



# Brothers found guilty of 1984 murder of Anthony Littler

By David Melsome

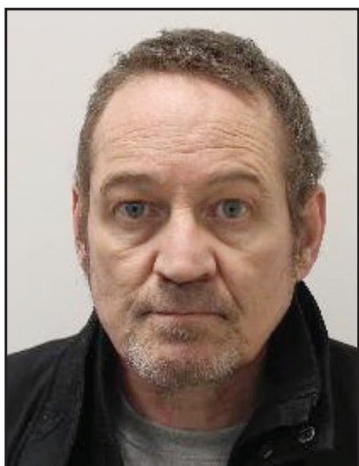
**Two brothers have been convicted of the murder of civil servant Anthony Littler close to East Finchley station after detectives re-opened an investigation almost 40 years after the killing.**

Michael Stewart, 57, of Station Road, EN5, and Anthony Stewart, 60, of Old Farm Road, N2, were convicted following a trial at the Old Bailey. Mr Littler, aged 45, was found dead in an alleyway leading from the station to East End Road on 1 May 1984.

In 2022, homicide detectives reviewing the case concluded that a new investigation could help lead them to the killers. They found that in 2013 Daniel Stewart, who was only 10 years old at the time of the attack, had come forward to police to say that in 1984 his older brother Michael had told him he had “robbed a bloke and he died”.

Anthony had confessed to the same thing eight or nine years later. Daniel, out of family loyalties, never disclosed to anyone what he had been told until decades later, when he made the decision to speak out.

Another person had also come forward in 2015, telling police that Michael had admitted the murder, bragging that he and his brother would frequently beat people up and that on one occasion a man had died.



Guilty: Michael Stewart

Unlike with the majority of today's cases, there was no forensic evidence, CCTV or phone data to help officers solve the crime. Instead they had to turn to more old-fashioned policing methods, including trawling through thousands of historic paper documents to check every lead had been followed, and spending hundreds of hours locating and speaking



Guilty: Anthony Stewart

to neighbours, former partners, friends and employers of the main suspects.

After a number of years building the case, officers presented their findings to the Crown Prosecution Service in 2025, who agreed there was enough evidence to charge Michael and Anthony Stewart.

Detective Chief Inspector Neil John, who led the investigation, said: “Anthony’s life was suddenly cut short when he was killed in a brutal attack by two teenagers who we now know had a clear propensity for the most sickening kind of violence.

“They targeted Anthony because he was alone, defenceless and walking down a dark alley in which they knew no-one would see them carrying out their horrendous assault. They lay in wait for someone to cross their path and tragically for Anthony, he became their unsuspecting victim.

“We know Anthony’s murder has continued to cause his family pain all these years later, and we are pleased that they now know who was responsible for his death.

“We also want to pay tribute to those who came forward to provide information on the events of that night, as well as giving vital evidence in court. Without them, this verdict would not have been possible.”

During police interviews, both men repeatedly denied any involvement in Mr Littler’s death and chose not to give evidence at their trial. They are due to be sentenced on Friday 10 July.

# Windsor couple come out winners



Best in the land: Arina and Eamonn collect their national award

**Congratulations to Arina Piskunova and Eamonn England who have won the title of Licensees of the Year 2026 for their stewardship of the Windsor Castle pub in The Walks, N2.**

The pair were chosen as winners after a demanding qualification process and a final day of judging by the British Institute of Innkeeping.

We heard the news just as we went to press and hope to talk to Arina and Eamonn in more detail for our next edition.

## “I was chased down the High Road by skinheads”

By Julia Lawrence

**The trial and conviction of two brothers for the 1984 murder of Anthony Littler brought many things into sharp focus, much of it uncomfortable. No one can doubt that East Finchley, like the rest of the country, was a very different place 42 years ago.**

Michael and Anthony Stewart, who were aged 15 and 18 at the time, were found guilty of bludgeoning Mr Littler to death, as he walked home from the tube station. The case brought back disturbing memories for Darryl Telles, a local government officer, who grew up in East Finchley, and lived in Leopold Road at the time.

Darryl, now 62, came to the UK as a small boy, part of the mass exodus of Asians from Kenya in the 1970s. Life was hard, he says, particularly for teenagers, like him, who stood out not only due to the colour of his skin, but also because of his sexuality. “There were a number of gangs in the area,” he remembers. “I was chased down the High Road by skinheads.”

While the prosecution at the Old Bailey trial stressed that Mr Littler was attacked at random, the jury heard the Stewart brothers were part of a gang who used to go ‘queer bashing’ in the area.

A month before Mr Littler’s

murder, Darryl was home from university for the Easter holi days. He still wasn’t ‘out’ (homosexuality was illegal for under 21s in 1984) and used to visit a meeting spot for gay men, near the North Circular.

“One night I was up there, and we were attacked by a man with a baseball bat. I literally ran for my life,” he recalls. “But when I reported it to police, they couldn’t have been less interested. All they wanted to know was what I was doing there and how old I was.”

When the case was reopened into the murder of Mr Littler in 2022, Darryl contacted police again and they took his statement. He says: “They were really good and actually apologised for how I was treated in 1984.

“While I don’t know if it was the same gang who attacked Mr Littler, I do know there are undoubtedly a lot of people out there who haven’t been brought to justice. How many other attacks went unreported?”

## From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

**10 years ago:  
July 2016**

We reported on a planning application for eight new homes on the site of the former Esso garage on the corner of Church Lane and the High Road, N2. The plans included 12 parking spaces to service the houses and allowed for access to a privately owned alleyway between houses in Leopold Road and Church Lane via a road through the centre of the site. Ten years later the site is still undeveloped and derelict, a blot on the East Finchley landscape.

**15 years ago:  
July 2011**

Barnet Council backed down over its proposal for a huge increase in allotment rents in the face of a legal challenge from angry plot holders. The proposed increases, from £59 to £170 for Barnet residents and £340 for non-residents, were considered to be unjustifiable by the local Allotment Holders Society, and likely to price some plot holders off their allotments. Their perseverance resulted in a rethink by the Council.

**25 years ago:  
July 2001**

London RSPCA gave a local dog a top award after she saved her owners from a house fire in East Finchley. Trine, an 18-month-old King Charles spaniel, had alerted her owners Robin and Kirsten Chapman to the fire at their home in Eastern Road the previous December. Trine received the RSPCA animal medallion for vigilance, a fitting reward for her alertness and prompt action in the face of danger.