



## Let's go and see a musical

Young Archer heard that a new production of the musical *Annie* was about to be staged at the East Finchley Youth Theatre by the Create Theatre School, with 15% of the ticket profits being donated to The Bobath Centre in East End Road.

Our three young critics - Alice, 10, Isobel, eight, and Grace, six - are all *Annie* experts (they've watched the film, sung-along to the music and got the curly red wig in their dressing-up box). So they took out their notebooks, sharpened their pencils and went to see the final dress rehearsal of the show.

Isobel was full of praise: "When I was in the changing room I thought how nervous they all must be. It was noisy as everyone chatted. I went into the empty theatre and waited. I liked the scenery. There is a good start. Annie has a beautiful voice. I like the bit when the orphans sing *It's a Hard Knock Life*. Miss Hannigan is a good actress. Mr Warbucks is very good at his lines. The little popcorn girl is sweet. Amazing ending."

Grace noticed that the costumes were fabulous. She thought Rooster and his girlfriend Lily were very funny and that Mr Warbuck's secretary looked very grown up in her costume. She spotted that this actress, and the girl playing Miss Hannigan, got to wear real high heel shoes.

Alice thought "all the children played their parts very well" and that the show was "as good as the film."

### Star interview

Backstage after the show, Isobel was lucky enough to interview Annie:

Isobel: "How long have you been practising?"

Annie: "Since Christmas."

Isobel: "How did you feel?"

Annie: "Nervous, scared, excited."

Isobel: "Was the spotlight shining in your eyes?"

Annie: "Yes, it was."

Isobel: "Was your head getting hot wearing the wig?"

Annie: "No."

Kevin Gillespie, Fundraising Manager at the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy, said: "We would like to thank Create Drama School for their fundraising efforts with *Annie*. It is really heartening to see local children supporting others who've had a less fortunate start in life."

Create Theatre School, run by three sisters who are all qualified performing arts professionals, offers a choice of classes in drama, singing or dancing, or a combination of all three. Classes start from £5 per week and are held every Saturday at Tudor School, Queen's Road, off Squires Lane, Finchley N3. For more information, please call Caroline Jackson on 020 8882 9009 or visit [ww.create-theatreschool.co.uk](http://ww.create-theatreschool.co.uk).



Even the youngest joined in. Photo by Diana Cormack

## Nursery children raise their voices to raise money

By Diana Cormack

Children at the Scribbles nursery in Hertford Road added their voices to the UK's biggest nursery rhyme singalong in February when they took part in the annual Chatterbox Challenge. Run by the children's communication charity I CAN, the object is to raise awareness and money to help youngsters with speech, language and communication difficulties. It is estimated that one in ten children in this country are affected in some way.

### Animal singalong

Schools and nurseries were asked to learn the words, rhymes and actions to songs, thus underlining the value of fostering speech and language skills through nursery rhyme repetition and sound patterns and highlighting the importance of communication. With an age range of six months to five years, children at Scribbles

are divided into groups with animal names. The youngest, Bush babies, Lemurs and Meerkats, joined together to sing *Bananas in Pyjamas* and *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*. The Koalas and Wombats performed *The Wheels on the Bus* and the eldest, the Aardvarks, sang *Old McDonald* dressed as farmyard creatures and providing appropriate animal noises.

Head of Equal Opportunities Rena Zenonos, who organised the event at the nursery, told *THE ARCHER* that children at Scribbles take part in a variety of fund raising activities such as last year's Children in Need, to which they contributed £305. At the time of writing contributions for the Chatterbox Challenge were still coming in.

## Waiting pays off in grand poetry prize

John Davies, who was councillor for East Finchley from 1982 to 1994, has won the Grand Poetry Prize in a competition run by the London-based *The Literary Review*.

The competition demanded strict use of rhyme and scansion in a work of under 24 lines on a set subject, in this case 'Waiting'.

Mr Davies chose as his theme a woman who worked

as a waitress during the day and then had to wait upon her family in the evening. Judges described his poem, below, as a 'deserving winner'.

During his time on Barnet Council, Mr Davies's regular

use of verse on local issues at council meetings caused the local press to dub him 'the Bard of Barnet'. He still lives in Manor Park Road and is retired from his job in the book publishing industry.

## They Also Serve

By John Davies

I'm waiting in a restaurant, hands upon my hips,  
Waiting for my orders and then waiting for my tips,  
Waiting to serve trifles and waiting to serve steak,  
Cups of tea, pints of beer and slices of fruit cake,  
Waiting for rare plaudits and for regular complaints,  
Waiting for proud parents to pretend their kids are saints,  
As they throw their rolls about and take things as they come,  
Waiting for old lechers who will try to pinch my bum,  
Waiting for affected ones to criticise our range,  
Waiting for the miserly to quarrel over change,  
Waiting for new customers, always on my toes,  
Waiting for my pay packet, waiting til we close.

I'm waiting now in our small flat, waiting by a chair,  
Waiting for my aged mum to stagger down the stair,  
Waiting for my children to gobble up their grub,  
Waiting for their father to come back from the pub,  
Waiting for a moment to put up these aching feet,  
And revel in EastEnders or Coronation Street,  
Waiting for the night-time and, when I clear the decks,  
Waiting to go up to bed, waiting for good sex,  
Waiting for the problems that God will surely send,  
Waiting for my old age, waiting for my end.  
Working mother, kitchenmaid, nurse and cook and wife,  
I am always waiting - and waiting is my life.



## Mind your language

Spelling should perhaps be the first lesson, judging by this advertisement for The Institute's language courses spotted outside its High Road premises.

### East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

For more information

please contact the Church Office

Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome

## Head teacher to step down

Maggie Driscoll, headteacher at Martin Primary School, has announced her intention to retire "to pursue a less hectic and exhausting life-style".

In a letter to parents, she said: "The ten years I have spent at Martin School have been a very happy time in my life, and I have valued being part of the vibrant community of East Finchley."

Chair of Governors, Helen Drake, said: "We are extremely fortunate that Maggie has been with us to oversee the amalgamation of Martin Infant and Nursery School with Martin Junior School. Her experience and dedication has meant that the transition from two schools to one has been a smooth and successful process."

Maggie will retire in the summer and the recruitment process has already begun to appoint a new headteacher for September 2008.