



What's Father's Day all about?

By Diana Cormack

Mother's Day in this country is always on the third Sunday before Easter. It comes from a very old British tradition connected with the church and its correct name is **Mothering Sunday**. **Father's Day** is always on the third Sunday in June. It is only just over a hundred years old but also has some connection with the church.

Like many of our newer special days, it began in the United States of America. Twenty seven year old Sonora Louise Smart Dodds was in church listening to a sermon on Mother's Day (which they have in May). A mother herself, she wondered why there was no special day to honour fathers. Her father, a farmer and civil war veteran, had brought up his six children alone after their mother died. Being the eldest and the only girl, Sonora had helped him and knew how hard he had worked.

She talked to local people about it and, just one year later, her hometown of Spokane in the state of Washington celebrated the very first Father's Day. That was in 1910 and Sonora chose 19 June because it was her father's birthday. In 1924 the US President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. It gradually became popular in the USA and Sonora saw it become a permanent national day six years before her death in 1978. By then this day devoted to dads had spread to other countries, including Great Britain, where it is now a tradition. This year Father's Day is on Sunday 16 June.

Father's Day quiz: Can you name the fathers?

1. His eldest son is called Brooklyn.
2. A prince with a baby due in July.
3. He is also known as Saint Nick.
4. His son was a puppet called Pinocchio.
5. This animal is the father of a lamb.
6. He shot an arrow into an apple on his son's head.
7. He appears around New Year.
8. Father of the Greek gods.

Answers: 1. David Beckham, 2. Prince William, 3. Father Christmas, 4. Geppetto, 5. A ram, 6. William Tell, 7. Old Father Time, 8. Zeus.

Voices of the valleys

Anyone interested in enjoying an evening of songs from stage and screen is warmly invited to hear the **Three Valleys Male Voice Choir** at 7.30pm on **Saturday 8 June** at **St James's Church, Muswell Hill**, with all proceeds going to the **North London Hospice**.

Tickets are £15, £12 concessions and £5 for children under 16. They can be obtained from Peter Kraushar (020 8883 4736), from the Hospice shops in Muswell Hill and East Finchley or from the bookshop at St James Church.

A friendly welcome awaits you

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YOUNG ARCHER



These young frogs got into theatre with Full Circle

Summer stage workshop

Full Circle Theatre Club is running another of its popular one-week summer workshops for anyone who loves to act, dance or entertain.

Children can learn several big-show dance numbers as well as act out scenes and sketches from various shows, working towards a performance on the last day.

The summer school takes place from Monday 29 July to Friday 2 August at Manorside School, Squires Lane, N3, from 10am to 3pm each day, and the cost is £75. To book a place or for further details contact: Anne-Marie Conway on 07958

409863.

Full Circle is a well-established theatre company run by three qualified and highly experienced teachers. Its next show is Hackback, a madcap

computer caper, at Finchley Youth Theatre, High Road, for three evening performances from 14-16 June. Tickets cost £8 and can be bought from Anne-Marie on the number above.

PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- **Baby & U baby massage.** Contact Ruth at babymassagewithruth@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/baby-andubabymassage
- **Bringing up Baby.** Screenings of the latest films for parents with babies. Phoenix Cinema. Wednesdays 11am. Box office 020 8444 6789.
- **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
- **Phoenix Cinema activities,** Bringing up baby screenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 12pm; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.
- **Stepping Stones,** interactive play session for under 3s. Karen 07957 278860.
- **Teddy Bears' Music,** singing for 0-3s in Holy Trinity Church, N2; Thursdays 9.45am & 10.45am. Liz 07836 284538.



Dominik with St Theresa's head and deputy head, Ed Packshaw and the tiger. Photo by Jack Paget

Ed rides out to save the tiger

By Lisa Omar

Conservationist Ed Packshaw visited St Theresa's Catholic Primary School to enlighten pupils about his conservation work with Saving the Bengali Tigers before starting a cycle rickshaw across a 400km stretch of southern Bangladesh, over six gruelling, 70km days to raise money for his charity WildTeam (www.wild-team.org).

He showed the children pictures of the different types of tigers and gave a fascinating talk about the threat from poachers.