



Bright ideas for darker days

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

Now that October is here, it's a good idea to make sure your children's coats and bags are as bright as possible so they can be seen by motorists in the shorter, darker days.

You can buy reflective items in many shops. Your Safer Neighbourhood Team can also help. We have a supply of stickers, tags and some backpacks to give away to local school children. These have been produced by the THINK! Road Safety campaign team as part of road awareness for children.

Bike prize

Tales of the Road is a fun website which uses animated characters to tell a series of cautionary tales, each focusing on different aspects of road safety, along with interactive games to play. There's Make me Cross, about safe places to cross the road, Fix and Ride, about cycle safety, and Lighten Up about being bright to be seen safely. There's even a competition for



the best road safety poem. The best one every two months will win a new bike. The website address is www.talesoftheroad.direct.gov.uk

During the week beginning 19 October, the team will be outside Holy Trinity and Martin Primary Schools handing out free fun reflectors and bags displaying characters from Tales of the Road. We'll also have booklets full of road safety information and games for six to 11-year-olds. For days and times, look out for Tales of the Road posters displayed outside the schools and in our team base on the High Road.

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 EasFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

Man charged with domestic violence

By Janet Maitland

A 41-year-old man from East Finchley has been charged with rape, attempted rape and grievous bodily harm. All these crimes were committed against the same woman, his 50-year-old partner.

"This case is an example of extreme violence and abuse against a partner," said DI Neil Rawlinson from Barnet CID. "No one should live in fear of a violent partner. We would encourage anyone who is the victim of domestic abuse to come forward."

The number of cases of domestic violence reported to Barnet Police has risen this year from 584 offences to 612. So far this year, 74% of the suspects have been arrested.

Finding help

If you are afraid to go to the

police, you can report the crime to Victim Support Barnet, The Flat, Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE (020 8343 4435). They can also give you help and advice.

You can also ring the National Domestic Violence Helpline (0808 2000 247) which provides 24 hour confidential support to women and children experiencing domestic violence, including emergency access to a place of safety in a refuge. Calls are free and interpreters are available for non-English speaking callers.

Nightclub shooting in Muswell Hill

By Janet Maitland

Four people were shot when a man opened fire on the crowd enjoying a night out at The Hill club in Muswell Hill.

Police were called at 2am on Saturday 29 August to reports of a shooting. A man had fired a weapon several times into the crowd before escaping. A woman was shot in the hand, a man was shot in the neck and another in the chest, and another received a minor wound to his leg.

Immediately after the shots were fired, everyone rushed to get out. Several people were injured in the crush, of whom some needed hospital treatment.

"I urge anyone who was in the club who hasn't spoken to the police to contact us and help catch this man," said Detective Sergeant Lucy Kilgour. "We are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who may have taken photos in the club or its vicinity around the time of the shooting."

The gunman is described as black, and in his late teens or early 20s. Anyone with information should ring 0208 733 4774, or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



And stretch: Yoga classes give you a chance to support a local autism charity. Photo from Yoga4mums.

Yoga mums flex for autism charity

Yoga4mums will be supporting and raising money for TreeHouse, the national charity for autism education, through special "donation classes" in north London in October.

Yoga4mums specialises in yoga classes, workshops and retreats to improve the health and wellbeing of mothers and their families. TreeHouse runs a school in Muswell Hill for children with profound autism as well as carrying out national policy and campaigning work.

The donation classes will be taking place at St John's Parish

Centre in Friern Barnet on 21 October, and at St Michael's Parish Centre in Gordon Hill on 22 October. For more details on the classes, visit www.yoga4mums.com.

Cathy Underwood, founder and creative director of Yoga4mums, said: "Just by taking part in a Yoga4mums class you'll be making a positive change to the lives of others. The friendships that begin in our yoga classes ripple back into the community and a

new network of families begins to communicate. It's all about community spirit, so everyone is welcome."

Claire Palmer, senior community fundraiser at TreeHouse, said they were thrilled with the support from the classes. She added: "At TreeHouse we understand that autism can have an impact on the whole family as well as the wider community; so it's vital that the right education and support is available to all those who need it."

Funds available to fight neglect

By Daphne Chamberlain
Do you know of a neglected area in Muswell Hill or Fortis Green which could benefit from Haringey's "Making the Difference" funds?

If so, please contact John Hajdu on 020 8883 8114 or hajdu.clarion@talk21.com. John is the Chair of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association, which will shortly be bidding for a share of the funds for 2009 / 10.

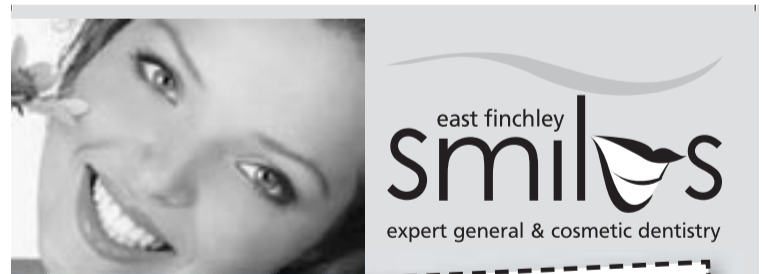
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