

Community news

MARCH 1999

ISSUE No. 20

 **BARNET**

LONDON BOROUGH

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BUDGET SPECIAL PAGES 1, 2, 3 and 5

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BUDGET BOOST

"We have put cash where it counts", announced Councillor Alan Williams, the Leader of Barnet Council at the Annual Budget Council meeting.

"We have looked long and hard at how we spent our money. The result is better services for more people."

Barnet will be spending almost £476 million next year with education a main priority. Education will receive almost £190 million next year to raise standards in all schools.

The budget means continued investment in high-quality, value-for-money services for all. This has been achieved through the sensible management of finances so that money is not wasted but used effectively and

efficiently.

In a first for Barnet every resident has been given the chance to have their say on where they think money should be spent.

Councillor Alan Williams explained: "We felt people should have their say. It makes for a more open council and helps residents learn a bit more about what the council does. We presented residents with policy areas and themes that

we thought would best serve the people of Barnet. Residents commented on these as well as giving their own ideas."

The budget is a complicated process. This year's budget of £476 million is similar to that of many large companies. Every year the budget process means that money has to be allocated - for buying books for schools to fixing streetlights; for repairing council homes to providing meals on meals.

Sometimes services need more money, sometimes a little less because they have become more efficient, or new technology leads to

improvements for example. "It is about getting the balance right and especially for those people who rely on our services, such as the young and the old, said Councillor Williams."

"Fortunately this year we have had a slightly better than expected settlement from the government. They give us most of the money we spend and the council tax adds a bit more. We think we have been very fair with the council tax this year - a typical band D council tax bill will be going up about 63p a week. This is in line with Government forecasts."

One important fact emerged from the public consultation - residents think business and sponsors should contribute more. "Barnet Council is already looking for imaginative ways of getting more money for services", said Councillor Helen Gordon, Chair of the Policy and Implementation Committee. "For example we have won more money than average from government schemes to help repair school buildings. And for Sunday opening at Hendon library



The Leader of Barnet Council, Councillor Alan Williams with Bertie Ahern the Republic of Ireland Taoisech (Prime Minister). He was in Barnet to celebrate Safestart, a charity helping with homelessness and job training. Bertie Ahern helped launch the charity nine years ago and came back to see the results. The charity is partly funded by Barnet Council.

we managed to secure funding from Middlesex University."

The consultation for this year's budget looks to be repeated for subsequent budgets. Councillor Gordon said: "We have learnt a lot this time round and next time hope even more people will respond. I agree with a resident, replying on the Internet, who said 'Well done for consulting local people - a

breath of fresh air"

In summarising the budget Councillor Gordon concluded:

"This budget is important because it will take us into the next millennium. Our budget is for everyone and it is forward looking. Above all, our budget ensures our pledge to provide good quality services to all our residents."



Winners of the prestigious 1998 London Inter-Area Schools Chess Championships being congratulated by Mayor, Councillor Usha Chopra. Victorious members of Barnet's Schools Chess Association took part in a unique exchange - they taught Councillor Chopra a few winning moves and in return were given the chance to dress in the Mayor's robes. Check mates: Twins, Matthew (left) and Jack O'Connell (11) with Councillor Chopra.

improving local democracy

Barnet Council

EURO ELECTIONS 10 JUNE 1999



DON'T MISS THE BOAT VOTE BY POST



CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

 **BARNET**

LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION

Filming around the borough

Barnet is fast becoming a Mecca for filming to rival New York. Over the last few months there have been numerous films, programmes, and commercials filmed around the borough. Filming is good news for Barnet because it brings money and employment to the community.

In October, *Grange Hill* filmed in Fitzjohns Avenue.

High Barnet, a new BBC medical drama was out and about in Edgware and documentary maker *Cutting Edge* were in Friary Park. November saw the *Sermon from St Albions* in a church in Friern Barnet, and BBC Wales at Church Farmhouse Museum for a documentary on poet Dannie Abse. In December *Eastenders* filmed on the A1.

A skin care commercial was filmed in a petrol station in Temple Fortune in December. Other commercials on location saw ventures into Monken Hadley, Hampstead Garden Suburb and Golders Green.

Children's programmes have also been making a bid with ITV's *Diggit* filmed in Nupton Drive, Barnet in February and Carlton's *Wise-up* in October.

Perhaps the biggest coups were the filming of the second series of *Maisie Raine*, Pauline Quirk's Detective sleuth. A lucky fish and chip shop in Hendon sold Maisie Raine some good old-fashioned fish and chips. The other, a new thriller series called *Second Sight*, saw Detective Inspector Ross Tanner begin investigations in Barnet Lane, Totteridge.

NEWS EXTRA

GOING FOR GREEN

Barnet Council held its fifth Environment Conference on Sunday 7 March at Avenue House, East End Road.

The all-day conference held workshops covering all Local Agenda 21 from reducing waste, greening business, saving energy and water and living healthier lifestyles.

POSTAL VOTING MADE EASY

The council is pioneering a pilot project with the Royal Mail to make it easier in future to vote by post. Every home in the borough will soon receive a pack explaining how to get a postal vote if you find it difficult to get to the polling station at election time. Look out for it.

BUDGET . . . BUDGET . . . BUDGET . . . BUDGET . . . BUDGET . . . BUDGET . . . BUDGET . . .

What you said about the budget

- Overall, spending should be kept at current levels
- A little more should be spent on community safety, on helping those in need and on education
- About the same amount should be spent on the environment but if possible more resources should be put into street cleaning and refuse collection
- To balance the budget, a little less should be spent on boosting the local economy and building strong communities
- Council taxpayers should contribute the same share of the council's income, service users should pay the same or more and business contribute more.

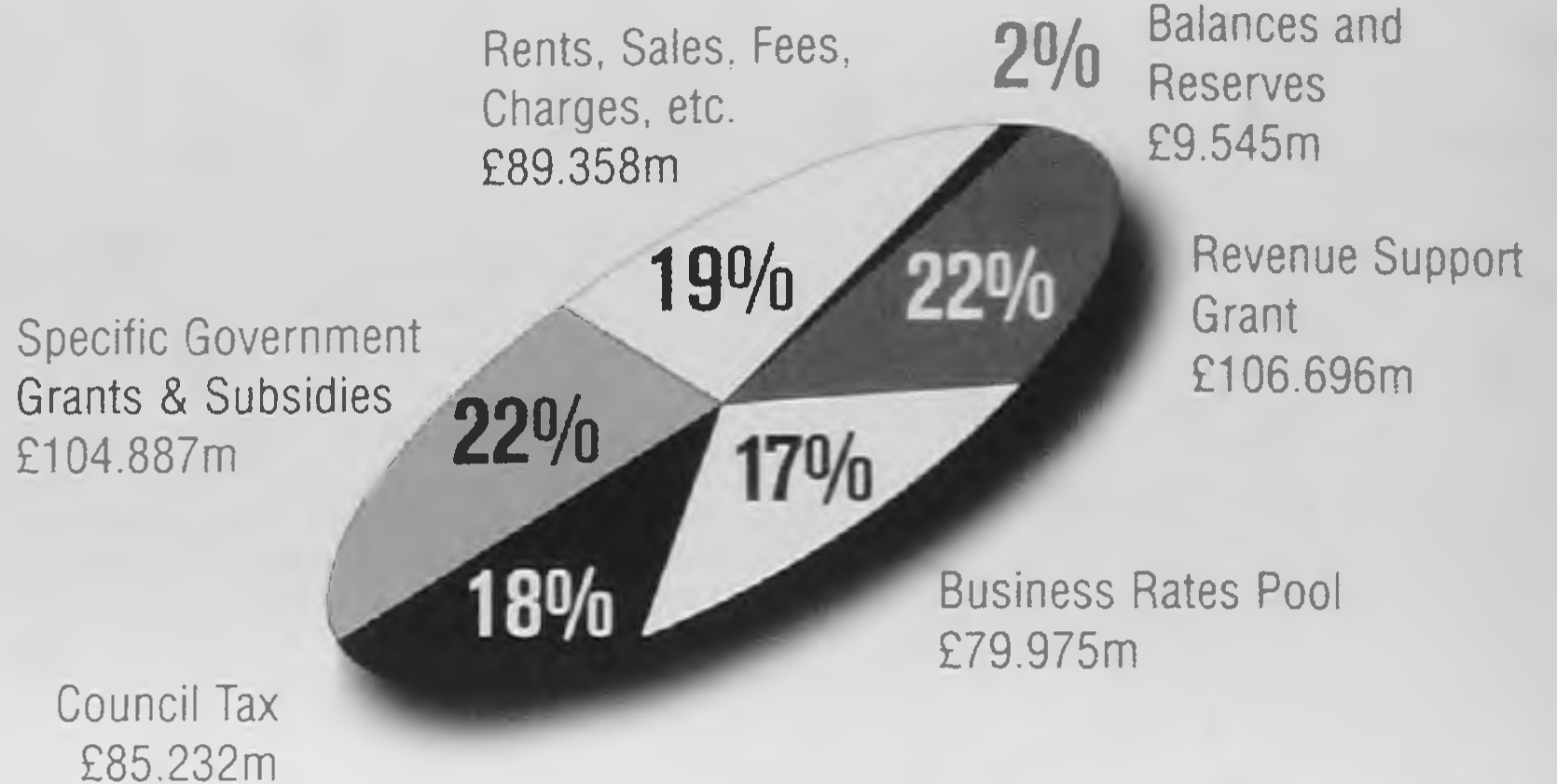
Over 125,000 budget questionnaires were distributed to households in Barnet. Eight Powervote machines visited eight supermarkets, three libraries and two shopping centres.

Council Tax

The Council Tax provides the council with about a fifth of its income. This money is spent on services. Barnet Council has made big efforts to keep the council tax down. For 1999/2000 (inclusive of the Fire Brigade and the Metropolitan Police charges) the council tax will be:

Band A	£507.22
Band B	£591.76
Band C	£676.29
Band D	£760.83
Band E	£929.90
Band F	£1098.98
Band G	£1,268.05
Band H	£1,521.66

Income of the council (£475.693m)



The Burroughs
SPORTS CLUB

Fitness is a way of life!



The magnificent sports club at Middlesex University's Hendon campus is open for public membership at hard-to-believe prices. This lottery-funded club offers exclusive facilities for use by the whole community.

Memberships available at less than £1 a day.*

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- Newly enlarged and refurbished Health Suite with sauna, steam rooms and sunbeds
- Sports Hall for recreational badminton, and indoor sports
- Over 20 exercise classes a week including yoga, step, body pump and martial arts
- Free parking
- Let our qualified staff devise your individual plan for improved health and fitness
- Real Tennis Court under construction, opening autumn 1999



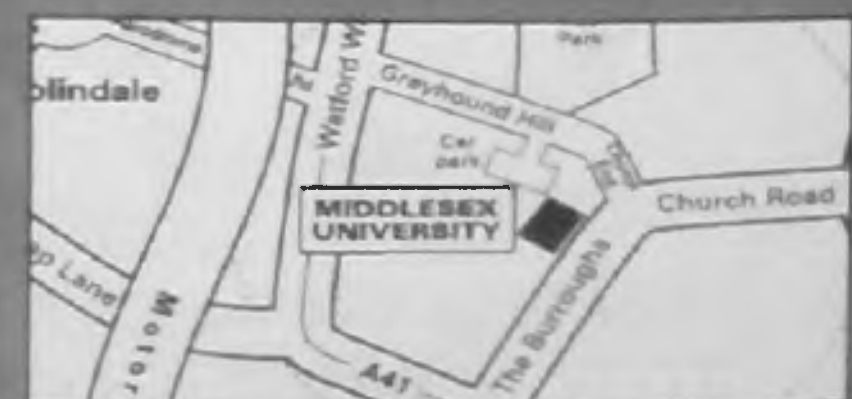
MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE AT LESS THAN £1 A DAY*

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* Prices given above based on the full membership fee of £352 a year

LOOK AFTER YOUR BODY - YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF!

BETTER SERVICES FOR BARNET

Councillor Helen Gordon, Chair of Policy and Implementation Committee has heralded the new budget as a commitment to excellent services - "We have worked very hard to ensure that we have spent the money wisely. We have made sure that there is money for the range of service we provide but also room to improve services still further and even add new ones."

The budget is different this year. Changes make sure services are more responsive to residents, so money goes to the right places. Put simply, there are four key areas and each has its own budget to provide the services residents expect. These are Education & Children, Community Development, Environment & the Economy and Social Affairs. There are plenty of new services and programmes agreed in the budget. Here are some of them:

Education & Children

Education remains Barnet's number one priority. Raising achievement in all schools for all children is the council's promise to Barnet.

