

'Boris bus' to stop in town centre



THE prototype model of the new red London bus (above) will be in Bromley today.

Due to be welcomed onto London's streets on February 20, the bus will be in Bromley High Street from 1pm to 4pm.

Members of the public are invited to come and have a look around the double decker and examine the first bus to be specifically designed for the capital in 50 years.

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson, said: "This fantastic machine is chock full with the latest technology and London buses will be world leaders once again when the first eight buses take to our roads in February.

"They are an advance party for what I envisage will eventually be a legion of their type."

The vehicle, dubbed by some as the 'Boris bus', uses the latest diesel-electric hybrid technology, producing half the carbon dioxide emissions of conventional diesel buses.

GROVE PARK: 36-year-old triathlete humbled by brother's kidney donation

Iron man still running ahead of 'gift of life'



ABOVE: Diccon Driver during his 'iron man' challenge and (right) with his dialysis machine
BR63505

A TRIATHLETE awaiting a kidney transplant from his brother is preparing to take part in his first race since starting dialysis.

Diccon Driver, who is hooked up to dialysis for eight hours each night, has been suffering from IgA Nephropathy, a condition in which antibodies build up and damage the kidneys, since he was 23.

Now 36, Mr Driver says the disease has got progressively worse over the years to the point where he requires a kidney transplant, which he hopes to have from his brother Mark next month.

He said: "I'm incredibly humbled.

"They call it a gift of life, and it really is. There's nothing more one person can give to another.

"It will give me my life

by **DAVID MILLS**
dmills@london.newsquest.co.uk

back. I can function day to day but it's a struggle."

Describing his condition, Mr Driver said: "It's a slow, degenerative disease. It makes doing physical activity a lot harder."

Mr Driver, of Five Oaks Mews, Grove Park, is in training for the Bromley 10k race, which takes place at Norman Park in Bromley on January 15.

The member of the triathlon team Greenwich Tritons said: "When you have kidney disease the biggest worry is you end up on dialysis not able to do anything.

"I wanted to prove to myself I can still do it, to see how far I can go.

"If I can do this then I'll try a half marathon, and keep going."

Before going on dialysis

two months ago and with only 25 per cent kidney function, Mr Driver took part in an "iron man" triathlon in Nottingham in July, which consisted of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a marathon, which he completed in 13 hours 26 minutes.

He said: "It was very difficult.

"Doing it with kidney disease meant it was very easy for me to get dehydrated."

Mr Driver, a copywriter, is keen to get more people to sign up as organ donors.

He said: "I'm one of the lucky ones. I have a brother who is fit and healthy. There are a lot of people who have not got this option, who are sitting on a dialysis machine waiting."

Find out more about Greenwich Tritons at greenwichtriton.org.uk

In Brief

ADOPTION: Bromley Council is looking for more adoptive parents, especially for black African and black African-Caribbean children, sibling groups of three or more children, children aged five to 12 and children with physical and or learning disabilities. Email fostering.andadoption@bromley.gov.uk or call 020 8313 4193 to find out more.

SOPRANO: South African soprano Sally Silver is performing for the Bromley Bickley Rotary Club from 7pm on January 9 at the Bickley Manor Hotel in Thornet Wood Road. Tickets cost £12, including a two-course meal. Call 020 8467 1405 or email peter@rhydfach.co.uk to book.

STREET MEETING: Mottingham and Chislehurst North Safer Neighbourhood Team is holding a street briefing today from 3pm to 3.30pm outside Mottingham Primary School, Ravensworth Road.

ON DISPLAY: A free exhibition of photographs by John Morgan is taking place at the Ripley Arts Centre, Sundridge Avenue, every weekday from 9am to 4pm until January 27.

PRAYER MEETING: Elmstead Baptist Church is having a new year prayer meeting tonight from 8pm at the church in Elmstead Lane, Chislehurst. Call 020 8857 4785.



Ruth Jones with Ron Lambert at the Alzheimer's Society's drop-in centre in Bromley Common

Ruth's return boosts drop-in centre

DEMENTIA care in the borough has received a boost after a celebrity visited a drop-in centre to highlight the work it does.

Carer Ron Lambert, 81, featured in a film on Ruth Jones's chat show, What a Cracker, after the actress visited the Alzheimer's Society's branch in Bromley Common.

The Gavin and Stacey star's second visit comes after she met and spent a night with Mr Lambert and his late wife Gladys at their Hayes home to highlight the daily routine of

a dementia carer as part of BBC's Comic Relief.

Mr Lambert said: "I am really pleased to see Ruth again. It was a nice surprise.

"The drop-in centre is very valuable to many people.

"For me it's a social thing. It's like a big family."

Comic Relief gave the Alzheimer's Society a grant of £120,000 to develop a campaigners network in England, of which the Bromley branch received £5,000.

Currency could be key to solving burglary

DETECTIVES are appealing for help in tracing some foreign currency which was stolen in a Christmas burglary.

The burglary took place at a flat in Brackley Road, Beckenham, the night between Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Among the items stolen was 2,000 Chinese Yuan Renminbi, which is worth about £200, as well as a pair of moon and star shaped earrings, a box of chocolates, a CK toiletries gift set, a bottle of handwash, washing up liquid and baby wipes.

Anyone who is offered this currency, or who has any other information, should call Det Con Roland Strange at Bromley police's burglary squad on 020 8284 8859 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

OPEN TO TRADE AND PUBLIC

JANUARY SALE

**LADDERS
LOFT LADDERS
SCAFFOLD TOWERS**

"Website Prices on the High Street!"

Loft Ladders from **£54.99**
Extension Ladders from **£94.99**
Scaffold Towers from **£199.99**

FREE • Lifetime Guarantee
• Next day delivery
• Rear parking

TOP QUALITY PRODUCTS AT LOW LOW PRICES!

BPS Access Solutions Ltd 01959 570 077
178 Main Road, Biggin Hill, Kent TN16 3BB
(Just 15 minutes from Bromley and Croydon)

Opening Hours: Mon-Thurs 8.30am-5.30pm
Fri 10.00am-5.30pm Sat 9.00am-5.00pm

FREE STEP PLATFORM
Worth **£34.99** with every in store order (Until 31st January with this advert only one per customer - fits all ladders)