



Masters of watchmaking

Michael Clerizo is an American writer who has lived in East Finchley since the late 1980s. In October his book *Masters of Contemporary Watchmaking* was published by Thames & Hudson (£55.00). Over a cup of tea, Roger Stone asked Mr Clerizo a few questions.



Why a book about watchmakers?

Most people know about big watch brands like Rolex and Patek Philippe. Not many people know that there are still a few people out there who can make a watch from scratch, working on their own or with a few others in a small workshop. It's those people I wrote about.

How did you go about writing the book?

I visited the watchmakers, interviewed them, spent time in their workshops. I tried to get under their skin and find out what makes them tick. That's a bad pun but very much intended.

Did you spend a lot of time in Switzerland?

Yes, but I also wrote about watchmakers in Spain, France, Germany, Hungary, Finland. Something most people in this country don't know is that for 150 years London was the world centre of watchmaking. The Swiss used to mark their watches "Made in London" because that's where the best watches were made.

When did that happen?

About 1650 to 1800. The point is that this great tradition is continued in the work of two watchmakers: George Daniels who is now in his 80s and Roger Smith who is in his late 30s. They both live on the Isle of Man.

How long did it take you to write the book?

About a year to research and write. After that, finding all the images and working with a designer named Aaron Hayden at Thames & Hudson took almost another year. The book has 672 illustrations and 493 are in colour. And it's big, about a foot square and weighs a little over five pounds. Putting together a book about watches takes time. Sorry about the second bad pun!

LEASEHOLD REFORM HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT 1993

2, Netherfield Road, Finchley, London N12 8DP

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31 Hill St.
London W1J 5LS

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ALL SAINTS CHURCH

35a Durham Road, East Finchley,
London N2 9DP

Sunday 20 December

6.30 pm Christmas Carol Service
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve

3.00 pm Children's Christmas
Service with Carols

11.30 pm Sung Midnight Mass
with Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day

8.00 am Mass of the Dawn

10.00 am Sung Mass of the Day

Vicar: Fr Christopher Hardy SSC
020 8883 9315

www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk



Art Society President Henry McMillan with his painting, 'Congratulations'. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

Diamond of a show

By Daphne Chamberlain

Congratulations to Finchley Art Society on celebrating its 60th anniversary with a diamond of an exhibition. The Society is open to anyone who paints, in any style or medium, as a hobby or professionally.

It was started by Paul Smyth, who started painting at the age of seven and had his work hung in the Royal Academy. By the age of 65, he had completed 4,000 pictures, of which 280

can be viewed online. Opening the current exhibition last month, his granddaughter Barbara Pearce said he would have been delighted that the Society is flourishing and how it has encouraged artistic talent in so many people.

Art by all ages

As an art teacher, he would have been particularly thrilled by the stunning exhibits from children, one as young as five. These were from local schools, invited for the first time to contribute.

Other exhibitors included Henry McMillan, described by a colleague as "the backbone of the Society", who has held every post on the Committee and is the current President. The Society arranges exhibitions twice a year, painting

days out in the summer and an annual coach outing to houses or gardens of interest.

Trinity Church Hall in Nether Street, North Finchley is the Society's base, and visiting artists give monthly demonstrations there. It is also open to both members and interested enquirers on Monday evenings, when a model, who can be anyone in the community, and a still life are available to paint.

Meetings on Wednesday afternoons are at St Mary's Church Hall, Hendon Lane, N3.

For details, contact Pam Taylor on 020 8349 4991 or at pamtay@gmail.com, or visit www.finchleyartsociety.org.uk. To discover more about Paul Smyth and his work, visit www.finchleygallery.com.

Double celebration for Guides

By Ellie Franklin

In October, 4th East Finchley Guides celebrated 100 years of Guiding across the world. We also celebrated our own unit's first birthday. We can't believe we have been going for a whole year. I've been coming since the first night.

Guide leaders Toni, Kristy, Amy and Lucy planned the party and made it a fun night for all.

Everyone got involved and brought a treat so there was lots of food. Parents, siblings and Guides were invited and joined in the evening's activities. It was a very exciting night. We had displays of the activities we have done in the past year and the different guiding connections in all our families.

To commemorate the occasion Councillor Mike Freer planted a tree in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church and unveiled a plaque detailing the special milestones. Cllr Freer had donated £500 to the unit (and others in Barnet) to spend on celebrations for the Guiding centenary. As well as the party, 4th East Finchley Guides spent some of the money on a behind-the-scenes tour of CBBC.

One of our centenary activities was a project learning about the Railway Children, a charity for runaway children. We learned about their work, why children run away and raised £73 for them. Find out more at www.railwaychildren.org.uk.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2 9BD



Sundays at 10.30 am

Come & Celebrate Christmas with us!

Sunday 20th December

10.30am - 11.45am:

**All Ages Together Carol Service
"Expect the unexpected"**

6pm - 7.15pm: Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Day (Fri. 25th Dec)

10.30am - 11.15pm

Christmas Morning Family Service

**For more information please contact
the Church Office, Tel: 8883 1544 or visit
our web site: www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk
Minister: Simon Dyke**

Visitors always welcome

East Finchley Baptist Church

