

Community news

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LONDON BOROUGH



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Barnet Mourns

From the Barnet Book of Condolences

"Diana, you touched our hearts."

"You did so much for so many."

*"You will never be forgotten.
God bless."*

From the Mayor

"Diana, Princess of Wales, visited this borough on a number of occasions. We particularly remember when she visited Mill Hill School in support of the Paul O'Gorman Foundation for Children with Leukaemia which was the chosen charity of Councillor Leslie Pym, the then Mayor."

"She brought comfort and light to all people who met her and she will always have a special place in our memory."

Councillor Agnes Slocombe
Mayor of Barnet

From the political group leaders

"It is impossible to try and sum up the depth of people's feelings over the Princess of Wales' death."

Councillor Alan Williams
Leader of Barnet Council (Labour)

"We are profoundly saddened at the premature death of Diana, Princess of Wales, who was a shining example of courage, courtesy, understanding and compassion, bringing a ray of sunshine into people's lives all over the world, not least to us here in Barnet."

Councillor Liz Mammatt
Conservative Group Leader

"We all share in the general personal grief at the loss of a remarkable princess. All of us must now ensure her memory does not fade away."

Councillor Jack Cohen
Liberal Democrat Group Leader

THAT LAST SAD JOURNEY



Diana, Princess of
Wales (picture
Hendon Times)

That last, sad
journey home: the
cortège, bearing the
Princess of Wales,
passes through
Barnet (picture John
Macdonald-Fulton)

The shock waves of grief that swept the world after the sudden death of Diana, Princess of Wales hit here, at home in Barnet.

Crowds lined the route along the Finchley Road, Brent Cross, the North Circular and onto the M1 as the cortège bearing the Princess' coffin drove through the borough on the way to her final resting place at her family home in Northamptonshire.

"The atmosphere was absolutely electric," said a Mill Hill mother of two grown up children.

"Everyone was quiet. Even the children were quiet. There was an air of expectancy. Then when she'd gone past, everyone clapped."

From Oklahoma and Ireland, Hendon and Mill Hill hundreds of people flocked to The Town Hall to sign the Barnet Condolence Book, set up by Barnet Council to give people a chance to express their personal sorrow.

During the week leading up to the funeral the Union Jack flew at half mast over The Town Hall, Hendon and councillors and council staff stood and observed a minute's silence at the start of September's Council Meeting.

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DEBT ALERT

Barnet is to introduce new measures to use its already efficient debt collecting procedure as an early warning system which could bring help to struggling new businesses.

Each year Barnet collects more than 98 per cent of the £3.2 million commercial rent raised on council properties but a small number of outstanding debts prove difficult to collect and are sometimes written off.

Now these debts will be regularly reported to the committee making it easier to take early action to help tenants who might be having temporary financial problems.

"Barnet has a highly effective monitoring system for collecting debts and our recent record is excellent," said Councillor Linda McFadyen, Chair of Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee.

"But we can turn this excellent record to positive advantage for many small businesses in the borough.

"By monitoring debt arrears even more closely it will become easier to detect businesses in difficulty and perhaps offer help to keep them afloat."

The council's new procedures will give advance notice of small local firms in financial difficulties and in some cases

may be able to give direct support or call on help from other agencies such as North London Business Link.

CIVIC TRUST PARTNERSHIP

Barnet Council's drive to regenerate borough town centres has been given a huge boost by a new partnership with a leading national organisation.

The Civic Trust Regeneration Unit is joining forces with the council, having been impressed by its efforts in recent years to rejuvenate long-neglected shopping centres.

Councillors have given the green light to the Civic Trust's proposals to implement their Centre Vision programme in the borough.

Barnet Council has already set up town centre forums to take action to transform the environment in local town centres and encourage a flourishing economy.

The Trust Regeneration Unit will draw up action plans to tackle issues like a decline in local trade.

Boots the Chemist, which partly funds the Trust Unit, and the North London Training and Enterprise Council have already given their backing to the project.

IN BRIEF

In this edition of Community News is Barnet Council's Transport Strategy for the whole borough. We need you to tell us what matters to you on anything and everything to do with transport. From cycling to buses, the underground to parking we want to hear from you. Please use the enclosed pre-paid form to tell us what you think.

Four new Town Trail guides now give Barnet residents the chance to take a fresh look at where they live.

The guides cover Monken Hadley, Mill Hill Village, Finchley Church End and Hampstead Garden Suburb.

The trails take residents on a tour of historical buildings and unique features, giving potted histories and information on how the areas were formed.

The guides are available from local libraries in each area covered and from the Planning Reception at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone.

FOOTBALL CLUB GETS GO-AHEAD

Barnet Council has given the go-ahead for a new 10,000 seat stadium at Copthall, Mill Hill, which will become the new home for Barnet Football Club.

The stadium meets the current standards set by the Football Association on crowd capacity. The club desperately needs a new stadium to meet match demand and safety standards, as set out in the Taylor Report, and its current ground at Underhill cannot be adequately upgraded.

The new stadium will also include facilities for local people including athletics, rugby and indoor training.

The stadium will replace the one already on site, built in the mid 1960s, which although used extensively by sports clubs from throughout southern England, no longer provides the wide-ranging facilities the new Copthall Stadium will have.

"Barnet already boasts one of the most up-to-date sporting facilities for gymnastics in London at its Hendon Youth Sports Centre. This will further help keep Barnet on the map for sporting excellence," said Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of Barnet Council.

"For many years Barnet Copthall has been one of the major sporting facilities in the capital. The athletics club based at the stadium, Shaftesbury Harriers, have produced some of England's finest sportsmen and women, many going on to perform to international and Olympic standard.

"As well as giving Barnet Football Club a vital new home the venue will also become a valuable training ground for local clubs.

"Clearly, concerns of local residents about match day parking, about movement of people, about access to the site need to be resolved and the council is determined to do so in partnership with Barnet Football Club.

"As with any development of this size we are working closely with local residents to make sure work on the site does not affect their local amenities and all work carried out will be strictly supervised by the borough as the planning authority," added Councillor Williams.

Barnet's decision will now be sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

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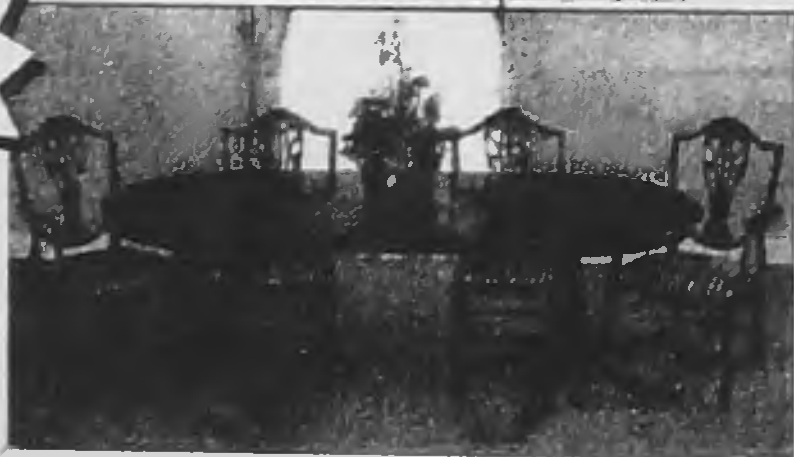


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Pupils and parents from Barnet schools throughout the borough put their best foot forward and joined in Walk to School Week.

Our picture shows Cllr. Anne Jarvis, Chair of Education Committee, with pupils from Our Lady of Lourdes School, Bow Lane, East Finchley.

BEWARE COWBOY BUILDERS

Following a number of complaints Barnet Council's Trading Standards are warning residents about unscrupulous builders currently operating in the borough.

The builders call on residents claiming they have noticed minor building work needs to be done. As they progress, this then becomes more expensive with the builders claiming more work is needed. In one instance the work cost thousands of pounds, cash payment was demanded, and paid.

Trading Standards are advising residents to obtain written quotations from more than one builder for any work before committing themselves. They should also check the address of each tradesman and the legitimacy of any trade association membership claimed by them.

Residents can get further information from Trading Standards at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 or by calling 0181-359 2000.

BETTER BACKING EARMARKED FOR CARER RESPITE

Carers in the borough are set to benefit from enhanced support from Barnet Council, including swifter access to respite care at times of crisis.

Councillors at the Social Services Committee have decided to develop new initiatives to help carers in the home while agreeing on a definition of those relatives and friends who provide substantial care on a regular basis.

One initiative will involve the council working with carer representatives to promote a new respite credit scheme which will give carers and the vulnerable people they are caring for greater control over the services available to them.

This could enable carers to obtain respite care either in a residential setting or in their own home at a time they choose.

The council also provides respite care, giving short-term care to a vulnerable person at home or in a residential home, to give his or her usual carer a break.

Barnet is also taking action to meet carers' requests for a more flexible service, particularly at times of crisis.

Extra places for those with dementia and Alzheimer's disease are being provided and a carer's bed offering an urgent place to relieve carers.

As part of revised arrangements under the Barnet Care Attendant Scheme, a voluntary group providing support to carers, will receive Social Services funding. This funding replaces previous grant funding arrangements and places funding in a firmer block contract basis than hitherto.

"These council initiatives will help improve the quality of life of vulnerable people and their carers in the borough and provide easier access to respite care when it is most urgently required," said Councillor Helen Gordon, Chair of Social Services Committee.

CRACKDOWN ON FRAUDSTERS

Barnet is to set up a special team equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology to crackdown on housing benefit fraud. The Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee has given the green light to put its drive against fraud into top gear.

The council already has in place a team of housing benefit investigators who have a good record of fraud investigation and regularly exceed targets for recovery set by the DSS (Department of Social Security).

Now following a successful bid for Anti-Fraud Challenge Funding Barnet will be able to greatly expand its fight against housing benefit fraud.

The extra cash will make it possible to take on new staff and install specially designed computer systems targeted at organised fraud by landlords which in the past has proved difficult to detect.

Sophisticated fake housing benefit claims, sometimes organised by gangs operating across borough boundaries, cost taxpayers large sums of money every year.

"Reducing housing benefit fraud will help us in our aim to provide efficient value-for-money services for all our residents," said Councillor Linda McFadyen, Chair of the

Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee.

"Our Finance Directorate has an excellent record in dealing with attempts to abuse the benefit system.

"The honest majority of our residents will welcome the added bonus the extra staff and new technology will bring by tackling the fraudsters.

"Cracking down on serious fraud will help direct more resources to those in genuine need," said Councillor McFadyen.

The new computer systems will allow data to be cross matched and sorted.

Experienced officers will find it easier and quicker to spot patterns and inconsistencies and alert them to claims which need further investigation.

As well as the new equipment, seven new investigators will join the council's team. Nearly £180,000 has been earmarked for the scheme this year from funds made available to participating councils by the DSS.

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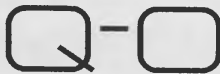
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WHAT'S ON

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

The Bull, Theatre, Gallery, Studios

Drama: 26 Sept, The Soho Group 'Twelfth Night'; 27 Sept, Hoipolloi Theatre 'Dead on the Ground'; 2-4 Oct, Mehtab Theatre 'Not Just an Asian Babe'; 8-11 Oct, G & J Productions & The Reduced Shakespeare Co. 'The Bible. The Complete Word of God (abridged)'; 16 Oct, Twisted Stocking Theatre 'Exposure'; 17 Oct, Peepolykus Theatre Co. 'I am a Coffee'; 22 Oct, Strathcona Theatre Co. 'Change of Heart'; 23 Oct, ITF Productions Ltd. 'Bouncers'; 25 & 26 Oct, Shivam Theatre Co. 'Kundali' (Horoscope); 6 Nov, Minds Eye Theatre Co. 'Ibsen's A Doll's House'; 7 Nov, Brian Lipson 'A Large Attendance in the Antechamber', an encounter with Francis Galton; 17 Dec-4 Jan, The Bull & Glenn Lee Productions present 'Hansel & Gretel', a new musical for families at Christmas.

Dance: 1 Oct, A Kathakali Full Troupe Performance 'Oppression of the Innocent'; 14 Oct, Sakoba Dance Theatre 'Mystical Songs'; 18 Oct, Drishti 'Moods'; 30 Oct, Sampad 'Oblique'; 31 Oct, Thanuja Bhavani Shanker 'Bharatanatyam Recital'; 8 Nov, Sujata-Banerjee 'Dance Filigraa'.
Comedy: 12 Oct & 16 Nov, Sunday Comedy Club; 30 Nov, Comedy Workshop Graduation Night; 12 Dec, John Hegley & Nigel.

