



## It all happened in 2007!

"Whoosh! What was that? That was your life, mate." The irascible Basil Fawty, of Fawty Towers, summed up the passage of time with typical ill-temper. A new year is upon us and the last 12 months seem to have whizzed by in a flash. But a lot happened in that time. Come with us on a reflective canter to revisit the news, events, people and pictures of 2007.



The Domino Effect: Passing motorist Nick Leigh caught this row of pizza delivery bikes lying on their side outside Domino's after a spell of windy weather.. Photo courtesy The Sun.

### January

Pizza chain company **ASK** has its planning application rejected to turn the former Barclays Bank premises on the High Road into a takeaway pizza parlour.

Finchley's **College Farm**, under threat since 1972, is finally saved after being bought by the College Farm Trust, a charity set up specifically to rescue the Grade II listed community farm.

Flooding hits parts of East Finchley, most notably the **North Circular slip road** and **The Bishops Avenue**. Residents say Barnet Council had failed to clear leaf piles from gullies, leading to overflow in the lowest areas.

A merger plan is unveiled for **Martin Infant and Martin Junior Schools** and parents are consulted. The plan is approved and the merger happens in September.

### February

Scores of park lovers are disappointed to find that **Cherry Tree Wood** remained locked throughout one of the sunniest days of the winter after a mix-up kept the keyholder away.

Barnet Council relaxes its rules for residents who want to **park their cars in their front gardens** in a move billed as a boost for flexible parking. Those opposed to the move say too many gardens are disappearing under concrete and paving.

Work begins on the regeneration programme for **Coldfall Wood**, off Creighton Avenue. New bridges, benches and conservation works are installed.



Frozen points: Not a chilly commuter outside the tube station, but a snowman built by James Conway and Nardina Betts while waiting for trains to start running during February's snows. Photo by Jane Conway.

THE ARCHER publishes your answers to our survey on **what makes East Finchley so great**. Top of the recommended list are Cherry Tree Wood, the Phoenix Cinema and all our friendly local shops and restaurants. Features that readers wanted to change included the high number of betting shops and the neglected state of Stanley Field.

### March

Plans take shape for a new secondary school. **The Wren Academy** will open in Hilton Avenue, North Finchley, in September 2008.

**East Finchley Library Users Group** unveils its suggestions for a Big Lottery Fund bid to breathe new life into the library service and the building it occupies on the High Road.

Father Laurence Hill celebrates 30 long and happy years as priest of **Holy Trinity Church** in Church Lane.

School teacher **Clare Lewis** skydives from 13,000 feet to raise money for the children's education charity Kenya Kids. Her verdict: "It was fast and totally overwhelming."

### April

East Finchley learns that it will lose its **park keeper** in Cherry Tree Wood because of budget cuts by Barnet Council. The decision leads to a campaign to restore the keeper, which is still going on.

People from N2 put up a good show in the energy-sapping London Marathon, run on one of the hottest days of the year. They included **Bishop Douglass School** teachers Brian Lenane, Andrew Fyfe and Cormac McCormack.

**CCTV cameras** are switched on in the High Road and East End Road in an attempt to fight street crime. The cameras are

monitored 24 hours a day all year round.

THE ARCHER reports that the number of **residential burglaries** in East Finchley has been on the rise all year. Laptop computers, digital cameras, jewellery and car keys are the most commonly stolen items.

### May

Children at **Manorside School** in Squires Lane receive rave reviews for their production of *Dropped*, a story of football and fairness told in opera. Three experts from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, helped put the show on.

The organisers of the **East Finchley Community Festival** put out a call for volunteers to help with the annual event. The festival itself at the end of June is a massive success with the crowds.

Taxi firm **GLH**, based in the High Road, celebrates 40 years in business.

Britain's oldest university student **Bernhard Herzberg** dies peacefully at his home in Fairlawn Avenue, just before his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Do not pass Go: A life-sized Monopoly motorcar is spotted parked amongst the commuter cars in the tube station car park. McDonald's were using the vehicle as part of a promotional campaign. Photo by Guy Welch.

### June

The campaign grows to bring back a park keeper to Cherry Tree Wood after **vandalism and litter** grows. A petition signed by more than 100 people is handed to Barnet Council.

