



## SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: [EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk), or by phone on 020 7161 9014.

### Thefts from vans

We are still getting thefts from business vans. It seems a gang is targeting vans to steal power tools, which are very costly to replace.

If you have a van full of tools which are impractical to unload on a daily basis and you want to give them greater protection, do look on line for Thatcham endorsed products such as specialised door locks, steering wheel locks and tool safes.

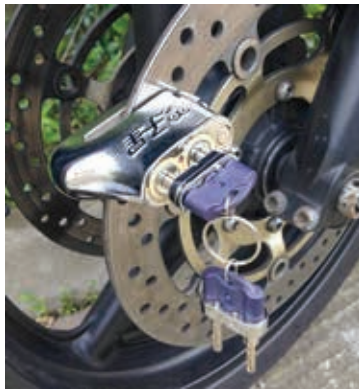
Property marking kits are an excellent way of protecting most items from theft. If they are stolen and found their owner can be traced and the items returned to them. There are two main suppliers of marking kits, Selecta DNA & Smartwater.

If you have builders working on your property you may want to pass this advice on to them.

### Moped thefts

Scooter thefts are still happening. As I type a young male has just been arrested for stealing a scooter in the Church Lane area.

Pictured, above right, is an example of a kind of lock that can give your moped or



motorbike extra security, one for the brake disk and one for the brake lever. Ideally keep your moped off road or use a heavy chain to attach it to a post or ground staple.

On Wednesday 5 April two males stole a moped from Park Road, N2. Members of the public called police and after a lengthy pursuit in the county roads one of the males was found and arrested. Thank you to all those who helped.

### Garage and shed security

Think about the value of the goods in your shed and garage. We have had two reports this week of garages being tampered with. Search 'shed' or 'garage' on [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk) for security advice.

## New ways to keep in touch with the SNT

By Janet Maitland

East Finchley's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) has moved into the world of social media by launching its own Twitter account @mpseastfinchley with a Facebook page to follow soon.

PCSO Jan Lovell said the online platforms will enable the area's office to give out information instantly and to take messages from people living and working in the area.

### Rapid responses

"We'll be able to give out fast time news about everything from scams to road closures and from requests for help to news of arrests," said Jan. "The mobile we currently use is very ancient and basic, but with a new team smartphone we'll be able to keep the Facebook page up to date with news and photos, and the same for posting, replying and retweeting on Twitter."

The SNT will still be sending out information by email and continuing its well-subscribed newsletters, so you won't miss out if you don't use social media. You can also continue to email the team at [EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk) or ring them on the landline 020 7161 9014.

"The old mobile number 07887 632767 still works and takes messages," said Jan. "And for the very old school, my personal favourite, face-to-face on the street!"

### Met website covers local crime

A new Metropolitan police website has also just been launched at <http://beta.met.police.uk> where you can enter your postcode to get a daily log of local crimes, including the days when there is no crime at all, as well as monthly N2 crime information which you can compare with Barnet's and London's figures.

On that website, you can also report crime and anti-social behaviour, apply or register for things like charity collection licences, request vital information, such as collision reports, and read the latest crime prevention advice.



Mystery object: The metal plinth in Pumphandle Path.

## Any ideas about this old iron?

Take a walk along the charmingly named Pumphandle Path close to the Grange Estate in East Finchley and you may spot a mystery object lurking in the long grass.

It's a triangular iron slab with the initials ES on one side and the single letter F on the other. Does it mark a geographical boundary or perhaps point to something sitting beneath the surface on this path between Tarling Road and Taunton Drive?

Could the F stand for Finchley and could the ES stand for electricity supply? Theories abound. One of the more credible comes from local history expert Tony Roberts who suggests that the ES could be the initials of Edward Sayer, for whom

the original Grange residence was built.

Do readers have other ideas what the object could be and do others perhaps exist around the area? Drop us an email to [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or write to *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

## Bell, bollard...or baby Dalek?

By Nick Allan

You may have noticed and you may be puzzled by what appears to be a large 'bell' at the junction of East End Road and Church Lane. On first view, the cast iron object could be mistaken either for a mooring for boats, or perhaps as advance preparation for extreme global warming or even, as one resident amusingly suggested, a baby Dalek.

Local residents have developed a number of uses for it, including as a post for tying up dogs and as a rather awkward and uncomfortable resting place for commuters to check their mobile phones.

It is of course a council traffic management bollard. As local resident Toni Morgan told us: "It's been there for years. It's designed to prevent vehicles from mounting the pavement and is used by

the council as a cheaper method of installing such protection so they don't have to dig up the road."

Known as a 'Bell Bollard' this revolutionary safety device was introduced in 1985 and is apparently a standard for the protection of property and pedestrians. UK makers Furnitubes say they should last for more than 25 years.

Have you seen an object around East Finchley that you are curious about? Send us a letter and a photo if possible to *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or email [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net), and we'll see if readers can help shed light on it.



Bulbous: The bollard

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