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Great-great-grandmother Lily Powell holds baby Jack Farrugia. With them, from left, grandmother Karen Butler, great-grandmother Carol Lambert and mother Hannah.

And Jack makes it five generations

By Daphne Chamberlain

When Jack John Farrugia made his dramatic entry into the world on 17 November, weighing six and a half pounds and delivered by his grandmother, he became the fifth living generation of an East Finchley family.

His great-great-grandmother Lily Powell, 91, has lived in St Pancras Court since 1964, when she moved there from Kentish Town with her late husband, Jack. They were joined in 1967 by their daughter, Carol Lambert (who still lives with Lily) and three-year-old granddaughter Karen.

Karen, who attended Martin Primary School and Finchley Manorhill (now Compton) School, was one of the first girl members of Finchley Sea Cadets. It was there she met her husband Peter Butler, and they now live at Woodside Park.

Speedy Jack

Their 20-year-old daughter Hannah gave birth to baby Jack after a frantic dash to Barnet General Hospital's midwife-led unit. Karen told *THE ARCHER*: "Hannah asked if she could use the toilet. I went with her, and she suddenly gripped the side of the sink, saying that something was coming out. I bent down, saw the head, and then had to drop to my knees to support him as he shot out like a little pea from its pod. It was an amazing experience to be involved

in the birth of your grandchild, and I hope he and I will always have a special bond."

Jack's father Jonathan "Weazel" Farrugia was at the hospital, and his own father John Clark also has a special link with Jack, who was born on his birthday. "He's the best birthday present I've ever had," he said.

The baby's other grandfather Peter Butler, and his 18-year-old uncle Sam arrived at the hospital within 10 minutes. "He's pure magic," said Peter as he cradled the baby.

Jack John was named for his great-great-grandfather Jack Powell, his grandfather John Clark, and his late great-grandfather, Jack Butler.

Neighbours protest: 'Five into one won't go'

By David Melsome

A proposal to build a block of flats has provoked fierce opposition from residents who say the plan will destroy the character of their area and threaten their privacy and safety.

More than 170 people signed a petition against a proposal to build five flats on the site of 16 Aylmer Road, currently occupied by a single house. The land backs on to Bancroft Avenue and is close to The Bishops Avenue.

Councils disagree

The area concerned straddles the boundary between Barnet and Haringey Councils. Haringey has objected to Barnet on behalf of neighbouring residents, saying the scale of the new building would be intrusive.

Residents in Bancroft Avenue fear that their back gardens will be overlooked by the three-storey block of flats. Others say the flow of cars entering and leaving the access road of the flats will threaten the safety of all concerned along this extremely busy stretch of the A1.

Barnet planners back scheme

On 8 January, the opponents of the scheme suffered a setback when Barnet's planning sub-committee passed the plan by just one vote. However, they say they will not give up their fight to stop the development.

Khalid Mushtaq, whose home is next door to the site, said residents were not opposed to a new building on the site but did not want one that was so out of keeping with existing properties.

"I was dumbfounded at the decision to pass the scheme. It seems so unjust," he said. "This plan will be detrimental to people living here in many different ways. Personally, I will have a driveway running alongside my garden. People in Bancroft

Avenue will have flats overlooking their gardens."

Objectors to fight on

The residents are hastily drawing up ideas to carry on their fight. They hope to enlist the help of MPs Lynne Featherstone and Rudi Vis, along with further support from Haringey Council.

Mr Mushtaq said: "We won't give up. We must explore all possibilities. We don't mind a development happening here if

it's in keeping with the area and takes into account the interests of everyone concerned."

A Barnet Council spokesman said: "The planning application for Aylmer Road was approved by councillors at the planning committee in January in accordance with planning guidance. Careful consideration was given to the views expressed by residents throughout the decision making process."



Five flats are to be built on the land in Aylmer Road where one house currently stands. Photograph by John Lawrence

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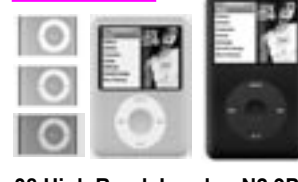
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