

# barnet first

**BARNET**  
LONDON BOROUGH

FREE of charge

Issue 2

Jan-Feb 2003

[www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)



**Helping those  
who help us**

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## In a class of their own

It was great news to hear that two of our schools have taken first and second prizes in a list of the top one hundred state secondary schools in the country.

The Henrietta Barnett School for girls has been named 'The Sunday Times School of the Year' with Queen Elizabeth's School declared best boys school in the country.

The paper described Henrietta Barnett's performance as "indisputably remarkable, we have never seen results like it in the state sector".

While it congratulates both schools, Barnet Council is proud of the tremendous work and marvellous achievements being made by all our primary, secondary and special schools.

What is more, our plans for education promise great things for Barnet children.

**BARNET FIRST IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT AND AUDIO TAPE**

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# first things first

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## Council closes in on benefit fraud

The recent case of a Barnet woman given 120 hours community service - for housing benefit, council tax benefit and income support fraud - is the latest in a growing list of successes for the council's Anti Fraud Investigation Service.

Local authorities throughout the country have a legal duty to pursue and prosecute those who make fraudulent claims for housing or council tax benefit.

And for good reason.

"People who defraud the council in this way are stealing from those people who are in genuine need of the benefit," said Dorne Kanareck, head of the investigation team.

"We are becoming increasingly successful in tracking down these criminals and have no hesitation in taking them to court."

"There is now a very, very good chance that those who cheat the system in this way will be caught and brought to justice."

In the last 12 months alone, over 14 people have been prosecuted in the courts for benefit fraud.

So far these have resulted in combined overpayments of up to £300,00 of housing and council tax benefit that are either being recovered through the courts or directly by Barnet Council.

And seven of those found guilty

have received combined prison sentences of 18 months, and combined community service of 680 hours.

Some of the others are presently awaiting sentencing.

And it does not end there for these criminals, for the council also publicises the name and details of those found guilty.

Where residents are in need of benefit, the council will ensure they receive it.

But it is equally determined to catch and bring to justice those people who think they can fraudulently claim money they are not entitled to.



### Let us know

Report suspected cases of benefit fraud - in total confidence - by calling the Fraud Hotline on

020 8359 2007

## New year great future

On behalf of everyone at Barnet Council I would like to wish you a happy New Year and tell you about the biggest modernisation in our history.



The council currently operates from over two dozen - often out of the way - buildings across the borough.

Over the next three years we will be undertaking the biggest ever investment in offices and equipment to make Barnet the most modern council in the UK.

That means us providing a better service to you - the Barnet community.

By selling off unwanted buildings and reducing operating expenditure we will achieve this at no extra cost to residents.

To start this process over 700 of the council's backroom staff will take over two floors of the former Nortel Networks site, Oakleigh Road South, New Southgate.

This in turn will allow us to sell off a range of unwanted buildings and then to redevelop the area of land opposite the Hendon Town Hall and eventually the complex itself.

This will give Barnet a marvellous new civic centre that will be the pride of the borough and the envy of London.

Cllr Victor Lyon,  
Leader of Barnet Council

# inbrief

## Fighting fit at fifty

Barnet's over fifties are jumping with joy at a whole range of sporting activities designed to keep them fighting fit.

Young at Heart is a year round campaign which highlights activities for older people including health walks, swimming and Judo classes.

A booklet giving full details is available at any Barnet library.

The scheme is a partnership between Barnet Council's Accident Prevention Centre and Barnet NHS Primary Care Trust.

### Want to know more?

Contact Janice Jones on 020 8906 8028 or email apu@barnet.gov.uk

020 8906 8028

## Tenants get voice in new housing choice

Council tenants are to be given a greater choice in where they live – thanks to an innovative new scheme. 'Home Connections' is giving those on the housing waiting list a chance to see all the properties available to them – and an opportunity to bid for any they like. The housing is then offered to the bidder that has the highest number of rehousing points.

Traditionally, council properties were allocated through the council's Housing Department with tenants having little say on where they were placed. However, this new scheme will give those in council housing a greater

freedom of choice in where they live.

Barnet is one of the first councils to pilot the scheme along with Camden, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.

'Home Connections' is currently available in the Golders Green, Hendon and Childs Hill areas and it is hoped that if it proves to be a success, it could be introduced throughout the whole borough in the near future.

### Want to know more?

Contact the housing register support team on 020 8359 4797 or email homereseach@barnet.gov.uk

020 8359 4797

## Beautiful bundles

A baby massage clinic at Burnt Oak Library was just one of many activities during a 'Family Learning Weekend' staged by Barnet Council and Barnet College.

The clinic was held to encourage parents with young children to make use of the borough's libraries.

Family Learning Weekend is an annual event designed to raise awareness of the important role parents and family play in their children's education.

It also serves to highlight the many lifelong learning opportunities on offer at Barnet's libraries all the year round.

### Want to know more?

Call Hannah Richens on

020 8359 2867



Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Community Development Cllr Peter Davis and artist Seema Anand with the world's largest Rangoli.

## Rangoli world record smashed

The Guinness record for the world's biggest Rangoli has been smashed at the Brent Cross Shopping Centre by a team of local Indian artists, led by Seema Anand, volunteers and local school children.

Rangoli is a traditional art form marking Diwali, the Sikh and Hindu New Year, in which coloured rice powder is used to make small patterns on the floor – usually outside people's houses.

Thanks to the record breaking efforts of all those involved, a Rangoli measuring a whopping 104 square metres was produced – beating the previous record of 84 metres set in Leicester in 2001.

This record attempt was funded by Barnet Council and sponsored by Brent Cross Shopping Centre.

### Want to know more?

Call Lindsey Strange on

020 8359 3126

# in brief

## Swift system

Some of Barnet's most vulnerable residents - including young children and their families, the elderly and disabled - will reap the benefit of new state-of-the-art technology to be installed by the council's social services.

The new system - called SWIFT - will cost £1.1 million and give care workers quick and easy access to the information they need to do their jobs more effectively.

About 400 staff will have access to SWIFT which replaces the old records database which only 150 staff could use.

It follows hot on the heels of a £480,000 investment in hand held computers for social services field workers.

## Out in all winds and weathers

Council staff continue to prove how quickly and effectively they deal with the aftermath of severe weather conditions.

When the autumn gales battered the borough, dozens of dedicated officers including neighbourhood management officers, emergency telephone staff and tree officers did a magnificent job in coping with a massive number of reported problems, particularly the 70 fallen trees.

And you can rest assured they will be there - in all winds and weathers - whenever the great British climate causes problems in future.

# Links across the globe

**B**arnet has a history of twinning with areas right across the world - from North America and Africa, to the Middle East and Europe.

But not many people know how or why the borough has so many interesting twins.

