



What's so great about East Finchley? Your chance to win!

What are your favourite things about living in East Finchley? THE ARCHER wants to know.

It may be a great place to live, but why? Is there a restaurant, a shop, a pub, an open space, a club, a church, a group of people or something that happens in the community that makes it special for you?

This is your chance to sing the praises of the people or places around you, or to reveal the hidden treasures in our midst.

Send us your top three reasons for loving East Finchley and we'll enter you into our prize draw to win £25*.

And to prove we know life isn't perfect, you can also tell us one thing you'd like to change about life in East Finchley.

Send your responses to us by email: the-archer@lineone.net, or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA. Send them by 14 January 2007 and look out for the results in February's edition of THE ARCHER.

To get things started, here's what THE ARCHER team put in their top threes:

Daphne Chamberlain (news editor):

1. The Phoenix Cinema.
 2. Toni's Continental.
 3. The range of different architectural styles and the feeling that it has grown organically.
- What I'd change: The terrible 263 bus service.

Diana Cormack (news editor):

1. Feeling safe when I walk home alone in the dark.
2. East Finchley's "village" atmosphere and its strong sense of community.
3. The appreciation and enthusiasm people of all ages have for THE ARCHER (once described by The Green Party's Noel Lynch as "The glue of the community").

Ann Bronkhorst (sub editor):

1. The foxes still surviving in back gardens, scruffy patches of land and cemeteries.
 2. The acres of accessible open space, much of it still wonderfully wild, in the St. Pancras (now Islington) cemetery.
 3. Our 'milkie', Keith, who knows the neighbourhood shrewdly and keeps a traditional doorstep delivery service going.
- What I'd change: The jaywalkers who dart or shamble across the High Road in front of traffic rather than walking a few metres to a crossing.

Betti Blatman (writer):

1. Living close to Hampstead Heath means going for a walk is like being in the countryside.
2. Enjoying the village atmosphere and lots of little shops instead of the big store chains.
3. A choice of different types of restaurants.

What I'd change: I'd stop too many front gardens being paved over to provide extra parking spaces! And I'd like an escalator or lift installed at East Finchley tube station to improve access to the platforms.

Erini Rodis (picture editor):

1. East Finchley Festival: I always impress my friends with this fantastic day. It's great!
 2. The sense of community: the restaurants, pubs, shops, schools, and The Archer. It's unique and I'm very proud of being part of it all. Of course, I also love the Cypriot community here but then I'm biased!
 3. Of all the open spaces Cherry Tree Woods is my favourite. I especially love the rhythm of the Northern line train as it disappears into the tunnel. This is also the point at which the Northern Line opens out to clear sky which is why my parents decided to settle here after living in the West End in the 1950s: East Finchley was the light at the end of the tunnel.
- What I'd change: Nothing!

John Dearing (writer and advertising manager):

1. East Finchley's distinct character and clear sense of identity.
 2. The shops, pubs and restaurants in the High Road.
 3. THE ARCHER
- What I'd change: Barnet Council's view of East Finchley as an under-developed ward, compared with the rest of Barnet.

Ricky Savage (the voice of social irresponsibility):

1. The Phoenix, London's best cinema.
 2. Maddens, for the beer and the company.
 3. The Big Breakfast at Casa Pepe.
- What I'd change: It would be nice if the Northern Line was not the misery line.

Sheila Armstrong (writer):

1. The Phoenix.
 2. Coffee at Amici Italian deli in the High Road.
 3. The Animal Aid charity shop in the High Road for bric a brac.
- What I'd change: The traffic in the rush hour on East End Road.

Tony Roberts (former editor):

1. Being close to Hampstead, Hampstead Heath and Highgate.
 2. East Finchley is friendly and relaxed.
 3. It's affordable.
- What I'd change: We're missing a good supermarket, a modern library and a meeting place.

Sue Holliday (finance manager):

1. The village atmosphere. Everybody is very friendly.
 2. Tony's, a great greengrocers.
 3. Maddens pub.
- What I'd change: We have too many beauty parlours and hairdressers.

John Lawrence (editor):

1. The Walks, a quiet cut-through that keeps you off the main roads and a centuries-old pathway through the area, usually full of squirrels.
 2. The North London Hospice shop in the High Road, which always seems to have something worth buying.
 3. The primary schools: Holy Trinity and Martin Schools are both excellent.
- What I'd change: I'd renovate the disused pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood.

** One winner of the £25 cash prize will be drawn at random from all entries after the closing date on 14 January 2007. Please include your contact details so that we can tell you if you've won.*



Lucy shows off her medal after finishing her 10k run.

Jungle fever

By Lucy Chamberlin

I have been privileged to write for THE ARCHER for over a year now, and having recently graduated from UCL I am considering a career in journalism. Currently, however, all my efforts are focused on fundraising.

On 3 February I leave for Belize, travelling as a volunteer with Trekforce Worldwide, a company dedicated to making a positive difference in endangered environments. Living, breathing, eating and sleeping (hammocks are the norm) in very basic conditions in the jungle for over two months, we will be carrying out sustainable projects that help to provide an alternative source of income for struggling communities, as well as protecting the fragile rainforest eco-system.

Operating in the Mountain Pine Ridge and Davis Falls areas, our work will include establishing trails, renovating

visitor facilities, and carrying out reconnaissance to determine the boundary lines of a new National Park. If we help to preserve the rainforest for visitors and scientific use, malpractices such as illegal logging can potentially be wiped out.

I completed a sponsored 10k run in Brighton on 19 November and am working full time as an admin assistant to try and raise the requisite funds (around £4,000). Whilst there I will be keeping an in-depth diary, and will update THE ARCHER on my return.

If you wish to support this worthwhile cause, please contact Lucy via THE ARCHER. Our contact details are on page 2.

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