



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **1-2-1 boxing and Pilates** training with Martin Carroll at home or private studio, call 07809 593952
- **Pilates** Classes Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Pilates** with Michele: private and group classes, all levels. Michele 07947 657 441
- **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.
- **Tennis group lessons** for adult beginners and intermediates, weekends, Park Road, N8. Contact Maz on tennisgift@gmail.com.
- **This Mum Runs**: Free social runs in East Finchley and Muswell Hill, Sunday 8am and Wednesday 7.30pm. Contact trishy. dixon@gmail.com.
- **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.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: archercommunitychoir1@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.
- **Jazz Club** at the Bohemia, North Finchley. Call 020 7998 6217 or 07957 347411 for more information
- **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- **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 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** friends-of-cherrytreewood.home.blog 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.



Recycled: Surinder Shani in his garden of art made from throw-away materials. Photo: Mike Coles.

Sculptor with an eye for old rubbish

By John Lawrence

Whenever plumbers do any work for Surinder Shani, the first thing he tells them is not to throw anything out. As soon as they start, he is already eyeing up any old pipes or boiler parts and wondering how he could use them in his art.

Surinder, 84, works with plastic tubes, bed springs, old barbecues and metal sheeting – in fact any junk that might usually end up in a skip – and sculpts them into fascinating abstract figures that have filled his home and garden in East End Road, N2.

Exploring shapes and materials

The artist, an architect by profession, sometimes encases his forms in cement and sand, creating elegant figures like a mother and child dancing. He has no studio and creates everything on the spot in his garden.

In his 40s, Surinder turned to painting as a creative relief from his heavily-regulated job

designing hospitals and other public buildings. Then 25 years ago he added sculpture to his repertoire, starting with casting some unwanted desks in concrete.

"I see shapes I could recycle in all kinds of objects. I find it a lot more challenging to work with materials that are lying around because it makes my imagination work harder to find ways of using them," he said. "When I start a piece I don't know how it will end up. Sometimes I finish in hours, sometimes it takes many attempts to satisfy me."

Outreach to schools

Surinder's paintings and sculptures have been displayed

in galleries but he rarely sells them. His new mission is to share his love of the visual arts with today's schoolchildren.

He said: "One of my paintings is already on loan to Friern Barnet School and I'd be happy to hear from any others interested in borrowing a sculpture or painting. The visual arts are being downgraded in the curriculum today and I understand that many schools don't have the money to promote them. If I can help bring young people in closer contact with art, I will be happy."

We will pass on messages from any schools interested in contacting Surinder. Email him via: news@the-archer.co.uk

Phoenix at Christmas

Families have a host of treats in store for them over the festive season at the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley, staff have announced.

The main feature over the Christmas period will be the next intergalactic instalment *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*, starring Daisy Ridley, who happened to attend the Phoenix for a private event back in November.

The much-anticipated Disney sequel *Frozen 2* will be showing on weekdays throughout the school Christmas holidays and the popular CBeebies Christmas show will be screened on Sunday 1 December.

There is the traditional screening of *It's a Wonderful Life*, with free sherry and mince pie, on Sunday 22 December and there will also be screening of the Royal Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* on Tuesday 17 December.

Other special events include *Les Miserables: The Staged Concert* on Monday 2 December, the Old Vic's *Present Laughter*, starring Andrew Scott, on Monday 9 December and the Royal Ballet's *Coppelia* on Tuesday 10 December.

Choose the Phoenix first

Alison Gold, chair of the Phoenix trustees, said the cinema will be running a Christmas raffle throughout December to continue with its fundraising drive and she urged film-goers in East Finchley to choose the Phoenix first.

What's On...

Thursday 5 to Saturday 7 December

• **The Guild Players present Aladdin** at Finchley Methodist Church Hall, Ballards Lane, N3 1NB. All performances 7.30pm, plus Saturday matinee 3pm. Tickets online at ticketsource.co.uk/theguildplayers or on the door (cash or cheque only). Foyer opens 30 minutes before show. Collect booked tickets at least 10 minutes before performance starts. Box office enquiries 07938 232027.

Saturday 7 December

• **Mineral, Gem and Fossil Show** hosted by Finchley branch of the Amateur Geological Society, 10am-4pm, Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12 7NN. £2 entrance, under 12s free. Large hall with fossils, jewellery, gems, rocks and mineral stalls, refreshments, tombola and lucky dip.

