

Community news

FEBRUARY 1997

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 **BARNET**

LONDON BOROUGH



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HOMES IN PIPELINE

BARNET COUNCIL and housing associations will provide new homes and help rejuvenate town centres in Barnet.

Councillors have agreed to fund a £440,000 programme for Paddington Churches Housing Association to buy and refurbish eleven two-bedroom flats above shops in Ballards Lane, Finchley.

The flats will be used to house people on the council's waiting list.

"Our partnership with Paddington Churches Housing Association is an excellent scheme which will provide much-needed new

family homes while bringing empty flats back into use in Finchley town centre," said Councillor Allan Turner, Chair of Housing Committee.

The council has made a bid to get part of this funding from Capital Challenge.

"The Birnbeck scheme will provide suitable homes to meet the demand from people waiting for wheelchair-access accommodation in the borough," he added.



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VOUCH FOR IT

Anyone who wants a place in a Barnet school for their four year old child should apply for a voucher - as soon as possible.

That's the urgent warning from Barnet Council, worried that parents might miss out on the start of the government's nursery voucher scheme on April 1.

Voucher application forms will be sent automatically to parents to the address on their Child Benefit book or statement.

Forms are sent by the government - not Barnet Council - and must be returned to the address given.

The parent will then be sent a voucher each term for the three terms following the child's fourth birthday.

The voucher may be used for education in any school, playgroup, reception class or nursery registered with the government.

This applies to ALL four year olds.

Any parent who is worried or who wants further information should contact the Government's Helpline 0345 543 345 or Barnet Council's Helpline on 0181 359 3191 or any Barnet Council nursery or primary school.

NOISE BUSTERS BEEF IT UP

Local families have welcomed Barnet Council's new out of hours noise-busting service. Pictured ready for action is Anne (see above), just one of the council team of environmental health officers which has been cracking down on the noise-pests since last September, making sure that night-time revellers keep the noise down or cut it out altogether.

Something Fishy

J. A. CORNEY



IN THE VERY BEST OF TASTE:

This halibut - seen at Temple Fortune - is just one of the stars of a very special Barnet experience . . . SHOPPING. In our shop around in Barnet picture feature (see pages 8 and 9) we visit some of the other attractions in local centres. IT'S A GREAT OUTING.

ANTI RACISM MOVES LAUNCHED IN BARNET

The European Year Against Racism was launched in Barnet by Pauline Green, Member of the European Parliament for London North.

She spoke to a packed audience which included representatives of Barnet's ethnic communities and youngsters from Barnet schools.

Pauline Green outlined the aims and objectives of the campaign and praised Barnet Council's key role in ensuring good local race relations was always kept high on the agenda.

She also welcomed the extensive package of new initiatives planned by Barnet for the coming year.

The European Year Against Racism will create opportunities locally to combat racism and promote policies for greater integration especially in education, training, housing and employment.

Barnet is part of one of the

most multi-cultural areas in the whole European Union and Barnet Council is firmly committed to promoting and strengthening racial harmony and equality among all its residents.

Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council, welcomed the European initiative and pledged Barnet's continuing support in the drive to combat racism.

"This campaign will highlight the issues and make all Europe aware how vital it is for our future prosperity to foster racial harmony among all the varied peoples who make up the European family of nations.

"The campaign lasts only one year. But we must be prepared to carry the message of that year with us always," he said.

Councillor Alan Williams went on to announce a series of initiatives planned for Barnet during 1997:

- tenancy agreements revised

to combat racial harassment backed up with legal sanctions.

- new schemes introduced to provide housing for elderly Asians in Finchley.

- support given to London's only refuge for Jewish women. A new Day Centre in Algernon Road run by ethnic minority groups has been given the go-ahead and another is to be planned for the eastern side of the borough.

Benefit advice sessions and job recruitment fairs are to be expanded to target minority ethnic groups.

The borough's libraries are being mobilised to run a series of exhibitions exploring multi-cultural and anti-racism issues and Burnt Oak library is to get a new Chinese language collection recognising Barnet's role as host to London's biggest Chinese community.

Another first for Barnet will be a sports development programme to be launched to increase awareness and encourage ethnic groups to get



BRANCHING OUT:
Councillor Stan Cross, Chair of Public Works Committee, branched out when he planted four oak trees at the junction of the Great North Road/Lyonsdown Road, Barnet.

The council's tree officers are being kept busy planting trees in streets, parks and gardens throughout the borough.

Checkmate Richmond

BARNET'S budding chess masters have become London Primary Schools champions for the first time since 1984.

They took the trophy from rivals Richmond bringing to an end their eight year domination of the competition.

In a nail-biting finish Barnet snatched the title in the last game of the last round.

