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THE ARCHER

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What's On... By Sue Holliday

Fitness
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.

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.
East Finchley Methodist Church presents works by **Holst, Faure, Schubert, Ravel, Debussy** and other composers on Sunday 13 February. Free admission but a collection will be made in aid of Barnet Cancer Care.

The Jewish Museum, 80 East End Road, N3 has lunchtime recitals on Thursdays - 3 & 17 February and 2, 16 & 30 March at 1.15pm. Call 020 8346 2288 for full details.

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 80 East End Road, N3, has a class in watercolours on Wednesday evenings, until March 15. Also an art course with Jackie King-Cline runs until March 21. From Friday 4 February - Friday 17 March an exhibition entitled **The Legends of the Baal Shem Tov**, of stone lithographs by the Hungarian/Swedish artist **Ferenc Flamm**. 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.

Keats House in Hampstead has re-opened to the public; he composed "Ode to a Nightingale" in the garden. From November to March the house will be open Monday to Friday 1-5pm, Saturday 10am-1pm then 2-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm. Call Fiona Milligan on 020 7332 3451 for further details.

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.

All Saints Beer and Wine Circle are looking for new members interested in home brewing and winemaking as well as some social activities. They meet on third Friday every month at Thomas More Centre, Thomas More Way, N2. Call Richard Baldwin on 020 8883 7081 for more information.

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.

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.

Theatre & Comedy

Millfield Theatre presents on Friday 4 February the special magic of Louis Armstrong - a musical tribute to Satchmo; Saturday 5 February - Craig Charles and support Steve Best Still live on Earth; Thursday 10 February - Mary Mason and Peter Male present the songs of The Carpenters; Saturday 12 February - an evening with Hinge and Bracket. Call 020 8807 6680 for details.

Arts & Cinema

By Geoff Garfield

It is now February and so far I have kept to my resolutions: I have changed my diet from a liquid lunch to a more solid intake and I have not risen to anger when those lousy rotters have revved their cars and let out poisonous gasses. Also I have attempted to be pleasant about Robin Williams' movies. The last may be the hardest to sustain.

So far this year, and it is early days, there have been some tasty dishes put before us. I am an avowed fan of Martin Scorsese's movies and particularly if they have Robert De Niro as the principal lead (think of "Raging Bull", "Taxi Driver" and "King of Comedy").

Well, Mr Scorsese is hitting those mean streets again with the grim "Bringing Out the Dead"; life through the eyes of an Emergency Medical Service team. Nicholas Cage takes over the mantle from De Niro and it is raw and honest and gripping from the first reel to the last.

Nice timing

The segment of Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past" entitled "Time Regained" has won many accolades from the critics. This critic thought it was superb. It trod the difficult line between the avant garde and the period drama with a fine delicacy and if I see a more stylised film this year I shall be happily surprised.

While I am in this agreeable mood I must state that I'm looking forward with great anticipation to both "American Beauty", the directorial debut of theatre wonderkid Sam Mendes and "Angela's Ashes", the new Alan Parker feature.

No doubt the Phoenix will present some if not all of these movies at some stage, but please ring the box office on 020 8444 6789 for times and programmes.

Next month I shall be debating the choices available for this year's Oscars and what chance I have of sponsorship to get to Hollywood to witness the spectacle first hand. Enjoy your movies.

East Finchley Children's Library

By Diana Cormack

So many children recognise Rachel Reilly out of her place of work that she finds it difficult to walk around East Finchley without being fondly greeted by name.

Rachel is our local children's librarian. She really loves working with children, so much so that she is able to answer them by name too. When they come to the library Rachel wants the youngsters to feel at home in a place which is "friendly and welcoming, where they can develop a life-long love of books and learning."

Book value

So there are storybooks available for all ages from babies to teenagers, plus books to help with homework, hobbies, sport and about life outside school. There is also a recently extended range of dual-language books. They cover languages such as French, German and Spanish; Chinese and Japanese; Gujarati and Urdu.

If there is a particular book you want to read you can reserve it free of charge. However, it's not worth trying to get a Harry Potter story as there is a *huge* waiting list for him!

Loan arranger


You can also borrow tapes to listen to, for a small charge, and videos, though this must be on an adult's ticket. Children don't have to pay fines for their overdue books either! Also for free are the regular events and activities which are held at the library. "Storytime for Under 5s" happens every Wednesday between 2.30 - 3 pm. On alternate Saturdays there are free activities for 5 -10 year olds



Twenty-two-month-old Louis Stringer of Diploma Court enjoying a book with his mother at the children's library. Photo by Diana Cormack

involving crafts, quizzes, stories and songs from 2 - 2.45pm. The ones for this month are on 12 February and 26 February (end of half-term week).

If you would like to know more, call in at the library at 226 High Road or give them a ring on 020 8883 2664.

MUSWELL HILL BOOKSHOP
Now holds regular author readings and discussions. If you would like further information or to join our mailing list contact us at:

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