



Schools funding battle taken to Number 10

John Fashanu is the new face of fostering - page 6
Corporate Plan launched - page 8

A message from
**Councillor
Victor Lyon,**
Leader of Barnet Council

By the time you receive this magazine council representatives, headteachers and parents will have marched on Number 10 Downing Street in an effort to secure vital extra funding for Barnet's schools.

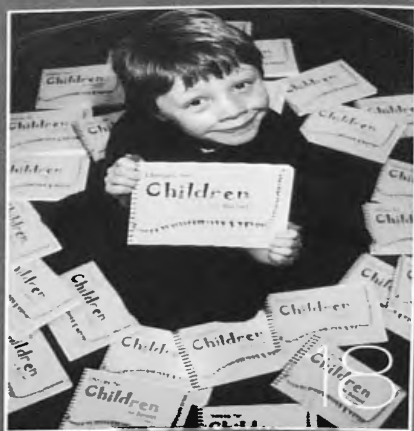
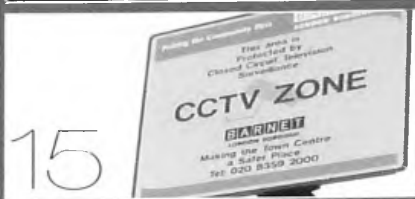
The council has managed to increase schools' budgets by all the grant it has received plus £421,000, but after receiving the worst financial settlement possible from the Treasury this has only been achieved by taking the difficult decision to increase council tax and make efficiency savings across other services.

Even so, increased staffing costs and cuts in direct Government grants have still left our schools out of pocket. Heads have told us that unless this shortfall is addressed, it could lead to teacher redundancies and ultimately a decline in standards. We are committed to making sure our schools remain among the very best in the country and we will continue to work with them and do everything in our power to make sure education in the borough is protected.

On a positive note I am delighted to be able to report the extension of the council's CCTV with two new schemes in East Barnet and Hampden Square. Also, in this edition of Barnet First, you can read about the launch of our new Corporate Plan which is the council's blueprint for improving services over the next five years.

first things first

Contents



FEATURES

- 03 Schools funding battle taken to Number 10
- 06 John Fashanu is the new face of fostering
- 08 Corporate Plan launched
- 11 Barnet First prize draw
- 14 Council steps up war on graffiti
- 15 CCTV in East Barnet and Hampden Square
- 17 Dell Field opens
- 18 Choices for children in Barnet
- 20 Barnet gets into shape

Barnet First is produced by Barnet Council's communications team and printed on environmentally friendly paper

Editorial team:

John Seekings,
Martin Simpson

Contributors:

Corinne Gladstone,
Ray McKay, Sue Segar

Editorial enquiries:

Tel 020 8359 2073

Email

barnetfirst@barnet.gov.uk

Advertising enquiries:

Contact Renae Randle

Tel 020 8359 2339

Email

renae.randle@barnet.gov.uk

Barnet Council does not accept responsibility for any goods or services offered by advertisers. Publication of an advertisement does not imply recommendation by the council of any goods or services advertised.

Barnet First Magazine
Town Hall, The Burroughs
Hendon, London
NW4 4BG

Barnet First is also available in large print and audio tape

Distribution of Barnet First
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. We hope you enjoy reading it, nonetheless.

Design and print by
The Limehouse Group

Schools funding battle taken to Number 10

The battle to secure more funding for Barnet's cash strapped schools has been taken to Number 10 Downing Street.

The council joined forces with the borough's headteachers to present a petition to Prime Minister Tony Blair urging him to intervene and review the budget settlement Barnet received this year from the Government.

At 3.5 per cent Barnet received the lowest possible grant increase the Government could have given the borough. At the same time the council is being asked to increase its spending on education by £14.5 million, despite only receiving an extra £7 million in funding to spend across all council services.

The council has managed to increase schools budgets by the amount the Government expects, but only after taking the tough decision to increase council tax by 22.75 percent and making efficiency savings worth £11 million across other services.

But increases in staffing costs, such as national insurance contributions and teachers pensions, together with cuts in

direct Government grants for schools, means headteachers are still being hit in the pocket financially. Heads warn that unless this lack of funds is addressed urgently Barnet's schools will suffer teacher redundancies, cuts in services, loss of support staff and an inevitable decline in standards.

More than 3,000 teachers and parents signed the petition and a delegation of 70 teachers and parents made the trip to Westminster to deliver it on April 30th.

Petition organiser and secretary of Barnet's Headteacher Conference, Sheila Abbott, said: "Many of Barnet's schools are facing financial crisis. In spite of all our appeals to national Government, we have been unsuccessful in securing any additional money for the borough. Headteachers supported by the council, LEA, governors and parents felt it was time to inform the Prime Minister directly of our position. A similar pattern of underfunding is appearing in schools all over the country. An urgent and immediate review of the situation is required and we

hope Mr Blair will respond accordingly."

Barnet's Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Lifelong Learning, Cllr Lynne Hillan, added: "I am immensely proud of the work of our schools and currently they are among the best in the country. But many parents and teachers are worried that the current funding situation will hamper their ability to deliver the first class education they have come to expect.

"That is why we went to Downing Street - to pass on the fears of Barnet's school community and to ask the Government to urgently reconsider Barnet's budget settlement to protect education in our borough."

Nothing to hide

Barnet Council has thrown open its books for inspection, following claims by Education Secretary Charles Clarke that some local authorities are not passing on Government funds to schools. Barnet totally refutes this, believing instead that the Government has left schools in financial crisis because it has miscalculated the amount of money needed. To show that it passed all the funding it possibly could to schools, the council asked Rita Hale, an independent financial expert to examine this year's budget and she has confirmed that all of the council's decisions were correct.



Barnet's Cabinet Member for Education Cllr Lynne Hillan and Barnet Council leader Cllr Victor Lyon, march with headteachers Nick Christou from East Barnet school, Colindale primary school head Ieuan Renowden and secretary of Barnet headteachers conference and headteacher at Brookland Infant School Sheila Abbott

News in brief

Library closes for refurbishment

Hendon library closes for major refurbishment work from Monday, July 21st.

At the end of this £1.4 million modernisation, residents can expect to see a flagship library providing first class services and equipped with first class facilities, including improved disabled access, new fixtures and fittings, lifts to every floor and more computers.

The work will take several months to complete and to find out alternative arrangements for borrowing and returning items during the closure simply pick up a leaflet from any Barnet library or council Action Point. You can also call the library service on 020 8359 3166.

