



## 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** - 9 & 23 Jan 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
- ❖ **Fairacres Monday Club** for Jewish people. Contact Rene & Reuby 8883 0448 or Sylvia 8958 7878
- ❖ **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.

## Making Contact

By Helen Drake

**East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact (Contact) has received a cheque for £600 from the East Finchley Open group of artists and craftspeople, raised at their recent Winter Arts Fair.**



The organisers of the EFO Winter Fair, (L-R:) Christine Watson, Monica Peiser, Sian Jones (Co-ordinator of CONTACT) and David Aronsohn, present their cheque. Photo by Helen Drake.

Sian Jones, Co-ordinator of Contact, said, "This donation is crucial as our core funding doesn't cover all our services and it is difficult to find anyone willing to fund existing services."

Contact, set up in 1985 to help the vulnerable and isolated, offers a range of services to mainly elderly or disabled people living in East Finchley. Clients can receive gardening assistance; have volunteer help with transport, odd jobs and form filling; have a regular visitor; and access other voluntary or statutory services and financial benefits. When funds allow, Contact organises

regular outings for the elderly and housebound. Their popular shopping bus runs twice a week for people unable to carry their shopping on public transport. It is Contact's most costly service.

The core funding from Barnet Council only pays the wages for the key workers for a limited number of hours a week. A small amount of additional funding from the Pension Service has enabled Contact to expand its services to other parts of Finchley and provide additional support to the most vulnerable.

Most other services offered rely on volunteers. Contact

hopes to recruit a cook (paid/ or volunteer) for the Traditional Lunch Club held every Tuesday. If you are a good home cook and get on well with people, Sian would like to hear from you. For more information about Contact or to make a donation phone 020 8444 1162 or e-mail [efncontact@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:efncontact@dsl.pipex.com)

## No ordinary prince

By Hamasseh Mostafazadeh-Asl

**The Ordinary Prince is a powerful play that was given a performance to match at the Finchley Youth Theatre. The play strives to break down common preconceptions of teenage pregnancy and addresses the relationships between parents and children.**

Author Clifford Oliver tells the story of a 14-year-old boy, Adam, who struggles to understand the reasons why his biological father left him when he was a baby. It is a sad irony, therefore, that by the end of the play Adam follows in his father's footsteps by leaving his girlfriend, Carley, and their unborn baby.

The play draws attention to the important role young men play as fathers and the heavy burden of responsibility placed on their shoulders, which often proves to be unbearable.

The emotional hardships of this story and the consequences of teenage pregnancy were wonderfully conveyed by the enthusiastic, youthful cast.

The young audience particularly sympathised with both of the central characters, Adam and Carley, played by Mark Lazar and Johannah Maria-Feinberg. The talents

of Edmund Cox must also be commended; he provided comic relief in the smaller role of Tim, Adam's friend.

Clifford Oliver parallels this story with a fictional fairytale version of Adam's life, allowing the audience to compare the harsh reality of Adam's situation with the fairytale-like expectations one might have of it. This opens up many questions regarding teenage pregnancy, often leaving the audience to think and answer them for themselves.

The Ordinary Prince will be returning to the Finchley Youth Theatre in High Road next year. I urge you to go and see it, not only to support the formidable acting talents of our local community, but also to engage all family members in thinking about the issues around teenage pregnancy and in seeing things from a young person's perspective.

## Blackmail in the family

By Betti Blatman

**Incognito Theatre in Friern Barnet recently presented an outstanding production of A Small Family Business by Alan Ayckbourn.**

This blistering comedy is nonetheless a black morality play and won the London Evening Standard Drama Award for best play of 1987.

When Jack, honest and upright, takes over as managing director of the family furniture business, he expects to find scope for improving efficiency, but his managerial skills are no match for the wholesale fraud, deceit and theft he uncovers both in the business and amongst his family.

Almost at once he has to succumb to blackmail, because of his daughter, and this is only the first of the moral compromises he will have to make.

The play was directed by David Longstaff and every member of the cast portrayed and performed their characters to the highest standard. Particularly excellent were Will Piper as Jack McCracken, Graham Boon as Ken Ayres and David Parsons as Benedict Hough.

For further information on future productions by Incognito Theatre, visit [www.incognitoteatre.com](http://www.incognitoteatre.com) or telephone 020 8361 8310.

## Turn again, theatre-goers!

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Did you take the family to a pantomime this Christmas? If so, how was your journey? Next year, why not just look behind you: at the Guild Players in Ballards Lane Methodist Church?**

When I went to their matinee of *Dick Whittington*, the hall was packed with enthusiastic children and appreciative adults. "It's real traditional theatre, better than the Cambridge Footlights show," I heard a young man tell his girlfriend. Well, of course it would be. After all, the character called Sam Seaweed said he used to go to Holy Trinity School.

All the panto must-haves were there, from thigh-slapping Principal Boy to inoffensively naughty Dame. There was an interesting programme, too, giving facts about the real Dick Whittington, and explaining the vital factor needed for this kind of show: communication with the audience. The excellent cast certainly had that. They were supported by a lively mini-

orchestra, who romped through the Lambeth Walk and several other songs and dances before finding their way to Amarillo.

The Guild Players have been around for 60 years, but the members are all ages. Most are from Finchley, but others are from Archway, Enfield, Muswell Hill, Crouch End and Tottenham, and they don't necessarily have any connection with the Methodist Church. They've had a healthy influx of new members recently, but more are always welcome.

Pantos are for Christmas, but there are other plays throughout the year. Watch out for details of their next production, planned for May. For further information, contact Betty Robertson on 020 8441 7696.

## 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 Leardirect Centre is managed in conjunction with Barnet College