



Final clearance: Sue Tollerfield, left, and Haylee Miller in the Cherry Tree gift shop in its final week of trading. Photo Mike Coles

## Gift shop to close after 12 years

After 12 years of trading on the High Road, the Cherry Tree gift shop has closed down. Set up by Haylee Millar and Sue Tollerfield in 2006, the shop became known for its extensive range of gifts and greetings cards.

During this time the pair have been great supporters of the community and, as far as *The Archer* is concerned, were always in the lead when selling our calendars and tea towels for charity.

Expressing their sadness

at the prospect of leaving the High Road, Haylee explained that, with the present lease coming to an end and their children now at university or about to go, this seemed like the right time.

News of the closure has

been greeted with regret by many customers. Paying tribute to them on behalf of Sue and herself Haylee said: "Thank you to our amazing, loyal, lovely customers. East Finchley is very, very special and so are its residents."



## The domino effect

Thanks to Tricia Roberts for sending us this photo of the aftermath of the high winds that swept our way in mid-January, knocking over a rack of Domino's pizza delivery bikes parked in Fairlawn Avenue. How apt!

# Summer festival 'won't happen' without help of a new generation

Grant Silverman, one of the team organising this year's East Finchley Community Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 24 June, makes an urgent appeal for new volunteers to step forward and help.

Many of the current crop of brilliant organisers have been working on the festival for the past 15 years and for various good reasons are unable to continue with their roles beyond this year.

So we are just about to have the biggest brain drain and lose all of the experience that has been accrued over many years. We can still stage the festival in 2018 but only if we can bring in some new blood before April.

There are key organising roles that have to be replaced; the other roles that don't need replacing this year will need to be replaced next year. It is up to a younger generation to take the baton and run with it.

Please be aware that this year it is important that we learn how things are done, it is not for us to walk into a successful festival with brand new ideas until we see how the festival is put together.

### Vital roles

We need an organiser, this would suit someone who has run events before. We need a web expert as well as help with social

media. We need volunteers who are willing to do what is required when it is required as there is a lot to do. We will need people on the day as well.

From my understanding, there may be a couple of hours per week of work, not much more than that, but there are monthly meetings too.

### Save our festival

I can't stress enough what will happen if even one year is missed. You can bet your bottom dollar that will be the end for the festival, which in my opinion is the highlight of the year in this amazing community.

If you are like me, go to the festival year after year, take your kids and love the atmosphere, then please help your community and get involved. This is urgent and critical. Even if you are not sure how you can help but are willing, please get in touch. Contact: [eastfinchley-festival@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchley-festival@gmail.com) or just turn up for the next festival meeting at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2, on Monday 19 February at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

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