



SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

News from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

By Sergeant Lee Benham

In our first column last month we answered some questions about who we are, what we do, and how to get in touch with us. In a nutshell, we identify and tackle issues that affect the daily life and feelings of security of East Finchley residents.

We do this by listening and responding to the problems you tell us about when you ring, email or write to us, or when you talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrols. Our office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone us on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767 or email us at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk

Autumn priorities

The team is also given direction by the Ward Panel, made up of local people representing the community. The priorities we've been given for the next few months are burglary, theft from vehicles and general anti-social behaviour.

Dangerous dogs

The team is being trained on how to recognise breeds of dogs, such as pit bull terriers, that are classified as dangerous. There is much controversy over the fate of these powerful animals that are bred as fighting dogs. In the light of this, we will always take action to prevent these dogs from becoming resident in the local area. We will also target people who mistreat these animals. We recently called the Specialist Dangerous Dog Unit to rescue two pit bull terriers that had been left alone in a flat for weeks at a time.

Mobile phone theft

If you're planning to ask Santa for a nice new all-singing-and-dancing mobile phone this year, take a look at www.immobilise.com. This website provides a free phone registration service, which means that if you lose your phone or have it stolen, it can be immobilised and the police, your insurer and second hand dealers made aware of its loss. You can also register other items such as jewellery, cameras and electrical equipment.

There's a hole in our pavement

In the August edition of *THE ARCHER*, we reported on the frustration of residents in Aylmer Road who for months had lived with a hole in the ground outside Whittington Court while they waited for workmen to carry out work on the water and gas pipes.



Sinking feeling: the hole in the pavement outside Whittington Court has reappeared. Photo by Neville Robinson.

Work was finally finished and the hole filled in but now, just weeks on, the pavement has collapsed dramatically and looks like it's in urgent need of repair.

Residents are resigned to seeing pedestrian barriers go up again while workmen return to repair the damage.



Walkers enjoying the Capital Ring in north London. Photo courtesy of Walk London.

Discover the beauty of autumn on foot

Alexandra Rook lives in Park Road and is Project Director of Walk London. Here she reveals some stunning walks right on N2's doorstep.

One of London's six long-distance walks that make up the Strategic Walk Network of 350 miles runs right past East Finchley tube station. You may have noticed signs for the Capital Ring and wondered what it was.

The Capital Ring covers 75 miles in 15 easy sections, connecting many of London's glorious parks and open spaces, woodlands and waterways.

Station to station

Section 11 through East Finchley starts at Hendon Central and covers 5.6 miles through Hendon Park, along the River Brent, Mutton Wood, Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate and Queens Wood to end at Highgate Station.

Carry on down the Parkland Walk for the next section to end at trendy Stoke Newing-

ton, discovering Abney Park cemetery with its Egyptian gateway, Finsbury and Clissold Parks and the Newington reservoirs on the way. It's only 4.6 miles, less than two hours' brisk walk.

All the walks are designed to start and finish at stations so you can leave the car at home, get fit and discover the best kept secrets of your local neighbourhood right on your doorstep. For more information, pick up a leaflet from the tube station. There are free led walks on every section of the network on the last weekend in January and May next year.

Loop the LOOP

If you want a more rural experience go north to High Barnet and pick up section 16 of the 150-mile London LOOP (London Outer Orbital Path) to Trent Park and Cockfosters, the

'M25 for walkers' that inspired Iain Sinclair to write *London Orbital*.

Section 18 of the LOOP from Enfield Lock starts on the River Lea, another of the Strategic Walks, and is a revelation. It takes you up to the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge in Epping Forest with amazing views down onto the Lea Valley reservoirs en route. It's a three hour walk with a pub at the end of it.

Leaflets for every region and every section can also be obtained free from Walk London by telephoning 0870 240 6094, emailing info@walklondon.org.uk or looking up www.walklondon.org.uk. They are also available on audio to download to your MP3 or mobile telephone. Even without a leaflet, you can just follow the signs and waymarks.

Dedicated follower of Doctor Who

By Diana Cormack

Some of the 10 million viewers who watched the closing episodes of the recent *Doctor Who* series were perplexed if not completely baffled by parts of the programme. If you are still searching for a solution, don't despair. Help is at hand. Just pop along to Budgens in the High Road and ask for Ian Collett.

Ian has watched the programme since the first episode on 23 November 1963 (the day after President Kennedy's assassination) and his knowledge about it is impressive.

Special collection

Sci-fi fan Ian has no doubt that *Doctor Who* is the best of the genre. He has built up a huge collection of memorabilia ranging from books, comics and magazines to games, models and DVDs. Since its relaunch in 2005 *Doctor Who* merchandise has flooded the market, so Ian's collection even contains Easter eggs.

He has met members of the

cast, such as Billie Piper, John Barrowman and Noel Clarke, and some of the writers. Ardent followers will know that writer Russell T Davies has just left the programme and Ian is looking forward to Steven Moffat being in the driving seat as, judging by his former efforts, things will get even better. Though he prefers this modern series to those of the past, Ian does not have a favourite doctor. "They all bring their own particular thing to the role," he told *THE ARCHER*.

Off to Earl's Court

Regular viewers will know that references to previous plots, characters and com-

ments are made not only in the dialogue but also in graffiti, print and picture form. Ian is adept at spotting these but reckons that you have to watch the programme more than once to catch them all.

Ian's hobby helps him to relax away from work. No doubt he'll add to his collection when he visits the *Doctor Who* exhibition at Earl's Court (ends 9 November), though he could probably tell the exhibitors a thing or two.

Do you have a hobby you would like to tell *THE ARCHER* about? If so, our contact details are on page 2.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

For more information

please contact the Church Office

Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome