



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **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
- **Ladies Keep Fit Class** for over 50s. Tues 10.30-11.30am at Tetherdown Hall. Sheila 8444 0084.
- **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 Classes** Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk. 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.
- **Women's kick boxing**, Thursdays 9.30am, East Finchley Combat Academy, Church Lane, N2. Contact 07956 340540.

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 Ralph 8444 5903.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Gospel choir**, St Mary's, 279 High Road, N2, Thursdays 7-8pm, all welcome. Contact Sandra 07866 479913.
- **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
- **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



Fleur Adcock at East Finchley Library. Photo Mike Coles

A song to New Zealand

By Daphne Chamberlain

The crowd packing out the Black Gull bookshop last month for the launch of Fleur Adcock's new book of poems and prose had an unexpected treat. It's not every day of the week you can hear Fleur reciting a poem about her teddy bear. She was in dialogue with actress Carolyn Pickles, a fellow contributor to February's library read-in. Asked whether she had always wanted to be a poet, Fleur obliged with a very early example of her work.

It was also appropriate, as her new book, *The Land Ballot*, has a theme of children, young people, and domestic settings. She follows the efforts of her grandparents and her father to create a home and livelihood in New Zealand.

"I am half-occupying the eyes of my young father, still in his teens much of which he spent, like his school-mates, in bare feet on the back of a horse."

Fleur's father brought his family to England during World War II, but they returned to New Zealand when she was 13.

Later she returned here,

where she has been awarded an OBE and the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. She loves East Finchley, and clearly has an unbreakable link with her homeland too. As she said, she has more people living there now than when she left. It is where her grandchildren live.

Research for the book uncovered personal tragedies and triumphs, but she also reveals a picture to English readers of that country on the other side of the world. It is, Fleur says, her song to New Zealand.

The Land Ballot, ISBN 978-1-78037-147-4, is published by Bloodaxe Books.

Far-flung

East Finchley poet Dennis Evans has gone international after his work was published in *The Anthology of Contemporary World Poetry* and the *World Poetry Yearbook 2014*. His poetry has been translated into Urdu, Hebrew, Brazilian Portuguese and Swedish.

Dennis is also the publisher of the *N2 Poetry Magazine*. This example of his work, written in the city of Recife, Brazil, is called *Game*:

From this privileged third-floor middle-class flat, I watch the school kids play. Coloured, mixed race, black. Pelés in the making.



Inspiration: Dennis Evans in Brazil.

Mud, glorious mud

Children's charity The Bobath Centre, based in East End Road, is looking for volunteers to tackle a muddy obstacle course at Allianz Park, NW4, on Saturday 16 May.

It promises to be a huge challenge and great fun, and all funds raised will support the charity's work with children who have cerebral palsy. Entrants aged 14 and above are very welcome. For details call 020 8442 2275, email fundraising@bobath.org.uk or visit www.bobathcentre.org.uk.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

Crèche and Sunday School during service
Wheelchair access

For more information please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)
www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk

Visitors always welcome

One of Britain's best back gardens

In January 2015 Susan Bennett's unusual garden in Muswell Hill was featured on the ITV programme "Britain's Best Back Gardens". Here is her story:

As an Assistant County Organiser for the National Gardens Scheme, my remit is to find new gardens of interest. In April 2014 the tables turned when Alan Titchmarsh announced that to celebrate 50 years in horticulture he was seeking Britain's best private back gardens to feature in a TV series. I sent some photos to the production company. They liked them but warned us not to be disappointed if we were not chosen.

Weeks later, a request: "Can we come and see your garden?" In June the director came with a camera. He did some filming, talked to us at length, and mapped out how he was going to present our garden. Another phone call: "Can you think of something Alan could do apart from walking round the garden?"

Earl was working on a bust of Beethoven to scowl at another of Liberace for the mirrored candelabra-clad wall we call "Liberace Terrace". Beethoven was having

a bad hair day. I suggested that, if he didn't mind getting his hands dirty, Alan might give Earl a hand! He was thrilled at the prospect. Art was the only O-level he took at school.

Discovering magic

At 7.30 am on 4 July in brilliant sunshine the crew arrived with Alan. Seeing our unprepossessing 1960s end of terrace home in a cul de sac, it is hard for a visitor to imagine anything spectacular behind it. But, as if he had passed through a Narnia-like wardrobe, Alan's surprise at encountering the magical place beyond was totally genuine.

From 600 gardens he had whittled his choice to 30, to feature in three, hour-long, themed programmes. Ours was first in his 'Flights of Fantasy'. I think he admired the fact that, as artists, we had created almost every element ourselves. Alan's parting shot was: "No one can hold a candelabra to this garden!"



Alan Titchmarsh (left) helps to sculpture the head of Beethoven for the quirky garden of Earl Hyde (centre) and Susan Bennett for a new TV programme. Photo Nigel Sutton

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

Sunday 12 April

• Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, N2 (opposite Creighton Avenue), 7.30pm: Opera Scenes and Personal Favourites; Lucy Elizabeth Elston, soprano, Wendy Silvester, mezzo, Laurence Milne Panter, tenor, William Danes, baritone, and Richard Black, accompanist. Programme to include works by Mozart, Haydn, Schumann and Finzi. Free admission; collection in aid of mental health charity MIND. Venue fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Tuesday 14 April

• Battle of Barnet: special anniversary guided walk (14 April 1471) with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 11am. For more details contact Paul on 020 8440 6805 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net

Wednesday 15 to Saturday 18 April

• Finchley & Friern Barnet Operatic Society presents: Hot Mikado! The Intimate Theatre, Palmers Green, N13 4DH. Tickets from tickets@ffbos.com or www.ticketsource.co.uk/ffbos

Until Friday 17 April

• Spring Collection exhibition at Highgate Contemporary Art, 26 Highgate High Street, N6. Five talented and established artists present their personal interpretations of landscapes and their inspirations. Free entry.

Saturday 18 April

• Seed and Plant Swap at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, High Road, N2,

from 11.30am to 1pm. Bring your surplus plants and seeds and swap them. No entrance charge. No money changes hands.

Sunday 19 April

• Stephens Collection open from 1pm, East End Road, N3 3QE. Tel. 020 8346 7812. Sunday lunch available; main course from £7.50, dessert £3. Booking recommended.

Until Sunday 19 April

• Candida, by George Bernard Shaw, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate, Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30pm and Sunday at 4pm. Tickets £14-£16 (£2 concession) from box office on 020 8340 3488 or events@ovationproductions.com.

Thursday 30 April

• "Outreach" meeting of The Finchley Society; 8pm at artsdepot, N12. Meet the artsdepot team and enjoy a historical film of Finchley, and talk by Kieran Kettleton of North Finchley Town Team on regeneration of the area. All welcome.

Wednesday 6 May

• Tea Dance organised and run by students at Bishop Douglass School, Hamilton Road, N2; all welcome; 2.30pm-4.30pm. Entrance charge of £3 includes afternoon tea.

Saturday 18 May

• An evening of music and laughter with The Confections, 7.45pm, St Mary's Church Hall, 279 High Road, N2. Tickets (including refreshments) £8 and £7 concessions from 020 8440 2817 or at door on the night. All proceeds from the concert go to St. Mary's.