



# Alert after spate of burglaries

By Janet Maitland

**Police are asking people to be extra vigilant about security after a shocking series of local burglaries.**

On 17 September, burglars slipped the night latch on the front door of a house on Church Vale while the residents were asleep and broke in. They stole electrical goods and car keys, which they used to steal a BMW. Another house in the same street was broken into on 22 September and a Toyota car was stolen. It is thought that the burglars got in through a window at the back of the house.

On 10 October at about 8.30pm, two men broke into another house on Church Vale through the front door while an elderly resident was at home. The men demanded cash then wrenched a watch off her wrist, leaving her shocked and scratched. Both men were described as white, one aged

about 18 and 5ft 10 inches tall, the other aged about 30 and 6ft 2 inches tall.

At about 6.30pm on 31 October, some passers-by saw a car pull up suddenly at the bottom of Beech Drive and four men in masks or balaclavas get out. When they saw one of the men put his arm through the letterbox of a house, they dialed 999. Police report that the front door was forced open and several car keys taken. The men were described as white and in their early twenties.

### Warning notices

Local resident Stephanie Cleak decided to take some action, putting a warning notice through the letterboxes in Church Vale and getting in touch with the Fortis Green Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). "The SNT distributed notices a couple of weeks later," said Ms Cleak. "My neigh-

bour's notice warned her that her house was conspicuously dark in the late afternoon."

### Police advice

"Uniformed and non-uniformed officers are patrolling key areas in the west of Haringey, which is being hit by burglary offences, and we are arresting burglary suspects every week," said Detective Inspector Jason Turkington. "If you have any information about any of these burglaries please ring me on 020 8345 0866 or call 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous."

Always lock doors and windows when you go out. Buy time switches so lights turn on while you are out. Fit mortice locks to all external doors. Never leave car keys, valuables or ID documents near a window or letterbox. You can find more crime prevention advice at [www.metbumblebee.org](http://www.metbumblebee.org)



Karyn Johnstone, left, and Maja Djordjic are lighting up the business world with their new venture.

# Esme embarks to Africa

**Eighteen-year-old Esme Girling is heading to Nigeria next year to work on a charity health project. Esme, who lives on Lincoln Road and is a former pupil of Martin Primary and Fortismere schools, will be spending three months in Africa as part of Voluntary Service Overseas.**



Esme Girling, who will be doing voluntary work in Nigeria.

She said: "I was so excited to be accepted by VSO and I can't

wait to find out exactly what I'll be working on. Working for VSO really appealed to me because the charity takes a very personal approach to volunteering.

"In Nigeria I will probably be living with a host family, and the aim is to integrate fully with the community and understand the way of life there."

Esme has to commit to raising £1,500 for VSO before she leaves at the end of January. "The money I raise doesn't go to funding my own personal trip but helps VSO continue with

all the amazing projects it does abroad," she said.

For example, £2 pays for a volunteer to train local medical staff to reduce HIV transmission and £10 pays for a volunteer surgeon to teach local doctors to perform safe surgery. If you would like to help Esme raise funds for VSO, you can make a donation at [www.justgiving.com/Esme-Girling](http://www.justgiving.com/Esme-Girling).

# Ladies of the lamp

By John Lawrence

**A hobby has turned into a business for friends Maja Djordjic and Karyn Johnstone, who make exquisite and sometimes spectacular lampshades to order.**

Maja first turned her hand to making shades at her home in Squires Lane four years ago and when Karyn, who lives in Fortis Green, came along to design her website they decided to set up business together.

The Bespoke Boutique moves away from the mass-produced lampshades offered by most shops into the world of bespoke designs, many with handmade prints and made in the traditional way of stretching silk over the frame before finishing with hand-stitching.

Maja said: "This is a niche area and very different from the standard designs you get in shops. We will make shades for individuals and our aim is also to reach as many interior designers as possible."

Maja and Karyn will visit a

customer's home if requested to take swatches or create colour matches exactly right for the room that will house the lamp. They then make the shade to order using a suitable fabric or creating a new design and printing it themselves.

Karyn added: "At the moment, it's just lampshades but one day we hope to have our own range of fabrics and prints that can be used across other soft furnishings like curtains, sofas and cushions."

Their output is eclectic and fun, ranging from a tiny knitted shade for a table lamp up to a one-metre wide drum shade for a ceiling light, with all kinds of prints including maps, Union flags and vintage patterns along the way. Find out more at [www.thebespokeboutique.co.uk](http://www.thebespokeboutique.co.uk).

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