



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group**
Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **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. www.a-chord.uk
- **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.
- **Dance conditioning classes**. New body in 10 lessons. Diana: 07580 041270. www.boldbodies.co.uk.
- **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.
- **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 tunes** @ TOC Highgate Hill, join in playing by ear - 1st & 3rd Tues monthly 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.
- **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.



New eye on the familiar

Finchley artist Michael J Duke displayed some of his digitally-manipulated photos of local events in an exhibition at the Phoenix Cinema. He has a journalistic style of photography and treats his images in a way that takes them out of the two-dimensional. He won a Landscape of the Year award with the Hampstead Photographic Society in 2014. See his work online at www.mjduke.co.uk.

Photo art: Children's Orchestra by Michael J Duke

Powerful American music in concert

By Marian Bunzl

North London Chorus members are learning to sing with an American accent and brushing up our Hebrew pronunciation; both are needed for our June concert of 20th century American music.

The programme features Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs*, a lively medley of minstrel songs, ballads, and hymns, including the well-known Shaker song "Simple Things", arranged for choir and orchestra, and Eric Whittaker's beautiful *Hebrew Love Songs*, five of his wife's poems set to music, each one a delicate personal celebration of their courtship.

The main work of the evening is Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*. Premiered in 1971, this amazing work projects a political as well as a religious message. Based on the Roman Catholic Mass, the Latin liturgy for choir and orchestra is interspersed with ancient Hebrew prayers and 20th century lyrics and spoken texts by composer

Stephen Schwarz, Paul Simon and Bernstein himself.

The *Mass* was originally designed to be performed by street singers and a rock band, as well as choir and orchestra. Mercifully for us there is a later edition for a standard concert setting. However, even in this scaled-down version, Bernstein's powerful musical expression of the crisis of faith and cultural breakdown of the post-Kennedy era still resonates today.

Please come and enjoy our performance of these varied musical expressions of America at St James Church, Muswell Hill, on Saturday 11 June at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £10-£22 are available online at www.northlondonchorus.org/tickets and also from St James Bookshop and Les Aldrich Music Shop in Muswell Hill.

Charming quartet's virtuoso display at Methodist church

Review by Ken Carter

Here were four ladies, each with distinction. Viola da Cunha, mezzo, studied at Trinity College of Music, London; Andrea Whittaker, soprano, trained at Sydney Conservatorium of Music; Yukiko Osedo, piano, took a masters at the Royal Amsterdam Conservatory of Music; and Litsa Tunnah, violin, graduated from the Royal Academy of Music.

We began the evening at East Finchley Methodist Church sedately with duets by Mendelssohn, lieder by Schubert and Richard Strauss and the first half ended with the lilting charm of Offenbach's 'Barcarolle' as a duet.

Yuki, who earlier had given discreet accompaniment throughout, opened the second half with a vigorous take on Mozart's 'Turkish Rondo' from the sonata KV 331. Viola and Andrea followed with three songs each by Rossini, Seiber and Granados.

Then came the most spectacular event of the evening: Litsa and Yuki playing Sarasate's 'Zigeunerweisen', a breathtaking virtuoso display for violin, reinforced by robust piano accompaniment. Halfway through this showstopper, I realised how splendid an instrument Litsa was playing. I felt privileged to hear this partnership of splendid performer and equally splendid instrument.

The concert finished uproariously with Humperdinck's dance duet from 'Hansel und Gretel', where Andrea let rip, letting us see how lucky the people of Sydney had been to have her as the lead soprano in their Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

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What's On...

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

Thursday 5 May

• **Garden open for the National Gardens Scheme:** Anne and Alan Dalman at 27 Wood Vale, N10, from 6pm to 9pm, with wine. Admission £5, children free.

Saturday 7 May

• **Battle of Barnet:** guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Explore the famous battlefield (1471) of the Wars of the Roses. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road at 11am. For more details, contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Sunday 8 May

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue. Journey with Yuki Osedo on piano and Chika Tsuji on flute performing Mozart, Ravel, Liszt, Debussy, Takemitsu and Gershwin, 7.30pm. Free, with collection in aid of Save the Children. Venue fully accessible.

Sunday 15 May

• **Garden open for the National Gardens Scheme** at 33 Wood Vale, N10, from 2pm to 5.30pm. Admission £3 with homemade teas.

• **Charles Dickens in North London:** guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Explore sites connected to Dickens's life and work in Finchley, Barnet, Highgate, Hampstead and North London; 2.30pm. For meeting place and more details, contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Sunday 22 May

• **Garden open for the National Gardens Scheme** at Princes Avenue Gardens, N10, from 2pm to 6pm. Admission £4, children free, with homemade teas, plants for sale and a raffle.

From Friday 27 May to Sunday 26 June
• **Wallis, A Certain Person:** new play with music set between 1931 and 1936

dramatising the love affair between Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson that led to a constitutional crisis. Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate Village. More details and bookings on 020 8340 3488 or www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com.

Saturday 11 June

• **Wildflower and pollinator day at Long Lane Pasture**, opposite fire station in Long Lane, 10am to midday. With the help of warm, dry weather the pasture will look its prettiest in June. Booklets and advisors available to identify flora and fauna finds.

• **North London Chorus and Meridian Orchestra** perform Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs* and Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*; St James Church, Muswell Hill, 7.30pm. Tickets online at www.northlondonchorus.org/tickets or from St James Bookshop and Les Aldrich Music Shop, Muswell Hill.