



Students see their hopes for the future sabotaged

Dozens of university students in East Finchley have seen their education seriously disrupted since March. Here's how their situation looks from the viewpoint of University of Kent student Hamish Hallett.

Disruption, confusion, and frustration is the description of this past university year. From national strikes in the winter and spring term to universities being forced to shut because of Covid-19, students have been hit by multiple crises.

Paying £9,000 a year in tuition fees, paying rent for university accommodation and paying for overpriced resources, many students are questioning the value of university institutions. They are no longer students; they are consumers.

This was the reality even before the pandemic. However, if students are to be treated as consumers then at least this academic year could be refunded to them. If you don't receive a service or a product the way you usually do, you ask for a refund, right?

For students who graduate this year, this was the most critical time in their university career. For it to be sabotaged entirely is heart-breaking. To make it even worse, the universities have shown no sympathy whatsoever.

During this abnormal time, students have to continue to do assignments, dissertations, and online exams. They have to do all of this within their homes,

with some practical or lab-based degrees being impossible to do at home.

Imagine having to pray that your internet does not fail during a final exam that can make or break your entire degree. On top of that, the lockdown measures have forced students indoors, family members are crowding households, and the media is being cynical. This is a recipe for disaster for someone's mental health.

If universities want to act like businesses, then they should take responsibility for the well-being of their consumers like other businesses are obliged to do.



Role up: National Youth Theatre auditionees Bella and Kian

In the footsteps of James Bond and Doctor Who

Three East Finchley students will be following in the footsteps of James Bond actor Daniel Craig and former Doctor Who actors Catherine Tate and Matt Smith after winning places with the National Youth Theatre.

Kian M, Bella G and Mouni C will take part in the theatre company's prestigious summer school following auditions at The Archer Academy. More than 5,000 young people try for a place each year and fewer

than one in 10 are successful. The academy has proved itself strong in creative and performing arts, regularly winning competitions including first place at the Welwyn Garden Youth Drama Festival and gold in the Barnet Dance Competition multiple times.

Bella and Kian gave their tips for getting through the auditions. Bella, in year 10, said: "Don't overthink things.

Try to be confident and get stuck in straight away. Learn your monologue well so that you don't panic and forget it last moment." Kian, in year 11, said: "If you don't know the people you are auditioning with, use the morning workshop to make yourself comfortable with everyone. This shows the assessors that you are eager to meet new people and have excellent teamwork skills."



Doors are open: The New Local Café team Photo Mike Coles

Walk without going anywhere

While walking guide Diane Burstein waits to be able to resume her tour groups, she has made short films and talks about some popular locations for people to enjoy online.

Among them is a film on social reformer Octavia Hill and the garden dedicated to her on the Strawberry Vale estate in East Finchley, and coming soon is a film about St Pancras and Islington Cemetery, off the High Road, N2.

Diane's talks connected to her regular walking tours feature Highgate village, Hampstead Garden Suburb and Alexandra Palace. Find out more at www.facebook.com/secretlondonwalkingtours.co.uk

Café team finds new ways to serve

By John Lawrence

When a restaurant can no longer welcome customers to sit at its tables enjoy the food and drink it serves, it has to change its business model pretty quickly. The team at the New Local Café in the High Road, like other eating places in East Finchley, have done just that.

They have cleared tables and chairs to one side, creating space for customers to come in and order food or pick up meals they've ordered ahead. And they are taking a steady stream of requests coming in via the delivery service Uber Eats. Favourite orders all round are the full English breakfast, kebabs and wraps.

Owner Arif Yrlbirim doesn't pretend it's been easy. They've had to furlough some of their regular servers and chefs and operate with a skeleton staff of three. Orders are down but Arif is really hoping they can keep going until the rules around using eating places safely change for the better.

Space is crucial
Speaking to *The Archer* in

the middle of May he said: "At the moment there's no information about what cafés can do. Customers are still asking us if they can sit in to eat but we have to say we can't let them. It's really good, though, that they still want our food.

"We are doing everything very hygienically and having lots of space for people coming in to pick up meals. So many people have been supporting us and we thank them all. Generally though it's been a lot quieter compared to how it was before. We'd just like everything to get back to normal."

The New Local Café is open from 8am to 4pm every day and welcomes walk-in orders, as well as pre-orders on 020 8444 1332 or Uber Eats.

RICKY SAVAGE ... "The voice of social irresponsibility"

A-wop-bop-a loo-bop, A-lop-bam-boom!

They rode in like the four horsemen of the apocalypse: two white trash, two black guys, there to upset and destroy the cosy world of God-fearing, middle-class Middle America. It was 1955 and everything was about to change.

Between them, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry and Little Richard would remake music and create some of the greatest songs ever committed to vinyl. And one of them would become the first star of the emerging popular music scene. As a 22-year-old gay guy from Macon, Georgia, Little Richard was the king and queen of rock 'n' roll.

Richard Wayne Penniman was one of 12 kids and, according to his mother, more trouble than the rest of them put together. He quit high school at 15 and played R 'n' B with an assortment of bands, at one point appearing in drag.

He picked up ideas, recorded a few songs that did all right and, in September 1955, signed to Specialty Records and recorded *Tutti Frutti* in three takes. Myth says that the song was about gay sex with the words cleaned up by his co-writer Dorothy LaBostrie, although she always said she'd written it clean, and the myth came later.

Who cares? I don't. What matters is the sound; something that punches holes in the wall. It was an instant success and turned the short skinny guy with bouffant hair into something that appealed to the kids and frightened Middle America. A star was born and, trust me, Little Richard knew it.

If that had been all he'd sung, he would still be the first star, but it wasn't. In the following years, he produced some of the greatest rock 'n' roll records of that golden age. *Long Tall Sally*, *Good Golly Miss Molly* and *Keep A-Knocking* all joined *Tutti Frutti* in becoming standards, covered by everyone from The Beatles and the Stones to some wild bunch thrashing out the classics down your local pub.

Sadly it didn't last. By the end of the 1950s, the world-changing moment had passed. Elvis was in the army, Jerry Lee Lewis was disgraced, Chuck was facing prison and Little Richard had quit music for religion. But those few years created rock music and Little Richard, a man who was wearing purple before Prince was invented, had created the rock 'n' roll star.

Richard Wayne Penniman (Little Richard)
3 December 1932 – 9 May 2020