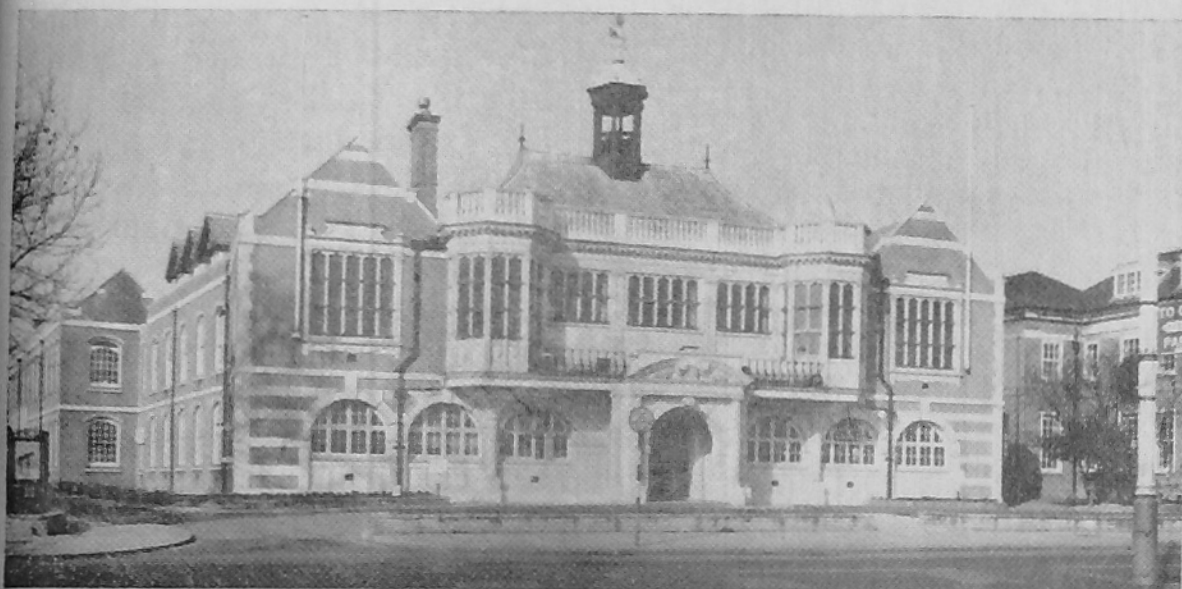




SPECIAL ISSUE  
MARCH 1965

# HENDON CIVIC NEWS

## *Hendon Town Hall*



Although prior to 1876 parish meetings were at one time held in the Greyhound Inn, there have been Council Offices in The Burroughs, Hendon, for many years, and the residents have become accustomed to making all their enquiries at Hendon Town Hall, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1900, when Hendon was an Urban District. The photograph above shows the now familiar Town Hall.

With a population of only twenty-two thousand in 1900 the Town Hall, when erected was adequate at the time to house all the departments. With increasing population and record of community service, Hendon became a Borough by Charter of Incorporation in 1932, and it was necessary in 1934 to extend the Town Hall. In 1960 further extensions were made.

From the 1st April, 1965, the London Borough of Barnet assumes its full responsibilities, and only the Departments of the Town Clerk and Borough Treasurer will remain in Hendon Town Hall. The remaining departments, some of which will be entirely new to residents will be housed in the council offices of the four local authorities who join with the Borough of Hendon to form the London Borough of Barnet.

## **For Information**

This special publication is the last issue of Hendon Civic News.

Commenced by the Council as one of the means of informing residents of the work and activities of the Council, the Hendon Civic News has endeavoured to fill the gaps in local government knowledge.

The Hendon Civic News has explained the work not only of the Council but has given details of the Members of the Council who have given voluntary service in the interest of the residents.

This publication commencing with a circulation of 10,000 copies has been in such great demand by residents and local groups, that the Council only recently increased the circulation to 15,000 copies and still requests for more copies have been received.

It is hoped that the Hendon Civic News has been of value to residents and proved of service in supplying information of Council activities and work.

## **THE ALDERMEN OF THE COUNCIL**



**ALDERMAN A. A. NAAR, M.B.E.**

*The "Father" of the Council*

Alderman Naar has resided in Hendon since 1915. He was elected to the Urban District Council of Hendon in 1924 and was only a member for seven years when he was elected Chairman in 1931, the youngest Chairman who had ever served the Council. He was deputy Charter Mayor 1932.