This year the council is spending a huge £190 million on education and children, just under half of the council budget. This year will see the start of more money and more decisions delegated to schools.

An extra £1.5m will be pumped into Special Educational Needs so that the children who require support get the resources they need. Over £300,000 has been put aside to expand pre-school nursery and nursery education.

The council will continue to bid for New Deal for Schools money, on top of the £6m the council won this year. This extra New Deal money means that the council can release £2.5m of money originally earmarked for capital building to give more support to education services.

Matilda Marks Kennedy School will be coming back into the local education authority fold this April. Money has been earmarked in the budget to pay for this.

Some £32,000 extra has been found for a drug prevention initiative. The money will mean all schools can make use of the drugs education package rather than the quarter that do so at present.

Councillor Anne Jarvis said: "We are committed to raising achievement from the moment children starts to the moment they finish. Our budget gives schools more freedom and targets money when it will make the biggest difference."

Community Development

Barnet's budget means continued investment in the local community making it vibrant and safe for everyone.

Parks will be safer. Over £100,000 has been pumped into the budget to improve the appearance and safety of parks with money for visible uniformed staff to make these areas more enjoyable for all.

There will be new Sunday opening hours for Green Library, Hendon. Mirroring Golders Green library, Hendon will open from 2pm to 5pm. Other additions include improvements to computer facilities at the children's libraries and three open learning centres.

A major flagship development of the council is the Arts Centre proposed for North Finchley. Further money will be pumped into the project that will rejuvenate and regenerate North Finchley as well as becoming a beacon for arts not only in Barnet but also across North London.

There is more money for the Barnet Crime Reduction Partnership who have been working closely with the council's Youth Service, to expand the innovative SPLASH programme. This provides diverse and exciting activities across the borough for young people, which should help them steer away from crime. An extra £15,000 has been found to allow more children to use the Grahame Park Log Cabin Adventure Playground.

Nearly £4 million has been found for voluntary groups to support and encourage the excellent work they do. There are new resources for a two year project with Barnet Voluntary Services Council to support and give advice on fundraising to new and emerging community groups.

The council will establish a local Millennium celebration project for Barnet, in order to make the year 2000 a truly memorable one.

Councillor Susette Palmer, Chair of the Community Development Policy Development Committee, said: "There are lots of initiatives and lots of proposals to make Barnet a great place to live and work. Parks will be safer, libraries improved, and voluntary groups supported. There is no doubt that the budget is a big boost for Barnet."

Social Affairs

This budget protects the vulnerable and those that rely on the council services.

Barnet's social services will receive almost £3m of grant from the government. This money will be available if the council shows that it is modernising service services to meet the government's new agenda.

The new budget means more money for areas of need. The considerable sum of £126,000 will be ploughed into developing successful drugs prevention youth work. It will build on the excellent work so far, which includes the setting up of the Drugs Youth Advisory Group.

There is support for schemes to prevent people from becoming vulnerable. There are extra grants for children's services and for mental health services.

The council is looking after more children and it has made sure that there is enough money to give the support that is needed. Further backing is given to the council's Neighbourhood Care Project, to the tune of £52,000, and £30,000 is helping finance HAB Day Centre. The council will also be putting £56 million into housing repairs, improvement and new homes.

Barnet is also working with other agencies to provide health and social care that meets people's needs. The budget provides funding of £50,000 for jointly promoted projects with Barnet Health Authority.

Councillor Allan Turner said:

"We recognize that some people rely on the council for all sorts of services, meals on wheels, housing, and day centres for example. Our budget ensures that these services meet the needs of residents. Our goal is to work hard ourselves as well as with other organisations to provide a seamless health and social care service for all who need it."

Environment & the Economy

Barnet Council wants to maintain a sustainable environment with a strong local economy. The budget gives a big boost to both those goals.

An extra £230,000 will be pumped into cleaning to make the borough tidier and cleaner. Money will fund more people sweeping streets where litter is generated as well as a greater use of sweeping machines.

Resources have been put into the council's Unitary Development Plan. This plan will shape how the council deals with the environment for years to come.

The council will continue to support Local Agenda 21. Town centre improvements will be extended, the parks initiative scheme will be added to and there will be increased resources for road and footway maintenance.

The economy will be supported by continuing the development of credit unions. Cricklewood will be boosted by council support for Safestart to develop the Foyer scheme. It will provide integrated training, employment and housing services for young people. Budget provision of £80,000 for a new legal community service offering independent legal advice and representation free of charge has also been agreed.

"It means a greener, cleaner Barnet", said Kathy McGuirk, Chair of the Environment Policy Development Committee. "The budget gives a boost to the economy and gives a helping hand to the environment."

WANTED

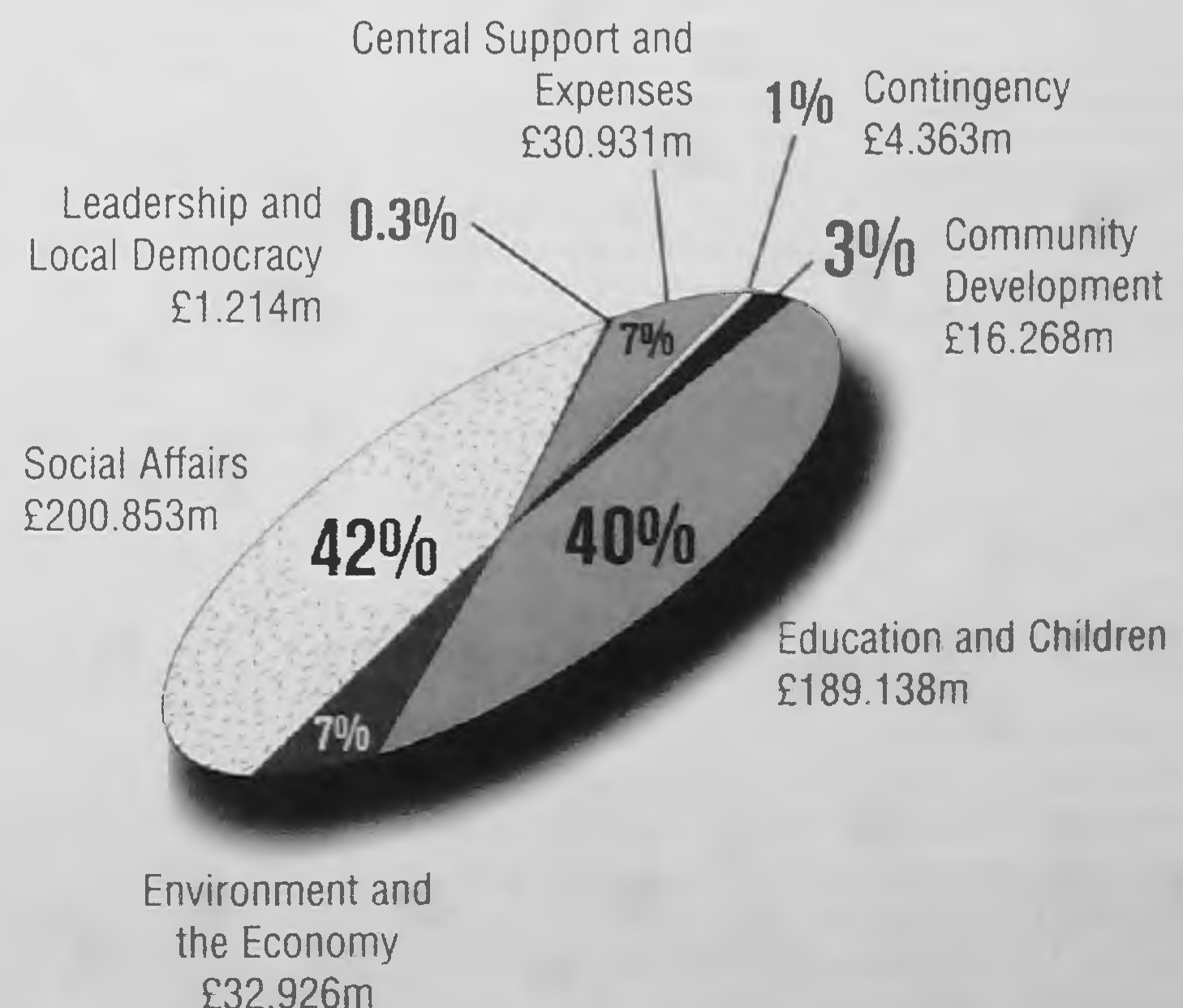
People who are interested in helping to take care of Barnet's street and park trees

We are looking to recruit new Tree Wardens as part of the tree council's Tree Warden Scheme. Tree Wardens are volunteers who work with the council to care for trees in the areas they live and work. You will receive free training in all aspects of tree care, organised by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Training will start on Saturday 24 April 1999 in Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley and will last from 9.45am to 1.30pm. No need to book just turn up and register as a Barnet Tree Warden and start looking after our trees.

For further information on Barnet's Tree Warden Scheme contact:

Hugh Goudge - Tree Warden Training Co-ordinator
BTCV, 80 York Way, London N1 9AG
Phone: 0171 837 9137

Service Expenditure (£475.693m)



AREA FORUMS

THE NEW AREA FORUMS kicked off to an impressive start in January. Hundreds of people attended in order to have their say.

The Area Forums provide residents with the opportunity to talk about things that matter in their area. They are part of the new structures and there are six Area Forums which are all held locally.

There are two roles for the Area Forums. One is to

give local people an opportunity to speak their minds on local affairs. The other is for councillors to hear what residents actually think. Petitions can be given to the Forums and any resident can raise any issue. It is hoped that a consensus is reached on an issue before it is reported to one of the council's area sub-committees for a decision.

The first Area Forum meetings, held in January, were very well attended with

local people taking the opportunity to raise and debate several important matters. Among the issues raised were:

The Friary Partnership, derelict land in Long Lane, Parking restrictions, Refuse, Victoria Park, Friern Hospital Site, Parking problems especially in Lancaster Road and Alston, Falkland and Wrotham Roads, Dollis Valley Estate, Cycling on Pavements, Local Agenda 21, the Multi-

Media Centre, and Street cleaning and paving stones.

Cllr Geof Cooke, Chair of Whetstone Area Forum, said after the inaugural meeting:

"It was great to see so many people attending. Now I've got a much clearer idea about what residents think on several important local issues. It can only be a good thing that local people have a chance to air their views and the council can take note and act."

The next three forums will meet in April

Area	Date	Venue
Golders Green	13 April	St Michael's Church Hall, The Riding, off Golders Green Road, NW11
Whetstone	13 April	Barnet House, High Road, N20
Edgware & Mill Hill	13 April	The Watling Centre, 145 Orange Hill Road, Edgware, HA8

All of the forum meetings start at 6.30pm. Finish times are dictated by the chair and the agenda but the aim will be to close around 9.30pm. Dates of meetings for the remainder of 1999 have still to be confirmed. For any other information contact the Council Information Office on 0181 359 2277.



"How to keep in touch with people" - Chief Executive of Barnet Council, Max Caller, explains all at his workshop at the conference on local government reform.

WHAT YOUR COUNCIL CAN DO FOR YOU

BARNET COUNCIL'S FORWARD THINKING REFORMS have caught the attention of hundreds of other councils up and down the country. In January Barnet Council, in conjunction with the Local Government Information Unit, hosted a flagship conference on how councils should change for the new millennium.

Barnet Council Leader, Councillor Alan Williams, spelt out Barnet's vision and why its reforms were working. "We started from the bottom up. We asked

ourselves how can we best serve the people of Barnet and how can they tell us most effectively what they want. Our reforms address those very questions."

Academics, other Council Leaders, and MP Tony Coleman, representing the Government, also gave their ideas for local government reform.

Those attending the conference, consisting of council officials and members from numerous different authorities, were keen to ask questions and

involve themselves in the workshops.

The main conclusion of the conference was that councils must work for the people they serve. Barnet has shown that it is on that path.

Councillor Alan Williams, concluded, "It is still early days. Our changes only started in November. However, above all, what people want is a range of services that are good, efficient, and are cost effective. Our reforms will ensure that that happens."

THE COUNCIL'S WATCHDOGS

BARNET COUNCIL'S NEW WATCHDOGS - the Scrutiny Commissions - have been set up to check that services are up to scratch.

Consisting of council members, the Commissions can investigate, scrutinise, monitor, oversee and comment on services and issues affecting the borough or residents.

