



Sign up for safer cab journeys

On the front page of our May edition we reported on a campaign to improve safety for taxi passengers and drivers by making it law that cabs are fitted with camera and audio recording equipment. Now the petition is live and its creator **Corrina Suri** explains why your help is needed.



Cabs petition: Corrina, left, with her sister Josie

Many people have experienced being mistreated during a cab journey but have been unable to prove it because of a lack of evidence. Unfortunately I was such a victim, but that has led me to create this campaign.

One way we can ensure criminals don't get away with unlawful behaviour is by making it the law that cameras and audio are in place to capture these incidents, but this requires us, the people, to sign a petition so that it can become a subject of debate in parliament. Only then will steps be taken to do something about it. This petition aims to make it mandatory for all licensed

cabs and taxis to have cameras/audio, to improve the safety of both passengers and drivers. If you believe in making journeys safer for everyone, please sign today at the government website: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/246158> You can also find the link on Facebook and Twitter @camsforcabs. If you have a story to share about a journey, or can volunteer to help, please don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing camsforcabs@gmail.com. Thank you all for your support in making the world that little bit safer.

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Glad to have their voices heard over TV licences

By Daphne Chamberlain
The Monday exercise class at Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2, was visited by the BBC last month to get reactions to their plan to means-test free TV licences for over 75s. ITV reporters were there later in the week.

Age UK told us: "People were glad to have their voices heard." Inge Graber, whose interview was shown, said: "I don't get any benefits, but what about people who are too poor? And is it the thin end of the wedge?"

Age UK says means-testing may sound fair but in reality it means at least 650,000 of our poorest pensioners facing a big new annual bill they simply can't afford.

"But this is really the Government's doing: they pushed the scheme onto the BBC without asking any of us what we think or providing the funding to sustain it," says the charity. "For over a million of our oldest citizens the TV is their constant companion and window on the world. And now it's under threat. Together we must tell the Government to keep TV free for everyone over 75."

It has launched a petition, demanding that the Government take back responsibility for funding free TV licences for everyone over 75. At the time of writing, it has already collected over 568,000 signatures and can be found at www.ageuk.org.uk/typetition.



Easy access: Staff member Uthay, left, and Paul Gardner at Budgens.

Subtle changes take stress out of shopping

By John Lawrence

Shoppers who have difficulty navigating busy supermarkets for any reason are being given a bit of assistance with a new Purple Thursday scheme started by Budgens in East Finchley.

New owner Paul Gardner came up with the idea after his other store in Islington was inspected for ease of access for shoppers who use wheelchairs or who have visual impairments or cognitive disabilities.

From 9am to midday on Thursdays, the East Finchley shop will be just slightly different. The aisles will be cleared of shelf-stacking cages and special offer bins to create more floor space; the store music will be turned off for a quieter atmosphere; and staff will be more visible and on hand to offer assistance to anyone who needs it. There will also be tea, coffee and cake on offer to all shoppers.

Paul said the aim was to make it easier to shop for people who might find the regular store too crowded or overwhelming. And it could be more of a

morning out for those who like to have a chat when they're out buying a few items.

"There can be many reasons people find shopping difficult, perhaps a physical disability or maybe finding it stressful," said Paul. "I always remember my Nan, as she was getting older she lost the confidence to go out on her own. She would go days without seeing anyone. Maybe if she had had the opportunity to get round a shop more easily and not feel rushed she would have appreciated it."

By good fortune, Budgens has two disabled parking bays immediately outside its doors. Paul's ambition is to spread the idea to other shops on the High Road so that East Finchley can become known as a place where people can go and shop at least once a week in a calmer, disability-friendly environment.

Family tree traces roots back to 1066 and all that

By Daphne Chamberlain

Philomena Telles has lived in Leopold Road, N2, for 50 years. Of Portuguese heritage, she was born in Goa, now part of India but then a colony of Portugal. So when her son Darryl told her she was a direct descendant of Norman king of England William the Conqueror, she told us, "I thought he was talking rubbish".

Darryl showed *The Archer* the family tree he has uncovered. This reveals that his mother is descended from William's great-grandson, Henry II and the famous Eleanor of Aquitaine. Their daughter, also called Eleanor, married Alfonso the Eighth of Castile, and from then on the line moves through Castilian, Portuguese and Brazilian aristocracy before settling in Goa and then Kenya.

Moving ...

Philomena, her husband and two sons, Darryl and his older brother Terry, came here in 1969. Kenya had gained independence from Britain, and to keep his job her husband had to

hold a Kenyan passport. So he moved his family to London.

While he was selling their house Philomena made the journey here alone. She told us: "I was lucky. I joined a very good friend living in a house in Muswell Hill, mainly occupied by Goans, with a lovely, homely feel." When her husband and the boys arrived, they soon moved to Leopold Road.

... and connecting

A regular worshipper at St Mary's Catholic church, she has helped for many years with admin work and social activities there. Both her sons attended Bishop Douglass School, and Darryl joined Finchley Labour



Connected: Philomena Telles Party in 1979. He stood as a Labour candidate in Hove in the recent local elections.

He told us: "I'm an immigrant, yet I call myself English because this is the only country I know. I've been here since I was four. I did my A-Levels on the Normans and Anglo-Saxons. So to now find out that William the Conqueror was my 28th great-granddad is pretty amazing. As my family tree has just proved, we all come from different places and we are more connected than we think."