

barnet first

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

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Blooming Barnet

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2002-2003
Improving Urban Green Spaces
Libraries as a Community Resource
2003-2004
Community Cohesion

A message from Councillor Victor Lyon,

Leader of Barnet Council

Welcome to the latest edition of Barnet First. In this issue you can read about the success that the council's street enforcement service has had in dramatically reducing the number of abandoned vehicles blighting our streets.

As well as being an eyesore, abandoned cars are a magnet for crime and anti-social behaviour and we are determined to improve the quality of life for residents by eradicating the problem.

We look forward to the re-opening of the borough's flagship library in Hendon which has just undergone a £1 million revamp and we also profile the recently refurbished Finchley Youth Theatre.

One of the council's key priorities is 'repairing roads and pavements' and in this edition we outline our major road improvement programme in detail. Over the next three years the council is due to spend £25 million on resurfacing and other improvements that will help keep the traffic flowing. This, together with the successful £27m Private Finance Initiative bid for improved street lighting, will improve safety for both drivers and pedestrians.

Finally, putting the community first is our priority and in this issue you can read about how we are looking to further improve the way we communicate with residents.



Councillor Victor Lyon
Leader of Barnet Council

Barnet First

first things first

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Fall in abandoned vehicles blighting borough's roads



Abandoned vehicles like these are on the decrease

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Barnet Council's street enforcement service the number of dumped vehicles blighting Barnet's streets has dramatically reduced.

An increased focus on the problem by street enforcement officers coupled with the introduction of a new free collection service has seen reports of abandoned vehicles fall throughout the last year.

Rather than being tempted to mindlessly abandon their clapped out motors, Barnet's drivers can now have their unwanted old bangers collected from their doorstep, absolutely free, by the council's 'Abandoned Vehicles Unit.'

The scheme has already started to have an impact and figures for May showed a 44 per cent reduction in the number of abandoned vehicles reported to the council, compared to the same period last year.

Similarly, since the free take-back service began the number of vehicles handed over for disposal

has doubled. Figures show that in May 2003, 54 vehicles were surrendered to the council compared with 118 handed over during the same month this year.

The decrease in abandoned vehicles is good news for Barnet residents and provides a boost to the quality of life in the borough. Abandoned cars are not only an eyesore but they put the safety of residents at risk and can lead to other forms of anti-social behaviour and escalate the fear of crime.

The council aims to have all abandoned vehicles off its streets within 72 hours and from October it will also be allowed to crush any untaxed and unregistered vehicles found on the borough's roads.

Want to know more?

Residents wishing to dispose of their unwanted vehicles should contact the council's abandoned vehicle's unit on

020 8359 7399

New Cabinet post created

The Leader of Barnet Council, Cllr Victor Lyon, has made sweeping changes to the structure of his Cabinet. Several new posts have been created, including a dedicated Cabinet Member for Children, incorporating elements of education, welfare and children's social services. Other new posts will lead on regeneration, culture and community safety.

Cllr Lyon has welcomed five new faces to the Cabinet with the appointment of Councillors Chris Harris, John Marshall, Matthew Offord, Melvin Cohen and Fiona Bulmer. He also thanked Councillors Lynne Hillan, Brian Coleman, Kanti Patel, Peter Davis and Maureen Braun, who are standing down, for their contribution to the work of the council over the last two years.

The new Cabinet responsibilities are as follows:

- Children:** Cllr Chris Harris
- Culture, Community Engagement & HR:** Cllr Katia David
- Education & Lifelong Learning:** Cllr John Marshall
- Environment and Transport:** Cllr Matthew Offord
- Housing Neighbourhoods & Community Safety:** Cllr Brian Salinger
- Performance, Partnerships & Best Value:** Cllr Mike Freer
- Regeneration & Development:** Cllr Melvin Cohen
- Resources:** Cllr Anthony Finn (Deputy Leader)
- Social Care & Health:** Cllr Fiona Bulmer

Residents honour Normandy veterans

Barnet residents lined the streets to pay tribute to Barnet's Normandy veterans who paraded to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

Barnet's Mayor Cllr Wendy Prentice was there to take the review along with the Mayor of Enfield, while three high-ranking officers representing the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force took the salute.

The spectacular parade along the High Road in Whetstone in June featured military bands, troops, school children, Cadet Forces and a convoy of military vehicles.

Following the parade a service of remembrance and commemoration took place at St Mary's Church in Athenaeum Road.

The events of June 6 1944 were further commemorated by a display of D-day artefacts, exhibits and video presentations staged in Hendon Town Hall. Visitors were given the opportunity to meet Normandy veterans and the event featured a Holocaust exhibition from Auschwitz and displays from the War Graves Commission, the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and Friends of War Memorials.



News in brief

School merger proposed

Proposals have been made to merge Broadfields Infant and Junior Schools in Edgware as part of a two pronged approach to provide children at both schools with a first class education.

The council believes there are educational benefits in operating all-age primary schools and the proposals are part of its aim to

reduce the number of small separate infant and junior schools in the borough.

Both schools' budgets have been impacted by falling rolls.

If the amalgamation proposals are approved Broadfields Infant and Junior schools will reopen as a single two form entry primary school in January 2005.

Business-like Barnet weeds out waste

By weeding out inefficiency Barnet Council is well on track to achieve targeted savings just two months into the new financial year.

The council's Strategic Procurement Team is responsible for saving money in areas that cut across all council services – for example looking for the best deals when it comes to purchasing services and equipment that the authority uses on a daily basis.

The team has already achieved savings of £175,000 for 2004-2005 without impacting on its front-line services by employing a number of innovative methods such as forming consortiums with other local authorities and introducing better processes to pay suppliers.

Investors in People status retained

Barnet Council has once again been recognised for its high standards in developing, engaging and communicating with staff.

The council has become only the second in London to retain its Investors in People (IiP) accreditation for its performance across all services.

Assessors said the council had made significant improvements in communications, induction, effective appraisal and the way in which staff and managers were involved in helping the council meet its key priorities.

Assessors also praised the effort that the council had put into retaining its IiP status at a time when it was having to make efficiency savings.

News in brief



Robin Lane residents celebrate road naming

Street named

Houses in a forgotten corner of Hendon behind the Great North Way were finally recognised when the road they stand on was officially named.

Robin Lane has about 30 houses and used to be notoriously difficult to find.

The road was renamed by

Barnet's Mayor, Cllr Wendy Prentice, in her first official engagement after taking office.

The council has now officially adopted Robin Lane and for good measure resurfaced the road as part of its massive road improvement programme.

It's never too late to learn

Do you suffer from computer phobia or sometimes think you're being left behind by the march of technology?

If the answer to either of these questions is yes help is at hand, because Barnet Council has teamed up with Barnet College to offer free computing courses for adult beginners.

The nine-hour courses are divided into four easily digestible sessions and are offered at Grahame Park and East Barnet libraries.

Classes are small, informal and friendly and you decide the pace at which you want to learn. Skills you will be taught include writing letters using Microsoft Word and how to use the Internet.

Want to know more?

Contact Nicola Borthwick at Grahame Park library on

☎ 020 8266 4211

or Nick Black at East Barnet library on

☎ 020 8275 5053

Funding for track improvements

The council has agreed to help fund vital repairs to the athletics track at Cophall Stadium in Mill Hill. The money will be spent repairing the stadium's drainage and will match fund a £97,500 grant the council hopes to receive from Sport England's Community Athletics Refurbishment Programme.

Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers will temporarily manage and operate the stadium until Hendon Football Club transfers to the stadium and forms a trust with the Harriers to continue the operational management of the stadium on a permanent basis.

New computerised mapping system

Barnet Council's new state-of-the-art computerised mapping system is now available on-line to residents.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) will play a key role in the council's on-going drive to improve the way it communicates with the public by using digital mapping technology to graphically illustrate a wealth of useful public information.

Users can access information such as clinic opening times and bus timetables, query planning applications and search data from the 2001 census. Access GIS at maps.barnet.gov.uk



From Finland to Finchley

A friendship between two teachers helped pave the way for 39 Finnish teaching and classroom staff to visit schools in Barnet.

Links between St Mary's CE Primary School in Dollis Park and Taivallahti Primary School in the heart of Helsinki were forged through the friendship of St Mary's deputy head, Lorna Jaffa, and Leena Savela-Syvajarvi, a teacher at the Finnish school.

The two got to know each other through their daughters, who both have the rare medical condition, Rett Syndrome.

With a contact in Barnet already established, headteacher of the Finnish school, Hannu Kosonen, decided to apply to the Finnish lottery for funding for a five-day training visit to schools and educational sites in London.

The lottery bid was successful and a party of 39 teachers and classroom staff came to Barnet to see first hand how the English education system works.

At St Mary's members of the party were given a guided tour of the school by pupils, chatted to staff and were given the opportunity to watch some teaching.

As well as St Mary's the group from Finland also visited Manorside, Northside and Moss Hall primary schools and Oakleigh Special School.



Members of the 39 strong group from Finland who visited Barnet's schools

Mayor making ceremony



New Mayor Cllr Prentice receives chains of office

Barnet's new Mayor, Cllr Wendy Prentice, was officially sworn in at the Annual Mayor Making Ceremony held in May.

Cllr Prentice took up the mantle from retiring Mayor Cllr Cohen.

The ceremony, steeped in tradition, took place in the council chambers and was attended by all the elected councillors within the borough, along with representatives from local organisations plus friends and family of Cllr Prentice.

At the event, Edward Prentice, Cllr Prentice's husband, was installed as the official escort.

Cllr Prentice was elected to the council in 1998 and is a ward member for High Barnet.



Cllr Prentice takes over the reins from Cllr Cohen

Cllr Prentice said: "After serving as Deputy Mayor last year I realise what an honour it is to be asked to represent the borough as Mayor. I will do my best to uphold the values and reputation of the borough and I would like to thank everyone for their support."

New-look Hendon Library unveiled

Hendon Library is set to re-open its doors this autumn following a £1.3 million makeover.

The massive refurbishment will see Barnet Council's flagship library, first opened in 1929, providing residents with facilities fit for the 21st century.

New features include a ground floor café close to a display of 'quick select' novels, newspapers and magazines.

There are bookable computer facilities throughout the library and a 'Learning Zone' on the first floor offering a wide range of education opportunities while the top floor is home to a study area equipped for the use of laptops.

A lift has been installed to give easy access to all floors and there is now a meeting room with space for up to 30 people which will be used for library events such as reading groups as well as being available to the public as a bookable space.

