



## From Mandela to Amy: a fresh take on famous faces

They may be some of the most photographed people in recent history but sometimes it takes a very special artist to get under the skin of our most celebrated heroes and celebrities.

Jake Chodosh is one such. His portraits of famous faces like Amy Winehouse, The

Beatles, Bob Dylan and Nelson Mandela are strikingly different and somehow seem to capture the character of his subjects.

Jake is 21 and a former pupil of the TreeHouse School in Woodside Avenue, Muswell Hill. His paintings were on show at the East Finchley Open fair held there late last year and his sisters Katie and Jess have made them available to buy through

the website [www.artismbyjake.com](http://www.artismbyjake.com).

Jake, who is at the severe end of the autism spectrum, started art therapy at TreeHouse when he was 13. He used to paint animals before moving on to people portraits because he liked working on skin tones.

Katie says: "Once the teachers told my mum how much he enjoyed it, we started replicating the sessions at home. Jake is non-verbal, so doesn't say why he likes doing it. But he is at his happiest, quietest and most relaxed when painting. He can paint for hours in silence with his art teacher Leah. He really enjoys the process of painting."

Ideas for portraits often come from Katie or Jess, or from requests through the website. Katie says Jake doesn't know who the people are that he paints, he just likes to paint. Perhaps that's why he has such a knack for cutting through the layers of fame and getting to the real person underneath.



Keen eye: Jake Chodosh works on a painting of the Queen, and (above) his portraits of Nelson Mandela, The Beatles, Bob Dylan, and Amy Winehouse.

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## Spring fair is in the air

Holy Trinity Primary School will be opening its gates for its spring fair on Saturday 16 May from 12noon to 2.30pm. Bursting with activities such as a bungee run, bouncy castle, surf simulator, tin can alley, beat the goalie, arts and crafts, tombola, face painting and lots of goods for sale, there will be fun for the whole family.

The raffle this year has prizes including: 1st prize £100 cash, 2nd prize ALIYA.J Boutique £100 voucher, 3rd prize Samsung Galaxy Tablet.

As a grand finale to round off the event, the school is

debuting its very own version of Top Gear's "Star in a Reasonably Priced Car" called "Parent in a Budgens shopping trolley"! It promises to be a nail-biting twist on the classic pram race.

## New club for carers

Barnet Carers are recommending CarerSmart, a new club from Carers Trust. Joining CarerSmart is easy and free, and members can benefit from a wide range of offers. These include cash back on shopping from numerous high street retailers, best rates from energy providers, reductions on insurance renewals, discounts on holidays and travel arrangements, free legal advice services, and reduced price lifestyle activities. Details from [www.carersmart.org](http://www.carersmart.org).

Carers Trust is the UK's largest carers' charity, and is open to carers, people with care needs, and staff and volunteers across the Trust network.

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