



Cash machine thieves target disabled driver

By Janet Maitland

A local resident had £800 stolen from her bank account on 3 February while shopping in Muswell Hill. The victim had parked her car, displaying her disabled sticker, on the Broadway. When she returned at about 10.30am, a man told her he'd seen a traffic warden photographing her car and that she'd have to get a special ticket to avoid being fined.

"He told me it was a new thing," said the victim. He told her to go to the HSBC bank to get a ticket from the ATM. Another man standing by the machine asked her if she was after a disabled ticket and told her to put her card in. She did this, shielding her PIN, but nothing happened. He told her to try again, which she did with the same result.

"Then I pressed cancel, but it wouldn't," said the victim, who immediately went inside the bank to tell them what had happened. When they opened the machine, her card wasn't there. By the time the victim reached her own bank, the NatWest, a few yards away, the thieves had stolen £500 and then another £300.

The first man is described

as about 5ft 8ins, in his 20s, with cropped hair, wearing a grey track suit and with a cockney accent. The other man wore a white track suit and was about 6ft tall with a swarthy complexion and an eastern European accent.

How the scam works

Card trapping works by a device that fits into the card slot of an ATM to retain the card. Pinhole cameras can also be installed to record PIN numbers. As soon as the victim has left the machine, the thieves retrieve the card and use it as quickly as possible.

If your card is not returned from an ATM, police advise you not to leave the machine but to ring your bank to report what has happened.



Tomasz Szakola in Hospitality House's state-of-the-art kitchen. Photo by Neil McNaughton

Scope for jobs and apprenticeships

By Neil McNaughton

The forthcoming doubling in size of Brent Cross shopping centre promises many new opportunities for apprenticeships and employment in Barnet.

Hospitality House in the High Road, N2, has teamed up with shopping centre bosses and Barnet Council to provide the funding and facilities to create bridges for young people into employment and apprenticeships in the retailing industry.

A *Let's Talk Shop* scheme aims to provide well-trained staff and bring employers and potential employees together. Companies such as Fenwicks, John Lewis, Prêt à Manger, EAT and Premier Inn are partners in the scheme.

Year 12 and 13 local pupils may also attend at Hospitality House for Btec courses in retailing and related skills. So far, such schemes have an employment take-up of 80%.

On Monday 9 March, there is an Apprenticeship Hub Day at Hospitality House, next to the tube station, organised by Ken Williams (letstalkshop@hospitalityhouse.co.uk, 020

3074 1200) which is free and open to all local school pupils, students and adults.

Ethel Mattison, 103

By Daphne Chamberlain

Meet another remarkable lady in our gallery of local centenarians. *THE ARCHER* team are beginning to think that East Finchley should be advertised as the fount of eternal youth!

Ethel Mattison, who lives in Huntingdon Road, was 103 in January. The oldest member of the Labour Party, she was invited to a Women's Dinner in October. Although unable to go, she wrote a message which brought a personal reply from Ed Miliband.

Always involved in the Co-operative Movement and the Women's Movement, she also joined the Townswomen's Guild at the age of 16. This was in Walthamstow, where her mother was also an active member.

Ethel moved to East Finchley in the bitterly cold winter of 1962. She had previously lived in Hampstead, where she worked as a nurse in a clinic.



A youthful looking Ethel Mattison - aged 103. Photo Mike Coles

Appropriately for someone with her interests, former Labour leader Michael Foot lived just across the road, and she often saw him setting out for his walks across the Heath.

Ethel's great loves have always been reading and walking, though unfortunately both are not so easy for her now. She still retains an active interest in life and developments in East

Finchley, though.

Her son lives in Fortis Green and her daughter near Rye, and she has six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

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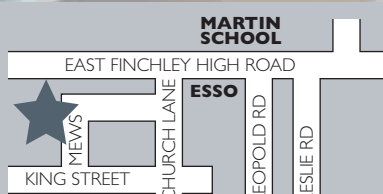


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