



## Facts at his fingertips

By Helen Drake

At a special assembly on Friday 6 June, a surprised Ben Leigh became the first boy to win the annual Lynn Cornelius award for Outstanding Achievement at Martin Primary School. The trophy was presented by Molly Hogan, last year's winner.

Year 6 pupil Ben, who will be joining his older brother Tom at Christ's College in September, won the award not only because of his strong academic record but because of his "strong sense of justice and the support he gives to other children, as well as the charity work he does outside school," said headteacher Maggie Driscoll.

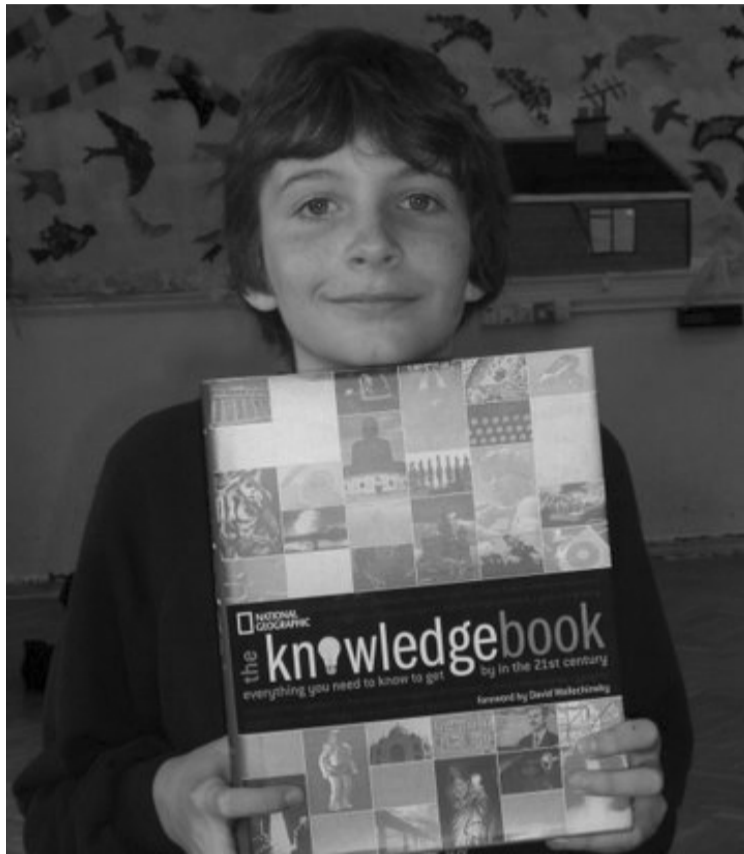
### Inspiration to others

Reading extracts from his old school reports, Ms Driscoll praised Ben for his "exceptional mathematical skills, outstanding understanding of science and beautiful poetry". She also drew attention to his "maturity" and "excellent behaviour" and to the fact he is a keen walker having climbed Snowdon, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike. Ms Driscoll finished by saying: "I hope Ben will be an inspiration to the younger children."

As early as Year 1 Ben's teacher had noticed that he had "amazing general knowledge" so it was apt that one of the presents he was given for winning the award was the National Geographic "The Knowledge Book: Everything you need to get by in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". "I love facts," said Ben.

Ben's proud parents Chris and Judy were there to see him win his award. "Ben finds something positive about every day," said Judy. "It's a pleasure to be his parents."

The Lynn Cornelius award was given to Martin Primary School by Sir Robert Winton, whose own children had attended the school. The award is named after Lynn Cornelius, a much-loved teacher, who believed that every child was special and looked for achievements in everything children did.



Facts at his Fingertips - Ben Leigh who won Martin Primary School Outstanding Achievement Award. Photo by Helen Drake

## Celebrity talent out in force for festival

This year's Muswell Hill Festival and Donkey Derby, to be held in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 14 September in aid of the Hornsey Trust for children with cerebral palsy, will be bigger than ever.

There will be more than 80 stalls and side shows featuring local organisations and retailers and a variety of family entertainment; continuous stage performances all afternoon; and of course the much-loved

programme of donkey races and rides.

