



YOUNG ARCHER

Shakespeare in school

By Diana Cormack

A week before Valentine's Day, six actors from the National Theatre entranced Years 5 and 6 at Martin Junior School with a superb production of Romeo and Juliet.

A version of the play specially adapted for younger audiences by Carl Heap was performed in-the-round in the school hall, which had been transformed into the ancient town of Verona. So as soon as they entered the room the children were made to feel part of the scene, where they were met by the skilled team of actors singing, dancing and playing musical instruments.

This involvement continued throughout the performance, with the youngsters being encouraged to take sides, read letters and even answer questions. With only six actors playing all the parts, there were constant changes of costume, gender and accent, but the pupils kept up with the pacey production with great enthusiasm (only the kissing seemed to meet with their disapproval!)

In a question and answer session at the end, one of the boys wanted to know if the kissing was real. Other queries were about such things as whether the props were real, rehearsals, rapid costume changes and how to act out various emotions. Class 5M were particularly attentive at this point as, after workshops with the company, they are to perform their own version of part of the play.

The cast enjoyed this interaction with their audience and realised that they had already learned a lot about Shakespeare through the National Theatre's Education Department scheme. One of them told the children:

"You are the most concentrated audience we have ever had. You are amazing!"

Kids get fit for £1

By Andrew Shirlaw

Children and teenagers under 16 are invited to learn to swim and get fit for just £1 at swimming pools across Barnet. The initiative, dubbed "Kids for a Quid", is run by the council and Greenwich Leisure Limited.

Spiderama by Ashley



Ballerina spider

Mother's Day competition

Mothering Sunday is on 18 March and to help celebrate, The Cherry Tree gift shop is holding a competition for children of 10 years and under. All you have to do is a drawing, painting or collage of mum on an A4 sheet of paper. Please provide your name, date of birth and telephone number when you enter.

There will be a first prize of a £20 Cherry Tree Gift Voucher and Gift Vouchers of £10 for the two runners-up. All the pictures will be exhibited in the shop and shop window. The Cherry Tree is at 172 High Road and entries need to be handed in there by Friday 16 March.

Strictly Footloose

By Sheila Armstrong

A glamorous and glittering crowd of enthusiastic young dancers gathered at Bishop Douglass School on Sunday 4 February to take part in a day-long freestyle competition organised by the Finchley Footloose Dancing School.

It was a great day and good to see so much young talent. Ten children's dance groups

from all over the south east took part in the three-yearly event organised by Maureen Rose and her daughters Karen and Tanya, who run the dance school.

Competition categories included Rock and Pop, Street Dance and Freestyle Disco. Children from five up to 16 plus competed. It all operated under the auspices of the Asso-

ciation of Dance and Freestyle Professionals, who sent three adjudicators along to do the judging.

The Footloose School of Children's Dancing, now established for over 20 years, runs classes in Street Dance and Freestyle Disco in Barnet and Finchley. For enquiries, contact Tanya on 07956 481243.



Footloose Dance Group. Photo by Sheila Armstrong

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

Special Achievement postcards designed by the head and deputy head teacher are being given to children in recognition of the fact that they have done something they can be proud of.

As part of their fund raising for the charity LEPPRA this term the children took part in a fun work out.

A group of parents has been making and selling cakes, thus helping the school to purchase much needed items for African school children through Oxfam Unwrapped. The training of a teacher, 100 school dinners, 12 text books, a school desk and a chair have recently been funded by their efforts.

Pedestrian improvements under the School Travel Plan will start with the replacement of the safety railings outside the school.

Planning permission is being sought to use the site of the demolished Herbert Wilmot Centre, which borders the school grounds, for temporary office and storage use by a contractor carrying out an essential water main scheme.

Martin Schools

Four Year 6 children have been selected to attend the Gifted and Talented programme for primary

school pupils held weekly at Fortismere School. They are enjoying the sessions extending their skills in ICT, Science, Maths, English and have even embarked on learning Mandarin.

Mathematically-talented Year 5 and 6 children were entered for the National Primary Maths Challenge. Few from the whole country reach the final, but yet again Martin Junior has been successful, with Yonatan Suissa achieving this by solving a range of challenging investigative problems.

A member of the London Fire Brigade's education team visited Year 6 to tell them about the dangers of fire.

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed a visit to the British Museum, which enhanced their knowledge of the Ancient Egyptians.

The school received a plaque and certificate marking its accreditation under the National Healthy Schools Scheme. Saracens Rugby Club has contributed to the health and fitness programme with rugby sessions throughout the school. Alex Austerberry has led two assemblies on keeping fit and eating healthily.

Sports results are looking good. Year 6 football teams are doing well, with the girls' team in the finals. Year 4 footballers narrowly missed

becoming champions in a local tournament. After a shaky start the cricket team has reached the finals of their league.

To mark the second National Bug Busting Day at the end of January every child was given, courtesy of the PTA, a special bug-busting comb along with a leaflet to help encourage families to work together to beat this persistent problem.

The infant school has received a generous anonymous donation, much of which has been used to buy role play equipment to encourage development in speaking, listening and literacy as a whole. Extra resources to support learning in reception and nursery classes have also been ordered.

Training for volunteers in the "15 Minutes a Day" reading support programme took place. There was also an information session for parents of Foundation Stage children. A parents' group meets in the art room at 9.00 am on Wednesdays and has been making very useful resources for the school.

The project to create an allotment on the school field is under way. It will provide infant children with the opportunity to plant, nurture and harvest their own home grown produce.

A special assembly was held to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

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>