



Legal challenge to library cuts

By Daphne Chamberlain

As we reported last month, Save Barnet Libraries (SBL) are making a legal challenge to the Council's proposals for the service. A Letter Before Action they sent to Barnet Council on 29 December claims the plans are unlawful because the council has not properly consulted the views of people likely to be most affected and has not given enough information.

Impacts on library users

Libraries unstaffed for most of their hours would exclude many users during that time. SBL point out that the pilot scheme running at Edgware is unfair because a security guard is present. Security guards are not part of the proposals.

The letter also says that there appear to be no contingency plans if a 'community' library is unable to produce volunteers, and that Barnet doesn't seem to be pursuing plans to co-locate other council services in library buildings, as had been proposed. The full letter is online at www.savebarnetlibraries.org. If you want to actively support legal action, email savebarnetlibraries@hotmail.com.

If you will be particularly affected by Barnet's proposals, SBL would like to talk to you. For example, when libraries are unstaffed, there will be no access to toilets. This would affect pregnant women and other adults with physical conditions, as well as parents with young or disabled children. Age-restricted access would affect children of

11-15 who rely on the library as a place to study, or who regularly use the library after school. Older people or people with disabilities might find technology-enabled opening systems difficult to use. If you feel you could be affected, please e-mail pollynapper@btinternet.com.

Speak Up For Libraries

On Tuesday 9 February, SBL are joining in a lobby of Parliament against sweeping reductions in library provision and numbers of staff. The lobby is being organised by Speak Up For Libraries.

Our local campaigners invite supporters to join them in the Aldersgate Room, Central Hall, Westminster, from 10am for registration.

From 1pm, delegates will cross the road to the House of Commons to meet with their MPs. There will be no march. Booking is advised, preferably through: <http://suffl.eventbrite.com>. For more information, call Elizabeth on 020 8651 9552 or 07968 491355, email speakup4libraries@gmail.com or visit www.speakupforlibraries.org

Estate agents awards

By Diana Cormack

If you pass by Martyn Gerrard at 66/68 High Road, you may have to shield your eyes from the glint of gold and silver! Look through the window and, displayed on the desks, you will see a number of cups which the estate agents won towards the end of 2015.

Last November they won three national awards from 'The Negotiator', a long established monthly magazine for estate and letting agents: Gold Award as Medium Lettings Agency of the Year, Silver Award for Marketing Campaign of the Year and Silver Award for Medium Estate Agency of the Year.

Established in 1964, the London based company has its own annual awards for its 11 offices. In these the East Finchley branch was judged to be the best sales office and the best letting office. It also had the best combined month of the year (for sales and lettings) and was the best sales and lettings office of the year.

In the wee small hours of the morning

By Ann Bronkhorst

With his white beard and genial smile Keith Wallace might remind you of Santa Claus rather than of the wartime leader, but when he resisted his doctor's efforts to make him stop work in order to have a knee operation Keith was told: "You're as stubborn as Churchill."

Keith did accept, finally, that he had to retire from the milk round he's done for over 30 years, from the bitter winter of 1984 until December 2015. For 17 years he'd been a chef at the BBC (where he met his wife Rosemary) but he took to the outdoor life of a milkie. Even the unsocial hours and the Saturday work didn't dismay him.



Early start: Keith in the 1980s

"He never complained," says Rosemary.

In the wee small hours

Various dairy companies employed him, operating from the North Finchley depot. Then in 1991 Keith took on a franchise with Dairycrest, entailing 500 deliveries of milk, eggs and other foodstuffs. He was a bottled milk buyer, a 'BMB', out of the depot in the early morning to start his round when most people were fast asleep.

Some were not asleep, however. Keith saw strange things in the small hours, from the



Retiring East Finchley milkman Keith Wallace (left) with new milkman Mick Fuller. Photo Mike Coles

amusing to the appalling. The drunk girl collapsed on her doorstep; the fox cubs at play; the expensive cars with keys left in the locks; the yobs who snatch bottles: he has some vivid stories. One grim experience was find-

ing a murdered woman inside her open front door on Durham Road.

Changes

After the next knee op another big life change awaits, as the Wallaces (with dog) are moving to a tiny village in Devon. Both are Londoners born and bred so it will be quite an adjustment. For his customers, currently over 300 of them, there's been a seamless transition from Keith to Mick Fuller, his holiday relief milkman for the last 15 years. There'll be the same reliable service but gentle giant Keith will be missed by his long-term

customers, one of whom once nominated him for a Civic Award.

On 15 January many of those customers gathered at the Clis-sold Arms for a party to welcome Mick and to say a fond farewell to Keith, who gave an open invitation to drop in if we were nearby. There were laughs, hugs, a few tears and a witty poem written for the occasion by party organiser Peter Cox: a warm send-off for our East Finchley milkie.

Bright ideas

Business start-ups and entrepreneurial students are being given the chance to showcase their ideas to win up to £1,000 prize money in a new competition. All entries will be judged by a panel of business experts.

The Entrepreneurial Barnet Competition, organised by Middlesex University, Barnet Council and Barnet and Southgate College, has four prizes of £500 each with a further £500 for the overall champion. For entry details visit www.barnet.gov.uk/business-competition. Closing date is Friday 19 February.

Exceptional Care homes

Comfortable, en suite, private rooms now available at:

- **Apthorp Care Centre** – New Southgate
- **Dell Field Court** – Finchley
- **Meadowside** – North Finchley

For more information, please call :

07721 128 885 / 020 8242 9443

or email: enquiries@fremantletrust.org



THE FREMANTLE TRUST
Passionate about Care

www.fremantletrust.org

The Fremantle Trust is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number: 2722437).
A registered charity. Not for profit. (Registration Number 1014986).

FT 771



ExtensionContractors.com

Working in East Finchley with 35 years experience

• Free Quotes

T: 07562339888

E: Extensioncontractors@gmail.com

- Extensions
- Flat Refurbishments
- Garage Conversions
- Kitchens & Bathrooms

Human Resource Solutions Plus

Helping you to manage, train and develop your employees at a commercially sensible cost.

www.hrsp.net

Richard Pell: info@hrsp.net • PO Box 27013, London, N2 0WX

HRSP

Foot Problems? Chiropody Podiatry

Judith Costa BSc

At Utopia Clinic 1a Leicester Mews N2 9EJ

Tel: 020 8444 4226 (M) 07802 88 79 19

Discount for Pensioners



brera gardens

- garden design
- hard landscaping
- soft landscaping
- indoor plants
- maintenance
- irrigation systems
- East Finchley based

Mob. 07939 557 934

Tel. 020 8920 3721

Email: breragardens1@btinternet.com