



Corner shop opens for business

By Lizzie Tomlin

A new off-licence called King Street Food and Wine has recently opened at the junction of King Street and Church Lane, N2. In addition to the usual items found in a corner shop, organic foods and wines are available. Fresh fruit and vegetables will also be stocked soon. Pay-points for gas and electricity top-ups as well as a parcel service are planned.



Well-stocked: Emre Bora (left) and Beoran Karaaslan at King Street Food and Wine. Photo Mike Coles

The proprietors are cousins Emre Bora and Beoran Karaaslan, who saw the property was empty and decided to "give it a go". It is their first time running a business in the area, although they have previously worked for an uncle's high street supermarket in Hendon and in their family's Turkish restaurants in Lewisham.

There has been a lot of interest

in the shop from the community, even before opening. The owners say that East Finchley is 'friendly' and has a 'little village feel'. They have friends who live in the area, and they are familiar with it and looking forward to 'cementing themselves in the community.'

The shop is open from 7am to 11.30pm, six days a week. On Sundays the hours are 8am to 11.30pm.

Car showroom reveals surprises

By Ruth Anders

Something unusual is happening at the Hexagon Classics car showroom on the Great North Road just south of the tube station.

Bottles 'N' Jars is a new Aladdin's cave of wine, coffee and top-quality food offerings from North London producers. It is the brainchild of Paul Michaels, the owner and chairman of Hexagon Classics since 1963, Alan Goulden, owner of the Notes group of coffee shops and wine bars, and Bert Blaize, sommelier and award-winning wine taster.

And there will soon be even more backstage, where Isabella Dwyer is heading up The Engine Rooms, a set of new event spaces in part of the car showroom itself. These have been renovated to a high level, in preparation for use as a restaurant, bar, café and event spaces, indoors and out.

The Engine Rooms: a new venue

Bert only joined the team in October, but preparations for the joint venture have been in train for two years. Once the restrictions imposed by the pandemic are lifted, this series of state-of-the-art spaces will



Food and drink: The shelves at Bottle 'N' Jars. Photo Mike Coles

be available for hire, framed by Hexagon's magnificent classic cars.

These take pride of place and feature sparkling models from brands such as Aston Martin, Lotus, Lamborghini and Ferrari. They sit there, gleaming silently, as though lined up on the grid waiting, like the whole project, to take off.

The Bottles 'N' Jars shop has been open since November and certainly appeared to be trading well in the run-up to Christmas.

On its shelves, cheese from Tottenham's Wine and Rind, beers from Highgate's Gorgeous brewery and charcuterie from Islington's Cobble Lane jostle with loaves and brownies from artisan bakery Bread Ahead. Hand picked spirits such as the elegant backlit bottles of limoncello rub shoulders with olive oils and chocolate bars. Bert told *The Archer*: "I've always wanted to open a wine shop and I'm thrilled about the future of Bottles 'N' Jars."

RICKY SAVAGE ... "The voice of social irresponsibility"

Back to work (from home)

In the weird world of Covid the gleaming glass towers of London have turned into the slumbering towers of Zombieland and your kitchen table has turned into your office. Gone for many is the old routine of getting up, gulping down a coffee and cramming onto the Northern line.

Now you don't need to bother with any of that; you don't even need to get dressed. That said, if you've got a Zoom meeting, being the only naturist in the company may harm your chances of promotion.

Yes, folks, if you work in an office or are something medium-sized in the City, there's probably no commuting, just more time to walk the cat, bake artisanal bread and catch up with *The Crown*. And why stop there, when technology means that almost everyone can work from home?

Let's take teachers. You can keep the schools open, send the kids there, but let the teachers stay out of it. There's no problem with maths or English and it might make chemistry that bit more interesting as Year 7 watches Sir or Miss creating nerve gas using nothing more than two saucepans, the microwave and whatever they've been able to find in the bathroom cabinet.

The same goes for most school subjects, although demonstrating certain aspects of human biology on Microsoft Teams could get you arrested.

With CCTV on every corner, even the police could work from home, just watching the cameras and sending text messages ordering you to arrest yourself.

And what about transport? If self-driving cars are the future, then why not self-driving taxis? Of course, taxi journeys wouldn't be the same without a talking Morning Mule editorial coming from up front, so every vehicle could be fitted with recordings of suitable rants on loop.

Trains are no problem. DLR has had the technology for driverless trains for years. On the main lines, the fat controller could direct Thomas the Tank Engine and all his pals from a simulator in his garage.

Maybe there is one mode of transport where you can't work from home. I mean, how would you feel as your flight to New York taxied down the runway if a voice came over the tannoy saying: "Good morning, this is your captain speaking. Today I am working from home"?



Cherry Tree Wood: More planting and improvements are planned for 2021. Photo Alison Roberts

Busy year ahead for Cherry Tree Wood

Debbie Linton, from the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood group, rounds up the latest news and the 2021 plans for the park and wood.

Gardeners group

Cherry Tree Wood now has a wonderful highly active group of gardeners. They have been out three times and have already planted 4,000 bulbs (English bluebells and Snakes Head fritillaries). They have also been tidying up areas around the entrance of the wood and by the kiosk. Get in touch with the Friends if you would like to join in.

Community orchard

The community did a brilliant job helping water the new orchard near the tennis courts over the summer. The aim now for the area is a wildflower meadow and pollen-friendly plants. There are plans for a small temporary netted fence, with an open gate, to help it establish. The plants will help bees pollinate the orchard and other flowers in the wood.

Litter picks

Socially distanced litter

picks continued in November and December. The next one can be joined at 2pm on Sunday 10 January 2021. Volunteers can be supplied with a litter-picker, hoop and bags to help in their own time if they get in touch.

Council grant

As reported previously, the Friends obtained a Council grant in October for nearly £20,000. Plans for early next year include three new bins, a new path to the back of the playground, a new planted willow area and a new noticeboard. A little later in the year plans include a new wheelchair-accessible raised flower bed

by the kiosk and a nature trail for primary children.

Kiosk and tennis and basketball courts

It looks hopeful that new tenants will take over the kiosk at some time in the new year. Barnet Council are also estimating the costs of refurbishing the basketball and tennis courts. Once they know the cost the Friends will be more able to decide what action to take.

Keep in touch

Come along to the Friends AGM at 7pm on Tuesday 12 January 2020 on Zoom. Email friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com for further info.

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