



YOUNG ARCHER

Young Sophie sings her way to a scholarship

Sophie Burbidge, of Summerlee Gardens, is the youngest person to win the coveted Charlotte Coleman Scholarship award at the New London Performing Arts Centre.

Eight-year-old Sophie is in Year 3 at St. James' Church of England School, Muswell Hill, and has been singing since she was two.

Singing and performing are in her genes; Sophie's maternal grandmother studied classical singing at the Guildhall School of Music and became a performer. Her great-grandmother Marjorie Kelsh (née Ramsden) was a singer and dancer and cousin to 1930s actress Peggy Thorpe-Bates.

The Charlotte Coleman Scholarship was set up in memory of the *Four Weddings and a Funeral* actress who sadly died in 2001 aged 33 from an asthma attack. Charlotte's mother Ann Beach and her sister Lisa Coleman presented the trophy.



Sophie with her award. Photo by Diana Cormack

Smiles all round

Sophie said: "I chose to sing *Thank You for the Music* by Abba because I already knew it and it is one of my favourites. I was standing on my own on the big black stage under a glimmering spotlight as if I were a fairy. As I sang I could see the audience smiling at me and waving their arms in time to the music.

"Mummy and I were in the car outside Midhurst Butchers when the school principal, tele-

phoned and said I had won the award. Mummy screamed with delight. I was very, very happy to get the award and for the rest of the day I had a big smile on my face. It means I get free classes for a whole year."

Sophie will be taking classes in dance (jazz, tap and ballet), piano, singing and acting. She is also rehearsing *Les Miserables* for a performance at RADA at the end of March. It looks like it's going to be a very exciting year.

An hour of oblivion

By Lucy Chamberlin

What would you do if, on the night the clocks went back, you had the whole hour to spend exactly as you chose, and afterwards nobody would remember a thing?

This is the subject of *The Hour*, a short story that won third prize (£50) in the Happenstance Press Story Competition, and was written by East Finchley's Hannah Eisen-Renyard, who has also written for *THE ARCHER*.

Hannah, 22, was a great fan of student pranks at university, where she studied creative writing. Her story centres on a man called Brian who is trying to take a lifetime's revenge in one hour by playing pranks on anyone who has ever caused him offence.

Taking in the nuisance neighbour, a date who once stood him up, a nasty man on the bus and his greedy boss, the story's pace is speedy, its phrases evoking the purpose of protagonist Brian in his race with the clock.

Cold callers caught

It is a fanciful tale with a clever idea behind it, and is

based only on Hannah's imagination, with a bit of mentoring from her housemate. Although she has never had the guts to carry out any of these pranks herself, she does admit to having a 'petty streak'. Once when she worked for a cold calling company she signed up all its managers to receive cold calls themselves.

Currently working as an editorial assistant, Hannah writes poetry for *Fuselit* magazine, and also has a couple of novels under her belt which, she firmly insists, will never be published. *The Hour* was originally penned for a university module, and afterwards submitted as one of 400 entries to the Happenstance competition, judged by short story author Susie Maguire. Hannah continues to write creatively in her spare time. See an extract from her story at www.happenstancepress.com

Love yourself to love others

Relationship expert Elizabeth Green runs courses on how to get on with those you love. To see parents and children apologize and forgive each other, she says, can be very moving.

Born in Croydon, Elizabeth moved to East Finchley when she was eight years old and, except for a brief spell when she met her husband, has lived here ever since. She has three children, Simon, 24, Georgia, 20, and Jacob, 18.

Her Trusting Love course teaches ten ways to improve your communication, practices such as apology, forgiveness, listening with compassion, handling upsets responsibly and acknowledgement.

The secret, says Elizabeth, who has also written a dating column for the *Jewish Chronicle*, is to learn to love yourself first and always to speak from the heart.

"I've apologised many times to my kids. Yes, we still fight but underneath we know that we truly love each other," she says. "Do you want the bad news about all those people around you you've been trying to change? They never will. The only person you can change is yourself."

Elizabeth believes that once people start to love themselves, those around them will start to change as well because they

will respond positively to their more open behaviour.

The Trusting Love course is offered for everyone aged 14 and above. For more details, contact Elizabeth on 020 8444 6362.

Professor of choice

Bob Owens, Professor of English Literature at The Open University and East Finchley resident, has been honoured for his work *The Novels of Daniel Defoe*.

Professor Owens's book was given the accolade of 'Outstanding Academic Title' by Choice, the review journal of the American Library Association.

The Novels brings to completion the 44-volume edition of *The Works of Daniel Defoe*, of which Professor Owens is joint General Editor. His next project is to complete an edition of the 1611 Authorised King James Version of *The Gospels* for publication by Oxford University Press.

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Temporary library closure

East Finchley Library, 226 High Road, is currently closed for redecoration. It is due to reopen on Thursday 12 March.

Visit www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries for library information.

Bucketload of help

Back on Christmas Eve, Sippy Azizollah put on her Santa Claus gear and set off to take up a collection in aid of the North London Hospice. Her four-hour stint took place in Budgens, next to a table of snacks provided courtesy of the store.

Once again, Sippy found the generosity of local shoppers astounding. "Some people even went home to get more money to fill my bucket," she told *THE ARCHER*. The final total was £230.

Sippy would like to thank those who donated as well as the manager and staff at Budgens

for all their help, particularly Tannaz Kapadia, who kept her supplied with mugs of tea and refreshed the collection bucket too.

Budgens also organised a Christmas Hamper raffle, the proceeds of which went to the East Finchley Community Trust.

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