

The writing's on the wall for Barnet's graffiti vandals

See page 10



Regenerating Barnet
Read more on page 7

Message from the Leader

Our thoughts and prayers are still with the families of those who were killed and injured and those who were seriously affected by the tragic and mindless events of 7 and 21 July.

There is no place in our society or in any of the many religions that make up our community for the indiscriminate killing of innocent members of the public who are just going about their daily lives.

The Mayor is planning to plant a tree in Hendon Park on Remembrance Sunday in November in memory of the victims of terrorism wherever lives have been lost throughout the world.

As I write this article, young people, their families and their teachers will be celebrating their exam results. Barnet prides itself on the success of our education service and as a borough we can be rightly proud at seeing so many of our schools appearing at the top of the national lists of exam successes. Is it any wonder that education features high among the reasons why families



with young children choose to come and live in Barnet?

Thank you for taking the time to read this borough magazine. The next edition of Barnet

First will be published in November.

**Councillor Brian Salinger
Leader of Barnet Council**

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Production details

Barnet First is your magazine, bringing you news and features about what your council is doing for you. For editorial and advertising enquiries, or to make comments, please contact Rachel Tansley by telephoning 020 8359 7795 or emailing: rachel.tansley@barnet.gov.uk

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

Barnet First is printed on environmentally friendly paper and can be recycled after use.

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

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

Barnet's vision for the next four years

Barnet Council has published its new Corporate Plan, its guiding document for improving service performance over the next four years (2005/06 – 2008/09).

The basis for the Plan and what it sets out to achieve is based around the council's five key priorities:

- A First Class Education Service
- Tackling Crime
- Supporting the Vulnerable in Our Community
- A Cleaner Greener Barnet
- Repairing Roads and Pavements

Barnet is continuing to work towards becoming an excellent council and performance measures are included in the Plan for every service area. The council's achievements against these will

continue to be measured via the council's own performance management process, and by our auditors, to ensure that progress is being made.

The Plan also reflects that Barnet is a changing borough, and is home to a growing and diverse community. It also details how Barnet intends to meet the challenges it will face in the coming years in helping to attract and keep residents vital to London's growth.

Do you want to know more? Copies of the Plan can be downloaded from the internet at www.barnet.gov.uk or by calling Emma Gaydon on 020 8359 7018 or email: emma.gaydon@barnet.gov.uk.



Jazz at the museum

Dixieland jazz provided by Fine and Dandy was just one of the events held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Church Farmhouse Museum in Hendon.

Building an excellent planning service

The council's Planning department is offering an improved service to its residents – and that's official!

Its progress towards achieving specific planning performance targets has been monitored and reported to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). And the ODPM says the "authority is making excellent progress. Barnet Borough Council is now exceeding the performance standards...and continues to improve."

And in recently-published planning performance indicators for "major applications" the council was ranked as the 9th best

"...Barnet Borough Council is now exceeding the performance standards...and continues to improve."

performer out of 362 councils in England and Wales.

The council has also made changes to simplify and speed up the planning process. Residents applying for planning permission now have the choice of secure electronic payment or conventional payment methods. Electronic payments for planning applications and other fees can be made via the new website at

www.barnet.gov.uk/planning

Time's running out to register your vote

Don't forget you have until October 28 to return your electoral registration form. The form should have been delivered to your home in early August and we need you to tell us if the details about your household are correct.

We need a response from every property, even if all of your details are correct. **Remember if you don't register, you cannot vote.**

For more information contact the helpline on 020 8359 5577, email ero@barnet.gov.uk or visit the Electoral Registration Office, Colinhurst House, 168 Station Road, Hendon NW4 3HA.



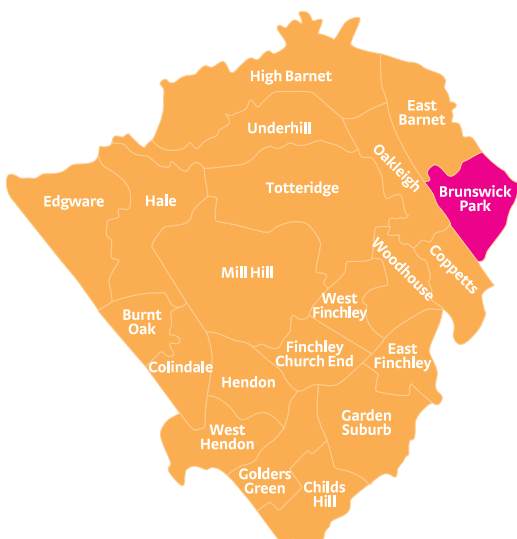
Spotlight on your ward

Did you know?*

- Brunswick Park is Barnet's 11th biggest ward, covering 3.25 square kilometres
- Just over 14,500 residents live in the ward
- 12% of Brunswick Park residents are retired, the highest of the council's 21 wards
- More people own their own home with a mortgage in Brunswick Park than in any other ward in Barnet
- The most popular industry for Brunswick Park residents to work in is "real estate, renting and business activity".

