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## Andrew makes light work of new career

By Nick Young

**Mezem, the Mediterranean restaurant located at 111 High Road, is under new management but the new owner doesn't have the background you'd necessarily expect of a restaurateur.**

Andrew Theodorou, who took over in September, is an electrical engineer by trade and has previously delivered power for large-scale exhibitions, the BBC Sports Personality of the Year and for the Excel Centre during the 2012 Olympics. That last one involved 10 million watts. "I didn't sleep for months," he recalls.

He and his wife Aisling both gave up their high-powered jobs to look after their two boys Harvey and James. This gave Andrew, who lives in Palmers Green, the chance to follow a long-held ambition to enter the restaurant trade.

"I've always wanted to run a restaurant," he told *THE ARCHER*. "I looked at places between Angel and Cockfosters before choosing this one." His vision for Mezem is of a restaurant "using only the freshest and most authentic ingredients to ensure a wonderful fusion of flavours". This extends to the coffee as well as the food!

Running the restaurant allows Andrew to be with the boys first thing in the morning and during the afternoon, after which he returns to work for the evening.

Mezem, which has 65 covers and a staff of eight, is open seven days a week and now offers online booking and a home delivery service, as well as allowing customers to bring their own wine at lunchtime. Andrew, who is looking at bringing in more child-friendly menu options, has worked with other local businesses, including providing finger-food for Black Gull Books at a recent evening event.



Andrew Theodorou, who has taken over Mezem on the High Road.  
Photo Mike Coles

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Sue Tollerfield (left) and Haylee Millar display The Archer tea towels at the Cherry Tree gift shop.  
Photo Mike Coles

## The Archer tea towel: buy yours now for Christmas

The Archer tea towel makes the perfect Christmas gift for family and friends. The Cherry Tree Gift Shop in the High Road is kindly stocking it for us and handing over all the money to support three local youth charities.

## How you can help Noah's Ark

By Diana Cormack

**On Friday 19 December ITV's annual charity appeal Text Santa will be bringing an evening of non-stop entertainment to our screens. The leading UK charity for children's hospices, Together for Short Lives, has been chosen as one of the six beneficiary charities this year. Funds raised for this charity will support the fifty three children's hospice services across the country which include Noah's Ark Children's Hospice in North London.**

Presenters Alesha Dixon, Ant and Dec, Paddy McGuinness, Phillip Schofield and Christine Bleakley will introduce a Text Santa that's bigger than ever. Along with the chart-topping live music performances there will be stars from Coronation Street, The Cube and even George Clooney in a specially written scene from Downton Abbey!

Since the appeal launched in 2011, Text Santa has raised £15 million for charities. All funds raised will be distributed equally between the six charities. Viewers can donate by visiting [www.justgiving.com/textsanta](http://www.justgiving.com/textsanta)

### Giving time helps too

Part of strategic planning for Noah's Ark includes significant investment in training and upskilling of volunteers. To find out more about volunteering with Noah's Ark Children's Hospice please contact Amy Walker on 020 8449 8877 or email [awalker@noahsarkhospice.org.uk](mailto:awalker@noahsarkhospice.org.uk)

They are the Monday Youth Club, the Finchley Youth Theatre and a reading project for youngsters at Strawberry Vale.

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