



YOUNG ARCHER

Robin Hood, watch out

Archery is not as easy as it looks but it can be great fun. Matthew Holden, Daniel Weir and Sam Mugridge from Year 6 in Holy Trinity Primary School recently took up the sport. Matthew explains how they got to grips with their bows and arrows.

Yes, we had always fancied ourselves as modern day Robin Hoods and so when we got the chance we joined a local archery club. We only started at the end of January and are getting used to the equipment.

We were excited when we first got our hands on the bows. Initially, they don't seem to feel heavy but after a while you can feel a bit of strain in the forearm and shoulder, especially as it's important to hold the bow steady. That is why it is important to warm up.

If it's a good shot, you can see the arrow slice through the air and hear a faint thud at the far end when it hits the target. The feeling is awesome. Visions

of Robin Hood shooting at his enemies came to mind.

Our instructor suggested that we should attend a competition to get some experience and see how good some of the other kids in Barnet are. We went to a competition at QE Girls' School in Barnet and represented Holy Trinity.

We practised shooting at the target and attempting to pop red balloons. The targets were at three different distances (10, 15 and 20 yards).

I won a bronze medal in the Boys' 15-yard short course, using a recurved bow. Next time we do it we all want to improve on our scores and, who knows, watch out London 2012.



Rugby boys: from left to right Mo Galvin, Emmett Galvin, Stephen McCarthy.. Photo by Lisa Omar

More silverware for St Theresa boys

By Lisa Omar

Following their success last October at the Grasshoppers Festival, Mo Galvin (under 8s), Stephen McCarthy and Emmett Galvin (under 9s), all from St Theresa's Primary School, represented Finchley Rugby Club at the Annual Middlesex County Tournament. This is by far the biggest tournament of the season with 24 different clubs being represented.

The Under 8s were runners up to Rosslyn Park in the Shield County Final. The Under 9s were runners up to Teddington in the Bowl County Final. These were fantastic achievements and show that mini rugby in Finchley is thriving.

Interrogation packs a Paxman punch

By Helen Birtwistle

Students from Woodhouse College in Finchley argued their way through to the final debate of Institute of Ideas and Pfizer Debating Matters Competition, held at the National Theatre on 16 March.

Facing five other talented teams from schools across the region, and a number of high profile judges who challenged and interrogated them, Woodhouse were the runners up of the day, winning £500 worth of resources from Hodder Education for their school library.

The Woodhouse team debated subjects as diverse as air travel and the expansion of the third runway, the arts and copyright, presumed consent in organ donation and NICE and access to drugs. Students are pitted against not only one another, but also some of the best minds in the country. Ben Dixon from Woodhouse described the Debating Matters experience as "like being questioned by Jeremy Paxman".

Impressive

But Woodhouse ably rose to the challenge. The team of Brook Hewett, Will Brennan, Elliot Burke-Perrin, Ben Dixon and Alice Esuola not only won the runners up prize, but also picked up honours in the individual competition. Joe Edwards was given an honourable mention, as was his teammate Alice Esuola, who was told by judges that she was "incredibly cogent" and "did a brilliant job of attacking the other team".

Brook Hewett so impressed the judges that he was awarded the prize for the Best Individual of the Day. Judges said that Brook had tonnes of research and statistics at his disposal and seemed to know his arguments inside out.

Going, going, gone

A week of table-top auctions culminating in a grand auction night raised thousands of pounds for Holy Trinity Primary School.

Dozens of local businesses generously donated prizes to be auctioned off to the highest bidder and parents entered into the spirit of the week with some enthusiastic attempts to out-bid each other.

Different lots were offered each morning and afternoon at drop off and collection time and then there was an auction night with plenty of money-can't-buy opportunities on offer.

More than £4,000 was raised from the event, which will be used to subsidise Holy Trinity's school trips in the summer term, and to buy new playground equipment.

Database unlocks ancestral past

Barnet residents keen to unlock their family history can now delve into their past at Golders Green library. Following a refurbishment as part of Barnet Council's £1 million Investment in Libraries programme, the council has subscribed to Ancestrylibrary.proquest.com, an online database designed to help people investigate their forebears from centuries past.

Available to Barnet library cardholders in all of the borough's libraries, the site contains millions of records including the 1841 to 1901 British census, telephone directories from the 1880s and the national index of Births,

Review: The House of Bernada Alba

By Lucy Chamberlin

One of Incognito's darker productions to date, Federico Garcia Lorca's play captures the heat and claustrophobia of a Spanish household in the 1930s, in which despite appearances, all is far from well. Its occupants are at odds with each other; each seems bent on the destruction of a sister, mother or daughter, pushing at the rigid boundaries until the household implodes.

Because of its usual association with warmth and relaxation, the Mediterranean setting somehow adds to the sinister ambience. Here, the heat is stifling, and the girls sit around endlessly waiting, withering away as they dream of Pepe 'el Romano', the village man, and of escape.

As the watching and gossiping continues, the truth gradually comes out. A war of teeth and nails, bitter words and spite ensues, but even when the inevitably violent death comes, Bernada's only concern is that people should know her daughter 'died a virgin'.

Strong performances

Desiree Silverstone was outstanding as the proud, cruel-faced Bernada, tackling the part with the same chilling ardour with which she spied

on and punished her daughters. Her convincing portrayal made a hollow mockery of the word 'mother', negating all it stands for. Wily La Poncia (the housekeeper) was brilliantly played by Georgie Russell, whose authoritative yet obedient tones offset those of her mistress and created the only medium between her and her daughters. Adriana Maestranzi and Julianne Mullen gave spirited performances as sisters Adela and Martirio, fighting

over their elder sister's fiancée with venomous ferocity.

Brian Davies' direction brought out this dark play's ominous tone. Shortly after writing it in 1936 the playwright, Lorca, was executed without trial by Franco's nationalists, and although its message is not really political, it certainly has the power to polarise opinion.

Incognito, based in Friern Barnet, will present *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* by Dario Fo from 10 - 16 May.

Games for future champions

Schoolchildren in Years 12 and below are being invited to represent Barnet, competing against London's 32 other boroughs, at this year's prestigious London Youth Games. Children can take part in 28 different sports from archery to volleyball, angling to weightlifting. Trials for most of the categories began at the end of March

Those young athletes selected will compete against more than 20,000 other children in the London Youth Games throughout June, with the finals being held on 4-5 July at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. Last year Barnet won four first places in the games, all in disability athletics.

Mini Games

Children in Year 6 and below are also being invited to take part in the Mini-Youth Games

running alongside the London Youth Games, in nine different sports: basketball, football, hockey, tag rugby, boccia, netball, athletics, swimming and gymnastics. The finals will take place at Crystal Palace on 2 July.

To find out more about the trials visit www.barnet.gov.uk and for more information on all sports included in the London Youth Games, visit www.londonyouthgames.org.