



New police website targets young people

By Janet Maitland

A new website aimed at 11-16 year olds has been launched by the Metropolitan Police. Safe, to be found at www.safe.met.police.uk, provides information and advice about the crime and safety issues that matter to young people, such as bullying, drugs and knife crime.

Safe was designed with the help of young people from a range of backgrounds, whose personal experiences and perspectives helped the site designers to understand how young people feel about crime and safety, and how they receive and research information.

"Young people can be as much as three times more likely to be the victim of a street robbery than any other age group, so Safe is a way we can give them advice on how to keep safe," said Chief Superintendent Adrian Hanstock.

Named officers

The contacts section of the site lists the names of local Safer Schools police officers. Hundreds of these officers work closely with secondary schools in London. The site has a dedicated section for teachers and hosts a number of resources including the 'Watch over me' and 'Living together' teaching packs. There are also links to support organisations and crime prevention films including the award-winning anti-weapons MPS film 'Choose a different ending'.

"Between April 2008 and March 2010, police recorded 5,675 knife crime offences in London where the victim was aged between 10 and 19," said a police source. "This age group makes up about 11% of London's population but nearly 28% of knife crime victims."

Every little helps

By Adam Justice-Mills

There's been a lot said recently about cutting back: cutting costs, cutting waste, cutting grass. I'm trying to reduce the amount of the stuff we use at home every day: energy, fuel and water.

Our baseline assessment of CO₂ usage from the Muswell Hill Sustainability Group showed lots of potential for energy, fuel and water savings. Trouble is, getting the family to cut down is hard so I've had to "nudge" them on many fronts.

We got a free electricity energy monitor from British Gas, which shows electricity use minute by minute, week by week. Bit scared to install a water meter, though: maybe next year.

At this time of year (and given we don't have air conditioning) we don't heat much except water but that is a lot of water heating for the four of us. I've turned the (fully lagged) tank thermostats down by two degrees and cut the boiler 'on' time to 45 minutes, which should save around 10% of that energy. We got a 'single cup' water heater for tea and coffee (it's amazing what a full kettle uses).

I'll be draught-proofing our doors and windows this autumn too. That and keeping the central heating thermostat under lock and key (why not wear a jumper indoors?) could save 10% off gas bills over the winter. That's provided I can persuade my family not to leave windows and doors open.

Our washing machine and dishwasher both have "eco" and half-load modes (less electricity and less water, I hope), so we will try those. With a bit of luck, we might even cut our costs.

As for fuel, cycling is fun and I hope to try the StreetCar car club. There's one in Twyford Avenue now.

The Archer needs volunteer distributors for The Grange (3 rounds)

Distribution takes place once a month. A typical round takes 30-45 mins to deliver. For details contact 020 8883 0433 or the-archer@lineone.net

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

Early days of our spending tsar

Prime Minister David Cameron last month appointed billionaire Topshop owner Sir Philip Green to lead a review of government spending. Will his early days growing up in Bancroft Avenue, N2, influence his thinking? Here his sister Elizabeth recalls his early fashion disasters and their childhood days.

It's said that the model Kate Moss told my brother: "You're a boy from Croydon, and I'm a girl from Croydon, we should do business!" We were from Croydon, until we moved to East Finchley when I was eight and he was five. I still pass the house now.

We moved to North London to be part of the Jewish community but I was not aware of this until the first day at my new school, South Hampstead High School. My mother said: "If they ask you whether you want to go to Jewish or non-Jewish prayers, say Jewish."

That was my first acquaintance with my heritage. Mind you, I was better off than Philip because he had to wear a bright orange blazer and cap, an early fashion victim of Norfolk House. Things improved fashion-wise for him later.

Bikes, buses and Blackjacks

We lived in Bancroft Avenue, as did our cousins. We lived at one end, they at the other. Not a close-knit family but a close-knit road. In those days we all rode bicycles together up and down and ran in and out of each others' houses. It seemed safer than today. Until the day Philip rode his bike into a lamppost and received a mighty blow on the head.

I remember going to see my first films at the Rex cinema, now the Phoenix. It was rather a lonely existence as my brother went off to boarding school and my parents travelled across London to business in Croydon every day.

During my young school-days my best friend Barbara and I travelled home from school in Swiss Cottage on the buses alone. Twopence halfpenny to Golders Green, then the same home on the 102, and just enough change for some Blackjacks and Fruit Salads.

Koko the black poodle kept us company in Bancroft Avenue, until a fire sent us all packing into Hampstead Garden Suburb, a fire that Koko didn't survive.

Happy childhood days? I'm not sure, but a nice neighbourhood, good neighbours and a quiet leafy suburban existence.

YOUNG ARCHER



The 4th East Finchley Guides hard at work outside the station.

Guides go guerrilla gardening

Each year Guides must do at least one piece of community service to gain their annual Challenge Badge. Earlier in the summer, the Guides of 4th East Finchley joined the N2 Guerrilla Gardeners at their plot by East Finchley tube station.

They helped with weeding, planting, and watering and said it was great fun getting involved in this exciting local project. The girls learned a bit about the plants and enjoyed getting their hands dirty. They hope to go back in September to pick some of the fruits and vegetables that have been growing there.

Stepping into Amy's shoes

The 4th East Finchley Guides unit is run by Toni, Kristy and Amy. Unfortunately, Amy has to leave the area as she is starting a teacher training course in Hull. Toni said: "We wish Amy the best of luck. Having a team of three really makes running the unit easier and means we have many more ideas. We also have great fun together. We would very much like to hear from anyone who could

join the team."

The local Rainbow Unit also really needs another adult volunteer. You don't need to have a background in Guiding but you do need to be over 18, agree to be CRB checked and able to attend most weekly meetings. Having regular access to email is really helpful.

Being a Guide Leader gives you valuable skills that can be transferred to the work place and is a fun way to contribute to the local community. Contact Toni on 020 8815 0715 or 4theastfinchleyguides@googlemail.com to find out more. More information about Guiding at <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk>

Nature reports online

The Finchley Society website have started a new page for nature reports. Already it is packed with sightings of blackcaps, parakeets, greenfinches, exotic butterflies and herons. You don't have to be a member to contribute. Just email your sightings of wildlife in Finchley and Friern Barnet to web@finchleysociety.org.uk. The very attractive website is at www.finchleysociety.org.uk.

Allotment friends raise their game

Allotment holders have converted a plot at their site off Plane Tree Walk for use by a recently-disabled colleague. The plot has paved paths and raised beds, with the front area kept open for fruit and field crops. Members of the East Finchley Allotment Holders Association gave up their time to do the construction and fill the beds.