



Ten years add up for tax firm

By Nick Allan

TaxAssistAccountants celebrates a decade on the High Road next month. East Finchley residents Drazen and Alex Coric originally ran the practice from Islington and had to wait for many years before being able to open in East Finchley.



Drazen Coric of Tax Assist. Photo Mike Coles

Their local base has proved particularly useful during the pandemic. Drazen said: "All of our staff have been working from home since March 2020 but Alex and I would always come to the office to maintain some sort of normal working day. Even though we could not see clients in the office, they always knew that we are here so they could drop off paperwork or call us for advice which they seemed to appreciate.

"It is great to be able to work within our local community and help small businesses and individuals with a range of services. This has seen us make new friends and acquaintances over our ten years and we feel even more rooted in East Finchley."

Looking forward to the next ten years, they offer a wide range of accountancy services including tax returns, annual accounts, payroll, VAT, bookkeeping and tax advice specifically tailored to small businesses and individuals, with an initial consultation free to all.

Coffee cups cannot be recycled

By Ann Inglis, of No2PlasticsN2

Starting to emerge from lockdown has shown us just what our vibrant High Road has added to our lives and will continue adding, sustained as it will be by a larger cross-section of society working from home.

It is much too early to ask anything of our shops. However we do want to update our shop window signs to ones that have our QR code and website details. Can you help us do that? Do contact us on www.no2plasticsn2.com/help-1.

Coffee cups

Cafés loom large in the lives of many of us. Many may be shocked to know that paper

coffee mugs are functionally unrecyclable, despite claiming the contrary. Their paper exteriors hide their plastic linings so they can't be recycled with paper waste and their tops, being totally plastic, need to be separated from the mugs.

Legislation

A Private Members Bill entitled the Plastic Pollution Bill, proposed by LibDem MP

Alistair Carmichael MP, is now going through the House of Commons. We will submit written evidence to the committee and lobby our local MP Mike Freer to speak on our behalf. Anyone can do that at <https://members.parliament.uk/member/4004/contact>. Your support can make a difference, particularly when so few Private Members Bills ever do become law.

N2United update: hopeful signs for local business

By Ruth Anders

Some impassioned views were expressed in early April when 22 people got together via Zoom to hear updates about community and businesses' activities at the monthly N2United meeting.

They heard uplifting reports about the East Finchley Food Project and Food Bank, alongside the news that no businesses have closed since the March meeting. Other positive updates included the move of the popular Local Café to Cup of Joy a little further north on the High Road and the imminent re-opening of Tony Mackie's fruit & veg stall at the tube station.

Chairman Nick Allan was particularly pleased to welcome a trio of councillors, Claire Farrier, Arjun Mittra and Alison Moore. These three work tirelessly on behalf of the community, covering a variety of concerns from cycle lanes and pot holes to the Market Place playground and Dementia Friends.

The future of the controversial cycle lanes is still uncertain, but lobbying will continue to

ensure the best possible outcome for both cyclists and local businesses.

Vehement discussion was prompted about the rising tide of local litter. Those attending the meeting agreed that direct action would need to be taken by residents and businesses if things were to improve and the conversation about this subject will continue.

May Zoom-in

With the hoped for further relaxation of lockdown restrictions, the meeting on 13 May will focus on Business Matters, and discuss the planned new Business Stimulation Campaign. So whether you represent a roadside retailer or an independent business working from home, please do join us on Zoom. For information about the May meeting and all things N2United, see n2united.co.uk

New dementia services aimed at carers too

A new hub for people living with mild-to-moderate memory issues and their carers has been launched by Age UK Barnet at its centre in East Finchley.

The Dementia Adviser Service will provide specialist advice and information and a link for the whole family to specialist support services, while activities and events will be offered at the Ann Owens

Centre in Oak Lane, N2.

To find out more about the Living Well services email info@ageukbarnet.org.uk or visit the Living Well page on www.ageuk.org.uk/barnet.

Letters

CCTV in The Causeway

Dear Editor,

Following on from your recent article about incidents in The Causeway (*The Archer*, April 2021), I have major concerns following press reports of a very concerning case of an attempted rape in an alleyway off The Causeway to a 15 year old schoolgirl back in October and also reports on the recent reported rise in street attacks on the young in this area. My daughter has just turned 16 and her natural walk home from the Tube is the back entrance of East Finchley tube through to Edmunds Walk, so of course this is a major concern for my family. As a regular user of the Tube I have always been concerned at the lack of CCTV in The Causeway and adjacent alleyways from the tube exit, and what staggers me is that the Council have spent money on cycle lanes that are hardly used, dangerously designed, take away valuable car parking from shoppers and have been a major hit to local trade, yet they've never invested in CCTV in this area, which is a very busy thoroughfare and much more of a priority. I have been advised that some budgets have now been allocated for CCTV; however the locations haven't been agreed yet, so I plead that the Council make The Causeway and adjacent alleyways a major priority and I'm sure I speak for many others. Surely it's time the Council takes responsibility for ensuring the safety of its residents as this is a well-known danger spot so it's hard to understand why no action has been taken yet to remedy these issues!

David Blakeney, Address supplied.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page" The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail news@the-archer.co.uk

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Simms and the RAC

Dear Editor,

I read with much interest the recent fascinating articles about the Simms factory in East Finchley (*The Archer*, February and April 2021), partly because they are local history, but also because Simms was a key person in the history of the car.

Not only was he a British mechanical engineer, businessman, prolific inventor and motor industry pioneer, but Simms coined the words 'petrol' and 'motorcar'. He founded the Royal Automobile Club (RAC), of which I have been a long-standing member, entirely on his own initiative and at his own expense.

I have sent copies of the articles to the Editor of the RAC magazine *Pell Mell & Woodcote*, who has told me that they have inspired him to research and publish a full article about Simms in the next edition of our magazine.

Nicolas Fenton, Address supplied.

Be a litter picker

Dear Editor,

We live in a lovely area, but few would disagree with my observation that the amount of litter around everywhere in parks, woods and streets has become horrendous in the past year. I don't see it as a malicious thing, just thoughtless and careless... and once litter is there, more appears, almost exponentially.

It would be so good if when you go out for a walk, you take gloves and a bag and collect a bagful as you go, and add it to your own dustbins. If we all did this the problem would improve. And if you see someone having an outdoor drink or picnic, or indeed dropping the waste that it generates, then maybe have a polite word to say that you hope they will take their own litter away. The majority will comply. After all, they have chosen to eat there and wouldn't do so if it were a tip.

Linda Dolata Leopold Road, N2.

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