

# MUM'S THE WORD



By Gigi  
Eligoloff  
of Mums  
Rock

**I**T'S A funny old life being a mumpreneur. You're half stay-at-home-mum and half small-business-owner.

Either way you're underpaid, overworked and generally incapable of getting out of the door in anything more than a stained T-shirt, jeans and yesterday's mascara.

This morning I dropped K off at the wonderful day nursery that he attends two days a week. He adores his other life there, but it took a fair bit of scouting around to find it.

As I walked home it occurred to me that someone should launch a website where parents could rate their local nurseries so mums and dads could get that all-important word-of-mouth recommendation as well as the all-important Ofsted reports.

Then I remembered the 200 emails I had to answer for MumsRock. And the kitchen floor, which wasn't going to scrub itself.

Working around your children is something that was clearly sent to test the most patient among us.

For most dads, life is simpler: have a child, hang around the house for a few days making the right noises, offering to order takeaways (a lot) and then return to work with a HUGE sigh of relief. Mothers, especially those who have been so foolhardy (or brilliantly brave) to start their own businesses, have to combine the two.

And God help them if any part of the delicately positioned balancing act doesn't behave according to plan; chicken pox, school holidays, tax returns – and the whole mess lands in an angry heap around your feet.

But we wouldn't have it any other way. BK

(before kids) I had a cleaner, a retail habit (that wasn't confined to charity shops) and a social life. AK (after kids) I've got my own business, no help around the house

and four times as much washing.

And I'm not alone. In the neighbouring streets there's Clare, who invented the brilliant Trikidoo tricycle; Abby, who runs the recycled babywear site Beansprog; and Lulu who combines step-parenting with running the yummy Betty Blythe cafe.

And I suspect that's just the tip of the iceberg.

How do we do it? If I ever find out the answer, I'll let you know!



**BK (before kids) I had a cleaner, a retail habit and a social life**

Columnist Gigi Eligoloff is the co-founder of Mums Rock, a digital 'drop-in' site for all independently minded mums and dads. She lives in West Kensington. Visit: [www.mumsrock.com](http://www.mumsrock.com)

**MUMSROCK**

## From the Archives Ravenscourt Park

► Ravenscourt Park is a favourite with dog walkers and joggers, but until 1888 it had been in the hands of wealthy private owners, writes **Jane Kimber**

THE estate of Pallenswick, which was part of the manor of Fulham, is recorded in documents from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century onwards. It lay in open countryside between the present Goldhawk Road and King Street.

The estate included a large house in extensive grounds with a moat fed by the Stamford Brook.

One of the best-known tenants of the Pallenswick estate was the infamous Alice Perrers, the mistress of the elderly King Edward III.

Alice held the estate in the mid-1370s, but she had powerful enemies and was eventually stripped of her properties by Parliament.

Later owners included prominent City merchants, lawyers or officers of state.

In 1746 the estate was bought by Thomas Corbett, Secretary to the Admiralty. He made improvements and largely rebuilt the house, which acquired the name of Ravenscourt, derived from the raven featured on his coat of arms.

In 1812 Ravenscourt



**A WALK IN THE PARK:** The public have been able to enjoy the scenery at Ravenscourt for more than 120 years

House and 60 acres surrounding it were sold to George Scott, for £15,000. Scott came from a wealthy family who owned property in central London, as well as brickfields in Hammersmith. He encouraged development by allowing the building of houses within the estate park and in the area of St Peter's Square.

Scott kept a close eye on the style of building by putting terms and conditions for the builders into the leases.

He was on the management committee

for the building of the first Hammersmith Bridge in 1827, contributed to the extension of the



**Scott's family owned property in central London and brickfields in Hammersmith**

Congregational Church, and also gave land for the building of St Peter's Church and schools.

Scott died in 1859, and after one further change of ownership Ravenscourt House and 30 acres of parkland were sold to the Metropolitan Board of Works, which opened the latter to the public in May 1888.

In 1933 memorial gates to Sir William Bull, MP for Hammersmith between 1900 and 1929, were unveiled at the southern end of the park.

