

A photograph of three children in a greenhouse. A young boy in a dark blue jacket with a red lining is standing and using a yellow-handled garden fork. A girl in a pink outfit is kneeling on the grass, looking down at something in her hands. Another child is partially visible behind her. The background shows the white panels and glass of the greenhouse.

**What kind of place
do you want Barnet
to be in 2016?**

We're sowing the seeds for Barnet's future
Barnet's Community Strategy – page 7

Message from the Leader

It seems incredible that another year is nearly over, but what a year it has been. Barnet Council has recorded a series of successes in the last 12 months, making our wonderful borough even better for you – the residents.

We have led the way by becoming the first council to introduce compulsory recycling across the borough, taken major steps forward with the regeneration of our four major housing estates and won national praise for our work with victims of domestic violence through the Sanctuary project. Meanwhile, we have completed a £300,000 revamp of one of our busiest enquiry centres at Fenella in Hendon, modernising it to 21st-century standards.

Unfortunately, of course, many will remember 2005 for the tragic events in central London of July 7 and 21, which affected many Barnet residents, but even in tragedy we can take positives. The murder of 52 innocent civilians in the heart of our capital has brought

out a strong community spirit across London, and has sent the message to terrorists that their methods will never work.

Hopefully, many of you will seize the chance to take part in our budget consultation this month. The council spends hundreds of millions of pounds on services every year, and 35% of it comes from your Council Tax.

We want to hear how you think it should be spent – make sure you turn to page 3 to find out how you can have your say.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish all of you a pleasant time during this traditional holiday season, and wish you all the best for 2006.

**Councillor Brian Salinger
Leader of Barnet Council**



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Production details

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Copies of Barnet First are delivered to every home in the borough. Local authority and postal boundaries do not always coincide. If you live outside of the London Borough of Barnet and receive Barnet First we apologise. But we hope you enjoy reading it nonetheless.

Barnet First is printed on 100% recycled paper and can be recycled after use.

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Designed by hey moscow 020 8357 7394 heymoscow.com

Barnet First is also available in large print or on audio tape.

Barnet's budget – give us your views

Barnet Council wants to hear its residents' views on how it spends its budget next year.



Once again the council is planning to hold another Budget Open Day when residents will have the opportunity to talk to Councillor Mike Freer, the council's Deputy Leader and its Cabinet Member for Resources, as well as officers, about the council's budget, both now and in the future.

Residents will also be able to e-mail their views to the council, as well as being kept

up-to-date through future editions of Barnet First, and information in the council's libraries and public buildings.

Dates of the Budget Open Day, and details on other ways that you can give us your views, will also be advertised in the local press over the coming months.

Remember that your views really do count. Barnet Council is a multi-million pound organisation which

provides a huge range of services to its residents on a daily basis. Although 65% of its budget comes from central Government, the other 35% comes from the money paid by you through your Council Tax, so it is vital that you tell us what you want from the council in 2006-07, and future years.

For further information, please contact Emma Gaydon on 020 8359 7018, or e-mail emma.gaydon@barnet.gov.uk.

New software keeps visually-impaired residents up-to-date



Special software offering an easy way for the visually impaired to keep up-to-date with the borough's news and events is now on offer at Hendon Library.

"It is a tremendous addition to our library services and a great way for the visually-impaired to stay in touch with what's happening all over the borough."

The Barnet Borough Talking Newspaper computer speaks to the user, reads out information on the screen and informs them which keys they should press.

The council is hoping to be able to load the software onto more machines at Hendon soon.

Councillor Katia David, Barnet's Cabinet Member for

Culture, Community Engagement and Human Resources, says: "I am delighted that this fantastic software is now available. "It is a tremendous addition to our library services and a great

way for the visually-impaired to stay in touch with what's happening all over the borough."

The Barnet Borough Talking Newspaper also distributes cassettes and CDs free of charge to 220 of the borough's residents each week. Telephone 020 8343 4405 for more information.



Whitefield wins national prize

The book reviewing skills of pupils at a Barnet secondary school have won it national recognition.

Whitefield School in Cricklewood was overall winner in the Guardian Young Critics Award 2005, after entering the competition for the first time.

Pupils at the Claremont Road school have a strong interest in reading and have formed their own reading group, "The Maltreaders." Under the leadership of librarian Charity Ugwu, the Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils regularly meet to read and talk about books.

Seven of the pupils took up the challenge to enter the competition and submit 200-word reviews of any of the books longlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction prize.

As part of their prize, the pupils – Khadija Ahmed, Gurpreet Singh, Ibrahim Almazwaqi, Ibrahim Abdulrahman, Hawa Abdulrahman, Christian Geddes and Bobby-Jo Shirley – recently spent a day at the Guardian newsroom creating their own newspaper front page.

Pic: Guardian Newspapers Ltd 2005



Spotlight on your ward

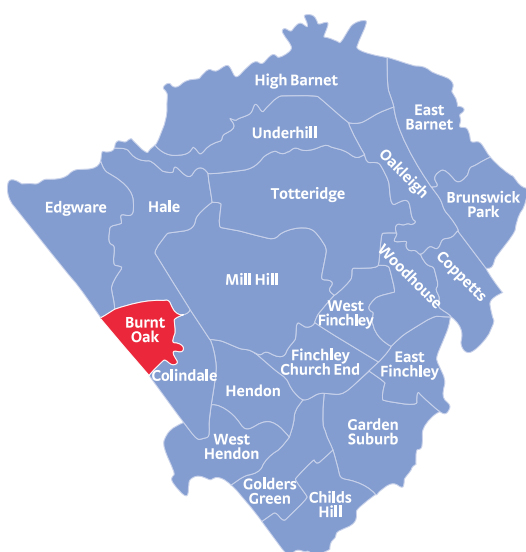
Did you know?...*

- Burnt Oak is Barnet's smallest ward, covering just 2.2 square kilometres
- But a population of 15,243 means Burnt Oak has 7,258.6 people per square kilometre, the highest density in the whole borough
- Burnt Oak has the borough's highest proportion of young people, with 3,592 people aged between five and 19
- Burnt Oak folk are most likely to be employed in health or social work. 13.7% of the working population is employed in these fields, more than anywhere else in the borough

* Figures taken from the 2001 census.

