



12 Things You Didn't Know About...

Each month *THE ARCHER* will profile an eminent member of the community with 12 quick-fire questions.

- **Name:** John Pickering
- **Date of Birth:** 12/10 (no year given)
- **Star Sign?** Libra- typically level and balanced- so I'm told.
- **How long have you worked at Martin School?** Some would say too long.
- **Who is the best teacher you have worked with?** Always the one I'm working with at the moment.
- **What is your greatest achievement?** Teaching children about the Battle of Hastings.
- **What is your greatest regret?** Inflicting the Battle of Hastings on so many children.
- **What is your favourite film?** 'It's A Wonderful Life'
- **Worst vice?** Talking too much
- **If you were an animal what would you be?** A wise owl or a headless chicken depending on the circumstances
- **Michael Owen or David Beckham?** Victoria, if not David
- **In the event of your demise would you rather be forgotten or loathed?** Better to be remembered than forgotten whatever the reason

John Pickering is Deputy Head at Martin School and lives with his wife Helen and two children Matthew (12) and Esther (10) in High Barnet.

A Blooming Good Idea

By Diana Cormack

Some readers may have noticed a blue plaque that has appeared on a house at the Muswell Hill end of Southern Road. However, don't bother trying to work out who might have lived there, because this has nothing to do with people but plenty to do with plants.

Members of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association have long been concerned about the number of gardens concreted over to serve as car parks. Wishing to preserve the village atmosphere of the locality, they hit upon an idea which they hope will halt this trend, while at the same time giving pleasure to neighbours and passers-by. The area was leafleted and notices appeared in the library and press, inviting people to take part in a front garden competition.

None of this could have happened without Alexandra Park Garden Centre's offer to sponsor the prizes and to hold the prize giving ceremony. Muswell Hill and District Horticultural Society helped by providing the judging free of charge. This was in May, when association chairman John Hajdu accompanied the judge round the thirty



Anna Pollock and son. Photo by Toni Morgan

gardens involved. These were narrowed down to ten, which later received a further unannounced visit.

Prized plots

At the ceremony in June the final seven were given a year's free membership of the Horticultural Society, plus the judge's considered opinion on their individual gardens. The second and third prize winners also received money. First prize went to Anna Pollock, who became the proud owner of the blue plaque now displayed on the front of her home. Brazilian born Anna has

always loved gardening and spends much time researching and buying plants. But with a young son to look after, she needs and much appreciates the help and advice of her gardener Chris Liddle, of Western Road.

John Hajdu wishes to hold the competition again next year and perhaps extend the area to the High Road, dependant on finding funding. For information about the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association phone him on 8883 8114 or visit www.muswellhillandfortisgreenassociation.co.uk.

Local Athletes Take on Big Apple Challenge for Macmillan

Local athletes, Rob Farmer, 28, and Mary Finigan, 26, from East Finchley are taking on the world's most popular marathon to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Relief, as part of team Macmillan.

Rob and Mary will be travelling to the USA early in November to run the 26.2 miles of the New York Marathon. They will be among the 30,000 people taking part, with over 100 running for team Macmillan alone.

Rob, who plays for local cricket club N2CC, says, "This is the first time I've done a marathon. I can't wait - to experience the fitness challenge of a lifetime in the city that never sleeps. And to be part of Team Macmillan, surrounded by people, who like me, want to help make a real difference to people living with cancer - that will keep my energy and spirits high, all the way"



Mary Finigan and Robert Farmer running Baronsmere Road

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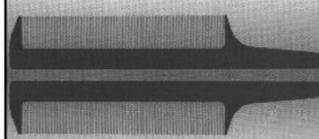
Last year, team Macmillan raised over £200,000 through the event and this year hopes to better that total. The money raised will help fund specialist Macmillan nurses and doctors who deliver the best in cancer care, build vitally needed

treatment centres, give financial help to those who need it most and provide a range of cancer information both locally and nationally.

To support Rob and Mary in their fundraising, log onto their website www.justgiving.com/runbobbyrun or send a cheque

made payable to Macmillan Cancer Relief to: 38a High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9PJ.

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