

Community news

 **BARNET**

LONDON BOROUGH

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Season's greetings to all our readers

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New pledges for a new century

BARNET COUNCIL has confirmed its promises to people living and working in the borough in its latest four-year Corporate Plan, launched at a meeting of the full Council in November.

At the heart of the Corporate Plan is an exciting agenda to modernise the way in which the council does its business and bring decision making closer to local people.



HAMMERING IT OUT:

LEADER of Barnet Council, Cllr Alan Williams watches as Mapledown School pupil Angharad Newman works with blacksmith Kevin Boys.

Cllr Alan Williams joined pupils from schools across the borough and blacksmith Kevin Boys to hammer out some ideas for a new sculpture on Golders Green Bridge. Free workshops were held during half term to help shape the final work, which has been commissioned by Barnet Council, London Underground and the Candid Arts Trust as part of the Town Centre Improvement Initiative.

Councillor Helen Gordon, Chair of Policy and Implementation Committee, said: "We firmly believe that local people should be in the driving seat of local government. People want and must have a greater say and a more active role in planning and delivering services for their community. Barnet Council is therefore taking major steps to modernise the way it works, with a real focus on streamlined decision taking, close to the people."

The council launched its first Corporate Plan in 1994 and since then has demonstrated that such plans are not just empty words. The new plan

builds on the successes and achievements of the last four years, setting out key promises for the next four years and explaining how the council will deliver them.

Key pledges include improving democracy, delivering 'best value' services and providing leadership in the community to ensure that public resources are used in the most effective way. The council's promises fall into four broad categories: raising educational achievement of all children, creating a sustainable and healthy environment, helping those most in need and building strong communities.

Leader of the Council, Cllr. Alan Williams added: "We are determined to build on our record of success and to continue to deliver improving services to local people. This Corporate Plan provides a clear strategic direction for the public, the council, staff and our partners setting out our priorities and work programmes for the next four years. These themes and promises are not carved in stone - we will carry on our dialogue with local people, businesses and partners to ensure that we continue to deliver value for money quality services which meet the needs of our local community."

STOP PRESS : COMMUNITY SAFETY CONFERENCE

Barnet Council is to host a Community Safety Conference on 27 January, 1999 at The Town Hall, Hendon, to discuss next year's Community Safety Strategy.

Copies of charity Crime Concern's borough-wide Crime Audit - a detailed analysis of crime and disorder in Barnet - will be available for discussion at the conference.

Members of the public are welcome to take part in the event, which will shape Barnet's strategy for meeting its Corporate Plan pledge to get tough on crime and anti-social behaviour and make the borough a safer place to live and work.

To book your place at the conference or obtain further information please contact Community Safety Co-ordinator Duncan Matthews on 0181-359 2718.



Seasons Greetings

from **Barnet Council and Team Barnet**



CHRISTMAS 1998 & NEW YEAR 1999 COLLECTIONS

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

There will be no recycling collections on Saturday 26 December 1998 or 2 January 1999.

If your last collection was 12 DECEMBER 1998, your next collections will be:

- 09 January 1999
 - 23 February 1999
 - 06 February 1999
 - 20 February 1999
 - 06 March 1999
 - 20 March 1999
- and every fortnight thereafter.
No collection Easter Saturday, 3 April 1999.

If your last collection was 19 DECEMBER 1998, your next collections will be:

- 16 January 1999
 - 30 January 1999
 - 13 February 1999
 - 27 February 1999
 - 13 March 1999
 - 27 March 1999
- and every fortnight thereafter.

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR BOX OUT BY 6:30 AM.

A MESSAGE TO ALL THOSE RESIDENTS TAKING PART IN BARNETS PAPER RECYCLING SERVICES:

Congratulations to you all. Last year Barnet Council recycled over 7,500 tonnes of your waste paper. This was the highest tonnage achieved by any North London Borough, and around three times the North London average. Over 80,000 households now have paper recycling boxes and we are collecting more than 100 tonnes of your paper each week in addition to the paper recycled through paper banks.

We appreciate your support for our efforts to help you recycle. If you would like to join the collection scheme, please contact our Customer Care Unit on 0181 359 4600 for details. Why not resolve to recycle for the New Year.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Check below to see if your collection dates have changed for the holidays.

NORMAL COLLECTION

Mon 21 Dec 98 - Thurs 24 Dec 98

Friday 25 Dec (Christmas Day)

Monday 28 Dec 98 (Boxing Day)

Tues 29 Dec 98 - Thurs 31 Dec 98

Friday 1 Jan (New Years Day)

Monday 4 January 99

Tues 5 Jan 99 - Fri 8 Jan 99

REVISED COLLECTION

Normal Collection

Saturday 2 January 99

Monday 4 January 99

Normal Collection

Saturday 2 January 99

Normal Collection

Normal Collection

PLEASE HAVE YOUR REFUSE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION BY 6.30 AM.

To arrange for a Special Collection, please ring 0181 359 4600. There is normally a charge for this service.

Our Residents' Waste and Recycling Centre at Brent Terrace NW2 is open Sunday to Friday from 8.00 until 4.00, and Saturdays from 12.00 until 4.00. It will be closed only on Friday 25 December 1998, Saturday 26 December 1998 and Friday 1 January 1999.



WE'RE SORRY

We've had some problems with our recycling collection in some areas in recent weeks - but we're sorting it out. Things will be improving in the new year

RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES COME UNDER SPOTLIGHT

PROVISION of residential care for older people in Barnet will be the first subject to come under the spotlight of the new Social Affairs Policy Development Committee (PDC), it was announced in November.

The PDC will conduct a wide-ranging review of care provision in Barnet's eleven residential homes for older persons.

The review process will ensure the council is providing Best Value for council taxpayers and meeting the needs of those who use the service, either currently or in the future.

Cllr Phil Yeoman, Vice-Chair of the Social Affairs Policy Development Committee, said: "There have been wide-ranging changes to the way residential care for older people is provided by local authorities across the country.

"We are committed to providing Best Value service for council taxpayers, service users and their relatives and to that end we will examine all the options available to us."

Community Care legislation introduced in 1993 enabled local authorities to move from simply providing care to organising the service, meeting their statutory duties in partnership with the independent sector.

This has had a dramatic effect on the pattern of care in Barnet - of the 1,975 residential care places in the borough, less than 20 per cent are provided by the council.

An imminent Government White Paper on Social Services is expected to make further changes to the way residential care is funded and introduce new registration procedures for local authority homes.

In recognition of the major challenges facing Barnet's residential care homes, the inaugural meeting of the Council-in-Committee on

Thursday November 19 mirrored the Government's White Paper process by calling on the Social Affairs PDC to consider the way forward for the service.

Members of the PDC will undertake a wide-ranging review of residential care provision, investigating all potential sources of additional revenue and capital income by way of partnerships and Private Finance Initiative arrangements.

Specifically, the committee will:

- undertake an assessment of the likely future nature and volume of demand for residential services for older people

- examine the different options which are available for responding to that demand

- evaluate the relative service, financial, human resources and accountability considerations

- consult service users, their families, staff, other providers and any other individuals or bodies with an interest

- formulate a specific proposal for consideration by the council

- recommend the next steps which would follow from the favoured proposal, including an implementation timetable.

Service users, their relatives and residential care staff will all be consulted during the review process and the PDC's recommendation will be based on a rigorous examination of the pros and cons of each option.

The Social Affairs PDC is expected to report back to the Policy and Implementation Committee in June, 1999.

Centre opens with dance festival



Members of Barnet Asian Old People's Association provide some traditional music for their dance display.

BARNET'S first Multicultural Community Centre received the mayoral seal of approval on 12 November at a day of dance and discussion to mark its official opening.

The centre - in Algernon Road, West Hendon - is the brainchild of three local community groups all facing a shortage of space: the Barnet African Caribbean Association, Barnet Asian Old People's Association and the Barnet Somali Community Group.

It offers office space and

day care facilities for members of these and other community groups.

Cllr Phil Yeoman, Vice-Chair of the Social Affairs Policy Development Committee, said: "This community centre demonstrates what can be achieved when community groups actively decide to work together for a common goal.

"As such it provides a unique example of co-operation between the London Borough of Barnet and differing cultural groups."

The centre serves as an

excellent example of the way Barnet Council's 'Barnet Care 2000' initiative is making a practical difference, improving quality of life for the borough's residents.

Barnet Care 2000 commits the council to setting up new partnerships to extend services into the millennium and beyond to better meet the needs of the whole community.

The centre is the result of a three-year, £330,000 renovation of a disused, redundant sports hall and was funded from a variety of

sources including Barnet Council, Barnet Health Authority and the National Lottery Charities Board.

The official opening took the form of a one-day dance festival boasting displays from twelve local community dance groups.

A series of seminars promoting physical activity took place throughout the day - speakers included Barnet Council's Controlling Commissioning Stephen Barber and Anthony Jacobson, Chair of Barnet Health Authority.

New homes for Golders Green

THREE new homes have been developed just yards from Golders Green clock tower thanks to a partnership between Barnet Council, West Hampstead Housing Association and the NatWest Bank.

The flats - two three-bedroom maisonettes and a one-bedroom property - were completed this week and homeless families identified by Barnet Council are preparing to move in now.

The new development, above the NatWest's Golders Green Road branch, cost £90,000 and was funded by Barnet Council with a contribution from the bank.

The scheme fits perfectly into Barnet's empty property strategy, which aims to bring empty properties back into

use, particularly in shopping centres, and provide quality homes for families in need.

Encouraging residential use of town centre properties boosts local economies and improves security and safety for residents and businesses.

Cllr. Allan Turner, Chair of the Social Affairs Policy Development Committee, said: "I am extremely pleased with this development.

"The building is a major landmark in the area and the quality of the work - and the use to which it will be put - is a shining example of genuine partnership between private, public and charitable organisations to provide accommodation and regeneration sorely needed in the borough."

Backlog cleared

ELDERLY and disabled council tenants in Barnet are being supplied with mobility aids and home adaptations faster than ever, members of the former Housing Committee heard at a recent meeting. Waiting times have been reduced by a programme of effective forecasting which has enabled the council to carry out work far more efficiently. The backlog has now been eliminated.

Ageing Well

AN initiative to teach older residents basic health skills and send them back into the community to share their knowledge with neighbours has earned Barnet a national award from Age Concern. Age Concern national organiser Francis Hunt presented the coveted 'Ageing Well' award at Barnet's "Our Healthier Nation" conference in Colindale on 24 November.

On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

A candle in a Christmas tree



Be sure that if you are going to have candles burning around your home, they are never left unattended.

Look out on the following pages for further tips from Barnet Council's Environmental Health and Trading Standards Division which will help make your twelve days of Christmas free from stress, accident and disappointment.

Mayor celebrates Barnet's religious diversity



Bahá'í: Children from the Bahá'í Sunday School sang songs and read from the scriptures: (left to right) Thivan Applasawmy, 8, Bayan Rostami, 8, Azita Mehdinejad, 8, Sara Talebloo, 9 and Eiman Rostami, 9.

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Two toy dolls

Follow the age recommendations on toys: small parts in toys suitable for older children can choke under 3s.



MAYOR of Barnet Councillor Usha Chopra has led the way in celebrating the borough's cultural and religious diversity.

Cllr Chopra has already held three celebrations of world religions for local schoolchildren and has planned a continuing programme to run until the end of her year of office.

Children from schools across the borough joined celebrations of Divali and learnt about the Hindu faith at the Mayor's Parlour on 14 October.

Over 100 children attended the event, which began with the mayor's chaplain, Shribimal Krishna das, explaining the significance of Divali - the Hindu festival of light with the aid of props and costumes.

After a short break, in which youngsters were given traditional Divali sweets, a short information film was shown.

