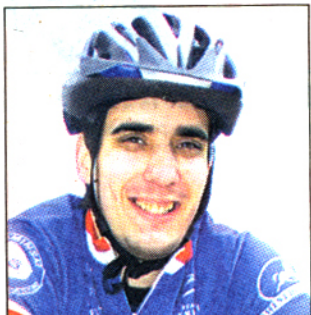


# News

'Brighton up my day with sponsors'



**RIDER: Micheal Gentry**  
HANNAH JONES/27794/3

**STUDENT** nurse Micheal Gentry is doing the London to Brighton bike ride to raise money for St John Ambulance. He has been a volunteer with the Streatham and Norbury division for two years, helping with everything from Streatham Kite Day to the London Marathon. Micheal, of Barcombe Avenue, Streatham, wants businesses to sponsor an advert on his cycling jersey when he does the ride next month. Micheal, 26, said: "I have done it once before but hope that this time if I can get the sponsorship I can raise a lot more." He hopes to raise £12,000 – the cost of the second-hand ambulance his team has just bought. "If I could help raise half the cost of our new ambulance then that money could go towards something else," said Micheal.



**FLOWER POWER: Richard Reynolds at the spot**

HANNAH JONES/27770/3

# Guerrilla gardener goes ape

By RYAN KISIEL

A GUERRILLA gardener has declared war on vandals who are dumping rubbish on his flower beds.

For the past three years Richard Reynolds has looked after the green areas around his home in Elephant & Castle.

All of his work is done for free at night as part of the garden guerrilla movement, a form of environmental political action.

But Richard, 29, was furious when he found the litter he had just binned was put back on flowers outside his flat in Perronet House.

## Dumped

Drinks cans, cartons, crisp and cigarette packets and green cuttings were dumped on the flowers.

He had previously had a dispute with a council street cleaner about putting garden waste in public bins.

Richard said: "It was very disappointing. I've been volunteering for many years without any involvement from the council to try and make the place look better.

"Most of the work involves picking up litter that has been dumped on the flower beds or blown on to it.

"I was amazed when I saw all the rubbish and some garden waste I put

in the bin dumped there.

"I'd had a discussion with the street cleaner about using it for garden waste and thought we'd had a reasonable discussion."

He added: "I hope it wasn't the cleaner, but you need a key to unlock those bins and I don't know how it could be done otherwise.

"We're both trying to do the same thing, but just approaching it in different ways."

Guerrilla gardeners target neglected land and spruce it up by planting donated flowers. They work for free and sometimes work in brigades at night to spruce up eyesores in the capital.

Councillor Lisa Rajan, Southwark's council executive member for environmental services, said: "I entirely understand their aims as they're trying to make the community a nicer, greener place.

"That's what we're also trying to do here at the council. If they wanted to work together we would be more than happy to work with them."

She added: "If we get no complaints, or their work is not a hazard, then we would not disrupt it."