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THE ARCHER

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What's On...

By Sue Holliday

Fitness

Play 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.

Alexandra Palace Ice Rink holds skating classes and ice hockey for all ages. For info call 020 8365 2121.

Walks & Tours

Hampstead Heath Walks Sunday 2 July - *The Trees of the Heath and Kenwood*, led by David Bevan.

The Ramblers Association (Finchley & Hornsey Group). For further details contact Vivien Mallindine 020 8883 8190.

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

Cycling

Barnet cyclists hold monthly meetings on the last Thursday of every month at Carey Hall, Trinity Church Nether St and have rides at least once a month; both attended by 20 - 30 people. Call Charles Harvey 020 8455 5174.

Dance & Drama

Country and Barn Dancing on the first Wednesday of each month at Christ Church Whetstone Oakleigh Park, Call 020 8349 0754 for details.

Drama Club For 5 - 9 year olds at Kings Alfred's School (Hampstead) on Saturdays from 10 - 11am. Adults can also enjoy drama classes on Thursday evenings in Highgate from 8 - 10pm. Vicky, former Head of Drama at King Alfred's, runs both classes. Contact Vicky on 020 8883 7110.

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

Over-60s - Come dancing at Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane. Every Wednesday, 10.30 am - 12.30pm. Ring 020 8346 8736 for info.

Art & exhibitions

Art Classes Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 9.30 at St Peter Le Poer, Albion Ave N10. Thursday morning 10 - 12.30 at The Old Railway Station (Cufos), The Avenue N10. For more information call Henry on 020 8888 5133.

Chorak 122 High Road - The Archer's Erini Rodis is holding a **Photographic Exhibition** from 1st to 31st August. For more information please call 0410 255 276, or write to: erini_r@hotmail.com

The Jewish Museum, 80 East End Road, N3, has an exhibition of contemporary **British Ceremonial Art**, which runs until 3 September. Also an exhibition entitled **East of Eden - recent watercolours from Israel, the Sinai and Thailand by Moish Sokal** 14 July - 27 October. Call 020 8346 2288 ext. 654 for details.

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:



72 FORTIS GREEN ROAD, N10
 020 8444 7588

Events & Fairs

Alexandra Palace Cyprus wine Festival Sat 1 & Sun 2 July.

College Farm: Country Fair on the first Sunday of each month. 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.

Golders Hill horticultural clinics Sat 1 & 9 and Sun 2 & 10 July.

Open day on Hampstead Heath, Sunday 2 July. Lots of events for the family.

Music

East Finchley Arts Festival, All Saints Church Durham Road, Saturday 1 July - *Recital with Robert Cohen*; Sunday 2 July - *Finchley Children's Music Group*; Monday 3 July - *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*; Tuesday 4 July - *Two Piano Duo*; Wednesday 5 July - *The Parlour Quartet*; Thursday 6 July - *Capriccio Ensemble*; Friday 7 July - *Organ music*; Saturday 8 July - *Lucie & Roddy Skeaping's Musical Mystery Tour for children*; The London Ripieno Society.

Hampstead Heath Band concerts at Parliament Hill on Sundays 3-5pm: 9 July - *Fulham Brass Band*; 16 July - *Merton Concert Band*; 23 July - *Annexe Jazz*. At Golders Hill on Sundays 3-5pm: 9 July - *Tucker Finlayson Band*; 16 July - *Atlas Copco band*; 23 July - *Luton Band*.

Kenwood Concerts Saturday 8 July - *Tchaikovsky gala*; Sunday 9 July - *From the West End to Broadway*; Saturday 15 July - *Kiri Te Kanawa*; Saturday 22 July - *Radio Nation's Favourites*; Saturday 29 July - *The Four Seasons*.

Barnet Schools Music Centres meet Sat mornings Finchley (strings), East Barnet and Hendon (woodwind/brass) call 020 8445 6831 for details.

SWON the Symphonic Wind Orchestra of North London rehearses during term time on Tuesdays at Brookland Junior School, Hill Top, HGS, NW11 at 7.30pm. New players (min. grade 5) welcome, particularly horn, double bass and percussion. Call 020 8883 3365 for details.

Learn to sing at the Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane on Tuesday 2-4pm. Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm and Friday 1-3pm call 020 8455 2403 for more information.

Theatre & Comedy

At the Millfield Theatre on Wednesday 28 June to Saturday 1 July *The Best Little Whore House in Texas*; Sunday 2 July - *The Jazz Dance Company*; Tuesday 4 July - *Cramen*; Wednesday 12 July - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Tuesday 18 to Saturday 22 July - *Millfield Youth Theatre* presents *Y3K*; Friday 28th July - *Quiz Night*. Call 020 8807 6680 for info.

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110 High Road, East Finchley, N2 9DH. Tel: 020 8444 1092

Clubs & Social

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.

