



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** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call 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
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- ❖ **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, pregnancy yoga, meditation** classes at Holy Trinity Church. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or visit www.stretchingpeople.co.uk

DANCE, DRAMA & CREATIVE ARTS

- ❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 0208 444 7217
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group** Creative writing 6.30pm every Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops.** poetry writing monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **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 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 8349 4613

CLUBS & SOCIAL

- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5459
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Joanna 8883 0941 or joanna-brunt@cybergal.com
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: All Stars Special** 10 Dec at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood.** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or call 020 8883 7544.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **SwampRock** live music events. See www.swamprock.org.uk
- ❖ **Traditional Music** in the Alexandra pub, Church Lane from 8.30pm on the last Thursday of every month.

REVIEWS

Humblingly good drama

November saw a brilliant production by Incognito Theatre Company of *Humble Boy*, a play by Charlotte Jones first performed at the National Theatre in 2001. Directed by Margaret Johnson in their cosy Friern Barnet setting and with an accomplished amateur cast, this was a tragi-comedy that often came uncomfortably close to home.

Felix Humble, an awkward and socially inept theoretical physicist, returns home following his father's death to find his domineering, materialistic mother Flora sporting a new nose job as she flirts with working class cad and retired coach company owner George Pye. But humble pie is on the menu and things are not quite as they seem.

Felix, played by Spencer Clayton, was the perfect Winnie-the-Pooh, a "big, bumbling Humble"

and terminal disappointment to his fantastically superior mother. She, with her immaculate appearance and terse, cruel phrases - "there's something deeply satisfying about the crunch of a dead bee" - was brilliantly portrayed by Lesley Kennedy, a natural in the role.

Incognito's set was a charming arrangement of a rural idyll, a perfect little cottage garden onto which anaphylactic shocks, painful dinner parties and embarrassing

liaisons were imposed by its chaotic occupants. Only the ghostly gardener James seemed to blend into its natural beauty.

The play's resolution finally comes with the offering of a chance "to be, just to be," one of a number of necessary insect puns. The social order of the hive is re-established, and we are left to muse on many things.

Incognito's next performance is *Abandonment*, by Kate Atkinson, from 21-26 January.

Partition drama fails to engage

Review by Amit Sen

The Partition, screened at the Phoenix Cinema earlier this autumn, was originally commissioned by Channel 4 in 1987.

Written by political activist, writer and journalist Tariq Ali and directed by Ken McMullen, it is an adaptation of a short story by a well-known Urdu writer, Saadat Hasan Monto, entitled *Toba Tek Singh*.

Set in a 'lunatic asylum' during the partition of India in 1947, this is an allegory which seeks to contrast the lives of the inmates with the violent political events occurring outside and poses the central question: which is saner?

With a stellar cast including Saeed Jaffrey, Roshan Seth, John Shrapnel and Zohra Segal, the film is beautifully choreographed and is a fresh and unique piece of work.

Politicians and madmen

The action moves back and forth between the cabinet rooms of the newly emerging independent Indian government as it tries to wrestle with dividing the country, and the asylum in which the inmates agonise over the real horrors unleashed upon real people by madness and by violent partition.

That said, the end result is fragmented and confused. The film neither engages the audience in real political debate, as it pretends to do, nor is it narrative story telling. The music is used almost as wallpaper and contributes very little to the work.

The story behind the making of the film is more to do with the entitlement of liberal artists in the West. In this instance it happens to be a highly stylised and fictional adaptation based on a short story, a kind of partition of the senses, rather than about the partition of a country.

Golden Age for the Phoenix

By James Luxford

Although the London Film Festival was in full swing, the Phoenix Cinema managed to host an event that even the big names of Leicester Square would have envied.

Thursday 25 October saw a special preview, more than a week in advance of the film's release, of *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, followed by a question and answer session from the film's director Shekhar Kapur and its star actor Geoffrey Rush, who plays Sir Francis Walsingham.

