

COLD CALLERS DONTCHA HATE THEM?

A large proportion of your editor's incoming phone calls are speculative cold calls about his possible need for more money or house improvements. Perhaps he should get out more. Or perhaps he should take Carmen's brilliant advice and

register his phone number with the Telephone Preference Service. All you have to do is go to www.tpsonline.org.uk and they will walk you through it. That will stop telemarketing calls from all companies, charities and voluntary organisations.

HILLFIELD PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATORS:

Peter Thompson (editor)
@ No 9 [8883 0371],

Carmen Harris and
Richard Tharp @ No 4,

Sarah Rodgers @ No 18,

Micheline Gunter @ No 25,

Clive and Pippy Tickner
@ No 28,

Rupert Townsend @ No 40,

Justin and Ama Keery
@ No 45,

John Fulford @ No 53,

Sue Dawson @ No 67,

Joy and Patrick Wheeler
@ No 71.

Welcome to PCSO Cathy Tucker



who has just
joined the
Muswell Hill

Safer Neighbourhoods Team
and is regularly to be seen on the
Broadway Beat with PCSO Vicki Eggleton.

You can contact them both,
when on duty, by calling
07709 521 025.



LONDON OLYMPICS

No we don't have the year wrong. The London Olympics 2006 will be taking place in North London, Hillfield Park to be precise, on Sunday afternoon 18 June 2006, on the occasion of our Street Party. It will be a three-cornered contest: residents on the even side of the slope will be locked in a two hour struggle with a team of residents from the odd side and a further team of residents on the flat.

You may wonder whether we will be able to cover the whole Olympic agenda in such a short time. Good point. Some of the modern events like formation diving have had to be omitted. But we aim to include all the traditional contests like egg-and-spoon, hulahoopathon, Concourse de Boule and trike-and-dice [see picture]. You may be sure that the Dog Agility Trials will be putting the pooches through their paces [and no ringers from Walthamstow this time, please]; and we hope to organise Big Screen S u d o k u .



Grupo Muzenza as well as performances by the North London Performing Arts Centre; and we have many resident musicians who are trying to get a booking [you've heard them rehearse; now hear them play!].

Leaders of the winning teams will be awarded their medals at about 4.30pm and there will be prizes and/or certificates of honour for all. The Games will be followed by an Olympic banquet and music and entertainment, including street dance instruction by the celebrated CAPOEIRA of the



We will as usual be selling share certificates (£5 a family, £2 for singles) to residents who want to come. Their guests will be welcome. One of us will be knocking at your door soon and inviting you to subscribe and to contribute a dish to the Banquet. You will also be given a chance to say what events you would wish to be considered for or, as the case may be, to produce a doctor's certificate. There will be the usual side-shows, including Clive's Air Drop and conjuring by the Mystical Macko, as well as a brand new Treasure Hunt. So don't go away that weekend: it's going to a Great Day.

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LET'S HUG

SOME MORE TREES

Well, the 12 trees for Christmas arrived and were planted on the flat section in accordance with our Assembly bid, with help and encouragement from Councillor Gail Engert. They seem to be alive and putting out buds, but be careful how you hug them: they have spiky leaves to deter vandals. Some of us on the slope are thinking of putting in a matching bid to the Assembly. We are not quite above the timber line and even



date palms can survive at this altitude, apparently. Richard Tharp at No 4 [the house with the Best Garden plaque] would like to know whether you share his view that more trees would improve the street. Or would they be a problem for pushers (of buggies and trolleys)? Email your views to kayla@lisselle.fsnet.co.uk.



Whilst thinking green thoughts, it may be time we showed that we cared about the Parkland Walk (our section: tunnel to tunnel). The Council is trying to identify Public Rights of Way under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and is going about it by serving notices on the owners and occupiers of land adjoining the Parkland Walk requiring them to declare the extent of their interest in the land or face a £5000 penalty! So what is their real game we wonder?



Your editor has just assisted in the launch of an environmentalist group FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRA PARK and has a draft constitution for FRIENDS OF PARKLAND WALK ready on his word



processor should it be required. He will try to get things moving after the Street Party. Meanwhile he is conserving his strength for the Olympics.

NO END TO THE CON TRICKS

The Safer Neighbourhoods Police Team have given us several warnings about a female con artist who knocks at doors with a heart-rending story and claims to know someone who lives further down the road (where she has just called). She sounds awfully like the tall slim woman who visited Hillfield Park on 3 April. She claimed to know Ama at 45 and worked a clever number on Phyll at 59. She is very convincing, so do look out and keep those Beat Bobby numbers at hand [07760 170 127:07709 521 025]:. They await your call. An even cheekier deception was practised recently by an employee of

Thames Water. He answered a call to Hillfield Park because of a block on the public sewer line which was backing up into the dwelling houses on the flat. He knocked at the appropriate door and said the blockage was "local" but that he would remove it for £85! When the resident demurred he said he would do it for £60 if they did not want a receipt. The resident then paid him £60. On the following day the incident was reported to his boss and she confirmed that the job report stated that there was "a block on the public sewer line and the mains were jetted to clear the blockage" (nothing about the £60, surprise, surprise).

DUDE, WHERE'S MY MERCEDES II

You may remember reading, two years ago, about the bold heist in which the Tickner family car, an old Mercedes, was spirited away from outside their house one night, without any breaking or car alarm going off. However, because the car had a tracker fitted, the car (or rather the empty shell) was eventually traced to a Travellers' site in Essex. It had been stripped of everything but the tracker. The theory was that the spares were much sought after in Libya where the import of car spares was embargoed. So the Tickners bought another second hand Mercedes, thinking that lightning would not strike in the same place. They were

wrong, except that it was not lightning but repossession men, in a Haringey Council vehicle, apparently instructed by DVLA to impound any vehicle not displaying a valid tax disk. Clive had tried to renew his tax that day (2 March) but the insurance document he produced at the Post Office was incomplete so he was technically out of time with the taxing, but only by one day. The repo men included two individuals in police uniform and an official from DVLA and Clive made strong representations to them as they were loading his car on their vehicle. But they ignored him, completed the loading and



drove away. Convinced that he must have been the victim of another brazen car snatch, he dialled 999 and made a report. Later he recovered the car from the pound on the payment of £200: he is seeking explanations and redress.