



Waiting for repair: The current state of Willow House. Photo Ruth Anders

Willow House unfit to move back in

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“The remainder were sub-tenants of leaseholders, many of whom preferred to make their own arrangements rather than use our housing options service. Those who did approach us, we were able to help rehouse them.” Why the delay in refurbishment work? A source drew our attention to a published answer from Barnet Council to questions put

by a local resident back in July. The council said then that it had had to re-tender the refurbishment contract because the bids it had received by May “did not represent value for money”. We reported in January that the cause of the fire may never be known. The Fire Brigade thought it was probably started by an “electrical episode”, but

extensive damage meant that further investigations were unlikely to take place.

However, Barnet Homes have told us that although investigations carried out by the insurers were also inconclusive, further investigations into the cause of the fire will be possible once clearing the debris in the roof gets underway.

Don't fall for the TV licence scam

By Daphne Chamberlain

Age UK has issued a warning about bogus emails pretending to be from TV Licensing which claim you are entitled to a refund for an overpayment or warn that your licence is about to expire. They will then ask you to respond by entering your bank details on a fake website.

Although the emails may use the TV Licensing logo and have other features that make them look authentic, you should never

trust them. Be cautious about any emails from TV Licensing that ask you to update your personal or banking details.

The real TV Licensing organisation will use donotreply@tvlicensing.co.uk (or donotreply@spp.tvlicensing.co.uk) to email you. The scammers cannot send emails using these addresses. Instead, they may come from a personal email account or one which looks unusual.

Be suspicious if the email doesn't use your name or has

an incorrect account number. The scammers may insert an incorrect customer ID in the hope that you will not check that it's wrong.

If you receive one of these emails, don't reply or open any links. Delete it straight away. Report it to Action Fraud or call them on 0300 123 2040. If you provided your bank account details, talk to your bank or building society immediately.

If you're still unsure, you can contact TV Licensing directly using the phone number that is on the official TV Licensing website or your last paper bill. If you still feel concerned, you can speak to someone at Age UK. Call their free advice line on 0800 678 1602 (8am to 7pm).

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.

Drug arrests

Two males were arrested on the Grange Estate, N2, one for possession of cannabis, the other for possession with intent to supply. Both have been bailed pending charging. Two other youths were given cannabis warnings on Market Place, N2.

Safer Neighbourhood survey

Thank you to those who replied to the survey sent out. We have sifted the responses and will consider actions on the issues pertaining to the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Many others such as street lighting and other highway issues we passed over to our ward councillors to pursue. Please know that the survey answers are anonymous, so we cannot reply to you individually.

The next survey will be January 2020, but if you wish to discuss any concerns with the team you are welcome to contact us by email or phone any time.

Recent scams

September has seen a number of popular scams repeating: scam phone calls allegedly from HMRC offering tax refunds, males posing as police officers saying they have found cloned bank cards belonging to you and that money is being removed from your account.

There are also several roofing people in the area; some are genuine, some may not be, it's difficult to tell until it's too late. Often these people are well prepared and can be very charming. We recommend not to buy any product or service from the door or over the phone and never to give out any personal information.

I am pleased to say very few of our residents have succumbed to the patter of these con people. This is due to the great community spirit East Finchley has, looking out for neighbours and passing helpful info and warning to our most vulnerable residents, the elderly and disabled.

Burglary

As the days get shorter burglaries increase. If you do not have a house alarm, please do consider having one installed. Alarms are an extremely effective piece of equipment in preventing burglary or at worst case minimising the amount of time a burglar spends in your home.

Memory Walk thank you

Archer deliverer John Michaeloudis has thanked everyone who supported him when he took part in a Memory Walk to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society. John, of Lynmouth Road, N2, collected 122 cheques from friends, family and a door-to-door collection around East Finchley, raising a grand total of £2,325.

He completed the 10km walk at Queen Elizabeth Park, Stratford, on the last weekend in September in torrential rain. In fact he got so wet his Freedom Pass was badly damaged and he couldn't use it to travel home.

John laughed: “Sometimes you walk in the sun, sometimes you run in the rain. I got soaked but it was for the best

possible cause. I just want to thank everyone in the local community for their kindness in helping me raise money for research into Alzheimer's. A lot of people sponsored me and their generosity kept me going on the day.”

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by Peter Rowe

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