'Twin Towns' were originally established to promote cultural, social and educational links between areas.

In a number of cases it also meant that some countries could take advantage of trade and economic benefits.

Barnet has eight twins worldwide, and some of those links were established by the councils that existed before the London Borough of Barnet was created in 1964.

Delegations from twin towns regularly come to visit us - and vice versa! It provides an essential opportunity for us all to learn from each other and discuss how we can help in the future.

Just recently a delegation from Barnet, which included the Mayor and the Leader of the Council, visited

representatives of our twin town of Morphou in Cyprus.

Whilst there, the Barnet representatives took part in the famous 'Morphou Rally' to show their support for a peaceful resolution to the Turkish occupation of the northern part of Cyprus.

The Mayor of Morphou has made a return visit to Barnet since then to express his gratitude to the delegation and see the north London borough that is so close to the hearts of many of his fellow colleagues.



▲ Barnet Mayor Cllr Joan Scannell and Leader of the Council Cllr Victor Lyon forge links across the globe

## Want to know more?

Visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/community/twintown](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/community/twintown)

# Morning, noon and night

**The London Mayor intends to scrap long-awaited plans to improve the North Circular Road at two heavily congested junctions in Barnet.**



The congestion causes havoc to Barnet residents morning, noon and night, and Barnet Council has condemned the decision which was taken without proper consultation.

The junctions at Henlys Corner and Brent Street cause misery for motorists and residents alike and cause severe rat-running on residential roads.

Yet extensive improvements to reduce traffic at these two bottlenecks were agreed in the '90s following a

public inquiry and widespread consultation – but these have been shelved.

Now the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, wants to scrap the proposals for an underpass at Brent Street and a tunnel at Henlys Corner in favour of a much reduced scheme including cycle lanes, landscaping and surface level pedestrian crossings.

This will do nothing to stop rat-running in Barnet or the

terrible congestion.

There is also alarm at the Mayor's plan to remove the pedestrian bridge at Golders Green Road and replace it with a ground level crossing, which would mean pupils at local schools having to cross six lanes of fast moving traffic.

Barnet Council is calling for the immediate implementation of the agreed improvement schemes.

With major development projects such as Wembley and Cricklewood due to put additional pressure on the North Circular any further delay will be critical.

If you support the council's campaign for road improvements to the A406, you can write to Barnet First, Roads Campaign, The PR Team, The Hendon, Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG. We will send them on to Ken Livingstone.

## Want to know more?

Contact Nick Bell on 020 8359 4325 or e-mail [nick.bell@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:nick.bell@barnet.gov.uk)

**020 8359 4325**

# Green with envy

Barnet residents have 'wheely bin' recycling for their green garden waste.

Over 1,400 householders are taking part in a pilot scheme in Brunswick Park, Oakleigh and East Barnet Wards.

They are given a garden waste bin for items such as grass clippings, weeds, dead flowers and hedge and tree prunings, all of which are

composted and reused.

Over 13 tonnes of garden waste is being collected every week.

It makes other boroughs really green with envy.

So if you live in the pilot area and see green bins appearing on your street on Saturdays, you can have your own bin.

## Want to know more?

Call 020 8359 4296 or e-mail [fred.woodworth@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:fred.woodworth@barnet.gov.uk)

**020 8359 4269**

# Be safe in your home

**T**his home security survey allows you to check if your home is safe from potential burglars.

## Take a look around

Stand outside your home and take a good look from all sides. Try and think what you would do if you were trying to get access without being seen or causing damage.

### Are there:

- ▶ any gaps and holes in fences or walls that someone could get through?
- ▶ any hiding places?
- ▶ places where someone could climb either onto your property or to get to a first floor window?

### Also:

- ▶ how secure are the entrances?
- ▶ can you clearly see all the entrances from the street or could someone be there without being seen?
- ▶ are you a member of a Neighbourhood Watch and are there street signs identifying this?

## Doors and Windows

Take a good look at the doors and window frames. Give them a little push. **Are there:**

- ▶ any worn or damaged frames which would be easy to move?
- ▶ any gaps between the frames and the building?
- ▶ bolts on all outward opening doors?
- ▶ cracked or damaged panes of glass?
- ▶ locks on ALL windows?
- ▶ at least two locks on all doors at least one of which that conforms to BS3621?

### Also:

- ▶ are the doors at least 44mm (1.75 inches) thick?
- ▶ can someone from outside see the entrance hall through the front door/window?
- ▶ could the house or car keys be stolen by putting an arm, cane or fishing rod through the letterbox?

## Alarms

- ▶ do you have a professionally fitted alarm?
- ▶ when was it last serviced?
- ▶ does it include alterations and extensions?
- ▶ is it registered with the local authority?
- ▶ is the key holders list up to date?

## Lighting

Take a look at the house at night.

- ▶ are there dark spots where someone could hide?
- ▶ what kind of lighting is there at the back of the house?
- ▶ do the lights stay on all night and go off when it's light as recommended?
- ▶ does the street lighting illuminate all the front of the house?
- ▶ can anyone approach the house from anywhere at night without being seen?

## Sheds and Garages

Take a good look at any sheds, garages or outbuildings.

- ▶ are the buildings themselves sturdy?
- ▶ are the doors and windows secure, preferably locked?
- ▶ is there access to the house from one of these buildings?
- ▶ is anything of value kept in there?
- ▶ is anything kept in there that may help someone to get into the house?

## The Final Test

For the final test, try this one:

"How would I get into my own home without a key?"

If the answer is glaringly obvious or causes little or no damage or is relatively easy – do something about it **NOW!**



## For more information

You will find solutions to any identified areas of weakness in your home security in the following booklets available at Police Stations or libraries. *Beat the burglar* or *Your practical guide to crime prevention*, both published by the Home Office, or *How secure is your home?* published by the Metropolitan Police.

You can also visit

[www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention);  
[www.met.police.uk/barnet](http://www.met.police.uk/barnet) or  
[www.neighbourhoodwatch.net](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net)

### One last tip

Don't forget to mark all items of value with your postcode and house number by engraving or ultra violet pen, available from all good DIY stores. This includes items of property in sheds and garages as well as your home.



▲ Cllr Mike Freer, Cabinet Member for Value and Effectiveness, consults local youngsters over Council spending plans.

# Have your say on council spending

**We are giving you the opportunity to shape the council's services in the future.**

Inside this edition of *Barnet First*, there is a questionnaire asking for your views on a number of key council services and whether you think more, less or the same amount of money should be spent on them next year and beyond.

There is also space on the questionnaire to give your comments on any services that are not listed or council spending priorities in general.

The new council administration has produced a package of key measures geared towards tackling the increase in street crime, restoring a first class education service, supporting the vulnerable and creating a cleaner, greener borough.