Burnt Oak

In the second of our series looking at each of Barnet's 21 wards, we take a closer look at Burnt Oak, the borough's smallest ward, situated in the west of the borough.



The seeds of a mighty retail empire were first sown in Burnt Oak.

In 1929, grocer Jack Cohen opened a store called Tesco in the ward, the first of nearly 2,000 now operating in this country alone.

Cohen used the name of one of his suppliers and the first two letters of his surname to create the now world-famous brand, but the origins of the name Burnt Oak are less clear.

Some claim that it derives from the Roman method of marking a boundary by burning a tree.

But although the Romans constructed what we now know as the Edgware Road, the earliest known use of the name Burnt Oak was in 1754.

Before the 20th century, the area was commonly known as Red Hill, with Burnt Oak referring to a field on the eastern

side of the Edgware Road rather than the district as a whole.

Much of the area we now call Burnt Oak had been Goldbeaters Farm, which had existed since the 14th century.

It was named after John the Goldbeater, but a later farmer of the land called James Marshall is more interesting.

In order that the Midland Railway Company could lay tracks through the Goldbeaters Farm, Marshall demanded the right to stop trains at his own discretion, a right which he never actually exercised.

Hay was the dominant crop in the area. During the 18th and 19th centuries, May Day was celebrated at the Baldfaced Stag with a meeting of hay carters from all over Middlesex and Hertfordshire.

During World War One, German POWs were held imprisoned behind barbed wire at Goldbeaters, and as well



as helping to build new roads around Hendon Aerodrome, they also worked on the farm itself.

In 1838, Hendon Union Workhouse, better known as Red Hill Workhouse, was built on the field south of Burnt Oak Field, providing for the poor of Edgware, Harrow, Hendon, Kingsbury, Pinner, Great Stanmore, Little Stanmore and Willesden.

A Mr Essex bought the Burnt Oak field in 1844 and had three streets laid out as North Street, East Street, and South Street.

Not wanting his new development to be called after the workhouse, he named it Burnt Oak instead of Red Hill. By 1874 Burnt Oak was recognised as being the name for the area, with a single general shop run by Emma Dufton being among the earliest addresses.

In the 1890s there were a few more

shops and a thriving, if small, community. A tram service to Cricklewood commenced in 1905, but the population still only numbered about 1,000 in 1921.

1924 saw a new station opened, with a small booking hall suitable for a rural area.

But news leaked out that the London County Council intended building a new housing estate (the Watling Estate), on what had been Goldbeaters Farm and in April 1927 the first occupants moved in.

A new tube station was built in 1928 and by 1931 the population had grown to 21,545.

In 1936, seven years after Cohen launched Tesco, Burnt Oak Market opened with 100 covered stalls and shops.

Information for this feature was provided by the council's Archives and Local Studies section.

What's in Burnt Oak?

Schools

- The Annunciation Roman Catholic Infant School, Thirleby Road
- Barnfield Primary School, Silkstream Road
- Goldbeaters Primary School, Thirleby Road
- Menorah Foundation Primary School, Abbots Road
- Woodcroft Primary School, Goldbeaters Grove

Leisure

- Burnt Oak Library, Watling Avenue
- Barnet Burnt Oak Leisure Centre, Watling Avenue
- Watling Market, car park off Barnfield Road (behind Burnt Oak underground) (Saturdays 8am to 4pm)
- Watling Park (one of Barnet's premier parks). (Facilities include a play area, football pitches, pavilion, basketball and five-a-side area)
- Montrose Playing Fields (football and Gaelic football pitches, pavilion)
- Silk Stream Park (play area)
- Abbots Road allotments, Abbots Road
- Montrose allotments, off Montrose Avenue
- Register Office, Burnt Oak Broadway

Top left: Down on the farm. Cows graze at Goldbeaters Farm.

Middle: A trip down memory lane. Goldbeaters Grove in the 1930s.

Right: Young girls enjoy the Watling Festival. The festival still runs today.

Meet your councillors

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

You can meet your Burnt Oak councillors every Saturday from 10.30am to noon at Burnt Oak Library in Watling Avenue. No appointment is necessary.

As with all 21 of Barnet's wards, Burnt Oak has three councillors who have been elected by the ward's residents to represent them for four years.

Clr Claire Farrier (Labour)
T: 020 8959 7908
E: clr.c.farrier@barnet.gov.uk

Linda McFadyen (Labour)
T: 020 8364 8782
E: clr.l.mcfadyen@barnet.gov.uk

Allan Turner (Labour)
T: 020 8952 2106
E: clr.a.turner@barnet.gov.uk



Trade waste – know your responsibilities

Did you know that if your business produces waste, it's your responsibility to dispose of it properly?

The law demands that businesses take all reasonable steps to keep commercial waste safe. And if the law is broken, firms face unlimited fines.

Businesses have a duty of care to ensure their waste is only handled by people authorised to deal with it and who can transport, recycle or dispose of it safely.

This applies to anyone who produces or imports, keeps or stores, transports, treats or disposes of waste. This duty of care does not apply to waste from your home.

The law states that companies must store

commercial waste safely and securely and prevent it from causing pollution or harming anyone.

There are three steps to follow when you have waste to dispose of:

- Make it secure. Keep it in a suitable container. If you put loose waste in a skip or on a lorry, make sure you cover it.
- If you give waste to anyone else, ensure they are authorised to take it. Under the law, only people with permission to take it can handle waste.
- You must fill in and sign a transfer note for the waste. Keep a copy as you may be asked to

supply this at a later date. If you have agreements with either Barnet Council or a private firm to collect commercial waste, the organisation will give you a Waste Transfer Note.

For further advice contact Barnet Council's Customer Care Unit on **020 8359 4600** or for information regarding the collection of commercial waste in the borough, ring the Trade Waste enquiry line on **020 8359 5051**.

Holocaust Memorial 2006

“One person can make a difference” is the theme for next year’s Holocaust Memorial Day which will be held on Sunday 22 January 2006, at 1pm at Hendon Park, Queens Road, Hendon, adjacent to the Memorial Garden. The event is open to anyone to attend.

