



New TV comedy likes to shop local

By John Lawrence

A new TV show set to hit our screens this year follows the comic misadventures of a reporter working for a small newspaper in north London... and plenty of the scenes will look familiar to anyone who lives round our way.

Tim Downie, previously seen in the BBC's *Upstart Crow*, plays neurotic journalist Paul who's always struggling to get his stories into the UK's (fictional) fourth-biggest Jewish publication.

The Jewish Enquirer was filmed in East Finchley, Muswell Hill, Finchley Central and North Finchley, partly because the whole area is close to home for director and writer Gary Sinyor.

Location, location

The six 30-minute episodes feature scenes shot up and down our High Road, including a hilariously misfiring chat-up attempt in the aisles of Budgens, and one scene outside Finchley Fire Station in Long Lane. There's also a moment when Paul has to make a mad dash around local fish and chip shops, where viewers get to see

Toff's in Muswell Hill, Two Brothers in Finchley Central and Mermaid Fish Bar in Long Lane.

Gary said: "Most of the locations we used are places I would visit in my daily life: my florist, my hairdresser and all the shops and streets I know in East Finchley and the area around. We filmed the whole series in five weeks at the end of 2018, usually working quickly with handheld cameras. It was nice to finish each evening and get home quickly."

Knowing you, knowing me

We never see the newspaper office itself in the series but every episode ends with Paul frantically checking its online edition to see how his stories have done, usually poorly. Tim Downie said the comedy is universal: "It's about everyday



Smooth operators: Josh Howie, left, and Tim Downie, right, try to make a friend outside Budgens

struggles, everyone's problems. It shows Jewish people are just like everyone else."

The Jewish Enquirer, which also stars Lucy Montgomery and Josh Howie, premiered at a special screening at the JW3 Centre in Finchley Road, NW3, and is expected to find a home on Amazon or Netflix this year.



On the job: Paul, played by Tim Downie, is given his next reporting assignment outside Finchley Fire Station in Long Lane.

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Milkmen look to the future after disruption

By Ann Bronkhorst

In December we reported the difficulties facing our local independent milkmen. Have they saved their rounds and are customers still cheering them on? We asked one of them, Mike Fuller, for an update.

It's not been plain sailing. After their issues with supply company Milk & More, the milkmen found another dairy but after several weeks the arrangement had become unsatisfactory. One problem was its location in east London: some of the men were travelling many miles each day. Now a nearer dairy has welcomed them, along with ten more independent milkmen whose contracts with Milk & More have just ended.

There is a vehicle problem, however. Eventually each milk-

man will need to own, not hire or borrow, their own milk van. They face daily charges when the Ultra-Low Emission Zone arrives inside the North Circular in 16 months or steep costs now for buying or converting a chassis cab van.

So this winter was difficult and the worries aren't over yet, but they have managed to maintain regular deliveries and to increase the range of goods on sale. Regular customers support them and new customers are joining: new decade, new hope.

Anyone for cricket?

Highgate Cricket Club is looking for new cricketers of all ages and abilities to join its winter training programme, led by award-winning coaches.

Johan de Silva, Director of Junior Cricket, said the club had grown considerably in recent years thanks to its development work in schools and the local

community. More than 220 players took part in its All Stars cricket programmes last year.

New and experienced cricketers are welcome to join the club's winter training on Monday nights from 6pm to 10pm and on Sundays from 10am to 3pm at Christ's College Finchley, East End Road, N2, throughout the spring term. For more information contact Johan on 07481 622 191 or email: Johan.De-Silva@marsh.com.

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