Frank Tymkow takes a quirky look at news from other communities.

Frank Confessions

Floody Marvel

Brave Mark Miller dashed 200 yards to put out a fire at his aunt's house and forgot he had left his bath water running.

He helped put out the cooker blaze and returned to find water pouring through his ceiling.

Mark, 19, of North Shields Tyne and Wear said, "I was horrified. I had to go back and get the firemen who had been at my aunt's to pump the water out.

Lasting Couch

Shrink, Dave Nelson, is offering weekend counselling courses for anglers stressed out by not catching fish.

The sports' psychiatrist, whose clients include the Welsh Rugby Squad, says, "We will be able to help them relax. We will run through imagery, imagining what is going on under the surface of the water. I am sure people will be able to improve their mental attitude which should help them catch more fish".

Love Bug

Bride Janie John, 24, has booked seven 1960s "Love Bug" VW Beetles to ferry guests to her wedding with Dave Flannigan, 26, in Cardiff.

Booziest Girl Driver Jailed

Britain's booziest woman driver - nearly seven times over the limit when nicked on a motorway - was jailed for four months.

Rosemary Foster, 23, was banned from driving for five years. JPs at Macclesfield gave her three concurrent two month sentences for assaulting police.

Foster, of Stoke, was rescued by cops who found her staggering on the M56 after a vodka binge. Experts said the alcohol should have killed her.

Work it out

Five Archer readers catch the Northern Line every day from East Finchley tube station. Can you work out the road in which they live, the station to which they travel, and the time that they leave their home? Use the grid to help you, by marking a definite "yes" with a tick and a "no" with a cross.

	Creighton Avenue	Leslie Road	Oak Lane	Summerlee Gardens	Sylvester Road	Elephant & Castle	High Barnet	Kentish Town	Tottenham Court Road	Waterloo	7.30	7.40	7.50	8.00	8.10
Mr Black															
Mr Brown															
Mrs Green															
Miss Grey															
Ms White															
7.30															
7.40															
7.50															
8.00															
8.10															
Elephant & Castle															
High Barnet															
Kentish Town															
Tottenham Court Road															
Waterloo															

Clues:

1. Mr Brown lives in a road beginning with the letter "S".
2. Neither Mr Black nor the person who lives in Leslie Road works at Elephant & Castle.
3. The person (not Mrs Green) who leaves the latest lives in Oak Lane.
4. Miss Grey, who lives in Creighton Avenue, leaves directly between the two people who catch the Charing Cross Branch.
5. The person who travels to Kentish Town leaves later than Ms White, who lives south of St Pancras cemetery.
6. The person who commutes to High Barnet leaves later than Mr Brown, but earlier than the woman who lives in Sylvester Road.
7. The woman who leaves her house at 7.50, changes onto the Central Line to reach her office in Chancery Lane. She is not Mrs White.
8. The earliest departure uses the Bank Branch.

Answers

7.30 Mr Brown of Summerlee Gardens travels to Elephant & Castle

7.40 Ms White of Leslie Road travels to High Barnet

7.50 Mrs Green of Sylvester Road changes at Tottenham Court Road

8.00 Miss Grey of Creighton Avenue works in Kentish Town

8.10 Mr Black of Oak Lane travels to Waterloo

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Monica Herring: Lollipop Lady

by Daphne Chamberlain

Four years ago, Monica Herring, meal supervisor at Martin Infant School, (where she was once a pupil in the nursery class) answered a police advertisement. It was for the post of Lollipop Lady.

Monica Herring in Christmas gear.

"If I'd known how stressful the job would be, I'd never have applied," she says. But apply she did, and after an interview and medical with particular emphasis on eyesight and hearing she came successfully through a morning's training session on the crossing.

From then on, her working day has begun at 8am, when she picks up her gear from Martin |School. Cold weather doesn't bother her. She wears a thermal vest and balaclava (with antlers attached at Christmas), and the leggings and well known yellow coat are waterproof and windproof.

Her bugbear can be the pole, which she has to carry all the time. Though not heavy, it can be difficult to control in a very strong wind. "The other week, it felt as though my shoulder was being pulled out of it's socket.

At 8.15am, Monica is out on the crossing. First, she turns on the lights at either side of the road. These were provided after persistent lobbing by Martin Parent/Teacher Association.

By this time, the first children are already arriving. "why I'm still doing this job is because the children are fantastic. They really are very good."

Martin put a high premium on training in road safety. Children and their adult escorts are warned that traffic needs time to stop. Unfortunately, some drivers resent stopping at all. The morning shift is full of rush hour tension. "I know drivers sometimes wonder why I won't let them go. The thing is that I can see all round. I can see possible dangers that drivers can't. also, some people don't realise that directly I step out on the road, traffic on both sides has to stop".

On one occasion, a driver furious at being halted, aimed his vehicle straight at her. On the other hand , a passing motorist once handed her a bunch of roses.

The shift ends at 9.15am, but Monica has to be back at school by 12.00, wearing her meal supervisor's hat. With four colleagues, she pours out drinking water, mops up spills, and cuts up the food for the little ones. (Some are only 4 years old.) slightly older ones often need a guiding hand with their knives and forks.

Children can choose from 2 or 3 menus, one of which is always vegetarian. Baked beans and chips are top of the pops, but emphasis on healthy eating puts an embargo on chip's more than once or twice a month!

Once a month, the "dinner ladies" have a meeting with the Head. Otherwise, there's and off duty period between 1.20pm and 2.50pm. then it's back on the crossing for an hour.

When she wants to unwind, she swims or works on her allotment. Home is Richmond Road, where she still lives in the house where she was born. She once used to roller skate down Long Lane, in the middle of the road.

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