The Scrutiny Commissions might be asked to investigate specific matters. For example, the December Council-in-Committee

meeting asked the Scrutiny Commission on Social Services for Older People and Housing Services to examine the proposed merger between the Wellhouse Trust (Barnet General Hospital) and Chase Farm Hospital's NHS Trust. The

Commission took evidence and presented its findings to the Policy and Implementation Committee.

Scrutiny Commissions are less rigid than other council meetings and they do not have policy making powers. However, they are independent and can summon witnesses such as senior councillors and officers. They can also invite non-council witnesses and experts and members of the public.

All the evidence is produced into reports. These are then presented to the council decision-making committees - Policy and Implementation Committee and Council-in-Committee.

While Commissions can meet in public or private and as often as they need to, they will normally meet in

public, so you can attend and hear what is going on. This means that they can respond to issues at short notice. Dates of the meetings and whether they are public or private are displayed on the notice board outside The Town Hall.

Alternatively contact: Julie Hill, 0181 359 2078; Geoff Woodham, 0181 359 2029; Rob Mills, 0181 359 2081.

The Commissions have been busy putting together their programmes for the year. The Street Services Commission have been quick off the mark and held a conference with voluntary groups, resident associations, and interest groups to discuss recommendations for new refuse, street-cleaning and recycling contracts.

SCRUTINY COMMISSIONS CHAIRS FOR 1998/9

- Education and Children, Chair, Cllr Barry Rawlings
- Central Services, Chair, Cllr Leslie Sussman
- Planning and Environment, Chair, Cllr Linda McFadyen
- Street Based Services, (refuse collection & street cleaning) Chair, Cllr Wayne Casey
- Recreation, Leisure and Arts, Chair, Cllr Kitty Lyons
- Social Services for Older People and Housing Services, Chair, Cllr Pam Coleman

EASTER 1999 COLLECTION ARRANGEMENT

REFUSE COLLECTION

There will be a normal collection service over the Easter period with one exception. Households who would normally have their refuse collected on

- **EASTER MONDAY 5 APRIL 1999**

will have it collected instead on

- **SATURDAY 3 APRIL 1999.**

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

There will be no recycling collection on

- **SATURDAY 3 APRIL 1999.**

Your next paper collection will be on

- **17 APRIL 1999.** (No other changes)

Please have your refuse available for collection by 6.30 a.m. Please do not overload your bin - the lid must be closed.

For a Special or Passover collection ring 0181 359 4600 There is a charge for this service.



COMMENT

HAVING YOUR SAY

Every spring Barnet Council has to decide how it spends the money it receives from the government and the money it receives from the Council Tax.

How this money is spent - the budget - is important because it determines what the priorities of the council will be and what services will need to be expanded, trimmed or kept the same.

This year the council has taken a bold, new step and asked residents for their views and comments on where the money should be spent. It is sensible to give residents a say and to involve members of the community in helping the council decide on the difficult decisions ahead. Ideally money would never be an issue but of course it is. The council has to spend its money wisely and sensibly. By asking residents about the priorities the council has set, this should be achieved.

All the views from the consultation have been collated and helped form the final budget plan, announced on 2 March. The feedback has given the council a better idea of what residents want and has given residents a clearer idea of what money is spent and where. It is planned that the consultation process will be a regular event giving residents extra opportunities each year for shaping policy decisions.

Barnet Council has a large budget - this year it will spend £475m on services. However, with that money it provides a huge range of services from schools to swimming pools, social services to

sweeping roads.

A large amount of the council's budget, almost two thirds, is awarded to the council in the form of a grant. The Council Tax tops this up. The government gives the council money on the basis of what it thinks the council should spend. If the council wants to spend more on some services it means less must be spent on others. The law says that the budget must balance. The council can raise the Council Tax but the government has also said that it will penalise councils who raise their Council Tax too high.

This year Barnet, like many councils, has received a better than expected settlement from the government. However, there have still been tough choices because many services are costing more to provide and more people want them. For example, the more of pupils in Barnet is continuing to rise and the costs of their education have to be met.

The budget has been balanced and the Council Tax rise set at 4.5 per cent. This should ensure that Barnet can meet its promises.

This budget will take Barnet into the new millennium. The council believes it is the right budget for securing quality services but also for ensuring that there is room for an expansion of services, like Sunday opening at Hendon library and more street sweeping. Above all the budget process has been more open and given residents a real say on where and how the money is spent.

BARNET TAKES THE MILLENNIUM BUG PLEDGE



Council Leader Alan Williams and Chief Executive of Barnet Council sign the pledge as Roger Rickard, Head of the council's Information Systems looks on.

BARNET COUNCIL HAS PLEDGED to work with businesses, the Government and other local authorities to minimise any disruption to services caused by the 'Millennium Bug'.

The Millennium Bug is the problem that many computer systems might suffer from, come 1 January 2000. Most computers only use two digits to represent each

year - 99 rather than 1999, for example. Experts are warning that these systems might behave unpredictably after midnight on 1 January 2000 when their internal clocks will seem to turn back 99 years.

Thankfully the problem is treatable and a team of dedicated computer staff is working round the clock to ensure that the bug causes as little disruption to council services as possible.

The Leader of Barnet Council, Councillor Alan Williams and Chief Executive, Max Caller, signed 'Pledge 2000', demonstrating Barnet's commitment to solve any problems, share information and resort to legal action against suppliers only as a last resort.

Councillor Williams said: "Barnet Council has been working on solutions to Year 2000 problems for some time and we are confident there will be little, if any, disruption to services.

"Pledge 2000 calls on the council to adopt a partnership approach to work towards ensuring such disruption is minimised."

HELPFUL TIPS FOR 2000

If you have any worries about your own computer or any other device please call the Action 2000 helpline on 0171 215 2000 or website: www.bug2000.co.uk

If you are arranging a public Millennium event the council would like to hear from you. It can give you advice on all safety and entertainment licensing procedures. Please write to Environmental Health Development and Protection, Entertainment Licensing, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, London, N20 0BJ.

STORIES FOR 2000

The oldest piece of equipment likely to stop working at the Year 2000 is said to be a 400 year old clock in the Time and Space Gallery of Liverpool Museum. It works by calculating time on a dateline inscribed in stone. The dateline stops at the year 2000.

VISIT FROM TWIN TOWN IN CYPRUS



A 12-strong delegation of councillors from Morphou, Barnet's Twin Town in Cyprus, visits the borough for a week-long twinning visit. The trip helped both towns share each other's culture and experiences. Morphou lies in the now Turkish occupied north of Cyprus and Morphou Council has been in exile since the island was divided in 1974.



AROUND THE CLASSROOM

Oak Lodge

IN RECOGNITION OF ITS CONTINUING SUCCESS, Oak Lodge Special School, in East Finchley, has held a 'Night of Achievement'. Councillor Pauline Coakley-Webb presented certificates and

awards to pupils.

In Year 11 a third of pupils gained a GCSE in Art, two-thirds of pupils achieved all qualifications for the Diploma of Vocational Education (Foundation Level) and 89

per cent of pupils gained a certificate of achievement in French.

Oak Lodge, has approximately 140 special needs pupils and encompasses an autistic unit.

Colindale Breakfast Club



The Colindale Breakfast Club in full swing

Colindale School Breakfast Club has been going from strength to strength. Opened last term, the club has been praised by parents.

As part of Barnet Council's initiative to raise school standards, the club provides children with an opportunity to enjoy a good breakfast and get the day off to a good start. It promotes good timekeeping. By turning up for breakfast, children will already be at school and so will not be late when the school day begins.

Barnet leads the way in offering breakfasts to youngsters and has nine schools with established Breakfast Clubs.

Local company, Nortel Networks, has sponsored the club, and it shows how business, the council and schools can work together for pupils.

The Leader of Barnet Council, Councillor Alan Williams, and Mayor, Councillor Usha Chopra have both dropped in for breakfast.

St. Vincent's & Hasmorean

ST VINCENT'S ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN EDGWARE AND HASMOREAN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN HENDON have both won money from the government for new building works.

The cash is to help

St Vincent's Junior and Infants build a new school on one site. Currently they are split by the busy Ridgeway Road. Hasmorean will be able to repair its dilapidated buildings in Shirehall Lane.

St Vincent's bid for

£1,848,000 and Hasmorean for £480,000. Both have been given money to work up designs. Once submitted the schools can bid for the rest of the money, which they should be successful in getting.

Tudor School

IN ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE DIGITAL AGE, TUDOR SCHOOL, in Finchley, has opened a brand new IT room. It puts it at the forefront of Barnet Council's drive to improve IT in all schools.

The room houses eleven new computers. Children are being timetabled each day to

use the new room and all staff have been given extra training.

Tudor School won £19,500 from the National Grid for Learning with additional funds added by the school. The school hopes to build on its IT by getting hooked up to the Internet later in the year.



Councillor Anne Jarvis with pupils from Tudor School trying out the new computer equipment

Ravenscroft School

IN TRUE PIONEERING SPIRIT, RAVENSCROFT SCHOOL, in Barnet, has embarked on a novel plan to combine the benefits of single sex education with those of mixed education.

From September 1999 the school will continue to be mixed, but new Year 7 students will have separate lessons for boys and girls. By 2003 all year groups will contain single sex lessons

but still within a mixed setting

The school had responded to a request from Barnet Council for volunteers to try out the new system.

Whitefield School



Nadia Amin (17), Kiavash Malayeri (18) and Mumewer Kamas (17) all from Whitefield School, sign the agreements guaranteeing them a place at Middlesex University.

WHITEFIELD SCHOOL, in Cricklewood, and Middlesex University have agreed to work together on a new way to help students enter higher education who might not otherwise have done so.

The reason might be due to an educational disadvantage, such as a change at school or a problem at home; or that the student has never considered a degree.

The school can choose up to 15 students who have the potential to benefit from a degree. It will help them prepare a portfolio. Once completed the university will then guarantee the student a place and will monitor their progress.

ONLY THE BEST FOR BARNET

"Only the best for Barnet will do", said Councillor Anne Jarvis, commenting on the raft of new plans to improve education in Barnet's schools. The council has been working hard with all schools to raise standards for all pupils.

The government has placed a new duty on all councils to promote higher standards in schools. The Education Development Plan does this and details proposals to improve standards, especially in literacy, numeracy and information technology.

Targets

Each school has set its own targets, although Barnet Council worked with them to ensure that they were tough enough. As London's second largest borough with a sizeable school population - some 47,550 children - this was no mean task.

The Education Development Plan includes specific targets to:

- Improve secondary schools' achievements at GCSEs
- Primary schools' achievements at Key Stage 2
- Reduce exclusions
- Reduce unauthorised absences
- Improve attainment levels for looked after children leaving care

Funding

Over the last two years the government has put more money into the education pot. Some money has to be

bid for and the council has worked hard to secure as much as possible. In fact Barnet Council has been one of the most successful councils receiving an average of £151 pounds per pupil.

Bids can be submitted for different initiatives, such as getting rid of outside toilets to putting new computers in schools.

"I am delighted that we have managed to secure this needed money", said Councillor Anne Jarvis. "The Government has recognised that Barnet's leafy image conceals areas of serious social and economic need."

Special Educational Needs

One of the most difficult issues for schools is how to help children with behavioural difficulties.

To address this Barnet Council has drawn up a Behaviour Support Plan (BSP).

By law the council must look at its arrangements for the education of children with behavioural difficulties. The BSP is Barnet Council's response to this and it has been drawn up in consultation with schools and voluntary groups. Children with behavioural problems can encounter difficulties at school and then get into a spiral of underachievement and disaffection, leading to truancy and in some cases, crime. The plan provides a framework to help identify

difficulties at an early stage and then support schools, parents and children.

Commenting on the plan, Councillor Alison Moore, Vice Chair of the Education and Children Policy Development Committee explained, "Helping children and young people with behavioural problems will only happen with a co-ordinated approach between agencies, pupils, schools and the council. The plan builds on the work that we have already started and gives a clear framework for the future."

The Education and Children Policy Development Committee has also begun a review of the council's special educational needs provision and it hopes to produce a report on it by the summer.

Results

The extra work put into Barnet schools has seen pupils improve their exam results and perform better than the national average. The percentage of pupils gaining 5+ GCSEs A*-C in all maintained schools increased by 3.7% from last year, well above the national average. The average point score for pupils attaining 2 A levels and above increased by 0.3 points in 1998.

Councillor Anne Jarvis said: "These are great results and all schools have done well. Teachers and pupils should be praised for their efforts."

Northside

NORTHSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL has just refurbished its Junior Library.

Councillor Anne Jarvis, visited the school to celebrate the beautifully furnished room.

