



YOUNG ARCHER



Paint it green: the guides go under camouflage. Photo by Toni.

Guides go under cover in the woods

By John Lawrence

Summer camp turned into a survival exercise for a group of Guides when Territorial Army Captain Zayne Crow and her colleague Anna of the Royal Army Nursing Corps turned up for a day of training in camouflage and survival techniques.

The girls from 4th East Finchley and 8th West Finchley Guides were at the Cherry Green Trees campsite, Colney Heath, for a five-day camp.

Zayne and Anna, both from 256 (City of London) Field Hospital, showed them conceal-

ment methods, took them on a blindfold assault course in the woods, trained them in fitness and first aid, and helped them cook Army ration packs.

Guide leader Toni Dietmann said: "The girls loved it. It was one of the highlights of the whole camp. I think they still had on most of the camouflage paint for the rest of the week."

The Girl Guide organisation is 100 years old this autumn and the 4th East Finchley Guides are celebrating their first birthday.

For more information on 4th East Finchley Guides, who meet on Thursdays, call Toni on 020 8815 0715. For information on 8th West Finchley Guides, who meet on Fridays, call Ruth on 020 8449 5598.

New toddler group

There will be wriggles and giggles galore in East Finchley as a new group for under-threes is launched. Little Fishes, the group for babies, toddlers and their parents/carers, is starting on 6 November at East Finchley Baptist Church. The sessions will be held in the church building and staffed by experienced volunteers.

Each session starts with an adult café with real coffee and newspapers plus free play for the children on a wide range of toys. This is followed by snack time for children, crafts and activities on the day's theme and singing time. The group will have a Christian ethos and activities will include sessions on harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Little Fishes will take place on Friday mornings from 9.30-11.15am at the church on Creighton Avenue. Each session costs £2.50 plus 50p for each additional sibling who is aged over six months. To find out more you can turn up on the day, contact the church office on 020 8883 1544 or email administrator@eastfinchleybc.org.uk.

Teaching life in China

By Helen Morrison, head teacher at Martin Primary School

Earlier this year, I had the good fortune to be selected by Barnet Local Authority as one of four head teachers to visit China as part of a delegation of more than 100 head teachers from all over the UK. The trip was funded by the British Council and supported by Hanban, the executive body of the Chinese Language Council International.

Martin Primary School has been chosen to partner with Longjiang Experimental School in the town of Longjiang, just outside Shunde in southern China. It is a primary school with 1,500 pupils in a relatively affluent area of China known for its furniture production.

Outstanding

I spent four fascinating days at the school, with a detailed itinerary starting early in the morning until late into the evening, my first day being marked by a spectacular flag-raising ceremony performed by pupils and staff. As well as being able to observe daily life in the school, I observed several lessons, none of which was less than outstanding.

After every lesson, whole staff teams were released so that we could meet to discuss what I had seen and share good practice. I was also treated to a truly inspiring stage performance from the children that

included acrobatics, dance, traditional Chinese drama and Kung Fu.

Surprises

My trip was full of surprises and my preconceptions about China were frequently shattered. I expected lessons to be very formal and teacher-led with children sitting in rows, but was pleasantly surprised to see very similar practice to the UK's. Staff expressed the desire to 'modernise' their teaching and everywhere I went I saw happy, relaxed and enthusiastic children. I saw real scope for my school to learn much from our partner school and vice versa.

Before I left we agreed future aims for the partnership at a formal ceremony. Short-term aims are for Martin Primary children to have the opportunity to make friends through email communication, to learn Mandarin and to celebrate festivals together, preparing them for a successful future as international citizens.

Safety first for school kids

By Janet Maitland

Do your children take their iPod, MP3 player, laptop, games consoles or mobile phone to school? In a drive to prevent school children being robbed, Barnet police are urging parents to think carefully about whether such items should be in their children's school bags.

The advice they are issuing to parents and children is to avoid carrying expensive items to school unless they are essential. Keep school bags closed at all times so no one can see your possessions.

Stay alert and aware of what's going on around you. Avoid wearing headphones or keep the volume low so you can still be alert. Don't walk alone through parks or alleyways after dark; stay in well lit

areas with a group of friends.

Mark your property with your house number and postcode using an ultra violet pen, which are available in the home security section of most DIY stores. Make a note of your phone's IMEI number, so that if your phone is stolen or lost, your phone provider can use this number to make it useless to anyone else. Get the number by keying *#06# on your phone keypad.



Create Theatre fan Sophie. Photo courtesy Lisa Omar

Get creative in the theatre

By Lisa Omar

Caroline Lau had always dreamt of opening a theatre school; this dream finally came true in January 2007, when Create opened.

Caroline's background is in teaching drama for 10 years, and as a primary school teacher in Barnet.

Create is a small theatre school with a maximum of 20 children in all classes. The aim is to create a close family feeling.

Children can attend one, two or three classes with a choice of drama, dancing, singing, Create-teenies and CR8 Street Dance. All classes are held on Saturdays at Tudor Primary School, Queens Road, N3. For more information, contact Caroline Lau on 020 8882 9009.

**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>