And The Town Hall, Hendon played host to two different religious celebrations on 2 November

- the birthday of Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh religion, and Baha'I faith's marking of the birth of Baha'u'llah. Pupils from Fairway and Livingstone Schools were invited to share the experience.

Further events are planned to celebrate the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths.

The mayor, Councillor Usha Chopra celebrating the inaugural events said:

"It is so important that we understand each other's faiths and cultures to spread tolerance and understanding.

"Learning from each other increases our knowledge. It was fantastic to see so many people at the events, and especially the children who were very interested.

"I hope the other celebrations will be as successful as this one."



DIVALI: Hare Krishna devotee, Richard Cole, helps dress St Joseph's School pupil Clare Shangavi in a saree to play 'Sita' in a dramatisation of the Hindu festival.

Health CARE Centre Chemists

31 Mill Hill Broadway

NW7 3DA

(Two doors from Post Office)

Open Monday - Saturday

9am - 9pm

For all your Medicines, Toiletries & Cosmetics

AND

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Aromatherapist

Chiropodist

Chiropracter

Counsellor

Hypnotherapist

Kinesologist

Massage

Osteopath

Private Doctor

Reflexologist

Reiki

in our three consulting rooms on the premises

For appointment phone

0181 959 5179

Be Safe and Warm

Barnet Council has linked up with EAGA Service Ltd to provide a new Energy Efficiency Home Discount Scheme which could save residents substantial amounts on fuel costs and home security. EAGA Services Ltd are a non-profit distributing company who specialise in energy efficiency programmes.

They negotiate discount prices with local firms and pass the savings on to the customer. Each of their suppliers must pass strict quality control checks to ensure high standards of craftsmanship.

The scheme will be open to owner occupiers, landlords or tenants in the borough. Tenants should get approval from their landlords before agreeing to any work.

Energy efficiency measures which the scheme will offer include:-

- cavity wall insulation
- loft insulation or top up of existing insulation to 200 millimetres
- draught proofing
- hot water tank jackets
- reflective radiator panels

Home security measures include:-

- front door locks
- back door locks
- window locks

As well as feeling warmer and safer you will be cutting costs and helping protect the environment.

A government grant scheme is available to help elderly residents and those on low incomes.

The scheme will be launched in November this year. If you are interested please call the Safe and Warm Co-ordinator on 0181-359 4510.

REMEMBER - Never let a stranger into your home without seeing a form of identification.

Forums Bring Democracy Closer to Home

EVER felt frustrated about decisions the council makes about your local area? Ever wondered how you can get your views across to the people making those decisions? That should be a thing of the past following the radical changes to Barnet Council's committee structure.

On November 3 Barnet

Council became one of the first local authorities in the country to respond to the Government's call to modernise local government and get 'in touch with the people' as set out in its White Paper published in July.

Some aspects of the current local government system date back to the last century

- which means that it no longer meets the needs of a modern, complex local authority serving a sophisticated, demanding population. Whereas the council has developed and changed to meet these demands, the committee structure has remained with its rather narrow, service-related

approach

Council Leader, Cllr. Alan Williams said "This is an exciting time for local government."

"We have a real opportunity to revitalise the whole democratic process and make it relevant to the needs of people today. Our aim is to bring decision-making

closer to the people it affects and at the same time bring greater leadership and direction to the council's activities."

At the heart of the new system are six Area Forums based around Barnet, Edgware and Mill Hill, Finchley, Golders Green, Hendon and Whetstone.

These Forums will provide an informal platform for residents to have their say on council plans and local proposals before decisions are made. People can come and petition the council, put questions, debate issues and set the agenda so that it is relevant to their needs and concerns.

AREA FORUM MEETINGS

AREA	1999 DATES STARTING AT 6.30PM	VENUES
Finchley	Monday 4 January	Avenue House, East End Road N3
Barnet	Tuesday 5 January	Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5
Hendon	Wednesday 6 January	The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4
Golders Green	Monday 8 February	Childs Hill School, Dersingham Road, Childs Hill NW2
Whetstone	Tuesday 9 February	Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone N20
Edgware & Mill Hill	Wednesday 10 February	Accident Prevention Unit, Dawes Lane, Mill Hill NW7

Barnet in Bloom...



GREEN fingered East Barnet couple Mr and Mrs Vadgama were presented with £100 worth of gardening vouchers last month after winning the 'Best Front Garden' Barnet in Bloom award - for the third year running!

Regional 'London in Bloom' judges were impressed too, awarding the Vadgamas a certificate of excellence for their garden in Lovelace Road.

Nuclear Train Plans Unite Parties

BARNET Council has criticised plans to transport spent nuclear fuel rods through London and to use Cricklewood Sidings as a train assembly point for spent nuclear fuel rods.

A motion passed at November's full Council meeting criticises the evasive and partial information provided by British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) so far and called on it to come clean on its proposals. It has also called on BNFL to tell the council exactly what it plans to transport and store at Cricklewood.

The council, which was united in its condemnation of BNFL, criticised the process by which Cricklewood Sidings was chosen as the site.

Initially, BNFL notified the wrong council and the wrong MP about the proposed use of Cricklewood

Sidings. This has led Barnet Council and residents to question BNFL's knowledge of the area and further raises issues of security and safety.

Barnet Council has been trying to get information about the proposals and answers to residents' questions. BNFL's last written response to the council could not confirm how much used fuel would be stored or when. This information was deemed 'commercially confidential'. BNFL's answers also shed little light on its safety regulations.

The Chief Executive will be notifying the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, Rudi Vis MP, Andrew Dismore MP, Pauline Green MEP and local residents' groups of Barnet Council's opposition to the use of Cricklewood Sidings as a train assembly

point for spent nuclear fuel.

But the council's powers to act are limited. Although it is the Emergency Planning Authority it is not a statutory consultee to the plans. Neither the Rail Operator nor BNFL have any obligations to Barnet Council.

Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of Barnet Council, said: "We are very alarmed at BNFL's plans and we will be doing all we can to try and prevent them."

"Spent nuclear fuel rods should be kept away from London and other high density urban areas. I do not think it is beyond the wit of BNFL and the train companies to achieve this."

"At the very least BNFL must provide information to give assurances to residents about safety concerns. I hope that we get some answers and soon."

Warm Welcome for Waste Charges

BARNET Council has welcomed new Government plans to deal with domestic waste more effectively and environmentally.

The proposals, put forward in a consultative report, suggest changes to the way that waste is charged for and dealt with.

Currently, Barnet is one of several councils that form part of the North London Waste Authority. The NLWA charges each council a levy for the disposal of its domestic waste. The levy is calculated on the council tax base of each council.

But Barnet has fared badly from this arrangement and has argued for a more equitable system which takes into account the amount of waste generated. Barnet believes that this type of system is more environmentally friendly because councils have an incentive to generate less waste and recycle more. The Government's new proposals support Barnet's position.

As Barnet Council generates less rubbish than other councils it could be charged less under the new proposals - savings could range between £474,000 and £732,000.

Councillor Danish Chopra, Chair of the Council's Resources Executive Committee, said: "This paper is good news for Barnet and it is good news for the environment. Barnet is striving to recycle more waste."

"A key goal of the council is to create a sustainable, healthy environment. These

proposals will help us to achieve these aims."

Barnet already recycles

three times more than the average of the other boroughs in the NLWA.

LANCELOT HASLUCK TRUST

Registered Charity No. 207557

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

A few well-maintained double and single residential units near Oakhill Park, East Barnet, have become vacant. Applications to occupy them at a low weekly charge will be considered from married couples and single persons who are living or have lived in the areas of the former Urban Districts of East Barnet, Barnet and Friern Barnet. Applicants must be over the age of 55 years and have limited financial means.

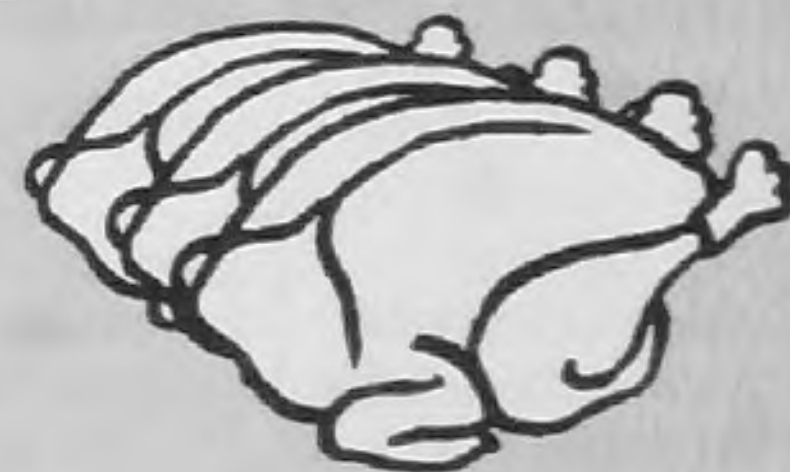
Application forms can be obtained from the Clerk to the Lancelot Hasluck Trust, 48 Station Road, New Barnet, Herts., EN5 1QH. Tel: 0181 449 0867

Closing date is 11 January 1999

On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Three frozen hens

Frozen hens and frozen turkeys need plenty of time to defrost. Place your frozen meat at the bottom of the refrigerator overnight (or longer) so that it is safe to cook and eat.



COMMUNITY NEWS

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Barnet Council Press and Public Relations Unit

Advertising Sales: Contact Pauline Varnals, 0181-359 2657

Please telephone the 24-hour hotline number 0181-359 2325 with any comments or suggestions you have about Community News or if you have a problem with its delivery. Please leave your name and a contact number with your message. Visit Barnet Council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk.

Raising Achievement School on Sports Shortlist

BARNET Council has agreed to put in place firm procedures to ensure that all the borough's schools attain high levels of achievement. Barnet Council has adopted powers, laid out in a new Government statutory framework, to help schools which are not achieving. They build on Barnet's own policy document, 'Raising Achievement in Barnet's schools' and give senior officers powers to

respond to inspection criticism, propose appointments of governors, inform a school about any matters of concern and suspend the right to a delegated budget.

In addition the Director of Education will develop a strategy for early identification of problems which, if not addressed, would lead to significant weakness or failure in a school's performance.

The powers give Barnet more scope for carrying out its Corporate Plan pledges, which commit the council to playing a full part in the national crusade to improve standards.

At the heart of this policy is a focus on standards not structures coupled with a zero-tolerance of underperformance.

Three schools in Barnet are currently described by Ofsted as requiring special measures and a further three, though providing adequate education, are described by Ofsted as having serious weaknesses.

Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of the Education and Children Policy Development Committee said:

"We are making great strides to improve the performance of all of our schools.

"We have less than the national average of schools underperforming. However, this is not a cause for complacency.

"Every school must act with maximum effort and every pupil must have equal opportunity to achieve regardless of what school they go to.

"These new powers will allow us to take action where needed to raise standards. The measures are tough but where our children's education is concerned, they are necessary."



Soccer stars of the future?

WHITEFIELD School in Cricklewood has made the Government's shortlist to become a Sports College.

The school has spent six months putting together its Sports College application and it has had to compete with many other secondary schools across England and Wales. It is heartening news for Whitefield that it has succeeded in making the shortlist. A final decision on all the applications will be made by the Government in January 1999.

If Whitefield does become a Sports College the school will continue to offer the full range of National Curriculum and Sixth Form courses

but will be able to provide enhanced physical education and sport opportunities for its students.

The extra funding coming from a successful application would enable the school to improve its facilities and employ specially trained staff. The vision is for Whitefield to be a centre of excellence for physical education across North London. The hope is that when the new Linford Christie or Ian Wright pulls on their England shirt, they will have been taught at Whitefield.

The benefits could also boost other schools in the borough.

Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of the Education and Children Policy Development Committee said:

"Whitefield School's bid is very imaginative and exciting. The school has done well to have got this far and I wish them every success for the final decision in January. There is no guarantee of success but we have our fingers crossed.

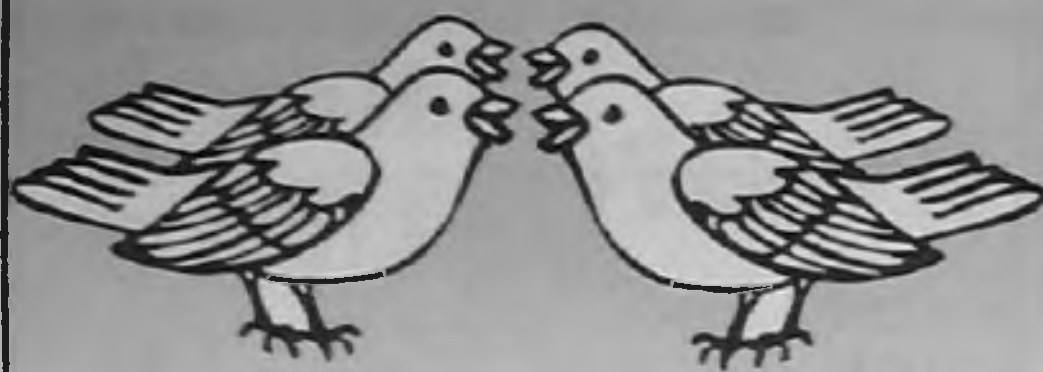
"Barnet Council is committed to raising achievement in all our schools. This application is an excellent opportunity for this school to provide new facilities for students and give them new chances to achieve."

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Four cooing birds

Many wild birds can rely on food left out by us over winter – but make sure food is thrown out on a bird table or in a feeder to prevent rats being attracted.

Contact 0181-359 2000 for emergency pest control services



BARNET FESTIVE SEASON OPENING



OPEN FOR BUSINESS - BARNET COUNCIL provides you with a range of services over Christmas and the New Year

Thur 24 Dec	Fri 25 Dec	Sat 26 Dec	Sun 27 Dec	Mon 28 Dec	Tue 29 Dec
Services open Except Leaside and Deansbrook Day Centres, Children and Family Centres, Church Farmhouse Museum Libraries close at 1pm	Services closed Emergency cover provided by all essential services. See emergency telephone number below.	Services closed Except Golf courses. Emergency cover provided by all essential services including Register Offices. See emergency telephone number below.	Services closed Except Golf courses. Emergency cover provided by all essential services including Register Offices. See emergency telephone number below. No service at Golders Green Library.	Services closed Except Barnet Copthall Pools, Finchley Lido, Golf courses. Emergency cover provided by all essential services including Register Offices. See emergency telephone number below.	Services open Except Rent Officer Service, Local Land Charges, Etchingham Park, Rosa Freedman and Springwood Day Centres.
Wed 30 Dec	Thur 31 Dec	Fri 1 Jan	Sat 2 Jan	Sun 3 Jan	Over the holidays
Services open Except Rent Officer Service, Local Land Charges.	Services open Except Rent Officer Service, Local Land Charges. Libraries close at 5pm.	Services closed Except Barnet Copthall Pools (open 9am-3pm), Golf courses. Emergency cover provided by all essential services including Register Offices. See emergency telephone number below.	Services closed Except Libraries, Church Farmhouse Museum, Barnet Copthall Pools, Finchley Lido, Golf courses. Emergency cover provided by all essential services including Register Offices. See emergency telephone number below.	Services closed Except Church Farmhouse Museum, Barnet Copthall Pools, Finchley Lido, Golf courses. Emergency cover provided by all essential services including Register Offices. See emergency telephone number below.	The Home Help and Shopping Services will not be available on 25, 28, Dec and 1 Jan. Watling Market closed on Sat 26 Dec and Sat 2 Jan. For Youth and Youth Sports Centres please check times with your centre.

Emergency Cover is provided by all essential services throughout the festive season. The emergency telephone number is **0181 359 2000**

CUSTOMER CARE UNIT Road and pavement subsidence, street lighting, street cleaning, refuse and recycling services
0181 359 4600 Answerphone outside office hours

Henrietta Barnett

WINNING TEAM?

PUPILS at Manorside School in Squires Lane, Finchley, hope to turn around one of the worst records in school football history - by sporting a new kit!

Manorside hasn't won a league or cup game in over two years but is preparing to court victory again after staff at Tesco's Colney Hatch Lane store donated the new black and gold strip.

The team expects to receive a boost to morale from the corporate logo printed on their shirts - 'Every Little Helps'.

ABSE

GOLDERS Green poet Dannie Abse closed a two-month exhibition into his life and work with an exclusive recital from his forthcoming book 'Arcadia, One Mile'.

Dannie, 75, is one of Britain's leading writers and has lived in the borough since 1957.

The exhibition, which was held at the Church Farmhouse Museum, Hendon, was filmed by the BBC which will broadcast a 30 minute documentary about the poet early next year.

30, NO MORE

NO five-year-old has started school in a class of more than 30 this term - Barnet Council has kept its promise to reduce class sizes for all five-year-olds in the borough to 30 or less.

And now the council has pledged to extend this to all six and seven-year-olds within the next four years, according to its new Corporate Plan, which was unveiled last month.

Cllr. Anne Jarvis, Chair of the Education and Children Policy Development Committee, said: "We promised that every child starting school this term would be placed in a class of 30 or less and we kept that promise. We are committed to extending this to all six and seven year-olds".

EDGWARE SCHOOL

TWO new technology rooms were opened by the Mayor of Barnet Cllr Usha Chopra during a recent visit to Edgware School.

The new facilities - built with cash from the Government's National Grid for Learning initiative - replace eleven-year-old equipment

HENRIETTA BARNETT School is to continue sharing its Central Square site with Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute after governors agreed a £9 million buy-out of the land and buildings - and central Government said it would foot the bill.

The deal will see Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute sell its stake in the site in exchange for rent-free use for five years.

A new site-sharing agreement will allow the school to develop additional Design and Technology facilities to meet National Curriculum requirements.

The agreement brings to an end four years of uncertainty after the Institute asked the school to move out for financial reasons.

The council decided in February 1996 to seek a Compulsory Purchase Order on the site after the Hampstead Garden Suburb



Henrietta Barnett: £9m deal secures future

Institute served Henrietta Barnett School with notice to quit in April 1995.

But the Government told the council to try and reach an agreement on site-sharing

before a decision could be made. And in October, Barnet Council formally withdraw its application to force the Institute to sell.

Just two weeks later, the

council was notified that Education Secretary David Blunkett had agreed a supplementary credit approval of £1.35 million to enable the council to finance 15 per

cent of the site. The Department for Education and Employment simultaneously announced a grant of £7.65 million to the governing body of the school to cover the other 85 per cent of the site costs. It also agreed an additional grant of £750,000 to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute for adaptations and refurbishments to their new premises once they have found them.

Anne Jarvis, Chair of the Education and Children Policy Development Committee, said "We are delighted that the Government has agreed the necessary funding for Henrietta Barnett School."

"After four years of such uncertainty it is excellent news that the future for the school is now secure. A great deal of work was put into this agreement by all parties involved."

School wins training award



Jo Clemente, from North London TEC, presents the award to Geoff Gosling, Head Teacher and The Mayor, Cllr Usha Chopra.

BREAKFAST CLUBS

COLINDALE SCHOOL has become the ninth in the borough to open a Breakfast Club for students.

The Club, which was opened on 10 November by Barnet Mayor, Cllr. Usha Chopra, is one of Barnet Council's initiatives to raise school standards.

Barnet is committed to the concept of out-of-hours clubs in schools - a central plank in the Government's education policy.

The Colindale Club,

which provides children an opportunity to enjoy breakfast and get the day off to a good start, was funded by local businesses via the Barnet Education Business Partnership (EBP).

The Mayor, Cllr. Usha Chopra, said: "It gives me great pleasure to launch the new Colindale Breakfast Club and I am very pleased that this is the ninth such club we have opened in the borough.

"The Barnet EBP is an excellent example of how

the business community is working with the council in partnership with local schools and colleges to enhance the life chances of all young people.

"Raising educational standards is vitally important for all our children. This breakfast club will play a big role in ensuring that more of our children start the school day on a good note."

A representative of major sponsors Nortel Networks also attended the launch.

New Library

A NEW library has been opened at Queenswell Junior School, Whetstone.

Lessons will now be timetabled in the library - which was created in a vacant classroom - and pupils will be taught how a library operates.

With schools now required to timetable a literacy hour each day, the new facility will play an important role in raising achievement.

The library, which was opened earlier this term by Cllr Anne Jarvis, Chair of the Education and Children Policy Development Committee, stocks both fiction and non-fiction books.

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Five gold rings

Hopefully genuine and hallmarked. BEWARE of false claims and spectacular offers at illegal one-day sales. Alert Trading Standards on 0181-359 4916



Drugs factfile

speed

- Speed is a Class B drug
- Speed is a stimulant - it quickens the heart beat and breathing rate
- Long-term use puts a strain on the heart. Overdose can be fatal

tranquillisers

- Tranquillisers are prescribed by doctors as short-term treatment for anxiety and depression
- They are misused by some people to counter the stimulant effects of other drugs
- Users trying to quit may suffer panic attacks

- Tobacco contains a drug called Nicotine which is highly addictive.
- It is illegal to sell tobacco to under-16s
- Tobacco contributes to 2,000 limb amputations and 110,000 premature deaths in the UK each year.

- Cannabis is a natural substance from a plant known as 'hemp'
- Cannabis is a Class B drug
- Cannabis makes most users relaxed and talkative but can cause paranoia and anxiety

- It is illegal to sell alcohol to under-18s (except in a restaurant to 16 and 17-year-olds)
- Alcohol is a depressant and addictive drug
- More than 25,000 deaths in the UK each year are alcohol related

Crack

- Crack is a smokeable form of Cocaine
- Crack is a highly addictive Class A drug
- Smoking crack can permanently damage the lungs



european drugs

European Drug Prevention week took place between 16 and 22 November. Events took place in towns and cities across the fifteen EU countries, aimed at preventing drug misuse in local communities, including Barnet.

All initiatives sought to increase awareness, foster partnerships, and plan a course of action to tackle drug misuse.

There were several events in Barnet during the week, but whether it was the high profile speech of a Government Minister, or the involvement of young people in discussion groups, everyone was united in their efforts to stamp out drug misuse in our communities...

Chief Executive chairs drug planning day

Organisations from across Barnet - and beyond - gathered at Hendon Hall Hotel, Hendon, during European Drugs Prevention Week for a Planning Day on strategies to combat drug misuse.

The event was organised by the Barnet Drug & Alcohol Advisory Team (DAAT) and chaired by Chief Executive of Barnet Council Max Caller.

Key questions discussed included how to reach the right people and ensure value for money.

Barnet has indeed drug misuse problems to address - the borough has a higher reported use of cocaine than the national average and has a similar drugs misuse profile as other areas of the UK. Local research shows that all illegal drugs are commonly offered for sale in Barnet.

The planning day was attended by all the agencies and voluntary groups involved in tackling drug misuse in Barnet. Barnet Council, Barnet Healthcare Trust, the Police and the Probation Service were all represented. There were also young people and voluntary groups involved in the sessions.

The programme for the planning day was wide ranging. In the morning session there were workshops on Drugs Treatment, Drugs Education and Drugs & Crime. Leading experts in the drugs field will be facilitating the discussions. In the afternoon, Jim Fitzpatrick, a member of the Government's Anti-Drugs Co-ordination Unit, gave the keynote speech. The event concluded with a discussion of feed-

back from the workshops.

Barnet's DAAT is one of 107 in England and will incorporate the strategies discussed into its response to the Government's ten year strategy document, 'Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain.'

The ten year strategy has four aims:

- Young people - to help young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society
- Communities - to protect our communities from drug related anti-social and criminal behaviour
- Treatment - to enable people with drug problems to overcome them and live healthy and crime free lives
- Availability - to stifle the availability of illegal drugs on our streets

The planning day took place during European Drugs Prevention Week and demonstrates Barnet Council's commitment to tackling drugs misuse in the community.

European Drugs Prevention Week aims to raise awareness of the issues surrounding drug misuse throughout the whole of Europe.

This was the third European Drug Week following similar events in 1992 and 1994.

Barnet Council also be provided a wide range of information material about drugs misuse - much of which is still available - and placed trained staff at Action Points to give free advice and information.

Government Minister launches Barnet Council's Drugs

ON TUESDAY 17 November Tessa Jowell MP, Minister of State for Public Health, came to the borough to launch Barnet Council's Drugs Web Site for European Drugs Prevention Week.

The Minister took part in an Internet 'chat room' and talked on the Internet to young people in Chaville, one of Barnet's twin towns in France. Many young people from Barnet also met the Minister and

attended the Web Site launch.

Tessa Jowell said, "I am keen to focus on local measures and activities, especially those which will continue to have an impact long after the week is over - like the Barnet Drugs Education Website and Youth Advisory Group."

Tessa Jowell praised the two projects, saying "The drugs prevention message needs to be accessible and relevant to young people. More and more people are using the Internet for information and entertainment and it is therefore a natural medium for the work of Drug Action Teams. Young people are comfortable with the Internet - not only is



Pictured above are, clockwise from top left: Leader of Barnet Council, Cllr. Alan Williams, Minister of State for Public Health, Tessa Jowell, MP for Hendon, Andrew Dismore, Tenema Sandi, Raymond Sandi and Amakai Kesas

So where can I get help a

Drugs Youth Work Team
Confidential and non-judgemental information
advice and support
0181 202 5533
Peter Fernandez
Rosie Halliday
Simon Cohen

Barnet Drugs & Alcohol Services
Confidential advice and information for people
0181 200 9525
0181 200 9575

National Drugs Helpline
24 hours
0800 776600

launches Website

It becoming more accessible, it has the advantage of being available 24 hours a day and can be changed quickly to reflect new research and advances in medical knowledge."

Recent figures show that already more than one third of teenagers use the Internet. There is also a 60 per cent annual growth rate in Internet use each year.

The Minister also launched the Youth Advisory Group. Commenting on the Group, Tessa Jowell said:

"A key aim of the new strategy is to help young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society. It is essential that we involve young people in the process and the Youth Advisory Group that I am launching will play an important part in the development of services across the borough of Barnet."

The week's events had been organised with the close working together of several agencies. Cllr. Alan Williams, the Leader of the Barnet Council said, "An essential message of the week was that working together works. We are committed to working with the police, the health authority, voluntary organisations and young people to tackle drug misuse in our communities."

While launching Barnet DAAT's initiatives, Tessa Jowell took the opportunity to make two national announcements.

She announced:
 ■ £3.3m to develop drugs prevention services for vulnerable young people in the first-wave of Health Action Zones



CUTTING THE TAPE: Tessa Jowell with Khalil Pirbha.

■ £2.4m for a new five-year research programme to identify the best and most cost-effective treatments for tackling drug abuse.

Considerable information about drugs and drugs misuse was available during the week in a range of different formats:

- Internet - drugs education, publicity and information
Internet site address - www.barnet.gov.uk
- Web Site - including a drugs questionnaire

■ Youth Centres - drug information displays and educational programmes

■ Libraries - free drugs information leaflets and displays

■ Mobile Action Points - drugs information displays.

At the mobile action points trained staff were on hand to provide information, support and advice.

As part of the week Barnet Council surveyed young people's knowledge and use of drugs. The same survey was given to young

people from Chaville and it was accessible on the council web site. The information from the survey helped Barnet Council obtain a clearer picture about how it can help prevent drug abuse.

Ending her visit Tessa Jowell sent a positive message about the initiatives she had helped launch.

"I am very pleased to have come to Barnet to launch these new projects. They are excellent, particularly the Internet project. Happy and healthy surfing."

and advice?

tion

people of all ages)

How Drugwise Are You?

Test your knowledge in our drugs quiz - are these ten statements about drugs True or False? You'll find the answers on page 15.

Further information, and even more questions, can be found on the council's web site. Point your browser at www.barnet.gov.uk

- 1 Crack is instantly addictive.
- 2 It is possible to drink so much alcohol that you can overdose and die.
- 3 Heroin kills more people than any other drug.
- 4 Tamazepan is only addictive when injected.
- 5 Long-term use of LSD causes brain damage.
- 6 Cannabis was used as a medicine over 4,000 years ago.
- 7 Sniffing solvents kills, on average, two young people every week.
- 8 The international drugs trade has a turnover of \$100 million.
- 9 It can be dangerous to sniff Poppers if you have heart trouble.
- 10 The maximum penalty for dealing Ecstasy is life imprisonment.

Now turn to Page 15 to see how you did. . .

Drugs factfile

heroin

- Heroin is a painkilling drug made from derivatives of the opium poppy
- Heroin is very addictive
- Excessive amounts can result in overdose, coma or death

heroin

Ketamine

- Ketamine is a prescription-only drug. Whilst possession is legal supplying Ketamine is against the law.
- Ketamine makes users feel their mind has been separate from the body.
- Very dangerous when mixed with alcohol or other drugs.

- LSD is an hallucinogenic Class A drug.
- LSD usually comes in tiny squares of paper called 'tabs'
- LSD can complicate existing mental problems

- Several types of Magic Mushrooms grow wild in the UK
- Magic Mushrooms have similar effects to LSD
- Magic Mushrooms are easy to confuse with other, fatally poisonous, species

- Cocaine is a Class A drug which can be 'snorted' or injected
- Heavy use of cocaine can cause convulsions
- Cocaine is extremely expensive

- The chemical name for ecstasy is MDMA
- The effects last for about three hours
- Use of ecstasy has been linked to liver and kidney problems

WHAT'S ON

EXHIBITIONS

Until 20 Dec

Christmas Exhibition of prints, mixed media and sculpture Bow House Gallery, 35 Wood Street, Barnet Thurs-Sat 10am-5pm and Sun 2-5pm. 0181-441 5841

Barnet Museum, 31 Wood Street 0181-440 8066 Exhibition on Barnet General Hospital from its origins as a workhouse to the present day. Open 2.30-4.30pm Tues. Wed. Sat & Sat am.

12 Dec-14 Feb (closed 24-28 Dec) Exhibition of Jigsaw Puzzles. Lots of jigsaw puzzles to try (for all ages). Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Tel 0181-203 0130

THE BULL, THEATRE, GALLERY, STUDIOS

Thurs 17 Dec - Sun 3 Jan. 2.30, 5.30 & 7pm.

Kazzum present Hans Christian Andersen's 'The Snow Queen.' Hang on to your sledge! The Bull's Christmas Show is a festive treat for all the family! Kazzum break the ice with an enchanting and magical new version of Hans Christian Andersen's classic winter tale. With stunning special effects and puppetry, meet hobgoblins, reindeer, princes and princesses as Gerda bravely searches to save the world from eternal winter and rescue her friend from the evil and icy Queen. An original music score and an avalanche of action and drama.

DRAMA

6 & 7 Jan. Jet Theatre 'The Deceived'; 2 Feb, Besht Tellers Youth Theatre; 3, 4 & 6 Feb, Besht Tellers 'The Garden of Habustan'; 5 Feb, Guy Masterson Productions 'Shylock'; 10 & 11 Feb, Criss Cross Productions 'Men on Fire'; 12 Feb & 7 Mar, Shivam Theatre in association with Tabularasa Arts 'Guru Bhrama'.

COMEDY & POETRY

14 Jan. Rob Newman 'Bound & Gagged'; 9 Feb, David Baddiel Answers Your Questions; 14 Feb, Jewish Comedy Night; 20 Feb, Al Murray 'The Pub Landlord'; 28 Feb, Bruce Morton 'Blood Below the Window'

MUSIC

17 Jan. Juan Martin plus percussionist Chris Karan 'Flamenco Fire and Soul'; 7 Feb, Joglearesa 'Castile to Calcutta'; 13 Feb, Shir Music; 19

Feb, Criss Cross Productions 'Jam & Spice - Sizzling Cabaret'

LITTLE BULL Children's Shows:

13 Dec. Slapstick Theatre 'Wake Up It's Christmas'; 17 Jan, Jactito Theatre 'Sonia the Baby Seal'; 24 Jan, 'Mr Origami & the Flying Birds' followed by Simple Origami Workshop; 31 Jan, Zero Arts 'Worm Story'; 7 Feb, Mr Bubbles; 8 Feb, Unicorn Theatre for Children & Half Moon YPT 'Fairytaleheart'; Half Term, 15-19 Feb, Pop Up Theatre, 'Snow Shoes'; Half-term workshop 'Play in a Week'; 28 Feb, Cleveland Theatre Co. 'Bedtime Stories'

GALLERY

21 Jan-11 Feb. Jackie King-Cline 'Taking Shape', an exhibition of sculpture and lithographs; 17 Feb-12 Mar, Davina Kirkpatrick, 'Light and Shadow' an exhibition of stained glass and enamel pieces.

FOYER

21 Jan-12 Feb. Dan Clouts 'Hatch Strokes of Prayer'; 17 Feb-12 Mar, Vicky Alhadeff, 'Contrasts'.

For details of the above listings and classes & courses contact The Bull, 68 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SJ, tel. 0181-449 0048.

ALL SAINTS ARTS CENTRE

18-20 Dec. 'The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe' (C.S. Lewis) 7.30pm/Sat & Sun 3pm; 8-10 Jan, 'The Magic Wishbone' adapted from Charles Dicken's story by Ann Deutsch for all the family 7.30pm/Sat & Sun 3pm; 22-24 Jan, 'Joseph & The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' Rice & Webber musical staged by Full Circle 7.30pm; 5-7 Feb, 'The Effect of Gamma Rays on The Man in the Moon Marigolds' 8pm; 12-14 Feb, 'Shakespeare's Women' 8pm.

For details of the above listings and clubs & classes in drama, music, art and dance contact All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, N20, tel 0181-445 8838

ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM.

Grahame Park Way, Hendon NW9

Christmas 1998 Re-enactors - a tableaux of the history of the RAF combining live action and archive film footage; Float through the air with Raymond Brigg's Snowman for a very special ride on the flight simulator; Aircraft Recognition Competition - identify the planes

around the Museum for a chance to win an Airfix model kit.

February Half Term:

themed activities. For more information on events phone the Marketing Dept on 0181-205 2266 or 0181 200 1763

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY EVENTS

14 Dec. 11am-12noon Jingle Bells Songs, stories and a visit from Father Christmas. Under 5s Hendon Library, The Burroughs, NW4 4BQ. Free. Also **15 Dec.** 11am-12noon, Childs Hill Library, 320 Cricklewood Lane, NW2 2QE. Free

Father Christmas comes to the following libraries (50p tickets in advance from library): 17 Dec, 10.30-11.30am, Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DS. 17 Dec, 2.30-3.30pm at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12 9HP; 18 Dec, 2.30-3.30pm, South Friern Library, Colney Hatch Lane, N10 1HD; 22 Dec, 2.30-3.30pm, East Finchley Library, 226 High Road, N2 9BB; 23 Dec, 2.30-3.30pm, Church End Library, 24 Hendon Lane, N3 1TR.