It will be building on the work being done by our Neighbourhood Wardens, by putting together a new and wider ranging service which will

focus on anti-social behaviour. There will be funding for CCTV next year, which will be used to address residents' concerns about street safety.

Education is as important as it has ever been, and over the coming years the council will be looking at various ways of making sure that everyone has access to a first class education throughout their lives. This will include working in partnership with our schools, Barnet College, Middlesex University and many other organisations who share our vision for the future.

More money will also be put into supporting looked after children and fostering, as well as increased funding for the support of families. We won't be forgetting our older residents, where there will be extra funding for care packages.

Leisure and our youth services will also benefit from our new partnership with Greenwich Leisure, who will run all of our leisure centres, including Copthall Pool and Copthall Stadium. This partnership will see the

investment that is so needed to improve the services that are provided at these venues.

There will also be extra funding for street lighting and increased spending on roads and pavements.

*There will be funding for CCTV next year, which will be used to address residents' concerns about street safety*

This is just a snapshot of where the council budget will be spent next year. However Barnet Council wants to make sure that the views of residents are built into a long term plan for the funding of council services. **Please use the Freepost questionnaire and send us your views. Remember, you don't have to pay for postage.**

We will also be holding an open day this month for residents to give their views on the budget. Keep a look out for the date, which will be publicised.

## Barnet gets a raw deal...

- ▶ the council received the lowest possible increase in Government funding to run its services next year
- ▶ a further £8 million of funding was lost because the Government's calculations were based on inconsistent census figures
- ▶ these figures showed there were around 30,000 fewer residents than the mid-year estimates produced by the Government
- ▶ things have been made more difficult because of increases in national insurance contributions for employers, London-wide levies

and additional responsibilities such as the Licensing Reform Act

**BUT**

- ▶ the council is determined the impact on services will be minimal although it could mean a significant increase in council tax bills.
- ▶ we want to make sure your views are included in our long term funding plans
- ▶ so don't forget to fill in the freepost questionnaire included in this edition of Barnet First.

## Pupils go on spending spree

Barnet pupils got the chance to spend over £500m when four teams of nearly 40 young people, aged between 15 and 17, were set the task of planning the council's budget for the next twelve months.

As part of Democracy Week, each team was given one of the Council's accountants to work with, and Barnet's Cabinet Members were on hand to answer questions all day.

It all gave local schools an understanding of how the Council is funded and helped Barnet Council to see what the youngsters required from the forthcoming budget.

Many of the pupils discovered that it was a harder task than they had imagined!

At the end of the day they were invited to present their findings and answer questions from a team made up of councillors and the Borough Treasurer.

There were a number of interesting suggestions, including privatising council departments, although many changed their minds when they saw the costs that would result.

Nearly all the youngsters thought raising council tax was a good thing and they all wanted more facilities for older and younger people in Barnet. And they believed there should be hefty fines for those who drop litter.

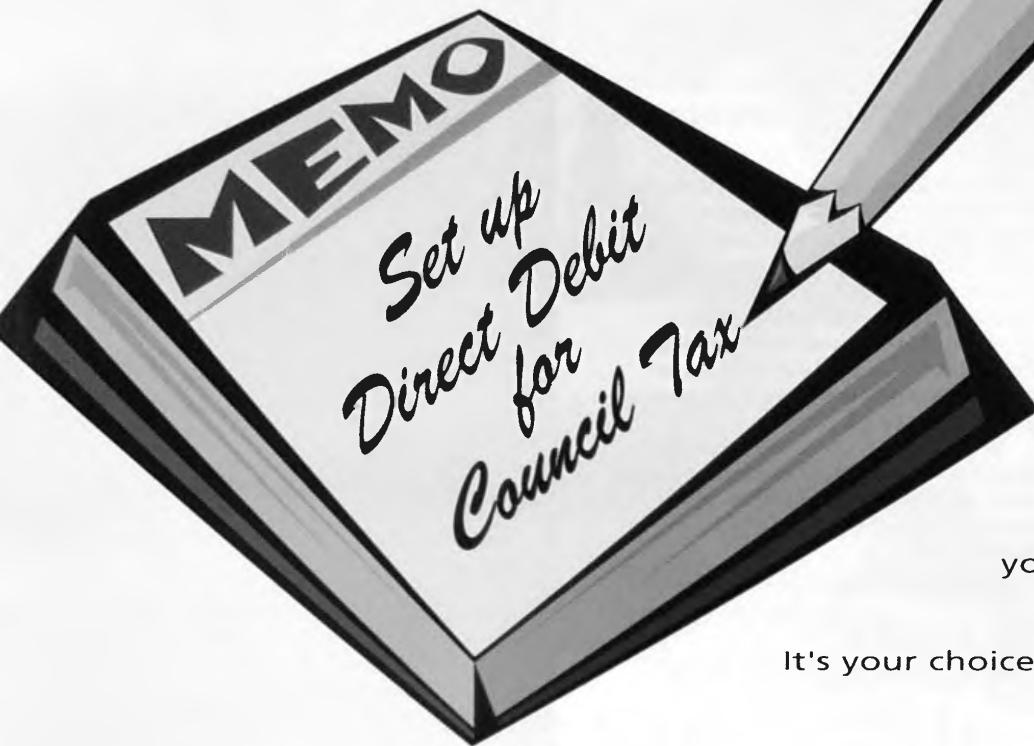
The winning budget was produced by pupils from St Michael's Catholic Grammar, Copthall School and the Pavilion Study Centre.

### Want to know more?

Call Emma Gaydon on 020 8359 2466  
or email [emma.gaydon@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:emma.gaydon@barnet.gov.uk)

**020 8359 2466**

# Putting the Community First



Like the sound of never having to remember to pay your Council Tax ever again?

Then, sign up for Council Tax payment by Direct Debit!

Only by paying by Direct Debit can you choose to pay a bit later. Currently all non Direct Debit payers have to pay on the 5th of each month.

If you sign up for Direct Debit you can opt to pay later if it suits your finances.

It's your choice, the 5th or the 20th, please let us know when you contact us.

If you would like to start paying your Council Tax by Direct Debit

*please call* **020 8359 2262/2327/2816**

*or visit* **[www.barnet.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/counciltax)**



# A colourful year ahead

**M**ake a date with Barnet this New Year – with our fabulous 2003 calendar.

It features all the really important bits of the previous year, including the Queen's visit to Barnet Copthall Stadium, and lots of shots of the best events held across the borough!

You can also catch the moment that local swimmer Sarah Price scooped another gold medal at last year's Commonwealth Games.

Bursting with fun and colour, the calendar makes a welcome addition to the wall of any office or house – and you can pick one up from your local library.

It's a great way to celebrate living in Barnet.



Calendar pictures highlight (clockwise from top left) Barnet in Bloom, The Queen's visit to Barnet and Black History Month.

