



Clean, green and safe

Council's week of action rolls out across the borough

- see page eleven

contents



3 West Hendon regeneration scheme



4 Spotlight on your ward – Underhill



6 Your Iceland questions answered



8 Recycling guide



9 Youngsters get back on track



10 Rebuilding schools



11 Clean, green and safe



12 Pupils tune in



13 What's On



16 Children show they care

Production details

Barnet First is your magazine, bringing you news and features about what your council is doing for you. For editorial and advertising enquiries, or to make comments about the magazine, please contact Sue Cocker on **020 8359 7039** or sue.cocker@barnet.gov.uk

Barnet Council does not accept responsibility for any goods or services offered by advertisers. Publication of an advertisement does not imply recommendation by the council of any goods or services advertised. Copies of Barnet First are delivered to every home in the borough. The magazine is printed on 100% recycled paper and can be recycled after use. The cost of designing, printing and distributing each magazine is just over 10 pence per issue.

Barnet First is also available in **large print** or on audio tape. Designed by hey moscow 020 8869 1420 heymoscow.com

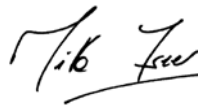
Message from the Leader

Welcome to the first edition of Barnet First for 2009 and I would like to wish readers a very happy and prosperous New Year.

As the New Year unfolds it is clear Barnet has not been immune to the credit crunch sweeping the globe and times are certain to get harder and harder for residents and businesses alike as the economic downturn continues. Residents may have heard of the council's own deposits in Icelandic banks which have been frozen, not lost, and we have put together a detailed list of frequently asked questions and answers on pages 6 and 7 to keep residents informed of the current situation.

The council will be implementing a number of measures to try and negate the impact of the current economic downturn in Barnet. I will be working closely with local small and medium sized enterprises over the coming months, listening to their concerns and aspirations, then ensuring that the council works in partnership to create a new local economy and sustain existing business in the borough that will benefit residents for many years to come.

Despite the economic downturn, Barnet Council has signed a major regeneration agreement in Edgware, promising a bright future for residents living in the Stonegrove and Spur Road estates. More on this scheme can be found on page 3.



Bright future secured for Stonegrove

Barnet Council has signed a major regeneration agreement, bringing the promise of a bright future for hundreds of residents

The deal between the Council and developers Barratt Homes comes despite the slowdown in the housing market and general downturn in the national economy.

The good news will bring some seasonal cheer to the Stonegrove and Spur Road estates in Edgware, as the builders will move in early in the New Year.

The agreement was sealed after changes were agreed in Section 106 developer contributions, with the aim of aiding cash flow for the project to ensure that development can start in January.

The phasing of the regeneration project has been changed so that the scheme remains viable throughout its construction, but it does not in any way reduce the scale or value of the development, nor the benefits to the community.

Among the changes is a delay to the start date for the construction of a new community hall. However, this is intended to serve the whole of the new development and it is therefore appropriate for it to be available when the development is mainly complete.

The regeneration of the Stonegrove and Spur Road estates will ultimately see the demolition of the 603 existing homes and their replacement with the erection of 937 new homes, together with a new community hall, church and church hall with nursery facility, the provision of public and private open space, car parking and cycle



Fresh start: A computer image showing the first phase of redevelopment for Stonegrove.

parking, new access for vehicles off Spur Road and Stonegrove, and a new internal road layout.

Zone 1, the first phase of the redevelopment, will provide 138 new homes (31 houses and 107 flats), of which 86 units will be affordable and 52 will be for private sale.

A blue day for disabled badge fraudsters

Ongoing operation clamps down on misuse of blue badges



Clampdown: A police officer inspecting cars for blue badge misuse.

Residents who misuse disabled blue badges across the borough are continuing to be targeted as part of the council's ongoing operation with Barnet Police.

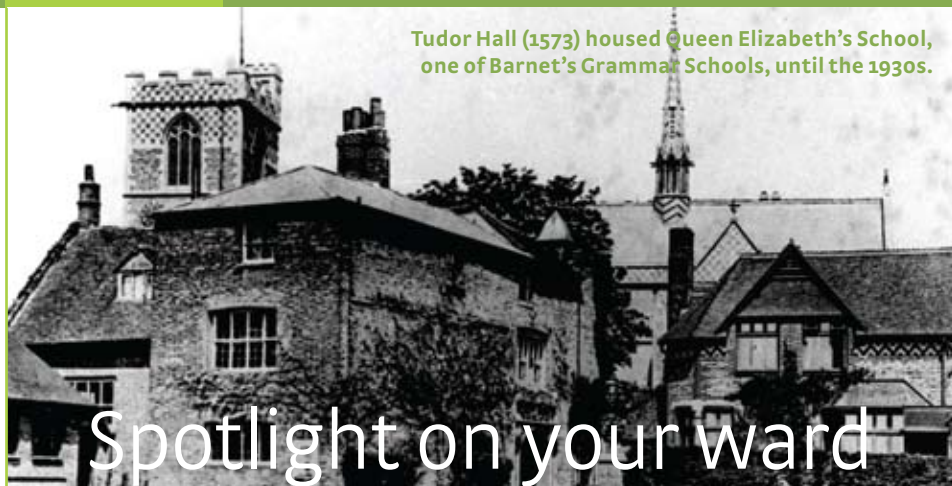
After a successful start in which more than 50 vehicles were inspected in the Dollis Park area of Finchley, police officers seized 12 badges and issued £30 fixed penalty notices for misuse.

The joint operation sees officers from the council's Corporate Anti-Fraud team (CAFT), Civil Enforcement team and Police Safer Neighbourhood teams, patrolling areas of the borough in which residents have raised concerns.

Where badges are found to be misused, the registered holders receive a formal warning from the council and are informed that any further misuse may result in their badge being taken away permanently.

Civil Enforcement Officers from the council are also able to issue those cars parked in contravention of parking rules with an additional £60 penalty charge notice.

If you know of anyone misusing a blue badge please contact the CAFT confidential hotline on 020 8359 2007.



Tudor Hall (1573) housed Queen Elizabeth's School, one of Barnet's Grammar Schools, until the 1930s.



