



Ian Stone



Geoff Norcott



Hal Cruttenden



Jo Caulfield

Stand-up night will be laugh a minute

Tickets are on sale for what promises to be a night of first-class comedy when the Archer Academy secondary school transforms the Phoenix Cinema into a stand-up venue again.

Ian Stone, a parent at the school and voted as one of the top ten UK stand-up comedians by The Independent, will host the evening for the fourth year running on Monday 14 May, raising funds for school activities and equipment.

This year he will be joined by Hal Cruttenden (*Mock the Week, Live at the Apollo*), Geoff Norcott (*Live at the Apollo, The Mash Report*) and Jo Caulfield (*Never Mind the Buzzcocks, The Stand-up Show*).

Ian Stone said: "There is always such a great atmosphere at this event at the Phoenix. It's a

great night to be involved in and hopefully we'll bring people some great comedy."

Lucy Harrison, headteacher at the school in Eagans Close, N2, added: "This is one of the highlights in the Archer Academy's calendar and we are delighted to be working with Ian Stone to bring this fabulous event to the local community again."

Tickets cost £25.00 plus booking fee and are available at tinyurl.com/archercomedy2018. Doors open at 8.30pm for a 9pm show. Please note that the event is for over 18s only.

Coming soon: Proms at St Jude's 2018

Proms at St Jude's, the annual music and literary festival in Hampstead Garden Suburb, has announced an impressive programme for its 2018 season.

Classical music lovers can choose from the Aurora Orchestra, which plays from memory, Nevill Holt Opera performing *The Marriage of Figaro*, award-winning local mezzo-soprano Grace Davidson with the renowned Academy of Ancient Music, the Kanneh-Mason Piano Trio, featuring Sheku Kanneh-Mason, the 2016 BBC Young Musician of the Year, and a traditional 'Last Night of the Proms', with singing of *Jerusalem* and sea shanties.

If you prefer something different, the line-up this year also offers a tribute to Bob Dylan, a Gilbert & Sullivan evening, a brass septet, and a jazz-influenced concert, including songs from the Great American Songbook and cabaret songs by Kurt Weill.

There are free lunchtime concerts and some special events for children and families. The festival also offers Heritage Walks, a two-day Literary Festival and, for the first time this

year, a stand-up comedy night.

Proms at St Jude's is run almost entirely by volunteers, with all surplus going to charity. It runs from 23 June to 1 July,



Young musicians: The Kanneh-Mason Piano Trio

at St Jude's Church, Central Square, NW11 7AH. Tickets go on sale from 23 April, but you can get priority booking earlier by becoming a Friend. More details at www.promsatstjudes.org.uk.



Playing from memory: The Aurora Orchestra. Photo Nick Rutter

Letters

Make the most of our library

Dear Editor,

When I visit East Finchley Library, I often see library card holders turned away for not having a PIN number allowing them to enter in 'unattended hours'. Last Saturday afternoon a mum and her two young daughters were only allowed in due to my insistence.

Yes, the system is wrong, the hours are too short and evening hours are minimal. Can I urge *Archer* readers to come in during staffed hours and register for a PIN number to use during the unattended hours? So many people seem not to be aware of the need to do this.

East Finchley Library is alive and open, I am pleased to report, in many ways unchanged, and with new toilets, excellent books and great librarians. I've been critical of the library changes in Barnet and still am but do visit and enjoy yourself, with your PIN number.

Yours faithfully,
Brian Ingram,

Brookland Rise, NW11.

Editor's note: East Finchley Library staffed hours are: Monday 9am-12.30pm, Wednesday 2pm-8pm, Thursday 2-5pm and Saturday 9am-12.30pm.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page" The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail the-archer@lineone.net.

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

Insights into an unexpected rise to power

By Daphne Chamberlain

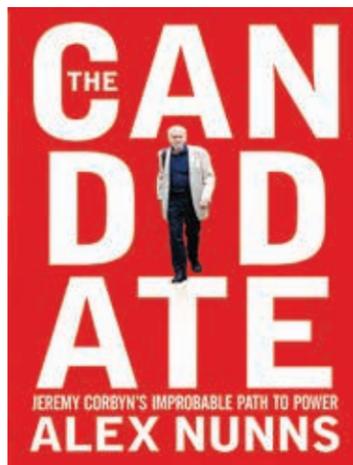
Young, old, and stages in between, all crowded into the Black Gull bookshop in the High Road last month to hear author Alex Nunns talking about his updated edition of *The Candidate: Jeremy Corbyn's Improbable Path to Power*.

The first edition, winner of the Bread and Roses Award, was published in November 2016 and covered Corbyn's rise to leadership of the Labour Party. This new edition obviously includes last year's snap General Election.

Questions ...

Reviews calling it "a really riveting read" and "like a political thriller" are not wrong. It's well written and carefully referenced. Alex Nunns takes us behind the scenes as

the UK's political world was turned upside down. How did a man who was a very well-liked and respected, but personally unambitious, backbench MP for 32 years, suddenly become his party's leader? How did he then survive a coup, a leadership challenge and a 25-point opinion poll deficit to lead that



party to a 40% share of the national vote?

... and answers

Nunns has a three-part answer to his questions: the national Party membership had turned against New Labour, the unions had moved left, and there was a great surge of energy in society against economic austerity. People wanted to take an active part in politics, and could do that easily now with social media. New legislation allowed non-Party members to register to vote, and limited MPs to one person, one vote.

All this produced results which completely confounded the expectations of Westminster, political commentators and most of the media, who were shown to be completely out of touch. People voted for



Alex Nunns talks about his book 'The Candidate' at Black Gull Books. Photo Mike Coles

the "unelectable".

Alex Nunns spoke well at the Black Gull, giving intriguing glimpses of life

behind the headlines.

The Candidate is published by OR Books. ISBN 9 781682 191040.