

COMMUNITY

GAZETTE PEOPLE | >> WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

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My Ealing

Village people, simply the best

Name: Usha Patel

Age: 43

Occupation: I worked happily for an architectural practice in my former profession, designing hospitals and schools in Notting Hill. But the joys of motherhood changed all that and I decided to retrain in an entirely different profession.

To invest in my then 'growing bump', understanding how babies develop into able infants was my new challenge. This new topic of interest led me to train in working with children with learning difficulties. I became a therapist specialising in dyslexia, dyspraxia and other learning problems. I set to work on a voluntary basis, working both privately and in an Ealing School.

By 2008, I officially set up my therapy service – Raviv Practice London, based in Northolt Village Community Centre. For more information, visit www.ravivpractice.london.co.uk.

Marital status: Married for eight years and I have a five-year-old daughter.

Where do you live?

Northolt Village. It always takes new visitors by complete surprise. Most perceive Northolt as a concrete jungle. By contrast, the village is a green oasis, a real refuge from the busy A312 en route to the famous Target roundabout.

How long have you lived there?

Eight years since getting married.

How do you get about?

Before having my daughter, I was one of approximately four million commuters. Now, since I opened the Raviv Practice, in Northolt Village, it's nice to be able to walk to work.

What do you love most about the borough?

Northolt Village is the original part of Northolt and mentioned in the Domesday Book. It has all the features of a little village, a community centre, church, pub and green. These rare features make it unique and understandably part of a conservation area. There is a real community here, with a strong residents' association, who all take pride in the up-keep of the area.

What is your favourite restaurant? Okawari, in Ealing Broadway. I hope my daughter will one day enjoy sushi as much as I do.

Favourite shop?

I do most of my shopping online to save time.

But I do like Bite in Northolt Village.

It's the latest edition to our parade of shops and does excellent cappuccino and offers a welcome alternative to the builder's cafe – though that too has its place on a Sunday morning.

Favourite bar/pub? There aren't many family-friendly pubs, but I do like The Crown pub, in Northolt Village.

If you could change one thing about the borough what would it be?

I would remove parking restrictions to local shopping parades. At Christmas the borough allowed people to park for free in Greenford and it was so nice to wander along the high street discovering the smaller shops you never had enough time for.

If you were invisible for the day where would you go?

Once upon a time as an architectural student I would imagine being invisible and seeing the insides of interesting buildings. With the Open House Event, I can visit the inside and satisfy my curiosity and sow some seeds of interest in my daughter who knows that Sir John Soane of



■ **DESIGNED FOR LIFE:** Usha Patel no longer has to endure a daily commute

Photo by Tony Vandevelde EA130910tvshap02

Pitzhanger Manor also designed the Bank of England.

How do you relax?

I enjoy going to the gym and going for a swim. With my daughter, we often go to Walpole Park to see the ducks and the animals and drop in to Carluccio's for one of their super desserts or bunny park, where my daughter is constantly quizzing me as to where the rabbits have disappeared to.

Favourite film?

There are so many and they are all world cinema films. I enjoy seeing independent, cultural and foreign films, non-Hollywood types like *Amelie* or *Monsoon Wedding*.

What keeps you awake at night?

I read and research about the new type of problems coming to my

practice in the form of learning difficulties. Each child is different and each problem is unique.

What is your favourite record?

The last record I bought was Scissor Sisters, which I like listening to at the gym as it gets you going and I like to sing along to it while vacuuming.

Who do you most admire?

I admire headteachers who stick their necks out and try new methods to tackle problems in the classroom. While these teachers are ready and willing to teach, not all children are capable of learning and it is this grey area which I hope to help with.

If your house was on fire, what three things would you save?

All the sentimental things to do with my daughter, such as photos and artwork, and my computer.

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News

Autumn fair fun

WEST EALING: This year's Autumn Family Fair will be held on Saturday, October 2 at Kingsdown Methodist Church, Kingsdown Avenue.

The event offers a jam-packed day of fun for people of all ages and proceeds will go towards helping mums in local businesses.

There will be stalls, food, arts and crafts and free taster sessions of activities like Gymboree, Zoom Zoom Edu-Play and Tippietoes.

The free event, organised by Ealing Mums In Business, will run from 10am to 2pm.

Cuddles in library

GREENFORD: The library is hosting a teddy bear's picnic on Wednesday, October 6.

There will be stories, songs and rhymes to celebrate Children's Book Week and youngsters can sign up for the library's Bookcrawl promotion.

The event is suitable for pre-school children, babies and toddlers age birth to five years. Please remember to bring your favourite teddy or cuddly toy.

Time for a cuppa

BOROUGH: There is still time to sign up for The World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday, September 24.

Macmillan Cancer Support is co-ordinating the event, which brings people together to enjoy a nice cuppa while raising badly needed funds to help fight cancer. People are also free to organise their own events. You can register to join the morning by visiting the Macmillan website www.macmillan.org.uk.

Strings attached

PERIVALE: The Finzi String Quartet, with Simon Lane on piano will be performing a classical concert at St Mary's Church on Saturday, September 25.