



Direct Bus to Royal Free?

By Daphne Chamberlain

London Buses are being lobbied to install a direct route from the East Finchley area to Swiss Cottage, passing the Royal Free Hospital.

There is controversy as to whether the suggested route should run along Fortis Green to Muswell Hill, or should continue along the High Road towards North Finchley. East Finchley residents may be able to air their views at the next Finchley Forum in September.

The last Forum, which met in June at the Green Man Centre, was told that the Transport Liaison Group had approached London Buses, and it was suggested that consultation had already started.

Councillor Kathy McGuirk said there was concern that Barnet were not having enough input to discussions, particularly in view of the lack of buses at the northern end of East Finchley. She felt that the proposed bus should run along the High Road.

It was suggested that a rep-

resentative of London Buses should be invited to the next Forum to discuss this and other transport issues.

When *THE ARCHER* contacted London Buses, we were told that any such scheme was in its "very infant stages". A spokesman said that normal procedure would be first to decide on a provisional route, and then to consult households in residential roads along that route by leaflet drops.

At the time of writing we could not confirm whether the invitation to attend the next Forum had been given or accepted, but anyone interested can contact the Town Hall on 020 8359 2000 nearer the date. The Forum, which is open to everyone, will meet at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4 September in the Quaker Meeting House in Alexandra Grove, North Finchley

Postcode Warning

Archer readers should be aware of the following scam which is targeting females in particular. They receive a phone call claiming to be from the Post Office asking them to confirm their postcode. When this is given, they are told that they have become eligible for some gift vouchers for their co-operation and are asked to provide their home address and postcode in order to receive the vouchers.

So far, 90% of the women who have provided this information have been burgled, as it is assumed that their homes are empty during office working hours. The police are aware of this scam and the Post Office has confirmed that they are NOT conducting any postcode surveys.

Also, it has been reported that if you receive a telephone call from an individual who identifies him/herself as being an AT&T service technician who is conducting a test on that line, or if anyone else asks you to do the following, DON'T. They will state that, to complete the test, the recipient

should dial nine zero (90) then the hash key and hang up. This will give them access to your phone line, which allows them to place long distance, international or chat-line calls.

These are then billed to your account. The information which the police have received is that many of these calls are emanating from local prisons. This has been checked out by the police and is correct - DO NOT PRESS 90 hash FOR ANYONE.

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Finchley Christian Fellowship

The Place to be - Every Sunday 11:00am

Your local Multi-National Community Church

A great welcome and time awaits you

The Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road East Finchley
Enquiries - 020 8805 2867

East Finchley Baptist Church

just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

for more information contact 8446 3571

Visitors always welcome

The Bravest Bobby

By Femke van Iperen

A local Metropolitan police officer has been voted the "bravest officer in London" at the Police Bravery Awards for his fearless action in ensuring the safety of the public.

On Tuesday 2 July 34-year-old Constable Glen Hesketh, from Golders Green Station, was among 63 of the Bravest Officers in England and Wales at an awards night organised by the Police Federation and sponsored by *The Sun*. Following a reception at 10 Downing Street with the Prime Minister, Hesketh competed for the title of the country's bravest bobby at The Dorchester, presented by the Home Secretary, David Blunkett.

Since 1995, the annual Police Bravery Awards recognise outstanding acts of courage by police officers who put themselves at risk of death or serious injury to uphold the law and protect the public. PC Hesketh has been praised for his bravery when off-duty and on his way to his daughters' school.

A real sense of duty

On 3 February 2001, spotting in The Avenue, Bushey, a suspicious-looking man who had a baseball cap covering most of his face, the constable watched how the man then pointed a handgun at passing cars, threatening to kill passing motorists. Without means of calling for assistance, the officer decided to act when the man made for the school and there confronted him. Though threatened himself, Constable Hesketh managed to disarm the man who was then arrested by officers from a passing patrol car.

PC Glen Hesketh said: "I don't feel like the bravest officer in London. Other offic-



PC Glen Hesketh with his award. Photo by Erini Rodis

ers are doing brave things every day and they don't get the same recognition. I just acted instinctively because I knew something was wrong. But the award is a great honour and means more because it was my colleagues who nominated me."

Constable Hesketh, who lives in Hemel Hempstead with his wife and two daughters aged

6 and 4, was praised by Metropolitan Police Commander John Yates, who said: "Glen's outstanding act of bravery epitomises all that is best about the police service - a real sense of duty confronting an armed man posing an immediate threat to children. The Metropolitan Police is enormously proud of what he has done."

Be Fair to Fairacres

By Diana Cormack

Residents of Fairacres at 164 East End Road, which houses mainly physically and visually disabled people, are supporting a petition asking Barnet Council for a zebra crossing to be positioned opposite the Five Bells where there is now a central island.

Although there are already two pelican crossings - one by Nazareth House and one by the

cemetery - they feel that these are inappropriate because the time allowed for crossing the

road is too short. They constantly fear that, before they have completed their crossing, impatient drivers will begin to move as soon as the lights change in their favour. The traffic lights at the junction with the High Road near Budgens do not allow them enough time to cross either.

Short measure

A zebra crossing, they believe, would mean that drivers have to stop until people have safely reached the other side. They hope that it would also slow down some of those drivers whose speed remains unaffected by the recently introduced humps. As the island is already in place, it would only be a case of painting the black and white lines and placing the Beleisha beacons.

Archer team member Sippy Azizollah, who lives in Fairacres, would like to know what other residents of East End Road think about this proposal. Please send your views to her via *THE ARCHER*.

Mod Cons

Police have issued warnings of two new ruses that have been used recently by con-men operating in our area. The first method involves the suspect posing as a cheap carpet salesman. This, of course, gains them entry to the house, where property is stolen.

Mirror image

The second method employed involves a supposed council official who asks an elderly resident if he can install security mirrors and, on that pretext, gains entry to the premises where money is stolen.

Burial Site

A new web site has been set up dedicated to East Finchley's cemeteries.

It contains a brief account of the cemeteries - East Finchley Cemetery (formerly St Marylebone Cemetery) in East End Road and St Pancras & Islington Cemetery in the High Road - and short biographies of some of the interesting people buried in them.

The material, which is illustrated, is based on articles by Bob Davenport that appeared in *The Archer* some years ago, and will be added to in the coming months.

It can be found at <http://www.bobdavenport.freemove.co.uk/cemeteries>