

# HAMMERSMITH & SHEPHERDS BUSH Gazette

Friday, January 5, 2007

'Your news, your views'

55p



## STUCK IN BAT HELL

New year,  
a time for  
resolutions?

— see p5

### Pensioners imprisoned by block's broken lift

by Michael Russell

ANGRY elderly tenants are demanding the council urgently fix a broken lift, which they claim is imprisoning them in their own homes.

Pensioners living at a block of flats in Heron Close, White City, have had so far with restricted access ever since the lift stopped working, two weeks before Christmas.

A number of them immediately complained to town hall officials, who told them in a letter of response that it cannot be fixed for a further nine weeks, due to a lack of the necessary part.

This has outraged older residents, who are now having to navigate the block via stairs, which many say are not safe.

Jim Delaney, 78, said: "There are kids running up and down them all the time, an old person

could get killed if they were pushed or slipped. Looking at the drop, I think it would be safer to go down by parachute."

Phyllis Clark, 85, said: "When I got the letter I was mortified. "I feel like a prisoner in my own home."

"Some of us can't get out because the stairs are too steep or dangerous."

"I can get to the shop but all I can manage is two pints of milk and then it's a struggle getting back up."

The council said this week that it is doing all it can to get hold of the part needed to fix the lift and will aim to have the work done in less than seven weeks if possible.

But this has not appeased Mrs Clark. She said: "Why don't the council have stocks of those kinds of things?"

"They could at least help us with our shopping while the lift is broken."

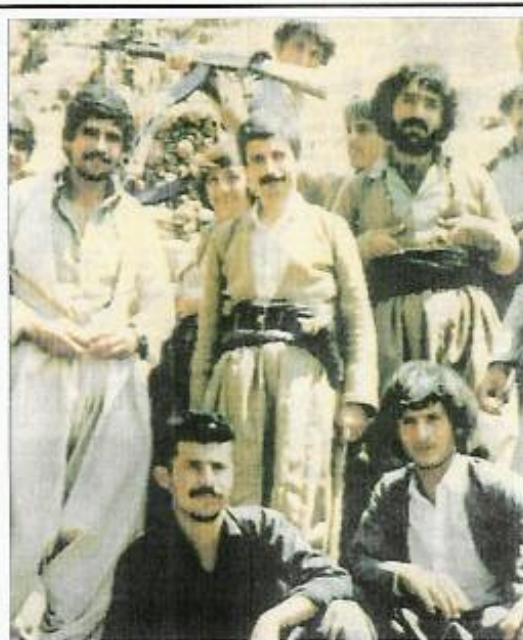
The daughter of a disabled pensioner living at Heron Close, who wishes to remain anonymous, was enraged when she was told about the council's letter.

Cindy Hiscock, of Wilshire, said: "My mum was not able to get out for Christmas. All the residents have been told to call the London Ambulance service for hospital appointments. It's absolutely outrageous. I'm so angry. They must have a duty of care for the disabled."

Housing cabinet member Adrian Alfred said: "There has been historic under-funding of lift maintenance in the borough and this is something we want to address."

"Social services teams have been alerted and are assessing what support residents need."

Heron Close residents struggling without the lift can call the council's housing office on 020 8740 8090.



### Fighting for freedom

DR Jasad Wala (centre with pistol on hip) was once a partisan fighter for the Kurdish people against the forces of Iran and Iraq. Now the chairman of the Western Kurdistan Association is still

concerned with the welfare of his people and welcomes the death of Saddam Hussein, even though he says it will make little difference to Iraq.

■ Full story - Page 45

A SECOND FULHAM ARCADE IS ROBBED WITHIN TWO WEEKS - PAGE 7

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