



Karla Zazueta in her Mexican kitchen. Photo Mike Coles

## Karla cooks up some Mexican magic

By John Lawrence

Karla Zazueta is well known in Grahams Butchers on East End Road. She's the one who often comes in asking for unusual cuts of meat to make the dishes she remembers from her childhood in Baja California, in the north of Mexico.

Her passion for the food of her homeland is as strong as ever, even after 13 years happily living in London. Now she is hoping to turn it into a business by teaching people to cook Mexican cuisine at her home or in their own kitchens.

### The real thing

Karla, who lives in Ossulton Way with her husband Russell and their two children, was encouraged to taste anything and everything when she was young by her own father. And she's keen to point out that when people think of Mexican food as spicy chilli con carne and fajitas they're barking up the wrong tree.

"Those dishes are not truly Mexican," says Karla. "My

aim is to let people try real Mexican food, with the recipes I was taught, matched with the ingredients that are available in London. You can get most things but sometimes I make substitutes, like feta cheese instead of the queso fresco Mexicans would use."

She believes the popularity of the Wahaca restaurant chain is evidence that Mexican cuisine is very much "on trend" these days. The food is easy to find in the centre of town but less so out here in the leafy suburbs.

### Big breakfasts

Karla's big idea is a twist on supper clubs. "I want to do breakfast clubs," she says, "where

mums or dads can come to my house during the morning and I'll teach them about the cuisine and the culture."

A typical Mexican breakfast consists of fried pieces of tortilla in salsa, with fresh cheese and cream, maybe also eggs with beans and salsa, sweet bread, along with fresh juice and coffee. "Quite big," Karla readily admits.

Find out more about Karla's morning and evening cooking sessions by going to her blog <http://mexicanfoodmemories.co.uk>. She can also be found under the same tag on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

## Sexual assault in Cherry Tree Wood

By Janet Maitland

Police are appealing for witnesses following a serious sexual assault in broad daylight in Cherry Tree Wood on Monday 13 June. A 19-year-old woman was attacked while she was walking through the park at about 5pm.

Police are looking for a white man aged between 45 and 55 years old, with wavy shoulder length hair. He was wearing a black jacket and dark trousers.

The area was sealed off on the night of the attack and kept closed until midday the following day.

The attack happened two days after a woman was dragged off Long Lane and raped. A police spokesperson said: "At this stage, we do not believe that this incident is linked to any others that have occurred in the area."

If you saw a man matching the description, or noticed anyone, or anything else, suspicious in the wood on 13 June between 4pm and 6pm, please contact police on 101. To remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or go to [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org).

## Woman is attacked on Long Lane

Police are appealing for information following the rape of a woman on Long Lane in the early hours of Saturday 11 June.

The woman was attacked near the junction with Vines Avenue, opposite Victoria Park, at a few minutes past midnight on Friday 10 June into Saturday. She was dragged from the street into a residential garden and raped by an unknown man.

The man is described as approximately 30 years old, of mixed race appearance with a stocky build and short dark hair. He was wearing dark trousers and a red t-shirt.

The victim, who is in her 20s, is being provided with support by specialist officers.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Sexual Offences, Exploitation and Child Abuse team on 020 733 5011 or via 101, quoting reference number 2413690/16. To remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or go to [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)



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## Crunch time for the pavilion

On the eve of our community festival in June, the dilapidated pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood was hastily boarded up and surrounded by a secure metal fence.

Concerned about the state of the building (*THE ARCHER*, January 2016), the wood and the rise of low-level anti-social behaviour, the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have lately been in discussion with the council about improvements.

They have launched an online petition at: <http://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/make-the-pavilion-building-in-cherry-tree-wood-safe>. It will be presented at the Finchley and

Golders Green Area Committee, Garden Suburb Junior School, NW11, at 7pm on 6 July, when all are welcome to attend.

The Friends told *THE ARCHER*: "We feel we need to put pressure on Barnet Council to liaise with the leaseholder to make the site safe and to discuss the project. We are also starting discussions about a sustainable management plan for the wood, which we feel has become neglected in recent years."

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