



Michelle's bakery dream comes true

By Nick Allan

Michelle Eshkeri is opening a new bakery on the East End Road parade of shops, believed to be the first in this part of East Finchley for 30 years. Michelle is an accomplished baker, having run the Lavender Bakery, an online cake business, for over eight years from her home on Brackenbury Road, but she had always wanted her own bakery.

Through a chance conversation with her hairdresser, Jo Sutherland at 119 East End Road, she discovered premises were available nearby. She decided the shop was the perfect location to realise her ambitions and within 24 hours had submitted a proposal to take it on.

Michelle, who has two sons aged three and five, told *THE ARCHER*: "The time just felt right to open my own bakery. I've been dreaming about it for years. Now, with my boys growing up, I am opening the kind of bakery I'd like to find round the corner from home, filled with amazing hand-baked bread."

The shop, previously a post office, newsagents and most recently a convenience store, will open this month as Margot Bakery serving a range of mostly sourdough breads, vegetarian savouries, sweet pastries, biscuits and cakes including challah, bagels, a range of tinned loaves, croissants and babka, all vegetarian. The shop is predominately a bakery, but will feature a table for customers who want



Opening soon: Michelle's sons Phineas and Rafael at the new bakery

to eat inside.

Feedback for Margot

Margot will open every day except Monday and will be open early with a range of breakfast and lunch foods, including salads and sandwiches. Michelle will serve Climpson & Sons coffee and is keen to develop a range of unusual recipes tailored to local customer favourites.

Michelle says: "I'm really

keen to get local people's feedback on the kinds of breads and pastries they want to see at the shop." She is also looking to employ local people to work in the bakery on a full or part-time basis. For more information, pictures or comments contact her at michelle@margotbakery.co.uk.

Police appeal after tube assault

Officers from British Transport Police are appealing for information after a woman was assaulted on a Northern line train between Edgware and Brent Cross. The incident happened on Friday 8 January between 11.05am and 11.20am.

Investigating officer DC David Bishop said: "I am extremely keen to speak to two people who I believe helped the victim when this incident happened. Two men came to the woman's aid when she shouted for help. Were you on that train? Were you the ones who helped the young woman? If so,

I appeal to you to come forward. Please get in touch with BTP on 0800 40 50 40 or text 61016 quoting crime reference number T-SUB/B4 of 14/01/16."

A 20-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of common assault. He was bailed until Thursday 4 February.

Hospice shop needs helping hands

By Diana Cormack

The North London Hospice shop has been established at 123 High Road for over 20 years. It is one of 18 such shops raising necessary funding towards the upkeep of the North London Hospice which provides specialist care for the terminally ill.

This care is 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 in-patient unit.

Volunteers are needed to help in the East Finchley shop which 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.

As well as being a great place for meeting others 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. It is also a way of building confidence before returning to the world of paid work.

If you are aged 16 or over and feel you could contribute to this worthy cause by helping in the shop, call manageress Eugenia von Piccardio on 020 8883 6493 or pop into the shop for a chat. Eugenia would like to thank all those who make donations to the charity shop as well as those who buy them.

Banned books

As part of this year's annual Barnet Libraries Festival, library manager Sim Branaghan will be presenting a talk at East Finchley Library about the history of British literary censorship.

Nowadays we take literary freedom for granted but as recently as 1976 it was still theoretically possible to be sent to jail simply for writing truthfully about the facts of life.

The story of obscene libel is an intriguing one, spanning three dramatic centuries of trials, from the prosecution of Soho bookseller Edmund Curll in 1727 for publishing *Venus in the Cloister* through to a similar attempt in 1976 to imprison Heinrich Hanau for printing *Inside Linda Lovelace*.

An often-overlooked key year is 1954, when five of our leading publishers were separately dragged into court for novels they had published. Entitled "The Man in Control - Undesirable Books, Obscene Libel and the Great Purge of 1954", Sim's talk will take place at East Finchley Library on Friday 12 February at 2pm.

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Heroes

There is an age for heroes and it's not now, well at least not for me. To have real rock'n'roll heroes you need to be young and impressionable and that means somewhere between 14 and 16. You know, the time of first gigs, the first time you got drunk because you meant to and the first time you fell in love with someone you shouldn't have.

Heroes have to be almost a secret, but one you can share with your friends and yet keep part for yourself. What matters is that you are young, confused and searching for something that made you feel less alone. Because the hero you find then is yours for life.

It's why there are 30-somethings who believe Kurt Cobain is all you ever needed in a rock star, why some people will forgive Morrissey anything and why people still leave joints on Jim Morrison's grave. For me it was David Bowie.

Annie Nightingale played a couple of tracks from *Hunky Dory*, I saw him on *The Old Grey Whistle Test* and was enraptured by *Queen Bitch*. He looked like a boy/girl fantasy and made me think that he was as weird as my strangest dreams. So I did the only thing a confused teenager could do and bought the record. By the time he cuddled up to Mick Ronson on *Top of the Pops* in a way that shocked the net curtain twitchers he was already mine. Mine enough for me to buy the next album and to be there when he killed off Ziggy in July 1973.

Back then I didn't realise he was part-chameleon, part-caricature and would say almost anything for fame and fashion. It wasn't until he collided with 1976 and his flirtations with fascist ideas made me realise that if he was an outsider he wasn't my kind of outsider. But I'd grown up by then, seen the Clash, discovered Talking Heads and formed my own band.

It was ironic that he died about 10 days after Lemmy, because if Bowie was all about artifice and invention, Lemmy was the real deal, someone you could share the appropriate recreational narcotics with. Unlike Bowie, I don't think he wanted to be a hero, so that's why I'll raise a glass in his honour when all I can do is listen to Bowie's records.

But Bowie was, for a brief teenage moment my hero, and I will miss him. After all, that's what heroes, no matter how flawed, are for.

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