



## Eric and Archie reminisce

In anticipation of Archie's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday next month, David Tupman eavesdrops on a conversation between him and his creator Eric Aumonier.

**Archie:** Well knock me down with a feather and call me Daisy! If it isn't me old mentor Eric Aumonier, famous artist and sculptor of yours truly.

**Eric:** Archie, my dear boy, I can't believe you're 70 this July. You're looking so well.

**Archie:** Yes, I'm fighting fit. Apart from the old trouble in my inspection plate all is tickety-boo. Well they do say 70 is the new 50, don't they?

**Eric:** You know, Archie, you were my pride and joy. One of the biggest commissions of my career at London Transport. I laboured for many hours on your fine features and resolute demeanour.

**Archie:** Steady on, Eric, you'll have me blushing.

**Eric:** You know you are one of a kind, especially with your gold trim, pointing your bow over London from high on the north plinth of East Finchley station.

**Archie:** Eric, it's puzzled me for years, but why don't I have an arrow?

**Eric:** That's simple. Health and safety! That was an issue even in those days. Old LT bosses were worried that resting pigeons might injure themselves on any sharp edges and they couldn't afford the insurance cover.

**Archie:** Surely, as I am now an Olympics icon, the Lottery could spare a few bob for an arrow?

**Eric:** Archie, you have to face facts. The 2012 planners have spent vast sums on creating



Eric Aumonier with Archie in 1940. Photo courtesy London Transport Museum © TfL

special VIP traffic lanes to Stratford and you're simply not important enough.

**Archie:** I don't think this is fair. In fact I'll retire to Bexhill-on-Sea and grace the Art Deco pavilion there with my presence.

**Eric:** Your friends in East Finchley would be mortified if you were to go. You must stay, old boy, please. Who would we have in your place? It might have to be a certain former lady MP of this area.

**Archie:** Lawks-a-mercy Eric, you've convinced me.

I know where my duty lies. It's another 70 years for me in East Finchley.

## THE ARCHER 200 quiz

How well do you know *THE ARCHER* and East Finchley? Try our fun quiz celebrating 200 editions. Answers are on page 11.

