



Artists get ready to open their houses

By Mike Coles

If you like art and crafts, then you have a treat coming up. The weekends of 28-29 June and 5-6 July will see 55 artists open the doors to 15 houses open across East Finchley to welcome browsers and buyers.

The 21st East Finchley Artists Open Houses event will feature all kinds of original art and crafts to view and buy. There will be prints, ceramics, glass, paintings, textiles,

photography, sculpture, jewellery and more.

Also, on the same dates there will be an exhibition at All Saints Church in Durham Road, N2.

Opening times for the houses are 11am to 6pm each day and for All Saints Church 11am to 6pm on Saturdays and 12 noon to 6pm on Sundays. Entrance is free.

Fortismere fundraiser



Flag wavers: Fortismere students are ready to welcome you to their summer festival

Despite educating 1,700 students from East Finchley, Muswell Hill and neighbouring areas, Fortismere School has for some time been missing a dedicated Parent Teacher Association. But all this is changing.

A new Friends of Fortismere group has been launched, an important initiative set to give the school a much-needed fundraising boost, and their first big event will be the Fortismere Summer Festival on Sunday 6 July from 12pm to 4pm.

Maeve Curry from Year 10 writes: The event will be happening at Fortismere School, in our very own field and there will be many fun things to do. A classic car show will show cars from decades past.

Do you have a handsome or scruffy pooch? There will be a dog show showcasing students' and teachers' dogs, as well as anyone else who would like to participate. If you like plants, jewellery, second-hand books and more, you will love all our

stalls. There will be fairground rides for those of you who enjoy having an adrenaline rush. We will also have cool food with a variety of different cuisines, homemade cakes, candy floss and a bar.

If you are a music lover, you will delight in our vast selection of performers. From rock to choirs, pop to classical, there is something for everyone! The orchestra and Fortismere community choir will be playing, as well as bands from both the pupils, and the teachers! Anyone is welcome to come, so please bring along friends and family. If you are interested in finding out more, getting involved or entering the dog show please email friendsoffortismere@fortismere.org.uk

Rise and fall of a PM

A new play exploring how Margaret Thatcher won the leadership of the Conservative Party and how she subsequently lost power is coming to the Upstairs at the Gatehouse theatre in Highgate this month.



Iron lady: Philippa Heimann portrays Margaret Thatcher

The Rise and Fall of Margaret Thatcher by Edmund Green dramatises the machinations, rivalries, and ambitions of both her leadership battles and shows how she changed in the intervening years.

Philippa Heimann plays the former Prime Minister, who was MP for Finchley from 1959 to 1992, heading a full cast of characters including Michael Heseltine and Geoffrey Howe. The play runs from Tuesday 10 to Sunday 15 June. Tickets are on sale at upstairsatthegatehouse.com

Review: The Behaviours of Posie Marshall

Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate Village

By Jessica Holt

This one-woman show described as a dark comedy is performed by its writer Maeve O'Hare. Her story begins with an arrest and the play tracks the previous 37 hours leading up to it.



Roll of roles: Maeve O'Hare convincingly plays multiple characters in the one-woman show

As an 18-year-old woman Posie describes her working-class life, her tricky mother and her beloved criminal brother Jason. A number of scenarios are played out: a party scene, a supermarket scene, a drugs scene, a prison scene and a court scene.

All the characters (approximately 27, I lost count) are played by Maeve O'Hare with remarkable skill, each character is clearly delineated predominantly through her physicality and voice. Making excellent use of accent both to show



country and class she brings the characters to life. This constant changing of roles is never tedious and is played with great pace, energy and humour.

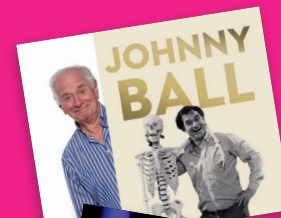
Masterclass

We are confronted with familiar ideas, the absent father, the son who turns to crime, the abuse of women, the inevitability of violence that can lead to knife crime, the inability of the police to get to grips with the situation.

There are no great insights but the character of Posie enables us to look afresh at these moments in her life with a sense of irony. Posie herself knows we've heard it all before, but she wants us to hear it again in the hope it might change something.

The use of the performance space offers a variety of settings with ease. We accept when she is at the supermarket, in a prison cell or at a party. The lighting supports this well though the sound didn't mean a great deal to me.

Even if the first half was too long by about ten minutes, this production was well worth seeing and I suggest it would be valuable to tour in schools not just for its potential to explore its themes but as a masterclass in playing several characters in one production.

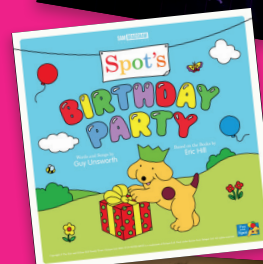


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