



It's no picnic in the park

By Diana Cormack

Despite appealing to Barnet Council over the years, The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood's request for bigger and better litterbins has been ignored.



Just waiting for the rats. Photo by Diana Cormack

With people flocking to the park to picnic and play during the spell of hot weather in May, the present provision proved inadequate yet again. This resulted in scenes reminiscent of the dustmen's strike in the 1970s, with piles of rubbish heaped around some of the overflowing bins. It was particularly bad near the children's playground.

One local resident told *THE ARCHER*: "I have been coming here for over 40 years and I have never seen anything like it. It's disgusting. I brought my children here to play, but I'm not bringing my grandchildren any more."

Another, watching a squirrel nibbling away at some discarded delicacy, commented: "It'll be rats next."

The Friends have consistently asked for bigger bins with lids, which would prevent

animals scavenging and dragging debris over the area. They would also like more bins to be provided. Looking at the state of the park recently, no one could argue with that.

Timber!

By Betti Blatman

Two trees in East End Road were recently felled, leaving unsightly stumps where they once stood proud outside the convent walls and opposite the garden centre.

When asked why they had been chopped down, Barnet Council said that regular inspections had found the trees had significant decay in their trunks and base. This made them a risk to traffic and pedestrians along this busy main road. The council said it would replace both trees during next winter's planting season.

What on earth are they thinking?

By David Melsome

Six friends are setting out on the road trip of a lifetime, attempting to drive from East Finchley to Mongolia in just 30 days.

Travelling in three battered old Daihatsu jeeps, the group will ride 10,000 miles of potholes through France, Slovenia, Bosnia, Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to arrive at their final destination Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia.

The friends are Michael Maher, Andrew Davidson, Pete Harrison, Tom McGrath, Andy Smith and Anjohn Shome, all from East Finchley.

And why are they doing it? For charity, of course. In this case, they're raising money for Save the Children Mongolia and the British Heart Foundation.

At the end of the journey they plan to auction their vehicles (if they're still in one piece) to raise even more cash for the Children's Development Protection Foundation of Mongolia.

Michael said: "We are financing the trip entirely from our own pockets with any money raised in sponsorship going direct to charities. So far we have raised just over £2,000 mainly through friends and family although we hope to at least triple this before we leave."

Their chances of making it all the way are anyone's guess. Their website asks: "What on earth are we thinking? Will any of the three cars make it past Iran? Who will be attacked by a yak? Is camping at the side of the road in Turkmenistan really a good idea?"

The journey starts from N2 on 27 June. To find out more and to make a donation of your own, visit www.themongolwayround.com. Good luck, gents.



Mad drivers. Clockwise from top left: Anjohn Shome, Andy Smith, Pete Harrison, Andrew Davidson, Tom McGrath and Michael Maher.

Going, going, gone...

By Diana Cormack

Earlier this year *THE ARCHER* carried reports about the state of the 15 newspaper stands on the pavement outside the tube station. In February we pointed out what a poor welcome they gave to people arriving in East Finchley. In May we praised Barnet Council for cleaning them up and removing a few. Now all of them have gone! Could this possibly be due to the influence of *THE ARCHER*? Probably not.

Barnet told us: "The council removed the newspaper stands from the public footway next to East Finchley tube station on 8 May as they were causing an obstruction and were a distraction to road users. They could potentially be resited inside the station if Transport for London gives its agreement."

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