



## Beware this building scam

By Janet Maitland

**Barnet Boroughwatch has issued a warning about a scam that was attempted on a man living in Mill Hill at the end of May. It may be tried again here in N2.**

A young man knocked at the victim's front door and said that his company was doing work on the loft next door. He asked for the victim's number so that his boss could ring him to explain the impact it might have on his roof. This didn't seem suspicious so the victim gave his number.

Shortly afterwards, a man who said he was from R and J Building Services rang. He explained that the work on his neighbour's roof could affect the joint chimney on the roof and that extra scaffolding would be needed on the victim's property.

He asked for a 'fully-refundable' deposit of £1,800 for the additional scaffolding, to be paid by transfer into his company's account that day. He said that the head office of his company was near Wembley Stadium.

The victim didn't fall for this story. While the man was talking, he'd found R and J Building Services' website which didn't mention an office in Wembley. When he told the caller this and asked him for the office number, the man realised his scam wasn't going to work and refused to provide the bank details. He hung up saying he didn't like being checked up on.

### Little Book of Big Scams

If you want to know how to protect yourself from scams, go to <http://content.met.police.uk/Site/fraudalert> where you can get useful tips. You can also download the latest edition of the Little Book of Big Scams from the site, which is now available in both written and audio formats.

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

## A foggy day in Fortismere...

By Daphne Chamberlain



Winning photo 'Football in the fog', above, and runner up 'Reflections Fortismere School', below.



Earlier this year, the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association challenged local photographers to capture on camera anything "unusual, rarely seen, seen from an unusual angle, out of sight or out of the ordinary in Muswell Hill". We now know the winners.

First prize went to Cameron Wells, for *Football in the Fog at Fortismere*. The runner-up was Hannah Beskine, for *Reflections Fortismere School* (one of three images of reflections in water). Both entries were taken on iPhones.

MHFGA Chair John Hajdu pointed out that three of the four awards were won by teenagers. He said: "We had a large number of entries and the judges had a really difficult job choosing the winners. Our association has in the past organised many competitions, but this was certainly the most rewarding and satisfying. Our congratulations go to all the winners and commiserations to those who entered but did not win on this occasion."

Winning entries are displayed on the association's new website [mhfga.org](http://mhfga.org), which includes a membership page.

## Sent to Coventry: your parking queries

By Peter Cox

**Calls to Barnet Council's parking service are now being answered by a call centre in Coventry. After several residents experienced long delays in getting refunds for their permits following the council's defeat at the High Court a year ago, some are now suffering similar delays with their renewals.**

One, whose permits expired on April 30, ordered and paid for replacements online on 22 April. Three weeks later they hadn't arrived, so he phoned, and was assured that they would be sent out that week. They weren't, so on 2 June he phoned again; they eventually arrived on 11 June. Other residents have reported similar holdups.

Three months ago the performance of the council's parking service, contracted out to NSL, was criticised in an audit report. It said 'controls were not

in place' to monitor and manage the planned benefits, and there was no way of monitoring issues that arose.

### Costs still not settled

Meanwhile, resolution of the legal costs of East Finchley resident David Attfield's successful court action against the Council, in which controversial price hikes for residents' parking were ruled unlawful, seems as far away as ever.

As part of that court victory a year ago on 22 July, Barnet was ordered to pay the legal costs but the amount that they should pay still hasn't been agreed. This is likely now to need a further hearing, which will probably not take place until December.

The delay means that the Barnet CPZ Action Group, which supported the claim, still doesn't know how much of the money donated to the fighting fund by concerned Barnet residents will eventually be refunded.

## Break out on your bike

By Nick Bloom

**It's time once more for East Finchley's annual cycling challenge, the 100km Sub-urban Breakout on Sunday 20 July, brought to you by Central London CTC with help from Barracuda Cafe and Bike & Run.**

We've got a new route for you this year, still a fairly easy spin into Hertfordshire. Your speed overall must be above 15km/h, no more than 30km/h. It's an ideal 'first event' and a good 'first on fixed'.

### And they're off

The start is at Barracuda Café, 118 High Road. Advance entry is £7, on the day £10, starting at 9.30am but please turn up in good time, especially if you have not entered.

For more information, routesheet, map and entry form, visit [www.centrallondonctc.org.uk/audax](http://www.centrallondonctc.org.uk/audax). You can also contact organiser Nick Bloom on [nick@centrallondonctc.org.uk](mailto:nick@centrallondonctc.org.uk) or 07768 354010 or pop in to Bike & Run on the High Road.

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