WHAT'S ON

into February

A SERIES of workshops for

Learn how to make your own piece of embroidery based on historical techniques.

For further details please ntact the Museum.

 Burns Night Celebration January 25, 7.30pm
AN EVENING to celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns,

Scotland's best loved bard.

A relaxed dinner which will include the traditional haggis, neeps and nip o' Whiskey, followed by recitations of some familiar Burns poems and songs before dancing the night away to music provided by a Scottish Ceildh band.

Previous experience of Scottish country dancing not required!

£80 per person, includes whiskey cocktail on arrival, three course dinner with wines, entertainment until 12.30.

Chocoholic!

February 6, 7µm
AT ONLY 33 years old, master chocolaticr William Curley has wen many of the world's top culinary awards and worked with the most famous names in European Cuisine

He is one of a small handful of top 'chocolatiers' in the UK producing world beating chocolate from his shop in

Richmond.

A decadent evening of chocolate tasting including a presentation on the 'secrets' of chocolate - through the origins of chocolate making, influences on quality and the current trends in the world of chocolate. Tickets £10 per person, advanced booking required.

CINEMA

Riverside Studios Crisp Road W6 Bookings/information: 020 8237 1111

www.riversidestudios.co.uk The Condor Years January 27, 1.30pm

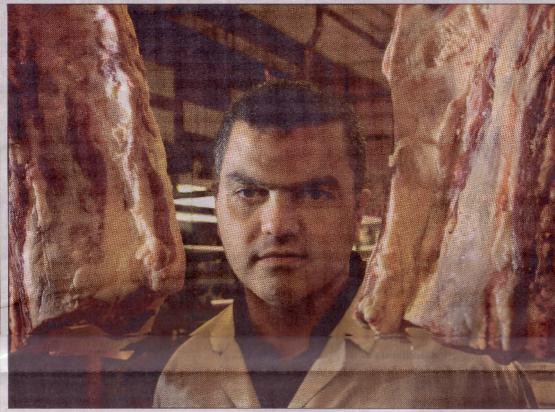
INTERVIEWS, film and photo portraits of some of the racing stars of the last 60 years.

Cineworld 207 King Street Hammersmith W6 9JT Tel: 0871 200 2000 A CONVERTED 1960s cinema, with four screens, available for private and corporate hire. Phone cinema for films and times.

Vue Shepherds Bush West 12 Shopping & Leisure Centre, Shepherds Bush Green W12 8PP Tel: 08712 240 240 VUE Cinema in Shepherd's Bush has 12 screens. Phone cinema for films and times.

Vue Cinema Fulham Fulham Broadway Retall Centre, Fulham Road, Fulham SW6 1BY Tel: 08712 240 240 VUE Cinema complex in Fulham has 9 theatres. Phone for films and times.

INTERVIEW ARA SARAFIAN



BROUGHT TO BOOK: Butcher and historian Ara Sarafian at work in Olympia Butchers

PORTRAIT BY HANDAN EREK

The historian on a mission to rediscover genocide in Armenia is the subject of a powerful new documentary, writes Geoff Cowart

BOOKS have a nasty habit of putting people on

habit of putting people on dangerous ground.

In 1916, British researchers James Bryce and Arnold Toynbee began to compile a report about the genocide of Armenians in the Ottoman empire the previous year.

The subsequent document was published in Parliament's Blue Book series – and is accepted as a superb, factual, first-hand account of the Ottoman (now Turkish) state's attempt to annihilate state's attempt to annihilate

its native Armenians. It was accepted everywhere, except Turkey, where even today its entire parliament deny genocide and the resulting Blue Book.

Enter Armenian, historian, husband, butcher and father-of-one Ara Sarafian.

In between shifts at his father-in-law's shop, Olympia Butchers, Ara sits down to talk. I'd seen him just days before on the big screen at the premiere of new documentary The Blue Book at Hammersmith's Riverside Studios, On screen and off, he has a commanding presence and when he speaks, you

listen.

"Yes, there is an academic side to the debate with Turkey that interests me. But I also

want to come to terms with the events of 1915 as a person, and especially as an Armenian," Ara says

Ara says.

From research in British and American archives, the cameras follow Ara to the universities and death valleys in Turkey, where director Gagik Karagheuzian captures frank admissions by Turks and other deniers of the genocide. The issue has so consumed

The issue has so consumed Ara that he has dedicated most of his life as an historian to researching the origins of the Blue Book, to determine

the Blue Book, to determine whether the events happened or were part of a more elaborate lorgery, as the Turks have always claimed. And after years of research, often travelling to Turkey by coach or teaching in its universities, Ara talks about the issues of 1915 and 1916 as if they affected him and his family personally.

I realise they did. "My family is the victim of the Armenian genocide, especially members of my extended family on my

grandmother's side.
"As far as I know, I don't
have any surviving relatives.
"But my grandmother and
her immediate family were saved because their Turkish neighbours hid them while the rest of the village was

exterminated.
"We were forced to leave our ancestral lands and now

our ancestral lands and now we are scattered across the globe. Where do we fit in?"
"This issue relates to who I am, and who is my family. And the Blue Book is just a part of the story.

'My people are in permanent mourning. It is an open wound'

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"The other part is that, essentially, Turks and Armenians are the same people, but we need to acknowledge the past before we create a common future." The toll of fighting the corner of the Blue Book gets to Ara in the film, and he admits he's taken a break from academia because the stress of watching some of his peers try to obscure history is too high. "We are in permanent mourning because the issue is an open wound. I think about the events of 1915 every day.

"The pressure is constantly on Armenians to assimilate and die—and why not if the

on Armenians to assimilate and die – and why not if the issue was solved? "But I don't want to abandon my Armenian identity under pressure. "This is part of the atrocity. "And we lost."

For details, visit: www anisounds.com/bluebook