



Gifts and treats: WI members Alison, Caron and Claire ready to serve at the craft stall.

Hordes snap up handmade treats

By Maralyn Fraser

The Frost Fair hosted by Finchley Women's Institute's truly lived up to its name this year. By 9.30am on the morning of the event in late November there were eager stall holders keen to get out of the cold and into Stephens House in East End Road. Even before we were officially opened a stream of customers was arriving and this soon turned into a river.

Organising the Frost Fair this year was an act of faith, not knowing what the winter would hold. Our trust paid off and we were happy to accommodate 34 talented local businesses offer-

ing everything from craft beer to stained glass.

Our own members produced delicious baked goods, jams, a variety of handmade craft items and clothes. A runaway success

was our tombola; everyone a winner! This year proceeds from our own stalls will be supporting Solace Women's Aid and Finchley Foodbank.

Silent film pianist refuses to be silenced

By David Gritten

The pandemic has played havoc with the careers of actors, musicians, and many others who depend on performing live to earn their income. One striking example is East Finchley's Stephen Horne, a pianist and composer who specialises in accompanying silent films being watched by live audiences.

Stephen has pursued this distinctive career for more than 30 years, travelling to more than 20 different countries. That all came to a sudden stop, of course.

"It's been difficult in my career, going through Covid," he acknowledges. "For two years, I've had to stay away from live performance."

Obviously it could have been a bleak period. But having created and developed literally hundreds of musical themes for his film accompaniments, Stephen decided to use his work in a different way.

"It's long been my ambition to record an album," he says, "incorporating some of these themes into musical pieces."

He taught himself to make high-quality recordings of his piano accompaniments at home, with his keyboard con-

nected to a computer. "This way," he notes, "you don't have to bother to record an orchestra."

Haunting sounds

And as a consequence he has released his first CD, called *Silent Sirens*. All the tracks are inspired by silent films from the past, some of them long forgotten, that Stephen has watched and loved: titles such as *Stella Dallas*, *The Manxman* and *The Informer*.

"They all share a certain haunting quality," he says. "And the music is inspired by the performances of their lead actresses."

The cost of these CDs is a mere £10, and though sales have been rather slow to date, Stephen has the satisfaction of knowing his work is also widely streamed. "We'll see how it all turns out," he says cheerfully. "This could be an interesting year."

ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

First collection point for zero waste project

Bin There Donate That (BTDT) is an ambitious project that aims to avoid waste. It is in the early stages of setting up collection bins in local shops to pass seemingly useless items on to new homes (The Archer, Nov and Dec 2021). Co-founder Emma Frampton updates us on progress.

Tablet packaging

Our first collection point is established! The good news is that your empty medicine blister packs can now be donated to Oakdale Pharmacy on the High Road for recycling. So those painkiller packs left over from New Year hangovers, and any tablet or capsule packs, can be taken there.



Recyclable: Tablet packs

Children's scraps

We are aiming to start a children's scrap collaboration with <http://childrensscrap.co.uk/> very soon. There will be collection places in East Finchley to drop off a range of items from stationery, paper and cardboard to clean fabric remnants.

Can you help?

If your family is anything like mine, at some point on Christ-

mas Day your living room was full of wrapping paper, cardboard, bubble wrap, tree chocolate foil, bits of Sellotape and a thirsty Christmas tree.

Then you, or someone else either grabbed a bin bag or thought, hmmm, what can I save, what can be reused, what am I about to throw out that could have another life in a children's nursery or busy foster home? Bin There Donate That needs volunteers to help answer those questions. Help us help East Finchley. There is now a small team beginning to help with research, but we need more help.

Are you able to offer time to research organisations that could give items another life, drive items to their destination or speak to local shopkeepers to get them on board?

We also need help with keeping our website up to date and with handling social media and spreadsheets. To get involved, email us on bintheredonatethat@gmail.com or visit us at <https://bintheredonatethat.wixsite.com/reuse> where you can also

give your ideas and views in a questionnaire. Follow the project on Facebook by searching 'Bin There Donate That'.



Non-recyclable: Cards with glitter

Diary date

The project organisers will also be giving a talk at the next meeting of local community network N2United at 8pm on Thursday 10 February at East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, which is open to all traders, businesses, community groups and any other interested individuals. See n2united.co.uk for details.



Movie magic: Accompanist Stephen Horne has recorded an album. Photo Mike Coles






Sundays at 5pm
Green Man Community Centre
Strawberry Vale N2 9BA

EVERYONE WELCOME
to our informal service followed by afternoon tea

Contact helenshannon@stbarnabas.co.uk or 07866507609

We are a Church of England church, working alongside the local parish churches in the Diocese of London. We don't have our own building, but meet in the community centre, homes and other spaces. We can take weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmations and regularly celebrate communion at our Sunday services.

FIND US ON   

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND