



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.
- ❖ **NIA workshops** (dancercise) Saturdays 11am-12pm at La Fitness, East End Road. Call Dorit on 8248 3919
- ❖ **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** - 6 & 20 Mar 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.



Helene Davidian with a sample of her own glasswork.

Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

Think again, Brian

By Daphne Chamberlain

Three years ago, outspoken art critic Brian Sewell was very dismissive about the quality of stained glass to be found in East Finchley. While presenting a Channel Five TV series called *The Naked Pilgrim*, he referred to some stained glass windows in a church as "late Victorian, as bad as any in Tooting or East Finchley".

Just why is anyone's guess, as we couldn't contact Mr Sewell to get an explanation, but *ARCHER* deliverer Helene Davidian may soon be putting the record straight.

Helene, a member of the British Society of Master Glass Painters, lectured on stained glass at Barnet College for 17 years. In spare moments she still creates pieces herself, just doing what catches her creative fancy, usually along the lines of decorative boxes or mirrors. Her ambition, however, is to make the first comprehensive survey of stained glass in North London, although time is her enemy.

Her grandmother's house in Highgate had "beautiful stained glass in the front door, windows and internal doors. When I took friends to see the outside recently, none of it was left." Then there is the rose window in Christ Church, North Finchley, designed by John Constable's brother, now broken by stone-throwing vandals.

In East Finchley, her favourite examples are in the chapel of the Marylebone Cemetery, East End Road, and a Mark Angus design in St Mary's Catholic Church on the High Road.

Tracking down stained glass

Don't dismiss a humble panel in your front door. Helene is interested in it all, and would like to know, if possible, whether the glass came with the house or was specially designed or individually commissioned. Once she has located examples, she can trace and record builders and architects. She will either visit homes personally and take photographs, or work from photos and descriptions sent to her.

Helene plans to lodge the results of her research with The Finchley Society, for whom she is giving a talk on 27 April. She can be contacted on 020 8444 3669.

From B minus to A plus

By Marian Bunzl

A typing slip in *THE ARCHER*'s What's On listing for 14 January indicated that we in the North London Chorus were to perform an unheard-of work, the Bach Mass in B Minus.

Actually, B minus was too high a mark for our performance during the rehearsal period for the concert. The B minor is beautiful, but it is a long and complex work. Our conductor was driven to equal fits of fury and despair as each choir section in turn lost its way, lost pitch and completely fell apart. He had sleepless nights, lost weight and took up smoking again. The final rehearsal was a complete disaster and we had a collective nervous breakdown in the pub.

On the night, however, St. James's Church, Muswell Hill,

was lit up and full to the last pew. We had wonderful soloists from the world of opera and equally wonderful orchestral players with period instruments. Our conductor came on in his black satin jacket, white shirt and orange socks, lifted his baton and, like the flick of a light switch, we were there!

As a mere alto, I am not qualified to give a formal musical critique. All I can say is that it was a cracking performance, our conductor heaved a sigh of relief and the audience gave us a standing ovation.

Animal ambulance

Animal lovers will not want to miss a talk by Barry Smitherman about the history and work of the wildlife rescue and ambulance service which rehabilitates sick and injured wild animals and birds and releases them back into the wild.

The talk will be given to the Finchley Society in Avenue House, East End Road, N3, on Thursday 30 March at 8pm. Non-members are welcome.

Barry and June Smitherman founded the rescue service in Trent Park in 1985 and in 2001

took over Enfield Council's Pets' Corner there. Currently they are raising funds to build an animal hospital to treat the many casualties they receive daily. Their work earned each of them an MBE in the 2005 Honours List.

Easter fun at St Mary's Parent and Toddler group

By Helen Drake

St Mary's Parent and Toddler group warmly invite parents and carers to bring their pre-school children to an Easter Party on Friday 7 April at 10am.

Children can dress up, and search for the treasure left by the Easter bunnies. Mask making and face painting will also be on offer. Tickets for the Easter Party cost £2 per child; buy early to avoid disappointment.

Michele McMillan, Lorraine Elliott and Kris Curran are the new co-ordinators of the group, which runs on a drop-in basis at St Mary's Church Hall on the High Road, East Finchley, Tuesday and Friday mornings, 9.30am-11.30am during school term times. There is also an outdoor space for when the weather gets warmer. Parents and carers who come to the group are asked to contribute £1.50 for the first

child and 50p for any other children. The price includes unlimited tea and coffee, with fruit or biscuits mid-morning for the children, and toast at 20p for two slices.

St Mary's Mother and Toddler group will close for the Easter holidays after the party on 7 April and will reopen on Tuesday 25 April. For further information please contact Michele on 07968 354 283 or e-mail Michele_angels@hotmail.com.

Organisers are also trying to find out how many years the St Mary's Parent and Toddler group has been running. Please contact them if you have any information.

What's On...

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

Tuesday 7 March

Open Afternoon at Martin Schools, 228 High Road, from 2pm. Come and visit the infant and junior schools, meet some of the staff and see how the schools work. All parents welcome, especially new parents and prospective parents.

Tuesday 14 March

Pre-course taster in basic computer skills from 5pm-6pm at Holy Trinity School, Eagans Close. Are you interested in learning about word processing and using the internet? For details, call the school on 020 8883 1824.

Friday 10 March

Marylebone Birdwatching Society has a talk entitled In the Shadow of the Moon Mountain. David Cottridge talks about birds of the Negev desert in Israel, 7.15pm Methodist Hall, Agincourt/Lisburne Road, NW3. Non-members welcome. £4 charge. (£2 members).

Saturday 18 March

Finchley Choral Society performs Handel's Messiah, 7.45pm, St Jude-on-the-Hill Church, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11.

Thursday 30 March

The Finchley Society presents The Work of the Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service (Enfield), a talk by Barry Smitherman, 8pm, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Non-members are very welcome.

Saturday 8 April

The North London Chorus presents a concert of music by Holst, Britten and Elgar along with Fauré's Requiem, St Michael's Church, Highgate. Call 07787 788246 or Les Aldrich Music shop for details and tickets.

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