

Islington Gazette

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70p

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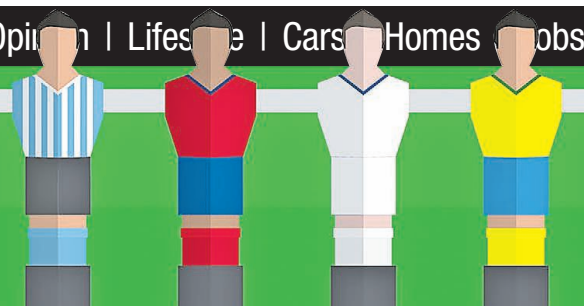
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Road to Rio

40-page tournament preview inside



Prizewinners Alice and her dog Bingo

Picture: Dieter Perry

Street party fun for everyone

Canine companions and owners took to Englefield Road as part of a Big Lunch street party.

East Canonbury Residents' Association put on five hours of fun on Sunday, including a dog show judged by former EastEnders star Nicola Duffett.

There were vintage police cars on display, plus the opportunity to win a signed Arsenal football and other

donated prizes.

The charity event raised money for Battersea Cats and Dogs Home, the Macmillan Fund and the Rosebowl Centre for local young people.

Plenty of delicious food was up for grabs, with meals donated by five local restaurants, including the Côte Restaurant, Islington Green and Sweet Thursday, Southgate Road.

'Data risk' of missing computers

50 town hall laptops and phones 'lost'

by Alisha Rouse
sdfsdfsdfs@archant.co.uk

Nearly 50 town hall laptops and phones have been lost or stolen in the last three years – racking up a £29,000 bill and sparking fresh concerns over data protection.

New figures obtained under a Gazette Freedom of Information (FOI) request reveal that during last year alone, Islington Council misplaced 28 computers, tablets and mobiles.

The council insist all of the technology lost or stolen was "safely encrypted".

But the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) said that, while there was a "greatly reduced risk" the data could be decoded, it would look to investigate any loss of equipment containing sensitive information as it wouldn't be completely impenetrable in the hands of a smart hacker.

Cllr Caroline Russell, the sole opposition at the council, described the news as "worrying".

The Green party councillor for Highbury East, said: "People are human, and losing a laptop is something we know can happen. But 28 this year does seem high and losses of laptops can have worrying implications for protection of data."

"The council needs to be looking at what support it can offer to reduce these types of losses and ensure that when they do happen the implications for data protection are minimised."

Shocked

Andy Silvester, campaign manager for the Taxpayers Alliance, said: "Local residents, who have paid for these items with their council taxes, will be shocked at the remarkable number that have gone missing."

"You could imagine one or two being lost or being stolen, but losing 28 laptops in one year is astounding. It's a very big bill for taxpayers to be footing."

Cllr Andy Hull, Islington Council's executive member for finance and

resources, said: "We issue advice to staff to reduce the likelihood of equipment being lost or stolen and treat all losses seriously, reporting thefts to the police."

"While all council-issued laptops and Black-Berrys are securely encrypted, our priority is rapidly to remove any lost or stolen items from the network and get any lost mobile phones blocked straight away."

"Where a replacement is necessary, we may purchase new stock or replace the lost item with a spare device."

The revelations follow two data leaks in 2012, for which the council was fined a total of £110,000 by the ICO.

The first saw the council send details of 50 residents on the Andover Estate in Holloway to thugs they had been complaining about, leaving a number of people having to be rehoused.

The council insists that measures and rigorous checks are now in place to prevent any similar breaches in future.

Actor backing SOS for puppet theatre



Comedy actor Stephen Mangan is backing a fundraising campaign to help restore the Little Angel Theatre, featuring in a video urging people to donate cash for its restoration.

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Timescale is drawn up for free school

A new free school set to welcome pupils in September plans to finish the first phase of its building within a year opening.

Whitehall Park School – which will be built on the site of the former Ashmount Primary in Hornsey Rise – will teach two reception classes in temporary buildings until the first permanent classrooms are finished in September 2015.

The school, which it is set to cost the government more than £10million to build, aims to complete all of the building work for the two form of entry facility in September 2017.

The land had been earmarked by Islington Council for new housing, which would provide the town hall with 82 homes and £3.5million towards the cost of rebuilding Ashmount School, in Crouch End Hill, but this plan was scuppered when the Education Secretary, Michael Gove, nominated the land for the free school.

It is yet to be decided whether half of the site could still be used to provide housing in a comprise offered up by Islington Council in January.

Plans are due to be submitted in autumn and doubts have been raised over whether the proposed timescale is realistic.

End of an era as sleazy cinema is forced to close

One of last centres showing adult films fails to win its licence back

by Alisha Rouse
gazette.news@archant.co.uk

A notorious sex cinema has lost its battle with Islington Council to get back its licence and now faces imminent closure.

Officers found “obscene and disorderly behaviour” inside the Caledonian Road’s Abcat cinema, after witnessing three men standing at the back pleasuring themselves, and revoked the licence in November.

On Wednesday, a Highbury Magistrates’ Court district judge rejected an appeal by the owners, after finding the licensee Mr Papworth had a “complete failure of understanding” of the rules.

Cllr Paul Convery, who has spoken out for months against the “sleazy” cinema in his ward, said: “People might say this is the council moralising, but it really isn’t.”

“What people get up to in private is up to them, but this is not in private – it’s a public place in a high street and if they breach lawful conditions, consequences follow.

“We’re not being prudish; we’re reflecting public opinion.”

Resident and film historian David McGillivray, 65, called the decision to revoke Abcat’s licence “the end of an era”. Speaking at last year’s meeting, he said: “I believe it has always served a small minority of men who are mainly respectable and well-behaved.

Crackdown

“London was once full of these establishments but now there are very few left. I hope people are not making moral judgments about this venue, which adds to the variety and diversity of the area”.

Abcat opened in 1969, when it began showing adult films in a Victorian basement – and its closure follows on from a string of crackdowns on the sex industry. Nearby Oscars cinema, also on Caledonian Road, is set to have a similar appeal heard later this month.

The council was awarded full costs of £7,775 from Abcat.

Abcat pleaded guilty to breaking licence conditions earlier and was fined £1,094.

Actor backs SOS to restore Little Angel



■ TV actor Stephen Mangan backs fundraising efforts

Comedy actor Stephen Mangan, best-known for his roles in hit TV show *Green Wing* and BBC’s *Episodes*, is backing a fundraising campaign to help restore the Little Angel Theatre.

The actor, who regularly attends the theatre with his two sons, has featured in a video on the venue’s website urging people to donate much-needed cash.

The theatre, which is one of only three building-based puppet theatres in England, launched its Restoration SOS Capital Campaign to pay for improvements to the building in Dagmar Passage.

More than £26,000 has been raised so far with more than £10,000 pledged by members of the public. But the theatre still has some way to go before it reaches its target of £60,000 to repair the roof and repair the boiler.

Stephen said: “I love the theatre. My kids are too young to go and see West End plays but they can come here and watch some of the best puppetry in the world.

“The building itself is the perfect size. As soon as you walk in here you feel excited, something is going to happen, you are going to see something out of the ordinary.

Donations can be made at littleangeltheatre.com.

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