



Parent patrols in force after rise in street robberies

By John Lawrence

When young people go back to school this month, patrols by groups of parents will continue in an effort to stem the rising number of street robberies in East Finchley.

At a special meeting at the Bald Faced Stag pub last month, around 30 concerned parents described how their children had fallen victim to muggings, most often as they walked home from school after dark but also on Saturdays.

Thefts with menaces

Typically, two or three muggers in their teens would approach a student walking alone, befriend them briefly and then demand they hand over their mobile phone, cash and even their trainers. It was reported that some of the muggers had been girls.

Sometimes the attackers would brandish a knife and they would also threaten to kill their victims if they told anyone, their parents or the police, about the robbery. Hot spots for the crimes are around Cherry Tree Wood and the tube station, including The Causeway at the rear exit, and quieter roads leading off the High Road, such as Baronsmere Road.

The most recent incident circulated amongst parents was a 14-year-old boy who was robbed of his Christmas money as he walked up The Causeway on a Saturday afternoon in December. He was unharmed but shocked.

Extra police patrols were in

place between 4pm and 8pm until the end of last school term, but representatives from the Safer Neighbourhood policing team told the meeting that these could not continue into January due to shortages in police resources.

Police comment

Police told the parents that they took the spate of muggings very seriously but made it clear they could not make arrests or prosecute unless the young victims were able to supply evidence and were willing to testify in court. As a result, there was a feeling at the meeting that the attackers knew they could get away with their crimes.

Taking action

However, it was resolved that parent patrols should continue from the start of the new term to increase the number of friendly adults on students' routes home. A second meeting was being planned to coordinate these.

Meanwhile, anyone can report information about muggers completely anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Young people are also advised to avoid walking alone, to keep their valuables out of view at all times, and to stick to well-lit and busy routes wherever possible.



Team spirit: East Finchley Women's Football Team with coach Andy Francis, second from right.

We're going to win the league!

By Erini Rodis

East Finchley Women's Football team has reached a pivotal moment after starting talks with the Greater London Women's League to enter an 11-a-side team for the first time next season.

After running evening sessions every Monday for over five years at The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2, from 8pm to 9pm and now on Wednesdays too at Christ's College Finchley, East End Road, N2, from 8pm to 9pm, they began to play competitively with a seven-a-side team just a year ago.

Coach Andy Francis is feeling hopeful. He says: "In the last campaign we placed as runners-up, only losing out on goal difference so are hoping we can go one better when the league restarts in January and win it next time around."

We are now in talks with the Greater London women's league to enter an 11 a-side team

next season which will be played on Sunday mornings."

The Five Bells pub on East End Road, N2, has agreed to sponsor the team and is buying them their first set of kit. New players of all levels of experience are welcome and get a free trial. Follow EFWFClub on Facebook and EastFinchley-WomensFootball on Instagram.

Boris and Jeremy feel the heat

We all had our own ways of coping with the politics overload that engulfed us in the run-up to the General Election in December. For Archer readers Gill Steiner and Hande Kiamil, it was a case of getting creative in the kitchen.

Gill and Hande invented their own edible versions of the two main party leaders. Boris Johnson was made from mashed potato, raw potato, currants and cranberries, while Jeremy Corbyn was crafted from cake mix, raisins, nuts and seeds.

The cake mix recipe is very easy to make and versatile, says Gill, and is "like a flapjack but has much less sugar and fat in it". So if you want to create your own 3D faces, or just fancy something healthy to nibble on, here's Gill's recipe.



Good enough to eat: Potato head Boris and fruitcake Jeremy.

Any occasion cake

You will need: 1 mug oats (say 150g or more); 1 handful coconut; 1 rounded tablespoon sugar; 1 tablespoon oil; 1 mashed banana; 1 egg whisked with a fork; 1 or 2 tablespoons milk; 1 handful raisins; broken nuts and seeds.

Method: You put the mix in a lined cake tin (eg 20 x 25cm) and cook at 180 degrees C for 18- 20 minutes (fan oven timing). It is ready when it is beginning to smell delicious and go brown. It makes 16 to 20 pieces.

Anxiety in children

A pop-up workshop on anxiety in children, run by Childhood Mental Health Needs, with guest speaker Jo Holden, a mental health trainer with charity CCS-Connected, will take place at St Mary's Church Hall, 192 High Road, N2, from 7pm to 8.30pm on Tuesday 28 January. Donations are welcome on attendance.

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