

Cash prize for top work

THE Brook Green Association and a local estate agent are offering a £1,000 prize to any local school, voluntary organisation, youth group or church group that makes a positive environmental or social contribution to the Brook Green area by July 2008.

With help from 20-year-old Brook Green estate agent Bective Leslie Marsh, association member John Higgins says the prize could be awarded for the 'regeneration of a derelict garden, the organising of a local art exhibition or creating a five-a-side football league'.

For more details, email John at: Higginsboot@bulldoghome.com

Choir makes Xmas debut

FULHAM'S Anton Bruckner Choir has made its debut at the prestigious St John's Smith Square to sing Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*.

The gig is a big honour for the local group, founded in 1995 to honour the 100th anniversary of St Matthew's Church in Fulham.

Web wonder

THE Brunswick Club in Fulham is set to receive £15,000 in money to create a internet cafe for young people, thanks to efforts by the North Fulham NDC.

Park pitch in

THE Friends of Normand Park are looking for volunteers to help with their new community garden, currently under construction at the Fulham park. Call the Friends on 020 7381 8661 if you want to help.

CRISP MORE THAN JUST A VILLAIN

TROUBLED LEGACY:
Sir Nicholas Crisp - a spy, human trafficker, royalist, gun-runner, politician and a military leader



► **Gavin Rogers** shows off his street smarts with a look at the origins of Crisp Road in Hammersmith

SIR Nicholas Crisp's reputation has suffered badly over the years.

Shortly after his death, Crisp would have been larded as a great man, and even up until the middle of the last century his name was still very much unsullied by some of his more nefarious business dealings.

However, from the perspective of the 21st century, he does not exactly strike you as the most loveable of local characters.

Having made a great deal of his fortune through slave trading, history has rightly condemned Crisp for his part in the most shameful trade our country has

ever been involved in. His legacy has been particularly highlighted this year, given that it is the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery.

While local abolitionist campaigner Granville Sharp has been rightly hailed as a forgotten hero, Crisp has been held up as one

Hammersmith & Fulham's Crime Summit 2008

Securing your safety - have your say on crime and policing in H&F

We would like to invite you to a major event designed to give you a role in shaping future priorities for the police and the council in the borough.

The Crime Summit will include workshops with the local police and council staff, where you can air your views with the people who patrol the streets - day in, day out. In addition there will be short presentations from senior police officers.



Date: Saturday 8 March 2008
Time: 9.00am to 2.30pm
9.00 to 10.00am - registration, tea & coffee and information stands
10.00 to 1.30pm - Crime Summit event
1.30 to 2.30pm - lunch & information stands

Location: Hammersmith Town Hall

Nearest Tube Stations:

Ravenscourt Park (on District Line)
Hammersmith (on Hammersmith & City, District and Piccadilly lines)

If you would like to attend the Crime Summit:

Please email your details to:

crime.summit@lbhf.gov.uk

or complete the slip opposite and post to the address supplied as soon as possible.

Places are limited. For more information call 020 8753 2816.



Working together for a safer London

RSVP

I would like to attend the H&F Crime Summit on 8 March 2008

Name:

Contact details

Tel:

Email:

Address:

Ward (if known)

Please let us know of any special requirements: (dietary, mobility, sensory etc)

Please detach & return by post to:

Crime Summit,
Room 48, Hammersmith Town Hall,
King Street, London W6 9JU
or email your details to
crime.summit@lbhf.gov.uk



of the villains of the piece – and rightly so.

That said, however, there is a great deal more to Crisp. He was active in the Civil War that gripped the nation during his lifetime.

A loyal royalist, Crisp stood by Charles I until his execution, providing financial and logistical support to the Cavalier cause.

He was also a great benefactor to the borough, supporting the building of Hammersmith's first church, that later became St Paul's, supplying both money and bricks.

Today, there is a memorial to Crisp in the newer church, which was built on the same site in 1883.

Crisp was also responsible for building Brandenburg House in Fulham Palace Road.

Originally named The Great House by Crisp, this impressive residence has been modified over the past 200 years, and was last occupied by George IV's estranged wife Queen Caroline.

Crisp also greatly contributed to the advancement of industry in the borough. Brick-making was a particular lasting legacy that Crisp expanded into a thriving business that continued in Fulham for the next 300 years.

Indeed, Crisp's life was eventful in all sorts of ways, so much so he even warranted a mention in Samuel Pepys' famous diary.

At one time or another, he could be described as a spy, a human trafficker, a baronet, a gun-runner, a politician and a military commander among other things.

A BUSINESSMAN

AS A merchant, Crisp's main commercial interests were in the trades to India and Africa.

Like his father he was a substantial stockholder in the East India Company, and throughout his twenties he imported a wide variety of commodities, including cloves, indigo, silks, pepper, elephant tusks, calicoes, and shells.

The shells were specially purchased on his behalf by the company's agents and it is thought that they were used to finance the purchase of slaves in west Africa.

Two years ago, an excavation by the Museum of London on the site of Brandenburg House revealed that Crisp also had a glass bead manufacturing factory. Both a glass kiln and a large quantity of glass beads were uncovered. Again, the beads were almost certainly used for barter in Africa.

