

Olympic medallist at store opening
» Page 2



Get the science festival lowdown
» Page 14



Fury at plans to divide pub

An application to divide a 400-year-old former Reed pub has been submitted to North Herts District Council - two months after plans to turn the premises into a house were refused by the Planning Inspectorate.

The latest planning application for The Cabinet is to split the Grade II-listed building in two – part would be a three-room pub, and the other part a residence.

But the proposal has been greeted with “scepticism and fury” by members of the Save The Cabinet Action Group, whose members say the pub would be smaller and lack facilities.

Mike Howes, action group chair, said: “This is a scheme designed to fail. It would be a pale shadow of the old Cabinet that we all love.

“A tiny pub without any facilities for preparing food and with nowhere for a tenant or

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manager to live would not last long.

“Nobody should imagine that the owner has suddenly been converted to the Save The Cabinet cause. This is a ruse designed to deliver the money-making scheme he’s been pushing forward all along – to make the whole of The Cabinet into a house, and to build on the existing car park too.”

In January, the owner – property developer Richard Newman – put The Cabinet up for sale or to rent. But the action group argued that the asking price of £595,000 was vastly more than the true market value given in evidence at the three-day public inquiry in December.

Mr Howes added: “After all the effort and the generosity by the

Reed community in resisting the planning appeal, this latest application feels like a kick in the teeth. We trust the local planning authority, NHDC, will see straight through it.”

Owner Richard Newman disagreed with claims the pub would be smaller, telling the Crow: “I have put an application in for sure, and the pub part would be bigger than the original pub. I offered the commercial part to the parish council for £1 and they said they would get back to me. I gave them the plans and forwarded them the information before it went online. I want the community to have a pub back in the area.”

Reed Parish Council Chairman Ken Langley told the Crow: “Mr Newman made a proposition to Reed councillors two weeks ago. There was no mention of £1, but

■ Continued on page 2

Rising to the occasion of Real Bread Week



‘Bread lady’ Frances Reid showed the Crow the art of bread making at her Steeple Morden home.

Page 4

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news

The Cabinet - continued from front page

"... he did invite the council to run a licensed outlet in a small area of The Cabinet premises at a 'peppercorn rent'.

"An issue for councillors and villagers is whether the outlet proposed could be commercially viable and whether it would meet the wishes of the community to see the Cabinet restored as Reed's village pub. This seems unlikely, but councillors are giving full consideration to Mr Newman's proposition. It will be discussed at Reed's next parish council meeting at 8pm on Wednesday

next week at Reed Village Hall. Parishioners and interested members of the public are invited to attend and give their views.

"The Cabinet remains for sale and the meeting is also about Reed Parish Council's previously announced plans to bid to buy the whole of The Cabinet."

Those wishing to submit their views to the district council should do so by March 14 at pa2.north-herts.gov.uk/online-applications - using reference 19/00341/FP.

Missing girl appeal

Almost two weeks on from a missing appeal being launched, police have confirmed that Royston teenager Aaliyah Ahmed has still not been found.

Aaliyah Ahmed, 14, was last seen at 11am two weeks ago - on Thursday, February 14 - at her home address in Tennyson Court.

Police launched a missing appeal the following day, but confirmed yesterday they were still looking for Aaliyah.

She is described as mixed race and 5ft 10in tall with long dark hair - she was last seen wearing blue jeans, tan Ugg-style boots and a thin black bomber jacket. Police have said she may be carrying a black handbag.

Aaliyah has known links to the Clapton, Lower Clapton, Walthamstow, Tottenham and Stamford Hill areas of London.

If you have seen her since she was reported missing or



Aaliyah was last seen in Royston two weeks ago. Picture: HERTS POLICE

have information about where she has been, call Herts police on 101. If you believe you are with Aaliyah now or have seen her in the last few moments, call 999 immediately.

Double Olympic medallist is in town to cut the ribbon on much-anticipated store

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Royston's new Aldi store has opened its doors for the first time - with an Olympic double silver medallist doing the honours.

The store, located in Royston Gateway next to the new M&S Foodhall, includes large chillers and freezers for fresh British meat products, a 'food to go' section at the front of the store, and a new fixture at the back of the store for Aldi's beers, wines and spirits.

Team GB slalom-canoeist Richard Hounslow cut the ribbon at the opening last Thursday, before treating the first 30 customers to a complimentary bag of fresh fruit and vegetables from Aldi's Super 6 range, along with donating fresh fruit and vegetables to a school on behalf of the new Aldi on Durham Way.

Store manager Hannah Brady said: "I would like to thank everybody that has helped make today's opening a day to remember.

"It has been wonderful to meet our new customers and having Richard here to welcome them into the store really added to the sense of occasion."

Richard - who won Olympic silver at London 2012 and Rio 2016 - will also pay a visit to the children of Tannery Drift First School in Royston after half term to deliver an assembly addressing the benefits of eating healthily and exercising.

This comes as part of Aldi's



Double Olympic silver medallist Richard Hounslow opened the store, much to the delight of Aldi staff and customers. Pictures: TIM GEORGE, ROYSTON ALDI

initiative, Get Set to Eat Fresh, which hopes to inspire 1.2 million school children aged 5-14, to learn more about the benefits of cooking fresh, healthy food with their families.

Richard said: "What a brilliant morning. It was a real pleasure to be a part of the store opening and I thoroughly enjoyed speaking to customers and the store team.

"Everyone was really friendly and eager to see my medal, it was

a great success all round."

Aldi's Specialbuys will also be available every Thursday and Sunday, with offers on a wide range of products from electrical items to garden tools.

This week, customers can take advantage of a range of pet care, including, plush pet beds, pet grooming tools and dog coats.

The store will be open from 8am to 10pm Monday to Saturday, and 10am to 4pm on Sundays.

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