



Daylight assault at bus stop

Police are appealing for witnesses to a daylight sexual assault on a woman sitting at a bus stop in Fortis Green.

The 79-year-old was waiting at the stop opposite Springcroft Avenue for the 102 bus towards Muswell Hill at 10.30am on Saturday 1 March when a man struck up a conversation with her.

Police say the man was on a fence opposite the woman before moving towards her and sexually assaulting her. When the bus arrived, the victim boarded but the suspect did not.

Detective Constable Alex Peddie said: "This attack took place in daylight on a very busy

road. Were you in the area at the time of the assault or were you travelling on the route 102 as it pulled in to the stop on Fortis Green?"

The suspect is described as black and approximately 30 years old. He was wearing a thick, dark-coloured coat with a logo on the right sleeve and light blue jeans. He also wore a hood or a hat and scarf.

If you saw anything and can assist the police, contact DC Peddie on 020 3276 3071 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Put the gibbet back into East Finchley

Finchley Common used to stretch from East Finchley station to Totteridge Lane in the north and east to west from Muswell Hill to the Dollis Brook. It was notorious in the 17th and 18th centuries for highway robberies.

Dick Turpin reportedly hid behind an oak tree in Oak Lane before plying his trade. People were frequently robbed and brutally attacked. When caught, perpetrators were executed at Tyburn and then the custom was to take the body to near the scene of the crime and exhibit it on a gibbet.

On Finchley Common there were several gibbets with one that used to stand somewhere on the High Road between the Bald Faced Stag and Bedford Road.

Visitor attraction

Local residents have now successfully bid to the EU Suspension Fund and obtained £27,000 to erect a replica gibbet at the junction of Bedford Road with the High Road.

Local campaigner Roger Chapman said: "The money came through very quickly. We didn't have to hang around. We think this gibbet will attract thousands of visitors to the High

Road shops. It will act as a great gateway into East Finchley.



Highway robbery: Bring back the gibbet?

"We are already planning a series of events and activities around the gibbet. We will be holding a sponsored fundraiser inviting noted local celebrities and councillors to spend an hour in the gibbet for £100 with the money going to local charities."

A bus to the hospital

By Daphne Chamberlain

The movement to get a bus service to Finchley Memorial Hospital is gathering momentum. Here are two ways to get involved and make your voices heard.



New hospital but no public transport. Photo Mike Coles

Petition

Julia Hines, a trustee of Age UK, has launched an online petition to London Mayor Boris Johnson, asking him to work with Transport for London to ensure that at least one bus stops outside the hospital and on its site. She points out that the Memorial is a new hospital with services geared towards older people and people with disabilities, and yet it is 500 metres from the nearest bus stop.

Another local newspaper reported last month that this petition had been rejected. That was not the case. It is still alive and healthy, and had not even been presented. You can find

it online at <http://you.38degrees.org.uk>. On this website, click "more campaigns" and then "health", and "Bus Service for Finchley Memorial Hospital".

Julia is also running a paper petition. She can be contacted on juliahines@rocketmail.com, and you can also spread the campaign via Facebook and Twitter.

Visitors' survey

Meanwhile, The Finchley Society and Friends of the Memorial Hospital, with co-operation from hospital management, are conducting a survey of hospital visitors.

Roslyn Green, who is working on the survey, has been using the hospital for 60 years.

Appalled

When she realised how far she had to walk to have her leg dressed before Christmas, she

was told that there were no figures to show the ratio of people who would need a bus service. Realising she would have to make a statistical case to TFL and also secure the backing of Barnet Council, she approached The Finchley Society.

Mike Gee, Chair of the Society's Environment and Transport Committee, told *THE ARCHER* that they have been aware of this problem for some time. At an open meeting last year, transport to Finchley Memorial was one of the most pressing concerns.

Campaigners hope that, with support from Barnet Council, TFL will realise how much people without cars need public transport to their local hospital.

For information, or to help with the survey, please contact Mike Gee on 020 8346 5503.

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