



## 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](mailto:EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk), or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

### Dark nights

Our Autumn Nights Operation had high visibility patrols throughout the evenings during the Halloween and bonfire night period to prevent anti-social behaviour and crime, and discourage burglars from our residential streets.

PCs John and Phil made several stop and searches during the evenings in Market Place and Cherry Tree Wood where advice and cannabis warning notices were given.

### Home security

Residential burglary is our highest crime in East Finchley. Barnet police are working on a variety of operations to disrupt and catch burglars during this seasonal increase. Those of you who are considering getting a house alarm, do take a look at [www.which.com](http://www.which.com) for recommendations. The offer of Home Security visits is still open. If you would like one do email me with a phone number to arrange an appointment. Visits take between 15-45 minutes.

### Keep warm and well

The Keep Warm and Well scheme run by Barnet Council can provide residents struggling to keep warm in their homes with essential advice as well as practical assistance. We would also like to encourage all Barnet residents to look out for their vulnerable family members, friends and neighbours. Make sure they are warm enough and have stocks of food and medicines so they don't need to go out during very cold weather.

If you know anyone who lives in a cold and draughty home, please ask them to contact the Keep Warm and Well scheme so we can provide them with necessary assistance. You can also contact the scheme on their behalf. It is quick and easy. Call 020 8359 7441 or email [winterwell@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:winterwell@barnet.gov.uk).



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Life savers: Volunteers registering two potential donors in Muswell Hill. Photo Jenny Hearn.

## Desperate plea for stem cell donors to save 2,000 lives

By Diana Cormack

**The plight of an 11-year-old girl, called Evie, who desperately needs a second blood stem cell transplant to save her life, inspired local parents to set up a special registration event. On 9 December in St James' Church, Muswell Hill, volunteers aged 17-55 had swabs taken from the inside of their cheeks to check for the all-important cells.**

### Searching for a match

To be considered a match, donor and patient must share the same tissue characteristics. Details of these are listed anonymously on a register, available for worldwide use, but a severe shortage of registered donors makes the probability of finding a match very low even between close family members.

After an attempt with the Anthony Nolan Trust, it is hoped that Evie, from Surrey, will find a match with DKMS (Deutsche Knochenmarkspenderdatei), an international non-profit organisation which is one of the world's largest donor centres. It was set up

by a German doctor in 1991 following his wife's death from leukaemia.

### A gift of hope

Evie's mother wrote this moving appeal to would-be donors: "As a mum, when your child isn't well, we are supposed to kiss it better for them. Not being able to do that is the hardest thing in the world, the feeling of helplessness is huge, it's heart-breaking. The realisation that your child's life rests in the hands of a stranger is very difficult.

"I have had to accept that I can care for and love Evie with all my heart but only a stranger can save her life and

give her hope of a future, give her a chance of growing up and becoming a woman. What better gift is there to give? A gift of hope, a gift of life, it doesn't get bigger than that. Imagine the feeling knowing that by donating your cells YOU have given someone hope of a future."

### Donors needed

Nearly 140 potential donors responded to the December DKMS event but every year there are around 2,000 people searching for a donor. You could still be a lifesaving match for Evie or someone like her by registering online at [www.dkms.org.uk/en/donor4evie](http://www.dkms.org.uk/en/donor4evie) or visit [www.dkms.org.uk/en](http://www.dkms.org.uk/en).

## Roadside signs for scooter owners

**The Met Police have begun placing kerbside warnings in strategic positions to keep moped and scooter owners alert to thieves. One has appeared on the High Road at the end of Bedford Road.**

Pavements seem to be a new canvas for public notices. In Muswell Hill, pedestrians have seen eye-catching signs stencilled on the ground urging them to keep their mobile phones secure from thieves, who often mount the pavement on mopeds or scooters to snatch devices.

## Burglary rate plummets with new marking liquid

By Janet Maitland

**A dramatic fall in burglaries across the capital is being credited to a new product called SmartWater. The Met Police say that after giving away free packs of SmartWater to 287,000 households over the last two years they can now prove that burglaries have reduced by 25.3% compared to 2.5% in areas that have not been given this product.**

Police plan to deliver 108,750 more packs over the next ten months.

So what is it? SmartWater is an invisible property-marking liquid that glows under ultra-violet light. Each bottle has a unique forensic signature. The householder registers their bottle of SmartWater with the police thereby ensuring that any property found with that particular marking is immediately identifiable. Police say that to date, the use of SmartWater has

resulted in a 100% conviction rate in court.

### Two smart methods

So far, 488 free SmartWater packs have been delivered to East Finchley residents and a further 592 will be delivered over the next few months. You can find out more by going to [www.met.police.uk/mettrace](http://www.met.police.uk/mettrace). If you want to buy a SmartWater pack go to <https://smartwater.com>. You have to become a member to buy one, which costs £59 per year.