



Chandos Road development given green light

A new building, on the site of Robertson (previously Joslin) Memorials on the corner of the High Road and Chandos Road, will be a three-storey apartment block containing eight flats and a commercial unit for offices.

At a packed planning meeting at Hendon Town Hall on 13 June, dozens of Chandos Road residents and representatives of the adjoining Martin Primary School vented their frustration about the development, citing concerns about over-development, parking and overlooking.

Developer G & M Simpson & V Goldstein has agreed to remove a second-floor balcony and to brick up windows overlooking the school playground but no concessions were made about the size of the development.

Councillors voted by four votes to three in favour of the development going ahead subject to a Section 106 order which will see the developer make a contribution of over £51,000 to the borough, including £37,000 for educational facilities and £11,000 for health care.

Chris Price, Governor of Martin Primary School, who spoke at the meeting on behalf of the school, said: "It was a very disappointing result especially for the residents of Chandos Road who will have a very large development on what is actually quite a small piece of land."

Survive the start of school

A mother is celebrating after the publication of her first book. Sarah Ebner, who lives in Baronsmere Road, has written *The Starting School Survival Guide*, which aims to help parents with children who are about to start primary school.



has two primary school-aged children herself. "I've tried to include everything which I would want to read myself, from finding a school in the first place, to making friends, organising playdates, explaining what on earth phonics and number lines are and even dealing with headlice."

The book contains tips from parents, parenting experts, teachers, psychologists and school governors.

"I wanted to make it comprehensive," explains Sarah. "It's taken up an awful lot of my life over the past year, and I'm really excited that it's finally being published."

The Starting School Survival Guide: everything you need to know when your child starts school, is published by White Ladder, priced £10.99.

"I write and edit an education blog, School Gate, for The Times," said Sarah. "The idea behind it is to help parents with any aspect of school and university life. People were always asking me if there was a book about starting school that I could recommend. There wasn't."

Because of this, Sarah decided to write a book herself. With the subtitle "everything you need to know when your child starts school", it's an ambitious project.

"There's so much in the book," agrees Sarah, who

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Christiaan's mushrooms in the Long Water, Serpentine Lake, Kensington Gardens. Photo by David Jordan.

Mushroom mystery solved

Our article last month asking if anyone knew the origins of the mushroom on the top of Park House drew an enormous response.

Thanks to everyone who let us know that it is the work of artist Christiaan Nagel, who has installed similar mushroom sculptures in prominent spots

all over London.

Readers David Jordan and Michelle Dayne told us there had been a multi-coloured host of Christiaan's mushrooms in the Long Water, part of the Serpentine in Kensington, in April around the time of the Royal wedding.

Others had spotted a red

mushroom on the station next to Archie and one up high next to Amazing Grates in the High Road before the silver one appeared on Park House.

Find out more about the artist's work at <http://Christiaanagel.blogspot.com> and keep your eyes peeled for more manifestations.

Novelist in his 90s

By Nick Young

A local man has recently become a debut novelist ... at the age of 92. He is Anthony Tobias, of Aylmer Road, who has written short stories and plays for over 60 years.

His novel, a post-Cold War thriller called *Finders Keepers Killers*, is based on real-life events that happened in London in the early 1990s, involving two Armenian criminals who were recruited by the Russian secret service to murder two ambassadors from the breakaway republic of Chechnya.

Anthony was working for a criminal solicitor's practice at the time. "One of the murderers of the Chechen ambassadors was being defended by us," he explains. "I went to the prison to interview him several times and bring him books and newspapers."

The man was subsequently found dead in his prison cell. "The circumstances were bizarre," Anthony recalls. "An inquest found he committed sui-



cide by hanging himself, but I don't believe it. I think he was

killed for what he did."

Anthony describes being one of Britain's oldest debut novelists as "a great feeling". Asked if he planned to write any more novels, Antony, who has six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, commented: "If the inspiration arrives, I will probably write another."

Finders Keepers Killers is published by Smoking Gun Books, price £7.99.



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