Barnet's Under-11 Chess Team, drawn from twelve local primary schools, was presented with the Ronald Brock Memorial Trophy by the tournament organisers, the London Primary Schools Chess Association. The trophy now goes on display in each of the schools in turn.

involved in all forms of sport.

In May the Education Conference on Equal Opportunities will be devoted to anti-racism issues.

The eleventh annual Multi-cultural Education Resources Exhibition - the biggest event of its kind in Britain - will be held in June.

June will also see a major Arts and Culture Festival bringing together community groups, schools and artists in a celebration of the rich cultural diversity of the borough.

In the autumn, the Barnet Community Care Fair will include workshops on race and community care.

BROADWALK SHOPPING CENTRE

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Broadwalk Flowers
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SIMPLY TOPPING:

Barnet Council Leader, Alan Williams is seen here going up the wall as Hendon Football Club Chairman, Ivor Arbiter offers encouragement. The two got together to mark the topping out of a new building at Claremont Road - partly funded by Hendon FC - designed to serve both as the Brent Cross Banqueting and Conference Suite and also as a youth club for local youngsters.

"Hendon FC has had close links with Barnet's Youth Service over many years," said Mr Arbiter. "We are excited at the prospect of seeing these links grow even stronger."



BACK BARNET'S ARTS BID- Council urges

EVERYONE should put their weight behind exciting plans for a new arts centre in North Finchley. That's the message from Barnet Council and the bid has already won crucial backing from The Advertiser.

The arts centre, proposed for Tally Ho Corner, would be Barnet's biggest ever arts initiative and it has already created excitement among the local arts community.

Community representatives, during the biggest conference and community event in the history of the borough last July, called for a hall for music, theatre and dance and an art gallery.

Barnet Council decided to undertake a feasibility study before making a bid through the Arts Council of England for up to 75 per cent of the capital costs of the new arts centre to be paid for by the National Lottery.

Local people have been invited to offer ideas and make comments and a steering group of local representatives will be set up.

"We need the full backing and involvement of Barnet residents and businesses to ensure the dream of a new arts centre is turned into reality," said Councillor Katherine McGuirk, Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee.

"This exciting arts centre would be the major shot in the arm that Barnet arts have been in desperate need of for

many years. Arts groups and local residents have been calling for a major new arts centre for Barnet for many years because, unlike most London boroughs, we lack a large hall for major events," said Councillor McGuirk.

"An arts centre would provide a venue for families and arts groups in Barnet but also boost the local economy and generate fresh interest in the borough," she concluded.

Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Barnet Council's Arts office on 0181 359 3152.

Election Matters

Anyone who thinks they might not be able to get to the polling station on general election day, should apply for a postal vote.

Those eligible include those whose health or job means they might find it difficult to go and vote. They should contact Barnet Council now and ask for a postal vote application form.

This means a postal vote will be sent to them as soon as the election is called.

This also applies to anyone who thinks they might be away for any reason such as going into hospital or on holiday.

People who are frequently away from home might find a proxy vote more useful. This way, the voter nominates someone else to vote on his or her behalf. Proxy votes can also be sent through the post if that is more convenient.

Voters who suddenly realise when the election is called that they will miss their vote should act immediately and contact the council to apply for a postal vote. The time-scale is very short - usually only a few days.

To get a postal vote application form or for more information, please contact:

The Electoral Registration Officer,
Barnet Council,
Ravensfield House,
The Burroughs,
Hendon,
London NW4 4BE.



AN ARCHITECT'S IMPRESSION: of how the new building will look.

Her Majesty 'At Home' for GOLDEN COUPLES

Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will hold a Special Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, 15th July, 1997 to celebrate their Golden Wedding.

The guests will be couples who were also married in 1947. Couples in the London Boroughs who wish to enter the ballot should apply in writing by Friday, 14th February, 1997 to:

THE CLERK TO THE LIEUTENANCY
CITY HALL, PO BOX 240, VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1E 6QP

(A copy of the marriage certificate should be enclosed).

Invitations will be limited to Golden Wedding couples only, unless the assistance of a close relative is essential. In which case, this should be made clear at the time of application.

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FREE TRIAL LESSON FREE INFORMATION PACK

PACK OF CARDS



ON THE DECK: Pupils from Grosvenor Infants School joined Councillor Jo Salsbury, Chair of Barnet's Environmental Consultation Forum, to sort out Christmas cards for recycling.

CRACKDOWN ON FRAUDSTERS

Council takes tough line

BARNET is backing the new land-wide Fraud Investigation Team set up to uncover cross-borough housing benefit fraud.

The 20-strong team will be based in central London and financed by the Department of Social Security (DSS).

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

Barnet's own housing benefit investigators already have a good record of fraud investigation within the borough and regularly exceed targets for recovery set by the DSS.

But as with other local authorities across London they do not have the resources to detect and investigate serious cross-boundary financial crime.