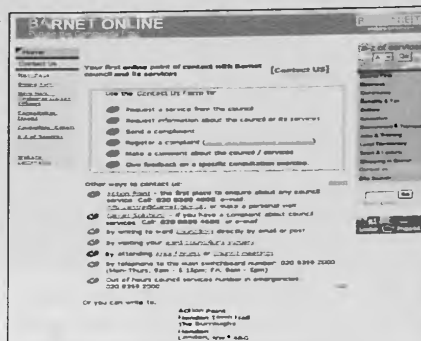
Updates on the progress of the work will be available at regular intervals from the borough's other libraries.

Council launches new on-line contact service

Barnet residents can now take advantage of a new, improved on-line service that provides quick, easy access to information about the council.

The new 'Contact Us' section of Barnet Online (Barnet Council's website) features a new dedicated, user-friendly page containing a simple to use form.

By completing the form people will be able to request a service from the council, ask for



information, register a complaint, take part in consultation exercises, or just comment on our services. An individual response will then be e-mailed back.

The 'Contact Us' page replaced the 'consultation forum' and can be found by following the links from Barnet Online's home page at www.barnet.gov.uk

Thumbs up for the website

Barnet Council's website has received praise from the Society of Information Technology Management (SOCTIM). The society is made up of managers and consultants from 450 different organisations, including 90% of local authorities across the UK. In their annual report, SOCTIM rated the Barnet website as an 'advanced site', which means it provides useful content, has advanced features and is highly interactive. The website also received a special mention for information relating to helping elderly residents.

Why not take a look yourself? Visit www.barnet.gov.uk.

Plans to protect nature conservation area

Plans to ensure a Barnet nature reserve remains a wildlife haven for years to come are due to go before residents and interested groups for consultation.

Urgent action is needed to prevent the collapse of a dam at Darlands Lake Nature Reserve that would cause silt, which has built up over the years, to be deposited downstream.

To ease the pressure on the dam, Barnet Council is proposing to divert the Folly Brook which feeds the lake. As well as relieving the pressure on the dam, diverting the brook will prevent the continued build up of silt and turn the area into a wetland habitat.

Quit smoking and stay healthy

The seventh edition of the 'Eat Smoke-free in Barnet' guide was launched at a Health Fair at Brent Cross shopping centre on No Smoking Day. The guide is a free listing magazine of restaurants, cafés and eating places in the borough, which operate a no smoking policy.

Want to know more?

Get a copy of 'Eat Smoke-free in Barnet' at your local library or Action Point. For advice on stopping smoking call the Smoking Quitline on freephone

0800 328 2784

News in brief

Young add colour to Tally Ho

This wonderful drawing comes courtesy of Frith Manor School and Chalgrove School. They were set the challenge of brightening up the hoarding around the new artsdepot complex currently being built at Tally Ho Corner.

The youngsters chose to explore the history of the area from its early days as a resting point for horses and carriages, right through to the 1930's when it was home to the Gaumont Cinema. The artwork has become a welcome and colourful attraction to the area and you can see it on display now.



Above: the caption on this drawing reads "During Queen Victoria's reign, towns like North Finchley began to emerge around the country. Large increases in the local population created a need for more houses, roads, shops, churches and schools, and of course increased the demand for local transport"

Shopkeepers fined for underage alcohol sales

Three Barnet shopkeepers have been fined for selling alcopops to a 16 year old following an undercover operation by Barnet Trading Standards officers and police.

The licensees of Kemptons, 272 East Barnet Road, The Corner Supermarket, 2 Hendon Lane, and of the Oakleigh Supermarket, 241 Oakleigh Road North, were together fined a total of £710 and ordered to pay

£699 costs.

The council regards selling alcohol to children as a serious offence and works closely with the police to catch those who persist in flouting the law.

Traders are being urged that if they have any doubts about the age of their customers they should ask for proof and, if not satisfied, should refuse to sell to them.

Want to know more?

Contact Barnet Trading Standards

020 8359 2606

Long serving councillor retires

It was a sad moment when Barnet Council said a fond farewell to one of its longest serving councillors. John Tiplady was elected councillor for the Friern Barnet ward in 1970, and during that time he helped establish the Finchley Society and organise the annual Finchley Carnival and Friern Barnet Summer Show. He served as Mayor of Barnet in 1983 and was awarded an OBE a year later for his work within the community. Over the years, he has served on a great number of committees, including Barnet MENCAP.

Although he has stood down as a councillor, Mr Tiplady will continue to be a popular and much-respected figure within the borough.



The Mayor, Councillor Joan Scannell, presents John Tiplady with a vellum in recognition of his work with the council

Fash is the face of fostering

TV celebrity John Fashanu is the new face of fostering in the London Borough of Barnet.

Ex-footballer Fash flew back from the Australian wilderness where he was starring in the hit TV series 'I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here!' to host Fostering Fortnight in Barnet at Pizza Express in Whetstone.

Launching the new Andy-Warhol type artwork, which features the faces of foster carers across the borough, he talked about his experiences when at the age of four he and his brother were adopted. Now he is appealing for people from all walks of life to come forward and offer the chance of a home, whether temporary or permanent, to a Barnet child.

Around 370 children in the borough have no parents to care for them, and the council is hoping that people of all ages and experience will come forward to become foster carers. Potential carers will have access to high quality advice and information from the start and be able to join a mutual support network.

Want to know more?

You can get more information about becoming a foster carer by calling

0800 389 8740



John Fashanu with one of the stars of the new fostering artwork, Dominic Taylor-Bartram

East London man prosecuted for flytipping in Barnet

Barnet Council's drive to keep the borough clean and green has received a boost with the prosecution of another flytipper.

Terence Mackman of Highams Park London E4 was given a six month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £300 costs at Hendon Magistrates Court for breaching the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Mr Mackman was prosecuted for dumping bags of rubbish in Luther Close in Edgware in July last year. Mackman was traced after officers from the council's Environmental and

Neighbourhood service found documents in the rubbish relating to an address in the same road. The resident had asked Mackman to dispose of the bags in a council skip in a nearby street but instead he just dumped the rubbish in Luther Close.

Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr Brian Coleman said: "I hope this case serves as a warning to anyone who thinks they can abuse Barnet's streets by dumping their rubbish. They can be sure that if we hear about it we will track them down and prosecute."

Council fraudster jailed

An ex-payroll officer from Barnet Council has been jailed for eighteen months for fraud.

Julie Swain stole over £210,000 from the council by staging an elaborate scheme of deception. She was caught after anti-fraud investigation officers from the council launched an undercover operation - code named Operation Eagle - in conjunction with local police officers last October.

Swain pleaded guilty to twenty counts of False Accounting, with a further 126 to be taken into consideration. All the offences occurred between August 2000 and October 2002, when she was dismissed from her job as a Payroll Officer. She was sentenced at Harrow Crown Court to three years on each count, which are to

be served concurrently.

Now Barnet Council is appealing directly to the Secretary of State to re-direct her council pension fund back to them, so that some of the money can be recouped.

Councillor Mike Freer, Cabinet Member for Value and Effectiveness said: "Thanks to new monitoring procedures introduced by the council, this problem was highlighted efficiently and effectively. We will continue to actively pursue any misappropriation of funds, fraud or deception using our own anti-fraud investigation team and working closely with the police and taking action to ensure that this does not happen again."

Barnet celebrates three in a row

Barnet Council is celebrating after receiving Beacon status for its work with different cultures and communities within the borough. The award for 'Community Cohesion' is the third Beacon title to be won by the council, and recognises the work undertaken to tackle social and racist issues within the borough.

Work with young people was also singled out – and in particular the handling of events around the terrorist attacks on September 11th. Annual events such as Holocaust Memorial Day and Black History Month also helped scoop the award, along with specific facilities offered by the council to different communities such as the Chinese book collection within Barnet libraries.

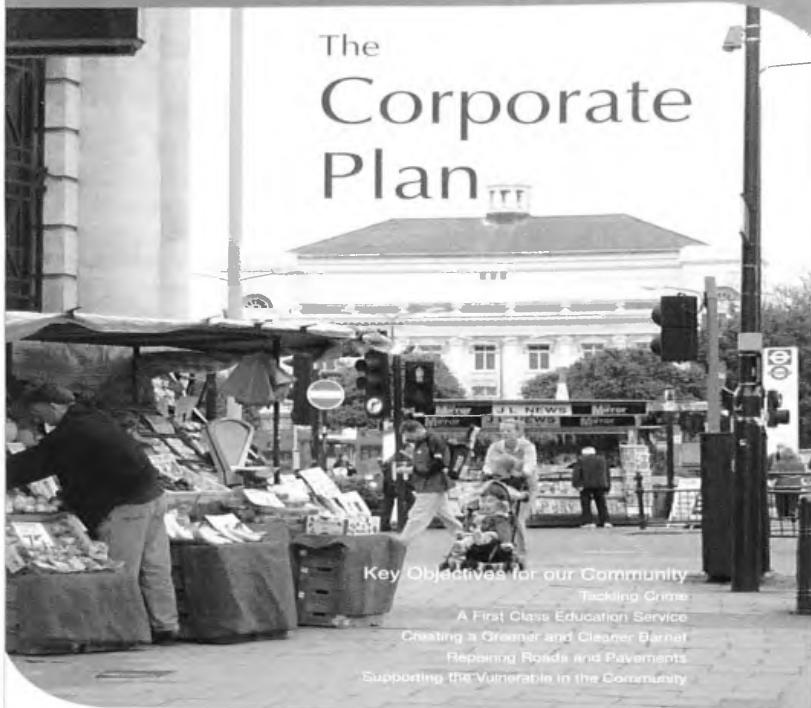
Work carried out within the council also contributed to the award – and this included speciality training for Housing Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens, a telephone interpretation service, and work with organisations such as Brent Cross Shopping Centre to improve community cohesion. Earlier this year, the council also launched the Barnet Equality Policy which provides guidance on issues concerning equality within the local community.

The Beacon Awards is a government initiative that recognises councils that have performed exceptionally well in certain areas. Barnet Council already has two Beacon Awards for 'Improving Urban Green Spaces' and 'Libraries As A Community Resource'.

Putting the Community First

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

The Corporate Plan



Launch of Barnet's Corporate Plan

Barnet Council has published its new Corporate Plan which is the council's blueprint for improving its service performance over the next five years.

Called "Putting the Customer First" the plan sets down all of Barnet's strategic, high-level objectives from 2003 to 2007, with the overall aim of improving the council's services, building its capacity and modernising systems and processes.

The plan sets out in detail what the council needs to do to improve services for local people. These actions are structured around Barnet's five key priorities:

- ▶ **A first class education service**
- ▶ **Tackling crime**
- ▶ **Supporting the vulnerable**
- ▶ **A cleaner, greener Barnet**
- ▶ **Repairing roads and pavements**

Performance measures for every service are included within the new Corporate Plan and these will also be regularly monitored to ensure progress is being made.

The council will update the Corporate Plan every year, and publish a full progress report so that residents can monitor how the council is performing against its set targets.

The plan also sets out the internal changes the council will make to deliver improvement, including investing in its infrastructure, developing staff, modernising systems and improving accountability.

Some of the ways in which the council plans to improve services are outlined on the next page under each of our key priorities.

Want to know more?

To get hold of a copy of our new Corporate Plan telephone
020 8359 7022 or email
claire.johnston@barnet.gov.uk



A first class education

- ▶ Provide new and refurbished schools using PFI and other schemes
- ▶ Expand choice by reviewing and extending places for girls and pursuing our commitment to provide a single sex girls' school with the School Organisation Committee as part of the review of secondary provision
- ▶ Full use of the People's Network of ICT facilities through our libraries
- ▶ Increase the number of statemented pupils educated in local mainstream schools by 10%



Tackling crime

- ▶ Reduce street robbery by 2005
- ▶ Reduce the number of repeat victims of racially motivated crime by 2005
- ▶ Reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic violence by 2005
- ▶ Reduce re-offending rates of young people
- ▶ Implementing at least one new Closed Circuit TV scheme per year



Supporting the vulnerable in our community

- Reduce the number of properties not meeting the Decent Homes standard
- ▶ Regenerate priority estates such as Stonegrove, Dollis Valley, West Hendon and Grahame Park by March 2004
 - ▶ Reduce the number of children entering care
 - ▶ Maintain the number of delayed discharges of people from hospital to a care place
 - ▶ Increase the number of children in care living locally



A cleaner, greener Barnet

- ▶ Remove 90% of graffiti in town centres served by town keepers by the end of the next working day
- ▶ Increase percentage of waste recycled by 2008
- ▶ Increase satisfaction levels with street cleanliness
- ▶ Maintain removal of fly tips within half a day
- ▶ There will be no incursions on the green belt
- ▶ Aim for 56% of the public to use the boroughs green spaces



Repairing roads and pavements

- ▶ Increasing the percentage of principal roads which meet nationally defined standards
- ▶ Increase the percentage of classified roads which meet national standards
- ▶ Increase the percentage of non-classified local roads which meet national standards
- ▶ Repair reported dangerous potholes within 48 hours by May 2003

SANELINE

One in four people will experience some kind of mental health problem in the course of a year. Friends and family can also feel helpless and isolated. For support and information call **SANELINE** for Barnet. If your first language is not English, we can provide interpreters.