Music: 5 Oct, Jean-Baptiste, Africa, Jamma; 19 Oct, John Etheridge; 24 Oct, Cantabile; 1 Nov, George Melly & John Chilton's Feetwarmers; 5 Nov, Alexandra Valavelsky & The Bashava Band; 7 Dec, Athma.

Children's Shows: Sundays; Half-term activities 27-31 Oct, 4-10yrs, 'The Amazonian Rain Play' produced with Kazzum Arts.

Exhibitions: until 3 Oct, Hertfordshire Artists Open Studios 1997; 8 Oct-19 Nov, Fierozza Doorsen's work, painting, drawing, photography, sculpture; 26 Nov-5 Jan, 'A Different View' landscape artists David Drinkwater, Mari l'Anson, Paul Robinson. For details, contact The Bull, 68 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SJ, tel. 0181-449 0048

22 September, 7.30pm
Barnet Borough Voluntary Service Council's 18th AGM, guest speaker from Employment Service to talk on 'Welfare to work in the voluntary sector' and Rudi Vis, MP, Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley N3 3QE.

23 September, 7.45pm
Golders Green/Hendon Branch Council of Christians and Jews. Talk, with slides, by Mr Ian Noble, 'Faith in Architecture'. Trinity Church, Hodford Road, Golders Green, NW11. All welcome.

27 Sept-23 Nov
Exhibition 'Pullman' - the train man prepared by members of the Pullman Society to mark 100th anniversary of George Pullman's death. On show a recreated interior of a Pullman carriage, models of Pullman coaches, photographs, posters, dining car menus. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Tel. 0181-203 0130

Royal Air Force Museum
28-29 Sept and 23-24 Nov, Sotheby's vintage car and motorcycle auction. 18-26 Oct, half term workshops for youngsters. 31 Oct, Military Music Night. 15-23 Nov, RAF Museum 25th Anniversary. 22 Nov, Air Britain National Aircraft Recognition Competition. Details, phone 0181-205 2266

8 October, 7.45pm
Barnet and District Local History Society, talk 'Barnet Pubs' by Richard Selby. Wyburn Room, Wesley Hall, Stapylton Road, Barnet. Details, 0181-440 8066

9 October, 8pm
New Barnet Amateur Gardeners' and Floral Art Society, talk by Mr Alec Cooper 'Coto Donata-National Park, Spain'. 13 Nov, 8pm, AGM, 1998 seed catalogues. 11 Dec, 8pm, Mr Douglas Howard 'The Joys of Christmas'. Details, 0181-449 8836

9-14 October
Zippo's Circus with horses. 9, 13 & 14 Oct, 6pm; 10 Oct, 5 and 7.30pm; 11 Oct, 2pm, 5pm and 7.30pm; 12 Oct, 11am, 2pm and 5pm. Hendon Park, Queens Road, Hendon

12 October
Dassahre Festival, Victoria Park, Ballards Lane, Finchley N3. Details, 0181-359 3036

16 October, 7.30pm
Barnet Borough Confederation of Tenants and Residents Association Meeting, Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley

16 October, 7.30pm
Barnet Branch of the London & North Middlesex Family History Society, 'A bird's eye view; aerofilms' an illustrated talk by Peter O'Connell. Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet. Details, 0181-449 1553

18 October, 7.45pm
Hendon Music Society presents The Katin Trio, programme incl. the 'Spring' Sonata by Beethoven, Debussy's Cello Sonata and Schubert's Piano Trio in B flat D.898. 8 Nov, 7.45pm, Yonty Solomon (piano) programme incl. Beethoven's 'Waldstein' Sonata, a sonata by Brahms, impromptus by Schubert and Balakirev's 'Islamey'. 6 Dec, 7.45pm, The Chamber Ensemble of the New Queen's Hall Orchestra, programme Brahms Clarinet Quintet with clarinetist Keith Puddy, string quartets by Schubert and Tchaikovsky. Concerts at Trinity Church, Hodford Road, Golders Green. Details and booking phone 0181-958 6163/203 1820

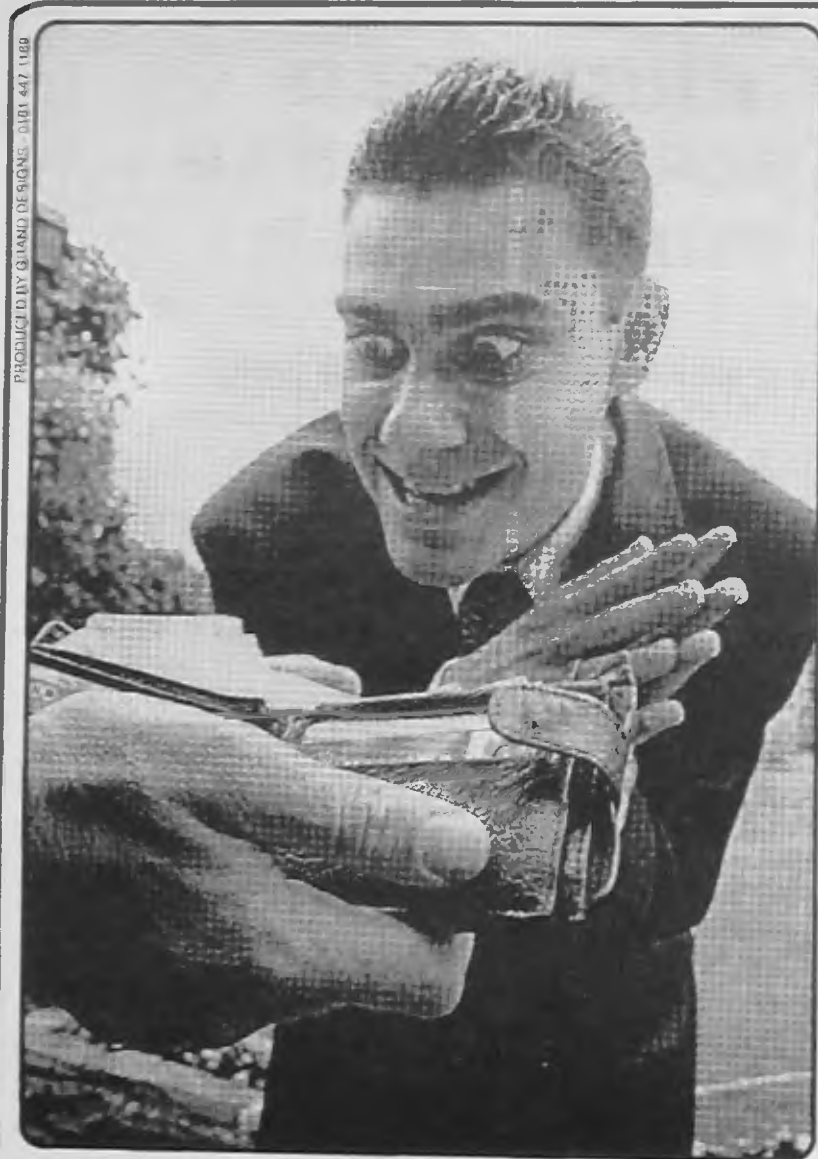
Finchley Bridge Club at The Brent Cross Banqueting Suite, Hendon Football Club, Claremont Road, London NW2 (buses 102 & C11).

