



YOUNG ARCHER



Eco-education: MP Kate Green, third from left, with staff and students at Bishop Douglass School

Green politics comes to the classroom

Students and staff at Bishop Douglass School in East Finchley welcomed Shadow Education Secretary Kate Green on a visit in November as they raised a green flag to mark the award they received from the Eco-Schools organisation to recognise their environmental achievements.

After addressing the sixth form in assembly, Kate Green had a lively political conversation with Year 13 politics students, the Geography Society, the school's Eco-Committee and other interested students about the COP26 summit, which was taking place in

Glasgow at the time.

The school in Hamilton Road, N2, has been flexing its green muscles for more than 10 years. Students are involved in growing produce for the school canteen after building a greenhouse and growing beds. They have also dug a pond and set up

bee and bug boxes to increase biodiversity.

One member of the Eco-Committee said: "Ms Green gave an impassioned presentation about her life as an MP, and spoke frankly and with vigour about the state of Britain, the climate and the changes needed."

A winter pantomime for the NHS

By David Melsome



Puppet panto: Jake and his characters

An East Finchley puppeteer is putting together a pantomime to help raise more funds for the Whittington Hospital. *Duck Whittington*, created by Jake Eiseman-Renyard, is a puppet animal spin on the traditional tale.

Jake has already raised cash for the hospital by touring his singing nightingale puppet so an online pantomime that everyone could enjoy and then make donations seemed a natural next step.

Members of the cast have been trained at performing arts organisations such as Chicken Shed, Anna Scher and Yellow Poppy and their version of *Dick Whittington* has a hero duck, a villainous rat, a family of rabbits and a talking cake as the Dame.

"I've now worked with puppets and wanted to be in a pantomime for years, so I willingly rose to this challenge," says Jake. "The production not only uses the arts to support the NHS at a time when funding is needed more than ever, but mentions and honours the work done day in and day out by lifesavers in our hospitals.

"I'm so proud of the cast who are working on this with me. We are still filming and we hope to have the final production on YouTube by the end of January." To watch the panto and to make donations, keep an eye on the fundraising page at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jake-Eiseman-Renyard

Youth club celebrates

Maureen Clemetson, founder of East Finchley youth group The Monday Club, recently invited past and present members to a reunion celebrating its 16th anniversary.

Launched on 31 October 2005 in the High Road's Methodist Church hall, the club has had a number of homes over the years and is now based at the new community centre in Tarling Road.

Here on Saturday 30 October Maureen had prepared plenty of food and drink for her guests, as she continues with her passion of providing activities for East Finchley youngsters, particularly those from The Grange and Strawberry Vale.



Big number: A Monday Club member marks the special birthday

Here's looking at you-hoo

By Mike Coles

The ever-popular Martin School Christmas Fair took place in the second week of December and was held entirely outside for everyone's safety with concerns over Covid. Attracting a lot of attention were owls from Jambs Owls, also a popular feature of recent East Finchley Community Festivals in Cherry Tree Wood.

Many parents and friends braved the cold weather to join in the fun. There was no real snow but there was a very convincing snow machine which was appreciated by the younger children. Whack-a-Mole, books, toiletries, gifts and some tasty food stalls completed the line-up.



Owl are you: A feathered visitor at Martin School's fair. Photo Mike Coles

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