



# A picture of crime in Barnet

By John Dearing

Marking his first four months as Barnet's Borough Commander of Police, Detective Chief Superintendent Stephen Kavanagh gave a picture of crime and detection in Barnet.

He praised the impact made by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. For example, in past years the start of the new school term has meant an increase in robberies, as school children take new mobile phones or music players with them to school. By targeting known offenders and specific transport locations, identified through intelligence gathered by the teams, there has been a reduction in such crimes for the first time this year.

The use of small motorcycles in muggings is on the increase across the capital. In Barnet, the Safer Neighbourhood Teams are leading on this, identifying illegal vehicles and impounding them.

The reduction in car crime over recent weeks has been the best out of all the London boroughs, and there have been significant reductions in other crimes such as robbery.

The number of "drug factories" detected in the borough has increased this year, reflecting improvements in the technology used to find them.

DCS Kavanagh announced the creation of a Priority Intervention Group, to focus on issues relating to anti-social behaviour and drinking offences, and a link between ASBOs, crime reports, CCTV evidence, and licensing.

### Need for better communication

More generally, he felt that the improved detection rate should be matched by an improvement in the quality of interactions with the public, for example through the victim focus desk, targeted follow up and witness support.

Historically, the police service responds to the "loudest voices", such as members of those ethnic groups most anxious to secure police involvement. Other ethnic

groups are noticeable for their reticence in dealing with the police, for example in reporting racial incidents, largely through a lack of confidence in the police service.

To counter this, there is now a policy of pro-active communication through community leaders to explain police action during significant incidents.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair visited Barnet in early October, meeting the senior management team and joining rank and file focus groups. He was quoted as saying, "Barnet police is a good ship", apparently a real compliment!

# Reiki Master in retreat

By Daphne Chamberlain

After 15 years in East Finchley, Reiki Master Kajsa Krishni Borang has returned to her native Sweden. She now lives on Orust, the third largest of the many Swedish offshore islands, an hour's drive from Gothenburg. "This house feels like a retreat for me", she says, "and I want it to be a retreat for anyone interested in learning Reiki or yoga, or who wants to meditate or just enjoy nature. It's very beautiful here."



Krishni outside her house. Photo courtesy of Kajsa Krishni Borang

The house has its own guest annexe and enormous garden and, with the nearest neighbour 50-100 metres away, is a big change from Park Hall Road.

Krishni must have some favourite things to remember about East Finchley, though? "Oh yes, if you were on the Tube half-asleep, you knew you were home because the line went up over the ground. Also, I liked all the parks around, and the village and community feeling."

Readers may remember our article about Krishni a few years ago, recounting how she was introduced to Reiki while looking after deer on an ashram in India. Wanja Twan, her teacher and fellow-Swede, was one of only 22 Masters initiated by Takata, who brought the Japanese healing art of Reiki to the west.

Wanja was a recent guest at one of Krishni's Monday

evening gatherings at Park Hall Road. These evenings bonded and supported people whom Krishni herself had initiated into Reiki, and will be very much missed by them.

Looking on the bright side, though, there is that open invitation to visit the house and grounds on Orust. For more details about Krishni, go to [www.krishni.force9.co.uk](http://www.krishni.force9.co.uk).

## Is your child starting school next September?

East Finchley's primary schools are advising parents of all children born between 1 September 2002 and 31 August 2003 that they only have until 12 January 2007 to apply for a place in a reception class in Barnet schools.

The London Borough of Barnet now operates a co-ordinated primary admissions process. Parents can either apply online or use the paper application form available from the School Organisation and Admissions Team on 020 8359 7651.

Even if your child already attends a nursery attached to a Barnet school, you still have to complete an application form, on which you will be asked to list schools in order of preference. In addition, parents applying to faith schools like

Holy Trinity have to complete a supplementary form available from the school.

The Common Application Form (CAF) was introduced to ensure all children are offered a reception place and that no family holds more than one offer.

Parents can find further information about local schools in the London Borough of Barnet's Guide to Primary Education, which is available online at [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk). This lists admission criteria as well as contact details for all local schools.

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