



Bus Action Group Proposed

By Daphne Chamberlain

"I've had enough of all this hot air. We need to do something." Agenda 21's Hazel Burnett has had enough of talking about the 263. She wants to see it actually running as a frequent and reliable service. Any like-minded people, prepared to put in a bit of work to bring this about, are invited by her to form an action group.

Local resident Peter Croxford has monitored running times for some years (see last month's letters). Barnet's Public Transport Department told *THE ARCHER* they would be interested in seeing his work extended. At present, the only other statistics are those collected by Transport for London, which cover no more than one day a week, are restricted to certain hours, and do not give any background information.

Volunteers needed

The proposed action group would need volunteers to run an organised survey. Other tasks envisaged are collecting petitions and encouraging exasperated punters at bus stops to register official protests.

Exasperated punters could get into the habit of checking the exact time when they arrive at the stops.

Already, Bus Watch West Haringey has sent practical advice and information towards setting up an activist group. Anyone who uses or has kept an eye on buses running through Muswell Hill will be aware of the success achieved by the Bus Watch volunteers.

Copy West Haringey

Anyone who wants to work for similar success for East Finchley should go along to the Neighbourhood Centre in Church Lane, from 8.00 to 9.30pm on Wednesday 24 March. Hazel Burnett can be contacted on 020 8444 6824.



Nuff said! Photo by Erini Rodis

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Britain's Worst Drivers

It's that time of year again, time to forget Christmas cheer and Valentine's Day romantics and get down to the serious business of being rude and offensive for Lent. Let's start with anyone who drives a gas-guzzling 4WD in London, they don't deserve an even break.

The idea behind 4WDs is go anywhere, anytime, any place, preferably a place that is knee deep in mud or sand or mountains. Take the Land Rover Defender, it's perfect for bogs, farms and armies, just as the Nissan Patrols used by the UN are perfect for deserts. They are the real thing. So is the farmer's friend, the Daihatsu Fourtrak and if you own half the county the only choice is a Range Rover. The rest, from BMW to Volvo, are just pointless metal mountains.

Worse and worse

The BMW X5 is big, brutal and offensive, especially when double-parked outside the local school, and usually driven with a total disregard for everything else on the road. The Jeep Cherokee and Grand Cherokee are proof that Americans can do irony; the Lexus is tasteless, the Mercedes is more Sacramento than Stuttgart; the Toyota is just way too big; the VW is obscenely arrogant and the Volvo, well, it's a Volvo. Even then you have not got to the worst part of it. In the pointless, tasteless, tacky world of the 4WD, the 160mph Porsche Cayenne is the new king. This combines the estate agent arrogance of the average Porsche driver with the tank-like pointlessness of an off-roader designed for the King's Road. It is perfect for footballers, their wives, managers, agents and all the other 'D' list celebs who think that double parking an eyesore on the High Road is the epitome of cool.

Everyone who owns these things has one thing in common; they don't understand them and haven't got a clue about driving them. They didn't buy a 4WD for its rugged versatility because they aren't rugged and versatile themselves. The average owner is small-minded and selfish and cares nothing for the environment but believes that they and their children are only safe if transported in several tons of badly driven, inappropriate metal. They are, quite simply, Britain's worst drivers.

Sippy's Second Round

By Diana Cormack

Over a thousand people turned up for the second round of the Michelob Ultra competition "How Far Will You Go for £50,000?" which took place at the Hackney Community College in Shoreditch. One of them was East Finchley's Sippy Azizollah, hoping that her New Year's Resolution of trying to raise £10,000 for North London Lupus/Lupus UK would find favour with the judges.

But before she got to them Sippy, like all the contestants, had three tasks to perform. Unfortunately, the first two proved to be rather difficult for someone in a wheelchair as they involved physical dexterity, though Sippy scored well on the last one, where she had to catch small foam balls being blown out of a wind tunnel. Each of charity fundraisers was filmed doing this.

Impressed

The panel of six judges seemed impressed with Sippy's plans for involving the local community in her venture and with her proposed target of £1000 a month. At the time of writing, sales of her Rainbow Quiz plus some

friends' fund raising coffee mornings had almost achieved her first month's target. Plans for a Bring and Buy Sale, a cryptic quiz and an Easter event for children are under way.

Another future event is The London 10 K Run in July, where Lupus has places available for individual or team runners, who will be provided with tee shirts. If you are interested in taking part, email Sippy on sippya@hotmail.com or phone *THE ARCHER* Voicemail on 08717 33 44 65.



Sippy Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

ROGER OF FINCHLEY

5 Fortis Green
East Finchley
London N2 9JR
Telephone 020 8883 2354

Registered Hairdressers (Est. 35 yrs)

Shampoo & Set.....£6.75
Cut Wash & Blow Dry
.....£15.70
Whole Head Hi & Low Lights
.....from £42.80
Whole Head Tint.....£17.65
Perms from.....£41.25

Motts Godwin Insurance

Competitive Insurance - Lady & Mature Drivers -
Special rates for over 30's - Immediate cover -
private car & commercial vehicles - Low rates -
accidents & convictions - Instalments

Telephone 209 High Road, East Finchley
London, N2 8AN

020 8444 1040

SEEDS SOIL

Mike, Tricia & Jimmy welcome you to flowers by



Josephine's

58/60 High Road, East Finchley
London N2
Tel: 020 8883 3598 & 020 8444 9569

EST 35 Years

GARDEN SUNDRIES PLANTS