* Figures taken from the 2001 census.

Brunswick Park



In this new regular feature we'll be taking a closer look at each of the borough's 21 wards. We start with Brunswick Park, Barnet's most easterly ward, and home to our current Mayor, Councillor Andreas Tambourides.

It is believed that the name Brunswick Park was probably chosen for patriotic reasons.

Both George I and II were Dukes of Brunswick, and the name increased in popularity after Duke Friedrich Wilhelm, also a Duke of Brunswick and a hero of the Napoleonic Wars, was killed at the Battle of Quatrebras in 1815.

In 1857 the Gold Smiths Company built the Clock and Watchmakers Asylum, as almshouses for 18 married couples and six widows. Situated at the northern end of Waterfall Road, they were rebuilt in the 1960s and still stand today as The Homesteads.

The area also became associated with the name of New Southgate after the Great Northern Railway opened a station at Colney Hatch in 1850.

In 1861 the Great Northern



What's in Brunswick Park?

Schools –

- Ashmole Senior School, Cecil Road
- Brunswick Park Primary and Nursery, Osidge Lane
- Church Hill Primary, Burlington Rise
- Hampden Way Nursery, Hampden Way
- Monkfrith Primary, Knoll Drive
- Osidge Primary, Chase Side
- St Paul's C of E Primary School, The Avenue

Leisure –

- Church Farm Swimming Pool, Church Hill Road
- Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Road
- Brunswick Crescent playground
- New Southgate Recreation Ground (tennis courts, basketball, football pitches and cricket tables)
- Brunswick Park and Waterfall Walk (football pitches, conservation area)
- Brunswick Woods
- Everleigh Walk
- Lincoln Avenue open space
- Church Farm open space



Railway Company opened the Great Northern Cemetery, now New Southgate Cemetery, at the cost of £150,000. Until the 1870s the cemetery had its own private mortuary station on the Great Northern Railway line. The deceased were brought from another private station at Rufford Street, near King's Cross, to the

By the 1890s the cemetery occupied 80 acres

chapel-shaped station twice a week. By the 1890s the cemetery occupied 80 acres. Today it covers just under 50 acres and its most famous grave is that of Shoghi Effendi, an important leader in the Bahá'í religion, who was interred in 1957.

Another famous resident of the ward was Sir Thomas Lipton, of

Lipton Tea fame, who bought Osidge House, in Chase Side, in 1893. Lipton led a very interesting life. He opened his first grocery shop in his native Glasgow aged just 20; was a millionaire by the age of 30; attempted but failed to win the Americas Cup yachting event five times; and counted royalty among his friends. Osidge House

became a home for retired nurses after Lipton's death in 1931 and the Sir Thomas Lipton Memorial Hostel for elderly women remains today.

In 1898 the North View Photographic and Stereoscopic Works were already established off Brunswick Park Road, and they were joined in 1922 by Standard Telephone

and Cables (STC). At its height, STC employed nearly 10,000 people and contributed to the production of radar equipment during the war.

On August 23 1944 a V-1 bomb, or Doodle Bug, landed between buildings 6 and 8. It destroyed building 6 and badly damaged building 8, killing 33 people and seriously wounding 212. Just one day later, a second V-1 landed on the North Sports Field but no-one was hurt.*

Today the site is known as North London Business Park and is home to over 1,000 Barnet Council staff.

* Information taken from "Days of Darkness: The London Borough of Barnet at War" by Percy Reboul and John Heathfield.

Find out about Burnt Oak ward in the next issue of Barnet First.

Meet your councillors

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

You can meet your Brunswick Park councillors on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10.30am – 12 noon at Osidge Library in Brunswick Park Road. No appointment is necessary.

As with all of Barnet's 21 wards, Brunswick Park has three members,

or councillors, who have been elected by the ward's residents to represent them. Councillors stand for four years at a time.

Cllr Lynne Hillan (Conservative) has been a councillor for the ward since 1998.
T: 020 8445 5101
F: 020 8446 8634
E: cllr.l.hillan@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Daniel Hope (Conservative) has served the ward for the past three

years, after being elected at the last full Barnet Council elections in 2002.
T: 020 8368 9005
F: 08701 372 905
E: cllr.d.hope@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Andreas Tambourides (Conservative) is Barnet's current Mayor, having been Deputy Mayor in 2002-03. He has been a Brunswick Park councillor since 1998.
T: 020 8368 5417
F: 020 8368 5417
E: cllr.a.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

Top left: The Clock and Watchmakers Asylum

Middle: Sir Thomas Lipton

Right: Women at work at STC



Blooming Barnet!

This year, Barnet's residents surpassed themselves with the high standard of gardens and floral displays on show.



The 15th annual Barnet in Bloom competition attracted a record number of entries (57) this year.

The nine entry categories not only included conventional front gardens but container gardens, balcony displays, places of worship and even public houses! This year, Barnet's residents surpassed themselves with the high standard of gardens and floral displays on show.

