



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group**
Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **1-2-1 boxing and Pilates** training with Martin Carroll at home or private studio, call 07809 593952
- **Pilates** Classes Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Pilates** with Michele: private and group classes, all levels. Michele 07947 657 441
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 12pm, 1pm, 6pm & 7pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Tennis group lessons** for adult beginners and intermediates, weekends, Park Road, N8. Contact Maz on tennisgift@gmail.com.
- **This Mum Runs**: Free social runs in East Finchley and Muswell Hill, Sunday 8am and Wednesday 7.30pm. Contact trishy. dixon@gmail.com.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga beginners' course** at Yogalogy, High Road, N2. Contact 020 70187377 or info@yogalogy.co.uk
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: archercommunitychoir1@gmail.com.
- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
- **A-Chord**, friendly choir, all genres, open to all. Thursdays 8pm at NNLS, East End Rd. Laura 07732 120464. www.a-chord.uk
- **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- **'Calm & Sing' workshops**. Contact Angie on missangiea@yahoo.co.uk
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
- **Dance conditioning classes**. New body in 10 lessons. Diana: 07580 041270. www.boldbodies.co.uk.
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Ralph 8444 5903.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Jazz Club** at the Bohemia, North Finchley. Call 020 7998 6217 or 07957 347411 for more information
- **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm, ages 6-10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Rock 'n Roll dance lessons**, 8pm every Weds at the Constitutional Club, The Walks. Drop-in. Call Kav 07721 489489.
- **Traditional tunes** @ TOC Highgate Hill, join in playing by ear - 1st & 3rd Tues monthly from 8.30pm. Free. 07958 282898.

Clubs & Social

- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** friends-of-cherrytreewood.home.blog or 8883 7544.
- **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 to book.
- **Bridge Club**, Thursday & Saturday afternoons, Age UK, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.



Intensely emotional: Thomas Dennis as the Wireless Operator. Photo Mihaela Bodlovic.

Hit play reveals legacy of Lancaster bomber crews

Review by Diana Cormack

"Thought provoking, intense and emotional. This is Edinburgh Fringe at its best. Simply, a must see." This is just one example of the many plaudits for the play *Wireless Operator*, which had its first London performance at the Park Theatre, Finsbury Park, in mid-September as part of a 'Pick of the Fringe' selection.

Written by Bob Baldwin and Max Kinnings, it is based on the log book of Bob's father, a wireless operator on Lancaster bombers (*The Archer*, May 2019) and on memories of others who flew with Bomber Command. Tight with tension, the production brings the fear and stress of a horrific night time bombing raid carried out in World War Two.

Powerful sounds and voices

The sole actor on stage, Thomas Dennis, was brilliant in his role as the young airman trying to make sense of what is being done. Off-stage voices of the crew emphasised how

much they all depended on one another, whilst those of his distant friends and family revealed his far-off normal life, real or imagined.

The roar of the Rolls Royce Merlin engines swirling the plane through the sky added to the anxiety, underlining the ever-present threat of death which came with each mission. Their odds of survival were the worst in the armed forces with the average age of death being 23. Many aircrew who survived suffered the legacy of a lifetime of unrecognised Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, inevitably also affecting family and friends.

Local support

Playing to packed audiences,

it was no surprise to see some familiar faces, for *Wireless Operator* is co-produced by East Finchley residents Stephen Graham and Hilary Townley. Other locals participating in this compelling production were actors Simon Haines, Ferdinand Hunter and Lucy Pickles, plus Mike Hughes who did the graphic design.

Many people in the area supported and funded it and everyone will be delighted to know that future stagings are already planned, not only in this country but possibly abroad, starting at The Pleasance in Islington from 14-16 November. For more details visit www.wirelessoperator.co.uk

Words set to music

By Daphne Chamberlain
What does it feel like to have a poem you have written set to music? Dennis Evans, founder of N2 Poets, is familiar with the sensation now. His *Autumn Song* was performed at a free lunchtime concert in St James Church, Muswell Hill, with composer and pianist Caroline Soresby accompanying tenor Nicholas Bowater.

It is the 12th of his poems to be interpreted musically. Interpretations have included choreography and performance of more of his creations by London University Union's Indian Dance Society at the Lilian Baylis studio theatre, Sadler's Wells.

Dennis told *The Archer* that he attends rehearsals and gives suggestions where appropriate. He always feels pleased, and sometimes surprised, by how his poems are reflected in music and dance. He says: "It becomes something new: a new entity, which I enjoy in its own right."

