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## A normal life after hair loss

By Nick Young

**Coping with hair loss can be very traumatic for people already suffering from cancer, but a Highgate hair salon has started to help people come to terms with hair loss by offering a wig consultation service.**

BBC3 Hair Studios in Highgate Village has offered the service for eight months, with patients from the nearby Whittington Hospital being referred there. It also has links with the Teenage Cancer Trust and Macmillan Cancer Support.

### Dignity and discretion

"Coming to us doesn't feel like coming to a medical appointment," explained studio owner Vaso Louca. "We feel like we are giving people their privacy and dignity back."

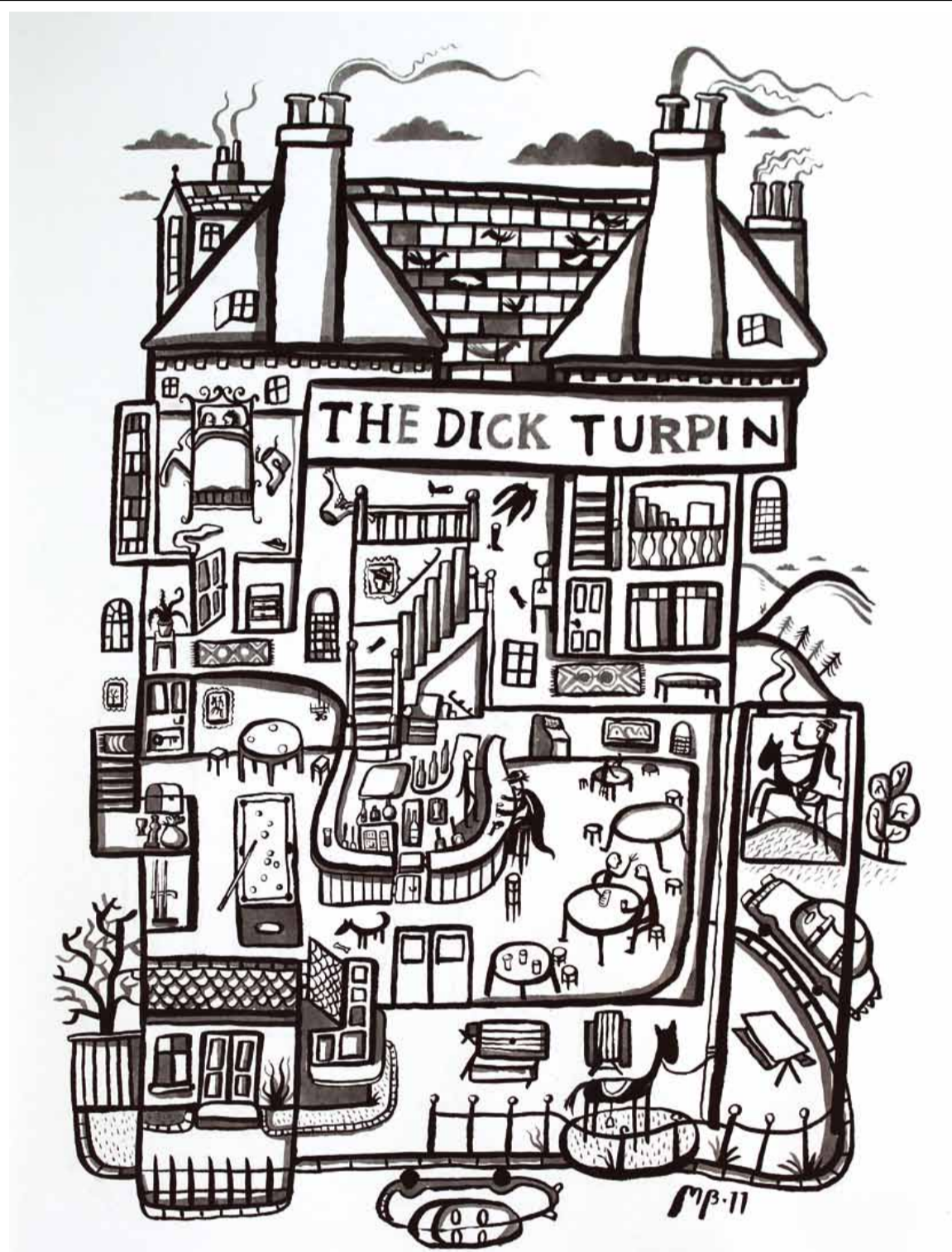
Vaso used to work with wigs as a freelancer for TV fashion programmes, and got the idea of offering a wig service for medical hair loss patients last year after a friend started suffering from alopecia. The wigs used are made from either synthetic

or human hair, and prices range from £40 to £3,000.

Many clients opt for a wig that looks like their own hair used to. "They want their life back as it was, therefore we offer a colour and shape match," said Vaso.

Discretion is vital as hair loss is a very sensitive issue, especially for women. Vaso's staff have been trained to deal with cancer patients by Macmillan nurses. The wig service is located in a private viewing room in the basement of the studio, although a home service is offered to clients who live locally. The first consultation is free.

BBC3 also offers a children's range and plans to stock a men's range soon. For further information call 020 8348 3545 or visit [www.bbc3hairstudios.com](http://www.bbc3hairstudios.com)



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## Dick drinks in his own pub

By John Lawrence

**Seated at the bar in his black cape and tricorne hat, ruthless highwayman Dick Turpin takes a break from robbing innocent travellers and enjoys a tippale at the pub named after him in Long Lane.**

With a pool table in the next room and his horse tied up outside next to a family saloon car, this is the 18<sup>th</sup>-century criminal rubbing shoulders with modern life along the route of his reign of terror.

It all comes from the mind of artist Martin Barker, who lives on Long Lane and who wanted to use his art to mark the passing of the now-demolished public house.

"It turned into a fantasy pic-

ture," said Martin. "I imagined Dick Turpin was actually there in person and everything else grew around him."

Martin's paintings, many in acrylics, are full of fascinating details inspired by the daily life he sees around him. He works in town as a graphic artist and enjoys giving full rein to his imagination in his spare time.

"It's the small unnoticed things I like," he said. "I try

to keep my work exciting and improvised. It usually starts with an idea in my head and then I let the whole thing grow spontaneously on paper."

Martin's other work includes dramatic cityscapes and panoramas of children's playgrounds, and he's currently working on a lake scene with swan pedaloos inspired by a walk round Alexandra Palace. See his paintings at [www.martin-barker.com](http://www.martin-barker.com)

## New proposals for local buses

**London Buses' consultation document proposes a new stop outside Muswell Hill Boots for the W7, which will also continue to stop on Muswell Hill. However, people who are using the 144 must continue to walk down the very steep hill to reach their first stop.**

Haringey West Bus Watch have protested. Secretary Chris Barker pointed out that it should be easy enough to instruct drivers to leave the stand on the roundabout only when the space by the bus stop is free, and that there should not be excessive crowding on the pavement, as

many people would be waiting for either bus. The new arrangement is for a six-month trial period.

### Route 603

Haringey West Bus Watch have once again asked London Buses to run the 603 all day. They have suggested it should

be routed via Rosslyn Hill and Belsize Avenue, serving the Royal Free Hospital. To enable this, they have proposed diverting the 168 at Pond Street, to run to Golders Green. This would eliminate route 268, so balancing the extra buses on the 603 route.