



Flood of donations sends Robin to Barcelona

By Lynn Winton
Following our report in last month's edition, we have a heartwarming update on 18-month-old Robin Samuel, whose parents Rachel and Nick are fighting to get him the best treatment after he was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a rare paediatric cancer.

The family, who live in a rented flat in Tetherdown in Muswell Hill, published their appeal to the community to help them raise £300,000 via Crowdfunder so he can have treatment in Barcelona, which will give him an excellent chance of growing up into a healthy adult. After the incredible response, their fund has quickly reached £108,000 from nearly 2,000 supporters.

Originally the hospital, St Joan de Deu, had insisted that they were paid for at least three of the five rounds of 'next-generation' immunotherapy that Robin urgently needs to start, but having seen the strength of Rachel and Nick's support, they relented and so, at time of going to press, the family are packing for Barcelona where the first round of treatment will be delivered immediately.

"It was just amazing to see our story in print," said Rachel "and we can read on the comments how many supporters helped after reading about us in

The Archer. Someone wrote "It takes a village" and I think that says it all."

Bittersweet

Rachel works for The National Literacy Trust and Nick is a composer and saxophonist. As well as their Crowdfunder page, both have arranged auctions, concerts, gigs and other fundraising events with local businesses and work contacts.



Ready for treatment: Robin Samuel and his dad Nick

"This is such a bittersweet time," said Rachel. "We are elated that Robin is going to start his treatment to ensure he grows up healthy, but the pressure is on to keep up the payment plan for the next rounds. One day hopefully soon this treatment will be available in the UK but that would be too late for Robin. If we don't do this, it's going to be agonising, as the further chemotherapy on offer here, on

top of his eight original courses, will wreck his little body with a high probability of deafness, leukaemia, infertility, the list is endless.

"Thank you so much for helping to make this happen, and to those of you who are continuing to donate and fundraise for Robin as we begin the next part of his journey towards a healthy, happy and hospital-free life."

If you would like to help Robin, the Crowdfunder QR code is below, or you can go to crowdfunder.co.uk and search using keywords "robin cancer london". You can also follow the family's planned events on X (formerly Twitter) @savebabyrobin. Rachel and Nick can be contacted on 07399 447705 or rachel.samuel@myyahoo.com



Gift ideas: Some of the items on show at last year's arts fair at the Muswell Hill Club

Autumn arts and crafts

The Muswell Hill Club on Fortis Green is hosting its second Autumn Arts and Crafts show after the great success of last year's event. It is open to the whole community, not just gym members.

As well as a date for the diary to buy all kinds of artisanal gifts made locally, there is also still time for makers to apply for a stall and start selling well in time for Christmas. There is no charge to run a stall.

As well as food samplings, wine tastings and a raffle in aid of North London Hospice, gym owner Hussein Lalani has other plans that are still under wraps. The fair will take place on Thursday 26 October from 6pm to 9.30pm. If you would like to apply for a stall, direct your queries by email to Natalie: info@muswellhillclub.com



Which way? The sign at The Causeway exit of East Finchley station fell into disrepair...

Can we have our missing signs back?

By David Melsome

A resident is trying to drum up support for the restoration of the missing sign in the much-used pedestrian path to the rear of East Finchley Tube station.

Tina Janering is a regular user of The Causeway and was dismayed to see the old sign fall into disrepair before disappearing altogether to be replaced by unsightly graffiti.

"The sign gave very helpful information to any visitors exiting the rear of the station and local residents would like it back," said Tina. The sign at the other end of the footpath is also missing.

Not the only problem

Tina, of Harford Walk N2, notes that the missing signs are not the only problem for The Causeway. Further up from the station, an enormous tree is covering the streetlight, making that section pitch-black after dark. The surface is uneven and full of puddles when it rains.

"If the lighting remains so poor as the evenings draw in, this path will become a mugger's paradise," Tina says.

The Causeway sits in the Hampstead Garden Suburb ward and Tina has enlisted the support of her local councillor

Rohit Grover, who took up the issue with Barnet Council in June. The Highways department told him then that they were in touch with the contractor who would replace the sign but, more than three months on, Tina has not seen any action.

A petition for improved lighting, started by residents of The Causeway, which gathered 3,600 signatures in a matter of weeks, was presented to Barnet's local area committee in January 2022. Residents were promised several safety improvements which never materialised.

Meanwhile, any visitors leaving the station by the rear exit may be left to scratch their heads as to exactly where they are.



Who knows? ... before disappearing altogether and being replaced by graffiti

RICKY SAVAGE ... THE VOICE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

Vegans v cats

In the world of climate change we are all meant to stop travelling, stop breathing and go vegan. No more whole milk latte from Costa Buck, no butter, cheese, fish or meat. Instead everything we eat must be plant-based, including the milk on your cornflakes... and the food for the family pets.

This is not a problem for your average hamster or rabbit; I've never seen a gerbil tucking into chicken or beef, and rabbits don't do bacon sarnies even at Christmas. Dogs are easy, because a dog will eat anything, even if, like their relatives the suburban foxes, they might prefer a left-over kebab. But there has always been an exception to all this and that's everyone's favourite domestic predator.

Cats, as he who sleeps next to the radiator explained via email, need a high-protein diet and there are some things that a cat just has to have to stay healthy which they can only get from meat. Go vegan? No way.

Yet scientists have done what scientists do and developed vegan cat food. How you might ask? Simple really, they got out their chemistry set and came up with synthetic proteins. To find out if it was true that vegan cats were healthier and kinder to the planet, I started on mine.

Sniffy

I got the highest quality vegan cat food and opened the tin and waited. He had a quick sniff, a tiny nibble and then reacted like any self-respecting cat. He spat the food out, kicked his dish across the kitchen and went off to hack into my computer, where Just Uber can deliver a dozen tins of endangered species flavour Gourmet cat food in 20 minutes.

The thing is, I'd hoped that by getting him to join me in going vegan I could avoid having to replace the V8 muscle car with some eco-friendly, ULEZ-compliant electric taxi. The cat had other ideas and now I'm stuck with an urban predator ordering fresh tuna behind my back and boasting about it on Instagram. So forget vegan cat food. Cats aren't interested in saving the planet, they are only interested in lunch.



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