



# Right turn wasn't the wrong turn

By Rachel Abedi

**A routine right turn at the Bald Faced Stag crossroads in East Finchley led to months of bureaucratic frustration for Majjo Ashraf, founder of popular local takeaway Majjo's Foods.**

Days after making a legal turn from East End Road down the High Road towards Highgate, she received a penalty notice from Barnet Council accusing her of an illegal right turn from Fortis Green UP the High Road towards North Finchley.

Despite their own photographic evidence clearly showing her turning correctly out of East End Road and many emails pointing out this error, Barnet Council escalated the matter with threatening notices and court proceedings.

This led to extensive paperwork, the enlistment of a Commissioner of Oaths and hours of calls. Still, there appeared to be no way to address the fact that the Council was in error.

When the case finally reached court, Barnet declared there was no case to answer, offering neither apology nor compensation for the stress and costs incurred.

## False accusations

A friend of Majjo's said: "This incident raises concerns about the reliability of local traffic enforcement and the council's

handling of disputes. Other drivers might face similar false accusations from what appears to be a faulty camera system or flawed enforcement process.

"Drivers receiving penalty notices for right turns at this junction should carefully examine the photographic evidence and challenge incorrect fines, despite the intimidating process."

## No record

A Barnet Council spokesperson told The Archer: "We note that we have no record of correspondence having been received from the registered keeper or driver of the vehicle during the statutory appeal period.

"However, we acknowledge that the penalty charge notice was issued incorrectly and that there were opportunities to correct this error before we cancelled the penalty and wrote to the keeper of the vehicle to apologise for that initial error in January 2025.

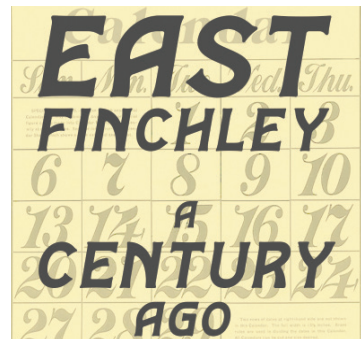
"Both CCTV review staff and those processing correspondence will be advised of the lessons learned from this case."

# Tennis in the park, a dramatic rescue and a pioneer Pastor...

By Frank Edwards

*This is some of the news from East Finchley 100 years ago, as revealed in newspaper archives.*

Today, Cherry Tree Wood proudly flies a Green Flag, recognising it as a well-managed community asset. Its attractions include sporting amenities but it was not ever thus. At the beginning of 1925 debate raged in the local council about the merits of using an unemployment relief scheme to provide new leisure facilities. Possible venues included Totteridge Fields and Cherry Tree Wood. Many raised concerns about the cost, given the country's grave financial position and the proposed works in Totteridge were abandoned. Others lobbied on behalf of East Finchley, claiming it was the Cinderella of the district, whose needs, despite its growing population, were always ignored. These arguments won the day and the Council approved expenditure of £960 to build three tennis hard courts. One factor which may have swayed the decision was that the proposed site for the tennis courts was a part of the open space that was unused because (guess what) it was water-logged. So, it turns out it is not just in recent years that Cherry Tree Wood has been a pond as well as a park.



## Doggy's in the well

There was much excitement one Sunday evening in February 1925 at a house in Park Gate, by The Walks, N2. An Airedale terrier fell 50 feet into a disused well, making, it was said, a resounding splash. When rescue attempts failed someone called the fire brigade. Two firemen arrived and swiftly knotted a harness, with which one lowered the other down the well. The wet pet was found, floating and alive, and brought safely to the surface. This uplifting tale received national coverage. A self-proclaimed 'Lover of Animals' in Edinburgh wrote expressing heartfelt approval of the men's brave actions.

## Come to the Coliseum



Winners: Mayor of Barnet Tony Vourou presents the community award to Green Man Management

# Green Man team make it a 'better place to live'

By Diana Cormack

**A group of volunteers on the Strawberry Vale estate in East Finchley have been honoured for the work they do to make it a better place to live.**

The Green Man Management Committee won the Community Group of the Year award in a ceremony hosted by Barnet Homes and Opendoor Homes following nominations from residents, staff and partners across Barnet.

Green Man committee members Vanessa Elsley, Jan Kerr, Thomas Matthews, Emma Morris, Helen Shannon and Mark Shannon were acknowledged for the positive impact

they have made on their community.

Despite difficult times with continuing challenges, this group of volunteers provides a variety of activities and events for all ages in a place where everyone feels welcome. Jan Kerr told The Archer: "Everything we do is for the benefit of the Strawberry Vale Estate."

Elliott Sweetman, Interim CEO of The Barnet Group, said:

"These nominations are a testament to the incredible people who embody the spirit of unity and determination that defines our community."

In a report on the closure of the Barnet Lone Parent Centre at Strawberry Vale last month we stated that Julia Hines is a trustee of the Green Man Centre. We have since been told this is not the case and we are happy to set the record straight.

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