

WAS IT AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT?



The police have all the evidence now but seem reluctant to press charges. We are up against O, an extremely powerful organisation which has already acquired over 1000 drinking establishments, restaurants and places of entertainment in which they wish to sell alcohol until 2 in the morning.

Efforts to thwart their campaign in Muswell Hill, led by the man on the slope known as 009, have been all too successful: O's bid to run a late night speakeasy on the Broadway has now been reined back to midnight closing, no later, for a probationary period of 2 years only. Reprisals were only to be expected. First there was the sinister message that 009 should never enter their Broadway HQ again, as he was no longer welcome in the Church. Next there was the near miss with the polonium 120. Finally there was the unexplained brake failure at just before dawn on 21 December [see the picture], from which 009 was lucky to escape with nothing worse than a broken leg. But he is determined to fight on: "I have been stirred" he quipped "but not shaken". [Horticultural note: fortunately none of our new trees were damaged]

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,

Rupert Townsend @ No 40,

Patricia Napper @ No 42,

Justin and Ama Keery @
No 45,

John Fulford @ No 53,

Sue Dawson @ No 67,

Joy and Patrick Wheeler @
No 71.

ANTHEA'S ART EXHIBITION

Do you ever visit the café in Queen's Wood? It is a very pleasant establishment in a lovely setting and well worth the short walk. From 2 May to 14 June there is a compelling additional reason for making the trip: Anthea Williams, an accomplished artist who has just moved into No 5 with her h,1 s and 1 d, will have an exhibition of her life drawings there. If you want to buy you had better go early.



THE CAT BURGLAR AT NUMBER 40

Rupert Townsend and family took off on a weekend holiday late last year and, before leaving, they very thoughtfully switched on the burglar alarm for every room in the house (No 40) except the one into which their outdoor cat BEBOP had access through the cat flap. They left the little fellow enough food to see him right until they returned. But, without their knowledge, he contrived to

hide in the main part of the house as they were making it secure; and he found himself locked in on the wrong side of the door to his food supply. Imagine his frustration as he paced around the house trying to find a way out. Now try to imagine the frustration of the neighbours as the burglar alarm went off repeatedly over the weekend every time he crossed a beam!



Carmen Harris, Hillfield Park's writer in residence, is beside herself with excitement. All she can say as she swings along the road is "My little (big) girl has been nominated for a BAFTA, and well deserved it is, too. If you agree with me you could help her win by voting for her in www.orange.co.uk/bafta". Her little girl is, of course, Naomie Harris who now spends much of the year filming in Hollywood; but still finds time to visit the big celebrity events in North London, most recently the Hillfield Park Street Party and Olympics in June 2006. After seeing her in PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN (where she gives Johnny Depp a bit of help in her capacity as a Caribbean Sorceress) your editor has no hesitation in giving her his vote for a Rising Star Award and in encouraging you, dear reader, to do the same. The process is remarkably easy: go to the orange site, click on the Orange Rising Star Award, pass quickly over Eva Green from CASINO ROYALE and click on Nominee 5, complete the vote form and submit. If you are lucky you may win the right to attend the award ceremony on 11 Feb. In any case a vote for Naomie Harris will endear you to her proud mum.



Proud Mum



NAOMIE HARRIS



Another rising star is Miriam Elia at No 19, who has beaten odds of 1000 to 1 to win the BBC's WITTY AND TWISTED competition for new sketch-writers and performers. Her reward is to have her scripts broadcast on BBC 7 as a 4 Part Comedy Series. Wow!

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POLICE NEWS

Lots of news from the police. The big one is that the Borough Commander has bid successfully to take over premises at the top of Dukes Avenue, now occupied by PIP, and to turn it into a Safer Neighbourhoods Base (aka Police Station).. This is roughly the point at which the three wards (Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra Park) meet and it will mean three Safer Neighbourhoods Teams will be based alongside each other. Each will include one sergeant, 2 PCs and 3 Police Community Support Officers; and there will be a front counter for the public to make contact, report offences and hand in lost umbrellas. There will also be a patrol centre (for police cars) and cells (now known as "custody units") and the opportunity for the three teams to integrate their shift systems, so as to provide coverage 24/7.



Whilst it will be sad to see the old police station in Fortis Green disposed of, the new one in Dukes Avenue seems to be much better located for coping with the trouble spots in and around the Broadway and our Neighbourhood Watch therefore gives it a cautious welcome. [Cautious because we know how difficult it is to deliver on such promises: look at Wembley Stadium]

Now some stuff about mobile phones. It is easy for 999 calls to be sent accidentally from unlocked mobiles and the Emergency Services (police/fire/ambulance) therefore give priority to emergency calls on a different number: 112. So if you want an emergency service and are using a mobile phone ring that number instead. Two other things. You can register your phone free at www.immobilise.com. All you need is your phone number, contact details and the phone's unique 15-digit IMEI number (viewed by pressing *#06#). This won't necessarily stop theft but it will improve the chances of recovery and of successful prosecution. Then there is your ICE (In Case of Emergency) number. If you enter the contact number of your nearest and dearest in your phone under the name of ICE it will enable the emergency services to make early contact if you are found unconscious. [But it may never happen Ed]

Finally there has been trouble recently at the Muswell Hill Centre, due to the poor behaviour of some of the young people. There have been various acts of vandalism and the Youth Club is currently closed more often than it is open. So far as we are aware, residents have not been affected by these developments but, in case you are, or have concerns to report, please note that the Beat Officer to contact is PC Paul Lancaster. You may see him out on the Broadway with PC Allan Greig (the Tall Trouble) or give him a call on 07760 170 127.



PC Paul Lancaster



This road has long-standing connections with the Fortis Green Clinic. Betty Ward, at 29A, was a volunteer there for many years and was awarded her MBE for weighing babies (pounds and ounces in those days). Your editor's children were processed

there and now he too is a customer for physiotherapy, but that's another story. Anyway he and others were shocked to hear that the Clinic was to be sold and that the services would be relocated in Crouch End. So a little demo was put on outside the Clinic on 15 December, followed up by a deputation to the Council's Oversight and Scrutiny Committee on 10 January.

The upshot is that we have failed to stop the sale but we have extracted promises that the relocation will be within N10. Anyone with a keen interest in seeing that these popular local services remain within walking distance (more or less) should contact Peter Thompson at No 9 [020 8883 0371].

SING IT AGAIN, SAM

Samantha Stringle at No 13 has some good news but also some very sad news. The good news is that, when she is not designing more artefacts for her very successful Bang on the Door business, she is singing and dancing in musicals; and she has just landed the part of Nancy in OLIVER, which is being performed at the Willyotts Centre, Potters Bar at 7.30 pm 27 to 31 March 2007 (and a Sat Mat at 2.30). Tickets are available for about a tenner on 01707 653 851. [Sorry, no comps: these shows are always a sell-out]. The very sad news is that Angel, her much loved boxer who carried off First Prize in our Golden Jubilee Dog Show, passed away on 20 November 2006. Here's a picture of Angel in her hey-day alongside Singing Sam.

