



'Unwired for sound: Simon Davies with just some of the headphones at Silent Event. Photo John Lawrence

## Head gear puts the party on silent

By John Lawrence

**Wander through Highgate Wood at 9.30 on a Monday morning and you may see a group of people exercising energetically to loud, pumping drum and bass music. Except you won't hear a thing, because they will all be wearing headphones.**

The headphones are supplied to the London Jungle Runners by East Finchley-based company Silent Event, run by operations director Simon Davies and his business partner Jerry Evans.

They have done the same for an ever-expanding range of customers, including a silent disco at the Bald Faced Stag in the High Road, a massive party at the new Tottenham Stadium and silent night tours at London Zoo in Regents Park.

### "Every job's a happy one"

Simon and Jerry were lucky to be well established before the pandemic hit two years ago but even during lockdown they found there was demand for their wireless technology from family groups who were bubbling at home and fancied a disco party that didn't disturb the neighbours.

Silent Event supply from two to 2,000 sets of headphones for a single event and the technology is so simple that music can be beamed to the partygoers from the host's own computer or mobile phone.

Simon said: "What I like about the job is that every job is a happy one. For a lot of people it's still a new experience and everyone is always knocked out by it. And it doesn't always have to be disco. Some people are using our kit for meditation."

### Language exam use

A new line of business that is opening up comes from schools who use the headphones for language exams, where groups of pupils studying different languages, say French, German and Spanish, can sit their papers together in the same hall.

Simon and Jerry are based in Bedford Road, N2, from where

they hand out their headphones to their customers or send them out for delivery in crates.

## Letters

### In favour of the cycle lane

Dear Editor

Once again, my friend Barry White has written to complain about the congestion caused by the cycle lane (*The Archer*, June 2022). There is congestion, but Barry completely ignores all the powerful arguments in favour of cycle lanes.

He says that the main problem is congestion around East Finchley station, but the real problem is that there are far too many cars on the road, in East Finchley and everywhere else in Britain.

Motor traffic is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, as well as other forms of air pollution, and Barnet Council are absolutely right to look for ways to make it easier and safer for cyclists. Anything that encourages people out of their cars, including making their journeys slower, should be applauded, not criticised.

There may well be room for improving the current, experimental system, but it would be a tragic mistake if the new Labour Council were to turn the clock back to the days when motor traffic was given absolute priority to the detriment of the environment and public health.

Mike Segal  
Abbots Gardens, N2

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## RICKY SAVAGE ...

"THE VOICE OF SOCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY"

### How holidays have changed

The sun is beating down and you've had enough of the Northern Sauna line and that means only one thing, it's time for the summer holiday. Once upon a time, holidays were different and most people didn't have them. And I'm not talking about the last lockdown, I'm talking about the real olden days.

Back then, any time off work might have been spent somewhere like Cornwall, eating ice cream and avoiding the rain. You got there by train; well you did until they closed the line in the 1960s on the basis that if God had meant you to use the railways he'd never have invented the Morris Minor.

Now you could all pile into the pride of British motoring and set out on the adventure that was the A303. Yes, folks, 12 hours in a traffic jam, complete with a one-hour 'visit' to Stonehenge as you sat behind a broken down caravan. You took sandwiches and a Thermos flask of stewed tea and stopped in a layby watching the tailbacks. Ah, the delights of travel. But there was no rush. When you got to Cornwall, it would still be raining.

Things just had to change and they did when someone invented the foreign holiday. Now you could take the car to France to drive on the wrong side of the road and eat funny food. Or pack yourself and your luggage into an aluminium tube and fly to Spain.

As you sat crammed in your seat like you were on a flying tube train you realised why they call it a package holiday. Yes, just what you needed, two weeks in Southend-on-the-Med complete with warm lager, fish and chips and the kind of people you left London to avoid.

The holiday scene in 2022 is, of course, quite different. Popular destinations this year include three days in sunny Sussex where Gatwick's departure lounge offers the chance of staring blankly at the departure board announcing your flight has been cancelled due to incompetence.

Alternatively you could go west and taste the getaway experience at Heathrow where they might put you on a flight but not your luggage. Or vice versa. Either way, your luggage is likely to have a better time than you do.

So the only thing is to avoid the crowds. Let the rest of them fly off for dysentery and sunburn while you enjoy the peace and tranquillity of East Finchley. You could spend your time lying in the garden, then fire up the coals to return the compliment to the idiot neighbour whose barbecue burnt down your fence last summer. Happy holidays!

## Sustainable style for baby fashions

By Hannah Duncan

**If you've ever strolled through the sunny streets of Seville, you may notice that it's not just the adults who dress elegantly. With puffy pastel dresses, picture-perfect bows and the most adorable tiny rompers imaginable, Spanish babies look stop-in-the-street iconic too.**



Sitting pretty: Just one of the stylish baby clothes designs from Depeques London

Someone who's keen to bring a little of that Spanish sparkle to East Finchley is Malaga-born mum-of-two Estefania Gambero. Together with her husband, she's created Depeques London, an online store selling beautiful clothes for babies and toddlers.

"I design and sew all of the clothes myself", she explains. "When I first came to London, I noticed that babies tended to dress like small adults. And I missed the classic 'baby' look in Spain."

Estefania crafts the tiny outfits and accessories by hand, using organic and eco-

materials. "I always try to buy environmentally friendly material," she says.

What's more, Estefania sews personal collections too. As the customer, you can pick out your favourite style, material, and even have the baby's name sewn in. "For birthdays, I can sew a full set," Estefania says. "That's an entire outfit, complete with a nappy cover, bunting with the baby's name as well as a personalised crown."

Support Estefania by following [depequeslondon](https://www.depequeslondon.com) on Instagram, or sharing the website [www.depequeslondon.com](http://www.depequeslondon.com) with new parents and grandparents.



New range: Muji Khaled at The Exchange

## Phone shop sells devices for the younger customer

By Diana Cormack

**If you were looking to buy toys, a mobile phone shop wouldn't be the first place you would think of. However, The Exchange at 54 High Road, across from the Phoenix Cinema, recently began to stock them.**

A net bag hanging outside full of colourful footballs caught my eye so I took a look inside, to find the side wall stacked from top to bottom with an array of playthings.

Suitable from babies up to primary school age, along with simple favourites like sparkling yoyos, slime and different dollies, there are creative

and educational toys including construction kits, musical toys, lap-top learners, even a ride-in racing car.

Staff member Muji Khaled told *The Archer* that the owner had decided to try and widen their market by increasing the age range and attracting more customers. The Exchange is open daily from 10am to 6pm.