**The Monday Club**, a popular youth club, appeals for a new home as it outgrows its regular meeting place at the Methodist Church Hall in the High Road.

Hundreds of women take part in a **midnight walk** around north London to raise money for the North London Hospice and the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

Chandos Road, Cherry Tree Road and Summerlee Gardens are the first roads in East Finchley to take part in a Metropolitan Police and Neighbourhood Watch scheme to stop **cold callers** knocking at doors.

The East Finchley Open event, held over two weekends, displays the brilliant work of N2 artists in their own homes and studios.

### July

Litter buster Vidura Cetrulo is given a Community Recognition

Award by the Barnet Voluntary Service Council for his crusade to clean up **Strawberry Vale**.

The 'I ♥ N2' campaign, organised by local traders and business people, gets off to a flying start. People are seen wearing t-shirts and carrying cloth bags with the slogan after a successful launch at the Community Festival in June.

The **Phoenix Cinema** appeals for information about a British Film Institute Cinema 100 plaque stolen from the front of the building after 11 years in place.

East Finchley's new **CCTV cameras** don't appear to have impressed everyone. Graffiti scrawled on a sign saying 'CCTV Zone: Tackling Crime' reads "U wish!"

### August

Campaigners fighting to develop **Stanley Field** as a sports facility for local people react angrily to the news that Barnet Council is offering to preserve one third of the field for leisure, while building houses on the remaining two-thirds.

The **café in Cherry Tree Wood** is up and running again in the hands of Sally-Anne Wigfield, who offers a tempting new menu of natural and organic snacks and drinks.

East Finchley boasts two winners in the annual **Barnet in Bloom** competition. Pauline Moran, of Juliana Close, and Martin Primary School both pick up prizes.

### September

**East Finchley Library** loses its bid for £857,000 in Big Lottery Fund support, which would have been used to redevelop the High Road building and the services it offered. Campaigners are deflated.

A new school opens. **Martin Primary School** is the result of the merger of Martin Infants and Martin Junior Schools under the leadership of headteacher Maggie Driscoll.

A **public meeting** calls for the restoration of the park keeper in Cherry Tree Wood. The Muswell Hill Festival held there is a rip-roaring success.

We get our own **farmer's market** when the Green Artisan company sets up a regular gathering at Martin Primary School. The markets continue to run on the second Sunday of each month.

### October

Beer, sausages and song make the party go with a swing at N2's first **Oktoberfest**, held at the East Finchley Constitutional Club.



London Marathon runners Brian Lenane, Andrew Fyfe and Cormac McCormack, teachers at Bishop Douglass School, display their medals. Photo by Diana Cormack

The Institute officially opens its new **Arts Centre** in a £6 million purpose-built centre behind the tube station.

Record audiences enjoy the wealth of entertainment that is the **East Finchley Arts Festival**. Music, drama, storytelling and art draw the crowds to All Saints Church.

**The Monday Club** for young people avoids the threat of closure after finding a new regular home at St Mary's Church Hall in the High Road.

### November

Traders are puzzled by Barnet Council's decision to move a **bus stop** just 10 metres along the High Road. They claim it obstructs their businesses while making no difference to the flow of traffic.

The annual art fair organised by the **East Finchley Open** group of artists is a huge success. Art and special items produced locally are on show and on sale.

A cyclist is injured in a collision at the junction of **Creighton Avenue** and High Road, leading campaigners to renew calls for a new corner that forces motorists to slow down.

### December

A campaign to declare East Finchley free of **plastic bags** begins on Saturday 1 December. Scores of shoppers get behind the idea but campaigners acknowledge they need the support of all local traders to make it work.

Groups and individuals fighting to save **Stanley Field** for the community carry out a leaflet blitz to keep the issue in the public mind.

Members of the north London-based **Kaos Signing Choir** for deaf and hearing children launch a CD and DVD of their best songs at the Phoenix Cinema.



Says it all: Jessica Manning's N2 cakes were part of a campaign launched in June to encourage shopping and leisure in East Finchley. Photo by Toni Morgan

Thank you to everyone who contributed to THE ARCHER in 2007. If you have any stories or letters for us in 2008, email us at the-archer@lineone.net or write to us at the address on page 2.