



Beach party as Beavers celebrate

The 224 North London Beavers group turned one last month after an adventure-filled year that included a day in Brighton exploring the aquarium and having a treasure hunt on the beach.

The youngsters have also tried sit-on-top kayaks and stand-up paddle boards at Enfield Scouts Sailing Association while, back at their hut in Sheldon Avenue, N6, they mastered important life skills like road safety, fire safety and first aid.

Get involved

Group scout leader Del Chambers said none of this would have been possible without the fantastic team of parents supporting the Beavers since they started last October. And now, they are looking for a volunteer team leader to help keep the fun going.

No prior experience is required, just a sense of humour and adventure. Training will be



Picnic time: The 224 North London Beavers group enjoying a trip to Brighton back in the summer

provided, mainly online, including first aid training, and you will become part of a great team. There are also opportunities for anyone aged 14 to 18 who

is doing service for their Duke of Edinburgh award. Contact Del on 07707 763344 or email gsl@224northlondonscouts.org.uk

Owls are a big hoot for hospice

By Lynn Winton

Meet Owlbert, the first of the many 5ft creatures that will form a 60-owl trail next summer, organised to raise funds for North London Hospice.

The idea is that local firms will sponsor an owl, which will then be decorated, each one by a different artist, and sited across north London to create a trail for people to follow. Local schools and youth groups can also adopt and decorate a 3ft owl to add to the fun.

Charlie Langhorne, co-founder of the owls' creators Wild in Art, said: "We are delighted to be teaming up with North London Hospice on this exciting sculpture trail. We hope that the owls will inspire businesses, the creative sector, and the wider community to come together to create something very special."

One of the first business owners to find out about the initiative was Hussein Lalani, who is the owner of The Muswell Hill Club on Fortis Green. "I am really interested in sponsoring an owl and am already making enquiries. We are currently supporting the



Bird trail: Owls from North London Hospice's will be landing all around the area

hospice with an autumn raffle, and would love to have an owl outside the gym," he said.

The venture is a new way for the charity to raise funds to support their vital end-of-life care. As well as the sponsorship of the unique owl sculptures, they will all ultimately be auctioned and sold to the highest bidders. Enquiries regarding how to sponsor an owl can be made now to fmurphy@north-londonhospice.co.uk

What's On at the Phoenix in November

By Zalan Pall, general manager



A German and Basque drama, a British classic, film festivals, a major fundraiser, live opera, ballet and theatre are all on the Phoenix programme for a busy November.

The Pigeon Tunnel, which is showing on Saturday 4 November, is a deeply human and engaging documentary exploration of John le Carré's extraordinary life and the paper-thin membrane between fact and fiction.

That's followed by a smart, solidly crafted procedural that's anchored in family drama. *Anatomy of a Fall*, from Friday 10 November, finds star Sandra Hüller and director/co-writer Justine Triet operating at peak power.

As the people of Ukraine face another winter of war, we're hosting a **Ukrainian Fundraiser** on Saturday 11 November. Please come along and support this event to enable urgently needed funds and goods to reach them.

For the lovers of screen arts, we will have *Exhibition on Screen: Klimt and The Kiss* on Sunday 5 November, the Royal Opera House's *Don Quixote* on Tuesday 7 November, the National Theatre's *Skylight* starring Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan on Thursday 16 November and the Met Opera's *The Life and Times of Malcolm X* on Saturday 18 November.

We are also hosting two releases, to be announced, as

part of the **Jewish Film Festival** on Monday 13 November and Wednesday 15 November, along with two films as part of the **Migration Festival**, starting with *R.M.N* on Thursday 23 November and then *No End* on Saturday 25 November.

In *20,000 Species of Bees*, showing on Tuesday 21 November, an eight-year-old child struggles with the fact that people keep addressing her in confusing ways. During a summer in the Basque Country among the beehives, she explores her identity alongside the women of her family, who at the same time reflect on their own lives and desires.

We're having a Powell and Pressburger classic season, screening *A Matter of Life and Death*, starring David Niven, on Sunday 26 November. Finally, *Maestro* is the towering and fearless love story chronicling the lifelong relationship between composer Leonard Bernstein and actress Felicia Montealegre Bernstein. It shows from Friday 1 December.

For full details of all events and screenings and to book tickets, visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or come into our foyer.

Heaven for children and a haven for grown-ups

Anne Isaac is an English teacher, newly retired after a long career at University College School in Hampstead. She has lived in Huntingdon Road, N2, and been part of the East Finchley Methodist Church for 33 years. Here she shares her enthusiasm for the pre-schooler play sessions she now helps to run there.

It seems eminently appropriate that the beautiful huge wooden garden statue of Susanna Wesley, who had 19 children, welcomes and watches over children twice a week at East Finchley Methodist Church in the High Road.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays during term time, between 9.30am and 11.30am, the cavernous internal space and pretty garden are transformed into a child-centred heaven: we have teepees, cars, bouncy chairs, dolls and so much more. The £2 entrance fee (£2.50 on Tuesday for more than one child) includes coffee / tea and biscuits and two hours of play and company.

Sing-a-long

The play is remarkably peaceful and the atmosphere is very relaxed. At the end of the sessions Jean leads a sing-a-



Archer writer Lynn Winton's granddaughter Louisa at a play session

long which is both stimulating and calming.

One lovely thank you letter described Wesley's as a "haven" and "invaluable." My journalistic research one Thursday produced some heartwarming responses: "inclusive", "heart of the community" and "wonderful."

Both mornings are staffed by volunteers expertly led by

Jean on Tuesdays and Chris and Ken on Thursdays. A few of our stalwart guests, including the wonderfully consistent little chap who ate the end piece of the chocolate log every week, are now at school, so it would be great to entertain some new children, particularly ones with chocolate cake eating skills. Come and meet us. On Thursdays we even have professional coffee machines, oat milk lattes and M&S cake. All are welcome.

Boot sale is on

The monthly Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale is going strong.

This month it takes place on Saturday 18 November from 10am to 1pm at its usual venue of Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. For information, contact 020 8368 8180.

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