He has served on all Committees of the Council, and has been Chairman of Finance, Public Health and Libraries and Museum Committees, and during the war was Chairman of Civil Defence Committee in addition to being Mayor of the Borough from 1939 to 1941. He was Deputy Mayor in the following year.

It will be recalled that Alderman Naar celebrated his fortieth year of service with the Council last year, and this was noted by a ceremony at the Brent Bridge Hotel on Tuesday, 7th April, 1964.

He was made a Freeman of the Borough on 25th January, 1954, and is also a Freeman and Liveryman of the City of London.



## REMINISCENCES OF ALDERMAN L. C. CHAINEY

Looking back over the past 18 years in which most of my spare time has been spent on Hendon Borough Council business, it is difficult to pinpoint in a short article, more than a very few of the outstanding events with which I have been connected.

To have been selected for the Mayoralty was in itself a signal honour and my year of office was, for my wife and myself, one of the happiest in our lives. In all parts of the Borough we were welcomed with the utmost friendliness.

It was during that year that I discovered the enormous amount of charitable work undertaken by innumerable organisations, large and small, and I will never forget the generous response to my appeal on behalf of the Hungarian Refugees. Later, at the formal opening of the Spur Road Housing Estate I had the honour of being presented to the Queen Mother, who expressed her pleasure at the behaviour of the thousands of children who lined the route. At the wish of Her Majesty I was able to arrange (as Chairman of the Education Committee) for an extra day's holiday for the children, and this was called Queen Mother's Day.

It was with mixed feelings that I finally decided that it was time for me to retire from the Council and I do so with the satisfaction that the promise which I made at my first election, i.e. to work for the people of this Borough irrespective of race, creed or politics, to the utmost of my ability, has been carried out.

## REMINISCENCES OF ALDERMAN J. L. FREEDMAN, J.P., M.A., LL.B.

Now that the achievements of the Hendon Borough Council are about to pass into the annals of history, it is useful to look back on those achievements in the hope that the experience derived from them may be of value to the new London Borough of Barnet.

During the nineteen years in which it has been my privilege to serve as a member of the Council much progress has been made. I remember particularly, Mr. Cook, who was then the Headmaster of Edgware Secondary Modern School, and whose recent death we all deeply regret, asking me whether he would have my encouragement in schemes he had in mind for G.C.E. Courses for pupils in his School. I assured him that he would and what he did is now well known and has been emulated in the new schools at Whitefield and Moat Mount. I hope that all the Secondary Modern Schools in the London Borough of Barnet may be brought up to the same high standard.

I remember, too, the development of the Lawrence Street Estate, our first essay in the modern policy of "partnership in property" between Local Authorities and Private Enterprise. It looks as if there may be further such arrangements at Brent Street and on the North side of the North Circular Road.

I also remember the doubts expressed when the first multi-storey flats were erected at Edgware. How strange it is that things to which such strong objection is at first taken later become matters of course! Shall we have our multi-storey garages?

## REMINISCENCES OF ALDERMAN C. H. SHEILL, K.S.G.

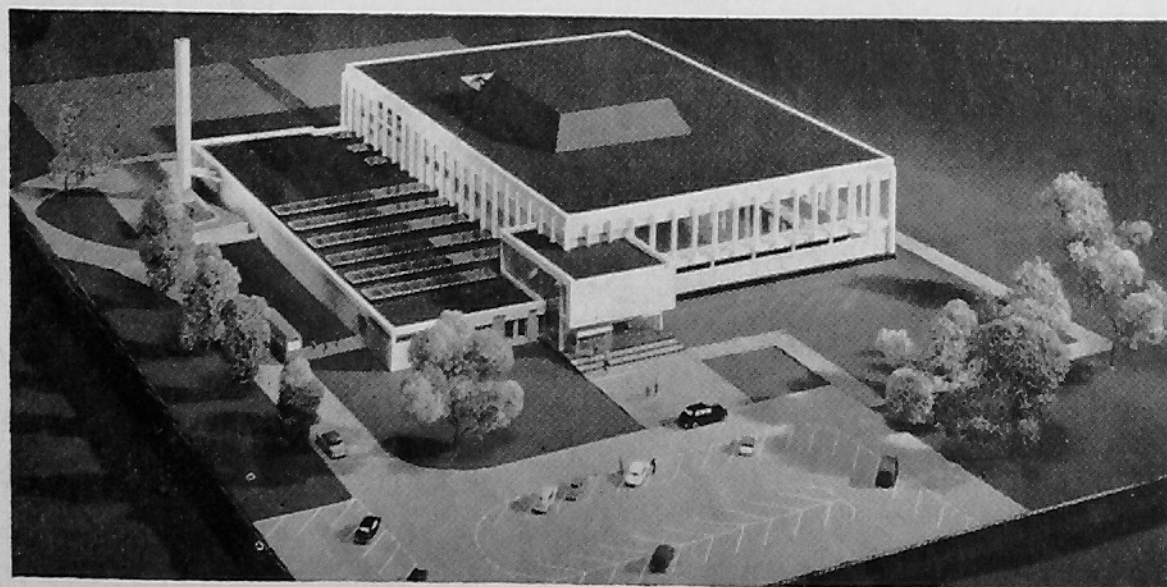
In writing of the past years, I am compelled to be brief by the space allotted to me and readers must forgive the staccato nature of these lines.

During the years I have served on the Hendon Council I have witnessed considerable progress in spite of the many restrictions. I instance the opening of the Edgware, Burnt Oak and Childs Hill libraries together with the establishment of the Record Library and the doubling of the Travelling Library; the building of the many housing estates including the multi-storey flat development; the opening of new schools (Fairway, Courtlands, Moat Mount, Edgware, St. David's and St. Mary's), the improvement to All Saints and the beginning of Orange Hill; the development of the Copthall Sports Centre with its fine running track; the unique construction of the garage at the Hendon Way Depot and the erection of the flatted factory, Endeavour House.

Two ventures, which to my regret failed, occupied much attention at the time but are now dim memories, viz. the Hendon Borough Show and the Arts Council. Possibly the new borough may have better luck in establishing what should be foci of interest for the burgesses.

Of personalities, three members (Aldermen Teare, Curton and Knowles), and three officers (Messrs. Worden, Knight and Walker) stand out as men of character and ability whose going was a loss to the Council. We have been fortunate in retaining the services of Alderman "Jimmy" Naar who has lived to see a dream come true in the formation of the new borough.

I shall retain a lasting memory of the good relations between members of all political parties who were united in endeavouring to run the Borough efficiently—without too much unnecessary verbiage. Let us hope the new Council will emulate Hendon in this respect. Also noteworthy has been happy co-operation between members and officers. In fact Hendon has often been mentioned with the greatest respect by members and officers of other authorities and its name will be long remembered.



*A future project—a design for the covered swimming pool to include squash courts and bowling green at Copthall Sports Centre.*



## REMINISCENCES OF ALDERMAN A. A. NAAR, M.B.E.

To attempt to recall any particular incident over a period of 40 years in public life is almost impossible—for nearly every one of those years contained something that was memorable.

For instance I had been a member of the old Urban District Council for only seven years, when I was elected to Chairman in 1931—the youngest they ever had. The highlight of that year was the great privilege I had as Hendon's Chief Citizen of receiving His Eminence, Cardinal Bourne, who came to Solemn High Mass at the twenty-first anniversary of the consecration of St. Edward's the Confessor Church, Golders Green.

Like all those great Church functions, the service was beautiful and awe-inspiring. After the service there was luncheon in the adjoining hall and I sat at the High Table at the right of the Cardinal, who told me he knew Hendon 25 years previously when it was all green fields. There were toasts to the Pope, the King and the guests. The port served at the High Table was of a superb vintage. Glancing over to a side table where some of my Councillors were sitting I noticed there was no port on their table, and being ever mindful of the welfare of my fellows, I whispered to Father Goggin (later Canon), who was sitting next to me, calling attention to this apparent omission. He whispered back in reply that it was the Cardinal's own private port wine and was reserved for such a highly privileged person as myself. I felt sorry for my colleagues—but it was a grand wine, and a most graceful gesture by a Great Prince of the Church.

