



East Finchley Opens its doors

By Eti Wade

The East Finchley Open, an established group of local artists, held their third Open House event on the weekend of 1-2 July, which went spectacularly well.

The weekend kicked off with a launch party at the Noble Sage gallery, Fortis Green, on the Friday night. Some of the EFO artists were showcased inside the gallery and all members were invited to display work in the gallery marquee set up for the event. Guests were invited for a glass of wine and enjoyed a speech by David Aronsohn, chairman of the group, a gong performance by Eddie Sears and a preview of the art-work.

After the launch the artists went home to prepare for the busy weekend. The next couple of days were hectic, with the artists presenting their work at 11 different houses and nine other High Road venues.

This year the EFO has presented work in a wide range of locations including shops and venues such as the Phoenix Cinema, the community police office, Monkey Face and The Old White Lion pub. The collaboration between the

EFO and local businesses has been a resounding success, with some high street shops and businesses clearing space especially for EFO artworks and opening their shops to the enthusiastic art audience. Despite the sweltering heat the houses and shops were all very well attended. The artists enjoyed exhibiting their work and talking to the public about inspirations, techniques, and the creative process.

Visitors confirmed how enjoyable the weekend was and how much it raises the profile of our community to have an art event such as the Summer Open and a thriving artist community such as the EFO in our midst. Many East Finchley residents are now proud owners of new original art works made by local people. We are now starting to work towards our Art Fair event at Martin School Hall on 19 November. EFO artists can also be contacted via the website www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk.



Artists: Amelia Casas-Serrate, Corin Tulk, Rena Zenonos & her mother. Picture by Craig Johnson

Local art for local people

By Alex Nunes & Craig Johnson

Had you been taking a stroll down Church Lane on Saturday 1 July you might have been surprised by number 34's miraculous transformation. As part of the East Finchley Open weekend, local artists exhibited their work in their homes, offering a unique opportunity for the public to view some of the best work in the area.

The wall space at number 34 was adorned with photography and acrylic on canvas from artists such as Jane Higgison and Karen Fraser. Photography, embroidery and ceramics were but a fraction of the highly inspirational art on display.

With free entry, a rather generous helping of wine and such unique art on offer, the experi-

ence made for a great day out. Meanwhile at 259 Creighton Avenue, Amelia Casas Serrate, Corrin Tulk and Rena Zenonos were displaying their photography, canvas works and embroidery.

You can see more of the artists' work and photographs of the exhibitions at: www.eastfinchleyopen.org.

HIPS operation for home owners

Are you thinking of putting your home up for sale? If you do so after 1 June next year, be aware that you will be required to provide a Home Information Pack (HIP).

As a consequence of the Housing Act 2004, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has announced that HIPs will be mandatory, ostensibly to make buying and selling simpler and faster.

They are expected to cost around £400 but that could rise to nearer £600 if you choose to include an optional home condition report, or survey.

The HIP will need to include the usual sheaf of legal documents that are part of the conveyancing process now, including deeds, local authority searches and guarantees for any home improvements carried out.

What will be new is the Energy Performance Certificate, which will allow potential buyers to judge the likely fuel costs of running the home before buying.

Essentially, the certificate will give the property a rating from A to G for lighting, heating and hot water costs, much like the energy efficiency ratings we've grown used to seeing on electrical goods. It will also list options for improving the property's energy performance.

The information in a HIP must not be more than three months old at the time that the property is offered for sale and it can only be prepared by an accredited Home Inspector.

Failure to provide a HIP will

not be a criminal offence but could result in you receiving a daily penalty of £200, issued by trading standards officers, if you try to sell without one.

The Association of Home Information Pack Providers will argue that sellers should pay £100-200 extra to get the optional survey done at the same time as the energy certificate because it can be done

by the inspector under the same call-out fee.

HIPs will be mandatory for everyone putting a residential property on the market but not for those sold with sitting tenants or for private sales between friends and family.

More information about HIPs can be found at www.homeinformationpacks.gov.uk



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