



Once a month is not enough

By Daphne Chamberlain

"The market wasn't sustainable, but I've not given up on this area." The words of Green Artisan organiser Wayne Atkinson, musing on the demise of his East Finchley's farmers' market.

Started last year in the playground of Martin Primary School, the market plunged from great expectations to frustration and closure. "It was just a decreasing circle," Wayne told *THE ARCHER*. "The producers were dropping out, even those who were doing well, like Two Fishwives." The many fans of that company will be sad to hear it has gone into liquidation.

However, Wayne remains convinced that things could have been different if he had been able to hold the market more frequently than once a month.

At present, Green Artisan is focused on possibly set-

ting up a fortnightly Saturday market in King Alfred School at Golders Green. If this takes off, Wayne still has an eye on East Finchley.

Meanwhile, having helped organise the recent Slow Food exhibition on the South Bank, he was due to attend a world-wide food conference in Turin. Called Terra Madre, it brings together food from virtually every nation. "I can't wait to get out there," he says.

All the same, Wayne is wondering how well markets will stand up in the present economic crisis. *Let us know what you think. Our contact details are on page 2.*

French market returns

France comes back to East Finchley on the weekend of Friday 14 November with the return of the French market. As in March, the market will run on the High Road from The Institute to Iceland. Stalls will open for business at 9.30am on Friday and will close at 5pm on Sunday.

Once again, this will be a chance to sample cheeses from all over France as well as charcuterie, confits, patés and smoked hams. There will be an opportunity to wash it all down with some of the finest wines from the south of France. French scents and soaps will also be available in a variety

of fragrances.

With over 20 different stalls, the organisers say visiting this market is like touring France in one weekend. You can also practise your French.

For more information, contact the Finchley Community Development Trust on 020 8883 4916.

New life for Old White Lion

By Sheila Armstrong

Darren Wall, manager of The Old White Lion, welcomed the great and the good of East Finchley to his refurbished pub on the evening of 27 September. There was a good buzz on the night with regulars liking the way the 200-year-old building had been brought up to date and sympathetically redecorated with a new look and a new sign.

Film night is on Sundays, quiz night on Tuesdays and live music on Thursdays, but generally music will be kept in the background. The TV will be brought out for special sporting events but will not generally be on. A good selection of pub food is served, with roasts on Sundays and breakfast at weekends.

Darren, who has worked locally in the pub trade for some years, told *THE ARCHER* that he has 22 draught beers and stocks a big range of organic fruit juices. He hopes the pub will appeal to a wide range of people in East Finchley. Dogs



Photo by Mike Rubens

are welcome, too.

See more on the Old White Lion's website www.theoldwhitelionfinchley.co.uk. Tables can be booked on 020 8883 6459.

Could you help in the hospice shop?

By Diana Cormack

The North London Hospice provides specialist care for the terminally ill free of charge to whoever needs it, whatever their income. It also offers advice and help to their family and friends. People are looked after at home and in the hospice's specialist in-patient unit. It costs more £5 million a year to run these services and some of this money is raised in their 11 charity shops based in north London.

Volunteers are needed to help in the East Finchley branch at 123 High Road. Established more than 12 years ago, the shop is a popular haunt for bargain hunters of all ages looking for something specific or just browsing. People from many parts of the world come in, and that includes the team working there.

Manageress Eugenia von Piccardio told *THE ARCHER* that, in addition to England, ten other countries are represented, with members of staff originating from Austria, Brazil, Germany, Holland, Italy, Iran, Ireland, the USA and Wales.

As well as being a great place for meeting people and making new friends, serving in the shop is another way of practising language skills. Gap year students or those wishing to widen their experience in a working environment could enhance their CVs considerably by undertaking voluntary work there. If you are aged 16 or over and feel you could contribute to this worthy cause by helping in the shop, please call in or phone Eugenia on 020 8883 6493.



Hermi Dauker, Gill Mullin and Annette Morris at work in the hospice shop.. Photo by Diana Cormack

New look for an old favourite

By Caroline Ayre

I'm not sure if I qualify as the great or the good of East Finchley but I too was invited to the Old White Lion's re-launch. I have been going to the Old White Lion for longer than I care to remember and have seen it go through a few facelifts in that time. This is definitely one of the best so far.

The addition of extra and bigger tables and seating throughout really makes a difference and the mix of comfy sofas and tables where you can enjoy a meal means there is something for everyone, be it having a meal with friends or relaxing on the sofa with the Sunday papers.

I have been back a couple of times since the relaunch and found the staff just as friendly and the service just as good as on the opening night. I also noticed that many of the punters were making good use of the available board games.

I haven't had a chance to sample any of the food yet or go down there for a Sunday night film but the food (especially the Sunday roast) certainly looks mouth watering and they are showing some classic films. Maybe I'll see you there.

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