



Esther opens photographic show

TV presenter Esther Rantzen opened the Roots and Wings exhibition at artsdepot in North Finchley celebrating the work of its arts programme for refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and newly arrived communities.

Working with professional female photographer, Poppy Szaybo, the images were all created by women aged between 16-85 years, from countries such as China, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Congo, Eritrea and Uganda, many of whom had never used a camera before.

The result was a fascinating, vibrant and personal collection of photographs, exploring identity, language, cultural heritage, family, and making new lives in the UK.

Inga Hirst, Education Manager at artsdepot, explained: "The Women and Girls' Refugee Groups meets at artsdepot every week. The aim is to improve the confidence and self-esteem of those that come along, women

who are often isolated and may suffer physical and mental health problems as a result of the trauma that has led them to seek refuge in the UK.

"Through the skills they have learnt, the women have begun to develop language and communication skills, express their feelings and experiences, and have fun with new found friends. This exhibition is a real celebration of their achievements."

Roots and Wings is a key part of artsdepot's overall education programme and is run in partnership with Barnet Refugee Service. It receives support from The Tricia Landau Foundation, Barnet Youth and Connexions and Barnet Schools and Learning. The exhibition ran from 8-22 April.

John Betjeman's Finchley connection

By Daphne Chamberlain

Visiting St Pancras Station recently and being disappointed with its vast emptiness, I was delighted by a circle of camera-carriers round one of the statues on the concourse. No, I'm not talking about the giant Lovers. All the attention, on the day I visited, was on the human-sized statue of Sir John Betjeman.

Most of us know of him as a former Poet Laureate, a railway enthusiast and a campaigner to preserve certain Victorian architecture, including the façade of St Pancras Station. How many of us, though, know that he was the first Patron of The Finchley Society, and helped to preserve Hawthorndene, the historic house at the entrance to Strawberry Vale estate? I certainly didn't, until a chance remark alerted me.

The battle for Hawthorndene, with its unique architectural interiors, took place in the early 1970s. It was saved from demolition after a determined campaign led by The Finchley

Society. Signatories on a petition to preserve it included local GLC Councillor Jean Scott, Sir John Summerson, architectural adviser to the Crown Commission, cartoonist Osbert Lancaster, The Finchley Society's Vice-President, Spike Milligan, and John Betjeman.

"Long live Finchley"

Finchley Society archivist Maggie Ferguson confirmed for us that John Betjeman was Patron from 1971 to 1984. The Society's Newsletter of January 1971 contains a message from him, congratulating them on their efforts to save the Express Dairy Farm. He wrote: "Long live Finchley and its

Whole lot of singing going on

By David Melsome

Some people said it would never happen but members of the original line-up of 1970s chart group Guys n' Dolls have reunited. Guys n' Dolls had two top ten hits in the UK, including *There's a Whole Lot Of Loving* in 1975.

The group is made up of Dominic Grant, Julie Forsyth (Bruce Forsyth's daughter), Paul Griggs, Martine Howard, David Van Day and Thereze Bazar. David and Thereze went on to have their own hits as Dollar in the late-1970s.

Paul Griggs works as a solo act and performs regularly at the Finchley United Services Club in Ballards Lane, as well as running his own entertainment agency, Village Entertainments.

The reunion - the first time they had sung together in 27 years - came about for a major television show in Holland. Guys n' Dolls were always a much bigger act in Holland than over here, scoring 12 hits in all. In 1977 they had the best-selling Dutch single of the year with *You're My World*, which completely flopped in the UK.

Guys n' Dolls said: "It was



Forgotten band from 70s reunites in Holland.

a very hectic but enjoyable 36 hours. We performed two songs live with a full orchestra so, no pressure! It was great to be together after such a long time and any past differences were forgotten."

Paul Griggs told *THE*

ARCHER: "It was suggested that if the complete original line-up reformed there'd be a possibility of concerts. We've since heard that our first show is to be at the Heineken Concert Hall in Amsterdam on Saturday 28 June."

Find out more about our choir

By Marian Bunzl

North London Chorus will be 'at home' at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 22 June. We hope, dear readers, that you will come and visit us, particularly if you fancy singing in a choir.

We would like to encourage new members to join us, and not only in the tenor section. The (normally) immutable law of choral life, that there are not enough tenors and too many altos, has been suspended, and we are looking for voices in all sections. Among other things, we would like to make it possible to sing works that need larger forces.

We are a friendly and inclusive lot. We sing music from the 16th to 21st century and our age range, while not quite as extensive, is from student

grant to freedom pass.

Our stall will have a display of our glorious past and our forthcoming concert, and we will be on hand to provide details of choral life with us and of how to join.

If you are not interested in singing, come and see us anyway. Some of our members will be doing a bit of busking including excerpts from the

marvellous music we are singing a week later at St. James's in Muswell Hill. So you will get an idea of how we sound, either to sing with or to listen to, or both.

You can also find out more about us at www.northlondonchorus.org.uk or for the internet-challenged call the NLC Secretary on 07711 3744468.

LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that MONKEY FACE RESTAURANT & BAR has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Barnet for a Variation of a Premises Licence to permit: To allow the facility actions during various and date as below: 1) Indoor film, indoor live music, indoor performances of dance: Mon-Wed 12:00-00:00, Thur-Sat 12:00-01:00, Sun 12:00-23:00. 2) Extend provision of facilities for dancing indoors, extend late night refreshment, extend supply of alcohol: Mon-Wed 23:00-00:00, Sun 22:30-23:00. Extend hour premises are open to the public: Mon-Wed 10:00-00:30, Thur-Sat 10:00-01:30, Sun 10:00-23:30 for the premises MONKEY FACE RESTAURANT & BAR situated at 114-116 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9EB

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at Building 4, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP. Appointments to inspect the register can be made by telephoning 020 8359 7995 during office hours. Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice in writing to the London Borough of Barnet, Licensing Team at the address above, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than 26/05/2008.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain.

Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to £5000 under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

Dated this 29th day of April 2008 Signed Mrs Pramika Rayner Director.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

For more information

please contact the Church Office

Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome