

Rewarded for making a difference in Barnet

The winners of this year's Barnet Civic Awards have been announced.

Now in their sixth year, the awards recognise those individuals who make a difference to the lives of people living in Barnet, and give the people who nominate them the chance to thank the unsung heroes.

Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council, says: "Often without praise or recognition, it is these people who make an important contribution to the lives of so many.

"We hope that these awards go some way to remind these unique individuals of the important impact they have made within the borough of Barnet."

This year's five winners received their awards from the Mayor, Councillor Andreas Tambourides, during a special ceremony held in the Council Chamber in early January.

All 43 nominees received a certificate and the five winners were given a framed vellum.

This year's winners were:

Margaret Burrows from Chipping Barnet has given over 20 years of dedicated service to the Good Neighbour Scheme. She is also a supporter of Barnet Parish Church.

New Barnet resident **David Howard** receives his award in recognition of his involvement in numerous community initiatives, including Homeless Action in Barnet.

His contribution to developing the Barnet African Caribbean Association and his valuable community service is rewarded by a Civic Award for **Seymour Jones**, who lives in Barnet.

Taraben Bharadia from North Finchley has been recognised for her dedicated contribution and commitment to the Barnet Asian Women's Association.

Over 23 years of conducting bands and inspiring groups of young people for Barnet Music Education Service means that **James Williams MBE** wins a Civic Award.

Barnet House – changing for the better

Work is well underway to modernise the council's offices at Barnet House in Whetstone.



Looking ahead. The new-look ground floor reception at Barnet House

When the first.contact project is completed in the spring the High Road building will have been updated to provide modern, accessible premises for our customers.

The entrance area is being redesigned to make the offices more accessible for the disabled. There will be a second visitors' car park, with two disabled spaces, as well as an additional 12 other spaces. New plants and signage will improve the look of the area.

Visitors will now enter Barnet House through new electric sliding doors, which will make access easier for the disabled.

Added seating and a new reception desk are being installed, providing a warmer welcome for all our customers.

A public lift will take visitors directly to the



Improving services. How the main reception on the second floor will look

building's main reception area on the second floor. Meanwhile staff will enter the building via a separate entrance, leading directly to lifts providing access to their work areas.

A new look is also planned for the second floor reception area. This will include two new interview rooms and a structured queuing system to avoid long waits and confusion. Visitors with children can make use of our 'family rooms', while people waiting can also take advantage of internet facilities available in the reception area.

For more information on the first.contact project, please call Lisa Stannard, Customer Services Project Manager, on 020 8359 4519 or email: lisa.stannard@barnet.gov.uk.



Don't forget that you can still find out about the history of movable and toy books through the ages at Church Farmhouse Museum in Hendon.

"Movable and Toy Books" runs until 19 March and shows examples from the simple 'flap books' of the mid-eighteenth century to the most sophisticated modern-day examples of 'paper engineering'.

For more information visit www.barnet.gov.uk or call the museum on 020 8203 0130.



Building a better future for Barnet's children

**Barnet's ambitious primary
schools investment programme**

Read more on page 3

Message from the Leader

Greetings to all residents of Barnet as we embark on a new year – and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy, successful and enjoyable 2006.

In May, you will have the chance to vote for your ward representatives, as the four-yearly local council elections take place.

Voting for local and national representatives is the key for life in a democratic society. Across the world there are still communities fighting for the right to vote, and I would encourage everyone who is eligible to vote to do so when the opportunity is given to them. See our double-page spread on pages 10 and 11 to find out more.

In this issue, you can also read about the council's plans for rebuilding and modernising our primary schools. It is one of the biggest and most ambitious programmes that this council has ever embarked upon, and it was approved

by the Cabinet in December.

The three-phase strategy will see dozens of schools transformed to sparkling 21st century standards by 2015.

This programme will match the ambition of the council in regenerating our four major housing estates. By the time you read this two of the blocks on Grahame Park should have been demolished to clear the way for the start of the work that will transform the lives of the people in Colindale. Work should also start very soon on the first phase of the development at Stonegrove/Spur Road in Edgware.

There is certainly a bright future ahead for our young people, and indeed for all our residents, as we continue to work hard towards creating a better, safer and greener Barnet over the next year and beyond.

**Councillor Brian Salinger
Leader of Barnet Council**



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Production details

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

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

The cost of designing, printing and distributing each magazine is just over 10 pence per issue.

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

Due to local elections, this will be the last issue of Barnet First until July.

Designed by hey moscow 020 8357 7394 heymoscow.com

Building a future for Barnet's children

Before Christmas, Barnet Council gave the go-ahead for Wave 1 of the "Primary Schools Capital Investment Programme".



The programme will be broken down into three waves overall with potential investment in excess of £200 million over the next decade.

It's by far the most ambitious education capital programme that we have ever embarked on and will see primary schools across the borough transformed.

All children have a right to learn in buildings that support their needs and nurture their

"When we build the new schools there will be provision for better playing fields and local communities will be able to use them. Where schools are merging, the local community will benefit from brand spanking new schools for the 21st century in place of out-dated schools designed for the middle of the last century".

abilities. Research has shown that where children are educated (i.e. the kinds of buildings and surroundings) does have an impact on their levels of educational achievement. Barnet has many primary schools that score very highly but continual investment is important to make sure these standards maintain and grow.

Part of the costs for the programme are being met by the sale of surplus land that many schools have but do not fully use. Any monies from the sale of these lands is "ring fenced" back into the primary schools capital investment programme i.e. it cannot be used for other purposes or other council services.

According to the Headteacher of Broadfields School in Edgware, this will make better use of their existing land.

"Our existing conditions are hampering good teaching and the plans couldn't be more welcome," said Robin Archibald.

"Broadfields was built after World War II when building materials were scarce and schools had to be built quickly. Our surplus land is overgrown with brambles so it isn't being used by the children anyway."

Parents should not be concerned about the loss of "playing fields" as there is a national

formula that regulates the size of playing fields for types and sizes of schools. According to Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, Councillor John Marshall, recreational and sports facilities will improve as a result of the programme.

"When we build the new schools there will be provision for better playing fields and local communities will be able to use them. Where schools are merging, the local community will benefit from brand spanking new schools for the 21st century in place of out-dated schools designed for the middle of the last century."

If you would like more information or have a question in relation to your primary school, email education.mailbox@barnet.gov.uk or telephone 020 8359 7626.

Find out more about Barnet's twins

People wanting to find out more about Barnet's twin town associations can visit a special open day at the Town Hall, Hendon, on 8 March.

Each association will have its own information stall and there will be various special events taking place throughout the day.

Barnet has eight municipal links and the twin town associations are hoping to recruit many new members to join in their social activities and overseas exchange visits.

The event begins at 1pm and entry is free. Please call 020 8359 2010 for further details.

Calling all young runners

The London Mini Marathon trials to select the Barnet team for this year's event take place on Sunday 12 March.

Registration takes place at 10am and the race starts at 10.30am.

To enter, please contact the Sport Development Unit for a registration form. Tel: 020 8359 7818 or 07950 627740, or email carly.owen@barnet.gov.uk.

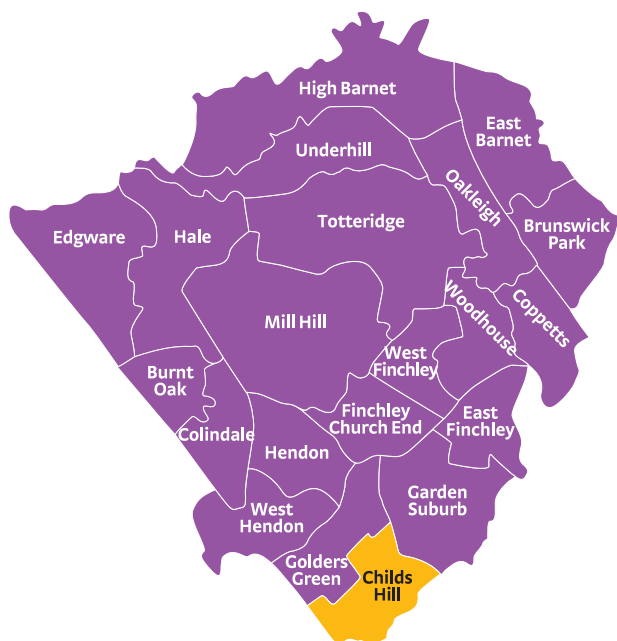


Picture kindly supplied by the Cricklewood Tavern

Spotlight on your ward

Childs Hill

In this edition we focus on Childs Hill, Barnet's most southerly ward. It contains the area known as Childs Hill, as well as parts of Cricklewood and Golders Green.



Childs Hill is certainly medieval.

Although a John Knot de Childes Hill is mentioned in connection with the 1381 Peasants' Revolt, the earliest known use of the place name Childs Hill was in the late 1500s. The name is probably taken from a family of the same name who held land in nearby Hendon.

It has been suggested that the Castle Inn was a small Civil War gun emplacement guarding the Edgware Road in the 1640s. However, the first record of the inn is in 1751.

From the 1760s until the 1800s, Childs Hill housed a kiln, making bricks and tiles. Many of its products can still be seen on buildings in Hampstead to this day.

The Finchley Road was completed by 1829, and a tollgate led to the relocation of the Castle Inn.

The first street, The Mead, was built in Childs Hill in the 1850s by a Colonel Evans, and was later renamed Granville Road.

By the 1870s there were a number of laundries in the area. Childs Hill was served by a series of small streams coming off Hampstead Heath and the laundries were set up to serve the

gentry of neighbouring Hampstead.

The population in the area was now growing quickly. In 1856 a new church, 'All Saints', was built. The church had to be rebuilt in 1952 after being destroyed by fire 12 years earlier.

In 1884, Clerk's Pyramid Light Works, which made candles, was opened, the first factory in the area.

In 1903, housing in Childs Hill was considered "a disgrace to civilisation" so the Hendon Urban District Council built its first council estate, with 50 houses, in 1914. For entertainment there was The Regal in Finchley Road, which was first a skating rink, then a cinema and then a bowling alley.

As a name, Cricklewood dates back to 1321 although we know that a small hamlet existed there as early as 1294.

The Crown was there by 1751, and although there were a handful of Victorian villas by the 1850s, it was the opening of Childs Hill station (now Cricklewood) in 1868 that provided the impetus for new development.

Cowhouse Farm, latterly Dickers Farm and finally Avenue Farm, lasted until 1932. It originally covered 120 acres but was encroached upon from

Did you know?...*

- Located in the far south of the borough, Childs Hill covers 3.1 square kilometres, the 12th biggest ward in Barnet
- But it has the largest population – 17,621 residents – and highest number of households – 6,851 – in the whole borough
- Nearly 43% of Childs Hill's residents were born outside the United Kingdom – the second highest percentage of all wards in Barnet
- Childs Hill has the lowest number of retired people in the borough. Just 1,024 of its residents aged between 16 and 74 have given up work
- Of those that do work, the majority are employed in real estate, renting and business activities

* Figures taken from the 2001 census.



all sides until the farmhouse stood alone by the time of its demolition.

