



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. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see 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
- ❖ **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 Writing Workshops.** poetry writing monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: All Stars Special** 3, 17 & 31 Mar 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. Carole 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.
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Mouldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, call 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.

Soprano date for Easter Passion

Welsh soprano Elin Manahan Thomas will be singing the soprano role in Bach's *St John Passion* in a concert with Finchley Choral Society in Hampstead.

The performance will take place in the beautiful Baroque church, St John-at-Hampstead, Church Row, NW3, on Saturday 15 March at 7.30pm.

A highly experienced choral singer, Elin has sung with the country's leading chamber choirs including the Sixteen, the Gabrieli Consort and the Monteverdi Choir.



Elin Manahan Thomas. Photograph courtesy of Finchley Choral Society

Her solo career is now taking off and she has appeared at major concert venues including the Barbican and the Royal Albert Hall and is in the middle of a five album record deal.

The *St John Passion*, the first and shorter of Bach's two Passion settings, describes the latter days in the life of Christ. St John-at-Hampstead Parish Church, which was consecrated during Bach's lifetime in 1747, is an ideal setting for

this dramatic and sublime choral masterpiece.

Young conductor Grace Rositer picks up the baton for her first major concert leading the Finchley Choral Society. Grace is the conductor of other north London choirs and orchestras, including the Symphonic Wind Orchestra of North London and the Finchley Children's Music Group. Tickets for the concert are available by telephoning 020 8346 9230.

An audience with William Roache

By Diana Cormack

Since *Coronation Street* began in December 1960, William Roache has played Ken Barlow, making him the world's second longest actor in a continuous role. He took on the TV part reluctantly, after his agent persuaded him that it would be good for his career, as it would encourage people to come and see him in the theatre.

Forty-seven years later an enthusiastic audience in the artsdepot, North Finchley, waited eagerly to hear the only original member of the *Street* cast describe his life on and off the screen.

In a confident and friendly manner he talked about his childhood in Cheshire and at boarding school in North Wales. Following family tradition, he studied medicine before being called up for national service. William spent five years in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, serving in the West Indies, Germany and Oman, and reaching the rank of captain.

Unsuited to medicine, he decided to follow his childhood dream of acting, which eventually led to his role in a new gritty drama series set in Manchester. Originally called *Florizel Street* and meant to last for only 13 weeks, it had a huge impact on the viewing public and the rest is television history.



William Roache MBE. Photograph courtesy artsdepot

Chronicling the Street

The second half of the evening revealed much more about the UK's longest-running soap, with members of the audience asking an amazing variety of questions. Many of them obviously had long and accurate memories of events in the programme. Some of these events are described in Roache's book *Soul on the Street*, which also alludes to how this deeply thinking man's own spiritual understanding has developed, for he has studied many religions and searched for some knowledge of what might happen after death.

Happily death is not yet scripted for Ken Barlow. Despite being retired, the erstwhile writer for his local newspaper is to help out in the neighbourhood café Roy's Rolls: a different role for Ken, but one that William Roache will certainly get his teeth into.

Intense drama at Incognito

By Lucy Chamberlin

Mothers and sisters, infertility and illegitimacy, religion and science, history and journalism, past and present, lost and found: these were just some of the issues confronting us in Kate Atkinson's play *Abandonment*, the latest triumph from the tiny Incognito theatre in Friern Barnet. Despite its length (we didn't vacate our seats until nearly 11pm) the performance was a compelling one, and Brian Davies's direction brought out the elements of black comedy and pathos blended so carefully in this very female drama.

Protagonist Elizabeth's slight confusion was perfectly captured in Diane Lefley's portrayal. Middle-aged, estranged from her husband, and the recent buyer of a creaky, musty old Victorian house, her existence has been reduced to squabbles and reminiscences. Promiscuous journalist sister Kitty (played with great aplomb by Georgie Russell), lesbian best friend Susie (Moira Wallace) and Lady Bracknell-esque mother Ina (Jill Sly) all encroach on her new-found space, as pretences are gradually dropped and frailties exposed. With the revelation that Elizabeth was 'found' wrapped in newspaper in a gentlemen's toilet, the play takes on some of the surrealism of an

Oscar Wilde invention, and this feeling of the 'extra-ordinary' increases with the frequent reappearances of Victorian vision Agnes Soutar.

