



## Tagger Nekah Nicked

A graffiti vandal from East Finchley has been fined £355 and ordered to do 160 hours community service by Hendon Magistrates. This seems a small price to pay, considering that he is estimated to have caused over £5,000 worth of damage around Barnet and other boroughs. His targets included tube trains and stations, shops and even parked vehicles.

Lee Dyson of Brownswell Road left his own personal signature or tag in order to claim "credit" for his work. From this, police were able to track down the 18-year-old when they found "Nekah" or "Neka" scrawled on the graffiti. In their latest initiative police have collected and set up a database of individualised tags with which they can then compare tags on a suspect's personal property. It was stated in Dyson's defence that some of these tags could have been written by someone else and that graffiti writers are now using other people's tags in order to thwart the work of the police. Despite this Dyson

pleaded guilty to 12 counts of criminal damage.

### Crackdown

It appears that the police have an almost insurmountable task on their hands, but they can at least boast of a 100% conviction rate from the arrests which have been made so far. With the help of witnesses, CCTV footage, photographs and painstaking research, the graffiti merchants are gradually being identified, for which all praise to the Metropolitan and Transport Police as well as Barnet Council.

To report graffiti incidents, call the Barnet Customer Care Unit on 020 8359 4600

## A blot on our landscape

Story and photo by John Dearing



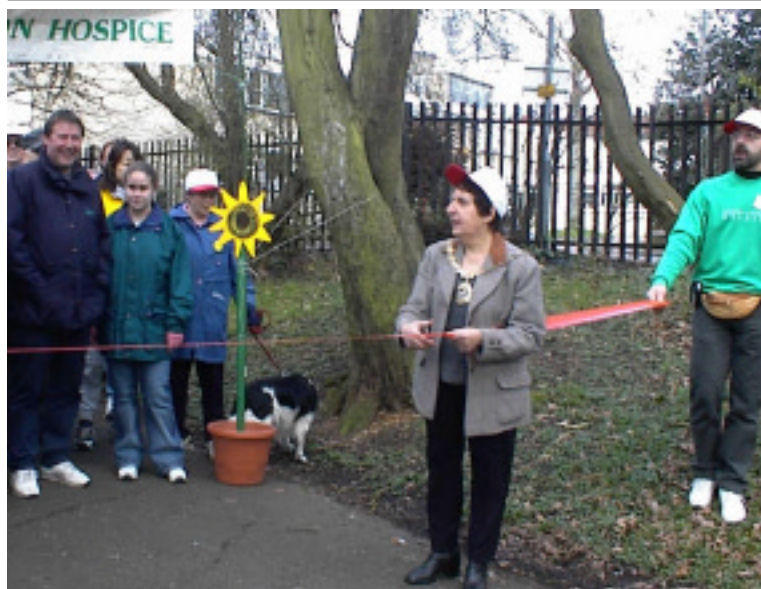
The recent closure of the BP petrol station in Fortis Green, and the workshop to its rear (formerly Arcade Motors), has highlighted the state of the other Fortis Green petrol station, formerly a Total station. This has been closed for a couple of years now and the remaining buildings are falling into disrepair. People are starting to dump rubbish and waste on the site and it is beginning to look very scruffy indeed.

Victory Auto Services, who used to be in the East Finchley High Road, and who have combined with Motor Services of Muswell Hill, now occupy the workshops to the rear of the former Total petrol station, and have a good working relationship with Totalfina. Mark Bharadia and Wayne Adams, of Victory Auto Services, who have been in the motor trade for 18 years, would like to take over the

remainder of site, to expand the services they can offer, and raise awareness with local car owners, many of whom were former customers when the business was in the High Road. They have planning permission for the change of usage.

Totalfina still retain a ten year lease on the former petrol station and have offered it for sale via an estate agent. However, the rent quoted on

the estate agent's web site is considerable and Victory Auto Services consider that it exceeds the earning potential of the enlarged site. The estate agent told *THE ARCHER* that they expect either a car wash or car hire company to take over the former petrol station, but offered no assurances as to when. Until that happens the appearance of that part of Fortis Green is the poorer for it.



