



Shopkeeper injured in post office robbery

By John Dearing

A shopkeeper was punched in the face and kicked while he lay on the floor when two men robbed the post office in East End Road.

The incident happened on Thursday 2 November at 7.30pm as the 56 year old shopkeeper was about to lock up his store. A man wearing a crash helmet entered the shop, bought a drink and asked for cigarettes. The shopkeeper said he had already locked up the cigarette cabinet and the man left the store with his drink.

A few minutes later, he returned with another man wearing a crash helmet and asked the shopkeeper again for cigarettes, stating that he had the correct money. One of the men then walked behind the counter and punched the shopkeeper in the face.

The two men searched the premises, stole some cash and also rifled through the victim's pockets and kicked him whilst he was on the floor.

They got onto a dark-coloured moped parked outside and made off down East End Road towards East Finchley, then turned into Church Lane. The shopkeeper tried to chase after the moped to check its numberplate but it was covered up to avoid being identified.

The shopkeeper was subsequently treated in hospital, and the shop was closed for several days. Although obviously injured and traumatised by the experience, he has now recovered sufficiently to be able to re-open the shop.

The first suspect is described as a white male aged 20, 5ft 6ins tall. He was wearing a white crash helmet, white jacket and black and white gloves. The second suspect is described as a male wearing a dark coloured crash helmet and black gloves.

If anyone has any information about this incident please contact the Robbery Unit on 020 8733 4595 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Luisa and Rafael Attwood ready to do some planting with park keeper Chris Ward. Photo by Diana Cormack

Preparing for spring in Cherry Tree Wood

By Diana Cormack

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood were delighted with the turn-out for their spring bulb planting session, which took place on a beautiful Sunday at the end of October. They were particularly pleased at the number of children brought along by adults to participate in what was literally a hands-on learning experience.

Nearly 1,000 bluebell, daffodil and tulip bulbs had been donated by the Three Valleys Water Company, who recently built a pumping station next to the derelict park pavilion. Barnet Council provided suitable gloves and digging implements which were demonstrated by park keeper Chris Ward. He advised planters to throw a few bulbs up in the air and to plant them where they landed in order to get a more natural looking spread.

Chris assured *THE ARCHER* that the bluebells were of the British variety. A map displayed where the planting was to take place, with the bluebells and daffodils being destined for wooded areas whilst the tulips, of which there were fewer, were for the gardens.

Before they went home the children were offered a taste of

Halloween in the form of a cake decorated with a gnarled-looking finger. Hopefully, they will be able to point out the fruits of their labour next spring.

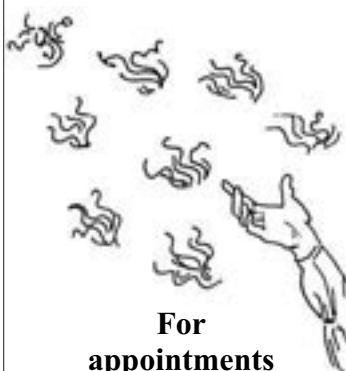
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Lottery funds for library services

By Daphne Chamberlain

Could lottery funding come to the assistance of East Finchley's cash-strapped library? In October, the Big Lottery Fund put up an offer of £80 million to local authorities in England, as part of a Community Libraries programme. Each local authority can bid for sums between £250,000 and £2 million, for projects lasting up to three years.

The funding is to improve and develop buildings, making them more accessible to all the community. The Chair of the Big Lottery Fund, Sir Clive Booth, said: "Local libraries are at their best when they act as focal points for community life, providing a range of reading, learning and information activities. Many are already operating in this way. More want to, but lack capital funds needed to transform or modify buildings."

Local involvement crucial

To be successful, a bid must show that local people are involved in deciding what improvements are made, and how the improved library building will be used. Examples include work with disadvantaged groups, reading and writing groups, language classes, family learning activities, cultural events such as drama, and health-based activities like well-being classes. The money must be seen as additional to other funding, and should go to projects which couldn't otherwise be supported.

The national Museums, Libraries and Archives Council hopes that the lottery money will help local authorities give people what they really want from their library service. Its supporting statement says that libraries are vital community spaces for people to visit freely.

Application forms have already been sent to all local authority library services. Each authority will nominate a key contact, who will discuss projects with the community, and these contacts will be displayed on the Big Lottery website, www.biglotteryfund.org.uk. Bids must be in by 31 March 2007. Barnet Council told *THE ARCHER* that they were still considering whether to bid.

Seen and heard

An estate agent's board behind The Bald Faced Stag pub is advertising "a brand new gated development of stylish apartments and houses" called Old Dairy Mews. Shouldn't that be moos?

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