In his thirties, Crisp went from strength to strength, setting up a company in 1631 that had a monopoly on trade along the stretch of west Africa between the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Blanco.

This turned out to be a massive-

ly lucrative move, underpinning his fortune for many years to come.

A POLITICAL ANIMAL

WHILE primarily an importer, Crisp diversified into a number of projects that were complicated by the Civil War that divided the country in 1642.

Not only did Crisp find some of his investments abrogated by Parliament, but he was also asked to make substantial loans to the King, to whom he was loyal throughout his life.

On New Year's Day 1640, Charles knighted Crisp, recognising his past services, but perhaps more importantly, anticipating his further services.

A SPY

DESPITE his loyalties to the King, who had fled to Oxford on the outbreak of Civil War, Crisp remained in Roundhead-controlled London.

However, it soon became apparent that he was up to after he was questioned by the House of Commons in January 1643 about £3,700, which an intercepted letter revealed as owed to him 'for secret service done for his Majestie'.

He promptly slipped away to Oxford, where he was warmly welcomed by the King, but in the meantime his houses in Hammersmith and Lime Street were ransacked.

While only £300 was recovered from the premises, a further £5,300 in gold and coin was discovered in the Tower and elsewhere in the city and confiscated. He also found his estates in the Guinea and East India companies sequestered.

A MAN OF WAR

CRISP'S support for the King manifested itself in a number of ways throughout the Civil War.

He was at the centre of a plan in March 1643 to head a force to take over London, but the idea failed.

He was also frustrated in his attempts to raise an infantry regiment of 1,500 later that year, but found some success on more familiar ground. Or, at sea, to be more specific.

On 6 May 1644, he was commissioned to equip 15 warships at his own and his partner's expense and granted a tenth of any prizes taken by them.

Operating from west country ports, he ferried troops from Ireland and played an important role in shipping tin and wool to the continent. He would also bring back arms and ammunition as a return cargo, and ultimately held the important position of deputy controller-general of posts.

His allegiance to the crown was steadfast, even after Charles I was executed in 1649, and in the run up to the Restoration, Crisp performed secret services and raised money for exiled Charles II.

He was also involved in clandestine support for royalist conspiracies, such as the abortive plot of 1650 to land forces from the Scillies on the Cornish coast.

In May 1660 Crisp was one of the committee sent to meet Charles II at Breda as he returned to England to take to the throne his father had vacated.

A FULL LIFE ENDS

CHARLES II honoured his loyal servant with a baronetcy, but Crisp had less than a year to celebrate the honour, dying in London on 26 February 1666.

He was buried in the church of St Mildred in east London, but true to his instructions, his heart was removed and deposited in a monument to the memory of Charles I.

The monument was erected in the 'chapel of ease' that he had built in Hammersmith, and on 18 June 1898, his other remains were exhumed and reinterred in the churchyard of our St Paul's.

WIN! TICKETS TO SEE COLOURFUL BEADS WITH A DARK PAST



BEAD ME UP: Crisp's treasure

THE beads mentioned in the story of Sir Nicholas Crisp have gone in the London, Sugar and Slavery gallery at the Museum of Docklands.

The discovery of the beads by archaeologists marked one of the most notable discoveries in the glass industry in London in recent years.

The unusual size and shape has further underlined the belief that they were manufactured for use in the slave trade.

Tom Wareham, curator of the gallery said, "These small beads tell a big story. The evidential traces and records of slavery often appear as fragments of a hidden history."

London, Sugar and Slavery reveals how London's involvement in slaving has shaped the capital since the 17th century, and challenges what people think they know about the transatlantic slave trade.

Thanks to your h&f news, lucky readers can win of our FOUR free pairs of tickets to see the exhibition!

To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer the following question: What is the name of the arts venue in Crisp Road?

Send your answer, along with your full name, address and daytime phone number, to: Crisp Road Competition, Room 6, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JU or send an email to: handfnews@lbhf.gov.uk

Offer ends on January 20. Editor's decision is final and usual rules apply. Good luck!

For more details about the exhibition, visit: www.museumdocklands.org.uk

Find out more about YOUR NHS

Hammersmith and Fulham 
Primary Care Trust

Our plans for 2008/2009

We're spending £300million on healthcare in Hammersmith and Fulham next year.

If you'd like to know more about how and where the money is used we'll be presenting our plans on the 21st January at Hammersmith Town Hall.

For details call 020 8846 6754.

21st January

Public Board Meeting

The next public meeting of Hammersmith and Fulham Primary Care Trust's Board of Directors is on the 23rd January at Hammersmith Town Hall at 2pm.

Copies of the agenda and papers are available one week before the meeting at www.hf-pct.nhs.uk/publicmeetings or by calling 020 8846 7655.

23rd January

Healthcare for London Consulting the Capital

The NHS across London is currently consulting on plans to provide better, safer, more accessible services, and how to help Londoners stay healthy.

There will be a public roadshow at the Irish Centre, Blacks Road, W6 on the 18th February from 2-8pm (drop-in any time). For more details visit www.healthcareforlondon.nhs.uk

18th February