



Schools campaign fights 'East Finchley problem'

By Cathy Whitelock

A group of more than 500 local parents and governors has stepped up its battle to persuade Barnet Council to provide more mixed, non-faith secondary places for children in N2 and beyond.

Led by Martin parents Avis Johns and Sarah Cohen, Local Schools for Local Children has brought the issue to the attention of Mike Freer MP, and has been working with the council to look at how provision in the area could be improved.

The group called a public meeting back in July, attended by more than 150 parents, where it became clear that local feelings on this issue run very high. Mike Freer and Alison Moore, Leader of the Labour Party on Barnet Council, listened to parents' frustrations and shared their views on how the problem could be resolved.

Possible solutions include: persuading local single sex schools to go co-ed; investigating whether unpopular faith schools could be reopened as community schools, under local council control; asking local selective schools to instigate a drive-time limit for applications; and creating a separate, college-style sixth form for local children to allow schools to expand their 11-16 intake.

Council recognises need

Most recently, the group was invited by Barnet Council to put their recommendations to the Scrutiny Panel created to find solutions for this issue. The panel's report is due in mid-November.

At a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday 11 October, a group of councillors formally agreed that the 'East Finchley problem' should be a top priority. Councillors from all parties have now acknowledged that the lack of community schooling in N2 is a real problem, particularly for girls.

Avis Johns said: "The question of where to send my daughter to secondary school is literally keeping me awake at night. She's not in the catchment area for a single school and I know there are loads of kids in the same terrible situation.

"We're fighting on behalf of all the parents who want just one thing for their kids: a good, local, mixed, non-faith school. Surely that's not too much to ask?"

To get involved with the campaign, email Avis and Sarah at localschools@live.co.uk

New home needed for dementia support service

A day support service and a Sunday club for Barnet dementia sufferers and their carers desperately needs a new home. At the moment they are located at Dove House, Mill Hill, which is owned by Mind in Barnet. However, because the house has to be sold, they must leave the premises by next February.

The Marillac support service needs secure premises available Monday to Friday, with one room large enough for meals and activities for around 20 people, two or three smaller rooms, office space, a kitchen and some safe outdoor space.

The Sunday Club, which meets on the second Sunday of each month from 1pm to 6pm,

could use the same space if available at weekends. Otherwise, they need a meeting space for around 30 people, with facilities for making tea and coffee.

If anyone knows of a suitable venue or venues, please contact Jo on 020 8937 7171 or Margaret on 020 8201 0842, or email barnetbranch@alzheimers.org.uk.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>



Sam Amidon at the *Way of the Morris* showing. Photo courtesy the Phoenix Cinema

Appeal over soldier killed in action

As we mark Remembrance Sunday this month, French author Nicolas Bucourt has sent us this appeal for help to trace information about a soldier involved in the Bruneval raid in 1942. If you can help, write to us at the-archer@lineone.net or The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA and we will pass on your information.

Dear Editor,

I'm French and live at Bruneval in France where there was the Operation Biting in February 1942 to capture a German radar by British paratroopers. More details about the operation can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Biting I'm writing a book about the Bruneval raid with a historian friend for next year, the 70th anniversary of the raid. In this book, I would like to present the maximum of men who participated in the raid (airborne, navy and RAF).

It's easier to find the family of a veteran when he survived the war because he often has children but the man I search at this moment died during the operation. His name is Alan Worton Scott, son of James and Lily Scott, of Finchley.

Alan W. Scott was killed during the raid on the beach of Bruneval on 28 February 1942. His original regiment, before being engaged in C Company, 2nd Parachute Battalion, was the 9th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. He was 24 when he died. His number was 5347681. He was maybe too young to have children, but maybe he had brothers or sisters?

I would be grateful for anyone who can get in touch to tell me more about Alan.

Best regards,
Nicolas Bucourt

Modern Morris

By Sheila Armstrong

There was a good turnout at the Phoenix Cinema on 25 September for the showing of local actor/writer/director Tim Plester's film *Way of the Morris*.

Tim, originally from Adderbury in Oxfordshire but now a Finchley resident, had always resisted the call to join his uncle's Morris dancers. As he said, it's not cool, but it's part of our rural past. By the end of filming, however, he'd overcome his initial reluctance and there he was, bells round his shins, joining his local Morris men for the final scenes. And very good he was.

It's a delightful film, nostalgic and very English. It premiered at the SXSW festival in Texas earlier in 2011 and was also selected as Breakthrough British Film by UK Film Focus. There's more info at <http://wayofthemorris.com>, which includes future screenings.

Tim was delayed in Romania and couldn't get to the Phoenix event, but chief executive Paul Homer stood in for him. Before the main film, Paul introduced archive footage from Cecil Sharp House (home of the English Folk Song and Dance Society in Camden Town) showing folk dances from around 1900. It is only thanks to Cecil Sharp and others that these dances and songs from our rural past have survived. For info, go to <http://efdss.org/>

There was also a modern film of surely the coolest form of folk dance, Rapper dancing, where a group of fast-dancing men, or possibly women, avoid decapitation only by keeping moving: absolutely thrilling. Catch it on YouTube.

Run like Santa

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice is looking for people to take part in a 5km Santa Fun Run in Greenwich Park on Sunday 4 December. Visit www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk to register online or call Chris Harbour on 020 8449 8877 for an information pack.



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