The new theme celebrates the courage of the rescuers who helped the persecuted survive and gave them hope. Many rescuers are still alive and living in the UK; their courage enabled many victims of the Nazis to survive the Holocaust.

This year’s guest speaker is Bertha Leverton; she is German but since the war has lived in the UK. In 1938/39 she rescued 10,000 Jewish children from all over Europe and brought them to England without their parents. This became known as the Kindertransport. Since the war she has maintained the Kindertransport network by way of meetings, reunions and speeches on a worldwide basis. In June 2005 she received an MBE for all her hard work and dedication.

The Holocaust Memorial event will also include a performance by Holly Park Primary School, and the London Cantorial Choir.

Remembering the children: Holocaust Snowdrop Project passes the 10,000 mark



The message of the scale of the Holocaust and the importance of living together in harmony, irrespective of religion, culture, race or nationality, was brought home during a simple ceremony outside the RAF Museum in Hendon.

Barnet Council invited everyone who lives in the borough to bring snowdrop bulbs to plant in the grounds, in memory of the children who died during the Holocaust.

Barnet’s Deputy Mayor, Councillor Victor

Lyon, accompanied by the Deputy Mayoress, planted the 10,000th snowdrop bulb and a plaque was unveiled to commemorate the event. The poignant occasion was enhanced by the presence of many young children, who were helped by their families and park keepers to plant their own bulbs.

The Snowdrop Project’s aim is to plant 1.5 million

bulbs throughout the borough, one for each child murdered in the Holocaust. This year’s tribute takes the total planted so far to 12,098 bulbs. In previous years bulbs have been planted at Hendon Park, Edgwarebury Park, Friary Park and the Old Court House Recreation Ground.

To find out more about the project, or to get involved, visit:

www.barnet.gov.uk/holocaust



Building a better Barnet

Help shape the future of your borough
– Barnet's Community Strategy

Barnet Council is currently working with its partner organisations to develop a new Community Strategy for Barnet. The strategy aims to improve the quality of life in the borough over the next 10 years by addressing important issues that matter to you such as health, housing, safety, transport and education.

So what is a Community Strategy?

A Community Strategy is a document which shows how local organisations and agencies will work together to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas. Barnet's current Community Strategy, 'Barnet First Class 2003-2006', is delivered by Barnet's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), of which the following organisations are members:

- Barnet Council
- Barnet College
- Barnet Primary Care Trust
- Jobcentre Plus
- Barnet Voluntary Service Council
- Brent Cross Shopping Centre
- Learning and Skills Council London North
- Metropolitan Police
- Middlesex University
- Barnet Multicultural Community Centre
- North London Chamber of Commerce

How are we doing so far?

Every year, the LSP reports back on how it has been doing against targets set out in Barnet First Class 2003-2006.

In the last full year of the strategy (1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005):

- Many crimes fell but there were substantial increases in street crime and vehicle crime
- Waiting times in the local NHS fell although some Government targets were missed
- We improved access to learning – through family learning, Sure Start and extended schools
- Pupil attainment levels showed a general improvement
- Satisfaction levels with our environment and cleansing services increased
- We made some progress with transport issues such as road and pavement repairs
- There was progress on major regeneration schemes in the borough

- The LSP re-launched its jobs website, www.barnetjobs.org.uk

What kind of place do you want Barnet to be in 2016?

'Barnet First Class 2003-2006', runs out next year and we are currently in the process of developing a new longer-term strategy for the area. The strategy will look at how, over the next 10 years, we can protect and enhance the best of Barnet while also ensuring growth through successful regeneration.

We have developed a discussion document for public consultation which sets out a 10-year vision for Barnet, and supporting themes and ambitions. These are based on future challenges for Barnet and your key concerns,

The strategy will look at how, over the next 10 years, we can protect and enhance the best of Barnet while also ensuring growth through successful regeneration.

as expressed in public opinion surveys.

During December, we will be asking residents to help shape the future of Barnet by letting us know what they think. Copies of the consultation document will be made available in various locations across the borough. A number of surveys and targeted focus groups with those who live and work in Barnet are also planned.

A new Community Strategy for Barnet: proposed themes and ambitions

• Proposed theme: Investing in children and young people

• Proposed ambitions:

1. Children and young people achieve their educational potential
2. Children and young people are safe and healthy

• Proposed theme: Safer stronger and cleaner Barnet

• Proposed ambitions:

1. Residents feel safe
2. Strong and cohesive communities
3. Clean and green

• Proposed theme: Growing successfully

• Proposed ambitions:

1. Affordable and decent homes
2. Good quality transport and reduced traffic congestion
3. People are equipped with the right skills to take advantage of employment opportunities
4. Minimise waste and maximise recycling

• Proposed theme: Healthier Barnet

• Proposed ambitions:

1. People are supported to take responsibility for their own health
2. Health and care provision is targeted at the most vulnerable
3. Access to good quality health services

What next?

For the Community Strategy to work, these ambitions must be turned into actions. When we have heard what you think of the vision, themes and ambitions, our next step will be to develop specific action plans to tackle these issues.

The final strategy, incorporating the feedback we receive during consultation, will be launched in March 2006 and we will keep you updated on how we are doing through Barnet First.

Want to find out more?

If you would like to see a full copy of the consultation document, you can visit www.barnet.gov.uk or telephone 020 8359 7011 for a hard copy.

For a copy of the full progress report on how the LSP performed against its targets in the current Community Strategy, or to find out more about the new Community Strategy, please ring us on the number above or email: communitystrategy@barnet.gov.uk.