The house was opened

as Hammersmith's first public library in March 1890. Its end came in 1941, when the building was so damaged by bombs that it had to be demolished. The stables survived and are now used as tea rooms.

● *Have you got a local history question? Email: [handfnews@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:handfnews@lbhf.gov.uk) and we will consider it for our From The Archives series.*

● *The H&F Archives and Local History Centre is open to the public and located at The Lilla Huset, 191 Talgarth Road, Hammersmith. For more details, call 020 8741 5159.*

## Your shout

# How I longed for greasy smell of North End Road



**BY DIGBY  
WARDE-ALDAM**

FOR all the stress that living in a city involves, there are things that we take for granted and tend to overlook in the polluted whirlwind of the urban day.

After three particularly stressful months of exams, arguments and

eating tinned tomatoes, last weekend I ventured outside the M25 for the first time since March, looking forward to a bit of peace and serenity in the idyllic countryside outside Haslemere, in West Sussex.

My flatmate and I set out from Waterloo, glad to be escaping the traffic and the weird, greasy smell that constantly hovers over the North End Road.

So far, so good, I thought, as I slipped into my disgustingly overpriced seat on the 14.15 Southwest Train service to Portsmouth Harbour.

Then I realised it was exactly a year since I met my girlfriend. Pleased with myself for remembering, I sent her a message. A reply, decidedly less enthusiastic than I had anticipated, followed several minutes later. I had failed to consider the possibility that my absence on our first anniversary could be interpreted as, well, a little neglectful.

I spent the rest of the journey

trying, unsuccessfully, to get hold of her on the phone.

On arrival our host picked us up in a battered old truck, and we drove to his family's pretty farmhouse. Almost as soon as we arrived, my flatmate had succeeded in attracting the hatred of another house guest. I, by association, was also blacklisted, but decided to ignore the issue by drinking as much champagne as I could lay my hands on.

I awoke the following morning feeling the worse for wear. From



**I had disgraced myself in front of a lot of people I hardly knew. And I was stuck with them...**

the window, I could see trees, fields, greenery... this wasn't natural. Where was I? How had I got here?

Slowly, memories, began to flicker back. I had disgraced myself in front of a lot of people I hardly knew. And I was stuck with them until we could get a lift to the station.

Time has rarely crawled by so slowly. My head hurt, everybody was staring at my sorry face, and I was fearing for the future of my relationship. Although we were only an hour's journey from home, we couldn't have felt more isolated.

The train pulled in at Waterloo at 6.24pm. I hopped off, and considered kissing the weathered ground of the city I had been so desperate to leave just 36 hours earlier, before, perhaps sensibly, deciding against it.

I walked home and conked out instantly. Waking up the next morning, that familiar greasy smell had never felt so good.

# Letters to the Editor

We want to hear from you! Send your letters to: h&f news, Hammersmith Town Hall, Room 6, London W6 9JU. Email: handfnews@lbhf.gov.uk  
 Fax: 020 8741 2685. The Editor reserves the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be considered but names and addresses can be withheld

## There used to be an EWS by pub in Seagrave Road

I WAS interested to read the letter in the last issue of *h&f news* about the old Emergency Water Supply (EWS) notice on one of the pillars at St Paul's School in Hammersmith Road.

People may be interested to know that until it was turned into a car park, there used to be an EWS in Seagrave Road, between the two entrances near the Atlas pub.

It was erected after the bombing brought down the homes opposite the pub.

Arthur Smith  
 Ongar Road  
 Fulham

## I believe Charing Cross is in the very best of health

RE: LOCATION of a local trauma centre for London.

I absolutely agree that Charing Cross is a fantastic hospital with very high standard of care, at the forefront of medical technology and lifesaving equipment.

My son was saved there at three and a half years old after falling under a car. I have just had a laparoscopy on my gall bladder and I cannot believe what a high standard the hospital is.

It is clean, friendly and has super nurses and consultants.

