



YOUNG ARCHER



Ready to serve: Table tennis champ Sam Gabriel at the English Schools National Championship

Sam smashes his way to top

Congratulations to Sam Gabriel who, along with five other children, competed in the English Schools National Championship U11s, representing Coldfall Primary School in Muswell Hill. Sam won his London North qualification round to reach the finals which took place in Wolverhampton on 29 April. Sam played extremely well, winning one match and losing to the tournament finalist.

Sam, who is in year 4, only began playing table tennis a year ago. He played his first ranking under-11 tournament in November aged eight and by March this year was ranked 28th among all under-10s in the country. His next challenge will be representing Coldfall Primary in the Jack Petchey Table Tennis Foundation London schools finals on 10 June.

Sam said: "I really enjoyed playing in the tournament even though most of the children were two years older than me. The good thing is that I'll still be able

to play in the Under 11s for the next two years, so I'm looking forward to going back there and competing again next year."

Coldfall Primary School has invested in three outdoor and four indoor table tennis tables and headteacher Evelyn Davies said the results had been phenomenal. She said: "Our after school club is fully subscribed and the children are always brimming with enthusiasm for the sport. It has engaged so many pupils who have previously never picked up a racquet or bat."

Father's Day from the USA

By Diana Cormack

Father's Day is that special Sunday when we try to devote more time and attention to our dads. It started in America when a lady called Sonora Smart Dodd decided that fathers, as well as mothers, should have a day for themselves.

When Sonora was 16 her mother died and from then on she had seen her father, a Civil War veteran, care for and bring up their family of six children. In 1909, when she was 27, the idea came to her during a Mother's Day service. She really wanted her father's birthday of June 5 to be the special day, but that didn't work out and the third Sunday in June was chosen.

Her father William died ten years later, by which time

Father's Day had become a popular occasion in the US. It was made a permanent National Day there in 1972 and was soon began to be celebrated in other parts of the world.

Strangely enough, some people believe that this Sunday is closely linked to the pagan belief of the sun being the father of the universe and Father's Day always falls close to the summer solstice. Coincidence or what?



Cakes for cash: Collecting at Budgens are, left to right, Eve Herskovits, Georgie Herskovits, Michelle Nathan, Edward Nathan, Oliver Herskovits, Claude Herskovits, Alex Herskovits, Joseph Stroud, Iris Stroud and Emma Stroud.

A tasty total in two hours

Sisters Emma Stroud and Georgie Herskovits were amazed at the generosity of shoppers when they and their families set up a cake sale and collection in aid of Parkinson's UK at Budgens in East Finchley. The group raised £273 in just two hours.

Emma and Georgie's parents Michelle and Edward Nathan (Edward has Parkinson's himself) were there to help out too. Emma said: "It happened around Parkinson's Awareness Week; it seemed a good time to collect for the charity." This month all the younger members of the family will be taking part in fun runs to raise more money.

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