The new London-wide



FRAUD CRACKDOWN:
Barnet will co-operate fully,
Councillor Rudi Vis.

team will take on cases of suspected fraud referred by individual local councils.

The team will be able to co-ordinate major investigations drawing on the support and co-operation of any other council which may be

involved.

Local investigators will be given regular advice and reports and assist in prosecuting offenders. Front line staff will have a key role in helping combat organised fraud.

"Our Finance Directorate has an excellent record in dealing with attempts to abuse the benefit system," said Councillor Rudi Vis, Chair of Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee.

"But anything which helps crack down on housing benefit fraud is to be welcomed.

"We in Barnet will co-operate fully with this new initiative."

Any savings resulting from investigations will go to the boroughs where the fraud was detected.

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*The school exists to provide a high standard of education for girls
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WELCOME HOME



MOVING IN:

Pictured are two happy tenants who have benefited from Barnet Council's decision a year ago to increase the maximum grant available to enable families to move into homes which better suit their family circumstances, as for example when the children leave home.

Moira Smith, 50, and Alexander Smith, 51, have moved from a five bedroom home to a one-bedroom aided by a £4,000 grant to help with moving costs. This has now freed up their former home for a larger family to live in.

STUDENTS SET TO GET BETTER CASH SERVICE

A FASTER and more efficient service for local students will be provided by Barnet Council with the introduction of a new high-tech computer system.

The new system will mean cost savings as well as a faster, more efficient service.

The present system installed in the early 1980s can no longer deliver the standard of service Barnet is determined to provide to the students who depend on the council's £19 million annual grants system.

With the new system the council will be able to speed up its service to students by using the computer to complete tasks which are now completed by hand. Swift progress reports will be given on claims and applicants will be contacted immediately a grant has been agreed.

The old manual recording, assessments and payments system was less efficient, cost more and took up more staff time.

The new computer will also cut down the risk of mistakes, make it easier to update the system when necessary and help

identify those families entitled to extra benefits, as part of the council's anti-poverty strategy.



STUDENTS:

must get as fast and as accurate a service as possible - Councillor Susette Palmer.

"Students who depend on Barnet Council's grants service to further their education must get as fast and accurate a service as we can possibly provide," said Councillor Susette Palmer, Chair of General Executive Committee.

"The current system was installed in 1981 and has been superseded by improvements in information technology. The new system will provide a better, faster service for our students and will mean annual savings," she added.

GETTING DUG IN FOR THE MILLENNIUM

LOCAL families, schools and interested groups are invited to get involved with Barnet Council's ambitious plan to plant a million bulbs for the millennium.

The council is carrying out its promise to sow the seeds of a brighter Barnet to be enjoyed by residents now and future generations.

The council pledged to plant at least 200,000 new bulbs a year at Barnet 2000, the biggest community festival and conference in the history of the borough, held in July last year.

The council's Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts, Councillor Katherine McGuirk and ward Councillor Allan Turner (seen right) helped plant some daffodils at Watling Park in just one stage of the council's greening programme.

But local residents' groups, schools and Friends of Parks groups are also invited to suggest other areas where the whole community would benefit from more flowers or get involved with the bulb planting work.

"We are fulfilling the promise we gave at Barnet 2000 to create a greener, brighter borough by planting a million new bulbs by the end of the decade," said Councillor Katherine McGuirk.

"So far this year we have already improved the appearance of 30 parks in Barnet by planting new bulbs and we would welcome any local families or schools coming forward who want to get involved in bulb planting in their area," she added.



THE PROMISE OF SPRING:

Councillor Katherine McGuirk and Councillor Allan Turner get stuck into bulb planting in Watling Park. They want to hear from anyone else keen to get involved in brightening up Barnet as the Millennium draws near.

SUNDAY OPENING For Golders Green

GOLDERS GREEN Library will open on Sundays.

It will open during a six month trial period between 2pm and 5pm, providing a Sunday service for the first time ever in Barnet which all library users can take advantage of.

A borough wide survey of library users found that a majority would like to be able to use a library on Sunday but the largest

number of people in favour used Golders Green.

Experience at libraries run by other councils which open on Sundays is that they are well-used by family groups and students in particular.

The library will offer a full range of services to local residents, enabling them to borrow books, videos, CDs and cassettes and use all the other facilities available during the rest of the week.

Business Directory

BUY LOCALLY and network to help each other - that's the message to Barnet businesses in the annual Barnet Business Directory. Your council tries to buy locally wherever possible, and the directory helps local businesses do the same. As well as a wide circulation among the local business community, the directory is now firmly established as a vital tool for companies seeking to do business in Barnet, and acts as a shop window for goods and services.

