



Demo: XR protesters outside Budgens. Photo Mike Coles

Older generation campaign for future of the young

By Hazel Mason

A group of grandparents and older people emerged from lockdown in socially-distanced groups of six on the first weekend of December to support International Youth Climate Action Day. This was part of a nationwide action by Extinction Rebellion Grandparents and Elders, concerned about the impact of the environmental crisis on the younger generation.

With a campaign called Our Present... Their Future they shared a seasonal message: "The best present for our children is a safe planet." It also ran as a window poster campaign with local groups and individuals invited to take part throughout the month.

Extinction Rebellion believe that the government's ten-point plan to reach net zero emissions by 2050 is still too little, too late. They say that the recently announced target to further reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 is a much-needed step, but the climate will only respond to actual emission cuts, not targets.

Gifts of hope

The campaigners set up an alternative tree near the Christmas tree on the High Road, N2, decorated with gifts of hope for the future such as "Clean Air" and "Green Jobs". Passers-by stopped to look at the eye-catching tree and to read the gifts of hope and the messages on placards.

"Good for you," said a

passing teenager as she read a placard about the Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill. Another interested bystander asked questions about this private member's bill, more ambitious than the government's current Environmental Bill, which would protect children's lives for years to come.

One of the East Finchley campaigners, Mary Poulter, said: "The future of children across the world is at stake and the best present we can give them is a safe planet."

Online exhibition

The beautiful tree, decorated with ceramic leaves, was made by Claudia Luque, a member of East Finchley Open Artists. She made it for an exhibition on climate change, programmed to open at the Offshoot Gallery in the High Road in April. "Sadly, we had to cancel," said Claudia, "but a display of over 70 exhibits went ahead online, and is currently on the EFOA website."

For more information, search XR Grandparents on www.facebook.com

Food shared from steps of cinema

Over three Tuesday mornings last month a team of volunteers handed out home-made meals for free in a major project to support those who needed a little extra help to get by.

Dozens of dishes of Gnocchi alla Sorrentina and other Italian favourites were cooked locally by a small group of professional chefs and distributed from the steps of the Phoenix Cinema.

Food was given to anyone who came to the collection point, no questions asked. Organisers said that the aim was to share a healthy meal with anyone who might be short of money, feeling exhausted or just not feeding themselves properly. All the meals given out were pre-cooked and chilled, having been freshly prepared the day before. They came with clear instructions on reheating, plus a list of ingredients and allergens in a small leaflet.

Fine dining on a budget

"Cooking for people and sharing food is one of the best ways that we can show solidarity and care for our community," said chef, Giuseppe Sollo.

The food sharing scheme began life back in October when N2 resident Giuseppe put out a call on the East Finchley



Nourishing: Meals being distributed at the Phoenix

Community Facebook group for help to feed families who faced the prospect of not receiving free school meals over the half term holiday.

In the end, the Government provided extra funding to fill that gap but Giuseppe and his friends realised there were many others who still needed a helping hand.

East Finchley Neighbourhood Support group, who had been running support services throughout the first lockdown, came on board and with the help of Grange Big Local and ComUNITY Barnet, the project launched in mid-December.

Donations flooded in from residents and businesses in East Finchley, in order to buy ingredients, kitchen appliances and food boxes. Giuseppe told supporters he was amazed by their response.

Sharing skills

The aim of the food project is to make sure everyone has access to good tasty healthy food, and Giuseppe is now planning a series of videos to help give young people the skills to cook tasty nutritious meals cheaply themselves.

Pay it forward

If you would like to sample the food for yourself, the team is running a 'Pay it forward' scheme, where you can take a meal and make a donation, which will pay for a meal for someone else.

You can also donate at gofundme.com (search 'EFNS - The Food Project').

For more information, visit www.iloven2.co.uk/food-project or www.facebook.com/N2foodproject or contact East Finchley Neighbourhood Support on 0843 886 5900.

Crime rates back up

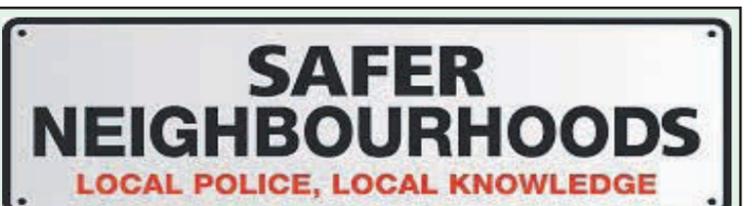
By Janet Maitland

The number of burglaries in East Finchley rose sharply in October when the nights drew in. Of the 37 burglaries between June and October, 14 were in October and there were four in Abbots Gardens alone that month.

"We treated this as a priority and carried out both uniform and plain clothes patrols in Abbots Gardens and the surrounding area," said Jan Lovell, from the Safer Neighbourhood Team. "There have been no further burglaries there and the number was reduced greatly for November, mainly due to the lockdown. It is very likely that more folks were home during lockdown in November and this keeps the burglars out."

Crime rates in general have been slowly returning back to pre-Covid levels, rising from four for every 1,000 residents in June to just over five in October, the average monthly rate for East Finchley in normal times.

During the spring lockdown, crime rates were the lowest for a year, with just over three crimes for every 1,000 residents in April.



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.

Burglaries

Good news: there has been a decrease in burglaries during November after the seasonal increase the ward experienced in October. The vast majority of burglars do not like to enter a home that is occupied, so anything you can do to make it look like you are home will help. Keeping lights on in different rooms using a timer switch can make this so easy, and it's nice to come home to a lit house too.

Vehicle crime

Unfortunately we are seeing an increase in motor vehicle crime: thefts of vehicles, thefts of catalytic converters, thefts from unlocked vehicles such as tools from vans. Please take an extra minute or so to make sure nothing of value is left in your vehicle and that it is securely locked.

Parcel delivery scams

There are a range of scam parcel delivery emails doing the rounds. One such claims to be DPD saying that they couldn't deliver a parcel to you and asking you to click on a link to re-arrange delivery, which takes you to a spoof website asking you to submit your details, including from your bank card.

If you are expecting a parcel, then contact the company directly to see if they have attempted a delivery. Please forward any scam emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and delete the email.

Please take care not to make any additional payments for deliveries and try to make arrangements with neighbours or create a safe place for deliveries to prevent thefts on the doorstep.

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