



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.
- ❖ **Pilates Beginners Classes** Tue 9.30-10.30am, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Lane N2. Contact: Michelle 07767 804 564
- ❖ **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 7 May 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.
- ❖ **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

Why open gardens mean so much

By Susan Bennett

Many of you will have visited gardens open under the National Gardens Scheme, this year celebrating its 85th birthday. Although I have been involved for over 16 years, and serve as Assistant County Organiser for NW London, it was only when I was invited to talk on the history of the scheme that I realised what an important contribution it has made to aspects of our lives that we now take for granted.

The story begins in Liverpool in 1859 when William Rathbone employed a trained nurse to care for his dying wife. He retained her services to tend the poor in their own homes and thus the District Nursing Service was born, growing into The Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

At an Institute meeting in the 1920s, Elsie Wagg suggested funds could be raised by opening private gardens to the public, already a popular 'genteel' pastime. Donating the proceeds to charity was a brainwave.

In 1927 Blenheim, Sandringham, Chartwell and many other grand gardens opened, 609 in all.

There was such an enthusiastic response, supported by the Royal Family, *Country Life*, the RHS, the BBC, the AA, that the Garden Scheme flourished until the war.

Despite the introduction of the NHS in 1948, money was still needed for the welfare of



Tea in the garden for Susan Bennett and Earl Hyde, who have been invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Photo by Peter Beal

young, sick and retired nurses. Eventually the scheme was so successful it was possible to support other charities. Now Macmillan Cancer Relief (who had received £13 million by 2011), Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices, and Crossroads are among the main beneficiaries, enabling patients to be cared for at home.

So every time you visit a garden in the Scheme, you can be sure that you are helping us to care for others. If YOU have a special garden, why not consider sharing it for these excellent causes?

Award for Neha

A sixth form student from Christ's College Finchley has received a Rotary in London Young Citizen of the Year Award. Neha Thakker was recognised for her efforts to raise £800 last year to support the Barnet Young Carers and Siblings organisation and Mapledown Special School in Cricklewood.

Her donation helped the school to buy an iPad which now helps provide extra learning opportunities for the pupils. Neha also leads a group of students from her school who give up one lunch break each week to provide computer training for older people.

Launched by the Rotary Club of Golders Green in 2010, the awards celebrate the achievements of young people who demonstrate the qualities of good citizenship.

Here are just some of the local gardens opening to visitors in 2012:

- Sunday 13 May**, 2-6pm, various at Princes Ave Gardens N10;
- Sunday 13 May**, 2-6pm, 5 St Regis Close N10;
- Sunday 13 May**, 2-5.30pm, 66 Abbots Garden N2;
- Sunday 20 May**, 2-5.30pm, 46 and 48 Dukes Avenue, N10;
- Sunday 10 June**, 2-5pm, East Finchley Cottage Gardens, 20 and 22 Trinity Rd N2;
- Sunday 17 June**, 2-6pm, 60 Church Crescent N10;
- Sunday 24 June**, 2-7pm, 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road N10;
- Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 July**, 1.30-6pm, 27 Wood Vale N10;
- Sunday 15 July**, 2-6pm, 79 Church Lane, East Finchley N2;
- Sunday 15 July**, 2-6pm, 66 Muswell Avenue, N10;
- Sunday 22 July**, 2-7pm, 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road N10;
- Sunday 29 July**, 2-6pm, various at Alexandra Park Gardens, N22.

A tale of two concerts

In March, North London Chorus performed Handel's oratorio *Israel in Egypt* twice: once in St James's Church, Muswell Hill, and, by special request, the following evening in New North London Synagogue in Finchley. Marian Bunzl compares the experiences from two unusual points of view.

The Bouquets (at the church)

Beautifully wrapped in cellophane, we are taken to the church and put in a cool room. From there we can hear the musical director at rehearsal: "Save your voices!", "Altos, I can't hear you!", "Basses, you're flat!", "Hydration!", "Bananas!"

