

To all our readers: What do you want The Archer to be?  
**What Now, Dear Reader?**

The Archer will be four years old soon. This is an achievement by any standards. But back-slapping, as much as we like it, is not enough to carry us through another year.

We need our readers to help us by telling us what they expect The Archer to be. So tell us what you like about the paper, what you dislike, what you would like it to contain, what to exclude. Whatever, tell us.

Bear in mind that The Archer is not like any other local paper. It is produced entirely by volunteers, a team of East Finchley residents who meet every Saturday. It is a paper for the community by the community.

We have just received a letter from an interested reader who has touched on so many important issues. We publish his excellent letter (Pros and Cons, right) in the hope that it will spark off further thoughts among our readers about what The Archer should be.

So, please help us by sending your ideas and comments or ring the editor on 883 8846. Better still, consider joining us and complete the coupon below or ring 914 7280 and leave your name and number.

**Yes! I wish to become an Archer volunteer.**

I am interested in: (tick all that apply)

- |                                      |                          |               |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Writing                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | Proof Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Research                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Typing        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Photography                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Production    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Editing                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | Advertising   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sub-editing                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Distribution  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Don't know / willing to try anything | <input type="checkbox"/> |               | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone number.....

Send your completed coupon to:  
 The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA

**Contact - AGM**

East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact gives notice of an ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held at the Methodist Church Hall, High Road, N2 on Saturday 7 December 1996 at 2.45pm.

Afternoon tea will be served after the Meeting.

All who are interested in helping people in need of assistance are welcome to learn of the work these Volunteers do for local people.

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**MEMORY LANE SINGING CLUB**

Is looking for new members, male and female. The club is constantly in demand to provide entertainment for local charities. (Songs from the Roaring 20s-50s).

We meet on Tuesdays at the Methodist Church, Ballards Lane, Finchley N12 (opp. Victoria Park) from 11-1pm and on Friday at St Mary's Church Hall, Hendon Lane, Finchley N3, from 12.30-2.30. For further details ring 0181-883 8501

**Pros and Cons**

Dear Sir

Thanks for keeping The Archer going...!!

Why can't you have a proper address to save me postage or fax costs? It would be so easy, for example, for me to leave a letter in some pub or cafe...

I like your paper to the extent that it provides a community service. I admire the greatly improved writing skills that you have mustered during the past year or so.

The Archer is the place for local advertising, but unfortunately papers like The Archer are constantly in danger of becoming anodyne servants of those that feed it with copy and advertising revenue, and thus losing the interest and support of its readers. I believe that the more you become a community service the more support you will gain.

I feel that the editors should make more effort to reflect our daily realities. There appears to be a serious lack of communication in this regard, and there is just no editorial drive to speak to people (for example in queues at the Post Office).

Too much of The Archer would be equally relevant to a resident of Golders Green or Cockfosters. All this sort of stuff should be cut out.

In the long term I would like The Archer to be financed more by local clubs, churches, groups and business subscriptions and less by advertising. Get your revenue from as many different sources as possible.

It appears from the columns of your paper that organisations such as the Finchley Society, schools, the political parties, churches, synagogues and many other places of worship do not keep regular contact with you and you do not with them. Why is there this breakdown?

I would like to see a clear editorial policy declaration as

to what The Archer is trying to do. This is surely the heart of the matter. People will respect what you want to do even if you can't yet match up to your aims. Such a policy statement would help me to see where I can contribute to your excellent efforts.

I have been reading The Archer since it started, trying to see how I could help. I still don't know. I wonder if there are others like me.

Best Wishes.

**Anthony Ormerod  
 The Causeway, N2.**

**Apathy of Residents**

Dear Sir

I am very busy, but must correct the article by "Footslogger" (Issue 42 of The Archer) which blamed local residents for their "apathy".

There was daily attendance by the Solicitor from Camden, and the Architect who designed Strawberry Vale, both pointing out most cogently the disaster of the scheme.

