



Regular Events

SPORT & FITNESS

- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** Wednesdays Christ Church N12. Ring Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tai Chi** at the Green Man on Mondays 1.30-3pm. An "ageing well" class for older people.
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8440 6953.
- ❖ **Wood Walk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk. Call 8883 8750.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.
- ❖ **Yoga classes** Tuesdays 8-9:30pm at EF Methodist Church. Experienced teacher. Call Rosalind 8444 8134.

DANCE, DRAMA, ART & MUSIC

- ❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops**. Creative writing, poetry and prose Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** - 8 & 22 Aug at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3. New members welcome
- ❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - a communal singing club. Call Idit Gold 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 8346 8736
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 8883 4070 for info.
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
- ❖ **SwampRock** events: Call Carole 8810 7454 or Neil 01727 830280 www.swamprock.org.uk
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** of North London, Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 8349 4613

CLUBS & SOCIAL

- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Thursdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust**, Contact Sophie on 8444 1890
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at The Old White Lion. Call Lilian 8444 1793
- ❖ **Fairacres Monday Club** for Jewish people. Contact Rene & Reuby 8883 0448 or Sylvia 8958 7878
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Mouldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- ❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, contact 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call Eric 8340 0822.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.

Open House: the spirit of East Finchley

By Helen Drake

The second East Finchley Open arts weekend was launched in style by Rudi Vis MP on Saturday 2 July as the artists, their relatives and friends, along with Councillors Alison Moore and Colin Rogers, gathered on the High Road outside Mulberry Court.

To add that extra bit of pizzazz, three bicycle-driven rickshaws ferried art lovers from one venue to another, each location showing a pink "Open House" banner. Work on display at the 16 venues included paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, jewellery, ceramics and poetry.

East Finchley Open (EFO) is the largest group of artists working together in Barnet and has evolved from an original nucleus of five people in early 2004 to a thriving group of 50 artists. For many who had previously been working in isolation, it has been a great pleasure to discover each other and share ideas, skills and successes.

Monica Peiser, who was displaying her individual jewellery alongside the vibrant, music-inspired paintings of Mike Sharp, and the sculpture and black-and-white prints of David Aronsohn, enthused about the "unique mix" of the group.

Night of fire

By Erini Rodis

If you popped into the Tally Ho gallery at the end of July, you might have seen Craig Johnson's *Night of Fire* exhibition.

East Finchley resident Craig's photographs display a very different view of city life:

At first glance they seem to be blurry midnight townscapes as seen through an inebriated lens. Look more closely, however, and you start to see things: a bridge on the North Circular, a favourite pub, shadows of folks illuminated just briefly by a bus going by, and it begins to feel quite personal.

A brilliant example of long-exposure experimentation; you could get quite lost dreaming on. Be dazzled!



Artist Rena Zenonos with some of her work. Photo by Craig Johnson

David Aronsohn, founder member and Chair of EFO, referred to "the spirit of East Finchley's creative community", and welcomed the increased volume of visitors and sales compared with the first "Open House" last year.

Councillor Phil Yeoman opened the EFO exhibition venue at All Saints Church, Durham Road at a private view on Monday 27 June. The exhibition formed part of the East Finchley Arts Festival, and at the private view Arts Festival

Director, Geoffrey Hanson, spoke about the positive collaboration of the EFO and the Arts Festival this year. EFO member Eddy Sayer, composer and percussionist, performed a Balinese gong ceremony to bless the EFO exhibition and "Open House" with happiness and well-being.

Mr Aronsohn announced that the next EFO event will be an arts and craft fair, to be held in the autumn. For more information on EFO go to www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Pay back time for Falstaff

By Sheila Armstrong

Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was brought to The Gatehouse in Highgate in a 1950s setting by Wild Thyme Productions in mid July.

It was a great show: humorous, plenty of amusing period details, and with singing and dancing to contemporary pop music from a talented cast. There was even a touch of discreet nudity. The Carry On films were an obvious influence on this fast-paced farce.

Finchley resident Joan Lane brought her production, directed by Stephen Jameson, direct from a stint at the International Shakespeare Festival in Germany earlier in the month. Known for their innovative productions and committed to making the Bard's plays accessible to all, Wild Thyme enjoys a high profile in Germany, and

on the basis of this production a similar one here.

Paul Bigley was convincing as the down-at-heel knight Falstaff who plans to seduce two Windsor wives, unaware that they are friends and find it all great sport. There follows the usual Shakespearean twists and turns with husbands, suitors, servants, a duel and a young couple who are in love and are forced to marry in secret. All

this culminates in Falstaff getting his come-uppance.

The leads were strongly played and all the comic characters had their well-worked-out eccentricities firmly in place throughout.

Another successful show at the Gatehouse and another successful production by Wild Thyme making Shakespeare fun and more accessible to modern audiences.

Methodist concert

By Tom Walker

The Methodist Church on the High Road was filled with the sound of classical music influenced by everything from jazz to gypsy on Sunday 10 July.

The audience was treated to a highly entertaining evening by Bryan Fairfax on violin, Catherine Morphet on clarinet and Caroline Soresby on piano, playing pieces by a range of 20th century composers, from Debussy to Beethoven.

Caroline was very impressive on the piano, moving her fingers across the keys with great skill, and performing a solo. Catherine's clarinet was a deep blues saxophone one minute and a soaring bird the next, while Bryan's violin completed the package with style. The concert ended on an interesting note, with a piece by Hungarian composer Bela Bartok. Bartok was inspired by the music of the ancient Hungarian gypsies, who knew nothing about composition and instead improvised whatever sounded good to them, with intriguing results.

The right atmosphere

Bryan has been coming to perform at the church for eight years. He said, "I really like to play here. The acoustics are good and the atmosphere is lovely - this is just right for us. I think this is one of the best concert halls in North London."

About 40 people were in the audience and many approached the trio after the concert to say how much they had enjoyed it. There were free refreshments in the interval, and a collection for the North London Hospice, which raised over £135.

The Methodist Church holds a concert once a month; the next scheduled event is a performance by an instrumental trio on Sunday 11 September. Admission to the concerts is free, with a collection for a charity of the artists' choice.

What's On...

E-mail your listings to the-archer@lineone.net

Throughout August:

Concerts at Kenwood: Saturday 6 August - *Jools Holland and his R&B orchestra*; Saturday 13 August - *Classic FM Opera gala*; Saturday 20 August - *The Bootleg Beatles*; Saturday 27 August - *Katie Melua*; Sunday 28 August: *The Last Night at the Proms*. See www.picnicconcerts.com or call 0870 890 0146 or Ticketmaster 0870 333 6206 for bookings.

Thursday 25 August - Thursday 15 September:

The Barnet Open is a mixed exhibition showcasing the work of local artists in the borough. This summer, 35 practising artists from varying backgrounds and walks of life will showcase their work in the Apthorp Gallery as part of artsdepot's answer to the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition. Some artists will be exhibiting work for sale. See artsdepot.co.uk or call the box office on 020 8369 5454. For more information contact Nancy Walsh on 020 8369 5469 or email nancy.walsh@artsdepot.co.uk.

Saturday 3 September:

Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society Flower Show, 3pm - 5.30pm, Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11. Teas, raffle and plants for sale. Contact: 020 8455 6507 for more details.