

Community news

AUGUST 1998

ISSUE No. 17

Published by Barnet Council. Design and production: Barnet Council Press & Public Relations Unit. Pre-press: Regency Graphics, Barnet. Printed by Sheffield Newspapers Ltd.

BARNET

LONDON BOROUGH

NEW COUNCIL LINE-UP

	1998	1994
Labour	26	25
Liberal Democrat	6	6
Conservative	28	29

See centre pages for details of your local councillors.

ARTS CENTRE



The whole community got involved in Barnet's second Environment Week which included a packed programme of events. Full story, see page 7

LOTTERY FUND BID

Barnet Council wants you to create the programme for the exciting new Arts Centre planned for the borough. As the council puts in its bid for Lottery funds, local people are being given a unique opportunity to say what events and activities they want.

Many local people have already contacted the council wanting to get involved in shaping the artistic agenda and your council will be consulting widely to make sure all views and needs are catered for.

A number of consultation groups will be set up to provide advice for both programming and building design on accessibility, theatre, visual arts and media, dance, music and education.

The Arts Centre Trust has now been established and includes representatives from Barnet Council, The Bull Arts Centre, Barnet College, Community Focus and the Jewish Music Heritage Trust.

The first phase of the Lottery application is for funds to develop the artistic policy of the new centre through a detailed feasibility study. The aim is to win the support of the Arts Council for the whole project so that further bids to the Lottery have a greater chance of success.

"This is one of the most

exciting projects Barnet has seen in years and it has tremendous public support," said Council Leader Councillor Alan Williams.

"We want to make sure the centre will offer a very broad programme catering for all interests and tastes, so we are encouraging groups with an interest to get involved.

Lottery rules require us to have wide-ranging partnerships in place, so we are looking at opportunities to work with commercial and voluntary partners.

"The important thing is that we are committed to creating a major new Arts Centre to regenerate the North Finchley area and to benefit the whole borough."

If you want to get involved pick up a leaflet from your local library or visit our website at www.barnet.gov.uk which contains an interactive e-mail form. Alternatively call our Arts Office on 0181-359 3152 and a leaflet will be sent to you.

Hot chef Taffozull Miah is aiming to be the best in Britain.

Barnet took part in the popular National Curry Chef of the Year competition for the first time last year and this year the council's Environmental Health Section again organised the borough's round of the competition.

It was a repeat success for The Bayleaf Takeaway in Whetstone, which won the local contest for the second year. The Bayleaf will now represent Barnet in the national finals in Harrogate, Yorkshire, later this year.

Judges from Barnet Council

and the Health Authority's Health Promotion Unit whittled down the entries from eight to three. The three finalists were The Bayleaf, The New Himalaya in Whetstone and the Day of the Raj in Mill Hill.

Each entry had to demonstrate a knowledge of food hygiene and safety as well as making sure the curry they made was healthy.

The aim of the competition is to support the thriving local Asian catering trade, promoting the high quality cuisine available to both residents and visitors and the importance of food health and hygiene.



WHAT A CURRY WON

IN THIS ISSUE

New refuse service p3

Passport to Leisure
coupon p3

Help with benefits p10

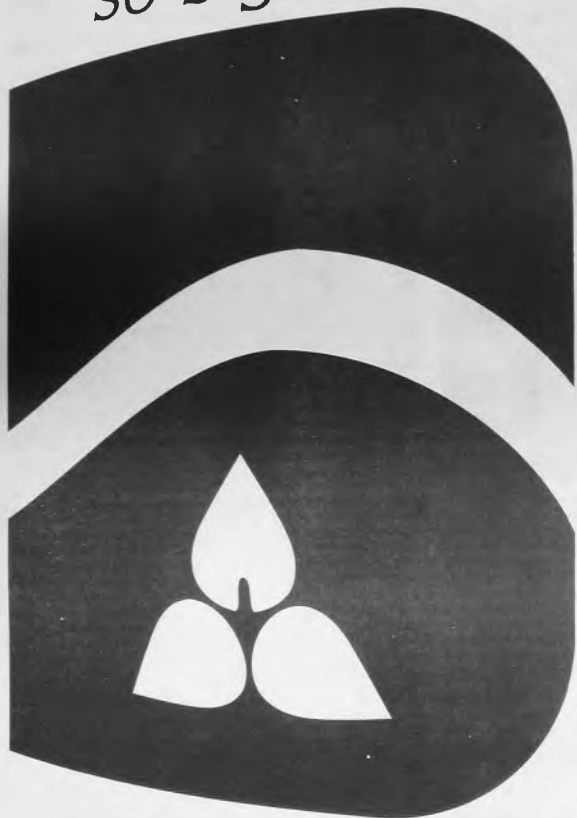
Community Care
Fair p13

How to become a
foster carer p15

TV's Trevor at Multi-
cultural Resources
Exhibition p16

See
centre
pages
for your new
councillors' surgeries

Lee Valley Park -
so big we can't fit it all in



**Lee
 Valley
 Park**

From a stroll in the country, to a spin around the ice-rink,
 to a hole in one, or just messing about on the river.
Lee Valley Park has got something for everyone.

Fill in and return the coupon opposite for more
 information or call the Lee Valley Park Information Centre on

01992 702222



**Lee
 Valley
 Park**

Open spaces and sporting places

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: _____ Surname _____
 Address: _____
 Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Please tick any of the following activities you would like further information on.

<input type="checkbox"/> Caravan/Camping	<input type="checkbox"/> Boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Fitness
<input type="checkbox"/> Farms	<input type="checkbox"/> Horse Riding	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Skating
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Picnics	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Watersports	<input type="checkbox"/> Cycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardens	

Cut out and return this coupon to the FREEPOST address below.
 Lee Valley Park, FREEPOST NW4169, P.O.Box 88, Enfield, EN2 9BR

CASH BOOST TO REGENERATION

Plans to regenerate the Cricklewood and West Hendon areas are taking a major leap forward as Barnet Council has agreed to put £200,000 into developing a masterplan for the area in partnership with Railtrack.

Although Railtrack is the major landowner of the main Cricklewood lands, Barnet Council is keen to influence the development proposals - to make sure that they are in keeping with the outline proposals the council has already developed with local people.

A recent survey of local residents revealed overwhelming support for regeneration.

The plans to regenerate the Cricklewood and West Hendon area are a key part of Barnet Council's commitment to attract resources for areas and groups within the borough in most need of support and regeneration, and to revitalise the local economy

by creating and maintaining jobs.

A Project Management Group with representatives from Railtrack and Barnet Council is being set up to oversee the work programme to enable the plans to be turned into reality.

The work will address important issues including detailed planning, design, highways, transport and infrastructure.

Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of Barnet Council, said: "This is the next major step forward in turning our plans for the Cricklewood and West Hendon area into reality.

"By working in close partnership with Railtrack we intend to make sure that any development proposals are in line with what is best for the people who live in the area and will create the most benefits for the whole of the borough."

CREATING NEW REFUSE SERVICE TO BE PROUD OF



In its bid to continually improve and streamline services to residents and to address some recent problems, Barnet Council has upgraded and improved its refuse collection service.

Refuse collection is one of the most vital and necessary services the council provides. Barnet wants to make every service as efficient and effective as possible.

Your council has decided to improve door-to-door recycling collection and the entire refuse collection system throughout the borough.

"Barnet Council will now be operating a streamlined system of refuse collection in the borough. By taking this opportunity to improve the service, based on Best Value principles, we can offer our residents the service they deserve," said Councillor Stan Cross, Chair of Public Works Committee.

"From now on our crews will work in the same area every day making it easier to resolve problems efficiently and quickly," he added.

Collections now start from 6.30am rather than at 7am. The slightly longer working day will allow for greater flexibility in gaining access to the waste transfer site at Brent Terrace.

There will now be a door-to-door recycling collection every other Saturday. This will make it easier for residents to know exactly which day their waste paper will be collected.

As part of the council's commitment to finding out what residents need and want from their local council the

Citizens Panel was asked its opinion on refuse and door-to-door recycling collections throughout the borough.

Results from a Citizens Panel survey show some concern over the refuse and recycling collection. Of those surveyed 71 per cent thought the refuse collection good or very good while six per cent thought the collection below average. Problems highlighted included failure to replace bins and litter left after a collection.

If you have any queries about the new service, please telephone 0181-359 4600.

SERVING YOU BETTER

Changing the shape of your council

Following recent elections, the new Labour-led administration is promoting radical plans to modernise Barnet Council to give local people more power over their services.

The council is revolutionising its political structure, with a 'scrutiny commission' set up at the annual council meeting in May to look at changing the committee structure and the way members take decisions. Its conclusions will be considered by full council later in the year.

The scrutiny commission is a cross-party working group with three members from each political party, chaired by Leader of the Council, Councillor Alan Williams.

The many changes in local government in recent years have had a huge impact on the way in which the council delivers its services. But the council and committee system - at the heart of the council's decision-making - has remained largely the same.

Councillors want to focus on policy and strategy and

reviewing performance, freed from time-wasting bureaucracy, to ensure local families get the quality services they deserve.

The new system is aiming for:

- councillors having different roles, with some scrutinising performance and others creating policy
- a huge cut in red tape
- more active public involvement
- more decisions taken in local areas
- cabinet-style political leadership.

Leader of Barnet Council Councillor Alan Williams said: "We have gone some way already to give people the opportunity to have their say on what we do and how we do things. But we need to do more if we are to encourage people to play a real part in the council's decisions.

"Our intention is to open up the work of the council to public scrutiny, giving ordinary people a chance to



Cllr. Alan Williams

"These plans will give local people a more powerful voice"

contribute in a real way to our decision-making so we can rebuild public confidence and involvement in their council.

"These plans will give local people a far more powerful voice to influence council decisions. Our goal is clear - a modern and effective council structure that best equips Barnet to deliver its services and meet the needs of local residents."

What connects a curry, a fitness session and a visit to your local library?

PASSPORT TO LEISURE offers leisure discounts in Barnet and Central London.

If you are a Barnet resident and would like your own copy, or another copy if you already have one,

phone 0181-359 3200

or fill in your name and address on the coupon below and send it to the following FREEPOST address:

Passport to Leisure Helpdesk,
Leisure Services,
London Borough of Barnet,
FREEPOST ND1237
1 Friern Barnet Lane
London N11 3DL.

Stocks are limited, so ACT NOW



Please send me a PASSPORT TO LEISURE

Your name: _____

Your telephone number: _____

Your address: _____

postcode: _____

Your Passport to Leisure Code Number (if known): _____

Finchley Lido
Great North Leisure Park
Finchley N12 0AE
0181 343 9830

Summer Holiday Fun

Barnet Cephall Pools
Great North Way
Hendon NW4 1PS
0181 457 9900

Barnet Leisure offer a wide range of sports and activities for children and adults this summer

It's never too late to try a new sport. Play golf at Hadley Wood or the Metro Centre; new courses start on 1 August. Pick up a tennis racket at Mill Hill Park NW7 or Hendon park NW4. New courses start in September. For details of all courses contact Sports Development on 0181 457 9909.



Can your child swim? Why not enrol them on a summer crash course. Each course lasts a week and courses start on the 27 July with the final course starting on 24 August. Tadpoles and Ducklings for the 3s to 5s. Learn to Swim for 5 and over, diving and synchro for over 7s.



Adults can also enrol on Beginners, Improvers or Advanced crash courses. Ring Swimming Development on 0181 457 9902. Courses are also run at Church Farm Pool 0181 368 4984 and Queen Elizabeth Centre 0181 441 2933.

Fun at the Finchley Lido



Why not try the outdoor pool with its sunloungers and toddler pool, perfect for those summer days. Cool off in the waves and fountains of the indoor leisure pool or simply swim through the water in our 6 lane training pool.



A wide range of adult's classes continue throughout the holidays, so take your pick from Aerobics, Keepfit, Men's Circuit, Personal Training, Ante/post Natal, Aquaerobics, Box-a-Cise, Walk Reebok, New Body, Step Reebok, Yoga, 50+, Gym and Womens Circuit sessions. All classes are available on a sessional basis and a free swim is included subject to pool availability.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



FIESTA OF FUN FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Throughout this year Barnet Council is organising a series of events to celebrate Israel's Jubilee, the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel.

Following on from the national jubilee celebrations at Wembley Conference Centre in April the borough were the proud hosts of the Israel Jubilee Exhibition - 1948 to 1998. From the borough it has travelled throughout the country including Manchester, Glasgow and Poole.

The exhibition came to the borough after Barnet Council liaised with the Israeli Embassy. Home for its stay in the borough was Finchley Synagogue in Kinloss Gardens, Finchley.

The then Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Agnes Slocombe, officially opened the exhibition with guests including Amiram Magid, Minister of Plenipotentiary from the Israeli Embassy along



יובל החמישים לישראל
ISRAEL 50 JUBILEE
תש"ח-תשנ"ח 1948-1998

with other representatives including local councillors and Friends of Ramat Gan, Barnet's twin town in Israel.

The exhibition covered everything - political, sporting, social and musical events in Israel's history.

"I am absolutely delighted that we were able to bring the major Israel Jubilee Exhibition to the borough. The visit was just part of the work the council is doing throughout 1998 to promote Israel's 50th anniversary which has brought together residents young and old in Barnet," said Councillor Helen Gordon, Deputy Leader

of Barnet Council.

Barnet Council has also organised a painting and poetry competition for primary schools in the borough with the theme - Israel's Jubilee (see picture, right). The winners from Rosh Pinah School were presented with their prizes by Mayor Councillor Usha Chopra.

The celebrations continue in September, with the council having organised a concert - A Celebration of Israeli Songs from the Diaspora to Israel of Today. Noa Lachman will be the soprano, with Rianka Bouwmeester on piano and David Kenedy on cello.

The concert will take place on Thursday 10 September at Avenue House, East End Road, N3. Tickets cost £5. Cheques should be made payable to the London Borough of Barnet and sent to Room 75, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4BG.



LEAP FORWARD FOR YOUNG JOBLESS

Grahame Park Youth Centre has become the first in the borough to get a new special computer system to help unemployed young people.

Leader of Barnet Council Councillor Alan Williams launched the project, run in partnership with Prospects Careers Services.

Called LEAPS (Learning Entitlement Access Points), the centres now being installed in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey are designed to provide help and information vital to young job seekers.

They contain computer information about careers, programmes to help choose a job and packages to help write and print a CV all backed up by expert, trained staff ready to give advice.

The information points are deliberately installed in youth centres to allow easy access in informal surroundings.

The unit forms a crucial part of a new pilot programme being developed by the Youth Service, working jointly with other agencies and schools.

The programme aims to encourage young people who are not attending school to become involved in an alternative education scheme centred on the local youth club nearest the school.

The scheme will be full time and structured to help young people overcome personal problems, involve them in new opportunities and ensure they make progress in key areas such as numeracy, literacy and information technology.

If successful it will help stop young people leaving school with no qualifications or achievements by providing a specific programme to meet their needs.

"We are proud of the work done by our Youth Service and the positive work they do reaching out to young people. This project will help build on that success," said Councillor Alan Williams.

"The excellent results achieved by Barnet's schools are based on the work of only 60 per cent of our pupils. We must get the other 40 per cent involved".



Pictured is Louise Joly (six) wearing the jacket during Walk To School Week with Public Works Committee Chair, Councillor Stan Cross and Education Committee Chair, Councillor Anne Jarvis.

SAFETY JACKET HAS ROYAL SEAL APPEAL

Barnet student Sheetal Majithia has already got the Royal seal of approval for her innovative design for a child safety jacket. Now she needs the help of local clothing manufacturers to make her dreams come true.

Sheetal first approached Barnet Council's Accident Prevention Unit with the jacket she designed for her

Technology A Level project.

Officers were impressed enough to enter Sheetal for the 1997 Prince Michael Road Safety Awards.

Sheetal attended a special ceremony at the Savoy Hotel and was presented with a Highly Commended certificate in the technology section for her design by Prince Michael of Kent.



Pictured are (L to R), Emma Reynolds of Prospects, showing the new system to Grahame Park resident, Michael Oteng and Council Leader, Cllr. Alan Williams.

£1.7m CASH BOOST FOR SCHOOLS

Barnet schools are to receive a £1.7 million boost following the council's bids for "New Deal for Schools" cash.

The council has given the go-ahead for the new government funds to be released for a major programme of building work for the borough's schools.

The works include repairs and rewiring at Copthall Secondary and Queen Elizabeth Girls, replacement of temporary classrooms at Colindale JMI, new boiler systems for five primary schools and the renewal of the entire electrical installation at Ravenscroft Secondary, Sacred Heart and Martin JMI.

A further twelve schools are set to benefit under the Schools Access Initiative, making it easier for pupils with disabilities to use school buildings.

"This is excellent news for the schools involved," said the Chair of Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee Councillor Danish Chopra.

"It is a welcome boost for Barnet's drive to bring its school buildings up to the high standards needed to provide a first-class education for all.

"We have already had considerable success in attracting government and partnership funding into our schools and we will continue our efforts to attract yet more resources to Barnet", he said.

Your council has a detailed long-term strategy for major improvement work on school buildings and councillors are constantly looking for imaginative ways of bringing funds into projects to raise the quality of school facilities.

EDUCATION, CHILD CARE AND FAMILY SUPPORT UNDER ONE ROOF

Your council is about to create a one-stop shop for local parents and children with education, day care and family support all under one roof.

