



Side-by-side dining for family business

By Diana Cormack

For much of this year locals have been wondering what was happening at Genzo, the popular restaurant which has been trading on the High Road, N2, for 11 years. Following a long and extensive refurbishment of the main restaurant, interest focussed on the smaller premises next to it that had been formed out of the original building.

This adjoining area opened briefly as a Pan Asian café but then remained closed for many months as a work in progress. However, on 16 October all was revealed with the launch of Genzo Greek.

"Now is the right time to do it," owner Fodi Toumazos told *The Archer*. "The décor took a while, staff are back from their holidays and my brother and I needed time to finish our jobs before joining the family business."

Fodi previously worked as an accountant at KPMG so has taken on the financial side of things plus a front-of-house role alongside brother Lorenzo.

Genzo itself has been relaunched as Brasserie G. Each restaurant will have an individual menu of homemade food, one Greek, the other European.

But all this would not be

happening without their father and head chef Aggie who, now approaching 60, still loves cooking as much as he did when he started at the age of 16. His enthusiasm for modern and traditional Greek food is the reason behind the new venture. Their mother Maria will be also be active in both restaurants.

Both restaurants open daily from noon to 10.30pm. Call 020 8883 8383 or visit www.genzo.co.uk for more information.

Quiz success

A recent quiz at Nazareth House raised £1,018 towards treats and entertainments for elderly residents there.

Organiser Ruth Jacobs thanked everyone involved, with a special mention for John Kinoulty's hard work preparing the questions.



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142 High Road, N2 9ED

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Letters

Parking re-think

Dear Editor,

North of the traffic lights at the junction of East End Road and Fortis Green, the Controlled Parking Zone operates from 2-3pm on Monday to Friday. This single hour on a weekday has been sufficient to deter all-day parkers while allowing reasonable car access and parking to shoppers and visitors to the businesses on the High Road and the residential roads either side of it.

South of that junction, however, Barnet Council panicked in anticipation of a huge parking demand from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute prior to its move to premises adjoining East Finchley Underground Station.

The council introduced a CPZ operating from 10.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday. That's eight hours a day six days a week. The HGS Institute has long gone from this area and there is no longer any justification for this onerous and unnecessary CPZ (if there ever was) and yet it remains in place, making it more difficult to shop by car in the High Road, visit residents in the adjoining roads or take small children by car to Cherry Tree Wood on a Saturday.

It would be relatively simple and cheap to retain the CPZ but alter the hours of operation to make it only one hour a day Monday to Friday. How about Barnet Council doing it as a goodwill Christmas gift to the residents and businesses of East Finchley?

Yours faithfully,
Eugene Myerson,
Annington Road, N2.

Disappointing makeover

Dear Editor,

It is disappointing that in its recent makeover Budgens has done away with its reduced price section that was very important for many low-income families in East Finchley. Aside from being heartless, Budgens now derives NO revenue for selling reduced price foods but rather transports them unnecessarily to be consigned to waste fill sites. This practice now sets Budgens apart from Tesco, Sainsbury, Waitrose and Morrisons.

Instead the meaningless makeover now provides customers with mindless muzak and faux-rustic looking hessian-covered fruit and vegetable trays that are certain to look ragged before long.

With Budgens soon to encounter competition from Sainsbury, how much longer before Budgens is forced to close and be replaced by Aldi?

Yours faithfully,
Norman Kessel,
Talbot Avenue, N2.

Phoenix: Nonsensical screenings

Dear Editor,

Whilst sad to see the news that the Phoenix might lose its independence, I was not surprised. I am a proud resident of East Finchley and huge supporter of our local independent businesses. I would happily go to the Phoenix every time I wanted to see a film.

However I have been left frustrated that screenings are either at nonsensical times (especially at the weekends), limited to random mid-week showings or indeed screenings of a new release not announced until a week or so after release, when I have already given up and gone elsewhere to view.

As such I can understand why visitor numbers have fallen. Sadly the multiscreen Everyman in Muswell Hill offers options that work for all schedules with a far more reliable website and new release announcements.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

Carry on recycling

Dear Editor,

I was delighted that Barnet Council has removed the unsightly recycling bins and the associated rubbish, making the area outside East Finchley tube station clean and open.

Laurence Robinson's letter in the September issue of *The Archer* seems to believe that recycling is no longer possible at this location. This is not true as can be seen by the green sacks deposited by the street light. I recycle papers, bottles, tins and cardboard etc. on a weekly basis. I suggest that Laurence obtains some green sacks and continues recycling. They can be obtained from Amazon. I recycle my dead batteries at Everything Electrical at 38 High Road, N2.

Yours faithfully,
Geoffrey Ferris,
Address supplied.

You're just my type

Dear Editor,

I wonder if other commuters on the Northern line play the same game as me? When I'm heading home and the train has left Camden Town I try to guess which of the people in my carriage will get off at East Finchley.

I seem to get it right about 50 per cent of the time. Not a bad hit rate, and perhaps it suggests there is an 'East Finchley type', although I wouldn't be able to describe it in words. Perhaps it takes one to know one.

Yours faithfully,
Joe Cooper,
East End Road, N2.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page" The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail the-archer@lineone.net.

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

Phoenix: Wishful thinking

Dear Editor,

I am one of what I suspect is the (near silent) majority who support the partnership between the Phoenix and Curzon Cinemas. The deal will preserve what we love (the building and its charitable status, the community and education activities, the eclectic programme of films) whilst improving what we do not (the seats and the fact that not all staff receive the London Living Wage).

It's easy for campaigners opposing the deal to engage in wishful thinking but they do not have the responsibilities on their shoulders of keeping a much-loved venue afloat and of preserving jobs. I have seen nothing to suggest that the trustees are acting recklessly or in anything other than the best interests of the cinema.

Yours faithfully,
David Atfield,
Western Road, N2.

Phoenix: Fundraising not enough

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to *The Archer* for its balanced and fair reporting of the proposed takeover of the running of the Phoenix by Curzon Cinemas.

I have lived in East Finchley for 30 years, and have loved and attended the Phoenix for all that time. It would be great if it could continue to operate independently, and I understand the feelings of those who are petitioning for this.

But those who are campaigning need to come forward with a solid and sustainable business case, which relies on more than community fundraising. In the face of declining audience numbers, I am sure that the trustees did indeed think long and hard about all the options.

Yours faithfully,
Nick Starling,
Durham Road, N2.

Phoenix: Puzzled by plans

Dear Editor,

As a retired director and one that fought the battle to save the Phoenix Cinema in the 1980s, I am most perturbed about the current situation.

Clearly the Phoenix cannot continue losing money. However I cannot believe that the ethos of this listed building and its trust status would be fulfilled by a Curzon take over.

A massive refurbishment with Heritage Lottery grant fundraising in 2010 included new seating, so I am puzzled why the Curzon needs to rip out the interior, though toilet improvements would be greatly welcomed and are urgent.

I wonder why loyal staff at the Phoenix were not informed initially of proposed changes to ownership.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

East Finchley Baptist Church

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Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

Crèche and Sunday School during service
Wheelchair access

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Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: John Lowrie)

www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk

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