Ewa Sylwestrowicz  
 Via email

## My lovely local park needs your care and support

I LIVE in W14 0RR, Fitzjames Avenue. We have a little dog and I often take it for a walk in the Marcus Garvey Park (I think the name is correct – it is right behind the Cumberland Arms pub).

This park was designed to be a place where people can relax. It has a separate area for dogs.

Some pavement bricks have names of people who loved spending time in the park or meant something for the community. Next to the park there is a lovely school and a very nice pub.

However, this lovely and only park in the area is mostly occupied by drunken people or people who use drugs.

Every day I find empty bottles, suspicious small plastic bags and rubbish, sick, empty containers. Some dogs' owners are not bothered to clean after their pets, although the facilities are provided.

There is absolutely nothing done about it. I really have had enough now and in the mornings I put plastic gloves on and clean our lovely park.

I feel so embarrassed that someone has planted all these trees with so much love, and so many people enjoyed it over the years, and now it is ruined!

I can only do my fair share in maintaining this park, but it would be very nice if the council could get involved. It is simply too big for me to clean and I am working full time. The only time I can clean it is early morning while walking my dog.

Maybe it would be good to leave some plastic bags by the dogs' area so the owners have no excuse not to clean after their dogs? Or maybe it would be good to have

## WILLIAM MORRIS SOCIETY >>



**MUSEUM:** The basement of Kelmescott House, left, honours William Morris, below (from the Treasures Past and Present exhibition earlier this year, showing items from H&F Archives)

# Keeping memory of arts great alive

A GROUP based in Hammersmith which keeps alive the memory of one of the most intriguing figures of Victorian life has a wide range of events on offer this summer.

William Morris's talents ranged from poetry and politics to art and design, and he had very strong links to this borough.

The William Morris Society has a museum in the basement of Kelmescott House in Upper Mall, where he lived in the later years of his life.

The group's activities include:

- An architectural excursion to Ramsgate, Kent, August 5. Led by Joseph Mirwitch.

The buildings to visit include The Grange, AWN Pugin's house and chapel and St Augustine's Church, all by Pugin, and The Montefiore Synagogue, by David Mocatta. Coach departs outside the

Apollo, Hammersmith, at 9.15am and returns 7pm. Tickets: £29 members and concessions; £33 non-members. To book call 020 8 41 3735.

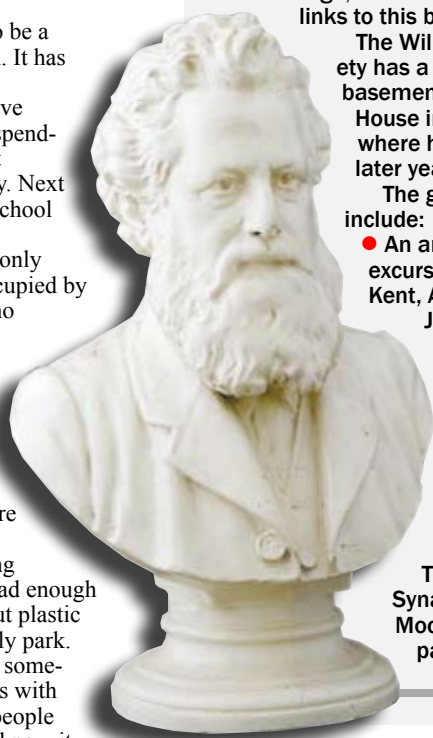
- Summer holiday family workshops. Bright and brilliant birds, August 18, 10.30am-noon. Hidden between the long grasses, the green leaves and the colourful flowers, Morris very often liked to plant a bird or two. Come and have a look at his designs, discover the many brilliant birds flying through his work and have some fun making your very own to hang in the garden. For ages 6+.

- Haiku with William Morris, August 18, 2-3.30pm. Haiku is an ancient Japanese form of poetry about nature. For ages 8+.

- Perfect paper flowers, September 1, 10.30am-noon. For ages 6+.

