Jeweller finds light out of the darkness

By David Melsome

When Aneesa Janering started her own business making beautiful glass jewellery, she was in a very dark place, suffering from severe post-partum depression and sleep deprivation. Her husband Hugo told her: "Make something with your hands, you love to create and you need to be creative to get through this."

That's when Aneesa set up The Eighth Hour Studio from her home in East Finchley… and just over a year later she has been shortlisted as a 2026 finalist for Best Home-Based Business at the UK Small Business Awards.

"When I moved to East Finchley eight years ago, I immediately knew I had found a remarkably supportive and vibrant community," says Aneesa. "Over the years, connecting with locals as an active stallholder at local markets and attending the East Finchley Festival four years in a row has deeply rooted me in this neighbourhood.

"East Finchley is a place I truly love and am incredibly proud to call home. That is why I was completely overwhelmed to receive the news that my company has been shortlisted. I have the distinct honour of representing East Finchley on this national stage. "The Eighth Hour Studio is now more thanjust a home business, it is a testament to the resilience we hold within ourselves. My deepest hope is that this platform and this nomination serve to empower other women." Aneesa moved to the UK from



Aneesa Janering

Canada 10 years ago and to East Finchley two years later. Hugo and his family have lived in N2 since the late 1970s.

The UK Small Business Awards encompass a range of categories to bring recognition to people starting out or thriving in commerce and services. Winners will be announced in December.



Aneesa's glass jewellery





Archery queen: Maggie Woolf during the afternoon of celebration at the Aquarius Club. Photo Geoffrey Davies

Maggie still on target after five decades

By Geoffrey Davies

Archers and their friends from across the UK and Europe came together at the end of September at the Aquarius archery club on the covered reservoir in Southern Road, N2, to pay tribute to the 50-year commitment of one woman.

Maggie Woolf joined Aquarius in 1976 along with her husband Alan Lake. Both were heavily involved in running the club as coaches and later Maggie became a celebrity not only as a prolific archer in her own right but also as a national judge.

She played a significant role in securing the 2012 Olympics for London, though her biggest legacy is her decades of encouraging young participants to try the sport.

Ever the renegade, people tell stories of 'Maggie's Rules' which, when official competitions had ended, allowed the youngsters to use water pistols and pull silly faces to distract other competitors.

While she thought she might have to give up the sport when she became pregnant, she in fact continued and coached not only her husband who made the British Field Team, but also made a name teaching disabled archers in Edgware.

Maggie has taught archery in dozens of schools across London, including Tetherdown in Muswell Hill and Queen Elizabeth Girls School in Barnet, and advised on several BBC programmes for children. "Learning archery when you are young is a great thing," says Maggie. "It is a relaxation from school and exams and teaches discipline and precision. It tends to appeal to those who play



Maggie Woolf's celebration cake Photo Geoffrey Davies

chess."

In 2020 Maggie was awarded The Silver Plaquette by Archery GB, the UK's governing body, in recognition of her decades-long judging and coaching career, specifically highlighting her profound impact on young, disabled and upcoming grassroots archers.

Events during the celebration afternoon included a competition to burst balloons on a target and the opportunity for visitors to try their hand. "The first arrow you shoot is perfect, because you are doing what you are told," says Maggie. "After that you need to be reminded."

Aquarius is one of the few clubs still running in North London with outdoor shooting, as rising rents and land development have reduced access. Aquarius also offers indoor shooting in the winter at the Army Reserve Centre in Barnet.

From The Archer archives…

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago: November 2016

The Finchley Society were instrumental in the placing of a blue plaque and information board at the site in Granville Road, N12, where Joseph Grimaldi once lived. Grimaldi, 1779-1837, was a hugely popular clown and pantomime performer, who spent much of his career in Drury Lane, Covent Garden and Sadler's Wells. He bought Tippity Cottage at Fallow Corner and lived there with his family for several years.

15 years ago: November 2011

All Saints' Church in Durham Road marked its centenary with a Solemn Pontifical Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Edmonton, The Right Reverend Peter Wheatley assisted by, amongst others, All Saints' vicar Father Christopher Hardy. Alongside the celebratory service, the church hall hosted the annual East Finchley Art Festival's art exhibition, which was much admired by the congregation.

25 years ago: November 2001

Following repeated requests by two local teenagers, Mehmood Ghazanfar, director of Pacey's Newsagent, made the brave decision to allow them to cover his shop's security shutter with graffiti art. After being shown examples of the boys' work beforehand he said "Personally, I think it's a good idea. Instead of having something silly on your shutter, you can have something done properly."