In 1787 the famous Jewish boxer Daniel Mendoza beat Martins, the Bath Butcher, at Barnet Fair watched by thousands.

Spotlight on your ward

Underhill

In this issue we turn the spotlight on Underhill, site of what was once Barnet Common.

Underhill covers much of what was Barnet Common and is now the base of Barnet Football Club. The club, which was founded as an amalgamation of different teams, began playing at Underhill in 1907.

Barnet Common was the main site of Barnet Fair, a horse and pleasure fair started in 1588. Travellers, residents and even royalty came from across London to visit the fair, with horse races and boxing as much a part of the attraction as the sale of animals. At one time cattle were traded and in the 1880s it was said 40,000 cattle were bought and sold. By the 1920s the decline in horse transport meant Barnet Fair began to lose its popularity. It is now held on the first Monday in September.

The Common, situated on land to the south and west of Barnet Town, was also the home of a Digger community around 1649. The Diggers, led by Gerrard Winstanley, were a radical movement originating from the English Civil War. Winstanley argued "Freedom is the man who will turn the World upside down", and called for the abolition of private property. The Diggers formed small communities growing food on common land. Nothing is known about the community in Barnet, but it is unlikely they survived beyond 1651.

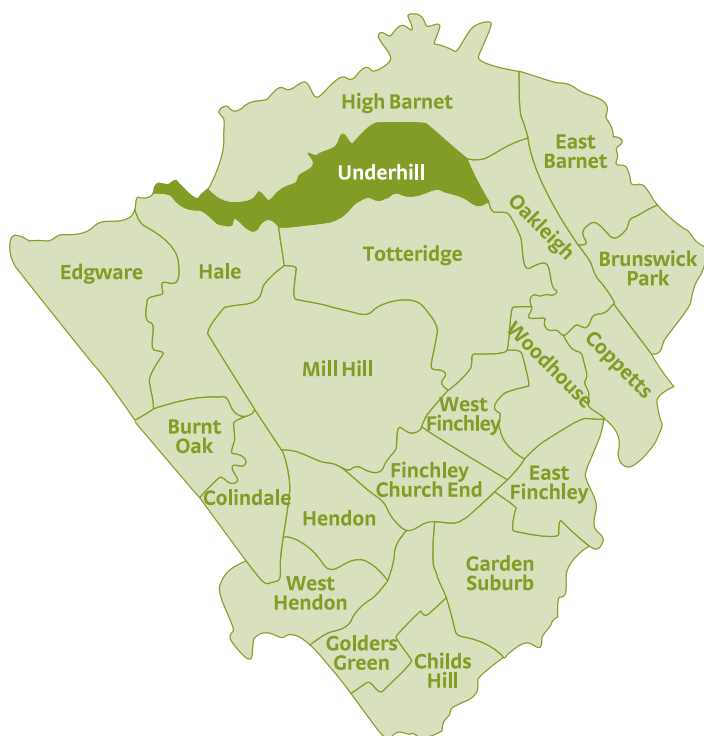
In the 17th century a 'Physic' well was discovered on the Common which was believed to have healing properties, purging the body of ill 'humours' which were thought to cause ill health. The well attracted many fashionable Londoners including the diarist Samuel Pepys in 1664 who wrote;

"I drank three glasses and went and walked, and came back and drank two more. The woman would have had me drink three more; but I could not, my belly being full – but this wrought me very well; and so we rode home...my waters working at least seven or eight times upon the road, which pleased me well."

Over the next few years the well declined in popularity and by the 1690s it was no longer an important spa.

The northern edge of the ward includes part of Barnet High Street and Wood Street, where several buildings are of interest. Legend has it that the Avenue Pub, formerly known as the Red Lion, is haunted by a maid who died after she fell down stairs. The Old Courthouse in Wood Street was used as council offices from 1916. Next door is Barnet Museum which displays many interesting objects and photographs from Barnet's past.

Further down Wood Street, where Hertswood Court is today, are the old Elizabeth Allen's School buildings. Elizabeth Allen





Until the 1820s the Red Lion marked the start of the old road leading up to Barnet Town. This route was so steep it required extra horses to help coaches up the hill.

Did you know.....?

- Of Barnet wards, Underhill has the third highest proportion of its population born in England (82 per cent).
- 13.4 per cent of Underhill workers are in the Health and Social Work sector, the second highest for this sector in Barnet.
- At 14.2 per cent of households, Underhill has the third highest rate of lone parentage in Barnet.
- 8.8 per cent of people in Underhill travel to work on foot or by bicycle, the third highest rate in the borough.

* Figures taken from 2001 census.

left her estate to pay for the education of boys and girls of Barnet in 1727, but the money was used to pay for Queen Elizabeth's School for boys until the new school was built. Closed as a school in 1973, the buildings are now sheltered accommodation.

Victoria Hospital, opened in 1888 as part of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, was funded through a public subscription. In 1923 it moved to Wood Street from Barnet Hill where it became a maternity hospital post war before closing in 1988.

Barnet Hospital on Wellhouse Lane was once the site of Barnet Workhouse, built in 1837 where families too poor to feed themselves were sent. Families were broken up with the men, women, and children living and sleeping in different sections. In 1895 an 'infirmary' was added which in turn became Barnet General. The Workhouse buildings were demolished in 2002.

Nearby, half way along Mays Lane, is the curiously named area called Duck Island. It possibly takes its name from a local landowner living in Rowley Green in the 17th century rather than the bird. Duck

Island developed into a small hamlet after the last big enclosure of Barnet Common in 1815. By the 1870s there was a small school and chapel of ease. In 1895 Bells Hill Cemetery was opened for High Barnet, and the year after a new church called St Stephens. The Isolation Hospital (1906 – 1948) was built to care for those with diphtheria and scarlet fever, and later became St Stephen's Hospital, part of Barnet General Hospital. The hospital was demolished in 1999 and replaced with Darlands Drive.

To find out more about the history of Underhill, contact:

Barnet Local Studies and Archives Centre
80 Daws Lane
Mill Hill
London
NW7 4SL
Tel: 020 8359 3960. Email: library.archives@barnet.gov.uk

What's in Underhill?

