



## Appeal for help after two attempted child abductions

By Janet Maitland

**Police are appealing for help following what appear to be two attempted abductions of children that took place in June.**

The first incident happened on Saturday 12 June in Avenue House Park, East End Road, at about 4.30pm. An eight year old boy was playing with friends out of the direct sight of the supervising adults when he was approached by an unknown man who grabbed his arm and pulled him away, dragging him along for about 30 feet until he managed to struggle free.

The man is described as white, 30-40 years old, average build with short dark hair, 5'6 - 5'10 tall, clean shaven and wearing dark trousers and a hooded red top under a short denim jacket.

If you saw this man or witnessed the incident, please contact DC Chris Banks at Barnet CID 020 8733 4595 or email Christopher.Banks@met.pnn.police.uk. If you want to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 and quote reference 2413984/10.

### Woman driver foiled

The second incident happened near Highgate tube station at about 8.10am on

Wednesday 16 June. A 12-year-old girl was walking along Shepherds Hill, near the junction with Stanhope Road, when a car pulled up beside her. The driver, described as a white woman in her 50s with blonde hair, told the girl to get into the car.

The girl refused to get in, despite repeated instructions from the driver. A member of the public, described as a white man, intervened and told the girl to run to safety. The driver stayed in the car and at no point made any threats or used any force.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact DC Zoe Bentley of Haringey CID on 101 8345 0712 or to ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous. Police are particularly keen to hear from the man who intervened. "He may have information that could prove crucial to our investigation," said DC Bentley.

For advice about personal safety, go to [www.livelifesafe.org.uk](http://www.livelifesafe.org.uk), the youth section of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust website.

## Warning over security alarm scam

By Janet Maitland

**Barnet Boroughwatch has issued a warning about a telephone scam being used to trick householders into buying over-priced security alarms. Cold calling is said to be happening in this area now.**

The method allegedly being used by SAS Fire and Security is to get a company called Crime Research UK to call you. They ask you to take part in some crime research and claim to be working with the police, Neighbourhood Watch and the Home Office, which is not true.

They then inform you that crime has gone up in your area. They claim to be giving away four free alarm systems and that you are one of the winners. If you accept, SAS subsequently calls you to arrange the installation.

But the alarm isn't free. Instead it is paid for by a big installation fee and vastly inflated monthly 'monitoring' charges. Victims, many of them elderly, have forked out thousands. One couple paid £7,220 for an eight-year deal, which should have cost nearer £1,600.

A local resident who was contacted in East Finchley was told they'd won a free alarm as part of Barnet Crime Prevention week, but there is no such thing.

If you have had any con-

tact at all from this company please report them immediately to Consumer Direct on 08454 040506.



## New homes take shape

**A new row of houses is nearing completion on Long Lane. As these photos by Martin Addison show, the six dwellings are constructed of prefabricated timber sections clad with brick. Situated opposite Alder Court, close to Church Lane, they are intended to provide affordable rented accommodation.**



## Car chase ends in two arrests

By Janet Maitland

**A police car chase that began in Colindale in the early hours of 19 June came to a dramatic end in East Finchley when two men were arrested for stealing a car.**

"I was woken at about 5am by a police helicopter and shouting in the street," said a resident of Leslie Road. "When I looked out of the window I saw a man lying on the pavement in handcuffs, surrounded by police and a police dog."

Police responded quickly to a report that a black Ford Fiesta was being stolen in Percy Road, Colindale. They got there in time to see the car speed out of Percy Road into the High Road. They chased it, signalling to the driver to stop, but he ignored them.

The driver raced to East Finchley, turning into Park Gate, next to Leslie Road. The driver leapt out of the car when he realised it was a cul de sac, followed by the passenger. They tried to escape by running down The Walks but were captured in Leslie Road. Both were bitten by a police dog.

The men were arrested for stealing the car and failing to stop. The driver was also charged with drinking and driving and the passenger for allowing himself to be carried in a stolen car.

## Part by part appeal for vital minibus

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Could you eat, quiz or sponsor your way towards providing a new minibus for the Ann Owens Centre? Last August Bank Holiday, their buses were badly vandalised, but Age Concern Development Manager Lisa Dubow told THE ARCHER that they are now halfway towards raising the necessary £33,000 to buy a new one by the end of the year.**

The centre, in Oak Lane, is a lifeline for many older people, offering social contact, exercise sessions for health and fitness, a hot meal many cannot provide for themselves, or respite from the demands of caring for others. Minibuses are vital in getting them there, and the drivers will also sometimes pick up shopping and take it back to an elderly person's home.

### Boosting the bus fund

Age Concern is currently running a fundraiser called "Buy a bus part". Lisa explained: "We have a big picture of a minibus and people are invited to buy a part. Large parts cost £5, medium-sized £3, and small £1. Sponsors go into a draw to win £5, £20 or £50."

On Thursday 5 August, there is a fundraising cake sale at Ann Owens between 11.30am and 2.30pm, while quiz addicts can book a place at the centre for 7pm on Friday 24 September. Tickets for the Quiz Night are £10 each, including a ploughman's supper and soft drinks, with a maximum of six people per table.

To register for the quiz or to sponsor a bus part, please contact trustee Grace Fensome on 020 8445 1808 or email [gracefensome@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gracefensome@yahoo.co.uk). To donate online to the minibus appeal, visit [www.ageconcernbarnet.org/donations](http://www.ageconcernbarnet.org/donations). To contact Lisa Dubow, call 020 8432 1417.



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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**