



Making a difference

When the right aid reaches the right people, it really can make a major difference to many communities in the poorer parts of Africa. Josh Palfreman can testify to that at first hand after spending time in schools in Tanzania and Uganda.

Josh, who lives on the High Road, volunteered for the charity School Aid last year and was able to do the same earlier this year thanks to financial support from a Vodafone Foundation World of Difference grant.

The 23-year-old International Relations student spent time making sure that donated books, pens, pencils, computers and furniture were reaching the schools they were intended for. Then, back in the UK, he planned future aid campaigns and produced a documentary about School Aid's work.

Josh said: "The items that we use might be maths books that are being replaced in this country but are still very usable (maths doesn't change that much) or pens with company branding that aren't wanted any



Josh and a colleague on the School Aid project in Africa.

more. Anyone can donate and everything makes a difference in the schools we help."

Josh was one of 500 people chosen out of 11,000 who applied for the Vodafone grants. You can see his film on YouTube or find out more details at www.school-aid.org

Heath secrets revealed

By Neil McNaughton

On a sunny early May afternoon a group of parishioners from St Mary's Church were treated to a tour of Hampstead Heath by local resident Linda Dolata, a volunteer Kew Gardens guide. The tour's main theme was how much we don't know about the Heath, how much we pass by without noticing and just how many secrets it holds.

Linda described the kitchen garden near the north entrance to the Heath as perhaps its "best-kept secret". This immaculate garden was indeed once a kitchen garden, but is now a special garden designed to attract insect life. She especially recommended its peace and tranquillity, as it is a part of the Heath that most people forget.

We also learned that many of the Heath's trees are not quite as old as they look, though one hollow oak in the north meadow is certainly 400 years old. The oldest trees on the Heath are, in fact, remnants of the many hedges that were constructed



Linda Dolata uncovers some of the natural secrets of Hampstead Heath. Photo courtesy Neil McNaughton

Ceramics book

Local potter and teacher Daphne Carnegy has published a new book called *Maiolica*, one of the *Ceramics Handbook Series* published by A & C Black and a must-read for pottery students and potters alike.

here, mostly to keep livestock from wandering from one field to the next.

Perhaps one of the most fascinating features was left until the final stages of the walk as we

approached Kenwood House. This was a reproduction of a Saxon hedge, constructed by Heath staff, containing 11 or 12 different species of tree and bush.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Year of the cat

It's June, time for the longest day, the shortest night and the Glastonbury Mud Fest. It's the month of that weirdly French invention, World Music Day, and of Dracula's favourite, Blood Donor Day. But in the midst of the frivolity comes a very serious event, the first world day created by and for cats. Yes, 4 June is Hug a Cat Day. I should know; my cat just sent me an e-mail.

Cats just love computers; it's something to do with the mouse. Forget silver surfers, welcome to the world of tabby surfers. Cats are the ultimate hackers. The reason why your cat watches you logging onto Facebook is because the moment your back is turned it will be setting up its own account. Status? Hungry. Links? To the local fish shop. Main interest? Ordering a fresh salmon and charging it to your credit card.

Ever wondered why groups of cats congregate on your garden wall? The answer is only a tweet away. And I don't just mean birds; your cat can make its point in less than 140 characters and still have enough left over to order lunch.

Before the internet, cats had to resort to more devious means to get their own way. When it came to mice they had to actually hunt them. Now they just log on to the pet shop's site and order away. Last week I had to intercept an order for hamsters, the week before it was canaries. I'm worried about next week.

Dogs are a different matter, they are loyal, obedient and have only just learnt how to use the telephone. They like walkies and lampposts and bones and chasing cats, which is another reason why cats use the internet. Watch out for the online petition calling for a new law banning lampposts or demanding that leads must be worn at all times. You know who's behind it.

So, Hug a Cat Day? No, what it actually means is let the cat have its own way day, just like every other day, as he who sleeps next to the radiator proves once again that cats don't have owners, they have staff.

Reuby Hyams, 28 May 1918 - 02 May 2011

By Daphne Chamberlain

Reuben (Reuby) Hyams was a man with a very positive attitude, who made an impact wherever he went. Never lost for a word and always ready for a laugh, he organised the Fairacres Monday Club, helped with the Muswell Hill Friendship Club, was a member of the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association, founder member of the Jewish National Ex-Servicemen's Club and a devoted family man.

He and his wife, Rene, the other half of the Hyams double act, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in July 2009, lived in Elmshurst Crescent for 54 years, moving to sheltered accommodation in North Finchley a year ago.

They ran the Fairacres Monday Club for 18 years, finally calling it a day in 2005. Described as "bringing Fairacres to life" every week with quizzes, speakers and entertainers, the Club was praised by the Jewish Blind and Disabled Association, the League of Jewish Women, and Finchley's late MP, Rudi Vis. Dr Vis said it always gave him great pleasure to attend the Club's annual big birthday celebration, and he just wished it could happen more than once a year. Everyone was welcome at the Club, where Reuby showed his lightning-quick wit, great

sense of humour, and essential wisdom.

He played an active part in the Second World War, serving in the African desert, Salerno, Sicily and Crete, and was mentioned in dispatches. While serving with the occupation forces in Belgium he was befriended by a family in Bruges, with whom he formed a lifelong bond. Typically, he put his time there to good use by learning a little Flemish.

A keen compiler of quizzes, Reuby also wrote poetry, some humorous and some very moving. Readers may remember two poems we published in *THE ARCHER*. One described the tragic plight of a forgotten war veteran, while the other was a quizzical verse about an obviously much loved grandson.

Reuby is survived by Rene, their son David, daughter Lesley and grandchildren Jordan and Riley.



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