



Police warning on fake charity collectors

By Janet Maitland

It is estimated that £147 million is lost to charities through fraud each year. Police campaign Project Killdeer is raising public awareness that some of the people collecting money on the street are not working for charities at all, but for commercial organisations.

Police advise you to check that the charity collector's bucket or tin is sealed and that it displays the name of the charity. The collector should also have written authority from the charity and a police permit. If they don't have a police permit, they're committing an offence.

If you see the same person collecting on the street for the same charity more than once a month, they probably don't have a permit. Each charity is only allowed to collect once a

year in any given local authority area.

To find out more, go to the police website www.met.police.uk/charities, which also covers other types of charity fundraising, such as house-to-house collections and clothing collections. But the main police advice, in a nutshell, is that if you're not sure, for any reason, that the person collecting is genuine, don't donate anything. Then if you do want to give to the charity send them your donation directly.



The Archer Academy students settle into their new uniforms. Photo courtesy The Archer Academy

New uniforms around East Finchley

From this month, we'll see a new set of uniforms around as the first pupils start at the Archer Academy in Beaumont Close, behind the tube station.

The Archer Academy uniform was designed in collaboration with parents and teachers to be smart, distinctive, practical, simple and inclusive. First day of term is 9 September so when you see these blazers around, you'll know where they belong.

Share a meal with the Casserole Club

By Culainn Shanahan

Casserole Club is a new free food sharing project which connects those who love cooking and want to meet more people in their area to others who would appreciate having a home cooked meal delivered by a friendly neighbour. At the moment diners are usually over the age of 75. Volunteer cooks sign up online via our website www.casseroleclub.com where they go through our safeguarding process including a criminal records check and food safety questionnaire. They are then invited to get in touch with a local diner who has the same food preferences, using us as a mediator.

After this initial message, phone numbers are exchanged, and a meal share is organised between the cook and diner, while keeping us in the loop. Usually the cook delivers this meal to the diner's home. Diners are usually signed up through a referral and are also able to get in touch with us directly via Hello@casseroleclub.com or by phone on 020 3475 5471. Then, usually, we meet them in person to make sure they understand and feel safe with Casserole Club. We only ask for one meal share to take place initially between a cook and a diner. After this has happened we speak to both of them to see if they would like another to take place, if they would like to meet someone else or if Casserole Club isn't for them. Although we're new to Barnet, we've already gathered con-

siderable support across the borough and are constantly looking for new ways to sign up new cooks and diners to the project. See more on Facebook. com/CasseroleClub

WisP: your voice and your choice

WisP stands for Wishes and Preferences. Most people have strong views about what they want and what they don't want, but when it comes to death and dying it's not always easy to think or talk about, especially with our loved ones. So we often leave it too late to discuss and make plans.

Gentle Dusk and Advocacy in Barnet have trained a small army of volunteers to help local people discuss their wishes and preferences, and to support them to put plans in place. These plans can involve any, or all, of the following: your future care and support; registering as an organ donor; telling your loved ones your wishes; making a will; organising a Power of Attorney; and recording funeral wishes.

WisP volunteers will support individuals in the general public, GP patients, and residents of care homes. They can also help community organisations by delivering workshops, making presentations, convening group discussions, or raising awareness at community and special events.

This is a free, confidential and independent service for all Barnet organisations and

individuals.

If you would like to find out more, to book a WisP workshop, or to refer an individual for one to one support, please contact: WisP (Advocacy in Barnet), The One Stop Shop, 4-5 The Concourse, Grahame Park, London NW9 5XB. Tel: 020 8201 3415 Fax: 020 8205 3618. Email: admin@advocacyinbarnet.org.uk. Website: www.advocacyinbarnet.org.uk

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Visitors always welcome

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