



# Don't let burglars fool you

By Janet Maitland

**The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is warning residents that the number and variety of distraction burglaries shows no sign of decreasing. Ten homes in N2 were burgled in this way between February and July.**

The perpetrators of this kind of burglary pretend to be police officers, care workers, nurses, council staff, door-to-door salespeople, utility company personnel and builders.

## Gardening scam

They can also pretend to be gardeners, as local resident Stroma Leith found out when she was burgled on 16 July. She was gardening close to her open front door in Neale Close when a man came into her garden from the road saying he was going to be pruning some of her neighbour's trees and would be making a mess.

"He walked towards the trees, talking away, but I didn't go with him," said Ms Leith. "I had a sense that there'd been someone behind him, before he started talking, so I closed my front door and stood there doggedly. Then the door burst open and a man came running out. A third man joined them – probably a look out – and all three ran to a car parked at the end of the street. When I got inside,

all the drawers and cupboard doors were open and £50 had been stolen from my wallet."

## Police advice

If you're not expecting anyone, don't open your door until you are 100% sure the caller is legitimate. Ask for ID to be passed through the letterbox. If you have any doubts, ring the company they say they are from, using a telephone number from the phone book or directory enquiries.

Remember that it would be very unusual for anyone like a utility company to just turn up without making an appointment with you first. And that if any work needs doing on your property, this is for you to organise using a reputable company, not someone who just turns up on your doorstep.

"If all readers made a point of talking to an elderly/vulnerable relative, friend or neighbour about strangers at the door, this would make quite a difference," said Jan Lovell from the SNT.

## Sit down for IT and biscuits

**Computer skills sessions run by East Finchley Altogether Better are returning to East Finchley Library starting on Thursday 4 September.**

The 'IT and Biscuits' sessions on computer and internet skills are hosted by local people who give guidance on how to get online, send attachments and troubleshoot problems on computers, laptops and tablet devices, followed by tea and biscuits.

Anyone who would like to attend the sessions to learn computer skills, or give their time to help those less confident can call

Lisa Smith on 07909 998453 or email us@efab.org.uk

East Finchley Altogether Better was established for local people by volunteers and is aimed at getting projects up and running which may benefit the area. The initiative is jointly funded by Barnet Council and the NHS, and supported by the Barnet Seniors' Assembly as part of the council's Ageing Well programme.

### All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

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)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.  
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,  
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>

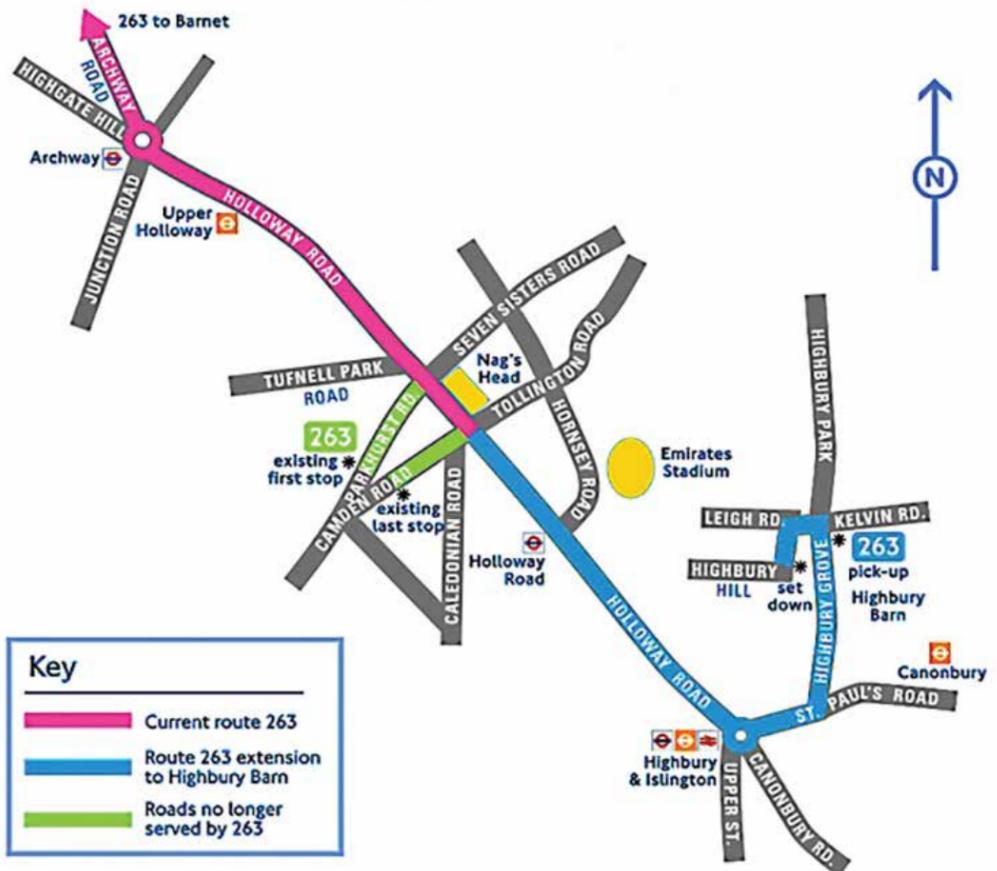
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## Longer ride on the 263

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Those of us on holiday in July came back to find that the 263 can now take us past Highbury Corner. Most of us are probably pleased that our one and only bus to inner London now connects with several others, and also with the Victoria Line and London's Overground Railway.**

A trip to Kew or Richmond, or in the other direction, to Westfield shopping mall and the other facilities around the Olympic site is now much simpler. Just shopping at the Nag's Head is a lot easier now we can forget about the Camden / Parkhurst Road loop and catch our return bus anywhere along Holloway Road.

## Timing issues

We are also assured that the times between buses will not be extended as well. That was the big fear when the 263 was extended beyond Archway, but it proved groundless.

So why am I giving only two cheers? Those programmed intervals of 10/12 minutes are still longer than for most roads as busy and highly populated as our High Road. Public transport around the station and the shops is excellent, but for those East Finchleyans who live towards the North Circular

travelling is not so rosy.

## High Road needs

The proposal to extend the 263 route was designed to give a better service to Holloway Road. The proposal states: "Demand for buses along the Holloway Road continues to grow" and mentions cramped and overcrowded buses. The same is true of our High Road.

On the Transport for London website which gives details of the decision, a Friend of Capital Transport Campaign remarks: "Holloway Road south of Nag's Head is one of the few main roads in London

with fewer buses than when I came to live here". One "disappeared" bus (the 104) also served our High Road, which had three buses running into central London.

A total of 734 people responded to the consultation, which closed in April, and 88.5% were supportive. Many commented on the need to maintain / improve the Barnet end. Some suggested a 24-hour service.

You can look at the consultation report at <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk>, and you can still send your views to TfL.

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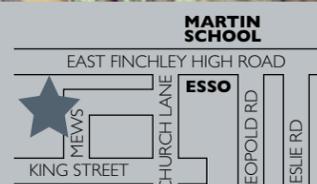
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