



YOUNG ARCHER

An old storyteller

By Diana Cormack

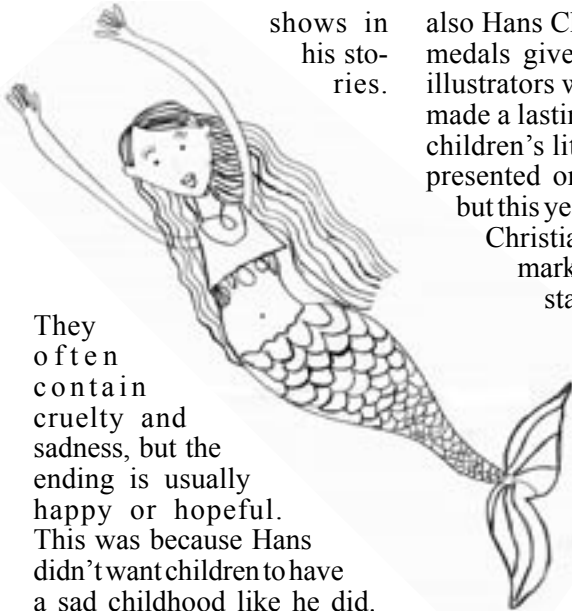
There can't be many children who have not heard, read or seen stories like *The Little Mermaid*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Thumbelina* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. The man who wrote them was born in Denmark 200 years ago, but we can still understand the message in them today.

Hans Christian Andersen's father was a poor shoemaker and his mother was a washerwoman. When Hans was 11 his father died and, after that, Hans stopped going to school for a while. That might sound all right to you, but it meant that when he was older he had to go back to his studies and sit with much younger pupils.

Happy endings

He was probably picked on at school, but staying at home doing just what he wanted - reading plays, making toy theatres and clothes for his puppets - must have got boring. At 14, Hans ran away to Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. He began writing there and he eventually finished his studies with help from the king himself!

However, Hans hated all his schooldays and this sometimes



They often contain cruelty and sadness, but the ending is usually happy or hopeful. This was because Hans didn't want children to have a sad childhood like he did. He wanted to make them laugh and feel joyful through reading his stories.

Read for yourself

In memory of this, the International Children's Book Day was set up in 1967. There are

shows in his stories.

also Hans Christian Andersen medals given to authors and illustrators whose works have made a lasting contribution to children's literature. They are presented on alternate years, but this year belongs to Hans Christian Andersen. Denmark has issued special stamps and there are events remembering him and his stories taking place all over the world. A new group called the HCA abc-Foundation has been set up to fight illiteracy.

Only when children learn to read and write can they themselves access the magical world of Hans Christian Andersen.

Illustration of *The Little Mermaid* by Akanksha Gupta, age 8.



Charlotte with a print-out of her picture-of-the-week!

Photo by Erini Rodis

Charlotte's web site

By Diana Cormack

Children from all over the country enjoy the CBeebies website, which forms part of BBC TV's provision for young people. Besides finding fun and games, things to colour and craft, stories and songs to sing, little ones can make their own contributions to the site.

So when five-year-old Charlotte Edwards of Chamberlain Road had one of her drawings particularly praised by her father, she knew just what to do with it. She asked him to send it to the CBeebies art gallery where, from the many submitted, a few pictures are selected to go on display.

Charlotte's dad obviously knows a good thing when he sees it, for her drawing was chosen as a picture of the week and shown on the Your Gallery page. It is a springtime picture of Charlotte and her friend Alice, with tulips in the background.

Unfortunately, drawings cannot be returned, but Charlotte has a certificate to remind her of the event. When asked how it felt being in the CBeebies gallery, Charlotte said, "Fantastic!"

Tale of the riverbank

Brookland Junior School in Hampstead Garden Suburb staged four successful performances of the popular riverside tale *Wind in the Willows*. Teachers and support staff put on the play at the end of March to help raise funds for new gym equipment and further funds for the tsunami relief fund.

All the well-known favourites were played by class teachers. Rob Verrell exhibited a comic talent as hapless Toad of Toad Hall; naïve Mole and optimistic Otter were played with great charm by Vanessa Woolfson and Zoe Chester; Andrew Troy played Ratty with athletic vigour and Jane Pendry created bluff but lovable Badger.

Special needs co-ordinator and class teacher Lorrae Jaderberg led her gang of weasels as Chief Weasel. Learning assistant Barbara Mathews held the stage playing the irascible judge while head teacher Heather Blackmore took a cameo role as a policeman.

Trained by parent and

talented amateur artist Claire Knight, a team of volunteers spent several hours before each performance applying make-up to create the extraordinary animal faces.

The play was produced by dynamic year 5 teacher Katie Kraus, co-ordinating all the staff and parents who made the production such a success. The performances raised £4,000 for school funds.

Andrew Craze, Year 6 teacher and assistant head, directed the play. He said, "It was hard work, but the end result was fantastic. The success of the play is a testament to the dedication and cooperation of our great staff and committed parents."

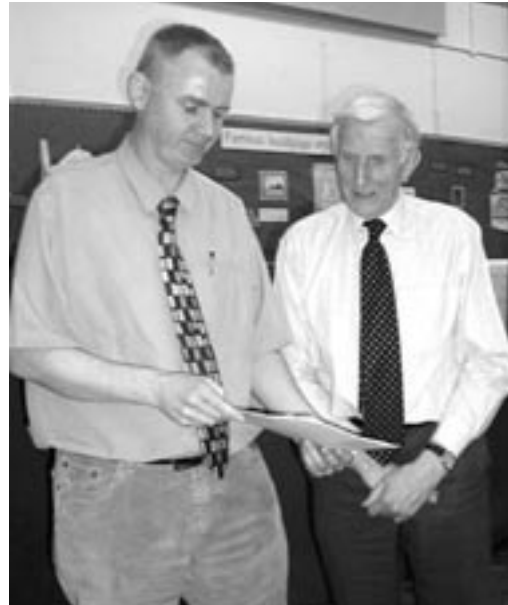
How children learn

By Helen Drake

An education expert spoke to parents at an East Finchley school on the importance of supporting children as they work their way through their school lives.

Martin Infant and Nursery School welcomed eminent educationalist Dr David George for the special event on 4 April. Dr George works to raise the potential of all children and has done considerable work with gifted and talented pupils. After spending the whole day working with the staff team, Dr George addressed the parent group that evening.

Head teacher Kevin Anscorb was delighted to see between 80-



Head of Martin Infant School Kevin Anscorb (left) with Dr David George. Photo by Helen Drake

100 parents attend this special and informative evening. He said: "Parents' involvement in the education of their children, especially young children, is key not only to their academic development but also to their social and emotional welfare. It was so good to hear Dr George speak powerfully about the contribution parents can make in supporting the school and pupils."

Azra Nath, head of the school's parent-teacher association, described Dr George's talk as 'inspirational'.

The school is very pleased to be able to open its doors to the community. Mr Anscorb said it was important that not only

the parents of children attending Martin Infant School but also members of the local community and parents of children who attend other schools are encouraged to participate in future events.

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

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

For more information
please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome

R.S.P.C.A.
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