



Bishop Douglass headteacher Angela Murphy and students with cultural attaché Jose Pascoal.
Photograph courtesy of Bishop Douglass School

A first for Bishop Douglass School

By Diana Cormack

A partnership between the Portuguese Embassy and Bishop Douglass RC School is offering children and adults the chance to learn Portuguese. Cultural attaché Jose Pascoal visited the school in Hamilton Road to celebrate the start of the partnership, which is aimed at promoting cultural understanding and academic achievement.

For the first time in a Barnet school, Portuguese will be taught at Bishop Douglass, which has over 30 pupils for whom it is the mother-tongue. This reflects the number of native Portuguese speakers in the local population, who may have come from Angola, Brazil or Portugal.

A teacher supplied by the Portuguese embassy will give lessons to school pupils and members of the community on Thursdays. Isabelle Goursade, manager of the school's additional needs department, sees the alliance as providing an opportunity for students to take GCSE and A-levels in their

first language, thus helping to build their confidence in other subjects.

Languages thrive

Over half the 812 pupils at Bishop Douglass are bilingual and the school is keen to maintain cultural ties across the community and to foster parental involvement. Teaching languages is one of the ways it achieves this. Polish is already taught to Barnet residents and hopefully Romanian will soon be on offer to outside students. Lithuanian is next on the agenda.

If you are interested in learning any of these languages, please phone Isabelle Goursand on 020 8444 5211.

Milk Man on our doorsteps

By Lucy Chamberlin

It's not everyone who gets the chance to be in a film even as an extra, but for some lucky 14-year-olds from The Monday Club, it was an opportunity which came knocking on the door. Kerisha B Clarke, Myles Akinwumi and Thomas and James Ellard were picked to join the cast of Milk Man, filmed at the end of January in Chapel Court, East Finchley, and the AS Food & Wine shop, Highgate.

Director James Rumsey (who also lives in Chapel Court) has a background in film and currently freelances for Associated Press. He wrote *Milk Man* four years ago, and is personally funding its filming. Main roles are played by his friends, some of them East Finchley residents, so the project has become a very locally-focused event.

"You start out making a film and get to meet all your local community too," says James, who was amazed by people's cooperation. Not only did neighbours generously lend their houses and give up their right to go out at the weekend, but Barnet Homes allowed the crew to repaint the stairwell.

Milk Man is a 'social comment' film about the breaking of routines and the lifting of

barriers. Eponymous lover of milk and protagonist Brian has to be forced out of his shell to realise the potential of the community around him. Director James wants to get the edited version shown at festivals, and may even try to hold a special screening at the Phoenix Cinema to thank all who have donated their time to it.

Search for the stars

By Carolyn Gilbey

This is an exciting year for the Finchley Children's Music Group, as it marks the local choir's Golden Jubilee. The group intends to commemorate this milestone with a year-long musical celebration, culminating in a spectacular reunion concert, with former choir members from the last 50 years singing along with children from the current choir.

There's just one problem. Choir records only go back 10 years and it is proving difficult tracking down the singing stars of yesteryear. Thousands of names have passed through the ranks but they have been lost to time.

The Finchley Children's Music Group was founded in 1958 to give the first amateur performance of Benjamin Britten's *Noyes Fludde*. Since then, the choir has gone from strength to strength giving frequent professional performances and offering local children a fantastic grounding in singing and music.

Grace Rossiter, the choir's Musical Director, has already started putting the children through their paces in readiness for the reunion concert which will take place at St John's, Smith Square, Westminster, in early December 2008. Meanwhile, a team of crack choir investigators are busy trying to track down the elusive former members.

"It would be wonderful," said Grace, "to have founding members of the choir singing along with our current members, while their children and perhaps grandchildren watch proudly in the audience."

If you are a former choir member, you can get in touch at info@fcmg.org.uk or with Carolyn Gilbey on 020 8444 8418.

Mr Hilborne's African adventure

By Julia Bramson

Steve Hilborne, headteacher of Manorside Primary School in Squires Lane, N3, is spending most of this term teaching at schools in a remote northern area of Namibia. He is working there with a number of teachers and regional inspectors, thanks to the international development charity VSO and the National Association of Head Teachers.

Since leaving the UK, Steve has been in contact with his school via text message and email. The staff have heard all the ups and downs of their headteacher's early days in Namibia, from his observations on his surroundings: "The countryside is just a mixture of ochres, sage greens, purple and saffron", to how the health workers there warned him that he would probably get malaria.

When writing this, Steve was quick to add that it was just another of the worst-case scenarios he has been presented with, none of which has so far been realised.

Football, with no ball

Now settled in, he has been able to observe some of the differences between African edu-

cation and British schools, and has already made some good friends. He is living amongst teachers and next door to a traditional homestead made up of round huts with thatched roofs. The children are poor and walk miles to get to school, but play football with rolled rags or fruit husks and are very happy.

Before Steve Hilborne left for Namibia, he talked to the children at Manorside about where he was going. When he comes back, they will hear all the stories, and learn more about the country and see his photographs.

Such a trip brings home to the children the differences between cultures and it is one of the many advantages of Manorside having International School status.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Trinity

An Ofsted inspector visited the school which had been chosen at random to be part of a fact finding mission into the teaching of numeracy. Children from Years 2 to 6 were treated to a special performance by the English National Touring Opera. As well as enjoying the show, they were given the opportunity to be opera singers themselves.

The Teachers' International Continuous Development Programme is enabling one teacher to visit Berlin and two to go to Adelaide to further their understanding of teaching and learning strategies. This is funded by national bodies.

Martin Primary

After learning about the planets and listening to music on the theme of space, Year 5 visited the Science Museum to look at the space exhibits. Year 1 pupils have learned to programme a robot to move around their classroom.

A non-uniform day was held to raise money for "Wings of Hope", which supports a school in India and an orphan centre in Malawi.

Children in 4W are taking part in a Barnet scheme combining the themes of Malawi and recycling, which helps them to understand their role as global citizens and the importance of being environmentally friendly. Congratulations to Hannah Barrett, who has been selected for Middlesex County Cricket Under 11 Girls' Squad.

Manorside

Saracens Rugby Club have been in the school for half a term to share their ideas on healthy living and rugby with years 2, 3 and 4

All 28 members of the Science Club visited London Metropolitan University for a fantastic and fascinating day where they made all sorts of scientific contraptions from marble runs to clocks, and more.

A table top sale, the brainchild of children in Year 5, raised £50 for Homeless Action in Barnet

The 14 February Fancy Dress Disco was a huge success, with the dance floor filled with children and teachers for the duration.

The school's PE and IT subject coordinators are off to Beijing in May as part of the International Schools programme.

St Theresa's

A quiz night was held on 1 February. Congratulations to Mary Rowland and her team who triumphed by one point over their nearest rivals and well done to the eight teams who competed in a fun evening. They raised £600 towards the children's funds.

Congratulations to Ciaran Rowland, Sam Coade, Sean Robinson, Conor Rock Scanlon, Alex Canal, Tommy France, Max Baker, Stephen Lui, Meabh Rowland, Christian Snodgrass, Matt Bacarese Hamilton, Jean Paul Williamson, Isaac Biney, Tea Anya Earle and Dario Devine for coming 4th in the Barnet School's Chess League 2008.

The Friends of St Theresa's held a cake sale that raised £181.50.

The school football team is enjoying a run of success. They played against Northside and won 3-0. They also played against All Saint's and won 3-1. The team from Year 5 won the Livingstone Elimination Tournament beating 16 other schools. The school is now through to the Borough Finals.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

For more information
please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome