



Court action: Players enjoy a match in the sports hall at the Archer Academy.

## No-pressure netball club for women

By Diana Cormack

**A new term of netball for women of all ages and fitness levels began in September at the Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Sessions take place on Tuesday evenings between 7.30 and 8.30pm.**

So far participants have been between the ages of 19 and the late sixties. A warm up, then some ball skills are followed by a no-pressure game, with

rules being remembered as play goes along.

The club is the brainchild of Avis Johns who, as one of the main instigators of the Archer

Academy, believes in its facilities being available for locals to use.

In telling *The Archer* about her love of netball, Avis's obvious enthusiasm was matched by that of club coach Navinda Snell. Both have been involved in the game for many years, with Navinda playing or coaching every day of the week. "It's just my life now," she said. "I'm being paid to do something I love."

Avis herself has plans to gain training qualifications and continues to enjoy watching people interact in the game that she loves. Netball has gained greatly in global popularity over the last few years, with talk of it being featured in the Olympics.

The sessions cost £5. For more information contact Sophie.Johnson@englandnetball.co.uk or just turn up and join in the fun.

## 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](mailto:EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk), or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

### Team changes

Our tri-team of East, West and Finchley Church End has a new but temporary sergeant at the helm since last month. APS Aaron Weatherly comes to us from leading a tri-team in the High Barnet area, so is very experienced in the ways of SNT policing, and we look forward to working with him.

East Finchley has two new PCs: Gulsum Cengiz who joined us in late July with nine years' experience on Response teams; and Katie Rees who has just joined us and will be here for six months as part of her probationary rotation. We are an all-female team and are looking forward to supporting women and girls in the community in as many ways as possible.

### Crime trends

We are seeing an increase in all kinds of vehicle crime. Halfords and other motor shops sell specialized nuts to prevent the theft of number plates. Do make sure you lock your vehicle, even for short periods, and don't leave any items of value on show inside. Vehicles have been stolen too, so a good old-school crook lock is a valuable addition and is surprisingly effective.

### Darker evenings

As the days get shorter we often see a rise in tea-time burglaries. Do check the basics: have lights coming on with timer switches to make your home appear occupied, always lock up well and employ your house alarm. If you don't yet have an alarm do consider getting one fitted, they are a very good investment.

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## Christmas cheer

**The Christmas Fair at St Mary's Catholic Church, 279 High Road, N2, is back. You can come and soak up the festive atmosphere on Sunday 28 November from 11am to 3pm with something for everyone, including carol singing, fiddle players, hot food and beverages.**

There will also be a Santa's Grotto, home-bakes, tombola, Advent wreath-making and much more. Entry is free, and everyone is encouraged to protect each other by wearing a face mask.

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# Campaign group calling for safer streets in Barnet

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Many households recently received a letter from MP Mike Freer asking for views on the experimental bus and cycle lanes on the A1000, which includes our High Road in East Finchley. Set up provisionally last November, for a period not exceeding 18 months, the lanes have provoked strong reactions both for and against.**

Backing them is a new campaign group called Better Streets for Barnet. The group's stated aim is to work within the community to encourage action that reduces air pollution, improves safety in the streets, and introduces a wider range of travel options.

### Backing the bike lane

Spokesperson Jess Gold told *The Archer*: "We have all been writing to our councillors to let them know how important we think the lane is. A few of us have been in touch with the officer who implemented the bike lane, and we have prepared a report to the Council on how it can be improved."

It needs a good couple of years to bed in. Most people who use the lane don't realise it is under threat, and so won't have written to their councillors. They are just delighted that finally there is one."

### Safety concerns

One criticism of the bike lane is that it is being under-used. Jess said that a number of people in the Better Streets for Barnet group are too frightened to cycle, which is why they are campaigning to make the bor-

ough safer for both cyclists and pedestrians. Since she spoke to us, she has herself been knocked off her bike.

She said, "To make roads safe for cyclists and pedestrians bring car speeds down to 20 in densely populated areas and build protected cycle tracks. The Greater London average is 4.1% of roads with protected cycle tracks. City of London has 21%. Barnet is 3rd from the bottom of the list, with just 0.7% which will go to zero if this lane is removed."

Better Streets for Barnet's review of the cycle lane contains appraisals of each section. Recommendations include better road maintenance; replacing pedestrian refuges with zebra crossings; priority green lights for cyclists turning right; clearer segregation for cycle lanes, with wands replaced by immovable barriers; and redesigning of bus stops and parking bays, to prevent cyclists being forced into the main traffic flow.

*Better Streets for Barnet meet every Monday night online for an hour. For further info, search BetterSt4Barnet on Twitter and Better Streets for Barnet on Facebook.*

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For more information please contact us:

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