



Star shows support for charity close to her heart

By Justine Csaky

Lily James, star of new film *What's Love Got to Do with It?*, attended a charity screening in aid of the North London branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) at the Phoenix Cinema last month.

The star, also known for her roles in *Baby Driver*, *Cinderella* and *Yesterday*, has been involved with the MNDA for many years, having lost her uncle to the disease. She spoke movingly of her family's experience and urged anyone who would like to find out more and support the incredible work of the charity to visit www.justgiving.com and search for 'northlondonmnda'

She told the Phoenix audience: "Your money will go to helping not only the people suffering from motor neurone disease, but supporting their families and loved ones as well. There is no cure for this disease and that needs to change. All of the money raised through MNDA goes directly to helping those affected. It funds research, care and campaigning for people affected by motor neurone disease. Please give as generously as you can."

London and Lahore

The audience thoroughly enjoyed the film, which tells the story of Zoe (James) who decides to film her neighbour's journey from London to Lahore, where he is to marry the woman

of his parents' choice.

Directed by Shekhar Kapur, it was the culmination of a 10-year project for writer and producer Jemima Khan, who spent 10 years living in Pakistan and sees the film as a love letter to both London and Lahore.

The film also stars James's real life best friend Shazad Latif, who initially approached her about working on the project. James also had the honour of working with actor Emma Thompson, who plays her mother in a delightfully comedic performance.

Advice to younger self

During an excellent Q&A after the screening, James spoke of a particularly poignant moment for her during filming, when Zoe tells her nieces a series of empowering fairytales, including a line from her version of the Cinderella story, "I'd rather be breaking glass ceilings than glass slippers".

When James was asked what advice she would give to her younger self, she said: "Slow down, find enjoyment in the highs and the lows of life and realise that all these experiences shape who you are."

Bodies of mother and daughter discovered in routine check

By Janet Maitland

An investigation is under way into the deaths of a mother and daughter who were found deceased during a routine gas safety check in their East Finchley home last November.

Zarinn Adatia, 84, and her 48-year-old daughter Tasneem lived in a council flat in Prospect Ring managed by Barnet Homes. It is not known when they were last seen alive.

The family made their rent payments regularly and were up to date. They did not have any known vulnerabilities and they were not known to the council's social services.

A resident told *The Archer*, "It was a shock to me as I knew nothing about it until somebody sent me a newspaper clipping. To think that something like that happens on one's doorstep and nobody knows."

Ross Houston, deputy leader

of Barnet Council, confirmed that the council is working with the relevant authorities to "determine the circumstances around this tragedy". He said: "We are deeply shocked and saddened by the distressing circumstances of the passing and discovery of Mrs and Miss Adiatia and we extend our sincere condolences to their family and friends."

A police spokesperson informed us that the deaths are being treated as "unexpected" but they have investigated and the circumstances are not believed to be suspicious. They are preparing a file for the coroner.



Star backing: Lily James, right, with Caroline Macdonald of the MNDA charity in the Phoenix foyer. Photo Justine Csaky

A clear warning to fly tippers?

By Diana Cormack

We reported last month on the good news that the skip that had blighted part of Brompton Grove, N2, for many months with its overflowing rubbish had been removed.

At the same time, we noted the concern of local residents that the debris that had been left behind from the over-full skip could attract fly tippers, with the suggestion that someone should do something to clear it.

Residents and local councillors continued their pressure on Barnet Council about this, though it was still not clear that it was the council's responsibility, Brompton Grove being an unadopted road.

However, East Finchley Town Team had invited a council officer to inspect the High Road with a view to a deep clean and its chair Kate Brown with fellow member Peter Hale persuaded him to look at Brompton Grove as well.

They suggested that ongoing damage caused by the rubbish to the fence bordering the park could cost more to repair than the removal of said rubbish. Within days the rubbish had been cleared and three notices put up on the perimeter fence warning off would-be fly tippers. Presumably the fence belongs to Barnet Council, but does anyone know who owns Brompton Grove?



Cleared: A warning sign next to the damage to the fence where the skip used to be in Brompton Grove. Photo Mike Coles.

Indoor sale

The regular Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place this month on Saturday 29 April from 10am to 1pm in its usual location, Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH.

Bus routes stopping close by are the W7, W3 and 144. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For more information, phone 020 8368 8180.

Tennis lessons for girls

A new low-cost tennis coaching programme aimed at local girls is starting soon at The Avenue Tennis Club in East End Road, N2.

Led by head coach Sally Bentley, each player will receive a racquet, balls and six lessons, with the option for further lessons at discounted rates. For more information contact Sally on 07958 758580 or sally@avenuetennisclub.co.uk

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