

THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

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Local Traders Mean Business

By Femke van Iperen

East Finchley suffered a further increase in crime with the recent series of events on the High Road. In retaliation a High Road business, which was recently attacked and has lost patience with being on the receiving end of delinquency, is now striking back with a vigorous and courageous campaign.

On Friday 16 November an Estate Agent was robbed by two black youths. After a struggle, a member of staff was left severely bruised and the shop window smashed. Despite the fact that the emergency services were called immediately, police failed to turn up on the night due to competing priorities, a lack of resources and because the last unit was cancelled on its way, told that the victim had left the scene.

By the time they arrived next day, forensic evidence could not be recovered, as the shopkeepers had had to replace the blood-stained window.

According to DCI Chris Foster, Crime Manager of Barnet Borough, Colindale

Police Station, the crime was classified as a theft only.

The victim saw the boys that night on the street and it is rumoured that the same perpetrators went into another neighbouring Estate Agent that day.

Similar alleged incidents have taken place in the High Road over the last couple of months, including attacks on drivers. However police figures showed only 17 cases over the past six months. One possible explanation is that crimes go unreported due to lack of faith in the police's response.

Positively local businesses have shown interest in a new Business Watch scheme, an initiative between police and traders, providing a network

of pagers enabling alerts to circulate within 60 seconds.

On 17 December, Superintendent Simon O'Brien attended a meeting with the assaulted traders. He said, "We encourage people to report to the police. We need it to establish the [crime] pattern. But I am not going to defend the poor service that you had."

Superintendent O'Brien, who promotes the Business Watch scheme, is keen on more active links with the community. He also commented on a diversity of new crime reduction measurements, on key areas such as transport links. "A new crime investigation will aim to bring the soft and hard side of policing together", he added.



Photo by John Dearing

Well Done, Mandarin!

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley has one of the top eating-places in Barnet. The Mandarin is one of only seven non-institutional restaurants to receive the Borough's Heartbeat Award for 2001.

William Man, who took over this Chinese restaurant with a difference from his father, said, "I am delighted, and very proud of all my staff".

The Heartbeat Award is a national scheme, awarded by local authorities. Barnet's Environmental Health Officers visit restaurants to assess standards of hygiene, and to look for healthy eating options and cooking techniques. In addition, over 50% of the seating area must be non-smoking.

The Mandarin fulfils all requirements, as its many regular customers from all over the borough and beyond already know.

William's staff have always been trained in good health and hygiene practices, and he has had a separate non-smoking dining-room upstairs for some time.

Milk at the Mandarin is semi-skimmed, fat unsaturated, salt levels low and there are no

artificial flavours, colourings or preservatives, no MSG and no groundnut (peanut) oil.

Dare to be different

"We cater for people with many different allergies and dietary needs", says William. Diabetics can have fruit sugar, and vegans can enjoy meals without any animal products.

He is particularly proud to be included among the very small number of individual public eating-places. Most of the 80 award winners are schools, hospitals, canteens, etc, so this recognition really means something. Barnet's Mayor, Anita Campbell, presented the Mandarin with its certificate last month, and THE ARCHER team celebrated by holding our Christmas dinner there.

The Mandarin is at 152, High Road. Tel 020 8444 0012.

Footnote:- Congratulations, too, to Martin and Holy Trinity schools, who also received Heartbeat Awards.

Armed robbery

Police are investigating an armed robbery at the Bank of Cyprus, Highgate Hill on 31 December at 1.35pm.

Two men entered the bank and threatened staff and customers with a handgun. Money was passed to the gunman and both suspects then fled.

The first man is described as black, aged 30, 5ft 10in tall and of medium build. He was wearing a grey sports hooded top.

The second suspect is a white man, aged 30 years. He was wearing a blue woollen hat and black jacket.

Anyone with information should call Finchley flying squad on 020 8733 5751.



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