The Fairway Early Years Centre in Mill Hill will be one of three pilot projects designed to provide a more integrated range of services for families - within a single unit.

The new centre will incorporate a 39 place nursery class for three and four year olds and education, care and family support for up to a dozen two year olds.

There will also be support facilities for work with families in groups or individually, day care for up to 20 children, a toy library and a children's book library.

The centre will serve as a base for Family Daycare Network and Early Years Advisory Teachers.

Extended day care provision is already available at Moss Hall Nursery School, Finchley and St. Margaret's Nursery School in New Barnet.

"These pilot schemes are designed to give families real flexibility as they try to combine work, education for their children and being good parents," said Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of the Education Committee.

AT A GLANCE

The council's Welfare Rights Unit provided benefits checks, advocacy and other help to over a thousand clients between October 1997 and March this year.

Through their work an extra £363,310 of benefits was gained for residents in need. The council's Finance Directorate has also focused on residents who are under-claiming housing benefit or council tax benefit they are entitled to. Over the last six months an additional £292,718 has been claimed.

Barnet Council is warning residents to beware of one day sales comen.

Trading Standards would like to hear from residents who are concerned about the publicity for these sales which often arrives on the same day. You should contact Trading Standard officers on 0181-359 4930.

Barnet Council has put together a comprehensive guide to getting around the borough by bike safely.

The guide, which includes a map of all the cycle routes in the borough, gives useful tips on how to use cycle routes, the highway code, sharing paths with pedestrians, safety at road junctions and where bikes can be parked.

The new leaflet is available FREE OF CHARGE at council offices, libraries or by contacting 0181-359 4666.

Motorists who fail to pay outstanding parking tickets could have their cars seized by bailiffs.

The council will be targeting persistent offenders who fail to pay parking fines and continue to ignore requests for payment. Abandoned vehicles will be cleared from the streets of the borough much faster now. The council has taken over delegated powers from the North London Waste Authority to remove vehicles.

Councillors have earmarked £83,000 for traffic improvement measures to speed up bus routes 83 and 183 in Brent Street, Church Road and Vivian Avenue in Hendon.

Working in partnership with London Transport, the council has designed changes including new traffic lights, relocated bus stops, changed waiting and loading times and new Bus Stop Clearways which stop all vehicles except buses from stopping or parking.

NOISE BUSTERS KEEPING YOUR PEACE

Barnet Council is stepping up its fight against noise by expanding its out of hours service. A new dedicated team of mobile noise officers is now providing a 24 hour seven days a week service to residents in response to the rising number of complaints.

The team deals with problems ranging from late night parties to car alarms, building site work to house alarms.

Environmental Health Officers receive over 3,000 noise complaints a year. Over a recent seven week period, 412 requests for help from residents included:-

- 162 noisy music
- 57 domestic noise
- 47 noisy parties
- 44 burglar alarms
- 33 entertainment noise
- 24 construction sites

- 18 commercial premises noise
- 7 car alarms

In most cases a visit by the noise team to noisy parties or other music venues will cure the problem. However, if the music is not turned down officers will serve an Abatement Notice to stop the nuisance immediately.

Ignoring this is a criminal offence which could lead to a fine of up to £5,000. The council's team also have the power to seize equipment.

If a car alarm continues for

over an hour and the owner cannot be found a car alarm specialist will be called to disable the alarm. The team's advice to car owners is: make sure your alarm is working properly.

Another frequent problem is burglar alarms. All alarms in the borough should be fitted with a 20 minute cut off device.

There should be at least two keyholders for the alarm or a nominated alarm company, registered with the police. It is an offence not to comply with this and you could be fined.

The council can take action

to silence alarms using a warrant to enter along with the police, a locksmith and an alarm specialist. Many of the noise problems the team have to deal with should never happen in the first place. Through responsible behaviour noise nuisance can be dramatically reduced.

The noise service can be contacted on 0181-359 2000, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For further advice on noise problems contact the council's Environmental Health Section on 0181-359 4708 during office hours.

CREDIT UNION SUCCESS

The borough's first-ever community credit union has been launched by the Mayor of Barnet.

It was all smiles at the launch of the Watling and Grahame Park Credit Union. Pictured from left to right are Pauline Green, MEP for North London, Chris Smith and Eyo Nkune from the Credit Union and Mayor Councillor Usha Chopra.

For over a year a group of residents have been working closely with council officers setting up the credit union. Their hard work has paid off and the launch was attended by over 50 residents, many of whom signed up to join the Watling and Grahame Park Credit Union.

Residents are also working together to set up the next community credit union in East Finchley.

Credit Unions are run by the community for the community. They offer a saving and low-interest loan service to members who live within the common bond area and are managed by volunteers.

There is no minimum deposit for savers and interest on loans is one per cent a month, a rate fixed by law which can never rise. They provide a safe and reliable alternative form of credit for people who find it difficult to obtain loans from banks and building societies or who may be forced to go to loansharks.

For further information on credit unions and how to set up one contact Janet Thorne in Barnet Council's Economic Development Unit on 0181-359 2782.



DEALING OUT NEW JOBS

Young people are getting jobs from Barnet Council through the Government's New Deal for the unemployed.

Your council is taking action to help combat youth unemployment and poverty in the borough.

"As one of the major employers in the borough, Barnet Council is working vigorously to get our young people into work and offer them training for the future," said Councillor Kitty Lyons, Chair of the Personnel Executive Committee.

The scheme which offers training, education and employment for young people between 18 and 24 out of work for over six months was launched in April.

About 40 people will be employed by the council and offered the opportunity to study for National Vocational or similar qualifications. Most of the training will be undertaken by the in-house training team and include NVQs such as recreation, administration, customer services and care.

New Deal is tailored to

meet individual needs. It involves assessment of training requirements and careers advice for those less ready for work. Personal support is given to those taking part in the New Deal during their placement.

Barnet Council chairs the Barnet New Deal Consortium, a partnership of statutory, private and voluntary sector organisations whose members include North London Chamber of Commerce and Barnet Borough Voluntary Service Council.

JULY 11 - 19

ENVIRONMENT

week

I SPY A GREENER CLEANER FUTURE FOR BARNET



Barnet Council launched its second Energy Action Area in Childs Hill during Environment Week. Residents were able to find out how they could save money, make their homes warmer and use less energy by using energy-efficient products in their homes.

Residents were able to visit a specially-adapted energy house which gave them ideas on how to save energy and money. These included lagging hot water tanks, using energy efficient lightbulbs, using thermostats to control heating, double-glazing and loft insulation.

Our picture shows, from left to right, Cllr. Katherine McGuirk, Chair of the council's Environmental Forum with ward councillors for Childs Hill ward, Cllr. Monroe Palmer and Cllr. Susette Palmer. They are cutting a fuel bill cake to launch the Energy Action Area.



Young detective, Sam Hemstead, takes a closer look at pond life at Barnet Countryside Centre's open day during Environment Week.

GREEN FACTS

Last year Barnet collected 7,500 tonnes of paper through its door-to-door recycling scheme and paper banks. That's between 25-30 tonnes a day.

Last year the council collected 1,700 tonnes of glass from bottle banks and 53,000 tonnes of cans from can banks. Cans and tins are not a renewable resource but are easily recycled.

For information on recycling, bank sites and composters please call the council's Recycling Officer on 0181-359 4323.

A tap left dripping can waste 15,500 litres of water a year... nearly 200 baths.

Producing an aluminium can from recycled material takes one twentieth of the energy needed to produce a can from raw materials.

Eat smoke-free in Barnet for free

The second guide to restaurants, pubs and cafes in Barnet with smoke-free eating areas is out now. Jointly produced by Barnet Council and Barnet Health Authority, phone 0181-359 4717 for a free copy.

If you fill in the questionnaire within the guide and return it to us by the end of September, you will be entered into a prize draw and could win the chance to eat smoke-free in Barnet for FREE.

People of all ages helped make Barnet Council's second Environment Week exceed last year's great success.

The council spearheaded this year's campaign - with the theme of Promoting a Healthy Environment - and was joined by residents and local businesses in looking at the way we live in local areas and how our environment can be valued and enhanced for future generations.

Barnet Council put together a packed programme of activities - from litter picks to an environment fair, countryside walks to cycle rides.

The council's first Environment Fair took place at Watling Market, Burnt Oak. Displays included energy conservation, a green 'Grand Prix'. Local

Agenda 21 exhibitions, air pollution, recycling and composting.

The Barnet Countryside Centre held a Wildlife Festival.

The council also launched its second Energy Action Area in Childs Hill during the week. Residents were able to find out how they can save money, make their homes warmer and use less energy, by visiting a specially-adapted energy house.

The energy house showed residents how they could put cost-effective energy-saving devices into their homes, from insulating emersion heaters to energy-saving light bulbs, double glazing windows to loft insulation.

