



# Top of the shops

East Finchley resident Guy Swillingham is celebrating the publication of his new book *Shop Horror: The Best of the Worst in British Shop Names*.

Guy, who lives in Leslie Road, said: "The book is a loving celebration of the quirky British habit of giving pun-based names to shops. From the Vinyl Resting Place second-hand record store to Battersea Cods' Home fish and chips shop, they're all in *Shop Horror*."

Guy, 33, has travelled throughout the UK looking for the best funny shop names. This quirky quest has taken him on over 4,000 miles through 340 cities, towns and villages across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. He returned with a photo collection of more than 600 shop fronts.

### Amazing Grates

Despite shop-hunting across Britain, Guy says there's no place like home. "I've seen every funny shop sign in the country, but I'm particularly proud of East Finchley. Amazing Grates on the High Road is a wonderful name and I'm delighted to include it in my book."

Other neighbouring areas do well too. On and around Ballards Lane you can find Barber-Q barbers, Beyond The Fringe hairdressers and The Cod Father fish and chip shop. Guy, who also works as a TV producer, attributes this large number of funny shop names to the owners.

"There is such a high concentration of clever shop names in

Finchley. Shopkeepers here have shown great inventiveness and wit when it comes to business names. Some are funny because they are clever, some are funny because they are silly but, either way, they are all very amusing."

Guy hopes that readers of *THE ARCHER* will help him in his ongoing task to find even more funny shop names.

"If anyone sees a pun-based name, please do let me know via my website [www.shophorror.co.uk](http://www.shophorror.co.uk). They can also buy the book there."

*Shop Horror: The Best of the Worst in British Shop Names* (Fourth Estate, £10) is available now.

## Attention blue badge holders

Changes are being made to the Blue Badge Scheme in Barnet. The council's Assisted Travel Section will no longer be sending out reminder letters to badge holders when their badge is due to expire.

HOLDERS are advised to check the expiry date of their badge and to apply to the council for reassessment at least six weeks before the badge expires.

Application forms for a Blue Badge are available by telephoning 020 8359 4131.

## Oh deer!

By Erini Rodis

On the Saturday night of the last Bank Holiday, a Leopold Road resident had to take a second, sober look through her kitchen window to be sure what was standing outside. A fully grown female deer, standing about waist high, was gracing her garden pond.

With her house already up for sale, Maggie Broderick was delighted at the sudden garden makeover.

Sadly this transformation was somewhat short-lived as the deer was chased away by Charlie, the family cat.

"The deer must have seen the pond and stopped for a drink, but where did she come from? She was so graceful and ended

up leaping over fences towards Church Lane."

We are now wondering where this creature got to and if anybody else has seen it in the heart of East Finchley?

Maggie also warned that wild animals should never be approached but do instead call the RSPCA on 0870 55 55 999, especially if they are in distress.



Charlie with the award. Photo by John Dearing

## Best in London

By Sue Holliday

Congratulations to everyone at the Meze Bar in the High Road. What an achievement after just two years to win the best restaurant category in the Living in London competition.

The competition was run by LBC Radio and The Independent newspaper and winners were chosen by the public.

When I visited the Meze Bar on Friday 17 June, the day of the results, owner Charlie Salcuk could still hardly speak. He just grinned from ear to ear. The gold award was already in pride of place over the bar for all to see. However Charlie did go on to tell me that he could not have done this without all his staff from the person who does the washing-up to his wife Aysel and that he was also very grateful to all those who

took the effort to vote.

Aysel revealed that at the awards ceremony, held at the Café de Paris in central London, they already knew that they had won at least bronze. The tension built as their category was announced, the bronze, then the silver and finally gold going to The Meze Bar. Charlie was just so full of pride he could hardly speak.

Aysel also told me that three of their waiters have been with them from the start and both she and Charlie were pleased for them as well.

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