



A twin town with a difference

By Ann Bronkhorst

On Sunday 9 October some north Londoners will be approaching their 'twin' town Morphou in Cyprus. Yet they will not walk on through the citrus groves; instead they will stop at the UN-patrolled Green Line, looking across the fertile landscape towards a town that, for many, still feels inaccessible.

Since 1974 Northern Cyprus, including Morphou, has been Turkish-occupied. Each October Morphou's original Greek-Cypriot residents, now living abroad or elsewhere in Cyprus, remember their hometown with cultural events, a memorial service and a march towards the town. But although the border was opened two years ago, a special permit is required to cross the line. Many people will not attempt it on principle. Our MP Rudi Vis says: "I won't visit Morphou - or Turkey - until the Turkish government recognises Cyprus."

This year 10 British MPs and several European ones will join the Morphou Rally for Freedom and Human Rights, first held in 1995. Barnet, which is twinned with Morphou, is sending a delegation including three local MPs, Rudi Vis, Andrew Dis-

more and Theresa Villiers, and the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Andreas Tambourides.

The scent of home

The Mayor remembers vividly his last visit before the invasion to Morphou, his grandparents' hometown. He told *THE ARCHER* of his nostalgia for "that beautiful scent of orange trees."

Displaced Morphou citizens in London are determined to honour their 'beautiful place' (the meaning of both names, Greek and Turkish) and to support each other through groups such as the Morphou District Association.

This 'twinning' is unlike the usual, cosy arrangements, however; it has a political dimension and reflects strong emotions. In the Mayor's words, Barnet has chosen to twin with a municipality "in spirit and in exile".

Look both ways for the 263

By Daphne Chamberlain

One evening last month, I came out of East Finchley tube station and trudged down to the 263 bus stop under the bridge.

Then, happening to glance over my shoulder, I was astounded to see a 263 starting its journey by turning out of the station forecourt and heading up the hill towards Fortis Green.

I telephoned the Potters Bar bus garage and explained that passengers coming out of the station don't look in the forecourt. "We just turn right, down to the bridge. If a bus starts from the forecourt, could drivers be advised to nip down and tell the

queue?" I asked.

The answer was that (a) drivers are not allowed to leave their bus, and (b) buses asked to turn at East Finchley usually make the turn further down at the Woodman pub near Highgate tube station.

Certainly, this scenario is very rare, but it's best avoided at the end of a long day. So - bus users, be warned! Look both ways when you come out of the station.

Music royals at Cherry Tree Wood festival

By Viviana Lotti

A rock and roll king and a pop queen shared the lime-light with some humble donkeys when the Muswell Hill Community Festival celebrated its tenth year.



Morris dancers Photo by Erini Rodis

The festival took place in Cherry Tree Wood, East Finchley, on Sunday 11 September, organised by the Hornsey Trust for Children with Cerebral Palsy. Hundreds turned out to see the Donkey Derby and dog agility displays, and to browse the craft and charity stalls.

Topping the entertainment bill were renowned singers Mari Wilson and Mario Kombou, accompanied by the Avenue Dukes, a local group of professional jazz and rock musicians.

Mari Wilson first entered the music charts in 1982 with the smash hit *Just What I Always Wanted*. In the mid-1980s, after a successful pop career, Mari turned to jazz, performing alongside legends such as Ray Charles and BB King. One of Britain's best live singers, she has also performed in musical theatre.

Originally called *The Neasden Queen of Soul*, Mari now lives in Crouch End. Her new album *Dolled Up* will be released in October. Mari

described the album as "adult pop - more kd lang than Gwen Stefani".

Mari's superb voice and cheerful banter were enthusiastically received. She warmed up the audience with classics like *Preacher Man* and *Cry Me a River*, the theme song she recorded for the 1985 film *Dance With a Stranger*. The rain did not dampen Mari's sense of humour. Referring to the nearby Donkey Derby she said, "I've never done a gig where there were donkeys running around. I've been on stage with a few of them, though!"

Next came singer and actor Mario Kombou, fresh from beating over 65 contestants to

win the 2005 Images of the King World Championship in Memphis, Tennessee. His performance as Elvis was endorsed by the King's first cousin, Donna Presley, and has been acclaimed worldwide. Muswell Hill resident Mario recently took the leading role in West End musical *Jailhouse Rock*. He started performing as Elvis at drama school ten years ago. Mario hopes to join another hit musical, *The Rat Pack*, playing Dean Martin. "It would be nice to do something away from Elvis for a while," he said.

Mario's high-energy performance of favourite Elvis songs, such as *Blue Suede Shoes* and *Hound Dog*, and his astonishing resemblance to the King, soon had the crowd rocking. His final song, *Jailhouse Rock*, was a real showstopper.

Other performers who donated their time and considerable talent were quintet *Brass Bravura*, rock acoustic band *Killing Cupid*, the *Grizzlies* (blues rock), *Palpitations* (jazz) and the *Funkateers* (jazz/funk). Dance performances came from the North London Performing Arts Centre Dance Troupe and the London Pride Morris Dancers.

Further information on the Hornsey Trust and the Festival is available at: www.hornseytrust.org.uk



Show us your ass. Photo by Erini Rodis

Six legs instead of four

By Linda Soper

There were four dog agility competitions at the Muswell Hill Festival, sponsored by Bond and White, all judged on speed, but described by the organisers as "a bit of fun".

All the dogs had to jump through two hoops, walk along a bench, sit on a stall, and then go through some cones.

One Alsatian jumped through the hoops but ran along the side, his owner tripping, nearly falling. At the stall he lay down on the grass, looking up at his owner for some attention. Another dog did not go through the hoops at all, but made up for it by jumping on

and off the bench. The owners used tempting treats as the dogs threaded their way through the cones. Agility was clearly a joint effort, and shows that six legs are better than four.

Overall, the money raised by the dog agility competition was £600, while the Festival as a whole raised £4,000, which will go to the Hornsey Trust for equipment to help children with cerebral palsy.

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(An Elim Pentecostal Church)

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