



Third man jailed for Grange Estate murder

By Janet Maitland

On 30 July, John-Paul Oboh was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment at the Old Bailey for his part in the death of Colin Browne on the Grange Estate in 2006.

Police and ambulance services were called to the estate on 12 April 2006 following reports of a badly injured man. The victim, Colin Browne, died before he could be taken to hospital. A post-mortem showed he had suffered several stab wounds and also been shot.

Oboh left the country on a false passport soon after the murder. He eventually surrendered himself to the British Deputy High Commission in Lagos, Nigeria, in September last year and was charged on his arrival back in England. Two other men were imprisoned in 2006 for the same murder. Police are still looking for a fourth man, Piers Guthrie, who

remains wanted in connection with this crime.

Colin Browne, who was from Leyton E10, went to the Grange Estate after being contacted by his ex-girlfriend. She told him that her brother and his friends were having problems with a group of men who had assaulted them following minor incidents that had been perceived by the group as showing disrespect to them. Colin Browne went to the area to seek out the men and was killed in a confrontation with them.

Anyone with any information is asked to call 020 8733 4704. If you want to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Beware of pickpockets

By Sgt Andy Matthews

Two local residents have been targeted by pickpockets while shopping in Budgens. One victim had foreign currency stolen from her bag on 4 August. The other had her wallet stolen a few days later. Both victims were 77 years old. We have seized the CCTV and are trying to identify the suspects.

It is clear that pickpockets are operating in the area. The Post Office may be a factor as the victims had been there first. It is possible that they were observed in there by the criminals and then followed into Budgens.

I strongly urge members of the community never to leave purses or handbags unattended on top of shopping baskets or trolleys, not even for a few seconds. We have a number of free anti-pickpocket clips that can help

prevent such crimes. Just ask us for more details.

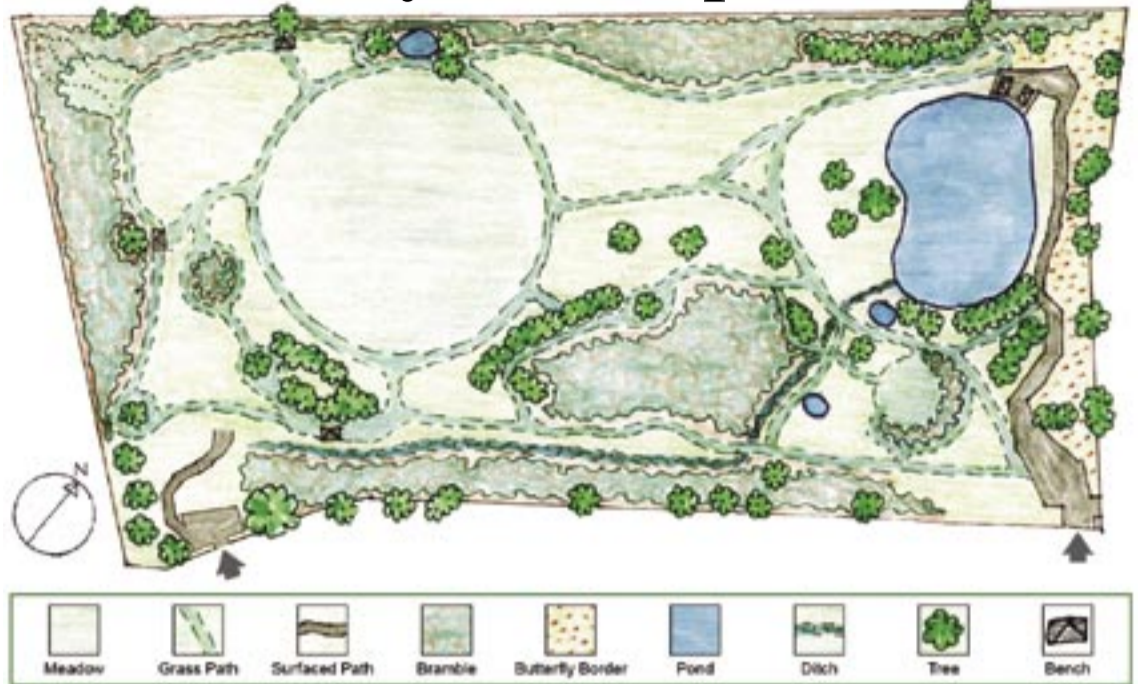
We patrol the area and every day that we're on duty we patrol Viceroy Parade in front of Budgens.

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



Autumn days in the pasture



Long Lane Pasture - map by Chris Brown.

The glory days of summer may have passed but there are still plenty of flora and fauna to enjoy at Long Lane Pasture through the autumn months. This very special pocket of land, opposite the fire station on Long Lane, is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm and is a delightful place to stroll and spot wildlife.

Work days take place every Saturday from 10am to 12pm. Turn up in rough clothes if you fancy getting involved; all tools are provided. For more information email enquiries@longlanepasture.org or visit www.longlanepasture.org

Fake police steal from bank accounts

By Janet Maitland

If you receive a phone call from the police asking for your bank details because your account has been subject to fraudulent activity, don't give them any information. It's not the police, but criminals who are trying to steal money.

In early August three local people, all of them elderly, received such calls. In order to gain the trust of the victims, the criminals made several phone calls, getting more information each time. Eventually the criminals came to the victim's home address to pick up their bank card and PIN, claiming that this was required for further investigation.

On each occasion the victim was asked not to discuss the matter with anyone else and over a period of days substantial amounts of money were removed from their accounts. One of the victims was 94 years old and the others were in their 80s.

Close the door

"It saddens me to think that these vulnerable members of the community are being targeted by callous criminals in this way," said Sergeant Andy Matthews of the Safer Neighbourhood Team. "I want to make it very clear that under no circumstances will a police officer, or for that matter any bank official, ever ask for your PIN or need to come to your address to pick up your

bank card. If anyone comes to your home, claiming to be from the police or a bank and asking for your card and PIN, I urge you to decline their offer and close the door."

Call the police on 999 if they are still near your house, or 0300 123 12 12 if they have left the vicinity.

Barnet in Bloom Awards

Congratulations to Martin Primary School on achieving first place as the Most Eco Friendly Garden in the annual Barnet in Bloom Awards.

Martin School also gained a first in the shape of Oliver Clymer, who won the title Young Gardener of the Year. Judges' Choice for the Most Outstanding Garden was won by East Finchley's Jason Earl.

Passionate about local issues

The Finchley Society held its 39th AGM at Avenue House, East End Road, early in the summer attended by 33 members. After the main business of the evening when David Smith was re-elected as Chair and the Treasurer reported that the Society's finances were in a healthy state there was a lively discussion about local issues in an open forum.

Topics covered were opposition to the Brent Cross enlargement, the problem of traders taking over the pavements in Ballards Lane, the sad demise of local shops, and the battle to prevent suburban houses being turned into flats either by conversion or redevelopment.

David Smith urged members to get more involved in local campaigns. In his Chairman's Annual Report he suggested some additional campaigns members could support, for instance: the use of 'Church End' instead of 'Finchley Central'; the menace of ivy killing trees; unlawful advertising by trailers and vehicles parked in various places such as by La Deliverance statue in Regents Park Road and opposite the Vue Cinema complex; and banner advertising at the junction of High Road & Summers Lane.

He reminded members that those who started the Finchley Society nearly 40 years ago did so because they wanted to celebrate their cultural heritage and cared deeply about both the natural and man-made environment.

He urged all members to get passionate about something, to go out into Finchley & Friern Barnet and talk to neighbours and to people in the street and get people involved in the issues they care about.



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For more information

please contact the Church Office

Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

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