



Door kick stunt terrifies homeowners

By Lynn Winton

It was an early morning in mid-March and retired couple Gina and Alvin Lennard were barely awake in their house in the quiet enclave of Ludlow Way, N2.

Alvin recalls: "Gina was still upstairs and I was bringing her a cup of tea when we heard this almighty crash coming from downstairs. It sounded like a terrific thunderclap and we were terrified."

"Whatever it was had split the front door frame from top to bottom. We called the police who came quickly and they were as mystified as us. They even asked us if we had any enemies. That night we just couldn't sleep. Gina has lived here for 48 years and was really, really upset." All was revealed the following morning when another four households in Ludlow Way were woken by a similar experience, and video doorbell footage clearly identified three boys taking it in turns to violently kick the front doors, with one of them filming the action. A quick-thinking neighbour drove around the streets and found them. They were all pupils of Christ's College Finchley (CCF), off East End Road. The school have confirmed this and have supplied The Archer with the following statement: "The school is aware of an ongoing police investigation and is fully co-operating with the police. As this is an active police investigation, we are not able to disclose any further details". What the CCF students were doing was taking part in the 'Door Kick Challenge', which has gone viral on social media.



Kicks for kicks: Three students are caught on a security camera approaching the front door of a house in Ludlow Way, N2

Participants, typically teenagers, aggressively kick residential doors, then run away. The aim is to kick the door down and cause significant property damage. Then the video of their 'success' is posted on TikTok.

Alvin and Gina hope that, once the police investigation concludes, the school will take up the offer from the Ludlow Way residents to meet with the pupils and explain to them the awful effects of their actions.

"Those of us affected by this vandalism, in some cases quite badly," says Alvin, "would be far better placed to point out that such actions have consequences than uninvolved teachers."

Gina, well known in the community as the former practice nurse at Heathfield Surgery,

adds: "Have they even considered they could kick down a



Serious damage: An inside view of the door kicked loose from its frame

heavy wooden door where a baby was crawling behind it, and be responsible for its death? Is anyone else, school or parents, having this conversation with them?"

Muswell Hill car boot sale

The next Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place from 10am to 1pm on Saturday 30 May at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Buses

W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. Admission is 50p (cash only) and refreshments are available. Also open between 10am and 1pm is the Basement Bookshop below the hall.

Cash awards for community groups

Two community groups have won awards worth between £5,000 and £10,000 as part of Barnet Council's cultural and heritage project Light and Flight.

East Finchley Community Trust was given financial support for its collaboration with The Finchley Pollinator Project on the Pollinators, Pathways and the Historic Walks of Finchley community heritage project.

Running from February 2026 to February 2027, it seeks to reconnect people, green spaces, and local history through three historic walking routes. Art Against Knives, which has

a base in the High Road, N2, was also a recipient for its community archive project making it possible for more than 50 socially excluded young people to illuminate forgotten spaces across the borough. Barnet Council awarded £70,000 in total to support 10 community-led and locally based heritage projects. The Light and Flight grant programme, supported by The National Lottery Heritage

Fund, is designed to allow artists and residents to uncover hidden histories, share stories and create new work inspired by Barnet's past, present and future.

Awards also went to the Burnt Oak Nepalese Community, the Stonegrove Estates Youth Project, Colindale Communities Trust and Barnet Education Arts Trust, among others.

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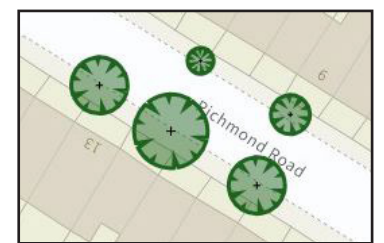
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Identify a tree

Did you know you can find a tour of all of East Finchley's street trees and potential new planting sites thanks to an interactive online map?

The tree portal allows you to search addresses and find the details and eco-benefits of trees planted nearby, as well as any works carried out on them. Go to <https://barnet.ezyportal.com/Trees/Map>



Pasture opens

With spring well under way, much-loved local nature reserve Long Lane Pasture is opening up to the community again for the next six months or so.

The volunteers who run the wildlife haven opposite Finchley Fire Station in Long Lane, N3, hope to open every day from 9am to around 7pm, although not in bad weather.

They invite visitors to come and see the changes and progress that their working teams have made over the winter months, including making some of the paths wider and developing a scented winter garden near the gazebo in memory of stalwart volunteer Wayne Armsby.

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