



Park by park: How the walk weaves through London.

A walk through London's parks

More than 1,000 people are expected to join the biggest fundraising event of the year for the North London Hospice when the Big Fun Walk sets off from East Finchley.

The date for this year's walk is Sunday 5 May and registration is open now. Adults can sign up for £12.50 and children

for £7.50, with a requested minimum sponsorship of £25.

The 8.5-mile walk leaves East Finchley tube station and sets off through Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Wood and on to Hampstead Heath, Regents Park and Hyde Park before finishing at Westminster.

A free lunch, refreshments and goody bag are provided for everyone taking part. All the money raised supports the vital work of the hospice at its base in Whetstone and in family homes across north London. Find out more and sign up at www.bigfunwalk.co.uk.

Advice service

A free citizens' advice service funded by the Grange Big Local project is available in conjunction with Citizens Advice Barnet at St Mary's Parish Centre, 279 High Road, N2.

The service is available by appointment at grangeadvice@barnetcab.org.uk or leave a message at 020 8629 5376.

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Phoenix rising as raising funds goes full steam ahead

By John Lawrence

Fundraising activities are in overdrive at the Phoenix Cinema as staff, trustees and volunteers race to generate enough cash to keep the cinema independent. There is a target of raising £50,000 by the end of March to avoid the risk of insolvency. With the merger of the Save the Phoenix campaign and the Phoenix's own fundraising team, a new crowdfunding site has been launched and donations are welcome. The Phoenix Rising site is www.justgiving.com/campaign/phoenixrising.

Big names on board

Phoenix patrons including Benedict Cumberbatch, Dame Judi Dench and Maureen Lipman are being asked to take part in fundraising events, and the cinema is asking for help from its celebrity contacts throughout the film and music industries. Potential events include film quizzes and jazz evenings.

A prize raffle in December got everything off to a good start, bringing in £1,850 in a short space of time and spreading the word about the Phoenix's activities. Winner of two free tickets for a year was Alison Horton, with Russell

Warman and Helen Minn winning two free tickets for six and three months.

Can you help?

The cinema will be holding a fundraising weekend on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 March and is keen to hear from anyone who wants to organise their own fundraising events. Contact lead volunteer Jacky Fairfax and her team at phoenixvolunteers2018@gmail.com.

Bargain prices

Reduced price tickets for young people have been introduced and the relaunched young adults' membership Neon has had better take up in the last two months than in the past two

years. There will be February half-term price reductions to £5 child and £20 family ticket prices from Monday to Friday.

Top films on their way include Cannes Jury Award winner Capernaum and romantic drama If Beale Street Could Talk. Also showing is All Is True, written by Ben Elton and directed by Kenneth Branagh, about Shakespeare's later life.

On Sunday 24 February, the Phoenix will also show The Ponds (Still Waters Run Deep) about year-round swimmers at Hampstead ponds. Swimmers were filmed over 12 months as they laughed, complained and sang.



Prize winners: Helen Minn and Alison Horton receive their free Phoenix tickets from trustee Margaret O'Brien and lead volunteer Jacky Fairfax in the cinema foyer.

On the table

Table tennis is well known as a great way to keep fit and have fun at the same time.

There's a group that runs at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2, on Tuesdays from 2.15pm to 3.45pm and on Thursdays from 10.15am to 11.45am, costing £4 per session. Find out more by emailing michael.jobling@ntlworld.com.

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