Parks and open spaces

- Duck's Island, Mays Lane Facilities include: gardens, children's play area, wildlife interest
- King George V Playing Field, Barnet Lane Facilities include: football

Allotments

- Brent Place, Barnet
- Dollis Valley, Leaside, Mays Lane
- Bells Hill, Barnet
- Stanhope Road, Barnet

Schools

- Barnet Hill Primary School, Hammond Close (merging with Whittings Hill Primary School in July 2009)
- Grasvenor Avenue Infant School, Grasvenor Ave
- St Catherine's Catholic Infant School, Vale Drive
- Underhill Infant and Junior Schools, Mays Lane
- Whittings Hill Primary School, Whittings Road
- Queen Elizabeth's Girls School, High Road

Other services

- Recycling bring banks - Dollis Valley Way bus stop (newspaper and cans), Barnet Lane by playing fields entrance (newspaper, glass, textiles and cans)

If you've enjoyed this series of ward spotlights, you may be interested in finding out more about where you live from our Pocket Histories. These cover the whole of the borough and can be found on our website: www.barnet.gov.uk/archives-histories

Your councillors

As with all of Barnet's 21 wards, Underhill has three elected members, or councillors, who have been elected by the ward's residents to represent them. Councillors are elected for four years at a time.

Councillor Fiona Bulmer (Conservative)

Has been a ward member since 2002. She is currently Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Tel: 020 8344 2672
Email: cllr.f.bulmer@barnet.gov.uk

Councillor Anita Campbell (Labour)

Joined the council in 1990. She was Mayor in 2001/02 and is a member of the Planning and Environment Committee.

Tel: 020 8440 2703
Email: cllr.a.campbell@barnet.gov.uk

Councillor Daniel Webb (Conservative)

Was elected in 2006. He is currently Assistant Cabinet Member for Planning and Environmental Protection

Tel: 020 8349 2256
Email: cllr.d.webb@barnet.gov.uk

Meet your councillors

Barnet's councillors hold regular advice surgeries to give residents the chance to discuss any topics they wish to raise.

You can meet Cllr Bulmer and Cllr Webb on the third Saturday of every month between 10.30 am and 12.00 noon at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road. No appointment is necessary.

Cllr Campbell is available on the 1st and 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, between 2 and 3pm. No appointment necessary.

Icelandic deposits frozen not lost

Barnet Council answers your most frequently asked questions about the financial crisis in Iceland

As residents may be aware, Barnet Council currently has £27.4m deposited with Glitnir and Landsbanki, Icelandic banks which have been placed into administration. The deposits held are currently frozen by the administrators of the banks and are by no means lost. Following the publicity surrounding these funds, Barnet Council has drawn up a list of answers to some frequently asked questions:

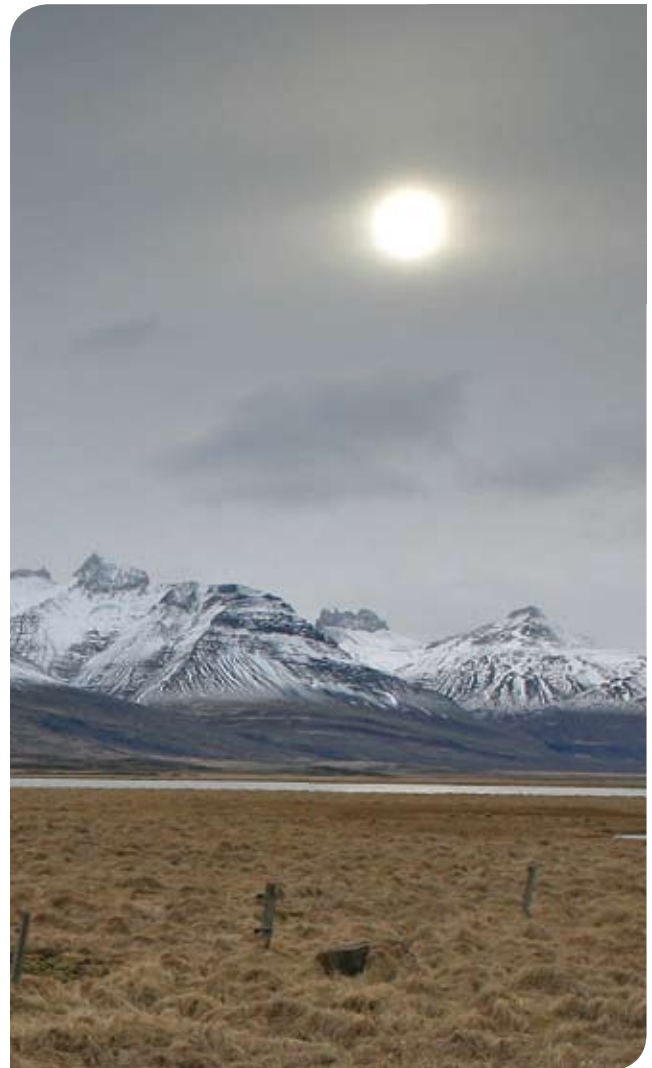
Q. Why did Barnet Council invest council taxpayers' money overseas?

A. The council has not invested any money. We did not buy stocks and shares in banks, but we do deposit our daily cash balances into bank accounts in the same way as normal savers. Spreading deposits across a number of institutions reduces the levels of risk. The Council only deposited money, to a maximum level of £15 million*, in banks and building societies with high credit ratings. Many UK banks would not accept such small amounts for deposit so we had no option but to select overseas banks with good credit ratings.

Q. Why did the Council have so much spare money in the first place?

A. The money deposited with financial institutions does not represent 'spare' funds, but rolling revenue and capital balances that are deposited and drawn down by the Council when needed. The balances held on account changes on a daily basis and is made up from money collected from council tax payments, housing rents, Business Rates, government grants, capital receipts and other income paid to the Council.

By depositing this money, Barnet Council generated £25m in income over the last 3 years. Had these deposits not been made, the additional tax burden over the same period would have equated to £220 for each household in the borough. This income represented an average 5.91 per cent return on deposits, and funded the entirety of the Library Service (£7.2m), Refuse Service (£5.4m), General Fund Housing Service (£1.6m), and Planning and Environment Service (£1.6m), with some funding left over.