Judging was carried out during the last two weeks of June, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awarded in each category. Barnet's Mayor, Councillor Andreas Tambourides, and Councillor Katia David will present the green-fingered residents with prizes and certificates at an awards ceremony at Hendon Town Hall on October 24.

Barnet in Bloom 2005 winners:

- Best Front Garden: Ms Poster, Totteridge
- Best Balcony Display: Mrs Mitchell, West Hendon
- Best Container Garden: Mr Gaunt, Hendon
- The Residential Trophy: Ms Klein, Garth House Residents, Granville Road, Childs Hill
- Best Floral Display: Mr Howley, Burnt Oak
- Best Floral Display and/or Garden outside a place of worship: Mrs Kane, St Patrick's Parish Church, West Hendon
- Best Bloomin' Pub: The Claddagh Ring, Church Road, Hendon
- Best Educational Garden: Sunnyfields School, Hendon.



A full list of winners and runners-up can be viewed on the council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk

Want to get involved?

We know that there are lots of great gardens and floral displays in the borough that don't enter Barnet in Bloom.

The council is encouraging more residents to take part next year. To be included on the 2006 mailing list, please contact Pauline Varnals on [020 8359 2659](tel:02083592659) or email your name and address to: pauline.varnals@barnet.gov.uk

**Top:
Blooming great!
Ms Poster's 1st
prize winning
front garden**

**Above:
What a picture!
Barnet's best
balcony**



Building a better Barnet

Regeneration work in the borough is moving at a pace

Work is moving forward on the major programme to regenerate Barnet's four largest housing estates and transform them into thriving neighbourhoods.

When it is complete, the programme will see 3,500 council homes replaced with 8,000 new homes – a mixture of social rented housing, homes for sale on a shared ownership basis and for key workers, and homes for sale on the open market. In total, a billion pounds will be invested over the next 10 years or so.

Here's a closer look at each scheme:

West Hendon

This is part of the Cricklewood, Brent Cross and West Hendon regeneration scheme, but will progress independently as a first phase.

The plan is to create a new integrated community of 2,200 homes overlooking the Welsh Harp reservoir with a new town square and improved transport links on the western edge of the borough. The scheme will be contemporary in design and built to the highest standards. The developers aim to make the homes more environmentally efficient than is usual on schemes of this type and to make as many homes as possible adaptable to the changing needs of occupiers. The development will look spectacular and will set a very high standard for the remainder of the Cricklewood and Brent Cross scheme. High management standards will also apply with a dowry from Metropolitan West Hendon and the commercial units offsetting the costs for the social rented tenants.

Current situation:

- Outline planning consent for the scheme was granted in July.
- Cabinet agreed the development contract – the first of the four – with the developers on 30 August.
- The first new social rented homes are programmed to start on site in 2006/07.

Grahame Park

This scheme forms part of the Colindale Development Plan, which aims to create a vibrant new community with major infrastructure improvements, improved transport links and community health facilities.

On Grahame Park, a radical rebuilding programme is planned to transform this estate over the next 15 years. Nearly 3,000 new homes will be built forming part of a new heart for Colindale. These plans will reorientate the estate, connecting it with the surrounding area and integrating homes and services with complementary developments in the area.

In recognition of our ambition to improve access in and out of the area, the Government has awarded £7m from the Opportunity Borough Fund. This, along with contributions from both the Grahame Park and RAF East Camp developments, will fund the replacement of the two railway bridges across Aerodrome Road.

Current situation:

- Detailed planning consent has been obtained on the first area of development – Harriot and Hawfinch.
- The blocks have been vacated ready for transfer to the site's developers. They are due to be demolished in the autumn.
- Over 80 households have been decanted into the adjacent Adastral development.

Stonegrove and Spur Road

This project will see the replacement of the current estates with a completely new, mixed and balanced neighbourhood of 1,355 homes overlooking the Green Belt and integrated into the surrounding area.

There will be a new road layout, new community and play facilities and the creation of new open spaces. It will be a high quality environment built to high design and construction standards. The vision for regeneration of this neighbourhood includes

the replacement of the existing Edgware School with a new modern Academy, designed by Sir Norman Foster, currently on site and due for completion next year.

Current situation:

- The first phase land transfer – to Family Housing Association – is now proceeding. It will provide 62 new homes for residents on the estate.
- The council has secured the All Souls Land for the Academy to use as playing fields, releasing 10 acres of the current Academy site for redevelopment as part of the Stonegrove regeneration.

Dollis Valley

The regeneration of Dollis Valley will deliver up to 1,100 new homes for sale, affordable rent and shared ownership. At the heart of the neighbourhood will be a new "state-of-the-art" building for Barnet Hill Primary School, community facilities, including shops, a community centre and a doctor's surgery, set around a vibrant neighbourhood square. Dollis Valley overlooks the Green Belt and the plans for the estate will link it to the surrounding area and take advantage of its excellent location.

Current situation:

- The Masterplan for the scheme is now nearing completion.
- An extensive consultation programme and planning and development forum is planned for the autumn.
- An outline planning application for the site is due to be submitted in the spring of 2006.

Introducing... your councillors

Brunswick Park Ward

Lynne Hillan (Con)

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

Daniel Hope (Con)

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

Andreas Tambourides (Con) Mayor

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

Surgery details:

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

Burnt Oak Ward

Linda McFadyen (Lab)

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

Allan Turner (Lab)

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cllr.a.turner@barnet.gov.uk

Claire Farrier (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

Childs Hill Ward

Jack Cohen (LibDem)

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

Monroe Palmer (LibDem)

Liberal Democrat Group Leader
020 8445 5140
cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Susette Palmer (LibDem)

020 8455 5140
cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Colindale Ward

Danish Chopra (Lab)

020 8449 3231
cllr.d.chopra@barnet.gov.uk

Gill Sargeant (Lab)

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

Zakia Zubairi (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

Coppetts Ward

Barry Rawlings (Lab)

020 8445 6416
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Paul Rogers (Lab)

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Soon-Hoe Teh (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

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

East Barnet Ward

Terence C. Burton (Con)

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

Susan Steinberg (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

Olwen Evans (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

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

East Finchley Ward

Alison Moore (Lab)

020 8343 0306
cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk

Colin Rogers (Lab)

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

Phil Yeoman (Lab)

Leader of the Opposition
020 8444 9216
cllr.p.yeoman@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Edgware Ward

Helena Hart (Con)

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

Malcolm Lester (Con)

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

Joan Scannell (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

Finchley Church End

Michael Freer (Con)

020 8349 2540
cllr.m.freer@barnet.gov.uk

Eva Greenspan (Con)

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Leslie Sussman (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

Garden Suburb Ward

Andrew Harper (Con)

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

John Marshall (Con)

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

Jazmin Naghar (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

Golders Green Ward

Melvin Cohen (Con)

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

Aba Dunner (Con)

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

Christopher Harris (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

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

Hale Ward

Steven Blomer (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

Brian Gordon (Con)

07931 300679
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Please contact to arrange a meeting

David Mencer (Lab)

020 8922 6955
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Surgery details:

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

Hendon Ward

Maureen Braun (Con)

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

Anthony Finn (Con)

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

Matthew Offord (Con)

020 8202 5319
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Surgery details:

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

High Barnet Ward

Katia David (Con)

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

Kanti Patel (Con)

020 8446 6639
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Wendy Prentice (Con)

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Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month,
Chipping Barnet Conservative
Association, 163 High Street,
Barnet, EN5
10.30am-12noon

Mill Hill Ward

Wayne Casey (LibDem)

020 8906 8189
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Sean Hooker (LibDem)

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Surgery details:

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

Oakleigh Ward

Robert Newton (Con)

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Brian Salinger (Con)

Leader of the Council
020 8368 1329
cldr.b.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Gerard Silverstone (Con)

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

Surgery details:

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

Totteridge Ward

Brian Coleman (Con)

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

Kevin Edson (Con)

020 8447 1910
cldr.k.edson@barnet.gov.uk

Victor Lyon (Con)

Deputy Mayor
020 8446 8253
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Surgery details:

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

Underhill Ward

Fiona Bulmer (Con)

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

Peter Davis (Con)

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

Surgery details:

Third Saturday every month,
Chipping Barnet Conservative
Association, 163 High St, Barnet,
EN5
10.30am-12noon

Anita Campbell (Lab)

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

Surgery details:

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

West Finchley Ward

Kitty Lyons (Lab)

020 8346 6843
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Kathy McGuirk (Lab)

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Jim Tierney (Lab)

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Surgery details:

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

West Hendon Ward

Arun Ghosh (Lab)

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

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Ansuya Sodha (Lab)

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Surgery details:

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

Woodhouse Ward

Anne Hutton (Lab)

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

Mark Langton (Lab)

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

Alan Schneiderman (Lab)

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cldr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk

Surgery details:

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

Council meetings – dates for your diary

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

October

- 6th** Standards Committee
- 10th** Audit Committee
Finchley & Golders
Green Area Planning
Sub-Committee
- 11th** Chipping Barnet Area
Planning Sub-
Committee
Cabinet
- 20th** Planning &
Environment
Committee
- 27th** Cabinet Overview &
Scrutiny Committee

November

- 1st** Resources,
Performance and
Partnerships
Overview & Scrutiny
Committee
- 8th** Council
- 10th** Cabinet Resources
- 14th** General Functions
Committee
- 15th** Chipping Barnet Area
Planning Sub-
Committee
- 16th** Hendon Area
Planning Sub-
Committee
- 17th** Finchley & Golders
Green Area Planning
Sub-Committee
- 22nd** Whetstone Area Forum
Golders Green &
Childs Hill Area Forum
Edware, Burnt Oak
& Mill Hill Area
Forum
- 28th** First Class Education
& Children Overview
& Scrutiny Committee
- 30th** Planning &
Environment
Committee

Contacting your MPs

Chipping Barnet

Theresa Villiers

Office: 163 High Street,
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Finchley and Golders Green

Rudi Vis

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East Finchley, N2 8DT
Tel: 020 8883 0411

Hendon

Andrew Dismore

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

Greater London Assembly

Member for Barnet and Camden

Councillor Brian Coleman

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

Waging war against the graffiti vandals

“Absolutely not” is the swift response from Barnet Council’s Graffiti Officer when you ask him if graffiti can be considered as art.

