

LOCAL NEWS

Keep your finger on the pulse with our round-up of local news



to mark the 50th anniversary of the Hammersmith Society.

Mia fell hook, line and sinker for wildlife photography after a visit to the *Wildlife Photography Exhibition* at the Natural History Museum. 'I love all animals and I want to capture them in their natural habitat,' she tells the *Journal*. 'I would most like to photograph a snow leopard or a tiger. I decided to make greetings cards just before Christmas to start my fund for a camera with a zoom lens. I used my Christmas money to get my photos printed on to cards,' she adds.

So, would Mia like to be a photographer when she is older? 'Definitely, yes! I would tell other people my age who want to be a photographer to always believe in yourself and never give up.' ■

To see more of Mia's work and for details on how to order some of her cards, visit mialapwoodphotography.co.uk

TAKE NOTE...

If you're looking for a greetings card with more personality than the ones from the rotating stand at the newsagent, then budding local photographer Mia Lapwood has the answer. The enterprising ten-year-old has created a set of floral themed



cards which she sells via her website, mialapwoodphotography.co.uk. Mia first picked up the camera aged just six, when she won her school photography competition with a picture of a squirrel chewing on a hunk of bread in Bishops Park. The same snap made its way into the *Hammersmith and Fulham Chronicle* after being selected as one of the best photographs of the borough

JUST A LITTLE CRUSH

With St Valentine at large this month, busily scattering amorous tokens all around town, chocolatier Amelia Rope has sent bundles of her heavenly chocolate bars, cubes and truffles to Barley & Sage in Parsons Green. Four new flavours, launched just in time for 14th February, include dark raspberry, dark sea salt, white cherry and toasted coconut flakes and coconut with sea salt, all beautifully wrapped in brightly coloured foil and brown paper and tied with a ribbon. We love the sea salt and lemon, if anyone out there is wondering...



Barley & Sage, 34 New Kings Road, SW6 4ST (ameliarope.com)

An audience with...

The first in a series of thought-provoking evenings in aid of veteran charity Stoll kicks off this month. Join Colonel Tim Collins OBE to hear the eve of battle speech he made to the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment in Iraq in 2003, before the floor is opened for a question and answer session. All proceeds will go to Stoll.

25 February, 6.30pm-9pm, 446 Fulham Road, SW6 1DT. Tickets £10 (concessions for veterans), call 020 7385 2110 or 07932 683641 to book or email tom.howat@stoll.org.uk

RUNNING RINGS AROUND WAGNER

There's a first time for everything, or so they say. And The Fulham Opera, London's smallest professional opera company, is very vocal in embracing this mantra. Its *Fulham Ring* goes full circle this month, having entranced audiences with Wagner's beast of a composition since 2011. The fringe company will now revive all four acclaimed productions as two complete cycles and perform them in a week, as was Wagner's original intention. Ambitious? Without a doubt, but don't miss the opportunity to be mesmerised by this once in a lifetime experience.

The First Cycle runs from 9-16 February and the Second Cycle from 23 February - 2 March at St John's Church, North End Road, SW6 1PB. Check fulhamopera.com for further details and to book tickets



REMINDER

Hammersmith Bridge will be fully closed in both directions for the weekends of 8-9, 15-16 and 22-23 February from 8am on Saturday to 5am on Monday. The southbound lane will also be partially closed (from 7am-3pm Monday-Friday) on weekdays until 28 February. Access will be maintained for pedestrians and the 72, 209 and 609 buses are still running over the bridge during the week.



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TWEET TWEET



Fulham Residents' Journal has finally joined the Twittersphere (better late than never). We will endeavour to spread the word about all news, events and concerns for a follow, naturally. Likewise, keep us up to date with what's happening on the local grape vine. Find us at: [@FulhamRJ](https://twitter.com/FulhamRJ)

Safe as houses

Local crime levels fell to an all-time low last year, falling by 15 per cent according to the latest Met Police figures. The statistics reveal that there were 3,295 fewer crimes in the borough in 2013 compared to 2012. This amounts to a 21 per cent reduction in personal robberies and 18 per cent fewer burglaries; vehicle crime is also down 21 per cent.