



Stained glass artist makes her mark at the Phoenix cinema

By Sheila Armstrong

When the Phoenix cinema was looking for local funding for its recent renovation, local stained glass artist Ruth Kersley decided to donate a piece of her own work: a stained glass window for the cafe. The finished window shows a phoenix in shades of brown, green, red and white glass, in a quasi-Cubist abstract style. The final design for the 14-panelled work was arrived at only after Ms Kersley had submitted several designs and maquettes to the trustees of the cinema.

Ms Kersley worked with the Phoenix's architect from an early stage of the renovation, which is important as she wants her work to be an intrinsic part of whatever building it is in. The window was started in October, put into the cafe recently and, at the time of writing, Ms Kersley is still working with the Phoenix on improving the lighting to ensure the window is seen at

its best at night.

Green fingers too

Originally trained as a sculptor, Ms Kersley has for many years worked in glass and boasts an impressive CV. Currently working as an art teacher in a local primary school, she has also worked in schools on the Art 4 Schools project and on public and private commissions.

In addition she and her husband open their garden in East Finchley each summer; details are in The Yellow Book of gardens open in London. Their garden is well planned and stocked, with Ruth's garden glass and pieces of glass sculpture easily visible.

You can find pictures and further details of her work on her well-laid-out website www.ruth-glass.co.uk.

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Nick's on the run again

By Lois Lawrence

The last time Nick Dodd ran a marathon was 29 years ago but now he has a very good reason to run another one. Nick has a niece who suffers from cerebral palsy and he hopes to raise roughly £4,000 for the Bobath Centre on East End Road, which takes care of children with the condition.

Nick, 54, who has lived in East Finchley for around 20 years, is finding the training hard but is enjoying it at the same time. He says that it's good to be out in the open, getting fresh air. He also believes he's never done so much training in his life.

Nick, of East End Road, is using different training routes to prepare for the London Marathon in April, mostly around Highgate Woods, Alexandra Palace and Hampstead Heath. He doesn't have many set routes because he prefers to follow different directions every time and says it's good to chop and change where he runs.

Despite the daunting 26-mile challenge ahead, Nick is already saying he would like to run another marathon because the whole experience is very enjoyable, but maybe not straightaway.

If you would like to support Nick with his fundraising for the Bobath Centre then please visit this website: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/NickDodd>. All donations, however small, would be welcome.



KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Bonkers Bank Holidays

In the world of the Big Society Diddy David Cameron knows there is nothing bigger than the Royal Family. That's why we are getting a day off in April so we can grovel appropriately when one of them gets married, and one next year to celebrate 60 years since the Queen came to the throne. And now, to ensure we all know our place, he wants to get rid of May Day.

May Day goes back to the dawn of history. It's the start of summer, time to dance round maypoles, perform fertility rites and celebrate. OK, in some countries that includes parading your army through the streets and making patriotic gestures involving tanks. But it's about the people, not the powerful, which is why Dave, Slasher and the rest of the Eton Rifles want to replace it with something autumnal and patriotic.

Top of the list of suitable dates is 21 October, the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Good move for European unity, celebrate the time the Brits beat the French and Spanish. If that's not convenient we could wait until the 25th and celebrate Henry V and Agincourt instead. Maybe we should go the whole way and replace the late May bank holiday with 18 June so we can all celebrate the British beating the French at Waterloo. Sure to go down well in Paris.

Staying with royalty and patriotic prejudice, why not have a bank holiday on 28 September to mark the anniversary of the first performance of the National Anthem in 1745? Best to leave out the bits about killing Scotsmen, just in case.

But there is an alternative and it's not just about leaving May Day alone, it's about giving us a whole new bank holiday that will unite the country. What could be better than 5 October? Why? Because on that day in 1969 Monty Python's Flying Circus arrived on our screens. Let's celebrate it, let's make everyone do a silly walk and watch *Life of Brian*. It would be something completely different.

Beautiful music for Lent

By Marian Bunzl

At their next concert North London Chorus will perform two undeservingly rarely heard works with a Lenten theme. The first is Mozart's cantata *Davidde Penitente*, a setting of Lenten penitential psalms commissioned by the Vienna Society of Artists in 1785. Mozart was given only a short time to produce the work before the performance date, so drew heavily on parts of his great *Mass in C*.

Secondly, Beethoven's dramatic oratorio *Christ on the Mount of Olives* portrays the turmoil of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

In spite of the solemn nature of the texts, both works contain lively and even joyous music. In particular, the final movement of Beethoven's work is known as his very own Hallelujah Chorus.

We are fortunate to have four delightful and talented young soloists at the early stages of what are clearly going to be outstanding careers. (If you come) you heard it here first!

The concert takes place on Saturday 26 March at 7.30pm at St James Church, Muswell Hill, N10. Tickets priced £18, £13, £8 (unreserved) and concessions (£2 off) are available from the ticketline: 020 8351 8774, and from St James Church Bookshop, and Les Aldrich Music shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10.

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