



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group**
Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- **Outdoor Fit Camp** Lyttelton Playing Fields, N2, 6.30pm Wed and 9.30am Sat. Call Martin on 07809 593952.
- **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 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**, every Saturday 1.30-4pm, Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.



Four play: The Oberon String Quartet tune up at St Michael's Church in Highgate

Many strings to their bows

By Marian Bunzl

Violinist Jan Matthews and viola player Robert Puzey were in an orchestral rehearsal at music college 20 years ago when a chance remark planted the seed of an idea. In the years since, their idea has blossomed into East Finchley's own much sought-after string quartet.

Jan, Robert and their team of local instrumentalists are known as the Oberon String Quartet, offering bespoke musical accompaniment to a wide variety of celebratory and official functions in London and across the South East.

Bespoke music for special occasions

Their elegant, distinctive sound has graced occasions from weddings to funerals, from birthdays to bar mitzvahs, from corporate entertainments to charity fundraisers, from intimate dinners... to appearing in an episode of *EastEnders* filmed in a hotel in Harrow.

They have equally fond memories of performing at St. James's Palace in front of various members of the

Royal Family, and at a surprise birthday party for the previous owners of the Les Aldrich music shop in Muswell Hill.

For this varied clientele Jan and Robert have amassed an equally versatile repertoire for four players, from the Baroque to the Beatles. Indeed, clients often have even more eclectic tastes; at one wedding the *Game of Thrones* theme was specially requested for the signing of the register, and has since become a popular choice. Robert's arrangement of The Imperial March from *Star Wars* is also much in demand.

Word of mouth

Oberon's success owes much to Jan and Robert's style of management as well as their musical talent. Word of mouth has also helped: a guest at a City dinner was the mother of the captain of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers and her enthusiastic recommendation led the Oberon Quartet to a hunting lodge in Germany to entertain at a party for this regiment before deployment to Afghanistan.

Now the quartet is beginning to meet a second generation of clients: a lady at whose

wedding they had performed approached them at a wedding fair to introduce her daughter!

You can hear and see clips of the quartet playing and find out more on their website www.oberonstringquartet.co.uk. They will also be playing at the Wedding Fair at Grim's Dyke Hotel, Harrow, on Sunday 18 February. They say anyone mentioning *The Archer* when making a booking will receive a 10% discount.

Shadow and light

Work by artist Christine Watson, of Creighton Avenue, N2, has been selected from over 800 entries to appear alongside paintings by some of Britain's leading pastel artists. See her work as part of The Pastel Society's annual exhibition at Mall Galleries in central London between 20 February and 3 March. Find out more from www.mallgalleries.org.uk.



Pastel passage: *Cumae Passage* by Christine Watson

Scout group seeks leaders

The 224 North London Scout group that meets in Sheldon Avenue, N6, is looking for volunteer leaders to help with the Beavers (ages six to eight) and Cubs (ages eight to 10).

You don't need to have any specialist skills to join as a leader, and volunteering is flexible, allowing you to dedicate as much or as little time as you can spare. Volunteers should be aged over 18. For more details email Del@224northlondonscouts.org.uk.



Three wishes: The Garden Suburb Theatre cast clutch their unusual treasures.

Has anyone found the genie?

The cast of Garden Suburb Theatre's new production of *Aladdin: a Camel's Tale* show off their treasures but will one of them find the magic lamp with the genie inside?

Their show is set in a land far far away, where the sand dunes of ancient Arabia meet the sea, a Chinese spy is hot on the trail of the baddest baddies, and there are thieves and flying carpets wherever you look. And a camel called Trump.

Performances run at the Bull Theatre, Barnet, on 16 and 17 February at 7.30pm and on 17 and 18 February at 3pm. Tickets are £13/£10, with a family ticket for £40. To book visit www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk.

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

Sunday 11 February

• **Hooray for Hendon!**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet outside Hendon Central tube station at 11am. For more details contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm; The Haywood Trio (Katherine Bamber on violin, Elizabeth Nevrlka on cello and David Trafford on piano) play Bridges, Haydn and Saint-Saens. Free admission with collection in aid of Homeless Action in Barnet. Venue fully accessible.

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 February

• **Garden Suburb Theatre presents *Aladdin: a Camel's Tale*** at the Bull Theatre in Barnet, a yarn of thieves and betrayal, magical genies and flying carpets. Performing 16 and 17 February 7.30pm, 17 and 18 February 3pm. Tickets £13/£10; family ticket £40. To book visit www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk.

Saturday 17 February

• **Hampstead Garden Suburb: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet outside Golders Green tube station at 11am. For more details contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Sunday 25 February

• **Battle of Barnet: guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road EN5 5PP, 2.30pm. For more details contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

• **Ramblers Association five-mile walk from Alexandra Palace**; meet at 10.30am outside the BBC tower at Alexandra Palace to walk through eight conservation areas and nine parks, finishing at Bruce Castle about lunchtime. Bring sandwiches; tea and coffee available in museum. More details from leaders Chris Barker and Joyce Rosser on 020 8347 7684 or 07951 905 490 or visit www.ramblers.org.uk/finchley-hornsey.