Introducing... your councillors

Brunswick Park Ward

Lynne Hillan (Con)

020 8445 5101
cllr.l.hillan@barnet.gov.uk

Daniel Hope (Con)

020 8368 9005
cllr.d.hope@barnet.gov.uk

Andreas Tambourides (Con) Mayor

020 8368 5417
cllr.a.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Burnt Oak Ward

Linda McFadyen (Lab)

020 8364 8782
cllr.l.mcfadyen@barnet.gov.uk

Allan Turner (Lab)

020 8952 2106
cllr.a.turner@barnet.gov.uk

Claire Farrier (Lab)

020 8959 7908
cllr.c.farrier@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, Burnt Oak Library,
Watling Avenue, Edgware, HA8
10.30am-12noon

Childs Hill Ward

Jack Cohen (LibDem)

020 8446 7940
cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Monroe Palmer (LibDem)

Liberal Democrat Group Leader
020 8455 5140
cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk
Susette Palmer (LibDem)
020 8455 5140
cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Colindale Ward

Danish Chopra (Lab)

Deputy leader of the Labour group
020 8449 3231
cllr.d.chopra@barnet.gov.uk

Gill Sargeant (Lab)

020 8455 1070
cllr.g.sargeant@barnet.gov.uk

Zakia Zubairi (Lab)

020 8959 4091
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Surgery details:

Saturdays, Grahame Park Library,
The Concourse, NW9
10-11am

Coppetts Ward

Barry Rawlings (Lab)

020 8445 6416
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Paul Rogers (Lab)

020 8275 8370
cllr.p.rogers@barnet.gov.uk

Soon-Hoe Teh (Lab)

020 8492 9489
cllr.s.h.teh@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First and third Saturday every
month, South Friern Library,
Colney Hatch Lane, N10
10.30am-12noon

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

East Barnet Ward

Terence C. Burton (Con)

020 8368 7366
cllr.t.burton@barnet.gov.uk

Susan Steinberg (Con)

020 8441 4498
cllr.s.steinberg@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Second Saturday every month,
East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill
Road, East Barnet, EN4
10.30am-12 noon

Olwen Evans (Con)

020 8368 1986
cllr.o.evans@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Saturday every month,
The Community Centre, Victoria
Road, New Barnet
10.30am-12noon

Third Saturday every month,
East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill
Road, East Barnet, EN4
10.30am-12noon

East Finchley Ward

Alison Moore (Lab)

Leader of the Opposition
Labour group leader
020 8343 0306
cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk

Colin Rogers (Lab)

020 8444 7150
cllr.c.rogers@barnet.gov.uk

Phil Yeoman (Lab)

020 8444 9216
cllr.p.yeoman@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Edgware Ward

Helena Hart (Con)

020 8371 0658
cllr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Malcolm Lester (Con)

020 8203 3144
conservative.grp@barnet.gov.uk

Joan Scannell (Con)

020 8959 5921
cllr.j.scannell@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Finchley Church End

Michael Freer (Con)

Deputy leader of the Council
(Conservative group deputy leader)
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cllr.m.freer@barnet.gov.uk

Eva Greenspan (Con)

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Leslie Sussman (Con)

020 8346 6775
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Surgery details:

First Wednesday every month,
Avenue House, East End Road,
Finchley, N3
7.30-8.30pm

Garden Suburb Ward

Andrew Harper (Con)

020 8209 3981
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John Marshall (Con)

020 8445 2597
cllr.j.marshall@barnet.gov.uk

Jazmin Naghar (Con)

020 8458 2466
conservative.grp@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Golders Green Ward

Melvin Cohen (Con)

020 7644 7211
cllr.m.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Aba Dunner (Con)

020 8455 9960
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Christopher Harris (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

Also fourth Sunday every month,
Hendon Sports Centre, Marble
Drive, Brent Cross, NW2
12noon-1pm

Hale Ward

Steven Blomer (Lab)

020 8959 7878
cllr.s.blomer@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, Burnt Oak Library,
Watling Avenue, Edgware, HA8
10.30am-12noon

Brian Gordon (Con)

07931 300679
conservative.grp@barnet.gov.uk
Please contact to arrange a meeting

David Mencer (Lab)

020 8922 6955
cllr.d.mencer@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Sunday every month,
Edgware Library, Hale Lane,
Edgware, HA8
2.30-3.30pm

Hendon Ward

Maureen Braun (Con)

020 8203 1876
 cllr.m.braun@barnet.gov.uk

Anthony Finn (Con)

020 8202 9689
 cllr.a.finn@barnet.gov.uk

Matthew Offord (Con)

020 8202 5319
 cllr.m.offord@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

First Monday every month,
 Action Point, The Town Hall,
 The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4
 6-7pm

High Barnet Ward**Katia David (Con)**

020 8445 1410
 cllr.k.david@barnet.gov.uk

Vacant**Wendy Prentice (Con)**

020 8364 9249
 cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month,
 Chipping Barnet Conservative
 Association, 163 High Street,
 Barnet, EN5
 10.30am-12noon

Mill Hill Ward**Wayne Casey (LibDem)**

Deputy leader of the LibDem group
 020 8906 8189
 cllr.w.casey@barnet.gov.uk

Jeremy Davies (LibDem)

020 8959 6261
 cllr.j.davies@barnet.gov.uk

Sean Hooker (LibDem)

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 cllr.s.hooker@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Saturdays, Mill Hill Library, Hartley
 Ave, NW7
 10am-12noon

Oakleigh Ward**Robert Newton (Con)**

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Brian Salinger (Con)**Leader of the Council**

Conservative group leader
 020 8368 1329
 cllr.b.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Gerard Silverstone (Con)

020 8731 8368
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Surgery details:

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

Totteridge Ward**Brian Coleman (Con)**

020 8349 2024
 cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk

Kevin Edson (Con)

020 8447 1910
 cllr.k.edson@barnet.gov.uk

Victor Lyon (Con)

Deputy Mayor
 020 8446 8253
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Surgery details:

Third 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

Peter Davis (Con)

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Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month,
 Chipping Barnet Conservative
 Association, 163 High St, Barnet,
 EN5
 10.30am-12noon

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Surgery details:

First and third Saturday every
 month, Chipping Barnet Library, 3
 Stapylton Rd, Barnet, EN5
 2-3pm

Council meetings – dates for your diary

Meetings are open to the public and are generally held at the Town Hall, Hendon starting at 7pm, unless otherwise stated. The Area Forums meet at a variety of venues around the borough, and details can be found online, on our posters or by contacting the Democratic Services team on 020 8359 2031. Members of the public can ask to speak at most meetings, apart from Cabinet or Council meetings. Further information can be obtained by contacting Democratic Services.

