



Bikes are given a unique security code at the Safer Neighbourhood cycle marking event. Photo by Nick Young.

Stay alert to crime

By Janet Maitland

Twenty five people had their bikes marked with a unique serial number outside the tube station on 31 January. These bikes are now registered with the Bike Register so they can be returned to their rightful owners if lost or stolen.

The bikeregistration event was organised by the Cycle Task Force and the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who are planning another event during the summer. All you have to do to get registered is turn up with your bike with a few minutes to spare.

Free email alerts

Did you know that the SNT can send you emails about any crime that's been committed in your street? To register with E-Watch, send an email including your name, email address and home address to eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk. This free service was created two years ago and has been so successful it is now being copied by teams in other wards.

If you want to know about

crime in other parts of London, such as where you work, or where an elderly relative lives, go to www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk and register for the Neighbourhood Link Community Messaging Service. This was recently launched by the Metropolitan Police Service and is also free. You can select the kind of information you want to receive and you can register for more than one area. Another way of finding out about crime is to use Twitter. You can keep in touch with police reports for the whole of Barnet by searching @MPSBarnet.

You can talk to the Safer Neighbourhood Team about any crime concerns by ringing 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767 or

emailing them at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk. You can also talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

Bogus clampers

East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team is warning drivers to be on their guard against bogus private wheel clampers.

A vehicle was clamped in Finchley recently but when the company that owned the land was contacted it stated it had never used clampers. Signs had been put up without permission and motorists had been paying out £180 to £400 to the bogus clampers with no receipts given. In another incident in NW2, the clammer removed the clamp and fled when the driver said she would call police.

Boy threatened with knife

By Janet Maitland

A 16-year-old boy was threatened with a knife on his way home from school on 31 January. He was walking up The Causeway, the path behind the tube station, at about 5.30pm when a youth approached him, pulled out a knife and demanded his phone.

The boy quickly turned round and ran back to the station where he knew there was CCTV. He called his mother, who called the police, who in turn radioed the transport police. They thought they had spotted the youth boarding a train so stopped the train at Highgate but found it was a case of mistaken identity.

Local robber

"My son recognised the youth who threatened him because he'd already been mugged by him last July," said the boy's mother. "That also happened on The Causeway, at about eight in the evening. He threatened to hit him if he didn't hand his phone over."

"At first, my son thought he was just an unusually friendly person because he came up and asked him what music he was listening to. The police told me that's just a trick to get a look at the phone. We've also seen him three times since then walking down East End Road towards the tube. Each time I've called the police, but by the time they arrive he's gone."

"The police think he's local and finding easy pickings in East Finchley. Please warn your readers that The Causeway isn't safe while this youth is at large. My son has written to the council asking for CCTV on the footpath and is setting up a Facebook petition about it."

The youth is described as aged about 19, tall, slim and black, with a friendly face. At the time of the incident he was wearing a beige hooded top with fur round the hood.

Man stabbed in children's park

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Police response

The attacker is described as aged 16-17, black or mixed race, slim, 5ft 9inches tall and wearing a grey hooded top. Anyone with information should call 101 quoting crime reference number 2402215/12 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team patrolled the area in the week following the attack as a reassurance measure. "We've also carried out stops where appropriate and have changed the shift working hours in order to work past 10pm. Extra police forces have also been deployed in East Finchley," said a spokesman.

Nowhere to go for N2's youth

The popular Monday Club for young people used to meet at the Old Barn in Tarling Road. But since a group of new trustees took over the Old Barn in July 2010, all services have been discontinued or forced to move out. The Old Barn Action Group (email endofstrife@hotmail.co.uk) has been campaigning to restore the community centre to local people for over a year. The Monday Club currently has nowhere to meet.

Local people have also been trying for many years to ensure that Stanley Road playing field becomes a community sport resource rather than a housing development. Sport East Finchley, a group of local residents, has submitted a plan to the council for the field to be used for a range of different sports. Barnet Council has not agreed to this bid. Instead it has asked three other bidders, who are proposing to build houses, with some community facilities, to see if they can work with Sport East Finchley to provide a mixed development scheme on the site. Find out more at www.stanleyroadsports.org

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