



## Three flee roof fire

By Janet Maitland

Three people had a narrow escape when a fire broke out in the roof of a house on Park Hall Road in the early afternoon of 17 April. The occupants called the fire brigade as soon as the fire was discovered and then fled the building, which was undergoing building work at the time.

Fire fighters tackled the blaze and managed to get it under control, although the whole of the roof went up in flames. "No one was hurt, but 100% of the roof was destroyed," said a spokesman

for the fire brigade.

The police were called by the fire brigade to keep traffic away from the blaze. Roads were closed for several hours. The fire is not being treated as suspicious.



Fire in Park Hall Road. Photo Loui Doukaki

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East Finchley, High Road N2

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Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

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on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

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Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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

## N2 gets ready to bloom again

By Sheila Armstrong

Readers will have spotted a newly cultivated flower bed outside the Monkey Puzzle Nursery opposite the station. The N2 Gardeners have been busy again and hope to involve the nursery in its maintenance.

There are already two other flower beds nearby that have been in successful cultivation for some time. The N2 Gardeners continue to maintain Station Bank, to the right of the station entrance, and always welcome new supporters for this. Maintenance meetings are usually on a Sunday morning but contact them for dates. There is a new sign, *N2 Community Garden*, identifying the garden, which at the time of writing was looking good with its fruit trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables.

Local Guides are also developing a plot in Prospect Ring, so the greening of East Finchley continues.



The N2 Community garden at the tube station. Photo Mike Coles

Tube station staff will enter the Stations in Bloom competition again this summer, working with the N2 Gardeners and anyone else who would like to help with planting and watering.

The Gardeners would like more local support so if you can help please contact them. And they encourage anyone to tame overgrown patches near where they live; again, contact

them for support and advice on [n2gardeners@gmail.com](mailto:n2gardeners@gmail.com)

## Helen's Zumba is a favourite

A Zumba class set up in Barnet by Helen Eracli has been voted among Britain's best in a prestigious national competition.

The class held at The Hindu Centre in Lyndhurst Avenue, N12, scooped one of the top awards in the Classes For You competition, run by Britain's biggest parenting site Netmums.

The UK-wide competition was launched as a chance for people running adult classes to be recognized for their hard work serving and improving the local community.

Helen, who grew up in East Finchley, has been serving the community with her variety of fitness classes for over 20 years and is highly qualified. Visit her website at [www.friernfitness.com](http://www.friernfitness.com)

## Library expansion

Volunteers at Friern Barnet Community Library are adding thousands of donated books to their electronic system. They are on the way to providing their users with library cards and access to catalogues and extended internet availability. If you would like to help, please contact [friernbarnetcommunitylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friernbarnetcommunitylibrary@gmail.com).

## Be vigilant with unexpected callers

By Janet Maitland

Police have warned the public to be vigilant when opening the door to unexpected callers following four cases of theft in March. Although these crimes happened in Haringey, those responsible may target N2.

In each case the caller claimed to be working for a company or the council, and managed to con their way into the victims' homes.

• On 12 March a man claiming to be from a kitchen fitting company targeted a house in Earlsmead Road, N15, and stole £120 from a 79-year-old woman. He is described as white, approximately 5ft 5ins tall, with an Irish accent. He was riding a bike.

• A man who said he worked for the council called at a property in Duckett Road, N4, on 17 March and stole jewelry and

£50 in cash. He was also riding a bike and is described as white, with light brown/ginger hair.

• On 18 March a man claiming to be from a mobility scooter company targeted a house in Cunningham Road, N15, and robbed the 76-year-old resident of jewelry and clothing. He is described as white, 5ft 7ins tall, with short blonde/ginger hair and a 'pockmarked' face. He was wearing jeans and a blue, pink and white checked shirt.

• A man who said he was working on the house next door and needed access to the victim's kitchen targeted a property in Portland Road, N15, on 23 March. Once inside, he stole a handbag. He is described as in his 40s, with short ginger hair, wearing a light blue shirt, a grey woollen waistcoat and jeans.

If you have any information about any of these incidents, call Detective Sergeant Sean Lyons on 101 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you want to remain anonymous.

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