



Police appeal after attack on schoolgirl

Police are appealing for information following the attempted rape of a 15-year-old schoolgirl in East Finchley. Officers would also like to trace a passer-by who disturbed the attack and led the victim to safety.

At around 5.30pm on Wednesday 7 October a 15-year-old girl was walking home from school. As she approached an alleyway off The Causeway, N2, she noticed

slim build and wearing sports trousers. He was carrying a blue bag and may have been on his way to or from a gym.

The suspects are described as black males, aged in

the mid-to-late teens and wearing black school trousers. The first suspect is of slim build, with black plaits in his hair, approx. 5ft 11ins tall and wearing a navy blue

Nike coat. The second is of slim build, with black wavy hair, approx. 5ft 7ins tall and wearing a black Nike coat. The third is of chubby build, with dark curly hair, approx. 5ft 7ins tall and wearing a black Nike coat.

PC Mary Fenton of the North West Safeguarding Team said: "I would like to reassure the community that these types of incidents are extremely rare and my team and I are working on all lines of enquiry to identify those responsible."

"In this incident, thankfully a passer-by intervened, stopping the attack, and I would ask him to come forward and speak to police. He could hold crucial information that could assist us."

Anyone that can assist police in this investigation is asked to call 101 or tweet @MetCC and quote CAD6007/9Oct. Alternatively, contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Scene of the attack. The Causeway

three males who were smoking. The males followed her before grabbing her and holding her against a wall. One of the males sexually assaulted her and then pulled his trousers down. At this point, the attackers were disturbed by a man and they ran off down the alleyway.

Passer-by saught

The man walked the girl to East Finchley station where he saw her onto a bus. Police need to speak to him as he could hold vital information to help identify those involved. He is described as a white man, aged approximately 40, of

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A splash of colour: Posters by N2United and East Finchley Open Artists brighten up the outside of The Phoenix Cinema. Photo: Alison Roberts

Spotlight on unique local traders

By Diana Cormack.

'Everyone invited, everyone united' reflects the aim of N2United which, over the past four years, has developed into an inclusive group providing a voice for all East Finchley organisations, groups, shops and businesses.

As always and particularly during these pandemic times, promoting the latter has been a leading aim, giving support not only to traders visible on main roads but also to those tucked away on our side streets or working from home.

With Christmas rapidly approaching, N2United has launched a campaign intended to stimulate trade by publicising a range of unique products and services. Visit N2united.co.uk/

N2unique or #N2Unique to find locally sourced gifts which may well suit your seasonal present buying needs.

Shop local, shop N2Unique

N2United will continue to showcase the unique aspect of East Finchley traders and businesses, keeping the community informed and interested in what is available for them within their own area.

At a recent N2United meeting, representatives from the

Phoenix Cinema appealed to members to fill the empty poster space outside the cinema. East Finchley Open Artists were only too happy to oblige, producing a selection of prints, pictured above, from their "High Road" exhibition, depicting familiar local scenes and faces, to complement N2United's #N2unique campaign. You might recognise some of the traders, photographed by The Archer's very own Mike Coles.

How this furry trio had us hooked

By Ian Clarke

Last year, *The Archer* printed an interview with Abi McEwan, the RSPCA Finchley branch animal welfare officer, appealing for foster families for rescued cats and kittens.

The idea was for locals, who wouldn't usually have time to look after cats, to help out. We'd never had a cat, but after some suitability checks, Ferdi arrived for six weeks, completely transforming Christmas. Unsurprisingly as a cute, curious kitten he was quickly adopted and moved to his 'fur-ever' home, but we were left hooked.

Next came terrified Tara, rescued from her bin-scavenging life, who took weeks to emerge from under the sofa. Slowly she gained confidence and when lockdown came we couldn't bear to be parted so Tara formally adopted us! Nine months later, she still hides on bin day but has taken over our lives in such a positive way that it's hard to imagine being without her.

Most recently Smudge, an adorable underfed feral kitten, came for a few weeks of cuddles and feeding up before embarking on his new life. Tara didn't like sharing her humans at first, but she coped.



Three times lucky: Ferdi, Tara and Smudge have all been fostered.

Local cats need help

The RSPCA is often short of space, with many cats needing temporary homes to provide love and care before adoption. I've also volunteered as a driver, providing feline taxi services between fantastic foster families and the cattery, vet and animal hospital. It's very rewarding.

Perhaps you could help too, by volunteering as a fosterer or driver, or donating to the

Finchley Branch Amazon wish list. It's tough for charities right now, especially with the High Road shop closed during lockdown. The RSPCA do such a great job but there are many more local cats who need help. Ferdi, Tara and Smudge would say thank you if they could.

Contact Abi McEwan at awo@rspcafinchley.org.uk and find the RSPCA Finchley wishlist at www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2M87MFNBOP498.