



# The Archer hits 25 years of neighbourhood news

The first edition of *The Archer* 25 years ago this month was a four-page black-and-white A4 issue, pictured below, which quickly became the essential source of truly local news for East Finchley and soon turned into the 12-page monthly newspaper it still is today. When *The Archer* was born in 1993, East Finchley and the country as a whole was in the thick of a recession. These extracts from an article in our second issue explain the thinking that brought the paper into life... and they are as relevant today as they were 25 years ago.

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THE ARCHER

January 1993 Number 1 (Pilot)

### Policing East Finchley

What a dangerous area we live in, no wonder the Insurance Companies treat East Finchley as a high risk area.

Today I attended a press briefing for the first time at Golders Green Police Station given by DO Ron Lavetic and Sgt Bernard Forbes. And very hospitable they were too, gave each of us a cup of something hot from the canteen, there wasn't any string hanging out so I believe it was coffee.

**Festival to go ahead**  
Despite Funding Problems  
East Finchley Community Festival could lose its grant in 1993 in line with Barnet Borough Council's newly adopted policy on the funding of carnivals and community events.

However the event is planned to go ahead on June 19 next year and, weather permitting, will be successful yet again.

The event was cancelled two years ago. Backed by the council, who claimed that it had become "political". After an initial court hearing, and subsequent appeal, the festival was cleared of the charges made and awarded costs. Last year the event went ahead on a fine day and many local residents thoroughly enjoyed the day.

If Barnet withdraws its support, organisers will have to make up the £600 awarded last year (of which the council effectively deducted £300 for "infidelity" accusations) from elsewhere. One potential problem could be the provision of marquees. Last year the festival acquired two such tents from Hattingly and Hammer-smith & Fulham Councils at just £50 each, instead of the £1,800 that these would normally have cost.

It is a shame that such a popular event as this has to rely on the goodwill of council authorities outside our own borough. Is it too much to ask that our local council fund an event that should be more than happy to be associated with it?

We await Barnet's official policy regarding the festival, and hope that local companies and residents will offer help to the organisers.

For further information, or to discuss the possibility of Jacqui Sutcliffe on 444 4021. Their next meeting is on Tuesday January 5th 1993 at 8:00pm at the East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, N2.

**Bookies Pay Out As Crime Business Booms**  
Golders Green police warned residents to be extra vigilant this Christmas as they told of how a branch of William Hill the bookmakers in East Finchley were unwitting hosts to unwelcome punters who had decided to have a gamble last month, and as a result paid out to the tune of £5,220 in cash.

One of an increasing number of local victims of crime, William Hill on the High Road, suffered a forced entry through their front door. Once inside, the perpetrators were able to place the firm's safe onto a trolley and simply wheel it out of the rear entrance, along with its contents.

In the same week, Walters the greengrocer in the High Road had a charity box stolen by "two pimply youths", who also matched the description of youths who attempted to steal a similar charity box from Finchley Wines opposite.

Police also warned the public to check the identity of officials who call at the door after confidence tricksters, posing as Water Board inspectors, gained entry into the home of a Kildesner Road pensioner and made off with £200 cash.

Other crimes in the same week include one rape, a serious assault that could result in death, two cases of indecent behaviour including one towards a child, seven burglaries and numerous reports of vandalism, criminal damage, theft and other crimes.

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them. They are a condensed but important manifestation of the character of the people who make up the community, and are read as avidly by visitors as they are by residents. The result was a pilot issue in January 1993.

Mistakes have been made (all the more since none of us on the team has any newspaper experience) but the reaction was positive from those that had seen it. Regular publications are planned and you are holding what is hoped to be among the first of many editions.

There are around 9,000 letter boxes in East Finchley, which represent a population of 27,000 adults (no figures are available for children). It is them (or should we say you) who will make or break the paper. It will only work if we publish the sort of material that you want to read, and we can only do that if you tell us what you want to read.

One final word: the paper is free, but printers and paper merchants require payment. The staff on the team donate considerable amounts of time for no payment. The Archer is funded by advertising paid for by our local businesses. They have not been immune to the recession, so please let them know if you have seen their advert or offer in *The Archer* so that they will realise that it is being seen and advertised again. The publisher and editor wish to thank all advertisers for their support in making this paper possible.



On sale for charity: Our 25-year medallion

## Archer 25<sup>th</sup> souvenir in support of young carers

You may be shocked to know that around 4,000 young carers, many of whom are hidden and unacknowledged, are estimated to live in Barnet. A young carer is one who gives regular care and emotional support to a parent, brother, sister or someone else in the family.

This means that a lot of people aged under 18 are looking after someone who cannot manage without their help, a situation which may be detrimental to the young person's own circumstances.

### Find your medallion here

*The Archer* has produced a souvenir birthday medallion which is kindly being sold for £5 by High Road outlets Aliya J, Black Gull Bookshop, Budgens, Cherry Tree Gift Shop, The Phoenix, Ryker Kids and Tony's Continental plus East End Road's Margot Bakery.

The money raised from this will be donated to Barnet Young Carers. Coincidentally, on 25 January, in the same month as your local community newspaper celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, there is to be a nationwide Young Carers Awareness Day.

### Practical local support

Challenges for young carers can include problems with school attendance, poor educational attainment, bullying, social isolation, low self-esteem, feelings of anxiety,

guilt and anger as well as difficulties with health.

Individual support, with mentoring and counselling, is available for all young carers living in the borough, whatever the amount of care they give. It is provided by a specialist Young Carers Support Team and Outreach Officers. They involve the wider family if necessary with a full assessment of everyone's needs and devise plans providing on-going support which is subject to regular reviews.

More support is offered by the Barnet Young Carers and Siblings (BYCAS) project, which includes giving young people the chance to find time to relax away from home with clubs and outings, where they can meet and chat to others. At present approximately 350 youngsters are registered with them.

All the above services are based at Barnet Carers Centre at 303 Ballards Lane, North Finchley. Contact them on 020 8343 9698 or find more information at [www.barnetcarsers.org/young-carers](http://www.barnetcarsers.org/young-carers).

This copy of *The Archer* comes to you as the result of one man's idea being bounced off a friend. The inspiration behind it was the feeling that although East Finchley is at present a friendly community with the atmosphere of a village, it seems to be in the oblivion of a London suburb.

Perhaps, we thought, if we

had our own truly local paper we could not only preserve but possibly enhance the community atmosphere that without a shadow of a doubt already exists.

Many of us, when we were younger, received copies of a parish magazine or similar publication. These were really enjoyable. People actually looked forward to receiving

## Care can be different

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- **Dell Field Court:** Finchley, N3 2DY
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