The library's children's section has been completely re-vamped and there is also a separate area for teenagers.

Books are still at the heart of the library's business and visitors will have access to a wide range for loan and reference, including a large cross section of fiction and non-fiction that will appeal to Barnet's diverse, multi-cultural community.



A large audio-visual collection with a wide-range of compact discs and DVDs will be available and new listening facilities will help visitors make up their minds when it comes to deciding on what to borrow.

Look out for the next edition of Barnet First which will provide more detailed information about three weeks of special events planned for October to mark the official launch of the new-look Hendon Library.

Want to know more?

Call Tricia Little on

020 8359 7776

All aboard the Reading Rollercoaster

Barnet's libraries are staging a host of activities for children this summer.

Youngsters are being invited to board the 'Reading Rollercoaster' - a reading challenge that aims to introduce as many children as possible to the joys of books, story telling and libraries.

To complete the challenge children need to read six books, record the titles in a special 'Rollercoaster folder' and discuss them with library staff who will be on hand to offer encouragement and advice. At the end of the challenge each child will receive a certificate and be entered into a prize draw.

The Reading Rollercoaster sets off on July 24th and the ride along the way includes an exciting programme of activities designed to develop children's creative skills.

The activities will be running at all the borough's libraries throughout the summer holidays and include visits by a professional children's story teller, story-making workshops, art activities, stories, games and computer sessions.

Booking may be necessary for some events which are free and run until the end of August.

Want to know more?

For more details about Reading Rollercoaster events, information on how to book and age suitability ask at your local library or call Hannah Richens on 020 8359 7779

Working the streets

Barnet Council has made no secret of its desire to make driving on the borough's roads an altogether more pleasant experience.

Barnet's road improvement programme is, quite simply, second to none. Over the next three years the council is set to spend a staggering £25 million on resurfacing and improving the highways of the borough, backing up its pledge to repair the borough's roads and pavements.

Barnet Council's new Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Cllr Matthew Offord said: "Letting road networks decay leads to misery. Not only do the roads develop potholes, which can damage vehicles or throw people off bikes, but badly maintained roads promote congestion and contribute to a poor local environment. If we make sure that our roads are of a high standard, that will help keep traffic flowing through Barnet."

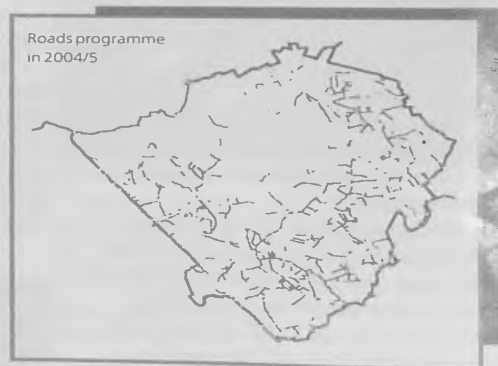
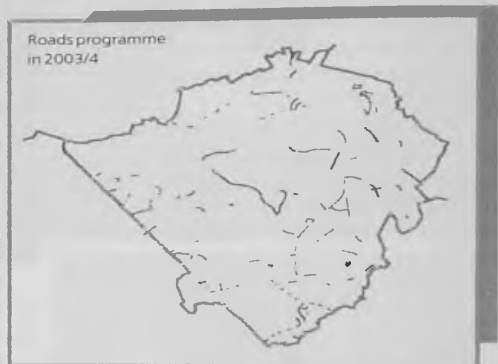
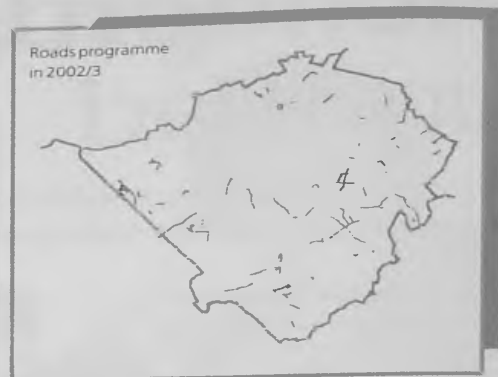
The plan is that a good flow of traffic will curb the scourge of rat-running, when drivers desperately seek a short-cut through narrow, residential streets, to avoid the heavily congested main routes.

The intention is to resurface around a third of all roads in Barnet over the next three years, some eight or nine hundred individual

roads. While the resurfacing is being done, the council will have to remove any traffic-management features. This gives an opportunity to review whether particular measures are working to slow down speeding traffic, or simply adding to local congestion.

The obvious concern about a scheme of this scale is that it will cause disruption in the borough, something that the council is keen to avoid. "An awful lot of the work will be done at night," says Mike Freestone, Head of Highways and Design at Barnet Council. "We want to avoid peak hours, obviously, especially on the principal roads. Doing the work at night should make the job easier and quicker to finish."

Alongside its massive resurfacing programme, Barnet Council is keen to persuade the Government and Transport for London to ease the pressures on the North Circular. The motorways and some other major roads are not managed by the council, so dealing with the well-known bottlenecks on the North Circular at Henlys Corner and Brent Street are projects for these other agencies.



Year-on-year more roads in Barnet are being resurfaced as part of the council's major roads improvement programme

School awarded top marks in art and sport

Friern Barnet School has crowned a highly successful year by securing two awards that recognise its commitment to arts and sport.

The school received a national accolade, the 'Artsmark Gold' award, from Arts Council England, for its commitment to providing pupils with opportunities across all art forms, including drama, music, design, literature and dance.

Already holding an Artsmark Silver Award, this latest recognition of the school's long tradition of excellence in the arts follows news in January that it had been awarded specialist status as a 'performing arts college.'

The award from the DfES will secure extra funding for new facilities that will be available to local primary schools and drama and arts societies, as well as the school itself.

Not only is Friern Barnet a centre of excellence for the arts, its sports provision and commitment to physical education have also received plaudits this year.

The school received a national 'Sportsmark' award for ensuring that the physical education of its pupils was a priority, encouraging

children to see the benefits of physical activity and helping them develop their sporting talents.

Headteacher Geoff Gosling said: "I am delighted that both Arts Council England and Sport England have recognised our commitment to encouraging and enabling our pupils to realise their full potential in these two areas.

"Both sport and the arts are vital elements in providing a full and rounded education and the achievement of our pupils in both continues to be a joy and strength of our school."



Friern Barnet pupils make the most of the opportunities that the school provides in the arts and sport

Barnet First

You can contact the council in a number of ways:

For general enquiries, or if you know the name of the person or section you want to speak to, call 020 8359 2000.

Visit the council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk for information on all services including contact details and telephone numbers. For more detailed enquiries on council services call into one of our Action Points. The council has four Action Points at: The Town Hall, Hendon, Chipping Barnet Library, Edgware Library and Golders Green Library.

Action Points can also be contacted by:

Telephone: 020 8359 4000

Fax: 020 8359 2197; Minicom: 020 8203 8942

Email: info.centre@barnet.gov.uk

Con=Conservative, Lab=Labour, LibDem= Liberal Democrat

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DANIEL HOPE (Con)

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ANDREAS TAMBOURIDES (Con)

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2nd Saturday every month, Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

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JAZMIN NAGHAR (Con)

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Barnet Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

BRIAN SALINGER (Con)

(020) 8368 1329 cllr.b.salinger@barnet.gov.uk
1st Saturday every month, Friern Barnet Library, Friern
Barnet Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

GERARD SILVERSTONE (Con)

(020) 8731 8368
cllr.g.silverstone@barnet.gov.uk
1st Saturday every month, Friern Barnet Library, Friern
Barnet Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

TOTTERIDGE WARD**BRIAN COLEMAN (Con)**

GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR
BARNET & CAMDEN
(020) 8349 2024 cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Barnet House, 1255
High Road Whetstone, N20, 10.30am-12noon

KEVIN EDSON (Con)

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3rd Saturday every month, Barnet House, 1255
High Road Whetstone, N20, 10.30am-12noon

VICTOR LYON (Con)

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (CONSERVATIVE
GROUP LEADER)
(020) 8446 8253 cllr.v.lyon@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Barnet House, 1255
High Road Whetstone, N20, 10.30am-12noon

UNDERHILL WARD**FIONA BULMER (Con)**

(020) 8441 5258 cllr.f.bulmer@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Conservative
Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-12noon

ANITA CAMPBELL (Lab)

(020) 8440 2703
cllr.a.campbell@barnet.gov.uk
1st and 3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet
Library, 3 Stapylton Rd., EN5, 2-3pm

PETER DAVIS (Con)

(020) 8449 8968 cllr.p.davis@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Conservative
Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-12noon

WEST FINCHLEY WARD**KITTY LYONS (Lab)**

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10-11.30am

KATHY MCGUIRK (Lab)

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Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, N12,
10-11.30am

JIM TIERNEY (Lab)

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Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, N12,
10-11.30am

WEST HENDON WARD**ARUN GHOSH (Lab)**

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Drive, NW9, 10.30am-12noon

AGNES SLOCOMBE (Lab)

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

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WOODHOUSE WARD**ANNE HUTTON (Lab)**

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10-11.30am

MARK LANGTON (Lab)

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Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane,
North Finchley, N12, 10-11.30am

ALAN SCHNEIDERMAN (Lab)

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10-11.30am

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(020) 8449 7345

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN

DR RUDIVIS
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(020) 8883 0411

HENDON

ANDREW DISMORE
Office: St George's Lodge, 79 The Burroughs,
Hendon, NW4 4AX
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GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY

MEMBER FOR BARNET AND CAMDEN
COUNCILLOR BRIAN COLEMAN
City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA
(020) 7983 4366

Barnet First

Em@il and txt keeps Barnet in touch



Cabinet Member for Performance, Partnership and Best Value Cllr Mike Freer celebrates the launch of first.contact@barnet last year

Modern technology such as e-mail and text messaging is playing an increasingly important role in the way the council communicates with residents.

Barnet's e-mail service has gone from strength to strength, since the launch of first.contact@barnet in April 2003.

The council is now receiving nearly three times the number of e-mails from residents than it did in 2002/3 and there are plans to tap into text messaging and allow more people to deal with the council in the way that is most convenient for them.

Over 4,700 e-mails arrived at the council through the 'contact-us' link on Barnet Online, the council's website. first.contact@barnet ensures that they are all passed to the right person and tracked through the system, allowing staff to respond quickly to issues that are of immediate concern to residents.

