



Air raid shelter gone forever

By John Lawrence

A Muswell Hill resident is mourning the sudden loss of one of the area's few remaining Second World War air raid shelters after the structure disappeared overnight at the hands of developers.

The brick and concrete shelter stood at the rear of the Muswell Hill Odeon where Ruth Duckworth has been able to see it from her neighbouring garden all her life. But in May it was reduced to a pile of rubble and is destined to be replaced by two car parking spaces.

The shelter was provided by the cinema for the use of their patrons during the war. The site, which is no longer owned by the Odeon, is being redeveloped as part of an upgrade of the nearby arcade of shops.

Reminder of WW2

Ruth, a former archaeologist, is kicking herself that she didn't spot the tiny reference to removal of a 'derelict building' in a recent planning application for the site.

"I feel personally respon-

sible," said Ruth. "The shelter was tucked away and not many people would have known it was here but it's been a constant presence in my life and now it's suddenly gone.

"Yes, it was abandoned but it was a lovely building. All these shelters are a reminder of an important part of our country's history and they should be something we can hand down to future generations. They are being lost and the very least we should do is keep a record of them."

Do you have any memories of the Odeon air raid shelter? Did you perhaps use it during the war? Write to us at The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE, email the-archer@lineone.net or contact us on Facebook and Twitter at TheArcherN2.



The air raid shelter, now demolished, behind the Odeon. Photo from Google street map.



Children exercise at the Longjiang school where Jess and Pat taught.

Journey to the Orient

British council funding enabled Martin Primary School to send teachers Jessica Lundie and Pat Bulman to a partner school in China to learn about their teaching, culture and language. Here they describe their Far Eastern trip.

We started in Beijing where we explored the ancient civilisations of China by visiting the Forbidden City, opened to the public only since 1920. The summer palace was the next stop, followed by the Great Wall, used in ancient times to protect the emperor and his people. We also took in the sights of Tiananmen Square and the Mao mausoleum.

The Temple of Heaven, a place of worship for the old emperors and site of the Olympic torch changeover in 2008, was a calm haven after visiting the frenetic hutongs, narrow alleyways where old China mixes with new China. Along the way we sampled the delights of Northern Chinese cuisine.

Sharing ideas

We journeyed further south to meet our colleagues at Longjiang. We received a warm welcome from both the staff and children and were able to take part in various lessons across their



Jess and Pat in Beijing

curriculum as well as teaching English to the older children. We noticed many similarities in our methodology and will be sharing with colleagues in London ideas that we can implement to enhance our teaching at Martin Primary.

We were lucky enough to be visiting during the Ling Ting festival and got to experience local traditions and cuisine such as "fire pork".

It was certainly a worthwhile experience and we hope to continue to foster this friendship in the coming years and for the children and staff of both schools to benefit.

Football for change

An East End Road resident has helped to launch the first global football tournament for children affected by war.

Kieran Nokes says Shoot4Peace is an international movement using sport as a tool to promote human rights and social justice.

The campaign will bring together eight teams of children from war-affected regions of Iraq, Syria, Israel & Palestine, Cambodia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, and

Colombia to take part in a football tournament in Santiago, Chile in October.

Kieran, who is also co-founder of social enterprise Gladiator Education, says: "Our mission is to give these young people a voice, to raise awareness of children's needs and rights, help them recover from trauma, give them the skills to improve their own lives, and to become agents of positive transformation in their communities."

The chosen teams from each region will take part in

the football tournament, attend workshops and also present talks and activities on the issues other youngsters are facing in their home countries.

Long-term projects

In a second phase, Shoot4Peace will partner with organisations and charities working locally in each participating country to establish permanent educational projects including numeracy, literacy, health education, social learning and human rights.

Shoot4Peace are looking for sponsors and supporters to help make this a reality. To find out more or to offer your support email kieran.nokes@aball1.com or phone 07500 870019.

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