



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group**
Call Vivien 8883 8190
- **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- **1-2-1 boxing and Pilates** training with Martin Carroll at home or private studio, call 07809 593952
- **Pilates** Classes Tue 9.30, Fri 9.15 & Sun 11am. www.pilatesineastfinchley.co.uk. Michelle 07767 804 564
- **Tai Chi & Qigong** in N2, Weds 12pm, 1pm, 6pm & 7pm. James 8883 3308/07836 710281 or james@taiji.co.uk
- **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- **Tennis group lessons** for adult beginners and intermediates, weekends, Park Road, N8. Contact Maz on tennisgift@gmail.com.
- **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

- **The Archer Community Choir**, Tuesdays 7-9pm, The Archer Academy, Eagans Close, N2. Email: archercommunitychoir@gmail.com.
- **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.
- **'Calm & Sing' workshops**. Contact Angie on missangiea@yahoo.co.uk
- **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 020 8444 7217.
- **Creative Writing** at Friern Barnet Community Library. Every Saturday, 12pm, 07488 230580.
- **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.
- **Rock 'n Roll dance lessons**, 8pm every Weds at the Constitutional Club, The Walks. Drop-in. Call Kav 07721 489489.
- **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 8415 to book.
- **Bridge Club**, Thursday & Saturday afternoons, Age UK, Oak Lane, N2 8LT. Contact Ray Tiano 07944 562180.

An unusual look at the underground



By Diana Cormack

Travelling in Australia contributed hugely to local artist Natasha Williams' particular style. During her three years there she found inspiration for her art work in the amazing scenery of the Australian Outback and was heavily influenced by the colours of landscapes in the Northern Territory, which were reflected in her pictures of Melbourne.

After her return to East Finchley two years ago she joined the masses on their way to and from work on the tube every day, hoping that some sort of inspiration might come along. Surprisingly, it was while observing the daily, mundane, repetitive scene underground that she suddenly saw it in a new light and is now observing everything from a different perspective.

"We're compressed by all this dullness," she told *The Archer*, "but at the same time

there is a positive and vibrant energy running through the tube." Look at the accompanying picture and you can see what she means.

People who saw Natalie's work at this summer's East Finchley Open Artists' exhibition could not believe it was collage. She has a very distinctive style and spends many months producing one piece as well as having a full time job. Visit natashakwilliams.com to see more of her work or pop in to the next EFOA event.

Tenth anniversary for Fortismere

By John Lawrence

The choir and orchestra of Fortismere Music Centre are celebrating their 10th anniversary in 2019 with a storming season of concerts, including their first-ever opera.

This month their Christmas concert at St Andrew's Church in Muswell Hill will be a programme of familiar carols alongside works composed by women and the world premiere of a new commission by Phoebe McFarlane. In June they will be performing a semi-staged version of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

There are around 80 singers in the choir and around 40 musicians in the orchestra, many of them current or former students, parents and teachers at Fortismere School, where the centre has premises and shares resources.

Joe Winters, who has been centre manager for two years and lives in Tetherdown, N10, said: "The majority of our members don't read music when they join but they have learned to read it by osmosis. They are learning pieces by heart and by experience. When you set exciting goals people bind together to achieve them."

The centre also provides affordable instrumental lessons for students and adults. Find out more about lessons and the concert season at www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk.



Massed voices: Musical director Marvin Perrott leads the Fortismere Music Centre Community Choir in a concert at St Andrew's Church, Muswell Hill.

Jazz in the basement

A new jazz club is running in the basement of The Bohemia in North Finchley, playing host to the best of UK jazz and some of the brightest talent around.

Those who have already appeared on the bill include pianist/vocalist Eriko Ishihara, bass/harmonica player Andy Hamill, plus jazz violin soloist Chinara Sharshenova, from the Moscow Conservatoire.

Organisers hope the club will rival the music scene in Soho and the West End at a fraction of the cost. Shows will be on monthly through 2019. Call 020 7998 6217 or 07957 347411 for more information.

Festival-goers raise thousands

A total of £4,000 was raised for charity at the East Finchley Arts Festival through the sale of pictures at the art exhibition, and bucket collections at the 11 days of events and concerts in October.

The money was divided between the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and the Harington Scheme, a Highgate-based charity that provides skills and training to young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

This year's festival received support from Tatlers, Budgens, Meze & Shish, Sains-

bury's and the London Borough of Barnet, together with several local advertisers. Festival director Geoffrey Hanson said plans were already being laid for the 2019 Arts Festival and his team was looking for volunteers to help with the running of events during the festival week, particularly with welcoming audiences

each evening at the ticket desk and wine bar.

They would also welcome someone who could help with spreading word about the festival through social media and hopefully bring in even bigger audiences. Anyone who can help can contact eastfinarts@btinternet.com.

What's On...

Friday 7 December

• **Christmas Concert: Ding Dong Merrily**, with Voxcetera chamber choir at St Joseph's RC Church, Highgate Hill, London N19 5NE (Archway Tube) 7.30pm. Tickets available from voxcetera.co.uk. Refreshments available.

Saturday 8 December

• **Nazareth House Winter Bazaar**, 2pm-5pm at Nazareth House, East End Road, N2, fun for all the family with music, teas and cakes, tombola and raffle; stalls selling Christmas decorations at bargain prices, bric-a-brac, good quality clothes, books. Entry £1 for adults. Children free.

• **Martin School Christmas Fair**, 12-3pm, Plane Tree Walk, N2. Games and treats, crafts, snowboard simulator, face-painting

and more. Entry £1.

• **Highgate Primary School Winter Fair**, 1-4pm, Storey Rd, N6 4ED. Enjoy home-made crafts, cakes, mulled wine, storytelling, Santa and lots more.

• **Fortismere Community Choir's Christmas concert** celebrates music composed by women with exciting new and old music and well-loved carols; St Andrew's Church, Alexandra Park Road, N10 2DD, 7.30pm. Buy tickets online (£10) at www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk or on the door (£12). Under 12s free.

Wednesday 12 Dec - Sunday 27 Jan

• **Nice Work If You Can Get It**, a screwball musical comedy by George and Ira Gershwin; Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate; details and box office at upstairsatthegatehouse.com or 020 8340 3488.

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Saturday 15 December

• **Muswell Hill indoor car boot sale**: 10am-1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH; info: 020 8368 8180 or 07708152354; admission 50p; refreshments available.

• **Finchley Chamber Choir and Finchley Symphony Orchestra** present The Glory of Christmas, music for all the family, including Handel, Vivaldi, J.S. Bach, Tchaikovsky and Lehar, and favourite carols for all to sing; Trinity Church, North Finchley, N12 7NN at 7.30pm. Tickets: £15, £13 concessions, £6 under-18s available on the door, or in advance at www.fcchoir.co.uk.

Sunday 16 December

• **Carols by Candlelight**; enjoy carols and

readings about the Christmas story; East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue, 5pm; free admission with mince pies and refreshments afterwards. Fully accessible venue.

• **Carols by Candlelight** at East Finchley Baptist Church, Creighton Avenue, N2, at 6.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Saturday 22 December

• **Roots Sisters Reunion Christmas Special**; live music with Aisha Khan, the Bluemoon Two and special guest DJ Miss Aloha; East Finchley Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2, doors open 8.30pm; admission £15, advance tickets £12; buy from www.skiddle.com (search roots sisters reunion Christmas special). More information at www.facebook.com/rootssistersrule.

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