



## THE ARCHER

PO Box 3699  
LONDON N2 8JA  
Voicemail/fax:  
Editorial: 08700 292405  
Listings: 08700 292407  
Advertising: 08700 293 991  
Distribution: 08700 293 992  
Enquiries: 08700 293 993

e-mail: The-Archer@  
LineOne.net  
<http://www.the-archer.co.uk>

PUBLISHER  
*East Finchley  
Newspapers*

EDITOR  
*Kevin Finn*

SUB-EDITORS  
*Frances Loveday  
Claire Warner*

FEATURES EDITORS  
*Daphne Chamberlain  
Diana Cormack*

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*Sippy Azizollah  
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Noel Lynch  
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Tony Roberts  
Sonia Singham  
Femke van Iperen*

PHOTOGRAPHY  
*David Tupman*

DESIGN & PRODUCTION  
*Alison Roberts  
Paul Northam*

FINANCE  
*Sue Holliday*

ADVERTISING  
*John Dearing*

ADMINISTRATION  
*Pamela Kent  
Toni Morgan*

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

*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.*

### Your contributions

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

THE ARCHER aims to publish on the first weekend each month. To maximise the chance of publication, all contributors are urged to submit their articles early the preceding month:

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

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Utilities (for N2)

Eastern Energy 0800 783 8838  
London Electricity 0800 096 9000  
OFTEL 020 7634 8700  
Thames Water 0845 920 0888  
Three Valleys Water 0845 782 3333  
Gas consumers cncl. 0645 060708  
Transco Gas Emerg. 0800 111 999

### Councils

**Barnet**  
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000  
Council Tax 020 8359 2608  
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600  
Health Authority 020 8201 4700  
Com'ty Health Cncl 020 8349 4364  
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500  
Employment Service 020 8258 3900  
**Haringey Council** 020 8975 9700

### Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121  
Cophthall Sports Ctr. 020 8361 8658  
E. Finchley Library 020 8883 2664  
Gt North Leisure Pk. 020 8343 9830  
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007  
Phoenix Cinema. 020 8883 2233  
Tourist Info Service 0870 126 4018  
Warner Cinema Village 020 8446 9933

*\*Calls to 09065 numbers are charged at £1.50 per minute.*

### Help & Advice

Barnet/Racial Equality Council 020 8446 0445  
Childline 0800 1111  
Citizens Advice Bureau 020 8349 0954  
Cruse Bereavement Care 020 7431 7122  
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935  
E Finchley Advice Service 020 8444 6265  
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227  
Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700  
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000  
NSPCC 0800 800500  
Rape Crisis Centre 020 7837 1600  
Relate 020 8445 0888  
Samaritans 020 8889 6888  
Refuge National Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

### Health Advice

AIDS Helpline 0800 567123  
Alcoholics Anonymous 020 7352 3001  
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688  
CancerLink 0800 132905  
Carers National Assoc. 020 8343 3665  
Drinkline 0800 917 8282  
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600  
Health Information Service 0800 665544  
Homeopathic Helpline 09065 343404\*  
MIND 020 8343 5700  
N. London Blood Service 020 8258 2700

### OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511  
Barnet OAPs Welfare 020 8441 4853  
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162  
Counsel & Care 0845 300 7585  
Help the Aged 0800 096 2541

### Crime

Emergency 999  
Finchley Police 020 8342 1212  
Golders Gr. Police 020 8209 1212  
Muswell Hill Police 020 8442 1212  
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111  
Victim Support 020 8343 4435

### Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000  
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792  
Edgware General 020 8952 2381  
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 3121  
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343  
Royal Free 020 7794 0500  
St Luke's 020 8219 1800  
Whittington 020 7272 3070  
Western Eye Hosp 020 7886 6666

### Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 484950  
City Airport 020 7646 0000  
Greenline 020 8668 7261  
LT Enquiries 020 7222 1234  
Grey-Green 020 8800 8010  
National Express 08705 808080  
Heathrow 020 8759 4321

### Animal Welfare

Nat Strays Bureau 09065 123999\*  
RSPCA 0870 5555999

### EAST FINCHLEY ADVICE SERVICE

42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT  
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

#### General Advice.

Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.  
Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.

#### Immigration Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appointment only.

#### Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

#### Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

## Big Fun Sponsored Walk

Starting from the forecourt of East Finchley Underground Station, at 9.15am on Sunday 3 March, the North London Hospice sponsored walk passes through many of London's parks, finishing at Storey's Gate, near the Houses of Parliament.

Walk as much or as little of the route as you can. For registration forms, please phone any of the numbers below by 20 February. Leave your name, address, postcode and phone number, saying how many forms are required.

Vivienne - 020 8202 5586;  
Christine - 020 8458 9044;  
Paul - 020 8458 0223.

## Business Watch Scheme in High Road

By Femke van Iperen

**In his fight against crime, Home Secretary David Blunkett recently pleaded, "Everyone has a part to play to assist the police with persistent offenders." Local businesses have decided to do just that and are now joining forces in a Business Watch Scheme.**

### Early Warning System

Twenty one traders on the High Road, predominantly independent companies, gave the idea a warm welcome after numerous criminal incidents. The scheme enables traders to take protective measures following an alert from a central source which pages all businesses within 60 seconds of an incident.

Barnet's Police Sector Inspector Maurice Hartnett said, "It's about sharing information concerning shoplifting and other nuisance crime." According to Inspector Hartnett, most boroughs in London and elsewhere in the UK have similar setups, and Golders Green's has already proved successful.

### A growing problem

One local business owner, who has been "steamed" six times this year, says the problem, with mainly schoolchildren, started a year ago. "Maybe [the criminals] have been shoved out of other areas, and decided to come where the resistance is low. Before that time we just had the odd problem. When you are on your own, you can't do much but confront them, especially when they disperse into different aisles." The trader, who regrets he might be sending the wrong message to innocent children, said, "You are also limited in what you can say before you have a problem with the law".

Another trader said of one mugging, "It was one of the most terrifying experiences I have ever had in my entire life. They were like a pack of dogs; I have never felt more intimidated."

### Neighbourhood spirit

Superintendent Simon O'Brien of Colindale, who was involved with one of the first schemes in Covent Garden, said, "The strength lies with the community itself. Through the scheme, everybody gets to know each other and it toughens the neighbourhood spirit." He suggested that key influential people, councillors, local MPs, and politicians, should be involved in the debate.

The scheme sets each trader back about £2 a week, but "The average shop must lose £2 on stolen goods a week anyway," said a local trader. "Hopefully the criminals will get wise to the fact that there is a business watch," he concluded.



## In the Dark....Again!

By John Dearing

**At 16:57 on Monday 14 January, the second power cut in six weeks hit the centre of East Finchley. The electric mains were off for some 45 minutes in the High Road, from Kitchener Road on the west side and the east side just up from Lincoln Road, down to just past the traffic lights, with some adjacent roads also affected.**

Being the start of the rush hour, traffic at the cross roads was quite heavy, but, despite a few close calls, there were no actual collisions; indeed, it appeared as though the traffic was flowing more quickly than usual. Of course, pedestrians had to take more than the usual risks to cross at this point.

Many shops and businesses were forced to close during the power outage, and an automatic fire alarm mistook the situation for a real fire and called the fire brigade, who turned out in force by the shops in Viceroy Parade; there was no fire! At this point while this article was being written, just before 18:00, the electric mains went off again, and stayed off until 00:30; again, the following morning just before 11:00, the power went off for two and a half hours. There was a fleet of electricity company vans parked near the local sub-station, but only time will tell if they have fixed the problem.