



Life scientific: Leonor Stjepic and some of her team at RAFT. Photo Annie Armitage

Raft of awards for charity

A charity and its commercial arm that help people whose appearance has been affected by injury or serious illness have won four international awards in the space of four months.

Medical research charity RAFT has been operating for 28 years and more than 100 of its projects are used in hospitals and clinics throughout the world. Smart Matrix manufactures one of its inventions which heals wounds without the need for a skin graft.

Gamechanging

Led by East Finchley resident Leonor Stjepic, the two organisations have won the Global Health and Pharma International Life Science Award for Best Medical Implant & Technology Research Group, the Corporate Livewire Health & Life Sciences Award for Excellence in Trauma Solutions, the ACQ5 Global Award UK Company of the Year (Healthcare/Life Sciences). Leonor herself was named UK Gamechanger of the Year in the ACQ5 Global Awards 2016.

RAFT receives no government support and carries out its own self-commissioned, ground-breaking research in its own laboratories, all funded by donations.

Leonor said: "We have no idea who nominated us for

these awards and we believe that the results were voted on so it is very rewarding to have won. I'm delighted that my wonderful team and the work we do to improve the lives of millions of people around the world have been recognised."



A tree for the future

The team running the Grange Big Local regeneration project planted an oak tree in the park on Oak Lane and Taunton Drive, N2, to mark the start of its 10-year improvement plan for the area bordered by East End Road, Church Lane, the High Road and the North Circular.

Police hunt robber after elderly woman is knocked to the ground

Detectives have released shocking CCTV footage and images of a man they wish to speak to in connection with the robbery of an elderly woman in East Finchley (see *The Archer*, July 2016). The woman, aged in her 80s, was robbed at around 3.10pm on 1 March last year in Thomas More Way, N2 after being followed by a man who pulled her to the ground and snatched her handbag.

The woman sustained injuries to her face and knee and was taken to a north London hospital by the London Ambulance Service as a precaution. A quantity of cash was stolen from her. She had withdrawn the money from a bank in Ballards Lane, N3, around 30 minutes before the robbery, then taken a bus to East Finchley.

Visual evidence

The recently discovered CCTV footage shows the suspect watching the woman walk slowly past his car. He then walks up behind her and grabs her bag, causing her to fall face first into the



Suspect: A CCTV image of one of the men police would like to interview.

road. He drives away from the area in a grey Volkswagen Golf.

A still image of the suspect has also been released, which shows him filling up the same car, which was using false number plates, at a petrol station in North Finchley.

He is described as a white, fair-skinned man, around 5ft 6ins in height and of slim build. He was wearing a black woolly hat, a dark jumper and khaki trousers. No arrests have been made and a police investigation continues.

Police say the robber may have links to the North Finchley, Southgate or Arnos Grove areas, and may have had access to the grey VW Golf, on different number plates, after the incident. It is possible that the woman had been seen withdrawing cash from her bank and followed to the scene of the robbery.

Anyone with information or who recognises the man is asked to call detectives at Barnet CID via 101. To remain anonymous call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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