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Local News Is Our Aim

THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Spirito di punto? Photo by Jay Radia

Church Lane crash

By Erini Rodis

A road block was set up in Church Lane on 18 August after a car drove into the side of a shop.

A metallic green Fiat Punto had bounced off a parked red van, lurching straight into what used

to be the off-licence on the end of the row of shops near the High Road.

One of the neighbours, who prefers to remain anonymous, was woken from his afternoon nap by the vibrations through the walls at about 3.30pm

"The shop has been unoccupied for several months, so thankfully nobody was hurt," said freeholder Jay Radia, who watched as workmen worked into the evening to clear away debris and secure his property.

"It's the driver I feel sorry for."

It has been suggested that the driver, who is female and in her seventies, may have lost control of the car after a sudden drop in blood pressure. She was said to be shaken but not hurt, and was taken home by a friend. The car was unscathed.

Still no action on sewage

By Daphne Chamberlain

Vale Farm allotments at the end of Tarling Road have been contaminated by human sewage, in such large quantities that it has even overflowed across the footbridge over the North Circular Road.

Allotments Secretary Stella Burnett told us that the sewage eruption is not new. "It happens every year," she said, "usually around Christmas time. Last January, although Thames Water cleared the obstruction temporarily, they couldn't get rid of a liquid sewage lake. They said they would return when it had dried out, but they never did, and I have withdrawn the plot from use. I have been arguing with Thames Water and Barnet about this problem for five years. It's a danger to public health. Children go to school across that footbridge."

Ms Burnett told us that Thames Water sewage crews have said that the root cause of the blockage is probably not on the allotment site, but, as they don't know exactly where it stems from, they can't clear it. Thames Water later confirmed for *THE ARCHER* that however long-standing a blockage is, they will not put a camera down to investigate unless an overflow happens at least three

times in twelve months.

When Ms Burnett contacted Barnet Environmental Services earlier this year, a representative said they would "do a leaflet drop" along the lines of the sewer just before Christmas, asking people to take precautions. Confirming this for us, a Barnet spokesperson said that the sewage system was Thames Water's responsibility.

Wading through sewage

Following questions from this paper, Barnet told us that the Thames Water Area Manager would be meeting Ms Burnett the following day. However, seven days later, Ms Burnett told us that this had not happened, and she had heard nothing further.

She told us, "I have discussed this with a manager several times before, but nothing has been resolved. I just hope I'm not wading through sewage in my wellies in the freezing cold again this Christmas."

Footnote Local residents are afraid that the proposed demolition of nearby Lonsdale House Care Home and the building of a new development on its site could make matters worse. They say that at least one house in adjacent Sylvester Road has already been affected by a sewage overflow.

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