

PUTNEY

time & leisure

Issue 61 August 2005

cannizaro festival

4 poofs & a piano and
all the highlights

barry cryer

antidotes and anecdotes

essential

24-page interiors
supplement



what's on
film, restaurants,
exhibitions & theatre

Dear T&L.



your letters

Dear T&L,



'Give It Away Limited' is not a name one would probably associate with property development, and it is guaranteed to bring a smile to most faces, and a degree of scepticism! I have entered into the 'perceived' cut-throat, hard-edged, predominantly male

profession of property management in order to earn money for children and young people in London and the Borough of Wandsworth by building or renovating homes for sale. Interest on the loans used to facilitate the project will be repaid and then all the profits given to charity.

These charities are locally-based and depend largely on donations rather than statutory funding. Our chosen organisations support disabled, blind, injured, or disadvantaged children; youngsters who have been excluded socially or educationally from society, needing help to reconstruct their lives for a better future, plus funds will be made available for a new Children's Hospice in West London, built and maintained solely by donation. We are also inviting youngsters from these charities to come and join us on site to get some hands-on work experience, to see what working in a real team on a real project is actually like.

We have two projects in progress - one is the building of two new elegant homes at Putney Heath and the other is a small, freehold coach house in west Putney. In order to maximise the amount we 'give away' we are asking suppliers for as much support as possible, and the generosity we have encountered has been wonderful. Using mainly local companies as this is a local initiative our web site at www.give-it-away.co.uk outlines the help we are still looking for and gives details of the houses, the suppliers and the charities.

This is an exciting and fulfilling project - the thought that the money we are earning can change lives for the better makes this a property company with a difference. The 'feel-good factor' is affecting even the most seasoned builder! If there is any way you would like to help, please contact me.

Charlotte Graham
020 8876 8507 www.give-it-away.co.uk charlotte@give-it-away.co.uk

Dear T&L

WALK FOR FREEDOM 2005

Saturday 3rd September Wimbledon Common 2005 between 11am and 3pm

Something special took place on Wimbledon Common on a searingly hot day in September last year. People walked, money was raised, and as a consequence a little creature thousands of miles away in China was freed from its tortured existence as a 'bile bear' on one of the many farms across Asia. The lucky bear was appropriately named 'Womble'.

Confined in tiny cages that restrict all movement and milked for their bile through crudely-inserted catheters, these animals have no free access to water and are fed scraps through the bars of their 'crush' cages. They are kept for up to 20 years, and many go insane or physically harm themselves as a result of their confinement.



British woman Jill Robinson MBE initiated the rescue of these poor creatures in 1998.

Although estimates put the number of captive bears at around 7,000, the Chinese government, working with the Animals Asia Foundation, has

agreed not to issue any new farming licences and the hope is for the total elimination of bear farming by the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Rescued bears arrive at the sanctuary in appalling condition, and all need emergency surgery and huge amounts of therapy, both mental and physical. Some are missing limbs, often from crude traps used to capture them in the wild but their capacity for recovery is truly inspiring. Awareness of the plight of these beautiful bears is spreading, and fundraising events will be taking place throughout the summer. After last year's success, there will be another sponsored walk on Wimbledon Common, and this year Jill Robinson will be in attendance along with 'Moonie' the moon bear. It will be a fun day out, and more importantly could transform the life of at least one little bear somewhere out there on a farm in Asia.

The distance is optional, 2.5 or 5 miles. Please contact Animals Asia on 0870 241 2723 or info@animalsasia.org to register. Numbers are limited so please register early.

Dear T&L,

Every year, cancer claims the lives of more than 150,000 people in the UK, with a further one million living with the disease at any given time. Marie Curie Cancer Care provides high quality nursing, totally free, to give terminally-ill people the choice of dying at home supported by their families.

You can help to raise vital funds needed to provide this care by donating your old mobile phones and printer cartridges to the Recycling Appeal run on behalf of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Simply post phones and cartridges to: Marie Curie Recycling Appeal (EL), 31-37 Etna Road, Falkirk FK2 9EG. For more information on how to obtain freepost envelopes or arrange free pickups call 0871 250 5050 or visit our website at www.recyclingappeal.com/mariecurie.

Kindest Regards, Emily Goulborn
Fundraiser
Marie Curie Cancer Care