



# THIS is what's so great about East Finchley...

Two months ago, *THE ARCHER* asked you to tell us your three favourite things about life in East Finchley.

Our survey was launched at the same time as local traders and business people started a campaign to put our community on the map. They believe we need to move out of the shadow of our more high-profile neighbours Muswell Hill, Highgate and Hampstead and to shout more loudly about what we have to offer.

So, in response to our question "What's so great about East Finchley?" here's what you said:

**Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema manager:**

- The Phoenix (well, I would say that)
- Majjo's in Fortis Green (best take-out curry in London)
- Bike and Run (quick, friendly efficient service with great range of stock and bikes to drool over).

**Helen Drake:**

- The vibrant community, the people and the fantastic shops
- There are no hills: a great attraction when I was a new parent and pushing a buggy around all day. When I was living in Archway and planning to move somewhere to start a family I made a trip to East Finchley to look at flats and immediately felt at home.
- The tube becomes overground at East Finchley. I don't like travelling by tube at the best of times and feel very claustrophobic when I have to, but when I get to East Finchley I always feel my spirits soar as daylight fills the carriage.

**Margaret McAlister:**

- The Phoenix and the Library
- Cherry Tree Wood
- The neighbourhood independent shops, *THE ARCHER*... There are many more than just three things!

the place to go. I like to escape from real life sometimes, so for me this is the place to do it.

- The friendliness of all the residents in East Finchley. On several occasions I have got into difficulties, but the locals were there to help me instantly. I think everyone living here deserves a pat on the back.

**Avril Macdonald:**

- The great gardens and orchards behind the houses, such as a back window view on a 'county' road, and watching the trees fruit every summer
- The breeze we get in a relatively high part of London
- Being able to recycle and the helpfulness of Barnet's recycling team.

**Peter Wynne Davies:**

- Our period tube station
- The range of shops
- The range of pubs

**Harriet Copperman:**

- Being able to do much of my shopping/travelling without needing to use the car because local shops meet many needs (apart from clothes) and transport is very accessible especially as an OAP!
- Access to Cherry Tree Wood and thence also to Highgate Wood. What

- Tree-lined roads and avenues.
- The man who sweeps up our litter. I see him out all days and in all weathers and he does an excellent job of keeping East Finchley clean and tidy.

**Brian Marsh:**

- The Vale Farm allotments
- Tony's Delicatessen
- Bike & Run cycle shop

**Craig Johnson:**

- Cherry Blossom trees in summer
- East Finchley Open House events

**Julian Tomlin:**

- Bumping into mates unexpectedly (always seems to happen)
- Sitting in our back garden in the middle of London and I can't hear traffic, only birdsong
- Proper local shops - Amici, Tony's, the fish shop - and Budgens, a supermarket that always surprises with its range of goods.

**B.V.Milsom:**

- The obvious improvement in "the village" in the last few years. It's now a cool place to live. Twas never thus.
- Forget Toffs, Muswell Hill! Is there a better fish shop than the Poseidon?
- We're so glad we decided not to move, with the bonus of house prices now.

**Holy Trinity School:**

Years 4, 5 and 6 at Holy Trinity School give their take on the good and the bad.

- We love the Phoenix Cinema because it's one of the oldest in London.
- The Hollywood Bowl complex is great because there are lots of things to do.
- We like the restaurants, takeaways and shops in East Finchley because there are lots of different foods to choose from and the shopkeepers are friendly.
- The woods and the parks are nice because there are good walks, especially if you have a dog.
- Transport is good in East Finchley and it's good to have our own tube station.
- One thing we'd like to change is to get rid of the betting shops and to have a sports centre.

**Martin Junior School:**

Pupils at Martin Junior School had some very strong likes and dislikes. Here's a sample of what they said:

- We like the library because we get to read loads of books and use the computers and they have reading challenges.
- Cherry Tree Wood is nice and calm and it's great for playing with your friends.
- The youth club in East Finchley is fun because you can meet new friends and have free time.
- There are lots of nice shops which keep mum busy spending her money.
- The atmosphere is fantastic. Everyone's so friendly and it feels really safe.
- We like the Lido and the Hollywood Bowl because there are lots of fun things to do there.
- The things we'd change would be to open more shops for children, and make sure there was less noise, rubbish and pollution in East Finchley.



## And what would you like to change?

To prove life isn't perfect in East Finchley, we also asked you for the one thing you'd like to change. Here are some of your answers ... and we've kept them anonymous, just to be on the safe side.

