



Crime rates drop during lockdown

By Janet Maitland

Crime rates in East Finchley in March and April were the lowest for a year. The average monthly figure between May 2019 and April 2020 was five reported crimes per 1,000 people. In March there were just over four crimes for every 1,000 and a little more than three in April.

Our rates were also lower than the borough as a whole, where crime rates fell to just over seven per 1,000 in March and slightly more than five in April. We asked Jan Lovell from the Safer Neighbourhood Team how the virus was affecting policing.

She told us: "The dynamic nature of policing has been multiplied by unprecedented and unknown challenges. I would like to say that the vast majority of East Finchley people have been great in adhering to the government guidelines over the lockdown period and their

continued awareness and co-operation as this eases will be harder but just as important."

Police generally have reported huge falls in crime during the lockdown. In London as a whole, knife crime has fallen by over 50%, with stab wounds among those under 25 slumping by 69%.

At the same time, police have been able to hunt down wanted suspects who have often shielded at home addresses. "Some of them aren't so bright and they're in rather obvious places," said Cressida Dick, the Met Police commissioner.

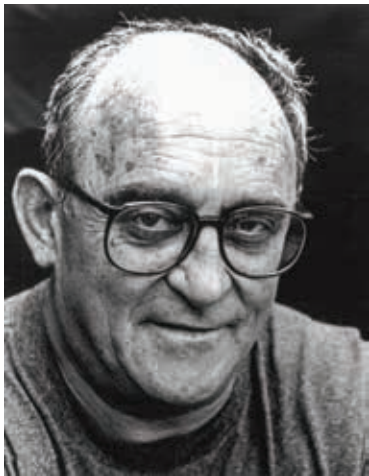
'Life is wonderful':

Denis Goldberg,

April 1933 – April 2020

By Ann Bronkhorst

Denis Goldberg, who lived for about 15 years in Huntingdon Road, East Finchley, after being released from jail in South Africa, died from lung cancer on 29 April at his home near Cape Town, soon after his 87th birthday. A life-long communist, he was a warm, humorous man who made many friends.



apartheid causes and building international connections for the African National Congress.

After Esme's death in 2000 and then his daughter's death, Goldberg returned to South Africa. For him, as for many political exiles, returning to a changed South Africa was hugely important but not without problems. He spoke out against corruption, particularly under Jacob Zuma, but remained loyal to the ANC and optimistic about the country's young people and its future.

Several obituaries quoted Goldberg's famous and typical reply to his mother at his trial in 1963. She couldn't hear the sentence and asked: "What did the judge say?" to which her son replied: "Life, and life is wonderful."

Read more about Denis Goldberg on page 4 of our May 1997 edition in our online archives at www.the-archer.co.uk

Goldberg was the youngest of the 'Rivonia' triallists, the most famous of whom was Nelson Mandela. As the only white man among them he was not sent to Robben Island but served 22 years in the whites-only Pretoria Central Prison. After his release in 1985 Goldberg joined his wife Esme and their two children here, working to support anti-



Check this out: Jac as Disco Squid for Harry Hill's Clubnite, and in his store uniform behind the tills at Budgens.

Jac trades in TV thrills for happy life on the tills

By John Lawrence

Shortly before lockdown began, professional dancer Jac Coxall was getting ready to make his return in a spangly silver costume as Disco Squid on comedian Harry Hill's late-night Channel 4 hit *Clubnite*. Then overnight all his bookings disappeared.

Jac, 26, had no prospect of getting any income for months so he had to switch careers fast. He called Budgens in the High Road, N2, asking if any jobs were available and within

days he was stacking shelves. Now he says working at the supermarket is one of the best jobs he's ever done.

"I enjoy chatting to people and I can do that when I'm on the

tills," he said. "On dancing jobs, it was always very intense and competitive and everyone only talked about the work. Here, you can have real conversations with genuinely friendly people and they ask you how your day is going."

Jac, who lives off Fortis Green, starred as one of two dancers in the video for Zayn Malik's *Dusk Till Dawn*, and has appeared on *Britain's Got Talent* and *The X Factor*. He also co-presents online dancing courses for 12 to 18-year-olds.

Reset button

His change of direction has been a shock to the system, but a good one. "You never think of Plan B because while work is coming in you're in a bubble," he said. "Then everything in TV and theatre stops and there is nothing. If the world stays like this, people won't be dancing any time soon. "For me it's been like pushing a 'reset' button and it's made me feel like East Finchley is my home again. I always used to be rushing around and working at weekends and I never saw much of the place. I've got to know customers and I'm getting to know the area on long walks.



Sue Sutherley and Paul Silverthorne play for the NHS.

Photo Tanya Freedman

Thursday evening thank you takes on a classical air

Joining the exuberant noise of residents in Lincoln Road, N2, clapping and banging pans in appreciation of NHS frontline staff on Thursday evenings, were the gentle strains of a viola and cello duo.

Mini concert

Professional musicians Sue Sutherley and Paul Silverthorne have been giving mini-concerts in their front garden as their own way of saying thank you and to entertain their neighbours. Over two weeks in May they performed one of the *Hungarian Dances* by Brahms and Schubert's *Ave Maria*, which they have arranged specially for their two instruments.

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