

# Barnet LIFE

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001

ISSUE No. 3

In this  
issue of  
Barnet  
Life

Remembering the  
holocaust p3



Putting black on the  
map p5



Promoting health for  
over 60s p7



Network for Mental  
Health pp 8-9



## UNSUNG HEROES

**F**ive unsung heroes received public recognition for their work at a Town Hall ceremony last week.

The five were presented with the civic awards by the Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Gill Sargeant, who created the awards to honour their selfless contributions to voluntary service. 'I have met so many wonderful people during my time as Mayor. I wanted to do something to honour those who have made an enormous contribution to the life of the borough,' said Cllr Sargeant.

Over 70 nominations were received after the Civic Awards were announced

last autumn. They include carers and volunteers, people who have fought racism, created play groups, community groups or centres for the elderly, offered support and friendship to the needy and spread hope and light around the borough. 'The hardest job of all was to pick just five' said Cllr Sargeant.

The winners were: Richenda Barbour for her work with BREC to promote racial equality; Anita Daniels, for her tireless community work and the friendship she has extended to those in need; Rev Frederick George, whose Christian influence, within the

community and beyond, demonstrates what one man can achieve; Kusum Lakhani - a leading light behind Sangam, the borough's Association for Asian Women; and Joyce Thakur, whose energy and commitment has led to the development and success of Barnet's borough-wide neighbourhood watch scheme, Borough Watch.

The Civic Awards are to be an annual event, and are sponsored by the Barnet Press. Watch out for the opening of nominations next Autumn - who do you know who deserves an official pat on the back?


in your

# Barnet LIFE


**NEWS INCLUDES**

- Cleaning up the borough .....2
- Holocaust Memorial Day .....3
- New Chief at Town Hall .....4
- Rewriting Black History .....5
- Action to tackle rogue landlords .....6
- Action for health for the elderly .....7
- Crackdown on cowboy builders .....8
- Youth football .....16

**FEATURES**

-  Networking for mental health .....8-9
- Barnet's Hidden Treasures .....10

**REGULARS**

- View from The Leader .....3
-  Our Man About Town  
Update from the Borough's  
Town Centres .....4
- Ask Andy:-  
The issue of the day from  
Trading Standards .....6
- What's On .....12, 13
- All in a day's work .....11
- Meet Your Councillor .....14
- Councillor contacts .....14, 15
- Council Meetings .....15

Barnet Life is published by:  
Barnet Council, The Town Hall,  
The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG.

Editorial, design and production:  
Barnet Council, Public Affairs Service.

Printed by: Sharman & Co., Peterborough.

Pre-press: Barnet Press Group.

Distribution:  
Lisa Home, Barnet Press (020) 8203 5100

Delivery and comments:  
If you have any suggestions or comments about Barnet Life, please telephone the 24-hour message line. The number is (020) 8359 2657.  
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Please leave your name and a contact telephone number with your message.



## Massive support for clean-up campaign

**O**verwhelming support from residents and businesses for the borough-wide crack-down on grime means Barnet is being cleaned-up like never before.

Barnet Council launched the £2m clean-up campaign at the end of September to improve streets, shopping centres, pavements, parks and public spaces.

To give the campaign bite, a new clean-up hotline was introduced so residents can report problem hotspots. It's taken a massive 1,500 calls in just three months.

Barnet Council has shifted over 800 abandoned cars since the campaign started and is on target to remove nearly 4,000 dumped vehicles this year. Car dumpers can now face fines of up to £2,500 and three months imprisonment.

Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr. Allan Turner, said: 'Over 4,000 streets have already benefited from our street deep clean 'block cleansing'. This popular service means every street in the borough benefits from a thorough once over twice a year. It combines street cleaning, gully cleaning, highway repairs and grounds maintenance. We also provide free skips so residents can get rid of their bulky items.'

**Town Centre Brush-up**

The brush-up in town centres is being spear-headed by six state-of-the-art Green Machines - new high-tech giant litter sweepers. The clean-up teams blitz the shopping areas where most litter is dropped early morning, evening and at night.

**Offensive words removed free of charge**

Barnet's specialist graffiti team will remove offensive and racist graffiti as a priority, offering a free service to private landowners. Non-offensive, but equally unsightly, graffiti on private land or buildings can be removed by the team at a small charge, with the landowner's consent.

The clean-up hotline is 020 8359 6035. Please use it to report overflowing bins, litter, fly-tipping, abandoned cars, graffiti, broken pavements and



Free skip service - you can even throw out the kitchen sink

Green machines get mean on litter



## Barnet continues to attract teachers

**R**ecent newspaper articles and TV news have focused on the national teacher shortages and teacher recruitment problems. Whilst Barnet has had to cope with the same issues as other parts of the country, it is also in a unique position in that teachers actually want to work here.

With its excellent reputation for good schools and a high standard of education, Barnet continues to attract teachers.

'Not one school has had to

reduce hours or cut down the number of working days in a week,' said Cabinet Member for Education, Cllr Alison Moore.

'We've had to put emergency contingency plans into just one of our schools at the start of the new term. Most schools either had no vacancies or were able to recruit supply teachers.'

The contingency plans at a North Finchley secondary school included recruiting overseas teachers from South Africa and sending in school

inspectors, with teaching experience, to take classes.

Barnet Council helps schools to find supply teachers when necessary but is also thinking ahead. It is in the process of employing a specialist to help with recruiting teachers for its schools. It is also looking at ways of making Barnet a more affordable place to live for key workers, such as teachers, by developing housing projects with homes especially set aside for those who work in local schools.

## REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST

BARNET HONOURS BRITAIN'S FIRST HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY ON SATURDAY 27 JANUARY, 2001

The day is significant because it was on this date in 1945 that the Soviet Army liberated the concentration camps at Auschwitz, but not before millions of men, women and children were exterminated because of their race, nationality, religion, sexuality or political beliefs.

Barnet is holding a Holocaust Memorial Day civic event at Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon, on January 29 at 7.30pm.

### Contemporary relevance

The evening is hosted by Barnet Council, SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) and Middlesex University and will consist of testimonies from a holocaust survivor and other witnesses and victims of this and other atrocities. There will be performances including music, dance and visual presentations. Admission is by free ticket from Janet Robinson on 020 8359 3884.

Holocaust Memorial Day is to commemorate all the individuals and communities who suffered during the holocaust. It is also a time for us to focus on its contemporary relevance in the light of continuing crimes against humanity.

The Holocaust was a defining event of the 20th Century. More than ten million people were murdered in camps all over occupied Europe and the Soviet Union.

The day promotes the need to build a society free from the evils of genocide, racism and other forms of discrimination. It is also part of the day to embrace that holocaust survivors and refugees who fled to this country are an important part of British heritage.



There will be a national ceremony in central London on the evening of January 27, which will be televised by the BBC.

There is to be a Memorial Display at Hendon Library featuring a work of art from the Ben Uri Collection of Jewish Art.

**Holocaust Memorial Arch**  
Barnet Council has also developed a Memorial Garden in Hendon Park. It is located near the Queens

Road entrance. The garden is an enclosed area within the park and a popular place for quiet contemplation. The site is laid out with symmetrical paths, ornamental rose beds and pergola and a raised pond. There are ample seats, benches and litter bins so that visitors can enjoy this peaceful area of Hendon Park.

Within the garden, a Holocaust Memorial Arch has been erected to comm-

emorate the first Holocaust Memorial Day. A Dedication Ceremony will be held at 2.00pm on Sunday 28 January.

Holocaust Memorial Day is as much about the future as it is about the past. The design of Barnet's commemorative arch incorporates Hebrew wording pronounced 'Lezikaran'. The meaning refers to the importance of looking forward as well as remembering the past.

### Alan Williams



Leader's View

Barnet Council has made some ground-breaking advancements in service delivery in recent years and I am delighted to say that this has been confirmed by an independent review.

In December a team called the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) came to visit Barnet to give their assessment on how we are doing.

Their verdict was that Barnet is a forward-looking council that has recently made significant strides. In particular they saw that we are modernising the ways we work, and they commended us for the partnerships we have built with organisations like the police and the health authority.

Of course the local authority will always be subject to criticism from residents. Councils have a huge number of individuals to serve and to please, and a vast array of services to deliver, from education to environment to community safety. No local authority has all the funds it needs, and it is a balancing act.

The consideration of what you would like to spend your Council Tax on has come to the fore again in the past two months as the council's proposed budget for 2001-2 has been out for public consultation.

