



Fifty-year celebration for stylist to the stars

By Rachel Ellis

Hairdresser David Barron, well known for styling the locks of the rich and famous as well as customers from across much of north London, is celebrating 50 years in business.

After training with Vidal Sassoon, David set up his first salon in north London in 1969, aged just 19, with £300 he had saved from working on cruise ships.

His vision was to revolutionise men's haircutting, developing his own precision cutting method to create longer hairstyles for men, which soon became popular with both men and women.

In 1975, he was invited to



Hot seat: David Barron styles pop star Alvin Stardust's hair in the 1970s.

set up shop on the famous topless beach in St Tropez, cutting the hair of the beautiful and famous people in between dips.

The publicity this generated allowed him to launch Barron on Muswell Hill Broadway, the first unisex salon in north London where you'll still find him today, and the first advanced haircutting training studio.

Other achievements include a number of hairdressing awards, developing his own hair products and having his work featured in the national and international press.

David is also an accomplished photographer and a

retrospective of his work as a hairdresser and photographer over the last half a century is now on show at his salon in Muswell Hill.

But while his celebrity clients may have earned him a high-profile reputation, it's making customers feel good that really matters to him.

He told *The Archer*: "I'm often asked how many and the names of the celebrities whose hair I have cut. My answer is that everyone who sits in my chair is a celebrity, whatever they do. Making someone look good and feel good is the most gratifying gift. That is what makes this job so special."

Letters

No parking

Dear Editor,

This quagmire of mud, dirty water, steel, concrete and fear-some-looking digging machines, pictured right, used to be the Budgens car park. Now there are no public off-road car parks free or otherwise at all in the centre of East Finchley (the pub car parks are for pub customers only). What a victory for Barnet planners!

**Yours faithfully,
Lawrence Robinson,
Address supplied.**



Madden's meetings

Dear Editor,

Regarding *The Archer* blue plaque unveiling party (*The Archer*, October 2019), it's known that the idea for the newspaper started with a conversation at Welch's (now Madden's) pub in late 1992, so the venue is certainly a fitting place for the fixture!

But I don't think editorial meetings began at the pub until September 1993, six months after the launch of *The Archer*. Prior to this, such meetings were held at the Park Hall Road home address of the original publisher, and later at the (now defunct) Portakabin office on Strawberry Vale estate.

I recall the main motivation for getting Bob Welch to open his pub earlier each Saturday morning for *The Archer* team. It was because summer was over and the Portakabin had no heating. And no alcohol either, but that's by the by. **Yours faithfully,
Malcolm Griffiths,
Midhurst Avenue, N10.**

Dangerous corner

Dear Editor,

Early in October, the traffic lights outside Domino's Pizza in the High Road, N2, were hit and damaged by a vehicle turning into Fortis Green. In addition, the pavement kerb was damaged.

I hope Barnet Council are aware that this is a very regular occurrence. I've lost count of how often this has happened over the years. Apart from the considerable costs to the taxpayer I am extremely concerned about pedestrian safety at this location.

It's quite alarming when trying to cross the road at this point when large vehicles turn and mount the pavement, which is quite narrow. On many occasions I've seen parents pull their children back to avoid being hit, pedestrians with prams being particularly vulnerable.

This is a very busy pedestrian crossing, surely it's only a matter of time before this adds to the already appalling list of pedestrian accidents in East Finchley.

**Yours faithfully,
David Day,
Brackenbury Road, N2.**

Fun Palace was... fun!

Dear Editor,

My family and I really enjoyed the Fun Palace day organised by Grange Big Local on the first weekend in October. My daughter was particularly taken with the young goats in Barnwood. What a great idea to have animals there for the day. I was most interested to see inside the Tarling Road Community Centre. It's a very smart building, well-designed, and the whole place was alive with activ-

ity. There was a real community buzz as everyone enjoyed some food and some music. Wouldn't it be a great idea to have a Sunday social in the centre, perhaps once a month, for everyone to come along for a few hours to meet neighbours and try different activities? It's such a shame that the centre is not fully open to us local residents yet (*The Archer*, October 2019). The sooner we can get in and start using it the better.

**Yours faithfully,
Marie Chapman,
Sylvester Road, N2.**

A farewell to Father

Terry

By Angela Doherty

St Mary's Catholic Church was packed on Saturday 5 October as we parishioners gathered for a Mass to mark the retirement of our much-loved parish priest Fr Terry Tastard.

The Mass was followed by a celebration in the church hall. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, during which Fr Terry's achievements in the parish were noted and he was presented with gifts.

Fr Terry had been parish priest in St Mary's, High Road, N2, for eight years and brought a wealth of experience to this role. He grew up in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, and also lived in Arizona in the USA. He has a number of degrees, including a PhD, so he could use the titles Rev. Dr Terry. Amongst other occupations, he worked as a journalist before becoming a priest.

During his time at St Mary's, Fr Terry oversaw, among other things, the refurbishment of the church hall and the installation



Saying goodbye: Father Terry Tastard. Photo John McCrossan.

of a new accessibility ramp. These improvements were important to Fr Terry because he always wanted the church to be as welcoming and inclusive as possible.

This extended to the wider community, in the establishment of a food bank which operates every Saturday at St Mary's. Fr Terry was always helpful, sympathetic and wise in his dealings with the people of the parish, often welcoming people in their own language. His quiet presence will indeed be missed but we wish him a long and happy retirement.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley

Church of England

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses as advertised
(Coffee served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Join us on
Sunday 1st December at 6.30 p.m.
for "Advent Praise!"
A candlelight service of Advent carols and readings
and on
Saturday 7th December
1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
for our
Christmas Fair

The Parish has a *flourishing* social life.
All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir.
New singers are always welcome.
<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

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

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Holy Trinity Church

Church Lane, East Finchley

Church of England

We're a warm and friendly congregation who look forward to welcoming you

Sunday Parish Communion at 10.00 am

Children's Sunday Club ♦ Meet over coffee after church
Fr. Marius Mirt is happy to answer any enquiries:
email: marius.mirt@htef.org.uk tel: 020 3565 4430
www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk