



Arrival: The parade, seen here coming into the festival in 2005, was always a popular part of the festival with schools, youth groups and families all taking part



Tradition: Parade floats make their way down the High Road past the end of Huntingdon Road for the 1974 festival

Festival 2024: the High Road parade is back!

By Alys Wainwright

East Finchley Festival celebrates its 50th anniversary this summer and to mark the milestone organisers are bringing back the tradition of the High Road parade. They're calling on everyone in East Finchley to slide into some flares or pop on some disco gear as part of a 1970s fancy dress theme that harks back to the free festival's early years.



Join the parade: Everyone is welcome to take part in the East Finchley Festival parade on its route along the pavement from Martin School to Cherry Tree Wood

On Sunday 23 June, the parade will take place along the High Road, starting outside Martin School in Plane Tree Walk and finishing in front of the main stage in Cherry Tree Wood for the start of the festival at 12pm. There will be a prize for the best fancy dress.

Schools, local organisations, friends and families all used to take part in the parade, which was a tradition of the festival for decades before fading away about 10 years ago, because Barnet Council would not agree to the closure of the High Road.

Now it's back for 2024, but will be on the pavement, and the event's volunteer organisers are appealing for everyone

to have fun by taking part or by helping to ensure the parade runs smoothly.

Gather a group

Mike Hughes, of the East Finchley Festival CIC, said: "We need groups from local schools along with representatives from local sports clubs, pubs and other organisations to take part. Are you able to



help with gathering a group from your school or club or wherever to participate? If so get in touch and we fill you in with all the details. "We also need volunteers to help steward the parade route."

Details on how to participate and volunteer can be found at eastfinchleyfestival.org/parade or scan the QR code (right).

The Festival also needs volunteers to help out on the day as stewards and on the raffle points. For more information out more on how volunteer at this year's festival check out Be Part of It on page 2 of this newspaper or register your interest at eastfinchleyfestival.org/volunteer

Choral concert

Finchley Chamber Choir's next concert featuring choral songs of the British Isles is on Saturday 11 May at 7.30pm, at Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley N12 7NN.

In addition to well-known composers such as Vaughan Williams and Britten, the programme includes a set of folk song arrangements by the choir's own Richard

Cox. Tickets at £18 full price, £15 concessions (including students and over-60s), and £8 under-18s are available from www.fcchoir.co.uk, or on the door.

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