



young archer

Saint Patrick's Day

By Diana Cormack

On 17th March, Irish people all over the world celebrate the day of their patron saint. They dance, sing Irish songs and make music at their ceilidhs, drink and generally enjoy themselves. In New York there is a huge parade with the colour green taking pride of place. Sometimes even the beer is dyed green and I did once hear that the roads were coloured green for the occasion, but that is taking things a bit far!

The strange thing is that the person they are remembering is supposed to have come from Scotland. He was born near Dumbarton in the late 4th century and had quite a pleasant life until he was about sixteen. Then he was captured by Picts who raided his village. They took him across the sea to Ireland, where he was sold as a slave. He worked as a shepherd for a chieftain called Milcho, so he spent a lot of time on his own thinking and praying for a way to escape. It is said that eventually Patrick had a dream about a ship waiting to carry him back to his own people. He managed to get away to a little town on the coast called Killala where he found a ship in the harbour. It set sail, but when they reached land again, Patrick found himself in France.

He went to a town called Tours and entered a monastery there. After many years of study he became a priest. Then, would you believe it, he was captured yet again and taken by sea to be sold as a slave, but this time he did end up in Scotland. He escaped from his captors, found his way back to his home town and stayed amongst his own

people for a long time. However, something inside kept telling him to go back to Ireland and teach the Irish about God. Before doing this, Patrick felt that he ought to know more himself, so (without being captured this time) he made a long journey across the sea to Rome.

Snake charm

He returned to Ireland as a bishop and began his work. Legend has it that he drove all the snakes out of that country, but it could be that the snakes stand for the evil that he got rid of. Of course, preaching to convert the people to Christianity wasn't easy, but Patrick seems to have had a gift for explaining things. For instance, he got them to understand the idea of three persons in one God, the Trinity, by using the trefoiled leaf of the shamrock plant (it's something like clover). That is why, hundreds of years later, you will see bunches of shamrock being proudly worn on Saint Patrick's Day.

Keep your eyes and ears open around East Finchley on 17th March. You may well be surprised by the pride of the Irish amongst us!

clever clogs corner

1. What is a leprechaun?
2. How many types of snake are native to Ireland?
3. What do you get if you kiss the Blarney Stone?
4. What plant is the symbol of Ireland?
5. Which Irish drink has the same name as a well-known book of records?
6. Which musical instrument is sometimes used as an emblem of Ireland?
7. What is made at Waterford?
8. What is a ceilidh?
9. What is a shillelagh?
10. Which town shares its name with a five-lined funny verse?

Answers:-
1. A fairy shoemaker 2. None. They were all supposed to have been driven out by Saint Patrick 3. It gives you the power of charming speech! 4. The shamrock 5. Guinness 6. The harp 7. Crystal and cut glass 8. A gather- ing of people to make music, sing and dance together 9. A thick stick, like a club, made from blackthorn or oak, originally used as a weapon 10. Limerick

limerick

A limerick is a five-lined amusing rhyme.

The funny thing about it is that it didn't originate in Ireland! Here is an example of one:-
"There was a young lady of Niger,
Who smiled as she rode on a tiger,
They returned from the ride
With the lady inside
And the smile on the face of the tiger!"

Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day?

By Diana Cormack

On Sunday, 9th March, mothers all over the British Isles will be given cards, presents and perhaps some other unexpected treats by their children. The name comes from an old religious tradition which occurred on Mid-Lent Sunday, three weeks before Easter, when people used to go to their "mother church" (the local cathedral) with their Easter offerings.

Later on, in the 17th and 18th centuries, servants and apprentices were given this day off to walk to church. They would use the opportunity to go and visit their families and, on the way, pick flowers for their mothers. It was a break from Lent and sometimes they would take her a special cake from which the traditional Easter Simnel Cake developed. These two verses from "The Oxford Book of Carols" express it nicely:-
"It is the day of all the year,
Of all the year the one day,
When I shall see my mother dear
And bring her cheer,
A-mothering on Sunday.

And now to fetch my wheaten cake
To fetch it from the baker,
He promised me, for mother's sake,
The best he'd bake
For me to fetch and take her".

Of course, only the best is good enough for our mums, but gradually the traditions of Mothering Sunday changed along with changes in the way people lived and worked. It was an American woman called Anna Jarvis who introduced the idea of Mother's Day. After her own mother died in 1905 Anna wrote lots of letters to well-known people, including the president, asking for a special day to be set aside to honour mothers and to appreciate their love and care. Perhaps she should have asked us about it first!

