



# The next station is ... 70 years old

By David Tupman

Seventy years old this July, who would have thought it of our local Grade 2 listed gem of a building? The station was conceived in the 1930s as part of a programme to extend public transport connecting East Finchley with the Northern line and to provide work to alleviate unemployment.

The overground railway had come to East Finchley in 1867 and was part of the route running from High Barnet to Kings Cross via Highgate and Crouch End. New work began in November 1936 with the construction of tunnels from Highgate to East Finchley and the rebuilding of the station.

Designed by Charles Holden and LH Bucknell in red-brown brick and concrete, the island platforms for four lines were spanned by staff offices with a flat cantilever roof. Access to the offices was by two sets of spiral concrete staircases enclosed by curved glass walls for the whole of their height. Such a feature is also found in the splendid De la Warr Pavilion at Bexhill-on-Sea

built in 1935.

The construction involved an enlarged railway bridge over the Great North Road as well as the diversion of Brompton Avenue and the demolition and rebuilding of The Old White Lion.

Above the station is a statue of an archer standing ten foot high pointing towards London and designed by Eric Aumonier, though our very own 'Archie' was not actually unveiled until 1940.

Lord Ashfield, then Chairman of London Transport, hosted an opening day party on 3 July 1939, arriving in a special train from Archway. After formalities, the guests had a slap up lunch at the newly reconstructed White Lion Hotel. So here's to the next 70 years!

*Do any of THE ARCHER's readers remember this day? Please let us know. Our contact details are on page 2.*



The Archer statue on top of East Finchley tube station. Photo by Erini Rodis



Reuby and Rene Hyams. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

## Fighting couple foil intruders

By Daphne Chamberlain

Rene and Reuby Hyams celebrated both their Diamond Wedding and Reuby's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday last month, but just before these happy events things could have gone terribly wrong. On Saturday 23 May, two men got into their flat in Elmshurst Crescent under false pretences.

Rene told THE ARCHER: "We were expecting a delivery from Iceland between 3 and 5pm, so when a young man called at the door just a minute or so before three, I opened the door right away. I would never have done that normally. Then he said he was working on water in the flat upstairs and some of it was coming through to us."

Work is being carried out on kitchens and bathrooms in their block, but when the man went into their kitchen, Reuby was instantly suspicious. "He looked on edge," he said, "and I indicated to Rene she should check the front door. As she passed our bedroom door, she saw another man sitting on the bed, going through a drawer. Then Boadicea took over."

Boadicea, aka Rene, explained: "I was just so angry. I screamed at him at the top of my voice to get out, and he did, without taking anything." The man in the kitchen also made off with some encouragement from Reuby.

Normandy veteran Reuby told his 88-year-old wife she deserved a medal. "We've been married for 60 years," he said, "but I never knew she could react like that. She was a rock."

The Hyams praised police and the medical support they received afterwards. The intruders are described as white men aged about 30. Anyone with information should call police on 0300 123 1212 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Police would also like to reinforce the message that water companies never need to enter your house. In the event of a leak, they would turn off the water in the street. Intruders often pose as officials. For this reason, organisations often give passwords for arranged visits. If the call is unexpected, always check before admitting the caller. It is useful to keep a note of telephone numbers of different organisations. To check on apparent police officers, call 020 8200 1212.

## Spotlight on street light overhaul

Many readers have complained to THE ARCHER about the street light replacement programme that took place throughout East Finchley and other areas of Barnet in May and June. People were annoyed that some lamps were repositioned in the branches of trees, closer to bedroom windows or next to driveways where they are causing obstructions. We took your questions and concerns to Barnet Council.

**The Archer: People want to know why the present lights are being replaced after a fairly short time.**

**Barnet Council spokesperson:** The street lights are being replaced for two reasons 1.) Many columns are/were life expired and in need of replacement as their structural integrity could not be guaranteed. The lighting units attached to these old columns are also life expired and in need of replacement as they are inefficient, environmentally unfriendly and provided poor lighting output. 2.) The remainder are being replaced in order to upgrade them to meet current standards.

**How is this being funded?**

The replacement programme and maintenance provisions are included in a Private Finance Initiative Contract (PFI). Under this type of contract, Central Government provides substantial grant funding to support the costs of the PFI. Since entering the PFI contract the council has

not needed to increase its budget provision for street lighting, but will benefit from around 70 per cent of the lighting stock being renewed and brought up to current standards.

**The positioning of the new lights is causing problems. Some have been installed with the lanterns in tree branches or next to trees which will grow around them.**

Clearly it is not desirable to install lighting columns close to trees, however in heavily tree lined roads it is not always possible to position columns in the preferred/ideal positions due to other constraints such as Utility equipment (chambers, ducts, boxes etc) and vehicle crossovers. Designers attempt to utilise existing positions where possible and to position columns at property boundaries. The responsibility of maintaining the lighting levels is the service provider's and the contract includes a requirement to prune trees as necessary in

order to maintain light output. It is therefore not in the service provider's interest to position new columns close to trees as this increases his maintenance liabilities and hence costs.

**The glare from the new lights is disturbing people in their bedrooms.**

The service provider is required to respond to all concerns expressed by residents in this respect and there are actions that can be taken to mitigate light intrusion. This includes altering lantern optic settings, fitting front and/or back shields to lanterns and in extreme cases relocating columns

*What do you think of the new street lights? Contact us by phone, email or post. Details are on page 2.*

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