

## Flying Polish visit pays off

THE flying visit Polish centre-right politician Donald Tusk made to Hammersmith in search of votes in September has paid off.

The challenger, dubbed the Polish David Cameron, attracted thousands of votes of Poles in London as well as the majority in Poland to hand him a 41.4 per cent share of the vote.

According to The Times, 55 per cent of people aged 20-24 chose Mr Tusk's Civic Platform party, which hopes to modernise the country. Whereas most of Poland's older voters backed incumbent Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

Mr Tusk stopped by Tesco in Shepherd's Bush Road in late September to shake hands with the high number of Polish workers, as well as to press the flesh at Polish centre in King Street later that evening.

## House plans pulling power

THE Thatched House in Dalling Road has re-opened after an extensive renovation.

Landlord Tom Gallagher, who also recently acquired the Andover Arms, told *h&f news* he re-wired and re-plumbed the pub, as well as adding a new coat of varnish to the floor and re-vamped the kitchen.

Now with a new menu and the expansion of the pub out the back, Tom says he is ready to pull the pints.

## Patron of Bhavan dies

THE longest-serving commissioner for India in London and loyal patron of The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan centre in West Kensington has died, aged 76, on October 6.

Dr L M Singhvi was a diplomat and lawyer was remembered by friends who gathered in the Bhavan's Mountbatten auditorium on October 22.

Mr Maneck Dalal OBE from the Bhavan paid tribute to Dr Singhvi, and also offered his condolences to his wife Kamlaji.

## New Zone A parking rules

CHANGES to parking restrictions in parking Zone A in Hammersmith will change as of November 26.

These changes have been decided upon after the public were asked about their views, and the changes received the support of the majority of residents and traders in the area.

Parking Zone A runs from Dalling Road to the west, down to the Lower Mall near Hammersmith Bridge in the south, to Brook Green in the east and Aldensley Road to the north. The maximum stay for pay and display parking will now be reduced to two hours in King Street and its side streets, and four hours in all other streets.

Non-residential visitors will also now pay a higher pay and display tariff of £2.40 an hour, instead of £1.60 an hour.

In addition, a new visitor permit will be introduced to offset the increase in pay and display tariffs for local residents and their visitors.

All residential households can apply for the new SMART visitor permit, even if you don't own a car or have a residents permit. The new permit will reduce the charge of an hour's parking to £1.50.

For more details on the Zone A parking changes, contact Angela Marriott on 020 8753 1081 or email: parking@lbhf.gov.uk

# NEW £20m ACADEMY AIMS TO BE A HIGH-TECH MARVEL

▶ 780 pupils from 11-18 will benefit from school  
▶ Residents now asked for feedback

BY SIMON JONES

DETAILED plans have been announced for a new £20million-plus community academy in Hammersmith.

A Government-funded feasibility study has recently concluded that a new academy is viable on the site of the former Stamford House young offenders institute, north of Goldhawk Road near Cathnor Park.

The academy is designed to accommodate up to 780 mixed ability students aged 11-18 from the local area. Now, residents are being invited to have their say on the proposal at a preliminary consultation which will run up to Christmas.

Further consultation will take place in the summer once a planning application has



WIRED UP: Pupils will be able to explore the learning power of technology

been submitted next summer. If approved, the academy would have specialist status for creative and digital media and information technology.

The former youth detention centre would be demolished to make way for the school, planned to open in September 2010. The academy would be sponsored by the Mercers' Company – which has more

than 500 years worth of history in education – and the Information Technologists' Company.

It would also work in partnership with the two nationally-renowned St Paul's Schools.

Councillor Antony Lillis, cabinet member for community and children's services, said: "If approved, the academy would

provide a truly exciting and inspirational educational offer for parents and pupils alike.

"This would be an academy for the local community, an academy open to every local child. Of course we wait be guided by the response to the local consultation, but we are confident that local parents will find this an exciting opportunity. As a local

authority, we are proud to be associated with it. Our partners are also working in partnership with other secondary schools in the borough."

