



YOUNG ARCHER



Penmanship: Jake at work on his book and, left, his text and illustrations

Hand-drawn, hand-written

By John Lawrence

A young author has published his first book after taking a year to write and illustrate every page by hand. Jake H's book *The Lord of the Earth* is inspired by his love of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

The eight-year-old pupil at Martin Primary School in East Finchley came up with the story idea and started putting his words and pictures onto paper. After a year, it was finished and his parents helped him to get copies printed for family and friends.

In doing so, they used Kindle Direct Publishing so

Jake's book is also available for anyone to buy through Amazon. And it has also been on sale at Black Gull Bookshop in the High Road, N2, with a copy going on display in the window alongside dozens of famous authors.

Jake says: "I always liked drawing and wrote many comic books with mainly pictures.

When I turned seven, I made up *The Lord of the Earth* story in Lego, so I had an idea and started to write the book."

Friends at Martin Primary can enjoy his work for free because two copies are kept in the school library. Jake has already started work writing and drawing his next book, to be called *The Lost Pandas*.

Compose a fanfare for the jubilee

By David Melsome

The team behind the Proms at St Jude's annual music and literary festival in Hampstead Garden Suburb is asking young musicians to compose a short fanfare that could be played to a live audience.

Aaron Czerny, from Fortismere School and Nemunis Jusionis, from Mill Hill County High School, won the senior (15-18) and junior (11-14) competitions respectively in 2021. Their compositions were performed at the Last Night of the Proms last July.

Besides hearing their work performed in public, this year's junior and senior winners will receive a gift token worth £50. The senior winner will also receive a licence for special music notation software Dorico Pro, worth nearly £500. Also, 25 runners-up will win a Dorico Elements licence worth £85.

This year, entrants are being asked to compose a fanfare to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. To find out more and to enter the competition, go to www.promsatstjudes.org.uk/fanfare-competition



Fanfare winners: left to right, Ethan Lieber, Aaron Czerny, Proms organiser Joan Arnold and Nemunis Jusionis

Protect yourself from the risk of fire

Electrical items are a major fire risk in our homes. The London Fire Brigade website is packed with information about how to avoid the risks and enjoy the benefits of electricity.

For example: only buy appliances with a British or European safety mark; never leave phones or laptops plugged in to charge overnight; always leave hair straighteners to cool on a heatproof surface; empty fluff regularly from tumble dryers; don't plug other items into the socket used for the washing machine.

Look out for scorch marks, flickering lights, hot plugs and sockets, fuses that blow or circuit-breakers that trip for no obvious reason. These could all

be the signs of loose or dangerous wiring. Get them checked by a qualified electrician. If you are a tenant, ask your landlord to do so.

These are only a few examples. For more detail, check the FLB website at www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety. This also has reminders about free home safety visits. Book one of these, and local firefighters will inspect your home for hazards, and also fix free smoke alarms if necessary. You can also carry out a check yourself, with the help of a mobile app.



Fairground attraction: Ian Holloway and the first users of the bowling alley he created

Skittles alley is a striking success

Pupils and parents enjoying all the fun of Highgate Primary School's Winter Fair in December were excited to test their skittling skills on a brand new bowling alley.

The attraction appeared thanks to the support of East Finchley's family-run timber merchants PO Joyce Ltd, in Church Lane, and the wood-working skills of local resident and parent Ian Holloway.

Having been volunteered by his partner Clara to build

the bowling alley to help raise funds for their children's school, Ian contacted PO Joyce to ask for a donation of timber and they were only too happy to help.

Headteacher William Dean said: "Our new bowling alley made a great addition to our

Winter Fair, raised over £300 for us in one afternoon, and will provide entertainment to the children at Highgate Primary for years to come. Special thanks go to Ian for creating a thing of beauty and to PO Joyce for supporting the school with all the materials."

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