From 1908 to 1935, Westcroft Farm was owned by the Home of Rest for Horses, and, at its peak, cared for 250 retired workhorses.

In 1881, the Midland Railway Company moved its locomotive works from Kentish Town to the new "Brent Sidings", and in October of the same year announced that new accommodation would be built to house its employees. The Railway Terraces still stand today.

A Mr H Finch laid out a handful of roads directly behind the Crown Inn, including Yew, Ash, and Elm Grove in 1880.

In the 1900s, Cricklewood Broadway developed as a shopping area, with the Queens Hall Cinema (later the Gaumont) built in 1920. It was demolished 40 years later.

The Phoenix Telephone Company arrived there in 1911 (before later moving to the Hyde), followed by

Handley Page Ltd aircraft manufacturers, in 1912. Pioneering aircraft were built onsite and flown from the company's adjacent airfield.

Smith's Crisps had its first factory in Crown Yard between 1920 and 1929.

In 1935, 290 houses were built on the Westcroft Estate for the Metropolitan Borough of Hampstead Council.

* Information for this feature was provided by Barnet Local Studies and Archives Centre, 80 Daws Lane, Mill Hill. Tel: 020 8959 6657.

What's in Childs Hill?

Schools

- All Saints' Church of England Primary School, Cricklewood Lane
- Childs Hill Primary, Dersingham Road
- St Agnes' Roman Catholic Primary School, Thorverton Road
- Wessex Gardens Primary School, Wessex Gardens

Leisure

- Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood Lane
- Golders Green Library, Golders Green Road
- Childs Hill allotments, Garth Road
- Needham Terrace allotments, Edgware Road
- Childs Hill Park, Granville Road
- Basing Hill Park, Wayside
- Elm Park, Elm Terrace

Top left and centre: Cricklewood Tavern in Cricklewood Lane in 1915 and as it stands today. Despite the pictures being taken 90 years apart, the pub hasn't changed much over the years, although it has lost its splendid lamps!

Top right: The tiny two-roomed Vine Cottage in Cricklewood Lane in 1958. The cottage had been a Dame School for Childs Hill until the mid-19th century. It was eventually demolished in 1981.

Your councillors

As with all of Barnet's 21 wards, Childs Hill has three elected members, or councillors, who have been elected by the ward's residents to represent them. Councillors stand for four years at a time.

Cllr Jack Cohen (Lib Dem) has been a councillor for the ward since 1986.

T: 020 8446 7940

F: 020 8446 7940

E: cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Monroe Palmer OBE FCA (Lib Dem)

has served the ward for the past eight years.

He was previously a Childs Hill councillor from 1986 until 1994.

T: 020 8455 5140

F: 020 8731 7670

E: cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Susette Palmer (Lib Dem) has been a

councillor for Childs Hill since 1994. She is married to Councillor Monroe Palmer and they are the only husband and wife team on the council.

T: 020 8455 5140

F: 020 8731 7670

E: cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Meet your councillors

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

You can meet your Childs Hill councillors on the first Thursday of every month from 7-8pm at Childs Hill Library in Cricklewood Lane. No appointment is necessary.

Bi-monthly surgeries are held in the Allotment Hut on Railway Cottages. Please contact one of the Childs Hill councillors for dates.



Councillor Chris Harris chats to one of the young people.



Promit Anwar from Queen Elizabeth's Boys School in Barnet addresses the conference.

Mayor invites teens to see local government at work

Dozens of teenagers from secondary schools across the borough attended a hi-tech conference hosted by the Mayor, Councillor Andreas Tambourides, at the Town Hall.

The Conference for Young People was organised as part of the Mayor's ongoing theme – "Making the Mayor More Accessible".

The young people, aged between 14 and 18, are all 'school councillors' at their respective schools and those with a keen interest in local democracy have also visited Barnet Council meetings.

The Mayor, as well as several other councillors, talked about their roles before taking part in a question and answer session and presentation, which included interactive electronic voting on the Community Plan.

The teenagers then broke into smaller groups

for workshops and feedback sessions, led by councillors and senior council officers, before being able to browse the gathered displays and information stalls.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for students and staff, members of the council and officers from the authority to share and compare ideas during a fruitful and enjoyable day."

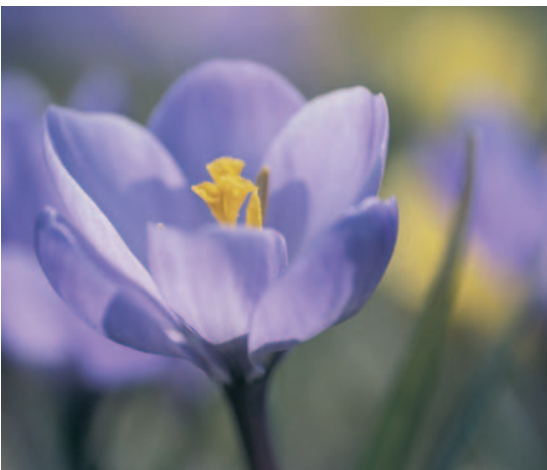
The Mayor said: "This was a wonderful opportunity for students and staff, members of the council and officers from the authority to

share and compare ideas during a fruitful and enjoyable day.

"It also contributed to the Department for Education and Skills'

(DfES) promotion of social and moral responsibility, community involvement and political literacy."

Cash boost for Barnet's parks



Parks in Barnet have received another boost, as the council has helped to secure government grants for fresh improvements.

Four open spaces will benefit after receiving money under the Living Spaces scheme. The council is also contributing extra funding for the works.

Council teams helped community groups apply for the backing, and now visitors to Cherry Tree Wood, Stonegrove Park, Oak Hill Park and Rushgrove Park will reap the benefits.

Friends of Cherry Tree Wood were awarded £20,000 to fund improvements to the area's playground.

Friends of Stonegrove Park scooped £25,000 to put towards a revamp of the park and Friends of Oak Hill Park

received the same amount to pay for an expanded and improved play area.

Refurbishment of the pond in Rushgrove Park and new play equipment was possible with £18,000 awarded to the Friends of Rushgrove Park. The council contributed £3,000 to rescue a dilapidated water feature.

Barnet was one of the most successful London boroughs that bid for cash for improvements in the scheme.

This comes on top of the council's Premier Parks policy, which continues to bring about major improvements at open spaces across the borough.

The borough also recently won a prestigious London in Bloom award recognising our efforts to bring about a cleaner, greener Barnet.

Keep recycling – the target's in sight

Further improvements have been made to Barnet's recycling service recently, helping us all draw ever nearer to our target of recycling 45,000 tonnes of waste this year.

Now all houses with gardens in the borough can help hit this target by joining our green garden and kitchen waste scheme.

A free green wheeled bin for grass clippings, hedge cuttings and weeds will be provided on request.

The expanded service also enables kitchen waste such as vegetable peelings, tea bags and leftover food to be recycled using the green bins. Bones cannot be collected.

The organic waste will all be collected by the council and composted.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "The services are available free of charge to residents and make recycling simple and easy to do from home.

"We need every resident to get in the recycling habit if the community is to recycle 45,000 tonnes of waste this year, which we must do to achieve a 30 per cent recycling rate."

As the winter season draws to a close thoughts turn not just towards getting out in the garden again, but also to giving the home a good spring clean.

Remember that many of the items you decide aren't needed any more can be recycled.

For example, the Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre at Summers Lane in Finchley can now accept old CDs, videotapes and cassettes.

You can even take along spectacles you no longer wear. These are reused and distributed through the Vision Aid Overseas charity.

Residents can request a green wheeled bin and information on all of the council's recycling services by telephoning 020 8359 7400, or emailing recycling@barnet.gov.uk

More details can also be found at www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling



Lighting up Barnet!

A brighter future is in store for Barnet's residents, as a major project to upgrade the borough's street lighting moves forward.

Over five years, the project will see new lights switched on across the borough as most of our 30,000 lampposts are upgraded.

Discussions are continuing with experienced contractor David Webster Ltd, which has been named as our preferred bidder.

Contracts are due to be signed this winter and pedestrians and motorists could start to see the benefits as soon as March.

Residents will be kept fully informed and involved in the planning of the works schedule in their area.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "This exciting project will mean that a new road is illuminated through improved lighting every day!

"Residents have told us that they feel much safer in well-lit areas, so I'm pleased that we are taking these steps towards a better and brighter borough."

Triple award success for council

Barnet Council has enjoyed success at three national award ceremonies.

A short film highlighting our work to resolve issues of conflict and victimisation affecting pupils' lives at school won the "best communication with the wider community" category of the Communicating Youth Justice Awards 2005.

"Time to Talk – Time to Listen" focuses on the youth offending service's innovative restorative justice project, which aims to consider the wishes of all those involved in a dispute and attempts



to resolve problems in a calm and positive way, putting right the harm that has been done.

Five primary schools – Barnfield, Bell Lane, Brunswick Park, Colindale and Edgware – took part initially and were joined earlier this year by Childs Hill, Clitterhouse Junior, Coppetts Wood, Martin Junior and Wessex Gardens. It is hoped the project will be extended to all schools in the borough.



And the council's recycling service has landed two prestigious awards in quick succession.

Environmental Services Manager Nicky Buck was named Recycling Officer of the Year 2005 at the National Recycling Awards.

Judges were impressed with Nicky's efforts with Barnet's groundbreaking and successful compulsory recycling scheme, with one saying she had "done a cracking job".

Her triumph followed hot on the heels of recognition for the compulsory recycling scheme, which was named Best Local Authority Initiative at the 2005 Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management.

Left: Girls on film. Mari Martin, Liudmila Edwards (with trophy) and Esthi Raja with the Communicating Youth Justice Award.

Above: Winning team. Officers from the council's award-winning recycling team.

Introducing... your councillors

Brunswick Park Ward

Lynne Hillan (Con)

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

Daniel Hope (Con)

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

Andreas Tambourides (Con) Mayor

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

Surgery details:

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

Burnt Oak Ward

Linda McFadyen (Lab)

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

Allan Turner (Lab)

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

Claire Farrier (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

Childs Hill Ward

Jack Cohen (LibDem)

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

Monroe Palmer (LibDem)

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

Surgery details:

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

Colindale Ward

Danish Chopra (Lab)

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

Gill Sargeant (Lab)

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

Zakia Zubairi (Lab)

020 8959 4091
cllr.z.zubairi@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Coppetts Ward

Barry Rawlings (Lab)

020 8445 6416
cllr.b.rawlings@barnet.gov.uk

Paul Rogers (Lab)

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

Soon-Hoe Teh (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

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

East Barnet Ward

Terence C. Burton (Con)

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

Susan Steinberg (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

Olwen Evans (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

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

East Finchley Ward

Alison Moore (Lab)

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

Colin Rogers (Lab)

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

Phil Yeoman (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

Edgware Ward

Helena Hart (Con)

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

Malcolm Lester (Con)