The Mayor of Barnet, Anita Campbell, cutting the ribbon in Cherry Tree Woods at the start the Big Fun Walk. Photo by Martin Earl

## Big Fun Walk

By Martin Earl

This year's Big Fun Walk for the North London Hospice is set to raise well over the £100,000 made in 2001. Starting early on Sunday morning 3 March from East Finchley station over 1,300 walkers attempted the 7.5 miles to Westminster Abbey. "It was a wonderfully varied route", said one walker, "it takes in eight parks on the way and goes past some of the best landmarks in London, including Buckingham Palace".

When the walk first started seven years ago there were only 130 people. It is now ten times the size and is one of the main fund raising events for the Hospice. Indeed, as one organizer told *THE ARCHER*, "it has become so big that more volunteer stewards to help on the route would be very welcome next year".

Walkers were greeted at the finish by the Lord Mayor of Westminster and entertained by a steel band.

## Magnificent Seven

Along with his parents and grandmother, Oskar Platts-Palmer of Elmshurst Crescent, East Finchley, took part in the North London Hospice Fun Walk.

The route, from Cherry Tree Wood to Westminster Abbey, covers eight of London's parks and is seven miles long. Thanks to the hundreds of people who made the effort for the charity in this annual sponsored event.

But special praise must go

to Oskar, who completed the full walk even though he is only seven years old. At the end he was awarded a medal, which he was allowed to wear to show his friends at school. Congratulations Oskar, and well done!

## Barnet Police reach out to NYPD

By Femke van Iperen

PC Glen Hesketh of Barnet Police has raised £2,230 for The Twin Towers Fund, which helps victims and families of the three emergency services in New York City.

PC Hesketh designed a special badge combining the Met Police and NYPD and sold 1,500 of them. He said, "I very much enjoyed the challenge and I truly hope in some small way [that] the money raised through the generosity of my colleagues will help the people who have suffered so much."

### Incomprehensible evil

Special Agent Michael Limpantsis from the Diplomatic

Security Service of the US Embassy received the cheque from Superintendent David Bilson at Colindale Police Station on 8 February. Supt Bilson said, "Like thousands of other officers I still cannot comprehend the unprecedented acts of evil and like them I also felt frustrated at not being able to help physically. But that is what officers do, what the officers in New York did, they risk their lives for total strangers. This is not a management response but an idea from an officer who is very much operational."

## Robbery in Finchley

Police are seeking three men who robbed a couple at their home in Finchley, N3.

The couple had returned home from a night out at 1 am on 27 February, when the husband was assaulted and robbed in the driveway.

The suspects then forced the couple inside and questioned them and their young daughter, who had been at home with the family's au pair, about the whereabouts of their safe.

The three suspects are described as black men, 5'11" to 6'1" tall, and aged between 25 - 30. They were described as being well-dressed and well-spoken and wearing dark clothing, balaclavas and gloves.

The property stolen included a £25,000 diamond ring, £900 cash, Baume and Mercier gentlemen's and ladies' watches, a lady's Louis Vuitton handbag, a passport and driving licence, bank documents and keys.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Colindale police on 020 8733 4553.

### APRIL SPECIALS

#### Finchley Christian Fellowship

The Place to be - Every Sunday 11 am

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> - Team of Students from (Paragon Christian Academy)

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> - Dr Gordon & Barbara White (Faith Ministries

International - Prophetic & healing Ministry)

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> - Yan Hadley (New Life Ministry Trust)

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> - Family Service

#### Finchley Youth Theatre

142 High Road East Finchley N2

For more information contact 020 8805 2867

www.cityvoice.org.uk e-mail fcf@cityvoice.org.uk

## East Finchley Baptist Church

just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

for more information contact 8446 3571

Visitors always welcome