



Regular Events SPORT & FITNESS

❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 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 8883 5269
❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 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.
❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8440 6953.
❖ **Wood Walk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk, Call 8883 8750.
❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation**. Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.

DANCE, DRAMA, ART & MUSIC

❖ **Art Classes**. For info call Henry on 020 8888 5133.
❖ **Ballroom dancing classes**, beginners and improvers. Phone 01707 642 378
❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
❖ **East Finchley Writing Workshops**. Creative writing, poetry and prose Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
❖ **Finchley Jazz Club** - 8 & 22 Jan at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3. New members welcome
❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - a communal singing club. Call Idit Gold 8458 4508.
❖ **Over 60s come dancing** at Ann Owens Centre 8346 8736
❖ **Pottery Class** at The Green Man, Call Celia Holmes 8349 9315
❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church. Call 8883 4070 for info.
❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
❖ **SwampRock** events feature a different band each month. See www.swamprock.org.uk or call Carole 8810 7454 or Neil 01727 830280
❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
❖ **Tap Dance** for children beginning at Old Barn every Monday, Contact Sharon 8349 4613

CLUBS & SOCIAL

❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
❖ **East Finchley National Childbirth Trust**, Contact Jane on 8883 4340
❖ **East Finchley Writers** meet weekly at The Old White Lion. Call Lilian 8444 1793
❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Mouldon on 8361 1696.
❖ **Highgate Film Society**, contact Admin Office 8340 3343 or email: admin@hlsi.net.
❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
❖ **Muswell Hill and Highgate Pensioners' Action Group** Call Bob Cottingham on 8444 7635.
❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, contact 8349 4613/1961
❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call John 8883 8114.
❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.

Virtuoso guitarist wows artsdepot

By John Dearing

Some 30 years ago, I first had the pleasure of watching Martin Simpson live at a folk club in Suffolk, and listening to his singing and his astonishingly good guitar playing. Three decades, countless live performances and many, many albums of recorded music later, I am still enthralled by his playing.

On 30 November, he appeared in the Studio Theatre of artsdepot, accompanied by the melodeon player Andy Cutting, a former colleague in the June Tabor band. They played a selection of English folk tunes such as *Little Musgrave*, about the cuckolding of Lord Barnard and the subsequent violence, songs by modern writers such as Randy Newman (*Louisiana 1927*, about the terrible floods of that year), American folk tunes about the Civil War, about poor folk travelling about by (illegally) riding the freight trains, and some self-penned compositions.

The Granemore Hare described hare coursing from the hare's viewpoint, and *The Lakes of Ponchartrain* related the sad story of young Willie who went swimming in notoriously dangerous waters and

was inevitably lost, much to the anguish of his mother and his girlfriend.

Martin Simpson played conventional acoustic guitar, banjo, and a wooden framed slide guitar. He plays mostly in the finger style (rather than with a conventional plectrum) and his arrangements are rich, complex, and highly melodic. His singing is emotional, sometimes harsh, and his voice is strong and expressive.

Andy Cutting, aside from accompanying, played a couple of solo pieces, one a traditional folk tune, the other written by himself, and showed himself to be a fine musician, worthy to be on the same stage.

Martin Simpson seems to spend much of his time in America and France, but whenever he returns to England, if you get the chance to see him live, take it.

An Evening with Maureen

By Betti Blatman

Actress Maureen Lipman became involved with the North London Hospice after a friend spent a year there and even more so after the death of her playwright husband Jack Rosenthal.

Tales from her family life and her 40 years in showbusiness made a fascinating and amusing evening for a jam-packed audience at Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon, in aid of the hospice's crucial work.

She introduced herself as a Yorkshire lass from Hull, a 60-year-old actress, widow, mother, daughter, sister and writer. In case anybody was wondering about the varied streaks of colour in her hair, they were a necessity while she was working with Joanna Lumley on television's *Sensitive Skin*, although she felt like a "closet blonde".

Being a widow, she reflected on her late husband Jack and remembered that her mother never understood what he did for a living. When he was looking out of the window, Maureen had to explain that he was thinking.

Jack found it difficult to write about himself and died before he could finish his autobiography but Maureen decided to finish it for him. Although Jack is the only person to have won Bafta awards three years running, she remarked that it was puzzling why, in recognition of his outstanding achievements, the BBC didn't run a series of his plays after his death.