More than 8,000 people gave us their views - more than double last year's response - and I'd like to thank everybody who has contributed. Over the next few weeks we will be assimilating these results and basing our funding for services on what you said.

For those of you who did not put forward your views, I'd like to suggest that you consider participating in this key piece of local democracy next time.

We want to hear what you say. This is why we have recently added Public Forum pages, where you can express your views, to our website. For consultations like the 2001 Budget, you can vote on-line.

We are committed to delivering what you want, but this cannot work if you do not tell us what it is. Let's make this a new Millennium of more communication. I wish you a happy new year.

## Our man about town



Alan Everitt, town centre co-ordinator, on what's happening in our town centres.

In this issue he looks at the big developments happening in North Finchley.

I hope that you had a merry Christmas, and enjoyed the nine town centre light displays, the Christmas trees, and the carol singers. These all came as a result of the growing partnership between the council and local traders which the Town Centre Team will continue to build on in future years.

Now everyone's focus has switched to new year sales, and Barnet's 3,500 town centre businesses offer you a wealth of local choice, so don't overlook your nearest town centre!

### Bright future for North Finchley

North Finchley is facing a bright future thanks to an exciting development which will alter the face of the town centre. Over the next few months you will witness the continued preparation of the old Gaumont Cinema site, where the council, in partnership with the private sector, are building a new Arts Centre complex with a leisure centre, bus station and new shops.

Barnet Life and the Barnet web site will keep you posted on activities which will go into the final development including:

- The final service diversion works around the site, likely to be undertaken through January and February
- The construction of a new access chamber for the sewer that runs across the site, expected to happen through January, February and March
- The transfer of the Friday market from the development site to a new site comprising part of Lodge Lane car park. This should happen around March
- Again around March, the Nether Street bus station will be closed, and temporary bus stops will be put in place

### Combatting crime

Plans are also being laid to set up a Business Watch scheme for the town centre to combat retail crime and assist the police in dealing with crime in the town centre. Barnet has a very low crime rate, one of the lowest in London, and so the problems that do exist are not overwhelming. Nevertheless it is a priority for traders, who want to reassure shoppers that they are doing all they can to assist the police to eradicate crime.

So all in all, North Finchley looks forward to a period of change and improvement. The new development will make a significant contribution to the area, and local traders have a vital part to play in making the town centre an attractive place to shop.

## EXPLODING INTO 2001

Up to 20,000 revellers witnessed Barnet's two New year fireworks extravaganzas. A crowd of 10,000 flocked to Copthall Stadium in Mill Hill on the last night of the year 2000 to a fireworks spectacular. It was such a success that Cllr. Alan Williams, Leader of the Council, said 'I would very much like to see this as a regular New Year event. It has attracted the

support and enthusiasm of thousands of residents over the past two years.' Another 10,000 attended Oakhill Park in East Barnet on 1 January 2001, thanks to a £38,000 grant from the Millennium Commission.

At Oakhill there were two firework spectacles and a wide variety of acts, including fire eaters, high wire demos, jugglers, clowns and a fun fair.

## New Chief at Town Hall

Barnet has a new top officer. Barnet Life talked with Leo Boland about his vision for the borough.

'I believe in cities that people want to live in and I see local councils as being key to achieving this. Central government has its role, but local government delivers on the ground and is sensitive to the different needs of people and places.'

'Part of the charm of Barnet is that there is a wide spectrum of types of place: from the urban through suburban to the decidedly rural. I think if we live somewhere urban, we should look to have some of the advantages of a suburban lifestyle - for example an environment that is quiet, safe and healthy. Likewise, in the suburbs, why can't we introduce some of the life and buzz of the city?'

At the time Barnet Life interviewed him, Leo Boland was Assistant Chief Executive for the London Borough of Newham and on secondment as Deputy Managing Director at Hackney. Something

of a city man at heart then?

'Actually, my favourite way to relax is to walk or mountaineer, so I like rural scenery as well. Having lived and worked in the East End for over 20 years, I see Barnet as a highly enviable place to live, literally on the road between the city and the countryside.'

'I am particularly taken by all the indi-

*'With the individual town centres... there is huge potential here'*

vidual town centres the borough has. It is quite exceptional and current thinking sees such places as key to people having a good quality of life.

With the generally high disposable income there is huge potential here. I would like to see some inner-city life brought to these shopping parades, with shops open later, interesting places to eat and a good proportion of what the individual needs within a short walk from their home.'

Leo has had a varied career which has included community law, housing

and social services. The thread that holds it all together is service to the people, and he has a reputation for innovation, especially in best value work where he has come up with some pioneering ways of getting really close to what residents like and don't like.

'There is much cutting-edge activity going on in Barnet - the block street cleansing, the community network for mental health, the proposed new Arts Centre and the renaissance of Cricklewood. And solidly good services are provided in most areas.'

'I am not bringing instant solutions or sweeping changes, every borough has its own way, but generally I want Barnet to be an even more attractive place to live, culturally, environmentally and socially.'

48-year-old Leo was born and brought up in County Durham, but has lived in London for over 25 years. He currently lives in Hackney with his wife, a clinical nurse manager at the Royal Free Hospital, and their 15-year-old son. The family intends to re-locate to north London.

Leo relaxes in the great outdoors with his son, Liam



## Barnet youth rewrite history to put black back



Do you know when Britain had her last black queen? And did you know that Robert Browning was black?

For Black History Month last year Barnet Youth Service devised a game to celebrate and educate our awareness of black people in history.

It was a Trivial Pursuit-type game, played in youth groups throughout the month of October, culminating in a youth club challenge at Middlesex University, when black comedian Felix Dexter was asking the questions.

'The point of the game was not so much to win,

as to encourage debate and learning,' said Cllr Anne Jarvis, Cabinet Member for Children. 'With questions such as these which cause us to re-think the way we have seen history, it becomes apparent how much we don't know.' Prizes of personal stereotypes were presented by the Leader of the Council to the winning teams.

By the way, Britain's first black queen was Queen Philippa of Hanault who originally came from Belgium before becoming England's monarch in 1330. Her oldest son, Edward, had the nickname 'The Black Prince'. It is usually taught that this was because he always dressed in black, but was it?

## In a rut? How about a new start in early years

**B**arnet has developed a recruitment strategy for childcare workers. We want to ensure that childcare attracts and keeps the best people for the job.

A series of orientation programmes is being held to give students an understanding of the skills required to work with children. There are also various job opportunities available.

The first programme finished on December 1. Geraldine Jauntuah, a mother-of-five from Kingsbury, pictured below, was one of the students.

'Due to my personal circumstances I haven't been able to work for a while so when the Jobcentre told me about this course I thought - why not?

'I am surprised at how much I learned from it. I already had a lot of experience with children, with five of my own, but now I know a lot more about how to address their needs and their problems.

'My behaviour with my own children has changed as a result. For example I never used to want my boys to play with dolls, it seemed too feminine and I would tell them to put the doll down. Since doing the course I realise it is okay for children to play with what they want to, and even for boys to play with dolls is no bad thing!'

All in all 12 women completed the course, which included gaining an emergency first aid certificate. A second course is going on as Barnet Life goes to press, and a third will take place between 14 and 26 February. Please call Liz Read on 202 8359 3217 for further information.



Geraldine Jauntuah - 'I am surprised at how much I learned'

## Child literacy: parents take the first steps

**A** new reading project is taking place at Barnet Libraries during January and February. Called 'First Steps: Help Your Child to Read', it helps parents support their children's reading.

Parents with children aged five to seven, who attend one of the ten local schools taking part, have been attending the workshops since the new year, and are enthusiastic about the ideas that came out of them.

For further details about the First Steps project please contact Hannah Richens (Principal Librarian: Children and Youth) at Hendon Library on 020 8359 2867.

## IN BRIEF

Barnet primary schools are amongst the best in the country according to the Government's Key Stage Two results.

The results show that local primaries are well ahead of the national average in mathematics, English and science, and have improved across the board.

## Cash boost for local school

**O**ne year after it opened, staff and pupils at The Orion Primary School in Grahame Park are celebrating a £150,000 windfall.

Thanks to the extra cash from the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) the school will get a full-time numeracy and literacy teacher to support existing staff in continuing to

raise standards. It will also get a whole new 'research floor', complete with a state-of-the-art computer room, an art, design and technology room, and allocated space for the school's pione-

ering home liaison service, where staff meet with parents and discuss with them such issues as attendance, how they can help children to do well and any problems that have arisen.



