



## News from the Safer Neighbourhood Team

By Sergeant Lee Benham

The Safer Neighbourhood Team is all about local policing, with police, residents and partners working together to identify and tackle issues of concern in East Finchley. Our aim is to find out what affects your

daily life and feelings of security, such as anti-social behaviour, graffiti and vandalism, burglary and vehicle crime. Then we work in partnership with you and other agencies to help find solutions.



The team is made up of a Police Sergeant, two Police Constables and six Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). We are dedicated to the ward, and are additional to other policing teams and units in Barnet.

Here are some questions we are frequently asked:

*Q: I've seen the PCSOs patrolling the street, but what exactly is their job?*

*A:* PCSOs are a visible police presence, the "eyes and ears" of the Met. They enable regular Police Officers to make more effective use of their specialist skills. PCSOs offer reassurance through patrolling the streets and by providing information and advice about crime prevention. They visit schools, youth clubs and sheltered housing, and support victims of crime. PCSOs spend most of their time on the streets, gaining valuable insight into how local residents experience life in East Finchley.

*Q: Are PCSOs the same as the Special Constables?*

*A:* No, Special Constables are volunteers who work with and offer support to regular Police Officers. They have the same powers as regular Police Officers and wear the same uniform. The Specials are everyday people who are prepared to give up at least eight hours of their spare time each fortnight to do something positive for themselves and their community.

*Q: How can I get in touch with the Safer Neighbourhood Team?*

*A:* 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](mailto:EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk). You can talk to us on the street. Our team is Police Sergeant Lee Benham, Police Constables Chris Sullivan and Keith Grant, and PCSOs Anil Sharma, Mahmoud Kassir, Maggie Brodie, Janice Lovell, Joseph Mahoney and Sarah Undrell.

## Think before you chuck out for charity

By Sheila Armstrong

**Before you take your black bags to the local charity shop ask yourself just how much of it is fit for sale. Perhaps some of it should go straight in the bin, be recycled or get taken to the dump? Ask yourself, would you buy it?**

Harry Landsman, a young volunteer in the High Road's North London Hospice shop, alerted *THE ARCHER* to the alarming amount shops have to pay to get rid of what can only be called rubbish.

Eugenia von Piccardio, the shop's manager, says that each week they take two van-loads of things they cannot sell to the recycling centre in Summers Lane. It costs them £85 a van-load. The charity is charged at commercial rates to dispose of the bags. They wouldn't need to pay out at all if people donated saleable things only.

### No fly tipping, please

Eugenia says that leaving donations on the doorstep of a closed charity shop amounts to fly tipping. Anyone who works

in a charity shop will tell you that these bags are *always* opened by not so charitable passers-by who steal the best of the donations. The practice also prevents the charity shop workers from checking with you whether they can sell the items before they accept them. They can't, for example, sell electrical goods, or broken, incomplete or dirty things.

The message from all charity shops is to think before you off-load because you may be costing the charity money, not helping it.

Barnet Council confirms that the borough makes a charge for disposal of rubbish from charity shops in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1999.

## How will you get involved?

**Children's Hospice Week runs from September 20-27. Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the aim is to raise awareness of the unique services available to children with life-limiting conditions and their families throughout the UK.**

It's also about raising vital funds for the 43 children's hospice services now operating across the country. Services are free but a children's hospice costs between £10-15 million to set up and around £2.5 million a year to run.

North London based Noah's Ark Children's Hospice is holding a sponsored skydive and would love members of the public to take part, either by doing the tandem jump, or by sponsoring one of the jumpers. Three members of the Noah's Ark team will be taking part in the dive on Saturday 20 September near Doddington, north of Cambridge.

A Swim for Kids event launches during Children's Hospice Week and runs throughout October 2008. Anyone participating in Barnet and Enfield will be able to swim for free at one of the designated leisure centres when they do their swimathon. For registration details and information about which centres are involved please visit the Noah's Ark website at [www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk](http://www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk) or telephone the Appeals Office on 020 8449 8877.

For more information about Children's Hospice Week in this area, visit [www.childhospice.org.uk](http://www.childhospice.org.uk).

### East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact, N2 Vacancy for Charity Co-ordinator

This is an exciting stand alone opportunity for an experienced Co-ordinator to work at the heart of a local neighbourhood charity. You will be responsible for the day to day coordination of services such as the weekly lunch clubs, shopping bus, gardening and befriending schemes. Confident liaising with clients and the general public, maintaining client records, managing petty cash and producing statistical information using Excel for the Management Committee who you will be reporting to.

You must be proficient in MS Office, have bags of common sense and a caring, trustworthy nature.

Volunteer sector background required, knowledge of locality an advantage.

EFN Contact was established in 1985 in response to the need for day-to-day help amongst the elderly and vulnerable within N2 / N3. Salary: £21k-24k pro rata (depending on exp.) 28 flexible hours per week.

**For an application pack call 020 8444 1162**

**or email: [efncontact@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:efncontact@dsl.pipex.com) Closing Date: 15<sup>th</sup> September**  
EFN Contact is an Equal Opportunities employer

A friendly welcome awaits you

### EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

tel: 0208 346 1700

[www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk)

**Family service and Junior Church  
Every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.**

Worship Music Social events Youth Club Wheelchair friendly  
e-mail: [info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk) Room hire tel: 0208 444 4453

### All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

**Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.  
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.  
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.**

The Parish has a flourishing social life.  
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,  
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.  
Experienced singers are always welcome.  
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

## Blooming boom

This year's Barnet in Bloom contest saw more entrants than ever before as more than 50 green-fingered gardeners submitted entries.

The most outstanding garden in the borough was judged to be that belonging to John Gaunt, of Queens Gardens, Hendon. The best educational garden was won by the London Academy, the 'Best Bloomin' Pub' was the Elephant Inn in North Finchley, while St Patrick's Church in West Hendon walked away with the best place of worship award.

## Future of fields uncertain

By Ann Bronkhorst

**On the north side of Coldfall Wood is a large open space: Muswell Hill playing fields. It's where many ARCHER readers walk their dogs, kick a ball about or just fill their lungs with fresh air.**

On Sunday 7 September, from 2pm, local residents and people who use the fields will gather there for a Muswell Hill Area Assembly. It's the first time Haringey have held an Area Assembly in the open air and the organisers, sensibly, have arranged to have a marquee.

Many local people are anxious about the future of the fields. Rumours are rife that Haringey is planning to make radical changes to them, pos-

sibly including buildings and car-parking facilities, and that this used and valued open space will be eaten into.

There are hopes (and fears) that Haringey will announce their plans that Sunday afternoon, so people who value the fields, not all of them Haringey residents, will attend the Assembly to hear what's proposed and to have their say about one of our few remaining open spaces.