



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.



To the rafters: The special concert at All Saints'. Photo Mike Coles.

Many happy returns to a man of music

By Marian Bunzl

Geoffrey Hanson, leading figure in our local musical landscape, celebrated his 80th birthday by giving a special concert at All Saints' Church in Durham Road, where he masterminds the annual East Finchley Arts Festival.

Conducted by friend and neighbour Geoffrey Simon, it featured compositions by Mozart, Elgar, Vaughan Williams, and Geoffrey Hanson himself, three splendid soloists, the London Mozart Players and The London Ripieno Singers, the choir he founded over 50 years ago.



Birthday boy: Geoffrey Hanson. Photo Mike Coles.

In baroque music, ripieno (literal translation 'stuffing or filling') was used to describe the supplementary forces from the choir and orchestra that accompanied the soloists. The 25 accomplished singers provided a beautiful cushion of sound to support the suave performance of the orchestra and glorious voices of the soloists and filled the church with a spirited and accomplished

performance of Mozart's motet *Exsultate, Jubilate*.

This set the tone of celebration, with the orchestra and soprano Anna Cavaliero, rising star of the operatic world, giving a joyous account of the composer's hymn to the blessings of singing 'sweet songs'.

Geoffrey Hanson's *Trumpet Piece*, a kind of duet between the trumpet and drum, and skilfully performed by Paul Archibald accompanied by the orchestra, celebrated the versatility of the instrument, alternatively forceful and playful, rhythmic and lyrical.

World premiere

And the major piece of the evening, the world premiere of *The Singing Will Never Be Done*, Geoffrey's setting of two First World War poems by Robert Bridges and Siegfried Sassoon scored for soprano, orchestra and the thrilling energy of the choir, celebrated the healing power of music over adverse circumstances.

The concert ended with a rousing rendition of *Happy Birthday To You* by the audience, a thank you for the gift of wonderful music splendidly performed. Please may we have many happy returns.

What's On...

E-mail your listings to: news@the-archer.co.uk

Wednesday 15 January

• **Building a Better Brain**: Professor Catherine Loveday, Trustee of AgeUK and principal lecturer at University of Westminster, on promoting sharper thinking and better memory, lifelong; Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, 6.30pm; licensed bar available. Tickets free but donations welcome. All funds raised help to reduce social isolation among older people in Barnet. Places limited so booking essential; email wendy.nutman@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 020 8432 1421.

Sunday 19 January

• **Jazz at The Bohemia**, 762-764 High Road, North Finchley, N12 9QH; Lisa Feldman and Ailsa Chamley, vocals, with Liam Dunachie, piano and Adam King, bass. Starts: 7.30pm. Entry: £10

Saturday 25 January

• **Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale**, 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; admission 50p; refreshments available. Further information from 020 8368 8180 or 07708 152354.

Until Sunday 26 January

• Ovation presents the London fringe premiere of the hit Broadway musical *42nd Street*, **Upstairs at the Gatehouse**, Highgate N6, with musical numbers including *We're in the Money*, *Lullaby of Broadway* and *You're Getting to be a Habit with Me*. More information and tickets from upstairsatthegatehouse.com

Tuesday 28 January

Pop-up workshop on Anxiety in children, run by Childhood Mental Health Needs, with guest speaker Jo Holden, mental health trainer with CCSConnectEd; St Mary's Church Hall, 192 High Road, N2, from 7pm to 8.30pm. Donations welcome on attendance.

World-famous harpist steps in

By Karen Williamson

The regulars at Age UK Barnet's musical afternoon couldn't believe their luck when world-renowned harpist Sioned Williams, recently retired as principal harp from the BBC Symphony Orchestra, stepped in to play at the last minute after the original performer dropped out.



Saving the day: Sioned Williams, famous solo harpist, teacher and lecturer plays at the Ann Owens Centre. Photo Mike Coles

"I may play in concert halls around the world and be privileged to work with the finest musicians but I also take great pleasure in playing in the community," says Sioned, who is president of the British Harp Association. "Music is universal, and to be able to share emotions with the lovely people in East Finchley was most heart-warming. How music touches people is amazing."

The audience at the concert

last month in the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, sat entranced, and one, in particular, spoke for all when she said: "The music made me forget my worries and took me to a happy place for a little while."

Sioned is a teacher, researcher and scholar, who pioneered integrated harp courses in Britain, was the first Welsh board member on the World Harp Congress, and is President of the UK Harp Association.



Café culture: English Countryside by Gail Altschuler.

Coffee and art

Landscapes and still lives painted by three members of the East Finchley Open Artists group are on display at Dan&Decarlo's coffee shop, opposite the tube station. The works by Gail Altschuler, Ian Hunt and Francesca Raphael Lincoln, all based on observation and imagination, can be seen there until the end of January.