SANELINE is the national out of hours telephone helpline providing information and support for anyone affected by mental health problems, including families & carers. All calls are treated in absolute confidence and your details will not be shared; in fact you don't even have to tell us your name if you want to remain anonymous.

SANELINE is now supported by Barnet Council and Barnet PCT to provide a listening ear, reassurance during times of crisis, up to the minute information on treatment, and detailed information on services and support both locally and nationally.

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

Barnet **NHS**
Primary Care Trust

Open from 12noon until 2am daily

SANELINE

0845 767 8000

Help at the end of the line

SPORT

DRAMA

EVENTS

Fantastic!

New Community Facilities in Kenton

JFS at Jarvis, Kenton
Near Kingsbury Circus

NOW AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Open Day Sunday June 15th
for Clubs to view Facilities.

For details call David Lerner on
020 8206 3178 or email lerner@jfs.brent.sch.uk

Sports Halls
Dance Studio
Finnish Studio

Floodlit
All Weather Pitch
and Tennis Courts
Soccer Pitches

Theatre
Concert Hall
Training and
Conference
Facilities

Professional Hypnotherapist Centre

Established 30 years Registered

"I wish I had phoned you sooner..." spoken by so many grateful clients
PSYCHOLOGIST / HYPNOTHERAPIST (P.J. MILLINA H.P.H.C)
of Harley Street is now available in Cockfosters and East Barnet

CONFIDENCE
BLUSHING
OVERWEIGHT
SMOKING
STRESS
DEPRESSION
SEX PROBLEMS

PHOBIA
INSOMNIA
TENSION
INCREASE SELF ESTEEM
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
OVERCOME JEALOUSY

Also finest training to become
HYPNOTHERAPIST/PSYCHOLOGIST
(Diploma). Available Sunday mornings and Weekdays.

Free initial assessment

Tel: 0208441 9685

www.hypnotherapyuk.f9.co.uk

Barnet First Prize Draw



In the last issue of Barnet First we asked you to tell us what you liked and disliked about the magazine and what we could do to further improve it. Many readers sent back their questionnaires and were entered into our free draw for three prizes sponsored by Holmes Place Health Clubs.

What you like

With the exception of a few readers, the overwhelming majority of you rated Barnet First as either good or excellent. You told us that you liked the local news and information and coverage of events. You also said that you liked the clear format and that you found the 'want to know more boxes' really useful. You also liked the snappy easy to read stories. Overall, you said that Barnet First was a good read and the 'What's on' page was a real hit with readers:

"Keep up the good work – we like the 'what's on' and are going to Hendon Museum today because we read about it in Barnet First".

What you dislike

When we asked what you disliked about Barnet First, many readers highlighted distribution as an

issue saying they had not seen the previous issues. We are currently looking at how we can improve distribution of future issues of Barnet First to ensure that it gets delivered to every single household in the borough.

How to improve Barnet First

We asked for your ideas to improve Barnet First and your suggestions included having more competitions, puzzles and crosswords, more features with local and young people, a letters page, improved distribution and more adverts in the magazine. We will take on board your suggestions through future editions.

All of our readers who sent back a questionnaire were entered into our prize draw and the winners are **Georgina Malcolm** of Hampstead Garden Suburb, **Rob Barham** from Finchley and **Natalie Kennard** of Whetstone.

Congratulations to all of our prize draw winners who will each receive three months Holmes Place membership, six results based training sessions and a Holmes Place Health Club goody bag.

Cophall Pools to get major facelift

Work is underway on a £650,000 facelift for Cophall Pools in Hendon that will provide residents with leisure facilities fit for the 21st century.

The revamp is the first in a series of improvements planned for the borough's leisure centres since Barnet Council announced it was entering a 15-year partnership with award winning company Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL).

GLL took over the management of all council-operated leisure centres in January and will pump around £6.5 million into modernising all six facilities. Most of this investment will take place in the first three years of the partnership.

Once the work has been completed in July, Cophall will boast one of the best gym facilities in the area with a brand new 'Wellness Health and Fitness Centre' made up of over 100 pieces of state-of-the-art gym equipment.

This impressive new development will also include a reception area and relaxation lounge, a juice bar, fully sprung dance studio, three consultation rooms, modern changing rooms, crèche facilities, a cardio theatre and air conditioning throughout.



Some of the state-of-the-art gym equipment Cophall customers can look forward to using

Focus on Fairway Early Years Centre

Fairway Early Years Centre in Mill Hill is taking childcare into the 21st century.

Far more than just a nursery, Fairway not only offers support, care and education for children under the age of five but also provides their parents with the opportunity to learn while their youngsters are being looked after.

Run in conjunction with Barnet College and the Fairway School, courses available include English as a second language, first aid and health and beauty.

The centre also offers parenting skills classes, support groups for families in need and provides a 'contact venue' for parents with children in care.

New services due to be added this summer include a childminding network able to put parents in touch with registered childminders and an early years advisory teacher who will provide support to pre-schools from a base at Fairway.

Centre manager Maureen King said: "This is an exciting time to be working in the Early Years sector. Government funding administered through Barnet Early Years Partnership, and funding available through the voluntary sector has allowed us to increase the range of services we offer parents and adapt our building to include these initiatives. We try to work in partnership with the families who use the centre and other professionals to make sure we provide the services that they need."

Want to know more?

020 8959 5776



Fun is had by all at Fairway Early Years Centre

Council pledges to restore first class youth service

Barnet Council has acted quickly to drive forward improvements in its bid to create a first class Youth Service.

The service is responsible for managing the borough's youth centres, detached youth work team and education initiatives such as the Oasis project which caters for year 11 pupils 'at risk' of academic underachievement.

An action plan to take the youth service forward has been put in place following an inspection by Government watchdog OFSTED which made a number of recommendations to improve the service.

During their visit inspectors praised the achievements of youngsters taking part in specialist drama, dance, music and football projects run by the Youth Service. They also acknowledged that the council now has the right team to take the service forward and that major steps are already being taken to meet the diverse needs of all

Barnet's young people.

These include getting more youngsters to use the services on offer, particularly those from minority ethnic groups and those with disabilities, making Barnet's youth centres more appealing and accessible for young people and consulting them to see what they want from the Youth Service.

New projects already in place include the Princes Trust Volunteers programme and a partnership with the local Connexions Service.

Links are also being strengthened with local secondary schools, the community safety unit and housing and social services to ensure those young people in the greatest need have access to a broad range of support services.

