

community

NEWS

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

YOUR FREE NEWSPAPER
PRINTED AT NO COST TO
BARNET COUNCIL

ISSUE No. 4 September 1995

YOUR GUARANTEE OF QUALITY

**Keeping promise
for a new deal**



Fun in your park

Oak Hill Park, East Barnet came alive and attracted thousands for the first ever East Barnet Community Festival. Read all about it on page five.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Forums Success P.2

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Music in Parks P.6

Your Right to Benefits P.7

Councillors' Surgeries P.15

ONLY the best will do for the residents of Barnet. This is the message to the whole community as the council launches four Quality Service Guarantees covering everything from roads to pavements and refuse collection to cleaning your streets and maintaining street lights.

"This is just the beginning and keeps our promise for a new deal for the people of Barnet.

"Within months all our major services working for the whole community will be covered by Quality Service Guarantees," said Council Leader Councillor Alan Williams.

The guarantees, the first time the council has committed itself to promising set standards, promise what the authority will do, when the services will be provided and what will be done to put things right if they do go wrong.

"These Quality Service Guarantees make a pro-

**Only the best
will do**

mise to our residents that only the best will do. They set new standards for service delivery in Barnet," added Councillor Williams.

The council's plan for all our futures, the Corporate Plan, sets out how services should be delivered to meet the real needs of the whole community.

Quality, value-for-money services residents want and need have gone under the spotlight as part of the new consultation and listening and learning era in the borough.

"This administration is committed to giving the best service possible to residents," said Councillor Stan Cross, Chair of Public Works Committee. "Residents deserve consistently high standards and these new guarantees will mean they get them.

"As part of the guarantee, residents will

be able to contact specific officers if standards are not met.

"Each complaint will also be guaranteed top priority and treated individually," added Councillor Cross.

Barnet consulted 5,000 residents to find out what they thought of the service they currently received.

Standards in the guarantees have been set to meet the needs of residents.

"These services affect every resident in the borough and Barnet wants to make sure that each time a bin is emptied or a pavement mended, the work that is carried out meets the best possible standards," added Councillor Williams.

Read more about your guarantees on refuse collection, street cleaning, highways and street lighting on pages 8 and 9

EUROPE AND BARNET



WHAT DOES EUROPE OFFER YOU? asks Pauline Green, MEP for London North as she launches an information packed booklet of the same name.

Pictured at the launch are (left to right) Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of Barnet Council, Pauline Green and Councillor Joan Ryan, your council's Deputy Leader (see page 3).

MEETING CHALLENGE OF CHANGE **OUR ANNUAL REPORT TO YOU**

With this copy of Community News you will get our annual report to you on the council's performance last year.

This report points out our many successes in delivering your services and includes the Government's Citizen's Charter figures.

It has been a good year - a year of change when a new approach to the delivery of the best possible services has transformed the way the council does business.

As the report says, your council is committed to continually improving services and tailoring services to meet real need.

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Please telephone the 24-hour hotline number **0181-359 2325** with any comments or suggestions you have about Community News or if you have a problem with its delivery.

Please leave your name and a contact telephone number with your message.

Ham & High

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ACTION GROUPS TAKE OFF

THE drive to breathe new life into Barnet's town centres, bringing new hope and prosperity for the whole of the borough, took a major step forward with the appointment of members of the new Town Centre Forums last month. New members represent every area of each town centre and every aspect of the community.

"Every voice should be fairly heard. I urge local communities to play their part and have their say in this agenda for change. Residents are now working with the council to make things happen," said Councillor Andrew Dickie, Chair of the Economic Development and Land Executive Committee.

MORE RESIDENTS NEEDED TO BUILD BETTER BARNET

Three town centre forums - action agenda setting workshops - have already been established for Barnet Town Centre, Edgware, Burnt Oak and Mill Hill Town Centre and

Golders Green and Temple Fortune.

"I now want to see even more members of the local community working with us on these vital groups heralding a new approach to regeneration and partnership in the borough.

"Everybody in each locality has a voice in the future of their town centre - and we must get the widest possible cross-section of views to make sure our long and short term plans create the environment local people, need, want and deserve," added Councillor Dickie.

The new forums bring forward ideas for councillors to consider before implementing any plans for bringing

new prosperity into the area.

"We are encouraging those in our local business communities to play a full and active part in creating vibrant and economically sound town centres.

"But we also want to hear the views of those who live and work in these areas," he added.

He was urging representatives of local community groups and special interest groups to put their names forward.

Residents wanting more information on Town Centre Forums should contact Paul Milliner on 0181-359 2895 or Manny Hodgson on 0181-359 2894.

Historic buildings in

spotlight

BARNET is providing a showcase of architecture to spearhead a series of cross-Europe Heritage Days.

A new event to the borough, London's Open House 95 on Saturday, 16 September, will see the doors of buildings that are usually closed to the public thrown open.

Barnet Council has given the go ahead for three of its most notable

buildings to unlock their secrets.

The Town Hall in Hendon, one of the last Victorian town hall buildings still used for its original purpose, will be of special interest.

Still in Hendon, Church Farmhouse Museum is a 17th century

farmhouse containing a period furnished kitchen and dining room.

Avenue House, Finchley was built in 1895 and sold to Henry Charles Stephens, son of the ink inventor. The building stands in fine grounds containing a fascinating collection of rare trees.

Among Barnet's heritage sites is Hampstead Garden Suburb, an excellent example of early 20th century domestic architecture. The area contains St Jude's church and other Grade I listed buildings.

"This is a great opportunity for all residents to take a pride in their borough and give Barnet its rightful place in a significant European cultural event," said Council Leader Councillor Alan Williams.

BARNET COMMUNITY NEWS

The Ham & High have been contracted to sell and produce the London Borough of Barnet's own free newspaper - the Barnet Community News.

Barnet is one of London's largest boroughs - with an overall population of around 300,000, and the Community News will be distributed to just about everybody in the Borough. (Guaranteed 95% distribution)

For the advertiser trying to reach residents of Barnet, Community News offers the most effective route, providing saturation coverage, high interest and high retention.

It will be kept, read and used by nearly everybody in the Borough of Barnet.

BARNET **Ham&High**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL HELEN 0171 433 0000

Cable TV on way

LARGE-SCALE cable laying in the borough bringing cable television to thousands of homes in Colindale, Edgware, Burnt Oak and Hale will start at the end of September.

The work of digging the trenches and laying the fibre optic cables is being done under government licence by the company Videotron.

Barnet Council will be keeping a close eye on the work to ensure that it meets the highest safety standards and causes as little disruption to traffic and pedestrians as possible.

Your council will also take special measures to prevent damage to the borough's roads and trees.

If a problem arises while work is going on,



Pauline Green

ring the council helpline on 0181-359 4600.

Residents can expect two weeks' notice before

work starts in their street and the whole project will take ten months to complete.

Big shake up in business services

MAJOR changes in the way business support services are delivered in the borough are coming.

Barnet Council is helping to support a new type of one-stop shop for businesses to be called Business Link at 19-35 Hendon Lane, Finchley, which will be opened later in the year.

It will provide a wide range of help, advice and services under one roof as the centre will also house Barnet Chamber of Commerce and Barnet Enterprise Agency. It will access London-wide databases and on-line information.

LIFE AFTER 'A' LEVELS

AFTER the initial joy - or gloom - which follows the annual 'A' Level exam results, Barnet's Career Service comes into its own.

For some, who have settled on a career, the results may be the green light launching them towards a bright future. For others, the results - whether better or worse than expected - may signal the time to pause for a re-think.

Since the results were announced the council's Careers Service has been working flat out listening

to youngsters and giving free advice through its 'On Course '95' exam results service helping them make the best possible choices on what to do next.

