



Thank you party: A packed Madden's for the unveiling of the plaque, below. Photos Mike Coles

Where it all started

Next time you are taking some refreshment in Madden's in the High Road, glance at the wall alongside the bar and you will see a blue plaque commemorating the founding of this newspaper in the pub 26 years ago.

The plaque was unveiled at a thank you party for all our loyal volunteers, without whose time and effort given freely each month there would be no *Archer*.

A small team of N2 residents had the idea for a community newspaper in late 1992 and held their editorial meetings in Madden's, then called Welch's, producing the first full edition of the paper in February 1993.

Deliveries in those days were often hit and miss, depending on how many roads the team themselves could

cover, but soon a reliable army of volunteers was recruited and for many years now *The Archer* has been delivered to nearly 10,000 homes and businesses across East Finchley every month.

Some of those at the party on Thurs-

day 16 September have been delivering the same round for upwards of 20 years. One couple started out taking their



daughter along in her pram. She's now grown up and left home. "Our dog comes with us now," they said.

Scooter owners urged to Lock and Cover

Moped and scooter owners are being reminded to 'Lock, Chain and Cover' their vehicles as police continue to try to reduce this area of crime.

The number of mopeds, scooters and motorcycles stolen in London has reduced from 11,395 in the year to June 2018 to 8,847 in the year to June 2019, a reduction of 22 per cent. In the same period, the number of vehicles used in crime dropped by 54 per cent.

Chief Inspector Jim Corbett, from Operation Venice, which

tackles moped and motorcycle crime, said: "Officers continue to tackle those that steal mopeds and scooters for criminal activity, and whilst we are making excellent headway on this, we continue to remind owners that they can help us by protecting their vehicles.

Effective security
Advice for owners is use a

disc lock on the front wheel to stop vehicles being wheeled away, and to fit a grip lock to the throttle and engage the steering lock.

They should secure the rear wheel with a chain and a padlock, and attach the chain to a ground anchor or other fixed object where possible.

Finally, placing a cover on a bike prevents immediate access to the controls and security features and stops thieves shopping for bike models.



Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

Bank card fraud

Motorists who have parked on various roads and in various private car parks across Barnet have been approached by male suspects 'to assist them' with paying for parking. They usually pretend to be traffic wardens or their managers.

When getting to a cash machine or parking meter, the suspects have then either told the motorists their credit cards have been swallowed by the machine or have used a handheld device and distraction methods to steal their credit cards. The cards are then immediately used and thousands of pounds in cash withdrawn.

No parking attendant will ever ask you for your credit card to pay for parking. If you are approached by someone, even if they are wearing a yellow jacket or some form of ID, do NOT give them your card. Call Police immediately on 999 or ask someone for help to call the police. Please raise awareness with your family, neighbours and friends especially the elderly and vulnerable to avoid others falling victim to this fraud.

The Little Book of Big Scams has information about this type of fraud and others. Search for a free downloadable copy at www.met.police.uk

Report crime

Report crime by calling 101 or in an emergency call 999. You can also report crime online at www.met.police.uk



Long serving: Volunteer Lorna Bennett, centre, receives her award from Mayor of Barnet Cllr Caroline Stock and All Aboard chief executive Alan Haynes. Photo Mike Coles

Volunteer of the Year

By Diana Cormack

When the Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Caroline Stock, visited the All Aboard charity shop in the High Road, N2, early in September, she came bearing an impressive amount of donations. However, the real reason for her visit was to present the charity's first Volunteer of the Year award.

This went to 83-year-old Lorna Bennett in recognition of the outstanding commitment, time and effort she has given in 22 years of working at the East Finchley branch.

All Aboard CEO Alan Haynes told us how popular Lorna was with customers and staff, many being new to the job, young students or people on work experience whom she was always willing to help.

Praising her organisational skills and the way she had taken to the computer both in the shop and at home, he revealed that Lorna had broken her hip and wrist in a fall just over three months ago. However, despite

having to use a stick, she was preparing to return to work very soon. Mr Haynes also thanked the other staff and volunteers working in the charity's 19 outlets.

Committed to re-cycling and to environmental care, All Aboard makes huge efforts to prevent anything going to landfill. Since it was founded by Stella Lucas in 1987, it has raised over £3 million to distribute amongst different charities, covering a wide range of organisations both Jewish and non-Jewish, to which Homestart has recently been added. For more information visit www.allaboardshops.com



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