West Finchley Ward**Kitty Lyons (Lab)**

020 8346 6843
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Kathy McGuirk (Lab)

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 cllr.k.mcguirk@barnet.gov.uk

Jim Tierney (Lab)

020 8346 3359
 cllr.j.tierney@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

West Hendon Ward**Arun Ghosh (Lab)**

020 8202 5741
 cllr.a.ghosh@barnet.gov.uk

Agnes Slocombe (Lab)

020 8202 4074
 cllr.a.slocombe@barnet.gov.uk

Ansuya Sodha (Lab)

020 8959 6035
 cllr.a.sodha@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Woodhouse Ward**Anne Hutton (Lab)**

020 8883 0996
 cllr.a.hutton@barnet.gov.uk

Mark Langton (Lab)

07940 461285
 cllr.m.langton@barnet.gov.uk

Alan Schneiderman (Lab)

020 8731 9680
 cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

December

- 1st** Standards Committee
- 5th** Cabinet
- 6th**
 - Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee
 - Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub-Committee
 - Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee
- 7th** Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 8th** Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 12th** Tackling Crime and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 13th** Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 13th** Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 14th** Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 19th** Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 20th** Council
- 21st** Audit Committee Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee

January 2006

- 4th** Planning and Environment Committee
- 5th** Cabinet Resources
- 10th** Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 11th** Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 12th** Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 18th** Finchley Area Forum
- 18th** Barnet Area Forum
- 18th** Hendon Area Forum
- 19th** General Functions Committee
- 23rd** Cabinet
- 25th** Planning and Environment Committee
- 30th** Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny
- 31st** Council

Contacting your MPs**Chipping Barnet****Theresa Villiers**

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

Finchley and Golders Green**Dr Rudi Vis**

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

Hendon**Andrew Dismore**

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

Greater London Assembly**Member for Barnet and Camden****Cllr Brian Coleman**

Office: City Hall, The
 Queen's Walk, London,
 SE1 2AA
 Tel: 020 7983 4366

A revolution in housing

The way that Barnet Council deals with the homeless and those with housing problems is changing, thanks to a new advice service.

More than 18 months in the making, “Options First” aims to revolutionise the way in which customers visiting the council’s housing office are helped to find a solution.

The scheme kicked off in October, with the emphasis on finding ways of solving clients’ problems rather than automatically assigning them to temporary accommodation.

At the centre of the initiative is a new team of 12 graduate trainees, who will act as the council’s new housing advice team – or the public face of the housing department – and direct customers to the most appropriate option for their needs. They will replace the customer service unit and provide a more friendly and knowledgeable service.

Managers in the housing service believe the move to bring in a team with no experience in the sector, or indeed for most of them any full-time work, is bold but correct. They believe talented and ambitious workers with ‘fresh minds’ is just what the service needs to hit its targets and succeed in

reducing the numbers of homeless, and the levels of people with unresolved housing needs.

“In many cases there is more than one way in which problems can be resolved. When we advertised for advisers, we didn’t even mention housing – what I wanted is people with ambition

temporary accommodation.”

The range of options available to homeseekers include help with finding accommodation in the private rented sector, assistance in making a property safer for those in fear of domestic

“Already, our work has been noticed. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has told other organisations that our approach, including the recruitment of trainees, is best practice.”

who could deal with pressure,” said Mohammed Hussein, Barnet Council’s Head of Housing Needs and Resources.

“Already, our work has been noticed. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has told other organisations that our approach, including the recruitment of trainees, is best practice. And we are one of only six authorities in the country to be given a £50,000 grant to help reduce the use of

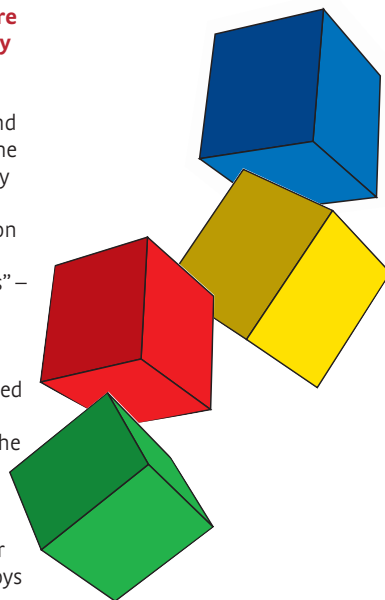
violence, and the possibility of relocation to other parts of the country.

If you need help with accommodation issues, or are facing the prospect of being made homeless, visit the housing office at Barnet House, in High Road, Whetstone, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 9am and 4pm or call **020 8359 4797**.

Top tips to play safely

Please make sure that any toys you buy are the ideal plaything by following our handy safety guide:

- Always buy toys from a reputable retailer and look for the CE mark, which indicates that the toy meets the requirements of the Toy Safety Regulations. The British Toy and Hobby Association’s “Lion Mark” is also an indication of quality. Be wary of buying toys from car boot sales, bazaars and “bargain basements” – they may not meet the same standards.
- When selecting toys for younger children check they are suitable for that age group. Follow the instructions and warnings provided with toys and retain the address of the toy supplier or importer which should be near the CE mark. Check toys regularly for wear and repair or dispose of them where necessary.
- Young children need supervision when playing – be wary of them playing with older children’s toys! It’s a good idea to check all toys for loose pile, fabric or hair, small parts, and sharp edges or points, as well as ties and ribbons. Toys which look like food are another risk.
- Outdoor play equipment gives hours of fun but needs to be checked for safety. Ensure that garden swings and slides are robust.



- Finally, be careful when installing batteries. Make sure they are the correct ones and are inserted properly. Dispose of old batteries immediately – they are a tempting “toy” to small fingers!

Mayor visits Morphou

The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Andreas Tambourides, led a delegation of Barnet councillors on a recent visit to Cyprus, to meet representatives of the town council of Morphou, with which Barnet has been twinned since 1995. During the trip, he met the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, and Demetris Christofias, President of the House of Representatives.





Residents keen to register interest in new service

Many people living in Barnet will know what a lengthy and complicated process can be in store when applying for British citizenship, but a new scheme introduced at Barnet Register Office is set to make that a thing of the past.