The deconstruction of the present by the past is illuminated in Atkinson's build-up of short scenes and the deliberate bareness of the Incognito set, which allows us to juxtapose the feelings of one era with those of another. The characters' panic-stricken refrain "What about me?" grows louder, and the curtain falls on what is more a neat ending than resolution.

Incognito will be performing *Breaking the Code*, by Hugh Whitemore, from 31 March to 5 April, and *Abigail's Party*, by Mike Leigh, from 19 - 24 May.

Sisters' show extended

By Betti Blatman

It's not surprising that artsdepot in North Finchley extended *The Solomon Sisters' stay for an extra night on Sunday 27 January.*

Their blend of Yiddish cabaret, comedy and glitz was a sensational show. As the audience were being seated, they heard evocative Kletzmer music. Then, after Penelope Solomon's Yiddish-flavoured humour with a range of comic impersonations and characterisations, she was

joined by Madeline and they transformed themselves on stage into glitzy cabaret stars in full eveningwear. We heard the blend of their powerful harmonising voices with a range of Yiddish and English songs with choreographed dancing.

Later on, they both appeared through the audience onto the stage with a hilarious sketch of "Jews Speak Yiddish". Further information on www.solomonsisters.com.

What's On...

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

Saturday 8 March

• **Spike Milligan Statue fundraising quiz**, 7.30pm at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Chestnuts, The Walks, N2.

Sunday 9 March

• **Explore the history of East Barnet Village** in a guided walk with Paul Baker. Meet outside East Barnet Library, Brookhill Road, at 2pm. Further details from Paul on 020 8440 6805.

• **Brush up your Shakespeare - Almost a Revue**, presented by Amici del Arte, East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 8pm; free admission with collection in aid of Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Monday 10 March

• **Community Focus** and Barnet College Foundation Degree in Performing Arts public performance of a new drama; artsdepot, North Finchley, 3pm. Admission free but booking required on 020 8369 5483.

Tuesday 11 March

• Innovative dance company **CandoCo** stage a unique promenade performance on all levels of the artsdepot building involving 40 dancers from across Barnet. 4pm and 6pm, admission free. Call artsdepot on 020 8369 5454 for more information.

Saturday 15 March

• Sights and scents of spring: **Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society's Spring Flower Show** takes place at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, from 2-4pm. Summer bulb sale; refreshments. £1 non-members; members and under-18s free. More information from 020 8455

8741 or hgs@hortsoc.co.uk.

Sunday 16 March

• **In the Footsteps of the Famous:** explore the history of High Barnet in a guided walk with Paul Baker. Meet outside High Barnet tube station, top of Meadway, at 2pm. Further details from Paul on 020 8440 6805.

Thursday 27 March

• **In the Footsteps of the Famous in Finchley**, a talk by Paul Baker to The Finchley Society, 2.30pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Everyone welcome. Entry for non-members: £2.

Saturday 12 April

• **Springtime is Swingtime:** the 40-piece **BBC Elstree Concert Band** plays music from the Swing era, jazz numbers and popular melodies from films and musicals, St James's Church, St James's Lane, Muswell Hill, N10; adults £15 and children under 16 £5. All proceeds to the North London Hospice. Tickets from The North London Hospice Fundraising Department on 020 8446 2288 or 2 Lauradale Road, London N2 9LU or on the door.

What's on at artsdepot,, North Finchley.

Saturday 8 March, 8pm: Adroitness: IJAD dance. **Sunday 9 March, 8pm: Lies Have Been Told** - Rod Beacham with Phillip York. **Wednesday 12 & Thursday 13 March, 8pm: The Steppfather / And Who Shall Go To The Ball:** CandoCo Dance Company. **Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 March, 7.45pm: A Perfect Ganesh:** Phizzical Productions. **Saturday 15 March, 8pm: Grief Encounter Charity Comedy Night. Saturday 5 April 8pm: Flamenco Express.**