



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 0433.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** for children & adults at Finchley Lido Mon & Fri 7-9pm 07949 612 706. www.taekwondo-uktd.co.uk
- ❖ **Tai Chi class** at EF Methodist Ch, Weds at 1pm. Call James Drewe 8883 3308 or james@taiji.co.uk
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- ❖ **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 evenings for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners and Improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- ❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-15 year olds. Mondays 6.30-8pm. Contact Dominic Conway 0777 284 3958
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: Live Jazz** on Mon 7 & 21 June at 8.15pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **SwampRock** Louisiana Dance Club. Live music. Contact 07957 344 724 or www.swamprock.org.uk.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Traditional music** at EF Constitutional Club on 2nd Mon each month from 8.30 pm. Free to join in or just listen.

CLUBS & SOCIAL

(See p8 for Parent & Toddler Clubs)

- ❖ **Bingo evening, 8pm Sundays**, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** on Weds afternoons, call 7722 6209.
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **LGBT?** 1st Weds every month in a local pub. Welcoming atmosphere. Email efinchleylgbt@hotmail.com
- ❖ **Muslim Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Northside Bridge Club**, EF Methodist Church, Thurs 7.30-11pm. 8346 8145.
- ❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita 8886 6140.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call John 8883 8114.

Review: Evil in the rectory

By Daphne Chamberlain

Why is the new rector's wife so nervous? What secrets does the aggressive, snooping neighbour know? Why is a respectable elderly lady being blackmailed? If you don't know the answers, you should have gone to see *Deliver Us From Evil*, the latest production from the Guild Players. This local dramatic group has been entertaining us since 1946, and anyone who has never seen them has missed a treat.

Whatever their choice of material, their standards are excellent. I personally prefer them in drama or pantomime rather than comedy, but that's a matter of taste. Last month, they were very at home with this intriguing thriller by JD Robins.

It was not an easy play to perform, however. Although the sense of mystery was there from the beginning, Robins takes a long while to set the scene. With weak actors and direction, it could have lost its impact, but the performances of Carol Renfrew and Jeffrey Bengé as the rector and his wife were virtually flawless.

Sally Martin, as the elderly blackmail victim, also never put a foot wrong, and they carried the audience with them.

The Guild Players perform at Finchley Methodist Church Hall, Ballards Lane, N3. They are attached to the church, but many of their members come from the general community. To find out more about them, see their website at www.guildplayers.org.uk, or call Betty Robertson on 020 8441 7696.

Their next production will be *3 for 1*, an evening of three one-act plays, on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 July. Don't miss it!

Review: Concert for Balanyá

By Ken Carter

In a concert at East Finchley Methodist Church in aid of Balanyá, a charity that sends volunteer music teachers to Guatemala, the Jacquin Trio began with the famous bouncy minuet from the young Beethoven's *Septet*, which he soon adapted for clarinet, piano and cello.

For a dreadful moment, I heard the piano of Daniel L'Homme thunder out over the clarinet of Jill Anderson and the cello of Elizabeth Nevrkla. However, he soon recovered poise. Throughout the rest of the concert, I could hear clarinet and cello clearly, with the piano part vigorous and robust, yet discreet; no mean achievement.

Something was amiss, however, with the Brahms *Clarinet Trio in A minor*. I delighted in the smooth, flowing, mellow, forward-pressing, song-like path that L'Homme

and Nevrkla took, but couldn't square it with the harsh, terse, raucous phrases I heard from Anderson's clarinet.

Just before the interval, we heard cello and piano in Beethoven's *Variations on Bei Männern* from Mozart's *Magic Flute*. Beethoven's tongue was in his cheek; there was an impish tone to his gravity. Nevrkla came to the fore with a surging, rich, deep-grained, assertive declaration, with L'Homme responding heftily and magisterially in kind. This was captivating and fun, the high spot of the evening.



Hazel McBride (left) and her three young actors from last year's show have a break with *The Archer*. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

What does poetry mean to you?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Last month we told you how East Finchley resident Hazel McBride, organiser of School English Scene, is making poetry more accessible to secondary school pupils, but how healthy is the general poetry scene?

Very healthy, Waterstone's at North Finchley told us, citing Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes, Costa Award winner Christopher Reid and Pam Ayres as particularly popular. On the other hand, Muswell Hill Bookshop says it is "not enormously strong" there. Most popular are the classic anthologies, plus Bloodaxe publications, including Neil Astley's *Staying Alive* and *Being Alive*.

East Finchley poet Fleur Adcock is also published by Bloodaxe. She told us: "As far as I can tell, poetry seems about as popular as ever, but perhaps with more of an emphasis on readings and performances rather than people actually buying books and sitting down and reading them. But I see only a limited part of the picture."

Certainly, both Waterstone's and Muswell Hill Bookshop feature local writers and readings, and there are many adult poetry classes. Dennis Evans has run his East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops for many years. Contact him on 020 8346 9528 for details.

Hostages and prisoners have kept sane by repeating poems they learned long before, while a friend of mine has always turned daily events into verse, mostly humorous but always thoughtful. Poetry means a lot to her, and also to me. One of my most treasured possessions is Palgrave's *Golden Treasury*, a childhood present from my father.

So what does poetry mean to you? We would be interested to know. Write to us at *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or email the-archer@lineone.net

What's On...

