



Winners at the Retail Industry Awards. From the left: David Shrimpton, Editor of Independent Retail News, Elliot Jacobs from UOE, Debbie Smith, Chief Executive of The Post Office, and host Colin Murray.

Post Office is a winner

The East Finchley branch of UOE has been crowned Independent Post Office Retailer of the Year at the Retail Industry Awards. Managing director Elliot Jacobs said: "This is a fantastic reward for all the hard work we've put into the UOE brand. Being a high street retailer in the 21st century is a major challenge, but the Post Office franchise has given the UOE store a new lease of life, enabling us to provide secure employment opportunities in East Finchley and beyond." UOE now operates six Post Offices and stores across north London and Hertfordshire, with a seventh due soon.

First World War dead are still remembered 100 years on

By Ann Bronkhorst

Wearing a red poppy each November is widely-observed in the UK, with the poppy sales supporting the Royal British Legion's work with thousands of war veterans. This year's poppy-wearing and wreath-laying ceremonies will feel special, however, because it is a century since the Armistice that ended the First World War.

Cemetery walks

In December 2014 *The Archer* reported on the imaginative ways in which the London Borough of Islington was commemorating that war and Islington's own war dead. Most were buried abroad, close to where they were killed, but many died here of wounds and were buried in Islington and Saint Pancras Cemetery, on East Finchley High Road.

To recognise these forgotten dead as individuals, as many graves as possible were identified and marked by signposts. Five circular walks linking the graves and memorials were supported by maps and name-lists (still downloadable from www.islington.gov.uk/ww1centenary). There, too, is the Islington Online Book of Remembrance where the names change daily: it's sobering to realise that on this date 100 years ago these particular people died.

Shrouds of the Somme

Individualising the dead while showing their vast num-

bers is the achievement of artist Rob Heard who has created 72,396 small figures, each subtly different and wrapped in a tiny shroud. From Thursday 8 to Sunday 18 November they will be exhibited in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in East London. To find out more, go to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, www.cwgc.org.uk and look for Shrouds of the Somme.

Last post plays

Locally, individual servicemen who died are being remembered in various ways. Captain Frisby, whose valour won him a Victoria Cross, was honoured by Barnet Council recently with a plaque on a paving slab in New Barnet. On Saturday 10

November, 10am to 4pm, an Open Day at All Saints Church, Durham Road will include First World War stories, and other local churches will highlight their own memorials.

On the morning of Thursday 8 November the sound of a bugle playing the Last Post and Reveille will ring out, twice, across Islington Cemetery where Camden and Islington Councils have two civilian and two war memorials each. Council leaders and veterans will lay floral and poppy wreaths. Every year this tribute is made to the dead, no longer countless and, now, named and known. Those wooden signposts, weathered by four years, still give us pause for thought.

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, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

Distraction thefts

Most of you will have heard of the scam thieves operating on the High Road. In August there were three distraction thefts: one at the parking meter outside Cootes chemist, another at the meter near Caffe Nero, plus one at the Post Office ATM. In September there were five: one at the parking meter by the Phoenix Cinema plus three at the Post Office ATM and one at the Coffee Bank ATM.

There may have been more unreported incidents as victims often feel embarrassed after being duped. We would like to thank Chris and his wife Kim at Tony's Continental for their sharp eyes and community care for calling the police when they saw suspicious activity at the ATM outside Pacey's Newsagents and for spreading the word to as many vulnerable customers and their families as possible.

The scammers generally targeted the very elderly or disabled, though one victim was in their 30s. Police made one arrest and enquiries are ongoing.

Moped crime

Fortunately we had zero moped-enabled thefts in August and September, although sadly there have been seven thefts of mopeds. Stolen mopeds are used for thefts and other crime, making it very hard to identify the offenders, but specialist operations are working on this problem.

If you own a moped, try to

store it off-road, preferably behind a locked side gate as thieves will often lift a cycle complete with its locks into or onto a larger vehicle.

Home security visits

With autumn coming in our thoughts turn to burglary prevention. I am offering home security visits in November. To make an appointment please email me at jan.lovell@met.pnn.police.uk with your contact details.

Security tip of the month

Most of you will be familiar with plug-in timer switches for your lamps. As with everything, there are new developments. If you have an Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant or Apple home kit, you can add a timer plug to your system for approx £20 and vary the time from your phone. There are also digital timer switches which are easy to alter, and digital timer plates for wall switches. *And the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green police teams sent us this alert:*

Car thefts

Theft of motor vehicles is increasing. One method in particular is that of a device being used to gain access electronically. This involves the individuals standing close to your front door to get a signal from your keys which in turn triggers the unlock on the car from their gadget. These have been high end cars. Our advice is to not hang your car keys close to the front door.

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- Back Pain
- Neck Pain
- Whiplash Injury
- Sciatica
- Sports Injury
- Frozen Shoulder
- Arthritis
- Tennis Elbow
- Sprain or Strain
- Rehabilitation
- Neurological
- Stroke

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www.eastfinchleyclinic.co.uk

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2-3 Bedford Mews Bedford Road London N2 9DF

Autumn Fair
Saturday 10 November, 12-3pm
Holy Trinity Church
77 Church Lane, East Finchley
Everyone Welcome, Free Entry
Homemade cakes, Autumn goodies,
Scrummy Hot Dogs & Mulled Wine.
Games, children's activities, stalls,
tombola and our famous Raffle!