



## Backward glances

by David Hobbs

*As we enter 2002 it is time to take a quick glance back at the events of 2001 as reported in The Archer.*

### January

English Heritage refuted London Underground's claim that they were preventing the installation of more ticket machines at East Finchley station. We also reported the tragic death of former motoring correspondent, Michael Kreisky, together with members of his family in a plane crash.

### February

There was an angry meeting of the Finchley Forum about the Baronsmere Road traffic scheme.

### March

We identified 11 separate property developments ranging from the old Texaco garage on the High Road to demolition of The George in Market Place. The other big story was the 'one woman crime wave'. Her story was so convincing that numerous local people fell for it night after night.

### April

The foot and mouth outbreak was news as the council closed footpaths across the borough, but the introduction of the CPZ was the big concern for many.

### May

THE ARCHER had a 'crime front page' as we reported on an attack on a milkman in Leslie Road, another con artist and a robbery in Long Lane.

### June

What a difference a month makes! The front page previewed the Festival and celebrated the efforts of the regulars at the Alexandra in raising £1000 to help provide summer holidays for needy children.

### July

The top story was about a King Charles Spaniel receiving an award from the RSPCA for saving its owners from a house fire. Meanwhile there was a ram raid on PA Music in the High Road. Sadly, we also had to report the death of original ARCHER member and popular community figure Peter Maslen.

### August

The 'battle of Bedford Road' when a road rage incident led to fighting in the street dominated the front page. Despite 14 calls to the police not a single police officer responded. A report on the first months of the CPZ concluded that it improved life in the area.

### September

There were new plans for the pavilion in Cherry Tree Woods, but the issue closest to THE ARCHER team's heart was the celebration of 100th issue of the paper.

### October

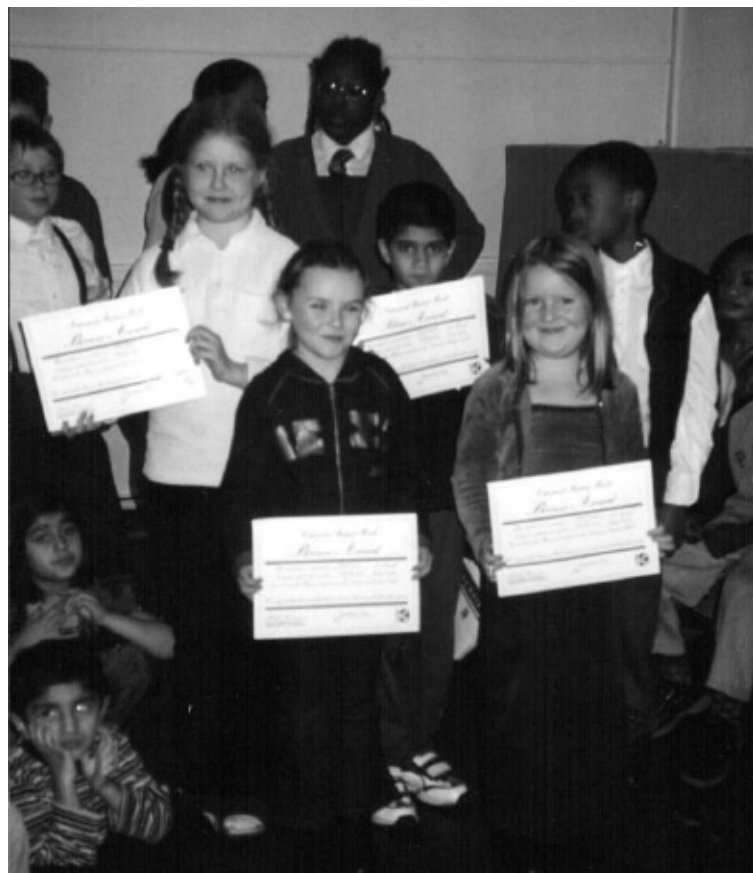
A £35,000 facelift for 'pigeon corner' was big news.

### November

The re-opening of the Bald Faced Stag made the front page and the authorised artwork on the shutters of Pacey's Newsagents made graffiti good news.

### December

News leaked of the proposal to build a Waitrose in East Finchley.



Kumon kids receiving their certificates. Photo by John Dearing

## Kumon Kids Celebrate

by Diana Cormack

**Local children who have been attending a Kumon after-school class had their first Christmas party, at which some were presented with certificates marking their inclusion on the countrywide Advanced Student Roll.**

Kumon helps children to develop their mental arithmetic skills and they learn that maths can be fun. The Centre, run by Ritu, has just completed its first year at the East Finchley Library.

Kumon is a highly structured maths programme for children of all ages and abilities. All students start with an individual assessment and begin the programme at a level that matches their current ability. Starting at this level they achieve immediate success plus a great boost in confidence.

