



Hettie Butler with the small school's trophy and the girls' relay cup and Thomas Gregory holding the overall winners cup.

A Runaway Success

By Diana Cormack

For only the second time ever a "small school" became the athletics champions of North Barnet in the annual competition for primary schools held at Cophall Stadium. Evidence of this splendid achievement can be seen in Holy Trinity School, Eagans Close where no less than four trophies are on display. These are the Small Schools Athletics Trophy, Boys' Relay Trophy, Girls' Relay Trophy and the Spires Competition Trophy.

Not only did the children representing the school win by an impressive margin, they also behaved impressively. Head teacher Duncan Mills is justifiably proud of them. However, Duncan himself deserves praise too, for he put in a lot of work

organising the event at Cophall as well as running the after-school athletics club at Holy Trinity. He must have something special, for the only other small school to win the overall trophy was the one he taught at before moving to East Finchley!

GARDENING

Travellers' checks

By Zena Robson

Ah - holiday time; jetting off for a week or two, airport staff and flight controllers willing. But, what about the garden while you are away - a perennial problem (pardon the pun).

Seems to me you have got three choices: get a reliable neighbour to keep an eye on things - mm, doesn't always work well when things have died! or, install a watering system - drip systems can be set up but you'll need a pump and time; or you could go for the cut-the-bottom-off-a-plastic-bottle, upend-into-pot-and-fill-with-water technique, but it can be a bit iffy. How about the I-know-things-will-have-died-and-am-willing-to-accept-casualties approach? Depends what died!! Difficult, I know and I tend to use all three!! Once I am out of the door and on my way, that's it - I don't think about it until I walk back through the front door.

Forking hell

In the meantime, there are things to be done. If the lawn is looking a bit sad and compacted after the hot weather that will have encouraged games and barbecues on it, give it some air! Go over the most compacted areas with a fork, pushing it in as far as you can and giving it a bit of a wobble. Do this every 15cm or so: tedious but useful.

Bearded iris can be lifted and split now that they have finished flowering. They really benefit from this when you see the clump becoming congested in the middle and parts of it dying out. There will also be fewer flowers. So lift it and, using a sharp knife, cut the rhizomes into healthy individual bits from the outside and discard the old middle. Cut the leaves back to about 15cm to put less strain on the plant as it makes new roots.

Shorter leaves also means that, as the rhizomes sit on the surface rather than being buried, they will not be so prone to wind rock. Don't forget they like a well-drained sunny position and will simply rot in soggy winter wet.

Lateral thinking

Rambler roses will be over now and you are often told to cut out some of the old wood and fiddle about with the laterals etc. Mmm - can't see why you'd grow a rambler if what you really wanted was a climber!!

Ramblers do just that, and for the most part they are meant to be grown up trees and over sheds; pruning is something you would do to them every now and then, not every year - just take out one of the oldest stems to ground level and let it rejuvenate itself; of course the flowers are up in the trees, but that was what you wanted, wasn't it?

YOUNG ARCHER

Happy Holidays

By Diana Cormack

Isn't it strange that when you break up for the summer holidays the weeks stretch ahead forever, but then the time seems to rush by much more quickly than it does when you are in school? Even so, I'll bet there are times when you moan, "I'm bored. I haven't got anything to do!"

But that's nothing new, for over four hundred years ago William Shakespeare wrote in Henry IV Part 1:

"If all the year were playing holidays

To sport would be as tedious as to leap."

The word "holiday" comes from "holy day" for, hundreds of years ago, people had days off work only for religious reasons. On some of these days there was feasting and celebrating, so people could relax and enjoy themselves on a holy day. But nobody went away until the 18th century, and then it was only the rich who travelled.

Spas invaders

Instead of going somewhere for business reasons or religious pilgrimages, they started to visit places which had supposedly healing waters. These places were called spas. Then the wealthy started going to seaside towns and progressed to touring cities in Europe. Poor people still had only local fairs and festivals to give them a break from work.

In 19th century towns, the habit of a summer holiday began as some industries introduced a summer break. In the countryside everyone, including the children, had to help with the planting and harvesting of various crops, which is how the school holidays developed. The coming of the railways

Clever Clogs Corner

Which country would you be in if you were visiting these towns and cities?

1. Venice,
2. Tenby,
3. Sydney,
4. Barcelona,
5. Stornoway,
6. Versailles,
7. Athens,
8. Orlando,
9. Ayia Napa,
10. Vienna

ANSWERS:
1. Italy, 2. Wales, 3. Australia, 4. Spain, 5. Scotland, 6. France, 7. Greece, 8. USA, 9. Cyprus, 10. Austria.

Which Dame?

Sheila McKechnie, who lives in East Finchley and is Director of the Consumers' Association, was awarded the DBE in the queen's birthday honours list. Congratulations!

and cheap tickets for day trips meant that poorer people could get away.

Trip switch

However, it was only in the last century that most people began to have a holiday away from home. In the 1930s holidays with pay became more common. Gradually more

families had cars or took coach trips. In the sixties planes took people on cheap package holidays abroad. For many families this has become a way of life, with some having two or even three trips away each year, something that would not have even entered our ancestors' heads!

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

Congratulations to the athletics team on becoming the reigning champions in their area of Barnet Primary Schools.

The school took part in the Barnet Dance Festival at the Hippodrome, Golders Green with forty others. Trained by teacher Andrea Hoath, the children performed their dance "Celebration" to a very high standard.

The Summer Disco raised £600. More money is being raised by a family picnic and sponsored walk to fund improvements planned for use of the school field.

A music morning was held at the end of term. Pupils entertained visitors with some of the music they have worked on this year.

After eleven years at the school nursery nurse Alison Rush is moving on to work with the reception class at Holly Park Primary, Friern Barnet. She will be much missed.

Martin Junior School

At the Barnet Dance Festival children performed brilliantly, with dramatic movements of the feud between the Jets and the Sharks from West Side Story.

Despite getting drenched walking to Barnet's Multi-Cultural Exhibition, the choir impressed their audience by singing a range of songs employing wonderful harmonies and rhythms. Because of the high standard of their singing, Martin Junior School is the first to be called on whenever a Barnet event needs a choir.



Sam Cakir, Henry Bourne and his mother on the sponsored toddle. Photo by AngelaZambito

Martin Infant School

The morning and afternoon nursery children raised £527.30 for Barnardo's in their annual toddle around the allotments behind the school. Accompanied by teachers and parents, the toddlers were given lessons en route by a variety of gardeners and half way round they were given biscuits to eat in the shade of the orchard. The nursery can keep 25% of the money raised.

Both schools took part in the Summer Fun Day, with Fortismere School supplying the music. Over £2000 was raised. They also raised money for the North London Hospice in their Wear Yellow Day.

The Open Afternoon in July was a huge success, with many people coming to see the schools at work.

Parent Adam Justice-Mills opened the newly named Plane Tree Walk, brightened up by the murals which he designed, for Barnet's Streets Ahead 2001 scheme (see last month's ARCHER). The celebratory picnic, with music provided by Fortismere School, was held indoors due to inclement weather