



YOUNG ARCHER

A flying guy

By Diana Cormack

Most of my childhood memories of Bonfire Night are of big communal bonfires, hot drinking chocolate, singed jacket potatoes and cinder toffee.

My dad was in the Royal Air Force and on any base where we lived the young airmen billeted there would start building the bonfire in the middle of October. It was always carefully constructed with spare wood and burnable bits from aircraft hangars that none of us kids could ever lay our hands on. If we dared to add anything to the construction our pieces might disappear or we would find them carefully laid aside, so we quickly learned to hide them away. Then on the night of 5 November we would bring them out to hurl onto the fire, trying to make it last longer when it was starting to die down and the jacket potatoes were beginning to appear.

This could be quite late, so we had to be careful about the time in case our parents dragged

us home to bed, but the bonfire took a long time to burn because it was so big. Its height also made it difficult to put the guy on top and he had to be lowered from the ladder of the fire engine, which was always stationed nearby for safety. Although we did "penny for the guy" with our own home-made guys, the airmen made a special one for the bonfire. He would be dressed in RAF uniform wearing big, furry flying boots and with flashing light bulbs for eyes.

In those days people brought their own fireworks to set off; nowadays we have more organised displays like the one on Martin School's field, which is much safer for everyone. So "Remember, remember the fifth of November" but don't forget to stay safe and to follow the firework code.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Local primary schools have been holding book fairs, which enable children and parents to choose and buy books together, and schools to get a share of the profits.

Holy Trinity

There was a wonderful response to the Harvest Festival Appeal, with donations being sent to Homeless Action for Barnet.

To celebrate Black History Month each class took part in a dance workshop led by MAPS (Motivation and Personal Success). Following this successful day, some excellent artwork was produced for display.

On the school's "Meet the Teacher" day Michael Whitworth, head teacher of the new Wren Academy, gave a talk to parents.

The results of the school uniform consultation are being processed.

Children have designed their own Christmas cards to be professionally printed.

A group of recorder players took part in a masterclass hosted by Martin Primary School.

Martin School

The hard work of amalgamating into a single primary school is going very well.

Elderly people from the Ann Owen Centre joined the infant classes for a harvest assembly. They were delighted with the biscuits made for them by Year 2 classes and with the communal collection of harvest food gifts.

Key Stage Two pupils learned about the charity Splash Aid, which provides water for African villages. They will learn more about issues of poverty in the world through the school's citizenship curriculum, learning about what it means to be a global citizen. A non-uniform day raised £250 for Splash Aid.

In the first sports fixture of this academic year, twelve children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in Barnet's Crops Country Running event. They won the shield, coming first out of eleven competing schools!

A group of Year 4 pupils attended a work shop with well-known recorder player Alan Davies.

The school has joined the Clothes Collectors Scheme and has its own purple re-cycling bin, so raising money and helping the environment.

Manorside School.

The start of term saw the launch of a Walk to School campaign where children are rewarded for walking to school at least once a week.

September visits included Year 4's trip to the Byng Road Environmental Centre to do pond dipping and insect studies and Year 5 at the British Library as part of their RE work.

Years 4, 5 and 6 visited the Countryside Centre at Lea Valley as part of their science work.

The ever-popular breakfast club will be starting 15 minutes earlier at 7.45am after half term.

Back to school for Manorside parents

By Julia Bramson

Parents were invited to stay behind at Manorside School, Squires Lane, on Monday 8 October for an evening explaining how maths is taught at the school. For many parents, teaching has changed a great deal since they were young so the evening was an excellent opportunity to see how their children were learning to get to grips with, and enjoy, numbers.

Everyone assembled in the main hall to be taken on the numeracy journey from Nursery to Year 6 by the Deputy Head, Ms Wilson. Other teachers were on hand to explain how the children are made to feel comfortable with numbers and truly understand them. Once this has been achieved, the child is able to enjoy maths and, of course, wants to learn more.

The parents were then split into four groups, or classes, and attended maths lessons taught by teachers from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. At the end of each lesson a bell rang, and the class moved on to be taught by another teacher.

The evening was a great success, so much so that Ms Wilson plans to make it a permanent fixture in the school calendar. There are also plans to have a crèche facility to allow parents who couldn't otherwise attend to bring their children with them.



Parents at Manorside School learn about maths with teacher Ms Wilson

Martin Primary's school journey

At the end of September Year 6 spent a wonderful week in Weymouth with PGL Adventure Holidays. Afterwards they worked hard on individual books describing their experiences. Activities included abseiling, climbing, orienteering Jacob's ladder, trampoline, volleyball, dragon boating, rifle shooting, problem solving and quizzes. The following extracts from long reports by Freddie and Miles give a taste of things.

"It seems slightly unreal like something out of a storybook and with my friends doing tremendous activities. Although I'm quite nervous, also a little scared. I've never been away from home for so long."

"When we arrived at PGL I could see it wasn't just a normal place. There were quad bikes revving on a track, a group of children doing archery, some kids on mountain bikes and then the bay with the sea stretching into the distance."

"The first activity was archery. It was really brilliant. I learnt to handle the bow properly and also shoot. I was surprised to find that I was quite good and never once did I hit the grass!"

"We had sensory trail, which was exciting for us because we didn't know what it was. It turned out to be a series of activities using our senses apart from sight. We smelled each other's shoes to find our own and spelled our names in sign language of deaf/blind language. But by far the best activity was when we had to follow a rope around PGL blindfolded."

"My favourite activity was Zip wire. We had to climb up a pole then we got onto a small platform about 10 metres up with no wall to stop you falling off. You were then strapped into a harness, after this the instructor asked you if you were ready but he didn't

give you a chance to speak and soon you were whizzing off at 30 mph 10 metres up. It was totally amazing."

"After dinner it was time for the night walk. I saw a bat that might have been a noctule! We

walked through a wood where the instructors said there were spiders which dropped on your head and bit you, which I didn't believe. On the way back the bay looked beautiful with all the lights."

School of the future

Building plans have been revealed for Finchley's new school, Wren Academy. An estimated 1,200 parents and children saw the proposals for the first time when they attended two open evenings at the school site in Hilton Avenue, North Finchley.

Wren Academy has been designed by architects Penoyre and Prasad, one of Britain's foremost building design companies, to be environmentally sustainable. Building work is scheduled to start in February

2008 and last until December 2009.

The first intake of Year 7 children will arrive in September 2008, by which time the core buildings will be in place to enable full-time teaching.

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

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4 Woodberry Grove - North Finchley

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