

RA pressure on TfL works wonders

After years of pressure from the RA's Roads & Traffic Committee, Transport for London have at last applied roadway markings to the Market Place loading bays which have been the subject of intensive CCTV enforcement since 2006. The new markings improve the visibility of the bay and should help to reduce accidental mis-use which has given TfL the opportunity to issue anything up to 2,000 parking tickets each year worth up to £300,000 per annum in fines. Traders in the Market Place say many of their customers never return after being issued with a parking ticket and some blame the closure of several of the north side shops on TfL's aggressive enforcement of the section.

Over the past eight years the RA has been instrumental in helping several hundred residents and visitors recover fines or have their parking tickets cancelled after demonstrating that signage beside the loading bays was inadequate. In particular the R&T Committee has made representations on behalf of residents at several dozen Parking and Traffic Appeals hearings and has succeeded on several occasions in having CCTV enforcement suspended in the Market Place for a period of time. In 2008 the Roads & Traffic Committee persuaded TfL to remove the south side

loading bay altogether. The latest improvements in the visibility of the north side bays having now been achieved, it is to be hoped that the RA's long campaign may be brought to a close although the CCTV camera is likely to continue to be used by TfL to hound residents and shoppers accused of a range of minor parking or traffic contraventions.

To that end residents might wish to respond to the government consultation on parking found at <http://goo.gl/buoIXR>.

The proposals include ending local authority use of CCTV cameras to enforce parking regulations and providing greater discretionary powers to independent parking adjudicators. The Roads & Traffic Committee has been told that feedback it provided, partly based on the Market Place experience, has contributed to the formation of the proposals. As it is likely that the local authorities will be mobilising all their considerable reserves to oppose any relaxation of parking controls, the R&T Committee is anxious to encourage as many residents as possible to complete the short government questionnaire at the website address or a paper copy can be obtained by telephoning the Department of Transport on 0300 330 3000.

GARY SHAW



Community spirit at Brookland Junior school winter fair

Last December Brookland Junior School raised over £9,000 at their Winter Fair. This annual fundraising event has been organised for over 35 years by the school's Parent Association and is a firm fixture on the school's calendar, always eagerly anticipated by pupils and parents.

Much to the delight of the children, this year's fair was

brimming with excitement. A wide variety of entertainment was on offer including outdoor water balls, a fabulous magician, the Santa's grotto, delicious culinary dishes from around the globe, a fun photo booth, plenty of artisan stalls, chess competitions and an online auction.

One of the event highlights was the festive Christmas Carols



performed by the school choir and there were competitions for Best Poster Design, won by Mia Wolfin (Year 5), and Best Jolly Jar Design, won by Marlon Fuller (Year 3).

This year's fund raising was dedicated to the PA's attempt to save the school's treasured swimming pool since Barnet Council has now cut all funding.

Co-Head Heather Blackmore said, "This year's Winter Fair was a huge success due to both the fantastic organisation from our PA, and from the loyal support of the local businesses who so generously donated their goods and services to this fantastic community event."

For further details please email: pa@brooklandjnr.barnetmail.net.

£50,000 for charities from Proms at St Jude's



Last November over 50 Proms at St Jude's volunteers gathered to hand over donations of £50,000 to its two target charities.

Graham Fisher (pictured above), chief executive of Toynbee Hall, received a cheque for £37,500 from Judith Cohen, who coordinated stewards for the LitFest. The money funds the ASPIRE project, helping 13 and 14-year-olds in the East End build their confidence and communications skills. Sara Gibbins (left, picture above), head of catering, gave £12,500 to Judi Guy, community fundraising manager of the North London Hospice. This will help pay for nursing both at the Hospice's inpatients unit and in the community.

Thanks go to everyone who supported Proms this year, making these donations possible.

Planning is now under way for the 2014 Festival of walks, talks and music with lunchtime

concerts sponsored by the Residents Association, which will take place on the Suburb from 21-29 June. A top opera star will perform on the Last Night. Look out for a leaflet through your door in February or go to www.promsatstjudes.org.uk.

RON FINLAY

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Wordsearch suspense

The name of the winner of the Autumn wordsearch, together with the answers will appear in the Spring issue of Suburb News.

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