



Fancy dress shop to close

By Diana Cormack

The shopping parade between Creighton Avenue and Hertford Road is soon to lose a spark of life with the imminent closure of Culture Vultures. This fancy dress hire shop has been trading at 200 High Road for about 25 years, but retiring owners Deborah and David Handford have been unable to find anyone to take on the business.

Originally it was run in Muswell Hill by Wendy and John Glynn who employed Colin Scott, a name some readers will automatically associate with Culture Vultures as he eventually took over after it had moved to East Finchley.

The present owners knew Colin as customers and Deborah became involved after she

had made adjustments to a costume she had hired. This led to a part-time job altering and repairing the stock. After Deborah retired from working at Middlesex University and David from 30 years in banking, they took on the business and made many improvements, including using Yell, Google and their own website to raise

its profile.

Over the past eight years they have seen trade increase and have established a wide circle of customers ranging from judges and lawyers to well known names in the entertainment world and from the very young to the very old. Recently a 90-year-old on her way to an event popped in to have the wimple on her nun's outfit adjusted. "It's been hard work but we've had a lot of fun here," the couple agreed.

The shop carries a wide range of quality costumes and accessories which are up for sale. Feel free to call in and browse. Opening times are Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm; Saturday, 10am-5.30pm. Tel: 020 8883 5525, www.cvfd.co.uk

In recent times the most popular costumes for hire have been 1970s-style outfits, superhero costumes and Disney characters but probably most loved have been the seasonal characters in the shop window. So it's goodbye to Boris the Halloween Spider and Billy the Waving Snowman. Sadly the High Road will probably never see your like again.



Project coordinator Laura Davitt helps Robin McDonald and Pursotam Patel behind the bar. Photo by Diana Cormack

Saturday smoothies

By Diana Cormack

If you fancy something tasty on a Saturday morning, pop along to Finchley Youth Theatre and try one of the drinks on offer at the Drink It! Juice Bar. Launched by R&B star Jade Jones in July, the bar is a new project developed through a partnership between Barnet Mencap, Finchley Youth Theatre, IPOP, Self Unlimited and Community Space. Funded by a grant from Barnet Council, it offers a valuable opportunity to those aged 18+ who have learning disabilities.

The idea is to provide paid work taster opportunities for up to 16 people over a six-month period, with three staff working per shift. Training is given so that they can learn and develop relevant skills. It is intended that the bar will develop into a mobile project and set up at local festivals and conferences within the borough.

Drink it! Juice bar is open between 10.30am and 1.30pm at 142 High Road. For more information, contact Shelley Gibbons or Laura Davitt on 020 8349 3842. Email laura.davitt@barnetmencap.org.uk



Deborah and David Handford. Photo by Diana Cormack

Older residents urged to have their say

Barnet 55+ Forum plans to hold a public meeting on Thursday 22 September to discuss concerns about the future of Health and Social Care Services.

The Forum invites local people to attend the meeting to be informed about the integrated provisions planned by the Government and to provide feedback so that an agenda for older people can be drawn up.

In publicity for the meeting, the Forum emphasises the

need for public involvement: "We must make ourselves part of the planning ... and ensure that our concerns are given proper consideration."

Tony Gentry, policy adviser for AgeUK, will speak on 'Meeting the needs of older people' with particular reference to health.

The public meeting will take place at St Mary's Church Hall, Hendon Lane, N3 1TR, which is near the junction with Ballards Lane, on Thursday 22 September at 2pm (refreshments at 1.30pm). For more information, contact 020 8447 0379 or 020 8931 3795.

Closing date extended for calendar photos

There's still time to send us your photos of games, sports or activities (outdoors or indoors) in East Finchley for THE ARCHER Calendar 2012. We've extended the closing date to 16 September.

Our judges will choose 12 of the best and the calendar will be on sale in local shops and by mail order in time for Christmas. All money raised will go to a deserving local charity so your support is greatly appreciated.

Please send your high-resolution images to the-

archer@lineone.net along with your contact details and a short note on where the photo was taken. Anyone whose photograph is chosen will receive a free copy of the calendar. Thank you.



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