

CHURCHES TOGETHER FOR CHIPPING BARNET

Justice and Peace Newsletter 39



JULY 2017

CONTENTS

- 1. The Prince and Hope Corner**
- 2. Barnet Teenage Market**
- 3. The Open Door Centre at Christ Church**

1. The Prince and Hope Corner

Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, had a busy day in Barnet on 10th May, with an itinerary including the Barnet Museum, the Physic Well, the Dollis Valley Regeneration Partnership Board and Hope Corner.

Adele Burgess, curate at St Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley, who leads the prayer sessions at Hope Corner, reported that there was much anticipation amongst the large welcoming committee there as security men buzzed about with their dark suits and earpieces, waiting for the duke's arrival. He started his visit by dropping by the Tea and Tech class for teaching basic computer skills then over lunch he met some of the community groups that use the centre, including the Hope Corner Homework Club, the Fixation Theatre (a children's theatre group), and Community Space (that offers support for adults with learning disabilities).

Adele chatted to some mums who take their children to the Homework club. For them, English is a foreign language but they spoke movingly of the friendship they had found at the club and the valuable help give to their children.

Rosemary Watkins is still looking for volunteers and would be pleased to discuss current opportunities.

Hope Corner Community Centre, 185 Mays Lane, Barnet EN5 2DY

Tel: 020 8364 8756. Website: www.ctfcb.org.uk/hope-corner-community-centre.

Julian Desborough, Secretary of Barnet Churches Action, urges people who shop at the Co-op in Mays Lane and have a blue or white Co-op card, to designate Hope Corner as their local charity. The instructions on registering are on the Co-op membership website.

2. Barnet Teenage Market

Bob Burstow, who represents Churches Together for Chipping Barnet on the Town Team, reports that there is a proposal to bring a teenage market to Barnet that would give young people in the town an outlet for their entrepreneurial and performance skills. It would open after school hours on the Barnet Market site, offering stalls for teenagers to sell their goods or try out their stage skills to a live

audience. It would open next April and run once a month for one year in the first instance. It all depends on raising £58,000 to equip and run the market. The Mayor of London has pledged £30,000 and the rest is being raised through Crowdfunding. And it must be in place by 25th September. Bob says that a pledge of £2 is enough to show that there is local support and persuade local businesses to get involved.

To support this project, visit www.BarnetTeenageMarket.

For more information contact Bob on bobburstow@btinternet.com.



3. The Open Door Centre at Christ Church, St Albans Road, Barnet

David Parry, Chairman of the John Trotter Trust, reports: The Open Door Centre was officially opened by the Bishop of Stepney, the Rt Rev Adrian Newman, on 13 May 2017 following a £1.3m building redevelopment programme. The aim of the

Centre is to transform lives, build community and shape society, with particular focus on older members of the community.

The Borough of Barnet has more people over 90 than any other London Borough, and the second highest number of people over 65. And both these figures are projected to increase significantly by 2020. Christ Church Barnet already runs popular events for older people as well as its activities for infants, children, young people and adults. The aim of the new Centre is to encourage respect and affection between the generations while building on these existing activities. Inter-generational work is important because different age groups can feel cut off and isolated from each other and their communities.

The Centre has been a hive of activity since its formal opening. By 10th July there had been about 500 visitors dropping in for tea, coffee, lunch and a chat, including people bringing their children and grandchildren, and people who bring in their elderly parents for a game of chess. The Centre has also hosted a 60th birthday celebration and meetings of church groups.

There are weekly meetings for people with Alzheimer's and dementia, and for their carers; a weekly baby and toddlers' music group and a maths group. Future plans include aerobics, after-school clubs and courses in IT. The Barnet Guild of Artists has a permanent exhibition in the café.

The Centre is open Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 4 pm
More information about the Centre can be found on the Centre's website at:

<https://www.barnetopendoor.com/>

Note from the editor: this is a lovely building with good facilities including a big kitchen. There is a booklet on sale giving its history, from ragged school in 1844 to Red Cross Centre from 1962 to 2010, and of the Trotter family, who lived in Dyrham Park and gave their name to Trotters Bottom.

The Newsletter Editor is jennyremfry@btinternet.com.