



YOUNG ARCHER

Fun and surprises in poetry showdown

Students in Year 10 at Fortismere School took part in Y'Poetry, a European poetry project for young people aged 15-17 from Amsterdam, Antwerp, and London. Fifteen-year-old Hazel Bergeron-Stokes, of Fortis Green, came second out of 1,500 entrants in this poetry writing and performing competition. Here Hazel writes about the event:

My whole poetry journey was fun, from beginning to end; from writing my poem at the very start to being called out as second place. The first round was completely nerve-racking, especially as my school, Fortismere, had to go first. I remember shaking quite badly when I got up to the microphone, but amazingly I managed to win a trophy for best performance, which was really rewarding as I had put my whole heart into writing the poem, called *The Promise*.

Then there were the finals in Amsterdam. It was a really fun experience and I enjoyed meeting new people and making new friends. I loved all the different workshops we did, especially the drama workshop, where we all loosened up and learned how to read our poems better.

My favourite part of the trip was sitting having dinner prior to the performance, enjoying the anticipation and getting excited, so I definitely had enough adrenaline for reading my poem. I was so taken



aback when the winners were announced. I didn't possibly think it could have been me, but I was so happy.

I thought all of our poems were great, and I would have been happy even if just one of us from the UK team had won a prize, but I was so happy and felt so proud of myself for such an achievement. I was so shocked, and had no idea I was going to win, but of course I was pleased!

The Promise

By Hazel Bergeron-Stokes

Promised myself to write a letter with shaking, turning hands and tobacco stained fingers.

My lips and words, stumbled over themselves while you bit yours, no words fell out.

Shades of black and blue mottled your china-white neck, a conversation not worth having.

You said you liked to lie in your bed, your nest. You left the house about once a month, barely there, rush and rapid fading.

I liked to imagine our hands could melt into each other. We would be still while delicate rain could dance a performance for our staring eyes.

I was fainting, falling, forgotten.

I still see shades of green and blue in the eyes I never really knew.

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PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- ❖ **Coffee & Kids**, Fri 9.15-11.15, Green Man Ctr. Rachel 8343 6147.
- ❖ **Dads' Club**: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ❖ **Newstead Parent & Toddler Group**, Thurs 9-12-30, Green Man Ctr. Sajni 8359 3460.
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3s. Karen 07957 278860.

Climb inside art

By Lisa Omar

Year 2 children at St Theresa's Catholic School recently gave a warm welcome to James Mayhew, the well known illustrator and author of children's books.

James' first book *Katie's Picture Show* was published in 1989. This was the beginning of a long-running series about a girl who explores famous paintings by climbing inside them. James is passionate about introducing children to art, music, opera, ballet and traditional tales.

The children spent time asking James many of their own questions. They found out that the *Katie* books are based on his sister Kate; that

his favourite book is *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; his favourite pudding is banana custard; and if he could have dinner with any two famous people, it would be Doris Day and Sophia Loren.

James spent the whole day with Year 2 children and read them a story about George and the Dragon. He painted an incredible picture while telling the story. The children created a 'big' picture (about 4m long) based on James' story. All the children worked together and produced an amazing picture.



James Mayhew photo by Nicky Johnson

Young swimmer on course to raise £1,000

Martin Primary School pupil Archie Price (*THE ARCHER*, April 2012) completed his 5km Swimathon at Barnet Copthall Leisure Centre to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Cheered on by family and friends from his swimming club, Barnet Copthall, he completed the 200-length challenge in a time of 1hr 44 minutes. Archie has so far raised nearly £600 in online and offline donations, but is hoping to raise over £1,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Natasha Sadaoui, Community Fundraiser at the Marie Curie Hospice in Hampstead, said: "Archie's amazing efforts will go to providing vital care to those in the local community

who are in need of our services which we provide totally free of charge. It costs us £5.3 million to run the hospice each year and we wouldn't be able to fund it without the support from the local community." After his swim, Archie said: "I was feeling very nervous but I just wanted to do it for my friend's sister who has cancer and also Stilyan Petrov who is the captain of my favourite football club, Aston Villa." If you would like to sponsor Archie visit www.archieprice.com.

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