



Feeding a stray is never enough

By Sheila Armstrong

Eighteen neglected cats were rescued from two sites in East Finchley recently by the local charity Animal Aid and Advice. The charity's Marilyn Dyson, an experienced trapper, is critical of some people's attitude to cats and ignorance of their needs.

She says she comes across stray cats, which have been left to breed indiscriminately, abandoned when people moved house, or left ill and even dying. Marilyn told *THE ARCHER* that most strays have something wrong with them, which is why they will come to other humans for help.

Her advice is that it is better to contact Animal Aid and Advice on 020 7607 1723 rather than feed a stray. In that way, the cat can be found a new home or at least neutered and returned to site if it is feral. If left to breed, one cat in the course of a year can produce many kittens, which in turn produce more offspring.

Neglect and cruelty

Called to a house recently to collect five kittens for rehoming, Marilyn found the kittens underweight and badly infested with fleas. The mother of the

kittens was already pregnant again, and there was another cat which was nearly bald, very thin and crawling with fleas.

In another case, someone had been feeding a cat for three years as the owner had moved away without him. A friend drafted in to feed this cat at holiday time noticed that he could not eat because of severe mouth ulcers and was so thin he could hardly walk. Unfortunately, this cat had to be put to sleep but in most cases the charity is able to give veterinary treatment and rehome them.

Marilyn is appealing for a volunteer with a car to help Animal Aid and Advice deliver and collect cats as well as items for the charity's High Road shop and its two other local outlets. Please get in touch at the number above if you can help.

Barnet's recycled cans help trees grow in Africa



Tree planting and farming projects in Malawi are being actively supported by every can recycled in Barnet. Photograph from the Malawi project

Barnet Council is part of a campaign that will see one tree grown on the shores of Lake Malawi in southern Africa for every tonne of aluminium cans and foil recycled.

Last year Barnet residents recycled 622 tonnes of cans, equivalent in weight to roughly 75 double-decker buses. Cans and tins collected are sent for reprocessing within the UK.

Recycling aluminium uses just 5% of the energy and emissions required to make it from the raw material, bauxite. Cllr Matthew Offord, Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "This campaign is yet another excellent reason for recycling. Every time Barnet residents put out their Black Box they are also contributing to tackling deforestation and encouraging the economy in Africa."

Software secrets

Local businessman Kevin Finn has set up a new company with the aim of providing local businesses with expert advice on their IT needs.

He says many companies pay frighteningly large licensing costs to operate office software when in fact they could get the same functionality, entirely legally, without spending a penny on licences.

Kevin, who is chairman of *THE ARCHER*, has established N2End IT Solutions to help smaller businesses compete. For more information, visit www.N2End-IT.com.

Bus Watch pressing ahead

By Daphne Chamberlain

As reported in our August edition, East Finchley Bus Watch is pressing ahead with the case for an improved service along the High Road. Secretary Hazel Burnett has contacted Transport for London (TfL), London Buses, London Travel Watch, Barnet Highways Dept, Council Leader Mike Freer, East Finchley local councillors, Greater London Assembly representative Brian Coleman and Rudi Vis MP.

THE ARCHER hopes to bring you their responses next month.

Meanwhile, on 30 August, an individual member of Bus Watch received a letter from TfL, telling him that his request for a second bus route between East and North Finchley had been passed to the Network

Development Scheme, who will consider it.

The same letter claimed that new technology, to be introduced to the 263 in 2008, will stop bunching.

Bus Watch believes that the increase in population and brown site development, congestion on existing buses and the element of choice contribute to a powerful case for another service.

They back these arguments by pointing out that the 263 serves hospitals at each end of its route and that, after East Finchley, the Northern Line is no longer parallel with the road, so the tube is not a practical alternative for many people. The northern end of East Finchley is further away from an underground station than much of Muswell Hill, which certainly has more than one bus.

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