They supply the latest information on university and college courses, where the vacancies are and what grades will be needed. If re-sitting 'A' Levels might solve a problem then helpful advice and guidance is on hand.

The service has been working closely with employers and training

THE council is joining forces with the Member of the European Parliament for London North, Pauline Green, in a campaign to bring millions of pounds worth of European grant aid money to breathe new life into the borough.

Deprived areas and voluntary groups in Barnet could be in for a share of a £16 million handout next year.

Between 1989 and 1996 Pauline Green will have helped bring a total of £42 million to Barnet, Enfield and Haringey in the form of grants from Brussels funds to promote development of needy areas in all 15 countries of the European Union.

But last year Barnet took just £1 million, most of it going to Hendon and Barnet Colleges.

Soon all that will change. The council's economic development team is working with the MEP on a bid to show that run-down areas like Cricklewood and West Hendon deserve European aid.

"Barnet is now open for business with Europe," said Council Leader Councillor Alan Williams. "We will seize

Fighting for more cash aid

every opportunity to win, with Pauline Green's support, European funding to turn the tide of deprivation which has blighted whole sections of North London.

"We do not expect Brussels to come knocking on our door. We know we must work hard, make good cases and invest in creating schemes and projects which are worthy of European funding support.

"The previous Barnet administration", said Councillor Williams "has missed out on Europe. This council has a totally different approach. We know what Europe offers this borough and we have

got to work hard to earn European support."

Your council is working with Pauline Green to involve the voluntary sector. We are jointly organising a Voluntary Service Seminar on 30 October explaining to those working in these groups how to access European Union funding.

The Barnet-Brussels link is being relentlessly pursued. Your council leaders met European President Klaus Hansch earlier this year and there are plans for a discussion with the Commissioner for the European Social Fund in September on how to unlock money for Cricklewood's young homeless and unemployed.

Launching a booklet explaining how European aid could help Barnet. Pauline Green said borough residents had no need to be suspicious of Brussels.

"It is not perfect but it is not the demon you would believe from some of the UK media," she insisted.

"You may not realise it but Europe is benefiting just about every family in Barnet one way or another."

Pauline Green's booklet, 'What does Europe. Offer You' has been distributed to libraries, information centres and community groups.

Your council committees at work

14 September
Compulsory Competitive Tendering Executive Committee

14 September
Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee

18 September
Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee

20 September
Personnel Executive Committee

21 September
Economic Development and Land Executive Committee

27 September
Area Development and Protection Sub-Committees

28 September
Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee

28 September
Road Safety Consultation Forum

2 October
Public Works Consultation Forum

10 October
Education Consultation Forum (venue to be announced)

List of Committee Meetings at The Town Hall, Hendon for the period 14 September - 31 October 1995
*These dates may be changed.

10 October
Recreation, Leisure and Arts Consultation Forum (at Chipping Barnet Library)

11 October
Development and Protection Committee

12 October
Barnet Town Centre Forum (venue to be announced)

12 October
Community Care Consultation Forum (at Avenue House)*

12 October
Planning and Building Control Consultation Forum*

18 October
Policy and Resources Committee

19 October
Golders Green Town Centre Forum*

19 October
Environmental Consultation Forum Annual Conference (at Avenue House)*

23 October
Housing Committee

24 October
Edgware, Burnt Oak and Mill Hill Town Centre Forum (venue to be announced)

25 October
Children and Families Consultation Forum (at Avenue House)*

31 October
Council Meeting



Disabled Access



Loop system

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.

16 September - 5 November
Exhibition 'The Spirit of Place'. Watercolour paintings and etchings by Peter Hume. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Tel. 0181-203 0130

19 September, 7.30pm
Barnet Council brings you The Kala Chethena Kathakali Troupe from South India. Indian dance/drama spectacle.

The Old Bull Arts Centre, 68 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SJ. The Old Bull has regular performances in The Theatre and Studio, with special events on Sunday afternoons for children and also runs practical classes and an educational programme. For further information phone the Box Office on 0181-449 0048

20 September, 10am - 3pm
Cricklewood Community

Forum Information Day for the over 50s. Claremont Suite, Hendon Football Club, Claremont Road, NW2. More details 0181-205 4899

20 September 1995-February 1996
'New Acquisitions'. Exhibition of work acquired into the Fine Art Collection during the past five years. Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, NW9 5LL. Tel. 0181-205 2266

21 September & 19 October, 7.30pm
Barnet Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Association Meeting. Cheshir Hall, Foster Street, NW4

24 September, 1pm
Dussehra Festival. Cultural programme, stalls, Fanfare for children, floats, pop group, fireworks display. Victoria Park, Ballards Lane, N3. More details phone Mr Bedi 0181-248 5277/01628 772165

16-21 October Barnet's libraries celebrate services for youth with promotional displays followed by a programme of events during

National Youth Work Week
23-28 October

24 - 27 October, 10am - 4pm
Exhibition of Young People's Art. Compton Area Centre, Summers Lane, N12. More details 0181-359 3218

Sternberg Centre for Judaism, The Manor House, 80 East End Rd. London N3 2SY. Contact 0181-346 2288 for details of various events and activities.

Barnet 18 Plus. For details of various events phone 0181-361 2827

WALKS/ACTIVITIES with the Barnet Parks Rangers. For more information tel. 0181-359 5091

24 September, 2pm
Stroll around Hadley and trace its history. Meet carpark bottom of Bakers Hill, Hadley.

30 September, 9.30am
7 mile ramble following Dollis Brook returning through Totteridge Valley. Meet Barnet Playing Fields carpark, Barnet Lane

15 October, 10am
Ramble around Mill Hill Village and across Totteridge Valley. Meet The Three Hammers, corner The Ridgeway and Hammers Lane, NW7

29 October, 5pm and 7pm
Family Fun. Spooky tales and goings on (Children must be accompanied by adult). Meet Avenue House carpark, East End Road, N3

Springboard (Mencap Project)
Volunteers needed. Project to match adults with a learning difficulty to those who share the same leisure interests. Training offered. Phone 0181-449 8777

Barnet Chamber of Commerce - Forthcoming Events

21 & 26 September, 17 & 24 October
Barnet Network Lunches
27 September
North London Enterprise Club Quiz Night

2 October
Barnet Network Meeting
10 October
Joint Meeting NLCC/NLTEC. The Chartered Institute of Marketing, Business Link. Please phone 0181-882 0180 for more details

100 years ago...

The Hendon and Finchley Times reported the birth of modern local government in Barnet as the network of Urban District Councils (UDCs) took over from the Local Boards.

The inaugural meeting of the Hendon UDC took place at The Burroughs Mansions on 4 January 1895, and was witnessed by more than 20 local residents who filled the newly-allocated public gallery.

The following 23 August issue highlights the progressive work of the UDC, as the council made an application to light the central part of Hendon parish by electricity as opposed to oil and gas lamps.

Many people felt that houses in the area were so scattered that the amount of light generated would not be sufficient to justify the great outlay.

50 years ago...

Residents in Hendon and the surrounding area were able to celebrate the end of the war in Europe and Japan by taking much needed trips to the seaside.

For the first time in six years the Ministry of Transport lifted the 25-mile travel ban. Consequently coach firms in the area were inundated with bookings as people clamoured to celebrate peace by the sea.

During the war years, when the sirens wailed, Cronshaw's coaches would collect the residents of Hendon and drive them to the countryside, allowing them a safe night's sleep.

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Community unites for festival fun

Thousands of visitors from throughout the borough flocked to East Barnet's first ever community festival at Oak Hill Park, on Sunday, 23 July, for what organisers expect now to become an annual event.

Residents, community groups, churches, youth groups and businesses all joined forces, with the support of your council, to create an event which is set to become a highlight of the local calendar.