In addition the appointment of four new detached youth workers and a full time youth worker for Grahame Park will enable the service to further develop its work with young people across the borough.

School children sing up for Barnet

Around 1,500 children from 50 schools sang their hearts out at the third annual Barnet Primary Schools' Music Festival.

Staged in the Simpson Hall at Hendon's Peel Centre, the children sang to an audience of parents and invited dignitaries over four nights.

The theme for this year's festival was 'One World', reflecting the multi-cultural nature of the borough's schools. Songs included numbers sung in Arabic and Hebrew, while African drummers, orchestras and a jazz band all added to the cosmopolitan mix.

The performances at the end of March were the result of three months hard work and rehearsals, with each school performing their own musical item as well as singing as a massed choir.



Children from schools across the borough performed at Barnet primary schools' music festival

Get out to Play!

Friary Park is getting ready to be transformed into a magical, interactive playground that's sure to thrill the young and young at heart.

The park in Friern Barnet is the venue for the Play! Children's Arts Festival on Sunday, July 13th. The extravaganza, organised by Barnet Council's Arts Service and artsdepot, celebrates all aspects of children's play and will feature just about every art form imaginable.

There will be story telling inside a giant willow spider, the chance to explore the insides of a giant whale, secret trails to explore and a main stage hosting the best in theatre, fashion, music and dance.

The star attraction will be 'Colourscape' - a giant interactive structure that will be at the park on both Saturday (entry £1 children, £2 adults) and Sunday (entry £2 children and £4 adults). This podlike creation is a magical world of radiant colours and light where musicians and story tellers lead adventurers of all ages through a labyrinth of multicoloured chambers.

With the exception of Colourscape, entry to the Play! Festival is absolutely free. There will also be the chance to meet and learn from artists in a series of roadshows that will be staged during the weeks leading up to the main event.

Pupils in business

Pupils from Mill Hill County High School have joined forces with leading sports and leisurewear manufacturer Pentland.

The Finchley based company which designs and manufactures well known brands such as Speedo, Kickers and Red or Dead, guided students through a 'real life' design brief as part of their Design and Technology GCSE.

With the help of Pentland's marketing and creative departments students were invited to come up with design ideas for a new logo to be used by the Barnet Education Business Partnership

(EBP) which organised the project.

Students unveiled their final designs to Barnet EBP in a special presentation at Pentlands, with the winner getting a £50 voucher to spend in the firm's shop.

Barnet EBP is a charitable trust part funded by the council and works in partnership with local businesses to deliver education business activities to schools and colleges.

Members of the local business community interested in volunteering to work with the EBP can call

020 8349 2793

Want to know more?

Call the Arts Service on 020 8359 3126 or log onto www.artsdepot.co.uk

Graffiti blitz on West Hendon estate

Council contractors recently descended on the West Hendon estate to remove large areas of graffiti. They were followed by teams of caretakers who applied an anti graffiti coating to the internal communal walls. A deep cleaning exercise by council staff completed the job. The estate had been suffering from a number of incidents including a serious fire and other acts of vandalism.

Councillor Brian Salinger, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "There are exciting plans in the pipeline for the regeneration of the West Hendon estate. But until the redevelopment gets underway, residents have a right to live in clean and pleasant surroundings.

"We are determined to ensure that high standards are maintained and that, with the help of our tenants, anti-social behaviour on all our estates is firmly dealt with."



Council steps up war on graffiti

Council steps up war on graffiti

The council has already unveiled its state-of-the-art CCTV control centre to tackle graffiti and other criminal behaviour. Barnet has also announced its plans to extend the council's network of crime-busting surveillance cameras to seven more town centres.

Now the council's pledge to crack down on graffiti has taken its next major step forward with the introduction of wide-ranging measures to rub out this stain on our environment.

It means for the first time that reported graffiti will be cleared free of charge from buildings facing main roads such as the A1000 within 48 hours. The council will also remove graffiti free from properties facing the main street in town keeper zones and all racist and offensive graffiti within one day of it being reported.

The crack down will see the creation of another fast reaction, in-house graffiti removal team bringing to three the total number of specialist crews.

Other measures in the graffiti-busting campaign include:

- ▶ Investment in a pilot programme to treat council street furniture with anti-graffiti paint in Edgware and North Finchley town centres.
- ▶ The appointment of a co-ordinator to work with the police and public on graffiti prevention and the development of a special anti-graffiti pack to help communities and businesses.

- ▶ Encouraging more traders to sign up to the voluntary code of conduct enabling them to ban the sale of aerosol spray cans and large marker pens to under-18s, making it harder for graffiti vandals to get their hands on these materials.
- ▶ Developing an education programme for schools which raises children's awareness of the cost to the environment of graffiti vandalism.

These sweeping measures follow another successful prosecution of a graffiti vandal who was brought to justice in March thanks to the pioneering intelligence-led approach used by Barnet Council and the local police.

Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr Brian Coleman said: "These new measures are the next major stage in our efforts to rid the borough of graffiti and will complement our new CCTV technology which is already successfully targeting vandalism and street crime. Residents and businesses should not have to put up with the blight of graffiti and our action will ensure the problem is quickly dealt with so that we can all enjoy a cleaner, greener environment."

Want to know more?

Call Tom Morrissey on

020 8359 7495

New CCTV in East Barnet and Hampden Square

Two new CCTV schemes have been launched in the borough as part of Barnet Council's crackdown on crime and anti-social behaviour.

Deputy Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority Richard Barnes was joined by Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr Brian Coleman and ward members for the official unveiling of the crime-busting surveillance cameras in East Barnet town centre and Hampden Square in Brunswick Park.

The seven-camera East Barnet scheme will monitor all parts of the town centre, including the shopping areas, car park and footpath linking both. The two extra crime-fighting cameras in Hampden Square will be able to keep a watch on all shop fronts.

A fibre optic link will channel images from both schemes to

Barnet Council's new 24-hour CCTV control room where operators can use the high-tech equipment to zoom in on the activities of vandals and criminals.

Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr Brian



Richard Barnes, Deputy Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority (Left) and Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Brian Coleman (Second right) join local traders and councillors for the launch of CCTV in East Barnet

Coleman said: "Everyone living, working or visiting these shopping areas has a right to go about their business free from crime and the fear of crime. The introduction of the two new CCTV schemes will significantly improve security by helping to drive out any criminal and nuisance behaviour that blights these communities. They are the next phase in our CCTV coverage in the borough and underline once again our commitment to tackling crime and making our streets safer."

CCTV is an important tool in detecting and deterring crime, and is very effective in combating and

reducing enviro-crime such as graffiti.