Mayor of Barnet, Cllr. Gill Sargeant, cheers with children from The Orion Primary School after hearing about their £150,000 windfall

## Ask Andy



Consumer advice from Trading Standards Officer, Andy Bishop

In this issue, Ask Andy looks at what we can do to release ourselves from cash credit agreements we wish we hadn't made....

**W**ith the festive season now behind us, and wallets and bank accounts drained by the big Christmas spend, this is a time when money worries come to the fore.

Often people find they have entered into an agreement for the supply of goods or services ...which on reflection they wish they had not! This may be because the repayments are hard to meet; you may have found a better deal elsewhere, or have simply changed your mind.

At Trading Standards we advise that you always seek out three separate quotations, then spend time considering the options, before you commit to a legally binding contract. Because once you have entered into one, it is often not easy to get out of it.

### The Consumer Protection Regulations, and what they do to protect you

These regulations give you a seven-day cooling off period when you can cancel an agreement without any financial penalty provided that:

- It is a cash (not credit) transaction over £35 in total
- You signed the contract following an 'unsolicited' visit by a trader. 'Unsolicited' in this context covers quite a lot of circumstances:- As well as a cold call, it can be a second visit following a cold call, appointments resulting from an unrequested telephone call or from a business card proposing a visit. Traders can no longer get round the law by getting consumers to sign something saying you originally requested the visit.

Door-to-door salesmen, builders and so-called charitable sales must now give you written cancellation rights when you sign any contract. Failure to do so makes the contract void and the trader commits a criminal offence!

The Consumer Protection Regulations include agreements for property repairs but do not cover door to door sales of food, drink, milk and newspaper deliveries.

### How the Consumer Credit Act works for you

The act gives you a period of five days when you are able to cancel without incurring any financial penalty, when you have negotiated face to face with a trader then signed an agreement, off trade premises. In other words this Act specifically protects you from the likes of predatory double glazing salespeople, who come to your home.

It only applies when the trader sorts out the finance arrangements for you, which is what happens in 95% of cases.

### How your right to cancel works

Whenever you have made a credit agreement, you should receive a written copy of rights. If the company does not sign the original copy, they must send you a second signed copy, and your cancellation rights take effect from the time you receive it and last for five days.

If you do want to cancel an agreement, a good tip is to send your written cancellation by recorded delivery.

Please don't forget your rights to cancel an order when buying over the internet, telephone, fax or e-mail. Trading Standards provide some useful free leaflets on these subjects. Please contact us on 020 8359 2606 or visit our web site at [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)

## NEWS - IN - BRIEF

Barnet is cracking down on Housing Benefit fraud. You may have seen the posters around the borough 'Don't cheat Phyllis'. We want to stop those who cheat people like Phyllis by putting in dishonest claims. If you know of something going on which shouldn't be, we want to hear from you on the Fraud Hotline: 020 8359 2007.

## Tackling rogue landlords

**S**qualid living conditions and potential firetraps will be the target of a new scheme to tackle rogue landlords in the borough.

Demand for bedsits and rooms in houses of multiple occupation (HMOs for short) exceeds supply. This enables unscrupulous landlords to operate and means rents are high and conditions often poor.

To address this problem, Barnet Council is introducing a pilot scheme to register the HMOs in Childs Hill, which has the highest number of residents living in multi-occupied properties. The scheme will then be rolled out into other areas.

The authority is also introducing measures to increase the supply of affordable rented accommodation in Barnet and backing a tough licensing system for landlords that will raise

standards in HMOs.

Councillor Beverley Pearce, Cabinet Member for Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal, said: 'Multi-occupied houses are a key source of accommodation for some of the most vulnerable residents in the borough. We know there are good landlords and we want to work with them to improve conditions for residents. However, too many people are living in squalid, overcrowded and poorly maintained housing.'

'This new scheme aims to drive up standards of accommodation for the most deprived in our community. There will be carrots as well as sticks, grants which landlords may be able to access, in return the council will nominate residents from its waiting list.'



photo: J Birdsall

### PUBLIC NOTICE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET



Under the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions and Directions) (England) Regulations 2000, the Council must consult on and prepare proposals for executive arrangements which involve one of the following:-

- an elected mayor with a cabinet of councillors appointed by the elected mayor
- an executive leader elected by the Council with a cabinet appointed either by the Council or by the elected leader
- an elected mayor with an officer appointed by the Council (known as the Council manager).

Consultation on these options will take place soon. Everyone in the borough will be given a chance to express their views.

Proposals that include an elected mayor need to be approved by a local referendum. In addition, a referendum for an elected mayor may be triggered by a petition submitted to the Council signed by at least 5% of local electors.

The Council's proper officer has published the number that is equal to 5% of the number of local government electors for the borough.

The number is 11,325. This is the number that will be used to determine the validity of any petition presented before 1 April 2001 for a referendum for an elected mayor, although if the number of electors on the Register published in February is lower, the lower number will be substituted and published at that time.

Petitions for a referendum for an elected mayor should be submitted to the Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4BG.

Graeme Creer,  
Borough Solicitor and Proper Officer  
January 25 2001

## New life for old

**Barnet Council has big plans to improve the quality of life of elderly residents in the borough. We're dismantling the boundaries between local authority, health and voluntary care organisations.**

**F**or most people, separate health and social care service is not a problem but older people using health care services often find it frustrating. They want a one-stop shop for all their needs and that's what Barnet is trying to achieve for them.

Meanwhile, over 50 per cent of the council's Community Care budget, and around 60 per cent of the health authority's funds, are spent on older people.

The Government is aware that it should address the needs of elderly people. A National Service Framework is being published, setting down common standards of service that the whole country must follow.

With these factors in mind, the council has radically changed its services to the elderly.

'First, we are taking steps to ensure our elderly people are less susceptible to accidents. Secondly, when an elderly person does end up in hospital, or in need of health care, we aim to provide a seamless service which does not pass a person from pillar to post' says Cllr. Geof Cooke, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services.

'This means re-thinking what is the council's area and what is the health authority. We will make sure the passage back to good health for an elderly person is straightforward, at least as far as the care service is concerned'.

### Trips and falls

Half of all hospital patients are over 65, and accidents are one of the main reasons why they end up there.

Barnet has an organisation dedicated to the prevention of accidents, the Accident Prevention Group. It runs a huge programme of initiatives including:

- Fitness schemes for the elderly
- Via health visitors, checking the homes of vulnerable people for potential hazards
- A 'handyman' service which will provide reliable inexpensive work for those who can pay that the group is also in the process of setting up
- An award-winning live drama acted by professional actors, which provides lots of accident prevention and safety in the home information.

### Be fit to be safe

An elderly person is more likely to trip or fall badly because the body's co-ordination and balance deteriorates as it ages.

However, keeping fit and active stops this. This is why the council and its partners have introduced a programme of fitness opportunities for the elderly, which include Age Concern's Ageing Well programme.

For the past year, Peggy Hinchin, 78, has been teaching Tai Chi to other elderly people at the Meritage Centre.

'I saw an advert two years ago, and got in touch with Age Concern about training up.

'It took me a few months to feel confident enough to start teaching others the moves. I used to attend the Meritage Centre anyway, and people there asked me to start teaching them some Tai Chi. Now we have a class every Thursday morning, with 25 to 30 people, including those who cannot stand up. It really surprised me how much everybody loves doing the movements.

'And it works. For my part I can now walk up hills without getting puffed. I had a heart attack seven years ago and have had to occasionally use an inhaler for asthma. Now I don't. Everyone who does the class says their aches and

Hands up for health –  
Peggy Hinchin teaches Tai Chi



pains are better. As regards accident prevention, the benefits are clear, after a year of doing the Tai Chi my sense of balance and stability has improved enormously.'

### Revamping residential care

For those already being looked after by the council, quality - and modern services - are vitally important. Six new, purpose-built homes for older people are to be developed by 2005, together with four new day care centres. This comes as a result of a new partnership between the council, Ealing Family Housing Association and the Fremantle Trust.

Residents of elderly care homes in the borough will benefit from some of the best facilities in London as a result of this partnership.

The next phase will be to upgrade the borough's sheltered housing stock of some 700 homes. The council is putting together a strategy and we will report on this in the next issue of Barnet Life.

### Caring for the carers

Carers play a crucial support role in looking after the older people of the community. On top of this, many of them are elderly themselves. The council will be developing services to ensure that support is provided for carers.