Starting at 12 noon and running through with non-stop action until 9pm, there was live music from professional bands and local youth groups, cricket and tennis coaching, a penalty shoot-out with players from Barnet Football Club, and over 50 stalls and sideshows.



Soul Tax rocks the crowds as an action-packed day draws to a close. Non-stop entertainment had crowds flocking to the stage all day.

"The whole event was a tribute to those who have worked so hard to involve the whole community in an event which they could call their own," said Councillor Richard Soer.

Following its success the council sees this

festival as setting the scene for community activity throughout the borough's parks.

"The East Barnet Community Festival Committee set a programme they knew would work because they are part of the local community.

"By attracting over 50 local traders and community groups to take stalls they demonstrated the support for this kind of activity in our parks.

"The success of this festival shows just what can be achieved when residents, traders and special interest groups get together to bring relaxation and pleasure to the whole community," added Councillor Soer.



These youngsters join the musical fun.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

RESIDENTS throughout North London can now recapture the magic of the past on a ten-mile walk through open countryside and built up areas from Picketts Lock to Monken Hadley Common, Barnet, in safety.

After five years of work by Barnet Council, Enfield Council and Countryside Management Services, the Pymmes Brook Trail was launched by Barnet's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Agnes Slocombe, on Saturday 23 July.

To launch the trail, Councillor Slocombe put in the final marker disk with fellow councillors representing Barnet, Councillor Richard Soer and Councillor Usha Chopra.

The route of the walk is now fully marked with disks in parks and countryside areas and pointer boards in urban areas.

Panels with information and a map of the

Journey of local exploration

trail are located along the route. A leaflet has been produced with a map, information and instructions on how to follow the trail.

Less than 150 years ago a small stream trickled through hills and valleys where farms and small villages nestled between woods, fields and hedges and this is what the Pymmes Brook Trail is based on.

At the northern end, the trail is easily reached from Cockfosters underground station, from Monken Hadley, where car parking is available

at Bakers Hill or alternatively from New Barnet station where both trains and buses can be caught. From the southern end the route passes close to Arnos Grove and Palmers Green stations.

Many bus routes run close to the trail. For more information on London Transport buses or the underground contact 0171-222 1234.

The parks the walk passes through are open spaces for everyone to enjoy - for picnics and to explore green London.

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Getting tough on parks crime

MORE parks rangers will be patrolling Barnet's parks in future to meet the demands of residents, particularly families with young children and older people.

"What we are doing is the equivalent of putting the Bobby back on the beat - taking the parks rangers out of cars and making them more visible to all our park users," said Councillor Katherine McGuirk, Chair of the council's Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee.

"We are beefing up the service to meet real need - we have listened and learned from the worries of parks users and are determined to make all our open spaces safe and enjoyable recreation centres for the whole community," she added.

Residents throughout the borough have been calling on the council to crack down on vandalism and troublemakers in the parks - and make rangers more visible.

As part of the new plans, which include taking rangers out of cars and putting them on foot or mountain bikes, patrols will work their own patch, becoming familiar well-known and trusted faces with parks users.

"We want regular users to be able to put names to faces - to trust and know the council officers patrolling their parks," said Councillor McGuirk.

This is the biggest shakeup of parks rangers and district officers in over a decade.

AGENDA 21 ACTION PLANS TAKE SHAPE IN FRIARY PILOT

A COUNCIL and residents partnership is shaping plans to take local environmental action to protect all our futures.

At the centre of this planning is the council's Environmental Consultative Forum, now a year old, which holds its annual meeting in October.

Several weeks ago the council called on residents to join forces in efforts to save the environment by thinking globally but acting locally.

The main aim is to encourage people living and working in the borough to take steps to reduce environmental damage and pollution.

Deliver

This follows the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro three years ago which produced a global environment and development action plan for the 21st century called Agenda 21.

Much of this plan needs the commitment of local government to deliver it. Each local authority has been asked to adopt by the end of

Think globally, act locally

next year its individual Local Agenda 21.

The council is setting up a pilot scheme in the Friary Park area, the results of which will be crucial in forming Barnet's borough-wide action plan.

The Friary Area pilot is being planned by extensive consultation with local residents and environmental groups. It will be launched at the Environmental Consultative Forum's meeting in October.

Different

Barnet Local Agenda 21 will be carried out at local level by neighbourhood Agenda 21 groups working with the Environmental Forum.

"What makes Agenda 21 different from govern-

ment schemes is that its plans will be formed in consultation with local communities who themselves will be the driving force to make them work," explained Councillor Joan Ryan, Chair of the Forum.

"So in one part of the borough the emphasis could be on recycling and in another, wildlife could be the main issue."

As part of its efforts to involve more local residents in the Neighbourhood 21 initiative in the Friary area, the council took part in Friern Barnet Summer Show in August.

There were exhibitions on the Friary Partnership initiative and displays on traffic issues, environmental health and home composting.



Music for all

MORE than 200 residents flocked to Avenue House Park in Finchley on the first of two consecutive Sundays in August for Barnet Council's first free open air concerts.

On Sunday 6 August, residents heard a selection of music by Pioneer Brass, a group of students from the Guildhall School of Music. From Cole Porter to Bach, Gershwin to Rogers, the musicians kept the toes tapping.

On Sunday, 13 August, over 400 residents

came to hear a selection of classical pieces.

Councillor Katherine McGuirk, Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee, said: "These concerts are just some of the new initiatives, such as the East Barnet Community Festival, the council is organising to get the most out of our parks."

"Our residents have over 200 parks, gardens and open spaces in the borough to enjoy all year round and I want to encourage everyone to use them," she added.

New library phone numbers

Chipping Barnet Library has new phone numbers.

Dial direct:

General enquiries
0181-359 4040

Renewals
0181-359 4050

Reference library
0181-359 4020

Action Point, the new Barnet Council information service
0181-359 4000

Minicom
0181-359 4039.



ARTISTIC MAGISTRATES

Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Susette Palmer, launched Magistrates Week at Chipping Barnet library in July.

The Mayor (left) is pictured with magistrate Susan Shan and her tapestry of *The Archer*, taken from the roof of the entrance to East Finchley tube station. Susan and other magistrates in Barnet have produced 12 tapestries depicting Barnet landmarks, with help from Barnet College Art and Design students. They will be hung in the planned new Barnet court complex.



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INCOME SUPPORT

INCOME Support (IS) is the main means-tested benefit paid to people who do not have enough money to live on. Its aim is bring your income to the level set by the Department of Social Security (DSS) each year.

There are no precisely set payments because IS will vary depending on an individual's or family's circumstances including the amount of money already coming in.

There are various premiums to meet particular needs such as family premium for dependent children, disability premium, carer's premium, pensioner's premium (three levels) and one for severe disability.

The rules of this benefit and the way it is calculated are extremely complicated. If in doubt seek advice.

Basic rules

Anyone claiming must be:

- 18 or over (special rules apply to some 16 and 17-year-olds)
- living in the UK (habitual residence tests will be given to almost all people living here less than five years)
- working less than 16 hours (same applies to partner) and having savings under £8,000. (If savings are over £3,000 the amount paid will reduce).

New rules affecting help with mortgage interest and other housing costs will start from October. Those eligible for help should apply before then.

Income support acts as a passport to some health benefits - free school meals, one-off grants or loans to deal with emergency situations and reduced or waived charges for council services.

More official errors are made with Income Support than any other state benefit. In one case, the Welfare Benefits Unit found six different errors for a registered childminder.

Pensioners are least likely to claim the benefit and most likely to receive less than they should. The charity Age Concern says that about a quarter of all people over 60 do not claim fully or at all.