The TextBarnet service has been running since September 2003 and the council is now looking at ways of using text messaging to reach specific groups to make the authority as user-friendly as possible for all residents.

Putting the customer first

first.contact@barnet

Barnet Council is looking at ways to further improve the way it communicates with residents.

To help it achieve this the council has introduced a 'customer care charter,' outlining the standards residents should expect when they contact the authority, along with a strategy which will continue to improve the customer care the council provides.

The aim is to ensure that everyone receives good quality, value for money services that are delivered in a friendly, efficient, effective and helpful manner.

That means resolving customer's enquiries quickly and effectively, providing access to the council at times and locations convenient to residents and putting things right when they go wrong.

To help deliver these priorities, the council made sure it asked those best placed to comment on how it could raise standards of customer care across all its services – residents themselves.

And it was comments arising out of this consultation that went into developing the council's new customer care charter and strategy.

The five key issues which the strategy addresses are improving responsiveness to customers; improving customers' access to services and information; improving the speed of resolving customer queries and problems; providing consistently high standards of customer care and introducing procedures to measure improvements that are made.

Improvements already in place include the launch of first.contact@barnet – a dedicated reception and information service which aims, through investment in staff training and technology, to improve the way the council responds to enquiries made in person, by phone and via the website.

first.contact@barnet has already replaced the former action point at Hendon Town Hall and over the next year will be rolled out to other key locations including Barnet House in Whetstone.

Council sets out its priorities for improved services

Barnet Council has agreed a revised corporate plan that sets out how it will put the community first by delivering improved services for local people over the next four years.

In its aim of becoming an excellent authority, the blueprint builds on the positive achievements of the last year by updating performance targets, as well as taking account of feedback from residents and partner organisations.

The corporate plan is the single operational document to guide and monitor the delivery of the council's five key priorities of: a first class education service; tackling crime; supporting the vulnerable in our community; a cleaner, greener Barnet; and, repairing roads and pavements.

In addition to updated performance measures for service areas, the revised plan also sets out the internal changes the council will make to deliver improvement, including investing in infrastructure, modernising systems and developing staff.



Council prosecutes benefit cheats

Barnet Council's newly-established Corporate Anti-Fraud Team and the Law and Probity Department have successfully prosecuted three people who have been falsely claiming benefit payments, and recovered over £10,000 for Barnet Council in the process.

Annastella Rodney of Orde, Withers Mead, Colindale pleaded guilty to two charges of obtaining housing and council tax benefit having failed to disclose a relevant change in her circumstances.

She was given 100 hours community service and ordered to pay £1,180 compensation and £80 costs, in addition to repaying the £4,427.74 she had fraudulently pocketed.

Appearing at Barnet Magistrates Court, Jamie Lexton of Market Place, NW11 was ordered to pay £2,400 compensation to the council and £100 costs and will also have to repay the housing and council tax benefit paid to him since he started working.

In a third case, Cem Kul of

Russell Lane N20, was found guilty by magistrates in his absence of falsely claiming housing and council tax benefit and ordered to pay £2,111.97 in compensation, together with a £200 fine and £289 costs.

If any residents have any information that can help the council catch benefit cheats they can call the council's hot-line number in complete confidence on 020 8359 2007.

Barnet's People in Health Network

- ✓ Are you interested in your local health services?
- ✓ Do you have views on how to improve local NHS services?
- ✓ Would you like a say on how local NHS services should develop?



If the answer to any of the above is YES, then this is the opportunity for you to join Barnet's People in Health Network.

Public and Patient Involvement in the NHS is important.

It's about allowing you to get involved in what affects your NHS locally. It gives you the opportunity to help GPs, nurses, health visitors and other primary healthcare professionals in developing services and it also enables you to help other patients, carers and local people.

We are committed to involving patients and the public in all areas of work. Our aim is to provide patient-centred and evidence-based healthcare to all our users. We want to empower our patients to participate in their own treatment and care.

What is a People in Health Network?

Barnet's People in Health Network is a group of local

residents, volunteers and those who have a real interest in how the local NHS works.

Together, the community has a real opportunity to be involved in the NHS locally and to work closely with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Patients' Forum in Barnet to suggest new and innovative ways of improving health services.

All members of the People in Health Network are given an initial introduction into the NHS and are used as a sounding board to discuss health services across the borough.

How can you get involved?

The Barnet People in Health Network, facilitated by Barnet PCT, is made up of local people who represent all sections of the community.

No matter how few or how many hours you can give, the Partnership will provide you with

an opportunity to become involved in the work of the NHS locally. For example:

- Taking part in a focus group or discussion group
- Being interviewed as part of an audit piece of research
- Representing patient groups
- Taking part in the monitoring and evaluation of services
- Checking information so that it can be easily understood by members of the public

Want to know more?

If you would like to find out more about what the PCT does, or receive a copy of the People in Health Network newsletter, please contact either Steve Craker on 020 8201 4867 or email stephen.craker@barnet-pct.nhs.uk or Martine Sanders on 020 8201 4727 or email martine.sanders@barnet-pct.nhs.uk

Young EastEnders star helps celebrate theatre refurbishment

Scarlet Johnson who stars as Vicky in hit soap EastEnders attended a gala reception held to mark the completion of major refurbishment work at Finchley Youth Theatre.

