



# Sensory garden and playground proposed for new community centre

By Janet Maitland

A proposal has been made for a multi-sensory playground and garden for the new Tarling Road community centre. "The idea is to inspire play and learning through the five senses," said Tolu Faleti from SpaceHive, who are trying to raise £166,000 for the project through crowdfunding.

Councillor Alison Moore said the proposal harked back to one made more than a decade ago in the days of the Old Barn. She added: "It would be fantastic to have a new centre and a new garden flourishing at the heart of our community in a couple of years' time. The crowdfunding concept is a real opportunity to raise money but it will depend on local people getting behind it."

## Construction delay affects playground plans

Plans to demolish the Old Barn and replace it with the Tarling Road centre are behind schedule but the council has informed *The Archer* that con-

struction will finally start in a few months' time and be completed in the autumn of 2018.

SpaceHive cannot plan the garden and playground in any detail until work on the new centre is further forward. One issue is that an organisation to manage the centre has not yet been appointed by the council. SpaceHive is, however, clear that it will not cut down any trees and will make the best possible use of whatever outdoor space is available.

"We look forward to hearing more about the SpaceHive proposal," said a Barnet Council spokesperson. "There are also other funding options available such as the council's grants process."

To find out more, go to [SpaceHive.com](http://SpaceHive.com) and search Multi Sensory Playground Barnet.

## Headscratcher

### Word Ladder

By Oliver Skanberg-Tippen



Fill each step of the ladder with a new word that differs from the previous word by just one letter. Target answer below.

**Solution:** Foaming, flaming, blaming, bearing

## Fun palace

Save the date: Sunday 8 October will be Grange Big Local's annual festival and this year it will be a Fun Palace at the Ann Owen Centre in Oak Lane, N2.

There will be live music, and lots of activities, from football to cooking, art, mad science, sensible kick-boxing, basketball and bouncy castles. There will be lots to do for all ages, and everything will be completely free. Keep an eye on Grange Big Local Fun Palace webpage, or join the Grange Big Local Facebook group, to find out more.



Nice cuppa: Pedro with some of his furniture made from old pallets. Photo Mike Coles

# Always time for a break in a world of wooden furniture

By Pedro Redig

The summer is the ideal time for DIY, decorating, gardening and working on allotments. I would like to add pallet making to this list. It's a fascinating challenge and hobby in these hot months.

I had collected these industrial rejects for a while and left them in my front garden, literally behind the bush. One day after clearing our decking I decided to get rid of a pallet that was a mess of pots, plants and other garden material. I cut it in two pieces and suddenly I had built two shelves for displaying little plants.

## Giant jigsaws

To make objects out of pallets is not rocket science but you need a lot of creativity to get over the obstacles posed by the joists that hold the platforms together. It is also great exercise.

You can plan what you want to do but you have to be flexible and adapt your ideas to the way the pallet is built. You have to leave metric precision aside because sometimes the shape of the pallet dictates what you can do. It is amazing to see how the pieces end up fitting into each other like a giant Lego jigsaw.

## Rustic and cool

Pallets are the latest fashion in the trendy bars of Shoreditch and Hackney and are popular in some cafes up in Whetstone. The rustic look adds to the appeal that this kind of recycling is cool and good for the environment.

Every day, hundreds of businesses have to get rid of pallets. Our streets are full of houses being done up with a skip in front and pallets all around. It's much easier to find them in London than in cities like Paris, New York or Rio where people live more in apartments. Here they refurbish their houses, making this city the capital of Planet Pallet.

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## Sunny suburbia

The sun is shining, the temperature is rising, cats are avoiding hot tin roofs and all across the country men are doing what men do and pretending to be Australian. Why? Because in the weird world of Brexit Britain it's time for *homo stupidus* to light the barbie.

This creature may spend most of the year proving that he can't toast bread without assistance, but the moment the sun shines he becomes the god of the open grill. He knows what he needs: he needs a 12 pack of lager, three bottles of wine and a pile of raw meat. Now is the time for him to demonstrate his manhood and for the rest of the family to check they've got the local takeaway on speed dial.

Not that the alpha male's world starts when he lights the fire, because he is a real hunter and has to catch his food first. This means going as far as Iceland to catch kangaroo steaks, alligator burgers and wombat cutlets. Finally, after fighting his way through the traffic and crossing the road he is home with enough dead animals to feed a family.

Soon the silence of suburbia is disturbed by his war dance as he pours petrol on anything he hasn't poured lager on and creates his own inferno. The children and womenfolk have made a salad and all is ready to go. And this being England, just as the last piece of meat is burnt to the right level, it will start to rain.

As my granny used to say: "If God had meant the English to barbecue he'd never have invented pizza."

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