



## YOUNG ARCHER



Year 4 pupils from Manorside Primary School with the gowns they designed for the Blue Peter Send a Smile campaign.

## Blue Peter badges all round

By Julia Bramson

Year 4 from Manorside School went on set at the Blue Peter studios on Wednesday 21 October to help launch the Blue Peter Appeal 2009/2010.

### Girl about East Finchley

### Cereal killer

By Fay Sanders

From the outset I knew it was going to be no ordinary trip to Budgens. Bringing my bike was definitely a mistake, given I'd left my lock in the office. After the long uphill ride from central London to East Finchley, I was feeling too jaded to go home and then come back out again. I flashed the security guard an impervious smile as I sidled past him, hoping his gaze would not reach as far as my bike, which after all, is pretty light and small.

"Sorry, you can't bring your bike in, it's too busy in here." Crestfallen, I braced myself for cycling back to my flat, followed by a takeaway pizza. "Leave it here, I'll keep an eye on it," he added cheerfully.

I wasn't expecting that. Before I knew it, my shiny new racing bike was towed away to the fruit and veg zone and propped up against a crate of bananas. "Don't worry, I'll keep an eye on it," he insisted.

#### Baby-minding

I didn't want to offend him. As I edged away, like a mother reluctantly leaving her baby in the charge of a total stranger, I turned around a couple of times to check he was still guarding my bike. I decided to whizz around the aisles as quickly as possible.

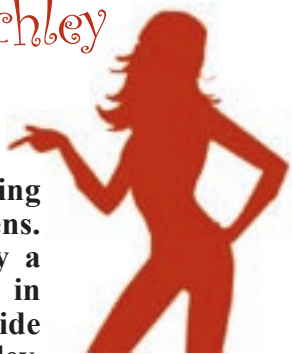
Deprived of the usual time I would take to mull over potential purchases, I flung each product I came across hastily into the basket. It was only at the till, with my bike safely in my vision again, that I realised I had accumulated rather a large collection of products.

#### Space-saving

The friendly security guard ambled over to join me at the till. He was clearly not prepared to stand back and watch me try to cram my bulky shopping into my smallish rucksack and began gleefully tearing off packaging to save space, dropping the items into my bag.

To my utter dismay, before I could stop him he had torn the box clean away from my Fruit 'n' Fibre, complete with special offer voucher.

As I bitterly decanted my cereal into a plastic box later that evening, I rued the fact that for the next 500g of cereal I would be unable to stare sleepily at the box as I chomped on my cereal and listened to Radio 4. My bike was safe, but breakfast time wouldn't be the same.



Operation Smile, a UK-based charity, changes the lives of children in developing countries by performing repairs on cleft lips and palates. The Blue Peter "Send a Smile" appeal is asking children to recycle old t-shirts and create customised medical gowns, usually costing £3, to free up more money for operations in India.

#### World-wide birth defect

In the weeks before the visit to Blue Peter, Year 4 watched a moving film about the effects on children of what is the third most common birth defect globally. These effects include problems with eating, drinking, and speaking.

Having seen the film, each child designed a hospital gown to take along with them to the BBC studios and the class produced a talking book. During the programme Year 4 were on the studio floor creating gowns and getting involved. Andy, one of the presenters, spent time talking to the children and going through the talking book with them.

#### Ambassadors

A letter from the Blue Peter team revealed that they were very impressed with the effort that went into the children's handiwork, and that the talking book was passed around the staff and was even displayed in team meetings. The children were described as "a credit to the school and a joy to have on the programme".

This was a fantastic opportunity for Year 4 who proved to be superb ambassadors for the school and truly earned their Blue Peter badges.

## Teaching life in China

By Helen Morrison, head teacher at Martin Primary School

Earlier this year, I had the good fortune to be selected by Barnet Local Authority as one of four head teachers to visit China as part of a delegation of more than 100 head teachers from all over the UK. The trip was funded by the British Council and supported by Hanban, the executive body of the Chinese Language Council International.



Mrs Helen Morrison, Headteacher at Martin Primary School, proudly shows her copy of THE ARCHER to Martin's partnership school in the Shunde district of China.

Martin Primary School has been chosen to partner with Longjiang Experimental School in the town of Longjiang, just outside Shunde in southern China. It is a primary school with 1,500 pupils in a relatively affluent area of China known for its furniture production.

#### Outstanding

I spent four fascinating days at the school, with a detailed itinerary starting early in the morning until late into the evening, my first day being marked by a spectacular flag-raising ceremony performed by pupils and staff. As well as being able to observe daily life in the school, I observed several lessons, none of which was less than outstanding.

After every lesson, whole staff teams were released so that we could meet to discuss what I had seen and share good practice. I was also treated to a truly inspiring stage performance from the children that

included acrobatics, dance, traditional Chinese drama and Kung Fu.

#### Surprises

My trip was full of surprises and my preconceptions about China were frequently shattered. I expected lessons to be very formal and teacher-led with children sitting in rows, but was pleasantly surprised to see very similar practice to the UK's. Staff expressed the desire to 'modernise' their teaching and everywhere I went I saw happy, relaxed and enthusiastic children. I saw real scope for my school to learn much from our partner school and vice versa.

Before I left we agreed future aims for the partnership at a formal ceremony. Short-term aims are for Martin Primary children to have the opportunity to make friends through email communication, to learn Mandarin and to celebrate festivals together, preparing them for a successful future as international citizens.

## Your chance to play the Royal Albert Hall

Young musicians are being sought across the borough for a prestigious concert at the Royal Albert Hall in April 2010.

A total of 1,500 children from 30 Barnet primary and secondary schools, bands and orchestras from three music centres will take part in the massive Barnet One Voice concert, which is being supported by the English Pocket Opera Company.

The concert will represent music from across the borough and will include Barnet's own performance of Bizet's *Carmen* in the second half of the performance. *Carmen* workshops with Eng-

lish Pocket Opera Company will take place at Hendon Music Centre, St Mary's High School, Downage, Hendon on Saturday 5 December; and at East Barnet Music Centre, Westbrook Crescent on 9 January 2010.

Young people wishing to play in one of the groups or sing in one of the choirs can email the event co-ordinator at lynn.holman-fox@barnet.gov.uk or contact the Music Office on 020 8359 6310.