

CARD TRICKS AND PHONE SCAMS

Credit card fraud is a serious problem. The introduction of Chip and Pin *[to prevent the use of the card by a thief who does not know your pin number: not to be confused with Pitch and Putt. Ed]* should slow it down a bit and might even eliminate card-cloning. But there are still lots of unchipped cards in use and they are very tempting to the Yuletide bag-snatcher.

But be of Good Cheer: the law is on your side.

Even if you don't report the theft within 24 hours your liability to the bank is limited by s 84 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 to £50.

This and other wise legal advice is available free at N10's only electronic advice centre: anything.legal@dial.pipex.com.

It is, however, sensible to report the theft of your cards to the relevant bank as soon as possible *(if you want to remain a customer of theirs)* and, if they require it, to the police. And you will find the process of police reporting made easier if you drop in at our friendly police station in Fortis Green (open Monday 2.30 to 7.30, Tuesday 8.30 to 1.30 and Friday 8.30 to 1.30).

Now about the phones: The introduction of premium rate charging, with the money passing to the recipient of the call, has opened up great possibilities for fraud by enterprises based outside this country. Any calls which start "Congratulations, you have won...", particularly pre-recorded ones, are likely to be leading you on to press 9 to hear further details, which will connect you to a premium rate line charging **£20** a minute for 5 minutes **even if you hang up immediately**. So don't ever press **9** (or **9,0#** or **0,9#**) and don't key in your house number and postcode, which you may also be invited to do: this could have further unpleasant consequences. For the same reason don't let anyone use your phone if they knock at your door with some unlikely story of wanting to report a breakdown, accident or whatever: **the chances are they want to link you up to a premium rate line.**

Hillfield Park

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THE BROADWAY BEAT

PCSO 7109 Tony Murray was front page news in our August Newsletter [No 33] as the only officer on the beat anywhere in England who carried a mobile phone on which he could be contacted by local residents (and retailers). This bright idea was thought up and paid for by the Haringey Borough Association of Neighbourhood Watches on which your editor is a delegate. It will be applied, eventually, throughout the Borough, as part of the Safer Neighbourhoods strategy, starting next year. In the same newsletter we commended Tony for his zealous work on the Broadway and it came as no surprise that last month he was admitted into a Regional Constabulary as a regular. Well done that man. But what about the mobile phone? We are happy to report that it has passed to his successor on the Broadway, PCSO 7108 **Vikki Eggleton** (right), and that she is taking calls as Tony did. *[See the picture: the mobile is the phone without the antennae Ed]* The number to ring if you need her is, as before, **07709 521 025**

And that's not all that's happening on the Broadway. You may have noticed a small team of strippers and scrubbers out and about removing graffiti and fly-posters from shop-fronts and street furniture. These noble workers are in fact members of the **Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association** who do the cleaning as a voluntary service. You may say they are doing the Council's job for them. **So what?** They do it very well and you won't find any graffiti or fly-posters in our shopping area today. **Isn't that good?** If you would like to engage in pro-social behaviour of this kind telephone the MHFGA Litter and Rubbish Monitor (!) **Dawn Miles** on **8444 6552**. Finally, about the street scene, you may recall *(October Newsletter No 34)* that Hillfield Park N W made four Area Assembly bids for money out of the Muswell Hill Ward Budget to replace the damaged signs and grit bin in Hillfield Park, to provide better street lighting, to upgrade the Parkland Walk and to hang flower baskets on the Broadway lamp-posts. None of these suggestions has been rejected outright, although the Parkland Walk improvements will go over to the next financial year and the street lighting will have to wait its turn. But the other bids are set to be implemented: so we can look forward (cautiously, because basket maintenance is going to be a problem) to a Broadway in Bloom. *(Credit for this inspired proposal goes to Caroline Edwards at No 49 Ed)*



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ECO-BULBS

Your editor is one of Haringey Council's accredited distributors of **FREE** eco-bulbs each of which should cut your electricity bills by **£100** over its lifetime and also save a tonne of carbon dioxide, thus reducing the pace of global warming. At first you will think you are entering the Twilight Zone; but you'll soon get used to it. Contact No 9 [020 8883 0371] if interested.

UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES

The engineers who built our magnificent viaduct in 1873 were no doubt aware of the trouble that the trains would cause the race horses grazing on the slopes of the Hill Field and the villagers clustered round the Royal Oak. But they might have expected peace to return once the last passenger trains had run in **1953**, carrying Betty Ward's husband among others. Underneath the arches, however, new businesses were coming to life, with encouragement from the new owners, Haringey Borough Council. More recently planning applications have been filed on behalf of these businesses to make fuller use of

the arches by filling them in completely. Nice for them, but hard on the residents of Hillfield Park who rely on the gaps at the top of the arches for light and a view beyond Canary Wharf to the North Downs in Kent. So a planning battle has been joined. If you have good ideas for helping the residents, get in touch with Christine (57), Phyll (59), Andy (63), Nicola and Richard (65), Sue (67), Bill (69) or Joy (71).



WOMEN ON THE ROAD

There are almost too many local success stories to report and they all concern the brilliant female residents in our road. To start with let us hear it for **Sophie** (left) and **Hande** who have both sailed straight from school into acceptance by the best University in the land. Sophie is taking a year out in China first if she can raise £1,900. This is what she has to pay **GAP Activity Projects** who are arranging a placement for her as an English teacher in Fujian province. She has been doing jobs for residents including a complete overhaul of our Services



Directory (see under **SERVICES**) and has raised most of the money, but if anyone would like to help her/engage her services the contact address is [get this] d00dette@hotmail.com. Other young rising stars include **Hannah** who is fast-tracking up Inland Revenue, **Helena** whose play and stage set, built behind the Muswell Hill Centre, are being sought for further productions into 2005 and **Gita** who is now working in the House of Lords as PA to a very senior Government Minister. In more or less the same breath we should give a cheer for **Carmen** (right) for the launch in the New Year of a new sit-com **THE CROUCHES** which she has co-written and another one for **Sarah** for inventing and bringing to fruition the prestigious **British Composer Awards** (winners announced on 17 December), as featured in Ham & High BROADWAY. The surnames of all those mentioned in this paragraph will be known to you but they have been suppressed for legal reasons. *[our lawyer is unsure of the spelling Ed].*



Services

Our Local Services Directory has now been revised thoroughly by Sophie Erskine (No 20): defunct businesses have been removed and those still hacking it now have mobile phone numbers and occasionally emails addresses. And a whole new wave of recommendees has been added. If you would like a copy it will be supplied free of charge PROVIDED that you yield up the name of a service-provider who is not in the directory already and whom you recommend for inclusion. Directories are with Peter Thompson at No 9 [020 8883 0371: gen87@dial.pipex.com].



And don't forget our public service providers at this time of year: they like to be appreciated. There is our energetic postman Derek who does a great job and there is Ray the Road Sweeper who is a real trier (when he's not away having an operation). And we are lucky to be one of the roads where the milkfloat still calls before dawn. So make sure Mike the Milk is on your Christmas card list.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS YO YOU ALL