



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

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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: All Stars Special** 7 & 21 Jan 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** live music events. See www.swamprock.org.uk
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact 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 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.

REVIEWS

Bogeymania hits

artsdepot

By Helen Drake

If you like plenty of bogey flicking, odorous gases and rotting mice in your pantos, combined with a touch of romance and catchy songs, then this year's festive offering at artsdepot was definitely for you.



Raymond Briggs's lovingly disgusting characters came to life on the stage at artsdepot

Adapted from the well-loved children's book by Raymond Briggs, *Fungus the Bogeyman* was presented in a fresh way for the iPod generation, with references to bogel warming (global warming) and recycling.

The story was told as a classic tale of boy (Mould) meets girl (Maxine); a clash of cultures between bogeyworld and the drycleaners (humans); and worried mothers, Mildew ("a wondrous whiffy wife") and Miriam (never without a pair of rubber gloves).

Dads everywhere would have related to mild-mannered Fungus going about his regular work waking babies and making things go bump in the night, but pondering the meaning of it all ("what's it for?") as he eats his snot noodle.

With strong songs (favourite line: "we're Bogeys and we always stick together"), this was an upbeat show that children loved. It got a definite thumbs-up from my children and also contained enough traditional panto elements to keep everyone happy.

Not quite a pantomime

By Daphne Chamberlain

What does a drama group do when building work puts most of their rehearsal and storage space out of action for nearly six months? The Church End-based Guild Players decided the show must go on, but with a break from tradition. So, for the first time since 1993, their winter production was not a pantomime. With the absolute minimum of props and a virtually bare stage, they put on a light comedy "in a slightly pantomime style".

For me, the pantomime style was the best part of the evening, and I think it could have been developed more.

The Fumblings at Friar's Bottom, about a boarding school facing a sell-out to American tycoons, seemed a bit static, but was livened up by a masterly performance from Alan Jobson as Dr Mildew Sponge. Sporting a mortarboard and cane, this character brought audience participation into the proceedings. Treating us as a particularly backward class, he bombarded us with a manic quiz between scenes. Get the answers right, and you got a sweet. Get them wrong, and

you wore a dunce's hat.

The play itself included some clever little acting cameos, but might have benefited from similar direct contact with the audience. It would have been fun to have some comments from the stage to us. I felt we needed to be drawn into the plot.

The Guild Players meet at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane. Their next production is at the end of April. New members are always welcome, whether as performers or backstage. If you are interested, contact membership secretary Betty Robertson on 020 8441 7696 or find out more at www.guildplayers.org.uk.

January at the Phoenix

By Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema manager

You can tell it's the awards season again. Oscar and BAFTA must be poking their head round the corner when the films that we have playing in January are released.

First up is Ang Lee's *Lust, Caution*, his first Chinese film for a few years (although made with American money) after success in the US with *The Ice Storm*, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and of course *Brokeback Mountain*.

The film follows a young Chinese woman who is tasked by her government to seduce and get information from a man they suspect of being a Japanese spy. It is sumptuously shot, as one would expect from Lee, and has great performances from Tony Leung (who was so good in *In the Mood for Love*) and Wei Tang who debuts in the film. After *Brokeback Mountain* Lee is rightly tipped to be in Oscar contention for this epic tale of star-crossed lovers.

My favourite directing brothers, the Coens, have found their feet again after losing

their rhythm with *Intolerable Cruelty* and *The Ladykillers*. *No Country for Old Men* has more in common with their terrific debut *Blood Simple* than their later work and that will be welcome for their fans. *No Country* could well be their most successful film to date.

It tells the story of Llewelyn who stumbles upon a pile of money and drugs and decides to help himself. Understandably there are those that don't take so kindly to his decision and we get a brilliantly executed, stripped down crime drama. Tommy Lee Jones gives one of the best performances of his life as the local sheriff who has to sort out the mess.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Phoenix in January. Our box office is on 020 8444 6789, or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

The past brought to life

By Janet Maitland

"The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there," wrote LP Hartley in *The Go-Between*. On 2 December the Phoenix Cinema presented *Bombs at Teatime*, a snapshot of Britain in the 1940s, using footage from the archives of the British Film Institute.

The Britain portrayed in the films is long gone. Women wear hats indoors. Trolley buses speed through town centres without a car in sight. People dig on communal allotments. Children are called in to a lunch of meat and two veg, the table set with a white cloth. Eighty thousand people cheer at a football match before going home to high tea.

Made by agencies such as the Ministry of Food, the films were originally intended for ordinary people struggling with the deprivations of war. Each film therefore has a practical message, such as using only five inches of bathwater or saving cabbage water to make gravy.

But the films were also intended to inspire people, so they are full of images of everyday courage. Sixty years on,

some of these images can be a shock. Just as you are feeling nostalgic for a time when the Empire Tea Bureau thought there were no less than eight golden rules for making tea, the film switches to a scene of devastation, showing us tea vans that are "sent off into the night to help distressed people in bombed areas".

Everyday life in the 1940s now seems quaint. But all times are modern to those who live in them. How we live today will seem equally quaint in 60 years' time.

It's also possible that people in the 2060s, trying to survive devastating climate change, will wonder why we forgot the lessons of the 1940s. Why didn't we at least save water? Grow our own vegetables? Turn off the lights?

What's On...

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

Sunday 20 January

The Battle of Barnet, a guided tour of the famous battlefield of 1471. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 11am. For further details of this and other Barnet walks in January, phone 020 8440 6805.

Thursday 31 January

Maurice Collins gives a talk to the **Finchley Society** on old household items your grandmother probably threw away, including a clockwork burglar alarm and the first Teasmade; Avenue House, East End Road, 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Entry for non-members is £2.

Friday 1 February

Martyn's of Muswell Hill, W. Martyn talks about the history of the famous grocer's shop, 11am - 12 noon at East Finchley Library, hosted by **Friends of Barnet Libraries**. Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome.

What's On at artsdepot

Saturday 12 January, 7.30pm, **A Night at Rick's Place** - Mairi Armstrong; Sunday 13 January, 8pm, Premier Screening: **Full Circle**; Monday 14 January to Saturday 19 January, 7.30pm, **Big the musical**; Sunday 20 January, 7pm, **An Audience with William Roache**; Tuesday 22 January, 7.30pm, **Mistero Buffo** - Antonio Venturino; Thursday 24 January, 7pm, **City:zen** - Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company; Thursday 24 January to Monday 31 March, 12 - 4pm, **Something That I'll Never Really See**: Contemporary Photography from the V&A; Saturday 26 January, 8pm, **The Solomon Sisters**; Monday 28 January to Wednesday 30 January, 8pm, **Omid Djalili**; Thursday 31 January, **Trying is Good** - Josie Long; Sunday 2 February, 3pm, **An Audience with Michael Rosen**; Wednesday 6 February, 8pm, **Eleanor McEvoy with the Tim Edey Band**.