



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.

A burst of batik

Artist Elizabeth Davis brought a splash of colour to the foyer of the Phoenix Cinema with her collection of batik paintings at an exhibition in January. Elizabeth studied art in Panama before moving to London and specialising in bathroom design. Her colourful work has also been exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts and the Sloane Gallery in Chelsea.



Elizabeth Davis at the Phoenix. Photo Mike Coles

First-class theatre is never far

By Daphne Chamberlain
Do you enjoy going to the theatre but find that travelling and access to West End theatres is difficult and expensive? Now could be the perfect time for you to experience a production by Finchley's Guild Players.

This company, founded in 1946, stages several productions a year. They rehearse and perform in N3, in a theatre which accommodates wheelchairs, and has step-free access.

Major spring and autumn productions include comedy, drama, thrillers and pantomime, and they are top quality. They also do a one-night summer show and, because of their association with the Methodist church, an Easter production.

However, it is not a 'religious' group. They were originally the drama group of the Wesley Guild, but their members, currently aged between 18 and 80, come from all parts of the community.

Stage history

What's more, company members built their theatre themselves. As they perform in the Finchley Methodist Church Hall on Ballards Lane, roughly halfway between Finchley Central and North Finchley, this may seem puzzling.

The answer to the puzzle is that during the Second World War, the church hall was one of many commandeered by the Government to be used as a 'British Restaurant' to provide cheap, off-the-ration food for working people. The part which became the kitchen was reinforced to bear the weight of industrial stoves and, after the war, the newly formed Guild Players converted the reinforced space into the basis for a stage.

For show information or to join the mailing list, visit www.guildplayers.org.uk. The phone number for box office enquiries is 020 8346 6337.

Choral treats for commuters

By Marian Bunzl

It was a cold evening in December at Highbury and Islington Underground Station and a group of singers from North London Chorus had gathered to sing carols in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

This station has a large entrance hall with escalators from various platforms and draughts from all directions. Fortunately we were well wrapped up. In the crowds that came through there were a surprising number of people with dogs of all sizes. One small fluffy one decided to stay by us for a while, and added a high pitched bark in time to the music.

A more tuneful addition was provided by a lovely little schoolgirl. She had been learning the same carols in class, and asked to join in while her mum kindly shook an extra bucket.

On home ground at East Finchley Station on a cold, wet, evening a week later, again on behalf of Noah's Ark, we gathered in the elegant tiled hall beneath the potted palms. As people streamed along the long passage from the platforms to the exit turnstiles, they were met by traditional carols in four part harmony and descant...

In both stations, the rushed, stressed faces relaxed, the pace

slowed, and people stopped to listen, record us on their phones, and sometimes join in. And Megan, our Noah's Ark rep, needed two strong men to carry

the buckets away. Carols really do bring out the best in the singers' voices and the generosity of the passers-by.

Sherlock's sidekicks

For those still looking for tales of Baker Street's most famous resident, go and see Garden Suburb Theatre's family-friendly production of Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars.

Sherlock Holmes is missing, presumed dead, after the fight at the Reichenbach Falls with his arch-enemy Moriarty. But a group of teenagers whom Sherlock befriended, known as the Baker Street Irregulars, don't think he's really dead and convene at 221b to investigate further.

The show will be performed from 14-18 February at 7.30pm and on 18 February also at 2.30pm at the Lund Theatre, UCS, Frognal, Hampstead. Tickets £12/£10 concessions. Book at www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk.



Watch the detectives: The young cast of Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars

What's On...

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

Tuesday 7 February

• **Dickens in North London**: a birthday guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at High Barnet tube station, 11am. For more details contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Sunday 12 February

• **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, opposite Creighton Avenue, 7.30pm. Helen Cooper, cello, Junko Ishigaki, violin, and Caroline Soresby, piano, play Brahms, Mozart, John Ireland, Frank Bridge and Francisco Tárrega. Free admission with collection in aid of Shelter. Venue fully accessible.

Tuesday 14 February to Saturday 18 February

• **Garden Suburb Theatre** presents *The Baker Street Irregulars*, a family-friendly tale of a group of teenagers befriended by Sherlock

Holmes. Performed at the Lund Theatre, UCS, Frognal, Hampstead at 7.30pm each night and also 2.30pm on 18 February. Tickets £12/£10 concessions. To book visit www.gardensuburbtheatre.org.uk.

Thursday 16 February

• Hands-on work in **Coldfall Wood** with **Haringey Conservation Volunteers**, 10 am - 3 pm. Information: c.osborne@tcv.org.uk or 02083486005 (Railway Fields Office).

Saturday 18 February

• **Hooray for Hendon!**: a guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet outside Hendon Central tube station, 11am. For more details contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Tuesday 21 February

• **Free concert at Lauderdale House**, Highgate, 1.15pm to 2pm. Pianist Stephen

Hose plays Mozart's *Sonata in F Major K332* and Liszt's *Sonata in B Minor*.

Sunday 26 February

• **Battle of Barnet**: a guided walk with City of London guide Paul Baker. Meet at junction of Great North Road and Hadley Green Road, 2.30pm. For more details contact Paul on 07506 761294 or visit www.barnetwalks.talktalk.net.

Saturday 4 March

• Finchley Chamber Choir and the Finchley Baroque Ensemble present an evening of **Baroque music** at Trinity Church, Nether Street, 7.30pm. Bach's *Mass in G* and Scarlatti's *Stabat Mater* bookend baroque favourites *Beatus Vir* by Monteverdi and *Rejoice in the Lord Alway* by Purcell. Tickets £15, concessions £13, under-18s £6 on the door and from 020 8886 9978.