



Horse meat scandal: traders and customers speak out

By Cathy Young

"You can't make silk out of cardboard," said a spokesman from Graham's Butchers, East End Road, responding to questions about the recent concerns around meat supplies in the UK and Europe. "We know our product, it's not mass-produced and our suppliers are known to us personally. We buy whole carcasses and would know immediately if something was wrong. It's all down to integrity and trust. Our customers trust us."

Recognising horse meat

His philosophy was endorsed by other shopkeepers and customers in the High Road and surrounding area. Midhurst Butchers on Fortis Green Road thought that their trade was unaffected as they had a loyal clientele who always shopped locally. Their spokesman pointed out: "If you want quality, you have to pay for it," adding that they could spot horse meat straight away as "It's a darker meat and a completely different shape." The only place to hide it was in processed foods.

While Graham's Butchers saw sales of sausages and mince (all made on the premises) rise by about 25%, Iceland had to remove their quarter pounders from the shelves. "We were informed that they might have had 0.01% horsemeat in them so we removed them immediately," the manager told me. "Other than that everything is much the same. People are a bit wary of meat products but not to any great extent." Budgens felt they had been unaffected by the crisis.

Across the road, in Bar-

racuda, customers were philosophical: "They say there's no health risk in horsemeat; it's all sterilised." Laughter broke out as one mother suggested asking their children, "Do you want sterilised sausages or sterilised mush for tea tonight?" They too felt that the growth of cheap, processed meals had enabled this crisis to develop. They were already more conscious about their food choices, but were concerned about younger, busy mums and older people reliant on convenience foods. One said: "I know an old blind lady who's totally dependent on ready-made meals delivered by meals on wheels. She's distraught as she has no control over what she's eating."

Beware the £1 lasagne

Back on the High Road, one young father with a toddler was quite frank: "If you buy lasagne for £1, you know it's not going to be good; if you want decent food you should cook it yourself." The final word came from a Chandos Road resident: "Meat crisis? It doesn't bother me; I'm vegetarian."

See *Kalashnikov Kultur* on page 9 for further comment.



Chinese banners for charity

By Daphne Chamberlain

We are now in the Chinese Year of the Snake, which The Institute celebrated with a flourish. On 7 and 8 February, calligrapher Jane Lo-Singleton created small "banners" for a steady queue of customers. Whether her design featured our individual animal symbols, messages, or her personal impression of our qualities, Jane told us, "We have worked on this together", a nice thought to take into a new year.

In return we donated to the favourite cancer charity of Helena Giras, pottery teacher at The Institute, who has the illness. Jane told *THE ARCHER*, "I have been going to Helena's pottery lessons since 2003. To join in the community spirit of this Education Centre fully, I have been a voluntary helper for Pottery at The Institute."

With her was her daughter-in-law Shinya, visiting from Hong Kong for Chinese New Year. Jane says, "It was delightful to have her practical assistance, and I feel very

grateful to the Institute and everyone for their kind support and donations. Over these two days, the Chinese Calligraphy event has raised £410 for Star Throwers."

Jane practised calligraphy at school in Hong Kong, using pencil at first, and brush and ink

from Year 3, but only felt truly at ease with it after studying with Master Zhao Yi Zhou. To discover more, visit <http://zhaoyizhou.co.uk>, and www.thebarnetcollection.org, which has a profile of Jane. She can be contacted on 020 8455 5857 or at janelo27@hotmail.com

Another jazz special

Following on from a successful event late last year, another very special Jazz Night is planned at the old Wilf Slack Cricket Club, now the Hall School Sports Ground, at 19 East End Road, N3, on Monday 11 March from 7.45-10.45pm.

As former Finchley Jazz Club secretary, Pam Kent, one of our *ARCHER* team, is a cancer sufferer and having the best care possible at The Royal Free Hospital, all proceeds will go to the hospital's oncology and chemo units for more research into causes and treatment of the disease.

This time Bob Dwyer's Bix 'n' Pieces band will be playing and it's hoped that many other

professional musicians will come along as before to sit in for a jam session.

The entrance fee will be only £8 per person and, as there is no bar, you can bring your own booze. If you wish to donate a raffle prize of books, CDs, DVDs, boxes of biscuits/sweets or wine, etc, they will be most welcome on the night. Please come along for a superb evening of top quality jazz.

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