



## Regular Events

### SPORT & FITNESS

- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** Wednesdays Christ Church N12. Ring Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tai Chi** at the Green Man on Mondays 1.30-3pm. An "ageing well" class for older people.
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8440 6953.
- ❖ **Wood Walk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk, Call 8883 8750.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation.** Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.

### DANCE, DRAMA, ART & MUSIC

- ❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops.** Creative writing, poetry and prose Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** - 11 Dec at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3. New members welcome
- ❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - a communal singing club. Call Idit Gold 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 8346 8736
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 8883 4070 for info.
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
- ❖ **SwampRock** events feature a different band each month. See [www.swamprock.org.uk](http://www.swamprock.org.uk) or call Carole 8810 7454 or Neil 01727 830280
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 8349 4613

### CLUBS & SOCIAL

- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust**, Contact Jane on 8883 4340
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at The Old White Lion. Call Lilian 8444 1793
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Mouldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, contact Admin Office 8340 3343 or email: [admin@hlsi.net](mailto:admin@hlsi.net).
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- ❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, contact 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call John 8883 8114.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.



The Archer's Craig Johnson & Gina Yashere.

## Gina's only joking

By Craig Johnson

**My good friend and favourite comedian Gina Yashere was in town recently and updated me on her current tour since performing at the artsdepot in North Finchley last summer.**

The 32-year-old, who lives in Woodford Green, Essex, says audiences at her show are all ages and she has no problem making such a diverse audience laugh. All her shows so far have sold out.

She said: "Most people have no idea what to expect from my show. But I would describe it as real family fun. My audi-

ences range from around 11 to 74. I'm not saying I'm the cleanest comic ever but there's no filth."

Gina's last dates on her current tour are in Norwich on 20 and 21 December. Find more details at [www.ginayashere.co.uk/2006tour](http://www.ginayashere.co.uk/2006tour)

## Vienna waits for you

By Betti Blatman

**Colin Stone's piano performance of Shostakovich's Preludes and Fugues on 29 October at The Red Hedgehog Chamber Music Café and Gallery in Archway Road, Highgate, was a memorable experience.**

Stone first came to prominence in 1986 winning the Royal Over-Seas League Piano competition in London, his performance of Liszt's 'Data Sonata' at the Queen Elizabeth Hall being a notable triumph. That same year, encouragement at the Busoni Competition in Italy and a highly acclaimed Wigmore Hall debut launched his career as a soloist and many concerto engagements followed. He regularly records for BBC Radio 3 and his CD for Olympia of Shostakovich's two piano sonatas was praised by Classic CD Magazine as "an outstanding release".

### A dream realised

Although Clare Fischer bought the lease to the then derelict building in December 2003, her bank provided only £12,000 but, with a friend's backing of £350,000, she was able to pursue her enthusiasm for attracting major artists to perform in an intimate venue.

Clare is grateful to James Lisney for suggesting she name the venue after a 19th century coffee house in Vienna, the regular haunt of many classical composers such as Brahms, Schubert, Schumann and Mendelssohn. Brahms, for instance, obsessively refused to eat or drink anywhere else; there is a famous lithograph of the composer striding along in his top hat with a tiny red hedgehog at his heels. The place is often referred to in musical correspondence in relation to many musical figures of the period.

The original Red Hedgehog was associated with food, drink, conviviality and lively conversation between musicians, artists and thinkers. It is this atmosphere to which the Red Hedgehog on Archway Road aspires. In a 21<sup>st</sup> century touch, Clare offers a 'green travel discount' to those arriving in eco-friendly vehicles, cycling or using public transport. For further information, telephone 020 8348 5050 or log on to [www.theredhedgehog.co.uk](http://www.theredhedgehog.co.uk)

## Stephen and Sophie show strikes a wrong note

By Betti Blatman

**After chaotic disorganisation, with the artsdepot doors opening late at 7.50pm on Sunday 22 October and no programme available for the evening's entertainment, "The Real Tuesday Weld" band finally appeared on stage fronted by lead singer and founder, Stephen Coates.**

Accompanied by Ian Watson (accordion), Daniel Glendining (guitar and vox), Stephen Pilgrim (drums), Ali Friend (bass) and Grant Windsor (keyboards), Stephen attempted to create jazzy cabaret-style music but sang and spoke unenthusiastically and at such a slow speed that he almost came to a full stop.

The unusual photography created some visual disturbance from the films in the background. The audience soon became restless and within 20 minutes five people left followed someone else a few minutes later.

Sophie Solomon then joined her support band and with her

## The draughtsman at the Noble Sage

By Andrew Shirlaw

**A new exhibition of art by the pioneering modernist Indian sculptor S Dhanapal is on view at the Noble Sage, on Fortis Green, until 12 January.**

His early work embodies traditional Indian rural art themes. The exhibits, many of which are for sale, include a colourful painting entitled Village Women, completed in 1947, of four Indian women wearing brightly coloured, traditional rural outfits. There is also a highly unusual painting of a rural musician entitled Tampura Player, which Dhanapal painted in tempera.

Dhanapal was heavily influenced by the work of Henry Moore, apparent in one of his sketches, a sensual ink drawing from 1965, entitled Reclining Nude Figure. Another nude drawing of a woman seems to be inspired by classical European art; it is simply called Study of a Woman.

## Spike portrait unveiled

**The ground floor salon in Avenue House, East End Road, now displays a portrait of Spike Milligan. It was unveiled at the end of October by his daughter Silé. The artist, Julia Breck, co-starred with Spike in the 1970s television "Q" series.**

Organisers of the Spike Milligan Statue Fund hope that it will be complemented before too long by a bronze statue of the late comedian and writer, which will be placed in the grounds of Avenue House.

Further information is available from David Smith on 020 8883 4154 or 07944 049 250, or from [www.spikestatue.org.uk](http://www.spikestatue.org.uk).

I particularly enjoyed the more typically Indian paintings of dancers and rural characters Dhanapal completed during the early part of his career and also a highly abstract ink drawing made in 1999, towards the end of his career.

### A witness to change

Dhanapal's career began during the period marking the end of British rule in India and he witnessed the rise of the independence movement in India and the political, artistic and social upheaval of the time. He sculpted important contemporary political leaders including Mahatma Gandhi.

The Noble Sage Director, Jana Manuelpillai, said: "Dhanapal was a crucial artist at the turning point in South Indian modernism. He also had an extraordinary gift for drawing and painting that equalled his renowned sculptural talent. It seems fitting that Dhanapal should be celebrated with a large-scale show of his most private drawings and paintings."

## What's On...

E-mail your listings to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

**Saturday 2 December**  
**Auction of celebrity pictures** at Avenue House, East End Road, 7.30 pm. Bid for original artworks by Jamie Theakston, Terry Wogan, Zoe Ball, Jonathan Ross and others. De luxe buffet and entertainment from award-winning singers including Angels of Kaos. Tickets £20. Tel 07950 359209.

**Sunday 3 December**  
**An Evening With Maureen Lipman;** all proceeds going to North London Hospice, 7.30pm, The Burroughs, Middlesex University, Hendon NW4. Tickets £25, including refreshments from North London Hospice Fundraising Office, 47 Woodside Ave, N12 8TF, 020 8446 2288, or from 2 Lauradale Road, N2 9LU, 0208 883 4736, or at the door.

**Sunday 3 December**  
**Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit** at the Phoenix Cinema, a rare screening of the 1990 TV series from Jeanette Winterson's novel, starring Charlotte Coleman and Geraldine McEwen; three episodes of 55 minutes each starting at 2pm. This event is a tribute to Charlotte, who died in 2001, from all at the Phoenix Cinema Trust, which is celebrating its 21<sup>st</sup> year. Charlotte's father Francis was the first chair of the trust. Tickets for this event are £7.50 or £6 concession from the box office 020 8444 6789.

**Saturday 6 January**  
**SwampRock presents Oceans 7** playing Rock 'n Roll and Rockin' Rhythm 'n' Blues, All Saints Art Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, London N20. Doors open at 8 pm. Large dance floor. Non smoking. Admission £9. Further details from Carole Lateman on 020 8810 7454 or Neil Papworth on 01727 830280.

**Throughout December**  
**Exhibition by local artist and sculptor Fiona Goldbacher,** The Phoenix Cinema.