The Nationality Checking Service (NCS) was introduced in Barnet in October, and means that staff can now help citizenship applicants by checking, certifying and copying important documents, before sending the forms off by secure post to the Home Office.

Barnet Council is anticipating the scheme will be very popular with residents in the borough, as the authority currently has the fourth-highest number of people applying for

citizenship in the country. The biggest advantage for potential applicants is that they will not have to send away important documents like passports and possibly be without them for a matter of months at a time.

Register Office staff have undergone intensive training and are now fully qualified to deal with residents' citizenship applications.

Councillor Lynne Hillan, Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance, said: "This is a brilliant opportunity for anyone hoping to become a British citizen to ease the sometimes time-consuming and complicated process of applying.

"Barnet has more potential applicants than most areas of the country, so I'm sure there will be lots of interest in this service. I would also like to congratulate our Register Office staff on completing the training required to offer this very helpful service."

The service is offered by appointment only. A charge will be made.

Other services offered at Barnet Register Office, located at 182 Burnt Oak Broadway, include registration facilities for births, marriages, deaths, naming ceremonies, renewal of marriage vows and non-religious funerals. From December 5, facilities for civil partnerships will also be available, which will offer the legal and financial benefits of marriage to same-sex couples – bookings are being taken now. You can also obtain certified copies of any birth, marriage or death certificate issued since 1837, for a fee of £7.

For more information on either the NCS scheme or other Register Office services, or to book an appointment, call 020 8731 1104/1108 or visit the website at www.barnet.gov.uk/registeroffice

Children's services – at your fingertips

A new directory of all the services available to children and young people in Barnet is now available to members of the public online and in hard copy. "Directme" was compiled in response to recommendations made by Lord Laming at the inquiry into the death of eight-year-old Victoria Climbié in Haringey, which said that all local authorities should have a directory of services which enable youngsters to be safe, happy and healthy.

Details of the facilities available, as well as contact details and ways in which they can be accessed, are in the directory and include childcare, education, social care, health, housing and voluntary services. Directme aims to integrate the

services and make them all easily accessible in one place.

The directory has been developed by Barnet Council working with the Primary Care Trust and Barnet Voluntary Services Council.

Directme is available online at www.barnet.gov.uk/directme and is updated regularly. If you do not have internet access, then web-enabled computers are available for use by the public in all Barnet's libraries. Use is free for up to one hour per day to all library members with a valid library ticket. A small charge is made to non-members and bookings that exceed one hour.

If you would prefer to buy a hard copy of Directme, ask at your local library.

Barnet blooms again

Barnet's a blooming great place to live – and that's official!

The borough has received a silver award in the Large City Category of the London in Bloom Awards for the second year running.

The Mayor, Councillor Andreas Tambourides, received the award on the borough's behalf during a presentation ceremony held recently.

The borough, in competition with its London neighbours, was judged not only on horticultural excellence but also on environmental awareness and



The Mayor enjoys some of the borough's green space with residents

initiatives such as litter clearance, recycling and conservation.

The judges were particularly impressed with the council's management of household waste recycling and garden waste initiatives, and the high standard of its 16 premier parks.

Moving on services for the over 55s

Services for the over 55s in Barnet came under the spotlight during a free consultation event held in the borough.

Over 200 residents turned out for the event, which was sponsored by Barnet Older Adults Partnership Board, of which Barnet Council is a member, and held at the RAF Museum in Hendon.

The idea for the event was put forward by the Barnet Senior Citizens Forum and the organising committee was chaired by their representative.

The event, officially opened by Barnet's Mayor, Councillor Andreas Tambourides, aimed to find out the views of current and prospective service users, as well as providing lunch, entertainment and an exhibition of services available to older people and their carers.

After a series of presentations,

including an address from Councillor Fiona Bulmer, Barnet's Cabinet Member for Community Services, delegates were encouraged to join the various health and social care experts around the tables to raise issues and exchange ideas about existing services and possible new services.

Topics covered ranged from home care to issues concerning housing, black ethnic minority communities, carers' needs, homes and health promotion.

After lunch a wide range of entertainment was provided, including a jazz combo, a children's choir from Blessed Dominic School on Grahame Park, and line dancing. There was also a chance for people to quiz a panel.

All delegates were encouraged to complete an evaluation form to help take forward ideas from the day, and some agreed to act as members of a reference group which will be called upon for advice by the council and Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT) in the development, implementation and evaluation of service provision.

Views expressed on issues of choice in health and social care will also be fed into a specific consultation exercise that the council and PCT is undertaking around the Government initiative "Choosing Health".

For more information about Barnet's +55 Forum, please call [020 8931 3795](tel:02089313795).

Barnet blows its own trumpet

Did you know that over 4,000 Barnet children learn a musical instrument in our schools each week? Or that Barnet is one of the few local education authorities that has a brass band?

Well, Barnet has a thriving Music Education Service (often called the Music Service) which plays an important role in the cultural life of many families in the borough.

It provides instrument teachers to 90 schools as well as running three music centres in East Barnet, Finchley and Hendon.

Here are just a few more facts that might interest you:

- The most popular instruments learned in our schools are keyboard, piano, guitar, violin, clarinet, flute and trumpet
- There are a group of instruments known as 'endangered species' which the Music Service actively promotes through minority instrument start-up scholarships – these include the bassoon, double bass and French horn
- Finchley Music Centre at Moss Hall Junior School on Saturdays has six string orchestras of varying standards and is unique in the world of music education
- East Barnet and Hendon Music Centres offer

band and ensemble experience to brass, woodwind and percussion players on Saturday mornings at East Barnet Upper School and St Mary's Secondary School

- Young Musicmaker classes and free choirs are available at all three centres
- Tabla tuition is available at Hendon and Finchley Music Centres and as an outreach project in the Swaminarayam Temple in Golders Green
- Barnet Schools Wind Orchestra tours Italy later this year. It rehearses at Moss Hall Junior School on Friday evenings
- Barnet Youth Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings at Moss Hall Junior School
- The Barnet Youth Brass Band meets on



Thursday evenings at Moss Hall Junior School

- This April, the Music Service took 1,500 children to sing and play at the Royal Albert Hall (see above image). The concert was supported by the fundraising activities of the Friends of Barnet Music Services.

