



The battered hulk of one of the vehicles in the cemetery. Picture by John Dearing

Stolen vehicles crash in cemetery

On Monday 5 April, the police were called to the Islington and St. Pancras Cemetery by the deputy cemetery manager after two vehicles had driven into and around the cemetery at high speed, eventually crashing into each other, the occupants making off on foot.

One of the vehicles concerned has since been removed from the cemetery, but the other remains stranded. Police are still investigating the matter.

Suspicious fire in Park Road

Police are appealing for witnesses following the outbreak of a fire in East Finchley. The fire started at about 2.20am on Friday 16 April at the back of Langley House in Park Road, N2.

The fire then spread and destroyed the neighbouring garden sheds of residents as well as damaging the offices in Langley House. The outbuildings had been used



Sheds burnt out in Park Road. Photo by John Dearing

to store valuable documents that were destroyed in the fire. Nobody was injured in the fire, which the Fire Brigade attended to extinguish.

Detective Sergeant Alex Brook said, "At this stage we are treating this fire as suspicious as it cannot be established exactly how the fire started. I am appealing to anyone who may have seen anybody in the vicinity late on Thursday night into Friday morning to contact me on 020 8733 4436 so that we can progress this investigation."

Safer Neighbourhoods scheme bypasses East Finchley this year

The Metropolitan Police Service recently introduced its Safer Neighbourhoods programme to London. The programme will see new teams of uniformed officers working with communities and partners to tackle the quality-of-life issues and anti-social behaviour crimes that Londoners say make them feel unsafe. These could include graffiti, abandoned cars, noisy neighbours and vandalism.

A Safer Neighbourhoods team will this month begin operating in one neighbourhood in every London borough.

A total of 96 teams, three per borough, will be introduced during 2004/05. The MPS is committed to delivering this programme to every

area of London over the next few years.

Policing priorities for each team will be identified through consultation with local residents, community groups and other organisations.

Burnt Oak, Colindale and Childs Hill are the areas in

Barnet where this initiative will first be introduced. Sadly, East Finchley is not included at this stage; the nearest areas will be Crouch End in Haringey, and Gospel Oak in Camden.

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