### Useful numbers:

Barnet's Accident  
Prevention Unit 020 8906 8906

Age Concern, The Meritage  
Centre 020 8203 5040

# COWBOY CRACKDOWN

**Unscrupulous cowboy builders knock on doors and prey on the elderly and vulnerable, leaving a trail of damage and despair. Barnet Trading Standards are determined to tackle this menace to the community.**

78-year-old George Rumsby was at home in Mill Hill, when a knock came on his door. 'I was worried because my roof was leaking, but I was unable to get up there to take a look myself' he said.

On the doorstep were two well-presented men. 'One was middle-aged, both very friendly and pleasant.'

Calling themselves Millennium Builders and driving a standard white van, they told Mr Rumsby that his chimney pots were dangerous. They went up on the roof, then presented him with a bill for £2,400.

'The roof was still leaking and I kept calling them but I never saw them again. Obviously I was very upset and angry. That's when I rang Trading Standards.'

## Intervention

Principal Trading Standards Officer, Andy Bishop says. 'We were very disturbed to hear Mr Rumsby's story and went to see him as soon as we could. We always visit consumers who are having problems. If they let us know soon enough we can intervene and stop these villains from getting away with their trickery.'

'Unfortunately for Mr Rumsby, we have been unable to track down Millennium Builders. We cannot get Mr Rumsby's money back. However, through our Care and Repair Scheme, we have been able to fix his roof ourselves.'

Meanwhile, Mr Rumsby has received visits from two further lots of cowboys. 'One said he was from Mill Hill Council but I said there isn't a Mill Hill Council. I'm wiser now, so I sent them both packing. They come to this area a lot because there are a lot of elderly people here.'

'It is important to get quotes, a written contract and written cancellation rights when arranging building work. The contract should clearly detail the work to

be done. Do not agree to anything unless you have all this,' says Andy Bishop.

## Special Response Team

The cowboy crackdown includes:

- A special response team to attend on site
- Asking all local banks, building societies and post offices to be on the alert to more vulnerable customers drawing large amounts of cash.
- Showing genuine building companies how they can prove they are not cowboys. For information, call 020 8359 4889.
- Developing a list of bona fide local builders who can commit to a code of good practice.
- Creating a database of cowboy builders - giving all the information we have about them so you can more readily identify them.

## What is Care and Repair?

Care and Repair gives advice and support to people over 60 and disabled people who own their own homes and want to make improvements or repairs.

We will advise you on preparing specifications of the work you require, on obtaining quotations from reliable contractors, and on applying for funding and grants. The scheme does not itself provide help towards the cost of the work.

The initial visit and advice is free. Where we give further assistance there is a fee, however, this will be fully discussed beforehand.

## The numbers you need...

For information on  
Care and Repair 020 8359 4895  
For the Cowboy Hotline 020 8359 4300  
For Trading Standards 020 8359 2606  
The Council website [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)

# Stay in the com

It was a series of traumatic life events, combined with physical illness, which eventually caused 49-year-old Robert Johnson of East Barnet to succumb to a depression deep enough that he could not work and needed help. For many years he went daily to Station Road day centre in Hendon. Now he is a client of Barnet's Community Network. His life has opened up as a result: he travels around the borough to attend the different groups and classes.

The Network is a mental health support system set up by the council and the health authority last April which effectively replaces the service of both Station Road and Broadfields day centres. It is pioneering and adventurous.

It encourages clients with disabling mental health issues to use a wide base of community based day centres.

'Whereas at the day centre we went to one place every day, and it was like a home from home, with this new system it is a case of different courses and drop-in centres and getting yourself there, in my case on public transport', says Robert.

## Unable to leave the house

'At first it was quite traumatic for me. I was used to just going to the same place every day, and getting to several different places was a challenge. If you have mental health problems, there are days when you are unable to leave the house, that's just how it is. On those days, I don't get to where I am meant to be. On the other hand, I now enjoy the greater responsibility and personal freedom that I have. There are more stimulating activities on offer, and these two things have given me confidence in my abilities. I have applied for a full-time RSA course in counselling. There is also definitely a greater, more open communication between staff and clients. I am a User Representative as well as a user myself, and I know that I am being heard here.'

## Community Support System

Now, around 300 local people like Robert regularly use the Community Network, which replaces the services provided by the traditional day centre approach with ongoing groups nearer to clients' homes. Bringing it all together was a challenging task for network manager Jacquie Mowbray, a trained psychiatric nurse.

'The Network is designed as a longterm community support system,



it does not replace hospital treatment and is not equipped for acute crisis management' says Jacquie.

'The vision was that the Network would give users of mental health services greater freedom of choice in the services they use, and thus more responsibility for their own progress and well-being. It also encourages greater independence and confidence in clients, who have to get themselves to different venues across the borough,' explains Cllr Geof Cooke, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services.

'The Community Network team consists of 17 care and administrative staff, and 10 part-time occupational therapists. This is a joint venture run by the local authority working in close partnership with the health service. Team members possess a range of skills including occupational therapies, counselling and psychotherapy, and the Network can therefore offer varied groups, from the social to the therapeutic, as well as drop-in sessions and some individual therapies', he adds.

The Network receives 15 to 20



## Community, stay in communication



### Putting his point across...

Robert Johnson, User Representative of the Community Network, tells manager, Jaquie Mowbray, of other clients' views.

new referrals per week. 'It is here for any adult with significant mental health needs, but not for people with learning difficulties or a drug or alcohol problem. Some people are referred for a specific reason, for example to the self-esteem group. They may complete the 12-week course and then move on. Others need long-term daily support including services such as having their lunch provided. Although we provide long-term support, the aim is that clients should progress. The majority of our clients don't work and we want to help them get back into employment, and give them the increased independence and self-confidence required to live in mainstream society.'

All users are assigned a key worker, one staff member with whom they meet regularly to talk about their goals and the problems they are experiencing.

### Getting better

Susan is another service user, a young woman who up until a year ago was working, having finished her degree. Like Robert she became too

depressed to continue working, and began attending a mental health day centre before being referred to the Network. 'I can feel that I am getting better. It is very warm here, there is still a feeling of a community. We all get together and cook Sunday lunch, and the Christmas party was great fun. It is a good thing being able to stay in the community rather than going into hospital. I feel less isolated and I am getting back to a routine, doing all sorts of art therapies. I now do voluntary work, between one and three days a week depending on my mental health at the time.'

'For me the important thing is that people are caught early - the prevention rather than a cure principle.' Robert agrees: 'I think more people should know about the Community Network, more GPs should know about it.'

**The Community Network is based in Castle Road, North Finchley. Its telephone number is 020 8492 0192.**

## New scheme to help disabled people get work

Greater access to training and work for learning-disabled adults is on the cards. Barnet's innovative *Routes to Work* starts this month and will run for two years, giving 50 learning-disabled people the independence and confidence to get and keep a job.

The scheme will focus on things such as travel. Participants will receive training from the Accident Prevention Unit to help them get to work or college on their own. It also offers job search coaching, basic skill training and work experience. On-going counselling will support people who get employment.

Routes to Work has been awarded a £200,000 European grant, which will be added to the council's own allocation £250,000 to fund this ground-breaking project.

'Disabled people have talents and ambitions just like the rest of us but are much more likely to be unemployed,' says Councillor Danish Chopra, the Cabinet Member for Resources.

'The learning-disabled are often dependent on their carers for getting out and about. This scheme will provide training to give them the skills and confidence necessary to travel

independently. Once they are able to do this they will be able to access the vocational training courses and work experience part of the programme, and reach a decision about the type of work that they want to pursue in the future.'

Routes to Work will also liaise with potential employers to make them aware of the capabilities of the learning-disabled, and job coaches will provide the initial and on-going support needed.

The project is run by Barnet Council's Accident Prevention Unit and Learning Disabilities Services in partnership with Barnet College and MENCAP Pathway Employment.

### IN BRIEF

The council is working to provide an improved service for adults with learning difficulties. This will build on our partnership with the health authority. We intend to develop in-borough day care for people with autism and ensure all school leavers with severe learning difficulties have a transition care plan to help them into adulthood with a good level of independence.

## NEWS-IN-BRIEF

If your baby was born in the Year 2000, you can commemorate his or her birth, and at the same time help create a new patch of woodland, the **Millennium Woods**. Three of the designated sites have already been planted. There is one more planting to go, so do come along. This time it is at Woodcroft Park on 25 February 2001 between 10.00am and 2.00pm. For further information please telephone 020 8359 4433 or 020 8359 4314.

