

THE FLASK WALKER NW.3.

The Flask Walker is the newsletter of the Flask Walk Neighbourhood Association, representing the interests of residents and businesses in the area of Flask Walk: Back Lane, Boades Mews, Flask Walk, Gardnor Road, Lakis Close, Lutton Terrace, Mansfield Place, Murray Terrace, New Court and Streatley Place.

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Bring-and-share picnic on the Green: Sunday 5 July, 1 pm onwards

As a change from the Summer Fair, we're planning a picnic this year. Although it's primarily an event for our members, everyone is welcome – but please bring something to eat or drink, and share. Non-members will be able to join the Association on the spot.

The picnic will be thoroughly informal, a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbours. A Mystical Fairy or two plan to join us, an added reason for younger people to come along too.

We look forward to seeing you at the Flask Walk Green on July 5th, from 1 o'clock onwards.

Small bomb in Flask Walk: not much damage

On the morning of Monday 11 May, workmen were renovating the former Humla shop in Flask Walk when they discovered a hand grenade in the ceiling. The police bomb squad was called; they found a second weapon, a rifle grenade, in the same place. Flask Walk was sealed off, and residents told to take cover.

Both grenades were found to be inert. People who saw them said they looked as though they dated from the Second World War.

Flask Walk was back to its normal routines within an hour.

Unique professional tailor in Flask Walk

Halit Bingol opened his shop in Flask Walk in September 2007, where he and two other experienced tailors are now altering and making clothes.

Halit is improving his English and his 19-year old daughter, Mevsim, interpreted for him for this interview.

Where were you born and brought up?

I was born in Turkey. At the age of 12 I left school to learn to be a tailor.



Halit Bingol

Photo: Sara Harris

Why did you leave?

The political situation was unstable in Turkey. When I was 22 I moved to the Turkish area of Cyprus. I spent five years in Cyprus. I went back to Turkey and married before coming to London.

How long have you lived in London?

We moved to London in 1986 and I got work in a succession of factories in Dalston where all the workers spoke Turkish. Conditions were reasonable and I had one particularly good teacher who taught me mass production methods. I worked my way up and eventually managed two factories.

How did you arrive in Flask Walk?

I wanted to open my own business and found premises in Flask Walk through searching the Internet and newspapers. I was looking for an area with a high

proportion of older people as they seem to value tailoring more than younger people.

Who are the staff in the shop?

When we opened, a relative from Aberdeen did reception until I improved my English. Now I have the following staff:

- Mesut who is an experienced tailor
- Rahime, an experienced women's tailor/receptionist
- Cevahir, my wife, who works 3 or 4 days each week.
- Our daughters, Mevsim who is 19 and Duygu who is 16, help with reception at week-ends.

How have you built up the business?

We are a specialised tailoring business. I have worked 37 years in the business. We built up slowly and carefully to ensure high standards. We didn't need to advertise: many of our customers have come because friends recommend us. Now the demand is at a good level. We respect all our customers and enjoy when we get good feedback.

Now we also offer dry cleaning to respond to our customers' needs.

Do you enjoy working in Flask Walk?

I think it is a perfect location for my business and I have taken on a lease for ten years

Is there anything you dislike or would like to change?

Parking for customers can be difficult. The shop is now so popular that approximately 35 percent come from other areas. I would like to work with other businesses to discuss with Camden Council the possibility of allowing permits to hand out to shoppers. This could be done with a group of other businesses to get results.

How are you coping with the recession?

Business is good, though it has been a bit quieter over the past two months. We allow 10 percent off for customers who have local loyalty cards. Regular customers who have difficulty paying can sometimes negotiate a lower price.

Do you have any time for leisure interests or hobbies?

Before I set up the shop I enjoyed running regularly but it is difficult to fit it in now. I support a Turkish football team called Fenerbahçe and also Arsenal. They played each other recently and I went to the match – Arsenal won!

We enjoy family outings and we sometimes eat out. The İstanbul İşkembecisi restaurant in Dalston is very good. When I can fit in a holiday we usually go to Turkey to be with family and friends.

I think many young Turks in Hackney hope to get rich without making much effort and they have similar attitudes now in Turkey. There is a Turkish saying 'Those who work have money in their pocket but those who don't have to find it in other peoples' pockets.'

I think that young people have to learn that money is not everything and that too many people now live with high levels of stress.

So you now have high standard, specialised tailors on your doorstep who charge reasonable prices to make or alter your best clothes. Remember to take your Heath & Hampstead loyalty card, and allow enough time for fittings.

Interview by Ann Stewart

Constable born 100 years earlier

We are ashamed to say that, in the last issue, we told you that Constable was painting in Hampstead in 1922. We should, of course, have written 1822. We knew that!

A letter from Gerald Arcscott

"I managed to get down to Hampstead again this year and my first port of call was Flask Walk. On my last visit two years ago I thought that it was beginning to look a little bit careworn!! But, this year, what a revelation, it looked wonderful. Bright, clean and the Hoggin looked a treat: it felt alive. I am sure this is all down to the hard and dedicated work of the Association and its members. It just goes to show what can be done when you make the effort.

