



YOUNG ARCHER



Table talk: Author Anne-Marie Conway discusses her book with young fans.

Secrets of the author

By Olivia Csaky

East Finchley author Anne-Marie Conway's latest book *Tangled Secrets* was selected by The Guardian newspaper as one of their best new children's books for 2015. Our book club read the book and we were lucky to interview Anne-Marie about being an author.

When and why did you decide that you wanted to become an author?

Anne-Marie: I have been running a theatre company for children for many years and one year I decided to write a comedy sketch for a group of boys who wanted to do something funny. I wrote a sketch about a group of women at the hairdressers discussing their husbands and put the boys in hairdressing gowns with their hair wrapped in towels.

The sketch was a big success and I began to wonder if I could write something longer. Shortly after that, my first baby was born and I had time off work at home;

that's when I started writing Phoebe Finds Her Voice, the first book in the Star Makers series. That was 13 years ago and I've been writing non-stop ever since. **What was your favourite childhood book?**

My favourite childhood books were the Malory Towers books by Enid Blyton. I can't begin to describe how much I loved them and how many times I read them. If you'd asked me at the time I would've said that Malory Towers was a real school and that all the characters were real people. I so wanted to go there and be best friends with Darrell.

And what is your favourite book of all time?

I change favourite books all the time, but one of my favourites of all time is Captain Corelli's Mandolin. I read it in Cephalonia where it's set, so that made it even more special.

How do you come up with ideas for your books?

My first series of books was based on my own children's theatre company, Full Circle.

Since then I've written three novels. I got the idea for Butterfly Summer after chatting to a friend about a day she spent at Butterfly World in St Albans. The setting sounded so idyllic, I decided to write a really dark story set in a beautiful place. The idea for Forbidden Friends came after a holiday to Portugal where there was a mix-up with my suitcase. I suddenly realised how easy it is to grab the wrong suitcase from the conveyor belt by mistake; then I thought how exciting it would be to have a plot where you try to swap suitcases on purpose in order to pass on a secret message.

How would you spend your perfect day?

My perfect day would have to follow a perfect night's sleep, which I hardly ever get. I'd then go to Hastings to stay with my sister and her family. We'd go on a long, long coastal walk together followed by a lovely dinner in a pub with an open fire. I'd then go to bed and have another perfect night's sleep! **Tell us a secret!**

What do you mean? If I told you, it wouldn't be a secret!

A footloose and footie farewell

By Verity Smith

When the annual end-of-term concert took place at Holy Trinity Primary School at the end of July outgoing headteacher Tim Bowden was treated to some inventive valedictory performances.

The leaden clouds and light drizzle didn't deter the children from giving their carefully choreographed dances their all, from the tinies of the nursery, to the talented pupils of Year 6, themselves bidding farewell to the school.

Year 3 put together a clever medley of football songs, with various teams represented. For their finale, the whole class removed their top layer to reveal a Manchester City strip, to the delight of the club's number one fan, none other than Mr Bowden himself.

The backs of some of the 'players' had been printed with letters so they could spell out "Goodluck" to their headteacher.

Finally, the teaching staff joined together to perform another medley, this one of several more of Mr Bowden's favourite tunes. The man of the moment, unable to help himself, joined in with gusto from the sidelines.

It was a fitting and very memorable send-off for a head



Last day: Outgoing headteacher Tim Bowden

who, in his ten years at the school, did so much to create the outstanding educational environment and atmosphere of happy, enthusiastic pupils... who love a bit of disco.

Time to learn

The Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, founded in 1839 and described as 'North London's hidden secret', is now booking for its autumn range of courses.

They range from creative activities, such as drawing and painting, embroidery and creative writing, to cultural studies including architecture, literature and the Mediaeval World, along with language courses for different abilities.

Among the new language courses being offered this year is Italian for Beginners, as well as more advanced classes. Other languages covered are French, German and Spanish, and there is a popular Latin class.

The Institution is in the centre of Highgate Village only a few yards from the 143 bus stop which makes it very accessible from East Finchley.

Martin Adeney, a member of the Education Committee which organises the courses, said: "We already have a strong representation from East Finchley. A lot of people have already discovered us but we are keen to make our facilities better known, including our library and high quality weekly lectures and debates on current issues. We also have a Film Society and an Opera Circle."

Courses start on Monday 21 September. For more information, contact the HLSI, 11 South Grove, Highgate, N6 6BS on 020 8340 3343 or visit www.hlsi.net

Open

EVENING

Wednesday
7 October 2015
6pm-9pm

AFTERNOON

Wednesday
21 October 2015
1.30pm-3pm



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www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

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With Crèche and Young Church**

Worship Music Social events
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