



# Barnet keeps quiet on CPZ

By Diana Cormack

In July 2008 Barnet Council asked the residents of East Finchley to fill in a questionnaire about their Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), of which there are three in the area. Our current CPZs were, according to the council, "designed to allow local people improved parking opportunities in areas affected by various causes of high density parking".

The questionnaire reviewed these CPZs, to discover if local people's needs were still being met.

Nearly nine months have passed and the results of this questionnaire are, at the time of writing, still not available. Since last autumn, THE ARCHER has been asking for an update, always to be told that they are not ready.

Some residents in the 10am-

6.30pm CPZ are particularly irritated. They feel this restriction is too long and means they are forced to buy more visitor vouchers. Local businesses suffer greatly because the restrictions also operate on Saturdays. Other people believe there should be some sort of compromise, particularly in the roads immediately round the station.

These restrictions were imposed when Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute opened near East Finchley tube station in 2004. Residents recall that at the time a review was promised within 18 months, which never happened.

# Girls on film

By Sheila Armstrong

The Noble Sage Gallery in Fortis Green held another successful film evening on 12 March. Included was a prizewinning short animation by two Royal College of Art students. The students, Meghana Bishineer and Jane Cheadle, held a Q & A after the showing.

The main film was an early Merchant Ivory production from the 1970s. Originally made for television and lasting only an hour *The Autobiography of a Princess* stars Madhur Jaffrey and James Mason. Gallery owner Jana Manuelpillai, just back from contacting artists in India for the next show, told THE ARCHER that his current mixed show features gallery artists. Contact [Jana@thenoblesage.com](mailto:Jana@thenoblesage.com) to get on their mailing list for film evenings.

# Old timers' lunch

Back in January, Budgens East Finchley sponsored an old-time lunch of boiled bacon, carrots and pease pudding at Age Concern's Ann Owen Centre in Oak Lane. It was good old-fashioned dining and many wanted seconds.

The preparation and cooking were carried out by Clifford, Joy and staff at the Ann Owen. Diners said the lunch was "delicious".

Budgens also donated raffle and spot prizes for the Ann Owen Valentine's tea dance held in February. Budgens' new owners welcome ideas for helping people and groups in the local community, young and old.

# Plans for Thomas More Centre

By Betti Blatman

On 25 February, a preliminary consultation was held with local residents to discuss development of the Thomas More Centre on East End Road, previously owned by Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute. It was arranged by Parritt Lang architects, acting on behalf of The Gooch Charitable Trust who have purchased the building and adjoining car park.

Planning permission is being sought to redevelop the building and build on the existing car park, adding an underground car park for eight vehicles in addition to two parking bays above ground.

Local residents who attended the meeting were shown a model of the proposed development. Some expressed concern at its size, fearing it would overlook homes and gardens on the Thomas More Estate and affect their privacy. There were also concerns about increased traffic and centre visitors using parking spaces on the estate, already in short supply.

Unfortunately, Servite, who run the Thomas More Estate and have been informed of the redevelopment plans, were not represented at the meeting. It is hoped that Servite will keep residents updated on the situation.



HRH Princess Anne, patron of disability charity 'Sense', visits The Phoenix for a special showing of the Sense DVD. Photo by Peter Beal.

# Princess meets the real stars of the show

Princess Anne led a host of dignitaries attending a premiere at the Phoenix Cinema on 26 February. However, instead of Hollywood actors, the stars were deafblind people in a film to highlight the work of Sense, the national deafblind charity.

The charity rolled out the red carpet to honour the real life stars with a proper premiere. Alan Avis, Regional Director at Sense, said: "The deafblind people whose daily lives feature in the film are true stars and we wanted to treat them as such. This is a real life film aimed at informing people about our work."

"Sense is immensely proud of our services in Barnet and across the South East. Our expertise has enabled the people in this film to take major strides despite challenging and complex disabilities."

The film follows the process of assessing someone's needs through to providing the support and seeing its impact.

# Violent robbers jailed

By Janet Maitland

Five men have been convicted and sentenced to a combined total of more than 20 years in prison for carrying out a string of violent robberies across London, including four in Barnet. They were sentenced to prison on 11 February at Harrow Crown Court after admitting to 23 offences of robbery.

The group targeted news-agents and corner shops where the shopkeeper was working alone. They would attack the shopkeeper and steal cash, jewellery and personal belongings. On two occasions they also stole from customers. Before the men were arrested they had stolen £12,460 over a five-month period starting in November 2007.



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