



Desert road: Ruth Anders with her Archer on the tropic line in South Africa.

Tropical and topical

Archer contributor Ruth Anders has been taking the trip of a lifetime around Southern Africa and Australia, travelling through some inhospitable landscapes in the intense heat of the southern summer. Needless to say a well-read copy of *The Archer* has gone with her. Here's Ruth at the marker line for the Tropic of Capricorn, which passes through Limpopo Province in the northern part of South Africa.

Tough new parking regime on Thomas More Estate

Changes are being made to parking on the Thomas More Estate, off East End Road, N2. As we were going to press, a public meeting was being held for residents to express their concerns.

Estate management company Optivo wrote to all residents proposing a permit system and the implementation of private parking management firm PCM to enforce it. Optivo said there were 117 parking spaces on the estate, which includes Juliana Close, Helen Close and Cecilia Close, among other roads, but these were often full and many vehicles were being parked outside designated spaces. This created congestion for residents and made it difficult for refuse collections and emergency services to move around the estate.

An Optivo spokesperson

said: "After investigating, we have concluded that the issue is the result of many households having more than one vehicle, and non-residents using spaces. We have considered all the options and we feel stricter parking controls are needed."

One resident of Juliana Close told us the changes would put too many restrictions on herself and her neighbours. "The scheme is 24 hours a day, seven days a week," she said. "We've heard there will not be any visitor permits. This means no servicemen for washing machines etc and no friends visiting."

Effect on nearby streets

Optivo said PCM was currently issuing at least one free permit to each tenancy-agreement holder with a parking need. It was also creating a designated pick up/drop off area for visitors to disabled residents.

A resident of Helen Close told us those with more than one car and visiting car owners were being pointed to free-of-charge parking on surrounding streets. "I'm sure this won't please the residents of Hamilton Road, Brackenbury Road and Sedgemere Avenue, which are already packed with cars," he said.



Must-read: Diana and Che catch up on home news in Cuba.

Fine example of a free press

You'd imagine Che Guevara, the figurehead of Cuba's revolution, would be all in favour of a free press, and what better example than the *The Archer*, shared with him here by our writer Diana Cormack on a recent holiday with husband Ian to Havana and other towns in Cuba?

We need volunteer drivers

The *Archer* team is looking for volunteer drivers who could help distribute our papers once a month. We need people who could pick up a set of papers from Sedgemere Avenue, N2, and drop them at the homes of 8-10 deliverers living close to each other.

The paper is printed in the first week of each month. Pick-up and drop-offs usually take about an hour. Please email the-archer@lineone.net or leave a message on our free phone line 0800 612 0748 or email

the-archer@lineone.net if you would like to find out more.

We would appreciate any help we can get to make sure *The Archer* continues to reach all our readers in East Finchley. Thank you!

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