The first edition contained over 2,400 listings of Barnet businesses and we hope to expand in 1997 to include even more companies, large and small. To make sure your business is included, please contact the publisher, Raj Ramphul, on 01865 202760.



SILVER SCREEN PIONEER:

A plaque to one of the most important men in cinematography has been unveiled at Sydney Road, N10, to commemorate Robert Paul, a scientific instrument maker of Hatton Garden. Paul was the first Englishman to bring cinematography into the commercial field and filmed Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. In 1898 he purchased a four-acre field in Muswell Hill to build a film studio and later a film processing plant. The plaque was donated by Cinema 100, who regard it as one of the most important in their celebration of 100 years of British cinema. Our picture shows John and Margaret Dodd with their son Patrick who live at Sydney Road and Sid Brooks (far right) from Cinema 100.

Emergency Teams come to rescue during the Winter big freeze

BARNET COUNCIL'S emergency services team worked round the clock as they pulled out all the stops to help residents during the recent severe cold weather.

The council's emergency service controllers took action on 1,530 calls from local families between December 24 and January 5, bringing in off-duty staff to help cope with the sheer volume of work.

Barnet's Emergency Telephone Service never sleeps, operating out of office hours, through the night, on weekends, bank holidays and all through the year.

Calls can cover a wide range of problems including gas leaks, blown down trees, failed street lights, flooding, noisy parties and burglar alarms.

"Few residents are aware of the vital role played by the Emergency Telephone Service until of course something goes wrong," said Councillor Susette Palmer, Chair of General Executive Committee.

You need to ring 0181-359 2000 out of office hours to get help from Barnet's emergency service.

HELP AT HAND

Help is at hand for people concerned that those with mental health problems are missing out when it comes to incapacity claiming benefits.

A public meeting to look at this whole issue is set to take place on Wednesday, March 5 between 2 - 4pm at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QF.

Anyone who wants to help or take part can contact Irene or Suzanne at the Barnet Users Forum for Mental Health, Room 21, Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QF or phone 0181 371 9678

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BRENT CROSS
SHOPPING CENTRE

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

THE hard work of staff in the Chief Executive's Directorate at Barnet Council was rewarded when Mike Nixon, Chief Executive of the North London Training and Enterprise Council, presented Barnet Council's Chief Executive Max Caller with the prestigious Investors in People Award (see YUF Team gets its Investors Award too, page 13).

It is a particular achievement for such a large and diverse Department, over 400 staff work on services from Personnel to Public Relations, Legal to Information Technology, to receive this award.

"I am extremely proud and grateful to all my staff who worked so hard to achieve this. They have proved that they are committed to the council values and this award is a signal to the rest of the council and the community of this commitment," said Max Caller, Chief Executive of Barnet Council.

"This award sends a message out to all the other large employers in north London that it is possible for a large number of staff to achieve Investors in People and it is a reflection on the efforts of the Chief Executive's staff that they have gained this award," said Mike Nixon, Chief Executive on the North London Training

and Enterprise Council, who presented the award.

The investment in Investors in People is being reflected throughout the council with the remaining Departments - Education, Environmental Services, Community Services

and Finance aiming to get their awards by the end of 1997.

Investors in People is a national scheme which requires organisations to meet high standards of employee communication, training and development.



IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE:

Barnet Chief Executive, Max Caller (right), celebrates winning the Investors In People Award, with Mike Nixon, Chief Executive of North London TEC.

TOP MARKS

ST. PAUL'S CE School has become the first school in Barnet to win a Charter Mark for high achievement in education.

Charter Marks are given to organisations for excellence in delivering services to the public.

The award puts St. Paul's School, The Avenue, Friern Barnet, in the same league as some of the country's top companies and public service providers.

The Charter Mark acknowledges the high standards reached by a school which just four years ago was grappling with problems of scarce resources and poor staffing.

Now pupils, staff and parents are working together and have created

new opportunities for the children ranging from French and music to sport.

"This award has been won by everyone associated with the school - parents, staff, governors and children," said Head Teacher Chris Flathers.

"There is still much to be done but for me this award recognises our enthusiasm, hard work and very positive attitude towards education," she added.

Young News

ELECTION HELP

The council is issuing an appeal for volunteers both to staff Barnet's 200 polling stations on general election day and also to count votes overnight.

The opportunity is open to anyone over 18 who can read - except for those who are active in a political party.

Polling clerks issue ballot papers and tick electors off on the register. These volunteers get a briefing on the eve of the election and are expected to work from just before the opening of the polls at 7am on election day to 10pm when they close.

Counting clerks need to report for duty at 9pm on election day ready for the ballot boxes to arrive shortly after 10pm.

Fees are paid in each case.

Anyone who is interested in taking part on polling day should write to the Electoral Registration Office, Barnet Council, Ravensfield House, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4BE confirming that they are over 18, saying whether or not they have a car and if they have any previous experience as an election clerk.

