



Your neighbourhood, our beat

By Sergeant Lee Benham



The Safer Neighbourhood Team holds different kinds of meeting for local residents where you can tell us about issues and find out the latest in crime prevention tips and products.

Over the next couple of months the team will be in the following streets so that residents can discuss with us any problems in the immediate area.

Howard Walk, N2: Thursday 19 March, 7 - 8pm

Park Farm Close, N2: Friday 20 March, 7 - 7.30pm

Sylvester Road, N2: Wednesday 29 April, 7 - 8pm

Hampstead Heights, N2: Thursday 30 April, 7 - 7.30pm.

In addition, all East Finchley residents and workers are most welcome to come and meet the team upstairs in East Finchley

Library where it's warm and dry. Pop in for a few minutes or longer; we have some excellent crime prevention leaflets and products to demonstrate and they are free of charge. The next meeting is on Saturday 21 March from 2 - 3pm.

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 (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

Traffic lights danger

By Janet Maitland

Barnet Police are warning of a spate of thefts of handbags and other valuables, snatched from cars while they are stationary at traffic lights. This follows a similar series of thefts from cars parked at the Islington and St Pancras cemetery and on petrol station forecourts.

The thefts have taken place at locations across the borough. Police are advising all motorists to take some simple crime prevention measures.

"When stationary, lock your car doors, and when you leave your vehicle parked, hide away all your valuables including your SatNav," said Detective Inspector Duncan Wood.

If you have been a victim of this type of crime, call police on 0300 123 1212, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

No limit on donors

The age limit that prevented regular donors from giving blood beyond their 70th birthday has been abolished. As older donors are healthier and fitter nowadays, it was considered safe to remove the upper age limit for donation.

Whether you are young or old, if you want to know more about giving blood, call 01923 486800 or visit www.nhsbt.nhs.uk

Jumping for joy

By Sheila Armstrong

Local school Oak Lodge has just received a lottery grant for £9,000 and will be spending the money on an outdoor trampoline to be used for fun and therapy.

The Awards for All scheme, using money from the Big Lottery Fund, has given a total of £43,000 to other grass roots and voluntary organisations in Barnet, including the Gunnersbury Women's Cricket Club, which plays at Finchley Cricket Club in East End Road.

Rebound therapy

Nearly half of the children at Oak Lodge, a special school in Heath View, off East End Road, are on the autistic spectrum. The school will be able to offer rebound therapy for them, though the trampoline will benefit all Oak Lodge pupils.

Use of the trampoline enables children with a variety of special needs to experience therapeutic

exercise and movement and can even enable physiotherapy to be delivered. Special training for rebound therapy is available in the UK.

Head teacher Lynda Walker told *THE ARCHER* that the lottery grant would cover a substantial part of the cost of the outdoor trampoline and the necessary secure fencing, which will be a total of £18,000 - £20,000.

In addition, staff have been fundraising for the trampoline and have raised £2,500 by, rather appropriately, a sponsored bungee jump. More money is still needed and donations are welcome. These can be sent to the school's charity Hearts of Oak, c/o Oak Lodge School.



Beach bag a long way from home

I Love N2 bags are a common sight on the Northern line and around East Finchley but this one made it all the way to the sunny sands of Coral Bay in Western Australia.

ARCHER contributor Caroline Ayre took it with her on her Australian adventure this winter.

No friend of mine

By Janet Maitland

A warning has been issued by the police and Barnet Trading Standards about fraudsters preying on vulnerable people.

An elderly man told the East Barnet Safer Neighbourhood Team that in early January he was approached in the street by a man who pretended to know him. This man was apparently very plausible, shaking his hand and greeting him like a long lost friend.

They walked back to the elderly man's house, where his "friend" then mentioned cleaning windows before being joined by another man. After they suggested that they could not only clean his windows but also repair the roof and window frames, they disappeared for a while.

On their return, the two men asked for £40 for cleaning the windows and £200 for the repair work, although absolutely no work had been done. The elderly man told them that he didn't hold money or a chequebook and that he would have to get his nephew to come over with the money. At that point they left and didn't come back.

The men are described as white, in their 20s or early 30s, of athletic build and between 5ft 8 and 5ft 10 tall. "If you hear of this happening, call 999," said Paul Hammond, Barnet Boroughwatch.



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Rickshaw run for charity

By Diana Cormack

The film *Slumdog Millionaire* may be giving people a certain view of India, but a family from Ringwood Avenue is about to see the country from a different perspective. In April they will be making a motorised rickshaw journey from the mountains of Shillong to the beaches in Goa.

Patricia Rybarczyk, a 25-year-old estate agent, has described this as "a last family holiday". It could well strain family relationships, for the vehicle is only meant to carry three but Patricia's parents Yvonne and Jacob, and her brother Michael, will accompany her on the 3,000 mile trek.

Their objective is to raise £2,000 for charity, the beneficiaries being the British Heart Foundation, in memory of actor Mike Reid, and Frank Water Projects, which helps developing countries to provide clean, safe drinking water facilities.

Prior to the rickshaw run, Patricia is organising two fund raising events which take place this month. A fancy dress 1980s Aerobic session will be held at the Jacksons Lane Centre, Archway Road, N6, from 1 - 2pm on Sunday 8 March and a Guitar Hero competition at the Royal British Legion, Muswell Hill Road, N10, from 8.30 - 10pm on Tuesday 17 March. Entry fees of £5 are payable via www.justgiving.co.uk/red-hot-chilli. Donations can also be made on this site and details accessed about the whole venture.

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