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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 0181 883 7029.
Badminton on Wednesdays at Christ's College from 8-10pm. First visit is free, but not suitable for beginners. Call 0181 349 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 0181 365 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 0181 343 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 0181 455 5174 for details.

Walks & Tours

Stepping Out has guided walking tours in and around London. Contact 0181 881 2933 for further details.
Hampstead Heath Walks:
Bat Walks at 8.30pm on 11, 18, 25 July. Limited number so please book.
Mid week wildlife stroll Wednesday 28 July.

Outdoor activities

Responsible Fishing Courses at Hampstead Heath No3 pond, consecutive Sundays throughout July and August.

Dance & Drama

Drama Club on Saturdays 10-11am for 5-9 year-olds at King Alfred's School (Hampstead). Drama classes for adults on Thursdays 8-10pm in Highgate. Both run by Vicky, former Head of Drama at King Alfred's. To be sure of your place contact Vicky on 0181 883 7110.

Latin American Dance Classes

Salsa etc., on Monday evenings at Club XL, 114 High Road, N2. Classes are £5 per session.

Events & Exhibitions

The Jewish Museum, 80 East End Road has an **Art Course** with Jackie King-Cline until Tuesday 13 July. Also an exhibition entitled **The Circle of Montparnasse** - Jewish artists in Paris - until 7 October. Call 0181 346 2288 ext. 109 for details.

The Jewish Museum Camden Town 129-131 Albert Street, NW1, has an exhibition entitled **Angels and Demons - Jewish Magic and Mysticism** until Sunday 3 October. Call 0171 284 1997 for further information.

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.

Clubs

Tetherdown Duplicate Bridge Club meets on Thursdays at 1.15pm for 1.30pm. All sessions at Tetherdown Hall, Tetherdown, N10. For details call 0181 348 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 0181 449 0011 for 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 0181 883 1394 or e-mail bcollis444@aol.com for further details.

Theatre & Comedy

The Millfield Theatre presents **Hansel and Gretel** Saturday 10 July; **Closer than ever**, the up and downs of a relationship on 20-21 July; Thursday 22 July **Much ado about nothing**; Friday 23 July **In Remembrance** World War I poetry; Saturday 24 July **Quiz night**: Call 0181 807 6680 for further information.

Music

Band concerts on Hampstead Heath: Sunday 11 July - **Hillingdon Community Concert Band**, Parliament Hill 3-5pm; **Northfleet Brass**, Golders Hill Park 3-5pm. Sunday 18 July - **Merton Concert Band**, Parliament Hill 3-5pm; **Atlas Copco Band**, Golders Hill 3-5pm. Sunday 25 July - **Anexe Jazz**, Parliament Hill 3-5pm; **Denham Brass**, Golders Hill 3-5pm. Tuesday 27 July - **Sheena Davis**, Parliament Hill at 7pm; **Spats Dillinger and the Buzzing Half Dozen**, Golders Hill at 7pm.

Kenwood Concerts: An evening with the **CleoLaine, John Dankworth and Jacques Louissier Trio** Saturday 10 July; **Tchaikovsky Gala Concert** Saturday 17 July; **Lesley Garret** Britain's best loved soprano Sunday 18 July; **In Nature's Realm** Saturday 24 July; **An Opera Gala** Saturday 31 July.

SWN present a recital of music including works by **Mancini, Gershwin and Strauss**. Swon's inaugural concert will be held on Sunday 11 July at 7.30pm at All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road, N20 or Tickets £6, family ticket £15, at the door or box office on 0181 445 8388.

East Finchley Methodist Church presents a concert to include songs of many lands on Sunday 11 July at 8pm, free admission but a collection will be made on behalf of Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

SOCIETIES UPDATE

By Daphne Chamberlain Art group puts them in the picture

Verdict of a Moss Hall School pupil on the Ann Owens Centre Art Group: "I thought that old people's hands would shake too much to draw. Now I think they should teach us."

NB In my article on the Art Group last month, I said that Rene Young learned her craft on the pavements of East Ham. It was actually West Ham. Sorry, Rene!

Memory Lane and The Archer take a bow

The Archer was indirectly responsible for providing the entertainment at a meeting of the Evacuees' Reunion Association at Woodhouse College in June. Organiser John Race was visiting his mother in East Finchley when he read our recent article about Memory Lane Singing Club, and decided to book them.

"We couldn't believe it when we got the invitation from the Home Office," the Memory Laners told us. The shock didn't prevent them from devising a typically lively and varied programme.

Tea-dance

The Ann Owens Tea Dance is going from strength to strength. Recently, instructor, Michelle, invited 18 of the regulars to a dance at Uxbridge. Some of them will also be visiting Gloria Hunniford's Open House. For details, ring 0181 346 8736.



Samantha Moore and Elvis. Photo: Daphne Chamberlain

Behind the scenes

By Daphne Chamberlain

The King came to the High Road in June. He could be seen at Chorak's Patisserie, courtesy of Samantha Moore, who was showing 27 pictures there.

She had popped in for coffee a couple of months before, seen another exhibition, and decided to try her luck.

Chorak's manager, Javad, is no pushover. She says he cast an extremely searching eye over her work, and then, when she had given up hope, offered her a four-week exhibition.

First came the preview, complete with string quartet, wine, and contacts of Javad from the art world. This is optional, but Samantha reckons it was well worthwhile for the publicity.

The whole enterprise, including professional framing and various promotional expenses of her own, cost about £2,000. "People must look at the prices of the some of the pictures, and think I'm making a fortune, but actually I'm just past breaking even."

When I spoke to her, she had already sold 17 pictures - most of them at the preview - and had received eight or nine commissions, including a big one for £700.

Samantha studied art at A level and an HND in illustration and design at the London College of Fashion. She paints in a traditional style, strongly influenced by the Pre-Raphaelites, Degas and Monet, and special-

ising in people and pets.

On the walls of Chorak's were several cats, her young sister, and a girl in a romantically beautiful setting - whose elegant legs actually belong to Samantha's boyfriend.

All shook up

He is the real Elvis fan, and it was after a row with him that she produced her most popular Presley picture. "It's got so much energy because I was so mad when I was working on it." She is fascinated by music and film icons, painting them to show the human being behind the celebrity mask.

Samantha was brought up in New Eltham; the daughter of parents who both paint. She was working part-time in a pub, when she was asked to produce some television backdrops. One was 18 feet long, and she had no space to work. It was then that her landlord changed pubs, moving to the Old White Lion. Samantha came too, painted the chalkboards, and finished her backdrop in the White Lion cellar.

She has now settled in East Finchley, and if you would like to commission a portrait (people or pets), you can contact her on 0181 347 9257.

Film Reviews

By Robert Jones

Less than ideal

By Robert Jones

The Phoenix has a Green Sunday on 4 July and later in its scheduling has the French film, "Venus Beauty". (I was just wondering if The Phoenix has heard of a film being released called "Star Wars I: The Phantom Menace". Maybe they would like to show it on the kids' Saturday matinee!).

The Phoenix will be showing "An Ideal Husband", a film version of the play by Oscar Wilde, which was first performed over 100 years ago, while Wilde was in Reading Jail. This filmed version of the play is a lavish production with some renowned acting talents such as Rupert Everett and Cate Blanchett. It retains the humour of the playwright's work and, being a film, can open up scenes such as in the House of Commons and Hyde Park. But the glossiness of the production, the detail of its picturesque style in making it a period piece, give the film an air of self-indulgence, thus only attracting audiences already familiar with the piece.

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