



Early intervention counts for a lot

By Diana Cormack

Number Champions is a charity helping primary school children struggling with numeracy or lacking confidence in maths. Set up by East Finchley residents Bernard and Sarah Manson in summer 2018, it was active in six boroughs just 18 months later.

Specifically targeted at Years 2 and 3, where initial research has shown there is already a strong need for such intervention, the charity supplies volunteers who go into schools on a regular basis to work with six- to eight-year-olds.

Results have shown a very positive impact on children who take part, in both numeracy skills and self-esteem. Pupils at Holy Trinity, Manorside, and Martin Schools have benefited from Number Champions' assistance.

Bernard told *The Archer* that, as he approached retirement, he had been looking for something to occupy his time. Having studied mathematics at university he thought of supplying numeracy support similar to the reading help scheme his wife was involved in. Advice from teachers and friends led to him launching the charity in two schools, little realising it would lead to

a full-time occupation.

Competence and confidence

As well as being enthusiastic about helping children, Number Champions volunteers need to be competent in simple arithmetic and confident in explaining it. After receiving training the volunteers work one-to-one with children in school time but outside the classroom. These sessions may have a flexible structure reinforcing basic skills or can be guided by the class teacher. Former teachers provide remote support to the volunteers.

With schools all now reopened and the charity's work back on a more even keel, Bernard is looking forward to further expansion into other boroughs. Volunteer recruitment for the school year 2021/22 is currently in progress. For more details visit www.numberchampions.org.uk.



Summer shower: Lady's Mantle, one of the art works by Mike Wasser that will be in his exhibition.

Art show back on the wall

An art exhibition cancelled at the very start of the pandemic last year is making a comeback. *Inner Landscapes*, featuring beautiful images by Mike Wasser, will be open for viewing in person at Lauderdale House, Highgate, from Wednesday 16 June until Sunday 11 July. Mike will be donating 10% of any sales

to the North London Hospice and a further 10% to Lauderdale House. Find the

exhibition and confirmed details of opening at www.lauderdalehouse.org.uk

Chamber music

Live music is returning at the High Barnet Chamber Music Festival in St John the Baptist Church, just five minutes from the tube station in High Barnet. Three concerts in July will feature works by Schubert, Mahler and Boulanger among others. Find dates and booking details at www.hbcmf.co.uk.

Saved by three teachers

By Daphne Chamberlain

Darryl Telles arrived in London from Kenya in unhappy circumstances. If you watched the BBC series *Saved by a Stranger*, you might have seen him searching for three schoolteachers who had changed the course of his life.

If you are also a regular *Archer* reader, you might remember his mother Philomena, who still lives in Leopold Road, N2, telling us in July 2019 about the background to their journey here, as well as their direct descent from William the Conqueror.

Darryl's parents were born in Goa, but moved to Nairobi, where his father worked in the Civil Service. Life in Kenya became dangerous. His grandmother was killed by the Mau Mau, leaving his father permanently traumatised, and in the 1960s the family sought refuge here.

They valued their British passports, but were shocked to encounter racism. This was the time of Enoch Powell. His father felt betrayed and had a breakdown, from which he never fully recovered. Life at home was troubled, and Darryl described himself as "very shy, nervous and anxious".

In 1970, he started school at St Theresa's RC School on East End Road, N3. It felt the only safe place. Darryl said three young teachers in particular inspired him. They gave him confidence and security as well as his love of reading and writing, and enabled him to develop his personality and his interest in politics.

Their names are Ann Schurmer, who has sadly passed away, Dawn Snodgrass and Irene Tufnell.



Life story: Darryl Telles

Dawn and Irene remembered him well, and in the programme he was able to thank them in person.

Perhaps you remember them too. *If you would like to share your memories of any teachers who influenced you, we would love to hear them.*

Guide dogs for the blind

One of the consequences of the pandemic has been a falling-off of contributions to many charities.

Guide Dogs for the Blind has said: "Less than 1% of our income comes from government funding and we rely on donations from the public to keep our life-changing services running for people living with sight loss across

the UK."

They are suggesting some ways in which we could help while enjoying summer activities. For example, they suggest JustGiving or GoFundMe pages for donations to back sunflower growing competi-

tions. They also have a guide for setting up pub quizzes, plus ready-made questions. And of course, you can always sponsor a puppy. You can contact them at fundraiseforus@guidedogs.org.uk or call 0345 143 0192.

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Mr Motor Racing

Ah, Monte Carlo at Grand Prix time: the popping of champagne corks, the jangle of gold jewellery and the sneers of the under-dressed wealthy on their yachts. Meanwhile, in the distance, there's the roar of engines and the whining of drivers desperate to find a way of beating Lewis Hamilton. Except I wasn't thinking about that, I was thinking about a weekend 60 years ago and a dentist's son from Surrey: Stirling Moss.

Back in 1961 Stirling Moss was the most famous racing driver in the world. He had finished second or third in the World Championship, for the last six seasons and won countless other races like the 1,000-mile Mille Miglia. He was the man to beat. To small boys everywhere he was Mr Motor Racing although the new season was going to be challenging even for him.

It wasn't just a new season, it was a new formula. Gone were the 2.5 litre engines and in were new, smaller 1.5 litre units. Not just that, but the wealthiest team in the world, Ferrari, had an all new car and engine. This was the iconic 156 Shark Nose with about 20% more power than anything else. This was going to be revenge time, the year to put those horrible British teams in their place after three years of playing second fiddle. To cap it all the team had three top drivers. The early season non-championship races confirmed it, this would be their year. It's just that no one had told Stirling Moss.

Moss's Lotus wasn't even new. Lotus wouldn't sell his team owner Rob Walker the latest car so he had last year's model. The Climax four cylinder was an old design as well. Not that it stopped him starting the race from pole with the three Ferraris lined up behind.

Back then the race was 100 laps and nearly three hours. Three hours when the Ferraris took it in turns to try and get past him. They failed. Mr Ferrari was not a happy man.

It probably didn't matter that much because those bloody red cars dominated the season. They won five of the seven races they entered and guess who won the other one? Yes, Stirling Moss, and that was at the 14-mile Nurburgring, the circuit they called 'the green hell' in the rain. It was to be his last Grand Prix win as the following Easter he crashed in a minor race at Goodwood, spent a month in a coma and never came back to F1.

But even Ferrari knew he was the king. Just before that fateful day at Goodwood, he'd offered Stirling a works Ferrari for the season, to be run not by the factory but by Rob Walker. Not an offer he ever made to anyone else, but no one else was Mr Motor Racing.