

It's a real stroke of luck for under 16s at two swim pools

FREE swimming for under 16s throughout August is to be introduced at two borough pools.

The joint initiative, funded by NHS Hammersmith & Fulham and supported by the council, is available at both the Phoenix Fitness Centre in Bloemfontein Road and Fulham Pools in Lillie Road.

A free swimming application form is available from schools, libraries, children's centres and leisure centres. All you need to do is fill it in and return it to one of the leisure centres, together with a £1 registration fee.

You can call Fulham Pools on 020 7471 0450 or Phoenix Fitness Centre on 020 8735 4900.

Brothers robbed wealthy women

A FULHAM man and his brother have been convicted of a string of vicious robberies around affluent parts of London, including Fulham.

Daniel Junior Mykoo, 28, of Fulham Court, pleaded guilty to 19 robberies and two motor vehicle offences, at Wood Green Crown Court. His brother Matthew Jonathan Mykoo, 27, of Windsor Road, NW2, was convicted of committing seven robberies and pleaded guilty to a further two attacks.

The court heard that the pair mainly targeted lone females in wealthy areas, with Daniel strangling the victim from behind while Matthew stole their jewellery, watches and handbags.

The chain of attacks, between March and June last year, included three in Fulham, in Bishops Park Road, Cristowe Road and Mimosa Street.

The brothers are due to be sentenced at Wood Green Crown Court on July 23 and 24.

Nightclub bosses Havana-nother go

A FULHAM nightclub once infamous for its drunken patrons has cleaned up its act enough to keep its licence.

The Metropolitan Police called for a licence review of Havana Fiesta on Fulham Road in June last year, and its hours were stripped back to 11pm.

However, the Latin bar lodged an appeal and used the last year to make dramatic changes, spurred on by the review.

The number of complaints about Havana's has since dramatically dropped.

An agreement has now been drawn up between Havana's and H&F Council that allows the club to stay open at its old hours, until 2am, though with extra licensing conditions.

TV listings for BBC's famous Wood Lane buildings

BBC Television Centre has been made a Grade II-listed building.

The central ring and the famous Studio 1 at the Wood Lane complex have been listed because of their architectural and historical significance, as it was the first purpose-built TV centre in the country.

The announcement was made by Andy Burnham, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, on July 9,

following a campaign led by English Heritage.

Hammersmith & Fulham Council, which feared the history of the BBC would be lost when staff move out in 2012, has welcomed the news.

The listed areas have important 1950s design and architectural features as well as a mosaic by prolific artist John Piper, a gilded sculpture of the Greek sun god Helios and the well-known studded

wall, with its circular discs.

H&F cabinet member Mark Loveday said: "The BBC has been part of this borough's heritage for well over 50 years, even before Television Centre was built.

"We are thrilled that these important cultural buildings, which are architecturally and historically significant, will now be preserved for future generations to see and enjoy."

The announcement means that any major demolition work or plans to alter existing brickwork, doors, windows or the interior of the 48-year-old building will need approval from H&F Council.

Television Centre is already on the local register of buildings of merit and stands in the Wood Lane Conservation Area, designated by the council in March 1991.

Delyth Bowen



LISTED: BBC TV Centre

Son of Fulham legend makes emotional trip

► 89-year-old birthday boy was actually born inside the famous Craven Cottage
► His dad, Alec Chaplain, was one of the all-time greats from a golden era

CAROLINE BUTCHER

EIGHTY years have passed, but Peter Chaplain still remembers sitting in the best seat at Craven Cottage.

The octogenarian, the son of 1920s Fulham football legend Alec Chaplain, was actually born in the famous cottage, and has early memories of clambering up to the director's balcony with his brother and three sisters to watch his father play.

Peter returned to his birthplace on July 11 to honour his father and ancestors and celebrate his 89th birthday, inviting his extended family to join him.

"I'm not celebrating for me personally, it's because of my ancestors," he told *h&f news* just before the shindig.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the family and being introduced to a lot of them as 90 per cent I've not met before! It's an occasion I'll never have again."

Fulham signed Alec Chaplain shortly before Peter's birth on July 9, 1920, and let the family, who had previously lived in Scotland, move into Craven Cottage.

They lived there 11 years before moving to first North End Road then Fulham Palace Road. Peter only returned to his famous birthplace in May last year.

"A friend got in touch with Fulham,

told them who I was, and said I hadn't been to the cottage in 80 years," he said.

"So they put my name in their next programme, I went along to see a match and had a wonderful time. It was the day Fulham played Birmingham.

"I went into the cottage, but I wasn't able to go upstairs to the balcony because the match had just finished.

"I remember they used to have huge baths, and after the game they all jumped in. They're all gone now and they have showers instead."

A week after Peter's visit, his nephew, Donald Chaplain, arranged for Peter to meet his long-lost sister Jean.

"When I got married I moved down to Bognor and drifted away from the rest of the family," he said. "Jean lives in Shepherds Bush and I had not seen her for 50 years. It was rather strange when we first met, but I knew her instantly because she was the spitting image of my mother."

Last Saturday's birthday celebration marked the second reunion for Peter and Jean, and Peter said he was determined to pass on the story of his maternal grandfather, Peter Hair, and his famous father Alec to Jean's side of the family during the party.

"My wife and I didn't have any children so I'm the last of the Peter Hairs," he said. "I'm turning 89 and I'm not going to last forever, so I want to tell them the story of my ancestors."

Despite suffering a stroke 11 years ago, Peter is still an avid Fulham fan and watches their matches on television.

"I'm not able to get about much but I do like to watch them play," he said.



OH BROTHER: Peter Chaplain celebrates his 89th birthday at his birthplace, Fulham FC, after being reunited with his sister, Jean Conroy
PICTURE BY LEIGH QUINNELL

School crossing to be improved

ROB MANSFIELD

A PELICAN crossing outside a popular primary school is being upgraded after the council acted on a petition from worried parents.

Parents of children at St Stephen's School in Shepherds Bush handed in a petition of more than 300 names to H&F Council last month.

The petition called for a range of safety enhancements to the busy crossing and the council has acted speedily to tackle residents' concerns.

The petition was raised after two

children were involved in near misses with dangerous drivers outside the school. In one incident an impatient motorist undertook a car that was waiting for children to finish crossing the busy Uxbridge Road and grazed one of them before speeding off.

Neither of the children was seriously harmed in either of the two incidents last May, but the council was concerned enough to make changes to the crossing.

Timings on the traffic lights have been changed to give pedestrians more time to cross. The council has also replaced the old road signs with the

latest 'retro-reflective' versions to make the crossing more obvious to drivers.

The council is also lobbying Transport for London (TfL) to persuade it to upgrade the pelican crossing to a puffin crossing. Puffin crossings are equipped with smart sensors that hold traffic at a red light until all the pedestrians have crossed.

H&F Council deputy leader Nick Botterill said: "Although this crossing previously had a good safety record, the council is keen to make it safer still.

"We take road safety very seriously and have improved the signage at this

crossing. We are also lobbying TfL to upgrade the pelican crossing to a puffin crossing and expect this to be completed before the end of this financial year."

The council considered employing a lollipop person at the crossing but decided against the move after transport experts argued that it could be counterproductive and make the crossing more dangerous.

Evidence shows that such a move could compromise safety as drivers can become confused and frustrated when traffic lights are green but the road is blocked by a lollipop person.