## Want to know more?

Calendars are available from  
all Barnet Libraries

Putting the Community First

BARNET  
LONDON BOROUGH

## Barnet Homeseekers

Now open at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, London N20 0EJ

*Barnet Council's housing services for homeseekers and the Housing Register.*

When it comes to finding a home, we offer more choice. Ask about our housing schemes for keyworkers, elderly people, moving out of London, renting from a private landlord or bidding to rent a council property. Or, with our help, you can avoid becoming homeless.

Telephone enquiries

**020 8359 4797**

Monday to Friday 9am to 5.15pm  
(except Wednesday 9am to 1.15pm)  
email: [homeseekers@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:homeseekers@barnet.gov.uk)

[www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)



## Soapy Sudz cleans up

Before getting the opportunity to work with Soapy Sudz, Andy Harris, had never had a job of any kind.

But Andy now works three half days a week car washing, which he enjoys immensely, and is never short of ideas on how to expand and improve the service.

Soapy Sudz is run by the Tamarisk Trust, a forward thinking charity based in Barnet that works with adults with learning disabilities.

They have two residential homes and an Opportunities Network, which arranges fun activities.

Soapy Sudz started in December 2001, in partnership with Barnet Council's New Fieldways Day Centre,



Matthew Fisher and Andy Harris of the Soapy Sudz team

and has the contract to wash cars at Barnet Council's Mill Hill vehicle depot and at Edgware Community Hospital

The Tamarisk Trust is now looking to grow even further with possible contracts for cleaning ambulances and ECT recycling lorries.

### Want to know more?

Call Matthew Fisher on

07905 785964



Children from Barnet Young Carers and Siblings Project - just one of the voluntary groups supported by Barnet Voluntary Services Council.

## Helping those who help us

There are hundreds of voluntary groups and community organisations doing a fantastic job of improving the quality of life for Barnet residents, writes Penny Wilson, of the Barnet Voluntary Services Council.

Flash Musicals in Edgware, for example, is an organisation which runs drama and music workshops and produces professional shows for young people.

One of the members of boy band Blue started out with Flash Musicals and so did one of the leads in the West End musical Whistle Down the Wind.

The current lead in the company's latest production, Grease, has just signed her first record contract!

Other local groups support mothers and toddlers, pensioners and those from the ethnic communities.

Although they may be very

different these groups all have one thing in common. They all enhance and improve the quality of life of our community.

As an 'umbrella' organisation, BVSC provides help and support for these groups and provides 'one voice' for the voluntary sector in the borough.

Here are just three of the groups who are doing such wonderful work in Barnet.

Penny Wilson is Information and Communication Development Officer with the BVSC.

### Want to know more?

Call 020 8446 6624 or visit  
[www.barnetvsc.org.uk](http://www.barnetvsc.org.uk)

020 8446 6624

## What it takes to run a voluntary organisation

**T**here's invariably the administration and the constant need to secure both funding and recruit volunteers.

That's why over 60 of the borough's voluntary organisations held a conference recently to consider social enterprise - how groups could diversify their income through social enterprise, i.e. by operating as a business but by ploughing the income back in.

The Finchley Credit Union explained how it generates income through the provision of a low-cost savings and loan services to local residents and Furniture4U, a recycling project based in Grahame Park, sells low-cost furniture to tenants with a

limited income.

Avenue House Estate Management offers an attractive venue for conferences and events which provides income for the upkeep and improvement of this important community facility.

Barnet Council organised the conference with Barnet Voluntary Service Council.

### Want to know more?

Call Robin Charnley on 020 8359 4344 or email [cedo@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:cedo@barnet.gov.uk)

**020 8359 4344**



## Barnet Elderly Asians Group

Kasiben, a 62 year old diabetic Asian woman, has been going to the Barnet Elderly Asians Group for 20 years.

Last December she had a full mastectomy and found the support from her friends at the group invaluable.

"Being able to talk about my illness has made such a difference" said Kasiben.

"I would feel very lonely if it wasn't for my friends here.

"It is wonderful being able to meet like-minded people."

As well as attending the lunch clubs herself, she helps out once a week with the cooking for the men's lunch club.

Barnet Elderly Asians Group, which meets at the Friern Park Centre and Trinity Church, promotes the care, general well being and rehabilitation of older people from the Asian community in Barnet.

The group also runs social and luncheon clubs, organises day outings and provides advice on anything from housing benefit to health.

### Want to know more?

**020 8445 3645**

## Barnet Carers Centre

Sarah, who is 11, always helps her mum - who is agoraphobic (a fear of open spaces) and suffers from ME - with the housework.

And until he died recently she also cared for her grandfather.

This is quite a burden and once a fortnight Sarah goes to Barnet Young Carers and Siblings, which supports children and young people who find themselves in a caring role within their family.

This provides Sarah with some quality time and gives her the chance to meet other young people who are in similar situations.

They also get to enjoy bowling, ice-skating, cinema and trips to restaurants - just like other children their age.

"At Young Carers Sarah can talk to people freely without thinking that they will tell everyone what she's

said," said her mum.

She likes that a lot, particularly as she has had problems at school."

The Young Carers scheme is run by Barnet Carers Centre, a project which supports adults and children who care for disabled, frail or ill relatives or friends.

At present they have contact with over 2,680 carers in Barnet, including 166 young carers and run a daily drop-in service and telephone help line.

They facilitate over 20 support groups, offer a counselling service, training sessions, welfare benefits advice and information, respite care and relaxation days for carers.

### Want to know more?

**020 8343 9698**

## Sally and Florence set the trend

Sally Ledger (5) and her big sister Florence (8), from Queenswell School, donned high visibility safety bibs to help promote the autumn Walk to School Week.

The twice-yearly event highlights the fact that walking is a healthy, economical and environmentally friendly alternative to travelling to school by car.

The event was also used to promote the council's walking bus scheme with parents escorting groups of children to and from school in 'crocodile' fashion. It's safe and fun.



## Speaking in many tongues

**G**etting to grips with things like housing, council tax payments, refuse collection arrangements and school selection procedures can be complicated enough.

This problem is made worse for many Barnet residents who do not have English as a first language.

But help is available.

Barnet Council has a translation unit which can arrange for interpreters to attend interviews between residents and the appropriate council department they need to talk to.

There's also a telephone 'help line' service for residents. A pool of ten interpreters

### Want to know more?

Call 020 8359 2096 or visit [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)

**020 8359 2096**

cover 12 languages and each is given a timeslot on a specific day when people can call in with their questions about council services.

The translation unit also arranges for letters, documents, posters and other publicity material coming from the council to be translated into the main minority languages spoken in the borough.