The introduction of the East Barnet and Hampden Square schemes follows the recent announcement of extra surveillance cameras along the A5 and the council's plans to extend its network of static CCTV cameras to cover seven more town centres.



East Barnet
CCTV zone



Want to know more?

Call Tom Morrissey on

020 8359 7495

You told us what you think

We are always very keen to know what residents think of us – in fact since 1995 the council has been conducting annual surveys to see what residents think about the services the council provides.

The results of the 2002/3 Residents Attitude Survey have just been compiled and over the next few months we'll be looking at them to see what we can do to improve life for everyone living in the borough.

When asked about the services that the council provides, Barnet residents gave the following comments:

- ▶ **Education** – The majority of people were extremely satisfied with the education service and 53% said that secondary education in the borough was between good and excellent. Barnet libraries and adult education services got the thumbs up – over 70% of residents rated the services highly.
- ▶ **Environment** – Most residents thought that the council's recycling and refuse service was very good, and just over half thought that parks and

open spaces were excellent – that's 10% more than last year.

- ▶ **Roads** – only 32% of residents rated the roads and pavements in their area highly.
- ▶ **Other Services** – around half of residents were satisfied with social services, council housing and benefit services.

As a result of all the answers you provided us with, we'll now be looking to see what we can do to improve our services even further – and make Barnet an even better place to live in the future.

Here's looking at you

More information about the 2001 Census has just come in – and it makes for some very interesting reading. This new data provides us with detailed information about the borough's population and their living and working conditions. Here are the latest facts and figures to be released:

- ▶ There are 314,564 residents in Barnet – which makes it the second biggest borough in London. The borough has the highest Chinese population in London and the largest percentage of Jewish residents in England and Wales.
- ▶ The majority of Barnet residents live in semi-detached

accommodation and just over 13,000 residents live in council accommodation.

- ▶ 68% of Barnet residents are in employment with just over 10% of people working from home. According to the new figures, six residents put 'fishing' down as their occupation.
- ▶ A staggering 59,224 of residents drive to work compared to 33,433 travelling on the underground. Just over four thousand people walk to work, with nearly 1,500 cycling to their employment.
- ▶ The number of children in the borough has changed little over the past four years. Barnet

has 63,756 children under the age of 16 and there are 7,850 single parent households in the borough.

- ▶ On the whole we're a healthy bunch – around three-quarters of residents said their health was good – but 7.3% described their health as poor. There are nearly 2,500 residents aged 90 years and over – and three quarters of those are women.

Want to know more?

*You can find out more information on the Census on the Barnet Council website: www.barnet.gov.uk or www.statistics.gov.uk

Dell Field Opens

The first of Barnet's new generation of care homes has been completed at Dell Field Court, Finchley, and residents are already moving in.

Barnet Community Homes and the Fremantle Trust was established when the council transferred ownership of eleven



Councillor Maureen Braun (right), Cabinet Member for Social Care, and resident Marjorie Dowling who has been closely involved in developing the new care home programme

homes to the Ealing Family Housing Association.

Their brief is to replace outdated care homes with five new up to date homes and four modern day care centres in a six year, £27 million programme.

Dell Field Court is a stylish modern building built on three floors, imaginatively designed for 40 residents. It has ensuite toilets and showers, spacious lounges and dining rooms and also boasts a laundry, kitchen and hairdressers.

Councillor Maureen Braun, Cabinet Member for Social Care, said: "I believe passionately in providing the very best care for our older residents and this excellent partnership will ensure that 400 of our most vulnerable residents can look forward to a secure future in quality surroundings."

Give a child a break

Barnet Council is currently looking for local people who want to make a difference to disabled children within the borough.

The Barnet Link scheme, which provides short breaks for disabled youngsters, is hoping to recruit people of all ages and backgrounds to become carers. For just a few hours a week, carers provide children with the opportunity to have fun and make new friends, whilst allowing families to enjoy a well-earned break from full time caring.

Short term carers take part in

everyday activities with the children, such as playing games, swimming and visiting parks. Existing carers are made up of people of a variety of ages from many different backgrounds. A number of them don't have children of their own, but enjoy being able to share their free time providing care for a disabled youngster.

Want to know more?

Contact Barnet Link

020 8359 4249

Town Keeper service praised



Town Keeper Eric Ndayaye (second from left) meets Whetstone Farmers' Market traders

Barnet's innovative town keeper service has been singled out in a Government White Paper as a positive example of how a council can combat urban eyesores like graffiti, litter and fly posting.

This recognition coincided with the launch in March of a new town keeper scheme in Whetstone. Currently working in ten town centres, the council is rolling out the service into five more shopping areas this financial year.

Town keepers carry out early morning patrols to clear any litter or graffiti that has appeared over night.

The White Paper, called "Respect and Responsibility – taking a stand against anti-social behaviour" praises Barnet for the way town keepers work closely with the police, and for leading the way in getting local traders to make sure graffiti is removed from window shutters.

New parking zones

With the backing of residents, Barnet Council is introducing three new Controlled Parking Zones.

A CPZ comes into operation in North Finchley on May 27 while new schemes will be launched in Church End town centre and around Brent Cross tube station in the summer.

Parking problems in all three areas have increased in recent years.

The new zones will prioritise parking for local residents and businesses and provide suitable short-term parking for shoppers. They will also curb traffic congestion caused by illegal and inconsiderate parking.

The Church End CPZ, which covers roads around Finchley Central tube station and the Brent Cross scheme are particularly aimed at easing the problems created by commuter parking.

All three schemes are being introduced on an experimental basis. A full review of their impact will be carried out within 18 months.

Want to know more?

Church End CPZ -

Call Gavin Woolery-Allen on 020 8359 4331

North Finchley CPZ -

Call Mick Owens on 020 8359 4356

Brent Cross CPZ - Call Daniel Coughlan on 020 8359 4330

Check out the choice for children in Barnet

A new guide to services available for children and their families in the borough has been launched by Barnet Council's award winning Children's Information team.

The free, comprehensive booklet called 'Choices for Children' published by the Children's Information Service (CIS) replaces the 'Under Fives Booklet', which was previously available from libraries at a cost of £1.

The new, improved directory is not only free, but contains more information than ever before and now caters for a wider age group - 0-14 years.

Families, carers and professionals will be able to instantly access information on a huge range of subjects.



The 'Choices For Children' directory is available from libraries, Barnet Council Action Points, health clinics and health visitors. You can also call Barnet Children's Information Service for a copy free on 0800 389 8312 or visit the CIS web site at www.barnet.gov.uk/cis

£1 million for Silk Stream flood defences

Barnet Council has confirmed that it will be contributing over £1m to the Silk Stream flood alleviation scheme after the Government announced that construction is due to start next summer.

