



Under threat: The Retreat hair and beauty salon in Fortis Green, N2

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He said: "If I don't do this, and my rent skyrockets, that's going to affect all my fellow traders in Fortis Green and beyond, as it will set a precedent for their rent reviews."

Crowdfunding appeal

In desperation, Alban and Eriona have launched a crowdfunding campaign to help them cover their arbitration costs. You can find out more by searching for 'Save The Retreat' at gofundme.com. *The Archer* spoke to original owner Roger Brown, who many local people remember with

affection. He told us: "Alban is the best tenant you could ever wish for. We never had a cross word in all those years. There was no need, he kept the salon immaculate, always investing in upgrading the premises, and never a day late with the rent. I wanted to safeguard his living. 'Alban made a formal offer for the full asking price, but I was guided to take this other, lower offer. I feel so sorry about it now that he's in this nightmare situation.'"

The Archer has contacted the new landlords to give them an opportunity to respond but has had no reply.

Age well and stay connected

Age UK Barnet has announced the return of its flagship Silver Sunday event on Sunday 5 October. Now in its 13th year, Silver Sunday is a national day of activities designed to celebrate older people and this year in particular highlights the importance of staying socially connected to tackle loneliness and isolation.

Helen Newman, Chief Executive of Age UK Barnet said: "Last year, over 700 people joined us, making it not only the largest Silver Sunday celebration in the country but also the biggest event for older people in Barnet."

There will be live music and dance performances, a disco, creative workshops, health checks, and advice sessions on topics such as making a will and probate. There will also be a talk on the power of social connections by cognitive neuroscientist Professor Catherine Loveday, plus refreshments and a light lunch.

"Silver Sunday is a wonderful reminder that older people are a vibrant, essential part of our communities," said Helen. "It's about coming together, making new friends, trying something different - and

above all, feeling valued and celebrated."

The event takes place at Middlesex University, The Burroughs, NW4 4BT, on Sunday 5 October from 11am to 3pm. For more information contact Salima Jiwa at Age UK Barnet on salima.jiwa@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call her on 07503 353157.

Find a London walking route

Transport for London has published a series of walking maps that show the times and distances between stations for anyone travelling on foot. Shops, amenities and major attractions are also shown. The downloadable maps are available at tfl.gov.uk/modes/walking/



Handmade: The stunning Lancaster bomber model was created by Linda's father Edmund, right

An heirloom from the troubled days of war

With VJ Day last month and Battle of Britain Memorial Day this month, many memories of the Second World War are being unearthed. One special memento was handed down to Linda Dolata, of Leopold Road, N2, as Diana Cormack reports.

When the Second World War ended in 1945, thousands of military personnel who had come to Britain to join our troops were able to return to their homelands to take up their lives again. Not so for those from Poland, where the Russians had imposed Communist rule, causing many brave Polish citizens to stay where they were.

One of these was Edmund Dolata, from Gniezno, North West Poland, who, at the age of 24 had found his way to England as part of the Polish Air Force. En route he had escaped from internment on the Romanian border, then managed to make his way to Malta from where he reached Marseille.

After serving with the French Air Force he came to England in 1939 to join the Polish Free Forces. He trained as ground crew with Polish Bomber Squadron 300 based in Lincolnshire, supporting the Halifax, Wellington and Lancaster aeroplanes.

Demobbed in 1946, he found engineering work with British Rail. Some three years later he met and married Eileen, an Irish nurse and they set up home in Highgate, the house deposit coming from money

he made selling homemade Christmas cards to Lincolnshire farms in the late 1940s.

Next generation

They spent their old age in Heath View Close, East Finchley. This was not far from their daughter Linda, who is now about to pass on an heirloom from her father to the next generation.

Whilst the bombers they maintained were on missions, some airmen occupied themselves making models from the cockpit Perspex of crashed aircraft. Edmund meticulously made an exquisite model Lancaster, which Linda believes to be unique.

Prior to handing it down to younger family members, Linda had some damage carefully repaired by Talbot Designs Ltd on Long Lane, N3, so the 80-year-old model looks as

good as ever.

Coincidentally, for this year's VE Day celebrations, I brought out a Perspex copy of the RAF badge which my father presented to my WAAF mother before they married during the war.

Linda Dolata also told *The Archer*: "When on the run my father stole a hat from a shop in Romania because he was conspicuous without one. He felt guilty all his life. My boyfriend Kevin is presently cycling and camping for months in rural Romania and has donated a decent sum of money from me to a poor village church to cover the cost of the theft."

Do you have any wartime mementos of your own. Please let The Archer by emailing news@the-archer.co.uk or leaving a message on our free phone line 0800 612 0748.

Power on for a new term at friendly computer club

Term is about to start again at the Five Bells Computer Club, providing free and friendly help with smartphones, laptops and tablets thanks to further funding from the National Lottery Community Fund. One-to-one drop-in sessions start at the Five Bells Pub on East End Road, N2, on Tuesday 16 September between 2pm and 4pm. There will also be

classroom-style digital skills workshops at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, on Thursday mornings from 10am to 12.30pm. The workshops are free to participants, but booking is essential as numbers are limited. For information and bookings, email: fivebells.computerclub@gmail.com

Car boot sale date

The monthly Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 27 September from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For information, call 020 8368 8180.