



## A right Carry On at Ann Owens Centre

By Daphne Chamberlain

The East End wasn't the only place Barbara Windsor visited last month. East Finchley viewers of *This Morning* were amazed when the programme's *Take a Moment* slot showed her singing along in our own Ann Owens Age UK Centre. Clientele at the centre in Oak Lane were delighted to see their special visitor.

Nell Thorpe and Lily Dear told *THE ARCHER*: "We thoroughly enjoyed it, and it made a lovely change to have such lively entertainment. Barbara was very bubbly. She's never changed, has she, in all the time we've seen her on the TV. She was so friendly. One of us girls! She was also surprised how old we were, and said she hoped she'd be in such form when she was 90 odd."

The Carry On star and former *EastEnders* Queen Vic landlady enjoyed herself too. Staff say she helped serve tea and cake and "took time to have a natter", as well as singing with her audience, and dancing with some of them. Kelvin Thomas, pianist and director of music at St John's Church, Friern Barnet, accompanied her in songs including *Maybe It's Because I'm A Londoner*, *The Lambeth Walk* and *When You're Smiling*.

Barbara is a supporter of Age UK, which is one of six charities benefiting from the



Barbara Windsor pictured with Olive Clancy

Take a Moment campaign. The Government has pledged £5 for each of the first 50,000 acts of kindness reported to *This Morning* (this can mean simple good neighbourliness or volunteering locally).

## Get outward bound with a ramble on our old railway lines

By Daphne Chamberlain

You don't get an award for taking part in a Northern Heights Railway Walk, but The Finchley Society predicts you'll have a good and interesting day out. Already this year they've explored the disused railway lines to Alexandra Palace, Copthall and Mill Hill. Next up is the walk to Finsbury Park. This goes via Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Wood, the never-used ghost station at Highgate (from which a line to Moorgate was planned), and the long-disused station at Crouch End.

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Upon the Northern Heights we have definitely suffered from the closure and never-opening of these railway lines, but there is another side to the coin. They have become very attractive woodland walks, boasting wild flowers, lovely views, and the company of joggers, cyclists and dog walkers.

Organisers promise a leisurely pace, with drop-out points along the three and a half mile route. Meet at East Finchley Tube on Sunday 13 October at 11.45am for a 12 noon start, stop for lunch at the cafe in Queens Wood, and finish with tea in the cafe in Finsbury Park. And, unless you're bounding with energy, it's bus and tube back. (If those lines had been opened, it could have been the train back to East Finchley...)

For more information, contact Mike Gee on 020 8346 5503.

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