



Celebrities wear vintage

By Sheila Armstrong

Calling all East Finchley women: if you are looking for something to wear for a special occasion, a wedding, a premiere or a party; or something unusual for everyday wear; or maybe a gift, Lazooli on the High Road is the place to start.

Beyond the frequently changing window display there are a wealth and variety of clothes, mostly vintage though some new, as well as shoes, accessories and jewellery. There are even some exquisite small porcelain pots.

What do the words lapis lazuli conjure up? That wonderful blue colour, the nomads of North Africa, exotic gems and treasures from the East: Gaynor Spry, owner of Lazooli, had such images in mind as a child when she mispronounced the name of the precious blue stone and she has created its essence in her shop. The shop's decor and all its fittings are a

tasteful range of blues following the lapis theme, while the clothes are colour co-ordinated on the rails.

Gaynor did careful market research before opening, and identified her market as professional mothers, young funky women who like vintage clothing and the more mature women. Sizes range from 8 to 18. Lazooli also buy vintage clothes.

Lazooli has been open for nearly a year and Gaynor, resident here for eight years, has been 'blown away' by the reception and support she has received from customers and friends in East Finchley.



Owner Gaynor Spry, left, with friend Nancy Candlin modelling a selection of clothes from Lazooli. Photo by Viviana Lotti



Luisa Cotardo interviews Lucio Dalla. Picture by Carlo Bevilacqua.

Azzurro in Finchley

By Luisa Cotardo

"Qui dove il mare luccica", "here where the sea sparkles". These are the words of a famous Italian song written by Lucio Dalla and dedicated to Caruso, the great tenor born in Naples in 1873 and well known to lovers of 'Belcanto'.

Many songs tell about the sea and love, touching the hearts of all who hear them. Love for words and life brought me to East Finchley. I'm an Italian journalist who has to use another language to write about life and love, but the magic 'azzurro' has brought me luck.

Azzurro is a colour, it's almost blue. It's the colour of the sea. Azzurro sparkles, as Caruso's sea does. And it's exactly the colour of the Italian football team's t-shirts, champions of the world: definitely Azzurro brought luck to Italians this year.

Italy, Greece and East Finchley
When I arrived in East

Finchley Village I could breathe the atmosphere of home: the High Road, with its interesting shops and cafés, peaceful people who still have the time to give you a smile, quiet and gentle people who nourish my heart. And I found *THE ARCHER*. Through the magic of connections I met the artists of East Finchley Open and made contact with London Greek Radio (LGR) just around the corner, where I now work regularly.

Sometimes you cannot imagine the miracles that life can perform. The colour of the Greek flag is also Azzurro, almost blue, like the Mediterranean which is so close to where I come from, Lecce in Puglia. And now the music of my region is going to be played on LGR (www.lgr.co.uk), for songs go everywhere.

Near Lecce is a place called

Grecia Salentina, which means Greece from Salento. It's the piece of land that includes Lecce, Brindisi and Taranto where the sea definitely sparkles. Every summer there is a big music festival in Melpignano, near Lecce, called "La Notte della Taranta", when a hundred thousand people dance the 'pizzica', music of the tarantula. Many songs are written and sung in Griko, a language combining ancient Greek, Byzantine Greek and Italian elements. Special guests from all over the world attend the festival. This year they included Lucio Dalla, one of the most beloved Italian pop singers. He is with me in the picture speaking in English about music, Caruso and his love for Greece, "qui dove il mare luccica", where the sea also sparkles.

Thousands of smiles per gallon

By Daphne Chamberlain

Watching others battle it out at an auction is a great spectator sport. A recent contest at the Noble Sage art gallery in Fortis Green raised funds for Teardrop Relief, which helps tsunami victims in Sri Lanka.

The evening was filmed by *Serendipity* magazine, to celebrate the opening of the Noble Sage, the first gallery in the UK specialising in South Asian art. Gallery curator Jana Manuelpillai stressed the pictures' investment value as he turned auctioneer, claiming to feel like someone in his home-patch Walthamstow market.

Don't be deterred, though, if your pocket doesn't run to hundreds or thousands. There are plenty of other beautiful and more affordable things to buy in the gallery. I looked at books, scarves, soft toys, ornaments, stationery items and cassettes.

The one I took home was 'The London Jungle', a story in pictures and words from a young Gond artist, recording his time spent painting a London restaurant. In his vision, a plane becomes a flying elephant,

the Underground a family of snakes, and a London bus a dog that comes at his call.

Teardrop Relief's first project has been to take two more (normal) London double-decker buses to Sri Lanka. One is to serve as a mobile medical screening unit, and the other is "delivering thousands of smiles

per gallon" as a children's fun bus. One of the auction bidders told me she has a number of Sri Lankan friends, and she was delighted with the big response to the *Serendipity* evening.

The Noble Sage, *waiting for future exhibition details, etc.* Curator back on Sunday.

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