For Councillor Jarvis, there was added enjoyment - she was a former teacher of the school!

St. Mary's

PLUCKY ST MARY'S YEAR 6 FOOTBALL TEAM has fought its way to the heady heights of the SE Counties Final.

The 6-a-side football team, made up of pupils aged between 10 and 11, won the Middlesex Competition to book their place in the SE competition. The final will be on 20 March in Luton.

St Mary's CE Junior School in Hendon, initially started out in the Barnet borough competition and fought off other schools to win through to the Middlesex 6-a-side Championship. Facing schools from Ealing,

Enfield, Hillingdon, Brent and Harrow, the well-drilled St Mary's team won again. The winning goal which saw them through was scored by top marksman,

Yinka Casal, aged 11.

The team are eagerly awaiting their next test in March and confidence is high.



Top marksman, Yinka Casal, 11, holds the Middlesex cup. Captain of St Mary's Football Team, Charlie Hill, aged 10, holds the certificate.

DRUGS GROUP

The Drug Youth Advisory Group speaks to Community News

"THE DRUG YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP, or DYAG for short, was launched during Drug Prevention Week. We wanted our picture in Community News to show the diversity among the group. As our logo states, 'Drugs affect Everyone'.

The idea for the group came about because we want our views to be taken seriously. So the group has been set up to give young people a real opportunity to contribute towards influencing local drug policies.

Currently the DYAG is busy. It's advising a local charity about drugs and

young people and we're trying to recruit more members to widen our views and be really representative of the borough.

For the future we hope to establish a training scheme for young people and professionals to give them a greater understanding of what we think about drug and 'youth culture'. Hopefully this'll help professionals like teachers and politicians to put together sensible drug policies.

If you are a young person and interested in getting involved in the DYAG then please contact Peter on 0181-202 5533."



COMMUNITY CARE HELPLINE UPDATE 0181-359 4123

THE COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY CARE HELPLINE was launched in October last year. The Helpline responds to calls from the public about social services, voluntary and health services in Barnet for adults aged 18+.

In January, Helpline Officers visited the Age Concern Centre in Hendon. They talked about:

- Transport for elderly people, such as Dial-a-Ride, and the Taxi Voucher Scheme.
- Help for elderly people with difficulties at home, for example with

dressing, washing and getting around the home.

■ The council's Piper Lifeline Alarm System. For information on the above or if you are aged over 18 and would like help and advice about Social Services, please phone the Helpline on 0181-359 4123. Minicom users can contact the Helpline on 0181-359 4852.

Alternatively, if you are involved in a group and would like a Helpline Officer to attend, please contact the Helpline.

MODERNISING SOCIAL SERVICES

BARNET COUNCIL HAS WELCOMED new government proposals to modernise social services.

The proposals make significant changes to the way care services are provided and monitored.

Responsibility for inspecting local care facilities, which currently rests with the council, will be transferred to an independent, London-wide organisation.

The white paper also pledges new money, an

increase of more than £1.3 billion nationwide over the next three years.

Cllr Phil Yeoman, Vice-Chair of the Social Affairs Policy Development Committee, said: "It is right that social services should be subject to rigorous scrutiny. We've always done this and I am pleased the Government has backed us. Barnet had anticipated many of the proposals put forward and already begun a review."



Tenant of Vale Court, a newly refurbished sheltered housing block signs the lease to her new home. Tenants moved back after a year-long refurbishment consisting of converting bedsits to purpose built self-contained flats. Vale Court is in Bulwer Road, New Barnet.

NEWS AROUND THE COMMUNITY

'Right to buy' conmen

BARNET COUNCIL IS URGING ITS TENANTS TO beware of callers offering help to buy their home - for a fee of up to £200.

These callers are giving misleading advice, wrongly telling tenants that the right to buy scheme will end soon

or that the council is delaying the sale process.

The scheme allows tenants to purchase their homes at a price discounted according to the length of the tenure. Some changes came into effect on 11 February which will only affect the

upper limit of discounts.

Free advice and application forms for the scheme are available from the Home Ownership Group - 0181 359 4813 or any Barnet Council Area Housing Office.

Shape your estate

GRAHAME PARK RESIDENTS enjoyed a unique chance to shape the future of their neighbourhood at a recent series of community events.

Two days of discussions and workshops tackled subjects ranging from the estate environment, building

communities, improving living standards and jobs and training.

The initiative, which ran from 4 to 6 March, culminated in a fun-for-all-the-family 'Event in the Tent' in a huge marquee on the Concourse where residents were able to tell

planners their views. Kids were well catered for too, with a bouncy castle, face painting and much, much, more.

You can contact the Grahame Park Area Housing Office by dropping in or calling 0181-359 2915.

New respite care

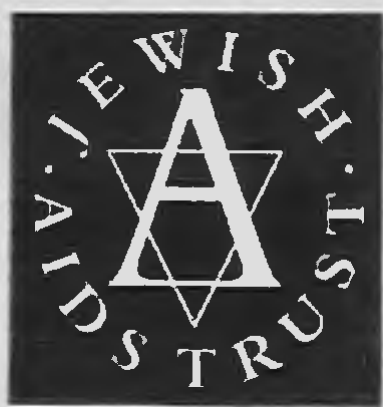
A BARNET CENTRE PROVIDING RESPITE CARE for people with learning disabilities expanded its services when it opened a new bedroom.

The new room provides round-the-clock care for short periods to give carers

time off from the people they care for.

This new facility is a direct result of Barnet Council and Barnet Health Authority's Joint Learning Disability strategy. Both authorities have jointly financed the new facility.

Chair of the Social Affairs Policy Development Committee, Councillor Allan Turner, said: "This is an excellent example of partnership and shows how we are working to provide a seamless health and social care service."



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Crime factfile

Barnet's Crime Audit reveals that there are fewer crimes per head here than in any other London borough and that it is falling fast. Here are some of its other key findings. (All figures are for the year 1997-98).

BURGLARY

- Burglaries account for 21 per cent of offences in Barnet
- There were 22 burglaries per 1,000 households
- There were fewer burglaries per head in Barnet than England and Wales as a whole

VEHICLE CRIME

- Vehicle crime is highest in public care parking areas such as stations, car parks, open spaces and leisure amenities

VIOLENT CRIME

- There were six violent crimes per 1,000 population
- Violent crime levels are similar to the nationwide average but just half the average across London
- Most violence is concentrated in town centres

STREET CRIME

- Street crime is also lower than elsewhere in London
- It tends to happen in shopping areas and town centres.

Crime factfile

WORKING FOR SAFER

Crime is lower in Barnet than anywhere else in London. A partnership between your council and other law enforcement agencies is already making a difference, according to an independent Crime Audit of the borough prepared by charity Crime Concern. But it can be reduced still further.

Over the past few months Barnet's Community Safety Partnership has worked hard to produce a new Community Safety Strategy for the borough, which will be published in April. Community News reports on the state of crime in the borough and how we are working with local people to do something about it . . .

BARNET HAS THE LOWEST CRIME RATE PER HEAD IN LONDON, according to an independent Crime Audit of the borough commissioned by Barnet Council.

There were a total of 20,304 recorded offences in Barnet in 1997/98 - 64 per 1000 people. This figure is down ten per cent on the previous year, a faster decrease than neighbouring boroughs and London as a whole.

Councillor Susette Palmer, Chair of the Community Development Policy Development Committee, said: "These figures show that Barnet is one of the safest boroughs in London and this is welcome news.

"But crime is a matter of great concern to us all and there are areas in which we can do better. That is what our Community Safety Strategy is all about.

"This administration is committed to partnership with local people and we are delighted so many residents, traders and interested groups took part in our Community Safety Conference and played an active role in drawing up this strategy."

Chief Superintendent Simon Humphrey, of Colindale Police Station, said: "Since the launch of the Community Safety Strategy in 1998, work has been ongoing to improve the safety of Barnet borough, and the Crime Audit figures show that it must be working.

"The partnership approach is an



excellent opportunity for people to work together, making their community safer."

The Crime Audit, which was published in January, will play a key role in shaping Barnet's Community Safety Strategy - a multi-agency policy drawn up by Barnet Council, the Metropolitan Police, Middlesex Probation Service and local residents, businesses and organisations.

Drawing on statistics produced by the Police, the probation service and council departments, the audit represents the most comprehensive survey yet of crime and the perception of crime in Barnet. It reveals:

- Barnet has the lowest number of total crimes per head in London
- Property crime has fallen faster in Barnet than in London or the UK as a whole

- Barnet has below average rates of burglary
 - Vehicle crime is highest in public car parking areas.
- The Crime Audit has also allowed Barnet and its community safety partners to identify a list of suggested priorities for tackling crime and disorder, including:
- Diversionary work with 11-13 year olds
 - Community-based initiatives
 - Action to promote road safety.

IS CCTV THE ANSWER?

BARNET'S CORPORATE PLAN makes a specific pledge to use Closed Circuit Television to reduce crime in some of the borough's hot-spots, a pledge which has received backing from across the community: the Crime Audit reveals that 85 per cent of you agree that CCTV will reduce crime.

Crime Concern produced a special report about CCTV, and how best to use it in the borough, to be read alongside its main Crime Audit. It, too, backs the installation of cameras as a vital frontline weapon in the fight to make Barnet a safer place.

As soon as the CCTV report was published in February, we set to work. A detailed technical study was set in motion to determine which systems would best suit Barnet's individual needs. As Community News went to press, engineers were visiting a number of sites identified by Crime Concern as the best to site CCTV, including Edgware, Tally Ho, Golders Green and Hendon Central. They are due to report back in the next week or two when a decision will be taken by the council about which systems to deploy - and where. Installation work could begin before the year

is out.

Councillor Susette Palmer, Chair of the Community Development Policy Development Committee, said: "CCTV is clearly a useful weapon in the fight against crime and we will meet our pledge to introduce it in Barnet.

"When the necessary technical study has been completed we will be able to decide which systems to use in which locations. Only then will we be able to begin installation - but we are committed to CCTV and will do everything in our power to ensure this is sooner rather than later."

Is crime as

BARNET IS THE SAFEST BOROUGH IN LONDON. You are less likely to become a victim of crime here than anywhere else in the capital. But the Crime Audit shows just 49 per cent - that's less than half - of local people feel safer in Barnet than elsewhere in London.

Barnet's Community Safety Partnership is working to address this as well as fighting crime itself. After all, anxiety about crime can seriously affect the way we live our lives - and stand in the way of

R COMMUNITIES...



On 1 April the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 becomes law. From that date, your council's role in fighting crime and disorder will be fundamentally different. The Police, Probation Service and other local agencies and Barnet Council have already joined forces to form Barnet's Community Safety Partnership and work together to devise new ways of stamping out crime. To do this we have studied crime and nuisance in Barnet - and asked you your views at a public community safety conference in January. Next month the Partnership will publish its strategy and action plan. Throughout the following year, we will be implementing its recommendations - installing CCTV cameras, introducing better road safety measures and many more initiatives. We are sure this partnership approach, which we adopted a year ago in anticipation of the new law, will make the borough a safer place for us all.

On 27 January representatives of local groups joined senior police and probation officers and council staff working on crime reduction for the borough's second Community Safety Conference. Chair of the council's Community Development Policy Development Committee Councillor Susette Palmer opened the proceedings and Hendon MP Andrew Dismore told the conference how the Government was as committed to fighting crime as local people. Top (from left to right) Dr Sohail Husain, Crime Concern, Mary Wyman, Middlesex Probation Service, Barnet Divisional Manager, Cllr Susette Palmer, Chief Sup Simon Humphries and Andrew Dismore MP. The photographs left and right show delegates from local groups participating in conference workshops on practical ways to reduce crime.



as bad as we think?

enjoying Barnet's parks, open spaces and thriving nightlife.

More than 700 of you completed a survey to help charity Crime Concern compile Barnet's Crime Audit - one of the things we asked was how we can best reduce crime and make you feel safer, and your answers have made a real difference to our strategy.

Almost everyone surveyed - 95 per cent - thought our top priority should be diversionary work aimed at children and young people. But there are more short-

term measures we can all take to reduce crime in our streets and homes - joining a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, for example, or improving security in your home.

Crime is divisive and we are all right to be worried about it. The Community Safety Partnership is challenging crime - but we need your help. With the active support of local people, we can make even greater inroads and make Barnet even safer than it already is.

Barnet Council is committed to a partnership approach to fighting crime and the fear of crime. We are already working closely with the police and other agencies to make the borough a safer place. But our biggest weapon in fighting crime is you. If you want to get involved - by joining a Neighbourhood Watch scheme or getting more information on how to make your environment safer for us all - we would be delighted to hear from you.

