



## 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.
- ❖ **Yoga classes** Tuesdays 8-9:30pm at EF Methodist Church. Experienced teacher. Call Rosalind 8444 8134.

### 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** - 6 & 20 Feb 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: Call Carole 8810 7454 or Neil 01727 830280 www.swamprock.org.uk
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** of North London, 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 Sophie on 8444 1890
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **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 Eric 8340 0822.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.

# When Finchley went to Narnia

By Daphne Chamberlain  
**"We're from Finchley," say the Pevensie children in the new Disney film *The Chronicles of Narnia*. "Oh yes? Since when?" say filmgoers who have read C.S.Lewis's original book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Did someone making the film simply decide that Finchley sounded solid and conventional, or could there be another reason for mentioning it?**

Truro resident Pete Mitchell, who spent his formative years in Finchley (1946-64), has come up with a possible answer. As he says, it's a convoluted connection, but here goes.

### Wedding bells

Douglas Gresham, co-producer of the film, is a son of Joy Davidman, who became author C.S.Lewis's wife (remember the film *Shadowlands*?) The Lewises had gone through a civil ceremony in 1956 to keep Joy, an American citizen, in England. She was dying of cancer, but the local bishop would not sanction a religious ceremony because she had been divorced. The problem was solved by the Rev. Peter Bide, a friend and former student of C.S.Lewis, who was then a vicar in Sussex, outside the Bishop of Oxford's jurisdiction. So, after a laying on of hands, he went ahead with the Christian wedding service in 1957. Miraculously, Joy survived another three years.



Pete Mitchell, Truro reader, originally from Finchley.

### Finchley connection

The Rev. Peter Bide had lived in Stanhope Avenue, N3, in the 1940s and his mother-in-law helped finance the setting up of a nursery school in the Baptist Church Hall in Stanhope Avenue (opposite Avenue House). It was run by a co-operative of mothers, including our informant Pete Mitchell's mother, Mary.

So could Peter Bide, the vicar who helped the Lewises, be the reason for Finchley's celluloid fame?

## Life in the Blitz

**Experienced London guide Brenda Cole will give an illustrated talk on London during the Blitz at Avenue House, East End Road on Thursday 23 February at 2.30pm.**

Brenda, a member of the City of London Guide Lecturers Association, will describe how the City of London and its people prepared for and survived the damage done by enemy bombers between 1939 and 1945.

The talk is being hosted by The Finchley Society but is open to non-members and entry is free.

## New venue for a night out

By Craig Johnson  
**Buried beneath the ancient paving stones of Muswell Hill Broadway, a new subterranean nightclub has thrown open its doors to clubbers.**

Uwish Club is aimed at the gay crowd and sits side by side with the other dozen or so bars of Muswell Hill offering a funky hard house selection from DJ and manager Val.

The décor is both lustrous and comfortingly familiar, a throwback to the glamour days of London's club land, with a warren of massively-mirrored walls, psychedelic lasers and LCD screens.

Drink deals are ensuring

the popularity of Wednesday Karaoke with DJ Dan and Thursday's quiz nights with Richie from Sky TV. Other nights to catch are Friday's Old Skool Disco and Saturday's House Party with resident DJ UWish.

### Going underground

But Sunday is the night to visit if you want to soak up the vibes from 8pm to 3am. At the end of a night in this beat bunker you can return to the surface of the suburban streets.

Uwish manager Val says, "We are the first gay club in the area, so come and support us!" Doors are open Sunday to Thursday from 8pm-3am and on Friday and Saturday from 8pm-4am.

For more information, visit [www.clubuwish.com](http://www.clubuwish.com).

## Narnia gets cold shoulder at Phoenix

By Lucy Chamberlin  
***The Chronicles of Narnia* has been a worldwide smash but it failed to set the Phoenix Cinema box office alight.**

All of the Christmas Narnia workshops there for children to make costumes and paint masks were cancelled due to lack of interest.

The film too, which was given rave reviews and had high turnouts at local multiplex cinemas, only attracted mediocre numbers at the Phoenix.

Did CS Lewis's magical tale of four children from Finchley who have adventures in the land of Narnia merit no greater support from their native suburb?

The Saturday morning Kids' Club at the High Road cinema has also been suffering poor turnouts recently and its future is being considered.

Staff suspect a lack of publicity since the departure of two education officers earlier last year has led to a drop in the number of children attending, coupled with the Phoenix's image as an independent venue, predominantly playing repertory rather than mainstream films.

A member of staff, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "From responses we did get to the Narnia workshop, the price (£30 per workshop, including film and a snack) seemed to be a problem. I suppose people are spending a lot of money at that time of year anyway."

## Charity jazz evening

**Finchley Rotary Club is hosting a jazz evening on Saturday 25 February to raise funds for a play park for Oak Lodge Special School.**

The entertainment will be provided by Just the Job Jazz and there will be plenty of turkey, ham, and cheese to eat, plus a vegetarian option if preferred.

The venue is St Mary's Church Hall in Hendon Lane, N3, at 7.30pm. Entry is by ticket only at £15, including supper with dessert. To reserve a place, contact Trevor Williams on 020 8446 3797.

## What's On...

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

### Thursday 9 February

The Finchley Society presents a talk on how to research your favourite spot in Finchley by Oliver Natelson at Avenue House, East End Road, at 8pm. The talk is open to non-members and entry is free.

### Sunday 12 February

Live music at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, 8pm: Paraguayan harpist Kike Pedersen plays Latin American, international, classical jazz and Paraguayan music. Admission is free. Collection in aid of the Anglo Paraguayan Society, raising money for needy families in Paraguay. Full disabled access.

### Wednesday 22 February

Talk by Claire Goodburn, community fundraiser for the Treehouse Trust, celebrating its first anniversary in Woodside Avenue. The trust is hoping to establish a national centre for autism education. Muswell Hill Bowling Club, King's Avenue, N10 at 8pm. Coffee and biscuits provided.

### Thursday 23 February

Blitz! London during World War Two, an illustrated talk to The Finchley Society by Brenda Cole at Avenue House, East End Road at 2.30pm. Non-members are welcome and entry is free.

### Saturday 25 February

Charity jazz evening hosted by Finchley's Rotary Club to raise funds for a play park for Oak Lodge Special School. The entertainment will be provided by Just the Job Jazz at St Mary's Church Hall, Hendon Lane, N3 at 7.30pm. Entry is by ticket only - £15.00 including two-course meal - from Trevor Williams on 020 8446 3797.

## Is 2006 the year you learn how to surf the web and use email?

The Green Man Community Centre offers a wide range of courses to help you make the most of new technology. If you just want to learn how to use email or even get a professional qualification we have the course for you.

Learners study at their own pace with a friendly tutor on hand to offer help and advice if needed.

For more information about the courses on offer call Helen on 020 8815 0703.

The Learndirect Centre is managed in conjunction with Barnet College