Details for Duplicate Bridge: 0181-203 5978; for Supervised/Chicago Bridge: 0171-794 2778

Watling Pensioners Luncheon Club
Lunch for all local pensioners, every Tues, Wed and Thurs at Watling Community Centre, Orange Hill Road, Barnet 12.30 - 1.30pm. An ambulance (provided by Barnet Council) is available to pick up disabled passengers on Tues. The lunch costs £1.70p. To book phone Albert Lacey on 0181-952 6620

Walks/Activities with Barnet Leisure Services and CMS For more information and meeting points phone 0181-359 3052.
28 September, 10am-1pm LOOP - Barnet to Cockfosters, also enjoy a little history of the Hadley area
5 October, 10am-noon Autumn at the Welsh Harp, 3km easy walk
19 October, 2-4pm 3km easy tree trail around Moat Mount & Barnet Gate Wood
9 November, 2-4pm Historic Hadley

Barnet Chamber of Commerce - Forthcoming Events
For the latest information on events please contact Peter Starling or De Cavanagh on 0181-343 3833



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CLLR USHER DIES

Councillor Vic Usher, Barnet's longest
serving councillor, has died. He was 74.

Councillor Usher had been a member of
Barnet Council since it was formed in 1964.

He was the only person to have been twice
elected Mayor of Barnet.

In a tribute, Barnet's Chief Executive, Max
Caller, said, "Vic Usher was a major figure in
Barnet and Finchley. He constantly and
diligently fought for improvements for the
people of what he always called 'our town'.
His passing will be marked with great sadness
by all the staff of Barnet Council - many of
whom had close contact with him through his
work."

Victor Howard Usher was born 30
December 1922 in Holloway. He moved with
his family to Finchley in 1927.

He was educated at Northside Primary and
Woodhouse Grammar schools.

At the outbreak of the Second World War,
he was still at school and joined its Air Raid
Precaution service.

He first became a councillor in 1961,
representing Moss Hall Ward on Finchley
Council. He was to remain a serving
councillor for the rest of his life.

He served on the governing bodies of many
local schools.

In 1985 he was awarded the OBE in the
New Year's Honours List for service to the
public.

Councillor Vic Usher was married and
leaves a wife, three children and eight
grandchildren.

SPOTLIGHT ON SECOND- HAND SALESMEN PROBE

Over the last year the
council's Trading Standards
officers have been focusing
on the problems associated with
the sale of second-hand goods.

Although some of these
goods are a cheap alternative to
buying new, they are far more
inclined to suffer from faults,
making them in the long run
uneconomical to buy.

Second-hand goods are
bought primarily by residents
on low incomes who at the time
think they are saving money.
The year-long project by
Trading Standards also found
that many of these goods were
one of the greatest safety-
hazards to consumers.

Officers have focused on five
main areas of sale within the
second-hand goods market -
second-hand shops; charity
shops; car boot sales; small
adverts in local newspapers and
motor vehicle tyres.

Within these five main
areas, second-hand shops have
been targeted by Trading
Standards, with all traders
being given advice on unsafe
goods. In some cases inspec-
tions have led to enforcement
action being taken. However
the proactive work undertaken
by officers has led to a
significant drop in the amount
of unsafe goods on sale from
this type of outlet.

Although most charity sales,
such as church or club jumble
sales, are not covered by
Trading Standards legislation,
high street charity shops are
Visits by officers have high-
lighted that problems do exist with
the high turnover of charity
shop staff leading to knowledge
on unsafe goods being lost. To
deal with this Trading
Standards has set up a pilot
training scheme on safety issues
for charity shop managers.

Car boot sales proved to be
one of the worst areas for the
sale of unsafe second-hand
goods. Officers have faced prob-
lems with tracing sellers which
combined with the irregular
nature of most of these sales
makes enforcement action
difficult.

Investigations into the sale
of goods through small adverts
in newspapers showed that this
area is not on the increase and
that the few traders who were
using the adverts to pose as
private traders, and so denying
buyers their civil law rights,
actually came from outside the
borough.

The sale of second-hand
tyres is one of the largest and
most dangerous areas of risk to
residents. Since June 1995 the
sale of part worn tyres has been
regulated with the focus on
safety and labelling.

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Look no cars: Barnet Council rose to the challenge of National Car Free Day with many car spaces left empty at council offices throughout the borough. Out picture shows Councillor Jo Salsbury, Chair of the Environmental Forum, in the car park at Barnet House, Whetstone.

FUN DAYS AHEAD FOR YOUNGSTERS IN BARNET PARKS

Barnet is to extend its already successful toddler rides in the parks scheme with formal backing for two rides for the youngest park users outside the cafe in Victoria Park.

This follows a pilot scheme where three rides and a bouncy castle have provided an additional attraction for toddlers outside the cafe in Friary Park.

"Barnet is always on the look-out for ways to provide new leisure facilities in our parks and both these schemes add an extra chance for toddlers to have their share of fun when out with their families," said Councillor Katherine McGuirk, Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee.

Both Friary and Victoria parks already have free play areas for toddlers sited away from the cafes where the new rides will be.

Barnet sponsors a wide range of play and other activities for toddlers and young children not just in summer but all the year round.

Details of these and a wealth of information is available in the latest edition of the popular booklet "Under Fives in Barnet". Copies are available in all libraries.

MORE HOMES GET BOXES

A further 19,000 households will benefit from the borough's door-to-door recycling scheme after the council's Direct Services Organisation gave the go-ahead to buy more recycling boxes.

