



Caged Light, by Adam Justice-Mills, one of the art works inspired by the Phoenix Cinema. Copyright © 2009 Jodi Warren Photography.

Artistic eye on the Phoenix

Artists from the East Finchley Open (EFO) group helped to raise cash for the Phoenix Cinema by staging a week-long exhibition.

People browsed the unique pieces of art and money raised from their sale was given to the cinema's restoration fund.

All the prints, drawings, paintings, sculptures and glass works had been inspired by a special event at the Phoenix when the EFO artists were allowed to wander at will, capturing any elements of the cinema that caught their eye.



Phoenix Encounters by Hazel Turvey, one of the artworks inspired by the Phoenix Cinema. Copyright © 2009 Jodi Warren Photography

Could you be a key individual?

By Sergeant Andy Matthews



The backbone of Safer Neighbourhood Policing is the key individual networks (KINs), people who are representative and influential within the local community. They let us know the feelings and concerns of local residents.

We are always looking for people who are able to speak for others in the community. It could be your street, shop or workplace, playgroup, place of worship or youth group, and would only need a little of your time. We try to speak with all our KINs monthly and ask them to complete a questionnaire with us twice a year. To find out more please contact us (details below).

New recruits

In late-summer, two new police officers joined the team in East Finchley: PC Eddie Rose and PC Eddie Man, fondly known as 'big' and 'little' Eddie.

Eddie Rose has 14 years' experience with the Metropolitan Police, working with the Territorial Support Group and the Crime Squad.

Eddie Man has been with the Met for 15 years, largely working in CID and Crime Squads and has accepted the new challenge of the SNT with great enthusiasm.

Shield project

We are continuing to develop ways of protecting elderly and vulnerable residents from crime. The team uses its local knowledge and crime data to identify those at risk of crimes such as distraction burglaries, rogue traders and mail scams. Officers then make appointments to visit and provide advice and information about security and new crime trends. Immediate neighbours are also contacted to raise awareness of vulnerable people living nearby. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this project, please get in touch.

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 EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers you see on patrol.

Be alert to 'police' scam

By Janet Maitland

Barnet police have issued a warning about a new scam being carried out by thieves trying to steal bank and PIN details.

Someone claiming to be a police officer rings and says they have been informed by the householder's bank that there has been fraudulent activity on their account. Then they say that a police officer will come to the address so the householder can hand over their bank card and PIN number. This is all a hoax.

Four such crimes have been reported so far and are being

investigated. The police advise anyone who receives such a call to ring off immediately and phone them on 0300 123 1212. They also remind everyone never to disclose their PIN number to anyone.

If you know of anything that could assist police in identifying the people carrying out this scam, call 020 8733 5033, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Burglar caught in the act

By Janet Maitland

A 35-year-old man has been arrested and charged with burglary after a 999 call from a neighbour led to him being caught red handed.

Police responded to the call within minutes and found the burglar in the kitchen. He had used a sledgehammer found outside to break into the property in West Finchley.

"This is an excellent example of how the public can help us catch offenders," said Detective Inspector John Cracknell. "It's also proof of why it's important to lock your tools away. If the sledgehammer hadn't been left outside, the suspect might never have attempted entry."

Police advice is to bring indoors tools, such as hammers, ladders and screwdrivers, which could be used by burglars, or lock tools in a garage or garden shed, where they cannot be seen.

Support for lesbian and gay community

By Janet Maitland

Barnet police have appointed a dedicated police sergeant to support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) residents across Barnet in all matters related to policing.

The appointment of Sergeant Adrian Ball means these residents now have an identifiable contact who understands any concerns they may have in dealing with the police.

He can be contacted on 020 7161 9010 or at lgbt.barnet@met.police.uk

Don't be fooled by rogue traders

By Janet Maitland

Every year thousands of people are fleeced by rogue door-to-door traders masquerading as professionals.

"A good builder will never knock on your door asking for work, so never say yes to anyone on your doorstep touting for work," advise the Trading Standards Institute and the Federation of Master Builders (FMB).

If you do need work done on your home, first ask friends and neighbours for a recommendation. Alternatively, check the FMB website www.fmb.org.uk/findabuilder or call the free-phone number 0800 152 522 for a FMB builder.

Be very specific about what needs doing and don't be afraid to ask for references. Get at least three quotes and make sure these include everything: materi-

als, removing rubbish and making good after the work is completed.

Draw up a contract

It is also wise to draw up a simple contract so that there's a clear record of what's been agreed. Include a plan of what you will pay and when. Never pay the full cost up front. If possible, use a credit card to pay at least £101 of the contract price because this offers more protection. You can download a free sample contract on www.fmb.org.uk/why/contractsNew/

If you've been ripped off, or can't resolve a complaint about the work, contact Trading Standards on 08454 040506.



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