



# Martin Infant Head Moves

By Diana Cormack

At the end of March Pana McGee, head teacher at Martin Infant School, is moving on. Mrs McGee took up her present position in 1995, having been acting head at her previous school and also an equal opportunities advisor in Islington. She is to become head of Ashmount School, N19, a large mixed primary.

It has a modern building and Pana says she will miss the Martin building, which she loves, describing it as a beautiful place for children to work in with its wonderful light and atmosphere, safe internal playground, plus a lovely school field alongside neighbouring allotments.

But what Pana particularly loves is the fantastic mix of children and the community feeling they all share, despite their differences, of belonging to and feeling responsible for Martin Infant School.

"We celebrate our differences," she told *THE ARCHER*. "This is a microcosm of what the world should be. We should all be treated with respect and acknowledge that we're different."

In her time at the school Pana has played a part in helping to shape its identity. The pupils are proud of it, find it good to be there and the school community as a whole talks about Martin Infants



On to pastures new - Pana McGee photo by Erini Rodis

with a sense of ownership. In hoping that this would continue, Pana paid warm tribute to all those she feels privileged to have worked with and who have helped her to develop both personally and

professionally. She described the love and support she has received from the whole school community, saying that she has been so well looked after that it feels like home to her now.

"They're a wonderful bunch," Pana said, "I would like to thank them all, particularly the staff. People here really put their heart into it."

## Smoke Alarm Saves Life

A local Senior Citizen probably owes her life to her smoke alarm. When fire broke out overnight in her St Pancras Court flat she was alerted by her alarm and managed to escape.

She was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation, but was later released.

The London Fire Authority stresses both the importance of having an alarm and of installing it in the correct place. Correct siting means an earlier warning. It is also vital to check the battery if it is battery-operated.

### Free safety checks

Free fire safety checks and advice, plus smoke alarms, are available from the London Fire Authority for Senior Citizens. For more information, ring 08000 284428 (this is a free phone-line).

## Mystery Fire Victim Named at last

In a shared pauper's grave in East Finchley's St. Pancras and Islington Cemetery a body has lain unnamed since the King's Cross fire of November 1987. At last, after the other 30 fatalities have been named and mourned, this final victim has been identified.

Alexander Fallon, from Falkirk in Scotland, was a homeless widower. A few years before the fire a metal clip had been inserted in his head during brain surgery. This proved to be a crucial detail for the forensic scientists.

Mr. Fallon's daughters,

supported by their MP, became convinced that *Body 115* – the number on the mortuary body tag – was their father. Now that the coroner has accepted the identification the family can have the body cremated and the ashes brought home to Scotland.

# Domestic Violence is a Heartbreaker

On 11 February new Met *heartbreaker* radio adverts were launched just ahead of Valentine's Day to send a warning to domestic violence perpetrators.

One evening of romance cannot make up for weeks, months or years of emotional or physical abuse. Domestic violence abusers can no longer hide behind a partner's silence. The police are able to and will take action.

### Convictions

Last September over 70 charges were brought against offenders, following a pan-London operation that demonstrated the Met's determination to tackle domestic violence in the capital. Six months later, offenders have been convicted and sentenced whilst over 30 others await trial. Verdicts range from community rehabilitation orders to jail sentences as well as civil resolutions through injunctions and other means.

### Wide-ranging consequences

Chief Supt Rod Jarman, from the Met's Diversity Directorate said, "Last year's raids were a snapshot of the work that police officers are doing daily to tackle domestic violence in the capital. Domestic violence can affect any relationship. The majority of cases we deal with have male aggressors and female victims but this is a crime that transcends gender, ethnicity, age and culture. We recognise men can be victims as can people in same sex relationships. We want to safeguard all victims so I would urge anyone suffering to have the courage to contact police."

"I feel particularly strongly

that we must not forget the impact on generations of children who are experiencing their parents or their parents' partners abusing each other and the long term damage this may have on their own future relationships."

"Although domestic violence happens in the home we know that it is not just the victim who is aware of it. Family, friends, neighbours and colleagues have a responsibility to stop this abuse happening. By ringing the police you could save their life."

### Dedicated officers

Over 500 dedicated officers from the Met's Community Safety Units, handle over 7,650 domestic violence incidents each month. The crime of domestic violence ranges from emotional abuse, controlling your partner's finances and social life, including cutting them off from family and friends, to rape and physical assault.

The campaign supports a new domestic violence protocol signed by the Metropolitan Police Service and the Crown Prosecution Service to bring perpetrators to justice. Since the new agreement was signed there have been a number of successful prosecutions of this kind. Research shows that almost 85 percent of domestic violence abusers are men. Nearly 67 percent are aged between 21 and 40 and this advertising campaign is specifically targeted at them.

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