



Paris in the 60s - Parisian life - One of the images from the Local Gallery show. Copyright Alan Scales

Parisian memories

By Sheila Armstrong

A recent chance meeting between Matt Humphrey, owner of the LOCAL gallery (sic) and photographer Alan Scales brought a nostalgic collection of black and white photos of Paris in the 1960s to Muswell Hill in March and April. They can still be seen on the gallery's website.

It was photographic love at first sight, with Matt recognising the appeal of scenes from a time gone by in that most photogenic of cities, and Alan being delighted to discover the small gallery in Avenue Mews.

Alan lived in Paris in the sixties and his photos bring back memories of a Paris that has disappeared. The eccentric characters and crumbling buildings are no longer there: it has been tidied up. Inspired by Cartier Bresson, and using a Leica 111 and Rolleiflex, Alan has made the old city spring to life.

Matt worked on the sixties negatives with modern technology to enable them to be displayed at their best in the gallery. He and Alan, who runs his own TV production company, Imagicians.tv, have plans to collaborate on a multi-media photographic and video show entitled *You, me and Paris*, a pictorial history of Paris spanning 50 years. Contact matt@thelocalgallery.co.uk and watch this space.

Fantastic Finchley

A poem by Roy Sunderland

I must have dropped off at The Angel
And dreamt of Finchleans of yore.
People and places all mixed together
And others from ancient folklore.
Whilst I fitfully slept with my chin on my chest,
More tipsy than you could envisage,
The tunnel loomed large in a surrealist way
Each station induced its own image.
A choleric monarch and stag hunting bowmen
Were chasing a poor old white lion
Who, cornered, rose up like a Phoenix from ashes
And roared from the spot he then died on.
From out of the mist, came three well-known faces
Named Bloodnok, Bluebottle and Neddie.
Behind them there stood a fair-haired old lady
Her handbag aloft at the ready.
"I'm neither naked nor turning," she cried to us all,
"This line is a misery, don't you think?"
"Tally ho!" we agreed as we lifted our cups
And without more ado we did drink.
Just then I awoke as the train re-emerged
To a cold and wet East Finchley Station.
"I must get out here," I explained to the throng,
"I've arrived at my dream destination."

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Allotment holders go it alone

East Finchley Allotments have finally been signed over to ploholders, taking them out of the control of Barnet Council.

The allotment holders' association at the site off Plane Tree Walk started the process towards independence early last year.

There were many reasons for the move but it also came in the wake of worrying signals that the council was preparing to raise annual allotment charges significantly.

Chairman David Holt and outgoing secretary Richard King signed the 38-year agreement earlier this year, making it only the second site in Barnet to go it alone.

It means the allotment holders themselves have full responsibility for site management, giving them freedom to carry out improvements and make repairs as necessary.

"This gives us rather more freedom than we had before and includes only a limited number of things about which we have to involve the council," says the association's newsletter, adding: "But it is all down to us now. If we want a good site, we shall have to work for it."

Richard King steps down as secretary of the East Finchley Allotment Holders Association this year after many years' service and his role is being taken over by Janet Francis and Cathy Schling.

Good life on the allotment

Plots of various size are available at Vale Farm Allotments, off Tarling Road, N2. Many allotment sites have long waiting lists, and local residents will be given priority for these new vacancies. Anyone interested in applying should email lily@valefarm.org

Fancy meeting you here

Continued from page 1

This year's event on Sunday 7 April was blessed with beautiful spring sunshine and a massive turnout of more than 1,200 sponsored walkers.

Now in its 19th year, the Big Fun Walk is an annual highlight attracting young and old, some with their four-legged companions. Hospice community nurse specialist Susi Greham, who completed the walk with her family, said: "What an amazing day! We loved every second and are already talking about next year's event. There was a real family atmosphere and fabulous team spirit." Marshal Carole Jordan added: "It was a splendid, sunny day. It was great to see so many smiling faces pass my marshalling point and to see the enthusiasm and excitement first hand. Well done to all the participants."

The Big Fun Walk is a vital event for the hospice, raising about £120,000 every year, which is a massive contribution towards the annual £6 million cost of providing specialist end-of-life care to patients and their families in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.



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