**Barnet Anti Fraud Investigation Service** have prosecuted a fraudster who claimed over £17,000 in illegal Housing and Council Tax Benefit. Justin Majekedumni received a six month sentence at Harrow Crown Court. He had been using the identity of someone who died 15 years ago, and he had also defrauded the Homeless Persons Unit, who had placed him in temporary accommodation due to forged information.

A major service to help young people in Barnet will start from April. The **Connexions scheme** gives every 13 to 19-year-old their own personal advisor – a sort of one stop shop for help on the many issues facing young people. It brings together existing career, advisory and support services. Barnet is one of 17 areas piloting this scheme, and has been awarded a grant to fund it.

A fresh approach to social inclusion is on the cards. This means making sure all people have **proper access to jobs, housing and local services**, and that no-one gets left out due to poverty or bigotry. The council has already made major inroads to tackling 'social exclusion' as it is called, via schemes like the Neighbourhood Wardens in Graham Park. Modern Apprenticeship schemes, the Poverty Profile which identifies seven wards as areas of special action, to name a few.

We've upgraded our website - it now includes discussion forums where you can express your views - good or bad - about the council's work. The website also contains the latest press releases to keep you informed about what we are doing. Check it out on [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)

Residents in Church End are celebrating a **year of achievement** in Local Agenda 21. They have worked with the council to: get a pedestrian crossing at Tesco's in Ballards Lane; develop proposals for traffic calming at Long Lane; initiating a landscaped area at the Ballards Lane / Long Lane junction and getting local traders to sponsor it.

The **Hearing Impairment Unit** at Summerside School is to be re-built. The new scheme will increase the expertise at the school, make it possible to educate local children in the vicinity, reduce costs and offer places to youngsters from other boroughs.

Barnet Council Barnet Life Issue 3 January 2001



In this issue, Barnet Heritage Officer, Huge Petre, looks at how much shopping has changed over the past centuries, focusing on Barnet town centre.

# Hidden treasures



It was AJ Wills for groceries in 1910



High Street, Barnet... as it was

The old name of 'Chipping' Barnet referred originally to the market. 'Chipping' is related to our current word, 'cheap'. A market is still held today and dates back to the 12th century. It was a large cattle market by the 17th Century, with stock being driven from as far away as Wales to feed London's ever increasing population. According to Pigot's 1831 directory of Hertfordshire, the cattle market had become 'insignificant' by that time, although in fact it continued selling locally supplied

meat until 1959.

In the 18th century Barnet not only boasted one of the largest markets in the country, but it was also well situated - on the main road from London to the North. After climbing the steep hill to High Barnet, as it was known by then, it was time to change the horses, and travellers relaxed at the many inns which the town offered. People were also drawn to High Barnet for the therapeutic waters of the Physic Well during the 17th century and later.

The advent of the railways finished the coach trade. Although one or two coaches continued to pass

through the town into 1890s, this was a romanticism and unnecessary. Despite the decline in business caused by the loss of the coaches, many of the inns survived until quite recently. Who can remember the White Horse? (closed 1971), the Salisbury Hotel? (closed 1969), the Wellington? (closed 1964), The Star? (closed 1959), and at a pinch the Rising Sun? (closed 1915. See photo).

To get a feel of how travellers and drovers might have relaxed we

still have the Mitre pub, which retains much of the atmosphere promised by its timber frame fabric.

In the Victorian and Edwardian eras, family businesses, such as Pulham the butchers, and AJ Wills (see photograph), supplied Barnet townfolk and local farms with their everyday needs. Most well known were the local printers J.Cowing, founded by John James Cowing in 1805. His sons produced the first Barnet Press in 1859 (see photograph), and it was very sad when, after more than a 180 years serving the community, J.Cowing closed in 1986.

Well known 'high street names' like Boots, Woolworth, J Sainsbury, Freeman Hardy and Willis, and W H Smith, appeared in the 1920s and 30s. Less familiar to younger readers but equally strong in their day was the Home and Colonial Stores.

This was also the period when you could have coffee at the Continental Café, and then go and see a film at the Barnet Cinema in the High Street (not to be confused with the Odeon in Underhill). By the end of the 1970s the town was dealing with problems such as rising road traffic, a lack of parking, and competition from shopping centres like Brent Cross.

The Spires was part of the solution. Built in the late 1980s using the two spires from the previous Methodist Church, it incorporated a Waitrose supermarket together with 25 other contemporary shops. It brings to the doorstep of today's Barnet residents the shopping facilities they need for their modern lives... Lives quite different to those of their ancestors several centuries ago!



above: J Cowing the printers  
below: The Rising Sun public house on Barnet High St.



The telephone number for Archives and Local Studies is 020 8359 2876

## A day in the life of a Building Control Surveyor



8.00 am

Vaitsos's day starts in the office, looking over plans with manager, Richard Morcombe.



10.30 am

It's time to don wellies and a hard hat for a site visit in Totteridge. Here Vaitsos talks with the site manager about the depth of foundations required for a development which includes a new church and residential accommodation.

'The type of foundation required varies according to the load-bearing capacity of the soil', he explains, 'They must also go deeper than any nearby drains, and then you must take account of nearby trees. The exact depth you need depends on the type of tree and how near it is. Trees such as willows, oaks and poplars which demand a lot of water have very deep roots. So if there is one of these nearby, you are digging deep!'

Vaitsos David has been working for Barnet Council as a Building Control Surveyor for 10 years.

Here he tells us what his working day is all about.

Basically, my main role is to ensure the health and safety of buildings. We survey all types of buildings, be they residential or public, commercial buildings or industrial developments. I also make sure that the building does not use excessive energy, and that access for disabled people is as it should be.

'As well as overseeing the construction of new buildings, we deal with alterations and extensions to existing buildings. We also investigate dangerous structures, and if necessary we will take immediate action to pull it down or cordon it off.

'Even demolitions are our responsibility - if someone wants to knock something down we must first check that they are going to do it safely, and that all the utilities, such as gas and water, are made safe beforehand.

'My day starts in the office doing paperwork. I do things such as checking building plans to make sure they align with the Building Regulations Act of 1991. I also keep records of all the site inspections I undertake, and I talk to builders, architects and to members of the public on the phone, and at the council's Planning Reception desk.

Later I go out on site to check works in progress within the borough. Again, my main objective is to ensure compliance with building regulations and legislation.

'After around 4pm I will be back in the office again, writing up my notes on the day's work and answering more queries.

'What I most like about my job is the variety it provides. I deal with all types of buildings, and as a result meet all different sorts of people too. I really enjoy giving guidance and help.

'What I most dislike is bad weather - I have to go out on site even in pouring rain or freezing cold'.



12 noon

Vaitsos inspects extension works at a private residence in East Barnet. 'This is good, it's all progressing to standard here' he says.



2.00 pm

Vaitsos has found a problem. The stairs to this loft extension in Finchley do not meet requirements on either the depth of the step or the width of the tread. 'The tread in particular is really too short to be safe,' he says. 'We do understand that in loft extensions it is hard to find enough space, and we are lenient where we can be, but in this case, they will have to correct it.'



3.00 pm

Vaitsos checks another loft conversion, this time he's having a discussion with the builder to make sure it will have adequate ventilation.



**Mind the Gap** is a flourishing performing arts charity employing learning-disabled and non-disabled staff. The company was set up to make performing arts accessible to people with disabilities and is doing just that, with training projects and professional touring productions. Mind the Gap present Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, a gothic fantasy, at The Bull.



**Neil Innes** has worked with Monty Python and become famed for his Beatles parody, amongst other things. This 'Away with Words' presenter and Urban Spaceman visits The Bull for his one-man show featuring a cosmos of stories, songs and ...uh-oh...audience participation.



**Sankalpam** is a trio of Indian dancers who are making waves by going beyond convention and establishing a new framework for Indian Classical dance. They present a double bill at The Bull. Ulaa is about the festival of the Sun God, and combines dance, chant and jazz saxophone. Tat is a depiction of creation, danced to explosive percussion.



**New friends** can be made at the Church Farmhouse Museum where a delightful exhibition of rag dolls, rag fairies and angels can be discovered. From Worzel Gummidge to the Nutcracker Ballet, from the First World War to the Wombles, there is someone for everyone in this collection. On display till March 4.

## Coming soon...

### EXHIBITIONS

Feb 23 to March 29 **On Site** Gaia Persico re-addresses concepts of size, shapes and modes of exhibiting. The paintings cross boundaries from 2-D to 3-D forms. The Gallery, The Bull.

To March 4 - **Rag Dolls**. Church Farmhouse Museum.

Hendon. Free entry.

