



## ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY + ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY



Clockwise from top left: The No2PlasticsN2 sign displayed by shops reducing the use of plastics; Aida Khaled at Aliya J Boutique does not use plastic bags; Josephines florists use biodegradable cellophane; Coffee shop and deli Dan & DeCarlo uses paper cups and encourages customers to bring their own. Photo montage Mike Coles.

## Hooray for our plastics heroes

By Maxine Klein, of No2PlasticsN2

**I usually do my food shopping locally: no parking, no travelling, and friendly service. But twice recently I shopped in a supermarket and was horrified at the amount of plastic used to cover or bag up the fruit and vegetables.**

Grapes and salad leaves need to be bagged in order to contain them but apples, carrots and onions? It made me appreciate our local shopkeepers, many of whom have made a big effort to reduce single use plastics.

Through No2PlasticN2's initiative of speaking to shopkeepers and asking them to put a sign with our logo in the window we found much admirable good practice. This is not a definitive list but it gives inspiring examples of what can be achieved.

**Tony's Continental** is one of the many greengrocers selling nearly all of its fruit and vegetables loose and asking customers if they have brought their own bags. My wonderful string bag folds up into nothing in my handbag but will expand to encompass a large amount of shopping.

Coffee shop and deli **Dan & DeCarlo** display a "Refill" sign, are enthusiastic about removing all single-use plastics and return plastic delivery packages to discourage companies from using plastic wrappings.

The newly refurbished **Cherry Tree Cafe** offers 10p off the price of coffee if the customer brings their own cup; they provide plastic tops to their own cups only if requested.

**Josephines** the florist is enthusiastic about removing

single-use plastics and uses biodegradable wrapping for flower displays. Likewise **Aliya J. Boutique** has no single-use bags, encouraging customers to bring their own and wrapping merchandise in tissue paper, as well as wherever possible buying natural fabric clothing to sell.

**Budgens** has a plastic-free section where you can get a loofah scourer amongst other things, and **Amy's** have many plastic-free products such as bamboo cutlery and stainless steel straws.

Charging 10p for single-use plastic bags has made a tremendous difference to the high street. It may seem small fry in the bigger picture of plastic waste but every little helps. No2PlasticsN2 believe that public awareness of plastic pollution will influence those in government with the power to make changes.

## No-plastic shopping on the street

By Ann Inglis

**Charlie the electric float made a visit to the county roads on a gloriously sunny Saturday in September and left customers wondering if this was a covert revolution for shopping in N2, as well as being the easiest way to live plastic-free.**

Charlie comes from north London-based Fair-Well with no plastic packaging and the added convenience of goods being brought to you with a liberal dose of neighbourly chat thrown in.

Charmed by driver Jerilee's description of the six different muesli combinations they offer, I was fascinated to see her weighing a customer's container, before refilling and re-weighing. Not a beat missed, weight, cost, totalling items bought, tapping to pay, would you like a receipt emailed to you, done.

Fair-Well sell going on for 200 products including dried fruit, household cleaners, oil, vinegar, pasta, spices, rice, pulses, nuts, seeds, toiletries



Made to measure: Jerilee, right, talks through the goods she has on sale with customer Ann Inglis. Photo Mike Coles.

and body care products.

When you next run out, don't throw that container away, wash it and bring it along to the next visit for a refill. Charlie will be back from 11am to 1pm on 6 November, 20 November, 4

December, and 11 December, parking up outside All Saints church on Durham Road.

*Editor's note: See last month's issue for details of another local mobile refill shop, The People's Pantry*

## Re-boot

This month's Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 27 November from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, at the foot of Muswell Hill on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH.

Admission is 50p with refreshments available. Phone 020 8368 8180 for information.

## Pasture calendar

The 2022 calendar from Long Lane Pasture is full of beautiful nature shots and is available to buy with cash from the volunteer team at the pasture, close to the fire station in Long Lane, N3, on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 midday. You can also request copies via email at [longlanepasture@gmail.com](mailto:longlanepasture@gmail.com)

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