



Culture with your coffee

By Lucy Chamberlin

If you've never thought of East Finchley as a centre of *avant-garde* culture, then it's time to think again. Although the East Finchley Open arts weekend in July may seem like a long time ago now, local art is alive and well in our shops, watering holes and eateries.

Pop into Chorak on the High Road for coffee and a cake and you will notice the neat, brightly lit interior hung with colour. The present exhibition is of Eimear Kavanagh's mixed media collages, which with their mirrors and patterns give an impression of Arabic influences.

A few paces along is our new Monkey Face bar, where the funky urban vibe is accentuated by digital photographs and original work by various local artists, not to mention the striking wall art in the loos by manager Johnny Rayner's cousin.

Johnny is impressed by the sheer number of artists (about 50) in EFO as well as by the high standard of their work: "I'm very pleased to be displaying local artwork - it's nice to be doing something for the community."

Up and down the High Road

Further on is a location that often seems forgotten by East Finchley residents: The Old White Lion, subtly separated from the rest by its position under the bridge on the other side of the tube line.



An EFO picture in The Old White Lion. Picture by John Dearing

Part of a group which also owns The Flask and The Angel in Highgate, its interior décor has that cross between the modern and the vintage so popular today. Nooks with old pews and basket chairs, stained glass windows, quirky lighting and fittings, 'baroque' *chaise longues*, curios and bare brick walls - apart, of course, from the art.

Most are EFO pieces, chosen to match the pub's individualism, but a couple are by staff member Maxine's friend Joe Kletz. Maxine enjoys having the pictures and collages around

as they lend a homely yet individual atmosphere.

EFO have also exhibited works in Lazooli, The Cherry Tree, Kokos, The Phoenix, the Community Support Office, all in the High Road, and the Noble Sage Gallery tucked just inside Fortis Green. According to member Adam Justice-Mills, 2006 has been their most successful year in terms of publicity, sponsorship and sales, with the majority of this being locally generated. He says it would be nice to have some art in every High Road site...and I'm sure we'd all agree!

We have plans for the future!

Say the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

Four parks in Barnet have recently been awarded Green Flag status. Although Cherry Tree Wood is not one of them, we believe that Barnet Council would put the Wood forward if there was strong community support.

Being awarded Green Flag status would be a huge boost for the Wood, bringing better facilities and high standards of maintenance and conservation. It would also be a boost for Barnet Council and its Green Spaces department and should ensure their continuing commitment to the Wood. It could in addition open the door to additional government funding.

The Friends of Cherry Tree

Wood are considering plans to help the Wood achieve a Green Flag Award, which is the national standard for parks and green spaces. You can find out more about the Green Flag scheme at www.greenflagaward.org.uk

To win a Green Flag award:

- The park needs to be safe and welcoming
- The facilities should be well maintained

- Attention must be paid to conservation and sustainability
- There should be strong community involvement and support.

Here's the plan:

Nature and conservation: We want to organise more educational and conservation activities (for example, we are planning a bluebell planting activity in the autumn). We would also like to publish more information about Cherry Tree Wood either on our website, in our magazine Grassroots or on a Friends' notice board in the Wood.

Recreation and Facilities: We want to work with Barnet Council and others to improve facilities in the Wood, for example by making further improvements to the playground and working with the Council to ensure that the derelict pavilion is put to good use. This is a crucial feature of any future plans.

Community and Membership: We want to build better links with the local community and other groups. We want to develop and add to our existing contacts with the Woodcraft Folk, Highgate Wood and the Countryside Management Service.

To become a Friend or to know more about them, visit www.cherrytreewood.co.uk

Festival concert celebrates East Finchley musician

By East Finchley Arts Festival director Geoffrey Hanson

Local musician Charles Proctor will be celebrated in a centenary concert in this year's East Finchley Arts Festival in October.

Born in Market Place in 1906 and talent-spotted by conductor Sir Henry Wood, famous for popularising The Proms, Proctor had a distinguished career as conductor, organist and teacher.