PLANS are underway for a four page Community News insert produced by young people - with help from Barnet Council's PR department - and set to come out three times a year.

Barnet's Youth Service is setting about the task of asking young people to come along and join an editorial panel.

"This gives young people a chance to express themselves," said Jeff Salter of Barnet's Youth Service.

The first issue is scheduled to come out in April.

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War Memorial
Golders Green



Lawnmower shop . . . North Finchley



Watling area . . . Burnt Oak



Street Trader . . . Temple Fortune

BUILDING A BETTER BOROUGH

Your chance to help shape the future of your town centre.

There are currently vacancies on the:

- Barnet
- Edgware, Burnt Oak and Mill Hill and Golders Green and Temple Fortune town centre forums.

These forums, working with your council, are playing a major role in regenerating the town centres.

If you have ideas on how the centres should develop and a commitment to getting things done, we would like to hear from you.

Edgware, is under-represented on the Edgware, Burnt Oak and Mill Hill Forum. Nominations from groups/persons with a particular interest in the Edgware area-would be welcomed.

For more information and a nomination form please contact:

Paul Dodgson
Committee Services
The Town Hall, The Burroughs
Hendon NW4 4BG
Phone: 0181-359 2037

Nomination forms should arrive no later than 28 February, 1997

LET'S GO: SHOP AROUND



The Spires . . . Barnet



L'artista Restaurant . . . Golders Green



Watling Area . . . Burnt Oak





Broadwalk . . . Edgware

STEP OUT INTO BARNET'S SHOPPING CENTRES

— with local photographer, David Tothill who found much to explore through the eye of his camera.

Barnet's shopping centres have got the lot. They've got all the main national names on offer as well as shops, cafes and restaurants which are strictly individual, many with all the charms normally associated with a cathedral close.

Here are just a few of the attractions on offer.



Tally Ho Pub . . . North Finchley



Mamma Amalfi Restaurant . . . Edgware

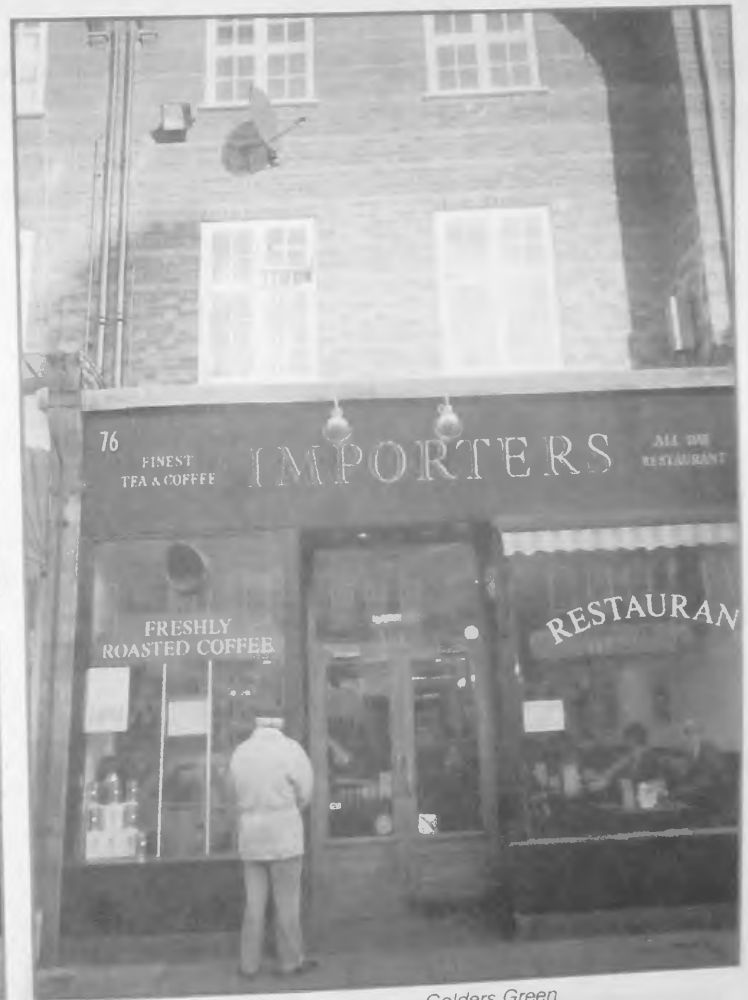
OUND IN BARNET!



Fine Arts Supplies . . . North Finchley



Dark room specialists . . . Finchley Central



Coffee importers . . . Golders Green

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IT'S COMING...

The Barfield Group, in conjunction with the local business community are compiling an interactive multi-media CD-Rom. Aimed at small and medium sized companies in the area, the CD will provide vital information on all aspects of starting and running a successful business.

