

My space shuttle ride – to W6

Name: Chris Kemp

Age: 35

Occupation: Manager of the Black Lion pub in South Black Lion Lane, by the river in Hammersmith, recently named the best-managed pub in London in the Great British Pub Awards.

Marital status: Living with my partner.

Where do you live? Hammersmith Grove.

How long have you lived there? Just over four years.

How do you get around? Because I work in the area, I can walk there easily, and it's nice to walk by the river because it feels as though you're not in London. It's very relaxing.

What do you love most about the borough? It's very convenient to get into central London, and for getting out of the city. We've now got the Westfield shopping centre, which means there's less reason to have to go to the West End, but I think there's still room for more development.

What's your favourite restaurant? Indian Zing in King Street, or Chez Aristof in Hammersmith Grove. I love the food and the service in both of them. Otherwise I try to escape Hammersmith and disappear into central London.

Your favourite bar or pub? My own. It has friendly staff, good service, good food and a nice garden to sit out in.

I also quite like the Salutation in King Street because it has a nice garden, and I think The Ship is a lovely pub, even though it's my competitor next door.

If you could change one thing about the borough, what would it be? I'd change the face of King Street. I'd like to see some smarter businesses like John Lewis instead of Primark and TK Maxx. It just looks a bit down-market at the moment.

If you were invisible for the day, where would you go? I'd probably get on board the next space shuttle launch, because it would be a once-in-a-lifetime thing to do.

I'd probably be up there for about three weeks, but it's not as if there are buses for them to send you back down.

How do you relax? I play classical music on the piano. I'm trained up to grade eight. But the piano is in the pub at the moment, because I took it over there for our opera night and haven't brought it back yet.

What keeps you awake at night? Not a lot really. I'm a heavy sleeper and I like my sleep. If anything, it's my partner or my neighbours.

What's your favourite film? There are so many. I like The Matrix, the Godfather films, Scarface, Tarantino's films, a lot of violent gangster stuff, but things like Pretty Woman I've watched lots of times.

And your favourite record? I have such wide taste, from classical to rock music, and I can listen to anything. I'm so busy that the only thing I listen to is the stuff I play in the pub, which tends to be 80s groove and soul.

Who do you most admire? My parents.

If your flat was on fire, what three things would you save? My Yamaha Clavinova piano, my music collection and also my partner. I wouldn't let him burn.

