



# Arson attack at petrol station

By Janet Maitland

Police have confirmed that a fire behind the Esso petrol station on the High Road on 12 May was started deliberately.

When the emergency services arrived at about 2.15am, the fire was raging at the back of the petrol station, behind a mesh security gate.

This closed-off area is used for storing gas and damaged cars awaiting repair. Signs on the gate warn that the gas is highly flammable.

"Fire officials said the fire had been started deliberately with rags," said a police spokesperson. "We did an immediate street search because arsonists usually stay nearby to watch the fires they've started, but we didn't

find anyone. Whoever started it must have climbed over the security gate. No witnesses have yet come forward."

Several cars were damaged in the blaze. Police said it was difficult to be precise about the number as the cars were already damaged. A police vehicle recovery unit was at the scene for several hours. No one was injured.

If you have any information about this crime, please ring police on 0300 123 1212. If you want to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



# Two injured in three-car crash

By Janet Maitland

Two people were taken to hospital on 4 May after a speeding car crashed into two others on Summerlee Avenue. The accident, which happened at about 9pm, was caused by a car speeding down Baronsmere Road into Southern Road, smashing into another car coming down Summerlee Avenue and then crashing into another car parked diagonally opposite.

A witness reported that a young man was driving the speeding car and that an elderly man was in the back seat. There was also another youth in the front seat. As the police arrived, the young men leapt from the car and ran away, leaving the older man in the car.

Fire, police and ambulance services arrived shortly after the accident. A 70-year-old man with facial injuries was taken by ambulance as a priority case to the Royal Free Hospital. A 53-year-old woman was taken to Hillingdon Hospital with a back injury. All the vehicles were badly damaged.

No arrests have yet been

made. "If anyone has any information about this accident could they please call 0300 123 1212," said a police spokesperson. "You may know the two youths involved. If you want to give information anonymously, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

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Cushy: the Year 6 girls from Holy Trinity School with their best-selling cushions. Photo by John Lawrence

# Colourful cushions sell out fast

By Molly Windust

Year 6 girls from Holy Trinity School designed and sewed unique cushions for their Summer Fair. They used beautiful donated and recycled materials which included silk, velvet, linen and cotton, adding colourful buttons and lace to produce gorgeous original cushions, all of which sold at the fair.

The girls were in charge of running the Sewing Stall, which meant they had to create, market

and sell all of their produce. They raised over £400 for their school. The cushion stall was a

star attraction at the fair, which also included sports activities and fabulous homemade food.

# Cherry Tree Wood friends revived

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood (FCTW) group has appointed a new committee and set out its mission statement. The committee says it aims to put the woodland and park at the heart of the local community, with the emphasis on preservation and conservation of the woodland environment.

It also aims to improve the recreational facilities and activities in the park in a manner sympathetic to the environment.

The Friends' new Chair is Natan Tiefenbrun, supported by a committee of ten other members including Debbie Linton (secretary) and Geoff Curry (communications).

Mr Tiefenbrun said: "Cherry Tree Wood is a wonderful asset to the area. We are taking a proactive role in its conservation, and want to ensure that it is widely used and offers a range of activities to local people of all ages."

Mr Curry added: "We wish to engage with local residents and

organisations in the agenda and work of FCTW and to understand their needs and concerns. We will liaise with the local community, Barnet Council and other external organisations supporting or using the park."

### New ideas

Charles Parkes, committee member responsible for conservation, has already met with Tracey Sawyer, Barnet Green Spaces officer, to discuss a number of initiatives. These include the establishment of a fruit orchard in the current picnic area, a proposal to develop some shallow ponds within the woods, and the development of a meadow.

As part of its campaign to improve Cherry Tree Wood the Friends are planning a membership drive and will have a stand at the East Finchley Festival on 20 June. It also plans to update its website [www.cherrytreewood.co.uk](http://www.cherrytreewood.co.uk), thereby offering more information to visitors. To become involved, email [info@cherrytreewood.co.uk](mailto:info@cherrytreewood.co.uk)



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