



## Smash but no grab

One of the display windows of Kokos footwear shop at 72 High Road was damaged by a brick on 13 January. Fortunately, nothing was taken, though whether this was because the resulting hole was too high or too small can only be guessed at. However, the perpetrators may well have been put off as the goods on show are firmly secured and there are surveillance cameras in constant operation.



Kokos' broken window. Photo by John Dearing

## Cinema becomes film set for the stars

By David Melsome

There was a buzz of excitement not to mention some disruption for nearby residents when a major movie rolled into town for five days of filming at the Phoenix Cinema.

Actors Dame Judi Dench and Daniel Day Lewis were on set for two days to shoot scenes for the movie *Nine*, which also stars Nicole Kidman and Sophia Loren.

### Auditorium transformed

Around 100 cast and crew effectively took over the cinema in the week before Christmas, transforming the 1910 art deco auditorium into a 1960s Italian studio screening room.

Residents of Baronsmere Road and Fairlawn Avenue were warned by letter that the film crew would be on site. Some were annoyed at losing parking spaces to a large number of huge lorries and trailers; others enjoyed the chance to do some star-spotting.

*Nine* tells the story of film director Guido Contini, played by Day Lewis, and the dramatic relationships he has with his wife, his mistress, his muse, his agent and his mother.

The scenes shot at the Phoenix involved Day Lewis and Dame Judi sitting in a screening room discussing the rushes of his latest film. The film crew

took out rows of seats and built a whole new projector room in the auditorium to get it at the right level for the scenes.

### Signor Contini

Day Lewis, acclaimed last year for his barnstorming performance as an oil prospector in the movie *There Will Be Blood*, is famously intense in his acting techniques, and he was true to form at the Phoenix.

Paul Homer, the cinema's chief executive, said: "You couldn't say hello. You had to call him by his character's name and he spoke to everyone in a thick Italian accent. I found myself just nodding hello to him each morning."

"Judi Dench on the other hand was very down to earth and chatty. She would just sit and have a cup of tea with the crew in between shots."

*Nine* was adapted for the screen by the Oscar-winning Anthony Minghella, a former resident of East Finchley who died suddenly in March last



Photo by chloe004 under creative commons licence at flickr.com

year at the age of 54.

Directed by Rob Marshall, the film is scheduled for a November release in the USA, and possibly a January 2010 release in the UK, fuelling speculation that it is being lined up as a major Oscar contender.

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## Jack Brown in USA

### as cancer returns

By Betti Blatman

Although our update regarding Barnet boy Jack Brown in November was encouraging, unfortunately just before Christmas there was devastating news that the cancer had returned throughout his body. Jack and his mother, Yvonne, flew to Vermont on 10 January where he was due to receive a low dose of chemotherapy to extend his life as long as possible.



Jack Brown. Photo by Yvonne Brown

Generous donations have enabled Jack's treatment to continue. Further information is available on [www.jackbrownappeal.org](http://www.jackbrownappeal.org) or send a cheque to The Jack Brown Appeal, c/o The 2 Simple Trust (a registered UK charity 1113954), Enterprise House, 2 The Crest, London NW4 2HN.

## Cecilia Close in darkness

Since the beginning of November 2008, one side of Cecilia Close has been in complete darkness intermittently due to three faulty streetlights. Servite, who manage the Thomas More Estate, have discovered a major underground cable fault that will require the pavement to be dug up to rectify the problem. As a temporary measure they have installed three floodlights to provide lighting for residents.

The faulty streetlights continue working intermittently but, as the floodlights have not yet been switched on, when the faulty streetlights fail there is complete darkness in Cecilia Close. Residents are waiting to hear from Servite when their streetlights will be fully restored.

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