March 1 - 31 **Recognitions** Cobie Martin focuses on small seemingly insignificant details found in landscape. The Foyer, The Bull.

### ANTIQUES

Feb 14 - **Silver for the Dining Table** Finchley Antiques Appreciation Group.

Avenue House, East End Road, N3

Phone- (020) 8445 9097.

Feb 28 **Preserving Our Inheritance** Finchley Antiques Appreciation Group. Avenue House. Phone (020) 8445 9097

### MUSIC SOCIETY MEETINGS

Feb 6 **A European tour** East Barnet Library. 8pm. Further details from Don Allen 020 8361 9518 or Ivan Ward 020 8361 9050

Feb 8 **Hearing Harty**. The composer/conductor's 60th anniversary. Friern Barnet Library. Further details from

Mr D Chamberlain. tel. 020 8444 7215. 8pm

Feb 20 **Poets who inspired great music** East Barnet Library. 8pm

Feb 22 - **Piano with partners** Friern Barnet Library. 8pm

March 6 **Patricia's pastiche** East Barnet Library. 8pm

March 8 - **A Russian evening** Friern Barnet Library 8pm.

March 20 - **Musick of the masters**. East Barnet Library. 8pm.

March 22 - **Our recent releases - Les Aldrich Music**. Friern Barnet Library 8pm.

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## CONCERTS

### Feb 10 Finchley Chamber Choir & Orchestra.

Programme - Mozart, Bach, Beethoven: Haydn. 7.45pm. Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12. Phone 020 8446 6151/020 8449 2064.

### Feb 10 Bold as Brass Recital Concert

Barnet Parish Church. Phone 020 8440 8593

### Feb 18 Utrecht String Quartet.

Mill Hill Music Club Concert. Harrow Arts Centre, Harrow Arts Centre, Uxbridge Road, Kenton. 7.45pm. Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Dvorak.

### Feb 24 Sorrel String Quartet.

Mozart, Elgar, Mendelssohn: 7.45pm. Trinity Church, Hodford Road, Golders Green.

### March 17 Medici String Quartet

Haydn, Ravel, Beethoven. Trinity Church, Golders Green 7.45pm.

### March 31 Finchley Chamber Orchestra

Brahms; Chopin; Beethoven. Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12. Phone 020 8446 6151/020 8449 2064.

## THEATRE

Jan 31 **Cheap Day Return.** Two batty women take on the globe, armed only with good intentions and some spare knickers. The Bull, Barnet.

Feb 15 18: 22-25 **Aladdin Incognito Theatre.** 7.30pm and matinees. For details phone 020 8361 8310

Feb 16-24 **Bugsy Malone** by Alan Parker. Garden Suburb Theatre. The Institute, Central Square, NW11. 7.30pm and Saturday matinees. Phone 020 7723 6609.

### Feb 20 Do You Think You're God? & Here's What You could have won

The Bull Youth Theatre 3pm and 8pm. Tel. 020 8449 0048

Feb 22-24 **Beauty and the Beast** Harlequin Theatre Club. Hartley Hall, Flower Lane, NW7. Phone. 020 8202 3245.

### Feb 23 Innes Own Words

Surrealist, songwriter, Monty Python collaborator, Neil Innes visits Earth with his one-man show. 8pm. The Bull.

### Feb 24 Dave Gorman's Better World Plan:

advertise anonymously: 'How can I improve the world?'. Collect replies. Carry out suggestions. Tell audience. 8pm. The Bull.

### March 9 Sealboy Freak Sealo

Mat Fraser, actor, drummer and presenter of Channel 4's Freak Out. 8pm. The Bull.

### March 10 Liveworks.

An evening of new, young talent. 8pm. The Bull

### March 16 Three Dark Tales

Theatre 0 present a heart-warming and poignant story. Fantastic soundtrack, slapstick, dance. 8pm. The Bull.

### March 21 Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Mind the Gap present gothic fantasy Using video and live performance, the show challenges the myths and stereotypes of disabled people 8pm. The Bull.

### March 23 A Dark River

The Big Picture presents modern and timeless tale of love and betrayal. Includes original music. 8pm. The Bull.

### March 24 Into The Mystic

Graeae Theatre Company present this ultra modern passion play at the sharpest of cutting edges. 8pm. The Bull.

## DANCE

### Feb 16 Avatara

Sankalpam, master Bharata Natyam dancer Mavin Khoo, lighting designer, jazz saxophonist, master musician and Madras-based musicians. 8pm. The Bull. Tel: 020 8449 0048.

### Feb 17 - Mother Earth

**Nrityakala** Rabindranath Tagore's epic poem The Mahabharata concerning the dialogue between mother and son. 8pm. The Bull.

### March 7 Gorgeous Chelonia

**Ground Effect** - Three dancers struggle to define their identity, using their histories, bodies and thoughts. Video projection, an original sound score. 8pm. The Bull.

### March 17 - Solitude or Sanctuary.

African Caribbean and contemporary dance. 8pm. The Bull.

### March 27 Sher Nain Wu Ji

**Step Out Arts** dancers from Taiwan and England present a spectacular programme of dance and music. 8pm. The Bull

## SONG

### Feb 11 - Carole Isis

penetrating lyrics and exquisite songs. Charity Performance. 8pm. The Bull.

### Feb 18 - Brendan Croker

Selection of songs from his recently released 'best of' CD. 8pm. The Bull.

### March 18 - Julie Felix

A deeply committed performer with a pure and powerful voice 8pm. The Bull.

## FOLK / WORLD MUSIC

### Feb 2: Bringing Folk Music into the 21st Century

The Barnet Folk Club creates a relaxed atmosphere for local musicians to play their own brand of unplugged folk music, be it traditional or contemporary. Players and audience alike are welcome. Tel: JJ Dunne on 020 8441 3620. 8.30pm. The Bull.

### March 4. The Albion Band

Acoustic folk music 8pm. The Bull.

### March 8. K-Groove

Stewart Curtis & the Klezmer band, a fresh approach to world music. 8pm. The Bull.

## SPOKEN WORD

### March 22 Dissident Voices Live Literature Event

Professional exiled writers perform their work complemented by a multi-media range of music and images. 7.30pm. The Bull.

## CHILDREN

### Feb 11 Thumbelina

Norwich Puppet Theatre. 3pm & 4.30pm. Little Bull. The Bull

### Feb 18. The Mousehole Cat

Puppetcraft 3pm. Little Bull. The Bull

### Feb 21 & 22 Snow Shoes

Pop-Up Theatre present a breathtaking trip to the top of a far-off mountain. Ages 3-8 12noon & 3pm. Little Bull. The Bull

### March 4 Cindermouse

Little Angel Theatre Company. Little Bull. The Bull.

### March 11 Ling Chung

The Dragon Tam Tam Theatre. The Emperor's Garden. 3pm. Little Bull. The Bull.

### March 18 Baby Love

Quicksilver presents 'Baby Love'. A new baby arrives and turns life upside down for Harry. Ages 3-6. 3pm. Little Bull. The Bull.

### March 25 Bill's New Frock

One morning out of the blue, Bill Simpson wakes up to find he's turned into a girl overnight. Ages 5+. 3pm. Little Bull. The Bull.

### March 30 The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Ages 3-6. 2pm. Little Bull. The Bull.

## VENUE DETAILS

**Church Farmhouse Museum** tel 020 8203 0130 Greyhound Hill, Hendon. NW4 4JR

Opening hours -  
Mon to Thur. 10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-5pm  
Closed Fri. Sat 10am-1pm and 2pm-5.30pm  
Sun 2pm-5.30pm

### Friern Barnet Library

Friern Barnet Road, London, N11 3DS.

### Friern Barnet Recorded Music Society

Details from Chairman Mr D Chamberlain. tel. 020 8444 7215 8pm. Annual subscription £15 (payable on first attendance) plus £2 per member per meeting Temporary membership for newcomers is £3 for single meeting.

### East Barnet Library

85 Brookhill Road, East Barnet. Herts.

### East Barnet Library Recorded Music Society

Details from Don Allen, tel. 020 8361 9518 or Ivan Ward, tel. 020 8361 9050. Annual subscription £10 (payable on first attendance) plus 50p per member per meeting. Temporary membership for newcomers is £1 for single meeting.

### The Bull and The Little Bull

Theatres, 68 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SJ. Tel. 020 8449 0048.

