



# An insider's view of East Finchley Arts Festival

By Geoffrey Hanson, Festival Director

Would the re-tiling of All Saints' church roof be finished in time for the Arts Festival was the question that we juggled with when planning this year's programme. We even tried to take out an insurance policy to protect things, but without success. Yet with sponsorship and advertisers secured, it was a case of gritting our teeth and hoping for the best.

What if it rained for a long period and the work was held up? Yet the weather was kind and the main body of the roof work was finished by the end of August, even allowing for the theft of lead early in the summer. The scaffolding was down and the car park back in use in time for the festival's opening day in September.

We opened with Merry Opera's *The Pirates of Penzance*, which was played with panache, and some fine singing to a full house. There were other good attendances during the week; the Finchley Children's Music Group and the Chelys Consort of Viols with Dame Emma Kirkby, both garnered large audiences.

Mike Freer MP, and the lady Mayor of Barnet visited Pauline Treen's Art Exhibition, which, as usual, raised money for The Harington Scheme and Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, as did the bucket collections at each event.

Carolyn Pickles presented *Travels Around Cranford* to an appreciative audience, and on Tuesday evening, the wettest night of the week, Trinity Laban gave an intriguing evening of dance to a small but enthused audience. I was a little disappointed at the small attendance for this performance since it was the first year we have had

dance represented. No doubt the weather played its part, but this talented group will be invited again.

Both of the chamber music groups gave, to my mind, excellent performances and Simon Purdy and his friends gave an afternoon concert brimming with young talent. The final evening of the festival was given over to Paprika, a Balkan band. This was a concert full of melody and rhythm, which coaxed many of the large audience to their feet, to join in uninhibited dancing.

Was the festival a success? Undoubtedly!

## Birthday concert

The London Mozart Players and London Ripieno Singers will join forces for a concert on Wednesday 11 December at All Saints' in Durham Road, N2.

The programme of music by Elgar, Mozart and Vaughan Williams will also include two works by East Finchley Arts Festival director Geoffrey Hanson, whose 80th birthday the concert marks. Tickets are available online at [www.ticket-source.co.uk/efinchleyarts](http://www.ticket-source.co.uk/efinchleyarts) and locally from Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2.

First-class festival: (top) The Merry Opera Company, Finchley Children's Music Group; (centre) Pauline Treen with Mike Freer MP, conductor Grace Rossiter, Harmoniemusik wind ensemble, Dame Emma Kirkby with Chelys Consort of Viols, the visit of the Mayor; (bottom) *Travels Around Cranford*, Trinity Laban Dance, Carolyn Pickles, Paprika. Photos Mike Coles and Louise Goody.

## Academy seeks new governors

The Archer Academy in East Finchley is inviting applications for the role of community governor to join their board and help deliver the strategic direction of the school.

The Archer Academy has a strong commitment to equality and inclusion, and the board is keen to ensure that it reflects the diversity of the school and the local community in which it serves. They are particularly keen to hear from candidates who have experience in finance, the charity sector, working with young people and pastoral and wellbeing roles.

New chair of governors David Adams, said: "Being a governor is an immensely satisfying experience, offering a great opportunity

to get stuck in and give something back to the wider community.

"You don't need to have governance or professional experience; all you need is an interest in shaping the future of education for young people in the community and a willingness to roll your sleeves up and get involved. I'd be happy to have a chat to answer any questions and help someone decide whether it might be for them."

If you would like more information, visit [thearcheracademy.org.uk/governor-](http://thearcheracademy.org.uk/governor-)

recruitment or call 020 8099 1627 for an informal discussion. To apply, send a letter expressing your interest to [dadams@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:dadams@thearcheracademy.org.uk) by Friday 22 November.

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