

YOUNG ARCHER

Look Before You Leap!

By Diana Cormack

Even in these days of equality, it is still usually the man who proposes marriage, though nobody is surprised any more if a woman does so.

In the olden days however, women were traditionally allowed to propose but only in a leap year, on 29 February. It is believed that this stems from a law passed in Scotland in 1288 giving a girl the right to "bespeak the man she likes". If the man was free, he either had to marry her or pay a fine.

French window

Soon afterwards a similar law was passed in France and, in the 15th century, in the Italian cities of Florence and Genoa as well. It became the custom in England in the 17th century coupled with a belief that, should the man be unwilling to accept, then he could turn the proposal

down tactfully by presenting the woman with a silk dress. This was based on the story that St Patrick presented St Bridget with such a dress to soften his rejection of her!

Rain

Rain, rain
Wet, wet, rain
Splashing in puddles
Wellington boots
Waterproof hat and coat.
Wet
Wet...
RAIN!

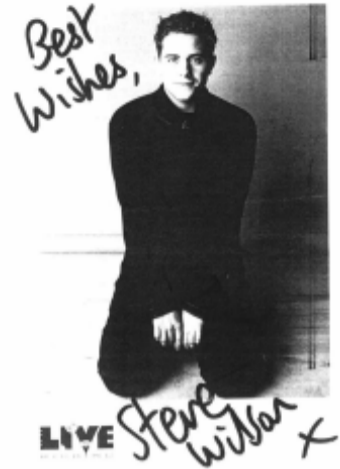
By Freya Randall, aged 7,
of Summerlee Gdns, N2.

Going 'Live and Kicking'

Three local ten-year old girls went to see Live and Kicking, which goes out on BBC1 on a Saturday morning, being made and then wrote about it for *THE ARCHER*:

We went to see 'Live and Kicking' at the BBC in the White City. It was Jo's party. Aimee asked a question to Jo Absolom, who plays Mathew Rose in East Enders. Hettie and Jo were playing table football in a car boot sale sketch. We did a lot of screaming and shouting and we even had to sing the 'Live and Kicking' 'phone number -0845 6101515. Everyone got a signed photo of Emma Leddon and Steve Wilson, the presenters. We all had such fun!

By Hettie Butler of Bedford Road, Aimee Hancock Gough of Chandos Road and Josephine Taylor of Bow Lane.



Jokes

English teacher: Dennis, your knowledge of English literature is appalling.

Have you read anything?

Dennis: Yes Miss, I have red hair.

Teacher: How many letters are there in the alphabet?

Betty: Eleven.

Teacher: Why do you say eleven?

Betty: Because there are three in "the" and eight in "alphabet".

Teacher: Jayne, how do you spell "cough"?

Jayne: C-o-f-f.

Teacher: The dictionary spells it "c-o-u-g-h".

Jayne: You didn't ask me how the dictionary spells it.

English teacher: Can anyone give me an example of a very long sentence?

Pupil: Life imprisonment.

RE teacher: Tell me something about Good Friday.

Pupil: He was saved by Robinson Crusoe.

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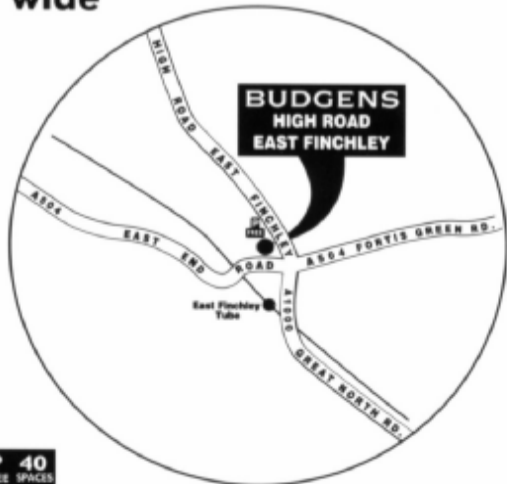
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After School Club

By Diana Cormack

The Herbert Wilmott Centre in Eagan's Close, East Finchley is where children of primary school age have fun after school. They are escorted there from Holy Trinity and Martin Schools and, in the past, adults have formed a rota to bring youngsters from other schools in the vicinity.



Children at the After School Club. Photo by Diana Cormack

They play indoor and outdoor games, do puzzles, have discos and other activities supervised by experienced play leader Linda Clark and two play assistants. They also have a cooked tea and a pudding with plenty of drinks available. When it is someone's birthday there is a special birthday tea party and a little present. Sounds good to me!

It costs £5.00 per session or £22.50 if you pay for the whole

week. The sessions end at 6 pm. If you are interested, pop into the Centre for a chat or telephone 020 8883 4295 between 3-6 pm.

The same fully qualified staff run the East Finchley Playgroup which is held in the Methodist Church Hall, High Road, almost opposite the library between 9.30-12 pm. Again, you can drop in for details on a weekday morning or telephone 020 8444 6212.