



# Pharmacies in crisis in funding freeze

By Lynn Winton

**Paresh Shah is the chief pharmacist and co-owner of High Road pharmacy CW Andrew and many readers will have been indebted to him for his expertise and advice over the years. Ever calm and professional, it came as a shock to hear that he is facing his biggest crisis since taking over the business 41 years ago, and is campaigning on behalf of all pharmacies who are in jeopardy of closing their doors for good.**

On Friday 20 June he covered his windows with the bleak message 'Save our Pharmacies' as part of a nationally coordinated plea to the government to increase desperately needed funding. He has a petition on his counter that he hopes everyone will sign.

been taken of the increasing number of drug shortages and price increases and how as a local pharmacist we now have to spend hours finding vital drugs to fulfil the prescriptions and then pay more for them. We simply can't move forward without proper funding."



Underfunded: East Finchley pharmacist Paresh Shah is campaigning alongside colleagues across the country. Photo Mike Coles

Pharmacies receive most of their funding from the NHS. Paresh explained the crisis: "Ten pharmacies are closing every week in the UK and three quarters of us are in the red. From 2018 funding has been frozen, so after six years with no increase we are all experiencing a huge shortfall averaging £70,000 per business and this simply cannot carry on.

"Most of us are struggling, carrying debt and a massive workload as we cannot afford more staff. No account has also

Shanel Raichura, owner of Links Pharmacy in East End Road, N2, told *The Archer* that community pharmacies are a vital resource: "Anecdotally, many people in East Finchley struggle to get help. Many have said it's impossible to speak to a GP. Community pharmacies can help with this. Not only can patients get the help they so desperately need for themselves or their loved ones, but they are also helping relieve the pressure on NHS services."

Find out more at [saveourpharmacies.co.uk](http://saveourpharmacies.co.uk)

# Fifth arrest made in Anthony Littler case

There have now been five arrests in connection with the re-opened investigation into the murder of Anthony Littler close to East Finchley tube station 40 years ago.



Murdered: Anthony Littler

As were reported in January, the Customs and Excise executive, aged 45, was fatally attacked as he walked home to Leslie Road, N2, late at night in May 1984. Detectives re-opened their inquiries late last year and quickly arrested two men followed by a further two arrests in March. A fifth man was arrested in May. A Met Police spokesperson told *The Archer*: "All five have been released under investigation and enquiries remain ongoing.



Striking: The cast of *The Glass Menagerie* on the production's spectacular set

# Review: The Glass Menagerie

## Alexandra Palace Theatre

By Jessica Holt

The first thing that strikes you in this production of Tennessee Williams' classic is Rosanna Vize's set with the neon sign saying Paradise back to front. It sits on a huge column and fills the vast stage area at Alexandra Palace. We learn later it is the club across from the apartment where the action of the play takes place and it turns slowly throughout the play, symbolising the failure of the Wingfield family to fulfil their dreams.

Central to the lack of fulfilment of the characters is Amanda Wingfield who lives in the past, the days when women were courted by gentleman callers. Her ambition for her daughter Laura is the same, to marry a handsome and wealthy gentleman. Being set in 1937, it was also an economic necessity as the father had deserted the family some years before.

Geraldine Somerville's performance as Amanda is complex, and strong. This sometimes takes the impact away from the terrible sadness experienced by Laura, played by Natalie Kimmerling, and the restlessness and hopelessness experienced by Tom the son, played by Kasper Hilton Hilles.

Tom as narrator declares at the beginning it is a memory play and often it is suggested by critics that this is Tennessee Williams himself remembering when he left his beloved sister Rose because he knew his future lay elsewhere both personally and professionally.

Laura's salvation was her relationship with her glass collection of animals strewn around the stage and just about visible. She appears truly happy when she gives her favourite,

the glass unicorn, to her gentleman caller. He smashes it by mistake and reveals to her he is engaged to be married. Her brother had not known this when he brought Jim, played by Zacchaeus Kayode, home but had also not taken the trouble to get this important task right.

The actors often move within the non-naturalistic set as if in a dream, in what is a powerful, deeply moving play performed with considerable skill.

# Beethoven

## bonanza

Finchley Symphony Orchestra and Finchley Chamber Choir conducted by David Lardi are performing an all-Beethoven programme for the final concert of their season. In his third symphony, the *Eroica*, Beethoven revolutionised the form. His *Mass in C Major*, written just a few years later, features chorus, orchestra and a full set of four soloists.

Both works can be heard at Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley on Saturday 13 July starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £18 with reductions for anyone under 26 or over 60 and are £1 less when booked online at [finchleysymphony.org](http://finchleysymphony.org).

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