Starting as an organist at All Saints, Durham Road, where the Arts Festival events are held, he moved on to become organist at Holy Trinity, Church Lane at an annual salary of £40. From 1943-73 he was organist at St Jude's, Hampstead Garden Suburb.

He made his reputation with the Alexandra Choir and was active on the London music scene from the 1940s to 1978. Known to generations of students at Trinity College of Music where he taught, he was a prolific composer.

His music performed

Jennifer Bate will play some of his organ music at the concert on Saturday 7 October and two of his choral works will be sung by the London Ripieno Singers together with music by Elgar and Parry.

A piano recital by Rimantas Vigras opens the Festival on Thursday 5 October. An East Finchley resident, Lithuanian by birth, he trained at the Moscow Conservatoire and will include Scriabin's 24 Preludes in his programme.

Julian Bliss, still in his teens, is making a huge reputation as

a clarinetist; he recently played at the Queen's Birthday Prom and will be playing on Sunday 8 October with Gemma Rosefield (cello) and Simon Lepper (piano) in a programme of clarinet trios. During the day there will be a puppet show for children in the church garden.

Jazz is represented by the London Vintage Jazz Orchestra on Wednesday 11 October and French music by the Dore Ensemble of Flute, Viola & Harp on Thursday 12 October. The London Mozart Players make a welcome return on Friday 13 October. Their programme includes Festival Director Geoffrey Hanson's new work for violin, cello and orchestra and music by Mozart, Haydn & Salieri.

Sylvia Reid and Bill Fry have been performing over a period of 45 years and this Company of Two, in their final season, presents an adaptation of Barchester Towers on Saturday 14 October.

A Victorian Evening on Friday 6 October needs everybody to be in good voice and the Finchley Children's Music Group will close proceedings on Sunday 15 October.

Funds will be raised throughout the Festival for the North London Hospice by the sale of pictures at the Art Exhibition. The open evening takes place on Tuesday 10 October.

Here's the full programme for the festival. All events take place at All Saints Church in Durham Road.

Thurs 5 Oct: Piano Recital: 7.30pm - Bach, Schubert, Scriabin. Rimantas Vigras - Piano

Fri 6 Oct: Victorian Evening, 7.30pm

Sat 7 Oct: Charles Proctor Centenary Concert, 7.30pm, Jennifer Bate - Organ

London Ripieno Singers, Conductor: Geoffrey Hanson. Stanford, Parry, Elgar, Proctor, Howells

Sun 8 Oct: Mister Peter's Puppets - St George & the Dragon. 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm, Tickets £1

Sun 8 Oct: Bliss, Rosefield, Lepper Clarinet Trio, 7.30pm - Bruch, Debussy, Beethoven, Martinu, Brahms

Tues 10 Oct: Art Exhibition Open Evening in aid of North London Hospice

Wed 11 Oct: London Vintage Jazz Orchestra, 7.30pm - Classic big band jazz

Thurs 12 Oct: Dore Ensemble, 7.30pm - Ravel, Bax, Faure, Debussy, Takemitsu

Fri 13 Oct: London Mozart Players, 7.30pm - Haydn, Hanson, Salieri, Mozart

Sat 14 Oct: Theatre Roundabout, 7.30pm - Barchester Towers

Sun 15 Oct: Finchley Children's Music Group, 7.30pm

Visit the website for more details: eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk

Tickets: London Mozart Players £15, all other events £10, concessions £8, children under 16 £1. Season ticket £30.

Box Offices from 4 September: Coral Travel, 50 High Rd N2, and Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green N10.

Postal booking: please use the form on the website.

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Sunday 6.30 p.m. Thursday 7.30 p.m.

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the month 6.30 p.m.

Healing every Tuesday between 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Weddings - Christenings - Funerals (at the church or cemetery)

by arrangement with the Minister

All are welcome

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