Martin Ripley, a representative of the Information Technologists, said: "The aim of the academy would be to bring 21st century learning and innovation.

"For example, students would be encouraged to create their own podcasts while learning. This would form the basis of a huge library of podcasts.

"While this is a school for all – not for the technological elite – we do not believe that there will be many schools in the world more technologically advanced."

The Mercers Company is already associated with 16 schools, including the Thomas Telford Technology College in the West Midlands.

■ A drop-in session where people can find out more details on the proposal will be held on Thursday, December 6, from 4.30pm-8pm at Greenside Primary School, Westville Road W12 9PT.

■ To comment on the proposal, email: barbara.beese@lbhf.gov.uk or write to: Barbara Beese, Children's Services Department, Hammersmith Town Hall, London W6 9JU.

## ASSEMBLY HALL RE-OPENS WITH A WHOLE NEW GLOW



HALL THE BEST: Cllr Frances Stainton shows off the new-look Assembly Hall at town hall

IF YOU are looking for the ultimate dance floor to hire, look no further.

Assembly Hall, located in the Grade II-listed Hammersmith Town Hall, is back in business after being closed for a four-month renovation. The new-look hall, one of the largest in west London, has new energy-efficient, high-tech lighting and an elegant new finish on the huge dancefloor, originally built in the 1930s.

Showing off her moves

on the floor is Cllr Frances Stainton, who says: "The extensive refurbishment has taken a lot of hard work from a great team.

"We are proud to offer this facility and we hope the splendid setting will be well-used and enjoyed by the entire borough."

If you are interested in hiring Assembly Hall for your event, whether it's a wedding reception or an exam, please email: hallhire@lbhf.gov.uk to reserve your date.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Your local councillors are:

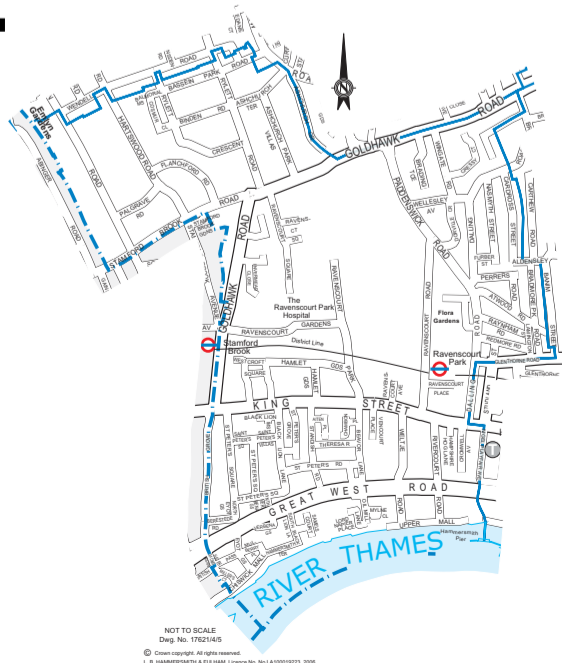
### RAVENSCOURT PARK WARD

#### SURGERY DETAILS:

1st and 3rd Thursday of each month  
7.00 to 8.00 pm  
Grove Neighbourhood Centre  
7 Bradmore Park Road, W6

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month  
10.30 to 11.30 am  
Flora Gardens Community Hall,  
Dalling Road, W6

For information about councillors in other parts of the borough, please visit: [www.lbhf.gov.uk](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk)