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## Meet your councillor

Name: Leslie Sussman

Party: Conservative

Ward: Finchley



**Council career:** Extensive. He has served as a Councillor for 40 years. First elected to Barnet in 1968, and before that in what was first Hornsey, now Haringey. He served on many committees often as chair or vice-chair. His speciality is personnel. He has been Group Chair three times, and was Mayor of Barnet in the year 84-85.

**Personal details:** 72 years of age. Married with three children and one grandchild.

**Q: Were you born and bred in the borough?**

**A:** No, I grew up in Westcliff on Sea, near Southend. We moved to London in 1940, and I came to Barnet in 1965.

**Q: What do you do for a living?**

**A:** I am now retired, but until 1983 I was a director of the family business, which manufactured light clothing.

**Q: How did you become involved in politics**

**A:** In 1959 I was asked to help in my local ward in Hornsey. It interested me because I was interested in helping my local community. So I stood as a Councillor in 1961 and was elected.

**Q: What takes up most of your political life now?**

**A:** I Chair the scrutiny commission, which literally scrutinises the decisions made by the Council. I am also a school governor - and have been for thirty years now - and I chair one local charity, and am vice-chair of another.

**Q: What has been the high point of your career?**

**A:** Being Mayor and being presented with an MBE four years ago, by the Queen, for my services to the London Borough of Barnet.

**Q: And the low point?**

**A:** I'm afraid it is now. I do not like the scrutiny and cabinet system which we now have. It means that two-thirds of members are not directly involved in the decision making process.

**Q: What do you do in your spare time**

**A:** My family is what matters to me most, so I spend a lot of time with them. I like to read, listen to music, and am learning to use the computer.

I am also the treasurer of a local scout group, and I still help at camp each summer, as does my wife, who is Group Scout Leader.

**Q: What do you most like about Barnet?**

**A:** I like its openness. There is a lot of greenery and generally speaking it is a nice place to live.

**Q: What are your ambitions for the borough?**

**A:** That we continue to maintain the quality of the local environment.

## CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

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

### ARKLEY WARD

#### ANITA CAMPBELL (Lab)

Tel: (020) 8440 2703.  
e-mail: cllr.a.campbell@barnet.gov.uk  
Surgery: 1st and 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 2-3pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### PAULINE COAKLEY WEBB (Lab)

Tel and fax: (020) 8449 2588.  
e-mail: cllr.p.coakleywebb@barnet.gov.uk  
Surgery: 1st and 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 2-3pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### PAM COLEMAN (Lab)

Tel: (020) 8449 6254 e-mail: cllr.pam.coleman@barnet.gov.uk  
Surgery: 1st and 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 2-3pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

#### GEOF COOKE (Lab)

Tel: (020) 8446 5773  
Fax: (020) 8446 8315.  
e-mail: cllr.g.cooke@barnet.gov.uk  
Surgery: Tuesdays at New Southgate and Friern Barnet Social Club, 31 Oakleigh Road South, New Southgate, London N11, 7-8pm. Also: Saturdays at Labour Party Office, 104 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, EN4 8RE, 10.30am-12 noon.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### LYNNE HILLAN (Con)

Home Tel: (020) 8445 5101.  
Work Tel: (020) 8365 4000.  
Work Fax: (020) 8450 3232.  
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Surgery: 2nd Saturday every month at Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Road, London N11 1EY, 10.30am-12 noon.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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### BURNT OAK WARD

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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Surgery: Saturdays at Burnt Oak Library, Watling Avenue, Burnt Oak, Middx, 10.30am-12 noon.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### CHILDS HILL WARD

#### JACK COHEN (LibDem)

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www.childshilllibdems.org.uk  
Surgery: 1st Thursday every month at Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood Lane, London NW2, 7-8pm. Also: 2nd Tuesday every month at Kent Hall, Westcroft Way, London NW2, 4-5pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### MONROE PALMER (LibDem)

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP LEADER

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Surgery: 1st Thursday every month at Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood Lane, London NW2, 7-8pm. Also: 2nd Tuesday every month at Kent Hall, Westcroft Way, London NW2, 4-5pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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www.childshilllibdems.org.uk  
Surgery: 1st Thursday every month at Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood Lane, London NW2, 7-8pm. Also: 2nd Tuesday every month at Kent Hall, Westcroft Way, London NW2, 4-5pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### COLINDALE WARD

#### DANISH CHOPRA (Lab)

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Surgery: Saturdays at Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, Colindale, NW9 5XL, 10-11am.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### NATHANIEL RUDOLF (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### GILL SARGEANT (Lab)

MAYOR

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Surgery: Saturdays at Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, Colindale, NW9 5XL, 10-11am.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### EAST BARNET WARD

#### USHA CHOPRA (Lab)

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Surgery: Saturdays at Labour Party Office, 104 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, EN4 8RE, 10.30am-12 noon.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### OLWEN EVANS (Con)

Tel and fax: (020) 8368 1986.  
Surgery: 1st Saturday every month at The Community Centre, Victoria Road, New Barnet, 10.30am-12 noon.  
Also: 3rd Saturday every month at East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Road, East Barnet, EN4 8SG, 10.30am-12 noon.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### ANNE JARVIS (Lab)

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Surgery: Saturdays at Labour Party Office, 104 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, EN4 8RE, 10.30am-12 noon.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### EAST FINCHLEY WARD

#### HELEN GORDON (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### ALISON MOORE (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### PHIL YEOMAN (Lab)

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOUR GROUP

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### EDGWARE WARD

#### MALCOLM LESTER (Con)

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Surgery: every Tuesday at Edgware Library, Hale Lane, Edgware HA8 8NN, 6-7pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### JOAN SCANNELL (Con)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### ANTHONY SPENCER (Con)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### FINCHLEY WARD

#### EVA GREENSPAN (Con)

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Surgery: 1st Wednesday every month at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3, 7.30-8.30pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### LESLIE SUSSMAN (Con)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### FRIERN BARNET WARD

#### JAMES CHAPMAN (Con)

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Surgery: 2nd Saturday every month at Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Lane, N11, 10.30am-12 noon.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### BRIAN SALINGER (Con)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### JOHN TIPLADY (Con)

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Surgery: 2nd Saturday every month at Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Lane, N11, 10.30am-12 noon.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### GARDEN SUBURB WARD

#### VANESSA GEARSON (Con)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### JOHN MARSHALL (Con)

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Surgery: 4th Monday every month at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, London NW11, 7.30-9pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

#### JAZMIN NAGHAR (Con)

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Surgery: 4th Monday every month at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, London NW11, 7.30-9pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

## GOLDERS GREEN WARD

### MELVIN COHEN (Con)

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Surgery: 2nd Sunday every month at Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Fourth Sunday every month at Hendon Sports Centre, 11.15am-12.15pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### ABA DUNNER (Con)

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cldr.a.dunner@barnet.gov.uk  
Surgery: 2nd Sunday every month at Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Fourth Sunday every month at Hendon Sports Centre, 11.15am-12.15pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

### CHRISTOPHER HARRIS (Con)

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Surgery: 2nd Sunday every month at Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Fourth Sunday every month at Hendon Sports Centre, 11.15am-12.15pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

## HADLEY WARD

### KATIA DAVID (Con)

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Surgery: 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Conservative Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SU, 2.30-3.30pm.  
Tel: (020) 8449 7345.  
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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### KANTI PATEL (Con)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

### WENDY PRENTICE (Con)

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Tel: (020) 8449 7345.  
Fax: (020) 8449 7346.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

## HALE WARD

### STEVEN BLOMER (Lab)

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Surgery: 1st and 3rd Thursday every month 3.45-4.45pm, 2nd and 4th Saturday every month 1-2.30pm at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### BRIAN GORDON (Con)

Tel: (020) 8381 3339 (daytime).  
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Mobile: 07931 300679  
Surgery: Last Thursday in every month at Hendon Conservative Association, 2 Apex Parade, Selva Lane, London, NW7, 8.15-9.15pm.  
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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### RUTH NYMAN (Lab)

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Surgery: 1st and 3rd Thursday every month 3.45-4.45pm, 2nd

and 4th Saturday every month 1-2.30pm at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

## HENDON WARD

### MAUREEN BRAUN (Con)

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Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### ANDREW SHERLING (Con)

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Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

## MILL HILL WARD

### WAYNE CASEY (LibDem)

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Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, London NW7 2HX, 10am-12 noon.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### JEREMY DAVIES (LibDem)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### SEAN HOOKER (LibDem)

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Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, Mill Hill, London NW7 2HX, 10am-12 noon.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

## St PAULS WARD

### KITTY LYONS (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### KATHY McGUIRK (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### JIM TIERNEY (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

