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The Archer Academy building site at Stanley Field with Holy Trinity school in the foreground. Photo Mike Coles

Building work starts on Stanley Field

Work has begun at Stanley Road on the Archer Academy's new campus, as our photo by Mike Coles shows. Stanley Field will eventually be home to the academy's lower school, with facilities being made available to the local community outside of school hours.

Before the work began, the Museum of London Archaeology investigated the site for historical interest. Ten trenches were excavated but only a field boundary ditch and the site of a pond were found.

Construction work will continue on Stanley Field throughout 2014 and early 2015, ready to welcome students in September 2015.

Muggers on mopeds

By Janet Maitland

Police are warning people to be vigilant following a spate of robberies involving men dressed in black on mopeds who threaten their victims with hammers.

On 11 April, a 57-year-old man walking down Platts Lane, NW3, was approached by four men on mopeds, two drivers and two pillion passengers, who threatened him with a hammer and stole his watch. The men were dressed in boiler suits with their faces covered by motorcycle helmets.

A woman walking down Farm Avenue, NW2, on 1 May had her watch and phone stolen by a man who threatened her with a hammer. He is described as black, about 5ft 7ins tall, wearing a motorbike jacket and carrying over his shoulder a black Wilson tennis racquet case with a red W for Wilson.

On 3 May, a woman driving down Priory Terrace NW6 had her watch and some money stolen when her car window was smashed with a hammer by a pillion passenger on a moped. A second moped was driving alongside. The men were wearing black clothing and black crash helmets.

A woman was confronted on her driveway in West Heath Avenue, NW11, on 7 May by a man who stole her jewellery. He then jumped on the back of a waiting motorbike which sped off towards Hampstead Heath. The thief is described as white, aged 20-30. Both he and the driver were wearing black clothes and black crash helmets.

Police believe these crimes are linked and that the people committing them select their

victims at random. Anyone noticing someone acting suspiciously on a moped or motorbike should call 999. If you are driving and believe you are being followed, police advise you to keep driving and only stop and call 999 when it's safe to do so. If you have any information call 101 or 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous.

Keep it clean

Volunteers from the N2 Gardeners, who cultivate the bank of earth alongside East Finchley station, are asking for a bin to be installed to give train travellers somewhere to dump their rubbish. Recently, there have been some unwelcome deposits on the bank.

Until the bin arrives, if it ever does, please help to keep the patch clean and tidy by putting any cigarette ends and litter in the existing bin a little further down the slope near the pedestrian crossing.

Behind the garden gate

Two hundred visitors enjoyed homemade teas, bought plants and explored two contrasting and inspiring gardens that opened their gates in Summerlee Gardens on 25 May, raising more than £1,300 for the National Gardens Scheme, which donates to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Other local gardens open this coming month include: 66 Muswell Avenue, N10, on Tuesday 8 July from 6pm to 8.30pm; 19 Hillfield Park, N10, and 18 Park Crescent,

N3, both on Sunday 20 July from 2pm to 6pm; and five gardens in Alexandra Park Road Gardens, N22, on Sunday 3 August.

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