



## Teenager creates flags from Rubik's Cubes

By David Melsome

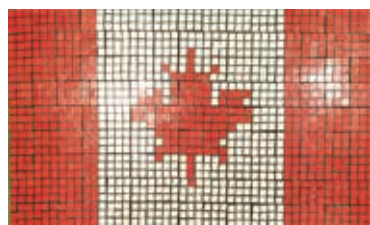
**An East Finchley teenager is creating flags of the world out of Rubik's Cubes in memory of her uncle who died of a brain tumour. Mimi Kaufmann is now part-way through a year-long challenge that will see her create 198 flags out of mini cubes, in aid of the charity Brain Tumour Research.**

The 14-year-old took up the puzzle hobby during lockdown and is now able to solve a full-size Rubik's Cube in 26 seconds. She decided to combine it with her love of flags and raise money in honour of her uncle.

Accountant David Goldschmidt was diagnosed with a glioblastoma in September 2012 after experiencing problems with his balance and spatial awareness. He died ten years ago this October, aged 51, and it is this anniversary that Mimi has been working towards.

### Problem-solving

She was taught how to use a Rubik's cube, which has 43 quintillion combinations, by her 19-year-old brother Joel, who is also a fan of the puzzle. So far she has created 79 flags from his collection of 144 mini cubes. Her mum Aviva said: "Mimi has a good problem-solving mind. She also plays chess so



Nations of the world: Mimi's versions of the flags of Canada, Grenada and Cyprus

she's good at this sort of thing."

Mimi said: "The first flag I made was British, on the day the Queen died. My last one was Ireland and I'm just finishing Israel. I had to miss out Estonia because I'm stuck with the colours of a Rubik's cube, so don't have black. I destroy them to make another but I take photos and videos of them all."

### Sponsoring research

The schoolgirl is aiming to raise at least £2,740, which is enough to sponsor a day of research at one of the charity's four Centres of Excellence. Charlie Allsebrook, community development manager for Brain Tumour Research, said: "We're really grateful to Mimi for taking on this challenge for us and wish her the best of luck finishing it by the end of the year." To support Mimi's fundraising, visit [www.just-giving.com/fundraising/mimi-kaufmann](http://www.just-giving.com/fundraising/mimi-kaufmann).



From square one: Mimi Kaufmann works on the flag of Israel

## My summer stuck inside a Triceratops tummy

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard

**A lifelong resident of East Finchley, I have worked with puppets for the last nine years and auditioned for Rentadinosaur earlier this year. Rentadinosaur, based in Orpington, Kent, performs with realistic, life-size puppet dinosaurs at shows all over Britain and further afield.**

The 'babies' are held by a visible puppeteer, but my favourite characters are definitely the larger dinosaurs, operated from inside. I was asked to operate the back of Tiny the Triceratops at the Godiva Festival in Coventry, an offer I couldn't refuse as I was finally able to work with some big puppets. Introduced to Daniel, who operates the front, I found out he too is an East Finchley resident!

Tiny's puppeteers enter and leave through the belly. I entered first, then switched on the video screen Daniel sees through, from a camera mounted in the front horn, along with fans, depending on

the heat inside.

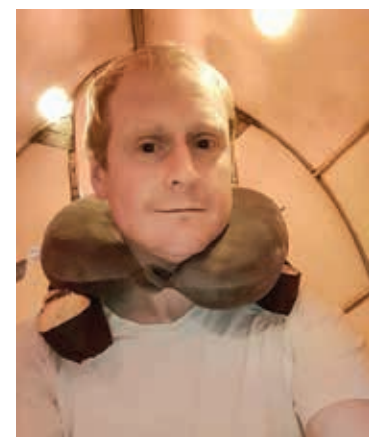
With our legs inside Tiny's, and the weight of his back carried on our shoulders, my main task was to watch Daniel's leg movements and follow them with my own, unless instructed otherwise.

Tiny leaves a marquee from one end and is led into the ring by a wrangler, also a performer, in the show. He defends his baby brother from an attack by Baxter the Tyrannosaurus, Baxter being operated by one puppeteer from inside.

With five shows that day, it was a baptism of fire and being inside what feels like a canvas submarine isn't to everyone's taste, but I loved it! The other



Wizard lizard: Baxter the Tyrannosaurus on the loose at a summer festival



Puppeteer: Jake inside the back half of Tiny the Triceratops

cast members, many of whom study dance and stage combat, were great to work with. Here's to more shows with them.

## Bishop Douglass reunion at 60

We reported last month that Holy Trinity Primary School and Archer Academy in East Finchley are both celebrating significant anniversaries this year, 175 years and 10 years respectively.

Well, they are not the only

ones. Bishop Douglass Secondary School in Hamilton Road, N2, is marking its 60th anniversary this year and has a special reunion event planned this month.

There will be a reunion of former teachers and past pupils and their guests at the school on Saturday 9 September from 4pm

to 11pm. It will be a chance to enjoy light refreshments, drinks and music in a friendly atmosphere, meeting old friends and with the opportunity to take a tour of the school and its extensions.

Entry is free on the door for former teachers while tickets for past pupils and their guests will cost £15 per person.

## Learning to explore

**The Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, located a 10-minute bus ride from East Finchley in Pond Square, Highgate, is hosting an open afternoon on Saturday 9 September from 2-4pm to let visitors explore the range of courses and lectures it has to offer.**

There are classes in literature, history, music, languages, art, history of art, garden design, embroidery, fitness and more. Find out more at [hlsi.net](http://hlsi.net).