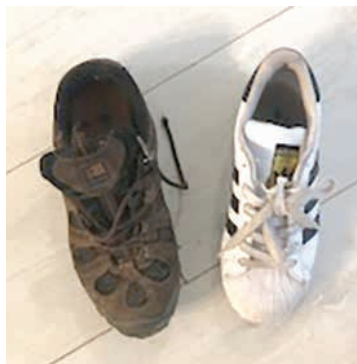




Letters

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page" The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail news@the-archer.co.uk



Lost soles

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the letter from Mrs Magnusson in the August edition of *The Archer* ('Fox-walk collection', page 11). I also live on Long Lane and have experienced the activities of the foxes but sadly from a victim's position.

At the end of June one pink child's wellington, a pair of brown trainers and one white trainer all disappeared from my porch overnight. My son-in-law found the pink wellington outside the shop on the corner of New Oak Road and I found one of my brown trainers elsewhere on Long Lane. I am still missing one white trainer and one brown trainer, as shown in the photograph.

I no longer leave shoes outside overnight, but if Mrs Magnusson or anyone else finds these trainers, my granddaughter and I would be delighted. I wonder if I should erect a shelf outside my house for lost single soles! The local community could then leave found shoes and others would know where to look to find their missing footwear.

Yvonne Millar
Long Lane, N2.

Farewell to Midhurst

Dear Editor,

I am sure many people will join me in expressing great sadness in learning of the closure of Midhurst Butchers. I have been a loyal customer for over 40 years and have rarely bought supermarket meat. The quality of their meats enhanced by the cheeriness of service made shopping there a pleasurable experience. Regular customers even looked forward to the long queues for turkeys at Christmas!! Sadly, online shopping, Covid restrictions and general changes in shopping habits have led to the demise of the shop. It will be greatly missed.

Jenny Lumley,
Fortis Green Avenue, N2.

Sad loss to shoppers

The closure of Midhurst Butchers is another sad loss of a small, local family business and they will be sorely missed. There are alternatives in the area but you will have to dig deep to shop there; otherwise, it's the supermarkets who win out once more.

Huge thanks to Gary Wheeler, his colleague Rob, and former proprietor, Gary's father, Dave Wheeler, who have always provided friendly, knowledgeable service at a reasonable price. I would like to wish them all the best for the future.

David Holt,
Leslie Road, N2.

Traffic scheme petition

You have published several letters in the last few months, including my own, relating to the disruption caused by the traffic scheme introduced by Barnet Council, which is not surprising as the road space for cars is cut in half. There was no pre-consultation. The local Nextdoor online group is full of comments. The Council has acknowledged the problems and said it would do something, but it has done nothing at all to alleviate the situation. There is a petition opposing the scheme at www.change.org/EndA1000TrafficScheme which readers may be interested in.

Barry H White,
Address supplied.

Dirty air

Dear Editor,

To suggest that occasional bonfires in allotments are the only source of air pollution is frankly preposterous. East Finchley is nowadays regularly congested with traffic, cars spewing tons of CO2 on a daily basis. Bike lanes have made this even worse. The A406 adds to this toxic cocktail. It is therefore seriously misleading that people with asthma and other lung conditions can breathe more comfortably whereas the days for bonfires have already been limited for ages. Yes, I have an allotment and I find it hard to deal with hypocrisy.

Mark Chapman,
Long Lane, N2.

Improvements to hospital transport on their way

Age UK are thanking everyone who supported their campaigns in 2018 and 2019 for better transport to hospitals. They say that the Government and the NHS didn't see this as a priority until Age UK started raising the public's concerns with them. This finally pushed NHS into a review of transport services.

Age UK say: "The NHS is going to improve the eligibility criteria for patient transport, and make sure people don't have to wait for hours to get to and from their appointments. They've

also promised to simplify the travel costs scheme as well so if you need to claim back the cost of your travel to hospital, it will be much easier." Let's hope that this happens soon.

Do not touch! Unwelcome visitor on our trees

Linda Dolata gives a timely warning on the appearance of a tree-dwelling caterpillar that can be dangerous to humans and pets.

The photo of a tree trunk almost opposite the Five Bells pub on East End Road, N2, taken in early August, shows the nest of a group of oak processionary moths in the pupal stage.

The moths themselves will emerge next spring, mate and lay eggs on more oak trees, and on other tree species too. A species alien to the UK, probably brought in on imported timber, they are now rife throughout greater London and beyond.



Avoid touching: This oak processionary moth nest was spotted on an oak tree in East End Road, N2. Photo Linda Dolata

Allergic reactions

The trees cope well enough unless there is a large infestation, when they can be stripped and damaged, but the caterpillars that emerge from these nests are covered in thousands of tiny hairs, which can cause a severe allergic reaction in humans and other mammals. It is important that they are never touched directly but these hairs can also blow some distance in the wind, affecting the respiratory system, skin, and eyes.

Oak processionary moths get their name from the way that the caterpillars



On the move: The moth caterpillars 'process' along a twig.

travel along tree branches in a long train, nose to tail, as it were, to reach the nutritious shoot tips. They return to the nest during the day and produce a sort of web.

Anyone walking under this, let alone coming into physical contact with it is likely to get some of the

tiny hairs on them, and suffer the consequences.

Call in professionals

The moth is a notifiable pest and the nest should only be destroyed by qualified experts. Check your oaks and other trees now but do not attempt to dispose of a nest yourself if you find one. I am informing Barnet Council of this particular example so that it can be removed safely.

Mike has been walking for 450 days

You may remember that *The Archer's* photo editor Mike Coles has been walking close to 10km every day without fail since the start of lockdown way back in March 2020, all of his treks being within reach of home in East Finchley.

But by plotting every step on a virtual map, Mike has crossed the Channel, walked the entire length of France and the southern Spanish coast, and is now working his way down the western side of the African continent.

He has hit the landmark of 450 consecutive days of walking and has reached Laayoune, the largest town in Western Sahara, a disputed territory administered by Morocco.

Mike said: "The irony here is that for the last couple of months I have been going through semi-arid desert on the edge of the Sahara and have reached a fairly basic town whilst only 67 miles out to sea is a sophisticated European outpost, the Canary Islands, where there are five-star hotels, British pubs, gourmet restaurants and Euro 2021 on TV." Mike plans to continue his daily walks and, on his virtual map, will be continuing down

the coast road to reach Nouakchott in Mauritania.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

You are welcome to join us for:

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and
Weekday masses as advertised on the website.
Face masks must be worn for the time being.

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef/>

The church is also open for private prayer as advertised on the website.

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information, contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on 020 8883 9315

Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com or check out our website:

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>