



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- ❖ **Badminton** on Wednesdays. Call 020 8349 0170
- ❖ **Body Control Pilates** classes. Call Deanna Wisbey 020 8883 7029
- ❖ **Counselling and psychotherapy service** at the Green Man Centre. For details phone 8440 4174
- ❖ **London Cycling Campaign** (Barnet), has monthly meetings & rides. Call 020 8440 9080.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club** open daily from 2pm. The Green, Kings Avenue, N10. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Step/Aerobics classes**, Sundays at Bar XL. Phone 0789 0033 968.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tai Chi** at the Green Man on Mondays 1.30-3pm
- ❖ **Tennis Club** off Southern Road. Call 020 8440 6953
- ❖ **Yoga & Meditation** classes at Holy Trinity Church, 020 8444 7217

Dance, Drama, Art & Music

- ❖ **Adult Line Dancing**. Call Footloose 020 8440 8530/ 8216 5633.
- ❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378
- ❖ **Barnet Schools Music Centre** call 020 8359 3111 for details.
- ❖ **Broadway & West end Musical Singing Workshop** call Idit Gold 020 8449 0011.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call Vicky 020 8883 1554
- ❖ **Country & Barn Dancing**, at Oakleigh Park, 020 8349 0754
- ❖ **Columbian party dancing classes**, Call Nelsy 020 8444 2012
- ❖ **Incognito Theatre workshops**, Colney Hatch Lane, 020 8883 0911
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club**, Monday 8 & 22 September at Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 020 8346 8736
- ❖ **Private drum tuition**, beginners welcome. Contact Eddie 8444 8376
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 020 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 020 8883 4070 for info.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra of North London**, Contact Stephen Kelsey, 020 8883 3365

Clubs & Social

- ❖ **All Saints Beer and Wine Circle** Call Richard Baldwin 020 8883 7081
- ❖ **Bingo**, Green Man Community Centre, 020 8883 4916
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book a place. Every Thursday. 12.30-2pm
- ❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust**, Contact Ann Sullivan, 020 8442 1941
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at the Old White Lion. Contact Lillian on 020 8444 1793.
- ❖ **Fairacres Monday Club** for Jewish people, Rene & Reuby Hyams, 020 8883 0448 or Sylvia Lee 8958 7878
- ❖ **Finchley Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian Merryweather 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn, 020 8349 4613
- ❖ **Hampstead Social Group**, membership late 30's-late 40's Call David Morris, 020 8455 0477
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill, 020 8348 3495
- ❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Synagogue**, Tetherdown, 020 8883 5925
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, 020 8883 4390
- ❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, 020 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professional and business people, Details Eric Dalton 8340 0822

Full Marks for the Phoenix

By Sophie Leighton

A recent survey into local independent cinemas by the Liberal Democrat Group at the Greater London Assembly reveals the problems of attracting funding to match the facilities offered by the larger multiplex cinemas. Fifty percent of these small cinemas (independents and those with a capacity of less than 850 seats) report a drop in attendance, as against a 66 percent increase at the large cinemas.

Only 24% of the 34 cinemas that responded received any public grant, despite their vital role in providing a diversity of film choice, provision for those who cannot or prefer not to drive to out-of-town centres, and their social and economic contribution to their communities.

A place to meet

The survey shows that a much higher proportion of small cinemas have a bar, a café, or gallery, which suggests that a place where people can meet and talk is a major priority. While 61% of the larger cinemas are running a form of 'kid's club', it is the small cinemas – 31% of which are currently providing this – that seem to be uniquely well-placed to establish long-term links with their surrounding communities and be responsive to local interests and needs.

Well ahead

The Phoenix, which contributed to the survey, seems to be well ahead here. It has revived the Saturday morning film club tradition with its 'Freddie's' film club for 6–11-year-olds; this is now well established, with a quarterly newsletter, and starts with an optional film activity session, followed by a film at mid-day.

The most recent initiative to run throughout the summer holidays was the 'Screens for teens', piloted with funding from 'North London connections', which provided transport to films for 13–19-year-olds across Barnet, along with free courses in film-making. Thought has also been given to parents' term-time needs, with an 'Early bird' matinee screening every Wednesday, finishing at 3pm to fit in with the school run. For 6–19-year-

olds, there is a regular range of workshops in filmmaking and animation. At the other end of the age spectrum, there is also the 'Bringing up baby' series, a valuable opportunity for these parents to get to a film!

