



# East Finchley businesses back the reusable revolution

By Katie Johns

More than 20 businesses in East Finchley have pledged their commitment to reducing single-use plastics by joining the reusable revolution.

Shops, cafés and restaurants along the High Road are encouraging customers to bring their reusable food and drink containers to be filled as part of a campaign led by North London Waste Authority and Barnet Council.

The launch of 'Bring It, Barnet' comes after research conducted in September 2023 showed that 77.7% of residents across the borough want to reduce the amount of single-use plastic they use when buying food and drink products, and almost 80% understand that a lot of single-use plastic could be replaced with reusable alternatives.

Featuring real Barnet residents and business owners, the

campaign is encouraging more people living and working in the area to choose sustainable coffee cups, shopping bags, water bottles and food containers over disposable options.

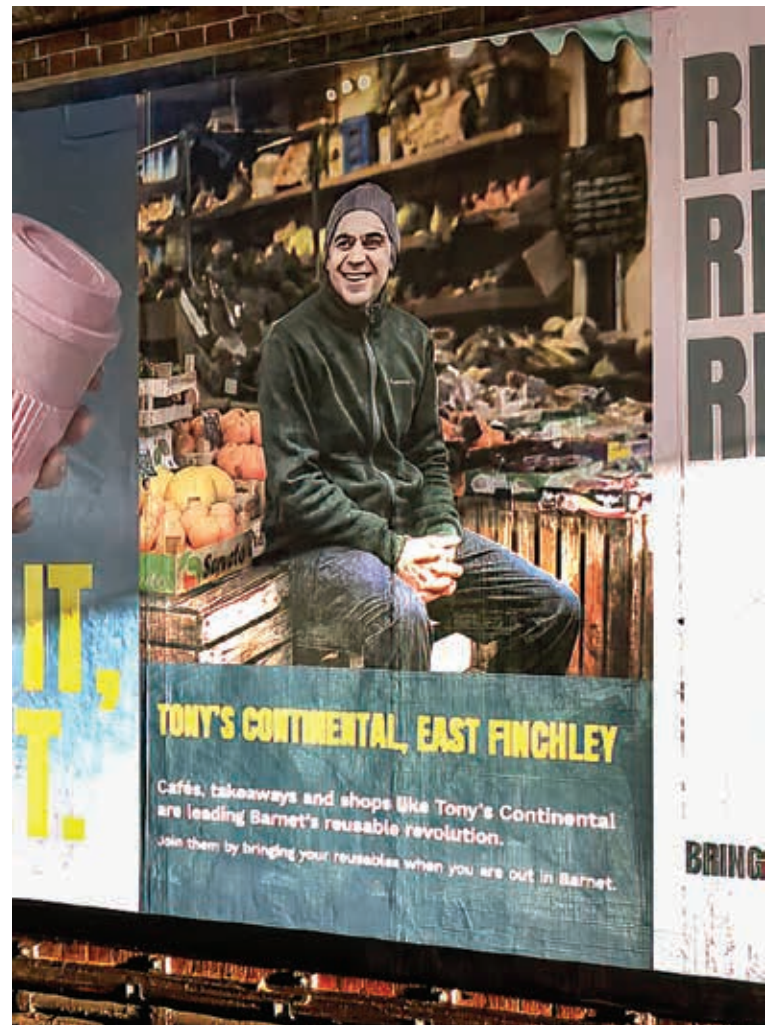
East Finchley and High Barnet were chosen as pilot areas as part of Barnet's target of becoming a Net Zero council by 2030 and a Net Zero borough no later than 2042, with the campaign set to roll out to north London's six other boroughs later this year.

Tony's Continental, a grocery store that features in the campaign, is one of 21 businesses currently displaying posters and window stickers showing support for 'Bring It, Barnet', which also appears on

billboards and bus stops in East Finchley.

Co-owner Chris Athanasiou said: "We're a small family business, and we feel like part of the community. Most of our customers bring their own bags or boxes for our loose fruit and veg, and we even offer a refill station for your olive oil! Reducing single-use plastic really is a community effort."

The 21 East Finchley businesses currently backing 'Bring It, Barnet' are: Amy's Housewares, Dan & Decarlo, 3R Express Mart, Patco News, Cherry Tree, N2 Food Centre, Josephines Flowers, Kokos Shoes and Repairs, Amici Deli, Coffee Bank London, Case Pepe, Pacey Newsagents, Cup of Joy, Egg and Bake, Tony's Continental, East Finchley Supermarket, RSPCA, Cootes Pharmacy, Bald Faced Stag, CW Andrew Pharmacy, and Campbell & Syme Coffee.



Poster boy: Chris Athanasiou, from Tony's Continental, in a tube station advertisement for the reusability campaign. Photo Mike Coles

## Free entry art fair

Members of the HGS Art group are hosting their annual art fair in Hampstead Garden Suburb this month featuring paintings, photography, jewellery, sculptures, ceramics, prints and textiles by more than 20 local artists.

Entry is free to the fair which runs from 11am to 5pm on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May at Fellowship House, 136a Wilfield Way, NW11. WIFinchley will be serving refreshments with proceeds going to local charities and there will be free art activities for children. Find out more at [www.hgsart.co.uk](http://www.hgsart.co.uk)



Where to donate your unwanted household items for recycling

- Batteries to EF Electricals and Sainsbury's, High Road
- Bicycle inner tubes to Bike & Run, High Road
- Cables and small electrical items to EF Electricals, High Road
- Crisp packets to Cherry Tree Café, Cherry Tree Wood
- Dental products (toothbrushes and heads) to Cavendish Dental Practice, East End Road
- Electrical cables to Everything Electrical, High Road
- Ink jet cartridges to UOE, High Road
- Lightbulbs to Amy's or EF Electricals, High Road
- Make-up to Oakdale Pharmacy, High Road.
- Paper, cork, ribbon, foil, wood off-cuts, buttons, stationery, sequins, carpet samples to Amy's, High Road
- Spectacles to Stewart Duncan Opticians and David Hillel Opticians, High Road

## SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: [EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk), or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

### Car thefts

Organised gangs from the UK and abroad are stealing high-end keyless vehicles. Over three nights in Barnet 15 vehicles were stolen and only two were recovered. An East Finchley resident had a Hyundai Kona stolen from Bedford Road, N2.

The Met are running operations to prevent these thefts and to gather intelligence, and there are a couple of things you can do to prevent your vehicle being taken.

Use a Faraday pouch to keep your vehicle fob in. Do consider spare fobs and keep these in a pouch too. A quick check when locking up at night to see your fob is protected is useful as nearly all of the vehicles were taken overnight, during the early morning hours.

A good old-style disk lock that fits over the steering wheel is a very effective deterrent. Or if you have a driveway, a locking bollard prevents thieves from moving your vehicle.

## Darling buds of May



The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have been receiving lots of queries about the name of the lovely flowers that are populating the spot where the old pavilion used to stand.

They are called snakehead fritillaries and were planted by the Friends some years ago. They are a bulb which enjoys wet ground. These photos taken by local photography student Ruby Hart really illustrate the snakeskin pattern of their petals and explain the name.

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