Q. Why are councillors deciding where to deposit our money?

A. Councillors did not decide where to place deposits – they formed policy whilst Council officers, with expertise in finance, combined with external technical and professional advice, implemented them. Despite banks always being considered safe places to deposit money, the Council has a Treasury Management Strategy developed by those elected to the Council. This strategy is updated annually and an annual report comparing compliance and performance against the strategy is produced. No councillors were involved in the decision making process about where these deposits were placed.

Q. Why was so much money deposited in each bank?

A. A cap of £15 million* was placed on the amount of money that could be placed with any one financial institution at a time. Had this cap not been introduced, Barnet Council could have been exposed to more risk on the same scale as other authorities. The Council's decision to spread its deposits has meant that only 8 per cent of its total deposits were exposed to the current crisis in Iceland.

Excellent start to pay by phone parking in Barnet

Barnet's pay by phone parking schemes have got off to a good start. On 29 September Barnet became the first local authority in the UK to simultaneously trial two pay by phone parking providers RinGo and Verrus in 15 off street car parks in the borough.

The Council introduced the pay by phone system to provide car park users with a safer, easier and more flexible method of payment for their parking. Drivers are not required to carry cash to pay for their tickets, instead calling a telephone number, entering their vehicle registration, length of stay and their debit card number.

It is predicted take-up will increase from the current level of 8 per cent to 15 per cent by the end of the six month trial period as more users of Barnet's car parks switch to the system.

Q. Why didn't the Council see this coming?

A. Nobody foresaw the collapse of the entire banking sector either in the United Kingdom or Iceland. No warnings were issued by the Governor of the Bank of England or Chancellor and claims that councils could have foreseen this collapse coming are incorrect.

When the Icelandic deposits were made, up to two years ago, the economy was strong, banks and building societies were safe places to deposit money and the risks were low. Even if the situation had been foreseen in recent weeks/months, the deposits could not have been recovered or at least not without very substantial early redemption penalties.

Q. How will it affect my services and council tax?

A. The money frozen in Iceland is not yet lost and at this moment the Council cannot say how any services or capital projects, if any, will be affected. The Council is currently in negotiations with Icelandic creditors, and the Treasury, to seek assurances that the money will be returned.

* The limit on amounts that can now be deposited with individual banks has since been increased from £15m to £25m to reflect the fact the number of banks the Council feels safe to deposit funds with has now decreased.

'Positive' meeting with Iceland banks

Clive Medlam, the Council's Director of Resources, along with an officer from Kent County Council recently travelled to Iceland to represent all UK authorities affected by the Icelandic banking crisis at Informal Creditor Committee meetings. These meetings were called by the Resolution Committees of the old banks, and we were requested to attend.

Details of the meetings must remain confidential due to an agreement signed between the banks' administrators and all creditors, but we are pleased with the positive discussions that have taken place and we are optimistic that in time our deposits will be returned.



Your guide to waste prevention and recycling in Barnet

In Barnet, there are now more services to help you to recycle your waste than ever before. Use this cut-out-and-keep guide to make sure you're up to date on how to reduce and recycle your waste in Barnet

Recycle from Home (blue and black box service) – weekly collection



Black box

Paper, glass bottles and jars, textiles, shoes, batteries, mobile phones, engine oil.



Blue box

Plastic bottles, cardboard, cans, foil, aerosols.

Flats recycling service – weekly collection



Paper, glass bottles and jars, cans, foil, aerosols.

Recycling facilities for plastic bottles and cardboard coming to flats soon.

Green garden and kitchen waste service – weekly collection



Vegetables, teabags, fruit, bread, eggshells, meat (no bones) and fish scraps, dairy, garden waste including grass and hedge trimmings.

Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, North Finchley, N12 0RT



We take 40 different items for recycling including: wood, tetra paks, hard plastics, scrap metal and electrical items.

Compost at Home – subsidised compost bins and wormeries



Vegetables, teabags, fruit, eggshells, leaves, branches, cardboard, shredded paper.

Wormeries also take bread and meat scraps.

Waste Prevention

Although Barnet residents are recycling more and more each year, we are still producing more rubbish than ever before. Recycling is good but waste prevention is better:

- Take your own reusable shopping bag to the shops.
- Choose products with little or no packaging or products with packaging that can be reused.
- Ask shop managers to stock more products with minimal packaging and a good selection of loose fruit and vegetables and let them know if you feel that a product has been over-packaged.

By recycling and reducing waste as much as possible, you are saving your council tax from being spent on landfill disposal costs and potential fines. Thank you for your efforts so far and keep it up!

For more information on recycling or waste prevention please contact the Waste and Sustainability Team: tel – 020 8359 7400, email – recycling@barnet.gov.uk, website – www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling

Olympic hopefuls on their starting blocks

The future looks bright for 22 talented athletes from Barnet

The Olympic dreams of 22 aspiring athletes moved a step closer after they received financial and training grants from the newly launched GLL Sport Foundation.

The successful applicants will receive training at GLL's Barnet-based Cophall Leisure Centre and funding of up to £2,000 each to be spent on training, travel and equipment for the next 12 months.

Launched at the House of Commons earlier this year, the Foundation plans to give more than £1.5m to young athletes in selected areas of London and the South of England in the run up to the London 2012 games.

Peter Bundy, GLL director and chair of the GLL Sport Foundation, presented the athletes with their certificates at an event attended by The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor John Marshall, and Councillor Richard Cornelius, Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance, at the Barnet Cophall Leisure Centre in November. Former British Olympic Champion and GLL Sport Foundation Patron, Sally Gunnell, said: "I am very excited that this substantial new scheme can provide vital support to young athletes and British sport in the region."

Already showing the potential to succeed at international level, the twenty two athletes are:-

Athletics: Matthew Sullivan, 18; Jade Attoh, 16; Tommy Bryant, 17; Richard Goodman, 15; Niall Fleming, 16; Sophie Connor, 15; Junior Ejehu, 17; Jo Anker; Tom Peacock, 16. **Diving:** Jess Wiltshire, 13.

Fencing: Amy Hyman, 16. **Football:** Rakatahr Hudson, 23.

