



Award-winning minicabs

East Finchley-based minicab and courier firm GLH has received further recognition that its commitment to sustainability has not gone unnoticed by being awarded the coveted Business in the Community Big Tick Award in the Santander Responsible Small Company category.

Managing director Robert Scott and sales and customer relations director Zoe Powers met Prime Minister David Cameron and Marc Bolland, CEO of Marks & Spencer, when collecting the award at the Responsible Business Ceremony held at the Royal Albert Hall in July.

Zoe Powers, who spearheads the company's sustainability work, won the Young Sustainability Executive of the Year title at the businessGreen Leaders Awards the following day.



David Cameron, Zoe Powers and Marc Bolland at the Santander Responsible Small Company Awards.

Holiday couple come home to find garden stripped

By Janet Maitland

There's a lot to worry about when you go on holiday. Have you left the iron on? Did you close the bathroom window? Will something go wrong with the timer switches and burn your house down? But the last thing you're likely to worry about is whether someone will dig up all the paving in your front garden while you're away. But that's what a couple living in Hampstead Garden suburb discovered when they returned home at the end of July.

"This stuff weighs a ton," said Paul Hammond of Barnet Boroughwatch. "It would have required at least two people to commit this theft. They probably used a flat-backed truck of some sort."

York stones have also been stolen from the steps leading from Hill Close, NW11, to immediately adjacent to Dame Henrietta's residence.

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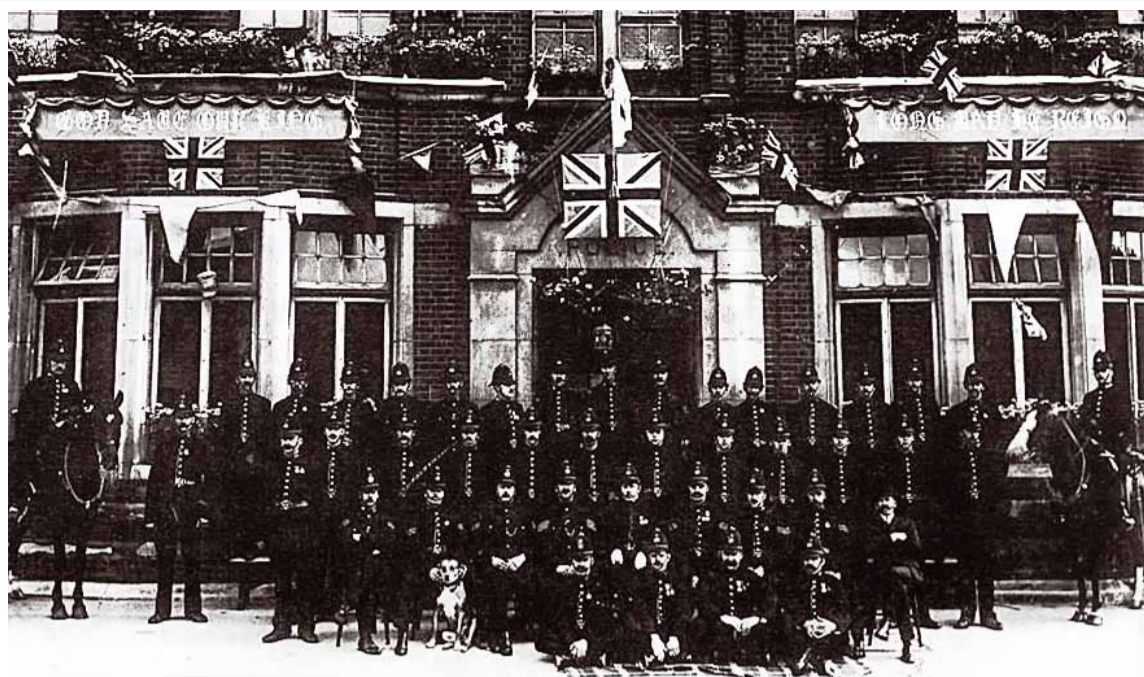
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Out in force at Fortis Green for the coronation of King George V (22nd June 1911). Photo courtesy John Hajdu

Where's our local police presence?

With the closure of Fortis Green police station, residents are fighting to keep a police presence in the area. John Hajdu, chair of Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association and of Fortis Green Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel, explains.

The police station in Fortis Green opened in 1904 and has served the local community ever since. Recently it was home for various branches of the police and had an active front counter, manned every weekday by volunteers from the local community. It was also home

to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams of Alexandra Ward, Muswell Hill and Fortis Green.

The local community did everything it could to persuade the Mayor's Office for Community Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to keep the station open but, aware of the drive to close police stations all over London, we were not surprised when it closed a few months ago.

Promise and reality

We were told that the Met had to save £500 million over three years, and the reorganisation of policing was an essential part of this plan. In return for closing police stations and front counters, we were promised extra officers on the streets and "contact points" within easy reach of residents.

What this means now is that the nearest police station for residents of Muswell Hill and Fortis Green is Hornsey, where the three Safer Neighbourhood Teams are now based. It is not within easy access to residents, nor is it easy for the police to commute to Muswell Hill. We have certainly seen a reduction in visibility of officers on the beat since the police station closed.

As far as the promised local Contact Point is concerned, the only one listed on the recently distributed leaflet is the East Finchley (Barnet) office in the High Road: not very visible, to date not open to the public and only to be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 7-8pm and on Saturdays between 2-3pm.

Our campaign

We are actively campaigning for a Contact Point in the centre of Muswell Hill with more frequent opening times. This facility must be easily accessible and regularly publicised. Overall, we are very disappointed in the outcome of the whole exercise and are worried that our residents are not getting a fair and safe deal.

Do you own an electric car?

Barnet Council is keen to hear from owners of electric cars about where they would most like charging points to be located in the borough.

The council will use part of a £200,000 grant from the Mayor of London to install four electric charging points. This will give the council an idea of the public demand for more electric charge points in the borough.

Motorists are invited to contact Kim.Wynne@barnet.gov.uk with their suggestions for future locations for electric charging points.

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