



Playing live: Nameless on stage.

From nursery to Nirvana

By John Lawrence

Four young friends who love to play the rock music of Nirvana, Metallica and Guns N' Roses will be rocking community the stage at this year's East Finchley Festival.

Brothers Mikail, 12, and Zac Ahmed, 10, have known brother and sister Isaac, 12, and Annie McMahan, nine, since nursery school and they started playing as the group Nameless 18 months ago. Last July they played a set at the St Mary's School summer fair in Finchley Central and this year they are out on the road (locally) to play to more people.

Their music teacher at St Mary's, Gabi Brais, says: "People moan about young people being attached to screens but it's all about balance. These kids are self-motivated, enthusiastic, talented and deserve to be heard."

Mikail and Isaac have the same guitar teacher so he helps them learn the songs and they practise as much as they can. "It feels really good when we can

play the songs we listen to," says Mikail. "The band is like a jigsaw puzzle, you need each piece to make it work."

Annie says: "Sometimes when we rehearse it's hard to keep the boys under control but we all love to play together and it's really motivated us knowing we are going to play at the East Finchley festival. We are all super excited, and also nervous."



The Big Choir. Photo by Joe Forbes

Raise your voice for research

By Diana Cormack

After six months in East Finchley, The Big Choir will be making its first local public performance at our community festival on Sunday 23 June.

The choir has four established branches elsewhere in Barnet and has been in existence for over three years. During this time it has raised more than £40,000 for cancer research. Money from monthly subscriptions and ticket fees is donated to The Francis Crick Institute in Kings Cross to support the work of scientists seeking cures for 200 different types of cancer.

The choir is made up of all ages and genders who meet from 7.30–9.00pm on Monday evenings in Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2. All abilities are welcome, there are no auditions and you don't need any experience.

Besides this year's festival, there are plenty of performance opportunities and the organisers are always on the lookout for brave members willing to take on solos. Your first (taster) session is free. To find out more call 07971 957 188, email info@thebigchoir.org or visit www.thebigchoir.org



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FESTIVAL 2019

The entertainment line-ups have been announced for this year's East Finchley Community Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 23 June along with details of the fun activities and attractions the free event has to offer.

Back for another year are festival favourites Jambs Owls, the storytelling tent, Punch & Judy and eco-arts for kids with East Finchley Open, as well as the ever-popular mega slides and climbing wall.

New for this year among the food stalls are vegan burgers, falafel and Vietnamese cuisine, and many others to cater for all tastes.

Be part of the festival

And it's never too late to volunteer a little time to help the event run smoothly. Anyone with an hour or two to spare would be welcomed on the day to be a steward or help with festival tasks. Get in touch with organisers at eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com

MAIN STAGE

Hosted by Kate Galston

• Queensway • Angie A • Rob Thom, • Miss Havisham's Digital Clock, • Dex & Mercy • Strange Load, plus some surprise guests.

THE ARCHER NEWSPAPER COMMUNITY STAGE

Compered by Cecilia Holmes

• Sing Mama Sing • Nameless • The Archer Academy Choir • The Archer Community Choir • Fortitude Dance Company • Holy Trinity School Choir • Fixation Theatre and Finchley Youth Centre • Brookland School orchestra, choir and dance; • Soto CIC dance and performing arts • The Big Choir • Fortitude Dance Company • Patrick's Jazz Class • Cecilia Holmes with music and quirky songs.

STORYTELLING TENT

Young ones can drop into the Storytelling Tent all afternoon to see: • Scottish storyteller Niall Moorjani mingling his original stories with traditional tales from across the world • Kay Dunn with stories for all • Hartbeeps – multi-sensory session for little ones to learn and have lots of fun • Kate Brown bringing stories alive • Rosie Moon, with her double bass • Roxie Stars telling stories about Eric the Elephant.

Find the full running order and the latest festival details at www.eastfinchleyfestival.org

Highgate fair rounds up dogs and sheep

A dog show is making a return to this year's Fair in the Square in Highgate on Saturday 15 June and the traditional sheep show will be there too, so let's hope the two don't get mixed up.

This annual event in Pond Square gets more ambitious every year and is a great day out for the whole family. There will be 150 stalls selling world food, crafts, books and plants or showcasing local activities.

The Highgate and Muswell Hill Brass Band will open the fair and there'll be a wealth of other free entertainment throughout the afternoon, including circus performers from Jacksons Lane, slime making, the Little Owl Book Club and a kids' tent with activities run by Lauderdale House.

Anyone interested in entering their four-legged friend in the dog show should turn up for 1.30pm on the performance area outside The Flask pub.

As always St Michael's Church will be serving up home baked cakes in its café and offering its spectacular Tower Tours as well as a performance by the choir.

The fair is a free event run by volunteers, much like the East Finchley Community Festival. Find out more at www.fairinthesquare.co.uk

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