



A delectable feast of contemporary art

The East Finchley Open is getting ready for this year's exciting summer event, the Open House weekend, which promises to be their best ever.

On Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 July, East Finchley will be buzzing with art exhibitions and art-related activities. With more artists participating and more venues within the easily accessible High Road, art lovers will be able to feast their eyes and purchase a wide range of locally produced, hand crafted contemporary art and craft.

EFO artists will be opening up their houses and studios and displaying a bonanza of fine art and superb craft. You'll be able to meet the artists, discuss the work on display, buy and/or commission original, contemporary and stimulating art and craft.

Mini exhibitions will be put up at Lazooli at 46 High Road, the Phoenix Cinema, The Cherry Tree at 172 High Road, the Old White Lion pub and the new community police station

at 113 High Road.

The EFO is now in its third year. Members include ceramists, photographers and lens-based artists, painters, sculptors and textile designers, a wicker basket weaver who grows her own materials right here in East Finchley, and several jewellery makers, one of whom makes her own glass beads. Also, there are calligraphers, tapestry designers and makers, a milliner, a textile and stitch artist, two silk painters, a stone carver and a poet.

So pick up a map of the different venues from local shops or the library; it will also be posted through your letter-box in good time before the event. Come and join the fun, and explore the richness of cultural production taking place right here in your neighbourhood.

Fun! Fun! Fun!

By Helen Drake

East Finchley's primary schools will be holding their summer fun days in June and they're looking for your support to get the fund-raising tills ringing.

Holy Trinity School in Eagans Close will be holding its blockbuster Summer Fair on Sunday 11 June from 12-2.30pm.

Come along and enjoy summer fun games, barbecue and home-cooked food and (new this year) indulge yourself with a range of special relaxation and beauty treatments offered by a team of local therapists.

You'll find bargains galore on the cake, plant, books and toy stalls and there will be children's face painting and nail painting.

Martin Schools in Plane Tree Walk will once again be holding its very popular Fun Day on Saturday 17 June from 12-3.30pm.

Have a go at making candyfloss and slime (what an enticing combination!) at the Mad Science stall, or try your luck at panning for gold at the

"Goldrush City". For arty-crafty people there'll be plenty of activities to get those creative juices flowing; you can even make a present for your Dad for Father's Day!

There'll be a fancy dress competition, coconut shy, wet sponges and the infamous "Human Fruit Machine" is back this year by popular demand!

The barbecue will be sizzling and ready for business at 12 so come for lunch and stay for afternoon tea at the Blue Bird Café. There will be cakes, books, videos, toys and plants for sale and the hugely successful M-Bay (Martin School's version of e-bay) will be open to bids throughout the afternoon.

The East Finchley Festival's Five-a-Side Football Competition for school children will be taking place at Martin Schools on the same day so come and cheer your team. Kick off is at 11am.

Family fun at the Muswell Hill Festival

Plans for a bigger and better Muswell Hill Festival in 2006, with the emphasis on a day out for the family, are now under way. The date is Sunday 17 September and once more the venue will be Cherry Tree Wood.

The central attraction will again be a Donkey Derby, backed up by a programme of events for children and school teams. These will include five-a-side football, school bands and a big children's entertainment area, plus entertainers on the big stage.

The Festival will be heralded the day before in Muswell Hill Broadway by an all-day invasion of teddy

bears parachuting. The money raised by the daredevil teddies will go to the Hornsey Trust for children with cerebral palsy, organisers of the festival. Volunteers, helpers, stallholders commercial sponsors and advertisers are urgently needed now and so are tombola prizes. To help, contact Alison Wynn at the Trust on 020 8444 7242/07808 364 033 or e-mail her on alison@onlub.com.

Summer pampering

By Helen Drake

If you love the spa experience but don't love the prices charged by most spa hotels and resorts, then you'll be pleased to know that local therapist Mandana is launching a range of exclusive spa body treatments, all at local prices.

In her salon based at Jennie Mann at 63a Church Lane, Mandana will give you a personal consultation and will prescribe the body treatment that meets your own particular needs. Treatments use essential oils and the methods and products of Sothys of Paris. One of the most popular treatments in the range is a deeply relaxing massage using volcanic stones wrapped in a muslin cloth infused with ginger and nutmeg and soaked in hot orange and marjoram oil.

Mandana says, "This treatment is very relaxing because of the heat and the spices, and it also softens and stimulates the body". Her philosophy is that "taking care of yourself should be a pleasure".

To introduce her new range of treatments, Mandana is having an Open Day on Friday 30 June from 9.30am-3pm. Come along, have a cup of coffee and sample the new products by having a free hand treatment encompassing exfoliation, massage and a mask.

As an introductory offer, all customers who make a booking on that day or buy a gift voucher will enjoy a 15% discount. Jennie Mann will also be offering a 10% discount on all flowers and gifts purchased that day between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

For more information phone Mandana on 020 8365 2284 or 020 8447 0854.



Mandana invites you to enjoy a spa experience at her salon. Photo by Helen Drake

Seen and Heard

In even the simplest of jobs, there is room to put in a bit of skill and care. One ARCHER reader in Leslie Road returned home to find the taxi card and pizza leaflet deliverers had visited again. But, instead of finding the brochures dumped in a messy pile, five taxi cards had been slotted artfully in a diagonal formation into the gap surrounding her letter box and four pizza cards poked out in a fan shape from underneath her front door mat.

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