“Unsightly ‘tagging’ is not very clever, especially when it’s done on someone else’s property. It’s just like a cat or dog marking its territory,” says Rob Russell.

Last year the council spent £250,000 clearing graffiti from “canvasses” ranging from conventional walls to lampposts, utility boxes, parking meters and telephone boxes.

Priority is given to 13 of the borough’s town centres where, since 2001, the council has had a zero tolerance policy. This means the areas are checked daily Monday to Friday and any graffiti spotted – even if it’s not on council property – is tackled immediately.

On top of that the Childs Hill,



Councillor Matthew Offord helps with the clear up in Childs Hill

Brent Street and Hendon Central zones are targeted weekly, and the council clears any reported graffiti facing the borough’s ‘A’ roads. Reported racist and offensive graffiti is tackled within 24 hours and graffiti is removed from public property when the council carries out block cleansing in the area.

A graffiti removal service is also

about clearing graffiti once it appears. It’s also about education.

“Our approach to graffiti is not just to use bigger pots of paint to obliterate it!” adds Rob.

“Education, prevention and prosecution all play a part in the reduction of graffiti.”

Educational visits are made to schools to discuss the costly impact

Educational visits are made to schools to discuss the costly impact graffiti has on our environment and our pockets, and over the last year there have been 20 arrests for graffiti in Barnet.

offered to residents and businesses (at a fee) and graffiti kits are provided to residents and community groups.

Since 2003 buildings around the borough have been painted out by young graffiti offenders serving court reparation orders. And since March 2005 the council, Safer Neighbourhoods police teams and Probation Service have worked together managing people served with community sentences to remove graffiti, flytip rubbish and cut back overgrown foliage. Pavilions, playground furniture and benches have been repainted.

But Barnet’s approach is not just

graffiti has on our environment and our pockets, and over the last year there have been 20 arrests for graffiti in Barnet.

The council works closely with the police, Barnet Homes and partners such as Transport for London Police to identify the vandals. Tags are recorded on a database and the council applies for compensation for damage when prosecutions are taken out.

So the message is clear: if you write graffiti on property, who is watching you? You could end up in court – and have to pay compensation too.

If you have any information that could identify a graffiti criminal, please ring the council on 020 8359 7499, Barnet Police on 020 8733 1212 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Social working – on the move!

Barnet Council's social workers have gone mobile.

Over 240 staff and managers from the Children and Families service have been equipped with hand-held computers, or XDAs, so they can now access and update their diaries and emails while on the move.

The XDAs give staff mobile access to Microsoft Outlook, meaning that they can manage their diaries and send and receive email while they are out and about.

It also means that they do not have to come into the office as frequently, so staff can now get out and see more clients and support more

“The reaction to these devices has been very positive. Our staff find them easy to use and reliable.”

children and their families.

Councillor Chris Harris, Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Children, says: “The reaction to these devices has been very positive. Our staff find them easy to use and reliable.”

This implementation will play a major part in helping the council to achieve its objective of investing more resources in front-line services.

The implementation is the first phase of the XDAs project which will soon see a web-based interface added to the hand-helds, plus a remote panic button (linked to technology) which will allow us to locate social workers and get help to them in the event of a dangerous situation arising.

Black History Month in Barnet



Storytelling, music, theatre, dance and children's activities are just some of the events taking place in the borough in October to celebrate Black History Month.

The national festival is celebrated annually in Barnet to recognise the positive contributions that people of Asian, African and Caribbean descent have made to British society, and increase awareness across the whole community of the cultural heritage of black people.

See the “What's On” section on page 15 for further details about events in the borough.

Off to a good start!

If your child was born between 1 September 2001 and 31 August 2002, they will need to have a place in a reception class at a primary school during the school year which begins in September 2006.

The co-ordinated admissions scheme is a new way for parents to apply for a primary school place. It means that you will submit one Common Application Form (CAF) on which you can state up to three preferences for primary schools in Barnet and no child will be offered more than one place.

If you have already registered your interest in a place at a Barnet primary school you will be sent a CAF and a guide to primary education during

October. The latest date for submission of CAFs is 13 January 2006.

If one or more of your preferred schools is a religious school, you will also need to complete supplementary forms available from the school. A CAF must be completed for all children born within the specified age range, including those already in a nursery class and/or those with an older brother or sister at a preferred school.

Parents wishing to apply to schools outside Barnet should obtain a CAF from the authority where the school is situated.

For further information, please contact the Admissions Team by telephoning 020 8359 7651 or email school.admissions@barnet.gov.uk

Pop into a Premier Park this autumn

Barnet's parks are even more pleasant places to relax this autumn, thanks to improvements made across the borough over the last year.



