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THE ARCHER

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What's On...

By Sue Holliday

Fitness

Yoga based stretching class at East Finchley Library on Wednesdays 7 - 8pm. All ages welcome. £4 per session. Call Deanna on 020 8883 7029.

Exercises for a fabulous figure (not aerobics); all sizes welcome! Call Deanna 020 8883 7029 for further details.

Badminton on Wednesdays at Christ's College from 8 - 10pm. First visit is free, but not suitable for beginners. Call 020 8349 0170 for details.

Don't forget **Alexandra Palace Ice Rink** holds skating classes and ice hockey for all ages. For opening times and prices call 020 8365 2121.

Body-sculpt Fitness Classes at St Mary's Church Hall, Hendon Lane, N3 and Middlesex County Cricket Club, East End Road, N3, call Emma on 020 8343 3378 for details.

Cycling

Barnet cyclists hold monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of every month and have rides at least once a month, both attended by 20 - 30 people. Call Charles Harvey 020 8455 5174 for details.

Walks & Tours

Stepping Out has guided walking tours in and around London. Contact 020 8881 2933 for further details.

Hampstead Heath walks: Sunday 5 December Heathland restoration led by Peter Rouse. Sunday 19 December Festive stroll.

Dance & Drama

Club Dramatika: The drama club for kids, Wednesday, after school and Saturday mornings at King Alfred School Hampstead. Call 020 8883 1554 for details. Club Dramatika also runs adult drama workshops, drama parties for all ages.

Drama Group Whatever your interests - acting, directing, producing, scenery, singing etc., why not try our friendly group which meets regularly. Phone Peter on 020 8441 8268.

Cinema

The Phoenix Cinema is showing a variety of films throughout the month. Call 020 8883 2233 for listings or 020 8444 6789 for the box office.

Events & Exhibitions

The Jewish Museum Finchley 80 East End Road has a class in watercolours on Wednesday evenings, until 8 December.

Also an exhibition of Holocaust prints and drawings by Michele Franklin runs until 6 January 2000. Call 020 8346 2288 for full details.

College Farm: On the first Sunday of each month enjoy the **Country Fair** at College Farm. Regular attractions are craft market, picture gallery, donkey rides and a horse bus, apart from being able to see the rare breeds of farm animals.

Alexandra Palace Events: Friday 3 - Sunday 5 December **The Alexandra Palace Christmas Fair & the Festive table.**

Clubs

Tetherdown Duplicate Bridge Club meets on Thursdays at 1.15pm for 1.30pm. All sessions at Tetherdown Hall, Tetherdown, N10. For details call 020 8348 3495.

Memory Lane Singing Club Learning to sing and perform is fun, sociable and a great experience. Weekly sessions on Fridays 11.30am-2.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Hendon Lane, N3 or Wednesdays 4-6pm at Wesley Hall, Stapylton Road, Barnet. Call Idit Gold on 020 8449 0011 for further information.

Soroptimist International Aimed at **business and professional women world wide**, it has 92,000 members in over 2,700 clubs in over 80 countries. You are invited to visit the North London Club which meets twice monthly at the North Middlesex Sports Club, Park Road, N8. Call 020 8883 1394 or e-mail Bcollis444@aol.com for details.

The Sisterhood At East Finchley Methodist Church: Tuesday 7 December - A weekend in Beijing - Miss June James; Tuesday 14 December - Carols and mince pies - Mrs Brenda Dunstone; Tuesday 21 - December Rev. Philip Wren.

Contact AGM: The East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact AGM on Saturday 11 December, at the Methodist Church, High Road, the meeting starts at 3 pm.

Music

SWON, the recently launched symphonic wind orchestra of North London, is seeking enthusiastic wind, double bass and percussion players (minimum grade 5) Rehearsals will take place during term time on Tuesdays at Brooklands Junior School, Hill Top, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11 at 7.30pm. Call 020 8883 3365 for further details.

Theatre & Comedy

The Millfield Theatre presents Snow White and the seven dwarfs Friday 3 December until Saturday 8 January. Call 020 8807 6680.

What's on in and around East Finchley is **FREE to advertise** in, so if you are a local group or organisation with an event coming up write to *What's On The Archer* PO Box 3699 London N2 8JA. To avoid disappointment ensure that we receive your insert on or before the 14th of the previous month.

Arts & Cinema

By Geoff Garfield

Well, 1999 draws to a close and the millennium awaits. My avowed intention for New Year's Eve was to sit quietly on top of a mountain contemplating life and my navel. But as East Finchley is starved of mountains it's no doubt round the pub for me.

Pale imitations

On reflection 1999 did not produce any great surprises and more than enough disappointments.

The insistence of writers/producers/directors on reproducing the formula of previous successes continued ad nauseum. Thus, we had *Star Wars the Phantom Menace*, a pale imitation of its predecessors and Hugh Grant went on to team up with Julia Roberts again in *Notting Hill*. Suffice it to say that all I ask of dear sweet Hugh is please to move on from the shy bumbling charmer identical to his real-life persona. In other words, "Hugh, challenge yourself and act".

I was also sad to hear of the death of Stanley Kubrick, a director I admired enormously. I was even sadder to see *Eyes Wide Shut*, a film that had no distinctive touches of Kubrick whatsoever.

However, all was not lost. I enjoyed (in no particular order) Vincent Gallo's *Buffalo 66*, *Plunkett and Madaine*, *The*

Mask of Zorro, *Analyze This*, Clint Eastwood's *True Crime*, *Solomon and Gaenor*, *Central Station*.

Down side

Films that distressed, disturbed and displeased me included, again in no particular order, *Celebrity* (another step in the decline of the once-great Woody Allen), *Happiness* - a deeply unpleasant experience, any and all Robin Williams' movies, *The Matrix* (someone please explain) and much to my surprise, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, which did not live up to its hype.

Phoenix rising

My wish for the millennium is to see the ongoing rise and rise of the Phoenix - please patronise it as often as you can - the greater the number of full houses the better. I'm also delighted with the resurgence of the British movie industry and the number of first-time writer-directors around at the present time.

Good season's greetings to you all and great movie going in 2000.

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