The revamp of the building on East Finchley High Road has included improving disabled access, redesigning the box office area, redecorating the interior and redesigning the theatre's frontage.

Finchley Youth Theatre, which is part of Barnet Council's Youth Service, has been a specialist drama centre for young people for more than 20 years, giving them the opportunity to take part in productions, workshops, dance projects and behind the scenes activities.

Over the last few years the theatre has also been working with a voluntary organisation called the Inclusive Play Opportunities Project (IPOP), to



Scarlet Johnson celebrates with youngsters at a special event held to mark the refurbishment of Finchley Youth Theatre

give young people with disabilities the chance take part in its activities.

This partnership recently received a boost when it was awarded a grant from Barnet Children's Fund. The money will be used to set up a junior drama group for children between the ages of eight and ten with activities specifically targeted at youngsters from disadvantaged and minority groups, including those with disabilities.

Want to know more?

Call Finchley Youth Theatre on
020 8883 9957

Students learn about democracy in South Africa

Pupils from the Compton School in Summers Lane, were treated to first-hand knowledge about life in South Africa after apartheid when a representative from the South African High Commission visited the school recently.

Educational Officer, Sello Jelle, was invited to the school to speak to Year 10 pupils about how ten years of democracy have affected the country. The youngsters have been studying the subject as part of the GCSE History syllabus.

The school is already linked with the Luzie Drift School in eastern Cape South Africa, thanks to help from the charity Link Community Development, two of whose directors accompanied Mr Jelle.

Assistant Headteacher Malcolm McGlynn was delighted with the occasion: "Visits like today's really brings the subject alive for our students.



Through the link programme with Luzie Drift we have been finding out what democracy means to those who lived without it for many years."

Compulsory recycling prompts a sharp increase in uptake

The initial figures from Barnet Council's compulsory recycling scheme show that residents are already in tune with the idea.

After just five weeks of the scheme running, the total amount of waste recycled in the four wards taking part in the first phase increased by 25 per cent.

Introducing the scheme seems to have had an effect across the borough, with collection rounds that partially cover the compulsory recycling area seeing a rise of 23 per cent, and those completely outside it collecting 17 per cent more.

Overall, the amount of material recycled in April was eleven percent higher than for

the same time last year.

The encouraging statistics come in the wake of over 2000 requests from residents for Black Boxes within only a couple of weeks of the scheme's launch – a clear indication that residents are willing to work with the council to help conquer the growing household waste mountain.

The new approach to recycling requires residents to place glass,

bottles, jars, food and drinks cans, paper, newspaper, junk mail and magazines in the black recycling box supplied by the council. Residents must not place these materials in their wheeled refuse bin.

Any refinements to the scheme that are necessary will be made during the initial phase before it is introduced throughout the borough from October 2004.

Residents can obtain a Black Box free of charge. If you require a box, or recycle sufficient materials to need a second box, please contact ECT Recycling on 020 8371 3670 or email barnet@ectrecycling.co.uk to request one. You will receive your Black Box within one week of your request.

Roses in full flower

Everything's coming up roses in Edgwarebury Park thanks to the hard work of Barnet's Greenspaces Development Team.

Once again the roses are in full flower in the Golden Jubilee Rose Garden. The garden was officially opened in July 2002 when the Mayor and Leader of the Council were on hand to celebrate the launch of the renovated grounds.

The Italianate rose garden, situated near the main entrance of the park, was originally constructed in 1952 but during the last two years the original rose

beds were renovated with new beds cut out of the lawn areas and planted with roses all with a royal connection.

Roses in the garden include: Commonwealth Glory, England's Rose, Gracious Queen and the Queen Mother.

The rose garden was one of the Edgwarebury Park gardens shown to London in Bloom Judges who awarded a certificate to Barnet's Greenspaces Development Team in December 2002, for recognition of efforts made in enhancing London's green environment.



Blooming Edgwarebury Park Rose Garden

Multi Faith Forum launched



Barnet's many faith communities have come together to establish a forum to help promote understanding and harmony in the borough.

The 'Barnet Multi-Faith Forum,' which was officially launched in July will give the borough's many different cultural and religious communities the opportunity to work together and have a say in shaping Barnet's future.

Preliminary work already carried out by the Forum has included discussions on how Barnet's different faith communities can help shape the Cricklewood and West Hendon regeneration schemes.

The following were elected unopposed as officers of the Forum's new Executive:

Chairman

Rev Bernd Koschland (Jewish faith)

Vice Chairman

Rev Jane Kraft (Christian faith)

Vice Chairman

Dr Natubhai Shah (Jain faith)

Vice chairman

Dr Mohammed Quraishi (Muslim faith)

Member of the Executive

Mr Dorab Mistry (Zoroastrian faith)

Member of the Executive

Dr David Janner-Klausner (Jewish faith)

Member of the Executive

Father John Hawkins (Christian faith)

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Coming Soon

Your Electoral Registration Form

An electoral registration form will be sent by post to every residential property in the borough in early September. To make it more convenient, there will be a choice of response methods and full instructions will be provided.

We need a response from every property. If you are shown on the form to be already registered, you should not assume that your name will be carried forward to the updated register without a positive response from you.

A General Election could take place during 2005. If you do not register, you cannot vote.