For more information or a copy of Barnet's Crime Audit contact the borough's Community Safety Co-ordinator Duncan Matthews on 0181-359 2178.

For more information on Neighbourhood Watch schemes, contact Joyce Thakur, Borough Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator on 0181-733 5187.

Crime factfile

RACIAL CRIME

- Racial harassment is perceived to be widespread
- Racial crime is significantly under-reported in Barnet
- 20 per cent of Barnet's population are from ethnic minorities

ILLEGAL DRUGS

- The number of drug users reported to Barnet Health Authority has shown a significant increase
- Barnet has a lower rate of drug misuse than the London average

DISORDER

- Most disorder takes the form of abandoned telephone calls to the police or public disturbances
- Disorder peaks between 7pm and 11pm

CRIME AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Youth offending escalates sharply at age 12 or 13
- Shoplifting is the most common property crime committed by 11 to 16-year-olds
- Boys are more likely to offend, girls are more likely to be a victim of crime
- Many of those in contact with the Youth Justice System are not attending school.

Crime factfile



UNSUNG HEROES

A LASTING VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In a new series Community News looks at the men and women who carry out the numerous services that Barnet provides. In this edition Community News talks to Fred Hetherington, Supervisor in the Ancillary and Pest Control Department - Environmental Health.

How long have you worked for Barnet?
Just over twelve years.

What is your job title?
A bit of a mouthful - Supervisor Ancillary Team Environmental Health. I used to run the section but now I've gone part time and work as and when needed. There is now a new overall boss.

What is your average day?
Well normally about 8.30am to 4.45pm. Because I love my job I sometimes like to get in a bit earlier. Sometimes I have to work at weekends or in the evening. If I get a call at 9.30pm about a rat in a house, out I go.

What is your job?
One part is collecting medical waste - incontinence pads, diabetic needles, things like that from the borough's residential homes. Another part is picking up laundry and taking it to a special cleaner in London Colney. Other days I'm on pest control. I treat bed bugs, cockroaches, mice, rats and wasp nests. People might not

realise but we have about 2,000 calls about wasp nests every year.

How many people in the team?
There are four in my team dealing with ancillary waste and non-rodent pests and five in the rodent section. But we are all a team really. The lads are great. We all help and the new boss Dennis Martin is really good.

Where are you based?
Barnet House, in Whetstone.

Have you any good stories?
Well I've got loads of stories. One of them was about three to four years ago. I had a call on a Friday night about a rat. We went to the house and we searched and searched for the rat but just couldn't find it. Just when we were about to leave we had an idea and I found it hanging at the back of the fridge. My colleague Steve Evans has another story like that. He went on call about a rat and again couldn't find it. This time he could hear some noise but just couldn't find

out where it was. Eventually he discovered the rat hiding in a cardboard tube. Steve covered both ends of the tube and took the rat away. Oh I've got to tell you about one other story as well. Sorry, it's about rats again. Andy Basham was dealing with a rat in a toilet. The resident had sensibly closed the toilet lid and rested a bucket of water on top to stop the rat from climbing out. However, when Andy went looking for the rat, it had scurpered. We put down some bait but it never came back. When we left the flat there were lots of children outside pointing at us shouting "He killed a rat". Well on this occasion, we hadn't - the cheeky mite had escaped.

Have you ever been scared of anything you do?
Not really. I like my job. However sometimes things aren't very nice like when you have to investigate a dead dog or cat. I won't go into that really as people might find it a bit squeamish. I hope that's OK.

What did you do before your job?

I was a heavy goods driver for about 32 years but I'm so happy I made the change. I wish I'd done it before. I just love meeting people and then putting their minds at rest. Barnet Council has got a very good reputation and I think the public is very happy with the service. Our Quality Service Guarantees mean that if we get a call about mice or rats in the house we'll be out the same day. Some people are really frightened by a rat or mouse, so I'm glad I can help.

What job would you not like to do?

Oh I wouldn't like to sit behind a desk all day, like in a bank.

For the future?

Not sure, but I can't get away from here, I like it too much and the team is great.

If you have a problem with pests call the Environmental Health Department on 0181 359 4400.

Barnet Council is drawing up a new strategy which will shape how it deals with the environment for years to come. The Unitary Development Plan, or UDP, will set the pattern for development and conservation in the borough for the next ten to fifteen years. The plan will be used for assessing and making planning decisions.

The UDP will also set out policies on environmental quality, housing, employment, leisure, tourism, community services, shopping and transport. The number of issues covered is vast, including cycle lanes to social

housing to regenerating Cricklewood and West Hendon.

A new plan is needed because the current one is almost over and there have been changes in government policy since it was first drawn up.

This month the council will issue a draft plan for consultation. Any person or organisation will be able to give their comments. The full document will accommodate these views and will be published for inspection in Autumn 1999. After that if there are no issues outstanding, the plan will be formally adopted by the end of 2001.

CHARTERMARK AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICES



Councillor Danish Chopra, Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, and Penny Bolam from the council's Quality Management Team receiving a Chartermark Award from Lord Falconer of Thoroton QC, Minister of State for the Cabinet Office. The award was for excellent service in the council's customer services division.

SCRUTINY CONFERENCE

MORE THAN 50 REPRESENTATIVES of resident and amenity groups, trade unions and businesses crowded into Avenue House for the first ever Consultative Conference to be held by the new council Scrutiny Committees.

Councillor Wayne Casey launched the debate on the future of the borough's Refuse Collection, Street Cleaning and Recycling Services.

The invited audience pulled no punches when



Councillor Wayne Casey, Chair of the Street Cleaning, Refuse and Recycling Scrutiny Commission, speaking at the conference.

giving their views. In two straight talking workshops they agreed with the Scrutiny Commission that no change was not an option.

They supported the possibility of combining the refuse collection with street cleaning and gave a cautious welcome to a partnership with the private sector to run the recycling service.

There were calls for better monitoring, protection of staff terms and conditions and more contract flexibility.

Other ideas included extending recycling to housing estates, partnerships with supermarkets and fast food chains to keep the streets cleaner, more anti-litter campaigns and calls for a new style of recycling bin.

"This meeting proves that the open style we have adopted in running the Scrutiny Commission is the way forward in improving council services and ensuring we deliver what residents really want," said Councillor Casey.

GREEN APPLE AWARD FOR GREEN COUNCIL



Councillor Kathy McGuirk, Chair of Environment Policy Development Committee (right) and Glyn Carter, Local Agenda 21 Officer, receive the gold "Green Apple" award for community involvement in Local Agenda 21.

BARNET BEAT OFF COMPETITION from over 150 councils to scoop the gold 'Green Apple' Award given annually to Britain's greenest councils.

The prestigious trophy was given in recognition of the council's emerging status as a leading authority for Local Agenda 21. The Local Agenda 21 project involves the council, residents and local businesses working together in partnership to

protect and enhance the local environment for future generations.

"This award is welcome recognition of the success of our efforts to preserve and protect our environment for the new century," said Councillor Kathy McGuirk, Chair of the Environment Policy Development Committee. "It gives added impetus to the whole community in achieving our collective aims," she said.

CLEARING AWAY THE TROLLEYS

New money will help revamp a green area close to Gordon Road.

The Church End Environment Partnership has received a grant of £4,845 for improvements to Rocklands pond.

The money will help renovate the pond including draining and dredging the silt, disposing of the inorganic rubbish such as supermarket trolleys, and undertaking work to the trees which will give the pond more light.

Work on the pond has already begun.

The grant is an example of Barnet Council's commitment to improving the local environment. It comes from the Agenda 21

grant pot, which totals over £100,000. The grant pot supports projects run by community groups which improve the environment and add to the overall quality of life in the borough.

Councillor Beverley Pearce, Vice Chair of the Environment Policy Development Committee said: "It is great to be improving areas like this. We all value our green space and the work will ensure that the site is better for everyone. The council put lots of money into the Agenda 21 Grant Fund, and this was instrumental in helping the council win a Green Apple Award for its commitment to the environment."

ARTS CONFERENCE

ALL THE PIECES OF THE JIGSAW are being fitted together. The dream is becoming reality. The completion of the Arts Centre for North Finchley is growing ever nearer.

Two crucial steps have taken place - a conference to look at what the Arts Centre should provide and the beginning of the process to find a commercial partner to help build the centre. Both have generated considerable excitement in the local community.

On a Sunday morning, a packed conference hall heard the Leader of Barnet Council spell out the council's vision for the Arts Centre. Councillor Alan Williams proclaimed, "Not only will this be an arts building for the 21st century, it will be a major catalyst for the regeneration of our borough."

The conference, organised by Barnet Council in conjunction with the Tally Ho Arts Centre Trust, provided a chance for local people to have their say and to be fully involved with the innovative project. Almost

one hundred people with a keen interest in the arts attended.

Participants took part in workshops covering several areas. Numerous ideas emerged and they will help the council and the Trust plan the way forward. They were that:

The centre should be

- Accessible, culturally, geographically and physically, for staff, performers and audiences alike

- An identity for the borough

- Free from 'arts-speak', including the final name of the centre.

The centre should have

- Opening times to allow a wide range of audiences and performances

- High quality performances and activities

- A balance of traditional and more progressive arts

- Community involvement during planning and continued consultation with projected users.

The conference also launched consultation groups which will meet

throughout the development process.

Councillor Alan Williams, speaking about the conference, said, "It was heartening that so many people were eager to give their ideas on what the Arts Centre should be. Their input has been invaluable and will help the Arts Centre be a success."

The other important step was choosing a commercial partner. Over 240 companies have expressed interest in the project following adverts in the national property press.

Developers will need to show that they have experience of working on similar projects and that they can match the projected deadline for completion of the Arts Centre - March 2002.


"We have tried to be as flexible as possible to ensure that we get the best ideas and the most imaginative project", said Councillor Alan Williams. "I am sure that as the plans are submitted and the project takes shape, people will get more and more excited by the development."



Above - Councillor Alan Williams opening the conference on the Arts Centre, which was held in Barnet College.




Right - A workshop group pondering the vision of the centre and jotting down their ideas.



ALLOTMENT

gardening

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TRAINING FOR SUCCESS

THE LEADER OF BARNET COUNCIL, Councillor Alan Williams, donned hard hat and overalls to launch the new confined spaces training room at Mill Hill Depot.

The room is in a figure of eight shape with pipes

varying in size ranging from those that allow one to stand up to those that only allow room to crawl. It provides new training opportunities and courses for a number of Barnet Council staff, such as civil engineers and highway

and bridge maintenance workers.

Councillor Alan Williams said, "We are committed to boosting the local economy by improving training in the borough and I am pleased that we now have first-class facilities."

NEW WARD BOUNDARIES FOR BARNET

The Boundary commission has given its verdict on the changes it would like to see to Barnet's ward boundaries.

It agrees the new borough should have 21 wards and 63 councillors but has altered the wards suggested following the recent consultation.

The main changes concern the borough's western wards with a knock on effect in other wards.

Residents and organisations have until 22 March to comment. Details can be found in local libraries.



Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of Barnet Council, Max Caller, Chief Executive of Barnet Council and Lance Jackson, the Confined Spaces Trainer, taking the plunge.

MUSICAL YOUTH SUCCESS FOR BARNET



Two Barnet teenagers have won places in the prestigious National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (NYO).

Zoe Allen and Sarah Williamson were both former pupils of the Barnet Music Centre and members of the Wind Orchestra. The pair fought off tough competition to gain their places. Entry to the orchestra is by audition only.

The NYO is one of the world's leading youth orchestras and it has launched the careers of many famous musicians. Members of the orchestra are aged between 13 and 19. Almost all are still at school. The NYO regularly performs in the BBC proms at the Royal Albert Hall.

For information on Barnet's Music Centres and for getting involved in music contact 0181-359 3111

BOOKS AS YOU'VE NEVER READ THEM BEFORE

Barnet libraries are now holding new themed months which started in January and run right through to August.

The theme in January was 'Screen Reads', books that have been converted to films or vice versa. There are many items on the Screen Reads list from classics such as Jane Austen's *Emma* to contemporary novels such as James Ellroy's *L.A. Confidential*.

Barnet Council and Warner Cinemas joined forces to promote the month

with a competition.

The National Year of Reading aims to encourage more people to read. The new themed months give a fresh look to our libraries.

There is much on offer with the lists made up of books, videos, CDs, cassettes and song sheets for example - all are available at the library.