Information on energy efficiency was also available at Food Giant in Cricklewood

where residents had the chance to win an energy-efficient hamper.

On Clean Barnet Day your council and the Environment Agency worked together to clear litter and debris from a number of waterways in the borough along with litterpicks.

Over the last two years the council has been working with local residents in a number of areas throughout the borough to put into action Local Agenda 21 initiatives.

Groups working in Friern

Barnet, Finchley, Hampstead Garden Suburb and Childs Hill/Cricklewood have already succeeded in bringing to local residents' attention the need to work together to balance and enhance every area of their lives.

This year's Environment Week launched another Local Agenda 21 area in East Finchley. Barnet Council, local residents and businesses are also working together to make Grahame Park and Chipping Barnet Local Agenda 21 areas.

Barnet Environment Week

1998 was supported by:
B & Q DIY Garden Superstore
Edgware Energy Centre
Rosser's in Barnet High Street
Brent Cross Shopping Centre
Barnet Health Authority
Barnet Health Promotion Centre
Food Giant, Cricklewood
Environment Agency
Eastern Electricity
The Spires Shopping Centre
Middlesex University
Safeway, Brent Cross
Team Barnet Catering
Tesco, Colney Hatch Lane
British Heart Foundation
Publications UK Limited
Heath Education Authority

National Spring Clean Campaign in Barnet during April was supported by:

Hendon Hall Hotel
Middlesex University Business
School
McDonald's
Wendy plc
Barnet Football Club
Barnet Cyclists
Barnet Shaftesbury Harriers



It's good to eat...

this was the message at Barnet Council's Healthy Environment displays at the end of Environment Week during Finchley Carnival on Saturday 18 July. The theme of Environment Week was 'Our Healthy Environment' which not only means recycling waste or planting more trees it also focuses on how residents young and old can make sure they stay healthy. Our picture shows, from left to right, Sam Rosenthal (7), Jason Rosenthal (12) and Ashton Howell (9) checking out what they should be eating each day to stay fit and healthy.

HADLEY WARD



KATIA DAVID (Conservative)
Tel: 0181-361 9805. Surgery: 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Conservative Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 5SU, 10.30am-12noon. Tel: 0181-449 7345. Fax: 0181-449 7346.
Also: 4th Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT. Tel: 0181 359 4040.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



LIZ MAMMATT (Conservative)
LEADER OF CONSERVATIVE GROUP Tel. and fax: 0181-361 9720
Surgery: 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Conservative Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, Herts., EN5 5SU, 10.30am-12noon. Tel: 0181 449 7345. Fax: 0181-449 7346. Also: 4th Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT. Tel: 0181-359 4040. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



KANTI PATEL (Conservative)
Tel: 0181-446 6639. Surgery: 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Conservative Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, Herts., EN5 5SU, 10.30am-12noon. Tel: 0181-449 7345. Fax: 0181-449 7346.
Also: 4th Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT. Tel: 0181-359 4040.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

HALE WARD



STEVEN BLOMER (Labour)
Tel: 0181-959 7878. Surgery: alternate Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, London NW7 2HX, 1-2.30pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



BRIAN GORDON (Conservative)
Tel: 0181-202 0044. Fax: 0181-202 4145.
Surgery: Last Thursday in every month at Hendon Conservative Association, 2 Apex Parade, Selvage Lane, London, NW7, 8.15-9.15pm.
Tel: 0181-959 1446. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



RUTH NYMAN (Labour)
Tel: 0181-959 3369. Work Fax: 0181-903 1943.
Home email: email.nyman@virgin.net
Surgery: 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX, 3.45-4.45pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

HENDON WARD



MAUREEN BRAUN (Conservative)
Tel: 0181-203 1876.
Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



ANTHONY FINN (Conservative)
Tel: 0181-202 9689. Work Tel: 0171-328 3272.
Work Fax: 0171-328 2140.
Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



ANDREW SHERLING (Conservative)
Tel. and Fax: 0181-202 8630.
Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

MILL HILL WARD



ROGER AXWORTHY (Liberal Democrat)
Tel: 0181-906 8863.
Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, Mill Hill, London NW7 2HX, 10am-12noon.



WAYNE CASEY (Liberal Democrat)
Tel: 0181-906 8189.
Work Tel: 0171-973 3473.
Fax: 0181-959 6261. Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, London NW7 2HX, 10am-12noon.



JEREMY DAVIES (Liberal Democrat)
Tel. and fax: 0181-959 6261.
Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, London NW7 2HX, 10am-12noon.

ST. PAUL'S WARD



KITTY LYONS (Labour)
Tel: 0181-346 6843.
Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 331 Ballards Lane, Finchley, London N12, 11am-12.30pm. Tel: 0181-343 9854. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



KATHY MCGUIRK (Labour)
Tel: 0181-346 8255. Work Tel: 0181-343 9854.
Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 331 Ballards Lane, Finchley, London N12, 11am-12.30pm.
Tel: 0181-343 9854. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



JIM TIERNEY (Labour)
Tel: 0181-346 3359.
Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 331 Ballards Lane, Finchley, London N12, 11am-12.30pm.
Tel: 0181-343 9854. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

TOTTERIDGE WARD



BRIAN COLEMAN (Conservative)
Tel: 0181-349 2024. Surgery: at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, London N12 9HP on 15 August and 21 November 1998, 10.30am-12noon and at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ on 19 September, 17 October and 19 December 1998, 10.30am-12noon. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY or contact 163 High Street, Barnet (0181-449 7345)



KEVIN EDSON (Conservative)
Tel: 0181-446 8343. Surgery: at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, London N12 9HP on 15 August and 21 November 1998, 10.30am-12noon and at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ on 19 September, 17 October and 19 December 1998, 10.30am-12noon. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY or contact 163 High Street, Barnet (0181-449 7345)



VICTOR LYON (Conservative)
Tel: 0181-446 4423. Surgery: at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, London N12 9HP on 15 August and 21 November 1998, 10.30am-12noon and at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ on 19 September, 17 October and 19 December 1998, 10.30am-12noon. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY or contact 163 High Street, Barnet (0181-449 7345)

WEST HENDON WARD



ARUN GHOSH (Labour)
Tel: 0181-202 6841.
Surgery: Every Saturday at West Hendon Clinic, West Hendon Broadway (entrance in Perryfield Way), London NW9, 10.30am-12noon.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



AGNES SLOCOMBE (Labour)
Tel: 0181-202 4074.
Surgery: Every Saturday at West Hendon Clinic, West Hendon Broadway (entrance in Perryfield Way), London NW9, 10.30am-12noon.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



ANSUYA SODHA (Labour)
Tel: 0181-959 6035.
Home email: ansuya@vishnomarketing.demon.co.uk
Surgery: Every Saturday at West Hendon Clinic, West Hendon Broadway (entrance in Perryfield Way), London NW9, 10.30am-12noon. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

WOODHOUSE WARD



STAN CROSS (Labour)
Tel: 0181-444 9178.
Surgery: 1st Saturday every month at South Friern Library, Colney Hatch Lane, London N10 1HD, 11am-12.30pm.
Other Saturdays at 331 Ballards Lane, London N12 8LT, 11am-12.30pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



BEVERLEY PEARCE (Labour)
Tel: 0181-440 0918. Work Fax: 0171-482 2680.
Home email: bevpearce@lyttonroad.demon.co.uk
Surgery: 1st Saturday every month at South Friern Library, Colney Hatch Lane, London N10 1HD. Other Saturdays at 331 Ballards Lane, London N12 8LT, 11am-12.30pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.



BARRY RAWLINGS (Labour)
Tel: 0181-343 7259.
Surgery: 1st Saturday every month at South Friern Library, Colney Hatch Lane, London N10 1HD.
Other Saturdays at 331 Ballards Lane N12 8LT, 11am-12.30pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

CUSTOMER SURVEYS RESULTS

Local residents have given top ratings to the council tax and housing benefits services from their council. The Customer Services Division of the Finance Directorate recently sent a questionnaire to a number of residents selected at random by our computer systems.

They were asked what they thought of the services they received from either the council tax section or the housing and council tax benefits section.

The results show the vast majority of people are satisfied with the services they receive.

An impressive 97 per cent of council tax payers responding to the survey were satisfied with the service and 98 per cent said that they had no difficulty in understanding their council tax bill.

A total of 96 per cent of benefit customers were satisfied with the way their claim was dealt with and 82 per cent found the benefit application form easy to complete. The Customer Services Division welcomes comments from

residents on ways in which the services provided could be improved.

Suggestions made by residents have included increasing telephone access at times of high demand and ringing callers back if an answer to a query cannot be given immediately.

The Customer Services Division have now reduced the numbers of council tax payers that are sent reminders for outstanding payments at any one time and increased the number of telephone lines available at these times.

The benefits section will ring residents back if they need to find papers or discuss a claim with anyone else before answering a query.

