



# Business group gives valuable network links

By Margaret Crockett

**The flourishing East Finchley and Muswell Hill Business Networking Group has widened its reach by merging with a similar group covering Muswell Hill and Crouch End. Now convening on the first Wednesday of every month at the Village Green pub on Fortis Green Road, N10, a recent meeting welcomed more than 25 people and Facebook numbers are upwards of 750.**

When I attended the latest meeting on Wednesday 5 March, it could have been mistaken for friends gathering at the pub or colleagues unwinding with a drink at the end of the day. Those present included a dog behaviour specialist, a branding advisor, a personal travel agent and a creative writing teacher.

Members like the more social approach with meetings in the evenings, a relaxed atmosphere and lack of pressure to bring in business. They see the value of a support network: many run local small businesses and welcome the chance to share concerns and receive advice on common issues such as getting leads for work, managing workflows and coping with working from home.

Group leader Leigh Brown said: "Business networking can be very commercial, levying joining fees and annual subscriptions plus an expectation to find business for other members."

And he added that the content of more formal meetings aimed at providing content for members' money is often already known by or irrelevant to small businesses.

At the East Finchley and Muswell Hill group, it was clear from talking to members that they work together and support each other. One said that not unexpectedly the Group hasn't generated new business yet, since "it takes time to develop relationships and build trust".

Leigh and other group members are currently developing a magazine programme, called 'Business Seen', to provide exposure for businesses without a high street presence. Each programme will focus on three or four small businesses so those showcased can share and tap into the others' networks.

Message Leigh on **07940 464921** to find out more and join the Whatsapp group.



And cut! Gus, right, and long-time friend and colleague Louis have called time on their High Road business.

Photo John Lawrence

## Goodbye, Gus! Barber leaves his chair... after 46 years

By John Lawrence

**Loyal customers at Gus Gents Hair Stylist in the High Road, N2, were saddened to say goodbye last month to the man and his team who have run the salon since 1979. Gus, real name Costas Avraam, announced he was putting his scissors away for the last time after 46 years welcoming customers into his barber's chair.**

"Nobody can work forever," said the 78-year-old, who came to England from Cyprus in 1962 and started cutting hair in Holloway before buying that business off his boss.

He spent two years as a hairdresser at Disneyland in Los Angeles, where he has fond memories of holidaying in Las Vegas and seeing Elvis Presley live on stage twice, before returning to London in 1979 and setting up shop in East Finchley. In 2002, he moved a few doors down to his most

recent premises close to the junction with Kitchener Road.

### Six days a week

"I love my customers and I feel sorry to be leaving but what can you do?" Gus told *The Archer*. "This has been my life. I like talking with people, the days go by so quickly. But I've been working six days a week all my life and I don't see so well these days so my wife said maybe it's time to take it a bit easier. "I will miss the chat and the jokes.

It's always been a good business here. My customers are my friends and the young boys who came with their dads years ago are now dads themselves and bring their sons in for haircuts."

Gus has worked with fellow barber Louis since 1972 who will be calling it a day too. But Gus will keep his connections with East Finchley because he is renting the property to an uncle and nephew hairdressing team, who are planning refurbishments before opening under their own name.



## AWARD WINNING CARE

### Quality support in your own home

- Permanent or temporary care
- Fully trained and fully referenced team members
- 24-hour support from management team
- Dementia care
- All medical conditions supported
- Companionship
- Personal Care
- Support from one hour a week to live-in care

Call 020 3950 3273



[info@homecarepreferredbarnet.com](mailto:info@homecarepreferredbarnet.com)  
[www.homecarepreferred.com/barnet](http://www.homecarepreferred.com/barnet)

3C Galley House, Moon Lane, Barnet, EN5 5YL



Overall "GOOD" rating from the latest Care Quality Commission (CQC) report. Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. You may view the full report at [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)

## Movie music maestro scores double

By Katharine Murphy

**A musician who was recognised as a talented performer when he was just an 11-year-old pupil at Tetherdown Primary School in Muswell Hill has emerged from the entertainment awards season with a BAFTA and an Oscar.**

Daniel Blumberg won both Best Original Score honours for his work on *The Brutalist*, the three-and-a-half-hour epic starring Adrien Brody that tells the story of a Holocaust survivor who arrives in the New York of the 1940s to pursue the American dream.

His score has been widely praised for its emotional depth and innovation and cements his reputation as a groundbreaking composer and musician in the film industry.

### Gifted

Blumberg, who attended Tetherdown Primary School until 2002, first gained prominence as the lead singer of indie band Cajun Dance Party and later

alternative rock band Yuck. Since 2013, he has pursued a solo career, exploring avant-garde and experimental music, with much of his work developed through collaborations at Café Oto in Dalston.

Tetherdown headteacher Annie Ashraf expressed immense pride in Blumberg's achievements. She said: "Daniel was a student in my Year 6 class, where he consistently displayed exceptional creativity and talent. Even then, he stood out as a gifted performer, taking the lead in our end-of-year production with remarkable confidence, and reworking well-known songs with a natural flair for composition. A talented pianist,



Double winner: Daniel Blumberg he also played in many school assemblies.

"Watching his Oscar acceptance speech was striking—it revealed both vulnerability and a quiet steeliness, a combination I remember well from his school days. His family was deeply committed to the school, and their support played a key role in his journey. His Oscar win is a testament to his creativity and passion, qualities evident from a young age."