



Rudi Vis (centre) presents a cheque on behalf of the Maddens Tsunami Appeal. Photo by Sue Holliday

Fun and fundraising

By Sue Holliday

East Finchley can be proud of itself for helping a small fishing village in Sri Lanka by raising £4,000 at Maddens on Sunday 6 February.

All of the money will be going to the village elders of Maruthamunai; they will assign it to where it will most benefit the village and its people. Maruthamunai is in the North East of Sri Lanka and had a population of 16,000 people until that terrible day when the tsunami hit and the village lost a quarter of its people. The money will help the villagers to rebuild their lives, and give them some self-respect. *THE ARCHER* is hoping to keep in touch with the village and report back.

The evening's events started with a raffle of gifts donated by local people to whom Kieran sends his thanks and a special thank you to Noel Copely for his most generous donations. The raffle raised £700, a great start to the evening, which continued with a musical set by an Elvis impersonator who has links with Sri Lanka. Everybody enjoyed his performance. An auction followed and once again all the items were generously donated. For example, a visitor to Maddens had seen the advert for the auction

and gave a weekend for two in his hotel in Waterford, Ireland. Noel Lynch started the auction but bidding was a little slow to begin with: the first item only raised £100. The bidding soon became livelier, however, especially for a round of golf with Kieran and a holiday in Lanzarote. At one stage it appeared that one family was bidding against itself!

After the auction, Rudi Vis presented the cheque and made a simple request for a short silence so that we could remember all the people who lost their lives on that terrible day. Later another local musician, Jenny Harrison, sang some jazz numbers. Mick Connolly was also there but unfortunately the last bell rang before he could take to the stage. Everybody had a very enjoyable evening – well done to all concerned.

THE ARCHER has been told that Highgate School is going to have a container on its premises for donations. We have also been told that the needs of the Sri Lankan people are simple: such things as sanitary towels and nappies.

Clubbing together

From the beginning of January to the first week in February, Bar XL at 114 High Road, has been raising money for the tsunami victims. One tenth of the takings in the club on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights were donated to the appeal. In addition to this, the DJ gave a tenth of his wages to the cause. There was also a charity box for customers to make their contributions.

The money raised will be sent to the Red Cross. Customers and staff achieved the admirable total of £2,700.

Thanks

The Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital wish to thank all those who participated in their raffle for the tsunami appeal, which raised £860.

Go north, young man

East Finchley really is only a stone's throw from what *Time Out* has called "one of the few beacons of hip, inclusive, progressive arts programming". It's easy to get there by car with on-street parking on single yellow lines after 6.30, and five council car parks nearby also free after 6.30. There are a few underground pay and display parking spaces under the arts centre itself. artsdepot is right above the bus depot at Tally Ho Corner with six buses stopping there. Three underground stations are within reach.

Musical Aid

On 8 February artsdepot was able to host *In Tune – a Musical Evening in Aid of the Tsunami Appeal*, which raised over £10,000. The gala evening brought together many local talents, all providing their services for free, including Los Desterrados; Danny Davies and the Andy Quin Trio; The Barnabus Choir from Holly Park School (who tragically lost two children to the tsunami); The Barnet Schools Wind Orchestra; The Good, The Bad and The Lovely and The Rhythm 'N' Blues Revue. Phil Perry and Opus 4 entertained in the interval. The artsdepot team all gave up a day's pay in support of the appeal. A marvellous local event supported by Pirate Management, with all funding going to the Disasters Emergency Committee.

artsdepot's first season has been very successful with many sellout performances. Over 25,000 people have enjoyed a huge variety of events and entertainment there, with 8,000

Brookland Schools raise over £3,000

Brookland Junior and Infant Schools, based in Hampstead Garden Suburb, joined together to raise over £3,000 for the tsunami relief appeal.

On Friday 7 January, each class took turns to lay their gold, silver and copper coins on a marked chalk line, which meandered across the playgrounds to link both schools. The result of this joint fundraising venture was the significant sum of £1,850, which far surpassed any expectations.

The following Friday, the junior pupils added a further £1,300 from their annual Mini-Market. They organised a variety of stalls selling homemade cakes, sweets, jewellery, second-hand books and toys and organised fund-raising activities, including a mini race-track, instant hair colour-

ing, quizzes and auctions.

Individual children also made generous donations. One Year 3 child offered all £30 of his birthday money while others gave pocket money or are organising fund-raising events at home.

Heather Blackmore, Head Teacher of Brookland Junior School, commented, "We are proud and delighted that pupils of both schools have been so determined to help the victims of the tsunami. The mini-Market was an unprecedented success because of the enthusiasm, enterprise and initiative of our children and the support and generosity of parents and carers."



OPUS 4 performing in the foyer during the interval. Photo by Toni Morgan

attending the Christmas show. The Paco Pena, John Mortimer and Arabella Weir shows were all sellouts.

Arts for all ages

Coming up are Srishti – Nina Rajarani Dance Creations presents *Women are from Venus* traditional Indian dance with a contemporary twist choreographed by Marvin Khoo. Romanian composer and musician Alexander Balanescu, who has collaborated with fellow musicians as diverse as Michael Nyman, Ornette

Coleman and Kate Bush, will be playing music from his film scores with his string quartet. Poet/comedian John Hegley is bringing to artsdepot the only London showing of last year's Edinburgh Festival show *Uncut Confetti*.

There are also shows and events for children, the Depot Youth Theatre for 11 to 19-year-olds and courses for adults.

To get the artsdepot's current programme call 020 8369 5454 or visit their website www.artsdepot.co.uk.