Gymnastics: Connor Dutton, 11; Gabrielle Jupp, 11 and Shannon Nichols, 12. **Swimming:** Christopher Matthew Eddon, 19; Madeleine Tichborne, 12; Oliver Keegan, 14; Nicola Burlingham, 12. **Table**

tennis: Reece Tan, 14 and William Maybanks, 17. **Wheelchair**

basketball: Tyler Saunders, 25.

Further information on the foundation and details on how to apply for the next round of funding can be found at

www.gllsportfoundation.org



On your marks: School pupils practice their long jump under the watchful eye of professional coaches at Met Trak, a police led initiative designed to encourage youngsters to take up athletics, not crime.

Green refuse vehicles are go



Clean sweep for Barnet's roads as new eco friendly vehicles cut down borough's carbon footprint

High-tech and environmentally friendly refuse vehicles have been travelling the streets of the borough, as part of the fleet replacement programme which began in November.

The programme forms part of a ten-year contract with Go Plant Limited to provide and maintain the council's refuse collection and street cleaning vehicles, with the first vehicles ready for action.

The contract will mean all council services, from libraries to the highways team, will benefit from the new and efficient vehicles being phased in over the next four years. The vehicles will be equipped with the latest fuel emission engines, which will contribute to decreasing the council's carbon footprint over the next decade.

Adult social services keeps star rating

Barnet Council praised for its level of service

Barnet Council's Adult Social Services Department has successfully maintained its two star rating for Adult Social Services in Barnet. The annual star ratings are awarded by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) for the years 2007/2008.

The CSCI inspects and reports on care services and councils and was set up by the government to improve social care and stamp out bad practice. The star rating, which gives an overall picture of how well councils are delivering their social care services, is assessed on detailed statistics, collation of data on performance (including customer surveys), inspection of services and general information about improvement.

In the announcement made last November, Barnet's Adult Social Services were assessed as delivering 'good' outcomes for the people of Barnet and as having a 'promising' capacity for improvement. CSCI commented that there is 'consistent promotion of independence for people who use services and their carers, within a range of services'.

A copy of Barnet Council's CSCI Performance Summary Report for 2007-2008 can be found at

<http://www.csci.org.uk/default.asp?page=1083>

Contract signed for new £29m secondary school

Work begins on state of the art school for more than 1,000 students

Barnet Council has signed a contract with a major construction company to provide an exciting new building for a successful and popular secondary school.

East Barnet School is to be rebuilt at a cost of £29m to provide 1,350 pupils and 150 staff with an inspiring 21st century complex on Chestnut Grove. The school will be seven form entry with 1,050 students in Years 7 to 11, and another 300 in the sixth form.

The new school will feature large general teaching spaces and suites for specialist learning. Improved social facilities will include an auditorium linked to an open plan dining area within a double height space overlooked by galleries, and a central, three-storey high entrance concourse.

The builders, Norwest Holst, are preparing the earthworks for the site, and have begun to sink the first of 440 piles to support the new building. Work on the foundations and drainage is also underway, and construction of the structural frame will start in February. The building is due for completion in late 2010.

Meanwhile, the Council has secured investment of nearly £11m to begin work on a major programme of refurbishing and rebuilding local primary schools.



New school: Barnet's Mayor, Cllr John Marshall, signs the school contract flanked by Cllr Matthew Offord (r) and Gavin Taylor, regional director of Norwest Holst (l).

The borough will share in funding which the government is releasing for approved schemes under its Primary Capital Programme, starting in April 2009.

Among projects to be funded are new premises for the children's centre and special educational need resource at

Childs Hill, and remodelling at the Menorah Foundation School in Edgware.

The Council had earlier been chosen to pilot the programme, and money already approved is being spent on improvements at Edgware Infant and Junior Schools, and the Goldbeaters School.

The changing face of social care

Residents' asked to join in the debate about the future of care

With the number of people in the UK aged over 85 doubling - and the number of centenarians quadrupling - by 2028, residents are facing a huge growth in the need for social care.

This spring, the government will launch proposals on how the increased need for social care can be managed realistically.

Caring for someone can be emotionally and physically exhausting and can make finding work harder.

The Council is launching a debate on the questions this raises, such as:

- When is it appropriate to ask people to pay for their own care or 'look after their own', and when should the wider community help?
- Should we use national or private insurance to help people prepare for the cost of care?
- How much should charities or employers be asked to help people out?

Visit www.barnet.gov.uk for information on how to get involved.

Are you entitled?

With money becoming an increasing strain for a lot of people, did you know you may be entitled to help with your housing and/or council tax benefit if you're unemployed, on a low income, rent your property privately, from the council or a housing association?

To find out if you may be entitled, call 020 8359 2111 or email benefits@barnet.gov.uk. Further information can also be found at www.barnet.gov.uk/advice-benefits

Barnet's first Clean, Green and Safe week of action proves a great success

Anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles all targeted in week of community action



Thumbs up: children take fingerprints as part of a make and play scheme.

Following the success of the council's first Clean, Green and Safe week of action launched in the Childs Hill ward in October, the next week is set to commence in Burnt Oak later this month.

Working with its partner organisations, including the Met Police, fire brigade, Barnet Homes, Community Transport, Primary Care Trust, probation service, BVSC voluntary service, residents associations and neighbourhood watch groups, the council addressed issues important to residents.

During the week of action more than 1,000 sq m of graffiti was removed. In addition, more than 1,400 people completed electoral registration forms, enabling them to engage in the democratic process, and 700 timer switches were distributed, free of charge to residents, in an effort to reduce burglaries. As well as advice on home security, Childs Hill residents were given information on planning for an emergency, health, benefits and fire safety.

Other events included a well-attended theatre production about distraction burglary at the St Agnes Community Centre and the unveiling of three sculptures on the Millennium Green in Cricklewood, by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor John Marshall.

Following on from the scheme's success, officers will continue to monitor the areas where work has been carried out and liaise with residents to ensure problems stay resolved.



Helping hands: Bulbs are planted by local children as part of a clean up day at the Millennium Green.

