



Super marché invades

East Finchley was transformed into a French market from 28-30 March by stallholders from Normandy. Dozens of stalls lined the High Road from the tube station up to Iceland.



A taste of France on the High Road. Photo by Diana Cormack

There was a villagey atmosphere amidst the aroma of hot food bubbling away. There were queues to eat on the spot or take away, with other food stalls selling dried fruit and nuts and a range of French cheese and sausages to accompany the French bread. Other stalls sold items ranging from bed linen, floor mats, handbags, hats, jewellery, knitwear and umbrellas.

Enfin, le soleil

The French market was brought to East Finchley by

Philippe Basset of Streets Alive UK Ltd. The same organisation introduced recent French markets in Whetstone and Temple Fortune.

Would the stallholders fancy returning? "Yes, but with the sun," laughed one, obviously appreciating the return of fine weather after a rainy first day.

Customer satisfaction

Richard Gregory, an East Finchley resident, said: "I liked it. Obviously some of the produce, such as the bread, was quite pricey. I bought saucis-

son, which was really good and tasty, even if it was £4. Ben, the dog, got hold of the walnut bread!"

"My overall view was that the market made the High Road look more colourful and more lively; it was quite a good location, too. I think for the traders it was quite successful. I look forward to having it again," he added.

Elena, also a local resident, said: "The baguette I bought was baked next to the stall and it was nice and warm. I was expecting more prepared foods, like soups and pates and traditional produce."

Finchley Community Development Trust publicised the event, and also talked to local traders next to the site. Trust spokesperson Rob Robertson told *THE ARCHER* that any stallholders needing electricity provided and paid for their own generators. They also paid for a skip for their rubbish, which they cleared up themselves. Rob Robertson said that there had been a very positive response to the French market and another one is planned for the autumn.



The aftermath of the fatal accident on the Great North Road. Picture by John Dearing

Driver killed in accident on Great North Road

By John Dearing

An accident on the Great North Road on Thursday 10 April left one person dead and one seriously injured.

At around 5pm, a green Mondeo was, according to one witness, travelling south from the area of the Tube station up the hill at considerable speed. Opposite the Hexagon car showrooms, it suddenly swerved right across the road, turned over in the air, crossed the pavement and crashed into the brick wall beyond it. No other vehicles were apparently involved and the reason for the accident is not presently known.

The emergency services attended and fire crews had to cut the car open to free two of its three occupants. Efforts were made to revive the driver at the scene by the Ambulance Service and a doctor.

All three occupants were taken to the Royal Free Hospital at Hampstead where the driver, 43-year-old Stephen Wheatcroft of North Hill, was pronounced dead. A teenage girl remains in hospital with serious head injuries. The third occupant, thought to be in her 30s and the mother of the teenager, suffered injuries to her arm and back. After treatment she was discharged from hospital.

Initially, the High Road was closed at the junction with Fortis Green, but around 6.30pm it was reopened as far as The Bishops Avenue. The Great North Road was closed from there as far as the junction with Woodside Avenue for several hours after that.

Kinks collection meets its Waterloo Sunset

By Diana Cormack

After many months of refurbishment, the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green is now up and running with the traditional local emerging as a fully-fledged member of the gastro pub brigade. This is reflected throughout in the décor, furniture and layout.

The main place for drinking is at the front, with some comfortable-looking leather armchairs and sofas set beside low level wooden tables, whilst the bar itself is in the larger back room. This is where the dining tables are too, complete with wooden church chairs which could have you praying for a cushion if you sat for too long. A large galley kitchen is flanked by a covered area outside. The menu is interesting and there is a good range of drinks, but don't go there looking for any bargains.

Don't go looking for much memorabilia either. The Clissold was celebrated as the pub where Ray and Dave Davies, founder members of The Kinks, gave their first public performance in 1960. Fans were reputed to travel from all over the world just to drink there and gaze at or even add to the collection, said to be of signed beer mats, tee-shirts, record sleeves and photos. There was much discussion as to whether any of this would remain (*THE ARCHER*, April 2007).

Toilet trip for fans

Well, the answer is plain. All that is left following the refurbishment are some framed photos situated in the alcove housing the toilets. It would be interesting to find out what has happened to the rest of the memorabilia, but at the time of writing *THE ARCHER* was waiting to hear from the manager. It would also be interesting to know exactly what used to be on display so, if you can remember,

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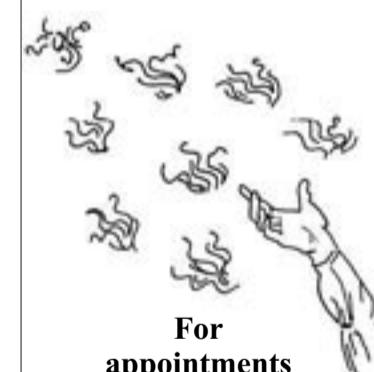
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