The scheme will protect hundreds of homes in Edgware, Colindale and Burnt Oak from future flooding.

The project includes seven flood storage areas and localised flood defences along Silk Stream and its tributaries.

Barnet Council, which has

already given planning permission for the project, has been calling on the Environment Agency to move ahead with the scheme as quickly as possible. The Government says the negotiations between the agency and landowners, which have been delaying the project, are now close to completion.

Want to know more?

Call Andrew Cunningham on

020 8359 4481

Trading Standards visit Hungary

Art from Chaville

Noemi Kupfer from the borough's twin town of Chaville, a suburb of Paris, shows off her sculpture 'Chant des Possibles' which won first prize in a competition for young artists sponsored by Barnet's Cultural Services.

The figurine, carved in wood, is one of four pieces purchased from the winning artists. They will go on permanent public display in council buildings. Chaville is planning to sponsor a similar competition for young Barnet artists later in the year.



A request by the Department of Trade and Industry to Barnet's Trading Standards team led to the speedy dispatch of one of their experts to take part in a project to help prepare Hungary for its imminent entry into the European Union.

Steve Leighton, who specialises in product safety, was sent to Budapest and three other centres to assist in training customs officers to learn how to recognise and stop dangerous imports crossing their borders.

The move was an attempt to prevent Hungary becoming a gateway which could allow unsafe goods to flood the UK and

the rest of Europe. A whole raft of EU regulations will apply to new states joining the union and systems must be put in place to ensure these are enforced.

Steve gave lectures which included tips on how to screen electrical and gas products, machinery, toys and other goods as well as sharing his experience in market surveillance techniques.

These will now be included in a publication which the Hungarian authorities will use as a guide for their own officers in what they intend will be, with a little help from their friends, as effective and professional a service as any in Europe.

It's the sign of the times

Earlier this year Barnet Council launched its new look street signs – and ever since then they've become a familiar sight across the borough! These new signs incorporate the Barnet crest along with the blue surround adopted as part of the council's corporate identity last year. This new style will improve the image of Barnet's roads and give the borough a unique identity that will differentiate it from surrounding areas.

You'll see the new signs popping up across Barnet wherever an existing sign needs replacing, or a new development is taking place.



Barnet gets into shape

Getting motivated to exercise can be difficult but Barnet Council's Health and Sports Development Team is on hand to give you a kick-start to a healthier lifestyle.

The team runs a range of programmes aimed at encouraging people to improve their health by giving them the opportunity to take part in sport and physical activity.

Fitness for Life

The Fitness for Life initiative, run in partnership with Barnet Primary Care Trust, offers residents health assessments and supervised exercise sessions under the watchful eye of professional instructors.

Activities include GP referral classes for people advised to exercise by their doctor on health grounds and cardiac rehabilitation sessions for people who have suffered heart problems.

For people looking to become more active and meet new people there are instructor led fitness walks suitable for people of all ages and abilities.



A soccer tournament organised by Barnet's Health and Sports Development Team

Sports and Physical Activity Development

The Sports and Physical Activity Development scheme runs a wide range of programmes aimed at developing sport in the local community.

Recent events have included a girls' football tournament at Whitefield School in Cricklewood and trials to pick a Barnet team for the Flora London Mini Marathon.

Upcoming activities include free football coaching sessions, free exercise classes for the elderly on Grahame Park, street dance classes, boxing classes and trials for the London Heathrow Youth Games which feature basketball, athletics and hockey amongst many other sports.

The scheme also offers sports and activity sessions, training in

sports coaching and advice on how to access funding for community groups, schools, clubs and individuals.

Walk for Life

The Walk for Life programme encourages people to volunteer as 'Walk Leaders' to supervise guided health walks in their own communities.

Walking regularly results in reduced risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes, osteoporosis, some forms of cancer and helps weight loss.

Want to know more?

Fitness for Life 020 8202 6458
The Sports and Physical Activity
Development Team 020 8202 6830
To Volunteer or get information on
volunteer led walks 020 8202 6057

Say hello – wave goodbye

On May 14th we said goodbye to Mayor of Barnet Councillor Joan Scannell, and hello to the new Mayor, Councillor Melvin Cohen.

The past year has been quite an experience for Councillor Scannell – and one that she'll never forget. In the last twelve months she has attended hundreds of engagements, raised thousands of pounds for charity, visited various countries, opened buildings, chaired meetings and corresponded with people across the world. But the highlight of the year of course had to be the Queen's visit to Barnet. Thousands of people flocked to Cophall Stadium to see the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh during a whistle stop tour of the UK. As the first citizen of Barnet, it was the Mayor's job to look after the royal visitors and make sure that the day was a success.

The Mayor has also worked tirelessly to raise funds for the Mayor's Charity Appeal and, as a result, dozens of people in the

borough who suffer from diabetes and cancer will benefit.

As she stands down, Councillor Melvin Cohen takes on the position for the year, with



The new Mayor of Barnet Cllr Melvin Cohen

Councillor Maureen Braun as his escort. For more information on the Mayor of Barnet and the Mayor-making ceremony, see the Mayor's website at www.barnet.gov.uk/mayor

Medals for New Year's Winners

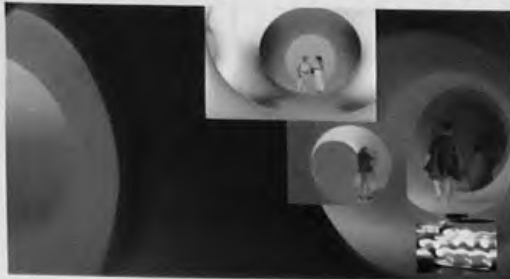
Plucky residents who braved the wind and rain on New Year's Day to take part in the Lord Mayor's Parade, have been rewarded for their efforts.



Winners and grinders! Local parade participants show off their medals

Representatives from local Rotary Clubs, Scout Groups and youth organisations were awarded medals from the Lord Mayor of London to thank them for their hard work on the day. Dozens of people from Barnet entered on floats and foot to raise money for the Mayor of Barnet's Charity Appeal. At a special reception at Hendon Town Hall, all the local participants were given silver medals from the Mayor of Barnet to thank them for the hundreds of pounds they raised on the day.

what's on



Play! Children's Arts Festival - a series of events for children and families. For details see page 13

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

Send us details and we'll publicise it on this page (space permitting) and we'll also put it on our website at www.barnet.gov.uk. So, if you're holding an event at your local pub, youth club, sports centre or wherever send the details (including a contact telephone number) to **Susan Segar, Barnet First Magazine, Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG. You can also fax details to 020 8359 2677 or email to susan.segar@barnet.gov.uk**

Until 15 June, 'Weird and Wonderful Contraptions' exhibition
12 July-7 Sept., exhibition of 19th and 20th Century Artists' Views of Barnet borough taken from Barnet Council's Archives
Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Open Mon-Thurs 10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm and 2-5.30pm; Sun 2-5.30pm. Closed Fri. Free admission.

