



YOUNG ARCHER

Daisy knocks them for six

By Diana Cormack

Thirteen-year-old Daisy Moore has had another successful cricket season. During the past year she was selected for teams in a higher age bracket and was also the sole female in two local sides. Her prowess at batting and bowling proved to be the turning point on many occasions.

Daisy, of Cromwell Close, won Finchley Under 13 Girls' award for best batter and made her first half century in an innings of 51 not out. She also scored a hat trick with the first three balls she bowled in their match against Underhill CC. She played for Middlesex Under 15 Girls and opened the bowling for Gunnersbury Women's 2nd eleven.

Daisy was the only girl in Finchley Boys' Under 13 team,

batting at number four to help them reach the finals of the under-13 knock-out cup. Also in the team were local boys Luke Chater, Ferdinand Hunter (captain) and Ross Sutcliffe.

All-round sportswoman

Playing for her father Robert's N2 side, Daisy dismissed some very experienced male cricketers.

As well as succeeding at cricket Daisy has won the Barnet Indoor Rowing Championship in her age group for the past two years, representing Hendon School. Despite being an August baby and therefore nearly a year younger than most, she gained twelfth place in the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships. Now Saracen Rugby Club is looking at Daisy for their ladies team.



Daisy Moore. Photo by Diana Cormack

Fortismere pilots new school day

By Noah Style, Year 10, Fortismere School

Last term, after consulting with parents, Fortismere School piloted a new school day running from 8.35am to 3pm.

As a student there, I found the first week in November rather strange, getting into the habit of different lesson times; so too did the teachers. Now, the new day seems normal.

It brings both good and bad with it. The obvious advantage to students is finishing earlier than other schools; it is like rolling back the years to nursery, with an early finish. This early end allows us more time to socialise, do homework and attend regular twilight sessions (catch-up lessons for GCSE years).

Like many other pupils at the school, I find that the new break and lunchtime are too short. During break, if you need to walk from one wing to the other to get to your next lesson, that's your break finished! The lunch break also is too short, being only 40 minutes, so there is not much time to catch up with friends, especially if you are queuing for lunch.

Extra-curricular impact

Although the short lunch may not be considered to affect the school routine, it does actu-

ally have a large impact on the lunch clubs and music groups. There is considerably less time for sports at lunch, taking into account that you must change into kit and eat.

Music groups such as the orchestra and choir also suffer, and often run over into the registration period. Some groups, therefore, are forced to meet after school (as well as during lunch), to make up for lost time and to prepare for concerts.

So, to summarise, for an individual who is not actively involved with extra-curricular activities in the school, the positives probably do outweigh the negatives. But for those attending twilight sessions or other activities, the day just seems longer, though the after-school activities do finish earlier than they would have done previously.

There will be another questionnaire sent out by the school following the pilot to find out whether or not parents, and more importantly students, want to continue with this new day.

Manorside news

In December, Manorside School's infant production of *The Nutcracker* blew the audience away with its heady mix of dance, fabulous costumes, singing and storytelling.

After a term of visits to theatres and cinemas, the seasonal festivities started with the whole school attending *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus* at artsdepot. Christmas parties took place throughout the school, while Santa stopped by his Manorside grotto for a slice of cake (and to see the children, of course) and to celebrate this year's great SATs results and value-added scores.

Review: The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus

By Helen Drake

Apetulant teenage Father Christmas enacted on stage is something you should not miss! *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus* was a thoroughly charming, amusing artsdepot show that received a big thumbs-up from my children, aged 8 and 10.

With echoes of *The Wizard of Oz* (not surprising as it is based on a book by the same author, L. Frank Baum), the orphaned Claus, meaning "little one", grows up in the enchanted forest with nymphs and other immortals until he strikes out on his own journey of self-discovery.

On the way he meets the Fairy of Song who bears a remarkable likeness to Stacey from *The X Factor* and the bad boy Jack Frost.

In a Damascene moment our young Claus decides that "every man should leave the earth a better place than when he was born". In his quest to fulfil this aspiration the origins of all our Christmas traditions are revealed: hanging up our stockings (it saves time) and coming down the chimney (who answers the door in the dead of night?)

The reindeer, Flossie and Glossie, are the grumpiest you'll ever meet; and rich, demanding Bessie Blythsome is a finely-drawn comic creation ("where are my people?") who would bring a smile to the face of any Scrooge in your entourage. Verdict from this family: it's a seasonal classic.

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Brookland School children get ready to skip. Photo by Ziz Chater

School goes skip-tastic

Children at Brookland Infant and Nursery School in Hampstead Garden Suburb got out their skipping ropes for a Skip-a-Thon to raise money for the BBC's *Children in Need*.

All the pupils involved had taken skipping lessons in the spring term and had been practising their skills during the summer term. This event gave them the opportunity to put them to the test.

Each class took turns to skip to music for five minutes. The older children were particularly competitive, each trying to be the one to complete the most skips at a time.

Teachers said the children looked forward to fundraising events and they were an important part of school activities. Previously the children have raised money for Cystic Fibrosis and Marie Curie Cancer care.

Sponsorship by friends and family meant the Skip-a-Thon raised more than £1,000 for Children in Need, with the highest amount raised by one child being more than £70.

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>