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# THE ARCHER



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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*



Police forensic experts at the scene of the murder. Photo by Paul Dearing

## Writing's on the wall for graffiti

By Craig Johnson

People living in East Finchley are being urged to be vigilant and work with special teams from the police and council to rid the area of the scourge of graffiti.

A large swathe of graffiti along East End Road was cleaned up by Barnet Council in mid-March as part of the special cleansing and graffiti removal service.

Other scrawls at Edmunds Walk and Durham Road have also been photographed and reported to the police's environment crime department after residents were plagued with unsightly tags on electricity boxes and abandoned vehicles.

Changes in the law mean the selling of spray cans to underage children will be an offence and this demands that East Finchley traders play their part, like all of London's schools, transport

operators, utility companies and communities.

Grffiti and criminal damage can be offensive and spread fear. It costs London's economy £23 million per annum, and that doesn't include the cost of damage to private property. The vast majority of graffiti in alleyways in East Finchley is on private property, normally fences, walls, gates and garages that back on to pathways.

**Report it, trace it and scrub it**

A spokesman for Barnet Council said: "In some areas, the council has entered into partnership with residents, the probation service and the local Safer Neighbourhoods police team to clear, then monitor, graffiti on private property. Barnet Council's graffiti officer would be very happy to work with residents of East Finchley to launch a similar clean-up project, and would invite them to get in touch".

Police teams may be able to trace the culprits by using a new database that identifies particular tags, or graffiti signatures.

The graffiti blitz coincides with the Government's Operation Scrub-it that will give new powers to all councils to order schools, hospitals and private businesses to clean up all graffiti on private property within 28 days.

For further information and to report graffiti where you live in Barnet please contact the Safer Neighbourhoods Police office at 113 High Road, East Finchley, on 020 8721 2845.

See our special graffiti reports on page 4...

## Death on the Grange: two charged

Two men have been charged with murder following the death of a 38-year-old father-of-two on the Grange Estate.

Police sealed off large parts of the estate, off Oak Lane, after Colin Brown was found dying on a patch of grass on Wednesday 12 April at around 8.30pm.

Aaron Gordon, 18, of Berwick House, Oak Lane, and Lamont Emesibe, 19, of Long Lane, both appeared in custody on Monday 17 April at Barnet Magistrates Court charged with murdering Mr Brown. They were remanded in custody to appear at the Old Bailey on 24 July.

Officers from the Met Police's

Operation Trident unit are investigating the death. Operation Trident is a special initiative to tackle gun crime amongst London's black communities.

Mr Brown was from Leyton in east London and had two children under the age of 10. He was unemployed.

When police were called to the scene, about 30 officers arrived on the estate at around 8.17pm. Oak Lane remained closed for 24 hours and police carried out inquiries on the Grange for much of the Easter weekend.

A ring of floral tributes later marked the spot outside Bouchier House where Mr Brown had died.

Anyone who witnessed the murder or who has information that may help police is asked to call the Operation Trident Incident Room on 020 8733 4704 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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