



young archer

Valentine's Day

by Diana Cormack

February 14th has been a special date for hundreds of years. In ancient times people believed that it was the day on which the birds chose their mates and the 14th century poet Chaucer wrote about this, so spreading the story.

But long before then the Romans held a spring festival called Lupercalia around that time when young men and women danced and enjoyed themselves, sometimes drawing lots to find a partner. As often happened, when the Christians came on the scene some of the customs got attached.

A Christian martyr Valentine was killed by the Romans, probably on February 14th. However, there seem to have been two Valentines killed for being Christians in the 3rd century AD and two stories to go with them.

Two Real Romantics

One is about a Roman bishop who disagreed with the emperor's orders that his soldiers should not get married, but should devote themselves to fighting for Rome.

Valentine believed that God wanted men and women to share their love and have children, so he married couples in secret. When this was discovered, Valentine refused to say he was wrong and he was thrown into prison, where he died.

Another story is that, before his death for his Christian beliefs, a prisoner named Valentine wrote a note to the jailer's

daughter to thank her for being kind to him and signed it "your Valentine". Perhaps this is where the custom of not signing your name on Valentine cards has its roots!

Getting Personal

The very first Valentine card is supposed to have been sent in 1415 by the Duke of Orleans. He was a prisoner in the Tower of London then, so he obviously had to make it himself. In fact they were all home made until 1809, so the messages in them were often very personal, very secret but sometimes really rude or cruel.

The cards themselves could be beautiful creations made of satin, lace and bows, though the prettiest of cards might contain the nastiest of insults! They were not signed and they were delivered by hand. Part of the fun was guessing (or hoping to identify) the anonymous sender.

Don't Let On

A craze for Valentine cards in Victorian times is still with us today. Some people try to hide their identities even further by posting their cards in areas where they do not live. If you send a card, do not write your name on it. If you receive one, I hope its from the right person!

Chinese New Year

Happy New Year to our Chinese readers!

1997 is the Year of the Ox. An ox is a strong, faithful animal. A person born in this year is supposed to have a happy, successful life.

People born in 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973 and 1985 were also born in the Year of the Ox. Do you know anyone who was born in those years? Are they strong and faithful in character? Are their lives happy and successful?

Clever Clogs Corner

Can you name the partner of each of the following people?

1. Robin Hood
2. Peter Pan
3. Romeo
4. Pochahontas
5. King Arthur
6. Napoleon
7. Lois Lane
8. Punch
9. Cinderella
10. Adam
11. Bonnie
12. Anthony

Answers:-
1. Maid Marion 2. Wendy
3. Juliet 4. John Smith 5.
Guinevere 6. Josephine 7. Super-
man 8. Judy 9. Prince Charming
10. Eve 11. Clyde 12. Cleopatra

An Uninvited Visitor

By Lucy Butler, aged 9

My name is Lucy Butler and I've lived in Bedford Road in East Finchley for nearly 9 years and I've never had a visitor like I had 2 weeks before Christmas.

One Monday, my mum and my sister had gone shopping and I was in the living room watching telly when my dad shouted from the kitchen. "Come quickly, we have an uninvited visitor in our garden!" I thought it would be some everyday animal like a cat, or even a hedgehog. Can you imagine my surprise when I saw it was a real fox! My two cats (Charli and

Ella) ran out and chased him away.

We didn't see him again for nearly two weeks, but then one Saturday we were in the kitchen when we saw him standing on our shed roof. Then a few days later he walked straight in front of my dad in Bedford Road, just like he owned the place. That was the last we saw of the fox, but I know he is out there.

Jokes

Q. What does a snowman travel on?

A. An icicle

Q. What's a bee's favourite comic?

A. The Beano

Q. What is a horse and a bee's favourite T.V. programme?

A. Neighbours

John Reardon, aged 9,
Springcroft Avenue

Don't Forget
**The Archer's
Auction**
on Thursday
27th February
at
The Old White Lion
Great North Road
Free Admission

SCHOOL REPORT

News from Local Schools

Holy Trinity School

Four pupils from Year 6 organised a Blue Peter Bring and Buy Sale for leprosy.

