



Warm welcome: Nick and Ina Kolev at Knidos.

Bulgarian and Mediterranean magic on Fortis Green

By Ruth Anders

London has long proved a magnet for students from overseas and so it proved for Nick and Ina Kolev 14 years ago. They met at university in their native Bulgaria, and once in London they were so excited by its possibilities that they decided to stay.

Having established themselves respectively as a property owner and finance accountant, and with their son settled at Tetherdown School, they took over ownership of Knidos on Fortis Green in May.

"It felt like such a lovely space" says Nick, and the two set about adding more lights, changing the décor and rebooting the menu, with a focus on lunch and dinner.

Knidos had previously concentrated on cakes and croissants, whereas now the focus is on anything from coffee to calamari. Ina explained that their aim is to provide a relaxing escape from the city, where patrons can unwind and find some southern European sunshine, albeit of the indoor variety.

Feedback wanted

The new menu, still a work in progress with their two chefs Mosi and Plamen, was launching the day I visited. Delicacies from Italy, Greece and Turkey feature while Bulgarian specialities like beef and chicken sizzlers provide a warm touch of the couple's homeland. Sparkling bottles of wine on the shelves include varieties from Italy, France, Chile and Australia, and artworks by local artist Natasha Williams adorn the walls.

Nick's and Ina's warm personalities and enthusiasm are infectious, and they are open to suggestions about the menu and anything else. "We love feedback, good and bad," says Ina. "We always listen!" Find out more at www.knidosrestaurant.co.uk.

A walk to remember

Archer deliverer John Michaeloudis of Lynmouth Avenue took part in the annual Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk in London on 10 September.

He told *The Archer* that the event had a pleasant atmosphere and was well organised. He spotted *Birds of a Feather* star Linda Robson there, walking in memory of her mother. John said he had received a tremendous response from local people and he would like to thank everyone for their support, which enabled him to raise well over £600.

Green space to be concreted over for parking

By Thalia Pellegrini

Residents of Pulham Avenue, N2, got an unwelcome surprise over the August Bank Holiday weekend: a letter from Barnet Homes stating that a green open space near their home was to disappear under crushed concrete to provide 22 parking bays.

It stated that the move was a temporary measure in response to the development of 13 new homes for affordable rent on the corner of their road and Elmhurst Crescent and following concerns from ward councillors about parking in the vicinity.

No consultation

Shocked residents were quick to react and organised a petition objecting to the plan. They pointed out that the green, which has mature trees, is the last remaining outdoor public amenity space on the Elmhurst Crescent estate, off East End Road, and feared the changes would be permanent.

Resident Gayle Goshorn expressed her dismay that she and her neighbours had not been consulted. She told *The Archer* that the use of the green had not been part of the planning application for the new development. "We don't think any 'solution' is needed," she said. "There

are still empty parking spaces available most days and nights."

East Finchley ward councillor Arjun Mittra confirmed a site visit had been made on 7 July and concern was expressed over the parking implications of the new build. However, while the suggested solution had been for some temporary parking, Mr Mittra emphasised that they had stressed to Barnet Homes the importance of consulting residents. Mr Mittra said he was "very disappointed" that this had not happened.

Reassurance

Barnet Homes told us they were sorry that residents felt they were not given sufficient notification about the temporary parking area. They added: "We have reassured residents that the parking area is a temporary solution for up to 14 months while the development is completed, after which the green space will be fully reinstated."

Residents suffer three weeks of flooding

Residents of two properties in Park Hall Road, N2, recently had to endure three weeks of flooding to their basements, caused by a leakage from old, defective underground drainpipes.

Thames Water attended with special drainage appliances every day to pump out the water from the cellars, but the engineers were initially unable to locate or repair the fault. The pumping operation inevitably created noise, smells, and parking problems, and sometimes involved overnight working.

In spite of a dearth of official information, site engineers answered questions informally as best they could, while they worked to insert new drainpipes without digging up the road. This method seemed to involve something like the techniques of keyhole surgery, though on a somewhat larger scale.

Park Hall Road resident Jane

Howard said: "This was just another example of the vulnerable state of waste water management in this area. It is more than time for these Victorian drains to be given a full 21st century makeover. Any episode of torrential rain rapidly shows up the weak points in the system, as these affected households know to their cost."

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