

barnet first

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

FREE of charge Issue 10 APRIL-MAY 2004

The Ravenscroft - By Royal Appointment Duke of Kent visits school



www.barnet.gov.uk



2002-2004
Promoting Lifelong Learning, Specialist
Libraries and Community Resources
1000-1004
Community Cohesion

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

Welcome to the April-May edition of Barnet First. In this edition you can read about the inauguration of our first Alcohol Free Zone in North Finchley to stamp out street drinking in this area.

This issue also looks further at the tough budget and council tax decisions we had to make when facing the tight funding situation. The final budget and council tax for 2004/5 was agreed in March and we focussed on your key priorities with new funding for housing, children's services, community care, schools, CCTV and town keepers. I aimed to keep council tax rises as low as possible and made efficiency savings but reductions in some services and jobs were necessary to make the required savings of £13m.

We also look at the proposed post office closures in this edition and I am delighted that my campaign against these closures has been successful and the Grahame Park post office has had a reprieve. I will continue to campaign hard against all the proposed closures.

And finally I am very pleased with the recognition we are receiving for schools performance in GCSE results, the "specialist status" being awarded to our schools and for the corporate progress the Council has made over the past 12 months - all of which are covered further in this Barnet First.

Councillor Victor Lyon
Leader of Barnet Council

first things first

Contents



FEATURES

- 03** School wins specialist status
- 07** Holocaust Memorial Day
- 09** Alcohol free zone inaugurated
- 12** Unsung heroes honoured
- 15** Health chief talks to Barnet First
- 15** Royal visit at The Ravenscroft
- 17** Council gets tough on fly-tippers
- 18** What's on
- 20** Watchdog praises council progress

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

Editorial team:
John Seekings, Martin Simpson, Gail Scott-Spicer, Natasha Reid
Contributors:
Sue Segar

Editorial and advertising enquiries:
Tel 02083597794
Email barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk
Barnet Council does not accept

Barnet First is also available in large print and on audio tape

responsibility for any goods or services offered by advertisers. Publication of an advertisement does not imply recommendation by the council of any goods or services advertised.
Barnet First, Communications, North London Business Park, Building 4, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP

Distribution of Barnet First
Local Authority and postal boundaries do not always coincide. If you live outside of the London Borough of Barnet and receive Barnet First, we apologise. We hope you enjoy reading it, nonetheless

design and print by
The Limehouse Group

School wins performing arts status

Friern Barnet School has become the borough's first specialist performing arts college.

The 750-pupil school has a long tradition of excelling in drama and music. More recently it has successfully introduced dance to the curriculum and the 'specialist status' award from the DfES is well deserved official recognition for these strengths.

Becoming a centre of excellence for the performing arts will not only benefit the school and its children but also the wider community as well. Facilities provided by the extra money that specialist status brings will be available to local primary schools as well as drama and arts societies in the local area. The school is also developing links with the new artsdeport.

Following its successful bid the school can now consider developments such as recording

and dance studios, improved lighting and sound systems for the school's hall and stage areas and making staff available to forge links with the local community.

Headteacher Geoff Gosling said: "We are delighted to have been awarded specialist status. The experience of other schools that have taken this route is that results have leapt. We want to use the arts, not only to develop the children's self-confidence and ability to express themselves, but also to teach other subjects across the whole curriculum.

"We have a comprehensive intake of pupils and we are not trying to create a 'Fame School,' - we will continue to function as any other, offering the full National Curriculum - but we want to develop in all our children an appreciation and understanding of the arts that they will be able to carry with them throughout their lives."



Friern Barnet pupils show off their musical talents

Barnet's GCSE pupils are top of the class

Barnet schools have shown once again that they are amongst the best in the country following the publication of school performance tables for GCSE results in 2003.

For the second year running more pupils achieved five or more grades at A* to C than ever before, making Barnet the 16th best Local Education Authority in the country.

There was also notable success for a number of individual secondary schools.

Ashmole in Southgate, East Barnet, Friern Barnet, The Compton in Finchley, The Edgware, The Ravenscroft in Totteridge and Whitefield in Cricklewood all achieved their best results in recent times after successive years of improvement.

There was also success for the Hasmonean High School in Hendon which was the third best school in the country for the overall 'value' it added to the progress made by children across both Key Stage 3 and GCSE. The 'value added' measure aims to make a fairer comparison between schools who have pupils with different ability levels.

Elsewhere the Henrietta Barnett School in Hampstead Garden Suburb was ranked 5th best grammar school in the country while Queen Elizabeth's Boys' in Barnet was placed 13th and St Michael's Catholic Grammar in North Finchley 19th.

Barnet's A-level students also performed well - with the increase in the average points score per student in the borough more than three times the national improvement.

Considerate Contractors recognised

Good practice by building firms in the borough was recognised when Barnet Council hosted the first annual Considerate Contractors Scheme Awards.

Awards were presented to four developers in three categories at a special ceremony at North London Business Park. The winners were:

Gold Award:

Octagon Developments Ltd

Silver Award:

Opecprime Developments Ltd

Bronze Award:

Stock Construction (London Ltd);

Cox Format Developments Ltd

Construction companies that sign up to the council's Considerate Contractors Scheme have to obey a code of practice and are monitored by technical and specialist council staff, to guarantee they are good neighbours.

The scheme ensures that builders keep noise to an acceptable level and that sites are safe, tidy and do not obstruct local traffic or pedestrians.



News in brief

Multicultural Community Day

The Borough's seventh Multicultural Community Day takes place on Saturday 15 May from 10am to 4pm at the Barnet Multicultural Centre, Algernon Road, West Hendon. Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.

The theme this year is 'Growing together, living as one'. On the day you will be able to help create a garden with a mosaic feature and participate in the street procession or interactive workshops. Other features include stalls, exhibitions and various cuisines.

The event is sponsored by Barnet Primary Care Trust, Barnet Council and Barnet Voluntary Service Council.

Want to know more?

Visit www.barnetmcc.org

Barnet fights Post Office closures

Since the announcement to close seven Sub-Post Offices and one main Post Office in Barnet there has been a wave of support from the community to keep them open.

The branches proposed for closure are East Barnet Road; Netherlands Road, New Barnet; Mount Parade, Cockfosters; Wood Street, Barnet; Cricklewood Lane, Cricklewood; Ballards Lane (main Post Office), Church End; Pennine Parade, Cricklewood and Colney Hatch Lane, Muswell Hill.

The council, residents and Post Watch are continuing to lobby the Post Office over their proposals and the impact this would have on the vulnerable in the community.

Hendon Library refurbishment update

The modernisation of Hendon Library is now well underway with much of the major building work nearly completed.

The refurbishment will see a new layout and a lift to all floors making it easier for people to access all sections of the library.

On the ground floor visitors will find a modernised children's library and separate teenage section, fiction books, music, videos and improved

computer access. Non-fiction and reference books will be located on the refurbished upper floors, together with a Multimedia Centre.

The library is expected to re-open in late summer 2004.

Want to know more?

Call Tricia Little on

020 8359 7776

News in brief

Six of the best - Barnet Schools shine in Ofsted annual report

Six of Barnet's most successful schools have been praised for their outstanding achievements by Ofsted Chief, David Bell.

The schools have all been highlighted in Mr Bell's annual report for 2002/3 following glowing inspections by the Government education watchdog.

Brookland Jr school in Hampstead Garden Suburb, Holy Trinity school in East Finchley, The Annunciation RC Jr school in Burnt Oak, East Barnet school, Mill Hill County High school and Queen Elizabeth's Girls' school have all been congratulated by Mr Bell whose annual report was presented to Parliament.

Reception held to celebrate Barnet's sporting successes

Barnet's Mayor, Cllr Melvin Cohen, hosted a special reception in January to celebrate the magnificent sporting achievements of the borough's youngsters during 2003.

Some of the teams commended represented the borough in the London Heathrow Youth Games in archery, fencing, canoeing and cross country. Commendations were also given to Barnet's representatives for the London Mini-Marathon and Inter-Borough swimming championship.

At the reception coaches and volunteers who give up their valuable time training the borough's youngsters were acknowledged and thanked.

Mencer takes Hale seat

The Labour Party candidate David Mencer won the Hale ward by-election on February 5. Four candidates were nominated and the results were as follows:
Clive Cohen (Liberal Democrat) – 423 votes

Lesley Evans (The Conservative Party candidate) – 1175 votes

David Mencer (The Labour Party candidate) – 1329 votes

David Williams (Green Party) – 113 votes

The turn out was 26.6 per cent. The by-election was prompted by the resignation of former councillor Ruth Nyman, who had represented the ward since 1998.



Barnet Mayor Cllr Melvin Cohen pulls his weight at the official opening of the Barnet Burnt Oak Leisure Centre

Mayor opens state-of-the art leisure centre

The new Barnet Burnt Oak Leisure Centre, has been officially opened by Barnet's Mayor, Cllr Melvin Cohen.

The launch of the new centre marks another mile-stone in the council's partnership with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) and its drive to provide everyone in the borough with leisure facilities fit for the 21st century at a price everyone can afford. GLL took over the management of all council-operated leisure centres last year and is investing around £6.5 million in modernising facilities across the borough.

The new centre boasts indoor and outdoor facilities as well as providing a base and IT facilities for a number of local schemes run by Barnet Council and a programme of evening activities for local teenagers.

Want to know more?

Contact Barnet Burnt Oak Leisure Centre on

020 8201 0982

Barnet First

Schools recycling challenge

Danegrove school in East Barnet and Moss Hall Infant school and Moss Hall Junior school in Finchley are the first to complete the Barnet Schools Recycling Challenge.

The initiative, organised by the council's Waste and Sustainability Team, aims to make primary school children aware of the benefits of recycling and persuade them to make it an everyday habit.

The challenge involves giving parents an opportunity to request a black recycling box and each pupil completing a 'recycling diary' to record all of the materials they recycle from home in one week.

Once the diaries are returned, a visit to the school by the Mayor is arranged to present a certificate to pupils.

Want to know more?

Call 020 8359 7418 or e-mail stuart.gadsden@barnet.gov.uk

Winning design for recycling poster competition

The artistic talents of a pupil from St John's CE primary school in Hendon is being displayed on a new poster promoting recycling throughout the borough.

Over 600 youngsters from Barnet's schools entered a competition, organised by the council and ECT, to design a poster that would make borough residents aware of the benefits of recycling and persuade them to play their part in reducing the amount of rubbish produced in the borough.

The winning poster was designed by five-year-old Michael Mensah and he was presented with his prize of a solar-powered radio by Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr Brian Coleman at a special ceremony at Hendon Town Hall. St John's CE Primary school also won £200 to spend

Cllr Coleman presents competition winner Michael Mensah with his solar powered radio

on environmental projects.

The runners-up were Leigh Collyer and Mazin Osman from Hendon school (a joint effort for the 12-16 years category) and Abishai Thomas from Monken Hadley CE primary school in Barnet (8-11 years category). They all win a solar-powered radio and each school gets £50 towards environmental projects.



Message in a Bottle Competition WIN £350 of Halfords vouchers

Entering the competition is as easy as recycling!

Between 22 March and 23 April, simply write your name, address and telephone number on a piece of scrap paper, put it into a glass bottle and place in your black recycling box. One winner will be selected at random and will receive £350 of Halfords vouchers to spend on the bike of their choice.



1 million years to degrade
30 seconds to recycle!

This competition is open to all users of the Recycle from Home service. For full terms and conditions log on to www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling.



Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Community Development Cllr Peter Davis presents the Rev Leslie Hardman with a pot of snowdrops to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

Six-hundred attend Holocaust Memorial Service

Around 600 people attended a special civic commemoration service in Hendon Park's Memorial Garden to remember victims of the Holocaust.

The event was hosted by Barnet's Mayor, Cllr Melvin Cohen, who was joined by members of the public, community and religious leaders and other senior council representatives.

The purpose of the council's annual Holocaust Memorial Day service is to ensure that the horrendous crimes committed during one of the darkest periods in human history are never forgotten.

Guest speakers at the Hendon Park service included former army chaplain and Minister of Hendon Synagogue, the Reverend Leslie Hardman MBE. Mr Hardman was the first Jewish Chaplain to enter Bergen Belsen Concentration camp

on April 17, 1945, just two days after it had fallen into British hands.

An address was also made by Dr Margaret Brearly, currently the honorary advisor on the Holocaust to the Archbishop's Council.

Performances were given during the service by the London Cantorial Singers, the Holocaust Survivor Centre Band, Hendon's Bell Lane Primary School Choir and Whitefield School pupils from Cricklewood who gave a poetry recital.

Barnet's Cabinet Member for Community Development, Cllr Peter Davis said: "Holocaust Memorial Day helps ensure future generations reflect on the horrors committed in the name of intolerance and prejudice. The Holocaust is a subject still relevant to all of us. It brings home the individual responsibility that we all have to live in harmony, regardless of our race, culture, religion or nationality."

Pupils pay tribute to children of the Holocaust

Youngsters from Moss Hall Junior school in Finchley have paid tribute to children killed during the Holocaust by planting a memorial Snowdrop Garden in their honour.

The garden is part of the Children of the Holocaust Memorial Project established by Barnet Council which aims, over time, to plant enough snowdrops throughout the borough to represent the 1.5 million children murdered under the Nazi regime between 1933-1945.

The 'Bettine Snowdrop Garden' has been named in honour of Holocaust survivor Bettine Le Beau whose husband Harry Michaels, a voluntary teaching assistant at the school, funded the project at Moss Hall.

Bettine officially opened the garden with Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Melvin Cohen, after talking to children at the school about her wartime and Concentration Camp experiences.



Barnet's Mayor Cllr Melvin Cohen and Holocaust Survivor Bettine Le Beau officially open Moss Hall Jr school's memorial Snowdrop Garden

What Barnet spends your money on

£6 million extra for community care

Barnet Council has reasserted its pledge to support the borough's most vulnerable residents by announcing its biggest increase in community care spending for five years.

This is despite a very tight budgetary position which has left it needing to make £13 million worth of savings across all areas to cover the cost of front line services.

Money will be invested in providing modern residential and day care services for those with learning disabilities and providing additional high cost placements for mental health patients.

The council is committed to maintaining the existing number of residential and day care places for

the elderly and has an on-going programme to reprovide high quality, day and residential care homes with partners the Ealing Family Housing Association and Fremantle Trust.

The £6 million increase in next year's community care budget will help meet existing pressures while making sure the council can continue to offer first class support to those who need it.

Those pressures include an extra £2.8 million having to be spent on community care last year to meet an increased demand for services.

This included a significant increase in care packages for patients being discharged from hospital following the introduction of legislation fining councils for every day patients stay in hospital waiting for a care home place. Inflation, an increase in spending on people with learning disabilities and money spent on occupational therapists for the elderly also contributed to the extra costs.

Community work shortlisted for award

Barnet Council's work with ethnic minority communities has been rewarded with an award shortlisting.

With over a quarter of its population coming from an ethnic minority community, a review indicated the council was not meeting the needs of Barnet's Chinese community, now the largest in London. Over 18 months the council worked closely with the community, and the results of that work have now been acknowledged by the prestigious annual Local Government Chronicle awards.

The achievements that earned that shortlisting include the establishment of the first North London Chinese Association. The association has been a great success, offering consumer and

legal advice, reporting crimes to the police, a Chinese Saturday school, clubs for the young and a full programme and events.

The council also put services under the microscope and improved the areas it found wanting. For example it expanded the Chinese book and video collection in the borough's libraries. An effective programme

was also launched to combat racism in the borough during the world-wide SARS outbreak in Spring 2003.

The council's work in this area has been commended by Whitehall, and the council has also been awarded Beacon Status for its community cohesion work. The winner of the Local Government Chronicle's award for Community Initiative of the Year will be announced soon.



Barnet council's team with members of the borough's Chinese community

Alcohol free zone calls time on street drinking

Shadow Home Office minister Nick Hawkins MP officially inaugurated Barnet Council's first alcohol free zone in North Finchley at a special ceremony on March 2 attended by the Mayor, Cllr Melvin Cohen, Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr Brian Coleman and Barnet's new Borough Commander, Chief Supt. Mark Ricketts.

The zones are part of the council's war on nuisance and anti-social behaviour and are intended to stamp out street drinking in areas where this problem is blighting the lives of residents.

North Finchley, as well as Hendon Central and Finchley, town centres have been chosen as pilot controlled zones as they are the worst hit by street drinking. The council is keen to roll out the scheme elsewhere in the borough if the first three zones prove successful.

Street Enforcement Officers will be able to alert police to problems in the zones so that these can be tackled. Creating the

zones will mean officers can highlight problems with ticket touts outside tube stations or beggars who have been drinking so they can be moved on or arrested by police.

Cabinet Member for Environment Councillor Brian Coleman said: "Ridding the borough of anti-social behaviour is a top priority and these zones are the latest weapon in our armoury to achieve this. People should not have to put up with the unacceptable behaviour of drunks and our action will ensure that the problem in the three areas is quickly dealt with so that we can all enjoy better streets."

The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 gave local authorities the power to set up alcohol free zones, making it an offence to drink alcohol in public.

Anyone drinking outside a pub, café or restaurant which has the appropriate licence is not affected by the ban.

Utilities held to account over traffic chaos

Barnet Council is to hold utility companies to account over the disruption caused by their road works.

Representatives from the five major utilities - 24seven, Transco, BT, Thames Water and 3 Valleys - will be asked to explain to the council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee why repairs are often uncoordinated or overrun causing traffic chaos in the borough.

The committee is scrutinising the street works of utility companies in response to public concern about work carried out in Frith Lane and Hendon Wood Lane which resulted in prolonged delays for the borough's motorists.

Current legislation means utilities can and will undertake works when they believe it is necessary. They are supposed to inform the council well in advance so an effort can be made to co-ordinate the process, but the council has little or no power to stop a company carrying out work.

Between October 2002 and March 2003, for instance, over 97% of utility works in the borough were carried out with seven days notice or less given to the council.

Chair of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cllr Olwen Evans said: "Poorly planned and lengthy road works lead to extra traffic congestion that has a major impact on the travelling public. We will be asking the utilities to explain what remedies and action they will be putting in place to minimise the disruption caused by their repairs."



Barnet First

You can contact the council in a number of ways:

For general enquiries, or if you know the name of the person or section you want to speak to, call 020 8359 2000.

Visit the council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk for information on all services including contact details and telephone numbers. For more detailed enquiries on council services call into one of our Action Points. The council has four Action Points at: The Town Hall, Hendon, Chipping Barnet Library, Edgware Library and Golders Green Library.

Action Points can also be contacted by:
Telephone: 020 8359 4000

Fax: 020 8359 2197; Minicom: 020 8203 8942

Email: info.centre@barnet.gov.uk

Con=Conservative, Lab=Labour, LibDem= Liberal Democrat

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

LYNNE HILLAN (Con)

(020) 8445 5101 cllr.l.hillan@barnet.gov.uk
2nd Saturday every month, Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

DANIEL HOPE (Con)

(020) 8368 9005 cllr.d.hope@barnet.gov.uk
2nd Saturday every month, Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

ANDREAS TAMBOURIDES (Con)

(020) 8368 5417
cllr.a.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk
2nd Saturday every month, Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

BURNT OAK WARD

LINDA McFADYEN (Lab)

(020) 8364 8782
cllr.l.mcfadyen@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, Burnt Oak Library, Watling Ave., HA8, 10.30am-12noon

ALLAN TURNER (Lab)

(020) 8952 2106 cllr.a.turner@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, Burnt Oak Library, Watling Ave., HA8, 10.30am-12noon

CLAIRE FARRIER (Lab)

(020) 8959 7908 cllr.c.farrier@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, Burnt Oak Library, Watling Ave., HA8, 10.30am-12noon

CHILDS HILL WARD

JACK COHEN (LibDem)

(020) 8446 7940 cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk
1st Thursday every month, Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood Lane, NW2, 7-8pm

MONROE PALMER (LibDem)

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP LEADER
(020) 8455 5140
cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk
1st Thursday every month, Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood Lane, NW2, 7-8pm

SUSETTE PALMER (LibDem)

(020) 8455 5140 cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk
1st Thursday every month, Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood Lane, NW2, 7-8pm

COLINDALE WARD

DANISH CHOPRA (Lab)

(020) 8449 3231 cllr.d.chopra@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, NW9, 10-11am

GILL SARGEANT (Lab)

(020) 8455 1070 cllr.g.sargeant@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, NW9, 10-11am

ALAN SLOAM (Lab)

(020) 8381 3919 cllr.a.sloam@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, NW9, 10-11am

COPPETTS WARD

BARRY RAWLINGS (Lab)

(020) 8445 6416 cllr.b.rawlings@barnet.gov.uk
1st and 3rd Saturday every month, South Friern Library, Colney Hatch Lane, N10 Other Saturdays, Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11, 10.30am-12noon

PAUL ROGERS (Lab)

(020) 8368 1427 cllr.p.rogers@barnet.gov.uk
1st and 3rd Saturday every month, South Friern Library, Colney Hatch Lane, N10 Other Saturdays, Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11, 10.30am-12noon

SOON-HOE TEH (Lab)

(020) 8492 9489 cllr.s.h.teh@barnet.gov.uk
1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, South Friern Library, Colney Hatch Lane, N10. Other Saturdays, Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11, 10.30am-12noon

EAST BARNET WARD

TERENCE C BURTON (Con)

(020) 8368 7366 cllr.t.burton@barnet.gov.uk
2nd Saturday every month, East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Road, EN4, 10.30am-12noon

OLWEN EVANS (Con)

(020) 8368 1986 cllr.o.evans@barnet.gov.uk
1st Saturday every month, The Community Centre, Victoria Rd., New Barnet, 10.30am-12noon. Also 3rd Saturday every month, East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Rd., EN4, 10.30am-12noon

SUSAN STEINBERG (Con)

(020) 8441 4498
cllr.s.steinberg@barnet.gov.uk
2nd Saturday every month, East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Rd., EN4, 10.30am-12noon

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

ALISON MOORE (Lab)

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOUR GROUP
(020) 8343 0306 cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, N2, 10-11.30am

COLIN ROGERS (Lab)

(020) 8444 7150 cllr.c.rogers@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, N2, 10-11.30am

PHIL YEOMAN (Lab)

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, LABOUR GROUP
(020) 8444 9216
cllr.p.yeoman@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, N2, 10-11.30am

EDGWARE WARD

HELENA HART (Con)

(020) 8371 0658 cllr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk
Last Tuesday of every month, Edgware Library, Hale Lane, HA8, 5.30-6.30pm

MALCOLM LESTER (Con)

(020) 8203 3144
conservative_grp@barnet.gov.uk
Last Tuesday of every month, Edgware Library, Hale Lane, HA8, 5.30-6.30pm

JOAN SCANNELL (Con)

(020) 8959 5921 cllr.j.scannell@barnet.gov.uk
Last Tuesday of every month, Edgware Library, Hale Lane, HA8, 5.30-6.30pm

FINCHLEY CHURCH END WARD

MICHAEL FREER (Con)

(020) 8349 2540 cllr.m.freer@barnet.gov.uk
1st Wednesday every month, Avenue House, East End Rd., N3, 7.30-8.30pm

EVA GREENSPAN (Con)

(020) 8203 1598
cllr.e.greenspan@barnet.gov.uk
1st Wednesday every month, Avenue House, East End Rd., N3, 7.30-8.30pm

LESLIE SUSSMAN (Con)

(020) 8346 6775 cllr.l.sussman@barnet.gov.uk
1st Wednesday every month, Avenue House, East End Rd., N3, 7.30-8.30pm

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

VANESSA GEARSON (Con)

(020) 8455 8759 cllr.v.gearson@barnet.gov.uk
4th Monday every month, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, 6pm-7pm

JOHN MARSHALL (Con)

(020) 8445 2597 cllr.j.marshall@barnet.gov.uk
4th Monday every month, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, 6pm-7pm

JAZMIN NAGHAR (Con)

(020) 8458 2466
conservative_grp@barnet.gov.uk
4th Monday every month, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, 6pm-7pm

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

MELVIN COHEN (Con) MAYOR

(020) 8951 3477 cllr.m.cohen@barnet.gov.uk
2nd Sunday every month, Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Also 4th Sunday every month, Hendon Sports Centre, 12noon-1pm

ABA DUNNER (Con)

(020) 8455 9960 cllr.a.dunner@barnet.gov.uk
2nd Sunday every month, Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Also 4th Sunday every month, Hendon Sports Centre, 12noon-1pm

CHRISTOPHER HARRIS (Con)

(020) 8731 8303 cllr.c.harris@barnet.gov.uk
2nd Sunday every month, Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Also 4th Sunday every month, Hendon Sports Centre, 12noon-1pm

HALE WARD**STEVEN BLOMER (Lab)**

(020) 8959 7878 cllr s.blomer@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, Burnt Oak Library, Watling Ave., HA8,
10.30am-12noon

BRIAN GORDON (Con)

07931 300 679
conservative.grp@barnet.gov.uk
Please contact to arrange a meeting

DAVID MENCER (Lab)

(020) 8922 6955
cllr d.mencer@barnet.gov.uk
Surgery details to be confirmed

HENDON WARD**MAUREEN BRAUN (Con)**

(020) 8203 1876 cllr.m.braun@barnet.gov.uk
1st Monday every month, Action Point, The Town Hall,
The Burroughs, NW4, 6-7pm

ANTHONY FINN (Con)

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
(CONSERVATIVE GROUP DEPUTY LEADER)
(020) 8202 9689 cllr.a.finn@barnet.gov.uk
1st Monday every month, Action Point, The Town Hall,
The Burroughs, NW4, 6-7pm

MATTHEW OFFORD (Con)

(020) 8202 5319 cllr.m.offord@barnet.gov.uk
1st Monday every month, Action Point, The Town Hall,
The Burroughs, NW4, 6-7pm

HIGH BARNET WARD**KATIA DAVID (Con)**

(020) 8445 1410 cllr.k.david@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-
12noon

KANTI PATEL (Con)

(020) 8446 6639 cllr.k.patel@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Conservative
Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-12noon

WENDY PRENTICE (Con) DEPUTY MAYOR
(020) 8364 9249 cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-
12noon

MILL HILL WARD**WAYNE CASEY (LibDem)**

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
GROUP
(020) 8906 8189 cllr.w.casey@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, Mill Hill Library, Hartley Ave., NW7,
10am-12 noon

JEREMY DAVIES (LibDem)

(020) 8959 6261 cllr.j.davies@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, Mill Hill Library, Hartley Ave., NW7,
10am-12 noon

SEAN HOOKER (LibDem)

(020) 8364 9309 cllr.s.hooker@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, Mill Hill Library, Hartley Ave., NW7,
10am-12 noon

OAKLEIGH WARD**ROBERT NEWTON (Con)**

(020) 8445 2879 cllr.r.newton@barnet.gov.uk
1st Saturday every month, Friern Barnet Library, Friern
Barnet Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

BRIAN SALINGER (Con)

(020) 8368 1329 cllr.b.salinger@barnet.gov.uk
1st Saturday every month, Friern Barnet Library, Friern
Barnet Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

GERARD SILVERSTONE (Con)

(020) 8731 8368
cllr.g.silverstone@barnet.gov.uk
1st Saturday every month, Friern Barnet Library, Friern
Barnet Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

TOTTERIDGE WARD**BRIAN COLEMAN (Con)**

GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR
BARNET & CAMDEN
(020) 8349 2024 cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Totteridge Library, 109
Totteridge Lane, N20, 10.30am-12noon

KEVIN EDSON (Con)

(020) 8447 1910 cllr.k.edson@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Totteridge Library, 109
Totteridge Lane, N20, 10.30am-12noon

VICTOR LYON (Con)

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (CONSERVATIVE
GROUP LEADER)
(020) 8446 8253 cllr.v.lyon@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Totteridge Library, 109
Totteridge Lane, N20, 10.30am-12noon

UNDERHILL WARD**ANITA CAMPBELL (Lab)**

(020) 8440 2703
cllr.a.campbell@barnet.gov.uk
1st and 3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet
Library, 3 Stapylton Rd., EN5, 2-3pm

FIONA BULMER (Con)

(020) 8441 5258 cllr.f.bulmer@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Conservative
Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-12noon

PETER DAVIS (Con)

(020) 8449 8968 cllr.p.davis@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Conservative
Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-12noon

WEST FINCHLEY WARD**KITTY LYONS (Lab)**

(020) 8346 6843 cllr.k.lyons@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, N12,
10-11.30am

KATHY MCGUIRK (Lab)

(020) 8346 8255 cllr.k.mcguirk@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, N12,
10-11.30am

JIM TIERNEY (Lab)

(020) 8346 3359 cllr.j.tierney@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, N12,
10-11.30am

WEST HENDON WARD**ARUN GHOSH (Lab)**

(020) 8202 5741 cllr.a.ghosh@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh
Drive, NW9, 10.30am-12noon

AGNES SLOCOMBE (Lab)

(020) 8202 4074 cllr.a.slocombe@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh
Drive, NW9, 10.30am-12noon

ANSUYA SODHA (Lab)

