

Wood & Vale

St John's Wood & Maida Vale Express

LITTLE VENICE OFFICE
020 7289 6666
 HAMPSTEAD OFFICE
020 7435 4404
 WEST HAMPSTEAD OFFICE
020 7433 6868
 www.g-h.co.uk
GOLDSCHMIDT
 Established 1888 HOWLAND

Thursday April 3, 2014 80p



What Vicky Pryce learned in prison

etcetera



Fashion passion pays dividends for Pigs4Kids charity

page 25

Bake Off is piece of cake for under-10s

A group of enthusiastic young bakers unleashed their inner Mary Berry on Saturday.

The Dry Goods Store, Lauderdale Road, hosted the Great Kids' Bake Off, with the under-10s showing off their skills in the kitchen.

Arthur, seven, John, four, and Edwin, three, worked hard to produce some creative designs, with a little help from mum.

The style of cake was left to artistic interpretation, so the talented boys chose the theme of Easter.

The treats were baked at home and then brought to the store to be shared with, and judged by, locals Aleesha Fernandes and Gabriella Boucher.

■ The Dry Goods Store runs Saturday activities for under-10s every other month. Visit facebook.com/TheDryGoodsStore.



■ John, four, and Arthur, seven, with their cakes at The Dry Goods Store

Picture: Nigel Sutton



Complaining letters turned into a book

See page 3

Call to stop the 'buy to leave' home investors

Council urged to consider fining wealthy owners of empty properties

by Samantha Lewis

samantha.lewis@archant.co.uk

Westminster is being urged to follow in the footsteps of a London council and crackdown on "buy-to-leave" investors who snap up properties and leave them vacant.

Cllr Guthrie McKie wants the council to consider following Islington, which this week became the first local authority in the country to announce it is looking into fining home owners who

fail to prove their property is occupied.

It hopes the scheme would address the borough's housing shortage and stop wealthy overseas property investors ploughing their cash into new-build homes which they have no intention of living in, or renting out.

Cllr McKie, Labour's housing spokesman, said: "I think it is an excellent idea. It is one of the problems we have, particularly in central parts of Westminster. "Investors buy properties

and leave them empty. There's a whole raft of measures we would bring in to tackle the problem, and that is definitely one we would want to bring in."

The practice of "buy-to-leave" has been widely criticised across London.

The Wood&Vale has previously reported fears that the disused police station, in St John's Wood in Newcourt Street, could be turned into luxury flats by super-rich overseas developers with no intention of living in them.

This week St John's Wood Society has said it would support Westminster Council bringing in any measures that would prevent homes lying empty.

Alex Lituchy, of Abbey Road, Maida Vale, told the Wood&Vale: "I think that following Islington's lead on fining 'buy-to-leave' investors is a good thing, so people can afford the new homes that are developed with this money."

But the council said it has no plans to roll out a similar scheme in the borough.

A family run business with over 20 years experience in flooring.



All our staff are fully trained in floor installation and product awareness.

We supply and install solid hardwood, engineered hardwood, softwood and laminate flooring.

Sanding, Staining, Repairing & More

Call now for a quick quote

020 8346 0968

www.timberzone.co.uk





■ Fashion show at Francis Holland School Picture: Dieter Perry



■ Fashion show at Francis Holland School Picture: Dieter Perry

Girls' passion for fashion pays dividends for charity

Teenagers take to the catwalk for colourful fundraiser

by Tim Lamden
tim.lamden@archant.co.uk

A prestigious all-girls school has raised more than £700 with a lunchtime fashion show to support children at a Swiss Cottage special school.

Girls at Francis Holland School, in Ivor Place, Regent's Park, paraded up and down a makeshift catwalk set up in the school's main hall on Friday at the fundraiser to support Swiss Cottage School Development and Research Centre.

Decades

The fashion show, organised by Year 10 pupils, was watched by all 464 pupils at the school and featured teams of girls from every year group – each modelling styles from different decades.

A teachers' team, representing the 1980s, strutted their stuff to the sound of 1981 hit *Don't You Want Me* by The Human League.

French and Spanish teacher Marjorie Gustave, head of Year 10, said: "It was very well-organised and everyone said how much they enjoyed it. "The girls did a very



■ Fashion show at Francis Holland School Picture: Dieter Perry

good job. The performers took it seriously and it went well."

Francis Holland pupils were inspired to raise money for the special school during a recent visit to meet teachers and pupils at its site in Avenue Road, Swiss Cottage.

Guests at the fashion show were required to pay an entrance fee to watch the show, with all the proceeds going to the Pigs4Kids campaign set up to support the special school and launched in partnership with the *Ham&High*.
Cake sales at Francis Hol-

land on Friday and Monday also raised money for Pigs4Kids.

In total, the school raised £710 which will go towards buying new iPads for pupils at the special school.

The *Ham&High* is asking readers to help raise £60,000 for the Pigs4Kids campaign, to support the £24million school which opened in October 2012.

To donate or find out how to pick up a Pigs4Kids piggy bank, call the *Ham&High* on 020 7433 0000 or visit www.pigs4kids.org



■ From left to right: Jessie Clayton, 15, Nicole Chretien, 15 and Lucy Minderides, 15 Picture: Dieter Perry



■ Fashion show at Francis Holland School Picture: Dieter Perry