For information or assistance please telephone the Helpline - **020 8359 5577** or write to
**The Electoral Registration Office, Colinhurst House,
168 Station Road, Hendon, London NW4 3HA.**

what's on

Planning a local event? Want free publicity? Barnet First can help you.

Send us details and we'll publicise it on this page (space permitting) and we'll also put it on Barnet's website (www.barnet.gov.uk).

So if you are holding an event at your local pub, youth club, sports centre or wherever send details (including a contact number) to Susan Segar,

Barnet First Magazine, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG, fax: 020 8359 2677 or email: susan.segar@barnet.gov.uk

Barnet First is delivered to over 130,000 homes and businesses in the borough. The next issue is out in October.

▶ Arts

Until 12 September. Puppets and Punch and Judy



Exhibition featuring puppets from around the world with examples from the simplest glove puppets to sophisticated stage marionettes. Puppets are known from the earliest civilizations and play an important role in many cultures. There are puppets and other toys for younger children to play with and activities for older children too. The origins of Punch and Judy are uncertain but Punch probably emerged from the Italian Harlequinade. Punch and Judy shows were very popular in this country by the 18th century. From late Victorian times the shows were particularly associated with the seaside. For details of dates

and times of Punch and Judy Shows in the garden (weather permitting) contact the museum. Also on display are children's 19th and 20th century books from the museum's own collection and mid-20th century Toy Museums on loan from Pollock's Toy Museum, Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon NW4. Open Mon-Thurs 10am-1pm and 2-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm and 2-5.30pm; Sun 2-5.30pm. Admission free. Phone 020 8203 0130.

Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture (MoDA), Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet EN4 8HT. Open Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 2-5pm. Tel. 020 8411 5244. Free entrance.

Exhibitions on until 29 August

Purl
Artists bringing fresh meaning to embroidery, weaving, decorative painting, printed fabrics and beaded surfaces with digital technology.

My Life - Our Heritage

People with disability using their own words and photographs who took part in Community Focus' heritage trails.

From 31 August

Telling Tales
What museums really do

From 7 September

Woven Splendour
Italian textiles from the Medici to the modern age.

Museum Courses
Payable in advance.

31 July & 7 August
Etching workshops for adults
10am-4pm. £24/£18 conc. per day; £42/£32 conc. for both days

11-13 & 18-20 August. 6-day Endless Pattern
for ages 15plus. 10am-4pm. £15 per day/£75 course

21 August
Stitch, Paper, Image
for adults. 10am-4pm. £24/£18 conc.

24-26 August
Arts and crafts
for ages 8-13. 10am-4pm. £15 per day/£37.50 for 3 days.

15 August
New and old classic Bollywood screenings for all the family.
Majjo's providing samosas, bhajees and lassi.

Opening in September
Supersize Me
The documentary about McDonalds that has taken America by storm. The film explores the fast food culture and dietary habits of modern America that are invading Europe and the rest of the world (for more information see www.supersizeme.com)

Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, East Finchley, N2 9PJ. Phone 020 8444 6789. Website www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

24-28 August
Tower Theatre Company presents 'Jane Eyre'
8pm (matinee 28th at 3pm).

Willis Hall's brilliant adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's novel moves swiftly in cinematic style to bring to life this dramatic story. Directed by Peter Novis. At the Little Wood Open Air Theatre, off Addison Way, NW11. £10/£8 conc. & members. Matinee all seats £5. Box office 020 7226 3633.

Barnet Open Poetry Competition 2004
Elegy? Satire? Comedy? An Ode or a Sonnet? Write a poem of no more than 35 lines on any topic. Closing date for entries 6 November 2004. For an entry form/rules/details of prizes write to BBAC, c/o All Saints' Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, London N20 9EZ. The judge is Dannie Abse. Sponsor Writers inc (www.writersinc-london.org.uk)

Artsdepot
The brochure for the first season of Artsdepot, the borough's new cultural centre in North Finchley, is available from the beginning of September, and is packed full of theatre, dance, music, comedy and spoken word activities as well as exhibitions, courses and classes and Artsdepot's Christmas production, Pinocchio. To make sure you receive a copy through the post log on to www.artsdepot.co.uk and register on the mailing list or phone 020 8449 0048. Artsdepot opens its doors to the public for the first time on Saturday 23 October when you can explore the new building and and try one of the mouth-watering dishes in the Artsdepot cafe.

▶ Leisure/Pastimes

Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, London NW9 5LL. Phone 020 8358 4849. Website www.rafmuseum.org Free admission and parking. Please confirm dates and times with the museum prior to events.

5-6 August
Birds of prey
Flying displays at 12noon and 2.30pm (times may vary)

12-15 & 26-29 August
Quiz Time
All the answers are in the museum. Win a prize

19-20 August
Handling Collection
Dress like a RAF flying ace. Children can see how they would look if they were in the RAF. Pose for a polaroid for only £1



Summer Festival Weekend

4-5 September Summer Festival Weekend for all the family.

Join the end of summer party, with arena displays, fairground games, children's activities, flypasts, parachute drops, displays by the London Fire Brigade, dog display team, climbing and abseiling wall, spaceball ride, military displays and more.

25-26 September
Battle of Britain Weekend
A special weekend of activities to commemorate 'our finest hour' featuring re-enactors, living history area and special film shows.

11 September
Flower, Produce and Cookery Show.
3-5.30pm. Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11. Teas. Non-members £1; members and children free. (Closing date for entry forms 7 Sept.). For more information phone 020 8455 7618.

