

Angel

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Islington's Ms

Dynamite

back with
a bang

How The Barbican
will celebrate its
30th birthday

Mark Hix beefs up
St Patrick's Day

Does Bloomsbury's
New College of
Humanities deserve
such opposition?

angelmagazine.co.uk
Avon House, 5th Floor, Kensington Village,
Avonmore Road, W14 8TS
020 7605 2200

Publishing Director Sharon Kirby
sharon.kirby@archant.co.uk 020 7605 2203

Editorial
Editor Mark Kebble mark.kebble@archant.co.uk
020 7605 2270
Editorial Assistant Catherine McCabe
catherine.mccabe@archant.co.uk
Group Design Editor Steve Bodycomb
Editorial Design Tom Miller
Trainee Designer Richard Wyatt

Advertising
Advertising Manager Abigail Reeve
abigail.reeve@archant.co.uk
020 7605 2264
Field Sales Executives Andrew Bracey,
Vanessa Holland
Telesales Executive George Garnish
Head of Classifieds & Business Development
Director Heather Jones-Hughes
Property Executive Emily Saunderson

Design & Production
Advertisement Design and Support provided
by Archant Production Services

Archant London
Managing Director Will Hattam
Editorial Director Bob Crawley
Head of Communication Steve Fenton

Print & Distribution
Printing Headley Brothers Distribution Regal
Logistics Manager Ryan Michael
ryan.michael@archant.co.uk 020 7605 2262
Distribution Queries 0800 389 2682
distributionqueries@archant.co.uk

Enquiries
Customer Services londoncustomerservices@
archant.co.uk
Subscription 020 7605 2206
Advertising 020 7605 2245
Editorial 020 7605 2273
Switchboard 020 7605 2200
Facsimile 020 7605 2201

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LOCAL LIFE

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The number 30 takes centre stage as the Barbican Centre reaches a milestone anniversary and Ms Dynamite returns to the music scene – and both combine majestically

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Editor's WELCOME

The number 30 is playing on my mind this month. Considering how great she looks on the cover, I can't believe Ms Dynamite has reached the big 3-0 – but clearly motherhood works very well for her. She's a part of the Barbican Centre's 30th anniversary celebrations in March, so we've produced a special combining the two.

Much, much older than both of the above is Upper Street's Screen on the Green. When I first started working on Angel a decade ago, the cinema was one of the first things I ever covered and it's a joy to see it still flourishing. So when our columnist Rosie Millard suggested it would be an ideal topic for her already popular column (she has been stopped at the side of a swimming pool to discuss Clive Anderson walking his dog), I didn't need to be asked twice. After all, it is Quentin Tarantino's favourite cinema.

The foodie scene in these parts has always been second to none, perfectly highlighted by the diversity we cover within these pages. First we have Tom Parker Bowles bigging up the British food offerings in the area, namechecking Mark Hix as one champion, who in turn bigs up Irish beef to mark St Patrick's Day. We then venture 'overseas' to see the impact Jamie Oliver has had on the area, before ending it all back in Stoke Newington and the irrepressible Aggie MacKenzie. Perfect timing for the return of the London Lifestyle Awards in Angel – get online and start nominating our foodie gems.

Oh, and the other '30' related theme for this month? It's my 33rd birthday... Damn.



Mark Kebble
Editor



Ms Dynamite
Photographed by
Alex Lake

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The Italian charm wins us over this month as we visit Jamie's latest and try out one of his protégé's offerings in Highbury

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A new era?

A C Grayling's New College of Humanities is certainly causing a stir, so Emily Paine meets up with lecturer Suzannah Lipscomb to see what the fuss is all about



If you watch history programmes on a regular basis, or if you are a man with the requisite knowledge of television presenters and their attractiveness, what happened to me in the British Library probably wouldn't happen to you. I'll confess, I was probably being a hundred types of -ist (Ageist? Sexist? Who knows) and entirely politically incorrect, in my vague assumption that I was on the lookout for someone a bit older, someone... Well without going into exactly what I was expecting, I wasn't expecting someone who looked like Kelly Brook's blonde sister, with matching smile and infectious enthusiasm.

Just to clarify, it's also abundantly clear within the first minute and a half that Suzannah Lipscomb has a brain the size of a planet.

She has a book on Tudor England coming out next month and, come October, she will be joining the likes of A C Grayling and Richard Dawkins as a lecturer at the New College of Humanities, the brand new private university and brainchild of Grayling that has caused so much controversy and vitriol you'd be forgiven for thinking it was a pioneering, state-sponsored eugenics programme rather than an institution intending to provide an alternative means of top quality higher education at no cost to the tax payer.

Without even taking into account that it's got Professor Grayling and Richard Dawkins already in the bag, the New College of Humanities (NCH) has some great things coming. The set up already sounds, as it's intended to, as the higher education of dreams. Says Suzannah of joining: "I felt that it would be very exciting to work in something new that was developing a new way to educate students that would really satisfy them. We do one-to-one tutorials as well as small group tutorials and I think that's a brilliant way to teach, a brilliant way to learn – there's nowhere to hide."

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It is going to be an elite institution, but it's not exclusive
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Some of NCH's detractors have wrong-headedly been huffing and puffing about the fact that NCH does not have university status and is thus unable to award degrees – the first statement is true, the latter not so. Places seeking university status are in a Catch 22 situation where they can only award degrees if they've already been awarding them for a few years – so NCH has attached itself for this purpose to the University of London and students will graduate with a University of London External Programmes Degree for the 12 modules they study in their subject, as well as earning an NCH diploma, in acknowledgement of the fact that they basically did a degree and a half.

It has, inevitably, also attracted criticisms of elitism. "I think the terminology is important," says Suzannah decisively.

"It is going to be an elite institution, but it's not exclusive. We're hoping to produce people who are of the elite in terms of their minds, but we are taking people from a wide range of backgrounds."

NCH students will not be lacking extra-curricular activities either – with accommodation in Bloomsbury and the whole of London as their campus.

"You know, there's theatre, galleries, museums, talks, music, clubbing and bars obviously, and," indicating around her at our gorgeous surroundings, "The British Library!" she smiles. }

Find out more at nchum.org

Suzannah Lipscomb is one of the fabulous range of tutors being lined up at the New College of Humanities