



## YOUNG ARCHER

### Father's Day

By Diana Cormack

Every year, sometime around 20 June, we celebrate Father's Day. This year the day that gives us a chance to show dad how special he is falls on 19 June. That makes sense because it is a Sunday when he probably won't be going to work.

Mother's Day in this country is also always on a Sunday. This is because it comes from a very old British tradition connected with the church and its correct name is Mothering Sunday. Father's Day has its own connection with the church, but it is not as old as Mothering Sunday and it did not start in this country.

Like many of our newer special days, it began in the United States of America. A woman called Sonora Louise Smart was the eldest of six children. When their mother died, their father took on the task of bringing them up. While she was listening to a church sermon on Mother's Day, Sonora decided that there should also be a day to honour fathers. After all, her father had been wonderful to his children. She began to talk to local people about it and, just one year later, her hometown of Spokane in the state of Washington celebrated the very first Father's Day.

That was in 1910 and Sonora chose 19 June because it was her father's birthday. In 1924 the US president, Calvin Coolidge, proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Over the years it grew more and more popular in the USA and became a permanent national day six years before Sonora died in 1978. By then this day devoted to good fathers had spread to many other countries, including Great Britain. Now, 95 years since it began, it has become a tradition.

So, on June 19 this year, remember that we are able to celebrate this special day because one woman was so grateful for all that her father had done.

### Father's Day jokes

When does a daddy become a mummy?

*When he's a dead pharaoh.*

**Son:** Dad, can I have 50p for being good?

**Dad:** All right, but I wish you could be good-for-nothing.

**Daughter:** Daddy, do you think I'm vain?

**Dad:** No, you're not vain dear. Why do you ask?

**Daughter:** Because most girls as pretty as me are.

**Child:** Dad, there's a man at the door collecting for the new swimming pool.

**Dad:** Give him a glass of water!

### Fun and games at play time

By Helen Drake



Children at Martin Infants School enjoying the new equipment in the playground. Photo by Helen Drake

**"If play times, particularly lunch times, are happy times, then children learn better and are more productive in the afternoons," says Stephanie Williams, a teaching assistant at Martin Infant School.**

Together with Janine Waterman, acting Deputy Head, Stephanie has devised a playground strategy based on six different zones, with play equipment being rotated on a daily basis.

#### Generous gift

With the £350 donated by the East Finchley Traders Association at Christmas, Stephanie has been able to resource three of these zones: construction, creative and ball games.

In order to decide what to buy with the money, a meeting was held with the school council to come up with ideas. From a large and very imaginative wish list, two members of the council helped Stephanie narrow down the options into several affordable items.

The wooden building blocks bought for the construction area have gone down very well, as have the chalkboards and dry-wipe boards for the creative zone. The children also wanted a large bubble maker, which Stephanie expects to be a huge hit in the warmer weather.

#### A different ball game

"We want to rotate football with other ball games so that every child gets a chance to play a ball game they like," Stephanie says, and so a treasure chest of soft sports equipment (containing games such as skittles) has also been purchased.

A second donation given to Martin Junior School has been used to buy a good quality bench for the school field that will benefit the community in years to come and gives parents somewhere to sit on sports day! It has an inscription thanking the Traders Association for their generosity. Look out for it when you come to the Martin Schools Fun Day on Saturday 18 June from 12 noon to 3pm.

### Dance festival

By Betti Blatman

When Whetstone-based dance teacher Nicola Goode approached The North London Festival of Music and Drama and other local dance schools to request that dancing be included in the event, she had a very positive response.

So, for the first time, competitions were held at Finchley Youth Theatre in the High Road on Sunday 15 May, with Laura Symonds as adjudicator.

Lasting from 2pm until 9.30pm., the competitions continued with only a short tea break and I enthusiastically watched competitors aged from four to 21 perform a wide variety of song and

dance. After each section, winners were announced and medals presented.

At the time of going to press, a prizewinners' concert was scheduled for Sunday 22 May at United Reformed Church in Muswell Hill to show a cross-section of the performers and winners of this year's festival in dance, drama, singing and music.

#### 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>

### PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

#### Holy Trinity School

The new headteacher, Tim Bowden, will take up his post in September.

The Tag Rugby Festival arranged by Robin Jacobs was going really well until rain stopped play. It will take place at a later date. The school entered two teams for Finchley Rugby Club's Tag Rugby Festival.

Year 5 went to Millfield Theatre to join in the singing at English Pocket Opera Company's production of I Pagliacci, which they have been studying this term.

Year 1 enjoyed a visit to the Geffrye Museum.

The HTSA Summer Fair is at noon on Saturday 11 June.

#### Martin Schools

The Open Afternoon, when both schools welcomed people in to see them in action, was a great success.

Year 6 are having basketball training sessions with Barnet Bulldogs on Friday afternoons.

Class 5J visited Millfield Theatre to perform in an English Pocket Opera Company production (see next month's Young Archer for a pupil's report).

In a road safety project, all the children are taking part in a survey on how they come to school.

Four junior boys have achieved great success in various karate championships, which included an international meeting in Germany.

The infants were entertained by the sounds of Sousafun, two men who made music from a variety of instruments, including vegetables!

Martin Infants new deputy headteacher, Katie Dawburn, will take up her post in September.

Reception children had a lovely visit to London Zoo.

Year 2 visited Highgate Wood.

Parent and school administrative assistant Helen Matthews is doing the 26-mile Moonwalk to raise money for breast cancer on 18 June. If you want to sponsor Helen, please ring Martin Infant office on 8883 1455

Summer Fun Day at Martin Schools starts at noon on Saturday 18 June.