



Browse and buy: A wide range of arts and crafts will be on show during the Open Houses event.

Artworks on show again as open houses return

This year East Finchley Open Artists will be holding the popular Artists Open Houses in and around East Finchley over just one weekend, Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 September. A wide range of art and crafts, to view and buy, will be exhibited in gardens and garden studios.

Any partially inside venues will be well ventilated, social distancing will be encouraged and visitors will be invited to wear masks if they wish. At least a dozen houses and studios are opening. Look out for local publicity and visit the group's website for a map of locations along with the latest information: www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk/openhouse/

Café venue for three artists

By Diana Cormack

An exhibition of work by three East Finchley residents is on display at the Cup of Joy café in the High Road, N2.

Award-winning artist and mental health key worker Craig Johnson told *The Archer* he is showing his black and white photography of London landmarks, featuring the London Eye and Big Ben. Craig studied for a BA Honours in Photography at Middlesex University and a Masters degree in film and interactive media. He describes his artwork as varied, using a surrealist genre with nods to fantasy worlds, Tim Burton movies and conspiracy theories.

Alongside Craig's photos will be some by his mother Yvonne Johnson, also an NHS key worker, depicting the scary Spriggan statue, which peers out of an arch on the Parkland Walk in Highgate.

The Spriggan (in Cornish folklore a paranormal, child-stealing creature) was created by local artist Marilyn Collins, who was inspired by stories of a ghostly 'green-man' who haunted the walk in the 1970s and 1980s. Children playing there would 'dare' each other to walk from one bridge to another in the darkness. This fired the imagination of international best-selling author Stephen King in the creation of his spooky short story *Crouch End*.

Other photographs in the exhibition will show Cherry Tree Wood where photographer Dayvid Grant, a man with a



Inspiration: The Spriggan sculpture on the Parkland Walk

background in the music industry, often plays his guitar. Dayvid, who now works as a plasterer, is also a painter who uses Caran d'Ache and Indian ink.

More success

A photo of Dayvid playing his guitar during lockdown at East Finchley station (with plants taking over the platform) recently gained Craig the run-

ner-up prize for over 18s in the Anna Kennedy Online autism art competition. Both he and Dayvid have been shortlisted for this month's London Coffee Festival at the Truman Brewery.

Why not enjoy their artistic talents alongside a coffee and a bite to eat at the Cup of Joy, open Monday to Saturday 8am - 6pm and Sunday 9am - 6pm.

Free food service returns

East Finchley Neighbourhood Support's Food Project will be back from 14 September with their free meals service, giving away tasty chilled meals from the front of The Phoenix Cinema every Tuesday from 10.30am - 12.30 pm.

Meals are completely free if you need one, or you can take one in return for a donation to the project. Find out more at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/Food-Project or @N2FoodProject on socials.

Loop-the-loop cycle ride

By Greta Brambilla

Dust off your bikes, everyone, we have a brand new circuit for you. This loopy course to Hampstead Heath and back takes just over an hour and starts at the High Road in East Finchley. Please remember to give way to pedestrians and pay attention to any 'No cycling' signs.



Go green: The route takes you through the leafiest parts of our area

From the High Road, go down Kitchener Road, turn right and then left into Eagans Close to cut through the passageway between Holy Trinity School on your left and the Archer Academy on your right. Cross East End Road, then go left down Cromwell Close, following the Abbots Gardens passageway and turning left at

on the verge as it is bike-friendly and easier) and continue along this road into the Heath again. You will eventually arrive at Whitestone Pond and at the roundabout veer right onto Spaniards Road. Use the cycle path next to it (preferably via the crossing as vehicles here go pretty fast) and once you spot the flower stand at Span-

Brim Hill. Take the first right down Widecombe Way (spot the swing and a lovely view of Hampstead Heath!)

At the bottom, use the crossing to get over the A1, then follow Norrice Lea until the roundabout, turning right at the end onto stunning Winnington Road. It's a steep hill but keep calm and carry on: a downhill is coming your way! Turn right

after the golf course into Ingram Avenue and keep following it, then left at the bottom onto beautiful Wildwood Road (heading right at the fork on the edge of Sandy Heath), then left down Hampstead Way. Go left onto North End Way, then right over the crossing into Sandy Road (the first passageway you see). Follow this into the woods, with the humorously named 'Leg of Mutton' pond on your left and keep going - it's a bit gravelly here but still doable on your bike. Turn left at the end down West Heath Road (staying

iards End (just before the inn) follow the path on your left at the edge of the Heath back onto Wildwood Road.

Continue until Kingsley Way appears on your right. Make your way down here and onto Neville Drive, turn left onto Holne Chase, then veer right onto Rowan Walk. Go right again at the end, then left to get onto Norrice Lea. Finally, retrace your route to get back to the start (with the option of cutting through Prospect Ring for a little alternative). Hope you enjoyed this lovely loop!



High point: This path emerges from Hampstead Heath near the pond at the top of the village.