



# Detectives go down the drain to uncover hidden pollution problem

By Sarah Dudley

White vans with WERM on the side have been seen around East Finchley for a few months. Men in hi-vis jackets have been peering down manholes and ringing doorbells, asking to view our drains. And some residents have made uncomfortable discoveries about their household plumbing arrangements.

One reason for WERM (part of Thames Water) investigating local drains is pollution at East Finchley Allotments. A narrow open watercourse crosses their land, eventually joining a tributary to the River Lea. It should carry only surface water, mostly rain water, but there's clear evidence that misconnected plumbing has contaminated it: foul smells, detergent foam, baby wipes and worse.

## Putting it right

Tracing the sources of the problem is slow and laborious. Old properties may have had many plumbing alterations and adaptations, with current occupants unaware of previous work. Sometimes getting access to a property is difficult and people can be defensive about their privacy and afraid of facing bills. For if plumbing misconnections are found, the responsibility for correcting them almost always rests with the homeowner or the landlord.

The WERM employees who visited our household in Durham Road were polite, tactful and informative. To our dismay they did find a misconnected pipe which had been sending kitchen waste water into the wrong gully. Luckily putting it right wasn't difficult or costly and it was a relief to know that we were no longer contributing to the pollution at the allotments and further downstream.

The local investigations are not over. I'm told that a great many misconnections have been found and of course each plumbing correction must be checked and approved. Eventually, however, the allotments surface watercourse will be tested and, we hope, shown to be free of foul water.



Super healthy: Holy Trinity pupils tuck in while wearing their hero masks.

# Holy Trinity health heroes

Holy Trinity Primary School pupils showed they knew how to eat healthily when they took part in a fundraising day for the charity Health Poverty Action.

The children designed and wore personally decorated Health Hero masks as well as creating their very own healthy lunch, bursting with fresh fruit and vegetables, with the help of their School Council.

The money raised went towards helping people in some of the world's poorest communities who don't have the same chance to eat healthily.



Garden party: Visitors through the Nazareth House summer fair.

# Crowds besiege care home fete

The Friends of Nazareth (Finchley) organised a fun-filled and very successful summer fete to raise funds for treats and outings for the elderly residents at the care home in East End Road, N2.

Live music was performed by John Erskine, Max the head chef and Clive Silverman. Tea and cakes were very popular and the clothes and bric-à-brac, plants, toys and book stalls stocked and run by the Friends, together with Janette Maycock, were besieged.

The sun shone all day and crowds of people poured into what is becoming a well-known fun local event. It was the most successful fete yet, making an amazing £2,350. Organisers thanked all volunteers and staff who gave up their time to make it such a success.

# RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

## Peace and love and nostalgia

Cor baby, peace and love and pot and psychedelia and free love and summer and Pink Floyd and the Grateful Dead and peace and love and nostalgia. Because in the weird world of total meltdown nothing is quite as appealing as rose-tinted memories. And few are quite as lost in a rose-tinted haze of joss sticks and hashish as 1967.

This was the Summer of Love, this was when hippies were invented. It started in January in San Francisco and spread like a purple haze across the Atlantic on a wave of music to hit London like the feedback from a Jimi Hendrix guitar solo. The States had Golden Gate Park and Monterey Pop, London had Pink Floyd and the UFO club. They had the Grateful Dead, we imported Hendrix and everybody had hash and acid. Time to tune in, turn on and drop out, time to create something that in a swish of tie-dyed velvet and bellbottoms would sweep away straight society. Or not.

The summer of love wasn't just about love. There was Vietnam and burning your draft card and boys coming home in body bags and shouts of 'Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?'. This was the year that the Greek army staged a coup and gave us seven years of military dictatorship, the year Ronald Reagan became governor of California, the year there were race riots across America. And Che Guevara was killed in Columbia.

Meanwhile here in Britain, 1967 was the year Milton Keynes was founded and the first cashpoint opened in Britain. But hey, let's not end with a downer, even if the end of pirate radio was a real bummer. They decriminalised homosexuality and Pink Floyd released *A Saucerful of Secrets*. So what if it wasn't as much a summer or love; nostalgia doesn't care, it never did.

## Headscratcher

### Gaps

By Oliver Skanberg-Tippen

1  2  3  4  5

- RE\_EL
- \_ARS
- P\_INT
- PE\_T
- PLAN\_

Find the missing letters in the five words and use them in the same order to create a new word in the boxes above. Target solution clue is 'on toast'; 2-3 solutions, very good; 4-5 solutions, excellent. Target answer below.

Target solution: BEANS

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(Coffee served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

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