**Q1:** When did *THE ARCHER* first appear in East Finchley?

(a) February 1992 (b) January 1993 (c) March 1993 (d) February 1994

**Q2:** The first edition of *THE ARCHER* had which lead news topic?

(a) parking (b) dog mess (c) vandalism (d) policing

**Q3:** Who was East Finchley's MP when *THE ARCHER* first hit the streets of N2?

(a) Margaret Thatcher (b) Hartley Booth (c) Rudi Vis (d) John Marshall

**Q4:** 'Archie' the famous East Finchley statue was the work of which sculptor?

(a) Eric Gill (b) Eric Sykes (c) Eric Morecambe (d) Eric Aumonier

**Q5:** East Finchley station is widely regarded as a modernist icon. When did a station first open on this site?

(a) 1867 (b) 1879 (c) 1925 (d) 1939

**Q6:** Two cinemas once existed in the High Road, N2. The Phoenix is still thriving but what was the name of the other?

(a) Ritzy (b) Odeon (c) Finchley Athenaeum (d) ABC

**Q7:** In which year did Cherry Tree Wood come into local authority ownership?

(a) 1900 (b) 1915 (c) 1935 (d) 1939

**Q8:** Holy Trinity church and school opened in 1846-47. When did the school move to its current site in Eagan's Close?

(a) 1950 (b) 1959 (c) 1969 (d) 1974

**Q9:** Which dignitary opened the first of the new council flats in Prospect Ring in 1960?

(a) Diana Dors (b) Margaret Thatcher (d) Peter Sellers (d) Barbara Windsor

**Q10:** One of East Finchley's most popular High Road shops was established in 1971. What is its name?

(a) Budgens (b) Tony's Continental (c) Iceland (d) Spar

## Love and war in Finchley

By Daphne Chamberlain

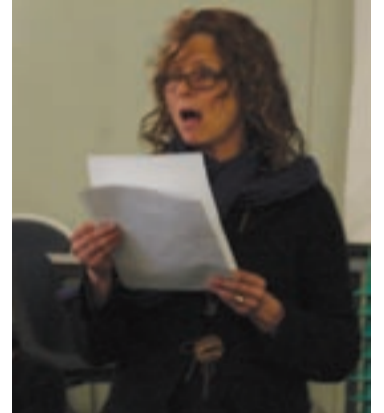
When a local creative writing class discovered Barnet Local Studies Centre, people from the past spoke again. On an open evening in East Finchley Library we heard six of their stories, a blend of fact and imagination.

Inspired by records, personal memoirs, photographs and periodicals from Barnet Archives, the class introduced us to a First World War nursing sister at the Memorial Hospital, and to an East Finchley Second World War wireless operator and codebreaker. We heard from a woman being "rehabilitated" in the Good Shepherd Convent Laundry after giving up her baby, and from social reformer Octavia Hill as she renounced thoughts of love to concentrate on her work. A

"Suburb singleton" from the 1950s and an early photographer in Church Lane made contrasting appearances.

### Archives come to life

Kay Stonham, tutor of the new writing group Made in East Finchley, found a theme for their creative work in a workshop set up by Barnet archivist Yasmine Webb. The resulting stories, written by Angela Anderson, Sarah Callaghan, Gill Hirsch, Lauren Tobias, Karine Barsam and Jean Long, were read by actors against a projected back-



Kay Stonham at Love and war in Finchley. Photo courtesy Barnet Local Studies Centre.

drop of photographic images from the archives.

You can catch the performance again at The Institute Arts Centre in Beaumont Close, at 6.30pm on Tuesday 22 June; find out more on 020 8829 4211. For more information about Made in East Finchley, contact Kay on 07973 716531. The group grew out of a Creative Writing for Wimps course at The Institute, run by Kay, which she will be repeating from September 2010. Anyone interested in that, or in a short summer course, should contact The Institute, 11 High Road, N2 8LL, on 020 8829 4141 or visit [www.hgsi.ac.uk](http://www.hgsi.ac.uk).

The Local Studies Centre collects historical documents relating to the Borough of Barnet, including records of the community from as far back as the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Its multi-media Pocket Histories cover individual areas. To find out more, contact 020 8359 3960 or [library.archives@bar.net.gov.uk](mailto:library.archives@bar.net.gov.uk).

**SUMMER FAIR**  
IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH  
11am to 3pm on Saturday 12th June 2010  
St Mary's Church Hall, 279 High Road, East Finchley, N2 8HG  
Fairtrade Stall • Bottles, Toiletries, Books & CDs • Plant Sale  
Barbecue • Afternoon Tea/Coffee • Homemade Cakes & Marmalade  
RAFFLE • LUCKY DIP • TOMBOLA  
Admission 50p

### THE FINCHLEY CHARITIES

#### SHELTERED HOUSING FOR OLDER RESIDENTS OF FINCHLEY

We are here to help Finchley residents aged 60 and over (spouses 55 and over). We have three sites that are all located within the Finchley area consisting of one bedroom and studio flats surrounded by beautiful well maintained gardens. Sheltered Housing Officers are resident on each site to assist residents in case of emergency and generally be 'a good neighbour'.

The requirements for application are that you have been resident in Finchley for at least five years in the preceding twenty years, have a housing need and are able to live independently, (if necessary with the support of a care package).

#### We have one bedroom & studio flats available

For further information please contact us:  
Email: [info@thefinchleycharities.org](mailto:info@thefinchleycharities.org)

41a Wilmot Close, East Finchley, N2 8HP  
Tel: 020 8346 9464  
Fax: 020 8346 9466

More details are available from our website  
[www.thefinchleycharities.org](http://www.thefinchleycharities.org)

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