



Cyquest expedition cyclists prepare to leave Trafalgar Square: (from left) Richard Crowle, Rebecca Sumner, Laurence Delobbe and Phil McCormack

Miami artist returns to Notting Hill

Six years ago, Notting Hill artist Sharon Yamamoto packed up her paints and brushes and relocated to Miami, expecting it to be a cultural desert. She had spent more than 20 years in W11 and was sorry to leave Holland Park, Portobello Road and the journey to her East End studio. But her colour palette soon adapted itself to the vibrant tropical light – and despite her fears that only Latin artists could be popular in the largely Cuban area of south Florida, she quickly became successful as an artist. Florida's galleries and press received her work enthusiastically, proving that Miami's art scene is open to more than just pink flamingos and dolphins. Now Sharon is back in W11 for a brief exhibition at the Tabernacle. Her recent paintings, drawings, canvas prints and ceramic tiles will be on display on 7 July at the Tablet Gallery in the Tabernacle, Powis Square W11 from 4.30pm to 10.30pm. Phone 020 7565 7801 for more information and visit www.sharonyamamoto.com for a preview.



Sharon Yamamoto in front of one of her canvases

Desert feet

Local podiatrist Máire Murphy of the Pembridge Practice is preparing to trek the Moroccan desert mountains to raise money for the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. From 22 September until 6 October Máire will endure a tough challenge, during which she promises to take care of any foot problems suffered by the other 19 trekkers. The Medical Foundation campaigns for the abolition of torture as well as treating survivors both psychologically and physically. To help Máire raise her target of £2,000 for the charity, pledge a donation by calling Máire on 020 7727 6827 or emailing maire@pembridgepractice.co.uk.

Pedalling the globe

A unique cycling expedition left Trafalgar Square on 23 May, headed for Cape Town, South Africa. The 7000 mile journey is due to take ten months and dedicated cyclists Richard Crowle, Rebecca Sumner, Laurence Delobbe and Phil McCormack are together raising £100,000 for Macmillan Cancer Relief's £3 million Greater London Appeal.

The project will provide services for cancer patients in the capital including more nurses, a building project and patient grants for those in financial difficulty due to their illness. Locally, a new Occupational Therapist at St Mary's Hospital will offer practical advice and support to help cancer patients cope with day-to-day living. An Information and Therapy suite is also promised for Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to provide advice, counselling and complementary therapies for people with cancer.

Catch up on expedition news, including diaries and pictures, at www.cyquest.org.uk. To make a donation, call 020 8563 9699, quoting 'cyquest'.

Paddington bears the rain

Residents of Westbourne Terrace in Paddington braved the rain on a rather gloomy June day to hold their annual street party/sale, celebrating 150 years of life on the grand Victorian street. Despite the rain, the sale proved successful and the barbecue was popular amongst both locals and visitors.

Over four hundred residents in the area around Westbourne Terrace are linked via email and the event itself is organised through the community website, www.newspad.co.uk, which is packed with information and news. Editor Brian Jenner says: "Paddington is going to be one of the most advanced commercial districts in London in the coming years – but we also hope it will be one of the most advanced neighbourhoods with Newspaper informing everyone who's who and what's going on."

Blue for Britten

Benjamin Britten, the foremost English composer of our time, has been honoured with an English Heritage blue plaque. The plaque adorns the wall at 173 Cromwell Road SW5, where Britten lived and composed while he was studying at the Royal College of Music between 1931 and 1933. Marion



Musician Julian Lloyd Webber points to the Blue Plaque unveiled in honour of composer Benjamin Britten (Photo by Tim Matthews)

Thorpe, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Britten-Pears Foundation, unveiled the plaque and Julian Lloyd Webber, present at the unveiling, said: "Britten was a fantastic composer and I play his cello music as often as I can." Also attending was composer Colin Matthews, who worked closely with Britten and has specially arranged Britten's *Paul Bunyan Overture* for this year's *First Night of the Proms*.

Books for the library

Well done to all those at the annual charity book auction held by Simon Finch Rare Books at the Cobden Club last month. In total, £15,000 was raised to help keep the Notting Hill Gate Library campaign active. A worthwhile local cause, we wish it success.



Lynda Russel-Whitaker (left) and Jacqueline Castles (right) avoid the rain at the annual Paddington street sale. (Photo courtesy of www.newspad.co.uk)