An extra investment of over £600,000 has seen enhancements at 16 Premier Parks, helping the council create a cleaner, greener Barnet.

Premier Parks were identified last year and selected so that virtually every home in Barnet has one within a 20 minute walk.

Park keepers in distinctive uniforms provide a reassuring presence and start their day by removing graffiti and picking up litter before visitors arrive.

Playgrounds are a big attraction at the parks, with around a third of all

visitors either using them or accompanying children who do. With this in mind new play equipment has been installed at Victoria Park and Cherry Tree Wood.

The council is also planning to provide new cafes in the parks. One has already been let and discussions are in progress at another four.

Ensuring visitors feel safe is very important, so CCTV cameras have been installed in Friary and Watling Parks, hedges have been trimmed down at Victoria Park and Victoria

Recreation Ground and paths have been repaired in many locations.

Among the next round of improvements, Premier Parks will feature new sign boards providing information on the facilities on offer and a council contact number.

Visit www.barnet.gov.uk/environment_transport/park_court_open/index.php3 for more details.

Barnet's 16 Premier Parks are: Old Court House, Victoria Park, Childs Hill and Basing Hill Parks, Swan Lane Open Space, Edgwarebury Park, Cherry Tree Wood, Watling Park, Tudor Sports Ground, Victoria Recreation Ground, Oakhill Park, Friary Park, Lyttleton Playing Fields, Hendon Park, West Hendon Playing Fields, Sunny Hill Park and Mill Hill Park.



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Barnet Civic Awards 2005

Do you know someone who deserves acknowledgment for the work that they do to make a difference to the lives of others in our community? Well, Barnet Council wants to hear from you!

We are now calling for nominations for the Barnet Civic Awards 2005 so we can say thank you to those people who work tirelessly for the benefit of others, with little or no recognition.

Often these people are unaware that the things they do are so greatly appreciated by others. The Barnet Civic Awards is our chance to commend these unsung heroes and show them how much their efforts are appreciated.

You can nominate online at www.barnet.gov.uk/community/civicawards, download and complete a Nomination Form, or fill in the form below and post it



back to us. The closing date for nominations is **30 October 2005.**

For further information please contact Pauline Varnals on **020 8359 2657** or email: pauline.varnals@barnet.gov.uk

Thanks for everything: Some of last year's winners with their awards.

Hedges help

New legislation means provided they've tried and exhausted all other avenues for resolving the dispute, residents can now take complaints about a neighbour's hedge to the council.

If the dispute cannot be settled, the council will take up the complaint provided that:

- the hedge comprises a line of at least two evergreen or semi-evergreen trees or shrubs
- it's over two metres high
- it acts as a barrier to light or access
- its height adversely affects the complainant's enjoyment of their home or garden.

We will take into account all relevant factors before deciding what, if any, action should be taken.

However residents should remember that the legislation doesn't require all hedges to be cut down to below two metres, and the council will not always decide the hedge height should be reduced – each case is looked at individually.

Residents also have to pay £450 (£225 for those on income benefits) for the council to deal with complaints.

Nomination form

To nominate a volunteer, group leader, carer or anyone you feel is worthy of an award, please complete the form below and return in an envelope marked 'Civic Awards' to: The Mayors Parlour, Room 64, Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG by 30 October 2005.

I nominate (name of nominee): _____

I think he/she deserves an award because: _____

(Please note that information you provide will be the basis on which the nominee is judged. All necessary information should be included. Continue on a separate sheet of paper if necessary).

Nominee's address: _____

Nominee's telephone number: _____

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Your telephone number: _____

Your signature _____

Note: Councillors of the London Borough of Barnet are not eligible for nomination.

Barnet Council's round-up of what's happening across the borough throughout October and November.

Leisure/pastimes



An Exhibition of Exhibitions

Until 20 Nov

From the Great Exhibition to the Millennium Dome. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Free entry. Details/opening hours: 020 8203 0130.

Saturday Night Dances

8 Oct & 5 Nov

Ballroom, Latin American & Sequence. North Finchley. Call: 020 8444 0280.

The Friends of Montclair

15 Oct

A Quiz Supper

25 Nov

Thanksgiving Dinner. Call 020 8361 8978 for details. Non-members welcome.

Finchley & District Philatelic Society

19 Oct 7.30pm

Auction. New members welcome. Details 020 8444 3251.

'Spike Milligan' talk by Bill Tyler

27 Oct. 8pm

The Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital by Marion Randall

24 Nov. 2.30pm

The Finchley Society, Drawing Room, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3. Non-society members welcome. Free entry.

Large Model Aircraft Rally

30 Oct

RAF Museum, Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL. 020 8358 4849. www.rafmuseum.org

Large firework display and entertainments

5 Nov

Mill Hill County High School. Details/tickets: 01923 289890/ fireworks@vickychurchill.com

Underhill Junior School Grand Firework Display

5 Nov. 5.30pm (Gate open)

Mays Lane, Barnet. Adults £5/ages 15 and under £4 (pay at gate). Details: 020 8441 9306.

Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society guided 'Fungus Walk' over Hampstead Heath

6 Nov 10am

£5 approx. Details: 020 8458 5846.

Sacred Heart Line Dance Club

Thurs. 8.45-10.30pm

Sacred Heart Church, Flower Lane, NW7. Beginners welcome. Entry £3. Details: 020 8445 6580.

Potters Bar and Barnet RSPB Local Group events

Call 01707 644299.

Arts

Barnet Borough Arts Council Poetry Competition 2005

For all ages. Details/closing date: 020 8445 8388.

Hendon Music Society

15 Oct. 7.45pm

The Schubert Ensemble

26 Nov. 6.45pm

Sacconi Quartet and Sarah Williamson (clarinet). John Keble Church, Deans Lane, Edgware. Tickets: 020 8202 5393/020 8361 3306.

London Jewish Cultural Centre's Courses

31 Oct.-15 Dec

Details 020 7431 0345 (after 3 Oct. 020 8455 9900).

Finchley and Friern Barnet Operatic Society. 'Oklahoma!'

1-5 Nov. Millfield Theatre, Silver Street, N18 1PJ. To book call 020 8482 6923 or visit: www.ffbos.com

Emerge Conference

12 November 10am – 5pm

Networking and professional development for visual artists in north London. £15 incl. lunch. artsdepot, 5 Nether Street N12 oGA. Details phone 020 8359 7760/www.emergelondon.co.uk

Finchley Choral Society 'Anthems for Peace'

19 Nov. 7.45pm

Church of St. Jude on the Hill, Central Square, NW11. £12.50. Box office: 020 8346 9230.

Under 18s



High Barnet Toy Library

2-4pm, alternate

Wednesdays (term time)

For ages six months to six+. Pennefather Hall, Christ Church, St. Albans Road. Details 020 8492 9328/020 8441 9885.

'Big Draw'. Arts and Crafts Activities

20-30 Oct

Prizes for best entries. RAF Museum, Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL. Free entry. 020 8358 4849. www.rafmuseum.org

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

30 Nov.-14 Jan

Chicken Shed Theatre, Chase Side, Southgate, N14 4PE. Box office: 020 8292 9222. www.chickenshed.org.uk

The Little Mermaid (Kazzum)

8-31 Dec

Artsdepot, 5 Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley N12 oGA. Box office: 020 8369 5454. www.artsdepot.co.uk

Fairs/sales

Barnet National Trust Assoc. Autumn Fair

8 Oct. 9.30am – 12.30pm

The Hyde Room, Chipping Barnet Library, High Barnet.

Barnet NCT Nearly New Sale

15 Oct. 2.30-4.30pm

St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Hill Road, East Barnet. Entry £1 adult/children free. For a stall contact 07960 521271.

Multiple Sclerosis Society. Christmas Fair and Father Christmas Grotto

12 Nov. 10am-2.30pm

Pennefather Church Hall, Christ Church, St. Albans Road, Barnet.

Arts and Crafts Fair

20 Nov

All Saints Arts Centre, 122 Oakleigh Road North, N20. Also regular indoor Boot Sales Sat. mornings. Details 020 8445 8388.

Miscellaneous

'Start Right' business awareness afternoon

11 Oct

Organised by Barclays Bank (Whetstone) at Totteridge Cricket Club. Free. To book call 020 8427 6188.

Information session on working with children

7 Nov. 2 hour

Freephone 0800 389 8312 to find out more.



Black History Month in Barnet

Events at artsdepot,
Tally Ho Corner, 5 Nether Street,
North Finchley, N12 0GA.

Booking 020 8369 5454/
www.artsdepot.co.uk

Merchant of Venice (Tara Arts)

6 – 8 Oct

£14/£12.



Sango/Iyanu (Miracle) (Sakoba Dance Theatre)

12 Oct

£14/£12 slips/£12 conc.

Nothing but the Salt (Vayu Naidu Co.)

19 & 20 Oct

£12/£10 conc.

The Japan Foundation: Out of the Ordinary/Extraordinary: Japanese contemporary photography exhibition

27 Oct – 24 Nov

Free.

Black Umfolosi (acapella)

28 Oct

£15/£12 conc.

Black & Asian Futures presented by Barnet Council and artsdepot

29 & 30 Oct

A weekend of
entertainment

29 Oct

Tabla Drumming Workshop (Hiren Chate)

1-2pm

Ages 8+. Free – drop in.

African Shaker Instrument Workshop. (Efosa Theatre Co.)

1.30 – 2.30pm & 4 – 5pm

Ages 4-7. £4.

Planet Poetry – Poetry & Performance Skills Workshop. (Sifundo) (Circle of Wisdom)

2-5pm

Ages 11-18. £4.

Cartoon Workshop (Tayo Fatunia)

2.30-4pm

Ages 8+. Free – drop in.

Introduction to braiding hair (adults) (Denise Semple)

3-4pm

Free – drop in.