In her 40 years in the business, apart from periods of childbirth and illness, she hasn't stopped working and is a workaholic as she finds it difficult to say no, except to 'celebrity' TV shows, which she won't do.

A writer she may be but she considers herself innumerate. When she visited Las Vegas,

she thought gambling was not for her until she "won loads of money three times" but was then informed she was using the coin change machine.

As part of the evening, Maureen performed Joyce Grenfell's sketch *First Flight* as well as her own piece *Diner*.

For more information on North London Hospice contact the fundraising office at 47 Woodside Avenue, London N12 8TF or by telephone on 8446 2288.

A masterful Journey's End

By Lucy Chamberlin

Incognito Theatre Group excelled once again with its November production of RC Sheriff's *Journey's End*. Marking the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and supported by the Royal British Legion, the play seemed to have lost none of its original impact since it was written in 1929.

The impressive set comprised a dug-out that was perhaps a little too cosy, but the depiction of trench politics was masterfully done.

Sheriff scripts a delicate balance of characters: Stanhope, the highly-strung young captain whose only remaining courage is found in the whisky bottle, Osbourne, the practical lieutenant and 'uncle' to all, and second lieutenants Hibbert and Trotter, who could not be more different in their respectively neurotic and bluff approaches to the war.

As the shells fall and the death missions are ordered, mundane conversation, stiff upper lips and comedy from Mason the Orderly belie the emotional tension affecting



Geno Washington and Jack Brown. Picture by Yvonne Brown.

Geno casts a spell for Jack

Legendary soul singer Geno Washington was the star of a show at Lauderdale House in Highgate to raise money for the Jack Brown Appeal. Betti Blatman was there.

When Geno Washington read about the plight of five-year-old Jack Brown, from Barnet, who is suffering from a rare form of cancer, the singer wanted to get more involved.

The result was a concert at Lauderdale House in Highgate on Saturday 25 November, where Geno and the Ram Jam Band performed many of their well-known songs.

Geno dedicated *I Put A Spell On You* to Jack, who was in the audience. Jack's parents, Yvonne and Richard, are desperately trying to raise enough money for their son to receive treatment in America. Money raised from the evening will go towards Jack's appeal.

The Ram Jam Band are Orlando la Rose (saxophone), Neil Pyze (saxophone), Steve Bingham (bass), Geoff Hemsley (drummer) and Andy Wil-

liams (guitar).

At the same concert, the crowd was treated to entertainment by Chris Jagger (brother of Mick) playing rub board, guitar and harmonica while singing a great range of songs; followed by Damian O'Shea whose unique voice adapted songs from rock 'n' roll to Dr John including *Go Johnnie Go* and *Goin' to Louisiana*.

For more information on Jack's condition and his appeal, visit www.jackbrownappeal.org or contact Mikee (SUBS- this is CORRECT) Tring on 07702 191 478. You can donate by sending a cheque to The Jack Brown Appeal, c/o The 2 Simple Trust (a registered UK charity 1113954), Enterprise House, 2 The Crest, London NW4 2HN.

What's On...

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

Coming up at artsdepot, North Finchley:

Wednesday 10 January, 8pm, **An Audience with Maureen Lipman**; Thursday 18 January, 7pm, **Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company**; Saturday 27 January to Thursday 1 March, 12pm - 4pm, **Enchanting Taiwan**; Thursday 25 January, Friday 26 January and Monday 5 February, 8pm, **Omid Djalili: No Agenda**; Friday 26 January, **Folk in the Foyer**; Saturday 27 January, **London Youth Dance**; Sunday 28 January, 7:45pm, **Israel Piano Trio**; Thursday 1 February, 8pm, **Jeff Mirza**.

Saturday 17 February

SwampRock's Mardi Gras party:

Red Hot Louisiana sounds return to SwampRock at All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, from 8pm. Whiskey River will play their own blend of Hot Zydeco, Steamy Cajun, Rockin' Blues and good old fashioned Rock 'n' Roll. Lil' Queenie will be joining them on rub board for SwampRock's authentic Bourbon Street Mardi Gras Party with beads and masks. Large dance floor, non smoking, admission £9. Further information from Carole Lateman on 020 8810 7454 or Neil Papworth on 01727 830280. Also see www.swamprock.org.uk.