(020) 8959 6035 cllr.a.sodha@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh
Drive, NW9, 10.30am-12noon

WOODHOUSE WARD**ANNE HUTTON (Lab)**

(020) 8883 0996 cllr.a.hutton@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, N12,
10-11.30am

MARK LANGTON (Lab)

07940 461 285 cllr.m.langton@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane,
North Finchley, N12, 10-11.30am

ALAN SCHNEIDERMAN (Lab)

(020) 8731 9680
cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk
Saturdays, 331 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, N12,
10-11.30am

CONTACTING YOUR MPs

CHIPPING BARNET

SIR SYDNEY CHAPMAN
Office 163 High St., Barnet, EN5 5SU
(020) 8449 7345

FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN

DR RUDIVIS
Office 38 Church Lane, East Finchley, N2 8DT
(020) 8883 0411

HENDON

ANDREW DISMORE
Office St George's Lodge, 79 The Burroughs,
Hendon, NW4 4AX
(020) 8202 2122

GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY

MEMBER FOR BARNET AND CAMDEN
COUNCILLOR BRIAN COLEMAN
City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA
(020) 7983 4366



Barnet's Mayor, Cllr Melvin Cohen, marks his year in office by planting a tree in Sunnyhill Park, Hendon

Barnet's Mayor Cllr Melvin Cohen will end his year in office in May.

The last twelve months have

Mayor celebrates year in office

seen Cllr Cohen attend hundreds of official engagements and work tirelessly to raise thousands of pounds for his chosen charity, the Shooting Star Trust, which provides care and support for terminally ill children and their families.

Highlights of the Mayor's year in office have included the adoption of the local sea cadet training ship, HMS Broadsword, welcoming His Royal Highness Prince Philip on two visits to the RAF Museum in Hendon, attending the borough's annual Remembrance Day Service in November and visiting Barnet's twin towns of Morphou in

Cyprus, Montclair in America and Ramat Gan in Israel.

In January Cllr Cohen took his first open-top bus ride through the streets of the capital when he attended London's annual New Year's Day Parade. He also hosted the council's annual Civic Awards ceremony (see story below).

The Mayor's year will end with a grand finale charity gala in support of the Shooting Star Trust in April.

Want to know more?

To contact the Mayor's office telephone 020 8359 2010.

Community's unsung heroes honoured

The Borough's unsung heroes were honoured at the fourth annual London Borough of Barnet Civic Awards.

The ceremony at Hendon Town Hall, hosted by Mayor, Cllr Melvin Cohen, recognised five individuals whose outstanding contribution to the community has made a difference to the lives of many Barnet residents.

This year's winners were Rupa Mistry - in recognition of her contribution to the Sangam Community Centre in Edgware; Karl Ruge - for dedicated service to voluntary organisations in the borough and his commitment to the community in Friern Barnet; Wendy Taylor - for services to

fostering. Over the last 26 years Wendy has worked as an emergency foster carer and has taken care of over 125 children; Premchand Savla - in recognition of his

contribution to the Barnet Elderly Asian Group and other voluntary organisations and Alan Jobson - for services and commitment to young people.

This year's five civic awards winners (from left to right) Wendy Taylor, Rupa Mistry, Karl Ruge, Alan Jobson, Premchand Savla.



Focus on the Corporate Plan

A Cleaner Greener Barnet

The Corporate Plan is the council's road map for improving service performance over the next five years. In the four most recent editions of Barnet First we have looked in detail at one of the five key priorities of the plan. In the last in this series of articles, we turn our attention to the final key priority for the council – a cleaner, greener borough.

Barnet's environment is one of the most attractive in the capital and the council has a primary role in ensuring it is kept clean for future generations.

Our innovative town keeper scheme, which has been praised by the Government, is dealing successfully with urban eyesores in shopping areas. Town keepers carry out early morning patrols to clear litter and graffiti that has appeared overnight and graffiti removal crews work across the borough dealing with bigger graffiti issues.

A borough-wide force has also taken to the streets as part of our drive to create a cleaner, greener borough. The street enforcement service focuses on improving Barnet's streets and preventative and enforcement action to cut nuisance and anti-social behaviour. Officers are not restricted to a particular patch or ward and inspect where they are needed most, dealing swiftly with problems. This flexible force, and the town keeper service, is backed up by the council's mobile anti-graffiti units.

The council is using all its powers

to rid the borough of the illegal tippers that dump rubbish in Barnet. We recently crushed a seized flytipping lorry to highlight the problems caused by flytipping gangs.



As well as improving the street scene, our aim is to improve the usage of green spaces, protect the greenbelt and improve the appearance of greenspaces.

Thanks to you, Barnet is recycling and reusing more rubbish than ever. Last year we recycled more waste – around 14,200 tonnes – than any other north London borough. The Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre in Summers Lane, North Finchley, now collects over 30 different materials and recycles about 50 per cent of all materials received.

Recycling has never been so easy

with the introduction of the Recycle from Home black box collection for all households and the Flats Recycling Service for residents in medium and high-rise flats. The council is also rolling out its popular Green Garden Waste Collection Service into more areas as part of its drive to increase the level of recycling in the borough.

The council takes its duty to create a cleaner, greener borough very seriously and is working with local people to encourage everyone to take pride in their locality. We are not complacent about the standard of service we deliver, and are continually striving to improve, using customer feedback to inform the way we shape our services for the future.

The five key priorities of the Corporate Plan are:

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

Want to know more?

To get hold of a copy of the council's Corporate Plan telephone 020 8359 7022 or e-mail: claire.johnston@barnet.gov.uk

Foster campaign brings children back to Barnet

A council campaign to recruit more foster carers in Barnet has proved a great success since its launch in 2002.



A national shortfall of foster carers has meant that in the past children have been sent out of the borough, away from the areas they know best, their schools, friends and sometimes their extended family to receive the care they need.

The council's drive to encourage more local people to help local children aims to make sure those youngsters who require foster care receive the love and attention that they need in Barnet.

When the campaign was launched, more children were being fostered out of the borough than in it. In less than two years that trend has been reversed and

to date 37 new foster families have been recruited since the campaign began.

Furthermore the council has already exceeded its target of creating 150 foster places in the borough by the end of the year 2003-04.

Despite this success the council is still looking to recruit more foster carers. All potential carers will have access to high quality advice and information through an informal, friendly customer service which aims to make the process of becoming a foster parent less daunting and more accessible.

Successful applicants can expect training and on-going support from the council's Family Placements Team, as well as weekly allowances of up to £368 that are amongst the most generous in London.

Want to know more?

0800 389 8740

Re-organisation of CE School provision

Barnet Council and the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) have put forward plans to establish a new Church of England (CE) Secondary School in the borough.

Christ Church and St Mary's CE schools are currently in special measures and the aim of the proposals is to strengthen and safeguard CE school provision in Barnet by providing a new purpose built school to serve the borough's thriving and successful

CE primary sector.

The reorganisation would provide parents with a new school fit for the 21st century in Barnet, increase parental choice and ensure that diversity within the borough's secondary sector is maintained.

Any new school would operate on two separate sites – one in North Finchley and the other in Hendon – each with around 180 pupils in each year. This would provide the educational benefits

and economies of scale of a large school, while giving pupils the day-day experience of a smaller school.

There are various options for the new schools which could include the following; two parallel six form entry mixed schools, two parallel single-sex schools or a single school with lower and upper schools.