### Worldwide Programme

The East Finchley class is one of almost 500 Kumon Study Centres in the UK, which cater for over 33,000 children. A maths teacher in Japan originally devised the Kumon programme over forty years ago to help his own son. It is designed to complement the work children do in school through extra practice and extension work. Currently over 2,500,000 students around the world study Kumon.

If possible, students attend twice-weekly classes where they study for up to half an hour. They also have a small amount of homework to complete on a daily basis. This is to help them master the basics, develop good concentration and realise that, instead of being a mountain to climb, maths can be enjoyable.

If you would like to find out more about the East Finchley Kumon Study Centre, call Ritu on 8361 9705. All new students who join between 21 January and 20 March will qualify for free enrolment.

## Young Archer

**One hundred years ago an Italian inventor called Guglielmo Marconi transmitted the letter "s" in Morse code from Cornwall to Newfoundland, Canada. Little did he know that a century later not only sound but also pictures would be sent all over the world and beyond.**

Three local boys have recently been involved in radio and television programmes.

One of them, ten year old Thomas McCollum of Eagan's Close, writes:

### DKTV

At my drama school, the North London Performing Arts Centre, one of my classes is called TV Presenting. Recently film and cameramen came in to do a show for a new show on Sky Television called DKTV.

The North London Performing Arts Centre has been chosen to be the first shown on this brilliant new channel. For their documentary about the centre I interviewed Emily Warner, the leader of the drama school, which for me and her was very informative.

## GARDENING

### In the Green

by Zena Robson

If you feel that your garden is a little bereft of early spring bulbs like snowdrops, now is the time to order them in-the-green. All this means is that clumps are lifted just after they finish flowering but before leaves die away, and posted off sharpish. This is a cheaper and far more reliable way of ensuring that particular species will actually survive in your garden. Snowdrops are notorious for never actually making an appearance, in spite of your back remembering that you put 500 of 'em in! The common snowdrop is named *Galanthus nivalis* (although I don't think ANY snowdrop can be called 'common'!) but there are also species like *elwesii* with slightly larger flowers, and *flore pleno* with double flowers.

Winter aconites, *Eranthis hyemalis*, are best planted like this too, as are *Cyclamen coum*, that flower between January and March. All these look great underneath bare leaf canopies and die away naturally by the time the trees leaf-up and the light levels underneath them fall. Don't stint on numbers... they're only small, so the more the better!

Watch out for weeds putting in an appearance - it only seems to take a couple of mild days and they're off.

### Get a move on!

If you haven't pruned your late-flowering clematis, like the *viticella* group, then you need to get out the secateurs... growers recommend December 26th! Books say February or that unhelpful 'early in the season'! Wisteria should be having the new shoots that were cut back to 5-6 buds in the summer, reduced again but this time down to 2-3 buds from the stem. If you haven't pruned grapevines yet, get a move on... ideally this should be done in December as the sap starts to rise early and late pruning can lead to serious 'bleeding' and really weaken the plant.

Finally, appreciate the special pongs that drift past on a still, sunny day - like the *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Dawn'; evergreen *Sarcococca hookeriana*, the witch hazels *Hamamelis mollis*, shrubby honeysuckle *Lonicera x purpusii* and wintersweet, *Chimonanthus praecox* which, apart from the *Sarcococca*, flower on bare stems.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Holy Trinity

Approximately one hundred boxes of gifts to send to less fortunate children were produced for Operation Christmas Child.

The junior department's production of Aladdin was a huge success. Congratulations deserved by all.

The school raised funds for the National Autistic Society by selling Thomas the Tank Engine badges and supported the Christian Aid scheme by collecting coins from those European countries that are going Euro this year (see November's Young Archer). The currency will be converted into money to help alleviate poverty around the world.

The Christmas Fair raised an amazing £2,400.

### Martin Schools

There was a fabulous production of Dick Whittington by the juniors. Congratulations to all.

At the whole school assembly for Diwali there was a special performance of the Ramayana which the children really enjoyed.

Year 6 visited the Islamic Centre to follow up their RE work on Islam.

The first issue produced by the new Magazine Club came out in time for Christmas. It was a bumper edition, full of articles, stories, poetry, jokes, puzzles and pictures.

The annual Christmas Bazaar raised the large sum of £2,000 for school funds.

The infant school put on a very successful show called The Silver Christmas Tree.

There was a concert of traditional carols and also special celebrations for Eid.

Four classrooms are being redecorated and there is a brand new medical room with new facilities.

### Hall for hire

The school hall is available for hire at competitive rates. For information phone 8883 1824.

### Farewell to Mrs Stokes

After nearly twenty-five years Mrs Patricia Stokes has retired as Welfare Officer in Martin junior school. Staff held a party in her honour and the children said goodbye at a special assembly, which celebrated her many years of excellent service. They will miss not only her care for them when they were sick, but also her fantastic skipping games during wet play and the games of rounders, which often involved almost all the school in the playground or on the field.