Look out for the other themes in the following months such as 'Sports' in March, 'Songs and Lyrics' in April and 'People and Places' in June.



SPORTS FOR ALL

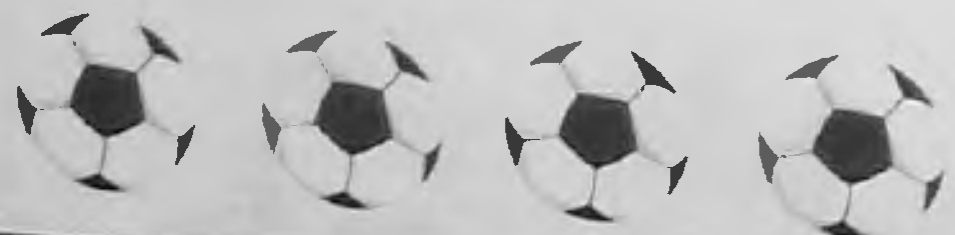
TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SPORTS, the council has set up new training schemes especially for people with disabilities.

Barnet Cophall Swimming Club, home to Olympic winners, now has a section of the club for people with disabilities on Sundays (3.30-4.30pm). The only qualification needed to take part is the ability to work in a small group and be able to swim 50 metres unaided.

Another new initiative sees the council with Barnet Football Club organising specialist football coaching sessions (and the chance to meet celebrity players) for people with moderate learning difficulties. The free sessions will take place every Saturday 10 April to 3 July (10am-12pm) at Underhill Stadium, Westcombe Drive, Barnet.

The council with Barnet Mencap are also promoting athletics coaching for people with learning difficulties. These sessions will take place at Barnet Cophall Stadium, Great North Way, Hendon, every Sunday from 11 April to 14 July (10am-12noon).

For further information contact Chris Walker or Rhys Gormley on 0181 457 9900.



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.

EXHIBITIONS

13 March-6 June

Exhibition 'A Century of Bears', a private collection of teddy bears, lots of bears to see and play with, also Rupert Bear Annuals Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon NW4. Tel. 0181-203 0130.

20 April

Exhibition of artwork created by over 300 participants in the Golders Green Bridge Arts Project For further details contact Barnet Council's Arts Office, 0181-359 3126.

ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM

Grahame Park Way, Hendon, NW9

31 March

Eston Youth Band Concert

3-5 April

Modelex 99 Show. Model boats, planes, trains and automobiles of all shapes and sizes.

10 May

Veterans' Day. To commemorate the contribution of WWII Service Veterans. Near to the anniversary of VE Day, the Museum will offer free entry to these veterans of all three services (and one guest) provided they pre-register.

Phone 0181-200 1763 for more information on events

THE BULL THEATRE

9 April, 8pm, Kali, 'Love Comes in at the Window', 2 new plays - 'The Ecstasy' about an upper class Asian sculptor and his working class Liverpoolian model and 'Kali Shalwaar', a prostitute makes the fatal mistake of falling in love.

15 & 16 April, 8pm, Forbidden Theatre Co. presents 'Quiet' by Louise Warren. Six women locked away in an asylum for 'the good of society and for the good of themselves' retreat into madness in this bold theatrical production.

22-24 April, 8pm, One Nation Under a Groove. Innit! in association with Faction 3 Theatre present 'Bollywood or Bust... Innit' by satirist Parv Bancil on Asian family life in Britain today

29 & 30 April, 8pm, Not the National Theatre presents 'Playing Sinatra'. A shared passion for Frank Sinatra is interrupted when Sandra brings home an admirer.

20-22 May, 8pm, Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' A challenging and extraordinary production by the Actors Touring Co.

COMEDY

26 March, 8pm, Asian Comedy Night 'One Nation Under a Groove... Innit'.

10 April, 8.30pm, Lenny Beige concludes Backdrop Theatre Co.'s fundraising events for 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'

21 April, 8pm, Al Murray 'The Pub Landlord'. The Pub Landlord holds forth on all manner of topics, facts and opinions, personifying Little Englandism.

1 May, 8pm, 'The Mighty Boosh' Julian Barratt, Noel Fielding and Richard Fulcher on a surrealist woodland fantasy journey

20 - 22 May, 8pm, Actors Touring Co. present a new version of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'. A challenging and extraordinary production

MUSIC AND DANCE

14 March, 8pm, The Dohl Foundation Johnny Kalsi's percussion troupe blast The Bull with Bhangra beats and hypnotic rhythms played on the Dohl

17 March, 8pm, Mary Panton & The Alien Ceilidh Co. Irish dance and music.

23-28 (not 26) March, 8pm, 'Shine On' The Backdrop Theatre Co.'s musical singalong production in aid of 'Hearing Dogs for Deaf People'

1 April, 8pm, The New Gary Husband Trio, roots in a classic style jazz piano trio.

7 & 8 April, 7.45pm, Easter Extravaganza. Talent Time Troupe song and dance.

11 April, 8pm, 'Warriors from Zeigon', Sci-fi themed music.

13 & 14 April, 7.30pm, 'Once Upon a West End'. Barnet Theatretrain present a selection of Grimm's sinister Fairytales and dances and songs from West End shows.

18 April, 8pm, The Essential Theatre Co. 'Fundraising for Edinburgh', a musical revue evening.

25 April, 8pm, 'Szapora', folk-based music from Eastern and Middle Europe with gipsy roots.

THE BULL SOUTH ASIAN DANCE SEASON

With Sampad agency

19 March, 8pm, 'Across the Border', South Asian dance by Anusha Subramanyam, Geetha Sridhat, Gauri Sharma Tripathi and Sonia Sabri.

20 March, 8pm, 'No Male Egos', Bharatanatyam artist Mavin Khoo and Kathak artist Akram Khan dancing with a powerful physicality.

17 April, 8pm, Pushplata Dance Co. 'Moods & Seasons' combines Kathak and Odissi with folk dance.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

14 March, 3pm, Playtime present 'Big Red', 4+.

21 March, 1pm & 3pm, Tiebreak Theatre present 'The Ugly Duckling', 3+

28 March, 3pm, Edinburgh Puppet Co. present 'Two by Two', 3-7s.

EASTER HOLIDAY 2 DAY THEATRE PROJECTS -

29 & 30 March, Myths and Monsters, 5-7s, 31 March & 1 April, 8-11s.

11 April, 3pm, Banyan Theatre present 'The History of Tom Thumb', 3-7s.

18 April, 3pm, Little Angel present 'The Frog Prince', 3+.

25 April, 3pm, Banyan Theatre present 'Little Redcap', 3-8s.

2 May, 3pm & 4.30pm, DNA present 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', under 5s.

GALLERY AND FOYER

17 March - 29 April

'First Person, Second Generation' by John Nassari whose work brings together images of migrants, refugees and second and third generation Greek Cypriots living in Britain.

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

ALL SAINTS' ARTS CENTRE

13 & 14 March, 8pm

Spit & Polish Theatre Co. in 'The Gilded Cage' exploring issues of national identity, emigration and cultures in conflict. £5 (£4 if booked in advance).

18 March, 8pm

The George Miles Light Orchestra & Singers. Includes special music for accordions written when George was a POW during the war. In aid of children with visual impairment in Barnet & Youth Groups, £3.50 (£3 if booked in advance).

20 March, 3.30pm

Community Focus in 'Live' - 12 episodes with sound, slides, mime and song reflecting the ideas and concerns of the 17 disabled actors who present the show. £4 (£3 if booked in advance) In aid of the North London Deaf Children's Society.

COMMUNITY FOCUS is Barnet's lively Activities and Arts Centre for people with disabilities and is based at Tedder Studios, Wiggins Mead, Colindale NW9 5UD. For further information phone manager Maria Bartha on 0181-200 8353.

21 March, 2.30pm

'Dance to My Tune' by Robert Rigby and performed by Lynx Theatre in Education. A story of a young Russian woman who owns the last brown bear in the world. a play for children that explores and questions relationships and attitudes to ourselves, to other people and to other species. £4 (£3 if booked in advance).

23 March, 7pm

A presentation by the French Department of Woodside Park School 'Ils etaient noirs aux yeux d'or' The classic modern parable about how explorers of a far off planet experience a subtle transformation

For details of the above listings and clubs and classes contact All Saints' Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, N20 9EZ Tel 0181-445 8388

THE WORD: LONDON LITERATURE FESTIVAL

(19-29 March)

Barnet is taking part in the Festival and libraries will be launching Readers' Review Boards to encourage readers to become more involved in the libraries and

tell others what they think of the books they read. The libraries will also be running a competition during March to find out Barnet's favourite book.

20 March, 2-4.30pm

Survivors' Poetry (a literature organisation which promotes poetry by survivors of mental distress) is holding a workshop, led by published poet Raman Mundaar. At North Finchley Library. No experience needed, just bring pen and paper. Free event.

20 March, 7.30-9.30pm

Local author Steve Emecz will share his experience of writing his debut novel, a comedy thriller, 'Cut to the Chase' which draws on Steve's experiences of travelling in Australia. At Mill Hill Library. Free event. (Also 25 March, 7.45-9.45pm at East Finchley Library)

21 March, 7.30pm

David Grossman the Israeli novelist interviewed and reading from his published award-winning books. Bull Arts Centre, tickets £7, £5 conc.

23 March, 7-9pm

Survivors' Poetry in Performance, featuring published poet Joe Bidder and music from Judith Silver. At Golders Green Library.

BOOK SALES

18-20 March, Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX

18-20, 22 & 23 March, Church End Library, 24 Hendon Lane, N3 1TR

25-27 & 30 March, Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DS

13-17 April, North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12 9HP.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY EVENTS

During the Easter holidays there will be storytimes and Drop Ins as usual for under 5s in all libraries and craft events for older children. Please check your local library for details.

MUSIC

13 March, 7.30pm

Chipping Barnet Recitals, Elstree Singers, United Reformed Church, Wood Street. Details 0181-445 8388.

13 & 20 March

Alyth Choral Society, Mendelssohn's 'Elijah' together with Eastcote Choral Society at NW Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, NW11. Details 0181-455 1732.

20 March, 8pm

Barnet Symphony Orchestra, Mussorgsky Prelude to 'Khoanchina', Aratjunjan 'Trumpet Concerto' with soloist William Watson, Tchaikovsky Symphony 2 'Little Russian' St John's Church, Friern Barnet Road, N11. Details 0181-205 2418.

20 March, 7.45pm

Finchley Chamber Choir, Mozart 'Overture: Le Nozze di Figaro', Mendelssohn 'Violin Concerto', Bruckner 'Symphony No. 7'. Trinity

WHAT'S ON

Church, North Finchley Details
0181-449 2604.

20 March, 7.30pm
Handel's 'Messiah' with the English Baroque Orchestra at St Michael's Church, Flower Lane, Mill Hill, NW7. Details 0181-906 4151.

20 March, 7.45pm
Finchley Choral Society, Rossini's 'Petite Messe Solennelle', All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley, N2. Tickets £7, £5 children and students. Details 0181-445 9666.

20 March, 7.30pm
Barnet Choral Society, Vaughan Williams 'Serenade to Music', Handel 'Dixit Dominus', Rutter 'Requiem'. The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin & All Saints, The Walk, Potters Bar. Details 0181-449 6809.

20 March, 7.45pm
Hendon Music Society presents piano duo Anthony Goldstone and Caroline Clemmow. Programme includes works by Mozart, Elgar, Brahms, Schubert, Ravel and Rimsky-Korsakov. Trinity Church, Hodford Road, Golders Green. Also **17 April, Jeux** an ensemble of strings, clarinet, flute, harp with soprano Catherine Pierard. Programme includes a Mozart Flute Quartet, Ravel's 'Introduction and Allegro', Berlioz's song cycle 'Nuits d'ete' plus works by Massenet and Weber. For details phone 0181-203 2355. Tickets £9.50, conc. £7.50, young people up to 18 years free entry when accompanied by an adult with a full-price ticket.

25 April, 7.45pm
Mill Hill Music Club, The Schidlof Quartet, Mozart 'Divertimento K 241, Shostakovich, No. 12, Beethoven, Op 59 No. 2. Elliott Concert Hall, Harrow Arts Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End. Details 0181-959 3866.

8 May, 7.45pm
Finchley Chamber Choir, Martin 'Mass for Double Choir', Dvorak 'Four Chorus', Tuczapsky 'Amo Ergo Sum. Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley, N12. Details 0181-883 7925.

15 May, 7.45pm
Finchley Chamber Orchestra, Beethoven 'Overture, Coriolan', 'Piano Concerto No 1', Symphony No 2. Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley, N12. Details 0181-449 2604.

