

# TOWN HALL REVAMP DELAY FEARS OVER ANCIENT REMAINS

**THE remains of a medieval settlement thought to lie beneath Hornsey Town Hall could delay works to revamp the venue.**

English Heritage has demanded that if plans to build flats and refurbish the interiors with new bars, a theatre and studio space are given the go-ahead, a full archaeological investigation must take place.

Kim Stabler, archaeology advisor for the conservation body, said: "The proposed development may affect remains of archaeological importance," adding that construction should not start until a dig has taken place.

Her letter explains there was a medieval settlement in Crouch End and the Town Hall site borders a medieval road. By the 14th century, the land formed part of a manorial estate and early maps show it had been built on by the 1760s, although the date could be earlier.

This led English Heritage to recommend excavation should take place before any building work begins, to ensure any significant archaeological finds can be properly recorded.

Meanwhile critics have launched an attack on the £18million scheme, blasting the move to double housing provision since the first plans were unveiled.

Architectural historian Professor Lynda Nead, of Mayfield Road, said the six-storey building, which was originally proposed to be three storeys, would "not only overshadow the town hall building (a conservation site) but would also carry enormous implications in terms of the pressures on the local area".

And dropping plans for a purpose built cinema have also not proved popular with residents, who claimed it was one of few proposals which won "overwhelming support" from the community.

Yanti Windrich, of Tottenham Lane, said: "Improve the way

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the residents live in the area by encouraging us to stay in Crouch End for a night out. A cinema is one of the best ways of doing this as it can cater for all ages."

The ambitious plans do, however, provide a restored council chamber for events, exhibition space, an outdoor arts arena and a theatre for films, plays, dance and sports.

Liz Sich, of the Hornsey Town Hall Creative Trust which is behind the plans, said the design of the new flats is "respectful of sunlight and daylight issues of neighbouring properties", and its height was never proposed to be as low as three storeys.

She added: "The current plans do not preclude plans for a cinema. The Trust is still working on its business plan and we have been and will continue to talk to cinema operators and try to come up with a financially viable solution."



## Extension is a bright idea

**CHILDREN will study in light flooded classrooms and play in planted courtyards in this new extension at a Muswell Hill school.**

**Pictures of Rhodes Avenue Primary School's planned new buildings have been released by Haringey Council.**

The new extension will transform the

school in Rhodes Avenue from a two to three-form entry.

It will create 210 new primary places in Alexandra ward, which has suffered from school place pressure in recent years.

A new tree lined boulevard will cross the site and a new courtyard will include grass and trellised areas.

## Estate agent is fined

AN ESTATE agent in Crouch End has been fined £400 for misleading customers.

Propertytyn, in Topsfield Parade, was also ordered to pay £500 costs after falsely saying it was a member of the National Association of Estate Agents.

The company was convicted at Haringey Magistrates' Court in a case brought by Haringey Council's trading standards officers.

Complaints had been received about Propertytyn's trading practices and Haringey launched an investigation.

The National Association of Estate Agents ensures members stick to a code of conduct to guarantee a good standard of service.

## Charity runners plea

FIT fundraisers are being asked to put their best foot forward for the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy and run the British 10K London Run.

The charity in East End Road, East Finchley is asking runners to sign up for the race in Piccadilly on Sunday, July 11, and help raise at least £150 for a free place.

To enter call Sarah Terrazas on 020 8442 2275 or e-mail sarah@bobath.org.uk.

## A search for artwork

A GALLERY in Highgate is on the hunt for artwork for its annual exhibition promoting gay and lesbian artists.

Lauderdale House in Waterlow Park has appealed to professional lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender artists to submit work for the eighth Pride in the House show by 10am on Thursday, June 10.

Three artists will be selected for the exhibition in July, and the overall winner will be given a solo show later this year.

For information, e-mail Katherine Ives on kives@lauderdale.org.uk, including Pride Exhibition in the subject line, or visit www.lauderdalehouse.co.uk

## Police hunt men



POLICE are appealing for help in tracking down these two men (left) in connection with an amusement arcade robbery where a worker was threatened with a hammer.

The robbery took place at 9.50am at Prestige Amusements in High Road, Wood Green, on January 4.

Two men burst into the arcade with their faces covered and threatened a member of staff with a weapon hidden in a

plastic bag, believed to be a hammer.

The suspects made off through the rear exit with an undisclosed amount of cash. Both suspects are described as white men, about 6ft tall and slim.

No-one was injured.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Constable Lee Davison, of Haringey's Robbery Squad, on 020 8345 0870, or call Crime-stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Retro cameras snapped up

RETRO cameras are capturing the eye of bargain hunters so much so that a charity shop is being swamped with demand. Oxfam, in Muswell Hill Broadway, is appealing for more donations of cameras after a promotion selling more than 60 retro models in less than a week revealed a growing trend in old-

fashioned photography. Manager Sue Wallington said: "It's like toys for the boys. It's surprising the interest that it has generated."

"There are cameras which might be 20 years old but the lenses are of such good quality that people still want them."

But interest in the cameras was so great that one devious customer stole a 35mm model worth about £40 during the promotion.

Ms Wallington added: "Somehow it seems worse in a charity shop when you think someone has donated it to make money for a good cause, and someone comes in and takes it."

They hope to hold another promotion in two months.

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