If you would like further details of the Music Service's activities please call [020 8359 6310](tel:02083596310).

What's On in Barnet during December and January

Leisure/pastimes

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

30 Nov -14 Jan 2006
Chicken Shed Theatre, Chase Side, Southgate, N14. Box office: 020 8292 9222 or www.chickenshed.org.uk

Songs from the Musicals – audience singalong

1 Dec 2.30pm
Memory Lane Singing Club event to raise funds for Avenue House Estate. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3. £7.50 (incl. refreshments). To book call 020 8346 7812. For details of how to join the club call 020 8458 4508.

Christmas Dance Party (ballroom, Latin American and sequence)

3 Dec 8-11pm
North Finchley. £7 in advance/£8 at door. Also 31 Dec. 8pm-12.30am. New Year's Eve Dance Party. £12 incl. buffet. Details 020 8444 0280.

Barnet Town Centre Christmas Fair in High Street

4 Dec
Children's rides, stalls for Christmas presents, the talent of Barnet performing at The Bull Theatre and St John the Baptist Church. For more information call 020 8441 5010.

London Wildlife Trust (Barnet Group)

4 Dec 10am-3pm
Totteridge Fields, work day, tools provided. Meet field gate, Hendon Wood Lane. More details: 020 8959 7274/020 7261 0047.

Christmas Past



6 Dec – 6 Jan 2006
1850s dining room decorated for a Victorian Christmas.

10 Dec – 12 Mar 2006

Exhibition of 'Movable and Toy Books through the Ages'. Come along and make your own simple pop-ups. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Details/opening times: 020 8203 0130.

Susi Earnshaw Theatre School's Christmas Concert

7 Dec 7.30-8.30pm
St John the Baptist Church, High Street, Barnet. Entrance free (donations welcome for the Church's chosen charity). Second concert 8 Dec at The Bull Theatre, Barnet. Tickets £5, call 020 8441 5010.

The Little Mermaid (Kazzum) artsdepot

8 – 31 Dec
Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley, N12. Box office: 020 8369 5454. www.artsdepot.co.uk

The Holly and The Ivy by Janet Stace

8 Dec 8pm
New Barnet Amateur Gardeners and Floral Art Society, Lyonsdown Hall, 3 Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet. Also 12 Jan 2006. Quiz Night. Members £2/visitors £3. Details: 020 8449 8836.

From America 'The Sounds of the Four Tops'

9 Dec 8pm
The Bull Theatre, Barnet. Tickets in advance, box office: 020 8441 5010.

Walk around Hampstead Heath

19 Dec
Starting 9.30am in Kenwood car park, Hampstead Heath. £3. No need to book, just turn up. More details call 020 8359 7817.

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society

Meets monthly
St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane, N20. Visitors welcome (£2). For details call David Berguer on 020 8444 3089.

Arts

In Search of Suburbia Exhibition

Until 26 Mar 2006
The Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet, EN4. Details /opening times: 020 8411 5244.

Hendon Music Society presents a concert by David Pyatt, Arisa Fujita and Leon McCawley

10 Dec 7.45pm
John Keble Church, Deans Lane, Edgware. More details/tickets: 020 8202 5393/020 8361 3306.

The Glory of Christmas

10 Dec 7.45pm
Includes favourite carols for all to sing. Finchley Chamber Choir and Finchley Chamber Orchestra concert. Trinity Church, Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley, N12. Adults £10/£8 conc./£5 children. Tickets 020 8440 1899.

Finchley Choral Society Concert

17 Dec 7.30pm
Carols by candlelight with Moss Hall Junior School Choir. Trinity Church, Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley, N12. £8 adults/£1 children. Box office: 020 8346 9230.

Comedy Store

18 Dec 8pm
A night of improvised Jewish comedy. London Jewish Cultural Centre, Ivy House, North End Road, NW11 7HU. £12. Details: 020 8455 9900.

Mill Hill Jazz Club

Wednesdays 8.30pm
Mill Hill Sports Club, Grahame Park Way, NW7. Members £2/guests £3. Details of programme call 020 8958 4834.

If you are interested in Italian culture, the Anglo-Italian Circle of Barnet

meets every month in members' homes. For more information contact David Ibray on 020 8205 5611.

Under 18s

Little Mermaid Design House



20 – 23 Dec 12.30-1.15pm & 4-4.45pm

Fun creative sessions making stained glass seascapes before the show. £5 per session. To book call 020 8369 5454.

'A Tail of Fashion'

While 'The Little Mermaid' show is on, a chance to try dressing one of the show's characters and creating fashion designs at the drawing table. artsdepot, 5 Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley, N12.

Canoeing for ages 10+

Thursday evenings
Also, Monday evenings, other boatwork and adventurous activities. Southgate and Barnet Sea Cadets. £1 per week. Contact 07961 287 441.

Library Book Sales

29 Nov-3 Dec
Friern Barnet (020 8368 2680)
6-10 Dec
Grahame Park (020 8200 0470)
13-17 Dec
Mill Hill (020 8959 5066)
20-24 Dec
North Finchley (020 8445 4081)
28-31 Dec
Chipping Barnet (020 8359 4040)
10-14 Jan 2006
South Friern (020 8883 6513)
16-21 Jan 2006
Edgware (020 8359 2626)
24-28 Jan 2006
East Finchley (020 8883 2664)
31 Jan-5 Feb 2006
Golders Green (020 8359 2060)

Due to space restrictions, we have been unable to include the A-Z directory of council services in this issue.

What's open in Barnet

Refuse collection

Please ensure that your wheeled bin is placed on the boundary of your property by 6.30am on your scheduled day of collection:

- **Monday 26 December collection will be Saturday 24 December**
- **Tuesday 27 December normal service**
- **Wednesday 28 December normal service**
- **Thursday 29 December normal service**
- **Friday 30 December normal service**
- **Saturday 31 December no collection**
- **Sunday 1 January 2006 no collection**
- **Monday 2 January 2006 normal service. As well as wheeled bins, all additional refuse will also be taken**

For further information call **020 8359 4600** quoting ref: RCo4

Libraries

All libraries close at 1pm on Saturday 24 December and remain closed until Wednesday 28 December. On Wednesday 28, Thursday 29 and Friday 30 December normal opening hours apply. On Saturday 31 December libraries will be open normal hours, closing at 5pm. All libraries will be closed on Sunday 1 and Monday 2 January 2006. Normal opening hours will resume on Tuesday 3 January 2006.

