

Singer tunes up celebrity bidders for auction



AN impromptu rendition of Spandau Ballet hit Gold by singer Tony Hadley (left) helped an autism charity raise more than £140,000 at auction.

The Muswell Hill singer belted out his hit tune on the spur of the moment to help

kick off the bidding frenzy, in honour of Muswell Hill-based charity TreeHouse on Monday, November 8.

Guests, including author Nick Hornby, who is also one of the charity's founding parents, splashed the cash in a bid to win VIP

tickets to the X Factor final in December and a week's safari holiday in Kenya.

TreeHouse chief executive Jolanta Lasota said: "In the next three years we plan to develop new services that meet the needs of many more children and young

people with autism and their families. The funds raised at the auction will help us start to develop these ambitious plans."

The auction was held at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium in partnership with mobile phone firm TalkTalk.

Fireworks are seized from shop

A SHOP had its fireworks seized after allegedly selling rockets to underage customers.

Police say they also discovered that Everbest Food and Wine, in Muswell Hill Broadway, Muswell Hill, had failed to store fireworks safely, during a Trading Standards swoop, last Thursday.

Meanwhile, a man has been fined for hurling fireworks into the road on Bonfire Night. The 32-year-old man was caught throwing fireworks into the High Road, near the junction with Hampden Road, Tottenham, at about 5pm, on Friday.

He was taken to Tottenham police station and issued with a fixed penalty notice for discharging a firework within 50 feet of a highway.

Parking charges to rise by 60 per cent



■ RAY Davies at the Fortismere School music block opening Picture: Nigel Sutton

Kinks legend Ray opens music block at old school

KINKS legend Ray Davies went back to the days of his childhood as the guest of honour opening a cutting-edge music block on the site of his old school.

The Muswell Hillbilly cut the ribbon at the £4.3million facility in Fortismere school's north wing in Creighton Avenue on Monday night.

The star, who lives in Highgate and grew up with his brother and former bandmate Dave in Fortis Green, took in performances from the school's orchestra and jazz band, as well as the Crouch End Festival Chorus, who recorded an album with him last year.

Students will find it easier than ever to hone their skills and follow the Well Respected Man into rock history as the centre boasts four classrooms, 20 practise rooms, two recording studios and a music technology room connecting all the facilities.

The three-storey block, with disabled access, took 11 months to build and meant the previous rundown and leaking music centre in the south wing could have its very own Waterloo Sunset.

PARKING charges are expected to soar across Haringey by up to 60 per cent.

Households in controlled parking zones will be expected to pay up to £150 per year to park a single car outside their homes, if the council votes through controversial increases next week.

And busy shopping strips like Crouch End, Green Lanes and Muswell Hill will be regraded as "high usage" areas, meaning the cost of a pay and display ticket would more than double from the current £1.40 per hour to £3 per hour.

Clive Carter, secretary of the Stroud Green Residents' Association, said: "Many people will throw their hands up in despair at these charges. It is another tiny bit of the fallout from the failure to regulate the banks and motorists have to pay. It is unfair and I just wish the council would come clean about why they're doing this."

He added that he hoped they could "admit that Parking Services are a profit centre and are a substitute for taxation".

The proposed increases to resident's permits – of between 30 and 60 per cent – will see Haringey become one of the most expensive places to park in London.

The borough currently has the 14th highest permit charges, but

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if the increases are approved Haringey will rise to eighth – with the same costs as upmarket Hammersmith and Fulham.

Residents paying £15 per year will see their permit rise to £20, those paying £30 will pay £50, those paying £60 will pay £95, and those with gas guzzling vehicles paying £90 will pay £150.

Current concessions for elderly and vulnerable residents will remain. Visitors' permits will go up too – a two-hour scratch card from 40p to 60p, and a daily scratchcard from £2 to £3 – as will business permits, and the cost of placing a skip on the street will rise by 75 per cent to £70.