The scheme, which was launched at the beginning of this year, has proved extremely popular with residents. Currently 65,000 households can recycle paper and glass bottles using the scheme and by the end of the year every household in Barnet will be able to take part.

"To be able to expand this excellent scheme during the council's Environment Week proves that residents are just as keen as the borough to do their bit for the environment," said Councillor Jo Salsbury, Chair of Direct Services Organisations Executive Committee.

"Over 80 per cent of households have chosen to take part in the scheme as we have expanded it across the borough. This matches the council's own commitment, focused through its Local Agenda 21 initiatives, to do all it can to bring about a

TOUGH NEW LINE ON BAD BEHAVIOUR

A tough new line is being taken by Barnet Council against anti-social behaviour on council estates – with the backing of local families. The council will use injunctions as the swiftest method of bringing relief to victims and will follow this up with action to gain possession if injunctions are broken.

Councillors have decided to revise tenancy agreements to take a tougher stance with trouble-makers in the borough and bring relief to those suffering from nuisance and crime.

A new Nuisance clause in tenancy agreements now makes tenants responsible for the behaviour of those who live with them, including children, and visitors in and around their homes.



Getting tough – Cllr. Allan Turner

A clause is included warning tenants about racial harassment, which also covers the actions of their visitors in and around their home.

Racist behaviour and language, threats of or actual violence, damage to property and racist graffiti will all be dealt with firmly.

The revised tenancy agreement is an important weapon in the council's strategy to tackle crime and

nuisance on estates and enhance safety and security for the whole community.

The council's Housing Consultation Forum, made up of representatives of local residents' groups, has already supported toughening up the tenancy agreement.

Barnet will take legal action against nuisance neighbours, including using injunctions, possession and eviction proceedings.

"We will take vigorous action against anti-social neighbours and criminals living in or using our estates," said Councillor Allan Turner, Chair of Housing Committee.

"Barnet Council will not tolerate the kind of behaviour which ruins the quality of life of peaceful and responsible tenants."

The council already decided in December 1995 to strengthen its stance on domestic violence in tenancy agreements.

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LESSONS FOR LIFE

Barnet's schools joined in the Celebration of **School Achievement Week** with several major events including athletics championships at Coptonall Stadium for secondary and infant schools, a design and technology challenge for young people, musical productions and much more.

TOP LEFT: Tomorrow's engineers race against the clock to design, build and get airborne a hot air balloon in a technology challenge at the Barnet schools' Vocational Skills Centre in Byng Road.

BOTTOM LEFT: It's a healthy start to School Achievement Week for these Woodcroft Junior School youngsters as they tuck in to the favourite meal of the day at their ever-popular Breakfast Club.

BOTTOM: Did he make it? Yes he did - one of Barnet's budding athletes on good form at the secondary schools' Athletic Championships held at Cophall Stadium.



ANTI-RACIST CELEBRATION

The cultural diversity of north London will be the focus of **celebration as the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey put their shoulders behind Unity 97, a festival to mark European Year Against Racism.**

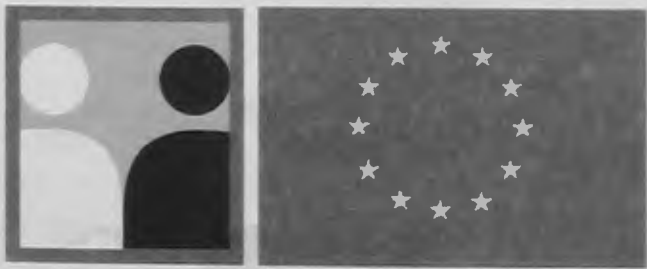
The event will be held on Sunday 26 October from 10am - 5pm at Middlesex University, Trent Park, Bramley Road, N14 (opposite Oakwood tube station).

Attractions include drama, music, dance, poetry, arts, crafts activities for children, exhibitions, stalls and workshops.

"Defeating racism is a job for all of us," stressed Councillor Alan Williams, Barnet Council's Leader.

"We welcome the work done during the European Year Against Racism, especially in this area of north London where we enjoy so much ethnic and cultural diversity."

1997 European year



against racism

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

A major new community care centre to serve residents on the western side of the borough has been given the go-ahead by Barnet Council's Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee.

The new centre will house an After School Club for young people with learning difficulties and a day centre to support local residential schemes run by MIND in Barnet.

The After School Club began as a pilot scheme by the council in partnership with MENCAP and became highly successful providing play and recreation opportunities for children and a welcome break for their parents.

The club was based in Flower Lane but the new building, to be built in nearby Bunns Lane, Mill Hill, will provide much needed additional space especially during school holidays.

"This is a major new development bringing much needed provision and facilities to this part of the borough," said Councillor Linda McFadyen, Chair of the Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee.

"It is an imaginative scheme bringing together in one purpose-built building two organisations which will provide vital services for the well-being of the whole local community. It will provide a valuable link for other community care projects now underway in Colindale and Burnt Oak," she said.

The council-owned site at present contains a disused scout hut and portacabin. The council's freehold interest in the land would be transferred to MIND.

The Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee has agreed to pay for a 125 year lease to accommodate the After School Club in the new building.

MIND will now apply for planning permission to build a two-storey day centre for its own use and to accommodate the After School Club.

NEW SPOTS FOR TOTS

Three new nursery classes have been given the go-ahead and a fourth school is to have its nursery accommodation rebuilt as Barnet's promised nursery expansion programme gathers pace.

New classes will be opened at Deansbrook Infant School, Broadfields Infants and Manorside JMI and the nursery unit at The Hyde JMI is to be completely refurbished.

Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of the Education Committee, called the expansion "another step towards bringing nursery education within the reach of every family which needs it."

"This council recognises that nursery education is the most effective way of giving our youngsters the best possible start in life."

Since the launch of the council's plan for a new era in nursery education, 32 primary schools already have or soon will have nursery classes.

BOOST FOR BARNET HOUSES

The government's decision to release cash from council house sales will give a major boost to Barnet's future housing programmes.

"The increased spending power for councils will allow new schemes to get off the ground which previously cash-strapped local authorities could only dream about," said Councillor Linda McFadyen, Chair of the Budget, Financing and Performance Review Committee.

Projects which could benefit from the move include renovation and improvements to council and private sector housing, new affordable housing partnerships and the regeneration of whole neighbourhoods.

