



The Archer

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A new face in East Finchley

By Lynn Winton

Aesthetic facial specialist Dr Marco Nicoloso has joined the practitioners at the Utopia Therapy Hub on Leicester Road, N2. An ebullient Italian, he was keen to tell me about his speciality medical treatments now on our doorstep.



Aesthetic specialist: Dr Marco Nicoloso

Dr Nicoloso qualified as a doctor and went on to specialise in aesthetic medicine in Italy, but was persuaded by his Anglophile wife to move to London where they live in Bounds Green with their baby daughter.

"Getting to know the neighbourhood has been a real pleasure," he said. "I love the coffee at Amici where I met the East Finchley legend Maurizio, who

comes from the same region as me near Venice. I've enjoyed really good food across the road at The Bald Faced Stag too."

Dr Nicoloso still works as medical director at a clinic in Mayfair but is available locally at Utopia on Saturdays, which provides a significant saving on the central London practices with their high rents factored into their pricing. Additionally, first consultations in East Finchley are free.

He is keen to dispel the myth that vanity propels people to seek treatment. It is far more likely to be more complex than that, for instance dermalogical conditions impacting on their self-esteem and on daily life.

A continuous learner, in September Dr Nicoloso is embarking on his second master's degree, in dermatology, at Queen Mary University. He can be contacted on 07983 899399 or visit www.drmarconicoloso.com

Poor state of some surfaces is serious danger to road users

By John Lawrence

Some months, a particular problem will arouse the anger of Archer readers, and this month that problem is potholes. Several readers have emailed us to complain about the poor state of the roads in and around East Finchley.

Avtar Panessar and Terry Tastard both pointed out the large holes lying in wait for unwary motorists and cyclists on the top end of the High Road, close to the North Circular. "Every day you see drivers swerving to avoid them," said Terry. And Michael Howarth pointed out the terrible condition of the top end of The Bishops Avenue, where anyone heading to or from the Heath will find themselves running a gauntlet of gaping holes, some of them spread across the carriageway so that they are almost impossible to dodge. "Any one of them could burst a car tyre or throw a poor cyclist under your front wheels," said Michael. The road damage is thought to be particularly bad here because of the large number of heavy vehicles moving in and out of construction sites on the avenue.

"Barnet Council or the construction companies, or both, should take responsibility for repairing these major hazards before there is a serious accident or possibly a fatality," said Michael.

Council answers our questions

We asked Barnet Council whether it actively monitored the state of roads in the borough and if it had a process for carrying out repairs as needed.

A spokesperson told us that cyclical inspections are carried out "in line with the 2016 Code of Practice Well Managed Highway Infrastructure" and that it investigates all reports of potholes received via residents, local councillors or online



Obstacle course: The Bishops Avenue is pitted with potholes

reports (go to barnet.gov.uk and search 'Potholes').

Any holes 40mm or deeper in a road, or 25mm on a footway, are judged to be suitable for repair. Depending on severity, this could take anything from 48 hours to 28 working days.

"A response is provided to reports on what action has been taken, on average, in 10 working

days," said the spokesperson. Barnet Council has a highways maintenance budget of almost £2.5million annually from which pothole repairs are funded. It says it also runs a licensing system with building contractors requiring them to adhere to certain levels of damage control and considerate behaviour.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet Council

31 Bedford Road, N2

Roof extension including rear dormer window, side dormer window to rear outrigger and two front roof lights, following demolition of existing rear dormer.

222 East End Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear infill extension, with five roof lights and new access steps to rear. Roof extension, including side and rear wraparound dormer windows with Juliet balcony, two flat roof lights and three front roof lights.

19 and 21 Fortis Green, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension and rear extension, with three roof lights, following demolition of existing rear extension to no. 21.

Fuel Land Allotments, High Road, N2

Installation of composting toilet.

71 Huntingdon Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension.

28 High Road, N2

Details re. construction management and logistics plan, cycle parking, storage and refuse/recycling storage, pursuant to planning permission.

56 High Road, N2

Mansard roof extension, including front and rear dormer windows, terrace area and two-storey rear extension, to provide two self-contained flats.

Land At Church Lane Open Space, East End Road, N2

Installation of one timber pole.

Land At High Road (Between East View House and Hilton House), The Grange Estate, N2

Submission of details of conditions re. contaminated land, demolition and construction management and logistics plan, and tree protection plan, pursuant to planning permission.

Ground Floor Flat, 50 Leicester

Road, N2

Rear outbuilding.

43 Leopold Road, N2

Two-storey rear extension, following demolition of existing extension. Roof extension involving raising ridge height, and front and rear dormer windows.

352 Long Lane, N2

Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window with Juliet and three front rooflights.

71 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey side extension, depth 5.2m, maximum height 3.5m, eaves height 2.5m.

8 New Trinity Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension, depth 6m, maximum height 3.29m, and eaves height 2.5m.

5 Park Hall Road, N2

Single-storey side and rear extension. Air source heat pump to rear.

26 Sedgemere Avenue, N2

Rear air source heat pump.

BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

A crucial element of **Finchley Foodbank** is their volunteering team who are sensitive to the needs of the clients, work from a position of trust and are great team players. Roles range from receiving deliveries and sorting food donations to restocking shelves and staffing Tuesday and Saturday sessions. Requests for help with food supplies are increasing week on week and volunteers are urgently needed. If this could be you, email the team at finchleyfoodbank@gmail.com

The **North London Hospice** shop on East Finchley High Road is looking for more volunteers. Whether you want to get work experience, help temporarily between jobs or are looking for a long-term role, please call in to the shop and talk to the manager Anastasiya. Age is no barrier; volunteers aged 14 - 94 are welcome. You will play a vital role in funding the hospice's work and enjoy the camaraderie of a very inclusive team. For more details, pop into the shop any time or call Anastasiya on 020 8883 6493.

Driving Aid to Ukraine is a new non-profit organisation based in N2 and started by local resident Michael Byrne, who delivers lorries of humanitarian aid across Europe to the Ukrainian conflict zones, via border transfer points. They require all kinds of volunteers: to help build a social media campaign; fundraising and grant writing; organising collections of warm clothes and other vital humanitarian aid items; and people who'd like to drive locally to pick up the collections. A fantastic opportunity whatever your skill sets to bring vital aid to an utterly devastated people and learn about the international aid sector at a grassroots level. Find out more at Drivingaidtoulkraine.org or get in touch with Michael on 07791 912389.

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column please send details to Volunteer@ILoveN2.co.uk Max 80 words please.