Marc Slinger sent off to the programme for details then, with Kit Friend, Ben Hoare and Peter King, set about collecting and pricing goods to be sold.

Junior School children were able to buy at lunch time, whilst infants had their chance after school with their parents. Not only did the boys hold a successful sale, but they also organised an auction! On offer were TV scripts from "Monster Café", a keyboard, a bicycle, perfume and gift sets and tickets for "101 Dalmatians".

They raised a grand total of £149.27. Well done boys!

Martin Junior School.

The whole school took part in a Drugs Awareness Week during which the children learned about all sorts of drugs. Those taken for medicinal and other "safe" purposes were discussed as well as those used for different reasons. Information was provided in line with Barnet's on-going Health Promotion project featuring safety in general which started last year. The class teachers were strongly supported and advised by the School Liaison Officer PC Colin Moorhouse, with particular emphasis in Year 6 on drama when "What Happens If?" situations were acted out. At the end of the week there was a presentation of written work, paintings and plays by all the classes involved. Hopefully,

armed with all the information and knowledge they gained, the children will be able to make their own decisions sensibly whenever the question of drugs arises for them.

Martin Infant School

The Quantum Theatre for Science visited the school to perform "The Missing Link".

The children learned about evolution as well as about animals and the environment. The survival of animals, their need for food and water and how their surroundings can affect this provision was dealt with. The children enjoyed the performance and so learned a lot from it. The Junior School had an equally successful session of their own with the theatre group.

Fortismere School

A group of East Finchley girls attended the new judo course which is being held at the school on Monday evenings. It is organised by the North London Centre for Personal Development (NLPD 2000). The teacher is Master Steve Mitchell who has achieved a black belt 4th grade (DAN). He has one hundred caps for representing Great Britain at National and International level and has trained and competed with some of the great Judo masters in the world. Mr Mitchell holds the senior coach award and has taught at County and National level. He is also a trained physical education teacher, osteopath and counsellor. The course is open to people from the age of five upwards.

RECIPE

St. Valentine's Day Cake

By Diana Cormack

This light and moist chocolate cake should be baked in a heart-shaped tin to be fully appreciated by the recipients. You will need the following ingredients:-

- 1 potato (4oz. approx.) peeled, quartered and boiled
- 6oz. (175g) wholemeal flour
- 1oz. (25g) cocoa powder, sieved
- 2tspns (10ml) bicarbonate of soda
- Half tsp. salt
- 4oz. (100g) butter, softened
- 6oz (175g) soft brown sugar
- 3 eggs, beaten

Method.

1. Pre-heat the oven to 180C, 350F, Mark4.
2. Butter a 2.5 pint (1.5 litre) heart-shaped tin.
3. Mash the boiled potato until it is smooth.
4. Mix the flour with the sieved cocoa powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt.
5. Cream the butter then beat in the sugar.
6. Then gradually add the mashed potato, mixing smoothly.
7. Beat in the flour mixture alternately with the eggs.
8. Put the mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 20 minutes at temperature given above.
9. Lower heat to 170C, 325F, Mark3 and cook for a further 20 minutes or until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean.
10. Turn the cake out onto a wire rack and let it cool completely.

Decoration

Should you wish to decorate your cake, you could beat 4oz. (100g) low fat soft cheese into a quarter pint (150g) fresh double cream (whipped). Spread this mixture evenly over the top then put on chocolate heart-shapes or drops, sugar or rice paper flowers, or just use your imagination!!

The Archer Quiz

This month's quiz has a seasonal flavour to it.

1. On Which slopes do ski-ers learn?
2. Which English resort boasts the Winter Gardens?
3. What payments did most pensioners not get when the temperature dropped?
4. What winter warming dish is eaten with dumplings?
5. "Now is the Winter of our discontent". Which of Shakespeare's king uttered these words?
6. What was the first Mrs de Winter's forename?
7. What is Raymond Briggs' animated winter tale called?
8. What should you do before going out in cold weather?

Answers
1. Nursery 2. Bournemouth
3. Cold Weather 4. Stew 5.
Richard III 6. Rebecca
7. The Snowman 8. Wrap-up