



A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Let's make East Finchley plastic-free!

East Finchley could spearhead the battle to halt the terrible damage we are doing to our planet by becoming the first community in London where people can shop without using throwaway plastics.

That's the call-to-arms from Huntingdon Road resident Ann Inglis who believes we could become the capital's go-to destination for responsible food shoppers... if everyone plays a small part in making it happen.

Shops in the High Road and East End Road, and everywhere else in N2, would be awarded a quality mark for eliminating plastics like bags and food wrapping, which cannot be recycled and end up in landfill or clogging up our seas and natural places.

dam in February and Ann believes East Finchley would get even more if all its shops did the same.

But she knows the idea won't get off the ground unless every one of us changes the way we shop. She said: "As consumers we cannot duck our responsibility. Groceries transported in small quantities seem to be always packaged in single-use plastic. It is what supermarkets think we want. We do not."

"We are in the driving seat and we can change the way groceries are sold by the way we change our buying habits. On a day-by-day basis we can monitor the number of single-use plastics we buy and reduce the number relentlessly."

Alternative packaging

Some High Road shops like Tony's Continental, A Scott & Son fishmongers and Amici delicatessen already use paper to package their goods but Ann urges us to take the next step by always shopping with re-usable bags, asking traders to avoid throwaway plastic and taking our own refillable mugs when we are buying a coffee.

Ann added: "This would be a world based on much more personal service. Is using scoops to place loose rice granules into paper bags that you then decant into glass jars in the kitchen impossible? How about similarly decanting spices? Shopping could become a pleasure again."

Read Ann's letter to *The Archer* on page 11 and tell us what you think about East Finchley going plastic-free. Email us: the-archer@lineone.net or write to *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.



Plastic reduction campaigner Ann Inglis. Photo Mike Coles

Support from N2United

Her idea has already got the backing of East Finchley's trade and business network N2United. Chairman Nick Allan said: "This initiative is exactly the kind of thing N2United is keen to support to help unite our local businesses and the community. We have invited Ann to our next meeting to help us look at how we can implement this terrific idea."

A world-first supermarket aisle free of any plastics attracted huge media attention when it was opened in Amster-



Joanna catches up with an old friend

Joanna Lumley found time for a sit down with her old pal Spike Milligan on a busy visit to Stephens House and Gardens in her new role as patron of The Finchley Society.

The actor and presenter laughed as she looked into the eyes of the late comedian

on the bench statue created in his memory by sculptor John Somerville. It was the first time she had seen the bench after being unable to attend its unveiling in 2014.

Joanna spoke at the memorial service for Spike after his death in 2002 and subsequently got to know The Finchley Society during the 10-year campaign to raise funds for the statue.

Co-op Food has designs on Budgens

Co-op Food appears to be preparing to take over the Budgens store in the High Road. The company has submitted a planning application to install its signage along the front of the premises in Viceroy Parade.

However, it seems any bid is in its very early stages. Budgens owner Shalil Bhattessa told *The Archer* he has no plans to move out and even hinted that he was working on a store re-fit for early next year.

"I have heard the rumours and I want to quash them," said Mr Bhattessa. "I can categorically state that I have no plans to move out or to sell the site to the Co-op."

He acknowledged that as a property owner he gets unsolicited offers from various companies but said so far the Co-op had not approached him. Budgens has been on the same site in East Finchley for almost 50 years.

Co-op Food told us they were unable to comment at this stage.

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