



YOUNG ARCHER

Why Little Miss Muffet ran away

By Diana Cormack

The change in our weather is bringing new wildlife to Britain. Plants that usually grow in hot countries are thriving here, fish from warmer waters are swimming round our shores and we are seeing insects that we only used to see when we went abroad.

One of these is a French spider-eating wasp which has been found near Sandy in Bedfordshire. It is smaller than the British wasp and is black in colour. This wasp attacks those spiders which hunt their prey on the ground, rather than using webs, and paralyses them with a sting. Each spider is then sealed in a tunnel with a wasp egg laid on it. When the egg hatches, the larva uses the living spider for its food!

Wouldn't Miss Muffet have loved that? She hated spiders.

"Little Miss Muffet
Sat on a tuffet,
Eating her curds and whey.
There came a big spider,
Who sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffet away."

However, if the following story is true, Miss Muffet had good reason to dislike spiders.

Her real name was Patience Muffet and she was the daughter of Dr Thomas Muffet (1553 - 1604). He was a medical doctor who was fascinated by insects and spiders. In those days spiders were thought to be helpful in curing illnesses. If people had a high temperature they would wear a spider in a nutshell and swallowing a spider wrapped in a ball of breadcrumbs or butter was believed to help people get better.

Dr Muffet was interested in finding out whether spiders could be used to cure the common cold. It is said that when his daughter was ill he used to treat her with spiders, though we don't know exactly what he did. Swallowing them like medicine certainly wouldn't have cured a tickle in her throat!

Spider jokes

Why did the spider buy a car?
So he could take his friends for a spin.

Why do spiders like ducks?
Because they have webbed feet.

What did the spider say to the fly?
I'm getting married. Do you want to come to the webbing?

What happens when a spider gets angry?
He goes up the wall.

How do you spot a modern spider?
Instead of a web he has a website.

Big Brother, but not as we know it

By Helen Drake

The main hall at Martin Junior School vibrated with music at the end of the summer term as Year 6, including every pupil, performed their traditional leaving show. Staff and pupils had reworked the TV show Big Brother into an imaginative twentieth-century history lesson with lots of singing and dancing thrown in.

As the familiar music pounded out, children dressed in black and white with dark sunglasses re-created the usual opening scenes of the show. Davina (Chae Aujla) introduced the house mates as they bounded on to the stage: Winston Churchill (Ashley Cartwright), Roger Bannister (Justin Goshorn), Elizabeth Taylor (Megan Hallett), Johnny Rotten (Louis Masseron), Margaret Thatcher (Lydia Francis), David Beckham (Julian Moir) and Krishna Bhagat from Martin School playing himself. Each character represented a decade from the last 60 years and set out to convince the audience that their decade was the best.

Each day in the Big Brother house, one character gave a thumb-nail sketch of their decade: the horrors of the war years, the adjustment to peace time, the arrival of the jukebox, the jubilation of England winning the 1966 World Cup, the introduction of decimalisation, Monty Python's Flying Circus, privatisation, the dot.com revolution and the birth of e-bay. "The future only looks scary because you can't see it" was the message for Krishna who represented the present day and was the winner of this version of Big Brother.

The audience was taken on a musical journey through the decades starting with Vera Lynn, Gracie Fields and the Land Girls singing "Wish me Luck (as you wave me goodbye)", and ending with the Spice Girls' "Wannabe". The finale of "We go Together" from Grease brought the house down, although the programme warned "You might get an overwhelming urge to roll back the years and strut your stuff. Don't do it - did the critics in Year 5 make of "Big Brother"? Dario St Jerry thought it was "really funny and cool. It should go on show for the general public". Max Derraji praised "the



Margaret Thatcher (played by Lydia Francis) talks to Big Brother in the Diary Room.

Picture by Helen Drake

talent, the team work, the hard work and the funny storyline. They did not make one mistake. I also liked the singing and dancing because they kept the beat going." Yonatan Suissa said the show was an "inspiration". He thought the Spice Girls were "played very well by the Year 6 girls", and he particularly liked the Monty Python sketch. Overall "I would give it 10/10" he said.

Fill it, snap it

More than £250 of goodies are up for grabs just for putting out your black recycling box and taking a photo.

Barnet Council wants residents to send in amusing and innovative photos of them putting out their full black boxes as part of a drive to encourage more recycling.

Simply send your photo to: competitions@barnet.gov.uk or post to Recycling, London Borough of Barnet, NLBP, Oakleigh Road South, London, N11 1NP. The winning entry will receive a black box full of goodies worth over £250. Closing date for entries is 31 October 2006. The competition is open to Barnet residents only. Visit www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling or call 020 8359 7400 for full terms and conditions.

Just the ticket

By Diana Cormack

Regular commuters on the Northern Line can probably be forgiven for finding little to generate excitement in the environs of East Finchley tube station. However, there are younger members of the community who look at it in a very different way.

With transport featuring as part of the national curriculum, station staff have played host to infant school children, some of whom may never have been on a tube train before. Not only were the young visitors able to go on one, but they were also taken to stand next to a train at the trackside rather

than at platform level, and to wonder at the size of it. They were highly delighted to hear the noise of a train and to feel the ground shaking as it roared by. And the station's statue of Archie proved to be very popular too.

The children really enjoyed looking around the station supervisor's office, particularly at the cameras showing various views of the vicinity and they were thrilled to be given a video of their visit to take back to school. Schools need to contact London Underground and/or their local station if they want to make an educational visit.

A letter from one school, Moss Hall Infants, showed their appreciation:

"We thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the different things at East Finchley Station and were bowled over by the time and effort you must have given to planning our time there. The consensus was that this was probably one of our best school trips ever for children of this age. We felt we all learned a lot as well as enjoying ourselves".

That says it all. Well done, East Finchley station staff!

After school art classes

By Diana Cormack

During the first week in August, Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute ran a special Art and Craft workshop for children aged seven to 12 years. Tutor Jenny Rymer had chosen the theme of Treasure Island, with galleons, maps and treasure chests featuring largely in the excellent work produced in the studio at Park House opposite East Finchley tube station.

The good news for local children and parents is that Jenny will be running an after school Art Workshop throughout the year, starting on 25 September. It will be for ages 8-11 years and will be held on Mondays from 4.30-6.30 pm during term time.

For further details please phone 8829 4141 or visit the Institute at 11, High Road, East Finchley.



Treasure chest made at the summer workshop. Photograph by Diana Cormack.

**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>

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