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THE ARCHER



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Archie's Arch-enemy

By Anna Davies

The battle had begun.

Archibold had had a bit of trouble getting hold of his beloved bow and arrow all day. Numerous people had taken it to "look after it", but now he had his arrows slung on his back and his bow in his hands. As he wandered around the village, looking for his friends he came upon a small cave-like feature in a wall of a house.

He had never come across it before, and felt a real sense of evil in there. Archibold, who decided this was the time to live up to his strangely-spelt name, took a deep breath, got an arrow ready on his bow and took a step in there.

Once inside the walls of the cave he felt somehow trapped. "Stop being silly!" he told himself. Then he stopped. "Well bless my soul, this isn't a cave after all, it's a passageway!" Stooping low, so as not to bang his head, he ran on, through the tunnel. He turned a corner and, seeing a small dark shape standing out darkly against the light blue sky outside, stopped dead. What was that noise? A slow, low, rasping cough, that kept repeating itself in a steady rhythm.

Suddenly he saw a silhouette of a nose appear and then the rest of the head. This was an ancient and fearsome monster lurking in here.

The creature stood up and glanced in Archibold's direction. A pair of bright, orange eyes glinted in the one ray of sunlight that came from outside the tunnel and as Archibold saw them he felt...nothing....Archibold was no more alive. This creature was the most deadly of all the creatures to walk the earth (a Basilisk, as it happens). Archibold had looked it squarely in the eye and had, unfortunately, turned to stone.

Years later the tunnel was knocked away and the East Finchley tube station built there instead. Archibold's name was turned to Archie (mostly because the people were so...thick... they couldn't cope with such a long name) and Archie just could not be destroyed, let alone moved. So Archie (or Archibold) has been and always will be standing there on the East Finchley tube station, brave and stubborn as always, but now a stony statue.



Anna Davies is presented with her prize by Young Archer editor Diana Cormack. Photo by Linda Bower

Our Archie winner

At the start of the summer, we asked you to send in stories, cartoons or poems about our famous tube station statue Archie. Thanks to everyone who entered our competition and congratulations to 12-year-old Anna Davies, from Summerlee Gardens, who our judges picked as our winner. Anna wins a book token and here's her winning entry (right):

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A plaque for Punch

By Betti Blatman

At Church Farmhouse Museum a blue plaque to Mark Lemon, first editor of 'Punch' magazine, was officially unveiled on Sunday 11 September by the celebrated humorous writer and broadcaster Alan Coren, who was Editor of 'Punch' from 1978 to 1987. The blue plaque, on the front of the building, was generously paid for by The Friends Of Church Farmhouse Museum.

Prior to the unveiling, The Mayor of Barnet, Andreas Tambourides, referred to Alan Coren's connections with the Borough and pointed out that the plaque commemorating the first 'Punch' editor was being unveiled by the last 'Punch' editor.

Mark Lemon was co-founder and first Editor of 'Punch'. After his father

died when he was eight he lived in the house from 1817 to 1823 with his paternal grandfather (also named Mark Lemon - then the tenant farmer at Church Farm, Hendon). 'Punch' became a British institution, and continued publication until 2002. Its longevity and its eventual iconic status were largely due to the energy and skill

of Mark Lemon in its early days.

There is an interesting 'Punch' exhibition on display at the Museum including a portrait of one of Mark Lemon's seven daughters, Kate, who was the model for Tenniel's 'Alice In Wonderland' illustrations.

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