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

Joan Scannell (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

Finchley Church End

Michael Freer (Con)

Deputy leader of the Council
(Conservative group deputy leader)
020 8349 2540
cllr.m.freer@barnet.gov.uk

Eva Greenspan (Con)

020 8203 1598
cllr.e.greenspan@barnet.gov.uk

Leslie Sussman (Con)

020 8346 6775
cllr.l.sussman@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Garden Suburb Ward

Andrew Harper (Con)

020 8209 3981
cllr.a.harper@barnet.gov.uk

John Marshall (Con)

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

Jazmin Naghar (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

Golders Green Ward

Melvin Cohen (Con)

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

Aba Dunner (Con)

020 8455 9960
cllr.a.dunner@barnet.gov.uk

Christopher Harris (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

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

Hale Ward

Steven Blomer (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

Brian Gordon (Con)

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

David Mencer (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

Hendon Ward

Maureen Braun (Con)

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

Anthony Finn (Con)

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

Matthew Offord (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

High Barnet Ward

Katia David (Con)

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

Wendy Prentice (Con)

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

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month,
Chipping Barnet Library,
Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4
10.30 am-12noon

Duncan MacDonald (LibDem)

020 8440 3941

Mill Hill Ward

Wayne Casey (LibDem)

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

Jeremy Davies (LibDem)

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

Sean Hooker (LibDem)

020 8364 9309
cllr.s.hooker@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Oakleigh Ward

Robert Newton (Con)

020 8445 2879
cllr.r.newton@barnet.gov.uk

Brian Salinger (Con)

Leader of the Council
Conservative group leader
020 8368 1329
cllr.b.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Gerard Silverstone (Con)

020 8731 8368
cllr.g.silverstone@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Totteridge Ward

Brian Coleman (Con)

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

Vacant

Victor Lyon (Con)

Deputy Mayor
020 8446 8253
cllr.v.lyon@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month,
Barnet House, 1255 High Road,
Whetstone, N20
10.30am-12noon

Underhill Ward

Fiona Bulmer (Con)

020 8441 5258
cllr.f.bulmer@barnet.gov.uk

Peter Davis (Con)

020 8449 8968
cllr.p.davis@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month,
Chipping Barnet Library,
Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN4
10.30 am-12noon

Anita Campbell (Lab)

020 8440 2703
cllr.a.campbell@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Council meetings – dates for your diary

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

West Finchley Ward

Kitty Lyons (Lab)

020 8346 6843
cllr.k.lyons@barnet.gov.uk

Kathy McGuirk (Lab)

020 8346 8255
cllr.k.mcguirk@barnet.gov.uk

Jim Tierney (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

West Hendon Ward

Arun Ghosh (Lab)

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

Agnes Slocombe (Lab)

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

Ansuya Sodha (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

Woodhouse Ward

Anne Hutton (Lab)

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

Mark Langton (Lab)

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

Alan Schneiderman (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

February

- 1 First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 2 Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 6 • Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 7 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 8 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 9 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 15 Audit Committee
- 16 Cabinet Resources
- 22 Planning and Environment Committee
- 23 Tackling Crime and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 27 Cabinet
- 28 • Golders Green Area Forum
- Whetstone Area Forum
- Edgware, Burnt Oak and Mill Hill Area Forum

March

- 6 Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 7 Council
- 9 First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 14 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 15 Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 16 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 21 Standards Committee
- 22 Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 23 • Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee
- Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub-Committee
- Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee
- 29 Planning and Environment Sub-Committee
- 30 Cabinet Resources Committee

Contacting your MPs

Chipping Barnet

Theresa Villiers

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

Finchley and Golders Green

Dr Rudi Vis

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

Hendon

Andrew Dismore

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

Greater London Assembly

Member for Barnet and Camden

Cllr Brian Coleman

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

Barnet goes to the polls

This is a very important year for the borough's residents, as a full council election will be held in May.

All 63 seats across the borough's 21 wards will be up for grabs on polling day, which will be Thursday 4 May.

In Barnet, as with all London boroughs, full council elections are held once every four years, so the next opportunity for voters to have their say about the councillor who represents them won't be until 2010.

The council is responsible for a wide range of services that affect Barnet's residents throughout the year.

These include:

- Schools
- Social services
- Roads and pavements
- Parks
- Libraries
- Recycling
- Refuse collection
- Street cleaning
- Planning
- Housing
- Environmental health.

Over the next couple of pages you can find out more about the arrangements that are in place to cast your vote.

You can also find out more information by visiting www.barnet.gov.uk/democracy-elections

Making your mark

Before you can cast your vote and have a say in how our borough is run for the next four years, you must be registered to vote.

This is very important – because if you are not registered, you cannot vote.

A form will have been sent to your home last year asking for you to submit some basic information about the people living in your property.

If you didn't complete and return this form and did not do so the year before either, you will have been removed from the Electoral Register and therefore will not be able to vote. However there is still time to make sure that you don't lose your right to vote on 4 May. We can still include your name on the register in time for the election if you return your form by Monday 13 March.

There are other benefits from registering to vote as well. For example, did you know that opening a bank account and obtaining a mortgage or a loan are all very much easier if you are on the electoral register. In fact, any type of credit is only available if you are on the register.

Registering to vote doesn't mean that you will be bombarded with junk mail either. This is because there are two versions of the register.

The Full Register lists everyone who is registered to vote. Only certain people at certain organisations have this list. It can only be used for a few legally permitted purposes. It is a criminal offence for people

to pass the register to anyone else or to use it for other purposes.

The Edited Register leaves out the names and addresses of people who have asked to be excluded from this version. It is only the Edited Register that is publicly available.