If your company offers such business-to-business services, then a presence on the North London Business CD is a must.

For further information contact
Jeff King on:

0181 447 1000



Romantic Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

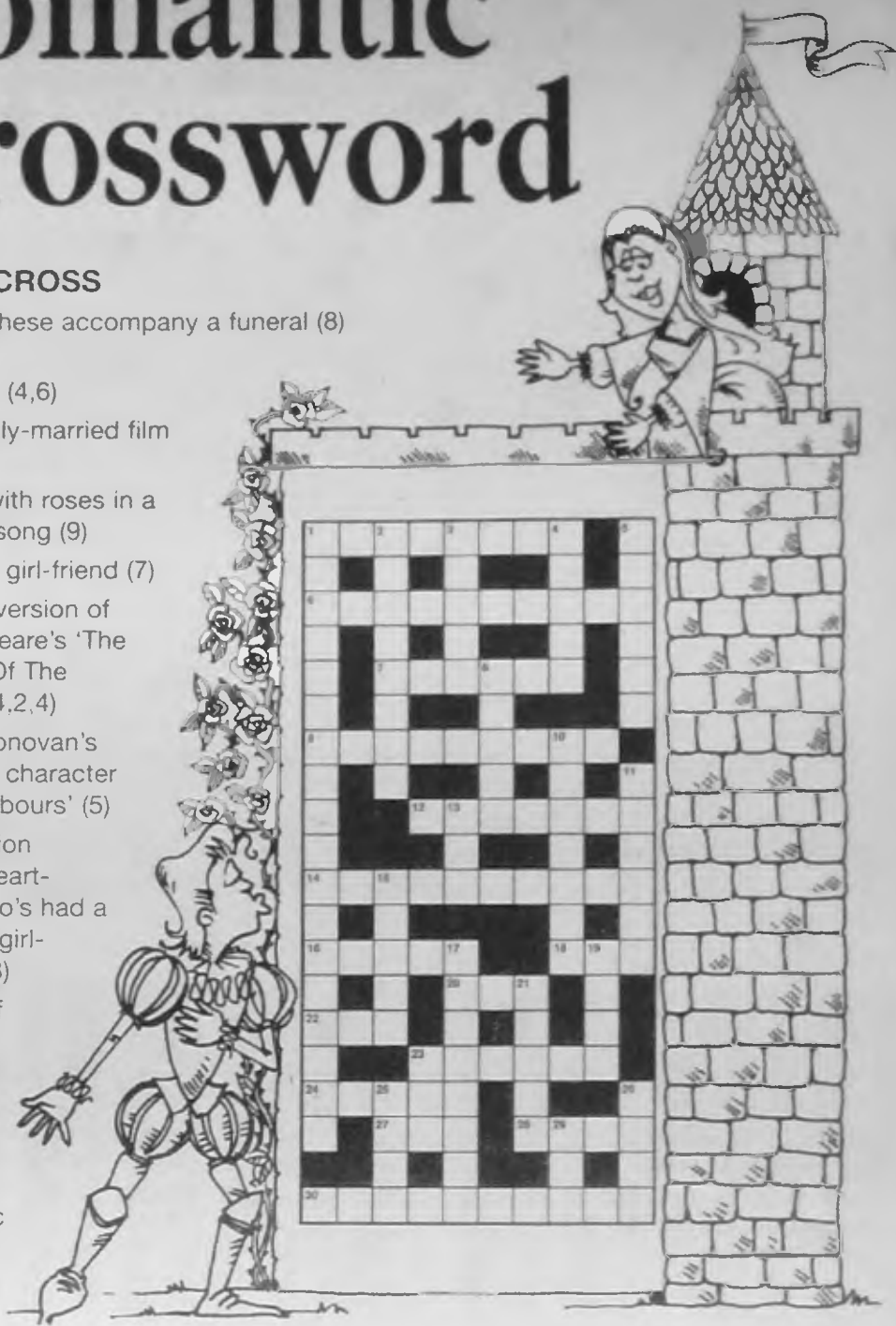
1. Four of these accompany a funeral (8)
6. Great romance (4,6)
7. Frequently-married film star (6)
9. It goes with roses in a popular song (9)
12. Hamlet's girl-friend (7)
14. Musical version of Shakespeare's 'The Taming Of The Shrew' (4,2,4)
16. Jason Donovan's romantic character in 'Neighbours' (5)
18. 'Coronation Street' heart-throb who's had a string of girl-friends (3)
20. Colour of romantic roses (3)
22. Original woman (3)
23. Romantic show-stopper from the musical 'Cats' (6)
24. This princess is twice-married (5)
27. John Lennon's 'woman' (3)
28. Dramatic king who gave his kingdom to his daughters (4)
30. This group had a hit single with 'Goodbye To Love' (10)

