



Regular Events

Sport & Fitness

- ❖ **Counselling & psychotherapy** at the Green Man Centre. Call 8440 4174
- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 020 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** Wednesdays Christ Church N12. Ring Bridie. 020 8883 5269
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee Wisbey 020 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, EF. Ring Penny Hill 020 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tai Chi** at the Green Man on Mondays 1.30-3pm. An "ageing well" class for older people.
- ❖ **Yoga & Meditation** classes at Holy Trinity Church, 020 8444 7217
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation.** Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 020 8444 7783.

Dance, Drama, Art & Music

- ❖ **Adult Line Dancing.** Call Footloose 020 8440 8530/8216 5633.
- ❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378
- ❖ **Broadway & West End Musical Singing Workshop** call Idit Gold 020 8449 0011.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call Vicky 020 8883 1554
- ❖ **Columbian party dancing** classes, Call Nelsy 020 8444 2012
- ❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops.** Creative writing, poetry and prose Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club**, Monday 7 & 21 February at Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 020 8346 8736
- ❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 020 8349 9315
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 020 8883 4070 for info.
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976203669.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** of North London, Contact Caroline Egan 020 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 020-8349-4613

Clubs & Social

- ❖ **Bingo**, Green Man Community Centre, 020 8883 4916
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book a place. Every Thursday. 12.30-2pm
- ❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust**, Contact Sophie Spence 020 8444 1890
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at Clissold Arms. Contact Lillian on 020 8444 1793.
- ❖ **Fairacres Monday Club** for Jewish people, Rene & Reuby Hyams, 020 8883 0448 or Sylvia Lee 8958 7878
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn, 020 8349 4613
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society**, informal meetings locally. Call David Mouldon on 020 83611696.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill, 020 8348 3495
- ❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Synagogue**, Tetherdown, 020 8883 5925
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, 020 8883 4390
- ❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, 020 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call Eric 8340 0822.



Elvis Navarone-Rivers in Action. Photo by Femke van Iperen

Elvis Show at Maddens

By Betti Blatman

On 29 December, after the football crowd at Maddens pub finished watching Arsenal beat Newcastle on screen, they were entertained by Elvis Navarone-Rivers in the "Elvis Show", featuring a selection of Elvis Presley's songs.

He wore a white, jewel-encrusted jumpsuit but did not attempt the well known physical movements normally associated with Elvis performances. A local resident at Fairacres, Barry, enthusiastically played his tambourine throughout

the entire performance which ended at 3am.

Although there are lots of Elvis impersonators, there was only one Elvis. Had he not died 27 years ago at the age of 43, he would have been 70 on 8 January 2005.

Book Group

By Hannah Eiseman-Renyard

Book groups are catching on all over the country. In January I was lucky enough to be invited along to an East Finchley book group to discuss their latest book and have a nice cup of tea.

Encouraged by public schemes such as the Richard and Judy book group, and the BBC's *Big Read* programme last year, book groups are becoming popular. They keep people reading regularly, and usually reading a wider variety of literature than they would have chosen on their own.

The group I attended were discussing the book *Property* by Valerie Martin – winner of the 2003 Orange Book Prize. *Property* is a bravely unromantic account of slave ownership in the southern States of America before the civil war. One of the huge draws of book groups is the chance to talk about the book you have just read with other people who have also just read it, and the issues the book raises were the subject of much discussion.

This book group was begun around June 2003, when

Rebecca, its founding member, phoned up a few people and they brought a few people "and we've been going for over a year". They meet roughly every month. The group is all-female, but members insist it's by default. "The men didn't pass the shortlisting process" one member laughed, "but our partners are always trying to tell us which books we should read."

The group has read sixteen books, and members take turns in selecting what the group will read next. Past choices include *Star of the Sea* by Joseph O'Connor, *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon. Members say they haven't had a 'bad' book yet. "No book's been appalling," one member summed up, "but some have been very difficult."