The next week of action is scheduled for 26 - 30 January. For more information on how to become involved in your local area contact: lorna.minney@barnet.gov.uk, tel: 020 8359 7726 or visit: www.barnet.gov.uk



Fancy dress: Children try on hats during a police activity day in Childs Hill.

Barnet schools in top three for attending class

Truancy figures show Barnet's secondary schools are the third lowest for persistent absence in London

The figures released by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) revealed that just 4.3 per cent of pupils in Barnet persistently missed class in Barnet in the autumn 2007 and spring 2008 terms.

Persistent absence is defined as missing more than 20 per cent of lessons. The rate remains below the government's strict target of five per cent and is less than the 4.7 per cent recorded in 2006/7.

An improvement of 0.4 per cent among Barnet's 43,000 pupils represents 172 pupils who are now attending school regularly who weren't before.

*Official GCSE and A level results place Barnet school pupils amongst the top ten highest achieving authorities in the country.

In 2007/08, 60.3% of boys and girls in Barnet achieved 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE including English and Mathematics, compared with an average of 47.2% in

England - placing Barnet 8th highest nationally. In the same year 72.4% of pupils in Barnet achieved 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE, compared with 64.6% of pupils in England who achieved the equivalent grades, placing Barnet in joint 5th place.

Barnet schools also came within the top ten for its A level results. The average Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) Level 3 point score per entry was 212.7, compared with a national average of 209.1, putting Barnet 5th highest in the country.

Musical youth

School children in Barnet hit the right note

Children across the borough joined in harmony during a week of celebrations at Barnet's Infant Music Festival last month.

Forty one schools took part in the concerts hosted at eight different venues across Barnet. The festival, which is in its fifth year, is aimed at giving Key Stage One children aged five to seven an opportunity to share music with children from other schools.

As well as being given a chance to perform their individual songs before an audience, the children got an opportunity to sing four songs together which they had all learned and play African musical instruments.

The participating schools were Brookland Infant School, St Mary's and St John's School, Holly Park School, Church Hill School, St Agnes' School, Whitings Hill School, Fairway School and Woodcroft School.



Lucy Young/Barnet Press

In tempo: Church Hill Infant pupils hit the right note.

Changes to student finance

In line with a new national programme, Barnet Council will no longer be responsible for assessing financial support given to students entering higher education from the start of the 2009 academic year.

New students will now be assessed by Student Finance England, a partnership between the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Student Loans Company Ltd.

Existing and continuing students will remain with Barnet Student Finance and can contact 0845 6077577 Monday to Sunday, 8am - 8pm or alternatively telephone 0208 3592233 Monday 9am -1pm Wednesday 1pm-5pm and Friday 9am - 1pm from January 2009.

Scheduled surgeries will no longer be available with new applicants asked contact Student Finance England on 0845 300 50 90 or www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

What's on in Barnet during January and February?

Arts

Creative Routes

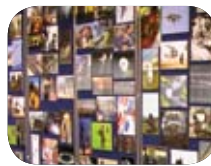
28/11/2008 to 11/01/2009

Aphorp Gallery, Arts Depot, 5 Nether Street N12 OGA. Now in its fourth year, Creative Routes is a celebration of artistic talent in Barnet. The annual exhibition showcases the work of local primary school children working with a selection of professional artists including a photographer, textile artist and a sculptor. For more information, contact the Box Office on 020 8369 5454.

RAF Photography Exhibition

10/01/09 to 19/04/09

An exhibition of RAF photography taken by Service Personnel located in the Milestones of Flight Hangar. For further information, please telephone 020 8205 2266.



Oh what a lovely war!

21/01/09 & 22/01/09 7.30pm

Arts Depot Pentland Theatre. World War I musical performed by 50 students from The Compton School. Cost: £7.50 adults, £5 children. For further information tel 020 8369 5454 or www.artsdepot.co.uk

Lily and the Magical Moonbeam

25/01/09 12 and 3pm

Studio Theatre Arts Depot. A delightful play brought to life with beautiful music and enchanting puppetry. Ages 4-7 Cost: £7 For further information, call 020 8368 5454 or visit www.artsdepot.co.uk



Leisure/Pastimes

Multicultural Dressmaking Classes

1 to 31/01/09

Venue: 14 The Concourse, Grahame Park Estate London NW9 5XA. Multicultural dressmaking classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced. Learning freehand cutting techniques, pattern making, childrens wear, blouse making, evening dress, bridal wear. Learn machine techniques to make embroidery. Alter your own garments. Learn to make simple curtains, design your own cushions/bedsheets and pillows. Special concessions for pensioners and unemployed. For further information telephone 07903151159.

Miscellaneous

Designer Style: Home Decorating in the 1950s

1/11/08 – 6/09/09

Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet. A series of workshops and events to support MoDA's collection of wallpapers and textiles by well-known artists and designers. For further information, telephone 020 8411 5244 www.moda.mdx.ac.uk

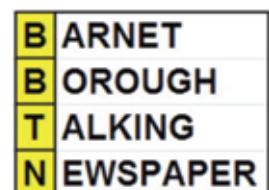
If you would like your event to be considered for inclusion in Barnet First, please visit: www.barnet.gov.uk, and add your event details to the "What's On" page.

Barnet Borough Talking Newspaper Hear, here!!

If you (or somebody you know) find it hard to read local newspapers or newsletters like Barnet First, you need **Barnet Borough Talking Newspaper** delivered to your home completely free on a CD every week for you to listen to, at your leisure, about what's going on in your borough.

Once you have listened to the disc simply return it completely free of charge, in time to receive the following week's news.

To receive Talking Newspapers, please phone 020 8883 8008 and leave your name, address and postcode, plus a contact phone number in case we need to get in touch with you.



Council meetings – dates for your diary

Meetings are open to the public and are generally held at Barnet House, Whetstone starting at 7pm. The residents forums (which start at 6.30pm) meet at a variety of venues around the borough, and details can be found online, on our posters or by contacting the Democratic Services team on 020 8359 2031. Members of the public can ask to speak at most meetings. Further information can be obtained by contacting Democratic Services.