18 Dec, 2-3pm Under 5s Christmas Party, Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX. Free. Tickets in advance from library.

21 Dec. 11am-12noon Make a Winter Scenes collage at Edgware Library, Hale Lane, Edgware, HA8. For 5+. Free. Tickets in advance from library.

22 Dec. 2-3pm Making Christmas tree decorations. 5-12s. Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, NW9 5XL. Free. Tickets in advance from library.

23 Dec. 2-3pm Make a Christmas Tree. 6-11s. Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX. Free. Tickets in advance from library.

23 Dec. 2.30-3.30pm. Make a Christmas card. 5-12s. Burnt Oak Library, Watling Avenue, Edgware, HA8.

29 Dec. 2-3pm Making New Year cards 5-12s. Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, NW9 5XL. Free. Tickets in advance from library

30 Dec. 2-3pm Make a calendar Under 5s Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX. Free. Tickets in advance from library.

MUSIC

19 Dec. 7.30pm Barnet Choral Society's Christmas Concert with David Patrick, organist and London Contemporary Brass. Barnet Church, Wood Street. Details 0181-449 6809.

30 Jan. 8pm Edgware Symphony Orchestra, Mozart's 'The Magic Flute' Overture, Schubert's 9th Symphony, Beethoven's First Romance for Violin & Orchestra, Conductor Tom Hammond. Edgware Secondary School, Green Lane, Spur Road. Details 01923 256186.

27 Feb. 7.45pm Hendon Music Society presents Fitzwilliam String Quartet, programme includes quartets by Purcell, Mozart, Borodin and Sibelius. Trinity Church, Hodford Road, Golders Green. Tickets £9 50

We welcome contributions to the What's On column. Write to: The Editor, Community News, Barnet Council, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG. We reserve the right to shorten entries and no responsibility can be accepted for the accuracy of information supplied for the column.

The Snow Queen



Thursday
17 December
1998 -
Sunday
3 January
1999 at
The Bull,
68 High Street
Barnet EN5

(children £5, conc. £7.50). For details phone 0181-203 2355.

Barnet Folk Club are completely unplugged. Enjoy an acoustic evening, King George, High Street, Barnet. 1st Weds, 8.30pm 0181-441 3620

Youth Music Group from 3 yrs to adults, ensembles, quartets, orchestras (including parents' orchestra) meet at Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, NW11. New voice production classes. Sat am. Details, 343 1940

The Memory Lane Singing Club. Lively weekly singing sessions of the Golden Era songs and musicals. Meet at St. Mary's Church Hall, Hendon Lane, N3. Fridays, 12.30pm. Also Weds, 4-6pm, at Wesley Hall, Staplyton Road, Barnet. Details, 0181-449 0011

THEATRE AND MUSICALS

Until 16 Jan Chicken Shed's Christmas Show for everyone, 'Cinderella in Boots' at their theatre at Cat Hill/Chase Side roundabout, 7.30pm & various matinees. Details, 292 9222

12-20 Feb Pantomime by Terry Rogers 'There Was an Old Woman'. Garden Suburb Theatre, Institute Hall, NW11 8pm except for 3pm & 7.30pm Sats. Details, 455 8669

17-20 Feb Harlequin Theatre Club, 'Dick Whittington', Hartley Hall, Flower Lane, Mill Hill, 2.30 & 7.30pm. Details, 0181-959 2344

ARTS

9 Jan. 7.50pm Finchley Antiques Appreciation Group, 'Fans Through the Ages' Jacqueline Morris. Kemp Hall, St Andrews School, Totteridge Common. Details, 0181-203 3735. Also 13 Jan, 'Decorative Animals' Wellesley Clinton & 27 Jan, 'Music and Painting Images' Peter Medhurst

Milldon Art Society meet every Wed, 7.30pm, in Harwood Hall,

Union Church, Mill Hill with monthly demonstrations. 6 Jan, 'Watercolours' Heather Brown; 3 Feb, 'Airbrush' David Boxhall. Details, 0181-346 7481.

14 Jan. 8pm New Barnet Amateur Gardeners' and Floral Art Society, Quiz Night. Also 11 Feb, Mr Christopher Chadwell 'Garden on the Roof of the World'. Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, 8pm. Members, £1.50, visitors £2. New Barnet Literary and Debating Society is over 100 years old and now meets on Mondays at Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, 8pm. Details, 0181-449 2941

Chipping Barnet Folk Dance Club, Church House, Wood Street, Barnet. Alternate Mons. Details 883 8190.

Group Counselling at Relate in North Finchley - a way of learning about ourselves by understanding how we relate to one another within a group in an atmosphere of mutual support. Groups for couples are short-term and take place on Tuesday evenings. Groups for individuals take place daytime and evenings, topics include 'Reaching Your Potential' and 'Starting Again'. Please telephone for more information on 0181-445 0888/9549

Walks/Activities with Barnet Leisure Services and CMS For more information and meeting points phone 0181-359 3052.

30 December. 10am-12.30pm Enjoy a 6km ramble through the Mill Hill area linking green open spaces. Discover the conservation methods used to diversify wildlife and habitats in this 'urban countryside'

1 January. 2-4pm Join the Barnet Group of the London Wildlife Trust for their traditional New Year's Day Walk. An easy, 4km stroll around Golders Hill Park looking at the trees, wildfowl

on the ponds, and any other winter wildlife interest.

17 January. 10am-1pm A dawdle along the Dollis. Enjoy the differing landscapes of the urban fringe on this 7.5km ramble from Barnet to Rowley Green

17 January. 2-4pm Get your binoculars out and join Roy Beddard of the Welsh Harp Conservation Group on this circular, 4km walk to look at the wildlife in The Welsh Harp. Bring wellies/walking boots and waterproof winter clothing.

14 February A walk along the Pymmes Brook Trail leaving Bakers Hill Car Park, Monken Hadley at 10am and Oak Hill Park (by Pymmes Brook Trail board near pavilion) at around 11am arriving at Pymmes Park in Enfield at 1pm. Light refreshments will be available but bring money for these and bus fare home. Suitable for all the family.

14 February. 2-4pm Come exploring (4km) with the Welsh Harp Conservation Group and see the more unusual winter visiting birds with Roy Beddard. Bring wellies/walking boots and waterproof winter clothing. Don't forget your binoculars

17 February. 10am-12noon Discover Woodbridge - a small nature reserve nestled in the Totteridge Valley. Bring the children and learn about conservation in this wonderful array of habitats

Barnet Chamber of Commerce - Forthcoming Events

21 Jan New Members' Evening. Guest speaker Nigel Risner.

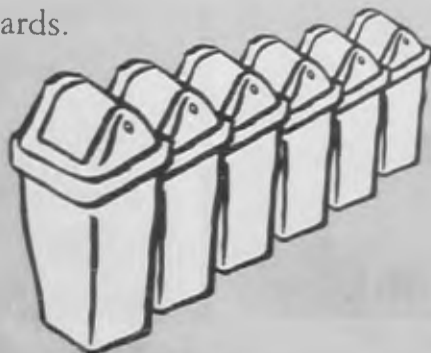
28 Jan Network Meeting. How to survive the recession!

February Network Lunch. For more details and the latest information on events please contact Deirdre Cavanagh on 0181-343 3833

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Six bags a-weighting

We all generate a lot of waste over Christmas. Find out when your refuse will be collected over the holiday and think about recycling christmas cards.



Age Concern of Barnet hosts Debate of the Age

BARNET - like Britain - is getting older and Age Concern in Barnet is hosting a series of seminars - 'Debates of the Age' - to help society prepare for these demographic changes.

The bad news is you've already missed the mouth-watering prospect of debating 'Values and Attitudes in an Ageing Society', 'Paying for Age' and 'The Future of Health and Social Care' at the Community Care Fair, Age Concern Barnet HQ and The Bull Theatre.

But the good

news is that you can still catch debates on 'The Built Environment - Planning for the Future' at Edgware Community Hospital Social Club on 23 January from 11am and 'Work and Lifestyles'

at Middlesex University's Hendon Campus on 25 February from 7pm.

Organisers Age Concern in Barnet have aimed to make the debates as entertaining as they are informative, so as well as providing panelists of the calibre of Barnet Council's Chief Executive Max Caller and local Agony Aunt Claire Rayner live music and refreshments have been laid on.

Further information is available from Andrew Bence at Age Concern in Barnet on 0181 203 2270.

debate
of the age

Your say in the future

All the fun of the Community Care Fair

BARNET'S annual Community Care Fair took place in October to provide information for local residents about the full range of community care services available in the borough. The free event brought together under one roof a wide range of care services provided by the council's social services, the health service, private and voluntary organisations across the borough. Following the success of last year's first-ever event the Fair was moved to larger premises this year and took place in the Dermot Boyle

Gallery at the RAF Museum in Colindale.

The Fair aimed to raise awareness of the various care issues, to inform and to highlight the opportunities for giving as well as receiving help.

Residents were able to find out how to become a volunteer and many attended special workshops featuring expert speakers on transport services, race, culture and community care; advocacy; help and advice for carers; volunteering and the Disability Discrimination Act.

"Last year's Fair was a run-

away success and I am thrilled that we can expand on this success. This unique event promotes awareness of the wide range of care services available, bringing together all community care providers - the NHS, council, voluntary and private," said Councillor Phil Yeoman, Vice-chair of Social Affairs Policy Development Committee.

"It is the perfect place to come for those who want their questions answered or need advice on community care and gives the organisations taking part the chance to meet and talk."

Disabled Display

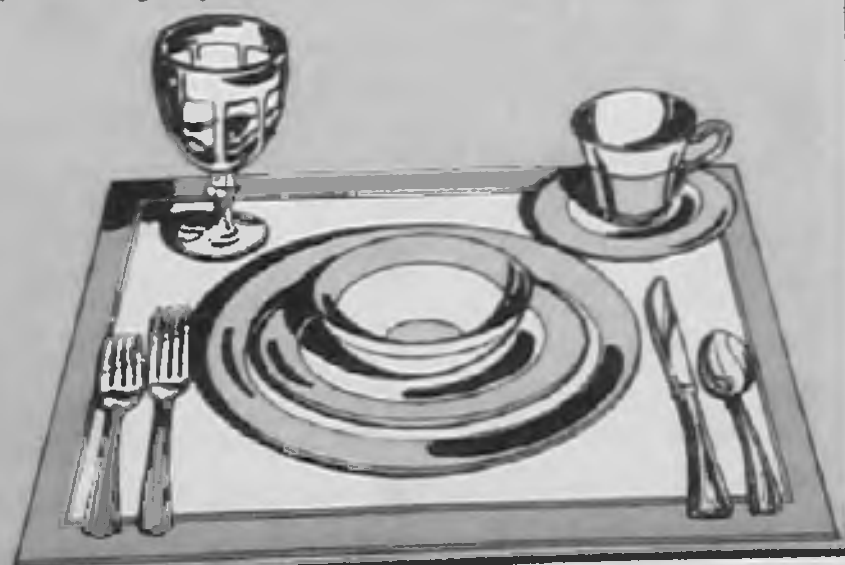
BARNET celebrated International Day of Disabled People on 3 December with a display of services at The Spires Shopping Centre. Barnet Council's five directorates joined Barnet Health Authority and other groups to showcase their services for the disabled.

Cllr Allan Turner, Chair of the Social Affairs Policy Development Committee, said: "The day gave us all a chance to reflect on the challenges faced by disabled people and ways in which their quality of life can be improved."

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Seven smoke-free meals

If you decide to give up smoking in the New Year, why not treat yourself with the money you will save to a meal out in one of the restaurants featured in Barnet's *Eat Smoke-Free* guide. Phone 0181-359 4717 for a copy.



Community Careline launched 0181-359 4123



HELPLINE: Barnet Mayor Cllr Usha Chopra and Bridget York of sponsors British Gas put the new Community Care Helpline to the test.

A NEW telephone service offering information and advice about adult social services in the borough has been launched.

The Community Care Helpline - on 0181-359 4123 - serves as a single point of call for access to social services in Barnet.

The Helpline's four specially trained staff also offer a confidential signposting service about what is available from the voluntary and health sectors.

Cllr. Phil Yeoman, Vice-Chair of the Social Affairs Policy Development Committee, said: "The new Helpline is a welcome initiative and I hope it will enable local people to obtain the information they need to make the best possible choices for themselves and their families."

The Helpline team will be taking calls between 9am and 5.15pm from Mondays to Thursdays and 9am to 5pm on Fridays. Minicom users should dial 0181-359 4852.

A Barnet Care 2000 initiative

COMMUNITY CARE HELPLINE



here to help you

Community Care Helpline is Barnet Council's new information and advice Helpline. It is there for anyone who needs help or advice on the wide range of Social Services available to adults who are aged 18 and over and who live in the borough.

Community Care Helpline can help with:

- advice on how to get an assessment; whether you qualify and if you can apply for the service direct
- information on benefits you may be entitled to
- information on likely charges for the services available
- written information in your preferred language
- advice on how to put things right if you are unhappy with the service you receive
- specific written information on the particular service you require.

Community Care Helpline is open Monday to Thursday: 9.00am - 5.15pm and Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm.

You can also contact us using a Minicom on 0181 359 4852 or fax us on 0181 359 4355.

Or write to: Community Care Helpline, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ.



supported by
British Gas
SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Crime Audit underway

CRIME-BUSTING CCTV cameras could take to the borough's streets following the most comprehensive study ever of offending in Barnet.

A crime audit has been commissioned by charity Crime Concern as part of the borough's Community Safety Strategy - a partnership involving Barnet Council, the Metropolitan Police and Middlesex Probation Service which aims to create a borough where people are safe and feel safe.

Crime Concern will pub-

lish a detailed breakdown of local crime figures early in the new year.

The results will enable the council and the Metropolitan Police to identify crime 'hotspots' and target them with a state-of-the-art CCTV system.

Members of Barnet Council agreed in November to examine detailed proposals and decide which of the many available CCTV systems to deploy.

An analysis of the costs, benefits and deficiencies of the various options will be discussed at a meeting of the

new Community Development Policy Development Committee.

Cllr. Alan Williams, Leader of Barnet Council, said: "Barnet Council's Corporate Plan pledges to introduce closed-circuit television to help stamp out crime in the borough and reduce fear of crime.

"We have agreed to examine the options available to us now so we can deliver on that pledge promptly following the crime audit and after due consultation with local people and the police."

Pitch Fees Frozen Again

STREET traders in the borough have received a welcome boost from Barnet Council - their licence fees are to remain frozen at 1994 levels.

Stallholders are currently charged 92 pence per square metre per day. This figure will remain in force until 2000, the Development and Protection Committee agreed last month under the council's commitment to supporting small businesses.

Rents and Housing Benefit - your council's role

Residents on low incomes can often claim housing benefit from the council to help them pay their rent - but the council has to follow central Government rules and this means sometimes the council is unable to help at all.

Sometimes the amount of rent used to work out how much benefit you can get is less than the actual rent paid. This could be for a number of reasons - because your home is bigger than the rules say your family needs, for example.

Another reason why the rent used to work out your benefit could be that the rent you have to pay is higher than the average cost of similar accommodation in the area. This average cost is worked out by the Rent Officer Service, which asks local letting and estate agents for information on the rents paid on similar types of properties.

Each time we receive a claim for housing benefit from someone who pays their rent to a private landlord we have to ask the Rent

Officer Service to give us an amount for the rent to be used in working out your benefit. The levels of rent change quite regularly. Every year or so, if you stay in the same accommodation, we have to ask the Rent Officer again how much rent to use when working out your benefit. Sometimes the rent he says we can use has gone down, even though your landlord may have put your rent up.

You can find out how much the Rent Officer will tell us to use for the rent when working out your benefit by completing a Pre Tenancy Determination application. You can use this, even if you are living in the accommodation already, before you take on a new tenancy. You should always ask for a pre tenancy determination before you take on a tenancy for a new home with a private landlord. You will receive a reply within a week of asking for the determination. You can get forms to apply for a pre tenancy determination from the caller office at Fenella, Hendon, or at any of the weekly advice

surgeries held around the borough. If you telephone the housing benefit section we will be happy to send you one.

If you do not agree with the amount of rent the Rent Officer has told us to use when working out your claim you can ask that it be looked at again. This is a request for a redetermination.

You should ask for a redetermination if you believe that the amount we have been to use when working out your benefit is wrong. Although it has not happened often, the Chief Rent Officer has, on occasions, decided that the figure given by the Rent Officer Service was too high. This has resulted in the amount of benefit we could pay being reduced.

If you suffer hardship because the rent you pay for your home is more than the figure we have been given to use in working out your benefit you can apply to us for a discretionary award, but the money we have to make these payments is strictly limited by the government.

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Eight barmaids pouring

Watch your alcohol consumption and make travel arrangements to ensure that you are not tempted to drink and drive.



Spotlight on Cophall Stadium

SUPER CHOICE FOR CHILDREN

If you're looking for top quality play and sport provision in North London, Barnet Sports Development can point you in the right direction.

The Sports Development Team at Barnet Cophall Pools provide holiday playschemes for 4-5, 6-7 and 8-12 year olds called Mini, Minor and Superchoice. Children take part in activities ranging from archery to windsurfing.



ARTS AND CRAFTS: Youngsters tap their creative energies at Barnet Cophall's After School Kids' Club

Younger children have a dazzling choice of arts and crafts, colouring, painting, go-karting, trampolining, hockey, funswims, entertainers and finding golden treasure using a map with the help of the resident pirate.

The range of activities helps develop motor skills, co-ordination and children's social skills. It is important that as well as active times, quiet activities and the opportunity to rest are provided. Beds and cushions are available in quiet areas away from boisterous play and snack and rest periods are provided throughout the day.

Children have sophisticated tastes and the older age group of 8-12 year olds have a blinding choice of activities like windsurfing,

sailing, canoeing and raft-building, go-karting, diving, snorkelling, fencing, golf, clown skills, archery, football and funswims.

Again with working parents in mind, the team delivers a second to none after school kids' club where the children are collected from school and transported to the Cophall site where they take part in themed arts and crafts projects, sports, educational trips and the dreaded homework before being collected by parents at 6pm.

The Superchoice holiday scheme operates on all school holidays apart from Christmas and the after school kids' club runs during term-time.

And this is just a fraction of the work done by the Sports Development Team - for more information call Chris Walker on 0181 457 9900.



SUPERCHOICE: The bouncy slide at the holiday playscheme is a popular choice with younger children.

TeamBarnet

LEISURE MANAGEMENT

Barnet Cophall's Sports Development Team has begun gearing up for the Millennium Youth Games, to be held at Heathrow in July 1999. Squads have been set up to compete in the volleyball, netball and hockey events. A weight-lifting club will be set up early in the New Year.

A club is being set up for youngsters lured by the gruelling discipline of Triathlon - an Olympic event for the first time in the Sydney 2000 games - consisting of a swim followed by a cycle ride and completed with a run. A kids triathlon will be organised by the Sports Development Team next Spring. Why not give it a try? All you need is a bike - and lots of stamina!

Two Olympic swimming medalists and national champion Gemma Beadle are to open a training scheme specially for disabled people at Cophall Pools on January 10. The scheme has been set up by Barnet Cophall chief coach Rhys Gormley with guidance from the London Sports Forum and the only criteria for taking part is the ability to work in a small group and be able to swim 50 metres unaided.

For more information on any of the projects or services featured on this page contact Chris Walker on 0181 457 9900.

Barnet's vision for the future

THE rules governing who can build what, where in Barnet are set to change.

A new planning blueprint, known as the Unitary Development Plan (UDP), is being drawn up to guide development in the borough for the next 15 years.

Consultation with resident's organisations, specialist groups, traders and business partners will form an important part of the process, which is due to begin early in the new year.

The updated plan is needed to embrace changes which have taken place across the

borough and beyond since the last plan was produced in 1991 and following new priorities adopted by the council.

The council's vision for the future will also take account of major national and international trends.

These include pressures on the environment, shifting patterns of employment and changes in skills between various sections of the community.

Each create conflicts of interest and tensions which good planning policies can help contain and resolve.

High on the list will be policies to ensure new developments improve the quality of life for all residents including building affordable homes to meet local need.

Other areas due to come under the spotlight include Shopping and Town Centres, Leisure, Traffic and Transport, Education and Employment.

Major sites earmarked for development, like Cricklewood and West Hendon, will be the focus for special attention.

Councillor Kathy McGuirk, Chair of the

Environment Policy Development Committee said

"This is the start of a complex process but one which holds the key to the future shape of Barnet.

"It is important we hear the views of all sections of the community and ensure future generations inherit a borough we can all be proud of."

For more details write to: Plan Review Team, Forward Planning and Projects, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, N20 0EJ.

Green Rules for Planners

BARNET Council's strategic land use policies are to be measured against tough new environmental, social and economic standards before adoption, former members of the Development and Protection Committee agreed last month.

Long-term decisions on which areas of the borough are suitable for residential, commercial, industrial, transport or leisure use are set out in Barnet's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) which is currently under review.

The current UDP has a number of guiding principles based on themes contained in the council's Corporate Plan.

These are to be developed into a 'Sustainability Appraisal' - a checklist against which proposals can be measured to minimise any impact on the local environment, economy or communities.

The appraisal will work towards a wide range of objectives based on the Department of the

Environment's general planning advice, including:

- Decreasing the number of vehicles on the road
- Decreasing energy consumption
- Increasing indigenous tree cover in Barnet
- Improving community safety
- Tackling poverty

Cllr Jack Cohen, former Chair of the Development and Protection Committee, said: "At long last Barnet councillors can consider the full impact of land use on the borough and help foster a greater respect for the environment around us and people's place within it.

"The council is committed to working towards a sustainable, high quality, safe environment for all Barnet's residents and a thriving local economy.

"This is arguably the most significant achievement of this administration because of the huge impact that development and land use in the borough has on every one of us."

Safety Jacket designer wins Royal assent

Barnet student Sheetal Majithia has received Royal recognition after designing a safety jacket for children who want to be seen in the dark - and look good in the light.

Sheetal won a commendation in the Prince Michael Road Safety Technology Awards for the design at the recent Motor Show in Birmingham and was personally congratulated by Prince Michael of Kent himself.

Awards Director Adrian Walsh described the safety jacket as "bright, attractive and innovative" and the jacket immediately found its way onto the fashion pages - of the Motor Show's daily newspaper.



ROYAL ASSENT: Prince Michael of Kent with Sheetal, Mary Williams of road safety organisation Brake, and a motor show visitor who is modelling the safety jacket.

Corporate Plan Sets Green Targets

BARNET Council is to continue waging war on potholes and litter, according to its new Corporate Plan.

Unveiled last month, the document - which sets out the Council's key aims and strategies for the next four years - boasts a package of measures designed to create and maintain a sustainable, healthy, environment in the borough and build on the achievements of the last four years.

Initiatives include:

- Extending neighbourhood environmental partnerships across the borough by 2002.
- Promoting waste minimisation.
- Investing in street cleaning, road and pavement maintenance.
- 'Greening' the borough with planting and landscaping.

