



# Mongolia, here we come!

As you read this, Lauren Joseph, who was born and grew up in Edmunds Walk, N2, and her friend Lucy Dalby will be driving a third of the way around the globe to Mongolia in an old banger called Mildred, bought for £700 on eBay.



Lauren and Lucy hit the road.

Their adventure is in memory of Lauren's brother Guy, who was tragically killed in a paragliding accident in 2011 at the age of 25. Guy was the ultimate adventurer and Lauren felt that this challenge would be a tribute to her brother's enormous zest for life, and would also raise lots of money for Guy's Trust, the charity set up in his memory. Lauren and Lucy have said farewell to their NHS jobs as

a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist and hello to gaffer tape and superglue, gourmet cuisine (baked beans and fermented mare's milk) and luxury accommodation (back of a van with their legs sticking out of the window).

### Welcoming the unexpected

After sticking a pin in a map and considering war, instability, and the fact that 40-degree heat requires knee expo-

sure, they chose a route from London to Ulan Bator through Lithuania, Latvia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and everything in-between.

They've got six weeks of off-road driving with battered suspension and no satnav, border control queues, digging the van out of the Gobi Desert and questionable bathroom facilities to look forward to, but they say that they "can't wait for the opportunity to confront the unexpected and hopefully survive it!"

### Every penny counts

Lauren and Lucy are funding the trip entirely themselves so that every penny raised goes directly to Guy's Trust. The money they raise will help to build a school in an impoverished area of Cambodia where only 60% of children complete primary education.

Guy's Trust offers educational opportunities to disadvantaged young people in developing countries, particularly those with which Guy had a special connection. Since the charity was founded just two years ago, the charity has built two pre-schools in Nepal and has paid for a third that will be started shortly.

Find out more at [www.guystrust.org](http://www.guystrust.org). Follow Lauren and Lucy's blog as they travel from Battersea to Ulan Bator at [www.nodirectionmongolia.wordpress.com](http://www.nodirectionmongolia.wordpress.com). Sponsor Lauren and Lucy at [www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/laurenandlucy](http://www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/laurenandlucy).

# Man faces sex assault trial

By Janet Maitland

A man has been charged with a series of linked sexual assaults. Jermaine Williams, 32, of Durham Road, N2, will be tried at Wood Green Court during the autumn on charges of sexually assaulting four different women in East Finchley between 1 and 27 March.

The first alleged assault was of a 79-year-old woman waiting for a 102 bus at the stop opposite Springcroft Avenue in Fortis Green at 10.30am on Saturday 1 March. Details of the other three alleged assaults have not been released.

At a directions hearing at Wood Green Crown Court the judge stated that the alleged victims were women in their 50s, 70s and 80s and asked for consideration be given to video evidence at the trial, given their age. He also asked if mental health issues in relation to the defendant were to

be part of the case and was informed by Mr Williams' barrister that these were being explored.

Mr Williams was initially arrested on 14 April and bailed pending further enquiries. These enquiries led to him being arrested and charged on 17 June. He appeared at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court the following day to be formally charged.

The magistrate remanded him in custody until the directions hearing on 2 July at Wood Green Crown Court, where the judge also remanded him in custody until his trial.

# Help stock our shelves

Staff at the RSPCA shop in the High Road are appealing urgently for donations of bric-a-brac, books, accessories and particularly clothing to help support the charity's work with animals.

Manager Gabriella and assistant manager Julie are thankful for the huge response they've had from the local community since the shop opened last year but there's always demand for new stock to put on the shelves.

Donations can be taken into the shop during opening hours, which are 10am-5pm from Monday to Saturday and 11am to 4pm on Sundays. For more information call 020 3719 2257.



Rene Bell with some of her family and, top right, Rev. Michael Giles.

# 101 not out

By Daphne Chamberlain

Congratulations and best wishes from THE ARCHER to our oldest East Finchley-born reader. Mrs Irene Bell celebrated her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on 2 July with about 30 friends and family members joining her for a tea party at The Meadows, the residential home in Muswell Hill where she has lived for the last couple of years.

Her son and his wife came up from Devon, and grandson Simon from America. Rene Bell is a lifelong member and former Brownie leader at East Finchley Methodist Church, and Michael Giles, the Minister, and other Church members were there to congratulate her. Staff at The Meadows made her birthday cake.

Fellow Methodist June James told THE ARCHER: "It was a really nice, pleasant afternoon. Rene still has an excellent memory and loves to see people."

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