



Police launch Deaf Link scheme

By John Dearing

Barnet Police have launched the Deaf Link Scheme with the aim of providing a more professional service for deaf and hard of hearing people who work in the borough.

Whether a victim, a witness or in custody, anyone with impaired hearing will be provided with an officer who has received training in deaf awareness and can communicate using British sign language.

Superintendent Ian Forrester, who has responsibility for partnership matters in the borough, opened the launch event on 30 September. Inspector Steve Marsh introduced the scheme and the new link officers who have all been trained in British Sign Language.

Speakers at the event were Mira Goldberg, Chair of Barnet Deaf Forum, and Simon Robinson, Senior Legal Officer for the RNID, who spoke about deaf people and community safety.

Mira Goldberg said: "I would like to take the opportunity to say, on behalf of Barnet Deaf Forum, many thanks for what you have done for us. I know that, in time, the Deaf Link scheme will enable deaf people to have confidence in police services and know that they will be understood."

The RNID represents nine million deaf and hard of hearing members in the UK. Barnet Police are currently training four more officers in British Sign Language with the support of Barnet College and the Jewish Deaf Association. Additionally 21 officers and front line staff were trained in Deaf Awareness in August to support this scheme. For further information contact PC Everett on 020 8733 5814.

Barclays building may get Italian makeover

By Diana Cormack

The disused former Barclays Bank building on the corner of Fortis Green and the High Road may be taken over by Italian restaurant chain Ask.

Ask Restaurants Ltd has submitted a planning application to Barnet Council for the site at 84 High Road. The proposal is for a change of use from bank (A2) to Hot Food Takeaways (A5) as detailed in the planning applications on page 2 of this issue of *THE ARCHER*.

Ask is normally regarded only as a restaurant but the company, based in St Albans, told *THE ARCHER* that they are a restaurant chain which also offers a takeaway service.

It is almost a year since the controversial closure of the bank and many locals have been wondering what is to become of the large premises it occupied. Warning notices about the condition of the building were posted outside months ago. It could be significant that the company's website states that many of its restaurants are housed in restored buildings of local or historical interest.

At the time of going to press no decision about the application had been made.

Kick off in Cherry Tree Wood

By Danny Shaw

If you fancy a game of football, then come along to Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday mornings.

We are looking for people to join in a game of five, six or seven-a-side. We meet near the playground at 10am sharp, and we have our own goalposts and nets! We will be there come rain or shine. Phone Danny on 07710 392971 or email Tibor at tibor@themail.co.uk.

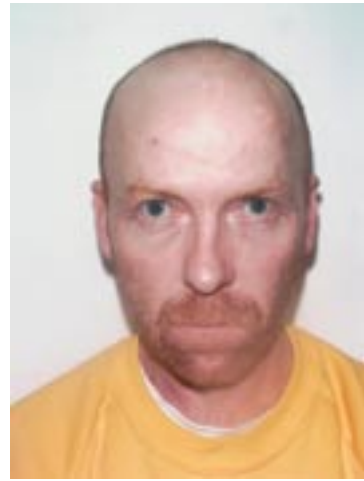
Brothers sentenced over woman's murder

By John Dearing

A man has been jailed for life for the murder of a woman whose body was found on a grass verge in East Finchley. His brother has also been sentenced for his part in the crime.

James Seaton, 45, an unemployed bricklayer of Finsbury Park, was sentenced to life at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 13 October for the murder of his partner Jacqueline Queen, 39, whose body was found dumped in Elmshurst Crescent.

His brother John Seaton, 35, of Milton Keynes, also an unemployed ex-bricklayer, admitted perverting the course of justice. He was jailed for 22 months. Jacqueline's body was found



John (left) & James Seaton. Pictures courtesy the Met. Police.

wrapped in cloth on a grass verge on 30 November 2005. James Seaton had subjected her to a frenzied attack, using a hammer and a 12-inch knife, which caused fatal injuries.

The court heard that James Seaton killed his former girlfriend when she told him she was in love with a woman. He hid the body in a wardrobe, called his brother and asked him to come and help him "move some stuff".

As they moved the wardrobe, it broke and Jacqueline's body tumbled out. John put the body in his car, a white Ford Escort, and the brothers drove to East Finchley and dumped it.

Shortly afterwards, John Seaton was arrested for drink driving in Great North Road, N2. He was later released on bail but handed

himself in the next day to Milton Keynes police and told them about the murder. His brother was subsequently arrested outside his home address.

At the scene of the crime, police found knives in water in the kitchen sink, and a pool of blood on a carpet covered in newspaper. In John Seaton's car boot there were blood stains and a blood-stained shovel.

James Seaton denied murder, saying he had a mental abnormality at the time. However, at Snaresbrook Crown Court he was ordered to serve a minimum of 12 years.

Investigating officer Detective Inspector John Nicholson, said: "I am pleased that the jury recognised that James Seaton was neither provoked into his violent actions nor was suffering from such abnormality of the mind that he could claim the defence of diminished responsibility."



Victim Jacqueline Queen.

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