A Village Society was formed which now runs the East Finchley Festival, meeting sometimes twice a week to discuss how to campaign against the NCR scheme; local teachers, lecturers, ordinary people. One person was suffering from a terminal illness yet turned up and spoke so eloquently as to the harm the road development scheme would do; housewives, members of a tenants' association, all sorts of kind, good, ordinary people, attending every day and reading thousands of transcripts put out by the Government, contesting so-called "cost benefit analyses" produced by experts in parliamentary journalese to prove the wonders of this proposed "improvement" scheme; one inspector resigning as he failed to cope with the dedication of people who had no spare time, yet turned up to fight this strange

"inquiry".

This "development" was not wanted by the local residents, but if they raised their voices for just a tiny moment, the police "escorted" them out of the Church Hall where the inquiry was taking place.

If you have the time from your own busy life, and can obtain back-copies of the Hendon Times of that era you will not find apathy. People tried to counter the expertise of the Government by taking traffic measurements at points along the High Road, and the NCR itself, before going to work themselves, and after work.

Many of these dedicated people, fortunately for the Community, are still resident in Finchley. How terribly sad that such a battle can be interpreted as "apathy".

**Name and address supplied. N2**

**Bridge so near**

Dear Sir

The recently formed Tetherdown Duplicate Bridge Club has got off to an excellent and enthusiastic start. We have so far held three sessions of seven tables at Tetherdown Hall, Muswell Hill. Our sessions are interesting and stimulating under the able direction of Kay Berry.

Many bridge players consider duplicate bridge to be the most enjoyable form of the game. It appears therefore that our club is filling a need by offering afternoon duplicate bridge in the locality.

**Two clubs**

Assistance in starting the club came from Tetherdown Bridge Club and Highgate Bridge Club. Duplicate bridge has been played for many years in both clubs, but it is largely from publicity in local newspapers all over North London that we have acquired enough new players to make the club viable.

Our first general meeting, followed by duplicate bridge, takes place at Tetherdown Hall on Thursday 9 January 1997 at 1.30pm. In the meantime we are still looking for new members and hope to recruit up to another fifteen or twenty players. They will of course, all be welcome to come to the general meeting as well as to the playing sessions. Ring 0181 883 3644 for details.

**Henry & Mary Barnett  
 Southern Road, N2.**

**Local Badminton Group**

seeks new members of good playing standard. Meeting Monday evenings in NW11. Please phone 0181 458 7625.

**At The Old**

**Barn Centre:-**

For children age 5 to 13:

- \*Breakfast Club
- \*After school care
- \*Holiday playscheme care
- \*Teacher training days

For All:

- \*Hall for hire
- \*Meeting room for hire
- \*Karate clubs
- \*Lip-reading courses
- \*Badminton club
- \*Bridge club

Also nursery and parent & toddlers group

Contact Mandy or Barry on 0181 349 4613, Mon-Fri, 10-6.

**Join the Fun**

**Barnet 18 Plus Group, a social and activities group offers people aged between 18 and 29 the chance to make new friends and enjoy a wide range of fun activities, locally and nationally.**

Many new members joined the group recently and experienced a packed programme of fun events including Quick On The Draw, Play Your Cards Right, Famous Faces, Music Quiz, Who Am I?, 10 Pin Bowling, Chinese Meal and Two Discos.

Any active and outgoing person aged from 18 to 29 is welcome to join the group. If you want to find out more, ring Mark on 0181 361 2827 or go any Sunday at 8.45pm to the upstairs room of the Bull & Butcher Pub, 1277 High Road, Whetstone, N20.

**Barn Dancing**

at Union Church Hall, Northiam, N12

(nr junction with Longland Drive and Laurel Way) on the first Wednesday of each month 8.15 pm until 10.30 pm. £2 includes tea or coffee and biscuits  
 Wednesday, 4 December  
 Phone Bernard Chalk on 0181 440 3116