January

- 5 Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum
- 6 Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee
- 7 Hendon Residents Forum
- 8 Chipping Barnet Residents Forum
- 12 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 12 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 12 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 13 Corporate Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee
- 14 General Functions Committee
- 19 Cabinet Resources Committee
- 20 Cabinet
- 21 Planning and Environment Committee
- 26 Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 27 Council
- 28 Tackling Crime and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 29 Special Committee (Constitution Review)
- 29 Corporate Joint Consultation (Health, Safety and Welfare) Committee

February

- 3 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 3 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 3 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 4 Pension Fund Committee
- 5 Hendon Residents Forum
- 9 Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 10 Special Committee (Constitution Review)
- 11 Planning and Environment Committee
- 12 Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 16 Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 17 Chipping Barnet Residents Forum
- 18 First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 19 Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum
- 23 Cabinet
- 24 General Functions Committee
- 25 Cabinet Resources Committee

Meet... your members

Note: All codes are 020 unless otherwise indicated.

Brunswick Park Ward

Lynne Hillan (Con)

8445 5101
cllr.l.hillan@barnet.gov.uk

Andreas Tambourides (Con)

8368 5417
cllr.a.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Second Saturday every month,
Osidge Library, Brunswick Park
Road, N11
10.30am – 12 noon

Lisa Rutter (Con)

8445 3829
cllr.l.rutter@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Last Saturday every month,
Osidge Library, Brunswick Park
Road, N11
2.30pm – 4pm

Burnt Oak Ward

Claire Farrier (Lab)

8959 7908
cllr.c.farrier@barnet.gov.uk

Linda McFadyen (Lab)

Deputy Leader of the Labour
group
8364 8782
cllr.l.mcfadyen@barnet.gov.uk

Charlie O-Macauley (Lab)

07796 284110
cllr.c.omacauley@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

visit www.barnet.gov.uk for
surgery details

Childs Hill Ward

Jack Cohen (LibDem)

8446 7940
cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Monroe Palmer (LibDem)

Liberal Democrat Group Leader
8455 5140
cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Susette Palmer (LibDem)

8455 5140
cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Thursday every month,
Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood
Lane, NW2
7 – 8pm

Colindale Ward

Danish Chopra (Lab)

8449 9046
cllr.d.chopra@barnet.gov.uk

Gill Sargeant (Lab)

8455 1070
cllr.g.sargeant@barnet.gov.uk

Zakia Zubairi (Lab)

8959 4091
cllr.z.zubairi@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, Grahame Park
Library, The Concourse,
Colindale, NW9
10 – 11am

Coppetts Ward

Mukesh Depala (Con)

8365 3614
cllr.m.depala@barnet.gov.uk

Kate Salinger (Con)

8368 1329
cllr.c.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Saturday every month,
Friern Barnet Library, Friern
Barnet Road, N11
10.30am – 12noon

Second Saturday every month,
Hollickwood School, Sydney
Road, N10
1.30 – 3 pm

Barry Rawlings (Lab)

8445 6416
cllr.b.rawlings@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First and third Saturday every
month, Peter Le Poer Church,
Albion Avenue, N10
10.30am – 12noon

Other Saturdays, Friern Barnet
Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11
10.30am – 12noon

East Barnet Ward

Terence Burton (Con)

8368 8264
cllr.t.burton@barnet.gov.uk

Robert Rams (Con)

8446 7291
cllr.r.rams@barnet.gov.uk

Joanna Tambourides (Con)

8361 9154
cllr.j.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Saturday of each month,
New Barnet Community Centre,
48-50 Victoria Road, New
Barnet, EN4
10.30am – 12noon

Third Saturday of each month,
East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill
Road, East Barnet, EN4
10.30am – 12noon

East Finchley Ward

Andrew McNeil (Lab)

8444 3834
cllr.a.mcneil@barnet.gov.uk

Alison Moore (Lab)

Leader of the Opposition
(Labour group leader)
8343 0306
cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk

Colin Rogers (Lab)

8444 7150
cllr.c.rogers@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, East Finchley
Neighbourhood Centre, Church
Lane, East Finchley, N2
10 – 11.30am

Edgware Ward

Helena Hart (Con)

8371 0658
cllr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Joan Scannell (Con)

8959 5921
cllr.j.scannell@barnet.gov.uk

Richard Weider (Con)

8958 1705
cllr.r.weider@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Last Tuesday every month,
Edgware Library, Hale Lane,
Edgware, HA8
5.30 – 6.30pm

Finchley Church End Ward

Michael Freer (Con)

Leader of the Council
(Conservative group leader)
8359 2059
cllr.m.freer@barnet.gov.uk

Eva Greenspan (Con)

8203 1598
cllr.e.greenspan@barnet.gov.uk

Daniel Thomas (Con)

cllr.d.thomas@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Wednesday every month,
Avenue House, East End Road
7 – 8pm

Garden Suburb Ward

Andrew Harper (Con)

8201 9527
cllr.a.harper@barnet.gov.uk

John Marshall (Con)

8445 2597
cllr.j.marshall@barnet.gov.uk

Jazmin Naghar (Con)

8458 2466
cllr.j.naghar@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Fourth Monday every month,
Fellowship House, Willifield Way,
NW11
6 – 7pm

Golders Green Ward

Dean Cohen (Con)

07887 778509
cllr.d.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Melvin Cohen (Con)

8209 0166
cllr.m.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Christopher Harris (Con)

07949 592512
cllr.c.harris@barnet.gov.uk

Contacting your MPs

Chipping Barnet

Theresa Villiers

Office: 163 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SU
Tel: **020 8449 7345**

Surgery details:

Second Sunday every month, Golders Green Library, Golders Green Road, NW11 2.15 – 3.15pm

Fourth Sunday every month, Hendon Sports Centre, Marble Drive, Brent Cross, NW2 12noon – 1pm

Hale Ward

Tom Davey (Con)

cllr.t.davey@barnet.gov.uk

Brian Gordon (Con)

8931 5062
cllr.b.gordon@barnet.gov.uk

Hugh Rayner (Con)

8958 3364
cllr.h.rayner@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Thursday every month alternating between Edgware Library, Hale Lane, Edgware, HA8, and Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 (call 8958 3364 for locations and times)

Hendon Ward

Maureen Braun (Con)

