



SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Neighbourhood Policing Team, rounds up some of the latest news on crime control.

Caught red-handed

Good news. A male was caught red-handed by plainclothes officers stealing a cycle in an operation at East Finchley underground station. He was arrested and charged.

School visits

PC John Kenny and I are just finishing our primary school visits for this academic year at the Holy Trinity and Martin schools. It has been a real pleasure to meet the next generation of East Finchleyans, giving talks on a variety of subjects including strangers and making a 999 call for the little ones, to more serious subjects such as internet dangers and offensive weapons for the older ones. It seems a shame we have to teach youngsters about these things but I must say they all seem to take it on board with a bright keenness.

Burglary advice

Sadly, we are still experiencing regular burglaries, particularly in blocks of flats. Do make sure you have both a rim deadlock and a five lever mortice lock on your internal front door. Communal doors should close & lock well. Doors can also be reinforced with a London bar which unobtrusively fits over the lock staple on the door jamb and supports the lock.

Gardening tips

Be mindful of how you dispose of the packaging for new garden tools. Don't advertise them to burglars by putting empty boxes on display outside: fold them inside out or break them up and put them in a bag. If you register property at www.immobilise.com there's a greater chance of you getting it back if it does get stolen.

It's easy to become engrossed in what you are doing when working in the garden, so if the house is empty it would be wise to close and lock the door (don't forget the key though!).

Refit the padlock hasps and hinge plates on your shed using coach-bolts (where you can) as these are a much stronger fit than simple screws. Secure the door with a good quality close shackle padlock or (if the door is thick enough) a key operated mortice lock. Protect windows with a wire mesh and fit a curtain or whitewash the windows to prevent prying eyes seeing the contents.

Large, newly planted trees and shrubs that are vulnerable to theft can be anchored into the ground using ground pegs. Cement, anchor or bolt down vulnerable containers into the ground. Then enjoy!



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The exhibition photographers hanging at Budgens Photo Mike Coles

Window on life

Shoppers on the High Road had the chance to enjoy a pop-up exhibition of photos by East Finchley Open artists on show for free in the windows of Budgens for two weekends in May. The images were the first to emerge as part of a project documenting people, traders and life in the High Road.



EFAB table tennis at The Green Man. Photo Mike Coles

Table tennis group swaps ends

By Diana Cormack

For the past 18 months the table tennis group organised by East Finchley Altogether Better (EFAB) has been generously hosted by the Shree Aden Depala Community Centre in Church Lane. Recently on-going repairs to the roof of the building have meant a move to alternative premises.

Play now takes place on a Tuesday afternoon in the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, from 2.30pm to 4pm. The cost is £24 for six weeks if paid up front or £5 per session.

Refreshments are available and all equipment is provided.

This move necessitated the purchase of a second table, along with nets, bats and balls for the growing club, which was funded

by a donation. If you are interested in taking part, turn up at the Green Man or contact us@efab.org.uk. For more information or to ensure sessions are taking place visit www.efab.org.uk

Troubled bridges over water

By Ann Bronkhorst

Regular walkers in Coldfall Wood will have noticed the recent deterioration of two of the bridges across the stream. One of these is in a dangerous condition.

The stream has five crossing points; one is concrete and four are wooden bridges installed by Haringey Council just over three years ago. The top bridge near the reed beds, and the long boardwalk at the other end, seem to be safe, although the regular winter floods have overtopped the boardwalk several times and a section of its handrail has been broken off recently.

The old concrete bridge is fine; it has no sides but is wide

and safe. The faulty bridges have broken slats and the handrails of one have been vandalised: with some determination, since the structure is built of heavy wood.

Warnings ignored

Haringey workers have tried to stop people from using the two faulty bridges, firstly by taping them off (tapes immediately slashed) and then by erecting metal barriers (thrown aside). Warning notices have been put up, too, and promptly

pulled down.

At the time of writing Haringey council says the bridges will be repaired but has given no date for the work. A surprising number of people, including adults pushing prams and buggies or accompanying small children, still use the two dangerous bridges, although there are three safe ones.

If someone breaks an ankle when picking their way across the gaps will they blame Haringey or themselves?