



## 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.

### 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** - 4 & 18 Sep 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 feature a different band each month. See [www.swamprock.org.uk](http://www.swamprock.org.uk) or call Carole 8810 7454 or Neil 01727 830280
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** 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 Jane on 8883 4340
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, contact Admin Office 8340 3343 or email: [admin@hlsi.net](mailto:admin@hlsi.net)
- ❖ **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 John 8883 8114.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.



Rich Hall in *Levelland*. Photo courtesy Theatre Tours International.

## Rich Hall on the level

By John Dearing

**Rich Hall's first full-length play *Levelland* had its London preview at artsdepot in Finchley in the last week of July before going to the Edinburgh Festival.**

Hall has appeared on TV programmes such as *Have I Got News For You* and *QI*, and is known as a deadpan comedian with a sharp turn of phrase. *Levelland* marks a departure from his usual territory.

It is a dark, dramatic, satirical thriller, set in a radio studio in West Texas in the near future. Wayman Tisdale (played by Hall) is a syndicated phone-in show host who takes calls on the issues of the day, and then rubbishes the callers. Fuel shortages and price rises have reached the point where the American love affair with oil is causing real grief, with the National Guard (a notorious military police force) shooting looters at petrol stations.

A succession of selfish, whingeing, extreme right-wing callers produces a variety of crack-pot solutions, but Tisdale is adamant that there will be no invasions of oil-producing countries, no nukes, no genocide. "We just go in and assume control...simple as that."

Into Tisdale's ivory tower comes Scrope, a violent young drifter who claims to have the gift of divining and says he is on the run from those who would exploit this gift. Tisdale's sarcastic doubt is challenged, first by the arrival of Dimitry, a superficially kindly, confessional figure, and then Guffy, a vicious bully.

Tisdale is not a particularly lovable character, mentally barricaded in his own rather surreal little world, living on tinned peaches, running his self-important, abusive radio show while outside the oil runs out. Suddenly the world comes to him in the form of Scrope, a perverted messianic figure exploited by Dimitry whose be-suited figure is a metaphor

for capitalism, and abused by Guffy who represents authoritarian, military government. The crazy callers illustrate the man on the street as unreconstructed bigot.

*Levelland* is a thought-provoking, dark vision of the near future. There are some nice one-liners - "You have to stand for something, or you will lose everything" - numerous witty rebuffs to the idiot callers, and complex dialogue that is performed extremely well. The scale of the production is pitched just about right. However, it is hard to generate any sympathy for any of the characters as they are just too flawed, and the somewhat unsatisfactory ending leaves the play rather unfocused. Is this how a second coming would pan out, or is it inevitable that those with a message are always imposters?

Oh, by the way, watch out for loud bangs!

## Wonderful Whetstone

**Interested in hearing about a neglected part of the borough? Then come to John Heathfield's talk to The Finchley Society "I told you Whetstone was wonderful" at Avenue House, East End Road, at 8pm on Thursday 28 September.**

The illustrated talk will explore the delights of Whetstone and include people, historical buildings and archaeological exploration.

John Heathfield is a well-known local historian and lecturer who has written more than 20 books and 400 articles.

Entry to the talk is free and non-members are welcome.

## Phoenix rising

By Sheila Armstrong

**Our Phoenix Cinema goes from strength to strength. As well as regularly showing a good varied selection of films old and new, there are now other innovations. We've had the World Cup live for free on the big screen this summer, free films for kids in their summer holidays and the end of July saw the second successful year of the Phoenix's Short Film Fest.**

It was organised by Ava Grauls, a graduate in Media from Westminster University, who was assisted this year by fellow graduate Ziortza Fernandez. With entries from as far away as Iran and Cuba, 65 young film makers took part showing not only live action films but experimental animations. Prizes were again provided by the White Lion pub.

**And the winners were ...**

The winner for best animation was *Me, Myself and I*, directed and produced by Holly and Shaun Leong-Williams, portraying how opinions change as we grow up.