Mayor
8906 0447
cllr.m.braun@barnet.gov.uk

Anthony Finn (Con)

8202 9689
cllr.a.finn@barnet.gov.uk

Matthew Offord (Con)

Deputy Leader of the Council (Conservative group deputy leader)
8202 5319
cllr.m.offord@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Monday every month, Hendon Library, The Burroughs. 6 – 7pm

High Barnet Ward

Duncan Macdonald (Lib Dem)

8344 2674
cllr.d.macdonald@barnet.gov.uk

Finchley and Golders Green

Dr Rudi Vis

Office: 38 Church Lane, East Finchley, N2 8DT
Tel: **020 8883 0411**

Surgery details:

Second Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Bridget Perry (Con)

8441 5683
cllr.b.perry@barnet.gov.uk

Wendy Prentice (Con)

8364 9249
E: cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4 10.30am – 12noon

Mill Hill Ward

Wayne Casey (LibDem)

Deputy Leader of the LibDemGroup
8906 8189
cllr.w.casey@barnet.gov.uk

Jeremy Davies (LibDem)

8381 0089
cllr.j.davies@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 10am – 12noon

John Hart (Con)

8381 0083
cllr.j.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Selective Tuesdays, Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 6 – 8pm

Selective Saturdays at Canada Villa, Pursley Road, NW7 10am – 12noon

Ring for dates.

Oakleigh Ward

Sachin Rajput (Con)

8381 0096
cllr.s.rajput@barnet.gov.uk

Marina Yannakoudakis (Con)

8445 8175
cllr.m.yannakoudakis@barnet.gov.uk

Hendon

Andrew Dismore

Office: St. George's Lodge, 79 The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4AX
Tel: **020 8202 2122**

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 10.30am – 12noon

Brian Salinger (Con)

8368 1329
cllr.b.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Saturday of every month at Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 10.30am – 12noon

Totteridge Ward

Brian Coleman (Con)

7983 4366
cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk

Richard Cornelius (Con)

Deputy Mayor
8445 5886
cllr.r.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk

Caroline Margo (Con)

07956 277534
cllr.c.margo@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 10.30am – 12noon

Underhill Ward

Fiona Bulmer (Con)

8344 2672
cllr.f.bulmer@barnet.gov.uk

Daniel Webb (Con)

8349 2256
cllr.d.webb@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4 10.30am – 12noon

Anita Campbell (Lab)

8440 2703
cllr.a.campbell@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First and third Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN5 2 – 3pm

Greater London Assembly

Member for Barnet and Camden

Councillor Brian Coleman
Office: City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA
Tel: **020 7983 4367**

West Finchley Ward

Ross Houston (Lab)

8343 7451
cllr.r.houston@barnet.gov.uk

Kath McGuirk (Lab)

8209 1462
cllr.k.mcguirk@barnet.gov.uk

Jim Tierney (Lab)

8346 3359
cllr.j.tierney@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley 10 – 11.30am

West Hendon Ward

Julie Johnson (Lab)

8203 3531
cllr.j.johnson@barnet.gov.uk

Agnes Slocombe (Lab)

8202 4074
cllr.a.slocombe@barnet.gov.uk

Ansuya Sodha (Lab)

8959 6035
cllr.a.sodha@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh Drive, West Hendon, NW9 10.30am – 12noon

Woodhouse Ward

Geof Cooke (Lab)

8344 2596
cllr.g.cooke@barnet.gov.uk

Anne Hutton (Lab)

8883 0996
cllr.a.hutton@barnet.gov.uk

Alan Schneiderman (Lab)

8731 9680
cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, 10 – 11.30am

Hundreds set to remember the Holocaust

Residents are invited to pay their respects to those who lost their lives

Barnet is holding its eighth annual Holocaust Memorial service in January, to remember the six million Jewish and other people who were murdered by the Nazis during World War II.

Last year's service saw 600 people fill the sprawling Ricketts Quadrangle in Middlesex University's Hendon campus to pay their respects to those killed by the evil Nazi regime.

Barnet has the largest Jewish population of any local authority area in the country, and Holocaust Memorial Day is a solemn day of reflection for many of the borough's residents.

This year's theme is 'Stand up to Hatred' and the service will encourage residents to consider the hatred shown by some to

various minority communities in Britain today, and think about ways in which all our communities can be made stronger and safer.

The service is again being held at the Ricketts Quadrangle, in The Burroughs, Hendon, starting at 1pm on Sunday 25 January.

The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor John Marshall, will be among the dignitaries attending the service. He said: "This is a very important time for a large number of our borough's residents, many of whom may have had relatives or friends who were slaughtered during the Holocaust and some of whom escaped from Nazi Germany.

"It is important that we all take the time to think about the Holocaust, and about this year's theme – 'stand up to hatred' – and how we can apply this in our lives and communities today."

Gone but not forgotten

Children show they care by planting snowdrops in memory of the child victims of the Holocaust



Pupils from Brookland Junior School showed they cared at a poignant snowdrop planting ceremony last month.

Now in its 13th year, the annual Snowdrop project began with the aim of planting a snowdrop in memory of every one of the 1.5 million children who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

Pupils from Brookland Junior School, Hampstead Garden Suburb, joined the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor John Marshall, on 21 November in planting snowdrop bulbs in the grounds of their school to commemorate all the children murdered during the Holocaust.

This year's 2,000 bulbs have now taken the total amount of bulbs planted in the borough to more than 27,000 so far.

Snowdrops have delicate, white flowers, which bloom in winter and early spring, flowering each year. Bulbs have been previously planted at the RAF Museum in Hendon, as well as Hendon Park, Edgwarebury Park, Friary Park and the Old Courthouse Recreation Ground.



Barnet Chief Executive moves to the GLA

Leo Boland announces his departure from the borough

The Chief Executive of Barnet is set to join the Greater London Authority as the new Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service in the New Year.

Leo Boland, who has been Chief Executive of Barnet since 2001, took the London Borough of Barnet from a 2 star to a 4 star authority during his time in office.

Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Environment and Regeneration Brian Reynolds has been appointed Acting Chief Executive until a new appointment is announced.

Digging deep: Pupils at Brookland Junior School planting snowdrops in memory of children killed in the Holocaust.