



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
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **WoodWalk**, 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. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.
- ❖ **Yoga course**, N2, starts 13 Jan. Call Laura 8346 8198 for info pack.

MUSIC, DANCE & 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.
 - ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners and improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
 - ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
 - ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 0208 444 7217
 - ❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-14 year olds. Mondays at 6.30pm. Contact Carolyn on 07905 481682
 - ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
 - ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
 - ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: Live jazz on Mon 8 & 22 Dec** at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
 - ❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
 - ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
 - ❖ **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
 - ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
 - ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages. Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
 - ❖ **SwampRock** Louisiana Dance Club. Live music events. Contact Carole Lareman 8810 7454 or www.swamprock.org.uk.
 - ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
 - ❖ **Tap Dance** for children at Old Barn on Mondays, Call Sharon 8349 4613
 - ❖ **Traditional Music** in the Alexandra pub, Church Lane from 8.30pm on the last Thursday of every month.
- ### 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
 - ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
 - ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or call 8883 7544.
 - ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, call 8340 3343 or email: admin@hlsi.net.
 - ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
 - ❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tuesdays 1-3pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita Shaw 8886 6140.
 - ❖ **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.

Working with Doctor Atomic

By Ann Bronkhorst

The second of the Phoenix Cinema's live-from-the-Met opera screenings, on Saturday 8 November, was doubly remarkable.

Composer John Adams chose a unique subject for *Dr Atomic*: that pivotal moment in 1945 at Los Alamos, USA, when a team of scientists created the atomic bomb. And attending the screening was one of the creative team from the Met production, choreographer and dancer Andrew Dawson.

During a relaxed Q&A session at the end, it was clear that Andrew had greatly enjoyed seeing the opera again, in the new format. He admired the use of the low-tracking camera and wide angles, and said the sound was astonishing. In fact, during the terrifying and moving climax of the opera the cinema seemed to shake with the reverberation of the explosion.

Finding the physicality

As the whole huge cast finally gathered to face the "shape stupendous" Andrew must have recognised groups and individuals with whom he had worked in rehearsal. Using the Feldenkrais method, through which strength and resilience are developed for bones as well as

muscles, Andrew helped all the singers and actors to build movement characterisation.

For example, Doctor Atomic, the cultured, complex Robert Oppenheimer, "was in reality a tall, thin gangly man, very wired," as Andrew told me earlier. Baritone Gerard Finley, with a very different physique, needed "to find Oppenheimer's physicality".

For the New York production Andrew also worked on the use of shadows and the entire visual aesthetic, with designer Julian Crouch and director Penny Woolcock. He is delighted that the English National Opera production, due next February, will use the same set, creative team (including himself) and principal singers. Andrew looks forward to "creating a whole image from the sum of its parts" once more, and hopes this opera's "important world story" will have a resonance for British audiences, too.

The Phoenix Metropolitan Opera season continues until May.

The joy of jazz

By Caroline Ayre

If you haven't already been, I would thoroughly recommend the monthly dinner and jazz nights at The Bald Faced Stag. On our visit, the music from singer Zara McFarlane and her trio was a great mix of recognisable classics with their own twist and we all agreed her voice was silky smooth.

The jazz was a great accompaniment to our meal and, while we were worried at first that it might be a bit too loud for us to have a conversation, we were soon proved wrong. In fact, we found ourselves wanting

to listen rather than talk.

The Bald Faced Stag holds this night once a month, usually on a Tuesday, so keep your eyes open for the next one as it's a great way to spend a cold winter's evening.

Review: The Churchill Plot

By Lucy Chamberlin

At the end of October, the Incognito audience gathered to watch *The Churchill Plot*, a new play written and directed by Tony Bilbow and Mike Fentiman.

Despite lacking a certain unity, the play took us on a farcical and enjoyable ride through the nation's entertainment during the 1940s and 1950s, including Dan and Doris Archer, Vera Lynn and Dick Barton, Special Agent. It subverted events and added an unlikely plot to kidnap and replace Winston Churchill.

In the know

With the cut glass accents of a BBC newsreader and the odds on the Germans winning the war, its humour was certainly well-received, but one wondered if the play would have been so successful with another audience.

It was, moreover, at times so packed with references to contemporary characters and events that it somewhat lost its own integrity as a performance.

Nevertheless, Mike Mende's transformation into a bumbling

and incompetent Churchill was pure genius, whilst Bob Bradick provided comic melodrama with his portrayal of a dastardly airman in leather. Rusty Ashman made a wonderful Pierre and Hieronymus Bosch, and Peter Kenyon's rapid switching between contrasting parts was startlingly impressive.

