

# Angel

MARCH 2012  
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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?

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# Editor's WELCOME

**T**he 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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Market comment and a special look at fabulous homes in Islington

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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



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

**I**f 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](http://nchum.org)