Helen Gordon, Chair of the council's Policy and Implementation Committee,

said: "The Council is committed to improving the quality of life of everyone who lives, works or visits Barnet.

"Taking active steps to ensure the local environment is safe, healthy, clean and attractive is key to delivering this.

"But the Council cannot tackle these huge issues by itself - that is why we encourage all groups to take their responsibilities to the environment seriously."

Business Partnership Promotes Understanding

BARNET Council has given its full support to the 'Enforcement Concordat' - the Government's new code of practice for business regulation.

The Government announced the concordat earlier this year and is encouraging local authorities to sign up to it.

Barnet, which already had a Business Partnership pre-dating the Enforcement Concordat, has been leading the way.

Councils which sign up to the concordat - including

Barnet - will promise to improve performance in six areas: Standards, Openness, Helpfulness, Complaints, Proportionality and Consistency.

Barnet's Business Partnership has been developed between the local business community and the council.

It aims to help businesses and the council have a better understanding each other. This understanding will help both parties and, it is hoped, cut red tape.

Councillor Jack Cohen, Chair of the Development

and Protection Committee, said:

"It is great that Barnet is already leading the way in helping businesses.

"We welcome the new code. Most of what it asks us to do we are already putting place.

"We realise that businesses need to understand how we work and what is expected of them. And we also need to know what businesses think.

The Business Partnership will help us achieve this goal and comply with the Government's concordat."

Finchley Talks

BARNET Council and The Civic Trust hosted a major conference at Avenue House, East End Road, on the future of Finchley's three town centre areas on 26 November.

Local retailers teamed up with ward councillors, town centre management staff and Local Agenda 21 groups to shape 'Action Plans' for North Finchley, East Finchley and Church End.

These Action Plans will form the basis of town centre management under a new team of town centre management staff funded in partnership between the council and the private sector.

The conference took place on Thursday, November 26, at Avenue House, Finchley.

Cllr Kathy McGuirk, Chair of the Environment Policy Development Committee, said: "Drawing up these Action Plans is a true partnership task and this conference was an opportunity for everyone involved to talk to each other."

Plans for Elstree bypass dropped by Hertfordshire

PLANS to build a new bypass around Elstree - which members of Barnet Council's former Development and Protection Committee had agreed would cause congestion on the borough's roads - have been dropped.

Members of Hertfordshire County Council voted in November not to grant a planning application for the road.

Officers had told the Development and Protection Committee the proposals would push traffic onto the A1, A41 and local roads.

They also claimed analysis of the road's impact on Barnet had been deficient.

Councillor Jack Cohen, former Chair of the Development and Protection Committee, said: "If the proposed Elstree Bypass had been built this borough and its residents would have faced increased congestion and a deterioration of the environment and road safety.

"The original plan conflicted with Barnet's stated aims of reducing traffic in the borough by 10 per cent over the next twelve years."

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Nine ear drums drumming

If you plan to be away over Christmas, let the local police station know of two named key holders for your audible intruder alarm.



COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

(at Bank Holidays, surgery times may change. Please ring beforehand to check) (Con = Conservative, Lab = Labour, LibDem = Liberal Democrat)

ARKLEY WARD

ANITA CAMPBELL (Lab)

Tel: 0181-440 2703.
Surgery: 1st and 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 2-3pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

PAULINE COAKLEY WEBB (Lab)

Tel: 0181-449 2588. Surgery: 1st and 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 2-3pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

PAM COLEMAN (Lab)

Tel: 0181-449 6254. Surgery: 1st and 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 2-3pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

GEOFF COOKE (Lab)

Tel: 0181-446 5773. Surgery: Tuesdays at New Southgate and Friern Barnet Social Club, 31 Oakleigh Road South, New Southgate, London N11, 7-8pm. Also: Saturdays at 104 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, Herts., 10.30am-12noon.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

LYNNE HILLAN (Con)

Tel: 0181-445 5101. Work Tel: 0181-452 7222.

Work Fax: 0181-450 3232. email:

ashurst@Londonweb.net

Surgery: 2nd Saturday every month at Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Road, London N11 1EY, 10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANDREAS TAMBOURIDES (Con)

Tel. and fax: 0181-368 5417.

Surgery: 2nd Saturday every month at Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Road, London N11 1EY, 10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BURNT OAK WARD

LINDA McFADYEN (Lab)

Tel: 0181-440 6254. Surgery: Saturdays at Burnt Oak Library, Watling Avenue, Edgware, Middx, 10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ALLAN TURNER (Lab)

Tel: 0181-952 2106. Surgery: Saturdays at Burnt Oak Library, Watling Avenue, Edgware, Middx, 10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ALAN WILLIAMS (Lab)

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(LABOUR GROUP LEADER)

Tel: 0181-906 0576. Surgery: Saturdays at Burnt Oak Library, Watling Avenue, Edgware, Middx, 10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

CHILDS HILL WARD

JACK COHEN (LibDem)

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP LEADER

Tel: 0181-445 3981. Surgery: 1st Thursday every month at Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood Lane, London NW2, 7-8pm. Also: 2nd Tuesday every month at Kent Hall, Westcroft Way, London NW2, 4-5pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

MONROE PALMER (LibDem)

Tel: 0181-455 5140.

Home email: monroepalmer@cix.compulink.co.uk

Surgery: 1st Thursday every month at Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood Lane, London NW2, 7-8pm.

Also: 2nd Tuesday every month at Kent Hall, Westcroft Way, London NW2, 4-5pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

SUSETTE PALMER (LibDem)

Tel: 0181-455 5140. Home Fax: 0181-731 7670.

Surgery: 1st Thursday every month at Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood Lane, London NW2, 7-8pm.

Also: 2nd Tuesday every month at Kent Hall, Westcroft Way, London NW2, 4-5pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

COLINDALE WARD

DANISH CHOPRA (Lab)

Tel. and fax: 0181-449 3231. Surgery: Saturdays at Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, Colindale, NW9 5XL, 10-11am.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

NATHANIEL RUDOLF (Lab)

Tel: 0181-346 1175.

Surgery: Saturdays at Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, Colindale, NW9 5XL, 10-11am.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

GILL SARGEANT (Lab)

DEPUTY MAYOR

Tel: 0181-455 1070. Surgery: Saturdays at Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, Colindale, NW9 5XL, 10-11am.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

EAST BARNET WARD

USHA CHOPRA (Lab)

MAYOR

Tel. and fax: 0181-449 3231.

Surgery: Saturdays at 104 East Barnet Road EN4 8RE, 10.30am-12noon (the Labour Party Office)

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

OLWEN EVANS (Con)

Tel: 0181-368 1986. Surgery: 3rd Saturday every

month at East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Road,

East Barnet, EN4 8SG, 10.30am-12noon.

Also: 1st Saturday every month at The Community

Centre, Victoria Road, New Barnet,

10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANNE JARVIS (Lab)

Tel: 0181-449 9001

Surgery: Saturdays at 104 East Barnet Road EN4

8RE, 10.30am-12noon (the Labour Party Office).

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

HELEN GORDON (Lab)

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOUR GROUP

Tel. and fax: 0181-444 2761.

Surgery: Saturdays at East Finchley

Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, East

Finchley, N2, 10-11.30am.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ALISON MOORE (Lab)

Tel: 0181-343 0306.

Surgery: Saturdays at East Finchley

Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, East

Finchley, N2, 10-11.30am.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

PHILIP YEOMAN (Lab)

Tel: 0181-444 9216. Surgery: Saturdays at East

Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane,

East Finchley, N2, 10-11.30am.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

EDGWARE WARD

MALCOLM LESTER (Con)

Tel: 0181-349 2595.

Surgery: every Thursday at Edgware Library, Hale

Lane,

Edgware HA8 8NN, 6-7pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JOAN SCANNELL (Con)

Tel: 0181-959 5921. Fax: 0181-906 0112.

Surgery: every Thursday at Edgware Library, Hale

Lane,

Edgware HA8 8NN, 6-7pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANTHONY SPENCER (Con)

Tel. and fax: 0181-958 4867.

Work Fax: 0171-537 2005.

Work email:

anthony@spencerslondon.demon.co.uk

Surgery: every Thursday at Edgware Library, Hale

Lane, Edgware HA8 8NN, 6-7pm

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

FINCHLEY WARD

EVA GREENSPAN (Con)

Tel. and fax: 0181-203 1598.

Surgery: 1st Wednesday every month at Avenue

House, East End Road, Finchley, N3, 7.30-8.30pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BARBARA LANGSTONE (Con)

Tel. and fax: 0181-445 5443. Mobile Telephone

0958 626255. Surgery: 1st Wednesday every

month at Avenue House,

East End Road, Finchley, N3, 7.30-8.30pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

LESLIE SUSSMAN (Con)

Tel. and fax: 0181-346 6775. Surgery: 1st

Wednesday every month at Avenue House, East

End Road, Finchley, N3, 7.30-8.30pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

FRIERN BARNET WARD

JAMES CHAPMAN (Con)

Tel: 0181-446 9066.

email: cllr.james.chapman@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery: To arrange an appointment, please call

telephone number above or the Chipping Barnet

Conservative Association on: 0181-449 7345, or

call in at 163 High Street, Barnet.

BRIAN SALINGER (Con)

Tel. and fax: 0181-368 1329. Work Fax: 0181-368

1105. Mobile Telephone: 0956 337878.

email: bsalinger@aol.com

Surgery: To arrange an appointment please call

any of the above or the Chipping Barnet

Conservative Association on 0181-449 7345,

or call in at 163 High Street, Barnet.

JOHN TIPLADY (Con)

Tel: 0181-445 5734.

Surgery: To arrange an appointment please call

above telephone number or contact the Chipping

Barnet Conservative Association on: 0181-449

7345, or call in at 163 High Street, Barnet.

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Ten pipes a piping

Make sure your water pipes are lagged to prevent them from freezing up and find a reputable plumber before you need one - emergency call outs can be very expensive and unpredictable!



One Day Sales - buyer beware

Faulty and secondhand goods are being sold as new at illegal auctions held, Barnet's Trading Standards team has warned.

Organisers of the sales are cashing in on Christmas by targeting families on tight budgets.

The sales, which avoid detection by advertising just hours before they start, seem too good to be true with top-of-the range electrical goods offered at a fraction of their normal cost.

But the goods often turn out to be worthless - and the auctioneers are nowhere to be found.

Auctioneers claim the goods are from bankrupted

firms and plant 'customers' to open the bidding.

Gradually, the atmosphere is worked into a shopping frenzy as more and more planted customers seem to walk away with bargains.

But by the time shoppers get their goods home and discover they've fallen prey to a scam it's usually too late.

"Let's be clear - these sales are a con," said Councillor Jack Cohen, Chair of the former Development and Protection Committee.

"Often residents on low incomes attend these sales in the belief that they will be able to buy goods they would not normally be able to afford.

"The people who organise

them are preying on unsuspecting shoppers who can ill afford to spend money on goods they will be unable to use or get a refund on."

If you hear of a one day sale taking place near you call Trading Standards on 0181-359 4930.

Some questions to ask yourself before bidding...

Do I know exactly what I'm buying?

Is it really the bargain I'm being told it is?

Will I get a receipt? Do I know who I'm buying from?

Have I heard of the brand names of the goods?

Can I afford it? Do I really need it?

Will the shop be there if I need to return the goods?

How do I know the goods are new and not seconds?

Do I have to buy anything first before I can take part in the sale?

Will I get the chance to examine the goods before I pay?

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

JOHN MARSHALL (Con)

Tel: 0181-922 7081

Surgery: 4th Monday every month at Fellowship House,

Willifield Way, London NW11, 7.30-9pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JAZMIN NAGHAR (Con)

Tel: 0181-458 2466. Fax: 0181-458 5457.