It was a large cast for such a small theatre, yet with their usual aplomb the set designers and dressers conspired to create a masterpiece, effortlessly transferring us from London to Paris to Berlin and back again. The wardrobe crew should likewise be highly commended for the costumes, particularly Mr Churchill's, which really excelled.

Alan Ayckbourn's 'Season's Greetings' will run at Incognito in Friern Barnet from 1-6 December.



Ceramic artist David Waller, who teaches at The Institute Art Centre, was one of the many artists showing their work at the East Finchley Open Winter Fair. Photo by John Lawrence.

Art in every shape and form

Hundreds of people flocked through the doors of Martin Primary School for the annual East Finchley Open Winter Fair on Sunday 16 November.

Ceramics, photographs, paintings, jewellery, clothing, mirrors and special treats were all on show and up for sale. A donation to local charity Contact on arrival gave every visitor the chance to enter a free prize draw to win an original work of art.

Homemade cakes and hot food did a delicious trade and

gave everyone a respite from scouring the dozens of colourful stalls.

East Finchley Open is a group of local artists who also hold open weekends in July. Contact, based in Church Lane, supports elderly, disabled and isolated people in the community.

What's On...

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

Saturday 6 December

- **Buffet Supper Concert** at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, N2, 7.30pm; **London Ripieno Orchestra & Singers** perform *Magnificat* by J.S. Bach, In Terra Pax by Gerald Finzi, Flute Concerto by Geoffrey Hanson and Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi; tickets for concert and supper, £15, pre-booked only; concert only, £10. Bookings: 020 8444 9214.

- **Martin Primary School's Christmas Bazaar**, Plane Tree Walk, N2, 12 noon to 3pm.

Saturday 6 - Sunday 7 December

- **Open House Art Show and pre-Christmas sale** with work by local artists Tark Butler (paintings and prints), Daphne Carnegie (ceramics), Barry Jackson (wood turning) and Lucy Spratt (jewellery); 17 Park Hall Road, 11am-5pm. Details from 020 8883 0806 or 020 8442 0283.

Sunday 7 December

- **Holy Trinity Primary School's Christmas Fair**, Eagans Close, N2, 12 noon to 2.30pm.
- **JCC Jewish Comedy 4 Kids**. A half-day workshop taught by renowned comedy writers and performers, Ivor Baddiel and Bennett Aron: an opportunity to discover, write and perform your own Jewish comedy. For ages 8-11. At artsdepot, North Finchley, 2-5pm. Price: £30. Tickets and information: 020 7431 9866. www.jcclondon.org.uk

Wednesday 10 - Saturday 13 December

- **The Guild Players** present *Aladdin*, a pantomime for all ages; 7.45pm each evening, plus 3pm on Saturday; Ballards Lane Methodist Church Hall, N3. Box Office 020 8346 6337.

Friday 12 December - Sunday 4 January

- **Big Wooden Horse and Brighten**

Dome present *The Night Before Christmas*, a magical tale for the festive season for children aged three to seven. £10 adults / £8 children and concessions. Family tickets admitting four priced £32. Tickets available from box office on 0208 369 5454 or online at www.artsdepot.co.uk. Signed performances: Wednesday 17 December at 1.30pm and Saturday 20 December at 12pm.

Saturday 13 December

- **SwampRock** festive party night of **Red Hot Jump Blues, R'n'B & Boogie Woogie** with a welcome return of the amazing Big Boy Bloater and his Southside Stompers supported by SwampRock's resident DJs Flying Home and Lil' Queenie at All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, London N20 9EZ. Doors open 8.00 pm. Entry £10. Contact Carole Lateman on 020 8810 7454 or www.swamprock.org.uk

Sunday 14 December

- **Arts and Crafts** at Lauderdale House, Waterlow Park, Highgate Hill, N6, 11am-6pm. Entrance by voluntary donation.

Saturday 20 December

- **Carols and Christmas music** for the family, with the **Finchley Children's Music Group**, Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, 7.30 pm. Adults £8, children £1. Tickets from box office on 020 8346 9230 or at door.

What's on at artsdepot

Rhona Cameron, Thursday 11 December, 8pm; **Folk in The Foyer**, Friday 12 December, 8.30pm; **Piccadilly Dance Orchestra**, Thursday 18 December, 7.30pm; **New Art Club - The Notcracker**, Friday 19-Saturday 20 December, 8pm; **The Joyful Company of Singers**, Sunday 21 December, 5pm.