

# barnetfirst

issue 59 September 2014



## The new Brent Cross

See page 11

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## Contacting your council

### Corporate Customer Services

tel: 020 8359 2000

email: [first.contact@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:first.contact@barnet.gov.uk)

Contact us and we will identify the correct service or person you are looking for.

### Street-based services

tel: 020 8359 4600

Covering refuse collection, holes in the road, abandoned vehicles and graffiti.

### Parking enquiries

tel: 020 8359 7446

[www.barnet.gov.uk/parking](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/parking)

### Planning and licensing advice

tel: 020 8359 3000

### Social Care Direct

tel: 020 8359 5000

### Out of hours emergencies

tel: 020 8359 2000

Barnet First is published by Barnet Council's Communications Team. Please email us on: [barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk)

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### Privacy

Barnet has revised its Privacy Statement. If you want to know more visit:

[www.barnet.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/privacy)

## Leader's column



Every council has its critics and ours may be noisier than most. But surely even the noisiest critic would join me in praising the remarkable job the council, schools, teachers and governors have done in providing new school places in the borough in the past five years.

When the BBC was looking at the pressure on new school places last month, it came to Barnet to see how a council can plan ahead and make sure our high performing schools continue to provide places for every Barnet child. Over the last five years the whole schools community has worked together to support the creation of an extra 4,500 new places for Barnet children. Over half of these places will be permanent places in new buildings, such as the splendid new Millbrook Park primary pictured opposite.

Barnet Council believes in planning ahead and we are now making sure that there will be sufficient places in our secondary schools with expansions already underway at Copthall, The Compton and Christ's College schools.

Our belief in planning early is also demonstrated in the council's continuing involvement in the Government's Troubled Families Programme. Barnet is one of the 'high performing' councils selected to take part in phase 2 of this programme based on our performance in earlier schemes. The Troubled Families Programme aims to support families who are costing different parts of government, be it police, schools, councils or job centres, large sums of money and get to the root cause of problems, heading them off before the problem becomes a crisis.

As we seek to do more with less to spend, it will be judicious planning, whether for families or schools, that make sure Barnet remains a great place to raise a family.

Yours

Richard Cornelius

## news in brief



### Green light given for two new libraries

Plans have been announced for two new library buildings in the borough by 2017.

The owners of Gateway House, Finchley, received planning consent for a brand new library building which will cover 800 square metres over two floors.

A long lease of 125 years will be granted at a fixed nominal rent. The existing library at Church End will remain open until the new library is ready in 2017.

The new Grahame Park library is scheduled to open in 2016 and will be provided as part of the Colindale regeneration scheme. The original library building on the Grahame Park estate will close as the estate is redeveloped and the new library will move to the ground floor of the new Barnet and Southgate College site, overlooking a public square. It will cover 500 square metres with state of the art reading, activity and study services.

Councillor Reuben Thompstone, Chairman of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, said: "At a time when council budgets are under real pressure, it will be innovative partnerships like these, where we are working with a private developer and another public service, that will see us provide high quality services to people in Barnet. I am really pleased that it looks like we'll be seeing two new library buildings in the borough."

For more information visit:  
[www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries)



### New year, new school

This September will see 60 school children walk through the doors of their new primary school, Millbrook Park.

Millbrook Park School in Mill Hill East is the most recent school building to be completed on time and on budget as part of Barnet Council's school expansion plans.

The £11.5 million cost of the school is largely funded by the developers of the Millbrook Park Development, at the former Inglis Barracks in Mill Hill, as well as the council.

The three-form entry inclusive Church of England primary school, including nursery school, will fill from the bottom up and be home to 630 pupils, plus 39 FTE nursery places when full.

Its opening will help to alleviate unprecedented demand for primary school places in the borough, which has already seen the council spend £88 million on permanently expanding or rebuilding schools across the borough. The council is already committed to spending a further £49 million as it prepares for future expansions.



## news in brief

### One year on - Barnet residents are recycling more than ever

The new blue and brown bins have been hailed a success as household recycling has increased by a third since the bins were introduced last October.