Just before the performance we are brought to the side chapel, from where we listen to the succession of splendid double choruses and beautiful arias. To rapturous applause from a full house we are placed in the arms of the soloists.

The Carnations (at the synagogue)

Overnight we are kept in lemonade (it keeps us fluffy). Next evening at the synagogue we, teetotal flowers, are placed, each with a bottle of wine, in silver bags, and hidden behind the stage. The choir sings with undiminished energy and the synagogue's amazing acoustics allow us to hear every word of the dramatic text. To a (mainly) Jewish audience, at this time of the year, it has special meaning: Passover by Handel. To even greater cheers we are presented to the singers. We, carnations and bouquets, are the expression of the choir's appreciation for our MD and our wonderful young artists.

What's On in and around East Finchley

Saturday 5 May

• **Creepy-crawly Walk** for all ages in Coldfall Wood, led by naturalist Edward Milner; starts 11 am; booking essential; details at www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

Saturday 12 - Sunday 27 May

• **Finchley Art Society Spring Exhibition**, Trinity Church Concourse, Nether Street, Finchley N12 7NN, Mon-Thurs 9am-10pm, Fri-Sat 9am-7pm and Sunday 2-6pm. Free admission. Paintings in oil, acrylic, water colour and pastel covering a wide range of subjects by local artists at affordable prices; also selected art from local schools.

Wednesday 16 May

• **The Westminster Morris Men's** 4th annual tour of East Finchley. At The Windsor Castle pub, off Church Lane, 7.30pm; The Five Bells pub, East End Road, 8.30pm; The Old White Lion pub, High Road, 9.15pm.

Sunday 13 May

• **Free music at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, 7.30 pm. Mezzo Viola da Cunha, baritone Ray Shone and pianists Mark Lowe and Muriel Ray play works by Brahms, Faure, Montsalvatge, Granados, Novello and Lloyd Webber. Collection in aid of British Association for Performing Arts Medicine. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Thursday 17 May

• **Jazz at Lauderdale House**, Highgate: Mick Hutton Quartet, 8.30pm. Tickets £9 (£7.50 concessions). Box office 020 8348 8716 or www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk

Saturday 19 May

• **Live music at Madden's Ale House**, 130 High Road, 9pm to midnight. Local band Sound of the Suburb, a favourite from The East Finchley Festival, performs cover songs for all tastes from 1950s to today, and original songs from their

recent debut album. Come along for a fun night of rocking and dancing. Free entry.

Tuesday 22 May

• **Woodland Festival** at Coppetts Wood, 2-4pm. Music, stalls, refreshments. Proceeds go directly to wildlife conservation. Meet in the Glebelands Nature Reserve.

Thursday 24 May

• **Jazz at Lauderdale House**, Highgate: Phil Robson's Immeasurable Code Quintet, 8.30pm. Tickets £9 (£7.50 concessions). Box office 020 8348 8716 or www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk

Saturday 26 May

• **Abbots Gardens, garage sales** at various locations in the road, 2-4pm. All welcome to browse. Further details: Paul Vigus, Secretary, The Cromwell Hall Residents' Association on 020 8883 4905.

• **Herbal Walk** in Coldfall Wood, starts 10.0 am. Details: www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

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

Wednesday 30 May

• **East Finchley Library**. 6.15 - 7.15pm. **Me, Myself and I** - Book club for teenagers. Contact library for details.

Thursday 31 May

• **Jazz at Lauderdale House**, Highgate: Ted and Gladys, featuring music from their new CD *The Rhythm of Life*, 8.30pm. Tickets £9 (£7.50 concessions). Box office 020 8348 8716 or www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk

Sunday 3 June

• **Open afternoon at the Bothy Garden**, Avenue House grounds, East End Road, 3-5pm.

Saturday 16 June

• **Martin Primary School summer fun day**, 12-3pm, Plane Tree Walk, East Finchley. Come and enjoy the fun: bouncy castle, BBQ, teas & cakes, tombola, raffle, bands & entertainment, fancy dress and lots of stalls.