

Prince Harry and William in Bush Hall raunch visit

PRINCES William and Harry got into the Christmas spirit with a raunchy night out in Shepherds Bush.

The pair knocked back cocktails with friends at the £70-a-head Medium Rare show in Bush Hall last month.

They enjoyed performances from American erotic dancers, the Wau Wau sisters, who writhed in skimpy hot pants from trapezes, as well as feather-clad French dancer La Galu, who toned down her act to spare royal blushes.

A venue spokeswoman said it was the first time the princes had visited the club.

Burns night is cash bash

PARTYGOERS can enjoy a Burns Night supper and Ceilidh at a Hammersmith school's fundraising bash on January 26.

Dave 'Bagpipes' Brooks and Sham Rock Band will provide entertainment in St Philip's Hall at the London Oratory School, Seagrave Road, in aid of the Chamber Choir Tour Fund.

Tickets for the 7pm-midnight event, costing £25, are available from the school's development office on 020 7381 7648.

Wheely good for cyclists

THE borough is to get more cycle lanes as part of a £5.1million boost to transport.

Improvements earmarked for the Transport for London (TfL) cash in Hammersmith and Fulham include a £725,000 investment in better cycling facilities and £200,000 for 20mph zones.

A further £870,000 will be spent on strengthening the bridge on Hammersmith Road above the District Line, while £100,000 will be used to improve Fulham town centre.

Theatre visit raises curtain

YOUNGSTERS got a behind-the-scenes peek at the Lyric Hammersmith during a workshop showcasing careers in theatre.

Participants tried their hand at everything from lighting and set design to marketing and management at the one-day event, attended by culture minister Margaret Hodge.

The workshop was part of the Art Council England's Open Doors initiative, which invited young people to 24 theatres nationwide during November and December.

More buses for White City

RESIDENTS can have their say on new bus routes in White City.

London Buses proposes to extend eight routes and redirect two others to serve the new bus station on the east side of Wood Lane, near the Hammersmith & City Line.

Proposed changes affect routes 31, 49, C1, 95, 272, 148, 207, 237, 260 and 607. Respond by January 25 by visiting: www.tfl.gov.uk or fill out the reply card delivered to households, or call London Buses on 0845 300 7000 or email: customerservices.buses@tfl.gov.uk.

'POOL PAINTER IS MAN ABOUT TOWN



STEADY HAND: Ben Johnson in front of his giant portrait of Liverpool in his Hammersmith studio

PICTURE BY FERGUS BURNETT

► **Unflinching artist makes Merseyside come alive with massive work in minute detail but no people**

BY GEOFF COWART

SURROUNDED by a team of four draftsmen and tables chock full of meticulously numbered and labeled paint pots sits the artist Ben Johnson.

He's perched calmly in front of his massive painting of the heart of Liverpool, rendered with a precision that would make Da Vinci jealous.

This month, the 61-year-old father-of-two is packing up his Hammersmith studio and

shipping his team to the Walker Art Gallery in Merseyside where he will complete the epic canvas in full view of the public.

This year, Liverpool becomes the European Capital of Culture and the Walker has commissioned Ben's work to get the city's inhabitants to focus on its rich, but ever-changing, legacy.

"I'm finishing this painting in public to get the people of Liverpool to use it as a platform to reflect on their city," says Ben, talking to *h&f news* from his spotlessly clean studio near King Street. "But I have

not included the people, the decay, the dog mess or the poverty. That's not the point."

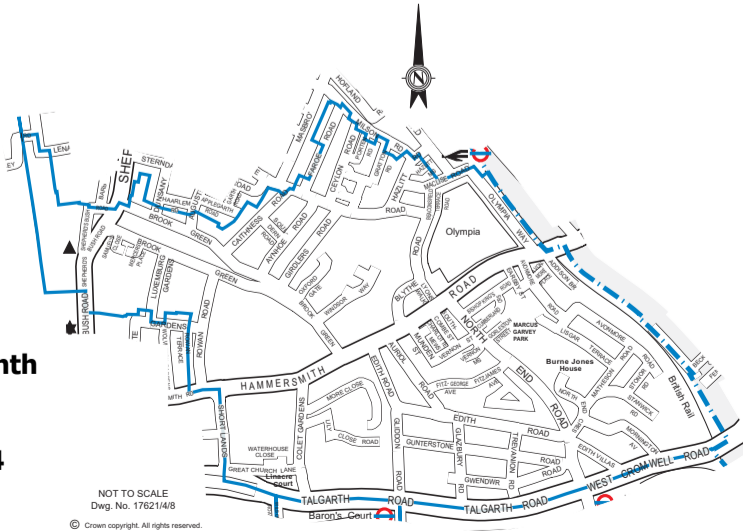
The dapper former Royal College of Art student and Hammersmith resident added: "I believe where we live is very important. Our surroundings and our memories are very visual, and cities such as London and Liverpool change just like our lives."

Ben says the wall-size work, painstakingly drawn, traced and rendered from thousands of photos taken of the city over the past three years, will be completed in March and ready for display.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Your local councillors are:

AVONMORE & BROOK GREEN WARD



SURGERY DETAILS:
1st Saturday of each month
10.00 - 11.00am
Barons Court Library
North End Crescent, W14

For information about councillors in other parts of the borough, please visit: www.lbhf.gov.uk



Councillor Will Bethell
Conservative
Hammersmith Town Hall
King Street
W6 9JU
will.bethell@lbhf.gov.uk



Councillor Robert Iggulden
Conservative
Hammersmith Town Hall
King Street
W6 9JU
robert.iggulden@lbhf.gov.uk



Councillor Alexandra Robson
Conservative
Hammersmith Town Hall
King Street
W6 9JU
alexandra.robson@lbhf.gov.uk

THE FUTURE IS LOOKING GREEN

► Now residents are asked to comment on daring new plans for the Common

BY GEOFF COWART

THESE are the first exciting pictures showing the dramatic new look of Shepherds Bush Common.

As we reported in the December edition of *h&f news*, Hammersmith & Fulham Council has appointed a design team led by landscape architects Whitelaw Turkington to redesign the Green.

The council has set-aside £3.3million for the dramatic improvements, with work scheduled to start in 2009.

These images, published for the first time by your *h&f news*, show the designer's first sketches of what the Common is proposed to look like when completed.

Meanwhile, an updated set of designs will go on display from January 23-29 at the West 12 shopping centre in The Broadway, Shepherds Bush.

The designers have already consulted some members of the



public, but now they want to hear from you.

To answer any questions you may have about the proposals, members of the design team and council officers will be on hand on Wednesday, January 23, from 9am-1pm, and Saturday, January 26, from 9am-1pm.

Questionnaires will be

available at the exhibition so you can let us know what you think.

If you can't see the plans in person, you can view the proposals by visiting: www.lbhf.gov.uk after January 21. The questionnaire can also be filled in online.

For more details about the proposals, call Steven Davies on 020 8753 3319.

GREEN LIGHT: Main image, Shepherds Bush Green will be transformed after a £3.3m investment. Inset right, two more new looks



We have unidentified containers which we have been storing for some years, containing the personal possessions of former council tenants.

We plan to dispose of these unless we can identify their legal owners.

We also have some containers which we have been storing for some years but cannot locate the owners who have the following surnames:

Donaghue, K. O'Hare, H. Rayner, J. Newman, R. Cullinane, H. Babiker.

If you have goods in storage with Hammersmith & Fulham Council and have not been in touch with us about them over the last six months, please call us on 020 8753 2267.