



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** class at EF Methodist Ch, Weds 1pm. James 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 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 Lilian 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. All musicians welcome 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.



Lande Belo as Fay Hubbard, Ian Grainger as Guy Jones and Natalie White as Hannah Lewellyn in 'A Chorus of Disapproval' at the Bull theatre.

Life imitates art

Local amateur dramatics society Garden Suburb Theatre returns to The Bull Theatre with Alan Ayckbourn's comedy *A Chorus of Disapproval* about an amateur operatic society struggling to stage a production of *The Beggar's Opera*.

The show must go on, but the director can't seem to get past page one and the cast are divided by sexual jealousies and by a local piece of land, which may or may not be worth a fortune. As the director says, "I wish they were professionals. Then I could sack them."

This production is being ably directed by local North London

playwright and journalist Francis Beckett and features a talented cast of both familiar and new faces.

The play runs from Thursday 22 to Saturday 24 May at 8pm, with a 3pm matinee on the Saturday. Tickets cost £12 (£10 concs) and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre or by ringing 020 7723 6609.

Fortismere Community Choir and Orchestra

Review by David Allenby

The latest concert by the Fortismere Community Choir and Orchestra played to a full house and was much enjoyed by all.

This local cultural initiative, combining Fortismere students, teachers parents and local musicians, continues to gather momentum, providing a genuine musical focus in N2, N10 and beyond.

The programme featured Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and Mozart's *Coronation Mass*. The Elgar favourite has special Muswell Hill connections: the concert venue of St Andrew's Church is only a street away from the home of the composer's publisher, August Jaeger on Curzon Road, who was immortalised by Elgar as Nimrod. This was the best performance the orchestra has given to date, richly deserving

the warm applause.

The work of Michael Solomon Williams with the choir continues to pay dividends. The opening Elgar items were well balanced between the voice parts with admirable diction, and the Mendelssohn hymn setting showed the choristers blending well with the sumptuous cello accompaniment.

Another highlight was provided by the quartet of young soloists in the *Coronation Mass*, particularly Raphaela Papadakis's demonstration of Mozartian vocal style in the final *Agnus Dei*. The next orchestral concert is on 12 July with music by Tchaikovsky and Brahms, so make a date.

What's on at the Phoenix in May

By Elizabeth Taylor-Meads, executive director, Phoenix Cinema

If you know your film customs you'll know that the Academy Awards, better known as Oscars, started in May 1929. If you know your Anglo Saxon customs you'll know that May is celebrated with Morris dancing and a maypole. The Phoenix Cinema (www.phoenixcinema.co.uk) suggests you sample our May offerings, with or without shin bells.

We're reviving another great tradition: late night screenings. Every first Friday of the month, Phoenix Nights unspools a film chosen and introduced by a celebrity host. At 11:45 pm on 2 May Reece Shearsmith of *League of Gentlemen* and *Psychoville*, presents the chilling *10 Rillington Place*, in glorious 35mm.

On 18 May, spend time with immortal youth, the legendary James Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause*. Here's your chance to don a poodle skirt or get creative with a quiff. Prizes for best costumes!

Fifty years ago audiences first played "what if" through Kevin Brownlow's milestone film, *It Happened Here*. You too can imagine what Britain would be like if Germany had won WWII on Sunday, 25 May.

10 May is *Cinderella* Day. Our Kids Club screens the classic Disney film at noon and later opera buffs enjoy Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, live from the Met.

Critically acclaimed new films run throughout the month. Tom Hardy is a man who does what a man's got to do in *Locke*. Michael Fassbender and a giant papier mache head star in quirky indie winner *Frank*.

Next, a Patricia Highsmith mystery glides elegantly onto the screen in *Two Faces of January*. Viggo Mortensen and Kirsten Dunst are upscale tourists in 1960s Greece. Oscar Isaac (*Inside Llewyn Davis*) is the guide who may or may or may not be scamming them.

So it seems we start and end with Oscars in May. See you at the movies!

A stimulating evening of poetry and music

Review by John Davies

Lovers of literature filled the Methodist Church in East Finchley on 22 March for the launch of a new book by local poet Dennis Evans.

The collection, entitled *First the Silence*, confirms his reputation as a gifted poet. Conjuring words out of silence, Dennis Evans makes them dance on the page. Always, though, his poems are rounded and full of meaning.