Barnet Council transformed the way waste and recycling is collected by making the following changes:

- recycling is now easier and simpler with mixed materials being collected together
- residents have more recycling capacity with the new blue recycling bins
- there is a separate and dedicated food waste collection
- recycling was reintroduced as a council operated service.

The new service was an immediate success and the amount of recycling collected has increased dramatically. An additional 5,000 tonnes of material has been recycled from blue bins - a 30% increase on the same period last year!

The food waste collected at households and small blocks of flats has increased more than 30 times compared with previous levels. So far the council has collected an impressive 5,424 tonnes of food waste compared to just 157 tonnes for the same period the previous year.

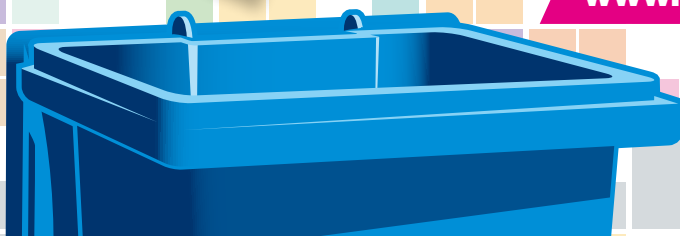
For more information on your recycling services visit:  
[www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling).



**Thank you for recycling!**  
**Please make sure you**  
**recycle everything you**  
**can each week**

**It really makes a difference!**

[www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling)



 **recycle for Barnet**

## news in brief

### *working together for a safer Barnet*

The Barnet Safer Communities Partnership (BSCP) is currently running a public consultation and wants to hear your views and ideas about:

- crime and anti-social behaviour in your local area
- how well the Safer Communities Partnership is tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in your area
- what you think the priorities should be for the borough and your local area.

Your feedback will be used to develop Barnet's Community Safety Strategy 2015 – 2018, which will focus on ways to tackle and prevent crime and disorder, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour.

Councillor David Longstaff, Chair of the BSCP, says: "Keeping people safe in Barnet is a top priority. While crime rates are lower than in other comparable boroughs we need your help to keep it this way."

You are invited to a public meeting at Hendon Town Hall on Saturday 27 September from 10am – 12noon.

To attend, please call 020 8359 6071 or email: [BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:BarnetCST@barnet.gov.uk)

To have your say, please fill in the online survey at [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk) by Thursday 3 October 2014



## Cuppa with a Copper

On Thursday 25 September, hundreds of police officers in Barnet will be out and about across the borough in a massive community engagement event.

They will be joined by Barnet Council, the Fire Brigade, Victim Support, London Ambulance, voluntary sector partners and local sponsoring organisations.

Barnet Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Adrian Usher, says: "We want to have 100,000 conversations and reach people who might not otherwise come into contact with us.

"We also want to promote our Clocks, Locks and Lights anti-burglary campaign, with the key message to 'do your part, be security smart'.

"Simple things like remembering to lock doors and shut windows, leave lights on or use timer switches when you go out can help ensure you don't become a victim of crime."

There will be activities taking place in all 21 borough wards, including opportunities to have a 'cuppa with a copper'!

Come and meet us to find out about our services!



No one should have to put up with abuse of any kind. This booklet explains how to report abuse and seek help.

A copy of this booklet is available at [www.barnet.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults)



## From wreck and ruin to des res – residents urged to take up Empty Properties Grant

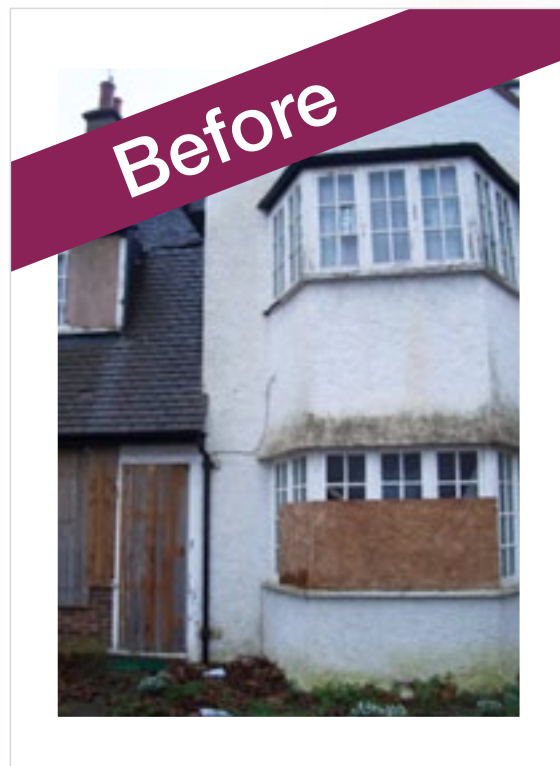
It often starts with a broken window. Perhaps the garden becomes overgrown. The house starts to look scruffy and neighbours start to be concerned.

