



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- **Outdoor Bootcamp** 9.30am & 10.30am every Sat; **Boxing and Kettlebells**, 6.45pm Weds, Victoria Park, N3. Contact Sarah 07956 589902.
- **Outdoor Fit Camp** Lyttelton Playing Fields, N2, 6.30pm Wed and 9.30am Sat. Call Martin on 07809 593952.
- **Pilates class** Weds 3.30 & 7pm at Ann Owens Ctr, N2. Call Penny 8444 2882.
- **Pilates Classes** Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 1pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N3, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 07956 375607.
- **Yoga beginners' course** at Yogalogy, High Road, N2. Contact 020 70187377 or info@yogalogy.co.uk
- **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.
- **Women's kick boxing**, Thursdays 9.30am, East Finchley Combat Academy, Church Lane, N2. Contact 07956 340540.

Music, Dance & Creative Arts

- **Art Classes**. Call Henry on 8888 5133.
- **A-Chord**, friendly choir, all genres, open to all. Thursdays 8pm at NNLS, East End Rd. Laura 07732 120464. www.a-chord.uk
- **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes** - beginners & improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **Dance conditioning classes**. New body in 10 lessons. Diana: 07580 041270. www.boldbodies.co.uk.
- **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Ralph 8444 5903.
- **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops**. Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- **Muswell Hill after school ukulele club**, Wednesdays 4.15-5.15pm, ages 6-10. Contact Margie 07909 439513.
- **Traditional tunes** @ TOC Highgate Hill, join in playing by ear - 1st & 3rd Tues monthly from 8.30pm. Free. 07958 282898.

Clubs & Social

- **Bingo evening**, 8pm Sundays, at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2.
- **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9 pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5452
- **French conversation** in small friendly group with native speaker. 8444 9395.
- **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or 8883 7544.
- **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Moldon on 8361 1696.
- **Muslim Ladies Lunch Club** 1st & 3rd Weds, Ann Owen Ctr., Oak La. Call 8432 1415 to book.
- **Bridge Club**, every Saturday 1.30-4pm, Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.
- **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tues 1-3 pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Anita 8886 6140.

Watch where you tread in the woods!

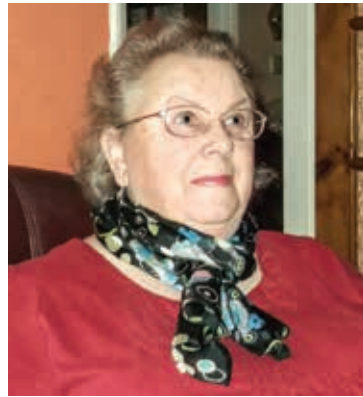
By Cathy Young

Have you ever seen the fairies in Cherry Tree Wood? Author Shirley Boatwright will have you convinced that there is a whole family living there.

Inspired by a fairy storybook *Lamplighter Joe*, by Isobel St Vincent, given to her on her sixth birthday, Shirley held on to her dreams and finally wrote the book she had always wanted to write nearly 70 years later.

Local childhood

She used as her setting the woods, Coldfall and Cherry Tree, where she and her two sisters used to play. During the Second World War they were bombed out of their house in Huntingdon Road and the family had to move to a flat in Hertford Road with no garden to play in.



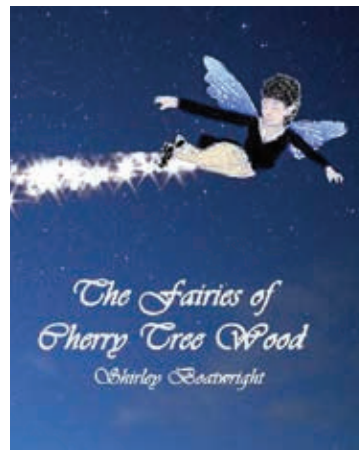
Childhood inspiration: Shirley Boatwright

"We used Cherry Tree Wood and Coldfall Wood as our gardens, spending all day there with strawberry jam sandwiches when we were not at school," recalls Shirley. "We spent all our young lives in East Finchley until we married and went to different parts of the country. I was 19 and my sisters were

Party invitation

The Archer Academy is inviting people living in local residential homes to a festive tea party at the school in Eagans Close, N2.

The afternoon tea on Tuesday 6 December from 3pm to 5pm will be accompanied by student performances of festive songs, poetry readings and a music recital. Please email office@thearcheracademy.org.uk if you would like to go along and join in the fun.



