



The street children of Bucharest desperately need the support a day centre can offer. Picture by Kit Friend.

Doing it for the kids

By Dawn Powell

“When you see a kid who has had two of his limbs amputated by his family so that he can get more sympathy and therefore, more money - that’s when it hits you,” says Kit Friend, explaining why he feels it is important to help the street children of Romania.

Kit, who grew up in East Finchley, is creative director of the charity With Feeling. As first reported in *THE ARCHER* last year, he is currently working on a project to develop a day centre for the street children of Bucharest.

He says: “It’s going to provide life skills, communications and connections so that they can get their legal papers if they want to go back to school. Also, it is going to show there is an alternative to living on the street.”

Kit is working on the project with students from St Martin’s College, where he is currently doing a degree in Art, Design and Environment. He adds that he got more help from them than he’d ever imagined.

“We were hoping to get 10 students for a couple of weeks, but the course director was so impressed by our ideas that he gave us an entire year group for two terms.”

Realistic designs

The project is now in its second term, and they are currently narrowing down their designs for the day centre, a process that was helped when Kit and the students took a recent trip to Romania.

Kit says: “That had a dramatic effect on the students’ ideas. Going out there really changed their thinking as it showed just how harsh the conditions were. It focused their minds on what was needed rather than what was going to look good or fashionable.”

In the near future, Kit and the rest of the team at With Feeling will start to approach potential backers for the project. He says: “We will bid to financial and pharmaceutical companies: we have got a fundraiser working with the charity on that side of things.”

For more information, see www.withfeeling.org.uk.

When a relationship breaks down

A group that offers support to people who are experiencing divorce or the breakdown of a long-term relationship is running a series of workshops in Muswell Hill.

DRW (Divorce Recovery Workshop) established since 1992, uses video material as a catalyst for group discussion between participants in small groups each of about six to eight people. The discussions are led by volunteers, all former participants.

Spokeswoman Morfa Jones said many people can benefit from the six-week workshop and find ways of facing their new situation.

She said: “We get feedback like ‘I feel accepted as a worthwhile person’ and ‘To hear someone on a video talking about things that crop up every day is a source of comfort’.”

The next local workshops will be held in Muswell Hill once a week starting on 18 April. Residents of East Finchley are very welcome. For details of the venue and charges, contact Morfa on 020 8815 0069.

A taste of Brazil

In last month’s ARCHER we featured Pizzico, the new small café-restaurant at 289 Regents Park Road, where authentic Brazilian food is cooked by the owner Edir Oliveira da Cunha, of Tarling Road. Below we present the first in an occasional series of Edir’s recipes.

You can taste the real thing daily from 11am-6pm (Sundays 4.30 pm). For weekends, especially Saturday lunchtimes, reservations are recommended. Phone 020 8371 1999. Enquiries are welcome for evening meals for parties of eight or more.

Edir’s Haddock Bahia (Moqueca de Peixe) (serves 6-8)

1 kilo fillets of haddock
2 medium onions (sliced)
2 red peppers (seeded & sliced)
3 medium tomatoes (chopped)
1 clove garlic
4 tablespoons lime or lemon juice
4 tablespoons dende (palm oil)
2 tablespoons fresh coriander (chopped)
Salt to taste
Coconut milk (optional)

Method: Place fish in large bowl. Sprinkle with salt to taste. Add lime or lemon juice. Leave to marinate for 1 hour.

Heat dende (palm oil) in saucepan. Add onions and after 2 minutes, garlic, peppers, tomatoes, and half a pint of cold water. Do not cover saucepan. Simmer on medium gas until vegetables are cooked. Do not overcook vegetables, just al dente.

Add marinated fish. Cook and simmer on medium gas for about 8 minutes until fish is ready. Again keep saucepan uncovered.

Transfer onto a serving platter. Sprinkle with coriander. Serve with plain white rice, small boiled potatoes or stir-fried vegetables.

