



## Archie at 65

By David Tupman

Archie, East Finchley station's famous statue, is 65 this July and gives an exclusive interview to *THE ARCHER*.



Archie - photo by David Tupman

**The Archer:** Are you really 65 years old Archie – you look so much younger?

**Archie:** Oh yes, I was unveiled on 22 July 1940 by my dear old friend Eric Aumonier the famous sculptor though I was recast in 1957 and touched up in 1996. £245 – that's all I cost all those years ago. Eric did other sculptures, you know, for London Transport, but none are as distinguished as me. I am twice the size of a typical chap and do you know I'm very international in make-up.

**The Archer:** International, Archie?

**Archie:** Yes, I'm made up of six hundred weight of beech built around a steel support and covered in five hundred weight of sheet lead. The beech came from Czechoslovakia and the gold for my gilt features is from South Africa. I am proud to say my bow is of English ash which was bent by steam and coated in copper and gilt.

**The Archer:** You are a mine of information Archie, what else can you recall?

**Archie:** I have seen so many things in East Finchley – the Blitz and that frightful land mine in Chapel Court, the destruction of the Congregation Church where Budgens now is, the end of the routemaster buses. I loved them all. Oh yes just imagine the times before all that traffic, graffiti and the funny old red brick McDonalds building.

**The Archer:** Is it true that you are a trainspotter?

**Archie:** If only I hadn't lost my spectacles in the 1987 gales. I do love trains. We used to have steam train excursions to Southend – yes from East Finchley! I've seen them all on the Northern Line; the 1938 electric stock with its red livery, green interiors and comfy seats was my favourite. You could open the windows, you know. They tell me the new trains with that women's ghastly voice are a trifle hot. I am glad I don't have to travel with my lead coat – I'd die!

**The Archer:** So Archie, you seem very chipper, what is your recipe for looking so good at 65?

**Archie:** Quite simply, I put it down to an outdoor life and I haven't put any weight on since 1940. Holding this bow for 65 years has certainly kept me fit. Between you and me, I do have to admit to a bit of rust in my inspection plate, and the occasional bout of vertigo, but I mustn't grumble.

**The Archer:** Thank you so much for talking to us. Happy Birthday.

**Archie:** The pleasure was all mine. We are both East Finchley icons – here's to the next 65 years!

### 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

## YOUNG ARCHER

### Singing together

The English Pocket Opera Company visited Martin Junior School to introduce Year 5 to the world of opera. Later on in the term, after working on it in class, the children joined in an actual performance. Here is a report of that event, written by *Michael Elliot-Garcia*:

When my class, 5J of Martin Junior School, went to the Millfield Theatre to perform I was extremely excited about the whole thing. When we got there we were shown around the theatre and then we had to practise singing "Robin Hood". Unfortunately it was very hot inside the theatre and I was wearing warm clothes. After we had practised singing we went through the whole thing with other schools. At first I wasn't

one of the main characters but Louis felt uncomfortable in the wig he was wearing as the clown Faddo. So, after we had lunch, me, Olivia (Columbine), Kiwanda (Paliaccio) and Jordan (Harlequin) went to get changed and put on our make-up. I had a blue and yellow, frilly costume and a spectacular blue, yellow and orange spiky wig. When I came back I received an unexpected visit from my mum. After a little while waiting,

the play finally started. There was a lot of loud singing, which hurt my ears a bit. We then ate ice-cream at the interval. When it was over, it was our turn to perform. At first me, Olivia, Kiwanda and Jordan had to make a picture and then the whole class performed. After the play I had a picture taken with the real Faddo. At last, after a very tiring day, I went home after a very enjoyable experience.

### What a scorcher!

**Held on the hottest day of the year so far, the 2005 East Finchley Festival five-a-side football tournament was hosted by Martin Schools as part of their Summer Fun Day on Saturday 18 June.**



Some of the winning players show off their medals. Photo by Iwona Susi.

Martin Infant School fielded four teams who battled it out to the final. The winning team was the *No Stars* from Year 2 - Ben, Dominic, Hamish, Conor and Vivek.

Six teams from Martin Junior School played three games each, with the winners eventually being class 5J - Kieran, Michael, Jemal, Andrew and Callum.

The two winning teams

received their medals from Councillor Alison Moore and were invited to join the Festival parade on 26 June to receive their trophies from Rudi Vis MP at the Festival.

### Young Archer summer competition

**If you enjoy writing or drawing, why not show us how good you are by entering our summer competition? You could also win a small prize!**

Because it's his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, we're basing it on Archie, the statue at East Finchley tube station.

The competition is open to readers of up to sixteen years of age and there are three categories (you can enter all three if you want to). They are:

- A story of no more than 400 words involving Archie in any way you like.
- A poem about Archie.
- A cartoon strip of Archie with up to six pictures in black and white.

The closing date is 8 September. Please remember to include your name, age and contact details.

Post your entries to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or email them to [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net)

### PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

#### Holy Trinity

Six chess players from the club, run by John Fleetwood, have done very well to win through to the National Chess Championships at Pontin's holiday camp in Norfolk. There will be a full report in next month's issue.

The Holy Trinity School Association organised a highly successful Summer Fair, which raised £2,437.00. They also held a fashion show selling half-price designer clothes to raise money for school funds. The evening was a great success, with mums modelling the clothes.

Fun events to make the children more aware of how to lead healthier lives and of the many aspects of healthy living are to be included in a PSHE focus week.

Year 4 had a great day out at the London Transport Museum. Year 6 are getting ready for the annual visit to the Isle of Wight.

#### Martin Schools

The school raised more than £220 by making and selling cakes (iced by Helen Barney and Jo Filippone in the office) for the Starlight Foundation. This charity provides treats and grants wishes for terminally ill children throughout the country.

Twenty-seven cricketers from Years 4 and 5 watched England play Bangladesh at Lords.

Year 6 learned a lot on their educational visit to the Imperial War Museum.

The Infant School is supporting the Pebbles Project, which is setting up crèches and schools in the impoverished townships of South Africa. The infants are collecting suitable small gifts to be packed in a shoebox and sent on to the children overseas.