

## PROMS at St Jude's UPDATE

TICKET sales for the Proms at St Jude's Festival are 50 per cent up on last year. "It's a sign of the fantastic programme we have this year," said Simon Tesh, treasurer, "and perhaps of the beginning of the end of the economic recession."

International stars such as Sir Willard White and the Endellion String Quartet feature in the 2010 festival, along with Radio 2's Clare Teal and her jazz band and the BBC Elstree Concert Band playing Music from the Silver Screen.

Patricia Shacklock from Leicester, one of the furthest flung supporters, is attending all nine evening concerts. A fan of choral music, she is particularly looking forward to the performance by the Choir of Clare College Cambridge on June 25. As a student pianist, she is also keen to see John Lill's mastery of the keyboard.

"I love the variety of concerts," she says, "ranging from jazz to classical. There are often some exceptional musicians at the free lunchtime concerts too."

The festival committee is run entirely by volunteers and money raised goes to Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice.

You can receive preferential ticket allocation by becoming a Friend (call 020 8455 1025 or email friendspsj@gmail.com).

Friends' priority postal bookings will be allocated in the week commencing May 10, while other ticket allocation starts on May 17.

The Proms at St Jude's Festival takes place from June 19-27 at the church of St Jude-on-the-Hill, Central Square, London NW11 7AH. Tickets for evening concerts from £10. To book, download the form from [www.proms.atstjudes.org.uk](http://www.proms.atstjudes.org.uk).



**WHO CARES FOR THE CARERS?**  
Naser Baghersadighi with his sick mother Tahereh Fonooni.  
Picture by Polly Hancock

# Two-year wait for care funds has been hell

## Carer says he's given up on respite scheme

Rhiannon Evans

A CARER who has spent two years trying to get access to respite care says he is ready to give up on his allocation of hundreds of pounds because Haringey Council have made the process so stressful.

Naser Baghersadighi, of Stapleton Hall Road, has been denied access to up to £300 each year under the Take a Break scheme, because the council have repeatedly lost his application forms.

Mr Baghersadighi, 54, spends 24 hours a day looking after his 87-year-old mother, who has Parkinson's, diabetes, arthritis and has recently developed dementia.

He says Haringey Council have lost two forms since Christmas and countless others since May 2008 and is so disheartened he cannot face filling in another.

"To get this money from these people is hell — I just give up, it's too much stress," he said.

"I feel I am being ignored by them. They don't want to know and they are just passing me to each other, so I said it's better to leave it, because there is no point."

The shocking treatment of

Mr Baghersadighi comes just a month after the Broadway revealed that questions were being asked about where up to £750,000 handed to NHS Haringey for carers' respite had gone.

Mr Baghersadighi has been caring for his mother for almost 20 years, and received a Take a Break grant in early 2007 — that was the last time he has given a respite break he says.

"Every night, three or four times, she screams because she is scared — I am always tired because of lack of proper sleep," he said.

"Just apologising doesn't do any good to me — they apologise and say they will do something, then I wait a month and I phone up and there's nothing again."

"Really I have enough stress and this is just putting more stress into my life."

"I go nowhere and I don't know who to talk to."

"It's not theirs to give — it's my right."

Mr Baghersadighi's case was unveiled by the local Green Party, who knocked on his door while campaigning in Stroud Green. Green council candidate Anna Bragga, who campaigned for local disabled residents who

had problems getting their blue badges said: "There seems to be a pattern emerging in which the council keeps losing application forms, delaying remedial action and treating applicants — often some of society's most vulnerable — in the most appalling manner."

Director at the Haringey Carers Centre Colleen Fiftee branded the case "horrendous and unacceptable", adding: "It's so hard to say how difficult it is for a carer to continue without a break, you can't emphasise it enough."

"Carers are making themselves ill continuing 24 hours a day without a break — respite is just so essential."

A spokeswoman for Haringey Council said Mr Baghersadighi's case has now been assessed and a payment was being processed.

"There has been a delay in processing this application which has now been addressed with those involved," she added.

"In 2008/09 740 Haringey Carers benefited from the Take a Break scheme, in 2009/10 this number increased to 803 people."

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## Still time for your say on town hall plans

RESIDENTS are being reassured there is still time for them to have their say on the planned redevelopment of Hornsey Town Hall.

Some residents have received letters stating that the consulta-

tion on the redevelopment of the Crouch End building had ended and the had missed the chance to have their say.

However, a spokesman for Haringey Council confirmed

this was not the case. A formal public consultation period — required by law to last 21 days — ended on April 8, but as the development is so large the council have pledged to consider

any comments sent in before a planning meeting in June.

An exhibition at Hornsey library, detailing the plans, will also remain in place until the decision meeting, said a spokes-

woman from the Hornsey Town Hall Creative Trust.

● You can still have your say by writing to the council's planning department or by visiting [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk).

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