



Parking madness! Motorist gets ticket for obeying the law

By Diana Cormack

Anyone living in a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) knows they must provide visitors with a voucher to enable them to park legally. They don't always know when their friends or family will arrive, but in most cases the visiting driver will need to collect a parking voucher from them.

However, when Eva Frost was doing just that in Park Hall Road, N2, a bizarre situation occurred. She was at the top of the outside staircase to her sister's first-floor flat waiting to be given a voucher, when a Civil Enforcement Officer approached her car. Even though the sisters shouted to him that she was bringing down the voucher, Eva was still issued with a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). The observation time for this was listed as 15.27 to 15.27.

Doing the impossible

Believing that people should not just give in, Eva challenged the penalty, which led to six months of form filling, letters and emails. According to Barnet Parking Services (based in Sheffield!) no grace is given. They state: "This is an instant contravention and no minimum observation is required before a PCN can be issued. The onus is on the motorist to display their parking permit in the vehicle before leaving the vehicle unattended."

Not surprisingly, Eva failed to see how the system could

work if you are not allowed time to collect the visitor voucher, and continued with her challenge.

Adjudicator sees sense

This Catch 22 situation caught her on 20 June 2015. Barnet Council finally rejected her appeal on 30 October. But Eva did not give up. On 22 December a hearing at London Tribunals (Environment and Traffic Adjudicators) came to a different conclusion. The adjudicator allowed the appeal on the grounds that a contravention did not occur, concluding: "A motorist on parking is allowed time in which to obtain and display a visitor parking permit."

A Barnet Council spokesperson said: "There is no statutory minimum grace period for parking in a resident parking bay within a CPZ area without a clearly displayed visitor voucher, therefore this PCN was issued correctly. However, we understand that the adjudicator has given dispensation in this case. We have reviewed the adjudicator's decision and on this occasion we have decided to accept the outcome."

Man arrested after station collision

By Janet Maitland

Police are still appealing for witnesses after a man was injured in a collision outside East Finchley tube station on 17 December.

The victim was taken to hospital with serious head injuries at about 11.50pm. The 28-year-old driver of a white VW Golf stopped and was subsequently arrested on suspicion of causing

serious injury by dangerous driving. He has been bailed to return to a police station in early March.

Detectives from the Serious Collision Investigation Unit are appealing for anyone who witnessed the collision or has any information to contact them on 020 8991 9555 or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if they want to remain anonymous.

Small gestures of kindness lead to bigger things

By Diana Cormack

Last December a notice on the local social network www.streetlife.com caught the attention of some readers: an appeal for gifts for homeless women at Christmas.

A comprehensive list was provided suggesting specific items suitable for donation and listing some which were not. Presents for children were also included as many of the women would have left home due to an abusive situation, taking their children with them. The idea was to pack the gifts in a rucksack or bag which would be an additional useful donation.

Lucy Williams, who created Bags of Kindness and organised the collection in north London, told THE ARCHER she was blown away by the response. Participants took over 30 bags to her home near Highgate tube station.

In total the project collected 55 bags along with three sacks



Kat Hill with some bags of kindness. Photo by Lucy Williams

Big Fun Walk

The Big Fun Walk in aid of the North London Hospice takes place this year on Sunday 20 March. It's one of the most enjoyable fundraising events in the calendar, taking walkers on a delightful seven-mile trek through north and central London's best parkland.

The walk sets off from East Finchley tube station, passing through Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Woods, Hampstead Heath, Primrose Hill, Regents Park, Hyde Park and St James's Park, finishing at Westminster.

New this year will be massages available at the finishing line. You decide how much you want to pay and your donation will add to the fundraising total.

Every penny from the walk is used to support the work of the hospice in Woodside Park, which provides end-of-life care for patients from Barnet, Enfield and Haringey. Walkers agree to raise a minimum of £35. Children under five and dogs can register for free.

Sign up to take part at www.bigfunwalk.co.uk, email bigfunwalk@northlondonhospice.co.uk or phone 020 8446 2288.

of baby clothes, toys, coats and jumpers. She was impressed by the thoughtfulness which had gone into their contents, some of these being newly purchased in bulk. An East London drop-in centre for women which is only open at Christmas benefitted from the collection.

The Kindness Project

A Facebook posting by www.rucksackproject.org gave Lucy, Yolande De Vries and Kat Hill, who are members of The Kindness Project UK, the idea for

the collection. Its success has inspired Lucy to think about projects for the coming year and any she comes up with will be announced in THE ARCHER.

It was reading about a boy who had vowed to do a kind act every day which prompted Lucy to decide to do a kindness whenever the opportunity arose. To know more about random acts of kindness please contact her on hello@myheartskipped.co.uk. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/bagsofkindness.

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