"Someone wrote a piece for your Newsletter in October 2007 expressing disappointment at the renovation work that had been undertaken at New Court. The writer felt that the individual character of the buildings had been lost and that the gardens did not fit with the architecture of the buildings.

"On my last visit work was still in progress but this year it had been completed. I cannot speak for the internal aspect of the new flats, but from an external point of view I cannot agree with your correspondent. Whilst I also dislike secondary double glazing especially when it hides original features of the windows I think that the overall aspect of the flats has been significantly improved by the cleaning of the brickwork, now bright and sunny, and the gardens are a joy to behold based on their original appearance as I remember it. Forgive me if I am wrong but my judgement is from the 1960's! In those days they had a very drab appearance which was only lightened by the people who lived there who were wonderful, and the landscaping was non-existent. Just some scraps of grass. The overall result I think is a vast improvement.

"My visit reinforced my love for Hampstead and although I live in a wonderful area of natural beauty, I still at heart belong to Hampstead and when I return I

still feel at home although, sadly I do not have any family or friends still in the area. It lifts my heart to see that areas like Flask Walk are being looked after and cherished by the current inhabitants. Long may it continue.

“My best wishes to all in the Association. Keep up the good work: the rewards are self evident.

“I am looking forward to returning once again in 2010.”

Gerald Arscott is a former resident of Hampstead, whose father and grandfather lived in New Court. He wrote the chapter, ‘Flask Walk Remembered’ in *Flask Walk N.W.3*.

Green bags

Camden provides us with a pretty good recycling service. However, those of us living in smaller homes find the green boxes difficult to store or put out weekly. As an alternative, Camden provides strong, re-usable plastic bags for paper, plastic bottles and cans to be recycled. Please call Camden’s Street Environment services on 020 7974 6914 / 5, or go to www.camden.gov.uk to ask for a recycling bag.

Phone numbers

In a recent Flask Walker, we gave an outdated phone number for the police. Their non-emergency number is now 0300 123 1212. Please make a note of it.

Camden's Safer Streets Team can be reached on 020 7833 7970. They help individuals who are rough sleeping, street drinking, begging, sex working, or taking drugs. This team offers advice and support to access housing and other services. However, Camden may take enforcement action against people who continue to engage in street activity.

Camden Council now provides a service for stray dogs: 020 7278 4444 (24 hours) or 020 7974 5976 (9am – 5 pm).

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Yes, I would like to be a paid-up member of my local neighbourhood association – the Flask Walk Neighbourhood Association (FWNA).

I/We enclose a cheque/cash for £ _____ (minimum £5 / household) as my/our subscription, payable to the “Flask Walk Association”, for 2009. Please return this form with your payment to Simon Marshall, FWNA Treasurer, 73 Flask Walk. Thank you for your support. *By giving us your email address, you indicate your willingness to receive periodic email updates on neighbourhood issues; we will not share your details with any other organisation.*

Name and contact details (address, email, phone):

Bulletin Board

This is an updated list of some services recommended by local residents:

- **Alexander Technique:** Mel Hampson, tel. 020 7794 1538
- **Builder (large and small jobs):** Stapleton Builders (a family firm), tel. 020 8348 2059
- **Builder (e.g. creative refitting):** Filipe Matos, tel. 020 8962 0190, 07939 159 284 or 07817 301 517
- **Electrician:** Mark Winston, tel. 07813 046 253; Peter Dighton, tel. 07944 855529 or 020 8292 6071
- **Garden design:** Caroline Egan, tel. 020 8340 2706
- **Heating/plumbing:** Edward Hurst (and Steve Parkhurst), tel 020 8808 1282 or 07984 707 753; Noel, tel 020 8360 3533
- **Home repair and improvement:** Unicare Plus, tel 020 8305 2192
- **Locksmith:** Newman & Son, tel. 020 7284 1002
- **Massage therapy:** Rose Sawkins, tel. 020 7433 1322 or 07790 900430
- **Osteopath:** Daniel Stuttard, tel. 020 7730 1179
- **Physiotherapist:** Hampstead Physiotherapy Practice, 12 Church Row, tel 020 7794 9078
- **Piano Teacher** (all ages, levels): Gemma Green, tel. 07863 549 524
- **Piano Tuner:** Steve Robson, tel. 020 7232 2434 or 07905 451 131
- **Plumber:** 1-2-1 Services, tel. 020 8343 1918
- **Tailor:** Unique Tailors, 15 Flask Walk, tel 020 7431 3314
- **Vacuum Cleaner Service:** London K.B.E., tel. 020 8889 9709
- **Web and Graphic Design:** LondonPop Design Group, tel. 020 7431 5645
- **Window Cleaning:** Elite Windowcleaners, tel. 020 8371 9655

*The Flask Walker is the newsletter of the
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