



Smiles for revamped dental practice

A new name has appeared on the High Road in East Finchley, although it belongs to a well-established and trusted business. East Finchley Smiles is the new name for The East Finchley Dental Centre, which first opened in 2003.

The practice has grown from strength to strength and recently one of the founding partners, Dr Darren Freedman, took sole ownership. The makeover includes updated equipment as well as an increased range of general dental services and cosmetic treatments.

East Finchley Smiles, at 144 High Road, is one of the few local dentists offering NHS services to adults and children alike.

New practice manager Melissa Freedman said: "We keep hearing in the news that there are no NHS dentists yet we have space for new patients all the time."

Every year as part of the Barnet PCT every dental practice is assessed and this year East Finchley Smiles was awarded 100% in its annual assessment and clinical governance. The practice has a website at www.eastfinchleysmiles.co.uk

Practice makes perfect

By Sippy Azizollah
Doctors at Woodlands Medical Practice in Leopold Road have started a patient group.

Patients' views and ideas will be represented by other patients at meetings held every few months in discussion with the GPs. The process will be informal and specific to these people.

There will be a suggestion box in the waiting room which will be passed on to the patient group. So if you're registered at Woodlands, now's the time to voice your opinion or email: woodlands.medical-practice@nhs.net

Songs keep Yiddish alive

By Betti Blatman

Whilst recently at the Spiro Ark Centre to see Klezmer Klub's Sing Yiddish London event, I was seated near their singer's mother, whose daughter Vivi Lachs lives in East Finchley. Klezmer Klub was set up in the early 1990s and presently consists of Vivi Lachs (voice/dance leader), Gabriel Ellenberg (accordion), Jon Petter (clarinet), Caroline Hall (trombone) and Julia Doyle (double bass).

They play an exciting mix of klezmer dances and songs imbued with their trademark energy and enthusiasm. The Yiddish songs, sung in the language of the Jews in Eastern Europe, have been collected to form their own repertoire covering a variety of themes: love, politics, trades unions, music hall and songs about working class life in London.

Vivi is passionate about singing Yiddish songs as they communicate life and joy as well as the depths of sorrow and poverty. They are often infused with Jewish humour

and the desire to survive.

The band is due to record a CD called London Yiddish Songs next year. Their next gig is on Saturday 17 January at 8pm at the Cellar Upstairs Folk Club at the Exmouth Arms, Starcross

Street, London NW1. Telephone 020 7281 7700 for details. Entrance is £7 with concessions at £6. Contact Vivi Lachs by email on vivilachs@gmail.com or www.myspace.com/klezmerklub



Just to say...

Late last year, patrons of 2 Destino, 128 High Road, were surprised to find an array of tempting food waiting for them on the counter. Androulla Costi and Rosario Castro-Garcia told THE ARCHER that it was their way of saying thank you to customers at the flower and gift shop.

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By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

A whole new year

We live in dangerous times, when our only hope is that even though he couldn't save Woolworth's, Brown Gordon will save the world. But while waiting, we need to find something to celebrate. We can start by hurling worn bankers from the top of Canary Wharf in memory of 1929 and the mythical plummeting bankers of Wall Street. Then, in this dog-eat-dog world, we can remember that Charles Darwin was born 200 years ago and start evolving into something even weirder.

Prison warders everywhere can jangle their keys in celebration of the 200th birthday of Dartmoor Prison. They might get together with the FBI who'll be rolling out several barrels to mark the 75th anniversary of the removal of John Dillinger, Bonnie and Clyde, Charles 'Pretty Boy' Floyd and George 'Baby Face' Nelson from the gene pool.

And then there's politics. This year will be the 250th anniversary of the birth of William Wilberforce, 200 years since Abraham Lincoln was born and 100 years since the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People was set up. On 20 January, Barack Obama will become the next president of the United States of America and that will be something worth celebrating.

This year is going to be a big one for music, especially if you like dead composers. Three of England's finest wrote their last notes 75 years ago and sure as easy listening is easy listening Classic FM will mark the passing of great Englishmen Frederick Delius, Gustav Holst and Edward Elgar by extracting the pretty bits and playing them randomly throughout the year.

But why stop there? Not when every string-bending axe man is going to be honouring Leo Fender's birth in 1909 with extra feedback. They may even shed a tear for Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper on the day in February that marks the fiftieth anniversary of 'the day the music died'.

Don't worry if you forget 3 February because I'm sure Classic FM are going to follow up their last collection of orchestral rock with a Songs of Buddy Holly Special. It will probably feature Catherine Jenkins and Russell Watson dueting on Peggy Sue, ably backed by the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the band of the Scots Guards. That really will be the day that the music dies.

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