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*THE ARCHER team wishes
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If you have a story for us, please
contact us at the above address.
*Comments to THE ARCHER may be
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Copy deadlines

*February issue: 13 January
March issue: 10 February
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Tourist Info Service 0870 128 8080
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 7484950
City Airport 020 7646 0088
London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

Help & Advice

Childline 0800 1111
Disability Info Service 02084466935
E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 02086833300
Relate 020 8447 8101
Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous 08457697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Info Service 0800 665544
MIND 020 8343 5700
National Blood Ctr. 084577117711

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 02083463511
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 6300
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8442 1212
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 02083452148
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
E.F. Community Police Officer:
PC Paul Carter (Golders Green)
Tel: 020 8733 5562, e-mail:
paul.carter@met.police.uk



42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

General Advice.

Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.
Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Immigration Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appointment only.

Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

Community Services

❖ **Credit Union**, Green Man Community Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Con men steal £2,800

Three men claiming to be members of Neighbourhood Watch stole £2,800 after entering a home in East Finchley.

The incident happened on Friday 9 December at 1.30pm in East End Road. The victims were having an afternoon nap when they were woken by the sound of voices coming from the upstairs hallway. A male then entered the victim's bedroom and stated that he was from Neighbourhood Watch.

The intruder claimed that he had just caught a man in the victim's street carrying lots of money on him and had come to check the victim's home to see if anything was missing. The male then asked the victim where he kept his valuables and went with the victim to check downstairs.

The victim then noticed two other men coming out of one of the other rooms. The men also claimed to be from Neighbourhood Watch and to be checking for a sign of a break-in. The three males eventually left and the victim then discovered that £2,800 in cash had been stolen. The first suspect is described as a white male aged 40, 5ft 6ins tall, with short brown hair. The second suspect is described as a white male aged 20, 5ft 6ins tall, with short blond hair. The third suspect is described as a white male aged 30, 5'6" tall, with short ginger hair.

All three men spoke with Irish accents and were wearing blue jackets with yellow and blue emblems and blue trousers. Paul Hammond, from Barnet Borough watch, said: "Neighbourhood Watch members do not call house to house like this. If someone knocks on your door and says they are from Neighbourhood Watch, they probably are not, unless you know that they are one of your neighbours."

He advised residents who are suspicious of such callers to refuse entry and dial 999. He also advised against keeping large amounts of cash at home.

Watch out for flaming toys

Barnet Council's trading standards team is warning residents to be on the lookout for a potentially lethal toy.

The 'stressbusting' Puffer Ball, a small squashy ball covered in soft latex-like spikes, bounces and oozes through the fingers when squeezed.

However, the toy, which retails at about £1, smells strongly of petroleum and can burst into flames from the slightest contact with fire, burning violently and for a long time.

The ball, an import from China, which may be CE marked, fails to meet toy safety regulations and



should not be bought or given as a present.

Councillor Matthew Offord, cabinet member for the environment, said, "We are very concerned at the potential risk from this toy, particularly bearing in mind the number of candles and open fires around. We are asking anyone who has purchased or seen any of these toys to contact Consumer Direct London on 08454 040506, or visit the website at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk."

Beware car-jacking

By Sheila Armstrong

Motorists are being urged to guard their vehicles against a new type of car-jacking scam that is becoming more common in London.

Imagine the scene: you walk across the car park, unlock your car, get inside, lock the doors, start the car and put it in reverse. You look in the rear view mirror to reverse out and then you notice a piece of paper stuck on your back window obscuring the view.

So you put the car in neutral, leaving the engine running, unlock the doors and get out to remove it. But by the time you reach the rear of the car the car-

jackers have appeared out of nowhere, jumped into your car and driven off. If you have left your handbag or briefcase, possibly containing your address and maybe your house keys as well as your car keys behind in the car, all these will be lost too.

Yet another reason to do a quick check on the outside of your car before you get in, or get into the habit of reversing into parking spaces so you can drive out quickly.

Planning Applications

Land adjacent to and rear of 373-383 High Road, N2

Erection of a three-storey building, comprising a total of 8 self-contained flats. Associated provision of off-street parking spaces and change to landscaping.

118 High Road /5 Lincoln Parade, N2

Change of use from Class A3 (restaurant) to Class B1.

McDonalds Restaurants Ltd, 11- 59 High Road, N2

Minor extension alterations, including new disabled ramp, associated hand-rail and canopy at rear. Two additional disabled parking spaces.

245 Creighton Avenue, N2

Part single, part two-storey, side and rear extension, incorporating "inverted dormer" and rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion.

1st Floor Flat, 44 Lincoln Road, N2
Alterations to roof, including new dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

238 - 240 East End Road, N2

Alterations to both roofs, including hip to gable ends and wraparound rear/side dormer to facilitate loft conversions. Rooflights in front roof slopes of both properties.

63 Abbots Gardens, N2

Alterations to roof, including side and rear dormer windows to facilitate loft conversion.

38 Abbots Gardens, N2

Two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension.

63 Brim Hill, N2

Alterations to roof, including rear and side dormers and rooflights, to facilitate a loft conversion. First floor rear extension. Single-storey rear and side extensions.

9 The Leys, N2

Minor alteration to existing ground floor extension, and window and door to ground floor level. 1st floor side extension. Alterations to roof, including dormer window and rooflights to sides of extension to existing loft conversion.

2 Ludlow Way, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Single-storey side extension (to front of garage). Conversion of part of garage to habitable room. Loft conversion, including rooflights. Insertion of new windows to side and rear elevations. New soil vent pipe (amended description).