One of the council's main priorities is to bring the large number of empty properties back into use. Owners of empty properties that have been empty for six months or more can now apply for an Empty Property Grant of up to £25,000 (depending on the size and condition of the property) to help them bring the property back into residential use, on condition that the property is made available to the council's letting scheme to be rented out for five years to those in housing need.

Bringing empty properties back into use will help reduce the acute housing shortage and lessen any blight on the neighbourhood. It will also help prevent the property being squatted and discourage anti-social behaviour such as vandalism and burglary. Empty properties are also targeted by fly tippers, and as a result they often attract rats which then infest neighbouring properties.

The grant is available to landlords, key workers, owners going into care and people returning from care as an owner-occupier. The grant can be used to convert a large house or a commercial property into self-contained flats in order to increase the number of units of affordable housing (depending on planning/building consents) and it can also be used to assist with the purchase of a long term empty property.

As a result of renting out an empty property through one of the council's letting schemes the owner will receive a guaranteed rental income while also providing accommodation for someone in need of housing.



For more information please call 020 8359 4475  
or email: [empty.properties@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:empty.properties@barnet.gov.uk)



# Age is no barrier to keeping fit

**D**id you watch the recent Commonwealth Games in awe of the older athletes still achieving world class results?

Whether you're aiming for medals or just trying to get a bit fitter, it's never too late to start leading a more active lifestyle.

Keeping active in older age can help you stay fit, mobile and independent, as well as reducing the risk of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes.

Older adults who are generally fit and have no limited mobility, should aim to be active daily, completing at least 150 minutes of moderate activity, such as cycling or walking, a week.

Older people already doing regular exercise should complete 75 minutes of vigorous exercise – such as swimming fast or riding a bike once a week.

To find out more about opportunities for over-55s in Barnet, visit [www.barnet.gov/fab](http://www.barnet.gov/fab)



Whatever your ability, there are plenty of opportunities in Barnet to get active:

- Barnet's five leisure centres run a wealth of activities for the over-55s – including beginners body conditioning, aerobics, water workout and badminton
- Age UK Barnet runs a fun and affordable programme of fitness and exercise activities, for all levels and abilities. The classes, including dancing and seated exercise to music, are a great opportunity to keep fit, try something new and add to your social calendar. Visit: [www.ageuk.org.uk/barnet](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/barnet) for details
- Saracens Rugby Club's Active for Life programme aims to increase the number of people aged 50+ participating in physical activity by providing appropriate, localised, accessible and affordable opportunities. Current activities on offer include over-50s touch rugby, Nordic walking and pilates.

For more details visit: [www.saracens.net](http://www.saracens.net)



If you enjoy walking, try our nine free Marked and Measured routes in our parks, or instructor-led Health Walks. They are on offer around the borough, with discounts for the over – 60s





## Barnet Council backs Reserve Forces recruitment drive

Barnet Council is supporting a central government campaign to strengthen the size of the Army Reserve, formerly known as the Territorial Army, to 35,000 trained reservists across the country.

While expanding, the reserves are also set to become more closely integrated with the work of the Regular Armed Forces in the UK and overseas.

The reserves already offer thousands of people in the UK the chance to pursue another career in their spare time across a huge range of military roles as well as gaining new skills which they can apply to their civilian job.

Reservists are paid for the time they spend training and receive a bonus for completing a certain amount of training each year.



