



Best foot forward: Michael Jacobs celebrates the end of his epic 1,128-mile charity trek with wellwishers looking on.

## Michael goes round in circles... all the way to Rome

By David Melsome

Michael Jacobs has completed an epic 1,128-mile charity trek, walking the equivalent distance of London to Rome, but without ever moving more than a few metres from the back garden of his home in Hampstead Garden Suburb. Being clinically vulnerable due to a health condition, Michael, 73, began walking laps of a secluded field off Wildwood Road over a year ago in April 2021, and has raised a total of £13,500 for Nepal children's charity Kidasha.

Over the course of a year, the retired tax lawyer and former chairman of the charity completed 12,500 laps of the field, a total of 2.6 million steps.

Michael said: "The pandemic has been tough for everyone, but the vulnerable families and children of Nepal have been

faced with extreme hardship. I'm glad that our efforts will be able to raise awareness of those living in extreme poverty, and provide support to those that still need it."

All of the funds raised from Michael's trek will support Kidasha's work to improve

the lives of children living in chronic poverty in Nepal. This includes working to end child exploitation by providing homeless children with safe shelter, supporting children into education, and creating new employment opportunities.



Display space: Photos on the walls at the Muswell Hill Club. Photo Mike Coles

## Exercise your art appreciation

By Lynn Winton

It might sound unlikely but we now have a great new place to browse original art... and it's down at the gym. Muswell Hill Club owner Hussein Lalani has given his foyer walls and shelves over to local artists, who are invited to submit their works for inclusion.

Currently there are four artists exhibiting at the club on Fortis Green, and these will be replaced soon with another selection. An extra bonus is that this initiative is commission-free so that artists keep 100% of the sale price. Hussein told me: "With over 1,000 members and additionally

passers-by seeing in through the windows we have a huge footfall. There have already been a few sales which is really exciting for the artists and confirms there is strong interest to continue long term with this initiative."

If you are a local artist who's interested in displaying your

works of art, email a maximum of three representative images, or your website link, to [info@muswellhillclub.com](mailto:info@muswellhillclub.com) and curator Natalie will consider them for inclusion. For those non gym members who would like to browse, you are welcome to go into reception and look around.

## Objects of desire from local artists

By Mike Coles

A huge variety of art and crafts will be available to view and buy when the East Finchley Open Artists open house weekends return this month. Following a limited event last year, the event will be returning to its usual format, with artists opening their homes and studios on the weekends of 25-26 June and 2-3 July.

It promises to be a bumper year with 15 houses opening locally and at least 55 artists exhibiting, all with free entry. On show will be paintings, prints, ceramics, jewellery, textiles, photography and more. For the latest details and locations check [www.east-finchleyopen.org.uk/openhouse](http://www.east-finchleyopen.org.uk/openhouse)



Wonderful creations: Some of the art work that will be on show at the open house weekends across East Finchley.

## Phoenix premiere

On Sunday 10 July, the Phoenix Cinema will host the world premiere screening of four short documentaries made by local filmmakers for the One Sunday Morning, Four Films project. Budding directors were teamed up with experienced mentors to help them create films about the work of four charities in the Finchley area.

## Open gardens

Local gardens opening to the public as part of the National Garden Scheme this month are: Sunday 5 June, 19 Coolhurst Road, N8, 2pm-6pm, admission £4; Sunday 12 June, 66 Abbots Gardens, N2, (London Gardens Society award winner), 2pm-6pm, admission £4; Sunday 19 June, 92 and 100 Hampstead Way, NW11, 2pm-6pm, combined admission £8; Sunday 26 June, 5 St Regis Close, N10, 2pm-6.30pm, admission £4. Pre-booking essential at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)