CLUES DOWN

1. 'Romeo and Juliet' playwright (7,11)
2. Loving dedication (8)
3. Country of Latin lovers! (5)
4. Drummer of 'She Loves You' group (5)
5. Twice a husband of 7 Across (6)
8. She portrayed Scarlett O'Hara in 'Gone With The Wind' (5)
10. Tulip country (7)
11. Loving embrace (6)
13. Bobby's wife in 'Dallas' (3)
15. Sex symbol from 'Basic Instinct' (5)
17. Romantic Bing Crosby song (4,4)
19. '- Lover', a 1985 No.1 for Bailey and Collins (4)
21. Strangely amusing (5)
23. A husband, in other words (3)
25. '- Song', a hit single for Elton John (4)
26. God of love (4)
29. Beauty is supposed to be in the - of the beholder (3)

ROMANTIC CROSSWORD ANSWERS

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 26. Eros | 29. Eye | 1. William Shakespeare |
| 21. Droll | 23. Man | 2. Devotion |
| 15. Stone | 17. True Love | 3. Italy |
| 10. Holland | 11. Carass | 4. Leigh |
| 4. Starr | 5. Burton | 8. Pam |
| 1. William Shakespeare | 2. Devotion | 13. Pam |
| DOWN | | 19. Easy |
| 27. Ono | 28. Leaf | 25. Your |
| 22. Eve | 23. Memory | |
| 16. Scott | 18. Des | |
| 9. Moonlight | 12. Ophelia | |
| 1. Weddings | 6. Love Affair | |
| ACROSS | | |
| 7. Taylor | 14. Kiss Me Kate | |
| 20. Red | 24. Royal | |
| 14. Kiss Me Kate | 30. Carpenters | |



We welcome contributions to the What's On column.

Write to: The Editor, Community News, Barnet Council, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG.

We reserve the right to shorten entries and no responsibility can be accepted for the accuracy of information supplied for the column.

Until 2 March 'The Boys - Triumph over Adversity', an exhibition about children who survived the Holocaust. The Jewish Museum, 80 East End Road, Finchley. Details. 0181-349 1143

February and March NLTEC have appointed Qnun Management Resource House Ltd to organise a series of half-day free business events targeting, but not exclusively limited to the minority black and ethnic communities in the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

If you run a small business or if you are thinking of entering the commercial arena this

programme will give you the information and know-how on a range of key issues. The events cover how to obtain finance, how to sell to and trade with the public sector, how to turn your hobbies into formal businesses and trading opportunities abroad. These events are being held at locations across the NLTEC region. For more information, call Andrew Boyce on 0171-405 6141 or fax on 0171-405 6142

13 February, 10am **Nature Trail Preparation.** For details contact British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, 0171-278 4294

13 February, 7.30pm **Barnet Borough Confederation of Tenants and Residents Association Meeting,** Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley. Also 10 April, 7.30pm

15 February, 4.30pm **Barnet Racial Equality Council's Education Sub-Committee Public Meetings** on Nursery School Vouchers. Old Barn Community Centre, Tarling Road, off Oak Lane, East Finchley, N2. Also 8 March, 1.30pm at Grahame Park Youth Centre, Cornermead, Grahame Park Way, NW9. The meetings are to discuss the issues involved, to inform parents about the most effective ways to use the vouchers and are targeted primarily at black and ethnic minority parents but all parents are welcome. Details,

0181-445 6051
17-21 February **Barnet Countryside Centre Half Term Holiday Activity Days for 5-11 year olds,** whole or half days. Also Easter Holiday Activity Days 24-27 March and 1-4 April. At Barnet Countryside Centre, Byng Road, Barnet. Details, 0181-449 6691

23 February, 10am **Coppetts Wood Ditch Clearance,** Coppetts Wood Open Space. For details, phone 01707-650041

8 March - 6 April **Exhibition 'Our Suburban Countryside'.** Find out about the walks, trails and wildlife - all on your doorstep. Following special events and activities for adults and children start at 2.30p and are free: 9 March, bird watching with Tony Hill; 15 March, plants and birds, lake part in a survey of the museum garden; 22 March, meet live owls with Ray Lindey-Jones; 23 March, enjoy pond dipping in the museum pond with guidance from Barnet Countryside Centre staff; 5 April, join a plant hunt through the garden, park and churchyard with Derek Haynes; 6 April, guided walk from the museum garden through Sunnyhill Park. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Tel. 0181-203 0130

8 March, 7.45pm **Hendon Music Society -** piano concert, Gordon Fergus-

Thompson. Also 22 March, 7.45pm, concert 'Cantata Roman of Sweden'. Also 26 April, 7.45pm, Nossek String Quartet. Trinity Church, Hodford Road, Golders Green, NW11. Tickets, £8.50, £5 children, £6.50 concessions. Details, 0181-203 2355. Tickets can also be booked through The Bull Arts Centre Box Office, 0181-449 0048

