



## ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY + ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

# Fishmonger is green around the gills... in a good way

By John Lawrence

*Continuing our reports on eco-friendly initiatives in East Finchley, fishmonger Peter Barnett tells us about the easy wins and some of the stumbling blocks for a small business like his.*

Peter Barnett has been running A Scott & Sons Fishmongers in the High Road, N2, with his assistant Paul Jones, for more than 10 years. Over the last two years, he's put a lot of effort into greenifying the business wherever he can. He has switched to using carrier bags that are 100% degradable and already wraps the vast majority of the fish he sells in paper. At the same time, he is recycling about 30% of the polystyrene boxes that his fish arrives in and is giving away other plastic containers for customers to re-use as food boxes. His shop was recently rewired and now has only LED lighting throughout, which is less energy intensive. The latest van that he uses to get to and from Billingsgate fish market in the early hours is an eco-diesel model, which is frugal on fuel and

relatively clean on emissions.

## Careful choice of van

Peter says his choice of van is an example of where small businesses need to do their research to find the best option for their costs and for the environment. "Some people might assume an electric van is the right thing to buy but they are currently very expensive," he said. "Besides, their batteries rely on elements that come from destructive mining and are very toxic to dispose of at the end of their lives. "If I keep my eco-diesel for a long time and maintain it properly, it will have a far lower carbon footprint than buying a new electric car every few years. I was given a scrappage incentive from Transport for London on my old diesel and the new model doesn't run up any charges inside the ULEZ charging zone."

## Suppliers must change too

Peter believes there are plenty of easy ways for traders to make their premises more eco-friendly, including the LED lighting and the degradable bags that he uses, but says there are still limits on the progress they can make. "I have a choice to wrap my fish in paper," he says, "but for grocers, for example, so much produce arrives already wrapped in plastic. For them it's harder to bring about changes. The pressure really has to be put further up the chain to get the suppliers to change their ways." *What are you doing to make your home or business more eco-friendly? Get in touch with us by emailing [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk) or leave a message for free at 0800 612 0748.*



Biodegradable: Peter Barnett uses paper and degradable plastic bags to wrap the seafood he sells. Photo Mike Coles

# Recycling project seeks its first drop-off locations

By David Melsome

**Last month on our front page we reported on the launch of Bin There, Donate That, the East Finchley project that aims to find places other than the bin for all unwanted or unsellable items in our homes.**

The plan is for dozens of local shops and businesses to become places for residents to donate items that can then be upcycled, re-used and recycled.

Organisers Emma Frampton and Isabella Barbara say they have been delighted to receive supportive messages, suggestions of ideas and offers of help via the [bintheredonate@gmail.com](mailto:bintheredonate@gmail.com) email as well as via comments on the East Finchley Community and Sustainability Facebook groups (Facebook.com/groups/EastFinchleySustainability and Facebook.com/groups/EastFinchley).

Their inaugural project meeting was held on Tuesday 9 November, with those who attended offering to volunteer, and they hope to have the first collection boxes in shops very soon, with information on locations posted on their website at [bintheredonatethat.wixsite.com/reuse](http://bintheredonatethat.wixsite.com/reuse).

## More volunteers needed

Emma said: "This is not a project which goes from little to fully functioning in one go. Our next steps are to have a few fully functioning drop-off and collection points set up. "For this to work, we really need shops to offer their premises as



Bin there: Emma Frampton and Isabella Barbara are appealing for donating points. Photo Mike Coles

potential donation spots and for volunteers to come on board to help with research, collections and leafleting."

Emma and Isabella are also hoping they can find a volunteer to give advice on their website and running social media.

The project's next meeting will be in the week beginning Monday 6 December. Email [bintheredonatethat@gmail.com](mailto:bintheredonatethat@gmail.com) for final details.

## Christmas wrapping

**Have you bought meat from the butcher in Budgens in the High Road recently and did you notice it came in wax lined paper?**

Huge congratulations Budgens, for giving East Finchley the opportunity to be able to buy meat with no plastic packaging whatsoever," said Ann Inglis, of No2PlasticsN2. "Do take advantage."

The No2PlasticsN2 group also welcomes anyone getting in touch with concerns or reasons to celebrate regarding plastic usage in East Finchley. Find out more and get in touch via [www.no2plasticsn2.com](http://www.no2plasticsn2.com)

## Eco United

Emma Frampton, Peter Barnett and Maxine Klein of No2PlasticsN2 will be amongst the speakers at N2United's upcoming sustainability-themed open meeting on 13th January 2022. See page 11.

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