



PIECE OF CAKE

With fluffy frosting, moist sponge and the occasional jammy filling, cupcakes top our list of naughty pleasures. But how about one that will give you a healthy glow, toned body and will even mind the kids. Interested? Head for the new Parson's Green branch of family members' club Cupcake complete with patisserie, gym, spa and crêche. (Opens Jan; Cupcake, 11 Heathman's Road, Parson's Green, SW6, www.cupcakemum.com)

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Something Old, Something New...

Home can feel a little dreary in January when all the festive decorations have been taken down, so brighten things up with a post-Christmas treasure hunt. Battersea Park will be hosting The Decorative Textiles and Antiques Fair where you can find everything from painted furniture to Gustavian design. (The Marquee, Battersea Park, 18-23rd January, www.decorativefair.com)



PRESS PLAY

Oh come all ye faithful theatre-goers to a very un-silent night of new theatre at Theatre 503's festive edition of its music-inspired PLAYlist. Jingle your bells for plays from up-and-coming writing talent inspired by Christmas carols and songs, none longer than the track that inspired them. It's sure to be a Christmas number one. (PLAYlist: Christmas; 14-22 December; Theatre 503, The Latchmere, 503 Battersea Pk Rd, SW11; £8-10; theatre503.com.)

Winter Diary

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE



STRUMMING START

New year, new start? Hit the right note this January with a resolution to learn something new and head down to a beginner's workshop with the Balham Ukulele Society. Much more than a guitar mini-me, you'll soon be jamming (and singing) along on your four-stringed friend with the rest of the society at their fortnightly meet. (Every other Sunday at Balham Bowls Club; Workshop 6pm, £5; Sing-a-long, 7.30pm, free. www.myspace.com/balhamukulelesociety)



SPRUCED BRUCE

After leaving the residents of SW London at a gastronomic loss for six weeks while the work took place, Michelin-starred favourite Chez Bruce has re-opened with a snazzy new kitchen, a chic face-lift and, most importantly, extra tables. Race you to the phones for a reservation for some French fabulousness before Christmas... (Chez Bruce, 2 Bellevue Road, SW11; 020 8672 0114; chezbruce.co.uk)



A way with the fairies

'Tis the season to be merry but step away from the safe world of Christmas Panto and you might find yourself in the sinister city realms of Bayou. Battersea Arts Centre's 'The Animals and Children Took to the Streets', from theatre company 1927, is a brilliant concoction of dark urban fairytales. This involving production combines cabaret, contemporary issues, music hall song and the driest of humour. (Dec 8th-Jan 8th. BAC, Lavender Hill, SW11. www.bac.org.uk)