### Tough teddies

As always, the festival's curtain raiser will be on the Saturday morning, when the parachuting teddy bears will jump from the tower of St James's Church in Muswell Hill Broadway. This event is open to all brave teddies and their owners for a donation to the Hornsey Trust.

The Finchley Children's Music Group, a long-established local choir founded in 1958, will be participating for the first time. The FCMG rehearses locally at Brookland School, Hampstead Garden Suburb, and performs regularly at local venues in East Finchley and Muswell Hill.

Several local authors at the Festival will include Alison Joseph, best known for her detective stories featuring Sister Agnes. One of the items to be auctioned is the right for the highest bidder to have his or her name included in a future Sister Agnes book.

Local singer Kat Neocleous will be appearing again. Kat is a north Londoner who has looked to her Greek roots for inspiration and is a presenter on London Greek Radio.

All proceeds from the Festival will go to the Hornsey Trust, a local charity with a conductive learning centre at the top of

## End of an era for Martin Primary

By Catrin Dillon

Martin Primary School headteacher Maggie Driscoll retires at the end of this academic year after ten years in the role and more than 30 years in teaching. Maggie became Head of the Martin Junior School in 1998, and was subsequently appointed as Head of the newly amalgamated school last September.

She was Deputy Head of Wessex Gardens School in Barnet before coming to East Finchley, where she relished the challenge of the social and ethnic mix and loved the fantastic outdoor space, particularly the field. "It's wonderful to be in a natural environment even in the middle of a vast city like London," she says.

Many things make Maggie very proud of her time in Martin's, from individuals overcoming issues in their personal lives to groups of children achieving marvellous things, such as producing their own assemblies, dancing and singing, producing a stunning piece of writing, creating an allotment, winning "Barnet in Bloom" for the school.

"I absolutely love it when my past pupils come and see me and tell me excitedly about what they are doing now. It makes everything so worthwhile. I am proud when I can see that I've provided an opportunity for a member of staff or a child to grow and develop their potential."

### Every child matters

Long before the phrase was widely adopted, Maggie subscribed to the view that "Every Child Matters", a sentiment which is very evident in the way that she has led Martin Primary School, creating an inclusive school where all children thrive, growing in confidence and self-esteem.

Asked what she would miss most, Maggie answered, with-



Maggie Driscoll

out hesitation, "the children". They will miss her greatly, too, as will the staff, governors, parents and carers.

Chair of Governors Helen Drake, said: "We are very grateful to Maggie for all she has achieved, and particularly for her vital role in ensuring that our newly amalgamated school is running smoothly. We wish her a long, happy and fulfilling retirement."

### The future

Maggie will wonder when she had time to work! Her plans for the future include birdwatching, gardening, the arts, theatre and travel, with trips to New Zealand, Latin America and the Galapagos Islands in the pipeline.

All at Martin Primary School thank her for her hard work and dedication, and wish her a fantastic retirement. Helen Morrison will take up the post of headteacher in September.

## Dog stolen from under owner's nose

On Sunday 8 June at 6.30pm, a dog was taken from Ingram Road, N2. The 71-year-old owner was outside painting his house, while his dog sat next to him. The victim became aware of two suspects talking to his dog and then walking around the corner to Brompton Grove towards the High Road.

They are described as white males in their early 20s. One is approximately 5ft 8in, and was wearing a green jumper and jeans with short dark brown hair. The other suspect is about 6ft, also with short brown hair. CCTV images show the suspects coaxing the dog towards the High Road and East Finchley tube station.

The dog is described as a pedigree bull mastiff, with a

beige body and black muzzle. He has been micro chipped. His temperament is described as placid and very friendly and he answers to the name of Prince.

Police are investigating the incident, but are appealing for any witnesses to come forward. Any person who has information on this matter can speak in confidence. The number to call is 020 8200 1212.

## Corrie star on the street

Coronation Street's resident bookie Harry Mason has been spotted a few times at East Finchley tube station. Actor Jack Ellis, previously known for his role as Jim Fenner in *Bad Girls*, will soon be leaving the Street. Maybe he could get a part in *EastEnders* and give himself an easier journey to work?

A friendly welcome awaits you

### EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

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[www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk)

**Family service and Junior Church  
Every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.**

Worship Music Social events Youth Club Wheelchair friendly  
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### 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>