



YOUNG ARCHER



Saddle up, Rudolph

A rodeo reindeer and a human fruit machine were two of the highlights of Holy Trinity Primary School's parents association Christmas Fair on the last weekend of November.

All in all, the event raised more than £3,100 which will help Holy Trinity to create an all-year accessible outdoor play area, as well as buying additional classroom supplies and equipment.

Organisers thanked all the staff, children and parents who made it such a successful event, and also their many spon-

sors including Haven Estate Agents, Pizza Hut, Lee Baron Chartered Surveyors, M & M Asset Management, Jennie Mann, Fletrons Limited Building Services Engineers, Executive Developments Limited, Amy's, Horrible Histories Walking Tours and Tony's Continental.

Looking back to the future

By Diana Cormack

By the time the first *ARCHER* of 2015 has been pushed through your letterbox, most people will have looked back at events of the past year and wished one another happiness for the new one. Being the first month of the year, January is suitably named after a Roman god who could look backwards into the past and forwards into the future at the same time.

A two-faced watchman

Janus watched over the gates of heaven and was the god of entrances and exits. He was shown with two faces which looked in opposite directions, so had no problem seeing who or what was coming or going. This was particularly useful for keeping track of an enemy. A temple in Rome was dedicated to Janus. The doors were kept shut in times of peace but left open when the Romans were at war, ready for the return of their victorious army. The temple had

12 windows and four doors, a window for each month and a door for every season.

During the first month of the year the Romans made offerings of new wine and food at festivals in honour of Janus. They asked him to forgive any wrong they had done in the old year and to bring them happiness in the year to come. As well as being the god of doors and windows Janus (from which we get the word janitor) was also the god of beginnings, which made him the ideal god for the New Year.

Hole in the wall

A new cash machine has been installed in the front window of UOE in the High Road. The ATM complements the Post Office services, which have been hosted inside the store since last summer.



The new ATM has been installed at the UOE post office. Photo Mike Coles

High-tech revolution lands at Christ's College

By Neil McNaughton

Pupils at Christ's College in East End Road were treated on December 11 to an inspirational talk by Eileen Naughton, managing director of Google for the UK and Ireland. The school was hosting an event, part of the Guardian newspaper's *Speakers for Schools* programme, that was shared online with two other schools and streamed on YouTube so it could be followed by thousands of other youngsters all over the country, who could interact by asking questions online.

Ms Naughton explained the core features of Google's operation and gave the audience an insight into the high-tech future now being developed by the company, with images of driverless cars, head visors for smartphones and ultra-advanced robots. The pace of change is picking up all the time, she said, giving as an example the fact that there is as much computing power now in a modern postage stamp sized microchip as was used to take the first men to the moon in 1969.

Character counts

She encouraged her young audience to believe in themselves and their own capabilities, quoting her own unpromising background in New York compared to her success in business since. Answering a question, she said that companies like Google are looking less for formal qualifications and more for people with personal qualities such as drive, determination and a spirit of innovation. She was particularly anxious that more girls should take up careers in computing and technology. Too many of Google's 55,000 employees worldwide are males, she explained.

The meeting was chaired by Jamie Spafford, a young internet entrepreneur who developed



Eileen Naughton from Google, right, talks to Christ's College students on a national webcast with host Jamie Spafford.

the *Sorted Food* website on YouTube, supplying exotic and unusual food ideas through the net. Ms Naughton said he too was an example of what can be achieved by people with both ideas and the determination to put them into practice.

Are you a young author?

Young authors have the chance to see their work published as part of a short story writing competition being run by Barnet Libraries.

Anyone aged 11-16 can submit a short story of up to 1,000 words on a topic of their choice. The top three entries will win prizes and the overall winning story will be published locally and made available to borrow from Barnet's e-library.

Your entry must be typed and submitted in a Word document format. The closing date is 5pm on Thursday 15 January. For full details go to www.barnet.gov.uk and search for 'Teenage Writing Competition'.

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