



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** - 3 & 17 April 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** Tuesdays 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
- ❖ **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.

Three pairs of London eyes

By Daphne Chamberlain

Off a little courtyard between houses in a North Finchley street is the Picture Gallery. As I arrived there, ballerina Deborah Bull was springing out of a car to open an exhibition, London and Beyond, seen through three very different pairs of eyes.

The London of East Finchley Open Artist Mari I'Anson is there for its people. Hurrying through Green Park, or outside the Ritz, Piccadilly, they draw you into their lives. Mari's work is well known locally, and for me her forté is depicting character.

Photographer John-Martin White shows scenes familiar to London's inhabitants: flats by the Regent's Canal, bridges, office buildings. But his camera shows them, in his words, as watery, wibbly or wobbly, turning solid structures into reflections. His occasional figures by the seashore are dreamlike too, almost from another age or another world.

Mexican Javier Garcia Barrera now lives in Finchley but looks at London as a bohemian-influenced visitor. Tower Bridge, London Bridge, Camden Lock and our own Church End are all there, accurately drawn but in vivid and intense colours. A huge multi-media St Paul's is in the centre of a riot of deli-

cately coloured fireworks. "In Mexico," he told me, "We have fireworks all the time." Javier loves working in the streets of London, "enjoying the cold of winter".

This very interesting exhibition was only on for a couple of weeks, but Mari can be contacted on 020 8346 7011 or mari.artist@uwclub.net, Javier on 07757 087992 or mexicolour@hotmail.com and John-Martin on 07778 767470 or johnnie.martini@mac.com. Mari and Javier both give painting lessons, and Mari will do a portrait of your house.

The Picture Factory is at 44-48 Birkbeck Road, N12. The staff frame pictures, tapestries and embroideries (and even the occasional cricket ball), convert digital images on to block-mounted canvas, and clean and restore oil paintings and watercolours. Open Monday ñ Saturday. 9am ñ 6pm, they can be contacted on 020 8446 3164, 0800 074 8099 or info@picturefactory.co.uk.

Exciting exotica

By Diana Cormack

The Noble Sage art gallery promises to bring its own exotic flavour to East Finchley this month when it opens at 2a Fortis Green. As THE ARCHER reported last November, it is the brainchild of local resident Jana Manuelpillai and will specialise particularly in South Asian contemporary art.

Gallery director Jana says: "I want the gallery to be a portal by which visitors can visit distant lands and cultures, though I also want it to be a platform for talented artists who deserve a worthy UK stage."

The gallery will be launched with an exhibition of unseen works entitled *Chennai Excite: New Work from South India*. It will showcase, for the first time in the UK, paintings, drawings and sculptures by 17 gifted artists, two of whom are women artists, still a relatively rare occurrence in the south of India.

The exhibition is the culmination of a year's research

into the exciting talent found in the art world of Chennai, south India. After the gallery's grand opening on 5 April, *Chennai Excite* will run from 6 April to 1 July 2006.

A British-born Tamil Sri Lankan, Jana leads a new breed of home-grown talent forging fresh and exciting links with the subcontinent from which his family originate. He will be holding director's specialist tours of the exhibition at 2pm on 15 and 29 April, 14 and 28 May and 18 June 2006. The Noble Sage will be open on weekdays from 9am-6.30pm and at weekends from 10am-5pm. Entry is free.

A jumbo gig

By Linda Soper

Blues and swing band Elephant Shelf are becoming very popular on the concert circuit and they brought their own brand of originality to Maddens on Saturday 12 February.

The group was formed 18 months ago by Vicky Martin, their guitarist / singer, and Glen Basset, who plays rhythm guitar. It took a year to get the right blend of musicians and as they did so, bookings and venues followed.

Lead singer Jessie Pie went through the band's repertoire singing a mixture of blues and swing and there were some lively originals. Jessie was dressed in red velvet and the songs showed the range of her voice and emotions. Every line was delivered with confidence and conviction. She is a good entertainer who puts her heart into her work.

Jessie ad libs with Vicky

and they both come out with some witty one-liners. Vicky's guitar playing is worth seeing in itself. Her fingers gliding over the frets make it look all so easy but anyone who's ever tried to play will appreciate the hard work that goes into getting it looking that way. All in all, the Shelf are unique and excellent performers.

The band have a website www.elephantshelf.com so you can catch up on all their news and venues. It also includes videos of some of their songs so you can play them again.

They were due back in Maddens on 11 March and will no doubt be returning to East Finchley in the near future.

Sounds of South America

By Linda Soper

The sounds of South America filled East Finchley Methodist Church at one of its excellent monthly concerts.

Kike Pedersen, from Paraguay, gave a demonstration of his harp playing. He mixed traditional music with modern and you really felt you were being transported to the Andes, listening to the silvery sounds of the harp. Fellow-musician Roksana joined him with a couple of songs on the violin and the acoustics brought out the marvellous range of the music.

Kike said: "I studied the harp from the age of 11 with my father. I was taught by ear, then I learnt by reading music but I developed my own style and was largely self-taught."

At the age of 14 he made

an album called *Melodias Paraguayas* and went on to produce six CDs, the last including some of his own compositions.

The concert evening was in a good cause because a collection was taken for a Paraguayan aid charity. A large fire in a supermarket in Paraguay last year killed 400 people. Although it happened some time ago, the money raised will help the children and families who were affected by the blaze.

So make a date in your diary for the monthly concerts in East Finchley Methodist Church; see What's On in *THE ARCHER* for details.

Just the Job for Oak Lodge

By Toni Morgan

Finchley Rotary Club hosted another successful jazz evening on 25 February at St Mary's Church Hall in Hendon Lane, to raise funds for a play park for Oak Lodge Special School in East Finchley.

Just The Job Jazz provided the music, members of Finchley Rotary Club supplied an excellent supper and, thanks to the generosity of all those who attended, they more than exceeded their

fundraising target.

For lovers of live jazz, Just The Job play regularly at the Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Road on alternate Mondays from 3 April.

What's On...

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

Sunday 9 April:

Live Music at East Finchley Methodist Church; a concert celebrating the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth and the centenary of the birth of Shostakovich, with Sylvia Craston, Sanae Honda and Bryan Fairfax on violin, Helen Cooper on cello and Caroline Soresby on piano. Methodist Church, High Road, 8pm. Free admission with a collection for North London Hospice. Full disabled access.

Saturday 22 April:

Just Sing It! Workshops where singing coach Judith Silver teaches songs in unison and harmony, from around the world. All welcome but please ring or email in advance to confirm your place; Finchley Reform Synagogue, Fallowcourt Avenue, N12, 2.30-5pm. £15/£10 per session. Contact Judith on 07903 914064 or info@judith.silver.com.

Sunday 23 April

Muswell Hill Bowling Club Open Day from 12noon-4pm, The Green, Kings Avenue, N10. Come and try your hand at bowling, no age limit, families welcome. Instruction given by club members, bowls and shoes loaned. Tea and biscuits provided, no entrance fee.

Is 2006 the year you learn how to surf the web and use email?

The Green Man Community Centre offers a wide range of courses to help you make the most of new technology. If you just want to learn how to use email or even get a professional qualification we have the course for you.

Learners study at their own pace with a friendly tutor on hand to offer help and advice if needed.

For more information about the courses on offer call Helen on 020 8815 0703.

The Learndirect Centre is managed in conjunction with Barnet College