



Soon to be Guides (l-r): Midnite Millist, Samantha Wood, Noga Cohen and Ellie Maslen.
Photo by Renate Dore

Moving On: East Finchley Brownies

By Udoka Ohuonu

It was an evening of mixed emotions at Saint Mary's RC Parish Hall when four young Brownies said goodbye to the 4th East Finchley Brownie pack.

Midnite Millist of Oak Lane, Samantha Wood of The Causeway, Noga Cohen of Queens Avenue N3 and Ellie Maslen of Strawberry Vale were all leaving Brownies for the 8th West Finchley Guide Pack.

After three years as a Brownie, Midnite Millist said she couldn't wait to become a Guide but she recommended Brownies to other young girls; "It's fun and exciting and you get to make a lot of friends," she said. "I enjoyed helping people and seeing the younger Brownies learn new things." Fellow leaver Samantha Wood said that she would miss Brownies but was also excited about going to Guide camp and meeting new friends.

The evening also saw the enrolment of two new Brownies, Carina Redig de Campos of Cherry Tree Road and Anna McGovern of Woodgrange Avenue N12, both eight years old. Standing before the Guide Division Commissioner, Muriel Shaw, Carina and Anna pledged to keep the Brownie promise and law, which includes thinking of others before themselves and doing a good turn every day.

Survival skills

Also officiating, the 8th West Finchley Guide Leader Brenda Deas said that the Guide Association was thriving but was in need of new adult leaders so that more young girls could join. She said potential leaders would be trained and should be able to spend about two hours a week for meetings and some time for preparation. "You must like the age group you will be leading and a sense of humour is a must," she said.

According to her, Brownies and Guides learn a lot of things that are very useful to them later in life. "Most of the girls don't appreciate it until they go off to live on their own. Then they realise that they have learned a lot of practical things that can help them to survive."

Anyone interested in joining the Brownies or becoming a Brownie Guide Leader should contact Mrs Muriel Shaw, 1 Bramber Road, Finchley, N12 9ND, Telephone 8446 2680.



Buddies Freddie Horwood (yr 2) and Thomas Gregory (yr 6). Photo by Kathryn Joy

World Book Day

Like schools all over the country, our two local primary schools were involved in activities to mark this special day.

Year 2 teacher Kathryn Joy writes:-

Holy Trinity School celebrated World Book Day by having a whole week of book related activities.

The week began with a visit for the whole school from the "Openwide Theatre Company," performing "The Big Catch," a moral tale.

Six of the classes were also involved in "buddy book making" where children from older classes were paired with younger children to make a book.

World Book Day brought many characters to the school, including eleven Harry Potters, as everybody dressed up as their favourite book character. The head teacher Duncan Mills and his deputy Alison Holding made a fantastic King and Queen of Hearts!

A book fair held every day at the school proved very popular and brought the school £375 worth of books in commission.

Year 6 pupil Archana Depala, aged 11, writes:-

Martin Junior School had a fantastic day with many book-associated activities.

In the morning, instead of their daily ritual of "boring" assembly, the children had an extraordinary book quiz, "Chapter Challenge," which was a type of "Countdown" game with its very own Richard Whitely! There were two teams and three rounds. One team were girls and the other boys. There was a conundrum at the end and there was a longest word round.

Throughout the day Mrs Driscoll, head teacher, was blowing a whistle and every time she did you had to stop what you were doing and read. Years 5 and 6 were working on ancient book covers and Years 3 and 4 had a book cover designing competition.

Everyone watched book-associated videos. Year 6 watched the classic "Black Beauty," Year 5 watched "Animal Farm," Year 4 watched "James and the Giant Peach" and Year 3 watched "The BFG."

The whole day was excellent and went down a blast with all the kids! A big thanks to Miss Oldnall who organised it all!

YOUNG ARCHER

An Old Riddle

By Diana Cormack

**"In marble walls as white as milk,
Lined with skin as soft as silk,
Within a fountain crystal clear
A golden apple doth appear.
No doors there are to this stronghold,
Yet thieves break in to steal the gold."**

If you haven't managed to work it out, the answer is an egg. At this time of year though, we usually think of eggs made of brown chocolate with other chocolate goodies inside. The shops have been selling them for months and most of us will get at least one on Easter Sunday. This is the special day when Christians celebrate Jesus rising from the dead after being crucified on Good Friday. But why an Easter egg?

Some people believe that

it stands for the rock that was rolled away from the front of Jesus' tomb, but it goes back to long before Christianity. Ancient civilizations, including the Greeks and Romans, used to exchange coloured eggs at their spring festivals because the egg represented new life. In many countries eggs were buried in the fields at planting time to bring life to the new crops. The Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring was called Eostre and that's where the name Easter comes from. The Easter Bunny comes from her too, because Eostre's special animal was the hare.

Eggs are off

Christians adopted the pagan spring festival as a celebration of Christ's resurrection and during the six weeks before this called Lent, eggs were forbidden. People used to keep them, carefully decorate them and bring them out for the Easter celebrations. Nowadays children seek out the chocolate eggs left by the Easter Bunny.

Eggs made of chocolate have been produced for less than a hundred years, but they are based on something that goes back almost as far as time itself. I wonder how long your delicious Easter egg will last?

Egg Jokes

Pete: Our school cook is a real bully.

Pam: Why do you think that?

Pete: Because she whips the cream and beats the eggs.

What's yellow and white and gets eaten at 120 mph?
A train driver's egg sandwich!

What did the egg in the monastery kitchen say?
Oh dear, out of the frying pan and into the friar.

What did the baby bird say when it found an orange in its nest?
"Look at the orange mama laid!"

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

A non-uniform day with a difference was held in support of the school's Easter Egg Bonanza. Children could bring £1.00 or an Easter egg to add to the collection for the end-of-term "raffle", but they could also take part in Mad Hair Day. I look forward to the photos!

The Valentine's Disco organised by the parents' association was very well supported and raised a massive £450.

Behaviour awards of a certificate plus a letter home are being given for exemplary behaviour.

In a London Tourist Board scheme, Year 5 visited the Science Museum having been twinned with the attraction.

Head teacher Duncan Mills is already in training for next year's London Marathon. Keep up with him in *The Archer*.

Martin Junior School

Following the school's very successful Tudor Day, Year 5 were well prepared for their visit to Hampton Court, Year 4 went to Pizza Express, Year 3 visited the British Museum and Years 5 and 6 are taking part in "Bringing Art Appreciation to the Classroom."

The children have been asked to take part in a competition to design a logo for Cherry Tree Wood.

Barnet chose Martin Junior School choir to sing at the "come back to teaching" event at the Professional Development Centre.

The PTA held a very successful quiz night.

Martin Infant School

A "wear yellow" day and a cake sale raised £350 for the Indian Earthquake Appeal, which was taken to Neasden temple.

Six boys from Fortismere Secondary School came to read stories to the children during World Book Week and a special Parents Evening was held to inform parents about the Literacy Hour.

Parent Network have piloted an eight week parenting course at Martin's and will be running another one after Easter. For further details telephone the head teacher on 020 8883 1455.