



## Olive Westley, 104

By Daphne Chamberlain

104 years old and still going strong. Mrs Olive Westley celebrated that milestone birthday on 5 September. After a happy family party at the Royal Chase Hotel, Enfield, she returned home to her upstairs maisonette in Creighton Avenue, where she has lived since 1986 and still looks after herself.



Councillor Hugh Rayner, Mayor of Barnet cuts the ribbon at the re-opening of Hair 202 on the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

## A new style for hair salon

The only scissors in use at 202 hairdressing salon on the evening of 24 September were in the capable hands of the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Hugh Rayner, who cut the ribbon to officially open the re-vamped premises. The salon has established an enviable reputation at 202 High Road since starting there in November 2004.

In his speech, Cllr Rayner talked about support for small businesses in the borough and recognised the life-blood they give to local communities. At the re-launch party staff warmly welcomed clients, family and friends to view the new-look salon and celebrated the event with a range of promotions and offers. More photos and details can be seen at [www.hair202.com](http://www.hair202.com)

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**Visitors always welcome**

Olive has always stood out from the crowd. She took her driving test in 1930, when it was unusual for women to take the wheel, and continued driving until she was 98.

One of her favourite childhood memories, though, involves a horse-drawn milk float. While the driver was occupied, she turned on the milk-tap, but then couldn't turn it off.

Milk featured in her adult life, when she worked in the offices of United Dairies, next to East Finchley station. She also worked for Liverpool Victoria Insurance Company. Born in Davenant Road, Holloway, Olive has spent most of her life in the East Finchley area. When a WW2 bomb fell in Fortis Green, opposite the police station, she was living in Lynmouth Road.

The 10<sup>th</sup> of 12 children, she said that both her parents lived into their nineties. She is the last surviving sibling, but has six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

### Cheerful and courageous

In early October, Olive had a heavy fall, tripping over a lethally uneven pavement in the High Road, just outside Cootes Pharmacy. She took most of the impact on her face, which was badly bruised, and also had bruising on an arm and her ribs. In spite of this, she chose to see me for this interview and was cheerful and positive. A remarkable lady.

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## No sleep for night walkers

Congratulations to ten employees from estate agents Jeremy Leaf & Co. who smashed their £1,000 target by raising over £2,000 for Cancer Research UK in the Shine Night Walk on 27 September, covering marathon and half-marathon distances through the streets of London at night.

The team was Katrin Gerlach, Clair O'Hanlon, Mary Stevens, Wayne Edmonds, Robin Seery, Marcus Brilliant, Barbara Franks, Trish McKeague, Michael Zucker and Georgie Dallas.

Katrin said: "The atmosphere at the event was truly amazing which helped push our physical boundaries to their absolute limit. There is no doubt the enthusiasm of so many others taking part on the night to embrace such a worthy cause kept us going. We are definitely aiming for an even higher total and faster time next year!"



The Jeremy Leaf team take a break after their night time walk.

## Over 65s Xmas party

The Bishop Douglass Christmas party this year will be held on Thursday 11 December from 5.30pm for a 6pm start. East Finchley residents who are over 65 are welcome and you should book your place without delay.

As usual, you will be welcomed with a glass of sherry by Year 10 students and enjoy a three-course meal followed by carol singing and entertainment by pupils and staff. Games of bingo and a gift from Santa Claus

will round off the evening.

Transport can be provided for those who need it. To book your place, just phone Toni on 020 8883 0433, leave your name and a contact number and someone will get back to you.

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