

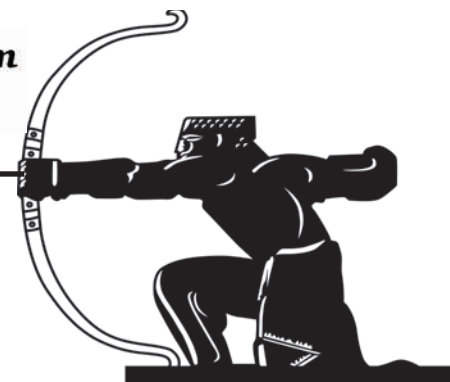


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# The Archer



October 2023 No. 354

**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**

## Now Co-op are set to move into the High Road

By John Lawrence and Eva Weinstein

**A second major supermarket chain is set to move into the High Road in East Finchley, giving more choice to shoppers but also putting the squeeze on hard-pressed local traders.**

Co-op has told The Archer that it wants to open a food store in the vacant ground-floor unit beneath the newly built block of flats opposite the entrance to the tube station.

“Co-op is not currently the leaseholder. However, it is our ambition to open the store there in 2024,” said a spokesperson.

ager at family-run grocery store Tony’s Continental, said: “Do we need four or five big supermarkets moving into a very small proximity? I don’t think so. Everything that they bring is already available on the High Road.” A café owner close to the proposed Co-op site said: “It might



Coming soon: The flats opposite the tube station where the Co-op wants to open a food store

The news comes after Tesco opened an Express food store in a unit formerly occupied by HSS Hire and later Zapp at the opposite end of the High Road in August.

That joined the Sainsbury’s Local on the corner of Leicester Road, which opened five years ago, and the much longer established Budgens and Iceland stores.

Some shoppers and business owners we spoke to welcomed the possible arrival of the Co-op for potentially bringing more business to the lower end of the High Road. Others said it would be one more nail in the coffin for the High Road’s family-run and independent food stores, which are already struggling in a difficult market.

Chris Athanasiou, man-

bring more people...down this end of the High Road where there’s not as much here. It could bring people coming out of the station, and then they might want to come into my café. I don’t think that it’s going to be bad for business, I think that it’s actually going to be good.” Turn to page 2 for more reactions.



## Festival gets ready for its fiftieth outing

This is how East Finchley Festival looked in 1974, starting with a parade of floats down the High Road, past the KFC restaurant that is still on the corner of Huntingdon Road. Next year marks the event’s 50th outing and organisers have put out a call for people to share their photos and memories of all the festivals over the years. Turn to page 8 for the full story and more photos.

### A celebration of black history

Former actress, author and activist **Baroness Lola Young** will share her story at Age UK Barnet’s centre in East Finchley as part of its **Black History Month** celebrations. There’ll also be **music, a cookery demo and a chance to taste some Afro/Caribbean cuisine.**

The event takes place on Monday 9 October 2023 from 2pm to 4pm at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2. To register, please contact Teresa on email at [teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk) or call her on 07502 989403.

### Inside this issue...

#### RAAC alert

An East Finchley school was one of those caught up in the ‘unsafe’ concrete alert when the government issued emergency guidelines just days before the start of term. Full story page 7.

#### Water circus

Serious concerns have been raised over plans to allow a circus to set up and run shows in Cherry Tree Wood over the winter months, a period when the park is often prone to flooding. Full story page 3.

#### Grange access

A construction company has proposed opening a new route on to the Grange estate for heavy vehicles involved in the building of two new blocks of flats. Full story page 5.

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