



## Letters to the editor



### Starling tree's summer clothing

Dear Editor,

I just read your article about the London plane tree on the High Road ("The Starling Tree", May 2016) and remembered taking a photo of this tree in June 2014 on a lovely summer's evening, above, thinking not many places in London can boast of such a large beautiful tree as we have in East Finchley.

Yours faithfully,  
Tony Dennison,  
Address supplied.

### Heritage of the starling tree

Dear Editor,

Your photograph on page 6 of the May edition "The Starling Tree" prompted me to hunt down in my loft a poem I wrote dedicated to that very tree shortly after first encountering it in 1983 when we moved to East Finchley.

I was much moved then by the lingering heritage of the ancient wild wood amidst which we live, and which continues to reappear in the shape of foxes visiting our gardens and streets.

Interesting how your preceding article on page 5 "Are East Finchley streets getting more untidy?" almost prefigured the poem's penultimate line. Here is the poem:

#### A KERBSIDE TREE

Once it was a question of magic  
the centre of a forest unseen.  
Once it was a question of worship  
a king and his lady queen.  
Once it was a question of outlaws  
hiding in the thickest green.  
Now it is a matter of empties,  
damp where the dogs have been.  
Though look up  
and see how the starlings gleam.

Keep up the good work, keeping the spirit of the Archer in East Finchley alive!

Yours faithfully,  
Paul Thompson  
Huntingdon Road, N2.

### Tree-mendous

Dear Editor,

With regard to your article "The Starling Tree" in May's issue, after living happily in East Finchley for nearly 30 years, I am delighted to find that I have my own tree.

Yours faithfully,  
Nick Starling,  
Durham Road, N2.

### Litter is everyone's problem

Dear Editor,

I had to smile reading last month's ARCHER article about litter on the High Road. A shopkeeper commented that he has to clear litter from his front entrance every day. Much of the litter problem is caused by shops that over-fill their bins, spilling rubbish over the pavement. And when there is food material, foxes cause mess in searching for that. Shouldn't shops be penalised for littering, or can they get bigger/more bins? Of course customers of fast food and coffee outlets cause much of the mess, but to be fair to customers, even if they might want to bin their rubbish, there aren't enough bins in strategic points. If you just look at where rubbish accumulates, such as the seat outside the Youth Theatre, put bins right there. And could fast food and coffee outlets be encouraged to sponsor extra bins?

We can't keep on pointing fingers at others if we don't train our children to do the right thing, or do our bit to make our environment better. Personally I keep the pavement clean outside my own home. And on my walks around the neighbourhood I'm the funny bloke picking up litter and putting it in the next bin.

Yours faithfully,  
Roger Beeson,  
Address supplied.

Editor's note: Please send us your own photos of litter horrors around East Finchley. Email them to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page"

The Archer, PO Box 3699,  
London N2 2DE or e-mail  
[the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net).

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.

### What's the rush?

Dear Editor,

Regarding your "Soapbox" in May's issue complaining about the 20mph speed limit along Spaniards Road in Hampstead, the distance from the Spaniards Inn to White-stone Pond is about half-a-mile.

Assuming no congestion, this would take 60 seconds at 30 mph and 90 seconds at 20 mph. I wonder what Charles Lewis would do with the 30 seconds saved?

Yours faithfully,  
Mike Holt,  
Chandos Road, N2

## Free Art

### Fair tickets

By Daphne Chamberlain  
Archer readers are offered complimentary tickets for the Affordable Art Fair on Hampstead Heath, 15-19 June.

The offer comes from East Finchley resident Flora Teh-Morris, director of the Mint Art Gallery. Mint Art will occupy Stand J3 on the Lower Fair-ground Site, East Heath Road, NW3 1TH, and their exhibits this year will include paintings by Laura Fishman from her residency at Stephens House and Gardens.

The complimentary tickets also include entry to the Charity Private View and Summer Art Soiree. For free tickets please email [info@mintarts.com](mailto:info@mintarts.com) with a postal address indicating which day you would like to attend and for how many people. Flora has a combination of print and digital tickets for different days so readers need to specify days and numbers.

Tickets are limited, so do put in your request as early as possible. For information about the Fair, see [affordableartfair.com/hampstead](http://affordableartfair.com/hampstead).

## Governors

### wanted

Martin Primary School is looking for volunteers from the local community to join its governing body.

Katalin Aradi, the new chair of governors, says: "We are in particular keen to hear from people who have experience or interest in special educational needs, finance, premises and facilities and procurement."

If you are interested you can find out more by emailing: [chair@martinprimary.barnet-mail.net](mailto:chair@martinprimary.barnet-mail.net).



Tidy up: The litter pick team in action

## Litter: some people are picking it up!

Not everyone is leaving litter lying around. On Saturday 14 May, a group of stalwarts from The Finchley Society gathered at the junction of the High Road and the North Circular to spend two hours gathering all sorts of rubbish from both roads. A total of 16 bags of litter was collected and the area looked a lot smarter afterwards. Let's try and keep it that way.

## Titans of romance

By Stephen Warner and Tim Read

The North London Sinfonia comes to All Saints' Church, Durham Road, N2, for its summer concert on 9 July with works by two titans of Austro-German Romantic music: Mahler's ebullient *Symphony No. 4* and Wagner's passionate *Wesendonck-Lieder*. In both works they are joined by the prize-winning Australian mezzo-soprano Lotte Betts-Dean.

A long-established community orchestra, the Sinfonia gives three concerts each year, in recent years performing in various parts of north London: at home in North Finchley but also in Highgate, Hampstead Garden Suburb and Palmers Green.

The orchestra is particularly known and admired for the range of its repertoire and its imaginative programming. Under adventurous conductor Owen Leech it performs not only warhorses of the canon like Saint-Saëns' 'Organ' Symphony or Beethoven's 'Eroica' but also more rarely-heard gems and forgotten works.

Every concert also features a gifted young professional musician in a concerto or vocal work, which members say is always inspiring for the orchestra and provides a wonderful opportunity for soloists to perform with a friendly and supportive

orchestra.

If this all sounds a bit challenging, the orchestra's 'no auditions' policy gives many local amateur musicians the opportunity to come and play with a professional conductor. The emphasis is very much on the local community from which the musicians and audiences are drawn.

The orchestra is always keen to recruit new members, particularly brass and string players. Further information can be found at [www.nlsinfonia.org](http://www.nlsinfonia.org).

## Fast-track

### coaching

Farhad Divecha from East Finchley, managing director at AccuraCast, a digital agency and consultancy, has been selected as one of only 30 directors in the UK to attend a special business coaching programme held in Google's London headquarters.

The agency was handpicked from 30,000 British digital agencies that participate in the Google Partners programme, based on the agency's outstanding results on client advertising campaigns and potential for growth.

The three-month coaching programme is designed and delivered by renowned business consultant Robert Craven. It involves lectures, workshops and one-to-one coaching sessions.

## Martin

### memories

John Pickering will be retiring as deputy headteacher of Martin Primary School at the end of the summer term. If any ex-pupils or parents would like to contribute a written memory for a 'This is Your Life' style book please email your memory to [office@martinprimary.barnetmail.net](mailto:office@martinprimary.barnetmail.net).