The film follows on from the Oscar-winning 1998 film *Elizabeth*, which shot lead actress Cate Blanchett to superstar status. It revisits Queen Elizabeth I (Blanchett) a few years later as she grows more aware of the challenges to her throne, particularly the formidable opposition she faces from King Phillip II and his mighty Spanish Armada.

The Golden Age also explores the growing threats from her cousin Mary Queen of Scots (Samantha Morton) and Elizabeth's love for adventurer Sir Walter Raleigh (Clive Owen).

The Q&A was conducted via satellite as Kapur and Rush were 'unfortunately' (as Rush put it) in Los Angeles. During the session, the director and star talked about the many challenges of making the film, particularly as a 'sequel' to a historical film is quite unusual. Lasting for more than three hours, the Q&A brought a touch of Hollywood glamour to East Finchley.

Regular visitors must be getting used to that by now, as the cinema has seen filmmakers such as Ken Loach, Terry Gilliam and The League of Gentleman appear in the past year alone. With more to come, it looks like The Phoenix is going from strength to strength.



El with her artwork. Photo by John Lawrence

Art of glass

Working from a small kiln in a shed in her back garden, artist El Glinier creates works of art in recycled glass that she hopes will bring joy and excitement to those who see them.

El works meticulously to create extremely detailed pieces inspired by classic French and Venetian glass paperweights. They look equally beautiful with light shining on them or through them.

She said: "I'm inspired by the refined detail and the thoughtful colour co-ordination of the French and

Venetians. I try to bring that beauty and craftsmanship into the present day world."

El, who lives in Muswell Hill, had her glass work on show at Chorak in East Finchley and Muswell Hill throughout November. You may be able to catch it there still in December. If not, watch out for more of her exhibitions early in the New Year.

What's On...

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

Thursday 6 - Saturday 8 December

• **The Guild Players** present *The Fumblings At Friar's Bottom*, a comedy by Richard Coleman. Performances at Finchley Methodist Church Hall, Ballards Lane, N3, at 7.45pm. Tickets £7. Box office 020 8346 6337. www.guildplayers.org.uk

Friday 7 December

• **Dyslexia from inside**, a talk by Elisabeth Landsbury, Feuerstein therapist, at a coffee morning hosted by **Friends of Barnet Libraries**, East Finchley Library, 11am - 12 noon. Everyone welcome.

Saturday 8 December

• **East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact Winter Fayre**, Martin Primary School, High Road, N2, from 12 - 4pm.

• **Sir Chrystemas**, a buffet supper concert of Christmas music with the **London Ripieno Singers**, Instrumental Ensemble and soloists; music by Sweelinck, Buxtehude, Darke, Ireland, Hanson, Gardner and the Christmas Music from Handel's Messiah; All Saints' Church, Durham Road, 7.30pm. Supper and concert, £15.00, must be prebooked on 020 8444 9214. Catering by Amici Delicatessen. Concert only, £10 at door according to availability. Organised by East Finchley Arts Festival.

Monday 10 - Friday 14 December

• **Community Focus Open Exhibition** by local professional and amateur artists, artsdepot, North Finchley, 10am - 5pm. 30% of money raised from sales of art will go towards the work of the Community Focus charity. Details: 020 8369 5484.

Saturday 15 December

• **North London Chorus** celebrates 30 glorious years of music at 7pm at St Michael's Church, Highgate, N6, with a programme of choral classics to exhilarate and uplift: Messiah Part I (arr. Mozart), Pergolesi Magnificat, Bach Cantata BWV 133, and Schoenberg Friede auf Erden (Peace on Earth). Tickets from 020 8883 8123 or Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill, N10 (020 8883 5631). Former chorus members welcome to participate in Hallelujah Chorus finale. Retiring collection to support North London Hospice.

Friday 4 January

• **Laughter and tears**, a miscellany of recorded musical items presented by Ian Harvey, 11am -12 noon at East Finchley Library. Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome.