



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 10 & 24 January 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.

Stars come out to remember Jack

By David Howes

When I was asked to attend the gala screening of *Ready when you are, Mr McGill* written by the late Jack Rosenthal, I didn't actually know who he was. I knew he was important because Victoria Wood almost brushed past my shoulder in the lobby of the Phoenix, and I could have sworn that was Sir Tom Courtenay as I queued to get my popcorn.

Google had given me facts and career milestones to digest, but what I couldn't get from the Internet was the evident warmth and regard with which Jack Rosenthal was held. This was a Phoenix packed to the rafters – actors, directors, friends, and family – anyone and everyone with whom Jack had ever worked (or discussed football). Not a bad showing for a man who mingled with the famous, yet preferred his Saturdays in front of Teletext following his beloved Man United.

The lights dim and an expectant hush falls. Two hours, plenty of belly laughs, and much applause later it was over.

I'm feeling quite uplifted, so why does it feel bittersweet? Simply because neither you nor I can watch this film until at least Christmas 2005, and even that is not guaranteed. ITV in

their wisdom have decided they cannot find room in their schedules until then, leaving Mr McGill screaming inside his film can, "I'm a piece of quality television, get me out of here!"

Not only have we been here to celebrate Jack, we're here to help the Phoenix achieve its £60,000 target needed to take its seating into the 21st century. Maureen Lipman kindly donated all of the money raised tonight, £4,500 in all, to this very cause. It feels fitting as the Phoenix represents all the values Jack upheld himself; independence, originality, quality over quantity.

Wasn't it Oscar Wilde who said, "Man knows the price of everything, but the value of nothing"? Let's hope the Phoenix finds the rest of the money to keep bringing the value of quality independent filmmaking to East Finchley.

Phoenix film first

The first Barnet Script competition reached its climax on Sunday 12 December when the film made from the winning script received its premiere at the Phoenix.

The 2003 script competition sponsored by Barnet Arts, the Phoenix Cinema and Finchley Cinevideo Society (FCS) was given impetus by the FCS promise to film the winning script. In the end 65 scripts were received. Joe Spalter, the film's executive producer said, "Choosing was a really tough job but we were won over by local script writer Rick Limentani's charming script about Hubert – a rather special Teddy Bear."

Hubert's travels

Making *Hubert's Travels* was highly ambitious and took nearly a year. Producer Trevor Williams commented, "It has been a truly local effort; FCS provided the crew, almost all the action took place in Barnet and we found help and co-operation everywhere. Finchley musician Marc Folan composed a special score whilst Susi Earnshaw's Theatre School and the Garden Suburb Theatre helped provide the cast. Finally we were delighted that the Phoenix offered us their cinema for the Premiere."

Scriptwriter Rick Limentani, returned from Film School in Paris for the showing, attended by all the people involved in the film including Director Michael Slowe. The film tells the story of a battered little teddy bear who has the power to be a positive influence when ever he comes into someone's life. After being rescued from a lake by a sad little boy, Hubert helps the child to be happy again then continues to

change for the better the lives of people with whom he comes into contact.

Finchley Cinevideo Society has been making non-professional films for 75 years and meets weekly at the Quaker Meeting House in North Finchley – details from Peter Kidman on 8292 6367



'Alarms and Excursions'.

Photo supplied by Andy Mills on behalf of Incognito Theatre.

Am dram and soda

It is a scene familiar to anyone who's ever been involved with school productions, amateur dramatics or the local Gilbert & Sullivan society. A damp winter evening, a short walk to find a tiny theatre built after the war on the site of an old soda water factory, a feeling of suppressed excitement in the air. In the interval a door at the back of the auditorium is thrown open and a tray of coffee is handed round to the audience. It is good to know that theatre is alive and well in Friern Barnet.

Alarms and excursions

The joys and delights of am dram were evident at the Incognito's fast paced December production of the witty *Alarms and Excursions* by Michael Frayn. A hard working cast of four did all seven pieces, rehearsing for us Frayn's theme of machines going wrong or complicating our lives. In *Heart to Heart* the music at a party is so loud that two men claim the same woman as their wife, while in *Immobiles*, the answerphone is a major factor in confusing an airport meeting. Perhaps the mobile phone wasn't so all-pervasive when Frayn wrote these pieces as, surprisingly, it doesn't feature in any of them.

David Jason may have started his acting career here in the sixties but it is Andy Mills who seems to be the moving force of Incognito at the moment. Not only did he act in and direct the production but he also did set design and publicity. A large yet friendly group, Incognito aim to have seven adult productions and one youth production a year and are always looking for new members, both in front of and behind the footlights. (Memb. Sec. Ruth Nixon 020 886 3274).

The next production is Hedda Gabler in February. Details from the box office on 020 8361 8310 or www.incognit Theatre.com.

What's On...

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

Homeopath Consultations

Wednesday 19 January 9.30 - 12 noon.
Free consultations with experienced homeopath Cassandra Marks to recommend remedies for coughs, colds, joint pains, arthritis and other winter ailments at the CW Andrew Pharmacy, 32 High Road

Finchley & District Philatelic Society

Wednesday 19 January, 7.30 pm to start at 8 pm
John Bohn will give a talk and display on 'British pictorial envelopes of the 19th Century'.
All made welcome. Meet at Trinity Church Hall, Nether St, N Finchley. Enquiries to Brian Merryweather 020-8444-3251. Visit our websites at www.stampdomain.com/finchley & www.ukphilately.org.uk

Help Yourself Homeopathy course

Saturday 22 January from 10am till 6pm
One day course: Learn how to use Homeopathy for first aid and minor ailments.
At Muswell Healing Arts, N10 Cost £50.
Phone Penny Hill 020 8444 2882

Swamprock at Wilf Slack Sports Club

Saturday, 22 January Doors open 8 pm Bar to 11.30 pm Music to 12 pm
Swamprock present Louisiana-style Dance Night with live music featuring Whiskey River band
Wilf Slack Sports Club, 19 East End Road, N3. £8 entrance
Further info: Carole Lateman 020 8810 7454 or Neil Papworth 01727 830280 www.swamprock.org.uk

The Finchley Society's local history group inaugural meeting

Thursday 10 February at 8.00pm at Avenue House East End Road N3
Talks by the Borough archivists: Yasmine Webb will speak on the Barnet archives and Hugh Petrie on national archives and their relevance to Finchley. The Finchley Society's own archives will be described by Maggie Ferguson. Time permitting, future activities will be discussed.
Entry free and all welcome.