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Portrait of the High Road

When photographer Asia Mscichowska arrived from Poland and settled in East Finchley she was given a warm welcome and rapidly fell in love with the area.



Koko's window by Caitlin Smal

Contact Asia at asia.msci.photo@gmail.com and find out more about East Finchley Open at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk



As a way of saying thank you she suggested to the East Finchley Open artists' group the idea of a new street photography project that tries to capture the essence of the High Road community.

They said an enthusiastic yes and the project is under way. Some of the fascinating early photos taken for it are printed here.

Asia told us: "What's special about the High Road may not appear obvious to residents who have lived here for decades but when I look at it through the eyes of a newcomer I see a nice blend of a multicultural environment, friendly shopkeepers and a warm small-town spirit."

Ten photographers are currently taking part and Asia wants to open the project to everyone, encouraging enthusiasts of all levels to send in portraits and street photography in all styles.



Above: Christmas at Tony's Continental. Photo Mike Coles
Opposite left: High Road header by Mike Coles



High Road reflections. Photo by Asia Mscichowska

Safeguard your valuables and deter burglars

By Jan Lovell, Police Community Support Officer, Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Many of you will have received lovely new things over the Christmas period, and burglars will know this.

Registering and marking property

Your possessions can be registered at www.immobilise.com. It takes a few minutes to create an account and add new and older items. You can register mobile phones, laptops, tablets, jewellery and tools, including pedal cycles.

To get your mobile phone's ID number, just type *#06# into your phone and it will give you an ID (IMEI) number, which you can then register.

If an item is lost or stolen,

we might have some chance of getting it back to you if the ID number is registered. Some second hand shops and mobile phone resellers also use the database when they receive goods.

Another way to safeguard your valuables is to use a marking system with a unique code, such as Smartwater or Selecta DNA. Both products are easy to use and come with window stickers to indicate to a potential burglar that your property is marked and traceable. They are also proven to drive down burglary figures.

Police action

We are often asked what the police are doing in regard to

local crime. Operation Maxilla was launched in the borough of Barnet last November; officers undertook a number of initiatives including plain clothes and high-visibility patrols, utilising ANPR (Automated Number Plate Recognition) cameras and providing crime prevention advice.

In the first five weeks of the operation there was a significant reduction in all burglary offences compared with the previous five weeks and, with regard to residential offences, there has been an 18% reduction, or 60 fewer crimes. Officers have made 57 arrests including seven wanted burglars.

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