



SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

Good news

In August two burglars were caught in the act in East Finchley and arrested. Separately, a raid was carried out on an address in East Finchley and large quantities of Class A drugs were found stashed in the house along with bundles of cash, several hidden mobile phones, and other drug dealing paraphernalia. Arrests were made and further arrests are very likely.

Bogus callers

A reminder about distraction burglaries where one thief distracts while another enters to steal.

On Saturday 2 September at around 2.15pm an 86-year-old man answered his door to a white male, approximately 20 years old, who claimed he was there to do construction work on the man's stairs.

The victim let him inside to have a look and took him to the kitchen. They were in the middle of a conversation when the victim saw a shadow of a person in his bedroom. He shouted "Who's there?" as the suspect tried to block him from approaching the bedroom. The victim saw a second male running from the bedroom and leaving the house. At that moment the first male also ran off and left the house. The victim went to the bedroom where he found

several cabinets and drawers had been gone through.

Car thefts

Be on alert for keyless car thefts where criminals jam the locking signal, then copy the key and alarm before stealing the car overnight. Due to the technology and amount of effort needed this is generally only employed on high-end vehicles such as Range Rover, Audi, Mercedes, Porsche and BMW.

Typically, a potential victim pulls into a car park and parks up, followed very closely by the thieves who park right next to them. Before the potential victim gets out of their car and uses their zapper to lock it the thief will activate a jammer, but they need to be very close. The victim's car lights flash but the car does not lock.

A few moments later the thieves go to the victim's unlocked car, open the door and insert their key copying equipment. The thieves activate the tracker later that night, find where the car is parked and come to steal it.

This type of offence can be hard to spot but it can be prevented. Always check that your car is actually locked after you have zapped it and walked away and look out for people tailgating you into any car park.



Bag it up: The NCS group at work in the undergrowth. Photo Mike Coles

Young people pick up after others in Cherry Tree Wood

By Diana Cormack

On the last day of August a group of students from Barnet took part in a litter pick in Cherry Tree Wood. Before being let loose, they were given an informative talk about the park by Harriet Copperman and Debbie Linton from the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood.

Equipment was provided by Barnet Council and was obviously put to good use as a nearby resident told project manager Jay that he had never before seen it done so well. Sadly, their efforts were brought to an end by heavy rainstorms in the afternoon.

However, they were back the following morning running a fun day with stalls, activities and collection boxes to raise

money (£250) for the Friends towards proposed facilities in the park. These include better litter-bins, bat and bird boxes and benches.

The teenagers were using three weeks of their school holidays as part of the National Citizen Service (NCS) which

is open to all 15 to 17-year-olds in England and Northern Ireland. Launched in 2011, it helps young people to build skills for work and life, while taking on new challenges and meeting new friends. Visit www.ncsyes.co.uk for more information.

Doors open on new charity shop

By Daphne Chamberlain

North Finchley has a new RSPCA shop which will help support the Small Animals Clinic here in Park Road, East Finchley. Both the new shop and our own existing one in the High Road are part of a network of RSPCA shops in North London, which also supports a rehoming centre for cats.



The opening of the new RSPCA charity shop in North Finchley
Photo Mike Coles

Emma Prosser, the branch manager for this area, explained that the cattery alone costs over £2,000 a month to run just for boarding, before taking account of vets' fees.

The society is very grateful for public support for their charity shops. Of course, they appreciate all contributions, but at the moment are particularly appealing for bric-a-brac. So, if you are planning to rehome some items, Emma would like you to remember the RSPCA.

The new shop, at 763 High Road, N12, next but one to Poundland and opposite the Tally Ho, was opened last month by RSPCA Inspector Mara O'Niocail. Our East Finchley shop is at 160 High Road, N2. For further information on the work of the RSPCA, visit www.rspca.org.uk.

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