



In memory of Miriam

The sister of Miriam Hyman, who was killed in the 7 July bomb attacks in London last year, is setting out on a worldwide fund raising trip in memory of her sister.

Miriam, 31, of Holyoake Walk, East Finchley, was on her way to her job as a picture researcher in Canary Wharf when she was killed by the bomb that exploded on the Number 30 bus in Tavistock Square.

Her sister Esther and Esther's partner Adrian White plan to travel the world for six months to raise sponsorship for the Miriam Hyman Memorial Fund.

Around £50,000 has already been raised since the Fund was established by Miriam's family and friends in November 2005. The MHMF is working with the charity ORBIS UK to improve

the sight-saving skills of eye-care specialists in the developing world. Already the money is providing training for an ophthalmic paediatrician from India, and will be used to train many more eye-care specialists annually.

ORBIS UK was chosen because Miriam knew the value of good eye-sight, having worn glasses or contact lenses since she was a teenager. She loved art and nature and would not have been able to appreciate these without the gift of sight.

Information and updates on Esther and Adrian's fund-raising journey through South Africa, Thailand, Australia,

New Zealand, Fiji and the USA will be accessible on the ORBIS UK online sponsorship webpage. A TravelPod web log will be updated with news and photos of all fund-raising activities.

Esther herself was selected to be a Woman of the Year at the 2006 Women of the Year Lunch in London following her positive response to the loss of her sister in the London Bombings. Esther was nominated by a council of over 40 women.

Esther said: "I am proud and overwhelmed to be given recognition by the prestigious Women of the Year lunch for our positive response to the events of 7/7. However, in no way can I take sole credit for the fund-raising success of Miriam's family and friends who have joined forces from the outset to raise around £50,000 for the Fund so far."

To log on to Esther's fund raising diary see www.travelpod.com/members/estherbunny or www.ukorbis.org/bins/fund_page.asp?cid=9-3397-4017&lang=1.

Changes to Northern Line timetable

By John Dearing

Train times on the Northern line are to be changed in off-peak hours. David Millard, General Manager of the Northern line, says the changes are designed to improve customer service.

He told *THE ARCHER* that overall performance on the Northern Line was fairly good last year but, despite the current programme of track renewal work, problems increased this year. Neither the Northern Line management nor Tube Lines, who maintain the line, can countenance further degradation of service, he said.

Disruptions to service are inevitable given the "ageing assets" of the Northern Line, and train delays lead to gaps and bunching of subsequent trains. Mr Millard said that this effect would be minimised by simplifying the service pattern.

The changes, effective between 10am and 4pm, and after 7pm Mondays to Fridays, are as follows:

- All Charing Cross branch trains will terminate at Kennington. To travel on to Morden, cross the platform.
- All Morden trains will run via Bank.

- All Mill Hill East trains will run to and from Finchley Central only; a shuttle service will run every 15 minutes. To travel to and from central London, change at Finchley Central.

More trains will run between Finchley Central and High Barnet. By separating Bank and Charing Cross trains at Kennington, and Mill Hill East and High Barnet trains at Finchley Central, each route will be substantially less affected by any delays that might occur elsewhere on the Northern line.

Before the changes, there were 12 trains and four Mill Hill East trains per hour, and after the change there will be 16 High Barnet trains, plus the four Mill Hill East shuttles per hour. Overall there will be no reduction in the number of trains running.

David Millard was previously interviewed in the October edition of THE ARCHER

Bogus bag-collectors

On Monday 2 October, a slightly battered white car drove down Sedgemere Avenue collecting bags that had just been thrown into the middle of the road. The collection bags belonged to a well-known national charity. Half way down the road a large bag of bric-a-brac was jettisoned into the gutter and the car drove on.

Ringing the number on an unused charity bag elicited the information that there was no collection in the area scheduled for that week; the charity appreciated the reporting of the incident.

A resident in a nearby street recalls having put out some carefully packed china for collection and having heard the sound of breaking china later in the day.

It seems that some unscrupulous people are collecting the unused charity bags left outside front doors and then creating their own round. They take what they want and discard the rest.

The national charity concerned has urged anyone seeing anything suspicious to contact them on the telephone number on their bag. The car registration number would be useful. Anyone unsure about whether the collection is genuine can ring the charity's number for confirmation.

Fat chance

By Diana Cormack

Despite much protest from local people, Barnet Council went ahead and demolished the Wilmot Centre in Eagans Close several months ago, thus depriving the area of a building which had long been used for the benefit of young people in particular.



Out of play. Photo by Diana Cormack

At the same time they deprived them of a healthy outdoor activity which could still be going on to this day. Alongside the building was a basketball pitch which was well used by teenagers. The basketball stands now lie abandoned in a corner of the wasteland which the Wilmot centre site has become. At the time of writing the basketball

pitch was being used for parking by workmen renovating the houses nearby.

In the run-up to London hosting the Olympic Games in 2012, and with the present and persistent debate about fatness and fitness, it seems strange that the council should have decided to remove this facility as well. Or perhaps no one in officialdom noticed?

Don't bank on 'hospice' recycling bin

By Diana Cormack

Recently a new recycle bin appeared alongside those already based on the High Road between the library and Martin Schools. Bearing the logo of the North London Hospice, the dark blue bin is for clothes and shoes. The words "helping to support the hospice" are accompanied by a statement in small print informing the public that a donation will be made from the proceeds of the collection. However, our local hospice shop which has been at 123 High Road for 15 years, since October 1991, displays a notice in the window pointing out that "these bins are owned by a recycling company who have their own uses for these unwanted items".

The company, Edmonton-based Lontex Exports, says that when the bin collections are sorted, any items in good condition are sent for resale. Other usable clothing goes to the third world and unusable things are sent for recycling to be made into other products. They are sold by weight and a donation is made to the hospice.

The North London Hospice would like to encourage people to keep sending unwanted good quality clothes and shoes to one of their ten charity shops and to put only those items that have seen better days into the blue bins.

Read the small print

In the past couple of years *THE ARCHER* has published

articles advising readers that clothing collection notices put through their doors may not be all that they seem. Careful reading often shows that the unwanted articles given freely here have to be paid for in the countries they are sent to. This is revealed by statements about people in need in the third world and Eastern Europe receiving "clothes for their families which they can afford". Despite claims that this provides business for UK exports and transport as well as jobs here and in the recipient countries, media reports have detailed the large profits made by the firms involved. No wonder those leaflets keep fluttering onto our doormats!

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