



Finchley on Japanese television

By Daphne Chamberlain
The Japanese Broadcasting Corporation has been filming members of the Finchley Society for one of its University of the Air programmes.

Professor Susumu Kurasawa, who was a member of the Society when he lived in Long Lane in 1977, re-established contact through its website.

Researcher Ikuko Kurokawa-White told *THE ARCHER*, "He was really nostalgic when he stood in front of his old house. The programme was about community groups in England, the U.S. and the Philippines, and we filmed in Finchley and Islington.

There is nothing similar in Japan. There, local government controls the district groups, to which everyone in the community belongs, whether they are interested or not. The professor feels that the system here is more positive."

Getting things done

Japanese viewers will see the Society's Environment Committee carrying out an audit of Gravel Hill, i.e. making notes on litter, uneven pavements, graffiti and other bad environmental aspects. Vice-Chairman Barbara Warren told us, "We walk round specific areas, noticing what's wrong, and then submit our notes to the Council. There are usually about eight or nine of us, and Council representatives often ask to accompany us. We do get things done.

The filming was much easier than I thought it would be. Once you get used to zoom cameras being shoved up your nose, it's like being on stage, with the director telling you where to move and stand. Actually, most of the crew were Irish, and the van-driver was one of my ex-pupils, but the Japanese were quite impressed."

Earlier, the crew had recorded a meeting of the Society's Planning Committee, at which member Pat Dunlop was presenting some facts about local building developments and demolitions. These will be presented to the Council.

These are just two aspects of the Finchley Society's work. President Bill Tyler filled in the background on its history, aims and work in an interview with Professor Kurasawa.

For information on the Finchley Society, and how to join, contact 020 8883 2633 or visit <http://www.finchleysociety.org.uk>

Topical footnote: - Professor Kurasawa discovered the Society originally at its East Finchley Festival stall.

YOUNG ARCHER

School Journeys

By Diana Cormack

Throughout the school year children are taken for a week or so to various parts of the country and sometimes even abroad by their teachers. If you have been on one you will know that, as well as having fun, you also learn a great deal.

But did you know that school journeys started many years ago to teach city children about life away from where they lived? Many had never seen a live cow or hen and did not understand where milk or eggs came from. So a farm visit would be included. They had never paddled in the sea, caught a crab or built a sand castle. They hadn't visited a real castle, climbed a tree or collected wild flowers to press. In fact most of them had never been on holiday.

Can you imagine how excited they were when they had all these new experiences? I don't have to imagine it, because I used to organise school journeys for such children. I'm sure they have never forgotten them; just as I have never forgotten the looks on their faces and some of the things they said when they saw all these things for the first time!



Children from Holy Trinity School on their trip to the Isle of Wight

Saying Thank You

Unless you have actually done it, you will never know how much organisation goes into a school journey. The accompanying adults are on duty 24 hours a day taking care of someone else's most precious possession. They try to make sure that everyone has a wonderful time and it's nice to know that the effort has been appreciated.

Here are some words of thanks from two Year 6 pupils at Holy Trinity School:

Thank you for making our school journey such great fun and making it so successful. I had a fab time! I know you all did too! From Blackgang Chine to the party on the last night - you all made us laugh. Blackgang Chine with the water

slides followed by sunbathing! Tuesday was water sports in the morning; I wish I'd had my camera - how often do you see Mr Mills and the teachers in wetsuits? I was a bit disappointed that some of the staff didn't go on the Colossus ride but I don't really blame them!

By Rebecca Lewin

Thank you for a fantastic time on our school journey. I really liked the Sea Life Centre in Portsmouth and our trip to Robin Hill. The slide was really fun! The fossil hunting was great - we saw you all sunbathing though! The water sports morning was great especially the surfing and body boarding. The water-slide at Blackgang Chine was best of all. Thank you for a great week!

By Luke Gordon

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity School

Year 6 had a wonderful School Journey week based at Sandown, Isle of Wight (see "YOUNG ARCHER"). The school sent teams to both the North Barnet Primary Schools Swimming Gala and the Athletics Competition at Cophthall Stadium.

The May Fair organised by the School Association raised the staggering sum of £3000! They also held a successful Factory Fever sale of children's clothes at discount prices.

Parents are renovating the outside equipment in the nursery department. The musical group Recorders Unlimited made a welcome visit.

After more than ten years Rosemary Bolam, who has taught in both the junior and infant departments, is leaving.

Martin Junior School

Dave Marett is coaching football on the field every Tuesday, hopefully leading to greater success for the school team.

For the first time, there is tennis coaching on Friday evenings. A dance/drama group will now take place following successful taster sessions. Next term the school will run French lessons.

Following a visit to the British Library to learn about book making and its history, Nigerian poet Adisa is working with Year 6 developing their poetic skills. This project is part of Barnet's collaboration with the library service in their Reading Relay Scheme, supported by the Education Arts Partnership.

Educational outings this term included a visit by Year 6 to Whipsnade following SATs. They also visited The Globe Theatre as they are studying Shakespeare. Year 5 went to Hertfordshire Environmental Centre; Year 4 to Hampstead Heath to study habitats and Year 3 to Kew Gardens to look at plants.

Martin Infant School

The children are taking part in sponsored sunflower growing to raise money for a charity for the blind, as well as studying how the plants grow under different conditions and presenting a scientific study in school assembly.

Nursery children took part in the annual toddle for Barnardo's. This took place in the allotments behind the school, with many parents and helpers in attendance.

Parents are providing food contributions for the annual International Lunch on Friday 20 July. With their children in the nursery they will be able to taste dishes from different parts of the world. The schools' Summer Fun Day took place on Saturday 30 June.



Adam Justice-Mills at work. Photo by Diana Cormack

Streets Ahead for Martin Schools

By Diana Cormack

As part of Barnet Arts Festival "Streets Ahead 2001" scheme, the slip road leading to the junior and infant schools is getting a new name and a new look.

The proposed name is Plane Tree Walk and the children will celebrate the naming with a street party in the shade of those trees on 13 July. There will be music, a picnic and a special photographic exhibition of pictures taken of the local area by children from the nursery up to Year 6.

To brighten up the environment the sheds alongside the road are being given a colourful new look. Parent Adam Justice-Mills of Cherry Tree Road, who has children in both schools, has designed four murals representing the elements earth, fire, water and air. With a team of willing and able parents he spent over six weeks painting the front walls, each measuring thirty feet by eight feet, as do the eight side walls, which are being covered with hand-prints of every child in Martin schools.

Elementary

Each shed front took a week to paint using three-inch brushes, with a total of five gallons of undercoat and twenty-two gallons of paint. Ten gallons of sealant and ten gallons of protective coating have been applied in order to be able to clean off any subsequent graffiti. Adam made great use of the computer in planning the project, the development of which has been closely observed by pupils and passers by.

The earth mural is causing comment, as it is based on a map of the local area centred on the school, with a yellow shape representing the observer. Gardeners on their way to the allotments behind the school were sceptical at first, but are very impressed with the outcome. School staff and students are delighted. Why not go along and take a look to judge for yourselves? It has been said that the sheds were actually air-raid shelters. Please let *THE ARCHER* know if this is true and if they were ever used as such.