



July: East Finchley art director Victor Martinez takes tea on the Trafalgar Square plinth on the first day of Anthony Gormley's public art project, which sees a different occupant on the plinth every hour round the clock for the next 100 days.

July

Plans for transforming the derelict pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood are displayed at a public consultation meeting. Lazy Sally Café owner Sally-Anne Wigfield aims to turn the pavilion into a not-for-profit community and well-being centre. Opponents say the idea is not suitable for the location and argue that the site should be returned to natural woodland.

It is announced that Finchley Memorial Hospital will be demolished to make way for a planned new hospital on Bow Lane playing fields, North Finchley.

The East Finchley Village Residents Association goes from strength to strength as it campaigns on traffic and social issues in the Church Lane area and beyond.

East Finchley tube station is 70 years old. Lord Ashfield, then chairman of London Transport, hosted an opening day party on 3 July 1939, arriving in a special

train from Archway. This was followed by lunch at the newly-reconstructed White Lion Hotel, next to the station.

August

The long-awaited results of the July 2008 questionnaire into parking in East Finchley are finally revealed. Barnet Council proposes to change Monday to Saturday no-parking hours around the High Road from just one hour per day to eight and a half hours per day. Local traders and residents claim this will drive away shoppers and throttle businesses in the High Road.

Around 30 adults and children are locked in Cherry Tree Wood for two hours when the mobile park unit shuts the gates without warning anyone to leave. Mothers and children are trapped as darkness descends and are freed only when the fire brigade arrives. Barnet Council apologises and says the keyholder has been 'spoken to'.

Allotment holders in Fortis Green battle to save their plots. Thames Water wants to sell the land where local people have grown fruit and vegetables for 80 years. Campaigners win time to fight the sell-off.

Guerrilla gardening takes off in East Finchley. Flowers appear in a small plot close to the tube sta-



August: Guerilla gardeners brighten up a bleak spot near East Finchley tube station. Photo by Diana Cormack.

tion and a group of enthusiastic volunteers starts to plan more planting projects.

status as a premier park. Seven other Barnet parks are successful. However, Cherry Tree is one

the Bus Watch campaign's long-running request for another bus service along the High Road may be parked.

An application to increase the size of the planned medical centre development on the site of the garden centre in East End Road is blocked because it does not comply with the London Plan for new developments and because sustainability issues have not been fully addressed.

The Fortis Green Community Allotments Trust continues with its fundraising campaign to buy the land from Thames Water, after winning a stay of execution on a public sale.

Lincoln Parade, on the corner of Lincoln Road and the High Road, is demolished and cleared.

December

Plans are announced to give walkers easier access to Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill playing fields. Gates and paths in the wood will be improved and a new bridge built over the stream. Access to the field will be better signposted for pedestrians but made harder for nuisance motorbike riders.

Residents close to the High Road and Fortis Green continue their fight to get their all-day parking restrictions lifted. They are concerned that a public consultation exercise would take six months or more and cost too much money.

Local artist Mari l'Anson launches her *Finchley Sketchbook*, capturing some of the quirkiest and most handsome buildings in Finchley.



September: Tottenham Hotspurs Academy star player Dean Parrett, centre, and coach Tony Parks, right, watch Martin Primary School team triumph in a special soccer tournament on Stanley Field. Photo by Shane Vincent.

September

Protests mount against the proposed parking changes in East Finchley and more than 2,000 people sign a petition calling to the council to scrap the new restrictions.

Wendy Hallett, who runs retail clothing business Hallett Retail from N2, is named Innovator of the Year in the Specsavers every-woman in Retail Awards.

Muswell Hill becomes one of 10 neighbourhoods in London to be given funding of up to £400,000 to become a Low Carbon Zone.

Comedy comes to the High Road when Cecilia Holmes stages her Whistle and Wink Comedy Show at the Finchley Youth Theatre. Shortly afterwards, regular comedy nights open at the Old White Lion pub, next to the station, and The Alexandra pub in Fortis Green.

October

People power wins the day when Barnet Council announces that it is scrapping its proposals to widen parking restrictions around the High Road. Letters of protest, a petition and a stormy residents' forum all persuade the council to make its U-turn. However, there is disappointment that the all-day parking restrictions in roads close to The Institute may not be lifted without a further lengthy consultation exercise.

A special inter-school football tournament is staged on Stanley Road playing field to highlight the ongoing campaign to save the open space as a leisure facility for the community, rather than being sold off for housing development. Tottenham Hotspurs Academy player Dean Parrett and coach Tony Parks lend their support. Cherry Tree Wood falls one point short of winning Green Flag

of 11 parks nominated to receive new play equipment.

Teacher Anna Finn, of Manor Park Road, goes into training to run ten marathons in ten days around Lake Windermere. She also aims to become the youngest woman to have completed 100 marathons.

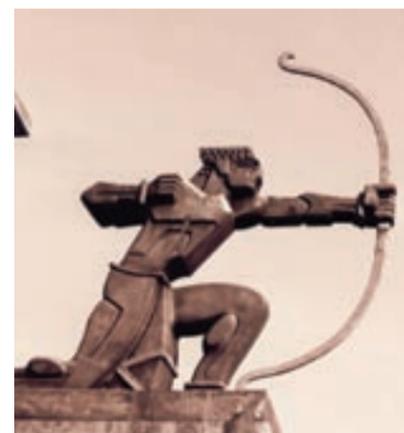


October: Mam Spencer fulfils a lifelong dream to run her own restaurant when she and her son Ben Henham take over the Thai Kitchen at Maddens pub. Photo by John Lawrence.

November

Archie, the statue atop East Finchley station, is chosen by public vote to be Barnet's landmark for the 2012 London Olympics. He will be featured alongside other London icons on a series of pin badges to go on sale in 2010.

Transport for London announces a severe cut in its budget, raising fears that



November: Archie becomes a London icon for the 2012 Olympic Games. Photo by Rob Steinberger

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