Best live action was won by *The Cost of Living*, directed by Max Hochrad, in which a cheap apart-

ment turns out to have the knack of making money for its tenant.

Ava and Ziortza are grateful to all the staff at the Phoenix for their support and of course to the White Lion pub. And they are already working on next year's festival.

## Open House

By Sheila Armstrong

Two local buildings in this year's Open House weekend are the artsdepot in North Finchley, open on Saturday 16 September from 11am-5pm, and our own Art Deco Phoenix Cinema, open on Sunday 17 September from 10am-2pm. Both have disabled access. You can get further details from [www.openhouse.org.uk](http://www.openhouse.org.uk).

## What's On...

E-mail your listings to [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

**Saturday 2 September:**

**Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society Flower Show**, 3-5.30pm at The Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11. Teas, some plants for sale. Contact 020 8455 8741 for more details.

**Sunday 10 September:**

Evening concert at **East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, 8pm; **Jane Whitehouse**, flute, and **Christine Greig**, piano. Free admission with a collection for Amnesty International. Full disabled access.

**Thursday 14 September:**

**The Highgate Film Society's** fourth subscription season starts with a FREE introductory evening, showing Chaplin's *Easy Street*, followed by *Il Postino*. Refreshments available. 7.15 for 8pm, at Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution, 11 South Grove, N6. Call 8340 3343 or email: [admin@hlsi.net](mailto:admin@hlsi.net) for more information

**Thursday 28 September:**

Illustrated talk by local historian **John Heathfield** on the people, buildings and history of Whetstone; Avenue House, East End Road, 8pm. Hosted by **The Finchley Society**, entry is free and non-members are welcome.

**Sunday 15 October:**

**Garden Suburb Ward Lib Dems** outing to **Hever Castle, Kent**. £26. Non-members welcome. Coach leaves Golders Green Station 10.30am. Booking forms available by contacting 020 8455 6507 or [www.fgglibdems.org.uk](http://www.fgglibdems.org.uk).

**Tuesday 17 October:**

**Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society Autumn Lecture.** **Jean-Jacques Amand** speaks on 'Spring Bulbs' at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11 at 7.30pm. Some bulbs for sale. Non-members £2 at door. Contact 020 8455 0455 for more details.

**Coming up at artsdepot, North Finchley:**

**Fri 8 Sep to Thu 5 Oct: The Barnet Open** showcases the work of local artists; **Thu 14 Sep, 6-8pm: Public Art Unveiling** of works by **Richard Sharples, Katie Mills & Nic Sandiland**; **Thu 14 - Sat 16 Sep: Stepping Out** by **The Impact Theatre Company**; **Sat 16 Sep: Open House**; **Sun 17 Sep: Comedy Show: "Fun!"** by **Shazia Mirza**, 8.30pm; **Sun 17 Sep: Jaleo Flamenco:** Andalusian dance, song & guitar, 8pm; **Sat 23 Sep: SPICE:** an evening of cabaret, 8pm; **Sun 24 Sep:** Irish singer **Cara Dillon**, 8pm; **Tue 26 Sep: One Man Star Wars Trilogy**, one man show by **Charles Ross**, 8pm; **Thur 28 Sep: Jongleurs on the Road:** stand-up comedy, 8pm; **Fri 29 Sep: Heart 'n Soul Unplugged:** Pino Frumiente, Lizzie Emeh & Mark Sneed plus band, 8pm; **Sun 1 Oct: The Sounds of Jazz** with **George Melly, Jacqui Dankworth & Digby Fairweather**, 8pm; **Thur 5 Oct:** Verses & Verses by **Robert Hylton**, 8pm; **Sat 7 Oct: Moon Play**, Studio Theatre, 7pm; **Simon Amstell**, Pentland Theatre, 7pm.

## 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 Learning Centre is managed in conjunction with Barnet College