



Regular Events SPORT & FITNESS

❖ **Badminton** Weds eves 8-10pm all abilities, contact George 8349 0170 or John 8444 7163.

❖ **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 eves for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.

❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & 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 12 & 26 Sept 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.

❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706

❖ **Traditional music** at TOC, Highgate Hill on 1st & 3rd Tue each month from 8.30 pm. Free. All musicians welcome. Info 07958 282898.

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.

❖ **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 1-3 pm 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.

Pottiness goes to the West End

By Nick Young

A troupe of East Finchley comedians is performing in Central London after a two-week run during the Camden Fringe.

Gareth Nash, Celia Holmes and Paolo Ferrari are the Cabaret of Pottiness, who have been described as "a trio of electrifying nutcases delighting audiences with comedy, stand-up, off-the-wall poetry, original songs and dance routines". Local burlesque performer Bettie Wishes also appears as a guest star.

Gareth and Celia have been developing their ideas for several years, and have put on two shows at the Finchley Youth Theatre on the High Road. An audience member at one of those shows put them in touch with their current venue.

"I grew up on Kenny Everett, Dick Emery, Benny Hill and the Two Ronnies, and the show has a flavour of them," explained Gareth. "The show is about connecting with your inner self and not being afraid to be who you really are, however frightened you may be. Creating

the characters and working within drag has helped me accept who I am and celebrate it and be proud and get over my shyness and develop inner confidence and not be afraid of rejection!"

Gareth and Celia have been working hard on developing props and characters in their flat in Park Farm Close for the past year. "Even our neighbours have supported us and are interested in our act," said Gareth. His neighbours, he explained, have become used to seeing "strange props, comedy bottoms and sexual parts being loaded into my car!" One of them has even lent an antique cake stand to use in one of the sketches.

The Cabaret of Pottiness will be running at the Loom Bar, 5 Clipstone Street, London, W1W 6BB on 14 September, 12 October, 9 November and 14 December.



A world of Japanese art

By John Lindsay

Sadly in recent times Japan has been in the news for the most tragic of reasons. The terrible earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster touched the hearts of people all over the world. Happily, here in East Finchley, our community hosts a Japanese family with a more cheerful story to tell.

Kyoko Kuga is involved in the world of Japanese art, especially antiques and contemporary crafts. She lives with her husband Hartmut in Durham Road. Daughter Kaoruko is doing her A levels at Fortismere and next year hopes to do an Art Foundation course (like mother like daughter!) at the London College of Communication. Younger sister Karin is very happy at Coldfall Primary School.

Kyoko's passion for traditional Japanese art started at University where she immersed herself in the history and ceremony of the Japanese tea culture. Later, in Italy and Germany, as a modern Japanese woman she started to think more deeply about her cultural background and met experts from the art world.

Pottery experts recognise the strong historical ties between Japan and the United Kingdom in this field. For example, the famous English potter Bernard Leach lived and worked in Japan for many years and was greatly influenced by Japanese ceramics. A vast range of Japanese art works now exists in the United Kingdom, notably in the British Museum and V & A Museum, but also in many regional museums and private collections.

Kyoko Kuga now has a showcase at Gray's antique market near Bond Street tube station and there will be an opportunity to see Kyoko's antiques and artworks at the Alexandra Palace antique fair on 18 September. The beautiful objects she collects and sells can be seen on her website: www.gallerykuga.com. At present, 10% of every sale is being donated to the Japan Red Cross.

The man behind the inkblot

By Daphne Chamberlain

You can still find Finchley schoolchildren writing with quill pens. Just a stone's throw away are mounds of earth believed to be diggings from the construction of the Edgware line. The scene is the Stephens Collection, established by The Finchley Society and lodged in Avenue House.

Those mounds of earth are picturesque little hills in arguably the most attractive park in Finchley. They were landscaped by Henry "Inky" Stephens, once MP for Hornsey and Finchley, who bequeathed Avenue House and its grounds to the people of Finchley in 1918.

Henry experimented with writing fluids, but it was his father Dr Henry Charles Stephens who invented the blue-black ink which bears their name.

In the days before ballpoint pens and computers, Stephens Ink with its inkblot trademark was as famous (and much more necessary) throughout the world

as Coca Cola is today. Even now it is still irreplaceable as a marking and endorsing ink.

A visit to the Stephens Collection is fascinating. Curator Stewart Wild has tracked down memorabilia from all round the globe. And don't just concentrate on the museum room. Look around the foyer and hall in Avenue House and you may be surprised at what you find.

Three student friends

It is also well worth reading a new book. It's called *John Keats, Henry Stephens and George Wilson Mackereth, The unparallel lives of three medical students*, and yes, it is referring to the John Keats. In old age, Stephens wrote

an informative memoir about the poet. Keats died young, and only the third friend, George Mackereth, practised medicine all his life. Eventually his daughter married Henry's son, the "Inky" who bought Avenue House.

Henry is buried in St Marylebone Cemetery in East End Road, near the bridge over the North Circular.

The book, by WS Pierpoint, is published by the Stephens Collection and printed by East Finchley's JG Bryson. Its ISBN is 978-0-9567127-0-7. For more information about visiting the museum, call 8346 7812 or email stephens.collection@avenuehouse.org.uk.

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

What's On...

Sunday 4 September

• **Hooray for Hendon:** guided walk covering 1,000 years of history from Domesday Book to Hendon Aerodrome and beyond. Meet Hendon Central tube station 2.30 pm. 020 8440 6805 www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Saturday 10 September

• **The Spike Milligan Statue Fund** hosts another of their **quiz nights**, 7.30pm for 8pm at the Utopia Scout HQ, Grove Road, North Finchley. £5 entry. Nibbles and coffee free. Tickets from Barbara Warren on 020 8346 5258.

Sunday 11 September

• **Barnet Ghosts:** guided walk exploring Barnet and Monken Hadley, second most haunted village in England. Meet High Barnet tube station 7.30pm. 020 8440 6805

www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

• **Muswell Hill Festival and Donkey Derby**, Cherry Tree Wood, N2. Come and join this fun-filled day in aid of The London Centre for

Children with Cerebral Palsy. A dog show, donkey rides and races, and the annual Monster Vegetable competition will feature.

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, N2, 7.30pm: Voxcetera vocal ensemble with programme including works by Tallis, Mozart, Bruckner, Brahms, Berlioz, Lauridsen and Vaughan Williams. Free admission with collection in aid of the Tuberculous Sclerosis Association. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Sunday 18 September

• **Open House, London: free tours of Phoenix cinema**, 10.0 am-12.45 pm plus free screening at 2.00 pm looking at work of local film pioneers. Booking essential: call box office on 020 8444 6789.

• **Chicco wedding dress sale:** once-worn wedding dresses, including Oscar de la Renta and Suzanne Neville. Veils, make-overs and manicures available. 11am-5pm, East Finchley

venue. For details, visit www.chicco.co.uk or contact 07931 778427.

Sunday 25 September

• **A Walk in the Woods in aid of the Bobath Centre** for Children with Cerebral Palsy. Join this relaxing circular walk through Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Wood and Queen's Wood. To take part, people need only make a small donation to the Bobath Centre (£3 each or £10 for a family). Alternatively, you can raise as much sponsorship as you can from friends and family in advance. Contact the fundraising department at the Bobath Centre on 020 8442 2275 to get your free fundraising pack.

Thursday 29 September

• **The Finchley Society** are holding their next meeting at Martin School, High Road, N2. Doors open 7.30pm, tea and coffee available. 8pm: short talk on local planning issues, followed by slides showing how East Finchley looked 100 years ago. All are welcome.