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Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 8JA. www.the-archer.co.uk

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Grahams – celebrating 40 years in business

By Toni Morgan

The past year has been a memorable one for Graham and his family. Last Christmas he and his wife celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary; 40 years ago last month he opened his butcher's shop in East End Road and their daughter Debbie celebrates her fortieth birthday this year. Their son David was born two years later. As if this wasn't enough cause to celebrate, plans are well underway to expand the business to accommodate the next generations.



Jim, David, Ann and Graham - looking forward Photo by Toni Morgan

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Building a reputation

When Graham started the business 40 years ago, there were approximately 25 butchers' shops in the area between Muswell Hill and Tally Ho; most of these have gone but Grahams survived. Two years later he was joined by his sister Ann. They realised that the obvious way forward was to give the customers what they clearly wanted – high quality organic meat and free-range food – and their ever-growing reputation

has been based on this. Graham's son David had always wanted to come into the business so he went to college, attained the highest standard with the Institute of Meat in 1985 and subsequently joined them.

Heart problems

Three years ago, Graham became ill with heart problems and underwent a triple bypass at Harefield Hospital; fortunately he has made a full recovery. He and

his family have the highest praise for the British Heart Foundation, which has become their chosen charity and to date they have raised £1,200 for the Foundation.

Expanding the premises

As it is the smallest butcher's shop in the borough (the shop still has its original 1938 tiles), Graham and Ann agreed that they needed more space to accommodate the next generations

coming into the business. When the shop next door became vacant, they made plans to expand, combine the two shops and widen their range of high quality food. Graham's daughter Debbie, who is a professional cook, will be making pies and sausage rolls. Both premises will be undergoing a complete refit and should be ready by Christmas – customers will be pleased to know that there will be little or no disruption to business!

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