



Gardeners get ready to open up secret spaces

By David Melsome

Gardeners across north London are preparing to open their precious spaces to the public this spring and summer to raise funds for charities supported by the National Gardens Scheme.

The season starts on Sunday 2 June when Ruth Kersley opens her garden at 66 Abbots Gardens, N2, from 2pm to 5.30pm, featuring home-made teas and her own works in glass and mosaic. Entry is £4, children free. Next comes Susan Bennett and Earl Hyde opening their garden at 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10 on Sunday 16 June from 2pm to 6pm, featuring their oriental tea house, carp pond and a plant sale. Again entry is £4, children free. Susan and Earl moved into

their terraced house in 1966 and have opened their garden to visitors since 1996. "The more we enjoyed it, the more we wanted to share it," said Susan. "The benefits gardening has contributed to our well-being are manifest. It is officially acknowledged that even being in a garden enhances one's health."

The National Gardens Scheme has raised millions in support of caring and medical charities including Macmillan and Marie Curie nurses.



Teas up: Marie Curie nurse Kathleen Walsh and TV gardener Charlie Dimmock support the National Garden Scheme.

Friend to the community

John Hajdu, chairman of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association for the last 17 years, has received a commendation for his work with the Metropolitan Police.



Long service: John Hajdu receives his award from Borough Commander Helen Millichap.

Supt Nigel Brookes described his "tremendous support for the Metropolitan Police and the community in Haringey", which includes leading the Fortis Green Ward Panel for ten years and being the first non-police chair of the Independent Advisory Group to the Borough Commander. Mr Hajdu, whose career was in the hotel industry, has also served

as a magistrate. He received his commendation from the present Haringey Borough Commander Helen Millichap.



Recording artists: Brian and Deanna at the mixing desk in BonaFideStudio. Photo Mike Coles

A quiet place to make a big noise

By John Lawrence

Underneath the arches in Muswell Hill a family-run recording studio is quietly nurturing the pop, rock and classical stars of the future. And, despite the fickle nature of the music industry, this month it celebrates its 20th birthday. BonaFideStudio started life in Shoreditch in 1999 where some of the biggest names in the charts came through its doors; the likes of The Prodigy, Kings of Leon, Tinie Tempah and One Direction.

Seven years ago, founders Deanna and Brian Bogdanovic decided to move their studio to two units underneath the Parkland Walk in St James's Lane, N10, to be closer to the community where they still live and to connect with up-and-coming local talent. Their fully-equipped recording studio and rehearsal spaces are now used by East Finchley Festival favourites Sound of the Suburb, Muswell Hill band Swan Kings and Crouch End rockers Unholy Joe, and many other groups and orchestras of

all musical styles.

Helping young bands evolve

Deanna told *The Archer*: "This whole part of north London is blessed with creative people. The pace of life is different here to what it used to be in Shoreditch. It's more relaxed and we enjoy getting involved creatively. What's kept us on our toes for 20 years is the flow of artists who come in and want to try new things."

"That's one of the best parts of running the studio, helping these bands to make the best of

themselves. We had four lads in the other day, about 16-years-old, and they were so eager to learn and absorb everything. After years in the industry, it's easy to get cynical and calculating in what you do, but their absolute love for music was so pure that it was a joy to see."

BonaFideStudio has many irons in the musical fire. Deanna and Brian provide sound engineering workshops and music tuition, and the studio is involved with sound production for shows at Alexandra Palace and for West End musicals.

Community choir shows what it can do

By Diana Cormack

Families and friends gathered in the music room at the Archer Academy in East Finchley on Tuesday 26 March to listen to first concert of the year from The Archer Community Choir.

Choir members consisting of parents and teachers from the secondary school and local residents treated their audience to a performance of the songs learnt this term. Among the favourites were *A Little Respect*, *Take Me Home Country Roads* and *Happy Together*, all accompanied by teacher Alice Humphrey on the piano. Drinks, nibbles and chat were enjoyed afterwards and some stalwarts carried the celebrations on to the pub.

The choir meets on Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm at the academy's lower school site in Stanley Road, N2. The new term runs from 30 April to 9

July with a half term break on 28 May. For further details

email archercommunitychoir@gmail.com.

Seventy years for art society

Members, friends and local art societies gathered at St Mary's Hall in Finchley Central on Monday 8 April to enjoy an evening of art, wine and food celebrating the 70th anniversary of Finchley Art Society.

The society runs painting

groups, along with workshops, outings and an annual exhibition.

To mark its 70th year there are several special events planned including an exhibition at arts depot in North Finchley throughout May. Find out more at www.finchleyartsociety.org.uk.

A friendly welcome awaits you

EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 8AJ (opp. Creighton Ave.)
tel: 0208 346 1700 www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

**Sunday service at 10.30 a.m.
with Crèche**

Worship Music Social events Wheelchair friendly
e-mail: info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk Room hire tel: 020 8444 9887

Welcome to Probus!

Convivial Probus Lunch Club with talks for semi- or fully-retired PROfessional & BUSiness men and women on third Wednesday each month at Stephens House East End Road N3. Next meeting 15 May Dr Georgina Meakin, Centre for the Forensic Sciences at UCL, discusses the use of DNA sampling in forensic casework in criminal and familial investigations.

Reduced sub for new members. Contact Eric (8449 0566).