Surgery: 4th Monday every month at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, London NW11, 7.30-9pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

Dr. PETER SKOLAR (Con)

Tel: 0181-455 1652

Home Fax: 0181-731 9414.

Surgery: 4th Monday every month at Fellowship House,

Willifield Way, London NW11, 7.30-9pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

MELVIN COHEN (Con)

Tel: 0181-343 7382. Work Fax: 0181-445 0979.

Surgery: to arrange an appointment, please call telephone number above or contact the Finchley and Golders Green Conservative Association on

0181-445 4292. 2nd Sunday every month at Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Last Sunday

every month at Hendon Sports Centre, 11.15am-12.15pm. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ABA DUNNER (Con)

Tel: 0181-455 9960. Work Tel: 0181-731 9025.

Surgery: to arrange an appointment, please call telephone number above or contact the Finchley and Golders Green Conservative Association on

0181-445 4292. 2nd Sunday every month at Golders Green Library,

2.15-3.15pm. Last Sunday every month at Hendon Sports Centre,

11.15am-12.15pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

CHRISTOPHER HARRIS (Con)

Tel: 01892 526121. Work Fax: 01892 539825.

Surgery: to arrange an appointment, please call telephone number above or contact the Finchley and Golders Green Conservative Association on

0181-445 4292. 2nd Sunday every month at Golders Green Library,

2.15-3.15pm. Last Sunday every month at Hendon Sports Centre,

11.15am-12.15pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

HADLEY WARD

KATIA DAVID (Con)

Tel: 0181-361 9805. Surgery: 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Conservative

Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 5SU, 10.30am-12noon. Tel: 0181-449 7345. Fax:

0181-449 7346. Also: 4th Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet

EN5 4QT. 11.30am-1pm Tel: 0181-359 4040.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

LIZ MAMMATT (Con)

LEADER OF CONSERVATIVE GROUP Tel and fax:

0181-361 9720. Surgery: 3rd Saturday every

month at Chipping Barnet Conservative

Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, Herts., EN5

5SU, 10.30am-12noon. Tel: 0181 449 7345. Fax:

0181-449 7346. Also: 4th Saturday every month at

Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet

EN5 4QT. 11.30am-1pm Tel: 0181-359 4040

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

KANTI PATEL (Con)

Tel: 0181-446 6639. Surgery: 3rd Saturday every

month at Chipping Barnet Conservative

Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, Herts., EN5

5SU, 10.30am-12noon. Tel: 0181-449 7345. Fax:

0181-449 7346. Also: 4th Saturday every month at

Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet

EN5 4QT. 11.30am-1pm Tel: 0181-359 4040.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

HALE WARD

STEVEN BLOMER (Lab)

Tel: 0181-959 7878. Surgery: 1st and 3rd Saturday

every month at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue,

NW7 2HX, 1-2.30pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BRIAN GORDON (Con)

Tel: 0181-202 0044. Fax: 0181-202 4145.

Surgery: Last Thursday in every month at Hendon

Conservative Association, 2 Apex Parade,

Selva Lane,

London, NW7, 8.15-9.15pm.

Tel: 0181-959 1446.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

RUTH NYMAN (Lab)

Tel: 0181-959 3369. Work Fax: 0181-903 1943.

Home email: email.nyman@virgin.net

Surgery: 1st and 3rd Thursday every month at Mill

Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX, 3.45-

4.45pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

HENDON WARD

MAUREEN BRAUN (Con)

Tel: 0181-203 1876.

Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon

Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANTHONY FINN (Con)

Tel: 0181-202 9689. Work Tel: 0171-328 3272.

Work Fax: 0171-328 2140.

Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon

Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANDREW SHERLING (Con)

Tel. and Fax: 0181-202 8630.

Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon

Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

MILL HILL WARD

ROGER AXWORTHY (LibDem)

Tel: 0181-906 8863

Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley

Avenue, Mill Hill, London NW7 2HX, 10am-

12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

WAYNE CASEY (LibDem)

Tel: 0181-906 8189

Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley

Avenue, London NW7 2HX, 10am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JEREMY DAVIES (LibDem)

Tel. and fax: 0181-959 6261

Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley

Avenue,

London NW7 2HX, 10am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ST. PAUL'S WARD

KITTY LYONS (Lab)

Tel: 0181-346 6843.

Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 331

Ballards Lane, Finchley, 11am-12.30pm. Tel:

0181-343 9854.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

KATHY McGUIRK (Lab)

Tel: 0181-346 8255. Work Tel: 0181-343 9854.

Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 331

Ballards Lane, Finchley, 11am-12.30pm.

Tel: 0181-343 9854.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JIM TIERNEY (Lab)

Tel: 0181-346 3359.

Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office,

331 Ballards Lane, Finchley, 11am-12.30pm.

Tel: 0181-343 9854.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

TOTTERIDGE WARD

BRIAN COLEMAN (Con)

Tel: 0181-349 2024. Next surgery is 19 December

1998 10.30am-12noon at Totteridge Library, 109

Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ and 16 January

1999 10.30am-12noon at North Finchley Library,

Ravensdale Avenue, London N12 9HP.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

or contact 163 High Street, Barnet

(0181-449 7345)

KEVIN EDSON (Con)

Tel: 0181-446 8343. Next surgery is 19 December

1998 10.30am-12noon at Totteridge Library, 109

Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ and 16 January

1999 10.30am-12noon at North Finchley Library,

Ravensdale Avenue, London N12 9HP.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

or contact 163 High Street, Barnet

(0181-449 7345)

VICTOR LYON (Con)

Tel: 0181-446 4422

Next surgery is 19 December 1998 10.30am-

12noon at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane,

London N20 8DZ and 16 January 1999 10.30am-

12noon at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale

Avenue, London N12 9HP

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

or contact 163 High Street, Barnet

(0181-449 7345)

WEST HENDON WARD

ARUN GHOSH (Lab)

Tel: 0181-202 6841

Surgery: Saturdays at West Hendon Clinic,

West Hendon Broadway

(entrance in Perryfield Way),

NW9, 10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

AGNES SLOCOMBE (Lab)

Tel: 0181-202 4074.

Surgery: Saturdays at West Hendon Clinic,

West Hendon Broadway

(entrance in Perryfield Way), NW9,

10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANSUYA SODHA (Lab)

Tel and fax: 0181-959 6035.

Home email:

ansuya@vishnomarketing.demon.co.uk

Surgery: Saturdays at West Hendon Clinic, West

Hendon Broadway

(entrance in Perryfield Way), NW9,

10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

WOODHOUSE WARD

BEVERLEY PEARCE (Lab)

Tel: 0181-440 0918.

Home email: bevpearce@lyttonroad.demon.co.uk

Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office,

331 Ballards Lane, N12 8LT, 11am-12.30pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BARRY RAWLINGS (Lab)

Tel: 0181-343 7259.

Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office,

331 Ballards Lane N12 8LT, 11am-12.30pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

VACANCY

By-election on 10 December 1998.

So how much do you know about drugs? We can give to the answers to the questions on page nine but if you want to find out more contact the council's Drugs Youth Work Team on 0181 202 5533 or visit our Website at www.barnet.gov.uk.

How did you do?

1. False
2. True
3. False - Tobacco kills 110,000 a year. Heroin was responsible for 319 fatalities in 1995.
4. False
5. False
6. True
7. True
8. False - Worth an estimated \$300 billion a year, it is second only to the international arms trade in turnover.
9. True
10. True

Crime Act gives council new community safety powers

LOCAL authorities have been given new powers - and duties - to improve community safety under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Many of the new responsibilities have already been addressed by Barnet Council but the Policy and Implementation Committee considered the implications of the Act in full at its November meeting.

Specifically, the Act obliges councils to work with the Police, Probation Service and other agencies to produce a Community Safety Strategy.

Barnet has already produced such a strategy. The

council agreed last night to work with our partner agencies to revise it to meet the requirement of the new Act.

Members also discussed how best to implement its new powers to combat crime and anti-social behaviour, which include:

- local child curfew schemes
- parenting orders
- child safety orders
- anti-social behaviour orders

Barnet Council has also pre-empted many of the other new obligations placed on it by the Act. Working with the Metropolitan Police, it

has already commissioned a borough-wide Crime Audit, for example, which will report back in January - the Act says this has to be completed by April next year.

Chair of the Policy and Implementation Committee, Cllr Helen Gordon, said: "Barnet Council welcomes the Crime and Disorder Act which will allow us to make real progress on our pledge to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour."

"We have already adopted many of the provisions contained in the Act and will be quick to decide how we can best make use of the others."

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Eleven lords a leaping

And leap you will if you buy unsafe Christmas tree lights.

Check that they have a fitted plug, are CE marked and are double insulated.



War heroes of Barnet remembered

THE traditional Service of Remembrance at Hendon War Memorial had added poignancy this year, the eightieth anniversary of the signing of the Armistice.

Few survivors of the first Great War remain but their places at this and other services across the borough were taken by those who remember later

conflicts.

Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Usha Chopra, led the borough's tribute laying a wreath to those who lost their lives fighting

for their country.

The short religious service also remembered those who still suffer as a result of present day conflicts and called for world peace.

Wreaths were also laid by representatives of the council, the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, political parties, veteran's organisations, the emergency services and youth groups.

The ceremony ended with the Mayor taking the salute from over 100 veterans who marched past the Town Hall watched by many residents who had braved the cold, wet weather to pay their respects.



CIVIC RESPECT: Barnet Council Chief Executive Max Caller (left) pays tribute with Mayor Usha Chopra and Mace Bearer David Vincent.



REMEMBRANCE: Veterans at the service

Ward map redrawn

BARNET Council submitted its proposals for changes to ward boundaries in the borough to the Local Government Commission for England last month.

The Commission recommends a council size of between 40 and 80 councillors for a London Borough, favouring an odd number of councillors overall. The council is recommending a change to a 21-ward borough which will mean an increase of three councillors. At the moment there are 20 wards each with three councillors. And with three councillors in each ward, it would mean that if the Government moves to annual local elec-

tions in London this can easily be achieved.

Barnet is the second largest London borough in terms of population size. Currently the ratio between each councillor and the number of people they serve is the highest in London, with one councillor representing 3,790 electors. The council has considered two options for the size of the council and concluded that a move to 21 wards with 63 councillors will best suit the needs of the borough. This takes account of the contrasting communities in the borough and the physical boundaries formed by major roads and railways. The council's proposals are based on the forecast of what the electorate

will be in February 2003.

Councillor Helen Gordon, Chair of Barnet's Policy and Implementation Committee, said "A lot of careful work has gone into the process to ensure that as far as possible we are giving equal representation to all voters, wherever they live in the borough."

"A task like this is never easy - but we have done what we can to reflect the identity of local communities within the physical boundaries of major roads and railways. We have listened to the comments made by local people and groups throughout this process and have made changes where it's been practical to do so. The important thing is that everyone's vote should carry equal weight."

Barnet Council

in partnership with local people

European Elections - 10 June 1999



- Have you registered to vote?
- Are you on the draft register of electors?
- Have you checked that your details are correct?
- If your name is misspelt or missing from the draft register please contact the Electoral Registration Office on 0181-359 2323.



BARNET

Now you've read Community News - recycle it

WAR MEMORIAL RESTORED

The Chief Executive of Barnet Council, Max Caller, attended a service in November to mark the completion of the restoration of the Monken Hadley War Memorial.

Generous donations from the community and Barnet Council through the Barnet War Memorials Initiative fund allowed the memorial to be restored.

The memorial was cleaned and re-lettered with the names of servicemen and women in time for this year's Remembrance Day.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me...

Twelve ladies dancing

We all like to party, but not always at the same time. If you are planning a party, warn your neighbours. If you need to report a noisy party, contact 0181-359 2000.

