



Left to right - Sylvia, Reuby, Norma (a club member) and Rene at the party.
Photo by Toni Morgan

They'll meet again

By Daphne Chamberlain

For 18 years, Reuby and Rene Hyams and Sylvia Lee ran the Fairacres Monday Club, bringing entertainers, speakers and quizzes to the East End Road home for Jewish blind and disabled, but they have now decided to call it a day. In December, club regulars, past and present helpers, guests and friends turned out for their final party, with Hetty Benjamin at the piano.

Part of the family

Originally the Wednesday Club, the group was actually the brainchild of one of the guests, Judy Curtis. Though not themselves Fairacres residents, Reuby, Rene and Sylvia have been, in Judy's words, stalwarts in running the show ever since. Fairacres staff contributed their own words: "We will miss them very much. They're part of the family."

Reuby told everyone: "It's sad to finish, but I enjoyed it all. It was sometimes a pain in the neck coming up with something every week, but I was always glad I did." He thanked everyone for their help, especially resident Michael Solomons for organising some wonderful programmes.

Club members made a very generous collection and a giant thank you letter in verse, and there were bouquets from Jewish Blind and Disabled and the League of Jewish Women.

The League's president, Penny Conway, asked Reuby, "What will you do on Monday afternoons now?" "There's always washing and ironing," he

told her, but in reality the stalwarts will still be busy with outside activities, including the Muswell Hill Friendship Club.

Surprise

announcement

Finishing on an up-note, Malcolm Ozin, from the Jewish Blind and Disabled Association, sprang a popular surprise. He proposed six-monthly reunions, with JBD providing funding and publicity.

The Monday Club's outstanding kitty was divided between North London Hospice (for whom Rene has baked cakes for 16 years), Cancer Research and JBD.

Thanks for the help

Rene had a nasty fall in the High Road at midday on 7 September between Iceland and Ruse Chemists. She told us: "Four ladies gave me a lot of help, including phoning for an ambulance and letting my husband know. The ambulance driver was really good too. He collected my shopping and put it in the freezer for me."

Rene spent some time in hospital, but is making an excellent recovery, and wants to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who went to her assistance.

Have you got the bowls?

By Toni Morgan

Now we're in the middle of winter, perhaps you're thinking about starting some decorating but can't quite raise the enthusiasm. Well, it is dark and cold and summer seems a long way away.

So what about trying something much more enjoyable that would give you the opportunity to get out of the house, meet new people and take some exercise?

Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club in Summers Lane, Finchley, provides one of the best indoor bowling facilities in north London.

Besides welcoming experienced new members, the club is always looking to introduce more people of all ages to the game. It is extremely easy to learn and can be played actively after a very short period of instruction.

All ages from eight to 80 plus can play bowls. Mums, dads, children and grandparents can all play in the same team if they want!

Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club has eight rinks, a licensed bar and a restaurant where meals can be enjoyed at a very modest price, as well as a large car park for members' use. Potential new members are given two free "introduction to bowls" lessons with equipment provided by the club and tuition is continually provided during the indoor season.

The club is open daily from 9.30 am until 10.30 pm, October to April. For further details, contact the Secretary on 020 8446 2090.

Preserved in Lavender

By Viviana Lotti

A restaurant with a 'time twin', their name bridging the 70 years between them: that's not the only unusual thing about Lavender Lady.

The restaurant, in North Finchley High Road, opened in May last year. Owner Joan Ferguson, from the Isle of Uist, in the Hebrides, wants Lavender Lady to be an oasis of calm for people to relax, away from London's "buzzy madness".

Joan had another name planned, but discovered that over 70 years ago the same site had been a restaurant called Lavender Lady. "My chosen name went out of the window and that was it," she said.

Joan learned more about her 'predecessor' from older diners, who recall its original decor of Lloyd Loom chairs and lavender gingham tablecloths and curtains.

The food is British cuisine with a twist. For example, the black pudding, from Uist, is made with lamb's blood instead of the usual pig's blood. The wholly organic ingredients

make a real difference to traditional favourites. The sirloin steak is tender and flavoursome, with superb homemade chunky chips. The sticky toffee pudding is heaven on a plate: a moist, light sponge with a generous amount of toffee sauce mixing happily with the accompanying vanilla ice-cream.

The restaurant serves lunches, dinners, English breakfasts and afternoon teas. There are vegetarian and gluten-free menu choices and the lactose-intolerant are also catered for, with soya and rice milk available.

Joan herself trained as a chef, but prefers to work front of house. She and waitress Elizabeth work hard to ensure all the diners are happy. Asked to sum up Lavender Lady, Joan says, "The whole place is about passion, caring and homeliness".



Finchley in the frame

This study of Cherry Tree (above) is one of the paintings on show at an exhibition at the Old White Lion pub.

Painter and illustrator Cristina Rinaldi-Ward is showing a number of her paintings inspired by sights in East Finchley and North Finchley.



Cristina Rinaldi-Ward

Cristina is a well-established illustrator of children's books, who moved to East Finchley a year ago after living in Japan for two years, where she studied traditional Japanese painting.

She is a member of the East Finchley Open art group and had her first painting exhibition at the Old Truman Brewery in East London soon after arriving in Britain.

Cristina's paintings will be on show at the Old White Lion, next to the Tube station, throughout February.

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East Finchley Community Development Trust

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO SOMETHING FULFILLING AND HELP THE EAST FINCHLEY COMMUNITY?

Our Volunteer Programme based at the Green Man Community Centre can help place you in a position that best suits you.

As well as being very fulfilling, volunteering can help you learn new skills, enhance your job prospects and meet new people.

We have a number of East Finchley based voluntary organisations who would really like to hear from you.

For more information please call Margaret for a friendly chat on 020 8883 4916.