Sunday 6 June and Sunday 4 July

• **The Bothy Garden at Avenue House**, East End Road, opens to visitors from 3-5 pm. No admission charge. The Finchley Society welcomes help in maintaining the garden on Fridays, 10am-12.30pm. Coffee provided.

Sunday 6 June

• **Battle of Barnet**, a guided tour around the famous battlefield of 1471. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 2.30pm. Contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

Wednesday 9 June

• **Crochet for knitters and crafters**. New class at East Finchley venue. Call Omara on 07932 035325 or visit www.omarama.co.uk for more details.

Saturday 12 June

• **Summer Fun Day** at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, 12-3.0. Games, activities, food and bargains. Come and have a great afternoon.

• **Jumble Sale** in support of Highgate Choral Society, St George's Church Hall, Park Road at Cranley Gardens, N10, 2-4pm. Clothes, nearly new, books, toys, bric-a-brac, CDs, DVDs, videos, household goods, plants, cakes, teas, raffle, tombola. Admission 40p.

• **Fair in the Square**, Pond Square, Highgate, 12.30 to 5.30pm. Dancers, singers, musicians, dog show and Bjorn Again topping the bill. Free.

Sunday 13 June

• **East Finchley history walk** to celebrate *THE ARCHER'S* 200th edition. Meet at The Causeway exit of East Finchley tube station at 2pm. Free.

• **The Greenacre Bicycle Rally**, a three-mile circuit from North Finchley to Friern Barnet, to promote cycling in London. Assemble outside artsdepot, North Finchley, from 10am for a 12 noon departure. Full details from 020 8346 5503 or email MrGreenacres001@aol.com

• **Hooray for Hendon**, a guided tour of 1,000 years of history. Meet at Hendon Central tube station, 2.30pm. Contact Paul Baker on 020 8440 6805.

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, 7.30pm. Soprano Aine Cook, with accompanists, performs works by Beethoven, Bernstein, Sondheim, Loesser and Liszt.

Sunday 13 and Saturday 26 June

• **New farmers' market** in grounds of Avenue House, East End Road, N3, 10am-3pm. Enquiries to City and Country Farmers' Market at www.weareccfm.co.uk.

Wednesday 16 June

• **JCC Pamper Yourself**, an evening of indulgence and pampering with 15-minute treatments from £6. All money raised will be donated to charities. 6.30-10pm, St Paul's Church, 50 Long Lane, Finchley, London N3 2PU. Tickets and information: 020 7431 9866.

Saturday 19 June

• **Finchley Choral Society** will be performing Scarlatti, Monteverdi and Vivaldi, 7.45pm, St Anne's, Highgate West Hill, London N6 6AP. Tickets: £13 / £1 students & children, available from FCS Box Office: 020 7263 3358 or on the door.

Saturday 19 - Sunday 27 June

• **Proms at St Jude's**, Hampstead Garden Suburb. A stellar line up of artists and orchestras including Sir Willard White and the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge. Visit www.promsatstjudes.org.uk or call 020 8455 8687 for full details.

Sunday 20 June

• **East Finchley Community Festival**, Cherry Tree Wood, 12 noon to 6pm, starting with a parade along the High Road from Martin Primary School. Entertainment, bands, stalls, food and drink make a great afternoon out.

Tuesday 22 June

• **Love and War in Finchley**, a collaboration between a local writing group and Barnet Archives, 6.30pm in The Institute Arts Centre, Beaumont Close, The Bishops Avenue. Further info from 020 8829 4211.

Wednesday 23 June

• **History walk around Alexandra Park**, 7pm. For further details, or to become a member of the Friends of Alexandra Park, email info@friendsofalexandrapark.org.

Thursday 24 June

• **The Finchley Society** hosts **Return**

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

to the **Kruger National Park**, a talk by Roz Avery, which follows the Society's AGM, 8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 (02083467812). Non-members welcome. Admission £2.

Saturday 26 June

• **Summer Fair at St Theresa's Catholic School**, East End Road, N3, 12noon to 4pm. Entertainment includes pony rides, inflatables, a raffle (first prize mini Dell laptop), tombolas, games, food, music and crafts.

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 June.

• **Cyprus Wine Festival** at Alexandra Palace. Call 020 8365 2121 for details.

Open gardens in June

Sunday 6 June, East Finchley Cottage Gardens; 399 Long Lane, 20 and 22 Trinity Road, N2, 2-6pm; and 2 Stanley Road, N2, 2-6pm; 7 The Grove, N6, 2-5.30 pm. **Saturday 12 June**, 12 Rookfield Avenue, N10, 5-8pm. **Sunday 13 June**, 46 Duke's Avenue, 2-6pm; 79 Church Lane, N2, 2-5.30pm. **Wednesday 16 June**, 2 Millfield Place, N6, 5.30-9pm. **Sunday 20 June**, 6 Methuen Park, 1.30-6.30pm. **Sunday 27 June**, 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Rd, 2-7pm; 5 Cecil Road, 2-5.30pm.

Saturday 3 July

North London Chorus sings 'A Little Night Music' featuring works by Mozart, Britten and Bliss, St James's Church, Muswell Hill, N10, 7.30pm. Ticketline 02084559840. Prices £18, £13, £8 (concs £2 reduction).