A report submitted to the council's cabinet could be approved when it meets on Tuesday. Chief financial officer Gerald Almeroth says in the report: "The proposed charges should bring Haringey more in line with the London average for permit charges."

"The exact level of additional income generated will depend on usage levels but it is expected that the revised charges will address the base issues within the parking account and contribute towards the savings the council will be required to deliver in future years."

Man charged with car theft

A JOBLESS 41-year-old has been charged with taking car keys from the hallway of a house and stealing the resident's car.

Alan Todd, of Lightfoot Road, Hornsey, allegedly stole

the keys from a house in nearby Park Avenue South overnight on October 14.

Todd was charged on Monday with burglary and theft and has been bailed to appear before magistrates on November 26.



■ PUPILS perform at the opening Picture: Dieter Perry

Pub wins later hours licence

THE newest pub to open its doors in Crouch End has won approval for later hours.

Haringey Council granted licence changes for the soon to open Devonshire House pub in The Broadway at a licensing committee on Monday.

The J D Wetherspoon pub will open from 8am daily and close at midnight Sunday to Thursday and 1am on Friday and Saturday.

Alcohol sales will begin at 9am daily and stop half an hour before closing time.

Residents living near the pub raised concerns about delivery noise at the hearing, but were reassured the pub would use rubber mats to stop noise from beer barrels being rolled.

Wetherspoon had raised eyebrows as the licence bid included provision of recorded music at the famously music free pubs.

But the music section of the licence was carried over from the previous owners and was dropped by Wetherspoon's at the hearing. The pub will open on November 16.

Backstage life is revealed

THE owners of a treasured Highgate theatre will reveal the highs and lows of life behind the stage at the next Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association meeting.

Husband and wife team John and Katie Plews, who run Upstairs at the Gatehouse, in Highgate Village, will reveal how they opened the theatre more than 20 years ago and how they choose which productions to stage. The meeting will take place at North Bank, in Pages Lane, Muswell Hill, on Wednesday, November 17, from 8pm. Association chairman John Hajdu said: "This promises to be a great evening."

Theatre group 'will be left penniless'

A YOUTH theatre group will be left virtually penniless after a £14,000 grant promised to them earlier this year was slashed by more than 60 per cent without notice.

Tottenham-based Black Arts Production was stunned to hear that the remaining £9,000 it was expecting to receive this month has been snatched from them – despite agreeing a deal with Haringey Council more than seven months ago.

The £14,000 grant, given via the government's Youth Opportunity Fund, was set to fund projects including an annual drama festival – most of which has already been organised

and needs paying for. The council now says it can't afford to give them the money.

Company secretary Andrew Reid said: "Yes they can cut the grant but if you have made an agreement to give someone 'x' amount of money you can't turn around halfway through and say, 'Sorry, we can't get the balance'."

"The whole thing has been really badly managed and I have no idea how we're going to pay for anything now. We have no funds to pay for classes, no funds to book theatres, no funds to pay the professionals."

The respected group, which has been training teenagers in all aspects of the

theatre since 1992, was given £5,000 of the grant in June with the promise that it would receive the rest later in the year.

But the council failed to even warn the club it was pulling the funding. Mr Reid only learnt that the cash had run dry when he contacted council officers to ask when the money would be sent through. He was instead given a list of potential funders to ask to make up the shortfall.

BAP is run by former EastEnders actor Richard Reid, who leads classes from its base in the Bernie Grant Arts Centre in Town Hall Approach Road, South Tottenham.

Their fourth annual Festival Of Plays was set to showcase productions by aspiring young actors and directors at a north London theatre, after a series of workshops led by industrial experts. But without the cash, the group could be forced to cancel the popular show and its planned workshops for the first time in its history.

A council spokeswoman said: "The government has withdrawn Youth Opportunity Funding so the council no longer has the funding for this."

She refused to comment on whether and how the council would support the group in the wake of the £9,000 shortfall.