## TOTTERIDGE WARD

### BRIAN COLEMAN (Con)

GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR BARNET & CAMDEN

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Next surgeries are 17 February, 10.30am-12 noon at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ, (020) 8445 5288 and 17 March, 10am-12 noon at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12 9HP, (020) 8445 4081  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY or contact 163 High Street, Barnet (020) 8449 7345)

### KEVIN EDSON (Con)

Tel: (020) 8446 8343.  
Next surgeries are 17 February, 10.30am-12 noon at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ, (020) 8445 5288 and 17 March

10.30am-12 noon at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12 9HP, (020) 8445 4081  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY. or contact 163 High Street, Barnet (020) 8449 7345)

### VICTOR LYON (Con)

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Next surgeries are 17 February, 10.30am-12 noon at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ, (020) 8445 5288 and 17 March 10.30am-12 noon at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12 9HP, (020) 8445 4081  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY or contact 163 High Street, Barnet (020) 8449 7345)

## WEST HENDON WARD

### ARUN GHOSH (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### AGNES SLOCOMBE (Lab)

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Surgery: Saturdays at West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh Drive, West Hendon, NW9, 10.30am-12 noon.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

### ANSUYA SODHA (Lab)

DEPUTY MAYOR  
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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

## WOODHOUSE WARD

### BEVERLEY PEARCE (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

### BARRY RAWLINGS (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

### PAUL ROGERS (Lab)

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Surgery: Saturdays at East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, East Finchley, N2, 11am-12.30pm.  
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

## MEETINGS OF COUNCIL, COMMITTEES, PUBLIC MEETINGS, ETC

### February 2001

Normally, meetings will commence at 7pm and will be held at The Town Hall, Hendon, unless otherwise arranged. Other arrangements operate for Area Forums

and Area Sub-Committees. To find out details for one near you ring (020) 8359 2018.

5 (Mon)	- Education and Children Scrutiny Commission - Central Services Scrutiny Commission
7 (Wed)	- Teaching JNCC
8 (Thurs)	- Council-in-Committee (then Council)
12 (Mon)	- Cabinet 7.30pm - Metropolitan Police and Barnet Community Consultative Group - 7.00pm - Housing Scrutiny Commission
13 (Tues)	- Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee - Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee (Friern Barnet Lane) - Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee (Hendon Town Hall) - Education and Children Policy Development Committee
14 (Wed)	- Social Affairs Policy Development Committee
15 (Thurs)	- Education and Children Policy Development Committee
19 (Mon)	- Welsh Harp JCC 7.30pm - Ad Hoc Scrutiny Commission-Future Member Organisation
20 (Tues)	- Golders Green Area Forum - 6.30pm - St Michael's Church Hall, The Riding, Off Golders Green Road, Golders Green, NW11. - Whetstone Area Forum - 6.30pm - Greek Cypriot Brotherhood, Britannia Centre, Britannia Road, North Finchley, N12 - Edgware and Mill Hill Area Forum Edgware Parish Hall, Rectory Lane, off Station Road Edgware- 6.30pm
21 (Wed)	- Policy and Implementation Committee - Central Services Scrutiny Commission
26 (Mon)	- Equalities Policy Development committee
27 (Tues)	- Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee - Finchley & Golders Green Environment Sub-Committee (Avenue House)
28 (Wed)	- Resources Executive Committee

## Your MPs

### CHIPPING BARNET

**Sir Sydney Chapman**  
Office: 163 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SU  
Tel: (020) 8449 7345

### FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN

**Dr Rudi Vis**  
Office: 38 Church Lane, East Finchley N2 8DT  
Tel: (020) 8883 0411

### HENDON

**Andrew Dismore**  
Office: Red Rose Shop, 63 Watling Ave, Burnt Oak HA8 0LD  
Tel: (020) 8952 5771

### GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY

#### MEMBER FOR BARNET AND CAMDEN

**Councillor Brian Coleman**  
43 Marsham Street, London SW1 3PY  
Tel: (020) 7983 4367

## Barnet's swim scheme brings success



The Barnet Swimming Training Scheme, based at Cophall Swimming Pools, has over the past 20 years proven to be one of the most successful schemes in the country.

The scheme gives swimmers the opportunity to train and to compete, and has produced swimmers for the past five British Olympic teams. There were two Barnet swimmers at the last Paralympic games.

The current Olympian based at the pool is 21-year-old Sarah Price from East Barnet. Her main event is the 100m backstroke. Last year she broke the British record

on the 50 and 100m backstroke seven times, becoming the first British woman to do the 100m backstroke in less than a minute. She just failed to make the semi-finals in Sydney last year, but is improving all the time and looking forward to continuing to train towards the Olympics in Athens in 2004.

#### Could you be the next Olympian?

The Barnet Scheme typically takes young swimmers between the ages of eight and 11, once they have completed classes.

However, swimmers well into their nineties

train and compete at Barnet via the pool's Master's Group.

Disabled swimmers are welcome. There is a disabled group every Sunday between 3.30 and 4.30 pm. Just come along.

#### Going swimmingly

Swimmers are trained and given the opportunity to compete. Barnet has won the London Inter Borough competition for the past three years, and last year the Barnet team won the relay in the BT swimathon. 26 swimmers competed in the National Age Group and Open National Swimming Championships.

## Sports centre in Burnt Oak

Burnt Oak, which is the most deprived area in Barnet of sports facilities, is to have a multi-purpose youth and community sports centre.

The new centre will include an indoor sports hall and an all-weather floodlit pitch. It will bring together the different sport services currently going on at different facilities in the area. It will also provide facilities for local primary schools and for self-managing sports clubs, and encourage young people in the area to get involved in a whole range of active pursuits.

The council has earmarked £2 million and the rest of the money

will be sought from Sports England, who have identified Burnt Oak as a Priority Area because of its severe lack of sports facilities.

'This is an ambitious but essential project, and we are confident that we will get the funding,' said Cllr Susette Palmer, Cabinet Member for Community Development. 'Since Barnet Council bought the land in 1997 we have carried out a survey of local householders to find out what they wanted. An overwhelming 95% said they wanted a sports development, and further research showed what facilities they needed.'

## Home park for Princes Park



A new base for young soccer stars

Once upon a time in West Hendon there were three unloved, overgrown tennis courts and a sad, disused pavilion.

Elsewhere in the borough there was a youth football club called Princes Park. It was thriving and friendly but was limited in its ability to expand, particularly to enrol more young children and disadvantaged youngsters, because of having no home base.

Now, thanks to the magic words - partnership and grants - this lonely corner of the borough is being transformed into a floodlit all-weather training pitch, complete with its own pavilion - the new home of Princes Park Football Club.

#### Ten squads

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary for Princes Park, which has members from all over the borough and now runs ten squads, comprising 200 young people between the ages of 7 and 16.

As Barnet Life goes to press, work is starting to convert the old tennis courts in Woodfield Park - which have been disused for 25 years. The pavilion is already being revamped, and ultimately will even have its own canteen. Princes Park Chairman, Tim Sims, can hardly contain his excitement.

'The pitch will be open from 10am till 10pm, in all weathers. Not only is that plenty of time for all current and new members of Princes Park to play,

but we are already receiving enquiries from schools and adult football teams keen to hire the pitch for their training. This is open to the community, and the money we bring in this way will be re-invested back into the club and for the renewal of the astroturf.'

#### Family atmosphere

'The council has leased the ground space and the pavilion to us for a very reasonable rent. We have grants from Sport England, the sports lottery, from the Football Association, the council and many others. We also raised £30 thousand of our own. The cost of the conversion work is £120,000.

'Of course we love winning medals, but the main point of the club is its family atmosphere. It keeps young people off the streets, keeps them fit and promotes wellbeing,' he says.

#### All weathers

'This winter we have often not been able to play for weeks due to the wet weather', he adds. 'But once the new pitch is open - in April - our boys and girls will be able to play even if we do get more than our share of April showers. Then they can warm up with a cup of tea and a chat in the pavilion afterwards. This will be their home base. And that's the best news of all.'

Princes Park Youth Football Club can be contacted via the secretary, Bob Smith, on 020 8931 7815.



## Fun Run for charity

Fun runners and hard core runners alike, here's your chance to have some fun and raise money for the Mayor's charity at the same time. Barnet Cophall is hosting the seventh annual 2km fun run and the 10km road race on March 11.

Entry forms and more details for both races are available from Barnet Cophall Pools and Stadium on 020 8457 9900. Forms for the 10km race can also be obtained from Runner's World Magazine.