16 May, 7.45pm
Mill Hill Music Club, The Nash Ensemble, Harrow Arts Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End. Details 0181-959 3866.

Barnet Schools Music Centres meet Sat mornings Finchley (strings), East Barnet and Hendon (woodwind/brass). Details 0181-445 6831.

Symphonic Wind Orchestra for North London are recently formed and are particularly looking for flute players. Wind and percussion players meet on Tuesdays, 7.30pm, at Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Market Place, N2. Details 0181-883 3365.

THE MEMORY LANE SINGING CLUB was founded some five years ago and now has several dozen members. The club is involved in the community at large mostly on a voluntary basis entertaining in Day Care centres, Residential Homes in fact anywhere where a little extra sunshine and happiness is needed. Weekly sessions in Finchley, Fridays 11.30am-12.30pm, performance practice and 12.30-2.30pm, singing session at St Mary Church Hall, Hendon Lane, N3, in Barnet Wednesdays 4-6pm at Wesley Hall, Stapylton Road. The Club is now planning to open an evening session that will focus on the musicals and show-time singing. For details call 0181-449 0011.

ART

24 March, 7.45pm
Finchley Antiques Appreciation Group. Claydon House, Bucks. Avenue House, East End Road, 0181-203 3735. Also 11 April, Visit to Claydon House.

17 April - 1 May
Finchley Art Society, Painting Exhibition, Chipping Barnet Library, Stapylton Road. Also demonstrations at Trinity Church Centre, Nether Street, N12, 7.30pm.. **14 April** Jan Robinson techniques in oil; **12 May**, Peter Buckel watercolours. Also weekly meetings at Trinity Church, Mondays 7.30pm and at St Mary's Church Hall, Hendon Lane, N3, Wednesdays 1pm. Details 0181-959 6530.

1-8 May

Milldon Art Society's Annual Exhibition of paintings, drawings and prints by members. Hartley Hall, Flower Lane, Mill Hill, NW7. Details 0181-346 7481. Also **7 April**, Anne Marie Butlin, Critic Evening at Union Church, Mill Hill Broadway.

THEATRE AND MUSICALS

16-20 March
'La Boheme' by Puccini. Hampstead Garden Suburb Opera at the Institute Theatre, NW11. 7.30pm and Sat mat at 2pm. Details 018-954 6432.

12-17 April
'Oliver' by Lionel Bart. Finchley & Friern Barnet Operatic Society, Millfield Theatre, Silver Street, N9. 7.45pm and Sat mat 3pm. Details 0181-482 6923.

18 April, 7.30pm
The Confections entertainers present gems from music hall to the 60s at Sobell Centre, Limes Avenue, Golders Green, NW11 in aid of Lady Sarah Cohen Charity. Details 0181 920 4400. Also 7 May at East Finchley Youth Centre, High Road, N2. Details 0181-445 7907.

11-15 May, 7.30pm
Manor Opera presents 'The Gondoliers' by Gilbert and Sullivan at The Institute, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Central Square, NW11. Box Office: 0181-933 0247.

WALKS

21 March, 2.15-4.15pm
Join the South Herts Footpath Society and take a look at vital parkland surrounding Mill Hill on this 7km walk. Meet at Mill Hill

Broadway (Thameslink) train station. Details 0181-953 2214.

11 April, 9-11am
A guided, 4km walk to hear and look at the birds of Oak Hill Woods Local Nature Reserve with the London Wildlife Trust. Bring binoculars if you have them. Meet at the Old Bandstand, Oak Hill Park, Parkside Gardens, East Barnet. Details 0181-346 5011

11 April, 2.30pm
A stroll round the battlefield area of the Battle of Barnet in 1471. Meet at historic Monken Hadley Church, Hadley Green Road. Minimum donation £1 towards community play project. Details 0181-445 8388

25 April, 10am-noon
A spring walk (4km) to discover the medley of summer migrants, early butterflies and flowers at the Welsh Harp. Roy Beddard of the Welsh Harp Conservation Group will guide you round the observation hides. Wear wellies/walking boots and bring your binoculars. Meet at the car park at the top of Woodfield Park on Cool Oak Lane.

25 April, 2-4pm
2km walk along a disused railway line, now a sanctuary for wildlife. Come and see for yourself on an open day at the Old Mill Hill Railway run by the London Wildlife Trust. Meet at the Deans Lane entrance, between Hale Drive and Dryfield Road, Edgware. Details 0181-346 5011

WALKS WITH BARNET LEISURE SERVICES.

For more information and meeting points phone 0181-359 3052.

21 March, 10am-1pm
The Spring Solstice in Suburbia. 9km walk in the green open spaces of suburbia along the first section of the Capital Ring. Don't forget to bring your fare for the return journey. Meet at Hendon Central tube station.

18 April, 10am-12.30pm
Follow the Dollis and the Mutton Brook on this 6km ramble through parks, linear pieces of 'green' and woodland to finish in Golders Hill Park. Meet Finchley Central tube station.

6 May, 7-9pm
Evening stroll through the Totteridge Valley. A circular walk meeting at the Orange Tree House walking through the valley via Darlands Lake and the Folly Brook.

16 May
Launch of the Local Nature Reserve at Big Wood and Little Wood in Hampstead Garden Suburb. There will be displays of woodland crafts and guided walks around the reserve.

NORTH LONDON HOSPICE EVENTS

20 March, 7.30pm
8th Annual Quiz Supper at Finchley Reform Synagogue, Granville Road, N12.

21 March
Big Fun Walk N2 to SW1. Details 0181-458 9044.

10 April
'Last of The Red Hot Lovers' by Neil Simon, Finchley Reform Synagogue. Details 0181-445 9943.

BRITISH EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION (BARNET BRANCH)

15 March, 7.30pm, a chance to meet and talk to Den Hodgkins, South-East Regional Services Manager for British Epilepsy Association. Also **19 April**, 'Independent living with epilepsy', talking with members of the group. This group exists for those with epilepsy, their families and friends and meets at Trinity Church Centre, Nether Street (Tally-Ho end), North Finchley, N12. Newcomers welcome. For details phone 0181-444 4453 or 0181-445 8724.

NEW BARNET AMATEUR GARDENERS' AND FLORAL ART SOCIETY

SPRING SHOW 10 April at St John's Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet, 2pm. Admission 50p. Also **8 April**, Mrs Patricia Liechti 'Unusual Hardy Plants -The End!', plus surprise subject; **13 May**, Mrs Diane Brown 'This is my World' (Floral Art). Meetings at Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, 8pm. Members £1.50, visitors £2.

CHURCH END FESTIVAL

9 May, 2-6pm Community fun day out to raise money for local charities. Bouncy castle, fun train, go karts etc. Avenue House Grounds, Finchley. Details 0181-346 7316.

ANNUAL SPRING HORSE SHOW

9 May, King George V Fields, Barnet. For schedules and further details, 0181-440 3498.

BARNET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - Forthcoming Events

18 March
Barnet Network Meeting. Don't be a victim - Safer Employment Practices. Recent developments in Employment Law. Speaker Rory Anderson. David Lloyd Centre.

23 March
Barnet Breakfast Meeting - Sponsored by McDonalds. The Local Business Partnership. McDonalds Head Office.

For more details, to book for the above listings and for the latest information on events, please contact Deirdre Cavanagh on 0181-343 3833

BARNET ARTS FESTIVAL

Barnet's Arts Festival will run for the month of June. It will be a multi cultural performance extravaganza, with exciting and main stream artists from around the world. Performers such as: Mugenkyo, Europe's only professional Taiko drumming group, stars of Goodness Gracious Me Sanjeev Bhasker and Myra Syal, The Reduced Shakespeare Company, acapella dance group Black Umfolosi, and a rare collaboration between comedian and poet John Hegley and Sixties icon Roger McGough.

AWARD WINNING ARTWORK

Every year the borough runs a competition for young artists aged 18-30, studying or working in the borough.

The Aphorp Fund competition helps the budding new Picasso or Henry Moore by buying their work. This year eight pieces of artwork won and were purchased by the Trust for between £200 and £1,200. Four other pieces were highly commended.

Their work was exhibited at the Bull Arts Centre and then hung in various public venues in the borough.

Look out for the competition towards the end of this year and for other information on arts in the borough contact the Arts Office on 0181-359 3152.



Left: Sophia Rizvi, the winner of the biggest award - £2,400. Right: Angelina Panting won £300 for her sculpture entitled 'Bird'. She was the youngest of this year's entrants.

TEDDY BEARS

A new exhibition celebrating Teddy Bears opens this month, based on a magnificent local private collection. There will be bears from early 1900s to the present day - to be looked at and cuddled. Also on show will be a magnificent collection of Rupert Bear Annual from the 1930s to 1980s.



Exhibition details:
13 March - 6 June
at Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon
Transport: Tube - Hendon Central, Buses - 113,143, 183,186,326
Open: Monday to Thursday 10-12.30, 1.30-5.00, Friday Closed, Saturday 10-1.00, 2-5.30, Sunday 2-5.30
Admission: Free
Phone: 0181 203 0130

Rupert character TM & © Express Newspapers 1999

MEASURE YOUR FITNESS

Every six months Barnet Council in conjunction with Barnet Health Authority holds the Rockport Mile Test at Cophall Stadium.

Those attending walk a mile. Everyone's heart rate is timed and measured which gives a level of fitness. The last event had 200 people walking.

Fitness for Life is a GP referral scheme for people aged 45-74 aimed at improving through exercise the health of people at risk from heart disease or a stroke. Anyone who has a sedentary lifestyle, is a current smoker, has high blood pressure, raised cholesterol, diabetes, a family history of heart disease, or is obese, has a higher greater risk of heart disease. To take part in Fitness for Life, contact your GP.

There are also 20 fitness walks a week around the borough.

For further details on the fitness walks and the next test contact Chris Smith on 0181 202 6458.



COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

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

ARKLEY WARD

ANITA CAMPBELL (Lab)

Tel: 0181-440 2703.

Surgery: 1st and 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 2-3pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

PAULINE COAKLEY WEBB (Lab)

Tel: 0181-449 2588. Surgery: 1st and 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 2-3pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

PAM COLEMAN (Lab)

Tel: 0181-449 6254. Surgery: 1st and 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 2-3pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

GEOFF COOKE (Lab)

Tel: 0181-446 5773. Surgery: Tuesdays at New Southgate and Friern Barnet Social Club, 31 Oakleigh Road South, New Southgate, London N11, 7-8pm. Also: Saturdays at 104 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, Herts., 10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

LYNNE HILLAN (Con)

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

Work Fax: 0181-450 3232. email: ashurst@Londonweb.net

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANDREAS TAMBOURIDES (Con)

Tel. and fax: 0181-368 5417.

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BURNT OAK WARD

LINDA McFADYEN (Lab)

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ALLAN TURNER (Lab)

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ALAN WILLIAMS (Lab)

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

(LABOUR GROUP LEADER)

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

CHILDS HILL WARD

JACK COHEN (LibDem)

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP LEADER

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

MONROE PALMER (LibDem)

Tel: 0181-455 5140.

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

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

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

SUSETTE PALMER (LibDem)

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

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

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

COLINDALE WARD

DANISH CHOPRA (Lab)

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

NATHANIEL RUDOLF (Lab)

Tel: 0181-346 1175.

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

GILL SARGEANT (Lab)

DEPUTY MAYOR

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

EAST BARNET WARD

USHA CHOPRA (Lab)

MAYOR

Tel. and fax: 0181-449 3231.

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

OLWEN EVANS (Con)

Tel: 0181-368 1986. Surgery: 3rd Saturday every month at East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Road, East Barnet, EN4 8SG, 10.30am-12noon.

Also: 1st Saturday every month at The Community Centre, Victoria Road, New Barnet, 10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANNE JARVIS (Lab)

Tel: 0181-449 9001.

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

HELEN GORDON (Lab)

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOUR GROUP

Tel. and fax: 0181-444 2761.

Surgery: Saturdays at East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, East Finchley, N2, 10-11.30am.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ALISON MOORE (Lab)

Tel: 0181-343 0306.

Surgery: Saturdays at East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, East Finchley, N2, 10-11.30am.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

PHIL YEOMAN (Lab)

Tel: 0181-444 9216. Surgery: Saturdays at East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, East Finchley, N2, 10-11.30am.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

EDGWARE WARD

MALCOLM LESTER (Con)

Tel: 0181-349 2595.

