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THE ARCHER




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CARS & COURTIERS

March 2009 No. 186
ISSN 1361-3952

20p
where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Longer route 'may make service worse'

By Daphne Chamberlain

The 263 bus route has been extended past Archway to Holloway, but are other areas benefiting at the expense of East Finchley, and why was there apparently no proper consultation? MP Rudi Vis and East Finchley Bus Watch are among those asking questions of Transport for London.

There are concerns that, with no extra buses beyond one late night return, the 263 service will be slowed down by traffic congestion in Holloway Road, making frequency and reliability through East Finchley worse than it is now.

Lack of consultation

THE ARCHER understands from Transport for London (TfL) that stakeholders, who include local residents, members of the public, MPs, local authorities and police, should be consulted before any route changes are made. East Finchley Bus Watch were placed on the stakeholders' list in December 2007, but were not consulted about this change, and were "stunned" when TfL's letter announcing the change of route was passed to them by Haringey stakeholders.

In this letter, TfL announced that the extension provides better links between Highgate and Holloway, areas already linked by the 43 service. They also said the current 263 service met demand, although the TfL Users' Committee reported four years ago that the service between East and North Finchley was inadequate.

Hazel Burnett said: "The southern part of the route will be riddled with buses, at the expense of service users at the northern end, who only have the one bus."

Extensions needed

East Finchley Bus Watch has been campaigning for the 17 route to be extended beyond Archway to its original terminus at North Finchley. This would provide another service along the High Road and also a link not only with Holloway but also with King's Cross and London Bridge.

Rudi Vis has reminded TfL that East Finchley has been asking for the past 20 years for a direct bus to the West End and the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, but also for an increased service on the 263 route, particularly on the northern end, where it is the only

public transport available.

THE ARCHER invited TfL to comment but at the time of going to press they had not replied.



Calendar cash: From left to right, THE ARCHER's Diana Cormack, Sheila Armstrong and John Dearing, East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact's Keith John, Photobox's Mark Chapman and THE ARCHER's Daphne Chamberlain. Photo by John Lawrence

Volunteer Daniela is the youngest award winner

By Diana Cormack

In a special ceremony hosted by Middlesex University, Hendon, 17-year-old Daniela Antoinette, of Prospect Ring, became the youngest-ever recorded Barnet Community Volunteer Award winner.

The Barnet Community Volunteer Awards, organised by the Volunteer Centre Barnet, acknowledge volunteers who have carried out more than 100 hours of unpaid work within the last year in the borough.

At the age of 16 Daniela, a student at Fortismere School, committed to supporting the Monday Youth Club which meets at St Mary's Church Hall, 279 High Road (see THE ARCHER, June 2008). She does this in a variety of ways, including doing administrative tasks, basketball coaching, helping to organise visits and social activities and assisting beautician Naomi Bates.

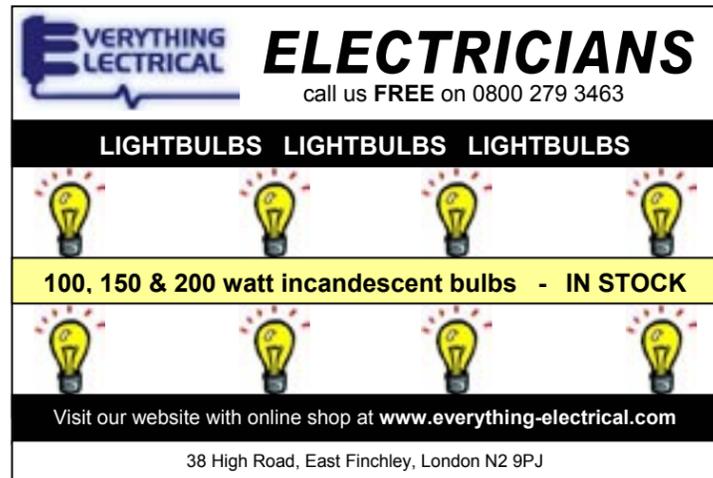
Other workers at the youth club were also presented with award certificates by Barnet's mayor, Councillor John Marshall. He thanked Maureen Clemenson, Maureen Antoinette (Daniela's mother), Mameh Kabba, Nathan Loh and Ricardo Stewart for their efforts in the community and their contribution towards making a difference to the lives of others.

Daniela realises that today's youth are our future. She very much hopes that other young adults will get themselves involved in the rewarding activities which volunteering can offer.

Calendar raises more than

£2,000 for Contact

Thanks to everyone who bought or sold THE ARCHER Calendar 2009. Our readers bought more than 400 calendars and raised more than £2,000 for East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact. Find out how the money will be spent on page 5.



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