Don't miss out on your rights to state and council benefits

DID you know £2,700 million in state benefits go unclaimed every year? If you have not got enough money to live on, you could be entitled to one or more means-tested benefits that could make all the difference to the quality of your life and of those near and dear to you.

The same applies to council benefits - Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit. Many people in the borough could be missing out on help to pay their rent.

You will not know if the money is due unless you claim.

Some are put off doing so by the long forms in not-so-easy language. But it is worth getting help if you think you may be one of those missing out.

On this page you will find details of the main state and council benefits. Read the articles carefully to check whether you could be entitled to benefits which, if you are eligible, are yours by right.

Attendance Allowance

ATTEENDANCE Allowance is a tax free disability benefit for people who either need looking after or watching over. Until April 1996 the combined higher day and night rate is worth £46.70. The day or night rate is £31.20.

It is paid on top of any other benefit and it is ignored as income in assessing Income Support and Housing Benefit. In fact, it could lead to high payments of these benefits.

Your national insurance contributions or savings are never checked in deciding who is eligible.

Attendance Allowance is for people who need a lot of personal care or supervision to stay in their home or in the community. Whether it will be paid in a residential care home depends on whether the claimant is getting financial help from the local authority.

Who can claim

You must be aged 65 or over. Anyone between 65 and 66 who needed help before their 65th birthday should claim Disability Living Allowance instead.

Terminally ill people should get the higher rate.

Borderline cases sometimes get turned down because claimants fail to mention important bits of information or understate their needs. Keeping a diary may be useful to convince the Benefits Agency officer.

The best way to get a claim form is to ring freephone 0800-882200. The form sent to you will have two dates on it. The first will be the date it was requested and the second will be five to six weeks later by which time the form must be returned in order to qualify from the earlier date.

For some there is a waiting period of six months except in terminally ill cases. Attendance Allowance may be awarded for life or for a specified period only.

Recent court decisions have improved the chances of people with visual or hearing disabilities getting the allowance. Seek advice if this applies in your case.

Family Credit

ATAX-FREE, means-tested benefit, Family Credit is for low income families where the claimant or his or her partner:

- works 16 hours or more a week
- has at least one dependent child up to the age of 16, or up to 19 if in full-time education
- has savings less than £8,000
- has income below a set level.

The amount of benefit depends on the number of children and their ages and the amount of the family's income that needs to be taken in account.

Examples are given in the Family Credit Claim Pack which should be available at all main Post Offices as well as Benefit Agency branch offices (DSS). There is also a Family Credit Helpline 01253 500 050 open from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday.

A maximum payment level is set each year. Up to April 1996 it is £73 a week.

But almost everyone will get less than this and successful claims will adversely affect other means-tested benefits like Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

But Family Credit is worth claiming because it attracts health benefit extras such as free NHS dental treatment, free prescriptions and free sight tests.

It is paid for a laid down period of 26 weeks so changes in earnings in that time will not affect the amount paid.

More favourable rules have been introduced for some parents meeting child care costs and for people working 30 hours a week or more. The benefit can be received by self-employed claimants.

Despite all the national publicity, a quarter of those eligible still fail to claim.

Housing Benefit

MANY people in the borough could be missing out on help to pay their rent. It could be you.

You do not have to be unemployed or sick to be entitled to Housing Benefit. People who are working are able to claim.

Your savings can be as much as £3,000 without affecting your claim. Only savings of more than £16,000 prevents you from doing so.

It works this way. Your income, after Tax and National Insurance has been deducted, is compared with the needs of your family as laid down by the government. The needs depend upon:

- whether you are single or one of a couple
- your age
- how many children you have.

We will need to see your wage slips, savings books and proof of the rent you pay. If your income is more than your needs, only 65 per cent of the balance is set against your rent.

If you have a private landlord, there is a possibility that the full rent that you pay may not be used in calculating your benefit. We will tell you if we have restricted it and, if so, why. You can appeal against this if you think it unfair.

We give guidance on what you can earn and still be eligible for benefit. It is only for guidance and, if your income is near the limits, you may still be able to receive help if your family has special needs.

If you think you may be entitled, apply now. Delay could cost you money.

Continued on page 10



Gerome Lovell (left) and Gullbodan Ali (both studying business courses at Whitefield School) at the exhibition at the Curriculum Centre.

BARNET'S reputation as a leader in high quality training for young people went on public display at the annual exhibition of students' work held at the Manorside Curriculum Development Centre.

The exhibition was a shop window for the creative talents of those who take up courses at the centre designed to give our young people first hand experience of the most modern technology and the skills needed to master it.

"In today's competitive climate we must equip our young people with the practical skills they will need at work and increase their chances

SKILLS LEARNING THE WAY AHEAD

of a better start in life," said Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of the Education Committee.

The work of the Curriculum Centre has attracted national attention and is another example of your council's increasingly successful attempts at pulling down the barriers between teachers in schools and employers in business and industry.

"If local business is to be successful it is in their interests to work closely with the local education

authority. They must recruit highly motivated, highly skilled youngsters and it is our schools which are in the front line in developing these qualities," said Councillor Jarvis.

"Most of all it's in the interests of our young people who have the talent and who want to look forward to a future where their skills are in demand and they can find real jobs producing the goods and services which people will want," added Councillor Jarvis.

Painting the town centre red, blue

NINETY youngsters have designed their own environmentally - friendly but often wacky forms of transport and painted them on a hoarding by North Finchley bus terminus for all to see.

But it was not a piece of illegal mass graffiti. The young artists worked on a mural officially commissioned by Barnet Council and painted on a hoarding 45 yards long surrounding the Finchley Market development site.

The idea got the backing of the Finchley Town Centre Forum which has praised the enthusiasm shown by local schools for the



Town Centre Initiative and the energy they have put into getting involved.

The youthful painters, from six local schools, attended workshops to design their imaginative forms of 'green' transport. The project was led

by international artist Andrew Crummy.

Launched by Councillor Jack Cohen, the mural was sponsored by TBI plc, London Transport Buses and London Underground.

ONLY THIS



THE council launches in September its first four Quality Service Guarantees covering refuse collection, street lighting, street cleaning and maintenance of roads and pavements. Full copies of the contracts are available at all public libraries and main council offices. These are the contracts - our promise of quality supported by a full and detailed specification. Watch this space for more contracts covering other council services next month.

Taking a step in the right direction

WHEN 15,000 parents and children decided to leave the car at home for a week and walk to school the result was bound to be felt across the borough.

And that is what happened last term when, with council backing, over half the primary schools in Barnet took part in 'Walk to School Week.'

For five days there was less traffic, less pollution, and less danger for youngsters who missed running the daily gauntlet of cars blocking school gates and jamming surrounding streets making it difficult for children and parents on foot to walk in safety.

On a typical day one in four Barnet children are taken to school by car adding to the already high levels of pollution.

Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of the Education Committee, said, "Leaving the car at home and walking or taking public transport to school has a positive impact on health and safety in the borough and the parents and children who took part in 'Walk to School Week' proved it."

Barnet Council is listening to residents who see traffic pollution as a growing problem. By encouraging parents and children to walk to school, especially in the summer months, part of the problem can be solved.

Your vote counts - do not waste it

WORK is starting now on the 1996 Register of Electors and your council wants to make sure everybody knows how to claim their right to vote.

The register gives voting rights to everybody eligible who puts their name on it. There is a second chance to check the draft register in December before the final one is published in February.

Once that is issued it is too late to change it. So you should fill in the form the council sends to your home and ensure your name is included. By the time an election comes along it will be too late to add any names to the list.

Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council, said: "Registering your vote gives you a say in national and local government. It is vitally important to use your vote and the council wants to make registration as simple and possible."

Any British, Commonwealth or European Citizen born before 16 February 1979 must register. You do not have to have a permanent address.

If you want advice on your voting rights and registration, phone 0181-359 2175 or 2301.



