



What draws you to East Finchley?

By Diana Cormack

Visitors to our stall at East Finchley Community Festival often compliment us on The Archer, telling us how much they love the newspaper and also how much they love East Finchley.

This year James Dillon, of Creighton Avenue, N2, a young man who attended Martin Primary and Fortismere schools, did just that and was brimming with enthusiasm for the place.

So much so, he told us, that he has marked his devotion by having an image of Archie, the tube station's famous art-deco statue and symbol for this newspaper, tattooed on his leg.

When he rolled up his trouser leg in front of our stall, we were all suitably impressed. Intrigued, I asked James to tell us why he had chosen to have this tattoo. Here is his reply:

"Being born and bred in East Finchley, I grew up looking up at the statue as I walked into the station, always thinking how beautiful and mystical it looked. Only more recently did I realise that Eric Aumonier's design was paying homage to East Finchley's past. Now a well-connected suburb, it was once part of the expansive hunting forests north of London. "I have this tattoo because I love how the statue looks, but also because the drastic change our area has seen is fascinating.

I love being from here. As nationalism rises around us, I choose local pride instead. I choose to celebrate rich history, vibrancy and diversity in East Finchley and wider London, whether that is through going



Under his skin: James Dillon shows off his Archie tattoo. Photo Margaret Crockett

to the local festival, or getting a tattoo which to me represents East Finchley, past and present."

A well-thought-out reply and, who knows, James might have started a tattoo trend for East Finchley.

Happy 107th birthday, Joe

By Lynn Winton

A very happy 107th birthday to Joe Slyper, a long-time local resident, who is now enjoying life at Hammerson House, which cares for older members of the Jewish community in East Finchley.

They seem to be doing a marvellous job as he could easily pass for a youngster in his 80s. He is just one of ten remarkable centenarians who live there, each with their own unique stories and a lifetime of memories to share.

Joe was born in the East End, where he witnessed the Battle of Cable Street, and found work in the textile industry. In 1939 he was among the first to volunteer for the British Army, earning the rank of Sergeant with the 9th Battalion Devonshire Regiment. He was still active in supporting ex-servicemen and women and marched in parades

right up to his 100th birthday.

In 1940 he married his sweetheart Rose at East London Synagogue; they had a family and were married for 73 years until her passing. Joe dedicated his life to his family which includes nine great grandchildren, built a successful career, served his community and remained a passionate Tottenham Hotspur supporter throughout the decades.

The Archer cannot say for sure if Joe is the oldest man in East Finchley but we think there's every chance. We hope our readers will let us know if we are mistaken.



Birthday boy: Joe Slyper is 107

Garden goes self-sustaining

By Gail Norcliffe

The last week of June was exceptionally busy for the neighbourhood gardeners of Leopold Road, N2. After spending the Tuesday hosting the Duke of Edinburgh on his visit (The Archer, July 2026), Edwina Roberts and Kathy Batten then threw themselves into organising a successful fundraising afternoon on the Sunday.

The fundraiser coincided with the regular monthly play street held on Leopold Road, when for a couple of precious hours traffic is banished and children can play safely in the road. As more residents are out and about with their children on play street afternoons, it was a perfect opportunity to try to raise money for the Leopold Road Neighbourhood Garden, which is now wholly reliant

on donations for maintenance costs. Locals made generous contributions to what was on offer and Tony's Continental kindly donated plants. Those attending were tempted by an array of delicious looking home baked cakes and bread, plants, key rings and jewellery.

Games were arranged including hook-a-duck and design-a-bag. The afternoon raised £600 and the hard-working gardeners are thinking of making it a regular event.



Fundraising items on sale at the neighbourhood garden



**DAVID HILLEL
OPTOMETRIST**

**50% off
ADDITIONAL PAIRS**

Minimum spend £200
Discount applies to
the cheapest pair

**10% DISCOUNT
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

Aged 65 and over. Terms & conditions apply



Offering an enhanced eye examination
and a comprehensive hearing care service

Contact us today to book an appointment

Tel: 020 8444 2233 | Email: office@davidhillel.co.uk



**PICKLEBALL
SUMMER
CAMP**

EAST FINCHLEY &
KENTISH TOWN!

EVERY WEEK
20TH JULY -
24TH AUGUST

OUR PROGRAM:

- ✓ Drills
- ✓ Games
- ✓ Match play
- ✓ Coaching

Fun & creative
pickleball activities
for children
6-16 years old

Weekly clubs during the term time as well!

Email jonah@lemonpickleball.com for more information

Register at lemonpickleball.com

