



Letters

Holey unacceptable

Dear Editor,

I am increasingly alarmed at the potholes in the High Road in East Finchley, which are getting worse. Every day you see drivers swerving to avoid them.

And although it is on the fringe of our area I am particularly worried by a bad pothole on the southbound section of the Colney Hatch Lane bridge across the North Circular.

This deep hole is in the turn-right lane at the traffic light and could easily throw a rider off a bicycle or motorbike. These potholes urgently need to be tackled by Barnet Council.

**Terry Tastard,
Mulberry Court, N2.**

Unmade track

Dear Editor,

The Bishops Avenue is always said to be 'Billionaire's Row' but try driving down it and it feels like an unmade farm track. There are deep and dangerous potholes everywhere in the section between the A1 and Hampstead Heath.

Probably these are caused by all the heavy machinery and huge vehicles involved in the rebuilding work that is always going on at the massive properties there. But why aren't they being repaired?

There's one particularly bad stretch near the top where the holes are unavoidable without swerving dangerously. Any one of them could burst a tyre or throw a poor cyclist under your front wheels.

Barnet Council or the construction companies, or both, should take responsibility for repairing these major hazards before there is a serious accident or possibly a fatality

**Michael Howarth,
Fortis Green, N2.**

Fit for purpose

Dear Editor,

Regarding your article on a new woodland plan for Cherry Tree Wood (*The Archer*, June 2023), I wonder whether a suggestion of installing fitness equipment for adults could be considered in the plan too?

**Lily Fok,
Address supplied**

Send your correspondence to:
news@the-archer.co.uk

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.



Disposable? Vape tubes

Vape hazards

Dear Editor,

I wanted to ask your vaping readers to make sure that they do not put their 'disposable' vapes into their normal household waste. These one-time vapes contain lithium batteries.

Currently, 1.3million single-use vapes are thrown away every week in the UK, according to recycling group Material Focus. When littered, they can leach dangerous metals, battery acid, and nicotine into the environment.

Each vape also contains on average 0.15g of lithium, which equates to 10 tonnes thrown away over a year in the UK – enough to make around 1,200 electric car batteries. Producing this metal is an environmentally costly process that uses huge amounts of energy and water.

At a time when we are relying on lithium and the batteries it powers to fuel the transition to clean energy, it seems ludicrous to be casually throwing tonnes of it away with single-use vapes.

**Shan Magnusson,
Long Lane, N2.**

Editor's note: Do you know of any safe ways to recycle or dispose of single-use vapes? Please let us know by emailing news@the-archer.co.uk

Dangerous road

Dear Editor,

I wish *The Archer* would highlight the growing numbers of potholes in the A1000 road leading from the North Circular towards and into the High Road in East Finchley.

No effort has been made to repair these roads by the council for months and driving on this stretch of road has become hazardous, trying to avoid them to save my car tyres.

**Avtar Panessar,
Address supplied.**

Sudden removal of street trees leaves its mark

By Diana Cormack

Last October a notice appeared on the aged cherry tree outside our house informing us of the necessity to remove it. Headed 'Tree Replacement' it stated: "In order to continue with our sustainable tree cover programme, this location will be added to our continuing planting list."

A month later the tree was partially taken down, leaving a hunk of the trunk remaining. In January that stump was ground out and the subsequent space filled in with Tarmacadam. Another tree nearby suffered the same fate.

Each piece of work was done by a different company. None of the workmen knew whether or when the tree would be replaced, nor could tell me if it would be a cherry tree (despite being Cherry Tree Road, we have had some rogue replacements in previous years). They all referred me to Barnet Council.

Since then, when I have had the odd afternoon to spare, I have tried to follow this advice. Pressing one number after another, leading to a disembodied voice telling me to do so again, I inevitably end up leaving a message with a request for someone at the council to call me back. No one ever does.

According to the Borough's website, Barnet is mid-way through a five-year planting plan with guaranteed replacement planting following a three-year



Stumped: Not much left of the cherry tree

cycle, where 50 per cent of trees removed during any financial year will be replaced, with 25 per cent in the second year and the final 25 per cent in the third year. It states that the planting season is from November to March each year.

Presumably that means we've missed out this year. Ominously, another tree was felled this month, which could indicate an even longer wait for replacement in our road. What it does mean

is another patch of dark grey Tarmac, unsightly even before cars manage to leave their mark as they attempt to park.

I used to plant flowers around the base of our tree throughout the year, despite the annual weed killing sprayer doing his worst. Any ideas for improving the look of Tarmacadam?

Pause on blister pack recycling

Recycling project Bin There Donate That has reluctantly had to halt collection of used tablet blister packs because the ultimate recycling point at Superdrug in North Finchley has stopped taking large bags at one time.

Individuals can still take their own blister packs there but, for now, the collection points at Oakdale Pharmacy in the High Road and Links Pharmacy, East End Road, N2, are on hold.

Bin There organiser Emma Frampton said: "The only way we can reverse this in the immediate future, until we find a more sustainable long-term solution, is to have large numbers of volunteers taking some each week. Hopefully neighbours can work together to continue to recycle on a personal level."



Memorabilia: Items from the glory days of British F1. Photo Simon Stiel

The stories behind a speed racing legend

By Simon Stiel

In 1972 when he was a young struggling driver in Formula Three, James Hunt met Lord Alexander Hesketh who was a hereditary peer and motorsport enthusiast. He later served as a Government Whip in the House of Lords. They formed a partnership and 50 years ago in 1973 made their world championship debut in F1 as team-owner and driver.

James Hunt would win a race for them in 1975 at Zandvoort, Netherlands, before being signed for McLaren in 1976. That year he beat his friend/rival Niki Lauda to the title by a single point. Hesketh also manufactured motorcycles and would give talented young designers a chance, like Frank Dernie who would later work for world championship winning

team Williams.

Last month, Lord Hesketh was in East Finchley at Hexagon Classics on the Great North Road to sign copies of the new book *Superbears*, billed as the uncensored story behind Hesketh Racing. Publisher Philip Porter was present and so were people who knew James Hunt and his family personally.



Where to donate your unwanted household items for recycling

- Batteries to EF Electricals and Sainsbury's, High Road
- Bicycle inner tubes to Bike & Run, High Road
- Bras to Aliya J Boutique, High Road
- Cables and small electrical items to EF Electricals, High Road
- Crisp packets to Cherry Tree Café, Cherry Tree Wood
- Dental products (toothbrushes and heads) to Cavendish Dental Practice, East End Road
- Electrical cables to Everything Electrical, High Road
- Ink jet cartridges to UOE, High Road
- Lightbulbs to Amy's or EF Electricals, High Road
- Make-up to Oakdale Pharmacy, High Road.
- Paper, cork, ribbon, foil, wood off-cuts, buttons, stationery, sequins, carpet samples to Amy's, High Road
- Spectacles to Stewart Duncan Opticians and David Hillel Opticians, High Road

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