



Millennium wish

Back in December The Archer compiled a list of wishes for the Millennium in East Finchley. One member of the Archer team suggested a Tapas bar, amongst other things... Well, it looks like Pepe of Casa Pepe, 89 High Road, has granted that wish!

Pepe has resumed his evening opening, but with a substantially different menu and new staff. Spanish dishes are now the order of the day with a vegetarian selection available. The restaurant is now fully licensed and, as always, children are very welcome. If you haven't already sampled the delights of Casa Pepe, then make sure you do very soon!

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Oh Brother!

In the weird world of television there is nothing weirder than sticking ten stereotypes in a container in East London and showing the consequences on Channel 4.

It's cheap TV, none of your multi-million pound an hour costume dramas starring Colin Firth, just a few hundred grand and a speed-crazed Davina McCall. But boy did we love it. 64 days of watching nine media junkies and Billy Biceps performing for the cameras was the event of the summer. How sad. By the end I wanted to strangle the lot of them, but Billy announced he was giving his winnings away to help a Downs Syndrome girl get a life-saving operation in the USA. So that's all right then? Well, maybe...

I was always a Nick fan because he was the most devious bastard of the lot of them. He lied, cheated and meant to win. It was only a game show, but Nick was kicked out to sell his story, sign an advertising deal and turn up on a sofa next to Zoë Ball. He's doing fine, but what of the rest?

Sada will turn up on cable T.V. presenting some new age yoga show, Caroline will take her gob into a recording studio, Nicola will follow her and Claire's silicone enhanced body will find its way into television. Thomas and Darren will model boxer shorts, Andy will get voted 'Lad of the Year' and Mel will make a record, do modelling and wind up replacing Davina McCall in time for series three. Meanwhile Billy Biceps will go back to his building for about 24 hours before he becomes the acceptable face of Scouse and crops up on the sofa next to Zoë. Anna? Hey isn't being a lesbian hero enough for any singing nun?

Was it worth it? Who cares, it was only a game show, a nasty and deceitful one saved only by Billy's act of generosity from spawning something really nasty for the autumn. You, how about locking up ten people in a prison and giving prizes to anyone who escapes. (What do you mean Channel 5 are doing it?)

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Don't keep that Nest-Egg in the Teapot

By Daphne Chamberlain

Sadly, we've been hearing of more cases of elderly people being robbed of their savings. Money hidden in teapots or cereal packets, or under the mattress, is found all too easily. Someone else has always had the same idea.

What's more, even if a thief doesn't get to them first, a fire can send a lifetime's savings - sometimes a surprisingly large amount - up in smoke. And, while they're stashed away in a not-too-secret hiding-place, those savings are not earning any interest.

It seems, though, that there are still a few people who fear or distrust banks, or who just haven't got round to using them. They're not necessarily elderly. The great majority of senior citizens are just as financially acute as anyone else, but older victims of theft or loss are particularly vulnerable.

With this in mind, I asked our High Road banks, Abbey National, Barclays and NatWest, if they had any offers or incentives for older people to save with them.

Very interesting

Abbey National offer four-year retirement income bonds to anyone over the age of 55, which give higher interest. To take out these bonds, it is only necessary to show proof of your date of birth.

Talking of bonds, all banks and building societies offer the Government's tax-free ISAs, which are available for people of any age. National Savings have Pensioners Bonds, with the interest rate guaranteed for five years. The Post Office has information about them.

For those people who can't afford to invest in bonds, Abbey National, Barclays and NatWest all pointed out that anyone retired or unemployed could earn untaxed interest on their account by filling in an R85 form. These forms are obtained from Inland Revenue, who explained that to qualify for this concession, total annual income must not exceed personal allowances. The maximum income level changes slightly from year to year, but this year it is £4,375.

We can help

Barclays is at 82, High Road, Abbey National at 87, and NatWest at 85 - and don't

forget the Post Office. I give full marks to the staff I spoke to on the phone. None of them knew that the mythical friend I was contacting them for was actually *The Archer*, but they were all friendly and helpful.

So empty the teapots, and get interest - however little - from your savings.

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A Quality Plaice!

By Diana Cormack

The new owners of A. Scott and Sons Fishmongers love working in East Finchley. Mark and Kevin, who come from Kent and Essex, enthuse over their customers who are more concerned about the quality of the fish than the price.

Along with us locals they get people from miles away, including lords and ladies, TV stars and lots of Japanese customers who have to have excellent raw fish for their Sushi recipes.

This has to be bought early in Billingsgate Fish Market, so Mark and Kevin are there at 3.30am to haul their catch back to the shop at 94 High Road. They open at 7am and close after 5pm, so it's a long day, during which they will prepare fish to your specifications.

They smoke their own fish and cook live crabs and lobsters (only the best from Scotland). Mark and Kevin say with confidence that a good fish shop doesn't smell of fish and that flies do not go near fresh fish.

It was good to see metric conversion charts clearly displayed as well as posters about fish and useful recipes. The new owners are getting to know the area and are hoping to have a home delivery service in the near future.

Now open to 11pm

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