



## Shop owner injured tackling thief

By Janet Maitland and John Dearing  
**The owner of KF Computing and Imaging in the High Road ended up in hospital after he took on a man who was stealing from his shop on 29 April.**

"He just walked into the shop in the middle of the afternoon and asked me if I had anything expensive to sell because he wanted to take it to sell himself," said Syed Zaidi. "Then he tried to get into the till. When he couldn't reach it, he snatched a camera lying on the shop counter and then demanded the battery charger for the shop laptop.

"He said he'd kill me if I didn't give it to him, but I pressed the shop panic button and pushed him away. He fell on the laptop and smashed it. Then I began to shove him out of the shop as I could see people outside who would help. He bit me on my nose and lower lip - there was a lot of blood."

### No support

Although Mr Zaidi managed to get the man out of the shop, no one came to help him. "I shouted that he was stealing from me, but



Syed Zaidi. Photo by John Lawrence  
 no one did anything," said Mr Zaidi, who was badly bruised when the thief threw him onto the pavement.

The thief fell over and hurt his leg, but managed to stagger with the camera to a silver Audi A3. He was driven away by another man. The police arrived shortly afterwards. Mr Zaidi was treated for his injuries at Whittington Hospital.

The thief is described as dark-skinned and wearing a grey hooded top, black jeans and white trainers. He was roughly 25, 5ft 10ins tall with short black hair. The camera is a Canon SLR worth an estimated £1,500.

Anyone with any information should call PC Chris Skeggs on 020 8733 4534 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

## Two girls arrested on suspicion of fraud

By Janet Maitland  
**On Wednesday 6 May police were called to Lanchester Road, N6, by a woman who had become suspicious of two girls who called at her house claiming to be collecting money for 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer' but had no charity ID.**

The suspects' descriptions were circulated by police radio. Fortis Green Safer Neighbourhoods' PCSOs patrolling the ward spotted two girls matching the descriptions in Lauradale Road, N2, and chased them. They were joined by police officers who detained the girls in Twyford Avenue, N2. The officers seized £100 cash and charity forms recording details of further donations.

The girls, a 17-year-old and a 16-year-old, were arrested on suspicion of fraud by false representation and taken to a north London police station. Both were bailed to return to the station later in the month.

"It is very important to Breakthrough that our genu-

ine fundraisers in the community are easy for the public to identify," said Chris Askew, Director of Fundraising at Breakthrough Breast Cancer. "Our official fund raisers wear a Breakthrough Breast Cancer T-shirt or jacket and have identification badges with their photo and name. Our logo and registered charity number will also be on any forms you are asked to fill in."

To donate to Breakthrough Breast Cancer visit [www.breakthrough.org.uk/](http://www.breakthrough.org.uk/) donate or call 020 7025 2428

If you are concerned about the legitimacy of someone fundraising for any charity you should contact the charity directly for confirmation.

## Support for victims of crime

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

**Our local Victim Support team in East End Road has asked us to let local people know about the service they provide to victims of crime.**



Victim Support is a national charity that provides confidential emotional support, practical help, information and advocacy to all victims of crime, whether or not the crime has been reported to the police. The service is free and is available to everyone over the age of 12.

Whether you've been the victim of burglary, theft, robbery, assault, harassment, domestic violence, sex crimes or hate crime, Victim Support can help you. They also offer support to the family and friends of those who have died as a result of crime.

The needs of victims are not always a priority for those in the criminal justice system, despite significant progress in recent years. But Victim Support listens to what victims have to say, talks to other agencies on their behalf, and gives them the information they need to make decisions.

### Local involvement

Victim Support is always looking for part time volunteers. They provide free training and pay travel expenses for attending training and visiting victims.

Although Victim Support receives some funding from the Home Office and Barnet Council, the service still depends on raising money from local residents. They are always immensely grateful for any donation, however small.

To find out more about volunteering, to make a donation or to use the services, contact Victim Support at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE or telephone 020 8343 4435 (lines are open from 9.30am to 4.30pm).

## Locals petition to keep PC

By Janet Maitland  
**Many of our readers will have enjoyed a chat with PC Chris Sullivan, who has been patrolling the streets of East Finchley for the last two years, but he is being moved from the Safer Neighbourhood Team.**

Local residents signed a petition against the move, concerned that they were losing a well-liked and valued police officer. There were also worries that the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) would be a much-needed officer short as a result.

'We'd like to reassure local residents that we're not cutting the team strength,' said Sergeant Andy Matthews at the SNT. 'Chris is moving back to the Response Unit after a good two years here and he will definitely be replaced.'

**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 [EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk) or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.



At your convenience: Richard King shows off the new allotment facilities.

## The call of nature

**Allotment holders planning to put in a long day digging the soil no longer need to worry about getting caught short. Two state-of-the-art toilets have been installed at East Finchley Allotments off Plane Tree Walk.**

The convenient conveniences are positioned at either end of the site. They are completely self-contained units, not requiring any water supply, drainage or soak-away. A clever air circulation system ensures they are never less than fresh.

The allotment association's Richard King said the South African design was becoming increasingly popular at locations where water supply and drainage was a problem, particularly beaches.



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### 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**