



## YOUNG ARCHER

### Put your dad down on paper

Father's Day is on 17 June and as the Mother's Day competition at The Cherry Tree shop was such a success they just couldn't leave out the dads. So the gift shop at 172 High Road will be holding a similar competition for children aged ten and under.

All you have to do is a painting, drawing or collage of your dad on an A4 piece of paper. Every entry will be exhibited in the shop windows. You must remember to put your name, age and contact details on the back.

First prize will be a £20 Cherry Tree gift voucher and the two runners-up will each receive a £10 gift voucher. The deadline is 17 June so get creating. For more information pop into the shop or call 020 8883 4369.



Brooklands pupils and staff celebrate their Barnet Healthy Schools Award

## Children stage a truly classy opera

By Julia Hughes

With breathtaking performances from all involved, *Dropped!*, an opera about celebrity, football and friendship written by Year 5 pupils from Manorside Primary School, met with rapturous applause from its audiences.

From the superbly composed overture, to scenes that were both comic and dramatic, every moment of the production was one to savour and marvel at, especially knowing it was the work of nine and 10-year-olds.

Since last September when Manorside Opera Company was formed, the children have been involved in every aspect of staging a production. A display showing the development of the opera was on view at the after-show party. There were mood boards for costumes and a model of the set, all hinting at the huge learning curve that this nine-month long journey must have been for everyone involved.

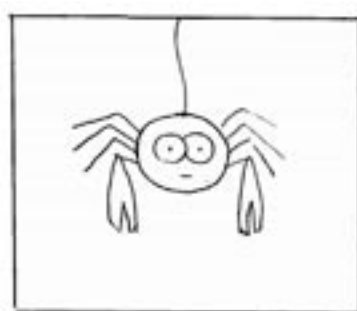
As the opera began, it was clear that this wasn't just about the performers. Everyone had their part to play from wardrobe

and lighting to the company manager. These jobs were crucial to the opera and had been applied for by the children months before.

There was help from the Royal Opera House who implemented their Write an Opera course by seconding members of their staff to advise the pupils at every step, from set design to lighting. The other two adults involved were Miss Walker, the Year 5 teacher, and Mrs Malhotra, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the best was brought out of the children.

All this hard work culminated in outstanding performances. Everyone from the orchestra and performers to those working behind the scenes surpassed themselves, making the audience forget that these were children.

Spiderama  
by Ashley



Crab spider

## We want our playground back

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard  
A few months ago I wrote to *THE ARCHER* regarding the playground at Tarling Road estate, between The Grange and the North Circular. I have since learned there has been a problem with Japanese knotweed growing inside and, after it was hacked down, the playground was sprayed to prevent more growing.

Obviously, with poisonous chemicals around, it is unsafe to use at present; hence the 'Keep Out' signs, although bad behaviour that went on inside has also been mentioned. I'd still like to think that when the knotweed problem is over, refurbishment of the playground with sufficient thought and TLC would lead to a place that children could really appreciate and have fun in, rather than behave anti-socially.

I have since started a public petition for everyone in favour of upgrading the playground to forward on to Barnet Council and our local MP. I have already had quite a response and I have listened to everyone's comments and ideas.

Although some have suggested more car parking spaces or housing on the site, I am especially interested in what local children want there. If anyone reading this would like to add suggestions or their names to the petition, please contact me through *THE ARCHER*.

## Children make the healthy choice

By Jane Pendry

On Friday 4 May, Brookland Junior School pupils and staff were delighted to receive a Barnet Healthy Schools Award from Zena Carrick, project leader at Barnet Council, at a special school assembly.

In order to gain the award, head cook June Kirkham and her kitchen staff produced well-balanced healthy meals, while teachers delivered dedicated lessons and assemblies on healthy food choices and balanced diets.

A competition to design a balanced school dinner was also a great success. Winners Mia Jacobs, Eloise Gibbins and Amy Goodman will see their meals served this term.

One spectacular result of the initiative was a large mural that helps to explain healthy food

choices to pupils. The dynamic mural was designed by talented pupils Kelly Joseph, Gabby Kaye and Francesca Gilbert, and painted by learning assistant and professional fine artist Claire Knight.

Head teacher Heather Blackmore said: "Working towards this award has made a significant impact on our pupils' eating habits. Having made a range of healthy food available to pupils, it has been gratifying to see more and more of them make healthy choices."

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Holy Trinity

Children who have passed their cycling proficiency test can now cycle to school unaccompanied.

The tag rugby team played very well in a tournament held at Bishop Douglass School.

A fashion show with great bargains from well-known stores was held in aid of school funds.

A cake sale raised £70 for schools overseas. Sainsbury's matched this amount for the benefit of Holy Trinity pupils.

Year 5 pupils and staff had great fun on a two-day trip to Gilwell Park Adventure Centre where they learned new activities and outdoor survival skills.

### Martin Schools

The PTA is busy organising the Summer Fun Day which takes place on Saturday 16 June.

The new allotment is a huge success. Each infant class has its own strip in which they are busily growing and tending plants.

The nursery outdoor area has been refurbished, providing equipment to stimulate the imagination and encourage physical development.

At the end of May during Walk to School Week infants will take part in a sponsored walk on the school field to raise money for the charity Whizz Kidz.

Plans are being made for a curriculum week entitled Water Week. Starting on 18 June there will be cross-curricular activities focused on art, science and personal, social and hygiene education.

### St Theresa's RC School

A courageous Mrs Curtis scaled Mt Kilimanjaro in aid of the Marie Curie Cancer charity. She wore the school hat for the climb and shared her experiences with the excited children on her return.

Both chess teams played well in the English Primary Schools National Championships held at Haberdashers' Aske's School. The Under 11s achieved fourth place behind Haberdashers', Brookland and Westminster Schools.

Ladies connected with St Theresa's enjoyed being pampered when the school held an Indulgence Evening.

Come to St Theresa's RC School Summer Fayre on Saturday 23 June from 12 noon until 3 pm. There will be prizes, food and loads of fun!

### 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>