



Deborah gets the party started

A former charity fundraiser has set up a company to help the 'Boomer' generation enjoy their significant birthdays and special celebrations.

Deborah Granville, of Durham Road, N2, came up with the idea of DeZEvents after giving up a successful career raising millions of pounds for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Working Families, amongst others.

She is offering a full party planning service, ranging from on-the-day coordination to full event planning and management, particularly aimed at those 'of a certain age'.

Deborah, a boomer herself, has lived in East Finchley and Muswell Hill for 28 years, and recently celebrated her own significant birthday at the Clissold Arms on Fortis Green.



Boomer: Deborah Granville. Photo Lynn

She said: "Celebrating a birthday or other event, particularly as we get older, can be daunting, and some people would rather hide under the duvet than acknowledge it, and just let it pass. Others would like to mark it in some way but perhaps lack the confidence or

the tools to make it happen."

If you're interested in organising a party but don't know where to start, you can contact Deborah on 07990 751857 or by email at deborah@dezevents.com. Her website is www.dezevents.com

Help for returning soldiers

In this 100th year since the outbreak of the First World War, Combat Stress Veterans' mental health charity is commemorating the 95th anniversary of its foundation. Unfortunately, the need for its mental health treatment programmes is as great for today's ex-service personnel returning from the horrors of war as it was in 1919 and the programmes cost a great deal of money to run.

Over the last few years, a group of people in Hampstead Garden Suburb has been putting on a fundraising winter fair in aid of Combat Stress. The fair started in someone's home six years ago and raised a few pounds, but it is now held in the Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11 6PB. Last year it raised nearly £5,000.

This year former BBC correspondent and MP Martin Bell will open the fair at 11am on 1 November and the organisers hope to reach that magic £5,000 again. Running until 4pm, there will be lots of interesting stalls, a good place to meet your friends over lunch or tea served all day, and it's just £1 to enter (children free).



Aida Khaledi in her pop-up shop at Rykers on the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

Pop up shop pops up in shop

By Diana Cormack

Aida Khaledi started her online fashion boutique business Aliya.J a year ago and soon became involved with fashion shows and pop up shops. In June of this year she held one for a week at Ryker Kids, the children's wear shop at 162 High Road. As this went well she returned in July for two weeks, on the strength of which she is now there until the end of March 2015.

Passing by Ryker's you might not notice that at the rear of the shop there is a large area displaying ladies' wear, leather bags and handcrafted jewellery, all set out against a pleasing background. This, as well as the choice of goods, reflects Aida's previous experience in retail and her work for a fashion designer.

Aida told THE ARCHER that she likes to have affordable stock which is a bit different and individual, with British-made brands available alongside Italian, Spanish and Swedish.

A selection of autumn and winter clothing is now on display. Local mums get a chance to look at these while their children are trying on shoes in Ryker's. They can also get the personal touch with styling from Aida then or when they return later unencumbered.

Aida is now designing herself for the Aliya.J range (named after her daughter) so keep an eye out for her designs when you pop into her pop up shop. You can find her online business at www.aliyaj.com

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

It's not a pub if...

Once upon a time when men were men and women drank pints, there were two kinds of pub: those that just sold beer and those that sold food and beer: proper beer from proper breweries and proper food. You know, traditional British fare like pies, sausages, pizzas and lasagne. Some were so traditional that they even sold curries or chillis, but were exotic enough to serve everything with chips. But then it all started to go weird.

It started with the theme pub. The madness of cocaine crept through brewery marketing departments who decided that what was needed was a bit of Americana and turned some unsuspecting boozers into 'Gracelands' for the complete Elvis experience including mega burgers, neon lights and weak beer. Next they came up with the Oirish pub where Guinness was everything and the jukebox only played U2. But that was nothing compared with the bubonic plague that is the gastro pub.

This evil has crept across London like acne, crushing decent boozers and displacing good, wholesome shepherd's pie and proper beer. It has wrapped its tentacles ever tighter round all that was alcoholic about London until the poor unsuspecting drinker can't go out for a pint of best bitter and a plate of fish and chips in safety anymore.

If the menu is in French it's not a pub. If the place has a chef not a cook it's not a pub. If the manager is rude to staff and customers like an equal opportunities Gordon Ramsay it's not a pub. If the chips are triple fried and come displayed like the battlements of Mordor it's not a pub. If they serve minted pea puree it's not a pub. If they serve jus with anything it's not a pub. And if anything is sustainably farmed, marinated, flambeed, and lovingly prepared then you can bet your life it's not only not a pub, but one that will charge £25 for the two-course set lunch.

Be afraid, be very afraid, because the curse of the gastro pub is out to get you...

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