The Hampstead Social Group, which includes the East Finchley Area, meets most evenings, largely in members homes for social events. Late thirties and forties age group for new members. No membership fees, contact David Morris on 020 8455 0477 for further details.

Muswell Hill Bowling Club, open daily from 2.30pm, club night Friday evenings from 6.00pm. Beginners welcome, free tuition given, loan of equipment. The Green, Kings Avenue, N10. Tel 020 8883 1178.

Muswell Hill Synagogue, 31 Tetherdown, N10, has a full social and educational programme, as well as services on Friday night at the start of Shabbat, and on Saturday mornings, followed by a friendly kiddush. For further information call 020 8883 5925 Monday or Friday 11am-1pm. **Single Solution**, over 30's night every Friday at Sam's Bar, Fortis Green, call 020 8802 2326 weekdays, 020 8363 2328 evenings.

Soroptimist International For *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.

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.

The Wives Club welcomes all ladies on alternative Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm in the Fellowship Room at East Finchley Methodist Church, High Road. 6 July - *Hidden Talents*, 20 July - *End of Season Party*.

ARTS AND CINEMA

By Geoff Garfield

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the Finchley Youth Theatre's production of *Diet*. This, as stated by Diana Cormack in last month's issue, was conceptual drama - that is theatre with audience participation. Everyone got the chance to be Peter (or Petra!) Hall for five minutes and change the flow of the play. The subject was anorexia and I, like Diana, got involved. It turned out to be both stimulating and fun.

It sparked off the imagination to fever pitch level. If only we, the passive theatre goers, had the opportunity to direct from the front seats then what could be the possible outcome? Godot turning up. Juliet deciding Romeo was not her type and telling him to hop on his bike (or words to that effect). The list is endless. For those with stage-struck children, or even those desperate to live in a kid-free zone for a couple of hours a week, you can contact the theatre on 020 8883 9957.

All that jazz

For cinema devotees, you can guarantee summer will bring two perennials. Intermittent sunshine and the annual Woody Allen feature. This year's offering - *Sweet and Lowdown* - is an affectionate tribute to a passion that he and I share, jazz.

Emmet Ray (beautifully played by Sean Penn) is the second greatest jazz guitarist around, (the top banana being Django Reinhardt) which is a source of sorrow to him throughout the film.

While being amazingly accomplished on stage, off it he is boorish, egotistical and insensitive and also not a nice man. The film, which traces his life and relationships, includes an Oscar-nominated performance by Samantha Morton. She plays the romantic interest and has the challenge of being mute. However she says more with her eyes in five minutes than other performers, graced with a script, do in two hours.

Could do better?

It may be sacrilegious to say but, speaking as a Woody Allen disciple, I get a sense of underachievement in some of his latest films. With weak and implausible story lines, insufficient development of characterisation and, saddest of all, not enough of those wonderful one liners that made *Annie Hall*, *Love and Death* and *Play It Again Sam* such a treat. It is not enough to say the humour comes out of the character, exaggerated mannerisms and quirky behaviour become tiresome after a while.

To repeat, I look forward immensely to every new movie by this artist and, while I am grateful that he is still turning them out (whatever happened to Mel Brooks?), that is exactly what he is doing, turning them out. How I long for another *Annie Hall* etc. For all of that I enjoyed *Sweet and Lowdown*. Maybe I am trapped in a street called Nostalgia.

The July movies at the Phoenix at the time of writing include *High Fidelity*, the film of the book by Nick Hornby, and a foreign offering *Kikujiro*. Check box office on 020 8444 6789 for times and dates. Good movie viewing!

Watershed

By Diana Cormack

The Community Focus Drama Group put on this two-part entertainment at the All Saints Arts Centre in Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone. The group consists of disabled and older people, some of whom are in wheelchairs, but all of whom made an enthusiastic contribution to the production.

The first half consisted of amusing take-offs, mostly of the media and television. These short sketches were based on the observations of all the group members and were developed during improvisation sessions. Old favourites were recognised in "Blinkety Blink" and "Withering Hight" plus recurring news reports taking us through to newer hits like "The Harry Spaniel Show" and "The Regal Family."

Moving

The second half proved to be very moving with a thought provoking satirical piece written by the group's tutor director Alastair Reid, which he co-directed with volunteer tutor Vivien Rodgers. It was entitled "Miss Read" and told the story of a young disabled woman and her relationships within and outside her home. The leading role was taken by *The Archer's* own Helen O'Toole of Elmhurst Avenue who acted brilliantly along with two disabled and two able bodied actors.



L-R: Signer, Helen O'Toole, Philip Rackham and Trina Morrison performing *Miss Read*. Photo courtesy Community Focus

A first

Alastair based the piece on his long-standing work experience with disabled people and on the warm and supporting relationships he has developed with his drama students. This was the first production of its

kind and one of those helping to ensure its success was Lesley Chowan of Sylvester Road, East Finchley. Amongst the admiring and appreciative audience were local councillors Brian Coleman, Liz Mehmet and Barbara Langstone.