

PETITION WON'T STOP THE TRAINS



IGNORED?: Passengers are angry

COMMUTERS are using an online petition to try and force London Underground (LU) to make Turnham Green station an all-day stop on the Piccadilly Line.

A petition to change the stopping policy at the station has been launched on the Prime Minister's website and has already attracted 1,800 signatures.

Currently the line only stops between 5.28am and 6.45am in the morning and 10.30pm and 12.48am at night.

It means locals have to travel to Acton Town or Hammersmith to catch the Piccadilly Line, one of the main tube arteries through London, adding an extra 10 minutes to their journeys.

Chiswick resident Gareth Thomas started the petition arguing that Turnham Green is a busy commuter station with two platforms, but is only served by just one line for most of the day.

"Passengers suffer frequent lengthy delays at Turnham Green while watching half-empty Piccadilly Line trains sail by.

"A stop at Turnham Green would reduce unnecessary tube changes at Hammersmith, add mere moments to the overall Heathrow service, reduce District Line overcrowding between Turnham Green and Hammersmith and significantly improve services for Chiswick residents," he said.

LU says it has no plans for the Piccadilly Line to call at Turnham Green as it would extend journey times for all passengers.

The District Line already serves Turnham Green. **Aidan Jones**



MAKING HIS MARK: Lucas Welik hopes that surgery will change the way others perceive him

PICTURE: PAUL DOYLE

IT HAPPENED TO ME...I'M AWAITING CORRECTIVE SURGERY ON THE BIRTHMARK I'VE LIVED WITH FOR 29 YEARS

WILL I LOSE A PART OF ME?

TRUE LIFE

BORN WITH A BIRTHMARK OVER HALF HIS FACE, LUCAS WELIK HAS LIVED WITH THE REACTION OF STRANGERS FOR 29 YEARS. HE CAME TO THE UK FROM POLAND FOR SURGERY, AND TELLS **CHRISTIAN McLAUGHLIN** ABOUT HIS SEARCH FOR A SECOND LIFE

PEOPLE IN Poland use the word tolerance like a fashion accessory. I was born in a small city near Krakov called Sandomierz, and it's incredible how small-minded people are there. I've only really realised this since coming to London.

Here, when people stare, it's more out of curiosity than disgust, and when I smile, they smile back. I remember when I was a kid I'd ask my mother: 'Why me?'

No one else in my family has a birthmark. I couldn't understand what I'd done to deserve it. It used to make me angry when she replied: 'Imagine if you were born blind, or paralysed, how much worse things could be.'

Why should things be worse, I would think. Why can't I just be normal like everybody else?

The doctors thought it had something to do with a blow to my mother's stomach during pregnancy, but no one can be sure.

I have fewer layers of skin cells on that area of my face, so the blood is closer to the surface, making it a red colour.

My teenage years were difficult. At that age you only look at people on the surface.

I cried about it and was angry at times, but I never used to wish it on other people because I always knew this is my burden. At 16/17 I thought, 'Maybe I'll never have a girlfriend.'

'A LOT OF PEOPLE ONLY LOOK WITH THEIR EYES, BUT IF YOU LOOK WITH YOUR SOUL, YOU CAN SEE SO MUCH MORE'

When I got to university I met a lot of girls and one was a princess. But when I got to know her all she did was complain, 'My legs are too short, I wish I was taller, I wish I had bigger boobs...'

It made me realise we all have problems and that if we pay too much attention to them we become boring. People need to stop worrying so much, every second you think about your insecurities is a second wasted. I don't want to miss out on the beauty of life so I silence my internal fight and get on with it.

We are all attracted to things that look nice, but that attitude is empty. I've always seen myself as beautiful because staying happy is my version of beauty. A lot of people only look with their eyes, but if you look with your soul, you can see so much more.

Growing up like this has taught me so much, but surgery will give me a second life. I have to wear protective cream every day because the thin skin burns so easily. In Poland the medical service is slow and it's hard to make money.

Here I can save and anything is possible. I arrived in London eight months ago and was lucky to get a job straight away. My friends warn me that I might lose part of my identity by having surgery, but I know I won't forget the lesson I have learnt.

It may take a couple more years, but it doesn't matter. I've learnt to accept my difference and how to love myself, but it doesn't change the fact that every day I wake up wanting something different.

I celebrate it for all that it has taught me about human nature, but I have to take the future into my own hands and dream of a new beginning.

● Lucas lives in Queens Park, and works at Subway in the King's Road Shopping Centre.



CHARACTER: Rusheen Wynne-Jones

FUNERAL FOR RUSHEEN AND A PARTY IN APRIL

THE BODY of Lady Rusheen Wynne-Jones, who died at home in Elystan Place, Chelsea, on January 16, has been claimed by her next of kin.

Lady Wynne-Jones is now in the care of the Chelsea funeral directors, where she will be cremated this week.

A celebration of her life, organised by her sister Diana Malcolmson, will take place in April. **Ellie Dyer**

GOT A STORY?



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