



Test your local knowledge with our end-of-year quiz

Are you ready for your close-up?

Our fiendish festive quiz this year challenges you to recognise 12 well-known sights and landmarks around East Finchley... all pictured in extreme close-up.

Can you spot where our photographer Mike Coles has been taking his zoomed-in portraits. They may look familiar but they're not as easy as they first appear. All of them are inside the borders of N2 and many of them are on our most popular walking and driving routes. Perhaps you could organise a treasure hunt with family

and friends over the holiday period to find them all. It's just for fun this year so, sorry, no prizes, but send us your answers by Saturday 6 January and we'll give honourable mentions to all correct entries in our February edition, as well as revealing where every photo was taken. Email your answers to news@the-archer.co.uk. Good luck!

Repair shop hailed as one of the best in the world

By Ruth Anders

When the *Financial Times* ran an article in their 'sustainability special' in October listing the Best Repair Shops in the World, no one could have been more surprised to have his shop featured than the owner of our own Kokos, George Stavrou.

The list placed his High Road shoe shop alongside a variety of suppliers worldwide such as a watch repairer in Miami, a tailor in Paris and an upholsterer in New York. George told *The Archer*: "My son Chris kept getting these mails from the *FT* and we thought it was a scam. But they were just fact checking before confirming the award."

The shop that he took over in 1976, was originally called The East Finchley Boot Repairing Company. The present-day name Kokos is loosely based on his own name, "though no-one can pronounce it properly" laughs George.

Building relationships

"I worked round the clock at first," he added. "I used to see people going home from work, and then watch them coming back in the morning and I hadn't been to bed." Colin, the older man I worked with for almost 30 years, used to say 'George, stop talking to people, look at all this work piling up', but I was busy building relationships with customers."

George's father came to England from Cyprus in 1953, opening a shoe repair shop in Stroud Green in 1960. George remembers being given jobs in the shop from early childhood. "But I wanted to be a footballer," added George, who enjoyed coaching at both Crystal Palace and Tottenham Hotspur. As a teenager he attended Tottenham Tech where



Top of the world: George Stavrou behind the counter at Kokos.

Photo Mike Coles

he met his wife Maria.

He loves the East Finchley community who he says have been very supportive over the years. With Maria as the firm's accountant, son Chris as manager and George's other son, artist Alexander, having

designed the stork logo for the shop's online business "Send A Repair", it is in every sense a family concern. *The Archer* congratulates Kokos and the team ("all trained by me!" adds the irrepressible George) on a well-deserved accolade.

Christmas car boot

The last Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale of 2023 takes place on Saturday 16 December from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH.

Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. For information, call 020 8368 8180.

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