Named after cou

OVER thirty years of service to education in the borough by Councillor Victor Usher was publicly celebrated by Middlesex University's new student residential accommodation being named after him. He officially opened the building in June.

Councillor Usher, pictured here with his wife and grandson, was active in working towards the formation of Middlesex Polytechnic, chairing its Governing Body in 1973.

Usher Hall in The Burroughs, Hendon, provides 182 bedrooms all with en suite shower facilities arranged on a traditional hostel layout, and brings the total number of Middlesex University-operated hall spaces to 2,400.

Councillor Usher is the council's longest serving councillor and was twice Mayor of Barnet. He was also the youngest ever Mayor of Finchley. He was twice Chairman of Barnet's Education Committee,

the last period for Chairman of the Public Health Committee (he was made a Knight). He was Hospitalier in 1911 and Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

His interest in education is clear from his membership of the school and college committees.

He is also involved in various organisations such as the British Red Cross (Barnet) and the British Legion.

Recognition of his service came in 1973 when he was awarded an OBE. He is also a member of the University.

COUNCIL KEEPS PLEDGE

THE council has kept a pledge to provide equal opportunities for the most vulnerable in the community when it opened the way for two colleges to take on more teachers

to help those with learning difficulties.

Hendon and Barnet colleges are to get council funding for two 'learning support workers' whose job will be to help stud-

ents get more out of college life.

Those with more severe difficulties will get the support they need to eventually get jobs and settle in the community.

THE BEST WILL DO

Refuse Collection Guarantee

- A wheeled bin or black refuse sacks will be provided at no charge.
- Domestic waste will be collected on the same day each week unless you have been informed of changes in advance.
- Frail or infirm residents will be offered an assisted collection service with wheeled bins collected and returned to an agreed point.
- Civic amenity sites will accept bulky domestic items free of charge.
- We will collect your bulky household waste or furniture at a charge. This service will be free if you are a senior citizen, unemployed or claiming benefit.
- If you tell us your wheeled bin has not been emptied, we will collect your rubbish on the same or next day unless this is a Sunday or Bank Holiday.
- We will avoid refuse collection vehicles causing obstructions.
- Our Customer Care Unit on 0181-359 4600 will respond quickly and efficiently to your complaints or enquiries.
- If something goes wrong and we do not put it right next day, you will receive a written apology and action will be taken to ensure it does not happen again.
- Our staff will be helpful and courteous at all times and try to meet special needs.
- We will monitor our performance, including the number of complaints and publish the results.

Street Cleaning Guarantee

- We will provide a clean borough for every resident, meeting and wherever possible exceeding government standards for a clean, green and safe borough and responding to the needs and complaints of residents.
 - You will be able to use clean public roads and pavements which are safe and fit to use by every resident and visitor to the borough.
 - Roads and pavements will be swept and litter removed from all public roads, footpaths and car parks.
 - All public residential roads and pavements will be thoroughly swept at least ten times a year.
 - Major shopping centres will be cleaned and cleared of litter at least twice a day (except Christmas and New Year's Day).
 - We will respond to your requests to remove litter and street refuse from publicly maintained roads, pavements, footpaths and car parks within the times laid down nationally.
- Contact our Customer Care Unit on 0181-359 4600 From Monday to Thursday between 9am and 5.15pm and on Friday between 9am and 5pm or our Emergency Services on 0181-359 2000 to report problems out of hours.
- The borough's 2,000 litter bins will be emptied before they become full.
 - Our staff will be courteous, helpful and attentive at all times.

Roads and Pavements Guarantee

- Condition of all roads and pavements will be checked at least twice a year and repaired.
- Roads and pavements reported as damaged will be repaired or made safe the following day.
- Reports of vehicles driving or parking on pavements will be dealt with the same day.
- Missing or damaged street nameplates, road markings and direction signs will be repaired or replaced within 28 days.
- Same day action will be taken to alert those responsible for repairing traffic signals when they fail.
- At least three-quarters of all road drains will be cleaned at least once a year.
- We will avoid refuse collection vehicles causing obstructions.
- Roads will be closed for sweeping and cleaning where vehicles are causing obstructions.
- Drains will be unblocked within two hours of complaints if homes are at risk.
- All blocked road drains will be cleared within a week.
- All trees along roads will be checked once a year and kept safe. Low branches on council trees will be removed in two days if we are told they are a hazard.
- The council will visit you within 15 days if you think one of our trees is damaging your home.
- Our staff will be helpful and courteous at all times and try to meet special needs.
- If something goes wrong and we do not put it right within the time promised, you will receive a written apology and action will be taken to ensure it does not happen again.
- We will monitor our performance, including the number of complaints, and publish the results.
- Our Customer Care Unit on 0181-359 4600 will respond quickly and efficiently

Street Lighting Guarantee

- We will provide a well lit night time environment which is safe for road users and pedestrians in which residents feel secure.
- Street lights on borough roads, some public footpaths and public car parks will be provided and maintained.
- All street lighting will be checked once a week.
- All faults will be repaired within ten days unless there is an electrical supply problem.
- The electricity supply company will be told of any problem within one working day.
- Lamp posts damaged in accidents will be made safe within two hours of the Customer Care Unit being informed of the incident.
- If we do not put things right in the time we have promised, you will receive a written apology and action will be taken to ensure it does not happen again.
- Our Customer Care Unit on 0181-359 4600 will respond quickly and efficiently to your complaints and notification of problems.
- Our staff will be helpful and courteous at all times.
- We will monitor our performance, including the number of complaints, and publish the results.



Councillor
 from 1990-1993 and a former Public Works Committee. In 1984 a Knight of St. Gregory (Papal) as made a Knight of St. John in 1970 and is now the Grand Master of the Order.
 in the education of Barnet residents membership and chair of numerous governing bodies.
 involved in a variety of other local organisations such as the Barnet Health Authority, the Save the Children Fund and the Barnet Blind Bowls Club.
 of Councillor Usher's public service in 1985 when he was awarded the title of an honorary fellow of Middlesex

YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL FOR BOROUGH

FOR one week in October Barnet Council will be hosting the biggest celebration of the arts for youth ever seen in the borough.

The festival, part of National Youth Work week (23 to 28 October), will be a unique opportunity for young people aged between nine and 25 from all over Barnet to take the stage and show their talents to live audiences.

In a week packed with events there is hardly a branch of the arts not catered for - from drama, music and dance to poetry, film and cabaret.

And it's not just performing arts. An open exhibition will provide a showcase for works by young people to include painting, sculpture, clothes design, photography and crafts.

"Celebrating Youth Arts" is being organised by the council's Youth Service which is also running a wide-ranging series of arts workshops throughout the week. These cost only £3.50 a session but demand is heavy so book early.

Full details, including times, venues, and application forms to take part in the festival can be got by simply phoning the Youth Service on 0181-359 3218.

BARNET IS BLOOMING GOOD

COVERING the front-garden of your premises with a riot of colour is good for business, says Finbar Holian, landlord of the Claddagh Ring in Church Road, Hendon. He won first prize in the Best Bloomin' Pub category of the Barnet in Bloom competition.

The hot, sunny summer resulted in a highly colourful borough. Contributing to this were Mr and Mrs Vinoo

Vadgama of Lovelace Road, East Barnet, who won the front garden section of the competition. Top honour in the container gardening section went to Elaine Luxton of The Drive, Barnet.

The same prizes were awarded to each of the category winners. First prizes were dinner for two with an overnight stay at Holiday Inn Garden Court London, Brent Cross.

Barnet in Bloom, organised by your council, was jointly sponsored by Holiday Inn Garden Court, the Hendon Times Newspaper Group and street equipment company J.C. Decaux.

