



Music makers: Isaac K and WondrWomn, alias Mary Otumahana, sing at last year's Big Local fun day.

Fun Palace free-for-all

East Finchley will host its first ever Fun Palace this month, a festival where you can buy food or bring a picnic but otherwise all the activities are free and there is nothing to spend your money on.

There will be live music all afternoon, with something for everyone, from a brass band to rap, and plenty to do: nail painting with Art Against Knives, science experiments to try, arts and crafts with East Finchley Open Artists, watercolours with Vera Moore, model building with Acxis Architects and RAF museum, a zombie workshop with Ministry of Stories, or making summer rolls with local food blogger Asian Food Adventures.

Try your hand at making music too: have a go on the ukulele with North London

Ukelele Club, try out the cello with Dinah Beamish, or lay down beats on a loop.

If you are feeling energetic, you can test your circus skills with Airborne Circus, Thai kick-boxing with East Finchley Combat Academy, dancing with I Can Dance, or football with The Highland Games.

Gather, share, inspire

The idea for a Fun Palace originally came from the theatre director Joan Littlewood, back in the 1960s, but it was fully realised three years ago by the author Stella Duffy. They wanted to put community into

the heart of culture, to gather people together to share their passions and talents, and inspire people to have a go at something new.

The event on Sunday 8 October at the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2, from 12pm to 4pm, has been organised by the Grange Big Local project, the community association formed because a pocket of East Finchley has been awarded £1 million of lottery funding that can be spent in any way local people choose over 10 years. Everyone of all ages and backgrounds is welcome.

High Road photo project

develops

Early last year photographer Asia Mscichowska's idea of trying to capture the essence of the High Road community was enthusiastically snapped up by the East Finchley Artists group (*The Archer*, February 2016). The subsequent eye-catching exhibition shown in Budgens' window proved to be really popular.

Now Asia is planning a second part to this project. This will be a collaboration



between East Finchley Open Artists and Destination East Finchley (currently on display in the entrance to East Finchley tube station). It is to be called 'We Are East Finchley' and this time it will be open to the public. So anyone can submit a photo which is a portrait of a local, whether they have lived

in East Finchley all their lives or settled here over the years. The idea is to show that we all create the community.

Pictures will then be selected for an exhibition planned for January 2018. More information on the project is available by emailing Asia at contact@asiamsci.com.

Grange Big Local: progress and achievement

By Janet Maitland

Local charity Art Against Knives has been given a grant of £39,000 by the Grange Big Local (GBL) project to support their groundbreaking work with children and young people at risk of knife crime and gang violence.

This substantial grant is a sign of the growing momentum of GBL, which ended its first year of operating in March with a surplus of £95,000, according to its annual report published at the end of the summer.

"We achieved a lot, but not everything we hoped to do," said Pat Murphy, chair of the GBL partnership board. "And there's a lot of work going on behind the scenes."

Grange Big Local is managing a lottery grant of £1 million awarded to the area bounded by Church Lane, East End Road, the North Circular and the High Road over the next 10 years.

Advice centre

One GBL achievement was funding the new advice centre at St Mary's Parish Centre on the High Road, which had 109 appointments in its first year of opening, raising a total of £34,340 of extra income for local residents struggling to make ends meet.

Another was the fourth community festival last September where about 400 people enjoyed themselves and 29 local charities and businesses displayed what they do. The next festival will be on Sunday 8 October at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2.

On-going work and plans

Less visible but equally important work has been going on to influence the development of a new community centre on Tarling Road, to map out open spaces where new play areas

can be built and to transform the neglected footpath running between Manor Park Road and Trinity Road.

Now half way through its second year, with a budget of £153,000 to add to the surplus, GBL has also worked with Age UK Barnet to provide exercise and social activities for older people, explored touch typing for children with dyslexia, and funded a new floor for St Mary's Parish Centre. There are plans to open a drop-in CV clinic, explore a car mechanics course for young people, and run a group advice session to help EU residents concerned about their rights to remain after 2019.

To find out more and to get involved go to www.grange-biglocal.org or email info@grangebiglocal.org or call 0208 364 8400 ext 241.

Most innovative

East Finchley's Leonor Stjepic, CEO at the multi-award winning medical research charity RAFT, has been named as Most Innovative CEO in the Not-For-Profit Sector UK by Business Worldwide Magazine. RAFT helps people rebuild their lives and regain independence after major traumas.



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