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Local News is our Aim

THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Station will be blooming lovely

By Sheila Armstrong

ARCHER readers may remember the plants in the foyer of East Finchley tube station that we pictured last summer. This year Santos Ninor, who works at the station, is hoping to continue the green theme and enter the Stations in Bloom competition again - but on a larger scale.

A group from N2 Gardeners, who have done such sterling work planting up the slope and flower beds outside the station in past summers, will be supporting him in his efforts.

This year the competition will, not surprisingly, have an Olympic theme and there are already embryo plans for tubs of flowers on the platforms as well as outside the station.

Monica Lanman from N2 Gardeners told *The Archer* that she hopes local gardeners will volunteer to help maintain the planting so that when the judges arrive it will all be in top condition. Planting will be in June and judging will be in late July, and they will need help with watering and weeding.

If you think you can help maintain the pots and tubs, or in any other way, please get in touch with N2 Gardeners on n2gardeners@googlemail.com, putting 'Station in Bloom' in the subject line.

Dig deep

Additional funding will be needed. London Underground has been approached



Santos Ninor has planting lans. Photo by Caron Westbrook

by Santos for a grant, but all gardeners know how expensive it is to buy plants and containers now. So N2

Gardeners will be collecting more funds outside the station and will have collection boxes in Dan & DeCarlo's café opposite the station, and possibly in other local shops. Any donations and loose change will be very welcome.

Increase in street robberies

By Janet Maitland

There has been a big increase in street robberies in recent weeks. During March and April there were five muggings in East Finchley and the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is advising residents to be extra alert when walking around the area.

The first three incidents happened in the immediate vicinity of the station, two on The Causeway, the footpath behind the station, and one in the station car park. Officers from the SNT and the Territorial Support Group (TSG) have responded to these robberies by doing extra patrols in uniform and plain clothes.

In mid-April, two suspects were arrested by officers close to the station. No further information was available at the time of going to press.

The CID is also investigating two other muggings. One of these took place in early April on Huntingdon Road when a youth was hit on the head with a bottle from behind and his mobile phone stolen.

The fifth robbery happened on the corner of Baronsmere Road and the High Road at 11.30pm on 28 April. Four

youths grabbed an 18-year-old man, demanded "everything he had" and stabbed him in the back four times. A member of the public intervened and the youths ran off.

Police arrived in time to chase them, catching up with a 15-year-old, who was arrested on suspicion of robbery. A knife was recovered from the youth although it is not known if it was he who stabbed the victim. The other youths were described as aged 18 or 19. Police informed *The Archer* that the victim's injuries were not serious.

Two 17-year-olds from East Finchley were arrested on the High Road, N20, following another street robbery on 10 May. Similarly to the Huntingdon Road mugging, the victim was struck over the head with a bottle. Both youths were charged with robbery.

The SNT advises local residents to stay alert and aware of their surroundings when walking round the area. Avoid wearing headphones and be discreet with your belongings, particularly electronic devices and jewelry, and avoid dark or deserted areas at night.

In addition to the extra patrols, the SNT have changed their shift pattern so more officers can patrol at night. An extra police officer has also joined the team.

If you have any information regarding the incidents, please call Colindale CID on 020 8733 4439 or, if you wish to remain anonymous, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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