In the current financial year Barnet can expect to receive more than £1million extra spending power for housing, rising to nearly £4 million the year after.

KEEP IT CLEAN

barnet.environment.week/6-12 july 1997

LITTER PICKER PATROL

Barnet Council's first-ever Environment Week was a huge success. Residents young and old were able to take part in a week packed full of events and activities which focused on the ever-growing need to make a guaranteed commitment to protect and enhance the local environment.

Environment Week itself had something for everyone. Gardeners were able to take along their garden waste throughout the week to Copthall Stadium where it was shredded down into compostable waste. For residents with an interest in trees the council's tree wardens ran a surgery at Chipping Barnet Library giving advice on how to look after what is one of the borough's greatest assets.

One of the highlights of the week was the launch of the council's first draft Local Agenda 21 strategy for the entire borough. Residents are currently being consulted on how they feel the council can work with them on creating a sustainable form of living now and for the years to come.

Clean Barnet Day on Tuesday 8 July saw residents, councillors, schoolchildren, council staff, tenants groups and residents associations out and about picking up litter on Grahame Park and Stonegrove housing estates, in parks and open spaces, in playgrounds and clearing rivers and streams.

The council also launched its Energy Action Area with an exhibition on energy efficiency displays on the new Mobile Action Point. Barnet also temporarily fitted out one of its properties with energy saving devices such as low energy lighting, insulation and fuel efficient boilers which residents were able to visit throughout the week for advice and ideas.

Barnet Council joined Barnet Chamber of Commerce for its first-ever breakfast meeting with the theme of 'How to save your firm money and save the planet as well'.

"The main theme of the entire week was about getting local residents involved in improving their local environment," said Councillor Jo Salsbury, Chair of the council's Environmental Forum.

Copies of the council's draft Local Agenda 21 strategy are available from libraries and council offices or by contacting Glyn Carter, Local Agenda 21 officer on 0181-359 4669.

Blooming magic: green fingered winner of the Barnet in Bloom Container Garden Competition, Mrs Celia Hill makes the most of her small garden with a range of tubs, pots and hanging baskets.



They're litterpicking good: pupils from Brunswick Park School took part in the council's Racing Against Pollution game which teaches young people about how they can help improve the environment.



Councillor Jack Cohen joined residents and council officers at Froxley Park Stream during Clean Barnet Day



COMMUNITY CARE FAIR

A unique opportunity for those involved in Community Care will be provided by the first ever Community Care Fair to be hosted here in Barnet.

To be held on Monday October 20 from 2-7pm at The Trinity Church Centre, 15 Nether Street, North Finchley, N12, the event is organised by Barnet Council.

The programme will include displays, exhibitions, demonstrations and workshops covering topics such as, the Euro-

pean Year Against Racism, accident prevention and volunteering.

There will also be two short plays about "Young Carers" performed by A Theatre Company.

Anyone who wants further information should contact: Carol Marshall (0181-359 4256) or Saroj Parekh (0181-359 4847).

Barnet's Community Care Fair is being supported by British Gas.



Wellhouse NHS Trust Annual General Meeting

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Barnet Hospital at around 9.30pm



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The Nursing Home, which opened in 1996, has thirty-eight tastefully decorated rooms, all with en-suite facilities and colour television. Full nursing care is on hand 24 hours a day to ensure the Client's comfort. We provide a varied menu and special diets can be catered for. As with the Residential Home a full time Activities Co-ordinator is on hand to provide a full activities and events programme.

If you would like to view the Village or would like to discuss your personal requirements please contact:

Scott Paterson, on 0181 207 0305 for the Sheltered Accommodation and the Residential Home.

For Nursing Home enquiries contact **Jean Kwong on 0181 207 0599**



A MORE CARING CONCERN

Your council committees at work

List of Committee Meetings at The Town Hall, Hendon for the period 22 September to 10 December 1997. Commencing 7pm unless otherwise stated.

22 September
Public Works Committee

23 September
Social Services Committee

24 September
Metropolitan Police and Barnet Community Consultative Group - Grahame Park Community Centre, 7.30pm

24 September
Corporate Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee

25 September
Budget, Financing & Performance Review Executive Committee

29 September
General Executive Committee

29 September
Housing Consultation Forum (The Grange Community Centre, Red Lion Hill, Finchley)

29 September
Children and Families Consultation Forum (Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley)

30 September
Development and Protection Sub-Committees

7 October
Education Consultation Forum

8 October
Personnel Executive Committee

9 October
Community Care Consultation Forum (Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley)

13 October
Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee

13 October
Inspection Advisory Panel (Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley)

14 October
Development and Protection Committee

20 October
Family Care Sub-Committee

21 October
Policy and Resources Committee

27 October
Housing Committee

28 October
Education Committee

29 October
Grants Committee

29 October
Public Works Consultation Forum

3 November
Recreation, Leisure and Arts Consultation Forum (venue to be arranged)

3 November
Road Safety Consultation Forum

4 November
Council Meeting

5 November
Development and Protection Sub-Committees

6 November
Compulsory Competitive Tendering Executive Committee

6 November
Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee

11 November
Development and Protection Consultation Forum

13 November
Economic Development and Land Executive Committee

17 November
Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee

18 November
Social Services Committee

19 November
Development and Protection Committee

20 November
Allotments Advisory Panel

24 November
General Executive Committee

25 November
Public Works Committee

26 November
Personnel Executive Committee

26 November
Metropolitan Police and Barnet Community Consultative Group (date and venue to be confirmed)

27 November
Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee

3 December
Policy and Resources Committee

3 December
Edgware, Burnt Oak and Mill Hill Town Centre Forum (venue to be arranged)

4 December
Golders Green and Temple Fortune Town Centre Forum (venue to be arranged)

4 December
Environmental Consultation Forum (venue to be arranged)

8 December
Housing Committee

9 December
Education Committee

10 December
Development and Protection Sub-Committees

10 December
Barnet Town Centre Forum (venue to be arranged)



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COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

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Political groups are indicated in an abbreviated form (Lab) = Labour (Con) = Conservative (LD) = Liberal Democrat

ARKLEY WARD

Anita Campbell (Lab) 440 2703
Pam Coleman (Lab) 449 6254
Linda McFadyen (Lab) 440 6254
1st and 3rd Saturday every month 2-3pm
Chipping Barnet Library
3 Stapylton Road
Barnet

