



Letters

Harvest donations

Dear Editor,

A new initiative has been underway between Creighton Avenue Allotments in Muswell Hill and the London Food Bank after it was noticed that ripe fruit and veg was going to waste on the trees and in the ground around the allotments. A lot of hard work went into growing the produce and it seemed a shame to not gather it in.

I contacted Food Bank Aid on the Vue cinema site in North Finchley asking if they would like surplus produce from the allotments. The next step was to ask the allotment committee for permission to construct two collection point stands. The stands are made out of old wooden pallets, kindly donated by Chris Stephens on Colney Hatch Lane.

With my fellow members at Muswell Hill Men's Shed we discussed how to build the stands. Collective brainstorming produced an easy-to-make design and I was able to take the pallets to the allotment. Each stand took about an hour to construct and

donations have been plentiful. During the harvest season, I have been visiting the collection sites at least every other day and taking the produce to the food bank.

It's a simple community exercise with generous inputs from a range of local organisations. I would be happy to build collection stations on other allotments in the area but each will have to set up its own collection and drop off with the food bank.



Allotment produce ready to be left in one of the collection crates

Richard Rosen
Address supplied

Foxy finagler

Dear Editor,

One morning in late August, I was catching up early with emails. It was a warm summer's day and I wanted to get the slightly cooler air flowing through by opening the front window and back door. I was on my laptop in the front room when coffee called me, so I went to make a cup.

I was sitting in the kitchen when I heard the letter box rattle. I turned to my friend and said the postie was early but when I got to the doormat I picked up this lovely note, pictured. It read: "To Downstairs. I caught a (v small + cute) fox entering your front window with a sandal about 07.00. It went towards Juliana Close but I lost it. FYI!"



Outfoxed: Fiona's remaining sandal and her neighbour's note

/ exiting your front window with a sandal about 07.00! It went towards Juliana Close but I lost it. FYI."

This summer my neighbours and I were saying there are so many brazen bouncy young foxes around. I think one in particular has been popping into the flat, prospecting for cat food. My cat usually hisses and sees them off. Foxes are brave and surprisingly narrow, squeezing through windows left ajar, though on this occasion the window was a lot wider, as I'd been sitting there enjoying the cooler draught.

We went looking for my sandal bought on holiday in Minorca a few years ago. Not spotted. Maybe another trip to the Balearic Islands is on the books for a new pair?

Thanks to my neighbour for the note. My friends are saying I have a new flatmate, one who eats my food and borrows my clothes! Although I don't want one.

Fiona McEwan,
Kitchener Road

Moth migrants

Dear Editor,

These photos taken by Donald Lyven and me show two day-flying migrant moths that have been common and easy to spot this summer, the Hummingbird Hawk moth and the Jersey Tiger. Both come as adults from continental Europe, and are increasingly overwintering here in the UK.

Moths, butterflies, and skip-pers feed by unrolling a long tube-shaped proboscis which acts like a drinking straw to access nectar from the inner base of tubular flowers. So they are seen feeding on accessible flowers like honeysuckle, salvias and buddleia.

Whilst most land on the flower itself, the Hummingbird Hawk moth hovers using high frequency wing beats, and indeed does look exactly like a tiny hummingbird. The easiest way to distinguish



Migrant visitor: The Tiger Moth

between moths and butterflies is that moths at rest have the topsides of their upper wings displayed in a V shape whereas butterflies close their wings like a book to reveal the fuller undersides. In this position, butterflies are often camouflaged

to resemble a dead leaf. By contrast, the wing display of the Jersey Tiger is bright to warn potential predators that the moth is unpalatable.

Linda Dolata,
Leopold Road,N2

White van wonder

Dear Editor,



Neighbours in Bedford Road brandish colanders ready for the eclipse
Photos Jane Marsh

A strategically parked white van helped some Bedford Road residents make the most of their eclipse experience on 12 August. It provided the ideal background on which to project images of the eclipse through colanders and pinhole cards, for those of us without viewing glasses. A fun time was had by all, helped along by the odd glass of wine,

especially when a very non-plussed driver returned to find his van surrounded by people wielding colanders and waving bits of cardboard.

Jane Marsh,
Bedford Road,N2

Re-Griddable solution
from page 9

Across:	Down:
STOW	SEAL
EAVE	TAPE
APES	OVEN
LENT	WEST

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From Cub to helper: what I get from volunteering

By Noah Ridehalgh

I have been involved in the 224 North London Air Scouts community for most of my life. When I was young I loved learning about wildlife and taking part in games in the Beavers group, and then learning about the local area when I was older in the Cubs group.

By the time I moved to Scouts, we were rock climbing and learning how to tie knots. I first joined the Beavers group when I was six years old and, now I'm a young adult, I'm supporting the Beavers group by volunteering as a young leader.

The Beavers meet every Saturday during term time. At the group, children make friends and learn skills through activities, such as cooking, photography and reading. As they learn new skills, they earn badges to celebrate their achievements.

As a volunteer I typically help to set-up and run games and crafts, for example dodgeball and football, or I accompany the children on walks. Then there are all the essential tasks

like laying out the tables and chairs, providing colouring supplies, and helping to clean up afterwards. At the beginning of my volunteering, I struggled to help with activities, feeling nervous about interacting with the children and other leaders. Over time helping with the group boosted my self-confidence and helped me feel more confident about trying new things. Helping with the Beaver group has also brought me closer to nature, with out door activities giving me a chance to appreciate local wildlife, reminding me about the wildlife we do not focus on day-to-day. I am proud of my volunteering and being a part of 224: I feel as if I am contributing to the

scouting community and will continue to do so in the coming years. If you would like to learn more or get in touch, the group can be contacted at del@224northlondonscouts.org.uk



Rock climbing is just one of the activities Noah has helped with

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