**Councillor Lucy Ivimy**  
Conservative  
Hammersmith Town Hall  
King Street  
W6 9JU  
lucy.ivimy@lbhf.gov.uk



**Councillor Harry Phibbs**  
Conservative  
Flat 2  
35 Agate Road  
W6 5HG  
harry.phibbs@lbhf.gov.uk



**Councillor Eugenie White**  
Conservative  
1 Devonport Road  
W12 8NZ  
eugenie.white@lbhf.gov.uk

## BAYONNE JOY FOR NURSERY SUCCESS



**HAPPY:** Pupils at Bayonne Nursery

"I THINK your school is brilliant." That was the message from Ofsted inspector Charalambos Loizou in a letter to the children of Bayonne Nursery in Paynes Walk, Hammersmith. The school has just received one of the most glowing reports the borough has ever seen. Overall, the inspectors said: "The children achieve extremely well in this outstanding school. "The inspirational and highly-effective leadership of the headteacher and outstanding teaching benefit the children enormously. "Parents are overwhelmingly pleased with the school. Nearly all pay tribute to the staff, 'Both my children have attended Bayonne and we could not have asked for more. It is a fantastic school', is one of many typical comments, and they are right, it is a superb school." Headteacher Pat Logan is understandably delighted. "We owe our success to a committed team of practitioners and governors who work with, and support the school," she said. "We also have fantastic children whose enjoyment of Bayonne and enthusiasm for everything that happens here is our greatest reward."

# GAS CHAOS HAS LEFT ME FUMING

- ▶ Father and son left homeless for 24 hours during gas leak fiasco
- ▶ refused compensation by Transco
- ▶ Hundreds of residents in Sinclair Gardens still able to make a claim

**A HAMMERSMITH resident is aghast after gas company Transco has failed to compensate him for being made homeless overnight.**

In April, a dangerous gas leak in Sinclair Gardens forced the evacuation of hundreds of residents at almost midnight.

Julian Nettlefold, 53, was alerted to the drama by his son Harry, 18, who heard the police and firefighters descend on the neighbourhood.

Harry woke his dad and the pair quickly ran out the door.

For more than two hours residents waited outside, with some getting fed up and opting for hotel rooms rather than brave the cold.

But Mr Nettlefold, who had mistakenly failed to grab his wallet on the way out, was forced to sit with son Harry on a London bus outside Morrisons in Shepherds Bush Green until he was finally directed to a blow-up mattress on the floor of Hammersmith Town Hall for the night.

"No one knew what was going on," Mr Nettlefold said. "About 100 other people were sleeping at the town hall. Staff at the town hall

gave us a bed and even breakfast in the morning, so they were great to us."

In the morning, the police let Mr Nettlefold back in to his house to retrieve his wallet and some personal possessions. And he spent the rest of the day in Hammersmith with son Harry passing the time.

"The only amusing thing about the day was going to see *Mr Bean's Holiday* at the cinema," he says.

Mr Nettlefold, a professional aerospace journalist, was told by gas company Transco that all residents could claim for their losses during the time they were evacuated.

Days later, he sent a claim to Transco for £340, which includes a lost day of work (he has an office at home), as well as bus tickets, cinema tickets and food.

Since then, he has received no money from Transco.

However, a spokeswoman for the gas company said that although Mr Nettlefold had not produced receipts for his claim, his 'mitigation' (or a claim with a justification of his costs



**OUT IN THE COLD:** Julian Nettlefold of Sinclair Gardens  
PICTURE BY DAVID JACKSON

and time spent) would be enough to proceed with a claim.

Amazingly, the spokeswoman added that neither Transco, nor their insurer, has any record of his claim.

She did, however, admit that only ten claims from residents of Sinclair Gardens had been submitted to the company – meaning that hundreds of put-out residents have yet to seek compensation.

Six months later, Mr Nettlefold contacted *h&f news* for help and has reported Transco to gas regulator Ofgas to complain

about his treatment and lack of compensation.

"All I want is an apology and to be compensated for losing a day of work," Mr Nettlefold added.

"But I am self-employed so how can I produce a receipt for my time?"

### HAVE YOUR SAY

Were you evacuated during the April gas leak chaos? Have you sought compensation from Transco? Email: [handfnews@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:handfnews@lbhf.gov.uk)



## Your park, your future

# BISHOPS PARK OPEN DAY

**Saturday 17 November 10.00am to 4.00pm**

Please come along to Fulham's most popular park and see the visionary plans for the park and Fulham Palace.

Councillors and officers will be present.

Programmed walkabouts of the park at 11.00am and 3.00pm.

Please come along and show your support for the proposals.

For more details, call Rob Kelly on 020 8753 2292.



Hammersmith & Fulham Council