



YOUNG ARCHER

Cinders

By Diana Cormack

At last, the ending I've always wanted to the Cinderella story - she doesn't marry the prince! But that wasn't the only difference in this end-of-term production performed by the junior pupils of Holy Trinity School, Eagan's Close. For instance, Prince Charming did not live up to his name, one of his unattractive habits being that of judging the worth of a possible partner by the length of her surname and the size of her father's bank balance!

Staff and parents had worked hard in adapting a humorous basic script, bringing it bang up to date with characters and comments relevant to the youth of today. The children's enjoyment of this, whether their role was large or small, was reflected throughout in the acting, singing and dancing.

Magic wand

It was hard to believe that the impressive production had been put together in just a couple of weeks, so special thanks are due to Carolyn Butler, the junior teachers and support staff, Maureen Bourdon (for the costumes and props), Adrian Mc Collum (set design/builder and school keeper!) and Terrina Friend (scenery - with The Olde Phoenix as part of the backdrop). The children did them proud!

A collection was taken after the one afternoon and two evening performances, raising the magnificent sum of £720 for the Edenhall Hospice, Hampstead.

Poetry Competition

Two girls from Holy Trinity School won commendations in Barnet Borough Arts Council Poetry Competition. Here are the poems of seven year old Dani-Ella Larimer, a Year 3 pupil and Charmaine Gwynette, who is in Year 5.

Whales

Whales whales black and white

Whales whales a wonderful sight.

Whales whales come and play
Whales whales show me the way.

Whales whales look and peep
Whales whales creatures of the deep.

Whales whales you're so playful

Whales whales you're so graceful.

Whales whales large or small
Whales whales kind and gentle.

Whales whales swim with friends

Whales whales there till the end!

By Charmaine Gwynette

The Strange Aliens

Aliens strange

Aliens silly

Aliens really really smelly.

Aliens funny

Aliens stupid

Aliens really really bad.

Aliens rude

Aliens proud

Aliens really really mad.

Aliens, Aliens, Aliens

I just can't stand

ALIENS!

By Dani-Ella Larimer

Aliens illustration below by

Dani-Ella Larimer

Do You Speak Scottish?

By Diana Cormack

When the New Year began, did you see people celebrating by crossing their arms, holding hands and singing a song? Even though you may not have understood all of the words, that song is one of the most frequently sung in the English language.

It was written by Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tune is centuries old and Burns is supposed to have converted it into the now famous Auld Lang Syne after hearing an old man singing it in the street. Auld Lang Syne means "long ago" though syne is an old Scottish word for kindness.

First degree

Burns became well known for his poems and ballads by the age of 27, but he died when he was only 37. The song was published after his death in 1796, so he never knew how popular it was to become.

At the end of January Scottish people celebrate Burns' Night, when they eat, drink, dance and sing in honour of the poet who gave us the song that we all sing as a sign of friendship and togetherness at the start of the year.

GARDENING

Bordering on insanity

By Zena Robson

It's all very well saying that now is a good time to finish off clearing debris from the borders but the way things have been going, you'll need a very long-handled rake, a rope tied around your waist with a strong friend hanging on to the other end while you lean across without walking on the soil! And I'm worried what sort of show the bulbs will be able to put on for us all. It's been so wet that I wonder how many have rotted in our north London clay.

I console myself by looking forward to the sweetly-scented winter shrubs doing their bit: things like the winter-flowering shrubby honeysuckle *Lonicera fragrantissima*, quite a large deciduous shrub and not the tidiest of growers but all is forgiven when those flowers open on bare stems and waft their scent across your snout! For a smaller evergreen, look for *Sarcococca hookeriana* - Christmas box - with tiny white flowers clustered amongst the shiny dark green leaves. I'm looking forward to the flowering of my *Clematis armandii* too; I let it ramble and do its own thing so that the flowers perform a waterfall effect in late January. It does best with some protection so a southwest facing aspect would suit.

Bug jitters

Now onto the nasty bit: There I was, minding my own business strolling casually up the stairs when - oh horror! - coming down the stairs to meet me was... a VINE WEEVIL!!! Don't ask how it got there, it just did! Needless to say, I did not keep it as a pet.

Not long ago, I read an article about the dreaded beastie and the various ways one can tackle it and its little ones, and it now seems that *Armillatox* is the thing. It is usually used for clearing moss from patios and also from lawns, but tests have revealed that it stops the little buggers in their tracks without damaging plants or soil. Use it as a drench on compost or soil at the dilution rate of 500 to 1 fortnightly around susceptible plants. There's even a web site devoted to the creepy-crawly.

Well, apart from putting the lawn mower in for its annual service I reckon I'll be staying indoors... unless we get one of those clear, crisp sunny days occasionally. Ah, memories! Have a HAPPY NEW YEAR and let's hope for a good spring.

SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack



Holy Trinity

The annual Christmas Fair raised £1,900 for the benefit of the school.

Holy Trinity acquitted themselves very well as the first small school to represent Barnet in the Middlesex region six-a-side football competition. They narrowly missed out making it to the semi-finals, when one goal separated Holy Trinity and Broadwater Farm School from Brent.

Everyone was saddened by the death of Helen Roberts, who was a popular and active parent-governor of the school. She had much to do with the landscaping of the school surroundings, where a garden is to be set up in her name. There is also a book to be signed in memory of Helen, who died after a long and brave fight against cancer.

Martin Schools

The annual PTA Christmas Bazaar raised the wonderful sum of £1,600. The Junior School held a music week during which different instruments were played in assembly. A visiting sousaphone player performed on the Monday, then on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday pupils played woodwind, violin and keyboard to the rest of the school.

Performances by Year 3 and 4 children in the Christmas Show were impressive as the seven to nine year olds took a trip along the yellow brick road. They were well supported by the choir, who also gave out seasonal cheer as they sang at the North London Hospice Carol Service.

The group of children taking part in Barnet's Our Town Story at the Millennium Dome did brilliantly! They were the only junior school representatives from the borough picked to perform in a display of dance and movement depicting their impression of living and growing up in the area.

The whole school thoroughly enjoyed "Grimm Tales," performed by the Mountview Theatre Company. They were particularly enthralled by the modern twists to the traditional tales.

Pictured is the Window 2000, which adds a splash of colour to the Infant School corridor as it colourfully depicts the school's bird emblem. The stained glass window was created by Trudy White, who is available for commissions. For further details telephone the Infant School headteacher on 8883 1455.

By Dani-Ella Larimer

