



1999

January

Concerns that new Strawberry Vale community centre will be outside estate, plans for Neurological Hospital revealed.

February

Council announces consultation on future of Cherry Tree Wood. Plans to halve services at fire station.

March

Town centre manager to be appointed, fire station cuts confirmed, concerns about GM food.

April

Concerns about redevelopment of Friern Barnet Hospital site, results of Cherry Tree Wood consultation, local Agenda 21 group launched, death of Alan Randle of East Finchley Library.

June

Crossing campaign accelerates as BBC1's Crimewatch shows a reconstruction in an effort to find the motorcyclist.

July

Public meeting to campaign for crossing, festival review and trial and conviction of Michael Parsonage for the murder of his wife.

August

"Green light for Crossing" reads our headline as Barnet Council gives go ahead. Baronsmere Road scheme approved, The George in Market Place closes and, after seven years of wrangling, the Eruv is "only weeks away".

September

Neurological Hospital finally closes, but "green estate" plan abandoned



April 2000: Campaigner Rachel Abedi and her family try out the new Fortis Green crossing. Photo by Erini Rodis

May

Mrs Maria Bussandri knocked down and killed by speeding motorcyclist on Fortis Green. Her tragic death rekindles campaign for pedestrian crossing. Neil Jordan films part of "The End of the Affair" at the Phoenix.

and site still for sale. Appeal for help in funding Xmas lights and Michael Parsonage committed to secure hospital as court hears that medical blunder led to him killing his wife.

November

Shortage of secondary school places highlighted.

December

Local businesses protest at impending CPZ, row looming over local selective schools, "hen night" at the Constitutional Club causes uproar.

2000

January

Row at the Finchley Forum over the CPZ, secondary school selection makes the front page as Rudi Vis gets involved.

February

Barnet Council announces plans to make language support service



July 1999

Thank you to all our Advertisers, past, present, and future

By John Dearing

On the occasion of our tenth birthday, we would like to thank all our advertisers for their support: without you there would be no ARCHER, and that would mean that people in East Finchley would be without their communal voice.

Everyone in the team - writers, editors, producers, and distributors (and anyone else not included in that list!) - is a volunteer, but we rely upon advertising revenue to pay for printing the paper. The support we have received from businesses and individuals over the years is magnificent. Having said that, we believe that advertising in THE ARCHER offers value for money, a unique way of communicating with the people of East Finchley through the only newspaper that concentrates on the life and times of East Finchley. Long may our partnership continue!



Our spiritual home: Some of The Archer team outside Welch's in 1994

Home From Home

By David Hobbs

The story of THE ARCHER is not only about the news we print or how we produce the paper, it is also about where we do it and, since we started in 1993, we have had several homes.

When the paper first started the team met in the founding editor, Andrew Taylor's, flat. The first time I went along to a meeting there were twelve of us crammed into his front room, balancing ourselves on any available surface. When, in August 1993, Andrew decided to leave us to our fate we had to find somewhere else to meet.

If our first home had been cramped, but comfortable, our second was rather different. Pete Maslen, the Chair of the team, managed to get use of the old Strawberry Vale Community Centre. This grand sounding building was a couple of portacabins. Although the cabins are long gone, there should be a blue plaque to mark the scene of the most momentous of all ARCHER team meetings, the one where the team dug deep in their pockets to find the money to keep the paper going. In summer the portacabins were fine, but as autumn turned to winter cold we moved on.

Welcome home

As the original idea for THE ARCHER came out of a conversation in Welch's Ale Bar, our editor, Paul Savill, approached

Bob Welch who agreed to let us meet in the pub before opening hours every Saturday morning. When Bob sold the pub to Kieran and Margaret Madden he ensured that we could continue to meet there. All good things come to an end and when, in late 1997, Kieran started renovating the pub we had to move on.

The Old White Lion, next to the station, had just been renovated and was happy to offer us

a new home. Although we were delighted, we all missed Maddens and, in mid 1998, moved back to our spiritual home.

Since then we have been welcomed by Angie the bar manager every Saturday morning and Kieran and Margaret have supported the paper, not only by letting us have meetings there, but also parties and other events. Without Maddens there would still be THE ARCHER, but it would not be as much fun.



Reporters Femke van Iperen (left) and Diana Cormack at the Saturday morning meeting. Photo by John Dearing

teachers redundant, we report the sad death of Bob Welch of Welch's Alehouse and also that of Arthur Wood, former chair of the allotments society.



February 2000

March

Gala premier of "The End of the Affair" at the Phoenix, War

declared on graffiti and burned out cars in the cemetery dominate. London Underground proposes ticket barriers at the Causeway entrance

April

Pedestrian crossing on Fortis Green opens and Baronsmere Road scheme gets go ahead.

May

Brent Cross extension proposals rejected to the delight of local businesses, London Underground bows to local pressure and thinks again, retracting its plans for barriers at Causeway entrance to station.

June

Birds being shot with air rifles in Cherry Tree Wood and plans to build flats on the corner of Park Road and Leslie Road provoke protest from residents.

July

Baronsmere Road scheme implemented, heat wave for festival

and Barnet Council appeals Brent Cross decision.

August

It's the Queen Mother's 100th birthday this month, armed robbery at the Texaco Service Station, the history of the Alexandra in Church Lane.

September

The Windsor Castle and Maddens come first and second in Barnet's "Best Blooming Pub".

November

The Phoenix gets Grade II listed building status, Barnet promises to spend £2 million to clean up the streets and there is the possibility of a Farmer's Market for East Finchley.

December

Profile of Martin O'Donnell, the manager of Strawberry Vale Community Centre, plans for a CPZ in Muswell Hill covered and anger mounts over the ever-growing queues at the station.