



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **East Finchley Flyers running club**, Tuesdays 7pm at the tube station, 7k run and socialising. Nick 07593 367134.
- **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. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 1pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 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 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
- **A-Chord**, friendly choir, all genres, open to all. Thursdays 8pm at NNLs, East End Rd. Laura 07732 120464.
- **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 Lillian 8444 1793.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Ladies Keep Fit** Class for over 50s. Tues 10.30-11.30am at Tetherdown Hall. Sheila 8444 0084.
- **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.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm, ages 6-10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Traditional music at TOC**, Highgate Hill, on 1st & 3rd Tues each month from 8.30pm. Free. 07958 282898.

Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- **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.
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 to book.
- **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- **Bridge Club**, every Saturday 1.30-4pm, Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.
- **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Anita 8886 6140.
- **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- **Youth Club** at Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale every Tues in termtime. Ages 8-13, £1 entry.



Sharon Lawrence and Christie-Luke Jones in a scene from crowd-funded film B4.

Movie makers make their own luck

A crowd-funded film starring a local actor is getting off the ground and hoping to make a splash in movie circles.

B4 stars Christie-Luke Jones, of King Street, N2, and follows the character of Rupert Shaw, a man who has recently lost his wife. One day he receives a call from a mysteri-

ous stranger who offers him a chance to relive past moments with the chance that he might be able to save his wife before the fateful events occur.

The movie makers behind

B4 have raised funds through PayPal donations, helping them to make a professional soundtrack for the film with a live orchestra.

The finished film, directed by Harrow-based Patrick Ryder, will be entered into film festivals across the globe. Find out more at www.facebook.com/patrickmichaelryder and www.facebook.com/groups/25765284968/

Hero of the siege of Homs

By Ann Bronkhorst



Life in Syria: A scene from Return to Homs.

Outside it was a relaxed Sunday afternoon in safe, familiar East Finchley; inside The Phoenix cinema we were immersed in street-fighting, destruction and loss in a distant land.

The award-winning documentary being screened was *Return to Homs*. It follows Basset, a charismatic 19-year-old Syrian, as he develops from a laughing, singing protester (and talented footballer) into a leader of armed men struggling against Syrian government forces. Two years later, exhausted and fatalistic, he heads back to what's left of the city with a rag-tag band of brothers, expecting martyrdom.

Ruined city

Certainly many of the young men seen in the film will be dead by now, or will have become refugees. Comfortable flats in which friends made music, argued and laughed are now devastated ruins. In a memorable sequence the camera follows a fighter moving through a neighbourhood house by house, stepping through the gutted rooms and broken walls. A makeshift field hospital once was a shop; if you leave the city it's through the sewers or by tunnelling.

I thought of the Warsaw ghetto and the siege of Sarajevo. I wondered if young Londoners

could muster a similar defiance and resolve if they were under siege in a civil war.

Director's choices

In the Q and A after the screening, director Talal Derki and Kristyan Benedict, Amnesty's Syrian campaign manager, stressed the importance of the cameramen (one of whom is now missing) who were trusted, up close and filming in real time. They pointed out that the film could not show everything about Syria; its focus is on one person, with his machismo and vulnerabilities. And the all-male "cast"? Simply: "There are no women because there are no women."

The TV news regularly shows the horrors of Syria, edited but still shocking, so why watch a whole film that shocks and disturbs? Partly it's because the film engages with one vivid personality and partly because the sense of place and community is so strong. Some images are indelible.

For information about future screenings go to www.ourscreen.com/returntohoms

August at the Phoenix

By Elizabeth Taylor-Mead, executive director of the Phoenix Cinema
Hot, hot, hot! That's what you expect outdoors at the end of the summer and that's a good description of the offerings inside the Phoenix now too. Throughout August we're bringing you great variety in our onscreen entertainment, starting with our feature runs.

A Promise is a romantic story set in Germany before WW1, starring Rebecca Hall and Alan Rickman. *Mood Indigo* has Audrey Tautou going floral in a fable by Michel Gondry while *Lilting* is a small gem featuring Ben Whishaw.

The German Doctor in the film *Wakolda* is none other than Joseph Mengele; it's a film based on a true story of his time with a family in Argentina. *Waltz With Bashir's* director Ari Folman gives us something extraordinary in *The Congress*: a hybrid Robin Wright as an aging actress who preserves her digital image for a future Hollywood.

Young actress Shailene Woodley's career is on the rise with *The Fault In Our Stars*, a film that wins our tears and our laughter in equal measure, and best of all, without sentimentality. What if you only had *Two Days, One Night* to save your job by persuading your co-workers to give up their bonuses? That's the challenge Marion Cotillard faces in this deeply engaging, and thought-provoking film by the Dardenne Brothers.

Our welcoming café is under new management. We're offering themed and seasonal fresh food and drinks. See you at the movies!

School staff race for life

Members of Holy Trinity School staff took part in the Cancer Research 5k Race for Life on Hampstead Heath. They all managed to complete this female-only fundraiser in less than an hour and would like to thank those who donated to the cause. At the time of writing they had raised £420 on-line. Visit www.justgiving.com/holytrinity10 if you would like to contribute.

Published poet

Dennis Evans, who launched his fifth collection of poetry this year, has had three of his poems published in an world anthology of contemporary verse called *The Second Genesis*.

Dennis, who is of Welsh parentage, lives in East Finchley, where he publishes the N2 Poetry Magazine and is a tutor for East Finchley poetry writing workshops.

Cash boost for artsdepot

Artsdepot in North Finchley has been awarded a £900,000 grant to help keep its events and activities running for three years from 2015.

The funding from Arts Council England will enable artsdepot to continue to deliver its programme of performing and visual arts.

The venue at Tally Ho currently welcomes more than 100,000 visitors a year to watch shows in its theatres, see its arts exhibitions or take part in community art projects.

Chief executive Tracy Cooper said: "We're delighted to receive a further three years of support from Arts Council England. As we approach our 10th anniversary this autumn we look towards an exciting future, with a number of ambitious projects in the pipeline."