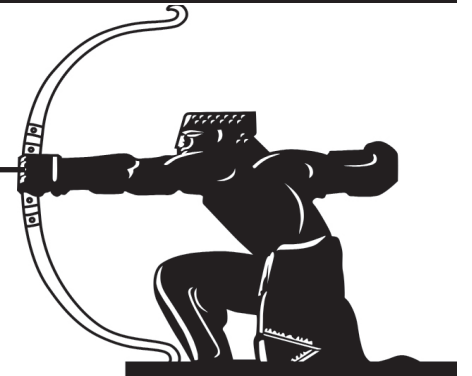


The Archer

Local News is our Aim



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Delivered free to 10,000 homes and businesses across East Finchley

Family salon fights against 54% rent rise

By Lynn Winton

A long-standing family business in East Finchley is facing an uncertain future after new landlords demanded a rent increase of 54%. Alban Trugu and his wife Eriona, who run The Retreat Hair and Beauty on Fortis Green, have launched an appeal to help them save their livelihood.



Appeal for help: Eriona and Alban Trugu in the salon they have run for 21 years

Hairdresser Alban and beauty therapist Eriona have run the salon for 21 years after taking over the premises from Roger Brown, who opened the original salon Roger of Finchley in the 1980s. They live in the heart of N2 and have brought up their three sons here, now students at The Archer Academy. When Roger, now 85, decided to sell the freehold of the building to raise funds to enhance his senior years, Alban put in an offer. However, Roger was advised to sell to a third party.

Rent review

Shortly after taking ownership, the new landlords, who are also N2 residents, carried out a rent review, resulting in Alban and Eriona's rent soaring by 54%. The couple say this is

impossible for them to afford. Alban told *The Archer*: "My wife and I already work six days a week, and if I just accepted this new rent demand I honestly cannot survive."

I find myself fighting for the future of my family." Alban has instructed a chartered surveyor to represent him, but the dispute has already lasted a year and it is looking likely that it will have to go to arbitration, which he has been advised could cost as much as £20,000, including a £5,000 arbitration fee.

Alban said he has no choice but to fight the rent increase if he wants to keep his business alive, and believes there is a larger principle at stake.

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Emma lifts for Britain

Weightlifter Emma Whiteman came away from a world championship contest with two surprise wins.

Find out how on page 4

Tell us the news

Have you got a news story or an interesting photo for us? Tell us what is going on in East Finchley by emailing news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a message on our free phone line 0800 612 0748. Thank you.

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East Finchley Office
 82 High Road, N2 9PN
 020 8883 0033

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