**Corporal Sandy Macleod-Cullinane** is among those serving in one of the borough's Army Reserve units.

Sandy, a school PE teacher in her civilian job, has been a reservist for 13 years and is serving with 151 Regiment the Royal Logistics Corps based with the 240 Transport Squadron in Chipping Barnet.

She joined to do something challenging in her spare time.

Sandy said: "Joining the Army Reserves presented me with many opportunities to learn new skills and meet like-minded people.

"In 2003 I deployed to Iraq on Operation Telic where my training as an RLC driver was tested in a very challenging environment. In 2012, I was mobilised as part of the venue security force for the Olympic Games and more recently I travelled to the USA on an exchange visit with the US National Guard."

Fellow reservist **Anthony Vakos**, a security officer, also serves with the 151 Regiment and has been in the reserves for four years.

He said: "After completing my recruit's course I was soon learning how to drive LGV vehicles. The difference between learning to drive with the

Army is that they teach you to drive off-road in the dark with no lights. These are skills I would never have learnt in civilian life."

Anthony deployed on operations in 2013 to Afghanistan where he put those skills to the test as a driver based in Camp Bastion.

Army Reserve Soldier **Adem Emir**, a carpenter and builder, has been a reservist for seven years and is currently serving with 151 Regiment in Barnet.

Adem explained why he joined: "I wanted do something different and out of the ordinary. Joining the Army Reserve broadened my horizons, gave me new challenges and allowed me to meet interesting and like-minded people."

He also went on operations in Afghanistan last year.

He added: "On a personal level the tour was exciting and I learnt a lot about myself. I was able to put my trade skills to the test and develop them further.

"I am now back training at weekends with my unit and work in my civilian career during the day. You could say I have the best of both worlds."

For further information visit:  
[www.army.mod.uk/armyreserve](http://www.army.mod.uk/armyreserve)



# Supporting small businesses in Barnet

**B**arnet Council and our partners are determined to do what we can to support local businesses to thrive. Nine out of ten Barnet businesses have ten or fewer employees, and thanks to our entrepreneurial culture there were more small business start-ups in Barnet last year than any other outer-London borough.

The council's Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee is currently considering proposals aimed at making Barnet the "best place in London to be a small business".

Councillor Dan Thomas, chairman of the committee, said: "Barnet is already an entrepreneurial borough. We want to build on this by promoting all the support that's available within the borough and targeting what limited resources the public sector has in a focussed, business friendly manner."

If approved by the committee\*, consultation will begin on a range of proposals based around five themes:

- getting the basics right – making sure that, where business comes into contact with public services, things work well the first time
- making Barnet a great place to do business – with great infrastructure and thriving town centres
- ensuring the workforce and entrepreneurs have the skills to succeed, through excellent schools, employer-focused further education, or the entrepreneurship nurtured by Middlesex University
- ensuring local businesses are able to work effectively with public services and can compete effectively for contracts
- supporting locally based businesses to succeed and grow.

\* If the Committee approves the draft, consultation will run until 13 November 2014

You can find a full copy of the draft report on the council's consultation portal at [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk)



## Business Expo

To find out more and to book a place please visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/barnet-business-expo](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/barnet-business-expo)



The council will be holding a Business Expo for local businesses on 23 October 2014, with exhibitions, seminars and opportunities for networking. The Expo will also provide a forum for the council to consult local businesses on their views of Barnet's approach to growth.

# The new Brent Cross

**B**rent Cross Shopping Centre is set to double in size by the end of the decade with the council confirming planning permission last month.

The confirmation of planning permission came as the Section 106 agreement was agreed by the council and the shopping centre owners. This is the agreement that outlines the investment of hundreds of millions of pounds by the developers, Hammerson and Standard Life Investments (HSLI), in improvements to the road network and other transport links in the area.

While HSLI will develop the shopping centre and put in place the essential infrastructure to support new homes, schools and community facilities, including a new landscaped pedestrian and cyclist bridge across the North Circular, Barnet Council will lead the regeneration of the southern side of the site. The council launched a search for a development partner for the south side of the Brent Cross Cricklewood site in August.