- Making Discoveries with Morris. Tuesday, September 1, 2-3.30pm. Armed with only a clipboard and magnifying glass, become explorers and take a journey through Morris's garden. You will need to stay alert and watchful to make your discoveries. Draw what you uncover, record what you see and then report back your fantastic findings. For ages 6+.

Booking required for all workshops. Call Helen Elletson on 020 8741 3735.



someone to clean the park properly at least once a week?

Olivia Eden  
 Via email

Reply from Cllr Paul Bristow, H&F cabinet member for residents' services

Dear Olivia  
 Many thanks for bringing these problems to

our attention and also for your hard work in keeping the park clean.

Only recently, I met local residents who presented me with a petition that called for improvements to be made to Marcus Garvey Park.

As a result, we are now working on an exciting programme that will see this park enhanced. Look out for further details over the coming months in *h&f news*.

## CONTACT THE COUNCIL

H&F DIRECT CENTRE: Open Monday-Friday 8am-8pm

COUNCIL TAX & BENEFITS	Email contact
Addresses beginning with	
A or B.....	AtoB@lbhf.gov.uk
C,D,E or F.....	CtoF@lbhf.gov.uk
G,H,I,J,K or L.....	GtoL@lbhf.gov.uk
M,N,O,P,Q or R.....	MtoR@lbhf.gov.uk
S to Z.....	StoZ@lbhf.gov.uk
Telephone number for all addresses to contact.....	0845 803 1020 (local rate)

Business rates.....	0845 803 1020 (local rate)
.....businessrates@lbhf.gov.uk	
Parking permits.....	0845 803 1020 (local rate)
CLEANER GREENER HOTLINE.....	020 8753 1100
Refuse collections, street cleaning, noise, dog fouling, flytipping, recycling, bulky waste collections, graffiti, abandoned cars.....	cleaner.greener@lbhf.gov.uk
ENVIRONMENT.....	020 8753 1081
Trading standards, environmental protection, pest control, building control, licensing, highways, planning applications and enquiries.....	environment@lbhf.gov.uk
GENERAL ENQUIRIES.....	020 8748 3020
.....information@lbhf.gov.uk	
TYPE TALK.....	0800 500 8888

EDUCATION	
Enquiries.....	020 8753 3625
Adult education.....	020 8600 9191
Student finance & awards.....	020 8753 1499
Family information service.....	0845 313 3933
Connexions One Stop Shop.....	020 8741 2441

LEISURE CENTRES	
Hammersmith Fitness & Squash.....	020 8741 8028
Lillie Road.....	020 7381 2183
Fulham Pools.....	020 7471 0450
Phoenix Fitness Centre.....	020 8735 4900

HOUSING MANAGEMENT SERVICES (H&F HOMES) AREA OFFICES:	
Hammersmith North.....	020 8753 4400
Fulham North.....	020 7385 3355
Fulham South.....	020 7386 6000
Hammersmith South.....	020 8753 4427
Service charges.....	020 8753 4015

COMMUNITY SERVICES HOUSING SERVICES	
H&F Home Buy (home ownership enquiries).....	020 8753 6464
.....h&fHome-Buy@lbhf.gov.uk	
Emergency housing.....	020 8753 4144
Direct Lettings.....	020 8753 4166
Threshold housing advice (voluntary agency).....	020 8749 2925
Private housing services.....	020 8753 1221

ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES	
Drugs & alcohol team.....	020 7381 7757

CHILDREN'S SERVICES	
Sawley Road.....	020 8753 5269
Barclay House.....	020 8753 5842

RESIDENTS' SERVICES	
24hr libraries phone line.....	020 8753 2400
Registrars (births, deaths and marriages).....	020 8753 2438
.....	0845 337 0314
Hall hire and the events team.....	events@lbhf.gov.uk
Civic catering.....	020 8753 2370

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS	
Emergency out of hours (24 hours).....	020 8748 8588
Parking services (fines etc).....	020 7371 5678
Corporate anti-fraud service.....	020 8753 1273
Out of hours noise nuisance.....	020 8748 8588
Shepherds Bush advice centre.....	020 8753 5913
H&F Citizens Advice Bureau.....	0845 4582515