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

Don Goodman (Con) 368 0383
Rene Palmer (Con) 368 7800
John Rawles (Con) 368 3522
2nd Saturday every month 10.30am-12noon
Monkfrith Boys' Club, Osidge Lane, N14
(Tel. 449 7345 - Chipping Barnet
Conservative Association)

BURNT OAK WARD

Rosemary Carney (Lab) 959 6757
Allan Turner (Lab) 952 2106
Alan Williams (Lab) 906 0576
Every Saturday 10.30am-12noon
Burnt Oak Library, Watling Avenue, Edgware

CHILDS HILL WARD

Jack Cohen (LD) 445 3981
Jonathan Davies (LD) 203 6690
Susette Palmer (LD) 455 5140
1st Thursday every month 7-8pm (not 2 Oct)
Childs Hill Library, 320 Cricklewood Lane, NW2
2nd Tuesday every month 4-5pm
Kent Hall, Westcroft Estate, NW2

COLINDALE WARD

Danish Chopra (Lab) 449 3231
Gill Sargeant (Lab) 455 1070
David Williams (Lab) 343 1082
1st Saturday every month 10-11am
Grahame Park Library,
The Concourse,
Colindale

EAST BARNET WARD

Usha Chopra (Lab) 449 3231
Anne Jarvis (Lab) 449 9001
Richard Soer (Lab) 440 5060
1st Monday every month 7-8pm
New Barnet Residents' Association
48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet
Every Saturday 10am-12noon
104 East Barnet Road, East Barnet

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

Helen Gordon (Lab) 444 2761
Joan Ryan (Lab) 444 6400
Rudolf Vis (Lab) 444 4051
Every Saturday 10-11.30am
Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, N2

EDGWARE WARD

Malcolm Lester (Con) 349 2595
Joan Scannell (Con) 959 5921
Anthony Spencer (Con) 958 4867
Contact councillors direct or Hendon
Conservative Association
Tel. 959 1446

FINCHLEY WARD

Eva Greenspan (Con) 203 1598
Barbara Langstone (Con) 445 5443
Leslie Sussman (Con) 346 6775
Contact councillors direct or Finchley and
Golders Green Conservative Association
Tel. 445 4292

FRIERN BARNET WARD

John Carter (Con) 343 4005
Brian Salinger (Con) 368 1329
John Tiplady (Con) 445 5734
Contact councillors direct by telephone 7 days
a week or through the Chipping Barnet
Conservative Association Tel. 449 7345

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

Frank Davis (Con)
Mohammed Khamisa (Con) 458 1996
Roy Shutz (Con) 883 1205
c/o Finchley & Golders Green Conservative
Association or write to 20 Connaught Drive,
London NW11 6BJ
Contact councillors direct or Finchley & Golders
Green Conservative Association Tel. 445 4292

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

Melvin Cohen (Con) 346 2550
John Hedge (Con) 203 0137
Michele Moulin (Con) 203 2895
Contact councillors direct or Finchley &
Golders Green Conservative Association
Tel. 445 4292

HADLEY WARD

Mark Hayball (Con) 0956 343070
Liz Mammatt (Con) 361 9720
Kanti Patel (Con) 446 6639
3rd Saturday every month 10.30am-12noon
Chipping Barnet Conservative Association,
163 High Street, Barnet Tel. 449 7345

Liz Mammatt 1st Saturday every month 10.30am-12noon
Community Centre, 48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet
Tel. 441 7044

HALE WARD

Andrew Dickie (Lab) 906 2807
Every Saturday 11am-12.30pm
Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue

Leslie Pym (Con) 959 5484
Sheila Scott (Con) 906 0825

Contact councillors direct or
Tel. 959 1446
Fortnightly on Mondays 6.30pm
Hendon Conservative Association,
2 Apex Parade, Selvage Lane NW7 3JT

HENDON WARD

Anthony Finn (Con) 202 9689
Fred Poole (Con) 203 0813
Andrew Sherling (Con) 202 8630
Contact councillors direct or Hendon
Conservative Association
Tel. 959 1446

MILL HILL WARD

Wayne Casey (LD) 203 8189
Jeremy Davies (LD) 202 6105
Sheila Gottsche (LD) 959 3990
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Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue
Last Saturday every month 12noon-1pm
Canada Villa, Pursley Road, Mill Hill

ST. PAUL'S WARD

Kitty Lyons (Lab) 346 6843
Katherine McGuirk (Lab) 346 8255
Jim Tierney (Lab) 346 3359
Every Saturday 11am-12.30pm
331 Ballards Lane, Finchley

TOTTERIDGE WARD

Kevin Edson (Con) 446 8343
Victor Lyon (Con) 446 4423
Contact councillors direct or Chipping Barnet
Conservative Association
Tel. 449 7345

WEST HENDON WARD

Nicholas Kissen (Lab) 200 9861
Gina Marks (Lab) 906 9898
Agnes Slocombe (Lab) 202 4074
1st and 3rd Saturday every month
10.30am-12noon
West Hendon Clinic, West Hendon Broadway
(entrance in Perryfield Way)

WOODHOUSE WARD

Stan Cross (Lab) 444 9178
Mel Packer (Lab) 361 4540
Jo Salsbury (Lab) 444 4482
Every Saturday 11am-12.30pm
331 Ballards Lane, Finchley

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Please telephone the 24-hour hotline number 0181-359 2325 with any comments
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Please leave your name and a contact number with your message



Barnet's new custom-built Mobile Action Point is out doing the business.

The aim of Mobile Action Point is to give residents easier access to help and information from the council. This state-of-the-art mobile vehicle follows on from Barnet's already highly successful library-based Action Points.

Mobile Action Point is equipped with lap-top computers, mobile phones and a photocopier. It carries the full range of council information guides and leaflets and has access to the council's Infolink information database. It is fitted with a lift for wheelchair users and an interview room for private consultations.

Launching the new service, Leader of the Council, Councillor Alan Williams (seen above right) welcomed the specially adapted vehicle as another vital ingredient in the process of opening up services and making them accessible to the whole community.

The chance to visit Israel is open to local teenagers as the third international youth exchange between Barnet and Ramat Gan gets under way.

Teenagers from Israel will visit Barnet next July and youngsters from the borough (year 10 or 11 at school) will go over in August for a ten day trip round the country.

The cost of the trip is £350 but a trust fund is available so no one is ruled out through lack of funds. Anyone who is interested should contact Sharon Cohen on 0181 359 3134.

