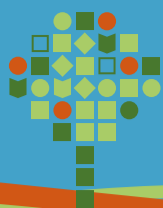


# Insight



Winter News at The Institute

You have doubtless already had time by now to make and break all your New Year's resolutions several times over. But there is still time to change whatever it is you want to change in your life in 2013. At The Institute we have a whole range of exciting new short courses starting in February and March and whatever it is you want to achieve, we can help you to reach your goal.



You want to make more of living in London? Our six week 'Exploring London Museums and Galleries' course (25) starts on Tuesday 26 February and meets every Tuesday morning from 10.30-12.30. It is a great opportunity to get out and visit museums and galleries with a specialist tutor who will give introductory lectures. If you want to venture further afield, the next in our

popular series 'Exploring London on Foot' (282) sets off on Wednesday 27 February. This 5 week walking course, led by Clive Bettington, meets every Wednesday from 13.45-15.45 and explores the hidden secrets of a different part of London. The next course will explore West London with a varied programme of walks and visits. (These walks are very popular so make sure to book soon.)

You want to expand your repertoire in the kitchen and stop serving up the same tired old favourites? Try our 5 week 'Middle Eastern and Arab Cooking' course (120) starting on Monday 25 February and liven things up with hummus, fatoush, tagines, grilled vegetables and kebabs. The same day we also have a brand new 'Indian Breads and Rice' course (123) starting, taught by the ever popular Kumud Shah, which we are proud to say is the very first of its kind

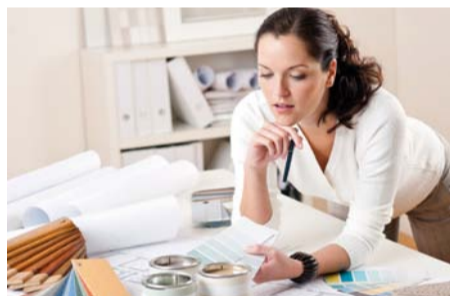


in the country. Kumud is also teaching her 5 week 'Curry Course' (132) from Wednesday 27 February.

You keep meaning to make your own bread but somehow you haven't yet got round to it? Mary Davis will be teaching her 'Secrets of Successful Bread Making' course (134) from Thursday 28 February, a 5 week introduction to the art of making a good bread dough by hand.

You want to smarten up your home without spending a fortune? Our 5 week Interior Design course (199) beginning on Tuesday 26 February will show you how to tackle choices of window treatments, wall colour, flooring and lighting and create an eye-catching new décor without breaking the bank.

You can keep two resolutions for the price of one by enrolling on one of our short Fashion & Textiles courses: you can do something creative and save money at the same time. From Saturday 2 March, the talented Gladys Chang is running one of her 5 week short courses 'Alter Your Clothes with Confidence' (226). Gladys will teach you how to make your clothes fit better and how to restyle them to bring them up to date.



But maybe you aren't interested in your long abandoned New Year's resolutions anymore? Maybe you just want to enjoy the sheer pleasure of learning a new skill in a friendly group of like-minded students? In that case, our Fashion & Textiles department has an attractive range of fun one-off workshops coming up in knitting, crochet, creating your own camisole top and fabulous French knickers, felting, stitching and paper bead jewellery. Following on the success of our last Patchwork and Quilting course, we have another 5 week patchwork course too (238) starting on Friday 1 March.



We also have a number of exciting creative writing, journalism and photography weekend workshops in February and March. While spring may not yet have sprung, our 5 week 'Getting Started in the Garden' course (299) begins on Saturday 2 March so, however freezing the weather, spring can't be that far behind.

For more information on all Institute courses, visit our website at [www.hgsi.ac.uk](http://www.hgsi.ac.uk) or call 020 8829 4229.

(The numbers in brackets refer to The Institute course numbers.)



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## Is the Suburb sinking under a tide of plastic bins?



It has been argued that while the Suburb is good at conserving buildings it is the small things that are undermining the conservation area.

Satellite dishes seem to be uncontrolled, the fronts of listed houses are disfigured with burglar alarms. Perhaps worse is the fact that everywhere one looks the view is marred by looming grey and green wheeled bins that, it seems, can be left just anywhere.

When they were introduced in 1998 they came despite protest from The Trust, the RA, three Suburb Councillors, and our MP John Marshall to whom Virginia Bottomley Minister of Environment said in a letter "Barnet would be expected to exercise their responsibilities in a reasonable manner and to listen carefully to the views of ratepayers." In a Suburb wide survey with a 40% response rate 89% said no to the new wheeled bin scheme. In another survey, conducted by Residents Association

membership representatives, it was shown that a high proportion of Suburb houses had steep paths or steps or no access to the rear except through the house. "An amazing 60% of properties seem to present a problem of one kind or another for the residents in manouevring the bins."

Suburb News was full of pictures of rows of bins in other places as a warning of what could happen here. At a joint meeting with the Trust, the RA and Barnet it was made clear to Barnet that "It was quite unacceptable in an Outstanding Conservation Area to have wheeled bins left in front gardens except on collection days."

The scheme went ahead and it would be difficult to argue today that wheeled bins are not preferable to the old dustbins carried on their backs by the dustmen.

However when it started Barnet said "There may be properties where the use of wheeled bins will prove

impractical and in such cases householders will be provided with two plastic rubbish sacks each week free of charge."

When this facility was withdrawn is unknown but it does seem that a good many houses that were deemed unsuitable then now have wheeled bins and nowhere to keep them out of sight.

The RA's Conservation and amenities committee, CONSAM, is looking into how the rules governing the wheeled bin storage and collection can be improved. Meanwhile a plea to residents, for the sake of the Suburb, please keep your bins off the pavements and out of sight.

Bins left on pavements are a hazard as well as being unsightly. It is an offence and complaints can be made to the Waste and Sustainability team on 8359 4600. You can also ask them for 'Assisted Collection' if you have difficulty in taking bins out for collection and bringing them in.

RICHARD WAKEFIELD

## Proms at St Judes 2013

The Proms at St Jude's 2013 programme will be published next month. Highlights of this year's programme will include Opera great, Sir Willard White, world-class ensemble, The Sixteen, Sir Tim Smit of the Eden Project and renowned scientist Baroness Susan Greenfield.

You can now join online as a Friend for 2013, which will give you priority booking and other benefits and contribute greatly to Proms' success. You can also sign up to receive a regular eNewsletter keeping you up to date with all that's going on as the Proms 2013 Festival continues to take shape over the next few months. Go online at [www.promsatstjudes.org.uk](http://www.promsatstjudes.org.uk) or call 8458 2669. Subscription rates remain the same as last

year. Silver and Gold Friends will also be eligible to attend the Proms launch reception

and recital on the evening of Sunday 10 March.

RON FINLAY

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