### Interpreters in the following languages are available in the translation unit, on the following days:

<b>Greek</b>	Monday	1pm – 3pm
<b>Albanian</b>	Wednesday	10am – 12 noon
<b>Bengali</b>	Tuesday	10am – 12 noon
<b>Urdu and Punjabi</b>	Tuesday	2pm – 5pm
<b>Turkish</b>	Friday	1pm – 3pm
<b>Somali</b>	Wednesday	10am – 12 noon
<b>Gujarati and Hindi</b>	Thursday	1pm – 4pm
<b>Cantonese</b>	Thursday	10am – 12 noon
<b>Farsi</b>	Friday	10am – 12 noon
<b>Arabic</b>	Monday	10am – 12 noon

## Language line

In addition to the translation service the council's housing department has signed up to a service called 'Language Line'.

If someone calls the housing repairs team with an urgent problem, but cannot explain themselves fully, the council calls this service which, within minutes, provides an interpreter for

whatever language is needed.

A three-way telephone conversation can then take place between the interpreter, Council and resident to resolve the situation.

Language Line was used 47 times last year with Somali and Farsi being the most frequently requested languages.

### Want to know more?

Call Jaimie Meagor about the walking bus on

**020 8359 4662**

## Avenue House

Avenue House and its beautiful grounds, which were left in trust to the local community by Henry Stephens in 1918, is now being run by the, not for profit, Avenue House Estate Management.

Avenue House is a beautiful venue for your weddings, barmitzvah and other memorable life events. It is a comfortable location for conferences, for business or pleasure. All visitors are made very welcome.

### Want to know more?

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**020 8346 7812**



## Pledge to teach pupils with special needs in **mainstream** schools

**F**OR any parent, choosing a school for their child is a stressful time. But if that child has special educational needs, it can make finding somewhere that meets his or her particular requirements, and is close to home, even more difficult.

Many of these parents currently have to look outside Barnet to find somewhere that is equipped to meet their children's requirements.

But help is now at hand as the council is diverting some of the money previously spent on sending children out of the borough into the borough's own schools.

This will enable facilities to be improved and make sure that, wherever possible, all pupils with special needs receive first class help and support locally.

The council's aim for children with special educational needs is the same as for all children – to equip them for adult life and encourage them to reach their full potential.

Wherever possible the council is committed to doing this within the borough and within its mainstream schools.

By investing more in SEN provision the council knows it will be able to give parents more choice when it comes to

sending their children to a suitable school close to their family and friends.

The council's action in this area follows a report by education consultants Mouchel, who were drafted in to advise on how strategies for helping children with SEN could be improved.

Their report showed that to meet national guidelines on placing pupils with SEN in mainstream schools wherever possible, Barnet needs to develop a SEN strategy that develops 'inclusive' education.

The council is also determined to involve parents in the planning of the borough's future SEN services and we have set up partnership arrangements to achieve this.

Improvements to Barnet's SEN services are part of the council's commitment to creating a first class education service for all children and making sure that Barnet's schools are the best in the country.

### Want to know more?

For more information contact

**020 8359 3103**

## School scoops sports award

Edgware Junior School is celebrating after receiving a prestigious national award from Sport England.

The school is one of just 114 primary schools nationwide to be presented with the Sport England Activemark Award in the latest round of applications.

The honour recognises a commitment to keeping pupils fit and healthy through physical activity and sport.

Sport England chiefs were impressed by Edgware Junior School's well balanced physical education programme, its commitment to providing an environment where physical activity is encouraged and its determination to teach children the importance of staying fit and healthy for life.

The school boasts a number of sports clubs including gym, rugby, football, netball and volleyball.

As well as giving pupils the opportunity to excel in their chosen sport by representing their school in local and national competitions, the clubs give youngsters the chance to have fun and try their hand at a range of activities and find out just what they are capable of achieving.

PE teacher Lynne Probert believes the award acknowledges the importance the school places on physical activity and sport in its curriculum.

She said "It is recognition of all the hard work we put in at the school in making sure that children of all abilities have the opportunity to take part in regular physical activities.

"It also recognises the children's achievements, because at the end of the day it is the children that do it."

### Want to know more?

For more information contact

**020 8952 1472**

Barnet's Mayor switches on Brent Cross Christmas lights with pop band 'Blazin' Squad.

If you think that being a Mayor means cutting ribbons and sipping champagne for a year – then think again!



## All in a day's work for the Mayor

Anyone who has had the opportunity of being Mayor of Barnet knows how much hard work it takes to be the first citizen of the borough.

Apart from the regular paperwork and correspondence that has to be dealt with on a daily basis, there are endless functions, visits and events to attend.

The present Mayor, Councillor Joan Scannell gave Barnet First a unique look at her normal working day – and it's not for the faint hearted!

The day starts when Lewis – one of the Mayors official chauffeurs – picks her up at home at 10.30am to take her to Avenue House in Finchley. With him goes the Mayoral Chain that is always worn at official functions.

The Mayor has been asked to attend the Barnet Carers Centre Annual General Meeting and give a speech about the work they do within the community.

There's also a chance to talk to people before the meeting and find out more about the work they do.

As soon as the meeting is over, Lewis drives the Mayor back to Hendon Town Hall where there is a pile of paperwork waiting on her desk!

Apart from the daily correspondence she has to attend to, Cllr Scannell is also responsible for officially witnessing the sealing of the most important legal documents.

Thankfully, help is on hand from Lorna and Gill in the Mayor's Office who handle a great deal of the correspondence she receives.

They also deal with all requests for her to attend functions and compile them into a diary that will tell her what she will be doing on a day-to-day basis.

After a brief lunch, Cllr Scannell then has a meeting with Chief Macebearer Joe, who is helping the Mayor prepare one of her regular 'Robes Show'

presentations for a local scouts group in her chambers the next day.

At 4.30pm the Mayor, along with her escort Cllr Brian Coleman, leave the Town Hall to switch on the first ever Christmas lights in Cricklewood.

When she arrives, she has an opportunity to talk to members of the Traders Association who have organised the lights, and pose for photographers from the local papers.

After making a speech and switching the lights on, it's off again – this time to St Mary's Church in East Barnet where the charity Homeless Action are staging a 'Sleep Out'.

After taking to people involved in the event, Cllr Scannell makes a speech and talks to local reporters.

It's a typical winter night with the rain lashing down and an icy wind blowing, but that doesn't stop her patiently waiting while newspaper photographers take pictures.

It's around 11pm when the Mayor finally makes the last trip of the day home for a few hours sleep. Then it's up again the next morning to do it all over again!

So could you do it?

# Dangerman

**R**oger Newark knows that if his mobile phone rings in the middle of the night it could mean life or death!

Roger is Barnet Council's emergency planning officer and his job is to make sure the borough is prepared for any emergency and one of the first on the scene of major incidents – from road or rail crash or terrorist attack.