- ⊗ Change the horrible paint job on the Bald Faced Stag and take down the flag. The World Cup is over!
- ⊗ Take down our 'village' signs. This is urban London, not the rural countryside! Celebrate that, not some barmy idea that we're all Morris dancers dancing around maypoles. Whoever came up with the idea has obviously no idea of a village.
- ⊗ I'd enforce traffic restrictions on HGVs. This would improve our local environment no end.
- ⊗ Restore Stanley Road Playing Field. This fantastic, floodlit sports facility, bursting with potential for the kids of the area, has been left to rot in the hope that housing can be built all over it. Meanwhile the derelict garden centre site on East End Road is protected against housing development, which is planning madness. The Football Association took one look at Stanley Field and offered a million quid on the spot towards its restoration. What are we waiting for?
- ⊗ I hate the 143 bus when it does not arrive.
- ⊗ As a relatively recent 'refugee' moving from Muswell Hill to East Finchley, it would seem that perhaps Cherry Tree Wood could be much better used in the summer months with open air concerts/theatre/brass bands, and perhaps revenue raised, or a fund-raising campaign initiated in order to renovate the pavilion.
- ⊗ The Christmas decorations aren't good enough.
- ⊗ I dislike Domino's Pizza shop in such a prominent site as it lowers the tone. They do not try to make their window attractive at all.
- ⊗ Too many flats.
- ⊗ The queues in the Post Office.
- ⊗ Transport. When the Northern line is down, which it frequently is, the furthest you can get into central London via bus is Archway.
- ⊗ Improve the on-street parking; you can't park for more than 90 minutes, how are people expected to watch a film?
- ⊗ The shops aren't as good as North Finchley.
- ⊗ I'd like more clothes shops and more shops for children.
- ⊗ Have fewer betting shops and more bookshops.
- ⊗ The thing I'd like to change is for the council to give us a recycling service for plastics.
- ⊗ Stop anti-social behaviour generally but especially the dropping of turkey carcasses and vegetables and bread on the pavement garden corner by Budgens, which happens even though there are two signs in various languages indicating not to feed the pigeons.
- ⊗ I would like to put an assault course in Cherry Tree Wood.
- ⊗ I would like to make Creighton Avenue a safer place to cross.
- ⊗ I would like to change Martin School into a free swimming pool. Yay, yay, yay!
- ⊗ In this day and age it's crazy that elderly and disabled people are prevented from using the Underground because of having to climb the stairs (in many stations as well as East Finchley) and I'd love a big sign in the station car park indicating the destination of the next train south, in order to know whether to run for it or not!

## Tell us more

Thank you to every one who took part in our survey and we're sorry that we didn't have space to print every response.

If you'd like to tell us your favourite things about East Finchley or one aspect of life here that you'd like to change, we'd still love to hear from you.

Email us at the-archer@lineone.net, write to us at The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or telephone 08717 334465.

## Congratulations to our winner

We put all our survey responses in a hat and chose the winner of our £25 cash prize. The lucky reader is Harriet Copperman. Congratulations and thanks for taking part.



**Frieda Schweizer:**

- It is near lovely open spaces like Cherry Tree Wood, Alexandra Palace, Kenwood and Waterlow Park.
- Being close to the Underground enabling you to go to the West End and the London attractions easily.
- Living in such a quiet road and yet being part of so big a city.

**Rob Kellaway:**

- Maddens pub: a proper, regular-frequented boozier, the antidote to all soulless theme pubs and hub of the community. And if you feel like a change, you will be invited to cross the Sea (High Road) for a night away in Ireland (Gertie Browns).
- Tony's Continental Store: they not only know your name but also your kids' names, and Chris does a mean Satsuma juggling turn during the morning and afternoon school runs.
- Holy Trinity School, a fantastic school in the middle of East Finchley where the kids are happy.
- And lest we forget, the Tube: unlike the trendies of Crouch End and Muswell Hill we can walk to our very own tube station.

**Sippy Azizollah**

- Cherry Tree Wood: it's the country in the middle of town.
- The Phoenix cinema is definitely

a privilege to have ancient woodlands on our doorstep in London.

- Much less crowded than Muswell Hill, but still busy and lively and does have a community feel because it has not yet become as impersonal as other areas.

**Becky Tomlin:**

- Proper espresso in Amici, a chat with Maurizio and a warm welcome for the kids.
- Park Hall Road in spring when the cherry blossom is out
- Always meeting someone I know when I walk along the High Road

**Dawn Powell:**

- It's a safe place to live. I can wobble home from the night bus stop after one too many orange juices undisturbed.
- Chorak: there is nothing better than reading the Sunday papers while chomping on their fantastic prawn cocktail baguette.
- The North London Hospice charity shop always has a great collection of cheap videos (the benefits of not owning a DVD player)

**Richard Goddard:**

- Having our own art gallery, our own library and our own cinema - and they're all good at what they do. Not many places in London can boast that.