



# Sheltered housing wardens to be axed

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Barnet Council has confirmed its controversial decision to replace residential wardens in sheltered accommodation with a 24 hour alarm system and a floating support service, which will be available to other elderly people in the community. In April, residents of East Finchley's Paul Byrne House told THE ARCHER about their fears for the future if the scheme went ahead.**

The council has acknowledged that 88% of sheltered housing residents and their relatives opposed the original plan to cut the sheltered housing budget by £950,000. That move was rejected, but Barnet are going ahead with a revised scheme. They say that most sheltered housing tenants and their relatives support the idea of extending support to other elderly people, but no details of exactly how it will affect their own circumstances or how it will be operated have been decided.

THE ARCHER put some questions to a council spokesperson. We asked how many people would need to be employed in the floating support team, taking into account the fact that they are extending their services to the whole community, and what exactly these support workers would be doing.

Barnet replied that they would be consulting sheltered

housing tenants and a panel of older people living in their own homes, some of whom are, or have been, registered with Social Services. They say that "the skill set required will determine salary levels, which will of course determine staff numbers." The Council expects to set up an organisation for the new support service in 2009, with an annual budget of around £600,000.

They say that it is "likely" that support workers will carry out "aspects" of the services provided by residential wardens at present, but that this will need to be discussed.

The floating support teams will probably be based in a small number of locations across the borough, and will be expected to visit older people in their homes by appointment. The 24 hour alarm system will be that operated by Lifeline. The changes to the service will take place in 2010 and 2011.



Kristian thrills his audience. Photo by Diana Cormack

## Kristian inspires young gymnasts

**Athletes are visiting 2,012 schools nationwide in the Team Super Schools project, encouraging children to take part in a variety of sponsored fitness activities. Pupils and staff at Tudor School, N3, were thrilled at a display put on by 20-year-old Kristian Thomas, Commonwealth Games bronze medalist and potential 2012 Olympics gymnast.**

Each child had a souvenir photograph taken with Kristian and they took part enthusiastically in a sponsored activity circuit. Some wrote reports on the event.

### What the kids say

Eva and Melissa in Year 2 wrote: "Tuesday was a very exciting afternoon because Kristian Thomas visited Tudor School. He is the Olympic star. He started off with forward and backward flips. He also did a forward roll over seven people, which was amazing. All the children kept saying, 'That was so cool' and 'That was excellent.'"

Yusuf in Year 2 wrote: "He back flipped over seven children and one teacher! After all that we changed into our PE kit and did lots of sports, press ups and all sorts of things like that and it was so fun!"

Ayushi in Year 5 wrote:

"Kristian Thomas started training at the age of five and is still training. All the children in Tudor School took part in some activities like sit ups, star jumps, leg drives and press ups. The children had their photo taken with him. All of this was organised by Team Super Schools. They set lots of schools a big challenge. The challenge was to raise money and if you raise a certain amount you get a prize supplied by Reebok."

Anuj from Year 5 wrote: "The children were happy to see Kristian and they hope to see him in the Olympics. Maybe a child from Tudor can follow in his footsteps."

## Send your photos in now for THE ARCHER Calendar 2010

**Do you have a photo that captures something special about East Finchley? People, places or plain oddities, THE ARCHER is looking for 12 brilliant new photos to be in our calendar for 2010.**

This year's calendar was a sell-out success and raised more than £2,000 for local neighbourhood charity Contact. We hope to raise cash for another good cause in 2010.

If you have a photo of someone or somewhere in N2, we'd love to see it. Picturesque, striking or maybe just bizarre, all photos are welcome, as long as they show some aspect of life in N2.

Our judging panel will pick the 12 best photos and the calendar will be on sale from October.

Please email your photos to [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net), clearly marking the email Archer Calendar and giving a few details about where or why they were taken. The September closing date is coming up fast so get your photos in now. Thanks.

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