



Geoff Stocker, with Mayor, Cllr John Marshall

Snap happy

Geoff Stocker, who teaches Digital Art Courses at The Institute in East Finchley, received a Civic Award Certificate from the Mayor, Councillor John Marshall, in recognition of service to the Borough.

Geoff will be teaching some new, two-day courses in April, including Photo Collage with Photoshop, and a course specially designed to help painters, sculptors, potters and others improve photographs of their original artworks, Photoshop for Artists.

Safer Neighbourhood news

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

I've taken over as Sergeant of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, replacing Sergeant Lee Benham. After 17 years experience in the police service, I know it's essential that we listen to the views of the local community and set priorities that are based on local information.

I've run a Safer Neighbourhood Team before, in Nottinghamshire. I intend to use this experience to build on the established good working practices of the team. I'm aiming to balance community policing, local enforcement and community engagement in order to provide a quality service and foster trust and confidence in the Metropolitan Police Service. PCSO Dora Theodorou has also recently joined the team.

Drop in surgery

You can meet the team and get crime prevention advice at the Drop In Surgery upstairs at East Finchley Library on Saturday 11 April between 2pm and 3pm.

National Policing Pledge

On 4 March, the Home Office launched the Justice Seen, Justice Done campaign to raise awareness of the National

Policing Pledge. The pledge not only sets targets for call handling and response times, but also the provision of information to the public about local crime and police activity.

You are welcome to contact us at any time by phone or email. As part of the pledge, we promise to get back to you within 24 hours.

How to contact us

The Safer Neighbourhood office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone us on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email us at East Finchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.



Crossover crossed off

By Diana Cormack

Last December *THE ARCHER* reported that many local residents were objecting to a proposal for a pavement crossover in Summerlee Avenue. It was scheduled for an area that can get particularly busy, due to its proximity to Cherry Tree Wood.

The objectors felt that cars exiting from the off-street parking would be a danger, especially to children running along the pavement on their way to or from the Wood. They also feared it would spoil the look of the place and set a precedent, encouraging others to construct crossovers where none exist at present.

On the case

Despite a petition with a large number of signatures being presented, the driveway was approved by Barnet Council's Highways section. So, a group of residents took their cause to the Finchley and Golders Green Area Sub Committee, presenting them with related health and safety issues as well as querying possible policy and procedural problems. They also highlighted the fact that the views of the statutory public consultation had been ignored.

A unanimous cross-party vote by the councillors present resulted in the case being referred back for review to the Director of Transport and Environment in Barnet. This review took two months.

However, after five months of campaigning the objectors finally learned that the decision to allow a crossover had been overturned. One of the objectors told *THE ARCHER* that it had not been easy, but hoped that the victory would give confidence to others wishing to oppose crossovers in their area.

Airspace relief

By David Tupman

The threat of more aircraft in the crowded skies over East Finchley has been lifted, following the government's recent rejection of plans to increase traffic.

Many local authorities including Barnet Council had been alarmed at draft proposals by the National Air Traffic Services (Nats) to allow more planes to fly over north London to Heathrow, with the prospect of more noise, worsening air quality and potential safety risks. Currently, seven flight paths involving airports in the south-east of England already affect those living in the N2 postcode area.

While the British Airports Authority plans for a third runway at Heathrow were approved earlier this year, Secretary of State for transport Geoff Hoon has rejected proposals which would have meant planes flying every three to four minutes.

However, if the third runway is built at Heathrow, there will be substantially more aircraft over north London, which would require a significant re-design at the airport to accommodate additional growth.

Smash and grab

By Janet Maitland

Police are appealing for information about a burglary at Replay Clothing Co on Muswell Hill Broadway, which happened in the early hours of Monday 2 March.

Police were called to a report of a group of men smashing their way into the shop and grabbing clothing. One suspect is thought to have made off on foot and the others in a car.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Haringey's Burglary Squad on 020 8345 0886 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



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Easter pharmacy openings

Friday 10 April, 11am-1pm: Gordon Smith, 176 Long Lane, Finchley N3 2RA Tel: 020 8346 1917.

Sunday 12 April, 11am-1pm: Gateway Chemist, 334A Regents Park Rd, Finchley N3 2LN Tel: 020 8346 4530.

Monday 13 April, 11am-1pm: Cootes Pharmacy, 166-168 High Rd, East Finchley N2 9ED Tel: 020 8883 0073.

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