



# They're all tree-mendous!

By David Melsome

Our article last month wondering if the weeping cherry tree near the junction of East End Road and Church Lane was the most beautiful tree in East Finchley elicited several other nominations.

Christina Wilson sent us a photo of the abundance of pink blossom on the row of trees outside her home in Noblefield Heights on the Great North Road. And Linda Dolata nominated an ancient stump on the slip road to the High Road from the North Circular for its historical value. Thought to be 300-400 years old and one of the pollarded oaks on the former Finchley Common, now occupied by East Finchley, its ivy is said to cover an engraving of a highwayman, which Linda has sketched.

Finally, Archer team member Jane Marsh admired the stature and symmetry of the enormous plane tree on the High Road, opposite Bedford Road, saying it was "a joy to behold" but expressing her dismay that its leafy branches were cut off as part of Barnet Council's regular pollarding regime.

"It will be another two or three years before it returns to its former glory, just in time to be denuded again," said Jane.

## Mini-moments of stress we are all experiencing

*Kathryn Scorza, a hypnotherapist, soul therapist and spiritual healer based in East Finchley, explains how our subconscious reacts to social distancing when we are out for a stroll.*

You're walking along and someone coming the other way very obviously crosses the road to avoid you. Do you notice even a pang of tension or discomfort?

We know at a conscious level they're just following the new, necessary rule of social distancing. But at a subconscious level, this is registered as rejection, even a sign of hostility and therefore a threat. Our innate survival Fight/Flight mechanism is being triggered, and putting us, even momentarily, into a state of defensive vigilance. And the other person is probably feeling exactly the same.

We're an intensely social species which needs positive and safe connections to others, even strangers, to feel secure and to

## Letters

### Thanks from pharmacy team

Dear Editor,

Thank you to the residents of East Finchley, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Highgate and Muswell Hill. It has been a very tough 12 weeks running the pharmacy. We have had an unprecedented workload. On top of that we had staff isolating and shielding, probably no different to other businesses on the High Road.

I would like to thank you all for your patience when accessing all the local businesses, in queuing up in an orderly manner to comply with social distancing. Thank you to all the volunteer groups who have supported the local community in getting food, medicines and other essentials to shielding residents.

Finally I would like to thank my staff who have worked tirelessly and selflessly to provide the best possible care under the circumstances. As the lockdown eases I hope that you will continue to support your local shops so that the High Road can flourish again. Thank you.

**Paresh Shah,  
C W Andrew Pharmacy,  
32 High Road, N2.**

### No time for parking fines

Dear Editor,

On Saturday 4 April an emergency glazier came to my home to repair a broken downstairs window. His van (parked in a quiet side street pay and display

bay with zero traffic) with the company name, designation and logo on either side of the vehicle, also had an official notice on the dashboard stating his duty.

Indeed he was in the van collecting required materials when he was ticketed by a Barnet Council traffic warden. He could not have anticipated how long the job was to take. I offered to pay the fine.

However, I was both saddened and outraged that for financial benefit the council could be deploying staff to penalise and impede vulnerable residents now trying to 'cope' with their precarious situations instead of using (our) resources to support front line staff!

**Name and address supplied.**

### Show some appreciation

Dear Editor,

To the people of East Finchley! In the trying times we are all living through due to the coronavirus, please, please show some appreciation for the danger I put myself in when jumping in to the road to maintain our social distance when sharing the pavement.

I don't want flowers, a thank you card or even any comment; just a smile as acknowledgment for my courtesy in helping to keep us both safe. I'd even settle for a simple tilt of the head or just eye contact!

**Gerard Mackenzie,  
Address supplied.**

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page" The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail 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.

### Pavement pounders

Dear Editor,

I can hear joggers puffing and panting as they approach me as we make our way along the narrow high roads and byways of East Finchley but why oh why do they have to pass so close? They should get in the road if they must wear themselves out running about the place and leave their sweaty breath there.

**Fiona Smartt,  
Address supplied.**

### Farewell, dear friend

Dear Editor,

Sadly on 30 April 2020, my dear friend Tina Solomon died at the amazing age of 105! Tina had lived in Lichfield Grove, Finchley, for 56 years, and her kindness and assistance to me during difficult times as a single mother left an everlasting place in my heart as she included me and my son as part of her family thereafter.

Despite the current restrictions regarding funerals, I was invited to Tina's funeral, which was quite an honour for me to pay my last respects to my dear friend as she rests in peace.

**Betti Blatman,  
Address supplied.**

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column. Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



## Now wash your hands

By L C Ward

**A few years ago I walked into my then doctor's surgery for an appointment. As usual, I gave my name for the receptionist to tick off and sat down to wait my turn.**

"Could you check in, please?" she asked me. "I thought I just did," I replied. "Oh no, you have to use the check-in screen now," she said, indicating a new machine near the passageway to the lone doctor's surgery. "You just have to key in your details by touching the screen."

"But I don't know who touched it before me," I responded. "This is a doctor's surgery so there could be all sorts of germs lurking on the surface."

Right on cue a mother came in with her young son saying, "You check us in", which he proceeded to do with rather grubby little hands. I looked meaningfully at the receptionist and was told that the cleaner wiped it over every evening.

What with: water, disinfectant? Magazines and children's toys have been removed from doctors' waiting rooms in case they harbour germs. Surely there should be some way of preventing that happening with these screens. "You'll have to ask the doctor about that," countered the receptionist. So I did.

Having explained at length how the surgery was kept scrupulously clean, the doctor looked me straight in the eye, smiled and said: "I expect the screen has a special germ busting surface." Of course, we both knew that wasn't true, so in future I wore a glove or tapped the screen through a sleeve. I have seldom seen a touchscreen accompanied by any sort of safety method and their use is spreading.

Currently we are being told how important it is to wash our hands. Will this be remembered after coronavirus? Hopefully it will and much more care will be taken about what we touch, particularly in a medical setting.

## East Finchley Baptist Church

Due to the Covid-19 virus our face to face services and meetings have been suspended until further notice but please go to our website for details of online services and meetings.

For more information please contact the Church Office  
Email: office@eastfinchleybc.org.uk  
www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk