



## YOUNG ARCHER



Hair to share: Alice Jones before and after, with the locks she donated to charity.

### Long locks get the chop

Alice Jones had been growing her hair long for years but last month she chopped it back by a full 33cm to donate to a charity that makes real-hair wigs for children undergoing treat-

ment for cancer or other medical conditions.

At the same time, the 11-year-old raised almost £700 for the Little Princess Trust, which will go a long way to the cost of making two wigs.

Alice, a pupil at Wren Academy in North Finchley, said: "I remember my form tutor telling us that she'd donated her cut hair to Little Princess Trust. I can't imagine what it must feel like to lose your hair as a child and

wanted to do something that might help.

"Cutting my hair felt very different and strange but after a few hours I definitely got used to it. I got to cut the first locks off myself and I was

kind of scared I might take all my hair off by accident. But I definitely don't regret it." Alice is still welcoming donations via her page at [www.just-giving.com](http://www.just-giving.com). Search for 'Alice Jones Big Chop'.

### Games that lead to new skills

By Ruth Anders

Creativity, comfort and experimentation are the watchwords for lively north London children's author Ivan Brett's tabletop role-playing games that form the heart of his kids' programme. Ivan will lead his fun project in a weekly summer school programme over the first three weeks of the summer holidays at Cherry Tree Tuition Centre opposite East Finchley tube station.

Ivan and centre manager James Boyle are very aware of the need to help children of all ages with the challenges facing them as a result of the last fifteen months, especially those concerning issues of self-confidence and social skills. Their primary objective is to provide a safe alternative learning space away from home and, importantly, away from their screens.

Firmly based on collaboration, the summer school programme is designed for children aged 11 to 16 as a fun way to develop the ability to make decisions. The children will work in groups of four to six, embodying characters in a fantasy world, joining together as a force to overcome some sort of fantasy evil. Ivan will act as referee while playing all the other characters from kings and queens to dragons and sea monsters.

#### Creative kids

Ivan said: "My aim is to give children an outlet for their imagination. Some just don't have the opportunity to express themselves in this way. Kids have wonderful, zingy brains and they need to be allowed to



Imagination: Ivan Brett

let their creativity burst out." He added, "At the same time they can be learning and developing valuable new skills in a fun way."

The Tuition Centre generally offers after-school tuition for children of all ages. James, who lived in Sedgemere Avenue, N2, for 13 years, is very excited about the new summer camp. He and Ivan agree that, while adults can enjoy learning online via game playing, for children face-to-face activity is essential.

For more about Ivan and his kids' books, visit [ivanbrett.com](http://ivanbrett.com) and to find out more about the summer school programme, email [mryan@cherrytreetuitioncentre.co.uk](mailto:mryan@cherrytreetuitioncentre.co.uk) or call 020 7998 5797.



### Park needs a Pied Piper

By Diana Cormack

In May another impressive batch of chalk drawings appeared on the footpath in Cherry Tree Wood. These creations by Jake Eiseman-Renyard often reflect or underline an on-going situation. Amongst them this time was the one pictured, a reference to the rats now prevalent in the park.

Regular visitors will already be well aware of these creatures and there have been arguments on social media as to whether or not they should be culled. Living beside the park we sometimes see one

sauntering across our patio, so have to be particularly careful

about keeping the kitchen door closed!

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