



■ Parking restrictions have helped trader Mohammad Yaqoob

## Drivers are no longer able to prevent stallholder trading

A trader on one of Hackney's oldest street markets is delighted to have the pitch he has used for many years back after parking problems prevented him trading there.

The *Gazette* reported last year that drivers were stifling Well Street traders by parking in stallholders' bays. Mohammad Yaqoob's pitch was affected and he was prevented putting out his stall on Fridays and Saturdays.

Well Street Traders and

Residents Association (WESTRA) has liaised with the council, which has now put up a temporary parking restriction sign.

"Mr Yaqoob is our main market trader in the street and we are pleased that once again he can continue to trade," said Ian Rathbone, WESTRA secretary, adding the group is keen to hear from potential traders to help rejuvenate the market.

■ **Contact WESTRA on 07890 654 068.**

# 'New-look plans for five-storey school are rejected by planners

## Rumours denied that site has been sold

by Emma Bartholomew  
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A revised planning application to build a five-storey school on the derelict St Mary's Lodge site in Stoke Newington has been refused by council planners.

The application was lodged by its owners, Hasidic orthodox Jewish group Torah Etz Chaim (TEC), with Hackney Council in December.

It came a month after Stoke Newington Conservation Area Advisory Committee (SNCAAC) branded the continuing dereliction of the 13-room lodge in Lordship Road a "disgrace and scandal".

It had called on the council to compulsorily repurchase the building if a planning application submitted two years ago to build 13 flats and a school on the site was not determined by the New Year.

SNCAAC fear the historic lodge, which is now standing mothballed, will fall beyond restoration if any more time lapses.

The revised application retained the building's historic front elevation and proposed

turning it into a nursery school, along with a free-standing part-four, part-five storey tower housing a school behind. It would cater for 264 boys aged up to 13.

Speaking on behalf of SNCAAC, Tony Harms said it was "difficult to believe it was a serious proposal" and branded it "grotesque".

The previous planning application to build 13 flats and a school submitted in 2009 still remains.

### Value

However concern has now grown the building has been sold on to another orthodox religious group.

An email has surfaced from Dr Sharman Kadish, the director of Jewish Heritage, written after a visit to the site in February.

In it he wrote: "Given the sad recent history of this site, as detailed both on the Hackney Council and St Mary's Lodge websites, and its current parlous state, I would recommend that Keren HaBinyan (Vishnitz), as the new owners, speak both to Hackney Council's conservation

officer and the St Mary's Lodge campaign in order to discuss current plans for redeveloping the site as a Talmud Torah School for the Vishnitz Hasidic community."

But Isaac Hoffman from TEC denied the building had been sold.

The lodge was sold by local philanthropists Mr and Mrs Hyde to the council in 1959 at well below the property's market value on the condition it was used for charitable purposes.

It was run as a hostel for unwed mothers until the mid-90s when squatters moved in and it fell derelict.

The council put the building up for auction for £750,000 in 2002 but withdrew it at the last minute.

Instead it was sold to trustees of the Torah Etz Chaim synagogue next door for £705,000 on the condition it was used for education and community use.

The lodge since became more derelict was gutted by fire in 2005 and was then used as a dumping ground for tyres by fly-tippers.



■ Ingrid Deluc

## Environment campaigner gives her views to MPs

A Hackney environmental enthusiast shared her views with the government when she attended a water shortage event at Westminster.

Ingrid Deluc, 23, from Dalston, spoke to MPs at a World Water Day meeting in Parliament.

She experienced water's power to cause havoc while volunteering in El Salvador last year.

She said: "We wanted to go and talk about the first-hand experience we had of how water affected the country and impacted the livelihood of the people there."

"We wanted to reinforce the issue of water in this country."

Working with development charity Progressio, Ms Deluc was in capital city San Salvador during a tropical storm.

When 12 days of rain damaged roads, destroyed bridges and made it impossible for her to leave, she delivered emergency food rations to people who had lost their homes and belongings.

She said: "The amount of damage was unbelievable."

"It was an eye-opener because many people in this country are not aware of the effect climate change is having on people."

She now hopes to set up environmental groups in Hackney youth clubs.

## Fun for young at museum

Keep the kids entertained for free over Easter at the Geffrye Museum in Hoxton from Tuesday to Friday next week.

Activities at the museum in Kingsland Road are for ages three to 16 and run from 10.30am-12.30pm and 2pm-4pm.

Places are first-come, first-served from 30 minutes before each activity. All under 11s must be accompanied by an adult.

■ **Visit <http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk/whatson/events/children/> for full listings.**

## Young footballers fly out to Spain to get their kicks in Messi's adopted home city

Young footballers jetted off to Spain for a soccer-themed tour in the city of superstar Lionel Messi on Saturday.

The players, aged 13 and 14, are members of the ReachOut! Academy, a mentoring charity that runs a football project at the Petchey Academy in Shacklewell Lane, Dalston.

The 17 boys, who meet each Tuesday evening to do an hour of homework before taking part in a football training session, flew out to Barcelona for five days of football and fun.

Each young person has their own ReachOut! mentor, a volunteer who helps them with their studies and acts as a positive role model.

This is the fourth year ReachOut! has organised the Spanish tour, and last year's delegation were invited on to the pitch as guest mascots for the Espanyol versus Atletico Madrid La Liga match in Barcelona.

Jack Bond, ReachOut! Academy programme manager, said: "Every boy coming on tour has worked so hard at the ReachOut!



■ Team member Farhat Mohammed

Picture: Carmen Valino

Academy this year, both on the football pitch and in the classroom, and I am incredibly proud of them.

"They have shown a determination which deserves to be recognised

and rewarded."

■ **For more information about ReachOut!, including how to join, donate or become a mentor, visit [www.reachoutuk.org](http://www.reachoutuk.org).**

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