He will co-ordinate the many other council services that come into play - from housing and social services to civil engineering.

"There are plans in place for a variety of incidents," said Roger, "but of course you never really know what to expect until you get there."

All 33 London boroughs have an emergency planning officer and they meet regularly to discuss emergency procedures and develop best practice – although Roger admits that September 11 changed things.

"The threat of terrorist attack has

suddenly become a reality and there are lessons to be learned from the way that the emergency services in New York responded to the tragedy" he says.

But it's not all doom and gloom - most of the time Roger spends training staff and teaching them new skills that could one day save lives.

He also works closely with the voluntary organisations, such as St John Ambulance and The Red Cross, to ensure that they can provide support and assistance when needed.

"You can't live your life worrying about what is around the corner. But always be vigilant and aware of anything suspicious."

## Want to know more?

Call Roger Newark on 020 8359 2038 or email [roger.newark@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:roger.newark@barnet.gov.uk)

020 8359 2038



Barnet Council's Emergency Planning Officer Roger Newark in action.

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## Barnet College Information Events



**Subject specific events taking place throughout the year.**

check [www.barnet.ac.uk](http://www.barnet.ac.uk) for more details or for general advice on all our courses come along to:

Wood Street Centre, Barnet, EN5 4AZ  
26 February, 5-7pm  
Grahame Park Way Centre, Colindale NW9 5RA  
5 March, 5-7pm

Call: 020 8266 4050 / 4046 / 47  
or 020 8275 2816 / 17



email: [info@barnet.ac.uk](mailto:info@barnet.ac.uk)  
textphone: 020 8266 4137

# CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

(Surgery appointments are not necessary. At bank holidays, surgery times may change so please ring beforehand to check)

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

## BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

### LYNNE HILLAN (Con)

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

### DANIEL HOPE (Con)

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

### ANDREAS TAMBOURIDES (Con)

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

## BURNT OAK WARD

### LINDA McFADYEN (Lab)

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

### ALLAN TURNER (Lab)

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

### ALAN WILLIAMS (Lab)

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, LABOUR GROUP LEADER  
(020) 8906 0576 cllr.a.williams@barnet.gov.uk  
Saturdays, Burnt Oak Library, Watling Ave., HA8, 10.30am-12noon

## CHILDS HILL WARD

### JACK COHEN (LibDem)

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

### MONROE PALMER (LibDem)

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

### SUSETTE PALMER (LibDem)

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

## COLINDALE WARD

### DANISH CHOPRA (Lab)

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

### GILL SARGEANT (Lab)

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

### ALAN SLOAM (Lab)

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

## COPPETTS WARD

### BARRY RAWLINGS (Lab)

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

### PAUL ROGERS (Lab)

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

### SOON-HOETEH (Lab)

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

## EAST BARNET WARD

### TERENCE CBURTON (Con)

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

### OLWEN EVANS (Con)

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

### SUSAN STEINBERG (Con)

(020) 844 14498 cllr.s.steinberg@barnet.gov.uk  
2nd Saturday every month, East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Rd., EN4, 10.30am-12noon

## EAST FINCHLEY WARD

### ALISON MOORE (Lab)

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

### COLIN ROGERS (Lab)

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

### PHIL YEOMAN (Lab)

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

## EDGWARE WARD

### HELENA HART (Con)

(020) 8371 0658 cllr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk  
Tuesdays (excluding religious and bank holidays), Edgware Library, Hale Lane, HA8, 5.30-6.30pm

### MALCOLM LESTER (Con)

(020) 8203 3144 conservative.grp@barnet.gov.uk  
Tuesdays (excluding religious and bank holidays), Edgware Library, Hale Lane, HA8, 5.30-6.30pm

### JOAN SCANNELL (Con) MAYOR

(020) 8959 5921 cllr.j.scannell@barnet.gov.uk  
Tuesdays (excluding religious and bank holidays), Edgware Library, Hale Lane, HA8, 5.30-6.30pm

## FINCHLEY CHURCH END WARD

### MICHAEL FREER (Con)

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

### EVA GREENSPAN (Con)

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

### LESLIE SUSSMAN (Con)

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

## GARDEN SUBURB WARD

### VANESSA GEARSON (Con)

(020) 8455 8759 cllr.v.gearson@barnet.gov.uk  
4th Monday every month, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, 7.30-9pm

### JOHN MARSHALL (Con)

(020) 8445 2597 cllr.j.marshall@barnet.gov.uk  
4th Monday every month, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, 7.30-9pm

### JAZMIN NAGHAR (Con)

(020) 8458 2466 conservative.grp@barnet.gov.uk  
4th Monday every month, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, 7.30-9pm

## GOLDERS GREEN WARD

### MELVIN COHEN (Con)

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

### ABA DUNNER (Con)

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

### CHRISTOPHER HARRIS (Con)

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

**HALE WARD****STEVEN BLOMER (Lab)**

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

**BRIAN GORDON (Con)**

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

**RUTH NYMAN (Lab)**

(020) 8906 1418 cllr.r.nyman@barnet.gov.uk  
Saturdays, Burnt Oak Library, Watling Ave., HA8,  
10.30am-12noon

**HENDON WARD****MAUREEN BRAUN (Con)**

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

**ANTHONY FINN (Con)**

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

**MATTHEW OFFORD (Con)**

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

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

(020) 8445 1410 cllr.k.david@barnet.gov.uk  
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet  
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 2-3.30pm

**KANTI PATEL (Con)**

(020) 8446 6639 cllr.k.patel@barnet.gov.uk  
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet  
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 2-3.30pm

**WENDY PRENTICE (Con)**

(020) 8364 9249 cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk  
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet  
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 2-3.30pm

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

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

**JEREMY DAVIES (LibDem)**

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

**SPAN HOOKER (LibDem)**

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

**OAKLEIGH WARD****ROBERT NEWTON (Con)**

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

**BRIAN SALINGER (Con)**

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

**GERARD SILVERSTONE (Con)**

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

**TOTTERIDGE WARD****BRIAN COLEMAN (Con)**

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

**KEVIN EDSON (Con)**

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

**VICTOR LYON (Con)**

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

**UNDERHILL WARD****ANITA CAMPBELL (Lab)**

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

**FIONA BULMER (Con)**

(020) 8441 5258 cllr.f.bulmer@barnet.gov.uk  
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet  
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 2-3.30pm

**PETER DAVIS (Con)**

(020) 8449 8968 cllr.p.davis@barnet.gov.uk  
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet  
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 2-3.30pm

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

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

**KATHY MCGUIRK (Lab)**

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

**JIM TIERNEY (Lab)**

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

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

(020) 8202 6841 cllr.a.ghosh@barnet.gov.uk  
Saturdays, West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh  
Drive, NW9, 10.30am-12noon

**AGNES SLOCOMBE (Lab)**

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

**ANSUYA SODHA (Lab)**

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

**WOODHOUSE WARD****ANNE HUTTON (Lab)**

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

**MARK LANGTON (Lab)**

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

**ALAN SCHNEIDERMAN (Lab)**

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

# CONTACTING YOUR MPs

**CHIPPING BARNET**

SIR SYDNEY CHAPMAN  
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(020) 8449 7345

**FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN**

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

**HENDON**

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

**GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY**

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

## The Holocaust Memorial Arch

**S**ituated in Hendon Park, the Holocaust Memorial Arch was funded by Barnet Council and erected in September 2000. The Arch was designed and crafted by John Creed of Glasgow and incorporates the word 'Lezikaran'. This is a Hebrew word which refers to the importance of looking forward as well as remembering the past. The Arch overlooks a memorial garden with flowers and a pond, and is a peaceful area for people to sit and relax. An olive tree has been planted at the base of the Arch to symbolise peace.

