



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.** F or 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.

❖ **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 Mar at 7.45pm, Hall School Sports Ground, 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 8.30pm. 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.

Prize-winning poet in print

By Laura Wheadon

There's good news for poetry fans this March as Picador is set to publish a debut collection by East Finchley poet Richard Meier. In 2011, Meier was awarded the first ever Picador Poetry Prize, a national award to recognise new poetic talent in the UK, and consequently was offered the coveted prize of the publication of his debut work.

Judging of the prize was chaired by Don Paterson, poet and editor of Picador's poetry imprint, who stated that "while there was much to admire in the work of everyone else on the shortlist, in the end it was Richard Meier's quiet strangeness, the uncanny precision of his ear, and the tenderness and clarity of his address that made us want to read his poems again and again..."

Born in 1970, Meier began writing poetry when he was a student, then stopped and began again in his late twenties, most recently perfecting his craft at a regular writers' workshop in Belsize Park. His poems



Prize-winning poet Richard Meier. Photo by John Nathan.

have been published in several leading poetry magazines, and have been selected for the 2002 Oxford Poet's Anthology. Picador also publishes the works of poets Carol Ann Duffy, Glyn Maxwell and Jackie Kay.

The following poem is taken from Richard Meier's debut collection *Misadventure*, published on 29 March.

Winter morning

By Richard Meier

Shyly coated in greys, blacks, browns –
to keep us out of sight of the cold –
we weren't expecting *this* this morning: sun
and shadows, like a summer's evening, like summer
teasing. And not quite under the shelter on
the northbound platform, an old man, the sun
behind him, just his crown ablaze; and heading
southbound, a woman inching ever nearer
the platform edge, the light a tear
across her midriff, ribcage, shoulders, closer
and closer that dearest thing, completeness,
all her darkness light at the one time.

Poetry and music

Review by Ken Carter

This evening concert on 12 February came to life with a truly local event: four songs by poet Dennis Evans and highly respected pianist Caroline Soresby, both from East Finchley, receiving their first performance. Rose Stachniewska, soprano, sang with fresh, true distinction, a little anonymous in tone but with assured musicality. Her accompaniment was unusual: a piano quintet comprising Caroline Soresby, piano, Sanae Honda and Junko Ishigai, violins, Bryan Fairfax, viola, and Maryan Balkwill, cello. Dennis's poems were simple, homely and spare, lending themselves to Caroline's sober, no-nonsense musical evocations. Equally beguiling and thoroughly Viennese were Alban Berg's three songs for the same combination.

The Brahms *Trio for Piano, Viola & Cello* did not hang together so well. Three soloists each played in the style that suited them best. I particularly liked Maryan Balkwill's lyrical flow and strength. In the Mozart *Violin Sonata*, Saoko Blendis played the piano with spirit, crispness and style. The five Debussy preludes were shrewd choices, demonstrating the composer's breadth of creativeness. In performance, something was missing: magisterial aplomb, perhaps.

Handel masterpiece

By Marian Bunzl

North London Chorus is preparing to perform *Israel in Egypt*, Handel's amazing depiction of scenes from Exodus, including the plight of the Hebrew slaves ("and the children of Israel sighed"), the ten plagues ("and there came all manner of flies and lice in all their quarters"), the flight through the Red Sea ("the blast of Thy nostrils has gathered the waters together"), the destruction of the Egyptian army ("the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea").

We are having a wonderful time getting our teeth into the vivid text, and our vocal chords around the endless succession of splendid choruses. We do hope you will come and enjoy it with us on 24 March at St James Church, Muswell Hill, at 7.30pm. Tickets available from 020 3468 1213, or St. James Bookshop, or Les Aldrich Music Shop, or at the door priced £18, £13 and £10 with £2 off for concessions.

As this is near Passover, we will have the privilege of performing it again on 25 March at the New North London Synagogue in East End Road, N3, at 7pm, raising funds for the NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop-in Centre and the Marie Curie Hospice, Hampstead. Tickets from office@nnls-masorti.org.uk or 020 8346 8560, priced £20, concessions £15, under-18s £10.

What's On in and around East Finchley

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

Saturday 3 March

• **Vintage Tea Party and Gift Fair** in aid of The Eve Appeal, funding research into gynaecological cancers; The Boogaloo, 312 Archway Road, Highgate, N6, from 11am to 5pm. Stalls, cakes, vintage clothes and special gifts.

Thursday 8 March

• **Cat expert Jane Ehrlich** addresses your cat's behaviour problems and speaks on 'Home Alone: How to enrich your cat's life while you're at work'; Black Gull Bookshop, High Road, N2, 7.30pm, with refreshments.

• **Friends of Avenue House quiz night**, 7.30pm, at Avenue House, East End Road, N3 3QE.

Open to all. Bar available. Tickets £12.50 each, including meal (vegetarian option if booked in advance). Contact info@friendsofavenuehouse.org.

