



# Salon team remember their good friend George



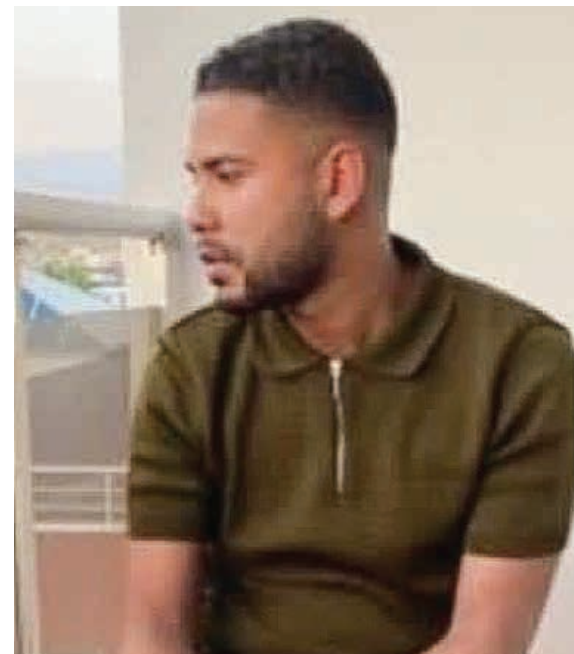
George's memorial Photo by Brooke Hilton

Staff and customers at salon Hair 202 are mourning the death of their friend and team member George Smith, who died in December aged just 24.

Sam, from the team at the salon on the High Road, N2, said: "George had charm, charisma and an infectious personality. He was the life and soul of the salon and would light up your day with a smile. Everyone adored his cheeky ways and humour."

George was just about to complete his exams to become a qualified hairdresser on the shop floor when he died. His colleagues set up an array of candles outside the salon in his memory.

George was a big supporter of talking about mental health and everyday suffering. The Hair 202 team want to carry on raising awareness, urging everyone to be kind and talk about how they are feeling. They also set up a fundraising page at [www.gf.me/u/zbrwa7](http://www.gf.me/u/zbrwa7) to help his mother Angela with funeral expenses.



Charismatic: George Smith

## Back on the big screen... for four days at least

By John Lawrence

The Phoenix Cinema opened to customers last month for the first time since March, managing to complete four days of screenings before the imposition of stricter Tier 3 conditions forced it to shut down again until further notice. Glad to get the projector fired up after nine months out of action, filmgoers and cinema staff made easy going of the extra hygiene measures in place, and supporters sent in dozens of messages saying they'd be coming to watch films soon.

Operations manager Ewelina Sadlowska said it had been touching to get such a positive response. Even with short notice of the reopening on Thursday 10 December, tickets for the filmed performance of *The Nutcracker* ballet sold quickly. For the time being, the Phoenix can accommodate a maximum of 80 people in an auditorium that usually seats 250.

### Ready for the restart

Ewelina said: "People were lovely and very co-operative, sticking to all the rules and advice we've had to introduce. And even though we had to shut again quite soon it was good hearing from so many supporters and knowing they'd be returning when we can reopen again."

"We were all keyed up to run through Christmas but unfortunately it wasn't to be. We had some family films lined up for the holiday and we know people were excited about getting out to the cinema again. But we're ready to restart as soon as we're allowed."

The new Covid-safe hygiene rules mean cinema goers are greeted in the foyer with a temperature check and reminded to wear masks. Spaces are marked to keep people two metres apart and food and drink can be pre-ordered from the café to avoid having to queue twice. After a screening, customers leave through a separate exit and the entire auditorium and waiting area is aired and cleaned before the next show.



Closed again: The Phoenix Cinema. Photo by Alison Roberts

### Search for trustees

The Phoenix Cinema board is seeking new trustees to help it meet the challenges ahead and keep the venue operating as an independent. These are unpaid positions and the appointment term is three years,

which can be extended up to a maximum of nine years. To get involved or to ask for more information, email [trustees@phoenixcinema.co.uk](mailto:trustees@phoenixcinema.co.uk)

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## £100 a week for everyone in basic income scheme

By David Melsome

On the day after Jack Dorsey, CEO and founder of Twitter, gave \$15million (£11.2million) to fund a Universal Basic Income (UBI) programme in 30 cities in America, a second conversation on the potential for a similar, albeit smaller trial in East Finchley was held on Wednesday 9 December.

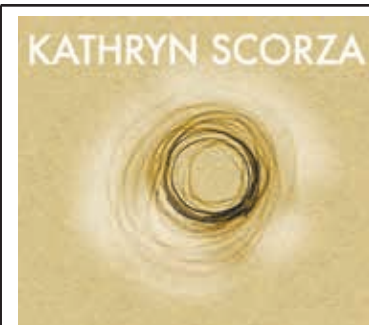
Residents and local organisations including Barnet Citizens Advice, The Grange Big Local and N2United, joined together via Zoom to discuss the next steps in the merits and practicalities of implementing a local trial of UBI. This was a follow up to an initial discussion in October as reported in the November 2020 edition of *The Archer*, and was again led by Michael Pugh, co-founder & director of the Basic Income Conversation. The discussion centred on how a scheme would work in East Finchley and if introduced, what people would spend the proposed £100 a week on.

The money would be paid unconditionally to everyone in work or not, without bias of gender, family structure or size of household including to those not usually eligible for financial support, including any CEOs and millionaires who may live in N2.

This led to questions around means testing and how a trial in the area would be introduced and if so what measures would be applied for its evaluation. A couple of residents at the meet-

ing were a little disappointed to hear that it would be some time before any funds were available as Barnet Council involvement has yet to be agreed as well as getting formal backing to support the proposed cross-party, non-political micro pilot.

Further conversations are planned and again local residents are encouraged to share their thoughts about the value of a trial of UBI in East Finchley via email to [info@grangebiglocal.org](mailto:info@grangebiglocal.org).



### Dissolving the blocks to self healing

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