



Mix it up: DJ Jesse



Singing debut: Sue



Puppet friends: Jake



Stand-up comedian: Ruchi



Opera singer: Max

Talent and artistry centre stage at High Road Live

By Diana Cormack and Peter Hale

The hidden talents and creative flair of people across East Finchley got a chance to shine in the spotlight during a weekend of arts and music at the High Road Live event in January.

Theatre in the High Road, ready for a full day of free classes and workshops for young people. The programme included ballet, dance, music, musical theatre, glitter art, drumming, song writing, and acting workshops,

success, and we look forward to hopefully being a part of similar events in the future. It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of the High Road Live event, thank you for having us."

Fixation were especially interested in the Phoenix Cinema's showing of *Matilda the Musical* as they will be performing their theatre production of it with young people in May. The film was screened at noon on Sunday 29 January, with queues of excited children forming in the foyer for tickets.

Talent galore

Later on the cinema was even busier for East Finchley's Got Talent, with people who confessed to never having been to the Phoenix before eagerly taking their seats. They



Last-minute entrant: Violinist Gloria with host Pat Leacock.



Guitar duo: Simi and Riley. All photos by Mike Coles.

Opening the weekend, organised by East Finchley Town Team, the Community Choir that meets in the Archer Academy sang and handed out song-sheets to passers-by outside Budgens, many of whom stopped to join in, encouraging the group to give a repeat performance.

Arts activities

Bunting and balloons went up early on the Finchley Youth

run by Fixation Academy of Performing Arts and Barnet Education Arts Trust.

In fact the venue was buzzing all day with more drop-in sessions, including art drawing run by East Finchley Open Artists and the Archer Academy, along with Lego by Barnet Youth.

Carly Pryke and Laura Davitt, directors of Fixation, said: "The weekend was a great



Live and kicking: Dancer Gaia gets her certificate from Pat Leacock.

self-choreographed pieces; a confident young DJ Jesse; Ruchi, an impressive female stand-up comic; and the youngest competitor who stood in at the last minute, violinist Gloria.

The participants each received a certificate and gave the four Town Team judges a hard task in choosing the winner, with the special trophy being awarded to nine-year-old Gloria.

Audience participation followed in the form of a great *Grease* sing-along before a nostalgic viewing of the film itself brought the enjoyable afternoon to a close.

See you next year

Kate Brown, chair of Town Team, told *The Archer*: "Town Team were really delighted with how East



Team effort: Host Pat Leacock and judges Mike Hughes, Hilary Townley, Chris Hampson and Kate Galston with winner, Gloria.

responded enthusiastically to each of the ten talents on show, which ranged as much in age as in activity.

There was Max, the opera-singing delivery driver often heard as he tours our streets on his scooter; Jake the puppeteer Sue who made her performing debut singing *Amazing Grace*; guitarist and composer David singing his own song; teenagers Simi and Riley playing their joint guitar composition; dancing sisters Adara and Gaia who separately performed their



Singer-songwriter: David



Dancer: Adara



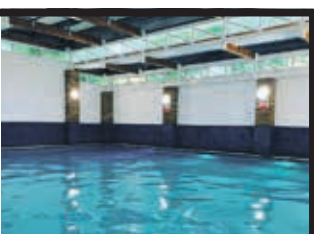
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Finchley came out to the High Road for our Arts and Music activities. We have had great feedback about all of the events. Several people have even contacted us to say they want us to make the East Finchley Got Talent an annual event."

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