



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** - 16 & 30 Oct 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 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
- ❖ **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.



Patrick Street at Artsdepot. Picture by John Dearing

Irish folk band's stirring concert

By John Dearing

Patrick Street gave a concert of Irish traditional folk music in the Pentland Theatre at artsdepot on Friday 1 September.

There is a road called Patrick Street in nearly every town in Ireland, hence their name. The band consists of fiddler Kevin Burke (ex Bothy Band), Jackie Daly (ex De Dannan) on accordion, Ged Foley (ex House Band) on guitar and vocals, John Carty on fiddle, flute and banjo, and Andy Irvine (ex Planxty) on guitar, mandolin, harmonica and vocals. All are superb musicians who have worked together in one form or another for some 20 years.

The band played a selection of traditional and original songs, interspersed with instrumental medleys of jigs, reels and polkas. There were various themes: one song was about two brothers who left Ireland after the 1848 uprising, to go to America, where one was killed in the Civil War, and the other became involved in the Indian wars. Another was about

a lonely (presumably Irish) sheep drover in Australia.

The mood of the songs was generally that of the downbeat Irish ballad, but they also played a song about a distiller of illegal whisky who married a girl, had 15 daughters and lived happily ever after! By contrast, the jigs and reels were lively, loud and cheerful.

Patrick Street played two sets of 45 minutes each and a ten-minute encore. The latter featured a song about a horse race in County Kildare, sung by Andy Irvine, which was notable for having at least three different time signatures.

Patrick Street's music is uncompromising, but if you like Irish traditional music they are unmissable. The audience at artsdepot left no doubt about their appreciation. Well done to Barnet Folk Club for bringing them to Finchley.

Backstreet Thriller

By Lucy Chamberlin

In the leafy suburbs of Friern Barnet, along a narrow gap between garden fences and an NHS clinic, lurks a tiny gem: Incognito Theatre and Company. Opened in the 1930s, it was here that David Jason began his brilliant career, and he remains a patron. Its members seem to be just such a 'snug little group' as that portrayed on the stage of their latest production of J.B. Priestley's *Dangerous Corner*, if without such disastrous personal revelations.

Dangerous Corner was Priestley's first play and heralded his preoccupation with time which we see recurring in, for example *I Have Been Here Before* (based on the ideas of P.D. Ouspensky), and the renowned *An Inspector Calls*, in which the demise of a middle-class family occurs before the death which apparently causes it. Similarly with *Dangerous Corner*, the crises which Truth and Death pose for Propriety and Society seem insurmountable. That is, until Priestley adds an alternative ending, proving that cracks in 'the firm' - formerly an ironic title for these three broken couples - may be plastered over and the publishing partners' dinner party may reconvene. Sleeping dogs (the name of a radio play at the start) and cigarette boxes (a musical one is the first subject of dissent) are let to lie, and

any frisson caused by truth smoothly ignored.

In such an intimate venue the play was more sitting-room claustrophobia than drawing-room drama. But the audience's sense of being an ornament trembling on the mantelpiece, or flattened against an imaginary fourth stage wall trying to remain unnoticed amongst the fireworks, testified to the quality of amateur acting here. As it got under way, the actors seemed increasingly immersed in their parts, obviously enjoying the scope to explore new psyches and emotions.

Director David Parsons, who came across Priestley by chance, said: "It was very hard work but good fun for all involved. I'd do it again - next year."

Rehearsals have begun for Incognito's next performance, Journey's End, which runs from 12-18 November.

Anglo Saxon epic finds home at Phoenix

By Sheila Armstrong

The Phoenix scored another first when the premiere of the film *Beowulf and Grendel* took place on 9th September. For some reason this film, a 17 million dollar Canadian/Icelandic/ British venture, was not picked up by a distributor in the UK, despite sellouts at various film festivals round the world. An internet campaign resulted in the Phoenix offering the film its first showing in the UK.

The epic Anglo Saxon tale, rewritten by Andrew Rai Berzins, took about five years from script to premiere. In contemporary English and with a fitting injection of humour it played to a good house. Anglo Saxon scholarship was not needed to appreciate the film; it was clearly yet dramatically told, capturing those times very well for the average film goer. I was not able to ask any English scholars what they thought of the interpretation, however!

The film was visually stunning and the brooding Icelandic scenery left a lasting impression. So did the excellent international cast including Gerald Brennan as the warrior Beowulf, Stellan Skarsgard as

the king and Ingvar Sigurdsson as the troll Grendel. Powerfully directed by Sturla Gunnarsson, the story of the monster Grendel was a gripping tale; from his desperate beginnings following his father's brutal death at the hands of the king, to his own strange death after the battle with Beowulf.

Apparently Berzins was inspired by the story of Beowulf on first reading of it as a child in Rosemary Sutcliffe's book *The Dragon Slayer*, a popular book for children in the 1960s.

Filmgoers in East Finchley are lucky that the Phoenix responded to the request for a venue. *Beowulf and Grendel* is out now on DVD in the States and will be available here soon.

Strike up the band

By Betti Blatman

The BBC Elstree Concert Band will give a concert on Saturday 14 October at 7.30 pm at St. James Church, Muswell Hill to raise money for the North London Hospice.

The acclaimed band will perform music from Hollywood, Broadway and London's West End plus jazz from Glen Miller and Duke Ellington.

Tickets priced £20, £15, £10, and £5 for children under 16 (with a 10% discount until 7 October) can be obtained from the North London Hos-

pice Fundraising Dept., 47 Woodside Avenue, N12 8TF (telephone: 020 8446 2288) or 2 Lauradale Road, Muswell Hill, N2 9LU (telephone: 020 8883 4736). Please make cheques payable to North London Hospice Northern Heights Group. Tickets will also be available on the door.

What's On...

E-mail your listings to the-archer@lineone.net

4 - 28 October:

Epsilon Productions present Shakespeare's 'Othello' Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate.

Tues-Sat. 8 pm, Sun 4 pm. £10-£12. Box office 020 8340 3488

Thursday evenings from 5 October:

Eight 'Jazz in the House' concerts at Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill. Book three, get the fourth for free. Details from 020 8348 8716

12 - 15 October:

The Knitting and Stitching Show 10-5.30 daily at Alexandra Palace. Advance tickets (£10 adults, £9 snr. citizens, £3 children) from 01473 320407 or £12 £10, £4 on door: Info from www.twistedthread.com or 020 8692 2299

Thursday 26 October:

'Bizarre Barnet' - Gerrard Roots tells stories of dancing witches, ghostly donkeys and other comic, curious, horrible or heartbreaking events at 8pm, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Talk organised by The Finchley Society, non-members welcome.

Sunday 29 October:

Join the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood for conservation work at 11 am in Cherry Tree Wood, Hallowe'en activities and refreshments for the children.

Monday 30 October:

Friends of Cherry Tree Wood AGM, East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2. 7.30 pm.

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