Overall, the whole development will create more than 27,000 jobs and 7,500 new homes, supported by a range of community facilities including three new school buildings and a £5.6 million investment in improvements to Clitterhouse playing fields.

Councillor Richard Cornelius, Leader of the Council said: "This has been a long time coming but I am delighted that we are now at the starter's gate. The development will see a fantastic shopping centre that will generate thousands of new jobs. The council will play a central part in developing the southern site, making sure we get the best deal for residents and the taxpayer. I was delighted that the Chancellor pledged his support for a new, additional, railway station when he visited the site. This will be a major boost to the area".

## Brent Cross Retail Job Shop

**A**s the new development comes closer, Barnet Council has launched the Brent Cross Retail Job Shop, a new one stop recruitment shop to encourage young people into the retail and hospitality sector.

In total, it is expected the redevelopment of Brent Cross will generate about 1,500 jobs during the first phase of development and up to 6,000 new retail jobs. These jobs will offer great employment and training opportunities for people with a range of skills.

At this early stage, the Job Shop is working in partnership with Job Centre Plus, and others, to have relationships in place to best fill job opportunities with local people as Brent Cross expands.

Where there are skills shortages there are plans to offer training to develop these skills, with partners including the National Skills Academy for Retail, the Hospitality House and Barnet and Southgate College.

The Job Shop is currently helping to recruit for retailers like Fenwicks, Banana Republic, Mothercare, All Saints, Victoria's Secret, and Goldsmiths Jewellery in the current Brent Cross shopping centre.

**For more information email:**  
[recruitment@bxsc.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@bxsc.co.uk)



# Have your say on parking in Barnet

**T**he council is consulting on a new draft parking policy. The policy outlines how the council plans to manage the pressures on the road network caused by Barnet's 145,000 cars, slightly more than one car for each household.

Driving and parking in London is a highly emotive subject, with the demands of the motorist to get to their destination quickly and park easily competing with the need for better air quality, pedestrian safety, traffic control and a finite supply of parking spaces.

To balance these, the new policy has a number of key aims, including:

- keeping traffic moving
- making roads safer
- reducing air pollution
- ensuring there is an adequate number of parking places available on the high street, and
- that residents can park as near as possible to their homes.

Each town centre or small parade of shops has different needs; some need rapid turnover, some need time for shoppers to browse, so the council is not proposing a 'one size fits all' policy. The draft Parking Policy has been developed to ensure it takes on board all these different views.

The policy proposes varied town centre parking charges across the borough, to meet an 85 per cent target for on and off-street parking spaces being occupied. It also explores the possibility of moving away from a flat rate for residents parking permits, noting the examples of other London boroughs.

To give your views on our budget proposals visit: [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk).





## Council Tax Support Consultation – options for a revised scheme from 2015/16

**W**e are reviewing our Council Tax Support scheme which helps residents who are on low incomes pay their Council Tax.

When considering the options for a revised CTS scheme in Barnet, the council is seeking to strike the right balance between making it fair not only on those residents who are eligible for support – but also those residents who depend on other council services.

We are keen to hear from all residents, community and voluntary groups, Council Tax Support claimants, and other organisations in the borough, and to get your views and ideas on the proposals before the elected Members make a decision about the future of the scheme.

Consultation deadline  
27 October 2014

To give your views on our budget proposals visit: [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk)



## Supporting residents to get into work

Barnet Council's Joint Benefit Cap Task Force; a multi-agency team including Jobcentre Plus, the Housing Benefit service, the Barnet Group's Housing Options Service and Welfare Benefits advisers, has supported almost 500 people to get into work after changes to the benefit system. The Task Force has supported a total of 1,371 people, 90% of those affected by the benefit changes.

Leader of Barnet Council, Councillor Richard Cornelius, said: "By joining together we are able to remove the barriers which so often stop people with the most complex needs from getting into work. It also allows us to provide a better and more efficient service."

The Task Force was praised by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith, when he visited the borough in August, saying: "Jobcentre Plus and Barnet Council are helping to improve the lives of some of the hardest-to-reach families by successfully working in partnership with other local agencies."