If you have any questions about registering, Barnet residents can ring a dedicated registration helpline on **020 8359 5577** or email: ero@barnet.gov.uk for further information.

More details are also available by visiting www.barnet.gov.uk/democracy-elections

Elections – under the spotlight
We have undertaken a thorough review of all our election and electoral registration practices this year.

This is to ensure the election passes as smoothly as possible and all voters are satisfied with the arrangements in place.

We have worked hard to iron out any areas of concern in the past so that everyone knows the whole process is running as it should.

For example, we have already written to everyone who is shown on our records as requesting a postal vote. This means voters know the position long before the election itself.

We have also worked very closely with Royal Mail so that everyone who asks for a postal vote can be sure it will be delivered.

We are also arranging a special system whereby we will be able to track votes in the post and can be certain that they have arrived.

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There are several ways that you can vote in the local election in May:

Polling stations

Nearly 100 polling stations have been organised across the borough ready for voters to visit the ballot box.

We try to make sure that all of these polling stations are fully accessible for electors with disabilities.

This could mean using temporary ramps into the building or opening different entrances. Voters can also ask for help to get in and out.

Every polling station also has a disabled polling booth which is wider and has a lower shelf than other booths.

Voters with sight impairments can use special devices enabling them to mark their own votes.

Disabled voters can also ask the presiding officer at the polling station to allow a companion to help them.

You will receive your polling card approximately 10 days before the election, giving you details of your polling station venue. All polling stations open from 7am until 10pm.

Postal voting and proxy voting

In recent years the rules regarding voting by post have changed. This means that anyone can now apply for a postal vote without having to give a reason.

You can also request that someone else votes on your behalf. This is called a proxy vote. The person you nominate to vote on your behalf goes to the polling station and casts your vote for you.

If you change your mind, or arrive back in the area sooner than expected, you can go to the polling station yourself and vote in the normal way, as long as your proxy hasn't already voted for you.

You must be registered to vote before you can be given a postal or proxy vote.

You can request an application form for a postal or proxy vote in a number of ways:

- Download a form from our website: www.barnet.gov.uk/democracy-elections
- Write to: The Electoral Registration Office
Colinhurst House
168 Station Road
Hendon
NW4 3HA
- Call our helpline on 020 8359 5577
- Or email ero@barnet.gov.uk.

Budget 2006/07

As this magazine goes to print in early January your council has only just received the first details of the grants that we will be receiving in 2006/07.

Work on the budget and our spending plans is well under way. The initial view is that yet again the council has received less grant than is needed to enable it to function without making either serious economies or raising the level of Council Tax higher than members of the council or charge payers will be prepared to accept.

The budget and the level of Council Tax for 2006/07 will be set at a meeting of the council on 7 March.

However, the council would still like to hear your views on our spending priorities. Any comments should be sent to Emma Gaydon by telephoning 020 8359 7018 or email: emma.gaydon@barnet.gov.uk

Safeguarding children in private foster care

The council's new Private Fostering register, launched in December, will help us ensure the safety of privately fostered children within Barnet.

The Laming Enquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié, who was living with a great aunt, identified serious failings in the way children living with people who are not close relatives (privately fostered) are protected.

In response, the Government reinforced the duty on councils to assess, record and monitor all private fostering arrangements and create a register of them. Unless we know about these children we can't ensure their safety.

The numbers of privately fostered children are unknown, which is very worrying, considering the vulnerable nature of them (most are under five and often recently arrived from overseas). In 1991 it was conservatively estimated that the number of instances of private fostering nationwide were 10,000, but this will almost certainly have grown.

A "privately fostered" child is a child or young person aged under 16 (or under 18 years old if they are disabled) who, for more than 28 days, is or will be cared for by an adult who is not their:

- Parent
- Relative, i.e. grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt or step parent
- Legal guardian.



Parents and carers have a legal responsibility to notify the council's social services department of a private fostering arrangement. However, this very often doesn't happen and it is everybody's duty to identify and report children who they think may fall into this category.

Anyone who knows of a private fostering arrangement in Barnet should contact the council's Referral and Assessment Duty Team on 020 8359 4066, fax on 020 8359 4099 or by emailing dutyfrontdesk@barnet.gov.uk.

For more information on private fostering please contact Heeral Patel, Registers' Officer on 020 8359 4072.

Have you got something to say about the public services you use in Barnet?

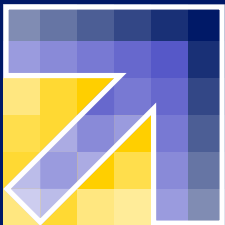
Then we want to hear from you!

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) brings together private, public and voluntary agencies to plan services in the borough and improve the quality of people's lives.

The LSP is currently developing a new Community Strategy and as part of the process wants to bring together suppliers and consumers of public services to get their feedback on progress.

So if you represent a part of the community and have a passion for improving public services, energy, integrity and good interpersonal skills, and an ability to articulate the community's views get in touch.

Contact Andrew Nathan on 020 8359 7029 to find out more.



Barnet College

Taking you to where you want to be



Your local college

Barnet College offers a wide range of academic, vocational, professional and recreation courses from Entry Level right through to degree level Higher Education. With five centres across the borough of Barnet there is sure to be a centre near you. Our three main centres are:

Wood Street	North London Business Park	Grahame Park Way
High Barnet, EN5 4AZ	Building 3, Oakleigh Road South, N11 1GN	Colindale, NW9 5RA

Information Evenings are taking place in February. Check out our website for details, call the number below or visit a centre near you.

