



Fake parking ticket stunt backfires

By Diana Cormack

Parking tickets are never funny, so when I found a Fixed Penalty Notice firmly stuck to the windscreen of my car, which had been legally parked outside my house, I was not amused. Further investigation revealed the words "3 points and a £60 fine". I ripped open the see-through plastic envelope to find it contained an advertising strip from *Phone City*, the mobile phone store on the High Road.

The store's manager seemed bemused at my objecting to this method of promotion and even asked if I understood what was being advertised (which was a hands-free phone, amongst other things).

A sticky joke

He maintained that over 3,000 such notices had been distributed locally and that nobody had objected, in fact it had been taken as a joke. People to whom I have since spoken did not find it funny but, unlike them, I did not have to clean the thick layer of adhesive off my car's windscreen as I insisted that someone from the shop did that.

The area in which I live has had unpopular parking restrictions imposed on it since the opening of Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, so it is a sensitive subject of which the shop manager seemed to be ignorant. At my insistence, he assured me that no more of these fake penalty notices would be appearing; in fact, I



found the closing date for the special offer being advertised had already passed.

Drivers in Muswell Hill who were also targeted in this advertising stunt have not taken it well either and local councillors are following up their complaints. One annoyed customer told *THE ARCHER* that she would not be using the shop again.



Alastair Greenway performs acupuncture on a canine patient.

Pin the tail on the doggy

By Dawn Powell

Once labelled as being 'new age' (in British culture at least), alternative therapy has become much more mainstream. So much so that it is now possible for even man's best friend to get a spot of acupuncture.

Alastair Greenway, who practises in the north London area, has been operating his acupuncture veterinary service for the past three years. He

treats dogs, cats and horses for a range of illnesses. He says: "Generally, acupuncture is more effective for long term chronic diseases, especially chronic pain. For example, we have a lot of success with arthritis, hip dysplasia and various causes of chronic back pain such as intervertebral disk disease."

However, he will consider taking on a patient only after they have been to see a traditional vet. He explains: "I use acupuncture in a complementary way, not as an alternative. It is essential to have an accurate diagnosis before acupuncture can be considered, and this will need a traditional veterinary work-up. Some diseases will have better results with acupuncture and concurrent medical treatment."

Good patients

According to Greenway, the treatment does not usually hurt the patient. He says: "Occasionally animals will notice the odd needle going in, but they are

normally very accepting of the treatment. Some seem to enjoy all the attention!" He offers a home visiting service to make things more comfortable for patients, which he says makes them "much happier."

While it may seem slightly unusual to give acupuncture to your pets, it is not a new practice. Greenway explains that in ancient China, acupuncture was used to treat horses on the battlefield and was considered a vital therapy. But, he says, the ancient Chinese never would have thought of using it to treat cats or dogs. Looking on Greenway's website, it certainly seems that acupuncture is an effective therapy as there are several glowing testimonials. Margot Gough claims her badly limping and timid 11-year-old Labrador Chrise was transformed into an 'energetic, pain free and happy, beautiful girl' following acupuncture.

For more information, visit www.acupuncture-vet.co.uk.

Wood to host mini mini marathon

By John Lawrence

If your children enjoyed the excitement of watching the London Marathon back in April, now is their chance to take part in a running event of their own.

The Bobath Centre in East End Road is staging its first Big Fun Run on Sunday 8 July in Cherry Tree Wood to raise funds for the therapy and education services it provides for children with cerebral palsy.

The day will be a family fun day with prizes for the biggest fundraisers and the best fancy dress costumes.

The running distances will be family-friendly, too. Older children will be able to run up to 1,500m, roughly three times round the park, and younger children can cover a shorter distance.

"If we can get 300 local

children and their parents to have some fun, get some exercise and learn about the work of the Bobath Centre, then it will be a good day out," said run organizer Janine Redgrove.

Staff at the Bobath Centre, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year, are hoping the Big Fun Run will become an annual event that the whole community can enjoy.

Fundraising manager Kevin Gillespie explained: "We are part of the community but sometimes we hide our light under a bushel. We'd like people to know more about what we do."

Around 300 children use the Bobath Centre every year. Fundraising is essential because the ratio of therapists to children can be as high as three to one.

Entry forms for the run can be picked up from the centre from Monday to Friday, by contacting Claire on 020 8442 2275 or by emailing kevin@bobathlondon.co.uk.

Young swimmers

We updated you last month on the success of young Cophall club team swimmers Lauren Chapple and Alice Pearson but got their addresses muddled up. Alice lives in Hertford Road and used to go to Martin School, while Lauren, from Alexandra Park, attends Fortismere. Sorry to both girls and good luck in future competitions.



Green space disappears

ARCHER reader Stephen Barry took this photograph of the green space outside the Northern line contractor's gates on the Great North Road, immediately opposite The Bishops Avenue.

The flowers and grass that used to occupy the space have been killed off by the contractor's vehicles which park there during the week. It has also become a bit of a rubbish tip and looks as if it hasn't been cleaned for months.

Barnet Council told Mr Barry several months ago that the contractors working on the line would be returning the green space to its former attractive condition but there's no sign of that happening yet.

St Mary's

Summer fair

A summer fair in aid of St Mary's RC Church will be held on Saturday 16 June from 12 noon to 3pm in the church hall at 279 High Road. Admission is 50p.

Stalls will be offering bric-a-brac, cakes, craft, exotic cuisine and Fairtrade goods as well as afternoon tea and coffee. Other activities include head and shoulder massage, lucky dip, nail painting and a tombola. There will be entertainment for children, including a bouncy castle and face painting.

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