



Man sought over indecent exposures

By Janet Maitland

Police have issued this image of a man they want to speak to in connection with a series of indecent exposures on the bus network.

The first offence was on 7 March where a man indecently exposed himself to a woman waiting at the bus stop on Finchley Road, NW11, near the junction with Birnbeck Road.

On 24 March, police officers saw a man acting suspiciously at another bus stop on Finchley Road, near the junction with Addison Way, NW11, but he managed to run away from them.



Police have issued this photo of a man they wish to speak with.

Five days later a man was seen by police officers at the bus stop outside East Finchley station. As soon as he was spotted the man ran off. Police officers chased him down The Bishops Avenue to Lytton Road, where he ran round the back of Belvedere Court and disappeared.

The lawned area at the back of the residential flats is skirted by a long wooded gulley, at the bottom of which is a stream. Officers found two bed pillows by the stream which they believe were discarded by the man.

Anyone with any information is asked to call 101 and quote reference number 2409199/16 or to contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Sainsbury's opening date on the shelf

By Nick Allan

There is still no date for the proposed new Sainsbury's Local which is expected to occupy the now vacant shops at 132 and 134 on the High Road. A spokesperson for the store told THE ARCHER: "We're still interested in opening a store in East Finchley and are progressing our plans but we don't have an opening date yet."

When the new store was first announced it was received with mixed views. Some, including correspondents to our letters page, welcomed the imminent arrival of a new supermarket to compete with the well-established Budgens and Iceland stores but others were concerned about the further erosion of East Finchley's mix of well-loved independent

retailers. The promise of up to 25 new jobs will be a boost to the area, as will the active role the company says it intends to play in the community, but perhaps seeing an improvement to the now shabby appearance of its vacant site, added to the dilapidated state of the old Santander outlet opposite, will be equally welcome.

Forty years in business is no mean feat

The family team at KOKOS will celebrate 40 years in business in October at their shop on the High Road where there has been a cobbler for 92 years.

It was an 18-year-old George Stavrou who, having turned his back on a potential professional football career, took over the East Finchley Boot Repair Company that had stood on the site for 52 years to apply skills learned from his father.

Over the years, George developed his own techniques and style and passed these on to his master craftsmen with his own apprentice scheme. He focused on repairing and restoring customers' weather-beaten but much loved shoes. These skills earned KOKOS membership of the Guild of Master Craftsmen and recognition as an authorised repairer for the renowned Church's shoes.

Shoes, handbags and hippos

George and his team don't only repair shoes but will breathe new life into any leather item and have worked on classic car seats, bags, belts and even a leather hippopotamus footstool. Many of these were for local customers but KOKOS have also worked for celebrities, bespoke shoe makers and even the Royal family

Based on his success, it wasn't long before the business and premises expanded and KOKOS (Greek for George) moved into providing exclusive designer ladies' and men's shoes, boots, bags and accessories from Italy, Spain and the UK.



George Stavrou and his son Christopher. Photo Mike Coles

40 more years

Today, proud to be part of the local community, George and his team, now including wife Maria and sons Christopher and Alex, are happiest serving their long standing customers and welcoming new ones, taking in orders from as far away as Switzerland, South Africa and Australia.

George told THE ARCHER: "We are getting more and more requests from customers who not only want to extend the life of their leather products but also want to add their own particular style from coloured soles to decoration and other embellishments. We are always happy to help, hopefully for another 40 years."

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