

Heart scare collapse is blamed on phone masts

Latest plan puts woman in fear of her life

by Josh Pettitt

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A photographer has blamed her failing health on the “forest of phone masts” sprouting up in Hampstead – saying another mast could force her to move away for good.

Delilah Dyson Turnbull claims that some electrical signals cause her to collapse.

She is forced to avoid Hampstead Police Station and certain shops in the village due to the pain the signals cause her.

And she was even rushed to the Royal Free Hospital in fear that she was having a heart attack.

Now, if a bid to install a telecoms mast in Redington Gardens is approved by Camden Council, Ms Dyson Turnbull says she will consider putting her home in Netherhall Gardens up for sale.

The 62-year-old said: “The masts can be diabolical on your immune system. It makes you feel very, very old very, very quickly. It’s like rheumatism.

“When I walk past certain masts, they make me want to fall to the floor.

“It’s putting me in a position where I stay in Hampstead and die or move somewhere without so many masts.”

Electro hypersensitivity

Government commissioned reports say there is no evidence of direct harm or ill health from living close to phone masts.

But Ms Dyson Turnbull claims to suffer from electro hypersensitivity.

The condition, caused by electromagnetic fields from mobile phones, computers and phone masts, can lead to a range of symptoms, from headaches to heart palpitations.

It is not recognised as a medical diagnosis in the UK – but is in Sweden.

Telecoms firm Everything Everywhere plans to relocate an eight metre mast from King’s College London’s student halls in Kidderpore Avenue to Redington Gardens.



■ Delilah Dyson Turnbull

Picture: Nigel Sutton

“It’s putting me in a position where I stay in Hampstead and die or move somewhere without so many masts

An online petition against the mast has garnered 161 signatures, with actor Tom Conti backing the campaign.

Ms Dyson Turnbull was once a pioneering photographer, inventing a technique known as solar spectrum photography, capturing a range of colours without the use of filters.

But her condition threw a “spanner in the works” and forced her to abandon her passion. Her work has been exhibited at The Photographers’ Gallery in Soho and Hampstead’s Burgh House.

“This condition is like trying to function without a brain,” she said.

Women harassed in fake wedding ring scam

Con artists have been offering passers-by fake gold wedding rings in Swiss Cottage and West Hampstead in a scam to take money off them.

The scam involves a man or women offering what looks like a man’s thick gold wedding ring that they have found on the pavement. They then engage victims in a sob story and ask for spare change.

Catherine Ford was walking on Black Path, behind West Hampstead station, on Septem-

ber 29, when a man said he had found a gold wedding ring.

After their exchange, the man followed her down the lane and became “threatening”.

“He started asking if I had any food,” said Mrs Ford. “I had £1 in my wallet but he saw some money sticking out and said, ‘No, you’ve got a note.’

“At this point, we were shoulder to shoulder and I was up against a wall and I realised I’d been scammed.”

Two weeks later, Chun Mun

was stopped by a “large Eastern European woman” outside Swiss Cottage station. She claimed she had found a wedding ring.

The 71-year-old said: “I didn’t want to take it because my husband is dead and wearing a ring would be bad luck.

“But she kept trying to give it to me and then started asking for food.

“It brings a bad name to London with Christmas coming up and other women might be affected.”



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■ David Tyler

Picture: Nigel Sutton

Apology for error

In an article about J Sainsbury’s chairman David Tyler in last week’s *Ham&High*, we incorrectly said that he had been appointed as the new chief executive of Hampstead Theatre.

Mr Tyler will, in fact, replace Dame Jenny Abramsky as chairman of the board. We are happy to correct the mistake.

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