Surgery: every Thursday at Edgware Library, Hale Lane, Edgware HA8 8NN, 6-7pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JOAN SCANNELL (Con)

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

Surgery: every Thursday at Edgware Library, Hale Lane, Edgware HA8 8NN, 6-7pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANTHONY SPENCER (Con)

Tel. and fax: 0181-958 4867.

Work Fax: 0171-537 2005.

Work email:

anthony@spencerslondon.demon.co.uk.

Surgery: every Thursday at Edgware Library, Hale Lane, Edgware HA8 8NN, 6-7pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

FINCHLEY WARD

EVA GREENSPAN (Con)

Tel. and fax: 0181-203 1598.

Surgery: 1st Wednesday every month at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3, 7.30-8.30pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BARBARA LANGSTONE (Con)

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

0958 626255. Surgery: 1st Wednesday every

month at Avenue House,

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

LESLIE SUSSMAN (Con)

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

Wednesday every month at Avenue House, East

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

FRIERN BARNET WARD

JAMES CHAPMAN (Con)

Tel: 0181-446 9066.

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

Surgery: 2nd Saturday of every month at Friern Barnet Library Friern Barnet Lane N11, 10.30am-12 noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BRIAN SALINGER (Con)

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

1105. Mobile Telephone: 0956 337878.

email: bsalinger@aol.com

Surgery: 2nd Saturday of every month at Friern Barnet Library Friern Barnet Lane N11, 10.30am-12 noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JOHN TIPLADY (Con)

Tel: 0181-445 5734.

Surgery: 2nd Saturday of every month at Friern Barnet Library Friern Barnet Lane N11, 10.30am-12 noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

JOHN MARSHALL (Con)

Tel: 0181-922 7081.

Surgery: 4th Monday every month

at Fellowship House,

Willifield Way, London NW11, 7.30-9pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JAZMIN NAGHAR (Con)

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

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

Dr. PETER SKOLAR (Con)

Tel: 0181-455 1652.

Home Fax: 0181-731 9414.

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

MELVIN COHEN (Con)

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

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

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

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

ABA DUNNER (Con)

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

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

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

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

11.15am-12.15pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

CHRISTOPHER HARRIS (Con)

Tel. and fax: 0181-731 8303.

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

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

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

11.15am-12.15pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

HADLEY WARD

KATIA DAVID (Con)

Tel: 0181-361 9805. Surgery: 3rd Saturday every

month at Chipping Barnet Conservative Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5

5SU, 10.30am-12noon. Tel: 0181-449 7345. Fax: 0181-449 7346. Also: 4th Saturday every month at

Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 11.30am-1pm. Tel: 0181-359 4040.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

LIZ MAMMATT (Con)

LEADER OF CONSERVATIVE GROUP. Tel. and fax:

0181-361 9720. Surgery: 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Conservative

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

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

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

KANTI PATEL (Con)

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

month at Chipping Barnet Conservative Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, Herts., EN5

5SU, 10.30am-12noon. Tel: 0181-449 7345. Fax: 0181-449 7346. Also: 4th Saturday every month at

Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 11.30am-1pm. Tel: 0181-359 4040.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

HALE WARD

STEVEN BLOMER (Lab)

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

every month at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX, 1-2.30pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BRIAN GORDON (Con)

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

Surgery: Last Thursday in every month at Hendon Conservative Association, 2 Apex Parade, Selvage Lane,

London, NW7, 8.15-9.15pm. Tel: 0181-959 1446.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

RUTH NYMAN (Lab)

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

Home email: email.nyman@virgin.net

Surgery: 1st and 3rd Thursday every month at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX, 3.45-4.45pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

HENDON WARD

MAUREEN BRAUN (Con)

Tel: 0181-203 1876.

Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library,

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

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANTHONY FINN (Con)

Tel: 0181-202 9689 Work Tel: 0171-328 3272
Work Fax: 0171-328 2140

Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library.

The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANDREW SHERLING (Con)

Tel. and Fax: 0181-202 8630.

Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library.

The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

MILL HILL WARD**ROGER AXWORTHY (LibDem)**

Tel: 0181-906 8863.

Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, Mill Hill, London NW7 2HX, 10am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

WAYNE CASEY (LibDem)

Tel: 0181-906 8189.

Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, London NW7 2HX, 10am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JEREMY DAVIES (LibDem)

Tel. and fax: 0181-959 6261.

Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue.

London NW7 2HX, 10am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ST. PAUL'S WARD**KITTY LYONS (Lab)**

Tel: 0181-346 6843.

Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 331 Ballards Lane, Finchley, 11am-12.30pm. Tel: 0181-343 9854.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

KATHY McGUIRK (Lab)

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

Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 331 Ballards Lane, Finchley, 11am-12.30pm.

Tel: 0181-343 9854.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JIM TIERNEY (Lab)

Tel: 0181-346 3359.

Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 331 Ballards Lane, Finchley, 11am-12.30pm.

Tel: 0181-343 9854.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

TOTTERIDGE WARD**BRIAN COLEMAN (Con)**

Tel: 0181-349 2024. Next surgery is 20 March

1999 10.30am-12noon at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, London N12 9HP and 17 April

1999 10.30am-12noon at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

or contact 163 High Street, Barnet (0181-449 7345)

KEVIN EDSON (Con)

Tel: 0181-446 8343. Next surgery is 20 March

1999 10.30am-12noon at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, London N12 9HP and 17 April

1999 10.30am-12noon at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

or contact 163 High Street, Barnet (0181-449 7345)

VICTOR LYON (Con)

Tel: 0181-446 4423.

Next surgery is 20 March 1999 10.30am-12noon

at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, London N12 9HP and 17 April 1999 10.30am-

12noon at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

or contact 163 High Street, Barnet (0181-449 7345)

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

Tel: 0181-202 6841

Surgery: Saturdays at West Hendon Clinic, West Hendon Broadway

(entrance in Perryfield Way).

NW9, 10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

AGNES SLOCOMBE (Lab)

Tel: 0181-202 4074

Surgery: Saturdays at West Hendon Clinic, West Hendon Broadway

(entrance in Perryfield Way), NW9, 10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANSUYA SODHA (Lab)

Tel and fax: 0181-959 6035.

Home email:

ansuya@vishnomarketing.demon.co.uk

Surgery: Saturdays at West Hendon Clinic, West Hendon Broadway

(entrance in Perryfield Way), NW9, 10.30am-12noon.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

WOODHOUSE WARD**BEVERLEY PEARCE (Lab)**

Tel: 0181-440 0918.

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

Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 331 Ballards Lane, N12 8LT, 11am-12.30pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BARRY RAWLINGS (Lab)

Tel: 0181-343 7259.

Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 331 Ballards Lane N12 8LT, 11am-12.30pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

PAUL ROGERS (Lab)

Tel: 07957 376552.

Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 331 Ballards Lane N12 8LT, 11am-12.30pm.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

Community news

Barnet Council, The Town Hall,
The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG

Editorial, design and production

Barnet Council Press and
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Contact Pauline Varnals
0181-359 2657

Delivery and comments

If you have a problem with the delivery of Community News, or have any suggestions or comments about its content, please telephone the 24-hour message line.

The number is 0181-359 2325. Please leave your name and a contact telephone number with your message.

Sportability not Disability

TeamBarnet Leisure are providing a wide range of new sporting activities for people with disabilities.

In partnership with disability groups, including Barnet Mencap and The London Sports Forum they aim to provide a comprehensive programme of sports and games, with the emphasis on functional ability rather than disability:-- concentrating on what people can do, rather than what they can not do.

■ The Team have already organised swimming, athletics and football sessions.

A swimming training scheme has been set up for people with sensory, physical and learning disabilities. This was opened by Chris Holmes, holder of nine Olympic gold medals, who is well qualified to assist with the coaching! Casual swimming runs alongside the training, so whatever your ability you will be welcomed. The sessions run on Sunday from 3.30 - 4.30pm at Barnet Cophthall Pools.

■ 'Barnet Football in the Community' are providing football coaching for people with learning difficulties. There will be a chance to meet players and receive match tickets. The sessions take place on Saturday from 10am to 12noon starting on 10 April at Underhill Stadium, the home of Barnet Football Club.

■ The best coaches from Barnet Shaftesbury Athletics Club and volunteers from Barnet Mencap will be available to instruct people with learning difficulties in track and field events. The sessions will take place at Cophthall Stadium, Hendon, on Sundays 10am to 12noon from 11 April.

■ Adapted games such as 'boccia' bring sports to floor and table level where disabled people have easier access to participate. Boccia, shown in the picture, is an adaptation of the French game of boules, originally developed for people with cerebral palsy and played from school to Paralympic level. Since there is no set way to propel the ball you can roll, throw, kick or slide the ball down a gutter, so boccia is open to everyone, including those people with the most severe impairments. The Team will be organising taster sessions so that people will gain a greater appreciation of the game.

■ Sports sessions for people with sensory impairment are also a priority. Multi-sports sessions for young people who have a sight or hearing impairment are planned and include cricket, football, athletics, swimming and tennis. So do let us know what you would like to play, while we are in the planning stage.

■ If the thought of competitions sets your heart racing, you may like to start by entering The London Heathrow Youth Club Games as part of the Borough of Barnet Youth Team. The 'Mini Games' are for primary school children and boccia is part of the event this year, for year six students with severe learning difficulties. This multi-sport spectacular takes place in July and will provide every participant with a once in a lifetime experience.



TeamBarnet
LEISURE MANAGEMENT

If you have a disability and would like to know more about sports in which you can take part, please telephone Chris Walker or Ian Jackson on 0181 457 9908.



WHITEFIELD SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER BARBARA HOWSE has celebrated the fantastic news that Whitefield School will become a Specialist Sports College. "I am absolutely delighted that we have won sports college status. It will help us to provide first-class facilities for all our students as well as the wider community."

The school, with backing from Barnet Council, beat off stiff competition from many other secondary schools across the country to become a centre of excellence for Physical

Sporting success for Whitefield school

Education and Sport. Its new status starts on September 1999

The government will give Whitefield extra funding of £560,000 over the next three years to improve its existing excellent sports facilities, employ and train specialist PE staff and provide a wide range of extra-

curricular sporting opportunities. Whitefield raised £100,000 in sponsorship to support the school's Sports College application. Major sponsors include the John Lyons Charitable Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, Tesco's Brent Cross and the North London Training and Enterprise Council.

The school focuses on football, basketball and netball and provides gymnastics, wall climbing, swimming and athletics. New money will strengthen these sports but add new ones, including recreational activities such as climbing and sailing. Another new development will be dance.

The money will provide additional staff including support for disabled students. It will also allow new building work, including a major refit of the gymnasium and changing rooms; a new state-of-the-art physical activity centre, containing equipment for the physically disabled and computer equipment to test the health and fitness



Coloured costumes took over the Mayor's parlour as kids from Edgware Junior Middle Infants, St John's and St Mary's dressed up for Chinese New Year. Nearly 100 children attended and the Mayor took the opportunity to brush up on her Chinese. A traditional Lion dance topped the celebrations.



VOLUNTEER WITH THE FINCHLEY CREDIT UNION NOW!

What is a Credit Union?

Credit Unions are financial co-operatives which are run by residents for residents. Members can save small amounts each week and after a period of time borrow money at low interest rates.

Join us at

The Meeting Room
Finchley Memorial
Hospital
Granville Road N12
On Tuesdays at 7pm

What do volunteers do?

Volunteers run the union on behalf of the members. They look after the day to day administration of the union. Every one receives training in book-keeping, granting loans, and management of the union.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Janet Thorne on 0181 359 2782

Borough Community Economic Development Officer

Don't just stand there reading this join us now!



of pupils. Further work will involve the resurfacing of the basketball and netball courts.

The school will function as any other school, offering the full national curriculum but sporting needs will be catered for in a unique way. Pupils in local primary schools, nearby Mapledown Special School as well as the wider local community, will also benefit. It is hoped that the school will be a beacon for sports across North London. The school has excellent contacts with sports organisations such as Hendon Football Club and Hendon Youth Sports Centre, which has Olympic Standard gymnastic coaches.

For the future, the school wants to run summer football clubs for local children and it is working closely with the Middlesex Schools Football Association. In preparing its Sports College application, the school was supported by Barnet Council, Hendon Football Club, Middlesex University and the Youth Sports Trust.

Councillor Alison Moore, Vice-Chair of the Education and Children Policy Development Committee, commenting on the good news, said:

"We want the best for all pupils in all of our schools. The success of the bid reinforces our commitment to achieving the best for our children."



Mr Mutawkil, a teacher of Islam and Arabic, explains the Koran to pupils from Edgware Junior School. The children were taking part in the Mayor's multicultural events.

Now you've read Community News - recycle it