Girls Football.
Hendon FC training sessions by FA qualified female coaches for ages 8+ Tuesdays 6.30-7.30pm
Edson Sports Centre, Pavilion Way, Edgware. £2 per session. Phone Lou Panteli on 07941 396964 or email: HendonWFC@aol.com

25 May, 2-4.30pm. Finchley Arts Centre Trust Open Day at The Bothy Gardens (in the grounds of Avenue House).
Entrance in East End Road, N3 (opp Holmwood Gardens). Also open air concerts and plays in the walled

garden. **15 June 'Ali Baba & The Forty Thieves'**, **22 June, Phoenix Concert Band, 29 June, traditional jazz, 6 July 'In the Good Old Summertime'**, **13 July 'The Merchant of Venice'**, **27 July 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'** Box Office 020 8455 4640

26-30 May. Half Term SOS. All ages can get involved in realistic air-sea rescue missions. Also equipment displays, Sea King and Griffin helicopter landings (subject to availability) and a mobile interactive exhibition on composite materials (26-31 May)

RAF Museum, Grahame Park Way, Hendon, NW9. For more details phone 020 8358 4849 or see website www.rafmuseum.org Free admission and parking.

Complementary Therapy Talks
29 May, Native Plant Medicine, 24 June, Shamanism - Native American beliefs, 31 July, Face Reading & Graphology £5 each talk incl light refreshments
Greenhill New Church, 177

Leicester Road, New Barnet. For details phone 020 8361 6255.

31 May-7 June. Mill Hill Music Festival.
See website www.millhillmusicfest.co.uk for details of the 25 different musical events/booking form
Tickets also from Nomad Travel, 8 / The Broadway, NW7. For more information phone 020 8959 5013.

13-22 June. The Proms at St Jude's, Central Square, NW11.
Music ranges from classical to jazz and gospel, played by internationally known artists and cream of the younger generation
Bookings/enquiries 020 8458 4166 or see website www.stjudes.org.uk

21 & 22 June. 12noon-6pm. East Finchley Community Festival.
Sat. (Strawberry Vale) football competition, arts workshops, preparing for festival parade, Sun (Cherry Tree Woods) fancy dress parade, live music, stalls, beer tent, food, fun and games for kids and more
For information phone 020 8883 4916 or see website www.eastfinchley.co.uk

24-26 June. 1.30-3.30pm. Midsummer Fayre & Entertainment.
Stationery, plants, tombola, raffle, white elephant stall, crafts, jewellery, refreshments and more. Free admission
Springwood Day Centre, Springwood Crescent, Edgware. Tel. 020 8958 8123/4.

29 June. Cricklewood Community Festival, Clitterhouse Playing Fields, NW2.
Fun for all ages with a massive funfair, Chinese line dancing, African dancing, self defence, flash musicals, five-a-side football tournament, stalls, the unbelievable Michael Jackson impression and much more.
For more information phone 020 8438 9771.

4 & 5 July, 9-12 July. Hampstead Garden Theatre present 'Roaring

Girl', Littlewood Open Air Theatre, Hampstead Garden Suburb.
Evening performances 7.30pm plus matinees Sats. 5th & 12th, 3pm
Tickets (not advance booking) £7 adults, £5.50 children/conc. More details phone 020 8908 2548.

5 July. Regenerate! West Hendon Community Festival, York Park, Marsh Drive, NW9.
Celebrating forthcoming regeneration of West Hendon. Music stage, children's arts activities/workshops, stalls, boat rides and more
For information phone 020 8976 1171.

5 & 6 July, East Barnet Community Festival, Oak Hill Park, EN4.
Theme 'Glory Days', music and dance of the 50s, 60s and 70s Women's and Girls' Football Tournament (Sat. 5th, for details phone 020 8359 6536)
Many craft, charity and business stalls. Arena events
For information phone 07071 781745 or see website www.eastbarnetfestival.org

11-13 July. Grahame Park Festival
Community Centre, The Concourse, NW9 Community festival with stalls Sat. morning (12th)
For details phone 020 8205 9865.

16-20 July. Pentland Finchley Carnival, Victoria Park, Ballards Lane, N3 Fri. 18th Senior Citizens' Hospitality Day, Sat. 19th Procession from Avenue House in East End Road, arena entertainments, charity and craft stalls, dog show, Sun. 20th Family Day, baby show.
For more information phone 020 8349 9691.

Edinburgh Previews: 18 July 8pm, After their last year's award winning Edinburgh hit, Peepolykus with their new show 'Mental', **19 July 8pm,** comedy acts Jessica McCloud & Laura Black then Rhys Darby with his new show 'A Man of Our Times', **26 July 8pm,** sisters Lauretta and Sharon Gavin, aka Gavin and Gavin then Alex Horne with his new show 'Making Fish Laugh'.
Tickets £6. The Bull, 68 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SJ. Box Office 020 8449 0048. Visit website www.thebull.org.uk for details of theatre, dance, music, comedy, community and children's events at The Bull.



Opened in 1910, the Phoenix with its Edwardian and Art Deco features is believed to be the oldest purpose-built, continuously serving cinema in the UK.



We offer

- || the latest independent, foreign and specialist releases
- || Rep of classics and recent popular films
- || Saturday morning FREDDIES kids club with activity and film
- || Early Bird Matinees on Wednesdays: early screenings for those on the school run
- || Bringing Up Babies: monthly on a Tuesday for parents with babes in arms
- || Film Club evening class with the Bull Arts Centre
- || Film courses for children and young people with Finchley Youth Theatre

Contact us on 8444 6789 (4pm-9pm) or at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

For weekly updates by email contact us at friends@phoenixcinema.co.uk



"A wonderful building, lovely staff and the best cake in any cinema I've ever been to."

Voted 6th best cinema in London, Time Out Poll April 2001

"The best independent cinema anywhere."

Voted 9th best independent cinema in the UK, Guardian Poll 2001/02

Full disabled access. Advanced Bookings. Coffeebar.

The Phoenix Cinema is run by the Phoenix Cinema Trust (reg. Charity 296 135)