



Feat of clay

Ten-year-old Amelia Li, of Elmshurst Crescent, is a great Lord of the Rings fan. Here she writes about what happened after she read something about it in a newspaper this summer:



Amelia Li with her winning entry. Photo by Erini Rodis

“When I first found out about the Lord of the Rings Convention I was very excited especially as it was being held at Alexandra Palace. This was the first Lord of the Rings Convention to be held in England. I had to go!!!

“There were going to be lots of fun things, such as Q and A sessions and workshops where you could learn to speak and write Elvish, Hobbit dance, make Hobbit feet and talk about the film. There were also competitions – fancy dress, short films and, what appealed to me most, the art competition.

Fierce fun

“I got down to it straight away, bought some clay and some paint and decided I was going to make a Cave Troll! He is very fierce, very ugly and would be fun to make. (I also had to convince my mum to pay for the tickets!) I spent about five days making my model and I couldn't wait to go. We got tickets for the last day of the convention. We had to bring my model to Alexandra Palace on Saturday morning where it would be judged on Monday.

“On the Saturday, driving to Alexandra Palace to drop off my Cave Troll was really weird as there was a procession of people dressed up as characters from the trilogy. There were Orcs, Elves and Hobbits, Uruk-Hai, kings and lots more (and they were adults!).

First lady

“On the Monday I got up very early and dressed up as Lady Arwen, feeling very happy to be going. I had waited a long time! My Cave Troll was on display at Alexandra Palace and was going to be judged later that

day by Alan Lee and James Howe, concept artists for the Hollywood movie, who gave us quite an interesting talk and told us how they got their ideas.

“At last, the moment came. I held my breath. ‘The winner of the under-tens art competition ... AMELIA LI,’ (me). Wow, I just couldn't believe it! I went up to the stage and collected my prize, an autographed copy of *The Art of the Two Towers* and a first prize certificate. What a day! I was walking on air. I shall remember it forever.”

New headteacher for Infant School

By Diana Cormack

Pictured is Kevin Anscomb, the new headteacher at Martin Infant School. Mr Anscomb, who lives with his wife in Crouch End, took up his post at the start of the new academic year.

He was previously deputy head of a special school for children with learning difficulties in Wandsworth, where he worked for eight years.

Community minded

An experienced teacher, Kevin has always had a special interest in the education of young children and says that one of the things he wants to do at Martin's is to build on the community aspects of the school.



New headteacher, Kevin Anscomb. Photo by Diana Cormack

YOUNG ARCHER

If at first you don't succeed...

By Diana Cormack

The female star of the British team at the Olympic Games 2004 just has to be Kelly Holmes. As we all know, with a world of sports fans watching and waiting, she won two gold medals.

But Kelly herself watched and waited at the end of her first medal attempt, for she did not know if she had actually won the race until the results came up on the stadium screen.

Kelly has had to wait a long time to achieve her fantastic results. Over the years she has suffered many injuries and setbacks, with people thinking that she would never be a big star. However, Kelly believed in herself and she never gave up. She had the will power and determination to follow her dream, which we all saw come true for her in Athens this August.

It reminded me of a story I was once told about a king who was inspired by a spider. His name was Robert Bruce. In 1306 Edward 1st of England was trying to take over Scotland and Robert was leading the Scots in their battle against him. Things were not going well and Robert was hidden away in a cottage, wondering what he was going to do next. He noticed a spider up on the ceiling and watched it try six times to fix its web onto a beam.

“Now shall this spider teach me what I am to do,” he said to himself, “For I have also failed

six times.”

At the seventh attempt the spider succeeded, so Robert decided that he would gather his followers together again and carry on with the struggle for freedom. After many years and many battles, he finally defeated the English at Bannockburn.

The old saying “If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again” doesn't make it clear that you may have to try more than three times. Hopefully, Kelly Holmes' long struggle and eventual success will inspire many young people and teach them to never give up.

A school to be proud of

By Diana Cormack

The new academic year at Martin Junior School got off to a flying start with the publication of their Ofsted report. Last June a team of inspectors were at the school for a week observing lessons, looking at planning and paperwork and holding discussions with all members of staff. This intensive inspection also involved pupils, parents and governors.

Being a community school serving a culturally diverse population, with over 60% coming from ethnic minority families, there are many pupils for whom English is a second language. Throughout the report there is praise for the progress such children achieve as a result of the continuing help, understanding and support they receive. Another aspect is reflected in the inspectors' judgement that, “the school is a racially harmonious, inclusive community in which all pupils are valued highly. Pupils' relationships with adults and each other are good and have a positive aspect on learning.”

The report contains many good and some excellent comments on teaching and learning, with praise for the teachers' knowledge and planning and the positive impact this has. The important and effective role of

teaching assistants is recognised; so is the praiseworthy provision made for the Gifted and Talented pupils as well as for those with Special Needs, which ensures their ability to contribute fully to all aspects of school life. “Good quality resources greatly enhance the learning environment for all abilities,” say the inspectors.

The Ofsted team admired the quality of relationships both within and beyond the school. “The very good relationship the school has developed with its parents is very effective and supports pupils and their families well.” The wide range of after school activities and educational visits impressed them. So did the

pupils whose “good attitudes and behaviour result in a keen interest in all that they do. They respond well to instructions and show a willingness to learn.”

Good leadership and management by the head, staff and governors was also highlighted in the report. These are delighted with the report and feel it is very good reflection of the school. Headteacher Maggie Driscoll said, “It is lovely to have what we know endorsed by the Ofsted team in such a positive way. We are extremely proud of our school and will work together to ensure that it continues to provide the highest quality of education and support for every child.”

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