



PCSO Steve with WPC Harriet Ball. Photographs courtesy of Sergeant Alex Kay

Open Day at the cop-shop

By Sergeant Alex Kay, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team
Amidst radiant sunshine on Sunday 16 September, Golders Green Police Station opened its doors to the public for its first Open Day in many years.

Golders Green Police Station is the principal police station serving not only East Finchley, but Childs Hill, Coppetts, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Finchley Church End wards as well as Golders Green itself.

Visitors were greeted by a wide range of displays and activities. There were classic police vehicles through the ages, from a Triumph 2500 and 1980's Land Rover to a Rover 817 series and the latest addition to the fleet, a two-

week-old BMW 530D 3litre Estate. Young visitors were only too eager to climb inside and try out the blue lights and sirens, no doubt to the distress of nearby residents.

An array of firearms recovered from the streets of London by the CO19 Specialist Firearms Unit was on view. Visitors were also invited to meet Foxley and Headley, two beautiful police horses bred in the West Country and now serving at West Hampstead police stables. The

event was organised by the sector Safer Neighbourhood Inspector Stephen Marsh, who commented: "It was wonderful to see such large numbers of our local community attending, giving us the opportunity to explain the role of Safer Neighbourhood Teams in policing and supporting local communities".

More than 1,000 people attended the event, which ended in a fly-past by the Metropolitan Police Helicopter.

Campaign to banish plastic bags

By John Lawrence

An ambitious campaign is under way to turn East Finchley into a plastic bag free zone. Traders are being asked to stop issuing plastic bags that aren't biodegradable and shoppers are being invited to rally behind the idea.

If successful, East Finchley would follow in the footsteps of the small town of Modbury in Devon, which earlier this year made national headlines by banning plastic bags.

The campaign has been started here by local mother Sally Swann and enthusiastically backed by the Regeneration and Enhancement in East Finchley (REEF) group, the people behind the 'I ♥ N2' slogan.

Can we take a lead?

Becoming the first community in London to go plastic bag free could generate enormous publicity for East Finchley and tie in perfectly with REEF's aim to put East Finchley on the map.

Sally Swann said she was inspired by Rebecca Hosking, the wildlife camerawoman who filmed turtles off Hawaii being suffocated to death slowly by plastic bags and who then led the successful campaign in her home village of Modbury.

Sally said: "After becoming a mother I became more aware of environmental issues. I think East Finchley, a London community with a unique village

sense of ownership, could take this task in its stride and pave the way for neighbouring high streets to follow."

Shift in behaviour

REEF is asking traders in N2 to issue only cornstarch bags, which are biodegradable, and to sell re-useable fair-trade cotton bags. Its letter to shop owners acknowledges that it is asking for a major shift in behaviour from everyone.

It states: "We are under no illusion that making this change will be easy, but if we can prevent waste, harm to wildlife and climate change, and generally make a better environment for our children and their children, it will be worth the effort."

Publicity is the first step in the campaign and then the level of support from East Finchley traders and shoppers will become clear.

For more details, you can contact Sally directly via info@east-finchley.com.

Are you ready to give up plastic bags? Tell us what you think of Sally's campaign. Write to THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or email the-archer@lineone.net.

Sackcloth and ashes

Last month's edition of THE ARCHER reported on a litter bin that had been destroyed by fire outside the newsagents at 103 High Road, with the suggestion that it could have been caused by a discarded cigarette.

This was not intended as any reflection on Gertie Brownes public house, where customers who have to smoke outside are provided with ashtrays that are regularly emptied. The management also ensures that the surrounding pavement area is kept brushed clean. THE ARCHER apologises to anyone who felt offended by this report.

The Keep Britain Tidy Group has reported that the number of cigarette butts dropped on the streets of England has risen by 43% since the smoking ban was brought in. Had it been imposed along with some provision by the authorities for the safe disposal of cigarettes, this national problem might have been reduced.

The truth about Dick

What is the truth about Dick Whittington and his cat? He really was the lord mayor of London around 1400 but was he a poor apprentice made good and did his cat make his fortune?

Brenda Cole makes a welcome return to the Finchley Society to tell all in an illustrated talk 'Turn again, Whittington' at Avenue House, East End Road, at 8pm on Thursday 25 October. Entry for non-members is £2.

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