This is one of Brazil’s best-loved traditional dishes from Bahia in the north-east. Any white fish, preferably in fillets, can be used. Coconut milk, unless you are allergic to nuts, is optional and poured into the saucepan (4 tablespoons maximum) after the vegetables are cooked and before adding the marinated fish.

March at the Phoenix

By Phoenix manager Paul Homer

The Phoenix is proud to have a screening as part of the Polish film festival this month. On Friday 23 March we’ll be screening *Retrieval*, a hard-hitting story of a young man who enters the world of illegal boxing to fight for the right of his girlfriend and her child to stay in Poland.

Poland has produced some great directors in the past, including of course Krzysztof Kieslowski, who made the Three Colours trilogy which used both France and Poland as a backdrop. Poland has long been recognised as a centre for film excellence and now you have a rare opportunity to see one of the best films made there in recent times.

We have a great Billy Wilder double bill on 18 March: *Double Indemnity* and *Sunset Boulevard*. Wilder was a director whose films have a wide range of subjects and even styles.

Double Indemnity was at the time a shocking portrayal of sex and greed in modern America but it secured his reputation as a

director of stature, while *Sunset Boulevard*, his satire on Hollywood, reflects the end of one era and the start of another.

Also showing this month is a film unlike any other. *Into Great Silence* is a three-hour study of life in the Grande Chartreuse Monastery. The rhythm of the monk’s daily life is reflected in that of the film.

You may think that this may make the film soporific but, quite the opposite, it is calm and quiet but deeply interesting. It took the directors over 15 years just to gain permission to shoot the film and they have created a window into a world that is unlike any other.

I hope to see you at the Phoenix over the next few weeks.

A forgotten film star

By Dawn Powell

In a tense scene, three men get their cruel revenge. They tie up the man who has tried to con them and force him into a coffin shaped box. After nailing the lid down, they throw the box down a flight of stairs

No, it’s not the latest film by Quentin Tarantino – but the work of forgotten cinema pioneer RW Paul, who was recently the subject of a retrospective at East Finchley’s Phoenix cinema. A prolific film maker during the early years of British cinema, Paul made several films in and around his Muswell Hill studio, including *Is Spiritualism a Fraud?*, which features the coffin scene and looks at what happens when a supposed spiritualist is found to be a fake.

Paul was a pioneer of stunning visual effects in collaboration with magician Walter Booth. In his 1906 adaptation of Dicken’s *A Christmas Carol*, he conjured up a terrifying image of Marley’s ghost. In another

film, *The Magic Sword*, a brave knight has to battle a huge ogre to save his fair maiden.

According to film expert Professor Ian Christie, who presented a talk about Paul at the Phoenix event, Paul should get more recognition. Christie explained that most people, if they give any answer, would say William Friese-Greene was the founder of British cinema but Christie said: “Friese-Greene was a fraud – he didn’t make one film. Paul deserves to be better known.”

Christie, added that Paul was a shy man but would have been pleased that his films were still being shown. He said: “He would have been very chuffed if he knew people were watching his films in 2007.”

Talks among friends

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Library tea and coffee mornings are back! The monthly Friday morning talks about practically anything under the sun were always popular, but disappeared last autumn. The plan was to transfer talks from South Friern, while that library was closed for redevelopment, but in fact South Friern remained open until December.

Now Friends of Barnet Libraries, who organise the events, want to make sure everyone knows normal service has been resumed.

Ian Harvey, Chair of the Friends, ran through an intriguing list of recent talks for us, including palm-reading, bee-keeping, poetry, allotments, waterways and reminiscences of a jazz band drummer. Councillor Susette Palmer is booked for April, with an illustrated talk on monumental brasses.

Ian Harvey told *THE ARCHER*

that some of the topics are suggested to him, while others are the result of a bit of head-scratching. He hopes to include a talk on dyslexia in the near future.

Whatever the subject, he says: “Why not come if you can? You will be among Friends!”

East Finchley Library talks are on the first Friday of each month (except 13 April, due to Good Friday the previous week), 11am-12 noon, with refreshments. For further information, contact Ian Harvey on 020 8444 9406.