# Support for Barnet's unpaid carers

**E**veryday 6.5 million unpaid carers in the UK are sacrificing their own health and wellbeing to look after friends, relatives or neighbours who are frail, ill or have a disabling condition, and many do not realise they can get help.

Statistics from the Health and Social Care Information Centre show that 40% of carers did not feel they had the time to look after themselves properly. Some carers are forced to give up their jobs because the person they care for cannot be left alone.

Valma James, Hospital Discharge Co-ordinator at Barnet Carers Centre, says "Carers do not ask for help because they often don't see themselves as carers, they just see it as their responsibility. They don't know that they can be recognised as informal carers and get help."

Barnet Carers Centre provides Barnet's unpaid carers with peer and emotional support, carers breaks, coffee mornings, legal advice and training, as well as help during hospital admission and discharge. "I would urge any unpaid carer to find out what support is available," says Valma.

If you are an unpaid carer, you do not have to do it all alone. For more information, visit [www.barnetcarers.org](http://www.barnetcarers.org) or call 020 8343 9698

## A carer's story



Peter Woodhouse, 84, was a carer for his wife Lena and son Richard, who was born with Down Syndrome. He was referred to Valma James when Richard was receiving treatment at Barnet General Hospital. "People don't know that the centre exists, it's only by somebody talking to someone else. I went to meetings, tea mornings and discussion groups to give me a break," he says.

Sadly, Lena passed away two years ago and Richard passed away last year, but every Sunday Mr Woodhouse visits a bench he bought in their memory. "I wanted to have something in recognition for both of them and with the help of my two other sons, we were able to raise funds through a fundraising event and bought a bench, which is placed at Friern Barnet to be appreciated by all."

Mr Woodhouse also continues to visit the centre to support others by sharing his experience as a carer. "You've got to speak up for yourself, you are doing everything you can for the person you are looking after, so you've got to look after yourself, keep fit and keep well and continue with your life."

# Contact your councillors

## Brunswick Park

### Labour

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## West Hendon

### Labour

Cllr Dr Devra Kay  
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## Woodhouse

### Labour

Cllr Geof Cooke  
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Cllr Alan Schneiderman  
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# what's on



**14 – 27 October**

Ivy House,  
94-96 North End Road,  
London NW11 7SX

**T**he London Jewish Cultural Centre presents Art Week 2014, a series of art-oriented events and visits. Events will be based at Ivy House and visits include the Royal Academy, Christie's auction house and an art restorer's studio.



An Introduction to Life Drawing class will be held by artist, art historian and critic Estelle Lovatt, with the opportunity to work in charcoal, pencil and chalk.

There will also be a walk through Belsize Park, taking in the former homes of a number of influential artists, and ending at one of London's foremost contemporary art galleries, housed in an old Methodist chapel.

For full details and online booking visit:

[www.ljcc.org.uk](http://www.ljcc.org.uk) or call 020 8457 5000.

Early booking is advised, as places are limited.



## World Mental Health Day

Date: Friday 10 October

Time: 1-5pm

Venue: St Mary-at-Finchley Church Hall,  
Hendon Lane, Finchley, N3 1TR

Details: This free event, to mark WMH Day in Barnet, will include dancing, music and refreshments.

For more information visit [www.worldmhd-barnet.org](http://www.worldmhd-barnet.org), or tel: 020 8732 6655.

## World War 1 'Make and Take' activities

Date: Saturday 25-Friday 31 October  
(half-term)

Time: 11am-1pm and 2-4pm

Venue: RAF Museum, Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL

Age: 5+

Price: from £3 per kit

Visitors will have the opportunity to make a WW1 Airfix model to take home, or get creative with pencils and paper.

email: [whatson@rafmuseum.org](mailto:whatson@rafmuseum.org) for details, or tel: 020 8205 2266.

## Big Draw Family Day

Date: Sunday 2 November

Time: 11am-4.30pm

Venue: artsdepot, 5 Nether Street,  
North Finchley, N12 0GA

Price: £3

artsdepot celebrates the Big Draw 2014 with a variety of drawing-related activities, suitable for all ages, based on the theme of 'It's Our World'.

Further details at [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk), or tel: 020 8369 5454.