Course Information

020 8266 4000

info@barnet.co.uk

Typetalk for people who are Deaf/hearing impaired: 18001 020 8200 8300

www.barnet.ac.uk



Council cracks down on underage sales

Barnet Council has been fighting the problem of anti-social behaviour caused by alcohol by acting to stop sales of drink to underage youngsters.

And officers will be shifting their attention to other forms of anti-social behaviour in February and March with test purchasing for graffiti products and knives, after a successful pre-Christmas alcohol sales blitz.

Working in association with the police under the banner of the Safer Communities Partnership, trading standards officers from the council undertook a concerted operation during the lead-up to Christmas to tackle the issue of teenagers buying alcohol in shops and pubs.

National statistics have shown that 40 per cent of supermarkets, shops, pubs and clubs sold alcohol to under-18s during 'sting' operations in the summer carried out by police and council officers, while the

December stings in Barnet saw around a third of licensed premises selling to underage customers.

David Bradford, Principal Trading Standards Officer at the council, said: "Considering all the media publicity and the fact that all the pubs received letters specifically warning them that trading standards officers would be undertaking test purchasing in the run-up to Christmas, these results are disappointing."

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for the Environment, added: "Barnet Council is determined to stamp out this anti-social behaviour and the misery it causes to law-abiding citizens.

"The number of retailers who continue to serve alcohol to children is worrying but our zero-tolerance campaign gives a clear message – we are not prepared to tolerate the consequences of teenage drinking and we will crack down on those who allow it to happen."

He added: "The upcoming blitz on graffiti products is part of a co-ordinated programme aimed at stopping graffiti from blighting Barnet and we hope it will be very successful."

Barnet's zero-tolerance policy means every premises which sold alcohol to an underage customer will be prosecuted, with licensees or companies facing fines of up to £5,000.

Do you currently pay your Council Tax by direct debit?

From April this year you will be able to pay your Council Tax bill over 11 instalments.

People paying by direct debit currently make 10 equal payments between April and January each financial year.

But under new arrangements introduced by the council, people now have the option of making 11 payments between April and February.

If you are happy to continue paying your Council Tax by direct debit over 10 instalments, please do nothing. You will continue to receive your bill in 10 instalments.

If you would like to change to 11 payments, or do not pay by Direct Debit and would like more information, please complete and return the form opposite.

Please complete and return the form by 15 February 2006 to:

Direct Debit, Barnet Council, Fenella, Babington Road, London, NW4 4BS.

If you would like further information, please call 020 8359 2608.

I currently pay by Direct Debit and would like to pay by the 11 instalment plan.

I don't currently pay by Direct Debit but would like more information. (Or you can check www.barnet.gov.uk and download the latest Direct Debit instruction).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Council Tax reference number (found on your bill):

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Signature: _____

Date: _____

Driving forward parking improvements

Parking is one of the biggest, and most controversial, issues for councils all over the country.

But in Barnet we're aiming to ensure that our service is user-friendly and meets all road users' needs.

Major changes have recently been approved. Motoring organisation RAC called the new measures "eminently sensible".

Improvements include:

- **Freezing charges for residents' parking permits until April 2008. This means residents won't have to pay extra each year.**
- **Reviewing all existing Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs). Some schemes to control parking were introduced several years ago. Circumstances may have changed since then so we'll be consulting residents and businesses to see if all the measures are still appropriate.**
- **Allowing a grace period after a Pay and Display ticket has expired. This will ensure that drivers who have tried to park responsibly will not be penalised for being fractionally over the time limit.**
- **Parking attendants to wait and observe for at least five minutes to check if a delivery vehicle parked on double or single yellow lines is loading or unloading. If parking attendants see that deliveries are being carried out then they will not issue a penalty charge notice.**
- **Making five free visitor vouchers available to households buying a resident parking permit.**
- **Appointing a Customer Care Manager to ensure high standards of customer service.**

Furthermore, we will also work towards introducing the "Moovit" scheme, which allows delivery drivers to be paged if they are away from their vehicle.

Steps will also be taken to investigate ways of further encouraging the use of alternative energy vehicles, in line with Barnet Council's commitment to a cleaner, greener borough.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "Parking can be a contentious issue, but these steps represent an approach that is firm but fair to drivers, residents and businesses alike.

"They are designed to help provide a parking service that is in line with residents' and businesses' needs and favour them to an extent I am not aware of in any other council in the country.

"However, for the safety of all road users, we will continue to take a firm line with anyone who breaks the rules."

The changes to permits, vouchers, zone reviews and grace period arrangements will come into effect in April.



Parking – your questions answered

Parking is certainly a hot topic! We have picked out some of the most frequently asked questions and supplied the answers.

Q Is it OK to park on a single yellow line for a few minutes to pop into a shop, as long as I don't do that on a double yellow line?

A No. Both markings mean "no waiting" – double yellow lines apply at any time, single lines only for some of the time.

Q Does a parking attendant have to wear a hat to issue a penalty charge notice?

A No. The uniform must include an identification number, something to show the officer is a parking attendant, and identification of the borough he/she works for. A hat is not required by law. Our foot patrol attendants do wear hats, but officers on motorcycles do not.

Q Why do I get a penalty for parking on a yellow line, but a gas contractor digging the road up, or a police officer, or a council parking attendant, who breaks the same law doesn't?

A Utility companies and their contractors, highway maintenance contractors, fire, police, and ambulance vehicles, vehicles used for cleaning and maintaining road signs, bus shelters, and phone boxes and vehicles used for certain council functions such as refuse disposal and parking enforcement, are specifically exempt from some parking controls.

