



A new face on the High Road

By Sue Holliday

East Finchley now has its own brasserie and cocktail bar in the High Road. On 14-15 June there were opening parties for Monkey Face and THE ARCHER was invited.

We were impressed by the changes made to the premises, formerly Bar XL. It is now light, airy, well-lit and air-conditioned. On the walls are paintings by local artists, which will be changed on a regular basis. There are plans to put seating outside so that customers can enjoy drinks and food in the sun.

Johnny and Mick Rayner, the brothers who own Monkey Face, want to provide a type of venue that is missing in East Finchley. This they should achieve, as they will open at 10am for

breakfast and food will be served all day.

After 7pm, the bar will be for over 21s only; I expect that will be when the cocktail bar person will be doing a Tom Cruise impression, which should be fun to watch. Apart from cocktails there will be a wide variety of wines and spirits served by a young enthusiastic staff.

The venue can be sectioned off so private areas can be hired for special parties. Johnny says he is open to ideas for making these parties as enjoyable as possible.

Football flies the flag

By Diana Cormack

For the past month there have been few places in England where the flag of St George was not on display to support our football team in the World Cup. Yet ten years ago and more this would not have been the case.

As a teacher then, my introduction to a lesson about St George's Day was to ask the class what flag they would wave if they were watching England play Germany. They always replied "The Union Jack", thus enabling me to explain that the union flag is an amalgamation of those of St George of England, St Andrew of Scotland and St Patrick of Ireland (The principality of Wales was not included because, when the first union flag was created in 1606, it was already united with England.) But football put an end to my well-used formula in 1996, when Wembley hosted the European Cup finals.

A spectacular opening ceremony included parachutists floating down to the stadium in *The Spy Who Loved Me* style under parachutes depicting their countries' flags. England was last to land on the hallowed turf, after which the pitch became the scene of a fantastic fight between George and the fire-breathing dragon. The crowd roared its support for the English patron saint who, carrying his shield with a red cross on a white background, dealt with the dragon and saved the maiden. The rest, as they say, is history, for that was the day when the English began to reclaim the flag of St George from usurpers.

The creation of the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament has undoubtedly increased both the willingness of English people to be identified as such and the use of the flag of St George, now internationally recognised. Though there are still many who write "British" on foreign

passport control forms, it only takes an international sporting event to sort out what nationality they really are!

This is Big Brother...

By John Lawrence

Next time you watch *Big Brother*, look past the back-biting, moaning housemates and take a closer look at the furniture they're sitting on.

That eclectic collection of living room furniture could be the most interesting thing on the reality TV show - and its centrepiece is there thanks to an East Finchley businesswoman.

Jane Elliott, who runs Ambience Contracts from her home in Baronsmere Road, supplied the eye-catching blue Sliced Sofa for the Big Brother lounge.

Described by host Davina McCall as an 'egg-slicer' because it looks like it's been through one, it's been attracting a lot of attention.

Jane approached the Big Brother production team earlier this year to say the sofa would be ideal for the house but it was only when the Big Brother designers saw it in a magazine weeks later that they came knocking at Jane's door.

Jane said: "We had tried in vain to find the right person at Big Brother to approach so we were delighted to speak to them and they were great to work with."

The sofa was designed by new talent Frederick Van Heerveld and his company



Jane Elliott inside the Big Brother house with the funky furniture she supplied. Picture courtesy Jane Elliott.

Feek, for whom Jane is the sole UK agent. It commands a £4,500 price tag as it is made from hand cut slices of foam glued together, then finished with layers of a special coating that makes it waterproof and suitable for use outside.

Jane said: "The price makes it expensive for many people, but we are looking into produc-

ing a more affordable polypropylene version."

Another design classic from Feek will be on show at the Cherry Tree gift shop in the High Road, courtesy of Jane. The pebble light glows in six different colours and is great for outdoor use. Look out for it in the shop window next time you're passing.

Any umbrellas?

The Hornsey Trust desperately needs old, broken umbrellas to make parachutes for the teddy bears and other soft toys which will float down from the tower of St. James's Church to herald this year's Muswell Hill Festival on Sunday 17 September.

They will jump on the Saturday before the show using chutes in a variety of styles and sizes, but many will be made from old umbrellas. They can range in size from collapsibles up to golf umbrellas. The Trust will collect them locally, or you can take them to

the trust's centre for children with cerebral palsy at the top of Muswell Hill just above the primary school.

All enquiries should be made to Alison Wynn, the Trust's fundraiser, on 020 8444 7242, mobile 07808 364 033 or e-mail on alison@onlib.com.



Bowling could be the perfect solution

Muswell Hill Bowling Club (in Kings Avenue, Muswell Hill) welcomes new members and can provide instruction and equipment.

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