If you have any other suggestions for ways in which the Council Tax, Housing and Council Tax Benefits or Education Awards services can be improved, or have comments to make on services you received, please write to Penny Bolam, Liaison Manager, at Fenella, Babington Road, London NW4 4BS.

CAN WE HELP YOU PAY YOUR RENT OR COUNCIL TAX?

You could be missing out on help to pay your rent or council tax. Housing benefit is available to any person who has to pay rent other than to a close relative. Council tax benefit can be paid if you are the person who is named on the council tax bill.

You do not have to receive state benefits to claim this help to pay your rent or council tax. Changes to the weekly amounts the government say you need for day to day living expenses introduced in April mean that more people will now be able to get help to pay their rent or council tax.

Tables showing if you can get help are included in the booklet *A Short Guide To Housing and Council Tax Benefits*. Claim forms and these booklets are available from your estate office, libraries or from our housing benefit office at Fenella, Babington Road, Hendon NW4 4BS.

If you telephone our housing and council tax benefit advisory service on 0181-359 2326, or call in at any of the weekly advice sessions held in the borough, we will be able to give you more information. We will also send you a claim form if you want one.

If you have capital of £16,000 or more we are sorry but we will not be able to give you any help with your rent or council tax* (*unless you are claiming second adult rebate because you are the only person who is named on the council tax bill, you do not have a partner but do not get a single person discount because other adults live in your home. This benefit is based on the total income of these other adults).

New for
'98

OPEN TO A NEW CHALLENGE? SO ARE WE!

Barnet College

Weekend College

COMPUTING • LANGUAGES • ART & DESIGN • LEISURE ACTIVITIES •
BUSINESS TRAINING • HIGHER EDUCATION AND MORE

Want to pursue a qualification, leisure activity or training but can't fit it into your lifestyle? Why not find out more...

FOR DETAILS CALL 0181 275 2865

Barnet College exists to provide access for all to high quality education & training

NEW PLAYGROUND DESIGNED BY FAMILIES



Children on Grahame Park are enjoying the new play area local families "designed" themselves.

A special Open Day attracting about 300 people organised by the Grahame Park Community Development Group was held at the Grahame Park Community Centre.

Local families enjoyed an entertaining and informative day, with a clown, games, competitions, refreshments, employment and training advice and a free raffle.

They also chose the new playground, another Tenants' Initiative scheme giving families a chance to see their ideas put into action.

Residents voted for the play area they liked best from three designs put on show.

The Grahame Park Community Development Group is a partnership of residents' and community groups which have combined their efforts to work together

with the council to make Grahame Park a better place to live for local families.

The council is committed to working in partnership with local people to regenerate Grahame Park and this initiative is just one feature of that strategy.

Among those taking part in the Open Day were the Park Initiatives Centre, Grahame Park Residents Association, The Prince's Trust, Young London, Friends of Grahame Park Open Space and the Barnet African Health Organisation.

"I am delighted families on Grahame Park have got the play area they asked for and can be proud of," said Councillor Allan Turner, Chair of the Housing Committee.

"Local people know best what facilities will most suit their needs, which is why we gave them the chance to choose the design they liked best for their children," he added.

AT A GLANCE

Barnet Council has agreed to increase payments to the voluntary organisations which deliver its meals at home service to older people to ensure that this successful partnership continues.

Some voluntary organisations have experienced some difficulties in recruiting volunteers, so the council has agreed to increase its support to ensure that volunteers' costs and expenses can be met.

Mayor of Barnet Councillor Usha Chopra joined pupils from Northside and Akiva Schools, in planting a horse chestnut tree in Avenue House grounds in Finchley to remember the life of Anne Frank and the millions of children killed in wars this century.

From Anne Frank's hiding place in Amsterdam during the Second World War she found peace and comfort from watching the horse chestnut tree outside change with the seasons.

Two murals created by seven year olds in the playground of Manorside Junior Mixed Infants School in Finchley have been unveiled by Chair of the Education Committee Councillor Anne Jarvis.

The murals depict a 'Seascape' and a 'Junglescape' and were financed with help from London Electricity.

Few enjoy paying bills, but the service provided by Barnet's cashiers make it as painless as possible, according to the latest survey. All who took part said they were satisfied with the service and not one out of the residents interviewed could think of any way it could be improved.

Young artists aged between 18 and 30 living, working or studying in Barnet are invited to submit two pieces of artwork in any medium, except photography, to the Aphorp Fund for Young Artists, which is administered by Barnet's Arts Service. The Fund exists to encourage and support artists who are either in the final year of study or have begun professional careers.

The work is judged by a panel of experts and may be bought by the Aphorp Fund to be permanently displayed in public buildings throughout the borough. The handing-in dates are 6 and 7 November 1998. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Arts Office, Educational Services, Friern Barnet Lane N11 3DL or by phoning 0181-359 3152.

New service puts children first

Barnet Council is revolutionising the way it provides services for children.

In a radical shake-up the council has created an Early Years Service, bringing together education, day care and family support services for children up to the age of eight.

In the past these services have been provided by different council departments.

Central to the service is the Early Years Helpline on 0181 359 3191 which offers co-ordinated information for parents, employers and childcare providers about

services available from both the council and the independent sector.

Parents, schools, playgroups, childminders, private nurseries, children and family centres and other organisations concerned with services for young children have joined forces with the council to form the Early Years Partnership. Drawing on their wide and varied experiences the partnership has created Barnet's first Early Years Development Plan setting out how the quality and range of services will be improved in ways which reflect the needs of local families.

From September:

- there is a guarantee of a nursery place for every four-year-old in the borough whose parents want it

- the successful programme to expand nursery classes will continue

- Moss Hall and St Margaret's nursery schools will offer childcare for extended hours as well as nursery classes

- in April 1999 the Fairway Early Years Centre will open its doors offering integrated childcare and family support.

Council Leader Alan Williams said: "This is an exciting and

radical approach which underlines our continued commitment to provide services which meet the needs of children and parents."

See *Childcare Challenge*, page 12.

HELPING YOU RECOVER

The council is planning to introduce a new affordable household contents insurance scheme which will benefit tenants and leaseholders in the borough.

Councillors want to introduce the arms length scheme to help vulnerable people and families on low incomes by giving them added protection and security.

More than half of councils and housing associations in England and Wales do not have contents insurance cover for their tenants.

This leaves families at risk of financial hardship if the worst comes to the worst and their homes and belongings are hit by fire, flood, theft or other disasters.

The extra protection for home contents also fits in with a number of the council's corporate themes including community safety, community support and investment and supporting those most in need.

PROFESSIONALS CLEAN UP ESTATES

Professional witnesses are proving an outstanding success in your council's war against drugs, graffiti and crime on estates.

Barnet Council is using the firm of witnesses to strengthen its tough no nuisance policy on estates.

Five possession notices have been served on council tenants and undercover investigations could lead to two more notices, thanks to work by professional witnesses, housing officers and the police.

Six youths were caught by video cameras carrying out graffiti damage on Grahame Park, resulting in possession notices being served on the four

council tenants. The families concerned agreed their children, who were convicted of criminal damage, would help clean up Grahame Park rather than face eviction.

Professional witnesses are also being used to tackle drug-dealing offences and anti-social behaviour on a Cricklewood estate, resulting so far in one eviction notice being served on a tenant with two others still being investigated.

They are employed at locations in the borough where there have been complaints from residents about incidents of anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

Barnet Council last year

strengthened its tenancy agreement, with stronger clauses on anti-social activity, racial abuse and domestic violence.

"We will not tolerate criminal and anti-social behaviour on our estates," said Councillor Allan Turner, Chair of the Housing Committee.

"The value of professional witnesses is that they can provide evidence in court against offenders where other witnesses may be afraid to. In partnership with the police, they enable us to carry out surveillance operations to catch the criminals in the act," he added.

CITIZENS PANEL ALREADY HAVING IMPACT ON SERVICES



Councillor Jeremy Davies gave the thumbs up when his car exhaust emissions were tested and passed by Paul Kershaw from Middlesex University during Barnet's Environment Week. Pollution is one of the issues that concerns the Citizens Panel.

Your council's Citizens Panel has given its first comprehensive verdict on Barnet's services.

The Panel is made up of 1,000 residents representative of the full range of people living in Barnet who have agreed to give their views about council services and life in the borough by taking part in regular surveys.

The results of the first Panel survey are now being considered in detail and will have a real impact on services.

Their views will be used to help the council to plan and improve by making it more responsive to local needs. For instance, Panel members' comments on refuse collection, recycling and street cleaning services are being considered as part of an in-depth review of these activities in line with the government's new 'best value' policy. This review is likely to look closely at ways of minimising waste,

making recycling more effective for everyone wanting to take part, co-ordinating these services and improving communication and information.