Holocaust Memorial Day will take place around the memorial garden – with the focus being on the Arch and the meaning behind it.

## Plant a Memorial bulb

**A**s a visible reminder of the one and a half million children who lost their lives during the Holocaust, Barnet is encouraging residents to plant a commemorative snowdrop from the beginning of 2003. Due to its pure colour and early flowering, the snowdrop will recognise the life of the children who lost their lives during the Holocaust. Over the next ten years it is hoped that enough of these flowers will be planted to mark the life of every one of these young victims.

**For more details go to the Holocaust section of the Barnet Council website:**  
[www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)



- Rev Bernard Koschland by the Holocaust Memorial Arch

## Barnet remembers the Holocaust victims

**H**olocaust Memorial Day is an important date in the Barnet calendar, and this year it will be marked with a special commemorative service to remember the victims of the Holocaust on 26th January – the day prior to the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Holocaust Memorial Day looks to

remind the community of the horrors of the Holocaust and the millions of people who died or were victims of persecution as a result.

**Want to know more?**

**020 8359 2071**

## School projects

Each of Barnet's 121 schools have received an information pack which includes contacts for Holocaust survivors as well as expert speakers, witness accounts and ideas for school projects and assemblies. The Council is also working closely with schools to provide ideas and advice for individual ways to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. Some schools are planting memorial gardens, while others are choosing to record the recollections of local Holocaust survivors, which can be viewed by pupils and residents for years to come.

Community groups within Barnet have also chosen other unique and individually sensitive ways to mark the occasion, and celebrate the rich diversity of cultures that live and work within the borough. Also for the first time in 2003, Barnet will produce its own Statement of Commitment for the borough. The Statement will recognise the different minority groups that were victimised during the Holocaust, and pledge to encourage awareness of the event throughout the whole community – especially the younger generation.

# Caring and sharing

**E**xperienced foster carers, like Wendy Taylor, are playing their part in the drive to encourage more local people to look after Barnet's children.

Wendy, from Colindale, who has fostered over 120 children, as well as having eight of her own, is helping the Council to recruit more local carers by explaining some of the qualities required.

She said " Becoming a foster parent has to be a family decision. If you have children they have to be happy sharing – it is not only their toys and their house they will be sharing but their parents as well.

"Fostering is hard work so you have to be committed, have lots and lots of patience and be prepared for anything.

"Getting more local people to foster is important. Children should be able to stay near to where they are from because it is important for them to keep in touch with their school friends and family."

At a special event to launch the council's campaign to recruit more foster parents in the borough, prospective carers got the chance to quiz those with years of fostering experience and pick the brains of social workers and members of the council's family placement team.

Barnet Council's Children and Family Placements manager Ruth Moher (centre) presents Wendy Taylor with a bouquet of flowers to mark her 23 years as a foster carer as proud partner John Bartram looks on.



Like every other area of the UK, Barnet has a shortfall of foster carers.

In the past this has resulted in children being sent out of the borough, away from the areas they know best, their schools, friends and extended family, to receive the care they need.

The council wants to change all that and make sure Barnet children requiring foster care get all the love and attention they need within the borough.

To achieve this the council is cutting bureaucracy to make it easier for singles or couples of all cultural backgrounds to come forward and offer their services as foster carers.

Potential carers will have access to high quality advice and information

through an informal, friendly customer service in an effort to make the process of becoming a foster parent less daunting and more accessible.

The new approach was given the thumbs up by Roxanne and Giles Ridger, a couple thinking of becoming foster parents.

Roxanne said "Talking to people who had fostered before and those planning to in the future was inspiring."

## Want to know more?

Call free anytime on

**0800 3898740**

# Cash will help children in poorer areas

Up to 450 children in the Dollis Valley estate, in High Barnet, and parts of West Hendon will benefit if the borough is successful in a cash bid to

## Want to know more?

Call Susan Otiti on

**020 8201 4783**

the Government.

Barnet Council and the Barnet Primary Care Trust have teamed up with local groups and families to claim up to £1 million in cash to help children in poorer areas of the borough.

The money would come from the Government run Sure Start programme, which directs funds to

schemes designed to help youngsters, under four, to get a good start in life.

This includes funding healthcare facilities and home visits, paying for childcare and play equipment and providing particular support for children and families with special needs

The final grant allocation for Barnet will be known by March.

# FLIGHTWAYS OUTREACH SERVICE

## Outreach - Who is it for?

Flightways is for Barnet residents, 18-65 years, who are physically disabled and/or have a sensory impairment.

In addition to offering a Day Centre, Flightways have also introduced an alternative 'Outreach' service.

If you would be interested in meeting people with similar interests (i.e. swimming, computers, cinema) at various venues, please complete the form opposite and post it to Fiona Wood at:

Flightways Resource Centre, The Concourse, Grahame Park, London NW9 5UX. or phone /minicom on: 020 8205 5803

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Days & Times that are suitable for you? (please tick):

Monday	am	pm	Tuesday	am	pm
Wednesday	am	pm	Thursday	am	pm
Friday	am	pm			

Nature of Disability \_\_\_\_\_

Any Special Requirements \_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to hearing from you.



## New Ladies Gym

Goldsmiths Avenue, London, NW9 7EU  
020 8200 1611 [www.fitladygym.co.uk](http://www.fitladygym.co.uk)

A relaxed environment for ladies to exercise.

### Membership Fees

£27 per month    £5 single session

#### FREE SUN-BED MINUTES FOR MEMBERS

- Ultra modern gym equipment
- Car park, with space for 60 cars
- Nice, friendly atmosphere, with FREE tea, coffee and chilled water.
- Showers are screened and changing rooms have cubicles for privacy.
- Near Halfords and opposite Sainsburys, Edgware Road

Putting the Community First



## Like to work as a Social Worker with children in Barnet?

Then we would love to see you at one of our open events throughout January & February, where you can find out just how rewarding a career in our Children & Families Service can be.

