



Shock of burglary in broad daylight

By Janet Maitland

An attempted burglary at a house in Helen Close, N2, on 18 October, has left the occupants deeply shocked. The burglar broke in by smashing the glass patio doors at the back of the house when the 71-year-old owner and her son were both at home. They have asked not to be named.

"I can't believe that this happened in broad daylight," said the son, who has lived in the house with his mother for 32 years. "I heard someone knock at the front door four times at about one o'clock in the afternoon. My mother, who's a bit deaf, was watching TV and I was upstairs.

"Then I heard the sound of breaking glass and I rushed downstairs. The man ran off as soon as I disturbed him. I haven't even checked if he's stolen anything, I'm just so worried about my mum. What would have happened to her if I hadn't been in the house?"

Presumably thinking the

house was empty as no one answered the door, the burglar went down a blind alleyway next to the house and climbed over the fence into the back garden. Marks on the patio door-frame suggest he used a screwdriver to break the glass.

The police informed us that they will visit the house to determine how the suspect was able to access the back of the house so easily.

If you have any information about this crime, please call 101 and quote crime reference number 2425183/11. If you want to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Cartoon by John Boyd

Setback for parking zone campaigners but the fight goes on

Residents fighting to overturn Barnet Council's plans to increase charges in controlled parking zones in East Finchley suffered a setback in November when a High Court judge refused permission for them to take the case to trial.

Showtime is back

By Daphne Chamberlain
Have you heard about the East Finchley man who went into a travel agent's in Muswell Hill to book a cruise? He wanted to go to New York, and indeed that's where he went, but only after the travel agent's assistant beat him unconscious and put him into a rowing boat. If this is familiar, you are either connected with East Finchley Writers or have bought their latest anthology.

Showtime 4 is, in my opinion, their best book yet. Readers of their three previous anthologies will recognise the bizarre plots and spine-chilling characters beloved by some of these writers. Be aware that even some of the humour is dark. This is not a cosy book, but most people will find something to intrigue them.

The Showtime anthologies feature short stories, autobiography, poetry, non-fiction, including travel writing, and extracts from novels. In this one, extracts from the beginning, middle and end of a novel are spaced throughout the book, which is a nice feature.

Some of the ten authors read their work at October's East Finchley Arts Festival, where they make regular appearances. Although a few have had their work published elsewhere, they are not full-time professional writers. Between them, they have experience of many different ways of life, and welcome newcomers to their group.

East Finchley Writers meet on Wednesdays at The Old White Lion. Contact Carola on 020 8883 5808 for details, or for enquiries about Showtime 4, which is available for sale online at www.lulu.com.

Lord Carlile QC gave the reason that the case seemed similar to another challenge brought by a Barnet resident over the CPZ charges which was dismissed by the court in the summer.

The Barnet CPZ Action Group points out, however, that the earlier case was not supported by detailed legal argument and has vowed to fight on and renew the legal challenge at a court hearing in the New Year.

David Attfield, the resident who is bringing the legal challenge on behalf of the group, commented: "It is disappointing that we failed to convey to the Judge the argument at the heart of our case: that two High Court cases have established that high parking charges can only be justified if there is a need to control parking demand or manage traffic in the areas concerned. Simply saying, as Barnet does, that more money is needed to pay

for the Freedom Pass for the over-60s and to fix potholes is not enough."

Supporters build fighting fund

Funds for the continuing legal fight were boosted when nearly 100 people packed into the East Finchley Constitutional Club on Saturday 12 November for a fun quiz, auction and food by the Lazy Sally Café. The event raised over £1,500.

Local actors Barry Jackson and Carolyn Pickles were in control of the gavel at the auction, which included lots of a week in a holiday home in Majorca, pet grooming, studio photos, a tour of Lords and a home cooked meal for eight.

Local businesses donated most of the raffle prizes, including a Christmas hamper, a meal for two at the Bald Faced Stag, Phoenix Cinema tickets, plus donations from Majestic Wine and Budgens.



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Sunday 18th December

6.30 pm Christmas Carol Service
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

3.00 pm Children's Christmas
Service with Carols
11.30 pm Sung Midnight Mass
with Blessing of the Crib

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

8.00 am Mass of the Dawn
10.00 am Sung Mass of the Day

Vicar: Fr Christopher Hardy SSC
020 8883 9315

www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue, N2



Sundays at 10.30 am

Come & Celebrate Christmas with us!

Sunday 18th December

10.30am - 11.45am:
All Ages Together Carol Service
(with crèche for pre-school children)
Followed by mince pies and refreshments

7pm - 8pm: Carols by Candlelight
Followed by mince pies and refreshments

Christmas Day (Sun. 25th Dec)

10.30am - 11.15am
Christmas Morning Family Service



For more information please contact
the Church Office, Tel: 8883 1544 or visit our
web site: www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk

Minister: Simon Dyke

Visitors always welcome