



Crowdfunding push as Phoenix hosts a weekend of special events

By John Lawrence

The Phoenix Cinema is hosting a weekend of special activities this month to accompany the launch of its Phoenix Rising crowdfunding campaign, which hopes to raise £20,000 in donations to help keep the cinema independent.

Direct donations, large and small, are welcomed online at www.justgiving.com/campaign/phoenixrising or at the cinema. Meanwhile, film-goers are urged to keep visiting the Phoenix as often as possible to keep ticket sales healthy.

Ken's call

Phoenix patron and leading UK filmmaker Ken Loach has given his backing to the fundraising drive. He said: "The Phoenix, one of the oldest cinemas in the country, has a unique identity that combines quality programming with education and community activities for all ages. Please help the Phoenix rise again with your donations and support. And enjoy visiting this special cinema."

Busy weekend

Through the weekend of 15-17 March there will be a film quiz on the Friday evening, a Kids' Club screening of *Big Hero 6* on the Saturday morning, and a special screening of *Coldplay: A Head Full of Dreams*, followed by a Q&A with the film's award-

winning director Mat Whitecross.

There will also be a street collection on the Saturday, tours of the cinema and its historic projection booth on both Saturday and Sunday and a talk on the history of the Phoenix on Sunday. The cinema website www.phoenixcinema.co.uk has booking details for all events.

Showing support

Chair of Phoenix Cinema trustees Alison Gold said: "We saw an outpouring of support for the independence of the Phoenix at the end of 2018 and we'd now love people to demonstrate their support by getting behind our campaign. We welcome large and small donations to our online appeal or to the cinema in person."

Future plans to bring new events to the Phoenix include open mic comedy nights, late night jazz and audiences with local celebrities. Find out more about the fundraising activities by dropping into the cinema and picking up a leaflet.



Get knitted: The hat makers in action

Hats for the homeless

A group of knitters are keeping their needles clicking by making hats and scarves that they hand out to people in need who are living on the streets.

Organiser Lisa Goldblatt had the idea when the weather turned cold in the winter and she found she had plenty of leftover wool. "I donated my first one to a homeless man outside Tottenham Court Road station," said Lisa. "I carry some around with me when I am out and about. If I

see someone in need, I will offer one to them. It's a very small thing to do but at least I feel I am making use of my leftover yarn and keeping someone warmer at the same time."

As her knitting group starts to produce more items, they will also be donated directly

to homeless shelters and refuges. It meets once a month on Saturdays at the Fringe craft workshop in Alexandra Palace Road, N10, hosted there by Rosie, and everyone is welcome. Find out more from Lisa on 020 8883 8022 or lgoldblatt1@gmail.com.

Charity shop needs helpers

Our local RSPCA charity shop on the High Road is looking for volunteers. Anyone with a few spare hours would be welcome to come and help there.

This sort of voluntary work is a good way to meet others and to make new friends. It can provide practice for language skills should you need this. Gap year students or those wishing to widen their experience in the working environment could enhance their CVs by undertaking such work. It is also helpful for building confidence before returning to or entering the world of paid work.

If you are interested, call 020 3719 2257 or pop into the shop at 160 High Road and have a chat with Julie the manager.

Three decades of companionship

Housekeeper Lin Kenny is celebrating 30 years as a member of the team at Abbeyfield House, a sheltered housing community in Hampstead Garden Suburb for elderly people who no longer want the responsibility of running their own home.



Long-serving: Lin Kenny

Lin has been one of the housekeeping team providing security and companionship since 1989, six years after the house opened as part of the nationwide Abbeyfield Society.

Abbeyfield, off Erskine Hill, NW11, has communal sitting and dining rooms and a well-maintained private garden. Residents keep in touch with the community through coffee mornings, open days and a calendar of outings.

The next coffee morning and open house is on Saturday 18 May. There are currently two rooms vacant. Find out more from the House team on 020 8455 2607.

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