



Green corridor grows with new garden project

By John Lawrence

Inspired by the award-winning community garden on Leopold Road, N2, local residents have secured £50,000 funding to improve the two run-down communal areas on neighbouring Church Lane.

The money from Barnet Council's East Area Committee will pay for repair to the planters, new benches for people to relax on, bee and butterfly-friendly planting plus the installation of bee and insect hotels at the junctions with Long Lane and The Walks.

The project will add to East Finchley's growing green corridor, made up of pockets of nature-friendly land stretching north from Cherry Tree Wood through the centre of N2, including the new playground in Market Place.

Repairs of the broken brick planters in Church Lane have already started after which local enthusiasts will be clearing the vegetation ready for new planting in the spring.

The nearby Leopold Road Neighbourhood Garden, also spearheaded by volunteers with the support of local councillors, has thrived since it was created two years ago and last year was given an environmental award by The Finchley Society. Church Lane co-organisers Mary Robertson and Judith Salomon said: "We wished to transform the neglected areas on Church Lane into a similar

green haven for the benefit of residents and wildlife.

"We are delighted that funding has been granted for the project and the response from the local community has been extremely positive. We are very excited to see work progressing in readiness for planting in spring."

Mary and Judith have been in touch with the residents who delivered the Leopold Road gardens, and they have provided very helpful advice and are happy to continue to help us. They are calling on anyone living in Church Lane, Long Lane and Trinity Road to help with the restoration and gardening work where they can. If you would like to get involved, contact them at: ChurchLaneGardens@gmail.com.



Untidy: Planted beds at the junction with Long Lane



Room for improvement: The seating area on Church Lane will be made more nature-friendly

'Pointless' damage at High Road office

By John Lawrence

The owners of Tax Assist accountants in the High Road, N2, had a nasty shock when they arrived to open up on Thursday 19 December and found their glass front door had been smashed in overnight with six bricks.

Drazen and Alex Coric were relieved to find there were no signs of anyone entering their office and nothing had been stolen, but it took them time and expense to clear up the criminal damage at what is their busiest time of year in the run-up to the January tax deadline.

"We've been in business in East Finchley for nearly 15 years and we've had no problems until this year," said Alex.

"Why would anyone walk around destroying property? It's upsetting and pointless."

Their main plate glass window was also smashed back in the summer at the same time as a number of other shops and businesses on the High Road



Criminal damage: The Tax Assist office

From The Archer archives ...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago: January 2015

The water leak in Cherry Tree Wood that we reported on in 2024 is not the first. In 2015 Thames Water had confirmed a leak from a broken pipe close to the pavilion (now demolished) on the main path between the High Road and Summerlee Avenue entrances. The water company informed Barnet Council, who arranged for its repair. Around the same time, the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood group was invigorated by an influx of new members at their AGM, and it became a strong advocate for the park.

15 years ago: January 2010

We marked the passing of Lincoln Parade, demolished to make way for a housing development. The Parade on the north side of the entrance to Lincoln Road was, for many years, home to shops including the much-loved Finchley Pet Stores and a gents' hairdresser. There is now a terrace of four houses where the Parade stood.

23 years ago: January 2002

High Road crime is by no means a new phenomenon. A 2002 spate of robberies and attacks on businesses and individuals resulted in the development of a new initiative between police and traders, the Business Watch scheme. In the days before smart phones and apps, this was to involve the establishment of a network of pagers, enabling alerts about local incidents to be circulated within 30 seconds.

scam. Fortunately, no money was lost, but the scammer was very good indeed. They had quite a lot of information and a friendly smooth manner which led me to believe it was genuine. So, note to self and a cautionary tale, always put the phone down on an incoming caller, no matter how convincing they may sound, and then contact your bank directly. If there is a genuine problem, they will have it on their records.

Residential burglary

Our burglary figures in East Finchley are low, so let's keep it like this. It's a good time to check out home security and make any changes no matter how small as the weather gets cold and dark. If any family would like a home security visit or have any concerns or questions about home safety issues, please do contact me.

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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.

As the days get much shorter, I'd like to make you aware of current crime concerns in East Finchley and some measures you can take to be ready security-wise over the winter.

Phone snatches

Several folk have told me of phone snatches, but not all of these have matching crime reports so this crime may be under-reported. It is important to report all crime so that we can best utilise resources. Reporting online at www.met.police.uk is quick and easy.

If you are listening to music or talking on the phone, please use earphones and keep your phone hidden away securely in an inside pocket or in your bag. If you need your phone out in the street do be aware of your surroundings before using it. Daily I see folk walking along and chatting on their phone with their phone in their hand, often distracted with children in pushchairs, luggage etc.

Parcel thefts

We do have some good leads on parcel thefts in the area, but with the gift season approaching there will be those who will take advantage of the extra parcels on doorsteps and porches. There are a number of options to keeping your parcels safe.

They can be delivered to a local collection point. The Post Office and many shops are listed as delivery options for most companies, especially for items of value. A neighbour could be asked to take a parcel in. There are secure delivery boxes available from £75.

At the very least, arrange for parcels to be left somewhere hidden from the road and not left in communal areas in blocks of flats.

Scams

As I have sat here typing this, I have been a victim of a banking