



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group**
Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **Outdoor Fit Camp** Lyttelton Playing Fields, N2, 6.30pm Wed and 9.30am Sat. Call Martin on 07809 593952.
- **Pilates** Classes Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 12pm, 1pm, 6pm & 7pm. 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 beginners' course** at Yogalogy, High Road, N2. Contact 020 70187377 or info@yogalogy.co.uk
- **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

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: archercommunitychoir@gmail.com.
- **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.
- **'Calm & Sing' workshops**. Contact Angie on missangiea@yahoo.co.uk
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
- **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.
- **Rock 'n Roll dance lessons**, 8pm every Weds at the Constitutional Club, The Walks. Drop-in. Call Kav 07721 489489.
- **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**, Thursday & Saturday afternoons, Age UK, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.



Tim Arnold performing at last year's arts festival Photo Mike Coles

The Arts Festival is coming

By Daphne Chamberlain

All our annual jamborees zip past at ever increasing speed, and the East Finchley Arts Festival is almost here. This year it's running from Thursday 27 September until Sunday 7 October at its usual base in All Saints Church, Durham Road, N2. On offer is a mix of old and new favourites and interesting new faces.

Pop-Up Opera pop back again with Peter Brook's re-imagining of *Carmen*. Last year's new boy Tim Arnold will return with another lively show, as will Paprika's Balkan Band. We will meet String Ting, the all-female jazz trio from Tomorrow's Warriors, a UK hothouse for young jazz talent.

Festival director Geoffrey Hanson presents his new work, *Death Be Not Proud*, settings and interludes on Life and After-life. This will be with London Mozart Players and the London Ripieno Singers, when we can also hear a young prizewinning Lithuanian pianist playing Mozart's *Piano Concerto 28*.

Classic film *The Prime of*

Miss Jean Brodie has a festival showing at the Phoenix Cinema.

Back at All Saints, the Art Exhibition runs throughout the festival, with an evening devoted to it.

Take your pick at other times from the Max Bruck Trio, Voxcetera, London Metropolitan Brass, and The Finchley Children's Music Group, who are celebrating their 60th anniversary.

The Archer will print the detailed programme next month, when printed programmes and posters will be available too. Further information and booking facilities will also be available online at eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk

What's On...

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

Sunday 5th August

• **Grange Big Local Explorers Picnic** 11.30am to 3pm on Brownsell Green, between Oak Lane and Brownsell Road, N2. Bring friends, family and food and enjoy the summer weather whilst trying out your neighbours' cooking at the same time! The picnic is also an opportunity to help create a new green space in an area which currently has very little. Attendees are invited to help cut back some of the brambles (and help pick the blackberries) and to contribute to a discussion about how to improve the space. Long trousers, closed shoes and gardening gloves are recommended. Tools will be provided for those who wish to do some clearing on the day. For further information, please contact info@grangebiglocal.org.

Monday-Thursday 6-9, 13-16 August

• **Photography workshops for age 10+** Workshops run for 4 days, exploring a different subject each day, including portrait, nature and street photography., learning about composition and basic camera settings, working solo and in teams. Workshop will take place in East Finchley Mon-Thu 10:00-13:00. Limited to 6 places! Email contact@asiamsoci.com for details.

Sunday 12 August

• **Battle of Barnet, a guided walk** with

City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, EN5 5PP, at 11am. More details from Paul on 020 8440 6805 or from www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Wednesday 15 August

• **Join a Ramblers Association six-mile walk** from Hendon Central station through local parks and open spaces, finishing at The Gate in Arkley. Refreshments can be purchased at The Gate but take a drink with you. Bus 107 from The Gate to High Barnet Station. More details from leaders Julia and John Haynes on 020 8906 0563 or 07803 892 496.

Saturday 18 August

• **Butterfly Morning at Long Lane Pasture**, opposite fire station in Long Lane, N3, 10am to midday. If weather is warm and dry visitors should see many of the species already recorded at the pasture. Booklets available to help with identification.

Monday 27 August

• **Open day at Gordon Road Allotments**, off Dollis Road, N3, 1.30pm to 5pm. Explore the plots, hear a talk on bees and buy produce including honey and homemade teas. Entrance £3.50 (children free) raising money for the National Garden Scheme charities. Enquiries to finchleyhorticulturalandsociety@gmail.com

Revenge is sweet in Ancient Greece

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

Greek god of winemaking (and other things) Dionysus visited north London last month when The Hampstead Players presented *The Bacchae*. The classical tragedy by Euripides seemed a bold choice, but paid off.

"This is a really good play," I heard one member of the audience say to another, as we all strolled or sat outside during the interval, wine glasses in hand. 'Outside' was the graveyard of Hampstead Church, where the Players perform and a very suitable venue for a tale of revenge and grisly death.

Matthew Williams played Dionysus as an evil Kenneth Williams. This is complimentary. We laughed at many of his lines, but we were meant to. The god was visiting Thebes in disguise, bewitching the women of the city into wild revelry out on the hills, while organising the killing of his cousin King Pentheus. And we could never forget that beneath the wit was evil: excellent acting.

Greek drama is easy to understand because the audience has the help of the Chorus to explain the plot. This Chorus became stronger as

the play unfolded. They had some mesmerising moments accompanied by soft, sensuous music and the powerful, haunting voice of their solo singer Veronica Stalberg. And there was nothing soft about the blood chilling screams announcing news of the horrible death of Pantheus, which traditionally happens offstage.

The play was tightly directed and beautifully acted, though acoustics in the church were kinder to the men's voices than to some of the women. I personally don't think dressing the leading actors in present day clothes was necessary, but that's a minor detail. As that audience member confirmed in the interval, a play that has survived for over 2,000 years is still powerful and relevant enough to speak to audiences today.

For more information about The Hampstead Players, see www.hampsteadplayers.org.uk.

It's good to look odd this summer

Children and parents shopping in Muswell Hill over the school holidays might like to try the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association's Odd One Out competition.

Launched successfully in many of the area's shops last year, it is hoped that lots of children aged 12 and under will again take part.

The idea is to find one strange object in shop windows that is out of place, for example a spanner in a sweet shop or an Oxo cube in a bookshop. The object may be of any size, but the smaller it is, the harder it is to spot.

Participating shops will display an Odd One Out sign in their window and have their own number for you to log your find against.

Entry forms are available in Muswell Hill Library and on the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association website <http://mhfga.org>, which also has competition details, as does its social media channels.

Curtain up at Ally Pally

After 80 years in the dark, Alexandra Palace Theatre will soon be open again. The East Wing Restoration Project has restored one of London's most popular playhouses and tickets for the first season of shows starting in December are now on sale. Opened in 1875, and famous for its magical stage machinery, the theatre took audiences of up to 3,000. Visit www.theatre.alexandrapalace.com to find out more.

Headscratcher

By Oliver Skanberg-Tippen

Can you turn 'Find' into 'Duet' in five steps, changing just one letter each time? Solution on page 11.

