



Rally call for advice service

For 29 years East Finchley Advice Service was situated in Church Lane and funded or part-funded by the London Borough of Barnet. Due to a restructuring of services, this arrangement came to an end last December and EFAS found a new home at the Green Man Community Centre.

Ruby Joseph and Eldon Pethybridge of EFAS, a registered charity, say their services have been grant aided by the City Parochial Trust (now Trust for London), Finchley Charities and others. Now they are no longer funded by the local authority, however, they are finding it difficult to secure sufficient funding from other charitable sources.

Ruby and Eldon say: "We are looking to the community for support. Not surprisingly, in these difficult times there has been no reduction in numbers

of clients who come to us for advice and assistance (some 4,000 consultations per year) but we are running on reserves that will dry up unless coffers are replenished.

"All of our advisers are volunteers, including some who are legally trained. Our human resources include expertise in debt, housing, welfare benefits and consumer rights. We run fortnightly evening legal surgeries staffed by qualified solicitors and barristers. We have rent to pay, insurance and the costs of telephones, comput-

ers, stationery and postage, yet all our services are free to the public."

Ruby and Eldon urge everyone to visit their stall at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on 19 June. Meanwhile, if you are able to help, give a donation or support them in any way please contact the Projects Manager at EFAS, 1st Floor, Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, East Finchley, London N2 9BA; telephone 020 8444 6265 or email: help@efas.org.uk.



High fryer: Mark Boon, left, and his assistant Daniel Watson.

Chip off the old block

Mark Boon made a deliberate attempt to keep out of the family business but, in the end, he couldn't resist. Mark is now among the third generation of fish and chip shop owners in his South Wales-Italian family.

Mark has run the Mermaid Fish Bar close to the junction of Long Lane and Squires Lane for almost three years. It is one of four shops still in the family.

He's certainly inherited his father's and grandfather's skills. His shop has just been awarded five stars by the Food Standards Agency, and the Frymax Gold Standard Award for food quality.

His parents and grandparents originally persuaded him to try another career, so he spent 13 years in the British Trans-

port Police, rising through the ranks to become service control manager for the Jubilee Line. But when he fancied a change of job, running a chippy was his first choice.

Mark said: "We've all fallen into it eventually. What I like about the business is that I'm my own boss and I can get to know the customers. We have a lot of local trade and customers come from as far as Mill Hill and Muswell Hill. My parents were up visiting a few weeks ago and they are very proud of what we've done here."



Visitors enjoyed the old time singalong.

Super sing-along

The Rotary Club of Golders Green took a party of people by individual cars to Lauderdale House for an evening of 'Old Tyme Music Hall' presented by the Lissenden Players. The party, including residents of East Finchley, were entertained to songs and humour from yesteryear, and joined in a hearty sing-along, determined to enjoy every second.

Source of beauty

Mandana, who runs a beauty therapy business at Jennie Mann in Church Lane, recently travelled to central France to see how the beauty products she uses are made and dispatched.

Sothys started as a small business and now has more than 60 years' experience in the beauty market. Their headquarters are in the wonderful, historical city of Brive.

First, we headed to the warehouse, kept at 20°C, where the products arrive and are kept for 48 hours for bacteria checks and safety before going to stock. Products then get a batch number so they can always be tracked back.

To prepare an order, staff use a scanner which tells them how many products to take off the shelf, and then weigh the items to make sure the quantity is right. They do 20,000 shipments for the French market alone, in a year.

We could only look at each production room through a glass screen, to avoid contamination. We had to wear special, white uniforms and white covers for our shoes and hair, to enter the building.

The gardens of Sothys cover over four hectares and have strong links with plant research teams, who find ways to extract ingredients from the

plants, transfer them into a molecule form and then into creams. For example, extract of rye is used for anti-ageing cream. Each cream from start to finish takes 16 days.



Mandana will be telling more about her trip and demonstrating the products in a special open day on 16 June from 9am to 9pm at Jennie Mann, 63a Church Lane.

Plant centre axed

By Ann Bronkhorst
A long-established plantsman's delight, the Islington Horticulture Centre, tucked away in the north-western corner of St Pancras Cemetery, faces closure from 30 June, due to cuts required by Islington's Highways department.

The Centre has grown bedding plants for the cemetery and the borough, trained young people in horticulture and maintained glasshouses for many years. Now its experienced workers will be obliged to take early retirement or seek other jobs.

ARCHER readers may remember reports about vandals regularly damaging the glasshouses. Now, the patient winter work of replacing damaged glass panes looks like wasted effort, as the structures will be dismantled.

The site is protected from development and will revert to cemetery ground but regular visitors to the cemetery will miss the centre as a valuable amenity.

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