• **Martin School Christmas Fair**, Plane Tree Walk, N2, 12noon-3pm; enjoy Santa's grotto, delicious cakes, games and treats, something for all the family.

• **Highgate Primary School Christmas Fair**, Storey Road, N6 4ED, 12.30-4pm, with Santa's grotto, mulled wine and mince pies, raffle, tombola and lots of festive family fun! Adults £3, kids free.

• **Switch-on of East Finchley's Christmas lights** around the tree outside Budgens, 4.30pm; carols led by the Archer Community Choir and Brookland Junior School Choir; free mince pies and mulled

wine. Everyone welcome.

• **Fortismere Community Choir**, conducted by Marvin Perrott, perform wonderful music for Christmas (Rachmaninoff, Janacek and Lauridsen's *O Nata Lux*) and carols old and new for everyone to join in; St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road, N10 2DD, 7.30pm. Tickets £10 in advance via www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk or £12 on the door.

• Chamber choir **Voxcetera** presents its Christmas concert *Star of Wonder*, an evening of sacred music and traditional carols for all to join in, at Hornsey Parish Church, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH. Tickets £20, £16, £14 (under-18s half price on top two bands) available from voxcetera.co.uk. Refreshments available.

Sunday 8 December

• **Charles Dickens in North London, guided walk** with City of London guide Paul Baker; meet outside High Barnet tube station, 11am. More information from Paul on 07506 761294 or www.barnet-walks.co.uk

• Volunteers are invited to take part in a **litter pick and general clean up in Cherry Tree Wood**; meet at Summerlee Avenue gate at 2pm.

Wednesday 11 December

• **The London Mozart Players and London Ripieno Singers** present a concert at All Saints' in Durham Road, N2, 7.30pm; music

by Elgar, Mozart and Vaughan Williams, with two works by Geoffrey Hanson, whose 80th birthday the concert marks. Tickets online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/efinchleyarts, and locally from Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2.

Wednesday 11 December to Sunday 26 January

• **Ovation** presents the London fringe premiere of the hit Broadway musical *42nd Street*, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate Village, N6. Musical numbers include *We're in the Money*, *Lullaby of Broadway*, *You're Getting to be a Habit with Me* and the title song *42nd Street*. More information and tickets from upstairsatthegatehouse.com

Saturday 14 December

• **Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale**, 10am-1pm, Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; info: 020 8368 8180 or 07708 152354; admission 50p; refreshments available.

• **Finchley Chamber Choir and Finchley Symphony Orchestra present The Glory of Christmas**, music for all the family, including Handel *Messiah* (excerpts), JS Bach *Christmas Oratorio* (opening chorus), Parry, Lehar, Elgar, Massenet and Strauss, with favourite carols for all to sing; Trinity Church, North Finchley, N12 7NN, 7.30pm. Tickets available on the door, or in advance at www.fcchoir.co.uk: £15, £13 concessions, £6 under-18s.

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

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December

• **Pop-up Christmas sale** of ceramics, glassware, gifts, cards and present ideas at **Offshoot Gallery and Studio space**, High Road, N2, near junction with Bedford Road. Other gifts: original artwork, skincare, pet products, jewellery, books, wrapping paper and cards.

Sunday 15 December

• **Ramblers Association nine-mile walk from Highgate to the Olympic Park** passing through Parkland Walk (London's longest nature reserve), several parks, Woodberry Wetlands, Abney Park Cemetery and along the River Lea and Hackney Marshes. Return from Hackney Wick DLR to Northern line. Early dropout points possible. Bring packed lunch. Meet at Highgate tube station, 10.30am. More information from leader Declan Leyden on 07503 619465.

• **Jazz at the Bohemia**, 762-764 High Road, North Finchley, 7.30pm; Eriko Ishihara (piano, vocals), Andy Hamill (bass) and Allison Neale (saxophone). Entry £10.

Sunday 22 December

• **Ramblers Association Winter Solstice Walk** a seven-mile route around Hadley Wood to celebrate the shortest day. Bring a festive picnic to share. Meet at Hadley Wood station, 10.40am. More information from leaders Vivien Mallindine and Julia Haynes on 07709 041784 or 07803 892496.