QUALITY PLEDGE

All Barnet's front line services are now covered by a Quality Service Guarantee.

This brings to 30 the number of detailed guides telling residents what they can expect from every council service, what the council will do, when it will be done and what the authority will do to put things right if they go wrong.

The QSGs marked a new era of accountability to residents, stressed Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of Barnet Council.

"We have looked at every aspect of the work of these services and made improvements where they were necessary.

"We carried out our own audit of services to ensure that what we promised would be delivered.

"We have consulted residents and their suggestions have been incorporated in the higher standards in the guarantees," said Councillor Williams.

QSGs were first launched in August 1995 telling residents simply and clearly for the first time what they were entitled to expect and what this council will provide.

Since their introduction they have become a popular benchmark of quality for

residents and council staff to refer to when receiving and delivering services.

"QSGs are tangible evidence of our determination to strive for excellence and provide a fair deal for all.

"They have been a major step in pulling down the barriers between the council and the people we are here to serve.

"Things will from time to time go wrong. All residents understand that.

"But when things do go wrong they want it put right quickly and efficiently and to a high standard.

"This is the guarantee openly promised by the QSGs," said Councillor Williams.

The latest in the series of QSGs cover Libraries, The Housebound Readers' Service, Youth Service, Children's Services, Social Services Under-8 Inspection Unit, Adult Services Inspection Unit, Swimming Pools, Music Centres, Education Awards, Fostering and Adoption, New Tenants and Leaseholders' Services.

Copies of the QSGs will be available in all libraries, the council's main offices and on the newly launched Mobile Action Point.

mobile ACTION POINT schedule of stops

for more information

phone
0181-359 4000
or
0181-359 2277

Broadwalk
Shopping Centre HA8
Tuesdays 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salcombe Gardens NW7
Mondays 2.30pm - 4.30pm

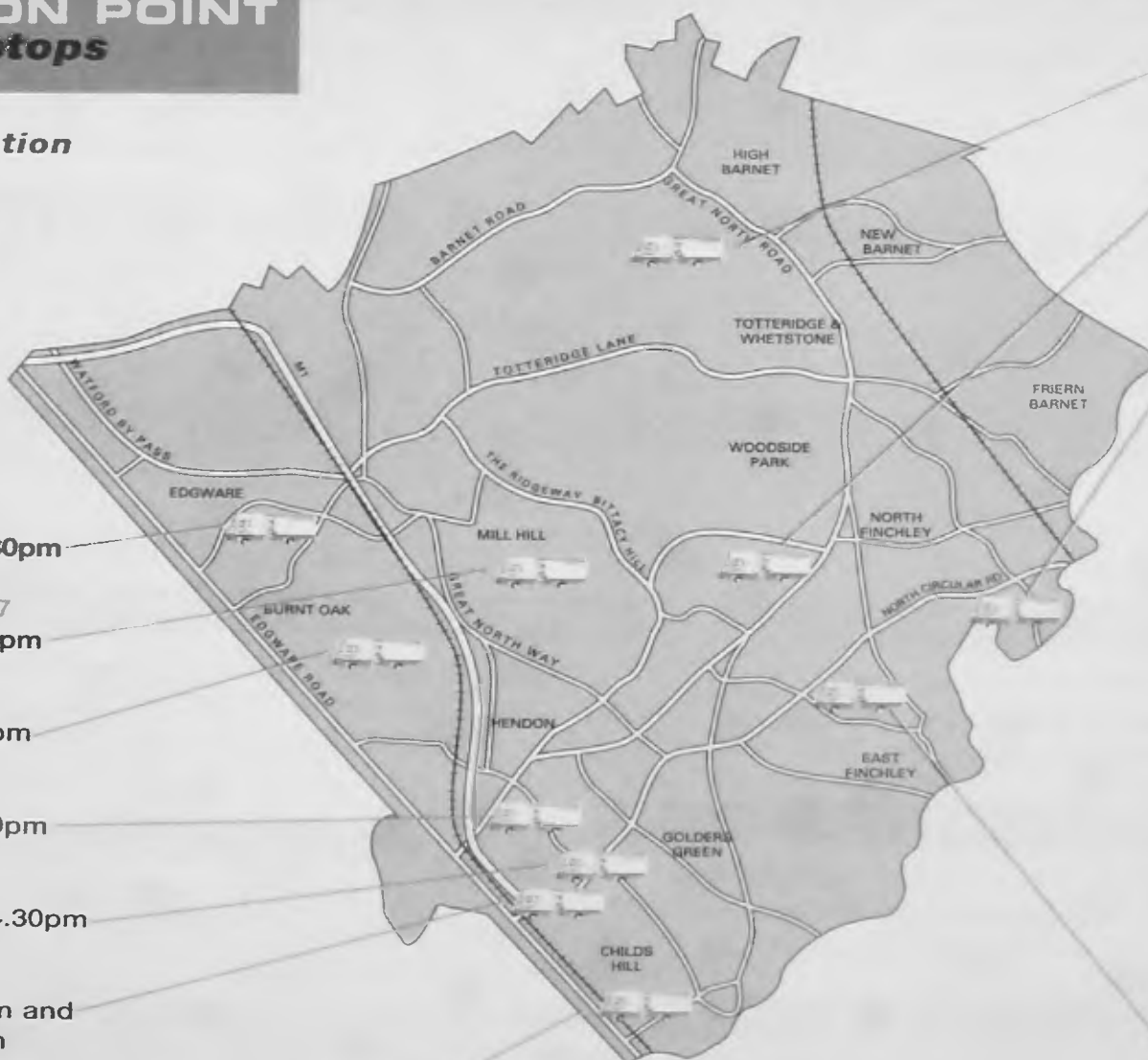
Grahame Park NW9
Mondays 10am - 12.30pm

Hendon Tesco NW4
Thursdays 10am - 12.30pm

Clitterhouse NW2
Wednesdays 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Safeway NW2
Fridays 2.30pm - 4.30pm and
Wednesdays 6pm - 7pm

Food Giant NW2
Saturdays 10am - 12.30pm and 2.30pm - 4.30pm



Dollis Valley Way EN5
Wednesdays 10am - 12.30pm

Waitrose N12
Thursdays 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Tesco, Coiney Hatch N12
Fridays 10am - 12.30pm

Tarling Road N2
Tuesdays 10am - 12.30pm

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