He comes from a family with a strong musical tradition. His great-grandmother, known as Mamgu, was a Welsh poet and singer, summoned from Wales to sing before Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace.

Dennis wants to thank everyone who made the *Autumn Song* concert such a success. His message to the audience is: "It was good to have your support. As you know, the church was packed, which is very encouraging."

What's On...

E-mail your listings to: the-archer@lineone.net

Saturday 5 October

- **North London Military Wives Choir and Royal Naval Volunteer Band** Northwood HQ in concert for Combat Stress centenary; 7.30pm at the Free Church, North Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11 7AA. Tickets: £15 or £13 (concessions). Call 07710 098667 or email hgscombatstress@gmail.com with requirements and contact details.

- **Pet blessing service** at Holy Trinity C of E Church, Church Lane, N2, 3pm, Saturday 5 October. For more information contact Father Mirt on 020 3565 4430 or marius.mirt@htef.org.uk or visit www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk

Sunday 6 October

- **Fun Palace** run by the **Grange Big Local Project** at the new Tarling Road Community Centre, Tarling Road, N2, and next door in Barnwood green space, from 12pm. Free activities for all the family, including art, music making, crafts, science and nail art.
- **Crouch End Ceramics Fair**, Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; 2-5pm. 19 stalls of handmade ceramics, free entry, refreshments.

Instagram: [@crouchendceramicsfair](https://www.instagram.com/crouchendceramicsfair)

Sunday 13 October

- **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm; programme of Dvorak and Shostakovich, performed by pianist Saoko Blendis, violinists Sanae Honda and Junko Ishigaki, viola player David Hirschman, and cellist Maryan Balkwill. Free admission, collection in aid of Music for All. Fully accessible venue.

Friday 18 October

- **Memory Lane Singing Club** presents *Showtime* at St Mary's Parish Hall, Hendon Lane, N3 1TR, at 10.45am. Free admission. All welcome. Please RSVP 020 8458 4508 or v.cowan@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday 19 October

- **Ramblers Association walk on Hampstead Heath**. Meet 10.30am at Hampstead Heath Overground station (South End Green) at exit barriers for six-mile circular walk on some of the heath's lesser known paths, surprisingly hilly and rural. Bring some food and drink. All welcome. Leader: Alison Watson on 07950 479170.

Saturday 26 October

- **Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale**, 10am-1pm, Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; more info from 020 8368 8180 or 07708152354; admission 50p; refreshments available.

Saturday 26 October

- **Sponsored Spooky Walk through Highgate Woods** in aid of disabled children's charity My AFK; starts at 10am from The Mossy Well, Muswell Hill. Kid's ticket £10, adult ticket £20, family ticket for up to five people £35. Lunch and drinks provided back at The Mossy Well. Find out more at my-afk.org/events.

- **Litter pick in Cherry Tree Wood** 10.30am, volunteers welcome, bring gloves; free guided history walk at 2pm telling the story of the wood from ancient woodland to the modern day.

Saturday 26, Sunday 27 October and Tuesday 29 to Thursday 31 October

- **Halloween Ghost Walks**; meet outside High Barnet tube station 7.30pm to explore ghosts in High Barnet and Monken Hadley, the second most haunted village in England. Prizes for spookiest costumes. More

information from Paul Baker on 07506 761294 or www.barnet-walks.co.uk

Thursday 31 October

- **The Finchley Society hosts Roger Chapman, trustee of The Finchley Charities**, giving talk titled 'The Finchley Charities, the Poor and the Powerful'; Avenue House, East End Road, N3, at 7.30pm. All welcome. Non-members £2.

Saturday 2 November

- **Autumn Fair at Holy Trinity Church**, Church Lane, N2, 12noon to 3pm; games, activities and stalls; homemade cakes and chutneys; children's toys and books; bric-a-brac and a craft table, plus bottle tombola, raffle and cafe. Everyone welcome. Free entry.

Thursday 7 November

- **Age UK Barnet Charity Quiz Night**, Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. £15 per person, includes two-course supper. Enter a team of up to eight or join an Age UK Barnet team. Doors open 6.45pm, dinner and quiz 7.15pm. Bar available serving wine, beer, & soft drinks. Raffle with loads of prizes! For tickets and information phone 020 8203 5040 or email wendy.nutman@ageukbarnet.org.uk