Our picture shows, from the left, Councillor McGuirk, Chair of the Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee who presented the prizes, Finbar Holian, Colin Williams, Sales Manager Holiday Inns.



BENEFITS FOR YOU

Council Tax Benefit

Continued from Page 7

IF you have a low income you can get help to pay Council Tax by claiming Council Tax Benefit.

Council Tax is set by the council to pay for services. There is one demand for each home and it is based on two adults living in a home. If you live alone you can claim 25 per cent discount off your tax bill provided you let the council know you are living by yourself.

Nearly all the rules which apply to Housing Benefit apply to Council Tax Benefit. The amount you receive depends on the amount of money you have coming in each week, the amount of savings you have, your personal circumstances and the amount of Council Tax you have to pay.

There are two types of Council Tax Benefit. The main benefit can be

as much as 100 per cent of your Council Tax bill provided you do not have any non-dependants for whom deductions are applicable.

The other type is the Second Adult Rebate paid to a solely liable person for the Council Tax bill if they have an adult living with them and he or she has a low income and is not their partner or tenant.

Housing and Council Tax Benefit application forms can be obtained from the enquiry office at Fenella, the council's finance office in The Burroughs, Hendon, the housing offices at Stag House and Barnet House, Barnet Housing Aid Centre, your local Citizen's Advice Bureau and public libraries.

The form is designed to cover both Housing and Council Tax Benefits so you will need to fill in only one form to cover both benefits.

Make a date to find out about your rights

THROUGHOUT August, the council, often in collaboration with the Benefits Agency, have been holding benefit advice surgeries and advice days in various locations throughout the borough to help those in need to find out about their rights.

This is a diary of similar events taking place in September and October.

September

14 Surgery, Hendon Employment Services, 9am to 12 noon

19 Surgeries, Chesterfield Road, 9.30am to 11am; Dollis Valley, 12.30pm to 2.30pm

20 Surgery, Benefits Agency, Raydean House, Barnet, 9.30am to 3.30pm

21 Advice Day, Waitrose, North Finchley, 10am to 4pm. Finchley Employment Services, 9am to 12 noon. Sangam Advice Centre, Burnt Oak Broadway, 2.30 to 4pm

22 Grahame Park Estate, 10am to 12 noon

27 Surgery, Benefits Agency, Middlesex House, Edgware, 9.30am to 3.30pm

28 Advice Day (provisional), The Broadwalk, Edgware

Hendon Employment Services, 9am to 12 noon

29 Advice Day, Safeway, Brent Cross, 10am to 4pm

October

3 Surgeries, Chesterfield Road, and Dollis Valley

4 Surgery, Benefits Agency, Raydean House, Barnet, 9.30am to 3.30pm

5 Surgery, Finchley Employment Service, 9am to 12 noon

6 Advice Day, Tesco, Brent Cross



Light over the water

LOCAL resident Janina David, the award-winning author from Finchley, pictured signing the book, published in conjunction with Barnet Council, the third part of her best-selling autobiography - *Light over the Water*.

It tells how Janina, at the age of 15, escaped from war-torn Poland and eventually went to Australia.

The book set out as her diary, chronicles how, as a young woman, she travelled, experienced life to the full and tried to put behind her - but never could - the horrors of wartime Poland and the family she had lost.

The atmosphere created by Janina David vividly portrays the magic of discovery and a changing Europe.

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TAILOR-MADE SCHEMES TACKLE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS



PARKING CONTROLS FOR LOCAL NEEDS

THE rolling programme of tailor-made parking schemes in the borough took another step forward in July with the launch of the long-awaited High Barnet Parking Zone. There is a promise of two more to come for Edgware and Golders Green.

The schemes are meeting the needs of residents and business and have an important part to play in boosting road safety especially for the young and the elderly across the borough.

After listening to the demands of residents, backed up with wide-ranging research and using the latest technology, your council's plans for a 'tailor-made' approach to the complex problems of parking have already scored high marks in Mill Hill and been praised by top experts in the field.

"Meeting the parking challenge means creating

a scheme which improves the quality of life in residential areas, gets traffic flowing smoothly, helps keep our town centres open for business and cuts down accidents," said Councillor Stan Cross, Chair of the Public Works Committee.

Controls

"Some critics felt that parking enforcement was too strict but we are determined to see that our parking controls work for the whole community.

"Our approach is fair and means drivers in all parts of the borough will be treated equally. We do not want to see sloppy controls in one area - while there is a strict regime a few streets away.

"We must be flexible - but the level of enforcement must also be in tune with local and borough-wide need," said Councillor Cross.

Protected

Off-street parking will from now on be included in the borough's parking strategy giving new opportunities to tailor parking to people's needs. Parking habits are closely watched and controls are



Councillor Stan Cross: meeting the parking challenge.

constantly updated. The council's estimates of the number of illegal parking incidents can now be reduced or increased to make sure traders and residents are protected while preventing any unreasonable enforcement.

"We will make sure that our parking controls meet laid down standards which represent value-for-money for the borough. Our 'tailor-made' approach will reflect local needs and take into account what is best for the whole borough and its residents," added Councillor Cross.

TV bid to cut car crime

THE council has linked up with local businesses, residents and the police to install a closed circuit television system (CCTV) at one of the borough's car parks to crackdown on car crimes.

The system, the first of its kind in Barnet, is at Bunns Lane car park,

off Mill Hill Broadway, serving Mill Hill train station.

In 1994 there were 150 reported cases of thefts and vandalism at the car park.

Statistics prove that CCTV is a valuable deterrent. The system will work 24-hours a day, seven days a week,

capturing on video what is happening in the car park.

Councillor Stan Cross, Chair of the council's Public Works Committee, said: "We will be using this pilot project to see if this type of system is suitable for use in other car parks.

"By working with

local residents' associations, businesses, the police and Thameslink, we have come up with what I think is a system that will hopefully keep the thieves away and improve safety for residents," he added.

The scheme has cost £40,000 to buy and install.

Ham&High Supplements 1995

Watch out for these forthcoming supplements:

- ✓ Health & Beauty 29 Sept
- ✓ Autumn Homes & Gardens 27 Oct
- ✓ Christmas 1&8 Dec

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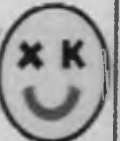
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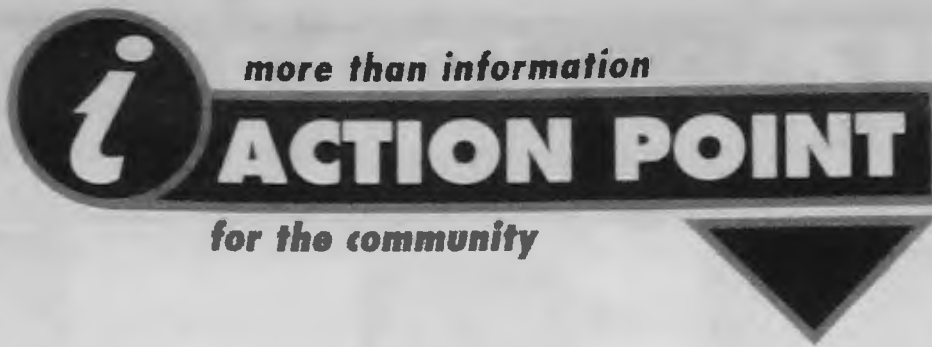
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Pulling down barriers to get council closer

SIGNS like these will be going up at a borough library next month. It shows where you can get information, services and advice from your council.

This is part of the drive to bring your council closer to those it serves - you.

Action Point is an experimental first stop shop opening at Chipping Barnet Library on 21 September. If this 'pulling down the barriers' pilot scheme is successful, many more Action Points will be set up in the borough.

The centres will be the first point of contact for residents seeking help and advice about anything to do with the council.

