



Ali shows Pam Kent and Don Fade of Hamilton Road how it's done.
Photo by Diana Cormack

Bishop Douglass School experiments with locals

By Diana Cormack

At the end of March Bishop Douglass RC School in Hamilton Road held a special event to mark National Science and Engineering Week. The school, which was awarded science college status in 2007, invited neighbouring residents into its science block, named after the first headteacher Michael Caulfield.

Guests were greeted by Science College Director Mr Oza along with Head of Science Dr Williams and teachers Ms Boohan and Mr Kennedy plus lower and upper sixth pupils Ali, Charles, Chelsea, Kinga and Shahaz. Groups of adults were allocated to a student who was to be responsible for guiding them through the objective of the evening – to conduct a scientific activity. Before this everyone was able to relax and chat over drinks and nibbles.

Many school day memories were revived as the adults worked with scientific equipment. Under the polite and friendly guidance of the sixth

formers they followed a worksheet from the 'harnessing chemicals' module to produce a scented face cream. These students were all high achievers, some having Oxford or Cambridge universities within their sights, and they were a credit to the school.

As well as being a showcase for the department, the evening provided a good opportunity for interaction between the different age groups and was a confidence booster for the youngsters.

Everyone enjoyed the experience and Mr Oza told *THE ARCHER* that he hoped this sort of event could become a regular feature at the school.

Archie (and team) did it!

Thanks to everyone who sponsored Martin School pupil Archie Price for this year's Swimathon charity swim. Featured in *THE ARCHER* last month, the seven-year-old managed to swim 28 lengths of the Oasis pool in Covent Garden, over twice the distance he was expecting to swim.

His dad Chris Price said: "It was great. We're so proud of him. Archie was really spurred on by all the readers of *THE ARCHER* who pledged money for what is a really, really good cause. He just kept going even though he was swimming in a lane full of adults and it was tough going at times."

Archie and his friend Ella

Coleman were swimming as part of Team Goggleblog to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care, a charity that helps the terminally ill to be looked after in their own home. So far, Team Goggleblog has raised nearly £800 in sponsorship. But there's still time to make your donations at www.archieprice.com.

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>

Return of the Morris Men

By John Dearing

Following the success of their tour of East Finchley last year, the Westminster Morris Men will be returning on 19 May, visiting the Windsor Castle pub at 7.45pm, the Five Bells pub at 8.30pm and the Old White Lion pub at 9.15pm. They will be performing a series of traditional dance routines for your entertainment, while you enjoy the beer (as they will be doing). Watch out for a mythical creature who emerges from the shadows to claim a kiss from unwary young ladies!

PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Coffee & Kids, Fri 9.15-11.15, Green Man Ctr. Rachel 8343 6147.
- ❖ Dads' Club: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ❖ EF National Childbirth Trust contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ❖ Newstead Parent & Toddler Group, Thurs 9-12-30, Green Man Ctr. Sajni 8359 3460.
- ❖ Old Barn pre-school club, contact 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ Parent & Toddler Group, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ Stepping Stones, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.

YOUNG ARCHER

UFO sighting at Martin School

By Lowri Dillon and Lorna Manning, Year 6

Teachers of Year 6, with a bit of help, came up with the idea to enrich our English lesson in rather a strange way. Both classes mingled together and were told that a serious incident had occurred. We then trekked onto the rather soggy school field to investigate a 'UFO' sighting.

We were shocked when we saw the four crop circles that were covered with police tape. Some groups had to interview and some had to look for evidence. The interviewing groups interviewed the caretaker Tristan Green, deputy head Mr Pickering, and two local police officers.



The others went with the teachers and found some silver cloth which was scorched, some green goo and some mysterious large footprints. We also found some mirrors with weird patterns and symbols on them.

Anya Vallentin, one of our classmates, said: "It was really fun, because instead of just doing the task we got to experience it."

When we had collected all of the information that we needed, we went back inside and discussed what we thought and what would make a good story. We jotted down our ideas then shared them with the class.

Soon, we had, in groups, all written great articles about the situation.

Many of us thought that there was a real alien, and some believed that it was Mr Green that created it as a cover-up story for the heating which had broken earlier on....

All in all, it was great fun and we think that it helped us improve our writing skills. However, we couldn't have done it without the help of Tristan, the local police and our fantastic teachers. So, in the future, if you ever see a UFO, give us a call. Watch out, aliens!

Chilling tale of Frankenstein's monster

Finchley Youth Theatre recently performed Mary Shelley's gothic horror Frankenstein. Francis Atkinson was in the audience and gives us his review. Cast member Megan Fellows, 18, tells us what it was like to work on the production at the High Road theatre.

Francis writes: The cast had been rehearsing for over a term to produce a piece of theatre equally as ambitious as last year's *West Side Story*. As usual, the acting was top quality and the monster himself was played by an assortment of cast members working in tandem.

The play focused on the plight of the monster that Frankenstein creates and invited the audience to be sympathetic to its desire to be accepted amongst humans. The set was intricately detailed, rope nets were hung from the ceilings and authentic-looking barrels and boxes were strewn across the floor. A smoke machine provided the sinister atmosphere and a winch was even used for a hanging scene. The cast had worked tirelessly to put the show together. Kudos should also be given to the technical team in creating a stage show comparable to the West End.

Megan writes: Being a part of the Frankenstein cast was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. We came together as a group which supported each other: quite literally in fact, with all the carrying, lifting and balancing that this physically-demanding show required.

At first we were a bit daunted by our director Liz Sacre's aspirations. Liz had visions of flying ropes, fog machines and rigging, consuming the length of the stage. Liz's vision, although highly eccentric at times, proved to be the 'oomph' factor of our performance.

From the incredibly eerie crypt and graveyard scenes, to the heart-warming moments when the monster longs for acceptance, the FYT cast were able to deliver a performance peppered with a variety of different emotions, atmosphere and tone.

We spent several months prior to rehearsals improvising scenes and physical movements in order to create the script. The end result was a production which contained a little bit of each member's own directorial interpretation.



Chilling scenes from Frankenstein. Photo courtesy Finchley Youth Theatre