Thursday 8 to Saturday 10 March

• **Theatre in the Square** presents *Six Dogs and a Goldfish*, three one-act plays: *Doggies*, *A Dog's Life* and *The Extraordinary Revelations of Orca the Goldfish*, at The United Reformed Church, Tetherdown, Muswell Hill, N10 1ND, 7.30pm. Adults £10, children/concessions £9. Box Office: 07522 791618 or www.theatreinthesquare.org

Saturday 10 March

• **Jack Liebeck** (violin) and the **Haydn Chamber Orchestra** play the **Mendelssohn Violin Concerto** at St Michael's Church, Highgate, N6 6BJ, 8pm. Tickets: £25, £20, £15 (reserved) and £10 (unreserved) in aid of North London Hospice. Contact: Pauline 020 8340 5643.

Saturday 17 March

• **Battle of Barnet**: guided walk

with City of London guide Paul Baker; a tour of the famous battlefield of 1471. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 2.30pm. Details from Paul on 020 8440 6805.

Thursday 22 March

• **Age UK Barnet quiz night**, 6.30pm at The Meritage Centre, Church End, Hendon, NW4 4JT. Everyone welcome. Disabled access and facilities. Bar available. Tickets £10 each, including meal (three food choices). Max six per table, but can book more than one table. Booking deadline Friday 16 March. Please contact Loraine Simmons on 020 8150 0962 or Loraine.Simmons@ageukbarnet.org.uk.

Saturday 24 March

• **North London Chorus** perform Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, 7.30pm, St. James Church, Muswell Hill, N10. Ticketline 0203 468 1213 or at the door; prices £10-£18 with £2 reduction for concessions.

• **Finchley Choral Society spring concert**, Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Central Square, London NW11 7AG at 7.45pm. Programme includes Stanford's *The Blue Bird*, Parry's *I was Glad*, and works by Vaughan Williams, Elgar and Britten. Tickets £13/£7 students/£1 children, from the FCS box office on 020 7263 3358, on the door, or from Les Aldrich Music, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 3HN. www.finchleychoral.org.uk

Sunday 25 March

• **Jewish London at the Phoenix Cinema**, 2pm. The varied programme includes a Virtual Tour of Jewish London, the delightful short *The Tenth Man* which was filmed in the East End, Searle Kochberg's

introduction to Jewish London on film and one of the best, but often overlooked, films from the 1940s, *It Always Rains On Sunday*. Book via: www.phoenixcinema.co.uk/whatson/ or 020 8444 6789.

• **North London Chorus** perform Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, 7pm, New North London Synagogue, 88 East End Road, N3 2SY, raising funds for NNLS Destitute Asylum Seekers Drop-in Centre and the Marie Curie Hospice, Hampstead. Tickets £20, concessions £15, under-18s £10 from office@nnls-masorti.org.uk or 020 8346 8560.

Monday 26 March

• **Give blood** at the mobile unit in the NCP car park at East Finchley tube station. Sessions from 12.20pm – 3.20 pm and 5pm – 7.20pm. For more information or to book an appointment call 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk.

Thursday 29 March

• **The Finchley Society** hosts the first of three talks by corporate member **Albert Wright, Director of Small Business Solutions and Millionaire Coaching Academy**. Subject: selling, trading, and generally conducting business, with emphasis on Finchley and surrounding areas.

Tea, coffee and cash bar. Free entry for all members and their families. Non-members £10 per person; 7.30pm for 8pm in Avenue House, East End Road, N3 3QE. Booking advisable. Please call 020 8883 4357.

Saturday 31 March

• **Barnet Ghosts**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker; a spooky tour of High Barnet and Monken Hadley. Meet High Barnet

tube station, 7.30pm. Details from Paul on 020 8440 6805.

• **London Ripieno Singers**, soloists and instruments, play **Haydn's Salve Regina and Little Organ Mass**, with **Carissimi's Jepthe, All Saints'**, Durham Road, N2, 7.30pm. Concert followed by supper. Tickets: concert only £10 (concs: £8), supper £7 extra, from Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10 and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/londonripieno

Whats On at artsdepot, North Finchley

Saturday 10 March, **John Peel's Shed** by John Osborne (theatre) and **Piccadilly Dance Orchestra, Midnight in Mayfair** (music); Sunday 11 March, **The Phoenix and the Carpet** (family) and **The Paul Malsom Trio** (free music); Friday 16 March, **Peatbog Faeries** (music); Saturday 17 March, **Victim Sidekick Boyfriend Me** (free theatre) and **Around the World** (theatre); Sunday 18 March, **The Three Billy Goats Gruff** (family); Tuesday 20 to Saturday 24 March, **Annie** (theatre); Thursday 22 March, **Pagrav Dance Double Bill** (dance); Friday 23 to Sunday 25 March, **Avon Calling** (theatre); Sunday 25 March, **Two Four Six Eight!** (family); Wednesday 28 March, **Stalin's Favourite** (theatre); Thursday 29 March, **Defying Hitler** (theatre); Friday 30 March, **The Alchemystorium** (theatre); Saturday 31 March, **Something in the Air** (family) and **Helena Blackman** (music); Sunday 1 April, **Travels with Granddad** (family) and **Nirakar** (free music); Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 April, **Sheer** (theatre). Box office: 020 8369 5454.