



Plastic-free zone in East Finchley: how we can all help

By John Lawrence

We have received a hugely positive response to our front page story last month (Let's make East Finchley plastic-free) and Huntingdon Road resident Ann Inglis's call for everyone in the community to cut out the use of throwaway plastics.

Business network N2United's next meeting on Thursday 14 June at the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green will focus on what local traders and businesses can do to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics like bags and wrapping.

Ruth Anders, who will co-ordinate the project for N2United, said: "This is a critically important campaign about which we will doubtless hear far more in the coming months."

Our very own bag

There's one action we can all take immediately, by giving up buying plastic bags and instead always putting our shopping in an 'I Love N2' cotton bag, from East Finchley Community Trust. The new design is available now for £4 in the



Bag it up: Buy your cotton I Love N2 bag in place of plastic carriers.

Black Gull Bookshop, Tony's Continental and Ryker, all on the High Road, and will be on sale at the East Finchley Community Festival on Sunday 24 June. Wherever you buy them, all proceeds will go towards the running of the festival.

And most importantly readers have been sending us their responses to Ann's campaign and telling us about the actions they are already starting to take. We print a selection below.

Please continue to write to us with your ideas on how everyone can help East Finchley become the first neighbourhood in London to be a plastic-free zone. Email us at the-archer@lineone.net or write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

Your letters:

Live life without plastic

Dear Editor,

I read your article (Let's make East Finchley plastic-free, *The Archer*, May 2018) with great interest. I am a very keen advocate of trying to shop, eat and generally live life without plastic.

It is hard. I used to do all my shopping at Tesco, but became very frustrated when I realised that almost everything I bought was wrapped in plastic. Trying to put a week's worth of loose fruit and veg onto the conveyor with a queue of customers tutting behind me was not the way to go.

I now go to the High Road, Ballards Lane or Southgate and buy fruit and veg loose. Even then items like rocket are impossible to buy loose. We have Tony's Continental and other fruiterers in the High Road. Tony's also offers a 'refill' service on some items. I have switched my milk from plastic bottles to our excel-

lent milkman who delivers in glass three times a week.

My husband is a Canadian from Vancouver and they always seem to be a few steps ahead of us. Ann Inglis is absolutely right to say we should buy items from shops that don't separately package but sell on a more 'wholesale' level from vats/containers where we decant into our own containers: shampoo, soaps, nuts, coffee, tea...the list goes on. Instead of that proposed Budgens expansion, a store selling 'wholesale' style with no excessive or unnecessary packaging would be a huge bonus to the area.

I am vehemently anti single-use plastic and, as a product design teacher at The Compton School in N12, I am driving the anti-plastic message home in every lesson in the hope it will sink in. I am aware of the damage plastic causes and am currently trying to get my school to go down the glass milk-bottle route.

Yours faithfully,
Joanne Westgate,
Address supplied.

Let's unite on plastics

Dear Editor,

I was moved and inspired by Ann Inglis's appeal to your readers and to the residents of East Finchley to transition away from single-use plastics. There's been a lot about this in the press and some good online campaigns, but local action has been the missing piece of the puzzle.

It is encouraging to see this has garnered support from N2United. I hope we can all unite behind Ann and show the rest of London that it's possible for a whole community to return to sane and compassionate shopping habits.

Yours faithfully,
Thomas Bonneville,
Fortis Green, N2.

Plastic bags are a waste

Dear Editor,

I think plastic-free is a great idea. Why bag things up? One always used to be able to pick what and how much one wanted of anything and take it to the till in a paper bag. I live on my own and I only want a small quantity of things at a time.

I also commend Iceland for not putting palm oil in its products. It is very destructive because forests are cut down to grow palm trees. I will do what I can to help.

Yours faithfully,
Primrose Chamberlin,
Address supplied.



East meets West: Kyoko and Denise in Tokyo.

Big in Japan

Artist Denise Wyllie was travelling round Japan for a month setting up links with art galleries when she and her friend Kyoko Iwata took time out for a quick read of *The Archer* on a pedestrianised road in downtown Ginza, central Tokyo. "Japan is a great place, beautiful for landscape painting with interesting, thoughtful people to hang out with," said Denise, who prints her works at London Print Studio as well as from a new studio she is creating at home in Long Lane, N2.

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