Fairy tale: Shirley's book cover

about the same age when they too left home."

Shirley attended Martin Primary and Alder Secondary Modern schools until 1956, then left school at the age of 15 for her first job working as a GPO telephonist in King's Cross.

Magical spaces

Her book, called *The Fairies of Cherry Tree Wood*, is about an adventurous hero called Antonio, who left his home in Naples and married a beautiful Belgian fairy called Marietta. They flew to England on the back of a dragonfly, finally settling in Cherry Tree Wood where they brought up their little fairy family. It is the first book in a trilogy which follows the family through many adventures in our local woodlands. This first book is available now through Amazon and the next two will be ready for publication next year.

Can a fairy tale written in 2016 inspire children as deeply as *Lamplighter Joe* inspired Shirley back in 1947? For many East Finchley residents, old and young, the woods remain special and almost magical spaces. Anything could happen...

Can you deliver?

THE ARCHER needs volunteers to deliver papers to Ludlow Way, Ossulton Way, Maurice Walk, Blandford Close, Cornwood Close, Greenhalgh Walk and part of Lyttelton Road.

Please contact us by email at the-archer@lineone.net or by phone on 0800 612 0748. Thank you.

What's On...

Saturday 10 December

- **St Mary's Catholic Church** at 279 High Road invites everyone to its **Christmas Fair**, 12 noon-3pm with Santa's grotto from 1pm to 2.30pm. Children's activities, face painting, hot food, mulled wine, cakes galore, festive carols, local pottery, jewellery, books, toys and a whole range of tombolas. Free entrance, all welcome.
- **Nazareth House Winter Bazaar**, 2-5pm, 162 East End Road, N2; a fun event for all the family with music, teas and cakes, games for children, a tombola and raffle with stalls selling bric-a-brac, good quality

clothes, cakes, books. Entry £1 for adults. Children free.

- **Martin Primary School Christmas Fair**, 12-3pm; Plane Tree Walk, N2. Come and see Santa, bounce on a castle, eat delicious food and enjoy live music and festive fun and activities for all the family!

Wednesday 14 December to Sunday 29 January

- **Ovation** presents the 1962 off-Broadway version of *Anything Goes*, with music and lyrics by Cole Porter: all-singing, all-dancing musical theatre classic set aboard an ocean liner on a trans-Atlantic voyage in 1934.



The opening of the new Everyman Cinema in Muswell Hill. Photos Mike Coles

Everyman "will not rival the Phoenix"

By Neil McNaughton

Though its doors opened some time ago, the Muswell Hill Everyman Cinema, formerly the Odeon, threw an official launch party in late November. After months of work the art deco interiors of the old cinema have been replaced by dark, plain walls in the three auditoria and contemporary decor in the foyer.

Deputy manager Alice Roberts told The Archer that the model they have developed can be described as the "total cinema experience". Customers are seated in generously proportioned soft upholstery where they may choose to be served drinks and fast food, very much as they might watch films at home on their own. The big difference, of course, is the big screen and rich sound experience.

Standard adult seat prices at the Everyman, part of a chain of 20 cinemas, are £14 compared with £11 at the independent Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley. Ms Roberts said generally different clientele and programmes meant she did not expect the two venues to be in direct competition.

Carols and mince pies

East Finchley Methodist Church in the High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, is welcoming everyone to its Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 18 December at 5pm. There will be readings about the Christmas story and carol singing.

Christmas musical items will be performed by soprano Andrea Whittaker, mezzo soprano Viola da Cunha, organist Janice Twiselton and pianist Richard Bullen. Admission is free and there will be mince pies and refreshments afterwards.

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

- **Bach to Baby Christmas family concert at Lauderdale House**, Highgate, 11am. Magical music, mincepies, mouth-watering coffee! Tots are free to dance, roam about and revel in the wonder of live music. More information from www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk.

Sunday 18 December

- **Carols by Candlelight** at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 5pm. Come and enjoy carols and readings about the Christmas story, with mince pies and refreshments afterwards.

Thursday 15 December

- **Christmas shopping extravaganza** in the High Road, N2, from 4pm to 8pm. Shoppers will be entertained by music and carol singing, with a seasonal trail for kids, a showcase for local artists, mulled wine, mince pies and the official unveiling of the East Finchley Christmas tree.

Friday 16 December