For times, dates and locations, or for an informal discussion about working for Barnet's Children & Families Service, please contact Julia Altman, Human Resources Officer, on 020 8359 4522, or email [julia.altman@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:julia.altman@barnet.gov.uk)

To view Social Work and other vacancies at any time, visit our website at [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)

Barnet Council is committed to promoting equality, challenging discrimination and developing social inclusion. We therefore encourage applications from all sections of the community. We are proud to be Investors in People.

*We are committed to the protection of children and vulnerable adults.*

[www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)



# what's on

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

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

So if you're holding an event at your local pub, youth club, sports centre or wherever send details (including a contact number) to Susan Segar, Barnet Council, Public Affairs,

The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG, fax: 020 8359 2677 or email: [susan.segar@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:susan.segar@barnet.gov.uk)  
**Barnet first is delivered to over 130,000 homes and businesses in the borough. The next issue is out in March.**



## SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN...

### British-made playthings 1900-1990 and Children's Cartoons by JF Horrabin

A reminder of the importance of Britain's once-thriving indigenous toy industry with dolls and soft toys from the collection of Brenda Faris. Lots of toys and games to play with as well as to look at.

JF Horrabin (1884-1962) was a cartoonist, map-maker and socialist. He lived in Hendon from the 1940s until his death. The Japhet and Happy annuals on display were based on the strip cartoon written and drawn by him for the News Chronicle from the 1930s to 1950s. Horrabin also produced the cartoon series Dot and Carrie for The Star (later the Evening News) from 1921 to 1962.

His Japhet and Happy cartoon strip was once as popular as Rupert Bear in the Express, with its own annuals, souvenirs and children's club.

**On until 23 February 2003 at Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Open Mon-Thurs 10am-12.30pm and 1.30-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm and 2-5.30pm; Sun 2-5.30pm. Closed Fri. Free admission.**



**Some of the forthcoming events at THE BULL**  
68 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SJ  
For further information on all of The Bull's activities and performances, please contact the Box Office on 020 8449 0048 or visit the website at [www.thebull.org.uk](http://www.thebull.org.uk)

**Theatre**  
**24 Jan, 8pm.**  
**Think No Evil of Us: My Life with Kenneth Williams.**  
David Benson's legendary solo act. Hailed by friends and colleagues of Kenneth's as the most accurate portrayal every seen

**£9/£7 conc.**

**Comedy and Spoken Word**  
**Sat 25 Jan, 8pm.**  
Felix Dexter, the Time Out and EMMA award winning comedian and actor, whose TV credits include The Fast Show, Alan Partridge and The Real McCoy.  
**£10/£8 conc.**

**Sat 1 Feb, 8pm.**  
**'I'm Perfect'.**  
Francesca Martinez focuses on the ridiculous obsessions

we have with labels and pigeonholing. Her show is not about living with disability, it's about living. A hit at Edinburgh 2002  
**£8/£6 conc.**

**14 Mar, 8pm.**  
**Safety. Unlimited Theatre**  
present the funny and moving story of Michael, a war photographer who is celebrated as producing some of the most iconic images of conflict from the late 20th century. Now at the peak of his career Michael is being forced to reconsider his roles as a reporter, husband who is never there and a father who hesitated when his daughter needed him most.  
**£9/£7 conc.**

**Dance**  
**31 Jan, 8pm.**  
**Twentieth Century Girls.**  
**The Kosh**  
with this Pick of the Edinburgh Fringe winner two dancers move with ease through the century's events with snatches of ballroom, Spain, the circus and disco  
**£9/£7 conc.**

**Fri 14 Feb, 8pm.**  
**Dance of the Drunken Monks.**  
New production by Sankalpam. The humorous story of a Kapalika monk's drunken antics told through the enchanting Koodiattam theatre style and traditional Bharatanatyam dance  
**£9/£7 conc.**

**Music**  
Raising funds for urgent repairs to The Bull's roof are  
**The Magnificent 7**  
**Sun 26 Jan at 8pm.**  
Ex-Adam and the Ants drummer Terry Miall is the driving force of the group who play music from punk to reggae, Brit-pop to ska, glam to rock'n'roll. Also raising funds are The Warren Band, Sun 9 Feb at 8pm, with a trip through rock'n'roll history from the 50s to the present day, from early Elvis, doo wop, soul classics through to original R'n'B  
**£7/£5 conc.**

**Barnet Folk Club**  
**Saturdays 1 Feb, 1 Mar, 4 Apr**  
at 8.30pm, is for musicians, singers and especially audiences who are interested in traditional and contemporary folk music. A totally unplugged experience in the intimate surroundings of The Bull's Studio Theatre with its natural acoustics. JJ Dunne kicks off with a couple of songs and then opens the rest of the evening to the floor. For more information call **020 8441 3620**.  
**Admission free.**

**Sun 2 Feb, 8pm.**  
**John Etheridge**  
Britain's best-known Jazz/Fusion guitarist. A stint with the Soft Machine and as Stephane Grappelli's sideman, he has collaborated with such greats as Nigel Kennedy, Yehudi Menuhin and Dizzy Gillespie  
**£9/£7 conc.**

**1 Mar, 8pm.**  
**Flying High.**  
Fronted by radically original Pritti Pantel, and fresh from the success of their latest recording Seventh Heaven, Shiva Nova's blend of urban contemporary music with influences from Indian, Chinese, African, Caribbean and Western music brought together by outstanding instrumentalists.  
**£9/£7 conc.**

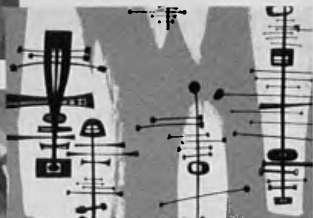
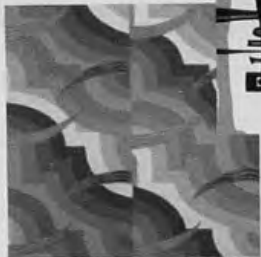
**Children**  
**7-21 Feb.**  
**Make your own hot air balloon**  
and learn about the basic science of the early flyers. A guaranteed lift! Small charge to cover the cost of materials. At the Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, London NW9 5LL  
**Phone 020 8358 4851 for more information.**

**Wed 19 - Sun 23 Feb,**  
**12noon and 3pm.**  
Following last year's sell-out show, Kazzum return with an enchanting new show Nocturne for children aged 3-6. Unable to sleep, a child asks her mother to read to her, drifts into sleep and has a dream where her bedroom comes magically to life. Influenced by the beautiful paintings of Joan Miro and the soothing music of Miles Davis  
**£4.95**

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THE 20TH CENTURY



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THE TOP  
DESIGNER  
NAMES



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