



**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**

## Show of support for racial equality

By John Lawrence

People in East Finchley and Muswell Hill came out in their hundreds last month to show their support for the Black Lives Matter movement following the death of George Floyd while being arrested by police in the US.



'Strength of feeling: Residents in Bedford Road take the knee to back the Black Lives Matter movement. Photo Erini Rodis



Peaceful protest: Hundreds kneel in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement at Alexandra Palace. Photo Lloyd Winters

There was a powerful and peaceful demonstration at Alexandra Palace on Saturday 13 June when more than 500 knelt in silence for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the same amount of time a Minneapolis police officer knelt on Mr Floyd's neck.

The demonstration was organised by a group of Muswell Hill and East Finchley friends, and numbers swiftly grew when word got out on social media.

Earlier in the same week, residents in Bedford Road, N2, took the knee outside their own homes and held Black Lives Matter placards, calling for equality and an end to racial bias in society.

### Chance for real anger

Angela Gokani Brasier, who lives in Muswell Hill, was one of the team who organised the Alexandra Palace event. She described it as a respectful and powerful demonstration of

solidarity. The organisers also included local residents Joy and Louise Nkosi, daughters of the late South African author and anti-apartheid campaigner Lewis Nkosi. Louise gave a powerful speech to the silent crowd.

Angela said: "Louise spoke to the crowd of the racism that happens daily not just in the US but in our own community, and to her own family and husband Akin Akinsiku. In speaking of her hope that people are now willing to take on the challenge she said: 'What we have is an opportunity and it's going to take hard work to turn that into real change'."

The Alexandra Palace demonstration came a week after thousands of people marched through the centre of London for the same cause.

See Soapbox, page 11.

## Boy mugged by group of seven

By Janet Maitland

A 13-year-old boy was robbed while walking down Creighton Avenue near Coldfall Wood with a friend on the afternoon of Saturday 30 May. A group of seven other boys blocked his way with a bicycle by the junction with Ringwood Avenue, N2, and then surrounded him.

One boy grabbed him and put him in a headlock and demanded whatever he had on him. Another rifled through his pockets and found his phone. He gave them the passcode for this when they threatened to beat him up if he didn't. His house keys, an

Oyster card and some cash were also stolen.

If you witnessed the incident or have any information about it, please contact police on 101, quoting CAD 5141/30 May. If you want to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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