Local studies

The Archives and Local Studies Service will be closed Saturday 24 to Tuesday 27 December inclusive and Saturday 31 December to Monday 2 January 2006 inclusive.

Church Farmhouse Museum

The museum will be closed Saturday 24 to Tuesday 27 December inclusive and 1 January 2006. Normal hours will operate on Saturday 31 December and Tuesday 2 January 2006 and continue from 3 January 2006. Please note that the museum is closed on Fridays.

Block cleanse

Block cleansing of every street, complete with free skips, takes place three times a year.

For further information, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/block-cleansing or call **020 8359 4600**. We notify all residents by letter at least one week in advance of the cleanse. Christmas trees can be put in the skips provided during the January/February block cleanse.

Customer Care Unit

The Customer Care Unit (**020 8359 4600**), which takes residents' calls on street-based issues such as road and pavement subsidence, street lighting, street cleaning, refuse and recycling services, will be open:

- Friday 23 December: 8am – 4pm
- Saturday 24 to Tuesday 27 December: closed
- Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 December: 8am – 6pm
- Friday 30 December: 8am – 4pm
- Saturday 31 December to Monday 2 January 2006: closed
- Tuesday 3 January 2006: 8am – 6pm

Council and when?

Black Box recycling collection

The Black Box scheme collects: glass bottles and jars, newspapers and magazines, junk mail, tins and cans, aerosols, textiles, shoes, engine oil, car and household batteries, foil, mobile phones and Yellow Pages. Please put excess material in labelled carrier bags and place next to your Black Box.

- **Monday 26 December**
Collection will be on **Saturday 24 December**
- **Tuesday 27 December**
Normal service
- **Wednesday 28 December**
Normal service
- **Thursday 29 December**
Normal service
- **Friday 30 December**
Normal service
- **Monday 2 January 2006**
Normal service

For further information or to order a black box please call 020 8371 3670.



Green garden and kitchen waste collection

Please ensure that your green wheeled bin is placed on the boundary of your property by 6:30am on your scheduled collection day. For your Christmas tree to be collected please leave it next to your green wheeled bin.

- **Monday 26 December**
Collection will be on **Saturday 24 December**
- **Tuesday 27 December**
Normal service
- **Wednesday 28 December**
Normal service
- **Thursday 29 December**
Normal service
- **Friday 30 December**
Normal service
- **Monday 2 January 2006**
Normal service

For further information or to order a green wheeled bin please call 020 8359 7400.

Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, N12

The site will be closed on 25, 26 December and 1 January 2006 only. The normal opening hours are Monday to Saturday 8am to 4pm and Sundays and Bank Holidays 9am to 4pm.

At the site you can recycle over 30 different materials including plastic bottles and cardboard. General waste is also accepted.

For further information please call 020 8362 0752.

Festive recycling Cards



Take your cards to your local WH Smith high street store or Tesco store, local library or the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre at Summers Lane between 2 January and 31 January 2006 and place them in the special bins provided.

Funds raised from the card recycling scheme will support the Woodland Trust's campaign 'Tree For All', giving young people the opportunity to be involved in tree planting initiatives in the UK.

Christmas trees



If your household is taking part in the Green Garden and Kitchen Waste Collection Service please leave your tree by the side of your green wheeled bin on your scheduled collection day. For further information please call 020 8359 7400 or email recycling@barnet.gov.uk

Look out for more festive recycling ideas and activities coming soon.

Residents feel the benefit of new office



That was then, this is now: Fenella before and after its refurbishment

One of Barnet's busiest enquiries centres has re-opened to the public after being closed for three months for refurbishment.

The dilapidated offices at Fenella, in Babington Road, Hendon, underwent a £300,000 revamp between June and September, to bring the building up to 21st-century standards and make it accessible for all.

Changes include a redesigned reception and waiting area, new interviewing facilities, air conditioning, a wide interview booth for

wheelchair access and loops for people with hearing impairments.

Officers based at Fenella deal with enquiries from the borough's 26,000 benefits recipients, as well as questions on local taxation and student support issues.

The extensive improvements will transform the service to our customers.

A ceremony to mark the reopening was held last month, which was addressed by Council Leader, Councillor Brian Salinger, and Chief

Executive Leo Boland, and attended by the staff who are now working in a much better environment.

As well as using Fenella, residents can also take their benefit forms and original documents to any of the borough's housing offices, The Town Hall, or the libraries in Chipping Barnet, Golders Green or Edgware, and can contact the benefits team on [020 8359 2111](tel:02083592111).

NEW combined kitchen and garden waste collections from your home



You can now help boost the recycling rate even further by recycling your kitchen waste along with garden waste. The council has expanded its organic waste collection service, meaning that all kitchen food waste (excluding bones) can be placed in your green wheeled bins, which the majority of residents have been using just for garden waste.

Over the past three years Barnet Council has offered a weekly collection of green garden waste to most households in the borough. Due to the popularity of the scheme, the service is now available to almost all houses within the borough, and includes kitchen food waste.

Householders who join the scheme are supplied with a free green wheeled bin for grass clippings, hedge cuttings, and weeds, as well as kitchen waste such as vegetable

peelings, tea bags, and unused (without packaging) and leftover food, all of which is collected by the council and composted.

Barnet's Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Matthew Offord, says: "The combined effect of this improved service and our Black Box compulsory recycling scheme is key to meeting our recycling target for the year. The services are available free of charge to residents in houses and make recycling simple and easy to do from home. We need every resident to get in the recycling habit if the community is to recycle 47,000 tonnes of waste this year, which we must do to achieve a 30 per cent recycling rate."

You can request a green wheeled bin and information on all of the council's recycling services by telephoning [020 8359 7400](tel:02083597400), or emailing recycling@barnet.gov.uk.