A number of questions also identified issues which were of concern to Barnet people. Among these, the most prominent were related to crime and community safety, traffic congestion and pollution. As a result, some of these will be looked at in more depth in the next survey in an attempt to find effective ways of tackling them.

The council has already been able to respond directly to some issues raised by the Panel. For example, almost three quarters of people said they would like more information about air pollution levels near congested roads. During Environment Week the council decided to display air quality data on electronic boards at The Town Hall, Hendon and

Barnet House in Whetstone and it is looking at other ways of keeping people more informed.

While recognising that there is always room for improvement, other results are very encouraging. For example, about four in five people who had been in contact with the council over the past year said they were satisfied with the way that they were treated by staff and reported that the staff they dealt with had been helpful, polite and well informed.

Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of Barnet Council, said "Local councils must design their services to meet the needs of local people. However, with limited resources it is also vital that these services give the best value to our customers. The Citizens Panel helps us to do just that by providing a fast and effective way of finding out what people really think."

THE MOUNT SCHOOL

Milespit Hill • London NW7 2RX

Independent Girls Day School
Aged 4 -18

Accredited as efficient by the ISC in 1994



We offer a wide range of academic subjects leading to GCSE and Advanced Level

You are welcome to visit during the school working day or come to the Open Day on Wednesday 7 October, from 3-6pm.

Please telephone the school admissions officer for a prospectus
0181-959 3403 or Fax: 0181-959 1503

The school exists to provide a high standard of education for girls
Registered Charity No 312593

OLD FOLD MANOR GOLF CLUB

Old Fold Lane, Barnet, Herts..

Come and play this long established and historic 18 hole golf course for just

★ £12 per round ★

on Mondays and Wednesdays

Refreshment facilities available

To reserve a time call 0181 440 7488

A limited number of vacancies for membership are available for both ladies and gentlemen - please call the Club Manager for details on 0181 440 9185

Meeting the Childcare Challenge

Barnet Council has begun a radical review of its early childhood services and now wants to look closely at provision for children and young people up to the age of 14.

But the next step cannot be done by the council alone. We need parents, employers, those who run childcare provision or are involved in organisations promoting childcare services to take an active role in the council's new **Childcare Partnership**.

The Government is driving forward a National Childcare Strategy. Childcare has been neglected for too long. Children and parents need high quality, affordable provision that meets the needs of every neighbourhood. Help us meet the challenge - join our Childcare Partnership. It will meet in the evenings, about six times over the next year.

To find out more please call Diana Searle on 0181-359 3006 or write to The Early Years Service, Educational Services, Friern Barnet Lane, London N11 3DL.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

Residents across the borough will soon be asked to have their say on proposals to redraw the borough's ward boundaries.

Barnet's population is changing and there has not been a major review of ward boundaries since 1977.

Now the government's independent boundary commission is to set about drawing new ward boundaries for Barnet ensuring each councillor in future represents roughly the same number of electors.

And it's not just lines on a map. The council is also committed to ensuring the interests and identities of local communities are taken into account.

The council will put forward its own proposals for public consultation and invite comments from residents and local organisations including suggestions for new ward names.

Displays will be mounted at local libraries and a series of public meetings will be organised early in September. The final date for comments will be 21 September. Watch out for details in the local press.

The commission will study the results of the consultation and make recommendations. Residents will be invited to comment on these too before the final report goes to the Secretary of State.

NEW DIRECTORS FIT FOR ACTION

Two important council service teams now have new directors.

Martyn Kempson has been appointed Director of Educational Services and Anne Lippitt Director of Environmental Services.

Martyn joined the London Borough of Barnet in 1991 as Controller of Libraries and Arts and in 1995 was promoted to become Deputy Director of Educational Services. He became Acting Director of Educational Services in May 1997.

Martyn lives in the borough and is married with two children who attend local schools. A keen tennis player, he plays three times a week at 7.00 am in the morning before getting into work.

He said: "Barnet Council's commitment to raising the standards of achievement of children in all its schools is a top priority and I share this aim. My own children attend local schools in the borough and I recognise

the excellent job that our schools are doing to ensure that children realise their full potential."

Anne Lippitt came to Barnet in 1995 as Deputy Director of Environmental Services and has been Acting Director since January of this year.

Anne's responsibilities include planning, highways, refuse collection, street cleansing, recycling, trading standards, environmental health, parking and trees. She said: "I am a firm believer in involving the community and making sure that local people have a say in the way services are delivered but I also want to see them working with the council and taking responsibility for specific actions in their own areas."

Outside work Anne's major form of relaxation is running in marathons. She can be found pounding the streets in and around Friern Barnet where she lives. She has run marathons in London,

TOP FLIGHT CARE FAIR AT RAF MUSEUM

Barnet Council is holding its annual Community Care Fair at the RAF Museum this year. And it promises to be bigger and better than last year's event - the first ever in the borough. It was decided to make it an annual affair after the outstanding success of this well-received council initiative.

This year's free fair, again supported by British Gas, takes place at the Dermot Boyle Gallery at the Museum in Grahame Park Way, Colindale, on 15 October between 12 noon and 7pm. It brings together under one roof a wide range of care services provided by social services, health, private and voluntary organisations.

Visitors can learn more about the full range of services available for vulnerable people. The fair also provides an opportunity for exhibitors to

share information, forge links with each other and create partnerships for the future.

There will be displays, exhibitions, demonstrations and workshops, in which both professionals and members of the public can participate.

Special events include workshops on Transport, Race, Culture and Community Care, Volunteering and the Disability Discrimination Act.

There will be a special event called Millennium Debate of the Age organised by Age Concern and also a drama performance. Refreshments are available and the RAF

Museum is fully accessible to wheelchair users.

As an added bonus, visitors to the Care Fair also get free entry into the Museum and its impressive display of aircraft history.

"Last year's Community Care Fair was the first in the history of the borough," said Councillor Phil Yeoman, Chair of Social Services Committee.

"To satisfy the enormous demand that initiative generated, we are holding the second Care Fair at a prestigious new venue. There will be something for everyone and all are welcome."

CASH BOOST TO LOCAL GROUPS

Voluntary organisations in the borough are getting almost £1.9 million of grant support from Barnet Council this year.

In the latest round of awards, councillors gave grants worth £81,000 to 13 organisations whose work in the community contributes to corporate themes including improving standards in education, creating a healthy environment, supporting those most in need and rebuilding our economy.

The council is giving £19,500 to Barnet African Health Organisation, £25,000 to Old Barn Youth and Community Association and £350 to West Hendon Opportunity Playgroup, all for projects on an education theme.

A £30,000 one-off development grant has been given to the Algernon Road Multi-cultural Day Centre in Hendon.

This is a joint initiative of three local community groups to provide members of Barnet African Caribbean Association, Barnet Asian Old People's Association and the Barnet Somali Community Group with improved day care, cultural and recreational facilities. The building will also be available for hire to other community groups.

The Barnet African Health Organisation project will fund

an after-school club offering supervised homework on Grahame Park and Old Barn Community Centre in East Finchley creating a play resource centre for parents and playworkers, a children's learning zone and a training room for local community groups.

The West Hendon Opportunity Playgroup has got a £350 one-off grant to buy new play equipment for its service for both able-bodied children and children with physical and learning disabilities.

A £19,636 grant has been given to the Park Initiative Centre on Grahame Park, which is working to combat poverty and unemployment on the estate through improved access to jobs and training.

Butterfly Conservation - Herts and Middlesex Branch has been given £300 towards the costs of a survey of butterflies in Barnet.

The council gave £20,000 to the Refugee Consortium of Barnet, £1,000 to Hindu Cultural Society for its older person's day centre and £3,700 to the Watling Community Centre Luncheon Club. Support was also given to Africans and Descendants Counselling Service (£400), the Barnet Borough Arts Council (£1,000) and Chicken Shed Theatre Company (£3,000).



Martyn Kempson
Director of
Educational Services



Anne Lippitt
Director of
Environmental Services

New York, Berlin and Scotland, where she won the ladies' race with a personal best of three hours, three minutes and five seconds.

WHAT'S ON

We welcome contributions to the What's On column. Write to: The Editor, Community News, Barnet Council, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG. We reserve the right to shorten entries and no responsibility can be accepted for the accuracy of information supplied for the column.

5 September, 2pm

New Barnet Amateur Gardeners' and Floral Art Society Autumn Show. St John's Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet. Admission 50p. Also **10 Sept.** Floral Art, Mrs June Gudgeon 'Classic Movies' and **8 Oct.** Mr Peter Cross 'Daffodils', Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet. 8pm. Members £1.50, visitors £2.

