



# Graffiti menace

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**Graffiti is mushrooming all over the borough. If you see it happening, call 999. That's official police advice, given at January's Finchley Forum.**

The same applies to vandalism, which is a growing problem in the Church End area. It increased there when Victoria Park was not locked at night, though our own Neighbourhood Watch has reported less damage in Cherry Tree Wood since that has been open all the time. Let's turn "less" damage into none at all.

A lot of criminal damage occurs in the daytime. As far as graffiti is concerned, it seems to be a case of so much being done by just a few, but those few ruin the environment for everyone else.

A spokesperson from Golders Green police station told *THE ARCHER*, "Vandalism and graffiti are crimes. If you actually see them happening, that's an emergency. Call us on 999. Obviously, you don't use the emergency number to report something that's



Vandalism and graffiti - growing problems. Photo by Edna Hobbs

already happened. In that case, call 020 8209 1212 for Golders Green station, or 929 8342 1212 for Finchley.

"If you're out and about, or you just can't remember the number of your local police station, dial 020 8200 1212 or call the operator, and you should be put through."

# Tight squeeze

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**Barnet Highways Department believes there is only one way to reduce the danger at East End Road bridge. The Borough would consider extending the pavements - which would mean that the already narrow roadway would be narrowed further.**

East Finchley residents Mr and Mrs Jenkins of Beresford Road have been lobbying for a safer passage across the railway. They were at January's Finchley Forum to hear the Council's response.

Chief Traffic Engineer Robin Hodsdon told the Forum that alternative suggestions have been virtually ruled out. He confirmed that the bridge belongs to London Underground Ltd., while the borough is responsible for surface maintenance and drainage of the road and footway.

### No wider

Even if LUL gave permission, he has been advised that the brick-built bridge could probably not be extended. Attaching a footway would mean re-locating LUL cables, which run on the outside of the bridge. A similar proposal some years ago, for the bridge at Regents Park Road and Nether Street, was vetoed by LUL because of interference to their cables.

The minimum cost of installing a footbridge would be

£200,000 and there was "no accident justification at the moment" for this expense.

Speaking from the floor, Mr. Jenkins suggested removing one pavement and widening the other. The professional view on this was that the bridge might be sledged to one side, which would entail expensive structural work.

### Long wait

Mrs. Jenkins showed *THE ARCHER* her copy of a letter sent to Councillor McGuirk from the Highways Department, which reiterates Robin Hodsdon's statement to the Forum.

It concludes: - "The issues of the East End Road bridge have been raised on a number of occasions, and a solution is not obvious, given the financial constraints of the council and the likely objections from London Underground Ltd. The road narrowing suggestion, whilst far from ideal, is probably the only interim solution until such a time the bridge needs replacing, or money becomes available through a local development."

# Transport barrier

The new automatic ticket barriers at East Finchley station are now in place and will soon be in operation.

However it's not good news for customers who live to the west of the area - e.g. East End Road and Hampstead Garden Suburb - and use the footpath to the rear of the station, as the barriers will now prevent any entry from The Causeway without a valid ticket.

Passengers without a pre-paid season ticket will have to walk all the way round to the High Road entrance in order to gain entry to the ticket hall.

### Closed gates

A gate has been installed to enable access for wheelchair users, pushchairs and anyone with luggage but, as there are no plans to employ any additional staff, who will be there to open it?

Many residents have also voiced concern as the station is used as cut-through to the High Road and Cherry Tree Wood. Customers are urged to put their concerns in writing to:

**Customer Service Centre, London Transport, 55 The Broadway, London SW1H 0BD.**

# Fake crash for ad



Some of the paraphernalia left after the shoot of the fake accident in Creighton Avenue. Photo and story by Martin Earl.

**A little bit of Creighton Avenue should be flashing across our TV screens in February if the CGU insurance company's shoot on 7 January was successful.**

A fake traffic accident slowed traffic on the road for most of the morning. Unfortunately, by the time your roving reporter had got his camera out the vehicles had been removed!

"Why did you choose this busy road?" I asked.

"Because", they said "we are also filming in a house nearby".

They kindly offered to send a photo for *THE ARCHER* but could not do so before our deadline as their film man was off doing a shoot for another part of the same ad in Spain!

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# Melissa's Dilemma

By Helen O'Toole

Melissa Patel is studying GNVQ Intermediate Health and Social Care at Hendon College. She's the only disabled person in her class and has trouble taking notes in class which forms the majority of the class-work.

Social services are providing funding for her to have ten hours support a week but currently she is receiving three hours a week. The other students are getting fed up with her always asking to photocopy their notes.

When Melissa complained to the college's learning support tutor she was told they wanted her to be more independent as she's planning on doing advanced level next year. So Melissa sought outside help from the Disabled Association for the Borough of Barnet (DABB). DABB got in touch with the college and then Melissa got into trouble for going to an outsider.

### What support?

After telling her social worker about these problems, the social



What support? Melissa Patel photo by David Tupman

worker met with the college, only to be told that Melissa was getting 16 hours support. Melissa only knows about four hours of this support.

Melissa tried to change her course into something with less note taking and more computer work, but was told this is not allowed. Now she is back to square one and has to struggle on with her course until July 2000.

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