



# You must remember this! Our news review of the year

We are all probably still reeling from a momentous 12 months of world news. Here in our corner of north London, life was a little quieter but we weren't without our memorable stories. As we all wish for a peaceful year ahead, here's The Archer's review of 2016.

## January

Save Barnet Libraries campaigners make a legal challenge to Barnet Council's proposals for the library service, claiming plans for reduced staffed hours and reduced space at East Finchley Library and others in the borough are unlawful because the council has not properly consulted the views of people likely to be most affected.

The East Finchley Open artists group launches a major photographic project to document everyday life of the traders and customers on the High Road.

East Finchley's newest secondary school The Archer Academy faces a storm of protest from parents after proposing fresh criteria for admissions.

space for the Vice-roy Parade shops severely reduced.

## March

Readers tell us about a rising number of street robberies in East Finchley and Muswell Hill by criminals on motor-bikes mounting the pavement to snatch mobile phones out of their victims' hands.

We report the shaggy dog story of children's author Joe Craig who was walking with his Labrador Harpo in the county roads and attempted to rescue a woman struggling in the back of a car, only to find she wasn't alone and was in fact trying to enjoy a private moment with her male partner.

Sainsbury's confirms that it will open a Local convenience store on the High Road in the properties formerly occupied by Bike & Run and the Mama Jack burger restaurant. The company gives no opening date.



June: Crunchie poses at the festival with local actor Daniel Mays. Photo by Mike Coles

We report on growing concerns that East Finchley's streets are becoming more untidy, showing readers' photos of piles of rubbish in the High Road and footpaths strewn with litter.

## June

Thousands enjoy live entertainment, stalls, family activities and scrummy food at a sunny East Finchley Community Festival in Cherry Tree Wood.

A spiral staircase installed for one week in Highgate Wood gives hundreds of visitors a tree-top view over the park.

Plans are made public to build eight homes on the site of the recently demolished Esso garage at the corner of the High Road and Church Lane.



June: Tree stairs in Highgate Wood. Photo by Alison Roberts

## July

Five years after it was closed by Barnet Council, a free advice service opens in East Finchley again, based at St Mary's Parish Centre and supported by the Grange Big Local project and the National Lottery.

East Finchley resident Charlotte Newland makes it all the way to the final and then takes the champion's crown in the BBC2 primetime show Great British Sewing Bee.

The Monday Youth Club has to find another new home after being evicted from the Archer Academy site in Eagans Place. Once based at Martin Primary, the club's young people now meet at Bishop Douglass School in Hamilton Road.

## August

East Finchley becomes one of the first areas of the capital to receive an extra permanent police officer as part of London Mayor Sadiq Khan's plans to restore neighbourhood policing.

Beatles fan Sue Vincent uncovers a long-forgotten treasure trove of the band's memorabilia, including magazines, programmes and photos in mint condition, in the loft of her house in Leicester Road.

Six months after announcing a new store in the High Road we ask Sainsbury's when it will open and are told: "We're still interested in opening a store in East Finchley and are progressing our plans but we don't have an opening date yet."

## April

The Grange Big Local project unveils details of how it will spend £279,000 to improve life at the northern end of East Finchley, including new play areas, an activity centre for older people and improvements to run-down footpaths.

Staff at the Phoenix

Cinema pay tribute to their patron and Highgate resident Victoria Wood after her death from cancer at the age of 62.

East Finchley misses out on a Barnet Council scheme to bring free wifi to town centres in the borough. We are not on the list of 14 areas to benefit from the service.

## May

The internationally renowned Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy announces it will move out of N2 after 25 years and put its historic home in East End Road on the market.

Hundreds of people are turned away from casting their vote for London Mayor in East Finchley after Barnet Council sends out the wrong electoral lists to polling stations.



February: Wingsuiters exit from the skyvan. Photo by Dan Dupuis

## February

Hundreds of residents in Strawberry Vale are forced to shiver through the winter after being left with no heating or hot water when their gas supply is cut off by the Peabody Trust, who initially claim it is unsafe. The Red Cross sets up an emergency service to provide hot meals.

Finchley resident Brian Cumming, 38, is one of a team of skydivers to break the wingsuit world record by bringing together 202 daredevils in a massive formation jump high over California. "It was tough but it all clicked into place," says Brian.

Plans emerge for the development of the car park behind Budgens in the High Road, which will see eight new flats being built, the public car park being closed and delivery



August: Sue Vincent and some of her Beatles memorabilia. Photo by Mike Coles

## September

Mother-of-nine Annie Besala Ekofo and her nephew Bervil Kalikaka-Ekofo die after an alleged gun attack at their home in Elmshurst Crescent, N2. A 24-year-old man is charged with their murder.

Families enjoy the second local festival of the summer when the Grange Big Local throws its annual fun day at Bishop Douglass School.

Traders, self-employed people and small businesses in East Finchley come together to form a new support network called N2United.

## October

Proposals emerge to move the East Finchley electoral constituency into a new voting area that also includes Southgate, Friern Barnet and North

Finchley, stretching to the north east as far as Winchmore Hill.

Comedian Griff Rhys Jones unveils a plaque near the Finchley Memorial Hospital to commemorate the life of Joseph Grimaldi, the original Joey the Clown, who lived nearby throughout his years of fame in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Caroline and David Broome, of Church Lane, N2, win the award for Best Small Back Garden in the All London Championship run by the London Gardens Society.

## November

Library users in East Finchley learn of sweeping cuts to their service as Barnet Council announces it is to cut staffed hours, floor space and book stock at the Grade 2 listed building in the High Road.

A long awaited decision on the future of the derelict pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood is delayed until January by Barnet Council.

Pizza outlet Domino's is accused of hogging valuable parking spaces in the High Road with its row of delivery scooters.

## December

A year on from the last stormy consultation on its

admissions policy, The Archer Academy secondary school invites parents' opinions on a revised set of rules as it seeks to give fair access to children across its catchment area which includes N2 and parts of N3 and NW11.

Shoppers and commuters enjoy some late-night shopping action when High Road traders throw their first Christmas Cracker event to encourage residents to support local businesses.



November: Mayor of Barnet, Cllr David Longstaff and Griff Rhys Jones unveil Grimaldi's plaques. Photo Mike Coles

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