



# There is a light that never goes out



Bright lights: The Phoenix Cinema and the High Road by night. Photo Daniel Murray

By John Lawrence

The wet surface of the High Road is bathed in an electric blue glow from the neon lights of the Phoenix Cinema as an all-but-empty double decker heads up to Fortis Green on the night run in this wonderfully atmospheric shot by photographer Daniel Murray.

And, in Daniel's close-up, the valiant Phoenix keeps its cheerful lights shining out on N2 as it waits to find out when

it can reopen for business after a year of lockdown.

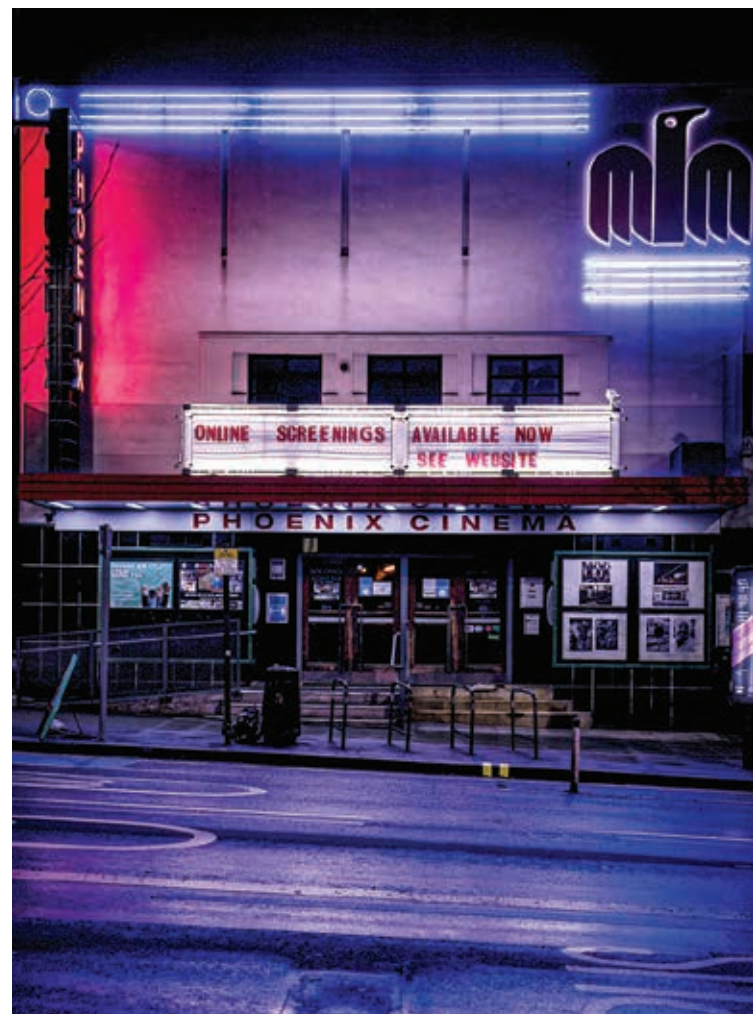
There's a big city feel to Daniel's photos and that's not

surprising because he is accustomed to capturing the bright lights and bustle of Hong Kong, where he has lived and worked for eight years.

## Stranded

For the last three months, however, he's had to adjust to a quieter life in East Finchley. He and his wife Elisa were visiting her mother Elizabeth Harca in Church Lane over Christmas and New Year when the Hong Kong government banned all flights from the UK as part of pandemic precautions.

Luckily Daniel had brought his camera gear with him so could carry on taking photos but he has lost a lot of his hard-won work back home and has no idea how much will still be waiting for him when he does eventually return.



Shine on: The front of the Phoenix stays bright despite being shut. Photo Daniel Murray

Elisa, who runs a business marketing network in Hong Kong, told us: "Although it's been very stressful and we had no idea we would get stuck, we are very grateful for the time we have had to spend with family during lockdown in the UK. "If flights are still blocked we'll try to go back via another country such as Dubai or Thailand, where we will have to quarantine for 21 days, then another 21 days in Hong Kong quarantine, so a total of 42 days in hotels which will definitely break the bank, sadly."

## Following a dream

Daniel, who is self-taught, started out in property man-

agement after studying in Birmingham and moving to Hong Kong. Three years ago, he decided to follow his love of photography by launching his own studio, and his career as a freelance photographer has gone from strength to strength.

Let's hope the couple can get home safely and settle back into the life they've built out there. Find out more about Daniel's work at [www.danielmurraystudio.com](http://www.danielmurraystudio.com)



Food project volunteers being filmed by RTHK for the UK segment of their documentary 'Beyond the Pandemic'. Photo: Mike Coles

## A year of support

By Alys Wainwright

Volunteers from East Finchley Neighbourhood Support's Food Project stood for one minute's silence on 23 March to mark the national day of reflection, one year after the country entered its first lockdown.

The date was especially significant as it also marked a year since East Finchley Neighbourhood Support was founded. One year on, the group is now registered as a Community Interest Company, offering support to isolated residents and running the N2 Food Project.

The Food Project operates on Tuesdays between 10.30am -12.30pm from the Phoenix Cinema, handing out food to anyone who needs it, with no referral needed.

## Pay it Forward

A "Pay it Forward" option also allows those that can afford it to make a donation to cover

the cost of a meal for themselves and provide a free meal for someone else.

Chef Giuseppe Sollo set out to bring the fine dining experience to everyone, no matter what their circumstances. Such has been the success of the project that Hong Kong-based broadcaster RTHK chose to feature the Food Project as part of its documentary, Beyond the Pandemic, which examines how communities in different countries have coped with the global pandemic.

You can find out more about the project and donate at [www.ILoveN2.co.uk/Food-Project](http://www.ILoveN2.co.uk/Food-Project).

## Protect your home again

Police in East Finchley are warning residents to take their home security seriously after noticing a gradual rise in the number of burglaries.

Generally, there were fewer burglaries than normal over the winter because so many of us were at home but now we are returning to work our homes could be vulnerable again, says the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Officers urge everyone to

invest in good locks on doors and windows to stop burglars in their tracks, and also an alarm as a preventative measure.

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