

## news

## Heathrow expansion - councils say no need for night flights

An alliance of 70 local authorities has backed Wandsworth's calls for an end to night flights. The Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG), which represents councils in England and Wales, has also told the Department for Transport that no evidence has been produced by it or the aviation industry to justify claims that night flights have an overall economic benefit. SASIG chairman Richard Worrall said: 'Most night flights at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted could take off before 11pm or land after 7am. I am aware that the aviation industry claims a shortage of runway slots in the day - but I blame them for not working with us and others to solve that problem years ago.' SASIG was responding to the Government's consultation document 'Night Flying Restrictions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted'. Member authorities concluded that current controls (11.30pm to 6am) should be extended to cover the whole night (11pm to 7am). This would enable residents to get eight hours sleep every night without being repeatedly woken up. Richard Worrall added: 'We are very aware of the advertisements from some airlines offering a few business customers flat beds so that they get a good night's sleep to enable them to work on arrival. We also know that thousands of local residents never get a full night's sleep and therefore can never be expected to do a full day's work. This seems anomalous.' For further information contact SASIG on 020 8541 9459

Wandsworth Council, which is a member of SASIG, has launched a legal challenge in the High Court in a bid to have the night flights consultation declared unlawful.

You can keep up to date with the council's campaign on [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/aviation](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/aviation)

## New Base D youth facility opened

Cabinet member for environment and public services, Cllr Mrs Kathy Tracey officially opened a new state-of-the-art facility for teenagers last month in Battersea. The new youth facility, Base D, was transformed from a little-used housing department building to a newly-refurbished, modern meeting place for young people at a cost of £76,000 with funding from Wandsworth

Council, SRB and Borough crime monies. The new youth provision offers a space where young people aged 13 to 19 can meet friends and take part in activities including making and listening to music, watching films and surfing the net. Located at Young and Lucas Court in Strasburg Road, SW11, Base D features a small 24-track recording studio with music-mixing facilities and six free internet stations, in



spacious modern surroundings. Cllr Mrs Tracey (pictured below) said: 'Our new Base centres are a new way forward for youth facilities in Wandsworth. We have moved away from the old image of youth clubs simply offering table tennis and table football and moved towards a more modern youth provision, which caters for today's young people and their changing needs. Base D offers a wide range of exciting things for young people to enjoy including mixing decks and free internet access. It is also a forum for advice sessions tackling serious issues such as careers advice and crime prevention and other topics affecting our teenagers today.'

For further information about Base D contact centre manager, Tony Clarke on 020 7720 6348.

## A clean solution to rubbish

New company Any Junk? is a welcome service that sorts out the nasty business of people's rubbish. Ex-city financier Jason Mohr set up the company after seeing a similar business in the US and noting that our alternatives, the house clearance business and skips, had quite a dirty image. Any Junk? promises to offer a professional, polite service, coming in a booked time slot, to assess and collect your rubbish. 'As long as waste is not hazardous or illegal, we will collect most things from old sofas or construction rubble,' Jason told T&L. You may be pleased to hear they're environmentally friendly too; they recycle fridges and electrical goods and pass furniture on to charity.

For more information visit [anyjunk.co.uk](http://anyjunk.co.uk) tel 0800 0431 007

## Learning opportunities for adults in Battersea

People living in Battersea, who have not obtained a qualification since leaving school or who are aged over 50, and want to gain a qualification can take advantage of free training until Christmas at Learning Centres in the area. Learning Centres based at Battersea Park and York Gardens libraries offer free computer training for those who are eligible and participants can gain a module of the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL). The training is funded by the European Union through the European Social Fund and the Learning and Skills Council. As an incentive, the two Centres are rewarding the first 25 people to successfully pass the ECDL test by December 2004 with a £25 book token.

## Your letters

In response to the Clapham entry in Crap Town II, November Issue 3

"My wife and I have now lived in Clapham for ten years, having lived in Mayfair, Hampstead and Kew previously and think it the best". *Lord Beaumont, Clapham*

