



# EF, phone home

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard

**On Saturday 20 September at about 11.30pm, I walked out of East Finchley tube station and saw four orange lights drifting overhead, flying to the northwest. They wove in and out of each other, as though they were attached to some sort of decorative mobile. At one stage, they were roughly in a zigzag formation.**

A young couple also saw the quartet of lights. We followed them through the station car park, before they drifted away over the tube tracks. One of them described this as "the weirdest thing she'd ever seen".

I was especially amazed as statistically I was one of the least likely people to see a UFO. Many who see them do not believe in them until they encounter a UFO for themselves. I have had an interest in them for the last 16 years. Contrary to the popular idea that UFO witnesses are gullible or drunk, many, if not most, are very reliable people.

Exactly how far back UFO

sightings go is open to debate. Medieval literature contains reports of mysterious objects in the skies, and Columbus recorded a sighting in his journal. In 1946, there were more than 1,000 reports of 'rocket shaped' UFOs and in the following year flying saucers hit the headlines.

Within the last two years, a new wave of sightings has emerged. Suggestions as to what UFOs are include alien spacecraft, time machines, unexplained natural phenomena, supernatural activity and, of course, mistaken ordinary objects. What could our very own East Finchley UFOs have been?

# Could these have been your UFOs?

By John Boyd

**I lean in favour of the existence of some form of intelligent life, probably extra terrestrial, behind UFOs. But what was it that Jake Eiseman-Renyard saw? I might have an answer.**

There is a craze, mostly in the USA and South America but it has been seen in Europe too, for doing the following stunt. Take one or more tea candles. Place them in a transparent container and light them. Attach the container by a longish string to a suitably sized balloon filled with helium. Release into night sky somewhere where they're likely to be seen, then slide off to watch the fun. The strings are unlikely to be spotted, especially if you use nylon fishing line.

You can also string a number of these together with long lines to make formations that drift along in the breeze, apparently drifting together and apart again and even rotating around each other. They can get to great heights

before they burst.

It's even better if you use Glowsticks, those flexible clear plastic tubes that you bend and snap at kids' parties. They come in all sorts of colours, including orange, blue, green and a sort of violet, and they have the advantage of being light in both senses of the word.

East Finchley is directly below an extremely busy volume of airspace. If there was a quartet of UFOs wandering about, they would undoubtedly have been spotted either by the sophisticated radars at Heathrow or by aircrews or passengers.

In no way am I trying to dismiss what Jake saw because I've seen a few strange things in the sky over the years too but this could be an explanation.



Art exhibition by and for North London Hospice. Left to right: Bishop Peter Wheatley, Deputy Mayor of Barnet Councillor Mukesh Depala and Pauline Treen (North London Hospice). Photo by Marian Bunzl.

# Tark opens his studio

By Sheila Armstrong  
**Visitors to the East Finchley Open studios will already be familiar with local artist Tark Butler's paintings and prints. He is now offering prospective purchasers a chance to visit his garden studio to see his work in situ. He also offers framing for his prints and paintings.**

Tark's work is mainly figurative, leaning towards abstraction. He says he is inspired by artists as varied as Picasso and Bloomsbury Group members Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell.

### Unique Christmas gifts

For those interested in viewing his work, visit Tark's website at [www.tarkart.com](http://www.tarkart.com) for a very good idea of what his colourful paintings are like. Prospective buyers can make an appointment to visit his studio on 020 8883 0806. Use this number too for details of a special pre-Christmas sale on 6 and 7 December from 11am-5pm to be held in a friend's house. Tark's work will be there, along with that of other locals Daphne Carnegie (ceramics), Barry Jackson (wood) and Lucy Spratt (jewellery).

# Arts festival full of gems

By Marian Bunzl

**The 12th Annual East Finchley Arts Festival opened on Saturday 4 October with a welcome speech from Geoffrey Hanson, Festival Director, a gem of a lunch time recital by the Duo Dorado, a stroll around the Festival Art Exhibition, and a delicious buffet lunch.**

As ever, this year's festival was multi-faceted: art, literature, classical music, jazz, a chance for young musicians and children to shine, and for the little ones (of all ages) a Punch and Judy show.

The Festival has acquired, to their delight and gratitude, a most distinguished new President in Dame Emma Kirkby. Also present were the festival's two Vice Presidents, area Bishop Right Reverend Peter Wheatley, and Fleur Adcock, the Queen's Award poet. Other supporters included Councillor Mukesh Depala, Deputy Mayor of Barnet, Rudi Vis MP and Councillors Colin Rogers and Alison Moore, all of whom

agreed that the Arts Festival has a very special place in the artistic life of the 'village' and indeed of the borough.

In particular, Rudi Vis said: "Barnet has many centres of culture, but East Finchley is the Jewel in the Crown."

The opening concert featured Hazel Brooks on a warm-toned baroque violin and David Pollock on an elegantly voiced harpsichord in a programme of 17th and 18th century music, a masterly performance presented with infectious enthusiasm.

They exemplified Geoffrey Hanson's motto for the festival at All Saints Church: "In the handiwork of their craft is their prayer" (Ecclesiasticus).

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