



Martin Schools and Becks: What a team!

By Helen Drake



Good food, a great atmosphere and David Beckham just about sum up the Martin Schools' Summer Fun Day held on Saturday 19 June, raising a record £5,500.

Local businesses

Catrin Dillon, Chair of the PTA commented, "We are overwhelmed by the generosity of the local businesses who, through their sponsorship and donations, significantly boosted the amount we raised."

Food for all

Sharon O'Driscoll and her team of volunteer caterers running the Blue Bird Café and the other refreshment stalls kept everyone well supplied with food all afternoon. "Hell's Kitchen" it was not! But forget Gordon Ramsay, the name on everyone's lips was David Beckham.

Auction

As the much-anticipated auction began, Matthew Girling, professional auctioneer and MC for this part of the day, whipped the crowd into a bidding frenzy. With the two tickets for a Champions League game at Highbury (donated by Arsenal Football club) already bought by one successful bidder, the auction continued apace towards its finale: a Manchester United shirt signed by the man himself, David Beckham. The shirt was kindly donated to the school by a parent. It was one of the last two signed by David Beckham

YOUNG ARCHER

The Olympic Games

By Diana Cormack

When the Olympic Games begin in Athens this month, they will have returned to the country where they first started. That was way back in 776 BC when a cook called Coroebus, who sprinted the length of the stadium, was the first recorded winner.

The Ancient Greeks thought the games were so important that they measured time by an Olympiad, which is the four years between them.

If there was any fighting going on a truce was declared for three months so that competitors and spectators could travel to and from the games in safety. But none of these would have been women – this was strictly for men only. Anyone discovered there without permission was punished by being thrown to their death off a cliff.

The games were held at Olympia and were part of a religious festival in honour of the chief god Zeus. Poets and artists were involved too, but the main honours went to the athletes. The winners became heroes and were presented with olive garlands on the fifth and

last day, which was marked with banquets, processions and sacrifices.

Banned and revived

The games consisted of running, jumping, discus, javelin, boxing and wrestling and they were held for nearly 1200 years until AD 393, when they were banned as being pagan. They were revived one and a half thousand years later by a Frenchman called Pierre de Coubertin. He believed that holding the Olympic Games would help to bring peace to the world and he worked really hard to revive them. In 1896 they started again in Athens.

What do you think?

If the Ancient Greeks could go to Athens this month, which events would they recognise and do you think they would like these Olympic Games better than the original ones?

at Manchester United before leaving for Madrid.

Sold!

Four main bidders battled it out until the hammer went down at £610 amid great excitement from the crowd and to the relief of Mark Sarjant, a gov-

ernor of Martin Junior School and the successful bidder. He had bought the shirt on behalf of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) who will now re-auction it at one of their fundraising events.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity School

Royal Request

Headteacher Duncan Mills attended a gathering of primary headteachers at Highgrove. The Prince of Wales invited the heads of those schools to which David Bell, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, has given the highest praise over the past 18 months.

Teaching Award

Year 6 teacher Catherine Corr, recently made deputy head, received special recognition at the London Regional Teaching Awards. In the Primary Teacher of the Year category (runners-up award) she received a special commendation and £250 for the school.

School Journey

Despite some inclement weather, Year 6 had a fantastic time and learned a lot during their week on the Isle of Wight.

Athletics Champions

The athletics team are champions again, having been victorious in both track and field events in the North Barnet Athletics Competition held at Cophthall stadium.

Charity Cycling

School governor Chris Hampson raised £165 for the school and £80 for the British Heart Foundation in the London to Brighton bike ride.

Martin Schools

Gymnastic awards

Well done to the junior school children who took part in the Barnet Gymnastics Festival. A special mention goes to Joshua Askew, who won a silver medal.

Greek Dancing

Year 3 children performed wonderfully when they danced at the East Finchley Festival.

Educational visits

In relation to the summer term's science topic, Year 4 went to Whipsnade Wild Animal Park for a hands-on session on the theme of *Habitats and Adaptations*.

Year 3 visited Holy Trinity Church for studies on various aspects of Christianity.

The nursery visited the National Gallery; reception children Paradise Wildlife Park; Year 1 the Science Museum and Year 2 Knebworth House

Paradise Park

The PTA arranged and paid for Paradise Wildlife Park to bring along some animals to be shown to pupils.

Sports News

Junior Sports Day was a brilliant success.

At the Infant Sports Day all the children took part in raising money for Sport Relief by running, hopping, skipping or jumping a mile round the school field.

BBC Production

The juniors were filmed for a documentary about story telling, which forms part of a series on the origins of art, due for transmission in Spring 2005.

Environmental Week

The Quantum Theatre Group's performance of *Destination Earth – The Next Generation* was a huge success with both schools. Recycling and things that affect the environment were among the issues involved. This included walking to school, which many people managed to do, despite terrible weather.

International lunch

The nursery hosted this popular annual event organised by the PTA.

New headteacher

Kevin Anscomb, at present working in Wandsworth, will take up the post of headteacher at Martin Infant School in September.

MH Festival in Cherry Tree Wood

The Muswell Hill Festival and Donkey Derby takes place on 12 September this year in Cherry Tree Wood, mid-day to 6 pm. Many have already booked their stalls and entertainment will be provided by local music and dance groups.

Among the bands performing will be *Something Simple*, a five-piece band, all aged 15, playing 70s-style jazz funk. Others include Rod Stewart tribute act Fuddy Heffernan and 70s glam rock tribute band Glamtastic.

North London Performing Arts will be presenting 30 minutes of dance to different music themes performed by between 25 and 60 children, aged from eight to 18.

Local talent

It will be the first time at the festival for stall-holder Mary Poulter, a basket maker who grows her own willow on her allotment in East Finchley.

Margaret Donnachie of Hertford Road will be selling her handmade jewellery called Fling and Meryl Epstein of Durham Road will feature her speciality handmade feather head-pieces on her stall.

Children's carousels and games, confectionery stalls and bouncy castles will add to the fairground atmosphere.

The event is in aid of the Hornsey Trust for children with cerebral palsy, which runs a conductive education centre on Muswell Hill.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

For more information

please contact the Church Office

Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome

All Saints' Church,

Durham Road, East Finchley
Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.

Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.

Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>