



Celebrity hairdresser reveals all after more than 40 years

By Neil McNaughton

For more than 40 years Leslie Cavendish, popular manager of *All Aboard* in East Finchley, has said little, save to family and close friends, about his days as hairdresser to the stars in the 1960s and 70s. In particular Leslie was hairdresser to the Beatles from 1966 and became an 'insider' at Apple Corps in Savile Row.

He originally trained at Vidal Sassoon's salon in Bond Street, where he boasted clients such as the Bee Gees, James Taylor, Dusty Springfield and the Dave Clark Five. He even washed the hair of Mandy Rice-Davies just before her famous court appearance in the Profumo scandal case.

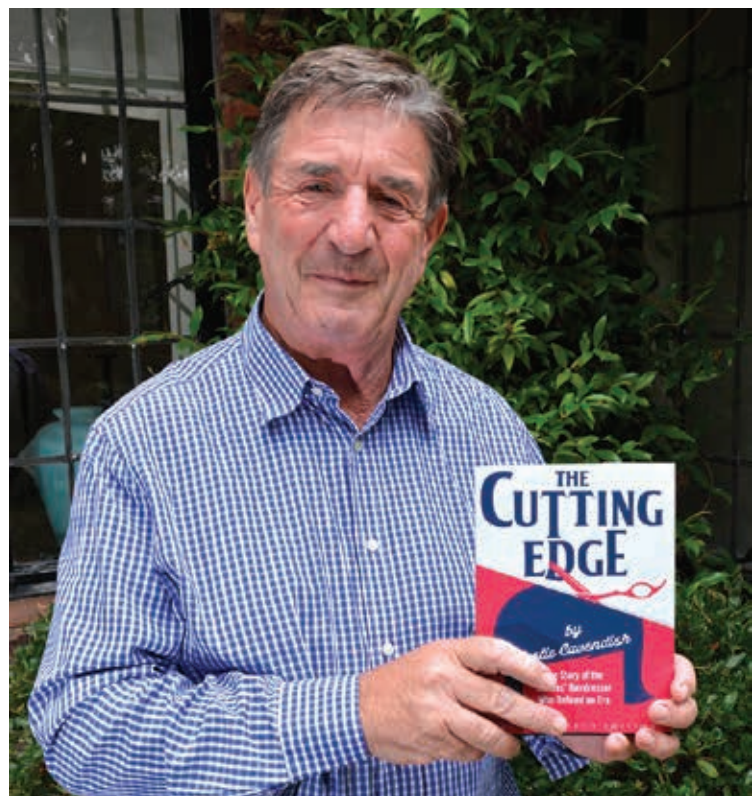
It has been an eight-year project to put his memoirs together but at last his story has now been published. *The Cutting Edge: The Story of the Beatles' Hairdresser Who Defined an Era* has been published by Alma Books and is available direct from the publisher, from good bookshops and through Amazon.

Leslie told *The Archer*: "I especially remember a conver-

sation with Paul McCartney just after he had written *When I'm Sixty-Four*. Recalling the line, 'when I get older, losing my hair', I said to him that there was no danger of that happening to us... and I was right!"

The book has received several positive reviews already, as a result of which Leslie is about to embark on a series of Q&A sessions and book signings at shops and literary festivals. "I am looking forward to sharing my experiences with audiences up and down the country," he added.

If local residents buy the book and wish to have it signed, Leslie is still available most days in the shop... and you can prove to yourself that he was telling the truth about his hair!



'The Cutting Edge' author Leslie Cavendish. Photo Mike Coles



Celebrating 10 years at the Indian Rasoi on Fortis Green. Photo Mike Coles

Festival to celebrate restaurant's first decade of fine dining

The Indian Rasoi Restaurant in Fortis Green, nestled between East Finchley and Muswell Hill, is celebrating 10 years in business.

Mustafa Ali Khan runs the restaurant with his brother Mohi and their manager Gurpreet. They regularly test new recipes on their loyal customers, providing weekly 'specials'. A popular 'special' in August was the 'Railway Curry' which was inspired by the days of the Raj when a special dish was served to first-class passengers.

Mr Khan told us: "We are so proud that we have kept our customers since opening and we continue to work hard to make sure their visits are friendly and happy each time."

The team at Indian Rasoi, which means kitchen in Hindi, are planning an Indian food fes-

tival lasting a fortnight to share more of the tastes and flavours of their homeland, particularly the northern terrains and their royal influences. Gourmet food for the Mughal princes of East Finchley, perhaps? Customers are encouraged to check www.indian-rasoi.co.uk for details.

Open day

Staff and governors at Holy Trinity Primary School are inviting prospective parents to come and have a look around at a series of open days this autumn.

The one-form entry primary school in Eagans Close was rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted in 2015. Open day dates are Friday 6 October, Friday 17 November and Friday 1 December, all at 10am. Find more information at www.holytrinityceschool.org or call 020 8883 1824 to book.

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Different drums

In this age of Brexit upheaval, the only thing to do is crawl back 40 years and drown in 1977. Why? Because 1977 was the year that punk put its boot into psychedelia and the arrival of The Sex Pistols in Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee year meant that 'God save the Queen' became something other than a dull national anthem as the old order gave up.

This is about a time when youth got wild and angry, went to Rock Against Racism gigs and offended their parents. But 1977 didn't just mean new beginnings, it meant endings as well.

Led Zeppelin played their last US gigs and Elvis Presley, once the king of Rock 'n' Roll, was now fat, bloated, covered in sequins and playing in Las Vegas. He picked 1977 as the year to die on the toilet from an overdose of cheeseburgers. And he wasn't the only one to check out spectacularly. Marc Bolan's demise in a car crash on Barnes Common 40 years ago this month put the final nail in the coffin of the glam rock era. With barely a pause for breath, the charts became dominated by Boney M, Saturday Night Fever and everything disco.

But who cared? In a studio far, far away, something was stirring in the careers of minor actors. The Force was on its way and so what if they didn't start at the beginning, at least Star Wars started with a new hope.

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