



Media man: Nicholas Owen's journalistic career saw him anchoring the coverage of Princess Diana's funeral

This is the NEWS

Influential English journalist Nicholas Owen is revealing all from his 50-year media career in his first book *Days Like This*.

The acclaimed TV presenter and former financial writer will be signing copies of his new release at the Cobham Bookshop.

He will be joined by celebrity booker Stanley Jackson of agency Performing Artistes, who will sign copies of his memoirs, *Get Me a Celebrity*.

Owen's book lifts the lid on the major events of his

time in the industry, including his pivotal role anchoring the coverage of the death and funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Stanley Jackson details his workings with stars Ruby Wax, Jo Brand and George Best, among others, in his insightful memoirs.

Nicholas Owen and Stanley Jackson book signing, Cobham Bookshop, 12A Anyards Road, Cobham, March 17, 11am to noon, call 01932 862903 or email info@cobhambooks.com.

FIT freetime

Theatre Music Film Comedy Events

MIRTH AND MUSIC

Not many performers can slide easily from an evocative Irish ballad into a rendition of Handel on the mandolin and guitar but a comic duo promises just that.

Simon Mayor and Hilary James, pictured, have entertained across the globe with their ability to combine a diverse array of talents.

Mayor is one of the world's premier mandolin players while James is a quintessentially English singer but easily crosses the genres from Celtic to ballads, blues to Berlioz.

Simon Mayor and Hilary James at The Ram Folk Club, the Old Cranleigh Club, Portsmouth Road,

Thames Ditton, March 9, doors open at 8.15pm, show starts 8.30pm. Tickets £9 members, £10 guests, visit theramclub.co.uk and mandolin.co.uk/duo.



Starter's orders: Paddy Power will be supplying hi-jinx at Sandown Park

HORSEPLAY

Sandown Park racecourse is gearing up for two days of horses, history and hilarity, writes Louise Robertson.

The Princess Royal will attend on Friday, March 9, for the Grand Military Gold Cup, an important landmark in the jump season.

She will mark 60 years of the Queen's reign by planting a tree as part of a national campaign by the Woodland Trust.

Military Wives Choir is also making a special guest appearance.

The Grand Military Gold Cup is a race that dates back to 1841 and has featured many of the country's finest amateur riders.

The Queen Mother was an avid supporter of the event, with her horses winning on no fewer than five occasions. The day showcases the

discipline and precision of the armed forces.

It will also raise money for Saffa Forces Help, one of the principal charities raising money for the armed forces.

The following day will see the Paddy Power Imperial Cup, which is a top-class preview to the Cheltenham Festival, held three days later.

The day will provide hilarious entertainment, including a cash grabber for Sports Relief, where jockeys and sponsors grab as much cash as they can for the charity.

Sandown gives £2 to the charity for anyone who comes to the course on Saturday and buys a ticket on the day wearing red socks.

Sandown Park's Grand Military Gold Cup, March 9. Paddy Power Imperial Cup, March 10, call 01372 470047 or visit sandown.co.uk.



Royal visit: The Princess Royal will attend the Grand Military Gold Cup

Aspel in good voice

TV personality Michael Aspel is compering a concert for Weybridge Male Voice Choir.

The spring concert will also feature Treble Clef Ladies Choir and A Touch of Brass.

The choirs will sing from their vast repertoire of classical and light music to raise money for Walton Firs Foundation in Cobham.

The charity's activity centre is used for camping training by scouts, guides and members of other youth organisations.

The Weybridge Male Voice Choir has been

raising funds for charities through its performances since 1921 and the ladies choir since 1989.

The two choirs have more than 100 singers and, together with A Touch of Brass, will be endeavouring to provide the very best in musical entertainment.

Aspel met representatives of the users of the activity centre who were keen to tell him about the exciting times they have enjoyed camping, climbing and caving at Walton Firs.

Spring Concert; Dorking Halls, Reigate Road, Dorking, March 31, £10, call 01306 881717.