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# THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

## Round one to residents in parking fight

By John Lawrence

East Finchley residents have won the opening skirmish in their battle with Barnet Council to prevent the introduction of steep price increases in Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) charges. The council was forced to suspend the increases for at least a month after campaigners spotted mistakes in the consultation process.

At the same time, residents have formed the Barnet CPZ Action Group and raised enough money to launch a High Court legal challenge against the price increases. They want them scrapped altogether.

### 400% price hike

Barnet Council is planning to introduce increases to 250% on standard resident parking permits, from the current £40 per year to £100 per year for the

first car. It plans to raise one-day visitor permits to 400%, from the current £1 to £4 per day.

The new rates were due to apply from 21 March but the council was forced to postpone this date to at least 14 April while it took out fresh press advertisements about the rises. This was after campaigners noticed that the original adverts in February contained the wrong price information.

David Atfield, chairman of the action group, told *THE ARCHER*: "It's reassuring to know the council is incompetent but the fight goes on."

The residents are basing their legal case on the question of whether the council is empowered to increase parking charges for the express aim of raising revenue rather than the original CPZ purpose of controlling parking demand.

All car owners in the CPZ areas will be affected, they say, and the increases will particularly hit those who rely on visitors driving into the area, many of them elderly.

Jeanne Wray, 79, who lives in Baronsmere Road, says: "This is going to stop my social life. My friends are not going to be able to afford to come."

### How you can help

The Barnet CPZ Action Group estimates it needs to raise £15,000 to take the case to the High Court and is calling for donations and fundraising help. Cheques made payable to 'Barnet CPZ Action' can be sent to 88 Summerlee Avenue, East Finchley, London N2 9QH. Find further information on the action group at [www.barnetcpz.blogspot.com](http://www.barnetcpz.blogspot.com) or email [barnetcpz@gmail.com](mailto:barnetcpz@gmail.com)



Kenneth Dunjohn and Irene Thompson Bates. Photo by Kashif Zaidi

## Falling in love again

By Daphne Chamberlain

This was an unusual wedding. The groom is 82 and the bride 83. They met in the 1940s, parted four years later, and had no further contact for 59 years. Then their paths crossed again through a medical website, and this time joined in marriage.

"Usual" has never been the norm for Kenneth Dunjohn. As a 17-year-old cub reporter for the *Hendon and Finchley Times*, he found himself interviewing Winston Churchill. The plane carrying the wartime Prime Minister back from Yalta had been diverted to Hendon airfield because of fog, and Kenneth happened to be there.

Later on, he chaired HGS Liberals and then Neighbourhood Watch in East Finchley, where he moved 25 years ago. For 55 years he was married to Grita, whom he cared for when she developed Alzheimer's.

Irene Thompson Bates, meanwhile, was living in the US, married for 30 years to an American Air Force colonel, and in a senior position in National Cash Registers in New York. Kenneth told *THE ARCHER* he actually thought she had died.

### Heart to heart

In fact, it was a health problem that reunited them, when Irene's specialist in Florida advised her to look up a UCH website featuring Kenneth and his recovery from a heart condition. When she visited England, they fell in love all over again.

Kenneth says, "Nobody could have had happier first marriages than we both did. It wasn't a case of starting again where we left off. When we met once more, we were completely different people, but just felt we were on the same wavelength".

The Dunjohns are both customers of Kashif Zaidi at KF Computers & Imaging, who took their wedding pictures.



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