The Bull, Theatre, Gallery, Studios

Drama: 10 & 11 Sept, Not the National Theatre 'The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband'; 25 & 26 Sept, Red Shift Theatre Company 'Poor Mrs Pepys'; 6 Oct, The Soho Group 'As You Like It'; 9 Oct, Ken Campbell in 'Wol Wantok'; 14-17 Oct, Tabularasa Arts 'Made in England'; 20 & 21 Oct, Volcano Theatre 'The Town That Went Mad'; 23 Oct, Red Ladder Theatre Company 'Crush'; 24 Oct, Claire Dowie 'Easy Access (solo remix)'; 30 Oct, Tall Stories 'Alice & Mr Dodgson and The Happy Prince and Other Stories'; 31 Oct, Scarlet Theatre 'Stranded'; 6 Nov, Frantic Assembly 'Sell Out'.

Dance: 6 Sept, Jaleo; 19 Sept, Kathak Collective 'The Rosary'; 7 Oct, Sakoba Dance Theatre 'Myths'.

Comedy & Poetry: 12 Sept, John Hegley in 'Out of Luton'; 2 Oct & 27 Nov, One Nation Under a Groove...Innit 'Asian Comedy Night'; 10 Oct, Roger McGough 'The Spotted Unicorn'; 7 Nov, Stewart Lee; 20 Nov, George Melly - His Life & Times.

Music: 13 Sept, Geoff Achison Duo; 17 Sept, Marianne Tyler, Solo Cello Recital; 20 Sept, Performing Arts of India; 3 Oct, The October Consort; 4 Oct, Jackie Leven with Steafan Hannigan; 11 Oct, Samudra 'Asian Mafia'; 22 Oct, All Talk; 25 Oct, Big Chief; 1 Nov, The Burning Bush; 15 Nov, Hilary James & Simon Mayor.

Little Bull - Children's Shows:

6 Sept, Strawberry the Clown in 'Strawberry's Day Off'; 13 Sept, Dr Palfi in 'The Really Dangerous Safety Show'; 20 Sept, Red Hippo Productions 'Aesop's Further Fabulous Fables'; 27 Sept, Barking Dog Theatre 'Rumpelstiltskin'; 4 Oct, Moving Hands Puppet Theatre 'Rollercoaster Runaway!'; 11 Oct, Travelling Light 'The Last Tyger'; 18 Oct, DNA 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'; 1 Nov, Kazzum 'The Flying Chestcoffs'; 8 Nov, Humble Pie Puppets 'Teddy Bears Picnic'; 15 Nov, Hilary James & Simon Mayor 'Musical Mystery Tour'.

Half Term Events: 25-28 Oct (no show Mon) Tall Stories 'Alice & Mr Dodgson'; Workshop Event 26 Oct, Lewis Carroll's Adventures in Wonderland; Workshop Event 29 & 30 Oct, Alice in Wonderland Paint 'n' Play; 29 & 31 Oct, Tall Stories, Oscar Wilde's 'The Happy Prince' & other stories.

Gallery: 9-30 Sept, Eight Nation Exhibition of Art by Disabled People; 7 Oct-4 Nov, Irene Frohlich-Weiner 'Visions of Ourselves' (sculptures, masks and reliefs) Foyer; 7 Oct-4 Nov, Nina-Farrell 'Ray-Grams'.

For details of the above listings and classes & courses contact The Bull, 68 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SJ, tel. 0181-449 0048

9 September

Talk by John Neal 'The Fatal Gallows', Barnet and District Local History Society. Also **14 Oct.** talk by L.F. Redgrave 'Hadley Common'. For details phone 0181-440 8066

12-13 September

Armed Forces Weekend, a military vehicle rally with today's regular and reserve armed forces (displays, vehicles, weapons and representatives from all armed forces). Arena events: TS Broadsword Drill Display; re-enactments of the War of the Roses, English civil war (drill & skirmish), Rifle Brigade (based on Sharp TV series), World War One group (drill), World War Two (attack on pill box); cadets modern warfare; RAF Regiment Band; inter services cadet assault course competition; Scottish pipe band. The re-enactor groups' encampments on the site recreate the atmosphere of their time and visitors will be able to follow a time trail through history. Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, Hendon NW9. Also **26 Sept.** Evacuees Day, ride in a vintage bus and discover the stories behind being evacuated during World War Two. Also **26-27 Sept.** Society of Friends Welcome Weekend. Also **24 Oct-1 Nov.** Hands-on activities for the school half term.

For more information on events phone the Marketing Dept. on 0181-205 2266 ext 251 or 0181-200 1763.

12 Sept-15 Nov

Exhibition marking Dannie Abse's 75th birthday, the 50th anniversary of his first published poems and launching his newest work, published this September. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Tel. 0181-203 0130.

13 September

Fun Day for Horse Lovers at King George V Fields, Barnet. For details, phone 0181-440 3498

17 September, 7.30pm

Barnet Branch of the London & North Middlesex Family History Society. 'The Visual Record' a talk by Paul Blake at Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet. Also **15 Oct.** 'The Public Record Office at Kew' a talk by Majorie Moore. Group meets 3rd Thurs of the

month (except Dec). For details phone 0181-449 1553.

4 October

Dussehra Festival, Victoria Park, Ballards Lane, Finchley N3. Details, 0181-359 3036

15 October, 7.30pm

Barnet Borough Confederation of Tenants and Residents Association Meeting, Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley.

Barnet Open Poetry Competition 1998

Over £500 in cash prizes. Poems may be up to 35 lines in length. There are several categories in this annual poetry competition, including General Category, Loss and Bereavement. 7-16 yrs. Full details and entry forms available from PO Box 2000, BBAC, c/o All Saints' Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, London N20 9EZ. Tel. 0181-446 7989. Please enclose a SAE. Closing date for entries is 16 October 1998.

17 October, 7.45pm

Hendon Music Society presents programme by pianist Peter Katin which includes works by Scarlatti, Mozart, Chopin, Debussy and Rachmaninov. Also **14 Nov.** Margaret Fingerhut (piano) and Bradley Creswick (violin) with programme including works by Mozart, Dvorak and Bartok plus Cesar Franck's Sonata in A major. Trinity Church, Hodford Road, Golders Green. Tickets £9.50 (children £5, conc. £7.50). For details phone 0181-203 2355.

29 October

Friends of JAMI present a Celebrity Dinner with Guest Speaker Sir Jeremy Isaacs at the Kinloss Suite, Kinloss Gardens, N3. Tickets £60 pp incl. Reception, Dinner, Wine. Phone 0181-458 2223.

Watling Pensioners Luncheon Club

Lunch for pensioners who are members of Watling Community Association (£2.50 annual membership) every Tues, Wed and Thurs at Watling Community Centre, 145 Orange Hill Road, Burnt Oak 12.30 - 1.30pm. An ambulance (provided by Barnet Council) is available to pick up disabled passengers on Tues. The lunch costs £1.75p. to book phone Albert Lacey on 0181-952 6620

Walks/Activities with Barnet Leisure Services and CMS. For more information and meeting points phone 0181-359 3052.

JALEO

After several sell-out shows at The Bull, Jaleo return with a compelling new programme packed with pulsating rhythms, spontaneous emotions and passionate drama.



20 September, 10am-12noon

Starting at Arnos Grove tube station, walk to join the Pymmes Brook Trail which follows the brook through public open space north to Cockfosters tube station. Don't forget to bring your fare back as the walk ends at Cockfosters station. Distance of walk: 8km.

20 September, 2-4pm

Welsh Harp Walk. Join Roy Beddard of the Welsh Harp Conservation Group on a 4km stroll round this site of special scientific interest. Observe autumn bird migration and moulting wild fowl. Bring binoculars.

18 October, 10am-12noon

Ramble (6km) along the Dollis Brook. This walk is part of the 'Autumn Days' programme, an initiative to encourage older adults to become more active.

Don't forget to bring your return fare as the walk ends at Finchley Central tube station.

25 October, 2-4pm

See the winter arrivals at the Welsh Harp. Join Roy Beddard of the Welsh Harp Conservation Group on a 4km stroll and see the autumn/winter season changes. Bring binoculars.

Barnet Chamber of Commerce - Forthcoming Events

17 September Network Evening

20 October Network Lunch at Barnet College

12 November Network Lunch at The Pavilion on the Park Restaurant

For the latest information on events please contact De Cavanagh on 0181-343 3833

INNOVATIVE ARTS IN SCHOOLS WORK GETS GRANT AID

An innovative project devised by Barnet Council helped the borough win a £24,000 grant for arts education from the London Arts Board.

The grant means the borough is part of the prestigious London Arts Board network and establishes it as a leader in ground-breaking arts work in schools.

Called "Telling Our Stories", the project involves writers and artists visiting schools in Barnet and working with pupils to tell their life stories through writing, pictures, dance and other arts.

Apart from the educational benefits of the project, linked to the National Year of Reading 1998/1999, the scheme is also designed to build children's self esteem.

The three year grant recognises the expanding arts education work of the Barnet Education Arts Partnership, made up of the borough's arts service and education inspection and advisory service. The Partnership is aiming to develop its creative work further in future, working with the business community.

