



Mayor Eva Greenspan prepares to cut the ribbon as Androulla and Rosario look on. Photo: Diana Cormack

New start for 2

Destino

By Sue Holliday

Were you in the High Road on that lovely Sunday 15 April and did you wonder what all the balloons were for? Well, it was to celebrate the re-launch of 2 Destino.

The shop at first had three partners; then one decided to go her separate way leaving two, hence the name change. Rosario Castro and Androulla Costi decided it was also time to diversify. The shop now has a large selection of wedding and christening items alongside its beautiful flowers, candles and general gifts.

Barnet's Mayor Eva Greenspan arrived at 12 noon and after greeting people she cut the red ribbon and entered the re-vamped

shop. Then champagne and canapés were served to guests and friends who were also encouraged to buy raffle tickets in aid of the Variety Club Sunshine Coach charity, the Mayor's chosen charity.

She was also presented with two cheques for The Variety Club, one from the BNI group and the other from the owner of High Road café Casa Pepe. After about 40 minutes the Mayor left after giving a short speech wishing the owners well.

Vision on

By Betti Blatman

I recently tried to find a local optician to repair or replace the arm that had broken off a pair of spectacles. Of the ones I visited, some were unable to help and one offered to attempt the repair for £60.

In desperation, I went to Brent Cross where, at Vision Express, optician Kiran Chauhan assured me that he would do his best to repair the spectacles. When I returned to collect them and enquired about the cost, I was simply asked to make a donation to the Vision Aid Overseas fund. I gladly obliged.

Most of the spectacles provided by VAO project teams are recycled from spectacles donated secondhand by members of the public in the UK via their local optician.

Staff and volunteers at

Crawley sort them and remove any that are broken or in a bad condition. VAO is grateful for the assistance of six prisons, where prisoners help clean, assess the lenses and pack them ready for transportation overseas.

VAO provides optical instruments, packaging and training to ensure this process runs smoothly. To find out more please contact: Vision Aid Overseas, 12 The Bell Centre, Newton Road, Manor Royal, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 2FZ, telephone 01293 535016, email info@vao.org.uk or visit www.vao.org.uk.

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Mike the flower man

By John Dearing

There has been a florist's shop at 60 High Road for at least 50 years. Josephine's Flowers is now run by Mike Doukaki, who took over from Tricia and Jim in June 2004.

Mike has a degree in business studies, and worked for Viacom Outdoor for six years, managing the advertising rights for London Underground and Buses. Subsequently, he spent nine months travelling the world, visiting numerous countries including India and Australia.

On his return, he joined GWR (which includes Classic FM). However, after the freedom of world travel, he found it a difficult environment to work in. When the opportunity arose of taking over the business with Tricia's brother Michael, he decided to leave GWR and become a florist.

The move from working in the centre of London to spending his time in East Finchley has led him to realise that it is a real community; he speaks of the 'power of localness', how involved local people and businesses are with each other, and how well they know each other. With this in mind he feels it is important to engage with local institutions such as the Phoenix Cinema and local schools, for example by providing bouquets as raffle prizes.

Mike's background in marketing led him to decide to make Josephine's Flowers fashion-led and focused more on gifts: exotic potted plants and flowers, items of furniture, sculpture, paintings and small unusual gifts which are sourced from places far afield such as Asia.



Mike Doukaki at Josephines Flowers. Picture by John Dearing

Josephine's has an alcohol licence and sells champagne, wine and chocolates. They have supplied sculptures for the set of the TV programme Emmerdale and do contract

work for retailers and restaurants. Services offered include weekly deliveries to private customers and bespoke floral arrangements in the customer's own vases.

Eco cars for hire

By Diana Cormack

Did you know that you can now book a cab in East Finchley and ask for an "Eco" car? Greater London Hire Ltd, based opposite the tube station, was London's first private hire and courier organisation to become carbon acknowledged and now owns the largest Eco fleet in the country. With over 50 Prius energy saving cars at present, the company intend to add more and to include people carriers and courier transport in the scheme.

GLH is working with The C-Change Trust, a UK charity dedicated to climate change. They give both businesses and individuals the opportunity to acknowledge their carbon emissions through charitable donations (visit www.thechange.org for more information). They guarantee that 75% of all donations will fund projects to reduce emissions, educate the young on climate change and create new woodlands in the UK.

To this end, GLH managing director John Scott and some of his colleagues recently travelled by Eco car to Pendine, Carmarthenshire, where they took

part in the first planting of trees with local school children.

Paper and power too

The company is committed, through continual improvement, to reducing the environmental impact of their operations wherever possible. Customer Services and Environmental Manager Zoë Powers said that this commitment involves not only cars and transport but includes cutting down on paper usage by emailing, invoicing, marketing and dealing with wage slips and the

like electronically. They intend to switch the power supply to renewable energy supplies during 2007-8

"It's terribly exciting," John Scott told *THE ARCHER*. "People are continually looking for ways of saving energy."

In reducing its carbon footprint, GLH recognises that environmental issues are of fundamental importance to a successful and responsible business and believes that taking a responsible lead will encourage others to do the same.

Sparks in the classroom

By John Dearing

Chris Loizou, who used to run the East Finchley Electrical shop and still works there part-time, visited the Tudor School in Finchley recently to give a talk on electricity and on the shop.

One of the teachers at the school is a regular customer at the shop. While shopping there one day at the end of last year, Chris and the teacher were chatting about the school, and Chris was asked if he could do a talk for one of the classes.

Chris gave a general talk on electricity to the Year 4 class, then gave them an exercise to make up circuits with batteries and bulbs that would work as torches. Year 4 were most

grateful for the talk, and sent him a thank you letter, signed by all of them.

Chris said that any other schools that are interested in a similar talk should contact Dino Loizou at East Finchley Electrical on 020 8444 5630.

Did you know?
Each successive monarch faces in a different direction on British coins.