



YOUNG ARCHER



This painting by Sophie Du Veigier, 13, won the 13-16 group

What community means to us

By Kate McCarthy, of the Phoenix

This summer, the Phoenix Cinema set the young people of East Finchley a challenge: draw, paint, photograph or create a piece of art for its August gallery on the theme of 'Community'. The response was phenomenal as artists (from just four and a half months to 16 years old) raided their art supplies and imaginations to send in work ranging from a detailed beach scene to a colourful explosion of nature.

Members of 4th East Finchley Guides sent in sophisticated flag designs and thoughtful expressions of their ideas of community and many regular visitors to the Phoenix Saturday Kids Club screenings were inspired to put pen to paper as well as paint, glue, felt, streamers and even their own hands!

Gallery curator Jane Lushey mounted and hung each piece to give a professional finish and Phoenix staff had the difficult task of voting for their favourites in each age category. The following winners will receive an exciting prize bundle of goodies:

Matilda Whittington won the 0-4 category with a lollipop stick puppet show; **Maya Michlic** submitted a spectacular rainbow on canvas to win the 5-8s; **Lois Baillie** won the 9-12 group with a vibrant collage and **Sophie Du Veigier** was the 13-16 winner with a highly original take on a personalised photograph filter.

The Phoenix gallery is always looking for local artists and great ideas for future monthly exhibitions. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact Jane Lushey via art@phoenixcinema.co.uk

Summerlee seamstress has business all sewn up

By Diana Cormack

For the last 18 months Elinor Bussell has been kept beyond busy building up a business from something she has loved doing since childhood. Brought up in East Finchley, Elinor learned to sew at a young age and was making her own clothes on a sewing machine at 11.

In her mid-teens she taught sewing to adults and children in Primrose Hill. Instead of fashion, Elinor decided to study photography at university, but after graduating she returned to her first love.

At her home in Summerlee Avenue, N2, Elinor has been designing and making dresses for girls, firstly part-time when she was also teaching sewing, then taking the plunge to go full time in April 2016. Things got so busy that she had to find several seamstresses to do the work and she is now in the position of needing a factory to manage and complete the orders.

As well as designing and cutting out the clothes, Elinor sources the material, which needs to be of good quality, soft, long-lasting and machine washable, with Liberty Print Fabric being a favourite.

The hand-made garments have to be ready well ahead of the time they are sold, which can pose a storage problem. Although she has one outlet in the US and sometimes sells



In stitches: Elinor Bussell at work in her studio. Photo Mike Coles

at local shows and festivals, most of the sales come from Elinor's website, developed from her childhood nickname.

Visit www.nelliequats.com to view the new autumn range for girls aged 18 months to eight years.

Summer showcase of dance and drama

By Anna Hindmarsh, Year 9

Parents, staff and friends of the Archer Academy enjoyed three successive nights of dance, drama and musical talent at the JW3 Theatre in Finchley Road, NW3, earlier in the summer.

The programme included dance pieces, two of which earned the young Academy dancers the title of London Youth Games champions in both the junior and senior categories, and music from talented pianists and violinists



Expressive and impressive: The Academy's junior dance team on stage

and the acapella Archershop choirs. In drama, there was a GCSE piece based on *Tom's Midnight Garden* and teachers performed a surprise comedy sketch 'Archer's Got Talent', which had everyone laughing.

With around 150 students taking part, this annual event

saw students from year 7 to year 10 working collaboratively across the board. Their performances earned a standing ovation. One parent commented: "I feel like I've just been treated to an evening of West End quality performances."



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