



Now police impersonators burgle homes

By Janet Maitland

Police are appealing for information following burglaries carried out by men pretending to be police officers.

At one o'clock in the morning on 11 August, a woman living in a flat on Eagle Drive in Colindale heard loud knocking at her front door. A man shouted that he was a police officer and asked her to open the door. When she did, she was confronted by two men who looked like policemen and produced what she believed was a search warrant.

Handcuffed, gagged and threatened

As soon as she let them in, the woman was handcuffed, gagged with a piece of tape and threatened with a knife. The fake police stole a substantial amount of cash and left. The victim heard a car driving away shortly afterwards.

The men are described as white and in their 20s. Both were wearing black vests with 'Police' printed on them, light blue short sleeved shirts, black trousers and black belts. One man was about 5ft 11ins tall and thin, with blonde gelled hair and blue eyes. The other was the same height but stocky, with greying short brown hair and freckles.

"This was a horrendous attack on a female in her own home, which has left her traumatised," said Detective Constable Andy Deamer.

Similar burglary

On 13 September at about 9pm two men disguised as police officers tricked their way into a home in Wembley and stole £800. Once inside, the fake police handcuffed one of the two occupants and then searched the property on the

pretext that they had been told that drug dealing was taking place at the address. The two men then left, but said they would be back shortly and left one of the victims in handcuffs.

The men are described as black, in their 20s and about 6ft tall. Both were wearing police beat helmets, white shirts, dark coloured jackets, black trousers, black gloves and a high visibility jacket with 'Police' emblazoned across it.

If you have any information call police on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Festive fun

Come along to the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, for a Christmas dinner, carol singers from local schools and other festive entertainment. To find out more, email christine.gilbert@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 020 8432 1423.

Meanwhile, to celebrate a year of Age UK Barnet's men's cookery classes, the men who have attended will prepare Christmas dinner, mince pies and nibbles for themselves and their friends and partners. If you would like to join one of the classes or taster sessions, or if you know a man who might be interested, email eatwell@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 020 8150 0967.

Coffee scheme perks up school funds

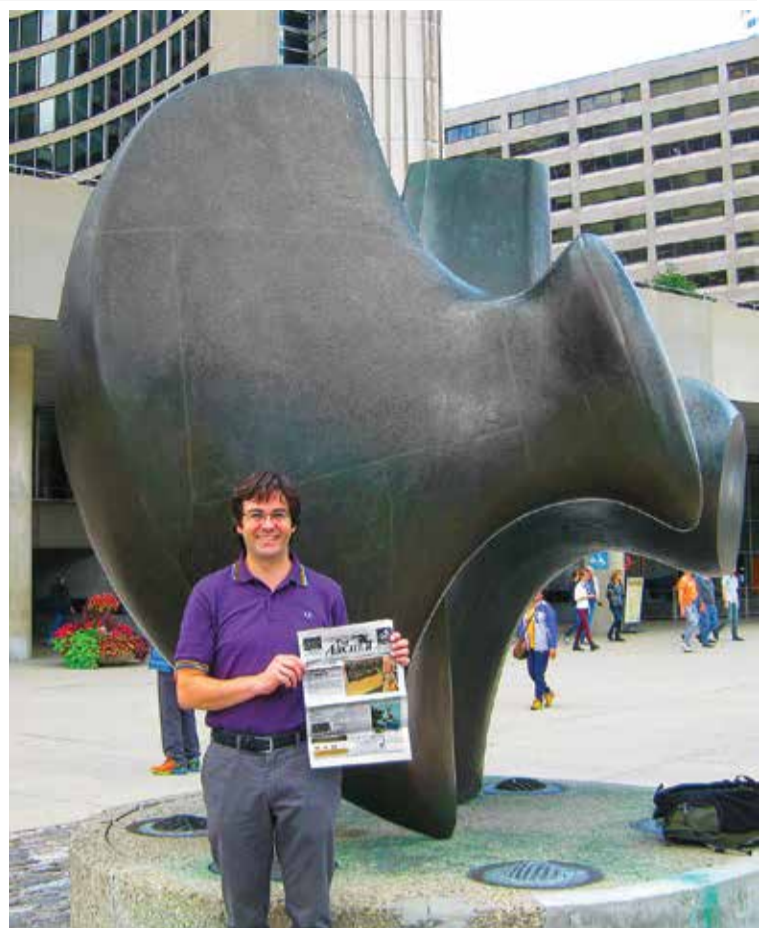
One of East Finchley's most popular coffee shops is celebrating five years in business with a fresh look and a new community scheme.

Since opening its doors opposite the tube station in 2009, Dan & De Carlo has served hundreds of commuters, shoppers and park-goers every week.

Business owner Danny explains: "I used to drive to town from Arkley every day, passing East Finchley. I spent a long time looking for the perfect venue, and was delighted when a property came up here. It's such a warm, friendly place with a strong community feel."

As well as a refit to mark the anniversary, the Dan & De Carlo team has set up a venture with the Archer Academy just across the road. Coffee customers will be able to pick up a special loyalty card from the shop or the school and collect stamps every time they buy a hot drink. For every five stamps collected, Dan & De Carlo will give the customer a free drink, and also donate the price of a coffee to the school.

As Danny says: "Local people have supported us so well over the last five years. Now it's our turn to give something back to the community that we've made our home."



Meet Archie's distant relative

By Nick Young

It seems our very own Archie statue on the tube station has a Canadian cousin. While in Toronto recently visiting family, I had a wander around the city and noticed a Henry Moore sculpture called The Archer in front of the equally modernistic City Hall.

Both the sculpture and the building date back to the 1960s but they almost missed being paired up. Apparently, the Toronto city authorities turned down Moore's offer to sell his Archer to them, even though he'd set a low price. They later changed their minds.

In 1980, Moore explained how his creation got its name: "How I came to call it The

Archer is that the two forms in the middle of the sculpture, not at the top and not at the bottom, in the middle, to me have a kind of stretch in them, and one end is the shape of a bow and this to me just reminded me of pulling and stretching a bow."

As I'd taken the latest copy of our newspaper with me, I couldn't resist asking a passer-by to take a photo of me with both Archers.

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