



## 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** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- **Ladies Keep Fit Class** for over 50s. Tues 10.30-11.30am at Tetherdown Hall. Sheila 8444 0084.
- **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 0433.
- **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- **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](http://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](mailto: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, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes**. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 [www.stretchingpeople.co.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

## Nick Hornby at the Phoenix

By Daphne Chamberlain  
It was a full house at the Phoenix last month to meet Nick Hornby, author of *Fever Pitch* among many other novels and screenwriter of *Brooklyn*, following another showing of the film. Unlike many adaptations from novels, it is being seen by a lot of people who have read Colm Toibin's story of a 1950s Irish girl torn between her homeland and New York.

Nick called it a beautiful, quiet book with a watchful heroine, but it's not as inward-looking as he had expected. "A lot does happen. It is about what people do to her. There are no bad characters, but there is tension as we wait for her decision."

The script took a long time. He needed to write a lot of dialogue, as Colm had not put much in the book. Saoirse Ronan, who plays the heroine, was only 15 when he began, but fortunately she grew up to play the part.

### A topical theme

There could be another reason for now to be the right time for it. A member of the audience wondered whether an important theme of the film was immigration. Nick Hornby said he hadn't thought of that at first, but it now seems relevant.

Cinema of the 1940s and 50s, and also some of the 1970s (like *Running on Empty*), made him want to work in film. He loves writing scripts, but acknowledges that a lot of time can be wasted on things that never see the light of day. That's very different from writing a novel, which can always be accessed. He is very happy to have his own novels adapted by others.

Returning to the theme of *Brooklyn*, he added, "Wherever you are, you are in the wrong place. America itself was built on this". The heroine's terrible boat journey from Ireland symbolised the labour pains of being reborn into another land. He very much wanted her to choose *Brooklyn*, finally:

"You can never go back to what you were."



Sell-out: The A-Chord choir at their fundraising concert

## Sell-out singers weather the storm

The A-Chord choir held a sell-out fundraising concert at the end of November at Our Lady of Muswell Tennis Club to raise money for Young Minds, a mental health charity for young people.

More than 80 people filled the clubhouse on a wet and blustery night and were thoroughly entertained by a range of songs including a Beach Boys medley and numbers from *Oliver!* They had guest performances by Louise Katin, soprano and musical director of A-Chord, and Anne Sudan, alto and assistant musical

director of A-Chord, who sang *The Flower Duet* from *Lakmé*.

A smaller group from A-Chord also braved the windy conditions to sing on the community stage at the East Finchley Christmas Fair on 5 December.

A-Chord meets weekly on Thursday evenings from 8pm at The Manor House in Finchley

and is open to any adult who wants to sing in a choir. An ear for music would be an advantage but you don't have to be able to read music. Their new term starts on Thursday 7 January and everyone is welcome to go along for a free trial. Contact Laura Gerlis at [laura@a-chord.uk](mailto:laura@a-chord.uk) or 07732 120464.

## Treasure Island

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

**What? Treasure Island without Long John Silver or Pieces of Eight? They must be somewhere, surely. But no, not even behind us.**

Never mind though. In the Guild Players' panto we had Captain Flint, a pirate whose role model was definitely Jack Sparrow. We had young Jim Hawkins, who loves Mary, the Squire's daughter, and also had hopes of a little book with a map. The map, of course, would guide him to an island where treasure was hidden. But, oh dear, Captain Flint conned his mother into handing over the book. She just didn't know what he was bothered about.

But when a child in the audience shouted "A map! A map!" the show took off. In no time at all, the entire cast were transported to *Treasure Island*. Amid mayhem and audience participation, they were then terrorised or captured one by one by a huge gorilla.

The children definitely liked that, especially when he gave them a thumbs-up.

### Traditional panto

This was a traditional panto, with a happy ending, a witty script, beautiful costumes and a splendid dame. There was some very nice acting, from new young members as well as the company's stalwarts. Interestingly, the cross-dressing went further than usual. Both Captain Flint and the Squire were played by women, which made me wonder whether new male actors would be particularly welcome. Why not try your luck?

The Guild Players generally have two major shows a year, with some other productions along the way. The group is part of Finchley Methodist Church at Ballards Lane, N3, but also has many members from the surrounding community and across the Borough of Barnet. For information or contacts, visit [www.guildplayers.org.uk](http://www.guildplayers.org.uk)

## Sing-along for singles

The next Sing-Along for Singles event run by Singing London is on Wednesday 27 January at the Clissold Arms, Fortis Green, N2, from 7.30pm. It's billed as a way to connect lovers of songs who are single and who'd like to sing with other like-minded singles, with the possibility of nurturing friendship and romance. Anyone aged 18 and over can join in.

Tickets are £12.50 and there is an optional pre-event dinner at 6.30pm where participants can have a 'social warm up' prior to the 'vocal warm up'. The cost of the dinner and the sing-along together is £25. Book at [www.singlondon.com](http://www.singlondon.com), email [e-idit@singlondon.com](mailto:e-idit@singlondon.com) or telephone 07874 629959.

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## What's On... E-mail your listings to: [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

### Sunday 17 January

• **Battle of Barnet**: guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Step back in time to 1471 and the Wars of the Roses. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 11am. More details from Paul on 07506 761294 or [www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net](http://www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net)

### Saturday 23 January

• **Winter Tree Walk**: led by Iain Loasby, local woodsman. Meet at 2.0 pm at east entrance to Coldfall Wood, Creighton Avenue, opp. Fortismere School. More details: [info@coldfallwoods.co.uk](mailto:info@coldfallwoods.co.uk)

### Wednesday 27 January

• **Sing-along for Singles** at Clissold Arms, Fortis Green, N2, 7.30pm, with option of

pre-event dinner at 6.30pm. Tickets £12.50, or £25 including dinner. Book at [www.singlondon.com](http://www.singlondon.com) or by email: [e-idit@singlondon.com](mailto:e-idit@singlondon.com)

### Be seen in What's On

Is your charity, church, school or society planning a public event? Tell all our readers about it with a free listing in our What's On column on page 10 of every issue.

Send brief details by email to [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or by post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE. You can also reach us on Facebook and Twitter at TheArcherN2. Deadline for submissions is always the middle of the month ahead of the issue in which you'd like your event included. Full details of our deadlines are always at the top of page 2.