



New man at the top for Barnet Police

By Janet Maitland

The Metropolitan Police Service has appointed a new Borough Commander for Barnet. Chief Superintendent Neil Basu described joining Barnet Police at the end of June as "next to becoming a dad, the proudest day of my life".

He has spent his first few weeks in the job meeting as many local partner groups and community leaders as possible.

"My priorities are to focus on catching those criminals causing the most harm to the community and to realise an ambition to make Barnet the safest borough in London," said Chief Supt Basu. The latest

crime figures show that Barnet is one of 18 London boroughs with a recent increase in burglaries.

"We are targeting particular areas and known burglars coming out of prison," he said. "But over 50% of burglary is opportunistic, so make sure your home doesn't look empty and mark all your property with your house number and post code."

The Chief Supt is passionate about accountability to the public, believing, like Robert Peel, that "the public are the police and vice versa". "If you dial 999 to report an emergency we should be there in 12 minutes," he said. "If you ring the



non-emergency number 0300 123 1212 you should be given advice and a reference number. And if you ring or email the Safer Neighbourhood Team, they should get back to you within 24 hours."

Hate crime is also a passion. "Victims of crimes and incidents related to racism, domestic violence, sexual offences, homophobia, faith and disability can go to a third party reporting site, if they are too frightened to go to a police station."

The website for East Finchley is Victim Support Barnet, The Flat, Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3 3QE or 020 8343 4435.

Stanley Field: date for your diary

By Rob Robertson

In the last issue of *THE ARCHER* we gave notice that the Finchley Community Development Trust is planning to stage a big event on the Stanley Road Playing Field, close to Holy Trinity School, in the second half of September.

The date has now been fixed for Wednesday 30 September between 4pm - 6pm. It will form part of the trust's continuing campaign to persuade Barnet Council that the Stanley Road site should be retained for sporting and recreational use.

Work on the planning of the event is still in progress but we hope local school children will come along and take part in an organised five-a-side competition. We also hope a player

from one of London's top Premier League clubs, as well as a former player active on the Masters Football circuit, will be there to chat to the children and sign autographs.

On the cricket side of things, Steve Selwood, ex-Derbyshire batsman and now Head Coach at Finchley Cricket Club, will be there with a message of support from Eoin Morgan. Eoin, who plays for Middlesex, was recently called up for the England ODI squad.

Look out for more publicity soon or for more informa-

If it sounds too good to be true, it is

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

In response to a lot of enquiries, this month's column is about scams or dishonest attempts to part you with your money or steal your identity.

Scams can reach you in the form of letters, junk mail, emails, telephone calls and text messages offering everything from financial services to bogus holidays. Remember that if it sounds too good to be true, then it is.

If you haven't entered a competition, you haven't won anything, and if you have to pay money for a 'free' gift, it isn't a gift but a hook to pull you in. And of course never give any personal details about yourself, particularly bank or card details, unless you are 100% sure that whoever is contacting you is legitimate.

Scams also take the form of bogus callers, such as fake charity collectors, and rogue traders. Remember that these types of criminal can be very convincing, charming and persistent.

Never give information, part with money, or invite anyone into your house unless you have checked their credentials. Contact the Charities Commission 0845 300 0218 www.charity-commission.gov.uk to check on charity collectors.

To check on companies, contact Companies House on 0303 1234 500 or www.companieshouse.gov.uk and, if you need work done on your property, ask for recommendations of tradespeople from friends and neighbours.

Consumer Direct on 08454 040506 or www.consumerdirect.gov.uk has useful advice about scams. The Office of Fair Trading on 0800 389 3158 or www.oft.gov.uk has

a free leaflet for people who are worried about elderly or vulnerable friends or family falling prey to scams.

To stop junk mail, contact the mail preference service on 0845 703 4599 or www.mpsonline.org.uk and to stop unwanted phone calls contact the telephone preference service on 020 7291 3320 or www.tpsonline.org.uk. Both services are free, so be

wary of anyone ringing you claiming to be from either service asking for payment to complete your registration.

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.



Little Aid can mean a lot to war victims

East Finchley resident Dr Mareeni Raymond tells us about the charity she has helped to set up for the benefit of those affected by the civil war in Sri Lanka.

As a Sri Lankan brought up in the UK, I was moved and disturbed by the conflict there. Thousands who have had to leave their homes and possessions now live in very basic camps set up by the government. Rehabilitating them will take time and will be a difficult task.

They need basic things such as food and clothing and, in the long-term, education, psychological and social support.

After countless discussions about how to help, some friends and I decided to set up the registered charity Little Aid, a name chosen to emphasise that we would use the smallest of donations to make a massive difference.

Our immediate goal is to help with basic needs. We have already raised enough money to send lorry loads of food, milk powder and clothing to the camps. Our long-term objective is to resettle all the displaced people and help them to get on with their lives.

Most recently we have

been working with a camp in Ambepussa where more than 120 children now live, and numbers increase daily. They have very disturbing pasts. The children said they would love to learn traditional music among other things, and so we have organised delivery of many musical instruments and a music teacher for one year to help with their psychosocial development. You can see the delivery of these items at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiIAZ8wQwE>

If you have not yet contributed to a charity helping those in Sri Lanka, please consider ours, or any, to help the people most at need there. Find us at www.littleaid.org.uk.



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For more information

please contact the Church Office

Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome