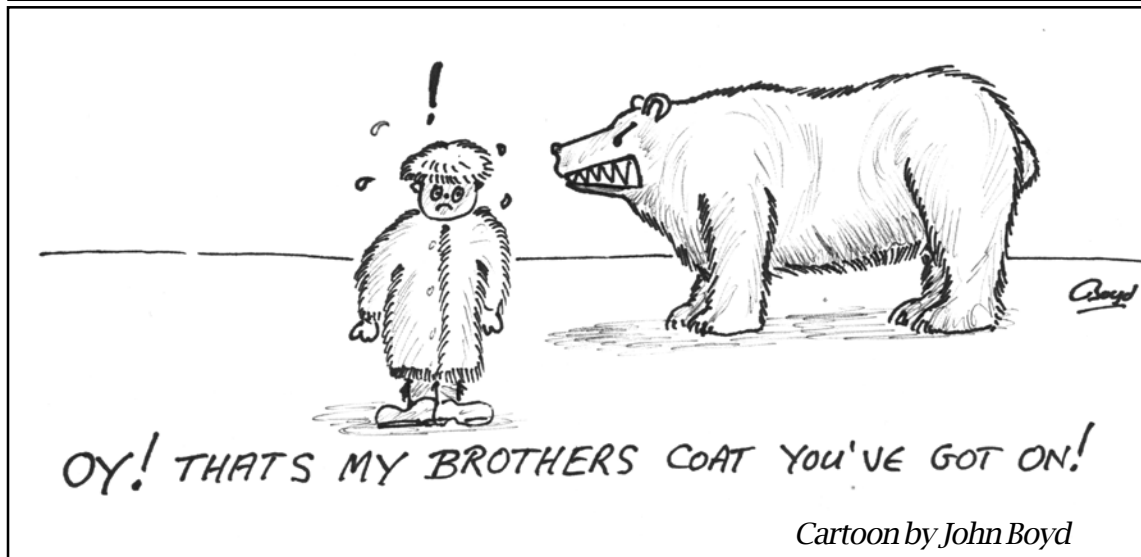




# young archer



Cartoon by John Boyd

## The Sun

The sun in the sky,  
like a twinkling eye,  
looks down at you,  
from the sky so blue.

The sun beams  
come down,  
in a storm of light  
so you'd better  
you'd better  
close your eyes bright.  
The sun is very warm,  
but not that warm  
at dawn.

It's warmer after midday  
When the greens have  
gone astray.

The sun is with us always  
during the day.

Without the sun we  
would not be here today.

Myrto Williams, aged 9,  
Hertford Road.

## clever clogs corner

1. What was a May-pole originally?
2. What colour is a barber's pole?
3. Do polar bears live near the North or South Pole?
4. Near which pole do penguins live?
5. Who did Norwegian Roald Amundson beat to reach the South Pole first in 1911?
6. What nationality was Robert Peary, the first man to reach the North Pole in 1909?
7. Why is it a good thing to be in pole position?
8. What is a pole cat?
9. Who would have used a pole axe?
10. In which T.V. programme did a British woman pole vault star?

- Answers:-
1. A tree.
  2. Red and white.
  3. North Pole.
  4. South Pole.
  5. Scott of the Antarctic.
  6. American.
  7. Because it is the best starting position in a motor race.
  8. A large member of the weasel family which smells!
  9. An ancient warrior - it's a sort of battle axe.
  10. The gladiators.

## Nuts in May

By Diana Cormack.

When I was a child the song "Here we go gathering nuts in May" really puzzled me.

At the time of year when trees and bushes are covered in blossom who, in their right mind, would go looking for nuts? I was quite relieved to discover that the words of an old song had gradually changed over the years. Children used to pick flowers on May Day and they would sing about gathering knots of May as they collected their bunches or "went a-maying." So they weren't nutty after all!

### Queen for a Day

But they had some strange beliefs about that particular day. For instance, if a girl got up early and washed her face in the morning dew, she would be really beautiful. I don't know what the boys did for their looks! The most beautiful girl, in nature as well as looks, was chosen as the May Queen, crowned with flowers and paraded through her village to the local maypole. People would dance around the maypole to celebrate nature's rebirth and the approach of summer, just as their ancestors had celebrated by dancing round a sacred tree.

The ancient Celts worshipped the sun and believed that they could encourage its warmth by lighting bonfires. They had a feast called Beltane at this time and they danced round a tree which was chosen as a symbol of growth. This got joined to the Roman celebrations for Flora, the goddess of flowers and vegetation and May was named after the Roman goddess Maia, who was thought to help growth. The Anglo-Saxons noticed that the grass grew more at this time of year so their cows gave more milk. They called May "thri-milci" as they could milk them three times a day.

### All's Fair

So May Day has long been a time of enjoyment with decorating, dancing, singing and

feasting. Often fairs were held and a really big one used to take place in London at May-fair! Some of these customs are still carried out in different parts of the country which may have their own particular versions. Over a hundred years ago May Day was made into an international labour holiday for workers in Europe but it was nothing to do with celebrating the beginning of summer.

We have a holiday on the nearest Monday to 1<sup>st</sup> May which is worth celebrating, even if we don't make a song and dance about it!

## Mail from Malawi

The children in Year 4 at Holy Trinity School are exchanging letters with children at a school in Central East Africa. Here their class teacher, Irene Addison, describes how this came about :-

"Last term (Spring) for our Geography Topic, we were studying a village in Malawi.

Initially we made contact with the Nkope Hill F.P. School in Monkey Bay by acquiring the address out of the Channel 4 "Video Pen Pals 2 - Geography Junction" Teachers' Guide. We also watched the relevant video programme which showed the actual children we had written to.

"We studied various aspects of their culture and, over the past few weeks, we have had a great response to the letters and photographs that we sent. To date we have received seventeen replies, each addressed to individual children in the class (plus one for me from the head teacher!) and we have displayed them round a world map prominent in the classroom. It is exciting, as the letters keep arriving, and the children literally wait on the post! They have been most enlightening and they have confirmed and complemented what the children have been taught.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### A First for Martin Infants

By Diana Cormack

An Early Years - Learning Through Play Club has been set up for the Nursery and Reception classes at Martin Infants School. It is the first of its kind in a Barnet school and possibly in any school.

The club is open twice a week with two half hour sessions and is run by nursery nurses Lesley Smith and Angela Moraitou in the Parents' Room. It lends out educational games and equipment carefully chosen to develop children's thinking and learning. Some of them will gain access to things they do not usually have. All of them will learn through structured play activities and this will be enhanced by parental help and encouragement. Lesley and Angela can assist and advise on how to play the games, how often and when.

The purpose is to raise the children's levels of achievement. Play can give great pleasure to both children and adults and is

a vital part of the learning process. The youngsters at Martin Infants are certainly fortunate to be getting such a good start.

### Developing children

Infants in Class 2T are going round the school armed with cameras! They are taking photographs of their school life and the ten best ones will be displayed in East Finchley library. Some of them will also be shown in McDonalds, North Finchley. Money for this exciting project was obtained from McDonalds Headquarters in East Finchley by class teacher Miss Taylor. It is to be used for buying cameras and films as well as paying for development and enlargement. It also provides a valuable resource for school use in the future.

### Martin Juniors buy land

Year 6 children raised \$120 by selling cakes and organising quizzes and games. They used the money to buy 6 acres of rain forest in Nigeria and so ensure that it is protected. Thanks go to Mr Jackson for organising and leading this impressive venture.

### Dig This!

Land at the school has been used for a really exciting endeavour. Using money raised by the PTA a special site has been prepared by a builder which can be used for archaeological digs. Historically appropriate

pieces are secretly hidden in the correct layer of soil (one of the governors has brought in some real Roman remains). The children dig so that they can find and then identify things from the historical period which they are studying.

## Fever Pitch at Fortismere

Pupils, parents and staff were invited to The Phoenix for a special screening of this popular new film.

It is about a teacher and his devotion to a particular football team versus his relationship with a woman.

Scenes were shot at Fortismere School, some using the children in speaking and non-speaking roles. So, if I can take my eyes off Colin Firth, I'm going to be looking for some familiar faces when I go to see it.

## Jokes

☺ What did the big phone say to the little phone?  
*You're too young to be engaged!*

☺ What did the big chimney say to the little chimney?  
*You're too young to smoke!*

By Philip Brand, aged 11,  
Old Farm Road.

☺ Why did the one handed man cross the road?  
*To get to the second hand shop!*

☺ Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?  
*Because he didn't have any guts!*

By George Sotiri, aged 11,  
Chambers Gardens