Q Are public holidays the same as Sundays for the purpose of parking controls?

A Pay and display and permit holders' parking places in Barnet can be used without charge on public holidays but yellow-lined controls apply on a public holiday as if it were a normal weekday, unless the signs say otherwise.

Q I know that delivery drivers can load and unload from yellow lines but does loading have to be continuous?

A Loading does not have to be continuous, it includes taking goods to and from premises and having goods checked and signed-for, and this can take up to 20 minutes. However, if a parking attendant does not see loading taking place, a penalty may be issued. The council will consider cancelling the penalty if satisfactory proof of loading is subsequently produced.

More questions are answered on our website at www.barnet.gov.uk/faq-parking-faq

What's on in Barnet during February and March

Leisure/pastimes



Exhibition of Movable and Toy Books through the Ages

Until 12 Mar
Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Details/opening times: 020 8203 0130.

Festival of Flight

4-19 Feb
An exhibition featuring pictures, stories and performances. Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, NW9. Details/opening times: 020 8205 2266.

How to research your favourite spot in Finchley by Oliver Natelson

9 Feb 8pm
The Finchley Society.
Also 23 Feb 2.30pm
Blitz! London during World War II by Brenda Cole
Drawing Room, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3. Details: 020 8346 7812.

Wars of the Roses – The Two Kings by Alan Smith

13 Feb 3pm
Barnet and District Local History Society.
Also 13 Mar 3pm
The History of Northaw House by Brian Warren
Church House, Wood Street, Barnet (opposite museum). For details phone 020 8449 6153.

Dig for Victory

14 Feb 8pm
Finchley Horticultural Society. Illustrated talk by Russell Bowes. Blue Beetle, Hendon Lane, Finchley Central. Free entry, all welcome. More details: 020 8455 4143.

New film 'Good Night and Good Luck' directed by George Clooney

From 17 Feb
Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, East Finchley, London N2. For details phone 020 8442 0442.

Rockport Mile

26 Mar 9-11am
Cophthall athletics stadium. £3.50. Must book in advance. Phone 020 8359 7815 for details.

Potters Bar and Barnet RSPB Local Group

Monthly afternoon meetings at St. John's URC, Mowbray Road, New Barnet. Contact 01707 644299 for details.

Salsa dance classes

Mondays 7-8pm
St John's Church, Algernon Road, NW4. For more details phone 07950 958712.

Arts

In Search of Suburbia Exhibition

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

Hampstead Garden Theatre Co. present 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl

2 - 4 Feb 7.30pm; 4 and 5 Feb, 3pm
Adapted for the stage by Richard George. HGS Theatre, Central Square, NW11. Box office: 020 7723 6609.

Hendon Music Society presents a concert by John Lill

11 Feb 7.45pm
Also 18 Mar 7.45pm
Concert by The Barkham Harp Quartet
John Keble Church, Deans Lane, Edgware. More details/tickets: 020 8202 5393/020 8361 3306.

A Goat/Ricochet Co-Production 'move-me'

1-18 Mar
An interactive installation inspired by dance and the photo-booth. Free. artsdepot, 5 Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley, N12. For details of this and other artsdepot events phone box office on 020 8369 5454 or www.artsdepot.co.uk

Riding Lights Theatre Co. in 'The Winter's Tale' by Shakespeare

3 Mar 8pm
All Saints' Arts Centre, Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, N20. £12; £10 in advance. Phone 020 8445 8388 for more details of this and other events at the centre.

The Morton Pessel Show

6-11 Mar
New play by Tony Bilbow and Mike Fentiman. Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road, Friern Barnet, London N11. For details/booking: 020 8361 8310.

Who's Afraid of Virginia's Sister by Sarah Daniels

14 Mar-8 Apr 7.30pm (Thurs matinee 1pm)
Chicken Shed Theatre, Chase Side, Southgate, N14. Box office: 020 8292 9222. www.chickenshed.org.uk

Finchley Choral Society presents 'The Messiah' by Handel

18 Mar 7.30pm
Church of St Jude-on-the-Hill, Central Square, NW11. Tickets £12.50. Box office: 020 8346 9230.

Under 18s

Tales from the Shed for under 7s

From 3 Feb (Friday and Saturday mornings)
Chicken Shed Theatre, Chase Side, Southgate, N14. More details from box office: 020 8292 9222.

Half term holiday course

13-17 Feb
Acting, singing and dancing for 8-16 years. All levels welcome. The Susi Earnshaw Theatre School, The Bull Theatre, High Street, Barnet. Limited places. Phone 020 8441 5010.



Tall Stories present 'The Gruffalo's Child'

15-19 Feb (12noon and 3pm Wed-Fri) (3pm only Sat and Sun)
Age 3+. £6. 'Gruffalo Mask Workshops'. 11am and 2pm. Age 3+. £4. artsdepot, 5 Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley, N12. For details phone box office on 020 8369 5454 or www.artsdepot.co.uk

Children's shows every Saturday morning at 12noon and parents and babies screening every Tuesday morning

Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, East Finchley, London N2. For details phone 020 8442 0442.

Miscellaneous

Events to celebrate World Book Day for adults and children in libraries around Barnet

27 Feb-5 Mar
For more details contact your local library or phone 020 8359 4015.

Barnet NCT Sale

18 Mar 10am -12 noon
Sea Cadets Hall, 184a Long Lane, Finchley, N3. Entrance: £1 adults. No pushchairs admitted. For more details call 07960 521271.

SureStart

Great reading activities in the Underhill and West Hendon Sure Start area run by Barnet Libraries. For more details phone 020 8359 7802.