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Local News Is Our Aim

THE ARCHER



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Charles Woodhouse, age 83, squares up to Sir Henry Cooper.. Photo by John Dearing

The Right Jab from Sir Henry Cooper

By John Dearing

As part of the on-going campaign by the Department of Health and charities such as Age Concern to persuade people, especially those such as older people who are most at risk, to have a 'flu jab this year, Sir Henry Cooper, famous for a different kind of jab, visited the Ann Owen Centre in Oak Lane on the morning of 13 November.

He extolled the virtues of vaccination against influenza, warning that the 'flu can lead to much worse conditions such as pneumonia, stroke, and heart failure, and gave his whole-hearted support to the campaign. A number of the regular visitors to the centre were pictured with the famous ex-heavyweight boxer, before taking the plunge and being inoculated.

Planned grant cuts to hit Ann Owen Centre - see page 5.

Estate Heating Scandal

THE ARCHER has learned that a large proportion of houses on the Strawberry Vale Estate (estimated currently to be around 50%) have had to manage without proper heating or hot water during the winter period for the best part of 22 years!

Strawberry Vale's heating is powered by two central boilers. However, ever since they were installed over 20 years ago they have been plagued with problems. A number of residents I have spoken to told me that during the weeks, often months, that the heating is not working, living conditions have been very hard, particularly for the elderly and young who are more susceptible to illness. They say this is an outrageous situation that should have been dealt with many years ago. Since the Peabody Housing Trust and, before them, Camden Council have failed in their responsibilities, residents say they have had to find their own coping mechanisms. They have had to make do with leaving their ovens

on, making baths out of kettle water and investing in their own electric heaters. This is not only grossly inadequate for heating homes, it can be dangerous and significantly increases their electricity bills.

Continued on page 2

Bogus Police Con

A 78-year-old woman had her Christmas savings money stolen after a man pretending to be a police officer forced his way into her flat.

The incident happened in Chapel Court on Friday 7 November at about 10am. The victim answered the door to a man who told her that he was a police officer and had some bad news for her. He pushed past her into the flat and then said he had to go into the back garden to look for a suspect. The man then kept her talking and several minutes passed before the victim realised that the front door was still open. When the man left, the victim discovered that her bedroom had been searched and about £3,000 cash stolen from her bedside cupboard.

The suspect is described as a white male aged about 45. He is about 5 feet 9 inches tall with fair, wavy hair and stocky build. He was wearing beige jeans and a white shirt.

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