Action Point will:

- get expert advice for people by being able to contact the best person - wherever that officer may be - in the council
- stock all the council's leaflets
- help residents with application forms

- have phone and fax links enabling staff to get quick answers to enquiries.

"This initiative is a clear demonstration that your council is serious when it says that all residents and users of our services, whoever they may be, should be able to get information and services easily," said Councillor Joan Ryan, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee.

"The new service is particularly targeted at families with young children and older members of the community.

"Many residents need help with completing application forms and making appointments to see council officers. We expect Action Point will prove to be a quick, efficient way to access our services."

The Chipping Barnet Action Point will be open 57 hours a week and be run by specially-trained library staff.

Opening hours will be Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm with special late night opening on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



Open for job help

As part of your council's programme to help residents improve their job hunting prospects, a second Open for Learning service has started at Church End Library in Hendon Lane, Finchley.

Open for Learning, first launched in Burnt Oak Library in June last year, has already helped over 100 adults improve their skills in job hunting and career development.

The service offers a database of help and advice and useful contacts. It is jointly funded by Barnet Council, the North London Training and Enterprise Council and the Barnet Adult Educational Guidance Service.

Our picture shows Councillor Katherine McGuirk, Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee, getting first hand knowledge of the Open for Learning service at Church End Library.

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Mayor's focus on Community Focus

BARNET'S mayor, Councillor Susette Palmer, has chosen as the charity for her year of office an organisation that describes itself as Barnet's liveliest activities and arts centre for people with disabilities.

It is called Community Focus. Operating from a small base at Wiggins Mead, Grahame Park Estate, Colindale, it offers a wide selection of weekly activities.

They include workshops in photography and mixed media, drawing and painting, story telling with visual and sound illustrations, drama, creative writing, needlecraft and dancing.

Community Focus places artists in special schools and organises study tours and residential courses, the latest a photography trip to Hungary.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions of students' work are staged at local libraries and other London venues and they enter national and international competitions. City and Guilds photography courses are offered.

Students consistently gain certificates with distinctions and credits.

The centre's dance and drama groups play a major role in community events and put on shows and demonstrations.

At the last count, Community Focus worked with 360 children in special schools and 118 people attended weekly workshops.

Creative

Community Focus was formed 17 years ago in response to requests from local people with disabilities who were looking for opportunities to get out and about and needed creative activities. It was called then Community and Recreational Arts in Barnet.

The centre is a victim of its own success. It has outgrown Tedder Lounge, Grahame Park, its most recent base, and is moving most of its workshops to temporary premises.

"This is unsatisfactory as users are less aware of all the activities on offer," explained centre manager Maria Bartha.

"Money raised will help us towards moving to a larger, more suitable building we can adapt and equip to a standard enabling our users to continue achieving their personal best."

British and Japanese veterans symbolise reconciliation

Rand remembrance were central to Barnet's Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan Day when the peace that has endured for fifty years was celebrated.

There were recollections of lost friends, sacrifices made, and the links that have since been forged.

Symbolic of the spirit of reconciliation that marked this day was the figure of Japanese war veteran Masau Hirakubo, OBE, who stood alongside ex-soldier Maurice Franes of Finchley throughout the service held in Hendon Park. This pairing was one of

many such partnerships in Barnet, demonstrating the friendship that can be born from the spirit of reconciliation.

"The theme of the occasion has never been victory. This is meant to be commemoration - everything which adds up

in our language to reconciliation," said Mr Franes.

Pride was evident as thousands of residents lined the streets to see the parade of over 200 Barnet veterans who fought for the peace we now enjoy.

Marking the end of both the war in Europe and in Japan, Barnet Council scheduled their main event for 9 July, falling between VE and VJ Day.

This moving celebration began outside The Town Hall, Hendon, with a march past the War Memorial where the salute was taken by the Deputy Lieutenant for Barnet, Lawrence Bains, accompanied by the Mayor, Councillor Susette Palmer and Barnet's Chief Executive Max Caller.

The parade then moved on to Hendon Park, Queens Road, for an inter-denominational thanksgiving service, a fitting tribute to all who sacrificed so much so long ago.



Veterans on parade at the VE/VJ Day celebration.

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Telephone Numbers: all codes are 0181 - unless otherwise indicated. No appointments are needed for those councillors holding regular surgeries. At Bank Holidays, surgery times may change. Please ring beforehand to check.

Political groups are indicated in an abbreviated form (Lab) = Labour (Con) = Conservative (LD) = Liberal Democrat

ARKLEY WARD

Anita Campbell (Lab) 440 2703
Pam Coleman (Lab) 449 6254
Linda McFadyen (Lab) 440 6254
1st and 3rd Monday every month 8-9pm
St Stephen's Church Hall, Bells Hill, Barnet
Every Saturday 10am-12noon
104 East Barnet Road, East Barnet

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

Don Goodman (Con) 368 0383
Rene Palmer (Con) 368 7800
John Rawles (Con) 368 3522
2nd Saturday every month 10.30am-12noon
Monkfrith Boys' Club, Osidge Lane, N14
(Tel. 449 7345 - Chipping Barnet
Conservative Association)

BURNT OAK WARD

Rosemary Carney (Lab) 959 6757
Allan Turner (Lab) 952 2106
Alan Williams (Lab) 906 0576
Every Saturday 10.30am-12noon
The Labour Hall, Back Lane, Burnt Oak
24 hour answerphone 951 5771

CHILDS HILL WARD

Jack Cohen (LD) 445 3981
Jonathan Davies (LD) 203 6690
Susette Palmer (LD) 455 5140
1st Thursday every month 7-8pm
Childs Hill Library, 320 Cricklewood Lane,
NW2

COLINDALE WARD

Ellis Hillman (Lab) 202 7792
Gill Sargeant (Lab) 455 1070
David Williams (Lab) 343 1082
1st Saturday every month 2-3pm
St. Augustine's Church (small lounge),
Grahame Park, Colindale, NW9

EAST BARNET WARD

Usha Chopra (Lab) 449 3231
Anne Jarvis (Lab) 449 9001
Richard Soer (Lab) 441 0170
1st Monday every month 7-8pm
New Barnet Residents' Association
48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet
Every Saturday 10am-12noon
104 East Barnet Road, East Barnet

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

Helen Gordon (Lab) 444 2761
Joan Ryan (Lab) 444 6400
Rudolf Vis (Lab) 444 4051
Every Saturday 10-11.30am
Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, N2

EDGWARE WARD

Julian Czarny (Con) 958 6999
Malcolm Lester (Con) 349 2595
Joan Scannell (Con) 959 5921
Contact councillors direct or Hendon
Conservative Association
Tel. 959 1446

FINCHLEY WARD

Eva Greenspan (Con) 203 1598
Barbara Langstone (Con) 445 5443
Leslie Sussman (Con) 346 6775
Contact councillors direct or
Finchley and Golders Green Conservative
Association Tel. 445 4292

FRIERN BARNET WARD

John Carter (Con) 343 4005
Brian Salinger (Con) 368 1329
John Tiplady (Con) 445 5734
Contact councillors direct by telephone 7 days
of the week or through the Chipping Barnet
Conservative Association Tel. 449 7345

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

Frank Davis (Con)
Mohammed Khamisa (Con) 458 1996
Roy Shutz (Con) 883 1205
c/o Finchley and Golders Green Conservative
Association or write to 20 Connaught Drive,
London NW11 6BJ
Contact councillors direct or Finchley and
Golders Green Conservative Association
Tel. 445 4292

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

Melvin Cohen (Con) 346 2550
John Hedge (Con) 203 0137
Michele Moulin (Con) 203 2895
Contact councillors direct or Finchley and
Golders Green Conservative Association
Tel. 445 4292