Eventually the second Sunday in May was named Mother's Day in the USA and that has been adopted by some other countries. Unfortunately, Anna's idea did not quite turn out as she had intended. When she died in 1948 the business of selling cards and gifts had taken over too much from her original plan for a time of loving remembrance, which made her unhappy.

No doubt you will try to give

your mother a happy time on Mothering Sunday, a good old British tradition, but don't forget the other 364 days in the year when you can do useful things too!

egg jokes

Why are dinner ladies so mean?
Because they beat the eggs and whip the cream!

By Eva Georgiou, Class 5, Age 9,
Holy Trinity

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall
All the king's horses
And all the king's men
Trode on him!!

By Talia Davis, Class 5, Age 10,
Huntingdon Road

Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall
All the king's horses
And all the king's men
Said "Oh, no not scrambled eggs
for breakfast again".

By Katherine Wood, Class 5, Age 10,
Lincoln Road

Holy Trinity Head Teacher to Retire

By Diana Cormack

Mrs Sonia Singham, the head teacher of Holy Trinity School, is taking early retirement at the end of this term.



Sonia Singham, Head Teacher of Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

Mrs Singham, who lives in Leslie Road, has two children, Aran and Geetha, who were pupils at Holy Trinity long before their mother became head teacher there. She was very pleased with the education they received, and both her son and daughter are now university graduates.

It was her own educational prowess that brought Mrs Singham to Britain. In 1961 she won a scholarship from

the British Council and arrived alone from Antigua at Hereford Teacher Training College.

After college, Sonia came to London, where she had spent many of her holidays staying with her best friend. She lived in Finchley Central and taught in Islington for two years, then she had to abide by the scholarship rules and return to Antigua for a year.

Since coming back to London in 1967, Mrs Singham taught in Hackney and Islington in both infant and junior schools. She was an acting deputy head and acting head teacher, then became head of Holy Trinity in April 1985.

Travel plans

After she retires, Sonia intends to travel outside the school holidays when the prices are cheaper! She will also continue as an active member singing alto with The Crouch End Festival which she joined ten years ago. Flower arranging is something she would like to learn more about and keeping fit is another of her intentions.

But first of all, she will be very much involved in helping with the celebrations currently being planned for Holy Trinity's 150th anniversary, so the school has not seen the last of her yet! It will also be an ideal occasion on which to wish Mrs Singham a happy, healthy and active retirement.

SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Trinity

The school is one of four primary schools in London selected to be part of a project involving the London Symphony Orchestra. It was inspired by a new work called "Do Not Disturb" composed by Piers Hellawell, commissioned by the LSO and the Finchley Children's Music Group. Piers has used poetry by the West Country poet Tom Clark in his composition which describes journeys through various landscapes.

Visiting musicians will invite children in Year 5 to create their own music and poems using ideas and material from "Do Not Disturb". They will be composing, singing, writing and listening. Those pupils who play musical instruments will be encouraged to bring them along whilst the

others will use the school's percussion instruments.

The project will culminate in a visit to the Barbican Centre in May to hear the LSO and The Finchley Children's Music Group rehearse Piers' piece. Then the four schools involved in the project will "share" their work. They are also invited to perform their pieces in a pre-concert foyer event at the Barbican on 7th or 21st May.

Martin Schools

Children from both the infant and junior schools are busily rehearsing for a dance festival to be held at The Chicken Shed Theatre in Southgate. With the help of teacher Miss Francis, they are creating their own modern dance to a piece of music which they have chosen themselves. They will also be designing their own costumes.

Continuing with Barnet's Health Promotion project, the juniors have been involved in looking at dental health, with Year 4 making an in-depth study. All kinds of equipment have been brought in, provided by the borough, to aid the children in their studies.

Road Safety instructors have been visiting each class with the on-going and ever necessary lessons to help our youngsters to keep safe on the busy roads around East Finchley.

What do you call a chicken in a shell suit?
An egg!

"Mum! Mum! What are we having for dinner?"

"Shut up son and get back in the oven"

By Kayleigh Hill, age 10,
Long Lane

Your mum can be fat
Your mum can be thin
Fat or thin or both
My mum's the best
that I know.

By Louise Wilson, Age 9,
Oak Lane