



Eye in the sky

Our thanks to former East Finchley councillor Alon Or-bach for sending us this tremendous photo capturing pretty much the whole of N2 in one shot from the window of his plane on a flight home from Berlin.

Alon told us: "I've spotted the Wembley arch on previous flights but never managed to see Finchley. Either we've not gone over this way or I've missed it. After spotting Wembley this time, I stared out and saw the High Road and North Circular junction by Strawberry Vale so rushed to take the photos."

Local landmarks

Immediately above the plane's engine, you can see the David Lloyd centre and leisure park complex, and then moving right you can pick out the North Circular, Strawberry Vale with the large wooded area of the Islington and St Pancras Cemetery behind and beyond that Muswell Hill Playing Fields and Coldfall Wood.

Continue to follow the line of the High Road right and you'll see the long rectangular green space of East Finchley Allotments, with Martin Primary School and its playing field and the regimented lines of the



Above the clouds: Alon's panoramic photo from his plane seat.

County Roads.

This side of the High Road are the curves of the roads off Oak Lane and the Grange Estate, then the buildings and fields of

The Archer Academy and Holy Trinity Primary in Eagans Close.

Keep looking right to see the white roof of the McDonalds headquarters building and the

tube station just hidden behind the cloud. The Northern line is clearly visible going from lower centre to far right, where it passes Cherry Tree Wood.

Other landmarks easily spotted are Fortismere School, top, Bishop Douglass School, bottom, and Highgate Wood, far right.

Makeover for Budgens as new manager moves in

By John Lawrence

Budgens is to stay on the High Road in East Finchley under a new manager who is promising to transform the store with a full makeover and wider ranges of fresh produce.

Having submitted a planning application to install its signage along the front, Co-op Food was expected to bid for the Viceroy Parade site where Budgens has traded for almost 50 years.

But Paul Gardner, who has run the Budgens franchise in Islington for 10 years, beat them to the deal and takes over on Tuesday 7 August. He said East Finchley had been in his sights for years and held great potential.

Fresh food, fresh ideas

"It's a busy store but it has been neglected," Paul told *The Archer*. "When we take over the first job will be to smarten up the whole place, give it a good clean, get all the lighting working and freshen up the paintwork."

"We will have a new fascia outside and we want to open up some of the blocked-off windows to let in some natural light. Then we'll start to think about a fuller makeover maybe in a few years' time."

Staff to stay on

Paul promised that the store's existing staff will remain in their jobs and the workforce may even be expanded. He aims to share some operating costs and suppliers with the Islington store.

"East Finchley is a more family-orientated location and it deserves a better Budgens than it has at the moment," he said. "I want to introduce some premium ranges using local

produce and smaller suppliers. There will be more fresh food like sushi and I have a butcher working with me in Islington who will supply fresh cuts to East Finchley."

Local competition

The change of management at Budgens comes as Sainsbury's gets ready to open a Local store 100 metres away on the opposite side of the High Road. Paul is not worried about the competition, claiming his store is in a better location and will soon have a better offering.

He cites the recent makeover at near-neighbour Iceland as an example of how investing in a store can attract customers back in.

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