Twelve noon, September 27th, 1940, Scotland Yard on the telephone to the Mayor, "King and Queen coming to Hendon 2 p.m. Please meet them at Willifield Way. Visit scheduled one hour." Thus ran the note in my Diary. Their Majesties, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, came that afternoon in the course of a tour of areas damaged by air raids. This was the period when London was going through the 56 nights of continuous blitz. Hendon had its share and the night of September 26th was a night to remember. Havoc was widespread, casualties numerous. Their Majesties arrived on time, and dispensing with formalities, proceeded to the damaged areas, spoke to the people and expressed their sympathy to the victims. It was whilst standing on the edge of a bomb crater that an air raid warning was sounded. The sound of gunfire was heard, shells were bursting overhead, and suddenly there was a "dog fight" in the sky. So thrilled were the crowd by the presence

## Presentation of Long Service Awards.



## LONG SERVICE

Long service has surely been a record with the Corporation of Hendon, not only in respect of employees, but with the voluntary service given by Members of the Council over such long periods.

In March, 1964, the then Mayor of Hendon (Councillor (Mrs.) Clara Thubrun, J.P., M.B.E.) presented long service awards to eighty-two employees of the Hendon Corporation. All had thirty or more years' service, and in certain instances combined family service of employees totalled over one

hundred years. The above photograph was taken during this pleasant ceremony, and also gives an indication of the Hendon Council Chamber, which has been adapted to accommodate the sixty-five members of the London Borough of Barnet.

The following month, in April, 1964, as a fitting tribute for forty years' voluntary service as a Member of the Council, a Dinner was arranged for Alderman Alfred A. Naar, M.B.E., at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon.

of the King and Queen and the "dog fight", that they took little notice of their own danger. In the end the police prevailed upon the crowd to take shelter and Their Majesties were driven to our Control Centre at the Technical College. This was a surprise visit, not on the itinerary.

What do you do when a nice King and a lovely Queen come suddenly into your room out of an air raid. When I suggested a nice cup of tea, Her Majesty thought it an excellent idea, observing that a cup of tea was always acceptable—but we had no cups, only mugs! We had biscuits but no plates, and so the Queen took the lid off the biscuit tin, turned it over, filled it with biscuits and handed them round, amid much laughter. About 4 p.m. the "all clear" went. The tour was resumed, to Colindale Station which was a shambles. Obviously distressed Their Majesties again expressed their sympathies. The tour scheduled one hour lasted three!

One day in 1940 a man walked into the Mayor's Parlour, and handed me a Post Office Savings Book, saying,

"Open it." I did so and inside, written in pencil on the back of an envelope, was this message,

"In the event of my death, all money now in the bank to go to the Mayor's Spitfire Fund."

It was signed by a Martha Strange. The man, who was Miss Strange's brother-in-law, explained that she and her relatives were killed when their house in Brent Street was destroyed in an air raid. Rescue workers found the bank book in a handbag which Miss Strange always carried. It showed she had left savings of £230 accumulated since her fiancé was killed in the Great War.

Martha had been a domestic servant, remaining true to the memory of her loved one, and whether she had a premonition that she would be killed in the second great war is anybody's guess. One sure thing is, my Spitfire Fund benefited by £230.

You see a Mayor meets all kinds of people, especially a war-time Mayor.

From the Highest to the Humblest a Mayor is the servant of all.



## THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING — ON 15th MARCH



### DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN HENDON

Domesday states that the Abbot of St. Peter's (Westminster Abbey) held Hendon and as Lord of the Manor the Abbot would have administered local government acting through his steward. The Manorial Courts at which the Steward presides and for which the local residents elected a jury dispensed justice for offences such as failing to keep ditches cleared, and handled matters of the transfer of the holdings of land.

As the centuries passed the power of the Lord of the Manor began to wane, and more and more of his responsibilities were taken over by the people of the parish acting through the Vestry.

Overseers of the Poor were elected to administer Poor Relief and Surveyors of the Highways to look after roads and bridges. The Churchwardens were not only responsible for the fabric of the Church but also encouraged the destruction of vermin by paying for the killing of polecats and hedgehogs. By the 19th century the Vestry had become the seat of local government although such functions as education were still carried on on a charitable basis, while the Fire Brigade remained a voluntary organisation. However, the great increase in the population caused by the coming of the steam railway made the old ways too cumbersome, and in 1879 the Hendon Local Government Board was formed and the parish was divided into three wards for the election of twelve members. The Board issued their Byelaws in 1881 and in the same year appointed a part-time Medical Officer of Health. In 1895, the Hendon Urban District was formed with three wards electing 15 members, and at this

time the Council Offices were in the old workhouse at the end of The Burroughs. In 1897 the Hendon School Board was formed and the voluntary education rate ceased, while the Council took over the fire brigade in 1899. In 1915 the Urban District was divided into six wards—a sign of the still increasing population, and in 1919 the Council adopted the Libraries Act

although the first library did not appear for ten more years. The Council opened their first swimming bath in 1922, and three years later provided the first dust destructor. Slipper baths followed in 1930, and in the following year the Parish of Edgware was added to Hendon as a preliminary to the Incorporation of the Borough by Charter in 1932.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

