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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 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 for further details.

Cycle training for children see ad below for details or call 8906 8028.

Walks & Tours

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

Hampstead Heath Walks: 7 May **Uses and management of the East Heath Ponds**, led by Adrian Ferne; 10 May **Bats at Kenwood**, led by David Wells; 14 May **Dawn chorus** at 4am; 21 May **Landscape and ecology of Parliament Hill** with ecologist Paul Moxey.

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.

Country and Barn Dancing on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Christ Church Whetstone Oakleigh Park, Call 020 8349 0754 for further details.

Events & Exhibitions

The Jewish Museum, 80 East End Road, N3, has an exhibition of contemporary **British Ceremonial Art**, which opens 5 April and runs until 3 September. Also an exhibition of **lithographs** by **Marc Chagall**, until 30 June.

A 10-week **Art course** with **Jackie King-Cline** runs from 2 May to 4 July and a 10-week **watercolour course** with **Linda Genertz** from 3 May - 12 July. Call 020 8346 2288 ext. 654 for further details.

Alexandra Palace

Sunday 14 May - The Alexandra Palace **Antiques and Collectors Fair**; Sunday 28 - Monday 29 May - **Afro Hair and Beauty 2000**; Thursday 25 May - Sunday 4 June - **Spring Bank Holiday Fun Fair. Hampstead and Highgate Festival** has various events 18 - 27 May, for further information call 020 8883 8740 or email cdpascall@aol.com. **Hampstead Heath Fairs** Bank Holiday Mondays 2 - 9pm. **Golders Hill Horticultural clinics** Saturday 13 and 20 May, Sunday 14 and 21 May.

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.

Cinema

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

Theatre & Comedy

Community Focus presents **Watershed** on Saturday 20 May at The All Saints Arts Centre Whetstone, call 020 8200 8353 for further 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.

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.

Muswell Hill Chess Club meets on Thursdays, 7.30 to 10.30pm, from September to May, at Tetherdown URC Hall, Tetherdown, N10. Players of all standards welcome. Ring the secretary, Wil Ransome, on 020 8348 7882 for further information.

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.

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.

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 to Friday between 11am and 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.

Music - clubs

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

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

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 info.

Music - performance

The Millfield Theatre Sunday 7 May **West End Showstopper**; Thursday 11 May **The Counterfeit Stones** jumpin jack flash tour; Friday 12 May **Voulez Vous** Abba tribute band; Saturday 13 May **Sweet Home Chicago** a tribute to the Blues Brothers; Tuesday 16 - Saturday 20 May **Risley Operatic Group** perform **The Pyjama Game**; Thursday 25 May one from the heart **Skylight**; Friday 26 May **Think Floyd** the echoes tour 2000; Saturday 27 May **The Sinatra Years** with **Tony Jacobs**; Sunday 28 May **A night with Danny La Rue**. Call 020 8807 6680 for further information.

Hampstead Heath Band concerts: Parliament Hill from 3 - 5pm: Sunday 28 May **Crystal Place Band**; Monday 29 May **Southern Concert Band**. **Golders Hill** from 3 - 5pm: Sunday 28 May **Waltham Forest Band**; Monday 29 May **Flying Chaucers**.

Arts and Cinema

By Geoff Garfield

As predicted (by me of course) **American Beauty** picked up a glut of Oscars. Sam Mendes, the British 'wonder kid', deservedly won the award for Best Director. The Best Actor's accolade went to Kevin Spacey. So no surprise there.

What was a turn up for the book was the Best Actress prize. The hither-to unknown Hilary Swank (a name to conjure with) streaked ahead of the field for her portrayal of the androgynous heroine/hero in *Boys Don't Cry*. In a world where gender distinction has become somewhat blurred, society has not only moved towards acceptance but now celebrates our differences, as a result of this the film, while modern in context, has a dated feel.

What's it all about Michael?

Nice to see dear old Michael Caine cop another Oscar for *Cider House Rules*: Best Supporting Actor. Perhaps now he can stop moaning about the lack of recognition from his peers. For a chap with two Oscars and a significant fan base, whatever that means, and wealth untold, he hasn't done so badly and a lot of people know that, however, for me, whatever role he takes, he will be forever, Alfie.

While browsing the net I came across an interesting site in Yahoo devoted to discussions on the Phoenix, a number of people, mainly male, were looking for companions to accompany them on trips to the cinema, so ladies get surfing. I can't give you more details of this site, as is the way with the net; I don't know how I arrived at it.

Saturday morning pictures

Space enough to plug the Phoenix Freddie's, who are now celebrating their third birthday, this is the Saturday club for six to twelve year olds and, by all accounts, it is great fun.

For older kids, don't forget to ring the Phoenix (if you don't have a programme) on 020 8444 6789 for the box office details and forthcoming events. Good movie going.

Cycle training for children

Barnet's Accident Prevention Unit will provide cycle training for any child over nine years old. For details, ring 020 8906 8028.

Crouch End Festival Chorus

By Sonia Singham

It's some twelve years since I started singing with CEFC (Crouch End Festival Chorus). We were doing *The Messiah* and, as I screeched to some of the high notes of tunes which I thought I knew quite well, I soon realised that I was no longer a soprano!

I couldn't wait for the new season to begin so that I could join the ranks of altos where I am to this day - now a second

alto, singing with a chorus which has gone from strength to strength. There are about 130 regular members (of whom at least six live in East Finchley). For membership details contact Catherine Best on 020 8444 4438.

Creation Day 2000

The Chorus is taking part in the Covent Garden Festival on 13 May 2000. "Creation Day 2000" will consist of an outdoor performance of Haydn's *Cre-*

tion, at the newly refurbished Somerset House, at 7pm with tickets at £10 for seats or free if you stand.

Come along and enjoy the daylong entertainment but, above all, listen out for the chorus which "on paper sound like a joke by Alan Coren. But...they're no laughing matter. Take them seriously, and often" - Michael White, Independent on Sunday, October 1999.

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