



# Popular Headmistress Retires

At the end of July, Miss Pat Douglass came to the end of 34 years service as teacher and headteacher at Martins Junior School, where she looked after some 250 pupils under 11, including many with different ethnic backgrounds and some with special needs.

Naturally, she has mixed feelings. "I have always enjoyed wonderful support from the governors, staff, parents and, of course, the children themselves," she says. "I shall miss them all, but I must admit it will be lovely to stand back and take stock of myself before deciding what to do next."

#### Head for the hills

"What to do" will probably include indulging her love of walking and mountain-biking, both in the British Isles and

other European countries and possibly some new study courses to increase her wide range of interests.

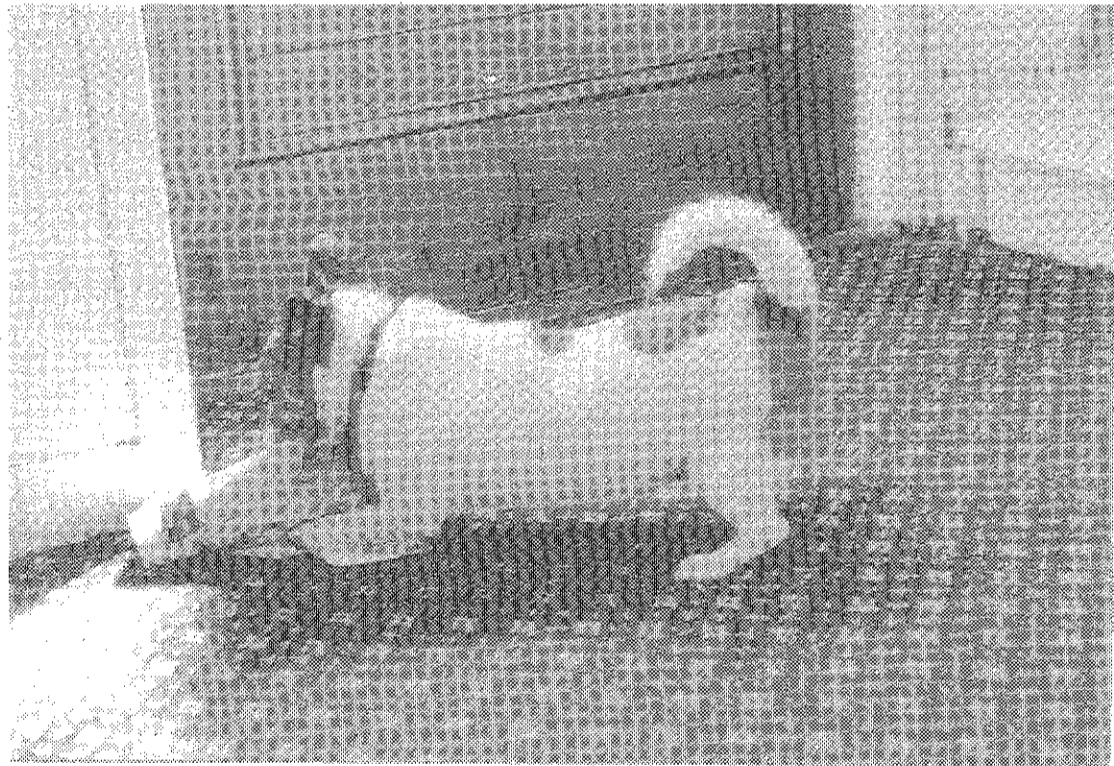
Several functions were being planned to give her a good send-off, some planned and carried out by the children themselves.

Miss Douglass hopes to remain in this neighbourhood where she has always lived and to keep in touch more frequently with her many friends in this new chapter of her life.



Miss Pat Douglass, Headmistress (retiring) of Martin School

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## PET PORTRAIT

### Bunny habit by Paul Savill

Bunny, a smooth-haired Jack Russell terrier, is a raving *Archer* fan. As soon as East Finchley's favourite newspaper appears in her letterbox in Fortis Green Avenue each month, she pulls it through and eats it on the hall carpet with growls of relish...

Her owner, Nora O'Sullivan, tries hard to stop her since she likes a good read, but usually it is too late and she has to do her best to piece the paper together again. Dog-eared

All mail and delivered newspapers can suffer the same fate,

but Bunny definitely prefers *The Archer* to the *Independent* and the *Muswell Hill Record*, says Nora.

To deter her, Nora has installed an inner gate in the hallway to cut off the front door, but every so often this gets left open.

When it does, Bunny sits there waiting for the delivery people. The slightest sound of the gate catch and she hits the door like a "ton of bricks" - although she is less than a foot high.

#### Hare of the dog

In all other respects Bunny lives up to her docile sounding

name. She was so called because when the O'Sullivan's bought her as a puppy eight years ago she resembled a rabbit.

She is adored by Nora and her seven children, now aged between 20 and 32 years. Nora is originally from Cork and settled in East Finchley 33 years ago.

She said she was forced to buy Bunny by the constant nagging of her children whose names read like something out of a poetry book: Brenda Grainne, Sean, Mairead, Noirin, Niamh and James.

## TIP BITS

#### Cycle repair outfit

Barnet cyclists have started a cycle workshop where people can come and learn how to repair their bikes and carry out repairs. It is at The Herbert Wilmot Youth Centre, Eagans Close N2 every Saturday. Please phone John Silvertown on 0181-444 5956 for details.

**N.B.** Also on Saturday 19th August 1995 at 4pm there will be a train assisted bike ride of about 30 miles (average speed 5mph) from The Herbert Wilmot Youth Centre, returning about 10:15pm.

Bring lights and £10 to cover cost of train fare and pub food. Phone John Silvertown on 0181-444 5956 for details.

#### From bard to verse

Budding bards have until 18 October to enter their poems to this year's Barnet Open Poetry Competition. There are four categories: General

Poems, Comedy, 7-12s & 12-16s, and Poems by the Over-60s. Full details from Barnet Borough Arts Council c/o All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, N20 9EZ (Tel: 0181-446 7879).

#### Six pack

Peggy's pet shop outdid supermarkets recently with her "multi-pack" hamsters. Customers buying one hamster were surprised a few days later to find they had a "buy one, get six free" bargain in their cages.

#### Bird call

Local police were a little sceptical recently when a reader from Creighton Avenue rang to report finding a cockatiel in her garden. She explained that the bird may have been someone's treasured pet but the duty officer remained suspicious, especially once our reader told him her name: Mrs Avery.

## RETURN OF THE GARDENING COLUMN

*The Archer* is pleased to announce the return of the gardening column next month. After an eight-month absence, Paul Savill's know-everything neighbour in Lauradale Road is taking up his pen to give us the benefit of his gardening knowledge.

He stopped his column following complaints about his article on "jungfrauenschrecken" garden gnomes. Some readers felt that his reference to gnomes indently exposing themselves was an affront to respectable residents of East Finchley. While he does not accept this view, he does apologise for any shock the article may have caused and any offence unwittingly committed.

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