



Budgens budge over noise nuisance

By Daphne Chamberlain

The refurbishment of Budgens started with a seriously noisy night for its neighbours, and raised questions about Barnet's noise nuisance policy.

Residents of Viceroy Close, the flats above the store, had their sleep shattered on the night of Thursday 20 August.

In the words of one resident: "At around midnight, with absolutely no warning, loud drilling and banging started below my flat. It was both heard and felt as vibration right up to the third floor. This appalling racket was still going on around 3am, when I found some earplugs."

When he and a number of neighbours investigated, a workman allegedly dismissed complaints that everyone in the flats was being kept awake by saying the firm had permission from the manager of Budgens. Calls to Barnet's Noise Nuisance Unit only got a recorded request to leave a message.

Legal hours for building work

An officer in Barnet's Noise Nuisance Unit did respond the following day. She contacted Budgens, pointing out that it is against the law for building work to take place outside the hours of 8am to 6pm weekdays and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays. If another complaint was received Barnet

would serve an order to stop the work. If that was ignored, the store would be prosecuted.

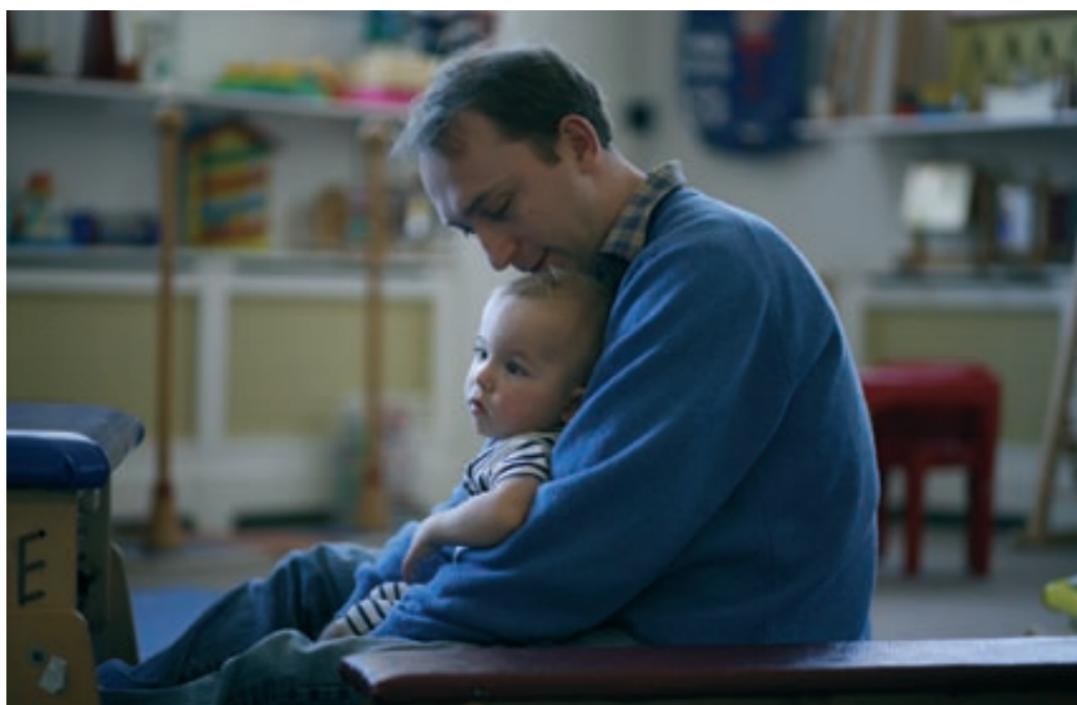
Since then, noisy work has been restricted to the permitted periods. Budgens manager Mr R. Janakan apologised for the disturbance, which he said was the fault of a sub-contractor.

Noise and Nuisance

Barnet told *THE ARCHER* that the weekday (Monday to Thursday) night Noise and Nuisance service was stopped in 2005, when there were staff reductions, but the council's policy is to investigate all messages left overnight during the week on the following day.

We asked how Barnet could justify cutting an immediate response during weeknights, when most people have to work the following day, but have received no reply to this.

If you experience noise or nuisance, call 020 8359 7997. The main Barnet Council switchboard (020 8359 2000) also gives option 2 for Noise and Nuisance. Text 07781 473279 or email scientificservices@barnet.gov.uk. Weekend hours are 8pm to 5am (Friday to Monday).



Helping children with cerebral palsy at the Bobath Centre. Photo by Joey Toller

THE ARCHER Calendar to support Bobath Centre

By David Melsome

Thank you to everyone who sent in photos for *THE ARCHER* Calendar 2010. We were inundated with entries and, as we go to press, our judges are facing the difficult task of choosing the best 12.

Our calendar will go on sale at the start of November. This year *THE ARCHER* team has decided to give all the proceeds to the Bobath Centre in East End Road, which provides therapy and support for children with cerebral palsy.

Cerebral palsy is a dis-

ability caused by damage to the brain that can take place before, during or in the early days after birth. The centre's director Kevin Gillespie said he was delighted that calendar funds will be helping to support their vital work. Look out for next month's issue when we'll take a closer look at the families who benefit from the Bobath Centre, and the staff who work there.

Also next month, we'll tell you how you can buy *THE ARCHER* Calendar 2010 at local outlets or order by post and have it delivered to your door in plenty of time for Christmas.

The calendar makes a great gift or the perfect addition to your own wall at home, and every penny raised from sales goes to support this excellent local charity.

100 not out

By Daphne Chamberlain

Best wishes to Thomas Lobo, often called "TJ" or Tom, who reached his century last month. TJ settled in Leicester Road in 1975, but has lived his long life in three continents. Born in Goa, he moved to Kenya in 1930, where he spent the next 43 years. This was in the days of the British Empire, when many young Goans were recruited to help build up the Kenyan administration.

During his time there, TJ worked for the District Commissioner's Office in Nairobi and other areas of Kenya, lived through the Mau Mau uprisings, and saw the independence of Kenya and the installation as President of Jomo Kenyatta.



TJ Lobo in his garden. Photo by Neil Lobo

He also made a name for himself as an all-round sportsman and renowned cricketer, umpire and sporting organiser. Nowadays, he wonders whether he owes his longevity and remarkable fitness to his involvement in sport. As he says with a twinkle in his eye, he used to smoke and drink, and apparently still sometimes visits the pub.

This is between managing his house and attending Mass at St Mary's Catholic Church. He and his late wife, Leonie, have been part of church life since they moved to East Finchley. Their son, Neil, who was only six when the family left Kenya, grew up here.

As you would expect, TJ has many international links. In

his own family, while his oldest daughter, Mavis, lives with him, her two sisters, Maureen and Betty, are based in Kenya and Canada.

Neil Lobo is compiling a biography in words and pictures of his father, and would welcome contributions. Anyone with birthday greetings or memories of this charming and lively man can contact Neil at 5 Cowper Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 5NF or at neil-lobo@o2.co.uk.

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