The proposals have been the subject of the biggest ever consultation undertaken by the council on a schools related issue.

Want to know more?

020 8359 7623

Health chief talks to Barnet First

Averil Dongworth was recently appointed interim chief executive of Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust.

Here she talks about her new role and the importance of team work in providing the borough with first class healthcare.



When I started my training as a student nurse at Barnet Hospital in 1973 I had no idea that I would not only be a manager 30 years later, but actually responsible for leading the same hospital.

My essential duty as a nurse or Chief Executive remains the same. In fact for all staff our main principles and motivation must be

to ensure that patients receive safe care and treatment, promptly and humanely in an environment that is welcoming, clean, hygienic and suitable.

Providing healthcare in Barnet is about teamwork. We work closely with the council and GPs to provide a seamless service.

This can range from robust and caring child protection measures to

getting patients out of hospital quickly and safely into rehabilitation, nursing or residential accommodation. It's our job to make the experience of the NHS as simple and safe as possible for patients, carers and their families. GPs, hospitals and the council are dependent on each other to achieve this.

I want to see our hospitals move away from constantly fire fighting to a position where we can calmly invest in skills, equipment and services that support ever better care for patients. It isn't motherhood and apple pie, because most of the rest of the NHS does it already. We will learn from mistakes, build on achievements and ensure that our local hospitals provide the high quality healthcare our local communities deserve.

Want to know more?

020 8366 9101

Duke of Kent visits The Ravenscroft School

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent has visited The Ravenscroft School in Totteridge to celebrate its designation as a technology college.

The Duke was welcomed by Barnet's Mayor, Cllr Melvin Cohen and Deputy Lieutenant, Major Patrick O'Brien, before visiting students in technology, electronics, mathematics, science and ICT classes.

The Royal tour ended with a reception in the school library where the Duke unveiled a plaque to commemorate his visit before receiving a vote of thanks from Head Girl, Catharine Amaro.

The Ravenscroft School was awarded technology status in 2003 and it will mean an extra £1 million in funding over the next ten years. This will allow investment in a new IT suite, new science laboratories, hi-tech teaching aids and specialist electronics and engineering equipment.

Headteacher Mary Karaolis said: "The visit of His Royal Highness was a landmark event in the 50 year

history of our school and recognition for all the dedication and hard work put in by staff, pupils, governors and parents over the years."



The Duke of Kent unveils a plaque commemorating his visit to The Ravenscroft School as proud headteacher Mary Karaolis looks on

Making the council's budget balance

In the last edition of **Barnet First** we outlined the difficult decisions the council faced to fulfil its wish of keeping council tax rises as low as possible, with the level of funding being insufficient for services to continue to operate at their existing levels.

As this edition goes to press the final budget and council tax has not been set, but current proposed changes focuses the Council's expenditure on its key priorities, including:

- ▶ Further funding for the creating of the Housing Arms Length Management Organisation, Barnet Homes
- ▶ Implementing the children's services strategy, reducing expenditure by over £1m
- ▶ Achieving balances of £5m by the end of 2004/05, as recommended by the external auditor
- ▶ Repairing and reconstructing roads and pavements
- ▶ Putting £6m into the Community Care budget
- ▶ The introduction of alcohol free zones

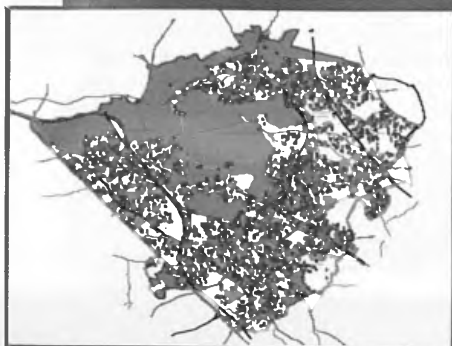
- ▶ Funding schools by £8.6m
 - ▶ Increasing CCTV, graffiti removal and town keepers funding
 - ▶ Increasing revenue from parking by £2m
- Repercussions for these service changes and from the funding position mean an increase in council tax just below 7% and a reduction in jobs of around 200, although it is hoped that redundancies can be avoided. This council tax increase will take Band D payment to £1,214, an increase of £79.

Budget consultation

Nearly 10,000 responses to the budget consultation were received – a very high response.

57% of respondents supported a council tax increase of 3% or over, and the key priorities indicated were considered by Council in setting this year's budget.

Responses were received from across the borough, with an even gender balance among respondents.



The map shows the distribution of respondents to the budget consultation. Response from male (blue) and female (red) were evenly split with a healthy distribution across the borough.

Multi-faith forum brings community together

Twenty delegates from the major faith communities in Barnet have met to agree the aims of a new multi-faith forum for the borough.

Representatives from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh communities attended the meeting organised by the council's equality team and chaired by Barnet Council's

leader, Cllr Victor Lyon, at the Multicultural Community Centre in West Hendon.

The independent forum will help establish a meaningful dialogue between Barnet's different religious and faith groups and work in partnership with the council to promote harmony, equality and understanding between them.

Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Equalities and Social Inclusion Cllr Katia David said: "In a year which has seen the council

achieve Beacon Status for Community Cohesion by working with its partners, it is important that we are not complacent and that we continue to work together to ensure that the structures that bind communities in Barnet together, are further strengthened.

Want to know more?

020 8359 7261



Flytippers beware: All that's left of a flytipping lorry caught in Barnet

Barnet gets tough on flytippers

Barnet Council's tough stance on organised flytipping gangs made the headlines when TV news cameras turned up to film a lorry being crushed by vehicle disposal specialists.

The lorry, suspected of being used by an organised gang of tippers, was seized by the council's street enforcement service.

The number of lorries dumping rubble in Barnet is on the increase. Access roads, derelict building

sites, allotments and trading estates have all been used as dumping grounds for the waste.

Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr Brian Coleman said: "Our action shows once again that we are determined to do whatever is necessary to stop the criminals flytipping in our streets. We will continue to be vigilant and will have no hesitation in prosecuting offenders."

Barnet Homes launched

A new organisation will take over the day-to-day management of the council's homes from April 1.

Barnet Homes will be run by a board of 15 volunteers made up of five residents, five independent experts in different fields, and five council nominees.

Barnet Homes is set to get an extra £19 million from the government to continue planned improvements. In the next few years, Barnet Homes will create homes to meet modern standards

and tenants' expectations.

Plans include fitting modern kitchens with room for appliances, and putting in new bathrooms, heating systems and double glazing. It will also mean better services and a greater say for residents.

A recent test of opinion showed the majority of residents were in support of the move to Barnet Homes. Their homes will stay in council ownership and secure tenancies and leases will remain the same.

Gritting lorries beat the snow

As severe weather conditions hit the country in January, advance planning by Barnet Council kept traffic flowing and disruption to a minimum on the borough's main roads.

Council staff had been out in force days earlier in preparation for the anticipated snow falls.

Barnet's fleet of nine gritting machines had already spread over 600 tonnes of salt to ensure the 147 miles of key routes would be safe.

Priority was also given to treating the borough's 20 town centres and footways around hospitals, day care centres and schools.

The gritters were employed before the snow storm and throughout that night to clear main roads. Attention then turned to the treatment of side roads and pavements, with staff from the council's refuse service deployed to help with the clearance.

Gritting teams were on hand to deal quickly with requests to clear roads and pavements and work continued until the snow and ice was completely cleared.

Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr Brian Coleman said: "Staff worked tirelessly to treat roads in an effort to beat the snow. Our advance planning meant the main roads cleared very quickly and residents could get about as safely as possible in the conditions. We kept working for as long as necessary to get the snow cleared."

what's on

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

Send us details and we'll publicise it on this page (space permitting) and we'll also put it on barnet's website (www.barnet.gov.uk).

So if you are holding an event at your local pub, youth club, sports centre or wherever send details (including a contact number) to

Susan Segar, Barnet First Magazine, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG, fax: 020 8359 2677 or email: susan.segar@barnet.gov.uk

Barnet first is delivered to over 130,000 homes and businesses in the borough. The next issue is out in June.

Until 16 May.

'Past Views, Past Voices'.

The area now covered by London Borough of Barnet changed enormously during the early years of the 20th century, as agricultural land gave way to suburban housing. The exhibition traces this transformation through picture postcards and oral history recordings from Barnet's Local Studies and Archive Centre. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon NW4. Open Mon-Thurs 10am-1pm and 2-5pm; Sat 10am - 1pm and 2-5.30pm; Sun 2-5.30pm. Admission free. Phone 020 8203 0130.



2 & 3 April. 9pm. Mark Maier's one-man show follows a successful run at Soho Theatre. We talk to objects. We plead with our car not to run out of petrol, we cry out for the house keys hiding from view, we scream at the upturned plug that we land on as we get out of bed. For Mark, it's worse as objects talk back. Mark performs regularly with The Comedy Store Players. For ages 14+. Artsdepot at The Bull, 68 High Street, Barnet. Tickets £5/£4 conc. Box office: 020 8449 0048.

Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, London NW9 5LL. Phone 020 8358 4849 Website www.rafmuseum.org Free admission and parking. Please confirm dates and times with the Museum prior to events:

3-4 April. 'Men in their Magnificent Flying Machines'. The work of the Royal Flying Corps in WWI. Family event. Phone National Army Museum, on 020 7730 0717 ext. 2228 for details

Bonhams Auction. A sale of collectors' motor cars and automobiles. Viewing day 25 April; auction day 26 April. For more information phone 020 7393 3822.

12 May. Veterans Day. The RAF Museum pays tribute to the men and women from all three forces that fought for their country. Veterans and guests need to pre-register.

23 May-30 June. Red Arrows - 40th Anniversary. Exhibition/chance to meet the Red Arrows team (date to be confirmed).

31 May-4 June. Search and Rescue mission. Take control of the Rescue Co-ordination Centre or send out an S.O.S. from the life raft. Free fun for all the family. Activity times 11am, 12noon, 2pm and 3pm.

5-6 June. D-Day 60th Anniversary. Re-enactors, living history groups, veterans, vehicle owners representing all forces and civilians. Militaria Fair (Sunday).

3 April, 7.45pm. Finchley Chamber Orchestra Concert 'Classical Showcase'. Haydn, Symphony No. 104: 'London'; Mozart, Clarinet Concerto; Beethoven, Symphony No. 4. Conductor David Lardi. Trinity Church, Nether Street, Finchley, N12. Adults £10/conc. £7.

5-7 & 10 April, 12noon-3pm. Face painting. Tin Can Alley, Hook a Duck and Easter Card making in the Spires Shopping Centre, Barnet (in aid of Cherry Lodge Cancer Care and the North London Hospice).

Until 31 July. Arts Club for 8-13 year olds interested in arts and crafts. Phone 020 8411 5441/email: a.hunt@mdx.ac.uk

Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture (MoDA), Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet EN4 8HT Tel. 020 8411 5244. Events:

6 April, Paper-making for ages 5-12; **7 April, Making own layered paper hanging and illuminating** to cast shadows, ages 5-12; **8 April, Self-expression** through creative and colourful collage, ages 5-12. Sessions 10am-12noon or 2-4pm, £7.50 per session, payable in advance.

14-16 April, 10am-4pm. 3-day Wood block-printing course for ages 11-16. £15 per day/£37.50 for 3 days, payable in advance. **15 May, 10am-4pm.** Transferring digital images on to cloth. For adults. £24/£18 conc, payable in advance.

20 April-11 July. 'Outdoor Habitats'. Annual show; artists work with ideas of 'living outside'.

24 April, 10am-4.30pm. 'Sixties Style'. A day looking at how changes in the 1960s were reflected in architecture, interior design, products of the time. Tickets £20/£17 conc. Optional buffet £6.50.

15 May. Local History Study Day Gentle guided tour of a variety of 1930's architecture. For the whole day (ticket £10) or morning (10am-12noon) or afternoon (1-3pm) (tickets £5).

15-16 May. 'Jewellery'. Exhibition of work by 2nd year Middlesex University students. Museum open Tues - Sat. 10am - 5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Closed 9-13 April. Free entrance.

Chicken Shed Theatre, Chase Side, Southgate, N14
(Box Office: 020 8292 9222) events:

9 April and 14 May. 'Jazz Shed'. Bar/restaurant opens 7.30pm, music 8.45-11.30pm. Entry £8/£6 conc.

10 April. An evening of sizzling salsa DJs (plus class before the music starts).

24 April. Greek Night. Dance the night away to traditional Greek music - no experience necessary. Live band. Tickets (£20) include traditional Greek food. Doors open 7pm, food 8pm, dancing until 12.30am.

25 April and 30 May. Jo Collins and Friends kicking up a storm with her band in the bar. Opens 7.30pm, music 8.30pm. Entry £7/£4.50 conc. Pay at the door.

Finchley Art Society, demonstrations. 14 April, 7.30pm. 'Landscape in Watercolour' by Robin Mackervoy. 12 May, 7.30pm. 'Floral Painting in Watercolour' by Sue Wilder. Carey Room, Trinity Church Centre, Nether Street, N12. **For more details phone 020 8445 4765.**

18-24 April. Incognito Theatre presents 'Run for Your Wife'. Ray Cooney's bigamy farce. Directed by Robin Dunn. **23-29 May. 'Women Beware Women'.** Thomas Middleton's Jacobean bawdy revenge tragedy. Directed by Andrew Robinson. Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road, Friern Barnet, N11. **For details contact box office on 020 8361 8310.**

20-24 April. 7.45pm (Sat. matinee 3pm) Finchley and Friern Barnet Operatic Society presents 'The Times of Your Life'. Favourite showtunes in a new revue. Millfield Theatre, Silver Street, Edmonton, N18. **For tickets and more information phone 020 8482 6923.**

22 April. Start of Children's 10 week Yoga course. Ages 5-8, 5-5.45pm; ages 9-14, 5.45-6.30pm (£40). The St Agnes' Centre, Gillingham Road, Cricklewood, NW2 1RN. Adults courses also available. **For booking and more information contact Varsha 020 8830 6371 or 0776 415 9318.**

24 April, 2.30pm. The Barnet Branch of the National Childbirth Trust's



30 April, 8pm. Los Pacaminos. Paul Young and friends play a mix of Tex-Mex classics, Spanish songs and original material with proceeds to charity. All Saints' Arts Centre, Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, N20. **For more details phone 020 8445 8388.**

Nearly New Sale of babies' and children's clothes, toys and accessories. St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, East Barnet. Entrance fee £1 per adult, children free. Stallholders £10. **For more information or if you would like a stall phone 07960 521271.**

24 April, 7.30pm. Quiz Night in aid of local and national charities. Fun and food. All Saints' Arts Centre, Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, N20. **For more details phone 020 8445 8388.**

24 April, 7.45pm. Hendon Music Society presents Sarah Williamson (2002 BBC Young Musician Competition, woodwind prize winner) (clarinet) and Christopher Ross (piano). Programme includes Weber; Grand Duo Concertante and sonatas by Poulenc and Martinu. John Keble Church, Deans Lane, Edgware. **Phone 020 8203 2355.** Free tickets to ages 8-22 in full time education (courtesy of Cavatina Chamber Music Trust).

27 April, RSPB North West London Members' Group. Special presentation 'Basically Bats' by bat expert Patty Briggs (live bats may be shown). Doors open 7.45pm. 8pm start. Admission members £2/£1.50 conc., non-members £2.50, children 50p. Harwood Hall, Mill Hill Broadway, NW7. **For more information phone 020 8958 1193.**

The Finchley Society, talks. **29 April, 8pm.** 'Our Garden through the Seasons' by Bruce Bennett; **27 May, 8pm.** 'The Buried Cities (Pompeii and Herculaneum)' by Tony Rook. Non-members welcome. Free entry. The Drawing Room, Avenue House, East End Road, N3.

29 April & 27 May, 8.30pm. New Friends Social Group (for single people over 45) meets at Oakleigh Park Tennis Club the last Thurs. in

month. **A wide range of activities. Phone 020 8440 4919.**

3 May, 11am-4pm. May Day Craft Fair. Over 20 varied crafts, entertainment for children and home-made meals. All Saints' Arts Centre, Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, N20. **For more details phone 020 8445 8388.**

5 May. The Mayor of Barnet's Charity Golf Day at Mill Hill Golf Club. Teams of four golfers (Ladies, Gentlemen or mixed). Team entry fee £180 (includes coffee, golf, carvery dinner). First Tee Time 11.30am. Prizes for team events and individual competitions presented by The Mayor. **For further details/to enter contact 020 8959 2339, ext. 20.**

8 May, 7.45pm. Finchley Chamber Choir '30th Anniversary Concert'. Programme: Vaughan Williams, Three Shakespeare Songs; Britten, Hymn to St. Cecilia; Tippett, Five Spirituals (Child of our Times) and music by Elgar, Finzi, Holst and Parry. Conductor David Lardi. Trinity Church, Nether Street, Finchley N12. Admission adults £10/£7 conc. **Phone 020 8815 9422.**

9 May, 1-5pm. Church End Festival. Charity stalls, fun train, bouncy castles, roundabouts and other activities for children (weather permitting). If you would like to have a stall or for information **phone 020 8346 7812.**

15 May, 11am-2pm. Plant sale. Bring and Buy plant table and refreshments at Cherry Lodge Cancer Care, Elmbank, Wood Street, Barnet (opposite the Arkley Pub). **Call 020 8216 4486 for any other information.**

22 May. British Red Cross (London Branch). Basic First Aid. 9am-5pm. **29 May.** Emergency Life Support Training. 10am-3pm. Hendon Centre, 15 Vivian Avenue, Hendon

NW4. **For more information phone/fax 020 8203 0567.**

23 May, 2-5pm. Open Day at The Bothy. For the first time visitors can walk around, see the courtyards and what will be two performance spaces, talk to the Trustees and see the plans. Admission free.

13 June, 3pm. 'Alice Through the Looking Glass' by Illyria Theatre Company. A production for children aged 6+. The Bothy, Avenue House Grounds, East End Road, Finchley, N3. Tickets £6 and £4 (ages under 15). **Box office 020 8455 4640.**

New Barnet Taekwon-Do. Saturdays 11am-12pm & Tuesdays 5pm-6pm. Taekwon-Do lessons develop fitness and self-defence skills and are suitable for all ages and abilities. Trial lessons £5 each. Regular classes cost as little as £3.60 per lesson. Beginners are welcome and there is no need to book - please feel free to come along! Lyonsdown Hall, 3 Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet EN5 1JB. **For further details call 020 8374 2273 or visit www.tkdxcel.co.uk**

London Swimming Academy swimming courses on Tuesdays-Thursdays and Saturdays for ages between three and eighty. The pools are in the Friern Barnet and High Barnet areas. **For more information phone 020 8245 1862 or 07866 617434.**

U3A (NW London) Summer Term. Study groups held in art (painting for fun); book club; bridge for improvers; classical music; computers; current affairs; English literature; film appreciation; French (advanced); jazz; Jewish history; Know your London; life skills; medicine today; music at lunchtime; philosophy; photography; playreading; poetry; scrabble; searching for answers; writers' workshop; Yiddish conversation. **For further information phone 020 8906 8621.**

Scouting offers fun, friendship, rewards, achievement, adventure, challenges, social events and more for all ages. A recognised training programme for adults. There are Scout Groups all over the borough. For information call 0845 300 1818 or email: info.centre@scouts.org.uk Ages are Beavers (6-8); Cubs (8-10 and a half); Scouts (10 and a half-14); Explorers (14-18); Scout Network (18-25); Leaders (18-65).

Watchdog praises council's progress

Barnet Council's bid to become an 'excellent' local authority has received a boost by Government watchdog, the Audit Commission.

Although still branded a 'fair' council in its last Corporate Performance Assessment – the Government 'gold standard' by which all local authorities are judged – a recent Audit Commission report assessing improvements made by the council's key services has praised the progress made over the last 12 months.

The report says the council has 'made improvements in priority areas during the past year' and that Barnet Council is 'well placed to improve the way it works and the

services it provides to local people.' Areas where progress has been made include education and children's services, increasing recycling of household waste, housing repairs, waste management and internal audit services. Barnet's Beacon Status for its work in bringing diverse communities together is also acknowledged.

The Audit Commission praised the council's use of its corporate and community plans which set out key priorities and targets for all the council's services and

ensure they support the priorities of the wider community.

It also gave positive feedback on the authority's ambition to improve, noting the challenging targets the council has set itself, particularly within the children's service and across environmental issues.

Cabinet Member for Value and Effectiveness Cllr Mike Freer said "I am pleased that the Audit Commission has recognised that we are improving in a number of key areas and moving in the right direction to deliver better services to the residents of Barnet. We will build on this solid foundation and tackle those areas that need improving so that we can become an excellent authority by 2006."

Did you know there's a proposal to extend the congestion charging scheme to cover most of Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster?

We would like to know what you think of the proposal. A leaflet and questionnaire with more information will soon be dropping through all letterboxes within the London area. Look out for yours, or call 0800 106062 to receive a copy. Alternatively, visit www.tfl.gov.uk/ccextension for details.



**MAYOR
OF LONDON**

Transport for London



Spring into Summer

Lots of part-time courses starting
after Easter including:

Photoshop for photographers' – introduction
Macromedia Flash – introduction
Maintain and improve your home
(mainly for women)

PART-TIME ENROLMENT

Wood Street and Grahame Park Centres
Mon 19th April 2004 and Tues 20 April 2004, 9am – 7.30pm

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

To find out about these and many other courses call
020 8266 4345 or 020 8275 2816 / 7 Now!

also

English as a Foreign Language (EFL)

Phone: Wood Street 020 8275 2829 · Montagu Road 020 8266 4365



www.barnet.ac.uk • info@barnet.ac.uk
Textphone for the deaf 020 8266 4137

Wood Street, Barnet • Grahame Park, Celindale • Montagu Road, Hendon
Russell Lane, Whetstone • Stanhope Road, Finchley