



The Doctor (left) in action. Photo by Femke van Iperen

Café culture

By Femke van Iperen

Hungry? Why wait? The smell of bacon every morning in East End Road is unmistakable; the café on the corner is open again.

The café at 146 East End Road, formerly known as Embassy Cafe, re-opened its doors in March 2002 following three months refurbishment after it changed owners last December. Now called ambitiously Dr Hunger Café, the whole place has been transformed. With its simple and stylish blacks and whites, with picture frames, an open plan kitchen and popular music, you could imagine yourself in Covent Garden's Neal Street. An array of cooks and waiters in white swerve around the place, which gets busiest around lunchtime. "We get some previous customers, workers from shops, students and builders, mainly through word of mouth", says new owner Mr Tosunoglu, a 30-year catering veteran with two other cafes in Colindale and Kingsbury.

What the doctor orders

So why East Finchley? "Do you believe in destiny?" he asks laughing mischievously. Explaining how he frequently passed the old café on his travels to his other businesses, he says: "It used to ask me to buy it!" This triggered a relentless mission to purchase it, but the previous owner insisted it was not for sale. "But they turned out to be lovely people", he adds, and when the shop was eventually put on sale, he immediately made another offer.

What about the name, Dr Hunger Café? Reportedly inspired by a café-bus in Cyprus with the same name, spotted when on holiday, Mr Tosunoglu declares: "I am the [hungry customers'] doctor, in fact, with all my years experience I am their consultant!"

The café offers breakfast, lunch and dinner from Monday to Saturday, and closes at 5pm.

LETTERS

Waitrose worry

Dear Sir,

Perhaps I could throw light on the big Waitrose scare that Joyce Arram refers to in her letter published in your June edition. This is certainly no wild goose chase: The threat is very real.

My Company has traded from our High Road site for 33 years and, with 17 years to run on our lease, it has always been our intention to trade from here for many years to come. Hence our surprise when we were asked by our landlords to meet with two directors of Kiafield Properties Ltd.

The directors explained that they acted for John Lewis PLC in acquiring sites for Waitrose stores. Their aim was to acquire the site bordered by the houses in Baronsmere Road, Ingram Road, Brompton Grove and the High Road for a Waitrose store.

The area involved includes a Barnet Council office and it was hinted (if not stated) that the Council supported the scheme. Cllr John Marshall, one of my Ward Councillors, spoke to the Chief Planning Officer who denied all knowledge of the scheme.

Subsequently we received a phone call from a Director offering us £200,000 to forfeit our lease. This we naturally rejected.

In 2001 we heard nothing more about the project and assumed that John Lewis had dropped the idea. Around the New Year we were alarmed to read reports about the proposal in *THE ARCHER*. Subsequently we discovered that in June 2000 our landlords had granted Kiafield Properties an option to buy our High Road site by June 2002 and that in January 2002 they had entered into a Deed of Variation to extend the option until 11 December 2002.

We are strongly opposed to the idea of a Waitrose Store, which we

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feel is a non-starter for a variety of reasons. However it is better to take nothing for granted and consolidate all those against the scheme.

Yours sincerely

John Scott

**Greater London Hire Ltd
14-18 High Road, N2**

What a disappointment

Dear Sir,

Since my phone message about the infamous 143 bus "service", I discovered to my pleasure - which soon turned to disappointment - that we had a new bus which runs from Golders Green, through the Suburb, East End Road, and terminates at

East Finchley station. The disappointing and frustrating thing is, the bus finishes at 2 in the afternoon. Even when it is running, it's timetabled for only one an hour.

The residents of East Finchley have been waiting about 30 years or more to get another bus service down East End Road, and I feel this is an absolute disgrace.

The service is the H3, and is operated by Metroline. Perhaps your excellent paper could investigate.

More power to your elbow.

**Yours faithfully,
Paula Sanders (Mrs),
Woodlands, NW11**

GARDENING

Aphid Alert

By Zena Robson

'LUPIN APHID'! Yep - it's like swearing, isn't it! If you've never seen them, consider yourself lucky.....if you've got them, you have my sympathy! Great, big, grey, sap-sucking beasties they are and they will decimate a plant in a matter of days. I have had to take a couple of lupins out, very carefully so as not to knock any of the beasties off, lay the stems on the ground and GRIND them underfoot! According to a lupin grower, the only way to deal with them is to use preventative sprays, as once they are on the plants you've had it!

If you are a fan of bearded iris, now is the time to lift and split them as the flowers go over. Just cut off some of the outside rhizomes with some leaves on them and discard the old ones in the middle. Trim the leaves down and then replant, remembering that this type does not like to be buried under soil level, nor to have its rhizomes covered with mulch; it likes to face the sun and be baked and ripened. I am very fond of irises, especially these ones; Some are scented but all are beautiful. Iris *sibirica* is also very beautiful and has more and smaller flowers. It prefers a moist soil and, not being a rhizome, needs the same treatment as any herbaceous perennial.

Fed and watered

It's also the time to approach friends and neighbours to look after your baskets and tubs while you go off to bask in the sun etc... I have seen some interesting devices that help out and I especially liked the terracotta tubes that you put in and fill with water which then diffuses slowly out. Don't forget that wind dries out baskets quicker than anything so don't let a cool, blowy day lull you into thinking that watering won't be necessary! Regular dead-heading is a must, and if you didn't add any slow-release fertiliser to the compost then a good weekly feed that is high in potash, like tomato feed, will help to keep them blooming.

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