



Letters

Road empathy

Dear Editor,

I have read with interest various letters and articles bemoaning the cycle lanes installed in East Finchley in November 2020 and due for review in March. Like most things in life, empathy is the key. I am a motorist and a cyclist so can see both sides. I sincerely hope that drivers who don't cycle understand when I say that, as a daily cyclist from East to North Finchley and back, the cycle lanes have made me feel much safer. Yes, there are more traffic jams but if that cuts speeds down then it's a good thing as speed kills. Also it might encourage more motorists to take up cycling, which is a win on many levels. I particularly like the new Highway Code changes as they put the most vulnerable first and make the people who can inflict the most harm take more responsibility. I am still staggered each day when I cycle near drivers who are scrolling on their phones rather than concentrating on driving. Let's all just try to be kinder and understand each other for a better world.

Adrian Haysome,
Address supplied.

Save your stones

Dear Editor,

With spring around the corner, we could save the stones from the fruits we buy from any store, such as apricots, plums, peaches and nectarines, to plant them and create a fruit forest out of nothing. Most of these stones end up in the bin and that's a shame.

With care and starting life in a pot indoors or in a greenhouse, it is possible to grow fruit trees from seeds and stones. There is plenty of advice online to help you out.

Kostis Koutoulas
Address supplied

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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.



New life: Artist Zoe Hirson with some of her creations made from reclaimed wood. Photo Mike Coles

Life stories on items reclaimed from the streets of London

By John Lawrence

Where most passers-by would see junk or litter, an East Finchley artist sees material for her environmentally-friendly art. Zoe Hirson takes reclaimed wood and metal that she finds on the streets of London and creates pieces using a new kind of needlework.

"I hand stitch all my memories and stories into it," says Zoe. "I am an immigrant and recording my life here is so vital to my identity. I found my first beautiful floorboard in a skip and I knew I wanted to decorate it with my found metal. I did not want to use glue so I sewed because that felt more authentic."

Zoe was born in South Africa and arrived in London at the age of 10. "When you can't take stuff with you, finding things that connect the country you live in to the one you left behind is vital for your well being," she says.

Sewing on paper was part of her degree work at Manchester Metropolitan University and she trained as a printmaker, finding her printing blocks more interesting than the prints they produced.

Back in London, she continued sewing and found a studio space in Cockpit Arts in central London. She made wood figures and wood textiles, as well as developing her technique of sewing wood by weaving in other materials. "Most of what I work with would be in landfills if I didn't rescue it," she says. "I love that the pieces I work with have already been marked by time. So they come to me with their own stories, which I seek to draw out."

Five years ago, Zoe held an exhibition of her very personal work at the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley. Find out more about her work on social media @zoehirson and at fine art gallery www.fillingdon.com

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.



A spring clean for the world

By Ann Inglis, No2PlasticsN2

Remember that shock of first seeing a gentle turtle fatally entwined in plastic waste? Immediately afterwards East Finchley responded and launched No2PlasticsN2 in 2018. When we launched we maintained it is the everyday decisions we all make that changes the behaviour of retailers.

Since then we have realised just what power the law has in changing behaviours and ensuring that change does happen. And that the present proliferation of plastics is a world problem as well as an East Finchley problem.

Fifty years ago in Stockholm the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was the first time the world started to acknowledge that it is we ourselves who are damaging this world.

The recent, at that time, amazing images of an intensely blue, fragile planet tracing its lonely path in the vastness of space must have been the spur. It has also become blindingly obvious, there is only one world and it is we who must protect it.

The Environmental Investigation Agency's (EIA) report published in January 2022 lays bare that at this rate plastic items will outnumber fish in the seas by 2040.

This month the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) meets in Nairobi, to agree on a first international treaty to control plastic pollution worldwide. We do hope that it can set enforceable standards.

Right now, The Ocean Cleanup organisation is running trials on techniques to capture plastic waste from the huge concentrations that have built up in almost every ocean. The largest concentration, in the Pacific, is now three times the size of France.

Then we will be faced with what to do with that waste? One proposal is to have some smaller, old container ships refitted with incinerator, turbine and water electrolyser plant to generate clean electricity. These installations would supplant existing power stations and, located in harbours close to particular waste concentrations, and so generally in developing countries, would support local economies.

Music medley

A free concert taking place at East Finchley Methodist Church will feature a variety of music styles from Schubert to Mancini, performed by mezzo soprano Viola da Cunha accompanied by a melodica, piano and guitar trio.

Everyone is welcome to the concert on Sunday 13 March at 7.30pm. The church, opposite the junction with Creighton Avenue, N2, is fully accessible. There will be a collection in aid of The Friends of Hornsey Church Tower.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

You are welcome to join us for:

**Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and
Weekday masses as advertised on the website.**
Face masks must be worn for the time being.

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef/>

The church is also open for private prayer as advertised on the website.

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information,
contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on
020 8883 9315

Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com
or check out our website:

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

A Warm Welcome to Probus!

Come and meet us at the North London Probus Club for brunch, lively conversation and stimulating talks given by notable academics, journalists, media personalities and fellow members. Our Club welcomes all semi- or fully-retired PROfessional & BUSiness men and women, and we meet from 11am on the third Wednesday of each month at Stephens/Avenue House in East End Road, N3. More details from Eric (8449 0566) or, preferably, at ericdalton147@btinternet.com.