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THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Armed robbery in High Road

Police are appealing for witnesses to an armed robbery in the High Road on Sunday 14 May.

At approximately 7.30pm, a man entered the Spar convenience store and approached the cashier who was behind the counter. He pointed a silver hand gun at the cashier and demanded money from the till, before going around the counter, opening the till and taking the money himself.

The suspect then left the store, heading north

up the High Road and to the rear of Chapel Court. He is described as a black man, about 6ft tall, aged in his late teens to early 20s, wearing a white and tan hooded top, black trousers and a yellow scarf.

An ambulance crew treated the victim, an Asian man in his 20s, at the scene for shock. He sustained no injuries during the robbery.

The investigation into the robbery is being conducted by the Flying Squad based at Finchley. At the time of going to press, no arrests had been

made and inquiries were continuing.

Investigating Officer Barry Walker said: "This was a frightening experience for the victim and we need to catch the person responsible. I would urge anyone who has any information, however small, to contact us."

Anyone who saw something suspicious in the area at the time, or has any information regarding the robbery is asked to call the Flying Squad on 020 8358 1751 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Targeted: the Spar shop in the High Road. Photo by John Dearing

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Arson attack outside tube station

The fruit and greengrocery stall on the forecourt of East Finchley Underground Station was destroyed by fire last month in an arson attack.

The stall has been a welcome sight for commuters on their way home, for some years now. Sadly, in the early hours of 5 May, it was set alight and completely burnt out.

Terry, the stallholder, was unable to trade for some days afterwards, to the disappointment of his many regular customers.

It is believed that a skip outside the nearby building site was also set alight, and a mechanical digger vandalised. The British Transport Police were called to the scene at around 4am.

At the time of going to press, police were unable to confirm whether anybody had been arrested in connection with the attack.

Library downgrades as Institute upgrades

By Daphne Chamberlain
The Principal of Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute has told Barnet Council that she is "dismayed and disappointed" by the downgrading of East Finchley Library.

Fay Naylor, Principal and Chief Executive of the Institute, said it was ironic that the downgrading should be implemented just when the expanded Institute is bringing many potential library users into N2.

Its English Centre for International Students has now moved into 11 High Road, and it was expected that these students would make extensive use of the library. In fact, the English Centre had already started discussing with senior library staff how the two organisations could best work together.

In addition, Fay Naylor pointed out that the Institute offered one of the widest ranges of foreign language tuition in London, with students encouraged to read and study as widely

as possible. Students on other courses, some of whom have been based at Park House opposite the tube station for the past 18 months, are already regular library users.

Despite all this, the library has lost 25% of its staff, and is now closing for lunch, making itself unavailable to many students on morning courses who don't want to hang around until it re-opens at 2pm. With the library now opening late on only one evening, afternoon students and staff could also be deterred.

Ms Naylor reported a warm welcome to the Institute from East Finchley residents, who generally saw it as an improvement to the area, and she hoped that the Council decision would be overturned.

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