



Artist Nick Scammell's installation in Abbott's Gardens. Photo by the artist

A crowd of voices

By Ann Bronkhorst

Remembrance Sunday was sunny this year; the following day, Armistice Day, was rainy, with the sadness of fallen leaves and a dying year. In Abbott's Gardens, an unusual event reflected the autumnal mood.

Just for a few hours that day, some physical objects were carefully arranged in a silent commemoration of the V2 attack that devastated the street on 15 November 1944, when five people died, one woman was blinded and homes were massively damaged.

David Smith, chairman of the Finchley Society, has gathered survivors' accounts and residents have erected a permanent memorial plaque. The installation on 11 November, however, was temporary, and very different.

'A little string'

All over London artists and performers responded for just one day to the theme of Sound and Silence, reflecting the significance of 11 November. Local poet and photographer Nick Scammell chose to focus on Abbott's Gardens, entitling

his installation 'A little string speaks for a crowd of voices'.

An almost invisible piano wire (marked by a plastic strip saying 'fragile') was stretched between two trees, close to the memorial plaque. From the wire he hung autumn leaves bearing the names of casualties or the made-up word 'remurmur'. The leaves looked frail and vulnerable, like the civilians who suffered the V2 attack.

Why piano wire? David Smith recalled that all the strings of the family piano had resonated at once: "An uncanny sound." Another survivor, Maysel Houghton, who later lost her sight, had received some new-laid eggs that day which were found intact amid the wreckage. Nick arranged a pyramid of six perfect eggs at the base of one of the trees.

Someone remarked, "It's not

very substantial, is it?" Certainly this was an unobtrusive and temporary art-work but it did make me think about the fragility of human lives and the importance of remembering or, if you will, re-murmuring.

For more information about this and the day's other artistic projects, visit www.silentcaphony.co.uk

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"GREETINGS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON"

Kit out your kids

By Diana Cormack

Hannah Woldu had to choose two important names this year: one for her second daughter born in July and the other for the shop she opened at 162 High Road. This became Ryker, a Nordic name meaning independent and strong-willed, qualities of value when you are running your own business and have to juggle the role of being a parent and a working mum.

Hannah told *THE ARCHER* that she studied textile design at Chelsea College of Art and Design. She decided to merge this talent and her subsequent retail experience with what she has learned from being a mother. So her shop is spacious, giving youngsters the freedom to move around and explore and allowing parents to feel relaxed. Hannah says she wants this children's boutique to feel friendly, open and welcoming and to build up

a community feeling there.

The shop stocks individualistic products of quality rather than quantity which are chosen with an eye to sustainability. English brands are to be found amongst the clothing and footwear on sale alongside such things as books, cuddly toys and scooters. Ryker can be reached on 020 8444 6266. Opening hours are 10am- 6pm Mondays-Saturdays and 11am - 5pm on Sundays.

Beware more scammers

By Daphne Chamberlain

Last month, someone claiming to be from my credit card supplier rang to check some alleged purchases. Had I spent £1,000 odd in a well known department store, and several hundred in shops in the same area? Did I have my card with me? Had I authorised anyone else to use it?

They didn't ask me to disclose any details, but gave a reference number and name, telling me to call my issuing bank immediately, as my debit and credit cards were both blocked. "Use the phone number on the back of your card," they said.

I have had a couple of genuine fraud attempts on my cards, and this conversation didn't ring true. Remembering warnings about fraudsters not clearing their end of the line, I certainly wasn't going to ring even a genuine official number on the phone I had been using. But out of curiosity, I picked up the phone again, and heard a dialling tone which also didn't ring quite true. So apparent dialling tones don't necessarily mean anything.

The landline rang again. The caller sounded strangely like the first one, but claimed to be

someone else. I told him I was about to call my bank, which I did - but on my mobile. Of course the story was untrue, but reported as attempted fraud. I then cleared my landline by dialling 123 and making a couple of personal calls.

But more was to come. Next morning, an email allegedly from another bank told me that online access to my savings account was blocked because of fraud investigation, but if I clicked on a link I would find out more. The smell of fish, not to say phish, came back.

I made another phone call. Surprise, surprise, this was untrue too. The bank emphasised that they would never ask anyone to click on a link, nor indeed send an email in those circumstances, and asked me to forward the email as a phishing attempt. So beware, take care!

Art for

Ark's sake

The inaugural Art for Ark's Sake fundraiser in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice will showcase works from established and emerging artists as well as original signed artwork from a host of well-known celebrities. The artwork will be put on display at the Original Gallery, Hornsey Library, Haringey, throughout December with a charity auction evening on 14 December.

A number of celebrities have generously given up their time to create original signed artworks for Noah's Ark, including tennis player Rafael Nadal, actor and comedian Johnny Vegas, actors Sean Bean, James Purefoy and Fay Ripley and musician Andy Bell from Beady Eye.



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