14 August & 11 September
Golders Green rapidplay chess tournaments
For more information phone 020 8202 0982 or see website www.adamraoof.tk

Finchley and District Philatelic Society

1 September
**John Hayward -
'The Motorbike'**

15 September
Competition evening
(including new 16sheet open competition).
7.30pm for 8pm start, ends 10pm.
At Carey Room, Trinity Church Hall, Nether Street, North Finchley (Near Tally Ho Corner).

Prospective members and visitors welcome. For more information contact Brian Merryweather on 020 8444 3251 or see websites www.stampdomain.com/finchley or www.ukphilately.org.uk or www.stampcafe.com

17 September
Friday night dance
8-10.30pm. Ballroom, Latin and Sequence dance with North London Dance. Singles and couples welcome. Large floor and soft mood lights. Christ Church Hall, 620 High Road, North Finchley, N12. £5 incl. refreshments. For more details phone 020 8444 0280.

2 October
Royal National Lifeboat Institution coffee morning
11am-1pm. RNLI Christmas cards, calendars, diaries etc. on sale. Stalls including homemade cake stall. Fellowship House, Willifield Green, Temple Fortune, NW11. Entry free. All profits to the RNLI.

Wednesdays
Hatha yoga classes
7.30-8.45pm. All abilities and ages welcome. Classes taught by a qualified Hatha Yoga Teacher who has been practising yoga for many years. At The Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, East Finchley, N2. £7.50/£5 conc. To book phone 020 8361 2133 or 07939 959266.

Every Tuesday
Samba dance classes
7.45-8.45pm, beginners; 8.45-9.45pm, intermediate. For more details/to join phone 07968 151236 or email via website www.felicidadenosamba.co.uk Trinity Church Centre, 15 Nether Street, N12 (nr Tally Ho Corner). £4 per class (£2.50 conc. upon presentation of student card).

Hendon Football Club is currently looking for young women aged 14plus to play for the club. Training sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm. Please phone 07941 396964 or email HendonWFC@aol.com for more details.

► Talks

21 September
Barnet National Trust Association presents 'Grand Baroque to Grand Bazaar' a journey around the Black Sea by Pam Wright. St Mary Magdalene Church Hall, Athenaeum Road, Whetstone, N20. Doors open 7.15pm for 8pm start. Admission £1.50 non members.

28 September
RSPB NW London Group 'Birds and Wildlife of Costa Rica' by Roy Beddard (and Group AGM)
All welcome. Doors open 7.45pm for 8pm start. Harwood Hall, Mill Hill Broadway, NW7. Admission members £2/£1.50 conc. Non-members £2.50 & children 50p. For more details phone 020 8958 1193.

30 September
The Finchley Society 'The Artsdept and its role in the community' talk by Alison Duthie.
8pm. Non-society members are welcome. The Drawing Room, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3. Free entry.

► Young Children

17 August
Action rhymes and songs for the under 2s
2-2.30pm. Childs Hill Library, 320 Cricklewood Lane, NW2. Free. For more details phone 020 8359 7771 or email: sarah.ginn@barnet.gov.uk

► Under 18s

Are you a girl aged 5+?
Do you want to have fun, make friends and try out lots of new things? Girlguiding UK has more than 600,000 members and there are lots of Brownies and Guides in Barnet waiting to get to know you. If you would like to join in the fun then call Ruth on 020 8203 2960 or log on to www.girlguidingmiddlesexeast.co.uk

The Barnet Bulldogs Basketball Club (in association with Barnet Council, Connexions and the Milly Apthorp Charitable Trust) are providing Free Throw Basketball Activities throughout the summer holidays at Victoria Wreck, East Barnet and Bishop Douglass School, Finchley. These include 2-4pm coaching courses, competitions and games for 'beginners' aged 7-10. 4-6pm skills coaching, competitions, 3 on 3 tournaments and prizes for ages 11-18. To register contact Barnet Bulldogs 020 8449 4883 or Barnet Health and Sports Development Unit 020 8359 2000.

► Summer Fun

19-22 August
Fun fair
and
21 & 22 August
Friern Barnet Summer Show
Saturday 12noon-10pm & Sunday 12noon-6pm. Arena events, baby show, dog show, floral displays, homemade cakes and jams, craft section, BBQ and fireworks. Friary Park, Friern Barnet Lane, N12. For more information phone 020 8368 6923.



5 September
Garden party
3-5pm. Music and refreshments included. A relaxed event. Read the Sunday papers, sit and chat, listen to the music and enjoy the flowers. £5 admission. The Bothy, Avenue House Grounds, East End Road, Finchley, N3. Box office 020 8455 4640.

12 September
Watling Festival
Noon-8pm. Attractions include fun fair, variety of stalls, arena events, music and food. Montrose Playing Fields. Admission £1 adults/50p children.

► Miscellaneous

12 September
Remembrance service to commemorate those of the Jewish faith, conducted by a local Rabbi.
3pm. Soloist singer. All welcome. The service lasts about an hour and is usually very well attended. Seats are not reserved so it is recommended you arrive early. Held in the magnificent Cloister Walk, Golders Green Crematorium, 62 Hoop Lane, London NW11. Charitable collection afterwards. Tea room on site.

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