



Donations, please: Dario with one of the food boxes that will be available in every Martyn Gerrard office.

New drop off point for food donations

East Finchley's branch of Martyn Gerrard estate agents in the High Road is to become a drop off point for donations to North London charity Food Bank Aid.

The firm has partnered with the charity to support over 12,000 people a week who require support as a result of pandemic hardships. Tinned food, long lasting vegetables,

rice and toiletries are the most in demand items.

Martyn Gerrard's managing director, Simon Gerrard said: "It is incredibly important for all businesses to look to their communities and see what can be done to offer support to those who need it."

Boot sale back again

The monthly Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 31 July from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, at the foot of Muswell Hill on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Rd, N10 3AH.

For information, phone 020 8368 8180. Admission is 50p with refreshments available.

Changes to book loan rules at libraries

Barnet Libraries last month announced that the automatic renewal of items on loan was ending on Monday 21 June. From now on, you will need to renew or return items every three weeks. This will help to reduce waiting times for popular items.

You can renew items:

- online at <https://capitadiscovery.co.uk/barnet/home>
- by phone. Call your local

library www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries/find-your-local-library

- or in person during opening times, which you can find at www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries/library-opening-times.

You will need your library card number and PIN to renew items.

Barnet says that the Libraries Department is working to re-introduce face to face events. Register at www.barnet.gov.uk/librarynewsletters to keep up to date with the latest events, service updates and book news.

Emergency Denture Repair and New Dentures



103a Golders Green Rd NW11 8EN
020 87318611
<http://www.mydenturedirect.co.uk>

Barnet tops the league for catalytic converter theft

By Janet Maitland

Cars are being stripped of their catalytic converters at a rate of three a day in Barnet, making it the worst-affected borough in London. Thefts of these valuable car parts have risen sharply across London, with nearly 15,000 cases investigated in 2020 compared to 9,500 the year before.

An ITV News report on 24 March featured a Finchley resident who left his car to challenge four men who were stealing a converter. He'd only just made it back to his car when they came towards him carrying metal bars. "They were so brazen," he said. East Finchley residents have alerted fellow drivers on social media after falling victim themselves. "These criminals often commit their offences in full view of the vehicle owners, leaving them terrorised," said DCI James Stanyer, from the Met's motor vehicle crime unit. "They're willing to use violence if necessary, if disturbed."

Organised crime

Catalytic converters (cats) have become so desirable to thieves because the prices of the precious metals they contain such as platinum, rhodium and palladium have risen. It also only takes a few moments armed with a jack and some basic tools to steal one.

Residential streets are now prime targets, ever since the retail parks that were previ-

ously the gangs' main hunting ground lost most of their customers due to lockdowns. Organised crime controls the market, with unlicensed or unscrupulous licensed scrap merchants extracting the metals or shipping the cats abroad as high-value scrap.

Three hundred police officers carried out raids in east London, Kent and Essex in late March. Eight homes were raided in one street, where three men were arrested and 18 cats seized along with an angle grinder, £50,000 in cash and a quantity of drugs. In Essex, a shipping container

full of cats and car parts was intercepted before it could be transported to Ivory Coast. Fifteen men are still wanted.

How to protect your cat

Park in a locked garage or in a well-lit, busy area. If that's not possible, police advise you to park close to fences, walls or kerbs with the exhaust closest to the barrier. If your cat is bolted on, ask a garage to weld the bolts. Consider a 'cage clamp' which locks around the converter or install a Thatcham-approved alarm that activates if your car is lifted or tilted.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

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.

Shed and garage security

In a recent newsletter I reminded folk about home security advice against burglary. There have been several thefts and attempted thefts of pedal cycles from sheds, garages and cycle stores. If you have a cycle, please take a look at this shed and garage security advice:

- Use bolts through the door and frame or non-return screws.
- Windows should have good locks and can be secured with internal diamond mesh grilles. If you never open them consider screwing them shut from the inside.
- Use two large hasps and staples on the doors and two closed shackle padlocks on the outside.
- Garage side and rear doors can be secured with BS3621 5-lever mortice locks and two internal mortice rack bolts, at the top and bottom.
- Security mark and register your bicycle with BikeRegister. Secure your bike to a ground anchor.
- Garden tools, like spades, are often stolen from sheds to lever open windows and doors. Lock away tools and equipment and secure ladders as an intruder can use them to gain access. Also, property mark your tools.

Finally, consider fitting an alarm to your shed or garage either by extending your home alarm or buying one especially. A door contact system may also be suitable and limits the risk of false alarms.

Nicky Sharp Osteopathy Clinic

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All Major Insurers Accepted

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Marian Fixler
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Julian Ormerod
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Acupuncture & Moxibustion Chiropractic & Yoga

Holy Trinity Parish Church

67 Church Lane, N2 0TH

www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk

We are a community who welcomes everyone seeking comfort and strength in love, faith, and hope. We meet both in church and online. Please do 'come and see'.

Holy Communion: Sunday @ 9.30 am - In Church
Bible Readings & Prayers: Sunday at 11.00 am - Online
Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday, at 9.00 am - Online

For more information please contact us:
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