



Illustration by Sophie Platts Palmer of Elmshurst Crescent

## Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day?

by Diana Cormack.

Mothers all over the British Isles will be given cards, presents and perhaps other unexpected treats by their children on 10 March, our Mothering Sunday. The name comes from a mediaeval religious tradition. It occurred on the fourth Sunday in Lent, three weeks before Easter, when people used to go to their "mother church" (the local cathedral) in honour of Mary, the mother of Christ.

The day also commemorated Jesus' miraculous feeding of the five thousand. It was known as Refreshment Sunday, for which the disciplines of Lent were relaxed. Later on in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, servants and apprentices were given this day off to walk to church. They would use the opportunity to visit their families and, on the way, pick flowers for their mothers. During this break from Lent they would sometimes take her a special cake from which the traditional Easter Simnel Cake developed. Of course, only the best is good enough for our mums, but the traditions of Mothering Sunday gradually changed along with the way people lived and worked.

### The American way

Mother's Day was initiated by an American called Anna Jarvis. After her own mother died in 1905, she invited as many people as possible to attend the funeral. The following year Anna held a memorial service to which she invited all those who had lost their mothers in the previous year. There was a huge response and,

in 1907, the first Mother's Day service was held. She wrote to many well known people, including the president, asking that a day be set aside to honour mothers and to appreciate their love and care. By 1911 the second Sunday in May was being observed in every state as Mother's Day. If only Miss Jarvis had asked us first, she could have saved herself a lot of hard work!

## Head Lice

A parent from Holy Trinity School has provided this natural preventative remedy, which may well work on the more persistent head lice around today.

### Method

1. Buy an empty spray bottle.
2. Fill it with 100 ml vodka.
3. Add 5 ml in total of the following pure essential oils: bergamot, lavender, eucalyptus and geranium.
4. Shake well before spraying (the alcohol allows the oil to disperse evenly).
5. Avoid contact with the eyes and keep in a medicine cabinet.

## YOUNG ARCHER

### Easter Bunnies

By Diana Cormack

When I spent an Easter holiday in the USA, I noticed something very different in the shops. While we have lots of chocolate eggs to choose from, there are not that many bunnies to buy, but over there it is the other way round.

Eggs and bunnies have become the symbol of an important Christian festival, yet they both come from pagan times. In those days the goddess of spring was called Eostre and people prayed to her at that time of year because they wanted their crops to grow and their animals to have young. Eggs played an important part in their spring festivals, for new life comes out of them. Because the hare has lots of babies, it too became a symbol of new life and it was also the animal sacred to the goddess Eostre. This is where the Easter Bunny stems from, but rabbits were actually brought to Britain centuries later.

When Christianity came it took over a lot of the pagan festivals, including Easter (Eostre). However, pagan people who wanted to keep some of their old beliefs used to carry a hare's paw around with them. Now we have it as a rabbit's foot for luck.

Edible bunnies made of pastry and sugar were first made in the 1800s in Germany. Many Germans had settled

in America and so the idea spread, with chocolate hares and bunnies being introduced a few years later. Now, just like the real animals, they have reproduced all over the place!



### Not Very Bunny Jokes

**What do you get if you leave your rabbit's cage too near the radiator?**

*A hot cross bunny.*

**What's the difference between a crazy rabbit and a forged five pound note?**

*One's a mad bunny and the other's bad money.*

**Teacher:** If I gave you three rabbits today and then five rabbits tomorrow, how many would you have altogether?

**Pupil:** Nine miss.

**Teacher:** Nine?

**Pupil:** Yes, miss. I've got one already.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack



Iroko Theatre Company entertain the children at Martin School

### Holy Trinity

This term the children are raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary. After a talk by a visitor from the hospital, the juniors embarked upon a sponsored Spellathon and the infants on colouring in pictures.

A coffee afternoon organised by parents raised £143.

Children are preparing for a special musical event for church schools from all over London to be held at the Royal Albert Hall. Entitled "Proms Praise," they will be singing hymns both old and new.

### Martin Schools

Some juniors planned, advertised and organised a Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale in aid of transport for the elderly and their hard work resulted in £110 being raised.

A special assembly led by Michael Lasman from Barnet Aware, followed by intensive discussions, encouraged the pupils to have a greater awareness of disability and of the equality issues involved.

Every junior school class has been enthusiastically involved in a range of investigative science and related activities to celebrate the National Year of Science. The work is to be put on display at the teachers' Professional Development Centre.

Year 4 are working with a group called Community Arts Focus, who use the creative and expressive arts to enhance a curriculum area. As they are studying India, Year 4 are now engaged in a wide range of art activities and dance with a team of experts.

The infant school display theme this term is Africa. Years 1 and 2 have made wonderful masks. The group Iroko, winners of the Natwest Community Involvement Award, visited the children to tell them stories and hold workshops in dance and music.

The nursery held an Open Evening entitled "Your child comes to nursery to..." for parents to find out what they do and the benefits of a nursery education.

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### How to make a pop star

Andy Warhol said that everyone was going to be famous for fifteen minutes and as the media feeding frenzy spirals out of control, pop music's latest creation looks set to get more than his fair share. Every water cooler and coffee machine has been surrounded by people debating the big question of the time, 'Are you voting for Will or Gareth?' Who cares? It's the same old game, the same conceit, the same ageing manipulators manufacturing something to appeal to boys and girls and separate them from their money.

Remember the late '50s rock'n'roll era? Remember the great impresarios like Larry Parnes? Parnes was responsible for creating a whole raft of pretty boy rock'n'roll singers like Eden Kane, Billy Fury and Tommy Steele. He even had a hand in turning some kid called Harry Webb into Cliff Richard. It was all about packaging and marketing. Parnes picked the song, the singer, the style and the promotion. Result.

### paydirt!

A quick glance across the pond takes you to Detroit and the production line that was classic Motown. Smokey Robinson and Holland/Dozier/Holland wrote the songs, label boss Berry Gordy picked the artists and sweet soul music was born. And then we got bubblegum and, well, you know what I mean.

The vice-like grip of the manipulators has never gone away. Westlife didn't just 'happen' they were created, packaged and marketed just like Take That, E17, the Spice Girls, Steps, Bucks Fizz and many more who never got beyond number 45 in the charts.

Who makes the big bucks when the manufactured product hits the big time? The boy or girl from the suburbs gets fame, acclaim and the undivided attention of the tabloids. The only thing that separates Will Young from Eden Kane is 40 years and telephone voting. In the post-Big Brother world they not only let you look at the making of the product, they let you play a part, let you pretend that you were making a pop idol when it was all about Simon Cowell, 19 Management and the money men making money. As Boy George said, 'Real talent emerges from the gutter, you can't invent it'. But me, I voted for Will.