



Our manor: Children of Manor Park Road around 1900, above, and in 2017. Photo Thalia Pellegrini



Neighbours know how to have a good time

By Thalia Pellegrini

As midday approached on Sunday 16 July, front doors opened up and down Manor Park Road in East Finchley and out poured residents. In the middle of an all but empty street, gazebos were assembled, games arranged and food laid out: savoury from odd house numbers, sweet from evens. The sun promised to make an appearance and the scene was set for a great party – and that’s exactly what it turned out to be.

Such was people’s enthusiasm to get involved that organisation took on its own momentum. On the day, there was a bubble artist, live music with guitar and violin, a DJ, plus an art project which gave the children of the street free rein to celebrate Manor Park

Road in glorious technicolour.

Residents of all ages met and chatted, from Pam who has lived on the street since the 1950s to Stephanie and her family who moved in just a few weeks before.

1900 lives again

Organised in the spirit of celebrating our community, the afternoon included a recreation – as near as possible! – of a photo taken on Manor Park Road around 1900 of all the local children.

Then came the games which

included tug of war, the slow bike race and the hands-down favourite (with kids and grown-ups), the egg throw and catch, which brought even the reticent out of their shells!

The idea for the party came from Catherine, who has lived on the street for five years. She said: “My motivation for the party was wanting to enjoy the here and now but it ended up giving us more. We’re very lucky. The familiar faces have become friends. Consensus is that we’ll be doing it all again next year!”

Night robbery victims sprayed with ‘noxious substance’

By Janet Maitland

Police have released CCTV footage in an appeal for witnesses to a robbery on Long Lane by a gang of men who sprayed their victims with a ‘noxious substance’.



A CCTV grab of the incident in Long Lane

On Tuesday 8 August at about 11pm, two men aged 21 and 26 were getting into their car next to the junction with New Trinity Road when a black Ford Galaxy pulled up close by. Six men jumped out, all of them armed with knives and with their faces covered.

They assaulted the men, forcing them to hand over a Rolex watch and a wallet. Then they sprayed them with a liquid that burnt their skin before running off, one into Trinity Road and the others towards Church Lane.

The victims were rushed to hospital for treatment for minor burns and bruises. Initial testing of the substance established it was not acid but some form of

noxious substance.

Appeal for witnesses

PC Dan Levy, the investigating officer from Barnet CID, said: “I am appealing to anyone who was in the area and witnessed this incident to speak to police. We know there were people in Long Lane at around the time of the incident and someone may have seen something significant that could assist our investigation.”

The CCTV footage can be viewed on our Facebook page (TheArcherN2). Anyone with any information about this incident should call police on 101. If you want to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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