HADLEY WARD

Mark Hayball (Con) 0956 343070
Liz Mammatt (Con) 361 9720
Kanti Patel (Con) 446 6639
3rd Saturday every month 10.30am-12noon
Chipping Barnet Conservative Association,
163 High Street, Barnet Tel. 449 7345

Liz Mammatt 1st Saturday every month 10.30am-12noon
New Barnet Residents' Association, 48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet
Tel. 441 7044

HALE WARD

Andrew Dickie (Lab) 906 2807
Every Saturday 10am-12noon
Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue

Leslie Pym (Con) 959 5484
Sheila Scott (Con) 906 0825
Contact councillors direct or
Tel. 959 1446
Fortnightly on Mondays 6.30pm
Hendon Conservative Association,
2 Apex Parade, Selvage Lane NW7 3JT

HENDON WARD

Edward Bunn (Con) 906 2793
Anthony Finn (Con) 202 9689
Fred Poole (Con) 203 0813
Contact councillors direct or Hendon
Conservative Association
Tel. 959 1446

MILL HILL WARD

Wayne Casey (LD) 203 8189
Jeremy Davies (LD) 202 6105
Sheila Gottsche (LD) 959 3990
Every Saturday 1-2.30pm
Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue
Last Saturday every month 12noon-1pm
Canada Villa, Pursley Road, Mill Hill

ST PAUL'S WARD

Kitty Lyons (Lab) 346 6843
Katherine McGuirk (Lab) 346 8255
Jim Tierney (Lab) 346 3359
Every Saturday 11am-12.30pm
331 Ballards Lane, Finchley

TOTTERIDGE WARD

Kevin Edson (Con) 446 8343
Victor Lyon (Con) 446 4423
Victor Usher (Con) 445 4248
Contact councillors direct or Chipping Barnet
Conservative Association
Tel. 449 7345

WEST HENDON WARD

Nicholas Kissen (Lab) 200 9861
Gina Marks (Lab) 959 0525
Agnes Slocombe (Lab) 202 4074
1st and 3rd Saturday every month
10.30am-12noon
West Hendon Clinic, West Hendon Broadway
(entrance in Perryfield Way)

WOODHOUSE WARD

Stan Cross (Lab) 444 9178
Mel Packer (Lab) 361 4540
Jo Salsbury (Lab) 444 4482
Every Saturday 11am-12.30pm
331 Ballards Lane, Finchley

SPORT & RECREATION

£1.5m NEW YOUTH SPORTS CENTRE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

HENDON'S brand new £1.5 million youth sports centre is now up and running after opening in May this year. The council-run centre, aimed primarily at nine to 21-year-olds, but also open to adults, replaces the old Hendon Youth Sports Centre in Algernon Road.

The new centre, in Marble Drive, Cricklewood, next to the new Tesco supermarket, is purpose-built for a wide range of sporting activities, training and tuition second to none.

It boasts an international standard facility with modern equipment and training rooms. The centre caters for all types of indoor exercise and sporting interest. Facilities include:

- a 42m by 18m multi-activity sports hall with five badminton courts
- a similar sized gymnastics hall, fitted with modern, brand new apparatus
- fitness suite with both cardio-vascular and resistance machines
- weight training room
- state-of-the-art rock climbing wall, with both

novice and expert routes plus a 'soft' landing area

- general purpose room, with a kitchen attached for functions and meetings
- first-aid room
- sunken floor tramp-line

To enjoy the new centre you can book on a casual basis either the badminton courts, weight training room, fitness suite or rock climbing wall.

A broad range of activities are available for everyone, from parent and toddler gymnastics to fitness work-outs for older



people. The centre is run by the council's Youth Service and aims to provide talented young people with top class coaching in their chosen discipline.

The centre can be contacted on 0181-455 0818.

Fun in the sun for the young

Harassed mums and dads were helped out by the council during the holidays with fun, games and activities galore for their offspring all over the borough.

From playschemes in four of the borough's parks to special activity days at Copthall, there was something for everyone this summer.

Superchoice for eight to 14-year-olds at Copthall Sports Centre offered quadbiking, bungee running, judo, netball, archery, cricket, football, short tennis, fun-swims, diving, It's a Knockout, canoeing, sailing, windsurfing and rollerskating to name just a few.

Mini-superchoice gave four to seven-year-olds the chance to do



A swimmingly good time during Superchoice activities at Copthall Pools

face painting, nature walks, treasure hunts, trampolining and parachute games.

The summer playschemes attracted hundreds of children to four parks in the borough. Montrose Park

in Colindale, Oak Hill Park in East Barnet, Childs Hill Park in Cricklewood and Avenue House Park in Finchley played host to fun and games, including build your own totem pole and giant Cluedo.

Encouraging disabled people

COUNCIL BACKS SPORTS FORUM

BARNET Council has put its weight behind the Barnet Sports Forum at its relaunch in July. The Forum is aimed at getting residents with disabilities in Barnet to take up more sport related activities.

BARNET GYMNAST TRAINS WITH RUSSIAN ELITE

THE recently opened Hendon Youth Sports Centre is already producing winners such as young gymnast Clare Robinson who went to Russia in August for intensive gymnastics training.

Clare, aged 15, a member of the Junior British Tumbling Squad, is coached at the centre by five-times British Champion Philippa Musikant.

This new addition to Barnet's wealth of sporting facilities boasts one of the best centres in Britain, including a state of the art tumbling strip, the only one of its kind in the country.

Clare believes that her performance has improved dramatically since she has been able to use the new gymnasium.

Accompanied by her coach, Clare spent two weeks at the world's top tumbling gymnasium in Stavropol by the banks of the Black Sea, benefiting from the expertise that has produced 15 Russian World Champions.

Her family even cancelled their summer holiday to help finance the trip, with the Milly Apthorp Charitable Trust contributing the remainder of the cost.

Clare worked on her basic techniques and body preparation which are the fundamental skills of any great gymnast. Given the moral support of her family, coach, and the Hendon Youth Sports Centre, Clare can only profit from what was a mentally and physically demanding fortnight.

Over 45 residents attended the launch with topics raised including ways of developing and publicising events and activities to problems with transport to trials and competitions.

Councillor Katherine McGuirk, Chair of the council's Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee, who represented Barnet at the launch, said: "Barnet is committed to listening and working with



Local children from Colindale and Burnt Oak make a totem pole.

the Forum, to get residents of all ages to link in and tell us what they want in the borough.

"We need more residents with disabilities

to sit on the Forum, giving us ideas and helping to solve any problems they face," she added.

Speakers on the night included representatives from the Greater London Sports' Association and the British Sports' Association for the Disabled.

A big step forward has been taken to improve communications between the council and disabled people and voluntary organisations and the clubs.

If any resident is interested in the Sports Forum they should contact Carol Nelson, Lettings Office, Copthall Pools, Page Street, Hendon, NW7. Phone 0181-203 4187.



Councillor Katherine McGuirk with the Chair of the Sports Forum, Martin Jelen.

Instructor takes on the world

EUROPEAN Champion and Barnet Council sports instructor Raymond Park is hoping to add to his medal collection and bring the World Wushu title to Barnet.

Twenty-year-old Ray, who coaches at the new Hendon Youth Sports Centre, travelled to Baltimore, USA, at the end of August to compete against the world's best in the non-contact demonstration martial art of Wushu.

At the time of going to press Ray's result was not known.

Following his success last August at the European Championships in Munich where he took a staggering total of four medals - two golds, a silver and a bronze - hopes are high that Ray will come home bearing gold. Wushu, a combination of acrobatic skills, flying kicks and aerial spins, requires a great deal of agility, stamina and discipline.

Ray's preparation for this challenge has been all important, and vital to this has been his use of the facilities at the Youth Sports Centre.