Cultural strategy

The Greater London Assembly is currently formulating a cultural strategy and it is hoped that the final version will tackle the question of support for small cinemas in recognition of their vital community role.

It should also consider ideas to increase awareness, such as ticket promotions and advertising on public transport, in order to attract the potentially wider audience for which the independent programming policies of cinemas like the Phoenix are eminently suited.

New Season at NLC

North London Chorus meets every Thursday in East Finchley. The new term begins on Thursday 4 September, 8 pm at Martin School. The programme for the term includes works by Bach and Rutter. For more information please call 020 8349 3022.

East Finchley Takes Art

By Daphne Chamberlain

Geoffrey Hanson always thought that the East Finchley Arts Festival would take 10 years to become established. This year was only its seventh and there was less money available, which unfortunately meant no schools programme. So why is the Artistic Director a happy man?

"Audiences were up, there was a nice feeling to it all, and our bucket collections raised £508 for the North London Hospice."

There were one or two disappointments of course. Why did the National Youth Jazz Orchestra not pull in its usual audience? Geoffrey also felt that the organ recital deserved more listeners,

but overall, he reported enthusiastic support. He reported performances as excellent, and The Finchley Children's Music Group may be repeating their Songs of War and Peace in Paris this October.

Local artists

Local artists exhibited throughout the Festival in All Saints Church, Durham Road, where I heard Hugo Williams, Jane Kirwan and Fleur Adcock reading and talking about their poetry. "Fleur Adcock! How did you get hold of her? We studied her at school," someone said to the organisers. Fleur happens to be a long-time local resident, and

always worth listening to.

The family

The poets' theme was the family, which seemed appropriate for a festival where the accent was on youth. Young performers, artists and writers need all the encouragement and support they can get, which includes funding.

Anyone interested in the arts must hope that next year's funding is not reduced. Public support keeps Geoffrey happy too. If you have suggestions for next year or can help in any way, or if you would like to become a Friend of the Festival, please ring Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

REVIEW

Hamlet with a Twist

By Claire Osborne

Throughout the Elizabethan period it was unheard of for a woman to appear onstage, let alone a woman playing a male role such as Hamlet. The audiences were forced to rely heavily on their imaginations in order to depict lavish costumes, extravagant scenery and most noticeably, the correct sex. Although in 1821 women began to appear on the stage, Wild Thyme, Finchley's medium-scale theatre company, took this to a new extreme.

The director Stephen Jameson's intention was to have a multicultural cast of solely women perform his production of *Hamlet*. It was workshopped at the Central School of Speech and Drama one year ago as merely an experiment but was hailed as a success and taken to the Gate Theatre.

The decision to cast single-sex versions of Shakespeare's plays is certainly popular at the moment with the Globe running all-female versions of *Richard III* and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Redressing the balance

Jameson insists that using an all-female company for his performance has no sexual implications nor political slant, and instead was used to redress the balance, allowing women to both create and perform arguably the greatest play ever written.

In an interview with Mark Rylance, Jameson claimed "it

is possible for young actresses to train at drama school for three years and graduate only having played Nerissa and half a Titania. Not every male student will play Hamlet, but there are a damn sight more attendant lords who have something to say for themselves than women in Shakespeare's plays". Consequently Wild Thyme gives women the chances they may not have otherwise had.

Illuminating

The sensibility and humanity that women bring to the play provides an extremely illuminating quality whilst the passion and commitment they have for the text is astounding. It is like seeing *Hamlet* being performed for the first time. Jameson believes that the reasoning behind this is that women are speaking the lines and exploring the characters for the first time without being overloaded with the weight of history and expectation.

Seeing *Hamlet*, a play with 21 male and only two female roles is certainly a new experience, one which Wild Thyme embellishes and serves full justice to.

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

**Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.**

**The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.**

**All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an
enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.
Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.**

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

East Finchley Baptist Church

just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2
Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm
for more information contact 8446 3571

Visitors always welcome