The book is divided into five elements: Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water. Following that structure, Dennis Evans celebrates with tender humour his life experiences, his family and friends.

Particularly evocative was his reading at the event of a poem recollecting a childhood in the Second World War. The poem

revolves around the hopeful assertion "The Germans won't bomb us, Gwyneth". To those old enough to remember, it captures the austerity and self-reliance of those make-do days.

The presentation of his poems was punctuated by some excellent and very melodic renderings by a group of young female singers.

The poems that comprise *First the Silence* are contained in a handsome, well-presented volume edited by Helen Green and published by Celebration Press, 58 Helen Close, East Finchley, London N2 0UU at a price of £10.

What's On... E-mail your listings to: the-archer@lineone.net

Saturday 3 May

• **RSPCA Jumble Sale** on first Saturday of every month, Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2, 1-2 pm. Next sale Saturday 7 June. Bric a brac, books, toys, children's and adults' clothing.

Saturday 10 May

• Fund raising for **World Lupus Day** at the Five Bells, East End Road, 10.30am -12 noon. Entry £5. Participants are invited to bake a cake and bring it on the day. Raffle tickets on sale too.

• **Fabulous Finchley**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at Finchley Central tube station (Ballards Lane exit) at 2.30pm. Contact Paul on 020 8440 6805 and visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Saturday 10 May

Barnet Borough Sight Impaired Group meet at Friern Barnet Community Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DS at 2pm. Tel. 020 8361 0174.

Sunday 11 May

• **Free concert** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, opposite Creighton

Avenue, 7.30pm. Jill Anderson, clarinet, Edmund Barrett, viola, and Anna Lightbown, piano, play Mozart's Clarinet Trio and a selection from Bruch's Eight Pieces. Free admission with collection in aid of Smile Train, helping children with cleft lip and palate. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

• **The Battle of Barnet**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road at 2.30pm. Contact Paul on 020 8440 6805 and visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Monday 12 May

• **Comedians Milton Jones and Ian Stone** perform a fundraiser for The Archer Academy at the Phoenix Cinema, 8.30pm. Tickets £25 plus booking fee from www.tinyurl.com/archercomedy. Over-18s only.

Saturday 17 May

• **Back to Work Confidence Boost Workshop** 9.45am to 4pm at The Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2. Spend a day with a professional team

of experts who will advise on job-seeking skills. Lunch and refreshments provided. Cost: £45 concs / £60 full price. Book in advance at www.efab.org.uk

• Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society's annual **Plant Sale**, 10.30am-12.00 noon, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11. Entry free.

Saturday 17 May

• **Spring Bouquet concert** at St Mary-at-Finchley Parish Church, Hendon Lane, N31TR at 6pm. Songs, arias and pieces to delight and entertain performed by Carl Gombich (bass), Rachel Weston (soprano) and Yuki Osedo (piano) with guest Alison Smart (Fisher). Entry free. Collection for Christian Aid and St Mary-at-Finchley. Doors open 5.30pm.

Sunday 18 May

• **Holy Trinity Primary School spring fair**, 12.00-2.30pm. Stalls including jarbola, tombola, pocket money toys and books. Delicious homemade food and cakes and a raffle. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 22 May

• **AGM of the Green Man Community Centre** to be held at the venue in Strawberry Vale, N2, from 6.30pm. All welcome.

• Simon Spillett presents the **music of Miles Davis** with Henry Lowther (trumpet), John Critchinson (piano), Dave Green (double bass) & Trevor Tomkins (drums), Lauderdale House, Highgate, 8.30pm. Tickets £9 (£7.50 concs). More information from www.lauderdalehouse.co.uk

Thursday 22 May to Saturday 24 May

• Garden Suburb Theatre performs **Alan Ayckbourn's A Chorus of Disapproval at The Bull Theatre, High Barnet, 8pm, with a 3pm matinee on the Saturday. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/gardensuburbtheatre**

Friday 21 June

• Highgate artist **Gohar Goddard's solo exhibition** 'Words in Forms and Graffiti' at Highgate Contemporary Art, 26 Highgate High Street, N6 5JG, Tuesday to Saturday, 10.30am to 6pm. Tel 020 8340 7564. www.highgateart.com