



## YOUNG ARCHER

### Jaw-Jaw not war-war?

By Diana Cormack

**What do you think about when you watch TV and see all the ex-servicemen and women parading past the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday? I think about my parents who both have their own collection of medals from the Second World War and I know that memories of that time fill their thoughts on that particular day.**

When they were younger, Remembrance Day was for the victims of the First World War, which had been called "the war to end all wars." Unfortunately that turned out not to be true. It is a sad fact that every day, somewhere in the world, there are people fighting each other. So those being remembered are not only from the two World Wars, but also from many other battles fought over the years since then.

To raise money to help people still suffering from those struggles, the familiar red poppies are sold all over this country. At this time of year my mum and dad always used to go round their village selling these poppies. Dad would wear one beside his medals as he carried the flag in the Remembrance Day parade past their local war memorial. He can no longer do this but, like many others, he can remember what it was

like during the war and I like to listen to him talking about it.

If you know someone who has memories like this, they may like to share them with you. Some of them will be happy, some sad; some of them will be good, some bad. But they will be real and special because these memories belong to one particular person. Wouldn't it be wonderful if, just by talking about it, people realised that war is not always the answer to world problems and sought other solutions instead?

### Basketball

**There is now a brand new basketball court in Cherry Tree Wood. When the three tennis courts in the park were renovated, Barnet Council changed one of them into a basketball pitch, so get down there and use it.**

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Holy Trinity School

An award has been granted by the New Opportunities Fund to support after school provision. £11,000 over three years will be used to fund football and netball clubs, quick cricket, short tennis, multi sports and the French club.

Year 6 was visited by the Flick Films Company, who involved the children in animation and sound production.

In preparation for the annual firework display at Copthall on 4 November, Year 4 will be working with local artists on building a giant structure on the theme "Technology and Light". The structure will be paraded on the track before the fireworks are set off.

Infant pupil Nial Vincent has a small part in the film *Pandemonium* which deals with the relationship between the poets Wordsworth and Coleridge. It was filmed on location in Somerset and the Lake District.

Two final-year boys, Tomas Mcgrath and Sam Davis, took part in the Radio 4 children's programme *Go For It*. They reviewed the new Disney film *Atlantis*.

### Martin Schools

Many impressive designs for a new logo for the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood were produced. The winner, Sophie in Year 5, received £10 in book tokens and a year's junior membership of the group. Her design will be used on all their stationery and publicity material.

The annual school journey has taken place, with Year 6 enjoying an educational stay in Lyme Regis.

National Poetry Day was celebrated with 16 junior children reciting poems from memory. East Finchley councillor and Cabinet Member for Education Alison Moore was in the appreciative audience. A PTA jumble sale raised £350.

The annual firework display takes place on the school field on Thursday 1 November.

## In memory of Pat, who kept smiling till the end

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the 'flu,  
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,  
When he smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile then, and realised its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.  
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the place infected.

## East Finchley teenager braves Alaska wilds

**If you thought that the whole world has been explored, think again. Some remote areas have not been set out in maps yet, and while some of you were absorbing the sun in Spain this summer, 18-year-old Patricia went to cold and rainy Alaska to do intensive research on the area.**

Patricia decided to join the British Schooling Expedition Society, a charity that aims to provide youngsters with character building experiences by giving them the opportunity to travel to distant parts of the world. After the BSES visited her school, Patricia was chosen with about 70 people to go on a six-week expedition.

"We went out there to do geography and science, as well as to explore the area. The first three weeks we did research." Patricia's group devised a practical solution for the Bureau of Land Management to prevent the ground being ruined by popular local terrain vehicles.

Patricia explained how, apart from an army-officer led training weekend in Cambridge, she did her own training and went walking for long stretches in the local woods with her dog, rucksack and new boots. This helped prepare her for the long marches they did, like 36 miles in less than three days.

The team explored the White Mountains, an area three hours from civilisation, where they did wild-water rafting and high-level hiking, while carrying their own food, tent and equipment. They were also involved in 24-hour solos, for which Patricia built her own shelter, 300 miles from the others. She said, "When they



came to get me they saw fresh bear prints near my shelter. I had heard noises but I thought it was my imagination."

About the trip she concluded, "My most difficult moment was when we were walking in the fog and rain and we could not see a metre in front of us. We all wanted to go home. But now, getting back in the rain is not an issue

anymore. You position yourself differently in life. I had given myself a challenge, and I went for an amazing experience which I won't be able to do again."

Despite her hard work to raise sponsorship and funding, which attracted nearly all the money required, Patricia is still short of £900 to pay for her trip.

## Salsa Parties On

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Nelsy Earl's Colombian dancing classes have restarted at Martin School, which means it's on with the salsa, the corrido, the merengue, the cumbia, the vallenato and the bolero.**

At first gulp, that may sound a bit daunting for people with two left feet, but have no fear. Listen to two of Nelsy's aficionados.

Anne, a veteran of five courses, says, "Nelsy has time for everyone. She's a very gentle soul and a brilliant teacher, always making sure you understand A before going on to B, and nobody's going to tell you off if you do the wrong step."

Monica, another regular, agreed. "It's great fun. Remembering the perfect step is not what it's all about. I'm not a disco babe, but I do like to go out and enjoy myself. The salsa clubs are full of 22 year-olds, but Nelsy's classes and parties are for everyone."

Do people have to (un)dress up for South American dancing? "Certainly not. Just wear easy-fitting clothes and comfortable shoes."



### Fascinating Rhythm

The word "party" kept cropping up in our conversations and Anne explained why. "In Colombia, a party means dancing. Dance is very important to Nelsy. It's an intrinsic part of her cultural background and she wants to share her Colombian heritage with the classes. She once hired Martin School hall for her birthday, with a band, Colombian food and friends and the people from the classes.

It's fascinating to learn about

the origins of the different dances, and on a long, dark, winter evening, that South American rhythm makes you feel you've been on holiday."

A six-week course for beginners (all ages) starts at Martin School, High Road, on Tuesday 30 October. The fee of £25 goes to Martin School PTA, towards the cost of a school music system.

Please phone 020 8444 2012 for further details on this and future courses.