This year we investigated everything from west London that dealers to Bloomsbury art squats. But what happened to the people who appeared on these pages after we’d left the scene?

The barber

The date: February 18, 2006
The place: Olympia Hair Salon, Lyrasterne Road, Streatham, 11A.
The story: When Felix Aguero decided to name his new business The Olympic Hair Salon in February 1999, he didn’t know he was blessing the law. In fact, Aguero was contesting the 1999 Olympic Symbol Protection Act, instituted in order to protect all symbols associated with the Games. He feared it would be a mistake. But it wasn’t. Before London even won the bid for the Olympics, he found himself at the heart of the legislation he had tried to remove, or any symbols that might compromise the Olympic brand. The cost of rebranding could drive me financially ruin. I spent thousands of flyers, posters and business cards, I’m afraid of it all over again, but I did.

What happened next? In March, Aguero’s lawyers made him a lower offer from LOCOG, allowing him to continue trading under the same name ‘for the time being’. At the time, Aguero’s business had been established prior to London winning the bid. Why all the worry? I’ve been able to promote the business and I’m struggling to keep it going. But I think that they’ve given me more time to think about it, he said.

The café owner

The date: February 25, 2006
The place: Soho Café, 36 Broadway Market, E2.
The story: In Boxing Day 2005, 40 puppies and kittens were found in the half-dismantled Francesco’s Café. Run by Sicilian-born Peter Pantaleo, the site also housed a few cats and dogs which were left to warm themselves in the heat of the night. Pantaleo has now moved to a new location and the café has reopened.

What happened next? 5:45 am on February 25, Peter人们fon refused entry to the café. He says the animals ‘were on the floor and I said they were too comfortable. They came in through the roof like a parachute’, Pantaleo.

The gypsies

The date: May 21, 2006
The place: Chiswick Lane and Waterdown Crescent travellers’ sites.
The story: Reporter interviewed Romany gypsies at Chiswick Lane (Newham) and Chiswick Crescent (Hammersmith). The gypsies say they were being forced of their sites to make way for the DLR 2006 expansion.

What happened next? 5:45 am on February 25, Peter people refused entry to the café. They say the animals were on the floor and they were too comfortable. They came in through the roof like a parachute, Pantaleo. How desperately do you want this building? By April, the café had been demolished by the owner, Dr Roger Watten, who was hoping to turn it into luxury flats. In May, Pantaleo was ordered to pay the gypsies £2,000 for the space they had used against his eviction and the court ordered £500 from his business accounts. There was nothing, absolutely nothing, said Pantaleo. Where is my new business and my customers?

This has split up my family and I’ve had to take my children somewhere. What will I do next year? All I want to do is to run a successful business. The similar court case of another Broadway Market trader, Mr Jones, who runs a Caribbean food shop at number 71, is still pending.

The gardener

The date: October 23, 2005
The place: London and beyond.
The story: Reporter spent several days in the activities of the Prince of Wales, 29, after spending time with him to promote the garden he has created for his wife, the Duchess of Cornwall. He has also been the subject of a 30-minute Japanese documentary profiling European people with old habits. Recently, the gardener has been helped by an array of international experts from one of England’s largest gardens, Bletchley Park. He says his garden is a source of pride for the community. The Prince of Wales has also been named as one of the world’s 100 most influential people in the world. He’s good for promoting green spaces but they aren’t very attractive, he says. The gardener recently engaged in slow gardening by decorating a Christmas tree he had previously planted with George Orwell in Southwark. We’ve documented with styles of art from different artists and bishops, said the gardener.