30 Oct.

Introduction to Henna painting, Saris and Bindi Workshop. (Jayshri & Chetan Dave)

11am-12.30pm

Ages 6+. Free – drop in.

Steel Pan Workshop (Pantasia Steel Band)

1-2pm

Ages 8+. Free – drop in.

African Dance Workshop (Nzinga Dance)

2-3pm

All ages. £4.



Caribbean Storytelling (Patsy Scott)

4-5pm

All ages. Free – drop in.

The Poetry Lounge (Da Imej & Kat Francois & local poets and singers)

5-6pm

Free.

Black History Quiz & Game Show

6-6.45pm

Free.

Theatre Show Performances

7.30-10pm

£10/£8 conc.

Events at St. Paul's Church

The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, NW7 1QU.
Enquiries 020 8958 9841.

Hands Up for Freedom

16 Oct. 12noon-5pm

An exhibition by Anti Slavery, International and children's activities. Entry £2.

A Black History Cultural Evening (dinner and dance)

29 Oct. 7.30-10.30pm

£12.50 adults/£6.50 children (advance only from 020 8906 3793, 9am-12noon weekdays).

An Evening of Music & Remembrance

20 Oct. 7.30-11pm

Presented by Barnet Multicultural Community Centre & St. John's Evangelical Church, Algernon Road, West Hendon, NW4. Free.

Brent Cross in association with Barnet Council present Diwali Mela

22 Oct. 11am-4pm

A feast of festivities at Brent Cross Shopping Centre. Free.

Celebrating Black Culture – Film Double Bill

23 Oct. 2pm

Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, N2 9PJ.

£7/£5 conc. Details 020 8444 6789/

www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

Photographic Exhibition, Dance & Workshop (Holdhands Angolan Organisation)

12 Nov. 2-11pm

Barnet Multicultural Community Centre,

Algernon Road, West Hendon, NW4.

Enquiries 020 8201 0360.

Roots African Marriage (Livingway Ministries)

28 Nov. 6-9pm

Grahame Park Community Café, 7 The Concourse, Grahame Park Estate, NW9 5XB.

Free. Enquiries 020 8200 1259, 12noon-8pm.

Black History Month in Barnet Libraries

Details Hannah Richens, 020 8359 7779.

SureStart events in Underhill and West Hendon

Details 020 8201 4820.

Real nappy, real happy

Barnet Council is offering parents an incentive to try real nappies – either a subsidy of up to £51 for using the local registered nappy laundering service ‘Number 1 for Nappies’, or as a refund against the purchase of real nappies for those choosing to wash their own nappies at home.

The amount of domestic waste generated and collected in Barnet is increasing every year, so choosing to use real nappies will reduce household rubbish and keep Barnet a cleaner, greener place for both parents and their children. It also helps to save money as the total cost of using real nappies can be half that of using disposables.

In families with just one baby, disposable nappies can make up half the weekly rubbish. Before being potty trained, a baby will get through between 4,000 and 6,000 disposable nappies. Each of these is buried in landfill where they may take up to 500 years to decompose. The good news is that parents now have alternatives.



Technology has moved on since the days of terry towelling; real nappies are now made out of soft natural absorbent materials, shaped to fit your baby snugly. They come with velcro and popper fastenings in a range of different styles and sizes which can be tailored to your baby's

needs. Parents can also choose between traditional white or trendy multi-coloured fabrics as well as a wide variety of other designs.

To find out more, call the council on 020 8358 7400 or email recycling@barnet.gov.uk

Pitching in at Grahame Park

Grahame Park's new all weather pitch was opened in style recently with a free five-a-side football tournament organised by the council.

Ten teams battled it out in an under 12s tournament, with a further nine teams competing in the under 16s five-a-side.

Since being officially opened by Barnet's Mayor, Councillor Andreas Tambourides, and Roger Reed, Facilities and Operations for FA (South-East), the pitch has been used by a number of local football clubs and community groups, as well as residents.

It is also put to good use on Saturdays by youngsters from the Burnt Oak and Colindale areas at "Free Kick", organised as part of the Community Safety initiative.

The pitch was funded by the council working in partnership with the Football Foundation, the London Marathon and the London Development Agency.



Want to find out more about using the pitch? Call the council's Football Development Officer on 020 8359 7812.

Net effort: Councillor Andreas Tambourides and Roger Reed from the FA cut the ceremonial ribbon to launch the new pitch

Are you a computer novice?

Two free computer courses for adult beginners have been launched at East Barnet Library.

No previous knowledge is needed to join the weekly "How to Use a Computer" course, run by Barnet College.

Over the six-week course, students will learn word processing and printing, as well as basic use of the internet and email.

Tutor Nick Black says: "No-one ever leaves knowing less than they did before!"

"Most people gain a lot of confidence, as well as basic skills. Hopefully they'll have fun too!"

A second new course, "How to Use the Internet" is also on offer for more experienced computer users.

To find out about either course, ring Nick on 020 8275 5053. Priority will be given to adult residents of the London Borough of Barnet.