



YOUNG ARCHER



Chess champs: The Coldfall Primary U9 team

Chess masters plot moves to the final

Chess masters from Coldfall Primary School in Muswell Hill had a phenomenally successful weekend in the 2017 National Primary Schools Chess Championships with both the Under 9 and Under 11 teams qualifying for the National Semi-Finals.

Coldfall U11s won the tournament ahead of some strong north London chess schools including Latymer Prep, Manor Lodge, Wetherby Prep and hosts The Hall. There were 10 school teams taking part. Coldfall played five matches and were undefeated, winning four and drawing one.

The U9 team finished equal third also earning a place in the semi-final stage of the competition. Both teams now go on to compete over the weekend of 19-21 May in Camber Sands, Sussex.

Headteacher Evelyn Davies said: "Many of the children in

the team have been playing chess at Coldfall since a very young age and have earned their success through hard work and their determination to do better. We are very proud of them. We are also so grateful to our incredible coach, Kamlesh, for continuing to teach and inspire the teams."

The U11 team members were: Frankie Badacsonyi, Joe Balint-Kurti, Zaki Bawany, Talia Herberg, Max Pollack and Daniel Shapiro. The U9 team members were: Max Bird, Sammy Bird, Geronimo Dron-Salem, Lucas Klerk, Noah Hacking, Lola Rook.

Grace is a great Guide

A Guide from the 4th East Finchley group has won an award for being such an enthusiastic and supportive member of the unit. Grace, 15, joined Guides at the age of 12 and threw herself into it whole-heartedly.

Leader Toni says the younger Guides look to her for advice and she is always happy to give it. She loves singing, dancing and drama and regularly runs games and activities for everyone in the unit.

Grace received her Jack Petchey award from the Mayor of Barnet Cllr David Longstaff. As part of her reward her unit was given £250 and so everyone went ice skating.

The 4th East Finchley Guides meet on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9pm at St Mary's Church on the High Road, and currently has spaces for girls living in N2 who are 10-14 years old. To register your interest in joining go to: www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/



Medal of honour: Grace receives her award from the Mayor

Don't let the bedbugs bite!

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard

Nick Pelas, who alternates between living in East Finchley and Clacton, directed a production of Kafka's *Metamorphosis* at the Dugdale Theatre, Enfield, and the Hen and Chickens in Highbury last November, but with a twist: the action was transplanted into a village in west Africa, with protagonist Abeni Wassiri becoming a cockroach!

The first time I met Nick, he was directing an earlier adaption of this. He kindly offered me a part in his next production, a modern adaptation of *Hamlet*, and I've since worked with him in musicals, comedy variety shows and burlesque.

Huge scary puppet

In 2014, I took up puppetry, inspired by a friend who was in *War Horse*. Knowing this, Nick has often provided roles that allow me to work with puppets. *Metamorphosis* was one of these. With a tiny speaking part as a nerdy narrator who is deliberately heckled off at the beginning, my main role was operating the human-sized cockroach once the metamorphosis has taken place; a great experience and terrific fun.

Covered head-to-foot in black, I was invisible in a theatrical sense and played Abeni's inner beast, rebelling against her misunderstanding family, 'scaring' members of the audience, before being chased back into her bedroom to die and disappear.

I built the puppet, whom the cast affectionately nicknamed 'Tina', from an artificial Christmas tree spine, discarded mop sticks and umbrella spokes for the legs (wrapped in Christmas tree branches for the hairy look) and an inside-out painted carpet for the body shell. Chicken Shed Theatre, where I volunteer, now has the puppet.

Future plans

Since then, Nick has directed a production of Dante's *Inferno* at the Curtain's Up Theatre in Barons Court, another tremendous success. I'm now preparing some puppet pieces for the East Finchley Festival in June, while Nick will be directing Oscar Wilde's *Salome* in October at The Curtain's Up.



Jake tackling Tina - the human sized cockroach. Photo Wesley Chan

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
(11.00 a.m. on Wednesdays)

(Coffee served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Holy Week Services:

9 April - Palm Sunday - 10.00 a.m.
Solemn Mass with Blessing of Palms

13 April - Maundy Thursday - 8.00 p.m.
Mass of the Lord's Supper

14 April - Good Friday - 3.00 p.m.
Sung Celebration of the Lord's Passion

15 April - Holy Saturday - 8.00 p.m. The Easter Vigil

16 April - Easter Day - 10.00 a.m.
Parish Mass of Easter Day

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir.

New singers are always welcome.

For more details, contact the Vicar,
Fr Christopher Hardy, on 020 8883 9315
<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

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