



Summer festival 2016 promises to be a real hoot

Owls are flying in for this year's East Finchley Community Festival on Sunday 19 June. Visitors will be able to get up close and personal with the beautiful birds of prey in Cherry Tree Wood from 12 noon to 6pm.

In addition to the owls there will be entertainment for all the family. The megaslides and climbing wall will be back as will Punch and Judy and the storytelling tent for under fives.

Two stages, The Archer Community Stage and the main stage, will offer top quality local music and performing arts acts all afternoon.

More than 80 stalls will provide a wide range of goods, services and food; community groups will be on hand as well to let you know what they do and to raise money for good causes.

Graphic designer Peter Curzon has designed this year's bright and colourful publicity poster and programme cover for the festival, which you'll soon see popping up

everywhere and anywhere.

Can you help?

The festival is run by local people for local people and will be free to enter as always. To keep it that way organisers say they can always do with more help.

This year in particular they are looking for lively, outgoing, energetic people to promote the festival's raffle tickets, one of the main fundraising activities that help keep the festival free. Any volunteers willing to fill a one-hour slot would be warmly welcomed.

If you can help on the day, or beforehand, drop the festival team an email to eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com. You can keep up to date with festival news on Facebook at 'myeastfinchley' and on Twitter @N2Festival.

Church Lane café closes

By Nick Allan

Sad to report that Boyden's Pantry in Church Lane, N2, has closed down. This popular local café served locally roasted Campbell & Syme coffee and homemade cakes.

It was popular with residents but proved too small with not quite enough trade happening in off-hours to meet the ambitions of its proprietors, Ben and Anna. They are keen to stay in East Finchley and are looking for somewhere bigger in an already highly competitive market with high street brands like Caffè Nero moving in to the High Road most recently.

There are now many coffee shops to choose from in East Finchley including Costa, the newly refurbished Chorak Bakery as well as a number of independent cafés all typically offering coffee, tea and bakery items. Fans of Boyden's Pantry can still enjoy their artisanal coffee and brunch at Ben and Anna's other locations at 1 Friern Barnet Road, N11 or 4 Potters Road, Barnet.



Goodness gracious: Kate Gidley making her juice. Photo Mike Coles

Homemade juice takes off

By John Lawrence

While Kate Gidley was stuck behind a desk in her management job she was actually dreaming of standing at a freezing cold market stall trying to sell fresh fruit juice in the middle of winter.

Well, not exactly, but that's how it turned out when she decided to pack it all in and start her own business called Rocket Juice. Her first contact with customers was at a street market in Hackney and it just happened to be in the coldest month of the year.

She may not have made a huge profit then but she learned a lot and now her business is really taking off with her own juice-making team about to come on board and deals to sell her products in Tony's Continental and Budgens in East Finchley... and beyond.

Kate's juices come in five different fruit and vegetable combinations and are all cold pressed with no processing. Until now she has been making them at her home in Kitchener Road, N2.

The right name

"When I was in my previous job I was eating pre-packed food all the time and not really getting my five fruit or veg a day," said Kate. "I had a dream of being surrounded by nutrition and used to juice a lot with my housemates. Then one of them said why not try selling it, so I did."

"I called the business Rocket Juice because I wanted to give people the feel of the burst of energy and health they get when they drink it. It stays fresh for five days rather than sitting around on a shelf for weeks like processed juices."

Kate's dedicated juice-making team will mean she can leave the kitchen juicer behind and focus on striking sales deals with cafés and gyms, as well as getting out to big events like

the East Finchley Community Festival in June. Find out more at www.rocket-juice.co.uk.

Pop-up pics

A pop-up exhibition of photos from the project documenting people, traders and life in East Finchley High Road (The Archer, February 2016) is coming to Budgens in May. Passers-by will be able to see some of the images taken by East Finchley Open members in the supermarket's window on the weekends of 7-8 and 14-15 May. And look out for more pop-up shows in the future.

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