

Digging for victory

Steve Hill Photography



By Andy Blackwell

These days Christmas seems to begin the moment the last firework has faded from the sky, and Santa has barely finished ho, ho, hoing before the

aisles are filled with Easter eggs. Alas, this tradition of extended festivals seems to have reached "Dig-mas", that period of the spring and early summer when every council in the land wakes up, checks the weather, and decides today is a good day for digging up the roads.

Grantham seems to have really taken this festival to heart this year! Since about April, there's barely been a road in the town that doesn't have at least one small herd of cones gathered in a corner, with the obligatory chap, sporting a hi-vis jacket, resting upon his shovel and casually keeping an eye on the cones. For those poor souls trying to get into town each morning via Barrowby Road or Dysart Road, these small herds have been replaced by vast hordes of colourful cones, sweeping majestically down the road, for mile upon mile.

Most frustratingly, when one dig-athon has finished, another begins. Even more frustratingly, when one dig-athon is still a few weeks from completion, another begins. Not satisfied with the howls of anguish this has caused, they have even taken to starting two digs at the same time, so when you take a different route to avoid one set of roadworks, you just plough straight into another set.

If I was a conspiracy theorist I would be convinced by now that the council employed an eye-in-the-sky operation. From on high they would see my Ford Focus breaking away from the pack and

attempting to circumvent the latest roadworks. Immediately, the alarm would be raised and an elite squad of road diggers, led by the infamous Cone-Man the Barbarian, would be despatched to head me off. Within minutes of the call, they would have thrown down three miles of cones, all to protect a hole in the road that is roughly two feet across and an inch deep. Just to make sure I knew that this was a deliberate act, designed to sabotage my day, there would be no one in sight, not a workman to be seen, a road free of high-vis jackets, undisturbed by shovels and drills, with possibly a few balls of fake tumbleweed, deliberately let loose, to gently roll down the road and taunt me.

I feel a little sorry for "the powers that be". When they don't dig up the roads to clear the potholes, we all moan at them, and when they do dig up the roads to clear all the potholes, we still moan at them. That they allow construction companies to build loads more homes and then alter their obligations to improve the traffic flow tempers my sympathy somewhat, but the biggest test of my patience will be the state of Dysart Road by the time they've finished. If I can't play billiards upon its pristine surface after all this disruption, I will officially be "miffed".

al Perfect Plumbing Ltd

For all your domestic and commercial Plumbing and Heating needs

- Bathrooms and Kitchens, supplied and fitted
- Full CH systems
- Oil and gas boilers fitted and serviced
- Green energy solutions



Email: Sales@alperfectplumbing.co.uk

Neil: 07921 166 059

Andy: 07513 055 087

www.alperfectplumbing.co.uk