### THE LOCATION OF THE ELEVEN DEPARTMENTS OF THE COUNCIL

1. **TOWN CLERK**  
Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs,  
Hendon, N.W.4.  
Tel. Hendon 8282.  
All enquiries and callers to Hendon Town Hall.
2. **BOROUGH TREASURER**  
Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs,  
Hendon, N.W.4.  
Tel. Hendon 8282.  
Enquiries and callers to Hendon Town Hall.  
Payment of rates may be made at district offices.
3. **BOROUGH ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR**  
Gateway House, 322, Regents Park Road,  
Finchley, N.3. (4th & 5th floors)  
Tel. Virginia 9121.  
All enquiries and callers to Gateway House.
4. **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (HEALTH AND WELFARE DEPT.)**  
General Enquiries to :—  
Gateway House, 322, Regents Park Road,  
Finchley, N.3. (1st & 2nd floors).  
Tel. Virginia 9121.  
Specific Enquiries for certain services based on other premises may be made as follows :—  
Mental Welfare Officers, 308, Regents Park Road, Finchley, N.3.  
Tel. Finchley 0018.  
District Welfare Officers, 36, Woodhouse Road, Finchley, N.3.  
Tel. Hillside 2822.  
Public Health Inspectors—for Barnet, East Barnet, and Friern Barnet, Church Farm, Church Hill Road, East Barnet.  
Tel. Enterprise 1116/7.
5. **CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER**  
Town Hall, Friern Barnet, N.11.  
Tel. Enterprise 1121.  
All enquiries to Friern Barnet Town Hall.
6. **BOROUGH ARCHITECT**  
Gateway House, 322, Regents Park Road,  
Finchley, N.3. (6th & 7th floors).  
Tel. Virginia 9121.  
All enquiries to Gateway House.
7. **BOROUGH PLANNING OFFICER**  
Gateway House, 322, Regents Park Road,  
Finchley, N.3. (3rd floor).  
Tel. Virginia 9121.  
All enquiries may be made to Gateway House, but those relating to development applications should be made to the appropriate divisional planning office.

- Central Division (Finchley area)  
294, Regents Park Road, Finchley, N.3.  
Tel. Finchley 1136.
- Northern Division (Barnet, East Barnet, Friern Barnet).  
Town Hall, Station Road, New Barnet, Herts.  
Tel. Barnet 9181
- Western Division (Hendon area).  
Town Hall, The Burroughs Hendon, N.W.4.  
Tel. Hendon 8282.
8. **BOROUGH LIBRARIAN**  
Central Library, The Burroughs,  
Hendon, N.W.4.  
Tel. Hendon 8537/8.  
All enquiries to the Central Library.
9. **BOROUGH HOUSING OFFICER**  
King Edward Hall, Regents Park Road,  
Finchley, N.3.  
Tel. Virginia 9121  
All enquiries to King Edward Hall, or to the two Divisions, details of which are given below :—  
Southern—"Hatchcroft," The Burroughs, Hendon, N.W.4.  
Tel. Hendon 8282.  
Northern—42, Lytton Road, New Barnet, Herts.  
Tel. Barnet 9222.
10. **BOROUGH ESTATES OFFICER**  
Hertford Lodge, East End Road, Finchley, N.3. Tel. Finchley 2626 until early May (thereafter Tel. Virginia 9121)  
All enquiries until 9th April, 1965, to temporary address at :—  
The Avenue, Regents Park Road, Finchley, N.3.  
Tel. Finchley 5946.
11. **BOROUGH CHILDREN'S OFFICER**  
Town Hall, Friern Barnet, N.11.  
Tel. Enterprise 1121.  
Enquiries for service to Family Advice Centre, details of which are given below :—  
1, Friern Park, Finchley, N.12. (Tally Ho).  
Tel. Hill 4264  
from 1st April, 1965.

Town Hall,  
Hendon, N.W.4.

R. H. Williams,  
Town Clerk