in future issues.

And what do you think of *THE ARCHER* in 2013? Have you got any suggestions or new ideas for the paper in our anniversary year? We'd value your thoughts on new things we could be doing or stories we should be covering and, although we can't promise to put everything into action, we'll certainly consider all ideas to help make the newspaper the best it possibly can be for the next 20 years.

**How to get in touch:** Email us at [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net), phone us on 0800 612 0748, find *TheArcherN2* on Facebook and Twitter, or write to us at *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

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## THE ARCHER at 20: "Not just another freebie"

When *The Archer* was born, East Finchley and the country as a whole was in the thick of a recession, much like the one we've been battling through in the last few years. These extracts from an article in our second issue explain the thinking that brought the paper into life.

This copy of *THE ARCHER* comes to you as the result of one man's idea being bounced off a friend. The inspiration behind it was the feeling that although East Finchley is at present a friendly community with the atmosphere of a village, it seems to be in danger of slipping into the oblivion of a London suburb.

Perhaps, we thought, if we had our own *truly* local paper we could not only preserve but possibly enhance the community atmosphere that without a shadow of a doubt already exists.

Many of us, when we were younger, received copies of a parish magazine or similar publication. These were really enjoyable. People actually looked forward to receiving them. They are a condensed but important manifestation of the character of the people who make up the community, and are read as avidly by visitors as they are by residents.

The result was a pilot issue

in December 1992. Mistakes have been made (all the more since none of us on the team has any newspaper experience) but the reaction was positive from those that had seen it. Regular publications are planned and you are holding what is hoped to be among the first of many editions.

The name *THE ARCHER*, something we are often asked about, is taken from a sculpture designed by Eric Aumonier, which crouches on top of East Finchley tube station. The archer depicted in the sculpture seems to have the sense of purpose we are looking for, and East Finchley has traditionally been strongly associated with archery.

There are around 9,000 letter boxes in East Finchley, which represent a population of 27,000 adults (no figures are available for children). It is them (or should we say *you*) who will make or break the paper. It will only work if we publish the sort of material that

you want to read, and we can only do that if you tell us what you want to read.

One final word: the paper is free, but printers and paper merchants require payment. The staff on the team donate considerable amounts of time for no payment. *THE ARCHER* is funded by advertising paid for by our local businesses. They have not been immune to the recession, so please let them know if you have seen their advert or offer in *THE ARCHER* so that they will realise that it is being seen and advertise again. The publisher and editor wish to thank all advertisers for their support in making this paper possible.

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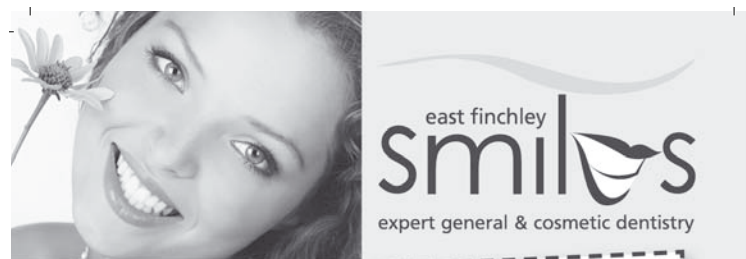
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