FILMS & CINEMA

Barbara Bus supporters at the Phoenix

By Daphne Chamberlain

Film fans will soon be able to see a special screening of *The Goodbye Girl*, and at the same time help to provide mobility for people who cannot use conventional transport. The Phoenix is showing the 1977 Oscar and Bafta winning film (PG certificate) with light refreshments on Sunday 20 March. Proceeds will go to the Barbara Bus Fund, which provides vehicles and volunteer drivers for the disabled.

The show was one of the bright ideas of East Finchley's Sippy Azizollah, who raised over £4,000 for Lupus UK last year. Sippy, a regular Barbara Bus passenger, chose her all-time favourite film. "Everything is in it," she says. "It's a feel-good film. I've seen it about 15 times, but whenever I put it on again, it always cheers me up."

The Fund owns a selection of specially converted vehicles, which can accommodate from one to three wheelchairs, plus able-bodied passengers. Drivers are friends, relatives, carers, or registered volunteers, and the hundreds of annual journeys range from a few hours to

holidays abroad and tourist trips round the UK. Julia Pryor, Co-ordinator of the Barbara Bus Fund, will introduce the event. She told *THE ARCHER* that Sippy's scheme has come at an excellent time, as one of the vehicles needs to be replaced this year.

Phoenix staff say that anyone can book a requested event. The cinema hosts charity film screenings, children's birthday parties (a film and a picnic), and photo shoots, on mornings throughout the year. Ring the box office on 020 8444 6789 for details.

*To book tickets for *The Goodbye Girl*, call Julia Pryor at the Barbara Bus office on 020 8416 0733.*

THEATRE REVIEW

Hot Mikado

By Betti Blatman

On Monday, 27 December last year, it was a full house at Upstairs at The Gatehouse, (the small theatre above the Gatehouse Pub in Highgate) and the audience were treated to a brilliant performance of *Hot Mikado* based on *The Mikado* by W. S. Gilbert & Arthur Sullivan, but a sizzling fusion of jazz, swing and soul directed by John Plews.

The choreography, music and singing were performed with such enthusiasm that it was quite evident the cast were enjoying themselves as much as the audience who showed their appreciation by several encores. The costumes, lighting, music and stage sets reflected the attention to detail

in a wonderful and faultless production. John Plews, Director, was inundated with compliments on the show.

As a result of public demand it played for one final special performance on January 29. *Hot Mikado* was a sell-out last year too: can we expect another run next Christmas?

What's On...

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

Sunday 20 February - **Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society Snowdrop Outing to West Wycombe Park**, Bucks. Price £14 (not including pub lunch). For booking form, call 020 8455 0455.

Thursday 24 February at 2.30pm, "**Will societies like ours survive?**" – A talk for **The Finchley Society** by John Hajdu in the Drawing Room at Avenue House, 17 East End Road N3 (020 8346 7812). Non-Society members welcome and entry is free.

Thursday 24 February 7pm for 7.30pm, **The Rotary Club of Finchley** is holding an evening of **Jazz, Ploughman's and Profiteroles** featuring '**Just the Job**' Jazz Band, at Holy Trinity School, Eagans Close, to raise funds for the local M.S. Ambulance. Price £15 including Ploughman's and Profiteroles – bar available. Tickets available from Andrew Galatopoulos Tel 020 8346 8634.

Saturday, 26 February, from 8pm - 12pm, **Swamp Rock** presents at Wilf Slack Sports Club, 19 East End Road, N3, **Louisiana-style dance party** with live bands featuring Z-Funk, red hot Zydeco. Further info from Carole Lateman 020 8810 7454 or Neil Papworth 01727 830280 or www.swamprock.org.uk

Saturday, 12 March from 8pm - 12pm, **Swamp Rock** presents at Wilf Slack Sports Club 19 East End Road N3 **New Orleans Mardi Gras Party** with **The Cadillac Kings**, listed by The Times in Best New Albums of 2004 for 'Highway 17'.