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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.

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.

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.

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, from January 12 to March 15. Also an art course with Jackie King-Cline runs from January 11 to March 21. An exhibition entitled Anne Frank - Reflections on the holocaust, runs from 14th to 28th January. 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.

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.

Theatre & Comedy

Millfield Theatre presents Romeo and Juliet from 20th to 29th January. Call 020 8807 6680 for details.

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.

Chamber Charity Concert

The Capriccio Ensemble is to hold a charity concert in aid of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture on 29 January at All Saints Church.

The Capriccio Ensemble comprises of five well-respected musicians, drawn from some of London's finest chamber ensembles: Marianne Thorsen and Andrew Roberts - violins, Julia Knight and Juliet Jopling - violas and Sebastian Comberti - cello.

Through a shared passion about the music they are playing and a particular desire to start off the New Year by raising money for a wonderful charity, it seems especially fitting to celebrate the dawn of a new century by supporting the work of a charity which administers to unfortunate victims of regimes flourishing at the end of the last.

The works being played are the fruits of two masters of chamber music, inspired each by their own favoured instrument, the viola, to write two of the best-loved works in the repertoire: W. A. Mozart's String Quintet in G minor K.515 and J. Brahms String Quintet in G major Op. 111.

The concert takes place at 7.30pm on 29 January at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, N2. Tickets are £8 for adults, £5 for students and OAPs and free for children. Available on the door or in advance by calling 020 8444 6358.

Valentine Disco

East Finchley Festival is holding a Valentine disco on Saturday 12th February at the Herbert Wilmott Centre, Eagan's Close N2 from 8 - 11pm.

There will be a bar and bar snacks on sale. Tickets cost £5 each. To order a ticket please send a cheque made out to the Festival Committee with a stamped addressed envelope to Helen O'Toole, Festival Secretary, 8 Elmhurst Avenue, East Finchley, London N2 0LT.

Arts & Cinema

By Geoff Garfield

So it is all over: the fuss has died down and the New Year has begun. It starts with congratulations to the Phoenix on being nominated as a listed building; more on that, including explanation in the next issue.

Suffice to say January's programme is in the keeping with the new status, i.e. classy.

There is continuity regarding the Sunday matinees with two good films every Sunday. The year started with the French comedies *Le Diner De Cons* and *Ridicule* and as far as I'm concerned it could be a great trade, our beef for their movies.

This double was on 2nd January, and the 9th produced a David Mamet remake of Terence Rattigans *The Winslow Boy* coupled with *The Tichbourne Claimant* a David Yates comedy about an inheritance.

The 16th has Pedro Almodovar's intriguing *All about my Mother* with *Ma vie en Rose* and, if that is not enough on Sunday 23rd is *Ratcatcher*.

This is the harrowing story of life in a Glasgow tenement seen through the eyes of a 12-year-old boy. It is tenderly done and beautifully acted and has some very funny light moments. This is paired with another insight into the Glasgow psyche: *My name is Joe*. (Tell me someone, why is Glasgow always shown as grim and desperate; surely somebody must prosper there.)

Lawnmower Man

For the main bill we have a treat. My nomination for film of the year, and the year is only 2 to 3 weeks old depending on when you read this, is *Straight Story*. Directed by David Lynch it stars Richard Farnsworth (who is he?) As Alvin Straight who, due to failing eyesight, can only drive vehicles not in need of licence plates. This is a moving story of his journey across country on a lawnmower in order to see his brother.

It is a complete joy from start to finish and this film has the Garfield seal of recommendation.

Opening on the 14 January is *Wonderland* by Michael Winterbottom, director of the under valued *Welcome to Sarajevo*. *Wonderland* is a gritty social drama set on a south London estate.



Some members of Oak Lane Friendship Group. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

Millennium wishes

By Daphne Chamberlain

We're talking pretty basic wishes here. Things like knickers and loos.

When I visited the Oak Lane Friendship Group a couple of years ago, many of the members had the same wish for East Finchley. "A shop where we could buy our knickers - or a reel of cotton. We'd like somewhere to do everyday shopping. East Finchley is just eating places, travel agents and betting shops."

The residents of Stokes Court also had some well-defined wishes, including one for a public toilet. Since the loo at the Underground station has been closed, the car park has taken over as the area's facility provider. As the walls are just under Stokes Court windows, you can imagine why the residents are objecting.

One gentleman told me that he'd phoned Barnet Council to complain, to be told (by an anonymous member of staff) that anyone needing a public convenience could catch a bus to North Finchley or Wood Green!

A bus? Now that's something else to wish for!

To return to the main point, though, a public loo is something any one of us could need at any time. It really is a basic provision.

Now for something completely different: I personally wish that some members of the (other) media would remember that the new person in London should be pronounced Mair (to rhyme with fair, or even Blair) - not May-er. That's a trivial wish - but we're all allowed one of those.

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