Plans for the next three years include a conference for parents of local children and their teachers to explore strategies to raise achievement through encouraging young people's creativity.



WANTED! FOSTER FAMILIES TO PROVIDE CARING HOMES

Foster carers can give vulnerable children the special caring environment only a family can provide.

Your council has launched a recruitment drive to increase the number of local foster carers, so more vulnerable youngsters in the borough can benefit from this support.

The more children the council can place in foster homes rather than residential homes the better.

If you live in or near Barnet and are able to offer children or teenagers a safe and secure environment for a few weeks or several months, the council's Family Placements team would like to hear from you.

Barnet Council wants where possible to provide homes for children who need them within the borough rather than move them away from their school and friends.

Foster carers are given training and support by the council and a fostering allowance and appropriate equipment is also provided.

The council's latest campaign to get new foster carers includes liaising with local schools and colleges, distributing leaflets, setting up meetings with parents and providing information for older children.

Social workers have also leafleted doctors' surgeries, health centres and libraries and advertised in local papers.

The council's Family Placements team is also liaising with local community groups and set up stalls at shopping centres in Broadwalk in Edgware and Brent Cross on Thursday, 4 June.

Links will be developed with various community and residents' groups within the borough and stalls on foster caring were set up at all the local summer carnivals and festivals this year.

"We want to increase the number of foster carers in the borough to provide support and a safe environment for young people who come into the care of Barnet's Social Services," said Councillor Phil Yeoman, Chair of Social Services Committee.

"Barnet Council wants to provide foster homes for children within the borough and reduce the number which have to face moving away from their local area. We are committed to working to provide local services for local people," he added.

Anyone interested in becoming a foster carer should contact the fostering social worker on 0181-359 4560 or 0181-359 4234.

A FOSTER CARER'S STORY

Lorna Facey became a foster carer for Barnet Council because she was always interested in supporting children who needed help.

Children who are fostered are often vulnerable and some may have suffered from abuse or neglect.

Like all other foster carers, Mrs Facey was given full training after passing the necessary checks.

"I lived on an estate where there were a lot of children

drifting about who needed someone to care for and protect them. That is how I first became interested in being a foster carer," she said.

"Some children have disagreements at home and need someone they can talk to and get a different view from."

So far Lorna has cared for ten different children, both boys and girls ranging in age from four to 16.

"At the beginning I got a lot of training and support from the

council but now I am more experienced I am expected to deal with more difficult tasks.

"It is challenging and you need a lot of time and patience but the rewards are tremendous. When you feel that a child is bonding with you it makes it all worthwhile."

Lorna has a son aged 25, who helps keep her up to date with the latest teen trends and takes children for days out. Her husband and her 15-year-old daughter also help out.

HEALTHY SUCCESS FOR SCHOOLS

Eight of the 39 schools now taking part in the Health Promoting Schools Initiative - including the first secondary schools - have won the scheme's highest accolade for their special project work.

The awards were presented by Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Usha Chopra during a ceremony held at Barnet Copthall Pools.

The Initiative arose as a result of the growing need to invest in the health of young people as a way of ensuring a healthier adult population for the future.

Health awards go to those schools which have shown excellence in achieving high standards in health education as part of the Health Promoting Schools Initiative.

All schools signed up to the project have to promote a healthy lifestyle throughout the

whole school.

A team of health and education specialists from Barnet Council and the local National Health Service Trust support and advise schools which must focus their efforts on a number of key areas.

These key areas include Food and Nutrition, Healthy Activity, Psychological Health, Relationships and Family Life, Drugs and the Environment.

This year the eight award winning schools were: Edgware Infant, Woodcroft Infant, Courtland, The Hyde, Rosh Pinah, East Barnet, Hendon Secondary and Ravenscroft.

Some of the winning schools concentrated their efforts on Healthy Activity - increasing the range of sports and games available and at the same time encouraging ways of creating a healthy lifestyle.

The Psychological Health

programme provided challenges for other winning schools giving their pupils an opportunity to develop good behaviour and take responsibility for themselves and the school community.

Hendon, East Barnet and Ravenscroft secondary schools were rewarded for their efforts tackling Relationships and Family Life and Drug Abuse.

Each of the winning schools was presented with a certificate and a plaque and given the right to use the Health Promoting Schools Initiative logo.



Soccer-mad youngster Joe Mitchell enjoyed a dream day-out thanks to Barnet Council and Barnet Football Club.

Joe, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, was Barnet FC's team mascot for the home game against Scarborough and is pictured, left with striker Sean Devine.

Joe, 12, who lives in High Barnet and attends Churchill School, is a keen supporter of Barnet FC and goes to matches with his father Wayne.

His exciting day at the club's Underhill stadium started at 1.45pm with a tour of the club and a chance to meet the players.

Proud Joe then led the team out wearing the Barnet strip for the 3pm match kick-off.

Joe benefits from Barnet Council's Family Link Scheme, which provides children with disabilities and their families with regular short breaks through linking children with local carers.

He has known his Family Link carers David Lewis and Jenny Pitkin and their two sons eleven-year-old Jack and nine-year-old George, who also love soccer, since December 1996. He visits once a month and spends Friday and Saturday with them and Joe's exciting day took place during one of these visits.

The day to remember for Joe and his family shows how the council is working effectively with local organisations like Barnet FC to provide better services for local people.

There are 28 children with disabilities linked with local people. New carers are needed from all sections of the local community and anyone who is interested in becoming a link carer should contact Family Link at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, London N20 0EJ or on 0181-359 4249.



BIG MATCH JOY FOR JOE



Ugh... pupils from Whittings Hill Junior School got in a bit of a mess for National Food Safety Week. Our picture shows from left to right Emma Hopkins; Gwen Evans, Environmental Health Officer; Harry Stacey; Julia Cable, Environmental Health Officer; Mrianal Singh and Councillor Jack Cohen, Chair of Development and Protection Committee, finding out how to wash their hands properly using green dye.

NEW COFFEE LOUNGE AT LIBRARY

Mayor of Barnet Councillor Usha Chopra has opened a new coffee lounge at Church End Library, Hendon Lane.

This is the sixth lounge area to be created in Barnet libraries since the first was launched at Grahame Park Library in 1995.

During 1997 four more lounges were opened at Burnt Oak, Golders Green, Osidge and South Friern Libraries and a further lounge at East Finchley Library will complete the current programme.

All the coffee lounge areas



provide a hot drinks vending machine, easy chairs, coffee tables, display shelves with leaflets and light reading materials.

They are designed to create a relaxed atmosphere for readers of all ages who can get a low cost drink, meet friends and make full use of all the facilities the library has to offer.

The Friends of Barnet Borough Libraries have played a key role backing the project which is supported with funds from the Milly Apthorp Charitable Trust

Journalist brothers Trevor and Mike Phillips signed copies of their book "Windrush" at Britain's biggest annual trade fair for teaching aids for multicultural education in Finchley.

The book, published to coincide with the BBC Windrush season which celebrates 50 years of British Caribbean experience, recounts the memories of West Indians who first sailed to Britain on the Windrush in 1948.

Trevor Phillips (left) is the presenter of LWT's The London Programme and a possible candidate for Mayor of London.

Casting a new generation eye over the book is Nathaniel Dwyer-White aged six from Tottenham.

The Multicultural Resources Exhibition at the council's Professional Development Centre brings together the latest developments in the field of multicultural education teaching aids from a wide range of specialist publishers and manufacturers.



WORK STARTS ON "SCENTED" PARK

Derelict land is being turned into a public park designed with the help of local residents.

The new Clarefield Park will be laid out on public open space between Tilling Road and Claremont Way, NW2.

The plan to create the new £828,000 park followed an agreement between the council and developers of a nearby hotel and shopping complex.

Clarefield Park will have games and play areas, a flower garden, trees and lawns.

It will also contain a scented garden with specially selected pungent flowers, plants and herbs to give added pleasure to the sight impaired.

Work is due to begin in September and the park should be open to the public by July 1999.



WE'RE VOTING YES!

Youngsters from Woodcroft Junior School leave Councillor Allan Turner in no doubt. They support the proposed new youth and community sports centre for Burnt Oak. This exciting project is being canvassed among local residents as a way of bringing the derelict former Camden sports ground off Watling Avenue back into use for the benefit of the community. The Woodcroft pupils discussed the project in class and decided to make sure their voices were heard.



It was smiles all round during two of Barnet's festivals. Crowds flocked to the Watling Festival in June. The festival, now in its third year, continues to grow and residents were treated to a fun fair, demonstrations, stalls, music and displays. Our picture (above) shows the festival parade.

At the East Barnet Festival, festival-goers were taken back in time with a re-enactment of the medieval Battle of Barnet (pictured left) along with a huge variety of stalls, displays and demonstrations.

Now you've read Community News - recycle it