10 March, 2.45pm **Barnet and District Local History Society lecture** 'Buntingford Railway' with Barry Bridges at Wyburn Room, Wesley Hall, Stapylton Road, Barnet. Also 9 April, 7.45pm, 'Sir John Soane and his Collection' with Helen Dorey. Details, 0181-440 8066

16 March, 10.15am **Clay pigeon shooting.** Barnet Copthall Sports Centre, Great North Way, Hendon. £20. Also 30 March, 10am, rambles (3-5 miles) for over 40s, various starting points. £1.50. Details, 0181-457 9900

March & April **'Making Ladoos', Festival of Asian Arts and Culture.** Marks 50th anniversary of Indian Independence - includes mix of traditional and contemporary art forms spanning theatre, dance, comedy, visual arts, music, children's shows and workshops. The Bull, 68 High Street, Barnet. For information/free festival guide phone the Box Office on 0181-

449 0048. The Bull has regular performances in The Theatre and Studio, with special events on Sunday afternoons for children and also runs practical classes and an educational programme.

British Epilepsy Association, Barnet Branch meets 3rd Monday of every month except August from 7.30-9.30pm at Trinity Church Centre, Nether Street (Tally-Ho end) North Finchley, N12. This group is for people with epilepsy, their families and friends and welcomes newcomers. For information contact Irene on 0181-444 4453 or Ginny on 0181-445 8724

Barnet Branch of London & North Middlesex Family History Society meets every 3rd Thursday except December at Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, 7.30pm for 8pm. Details, 0181-449 1553

Library Book Sales. For details contact libraries on following phone numbers: Edgware 0181-958 5550; Osidge 0181-368 0532; South Friern 0181-883 6513; Childs Hill 0181-455 5390; Church End 0181-346 5711; Grahame Park 0181-200 0470; Mill Hill 0181-959 5066; North Finchley 0181-445 4081

Library Recorded Music Societies meet fortnightly (eves)- Hendon Library, The Burroughs, contact 0181-359

2873; East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Road, contact 0181-361 9518; Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road, contact 0181-444 7215

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (Potters Bar and Barnet Group) For details of events and activities phone Stan Bailey 01707 646073

Walks/Activities with Barnet Leisure Services. For more information and meeting points phone 0181-359 3052

23 February, 2pm 3km walk around countryside at Rowley Green aiming to see unusual plant life

23 March, 10am 2km moderate walk in Oak Hill Woods, East Barnet to see early flowers and bird life

23 March, 2pm 5km ramble in historic Hadley. See where Edward IV secured his crown in the battle that was to end the War of the Roses.

6 April, 2pm 3km stroll around the meadows of Mill Hill. Find out about the folklore associated with local wildflowers and other plants

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

Your council committees at work

List of Committee Meetings at The Town Hall, Hendon for the period 17 February to 24 April 1997 Commencing 7pm unless otherwise stated.



Disabled Access



Loop system

17 February **General Executive Committee** (Special Budget Meeting)

18 February **Social Services Committee** (Special Budget Meeting)

19 February **Recreation, Leisure & Arts Committee** (Special Budget Meeting)

20 February **Budget, Financing & Performance Review Executive Committee** (Special Budget Meeting)

24 February **Policy & Resources Committee** (Special Meeting for Council Tax)

24 February **Children & Families Consultation Forum** (Annual Conference, 10am, Avenue House, East End Road, N3)

25 February **Environmental Consultation Forum**

3 March **Family Care Sub-Committee**

4 March **Development & Protection Sub-Committees**

5 March **Education Forum,** Moss Hall Infants School, Moss Hall Grove, Finchley, 7.30pm

6 March **Council Mayoralty Meeting,** 6.30pm

Council Meeting - Council Tax Setting Special Meeting

10 March **Housing Committee**

11 March **Education Committee**

12 March **Grants Committee**

12 March **Planning & Building Control Consultation Forum**

12 March **Recreation, Leisure & Arts Consultation Forum**

13 March **Compulsory Competitive Tendering Executive Committee**

13 March **Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee**

17 March **Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee**

17 March **Community Care Consultation Forum** (Annual Conference, 2pm, Avenue House, East End Road, N3)

18 March **Social Services Committee**

19 March **Development and Protection Committee**

19 March **Metropolitan Police and Barnet Community Consultative Group** (time and venue to be arranged)

20 March **Economic Development & Land Executive Committee**

20 March **Public Works Consultation Forum**

24 March **General Executive Committee**

25 March **Public Works Committee**

26 March **Corporate Joint Consultation (Health, Safety and Welfare) Committee**

2 April **Personnel Executive Committee**

2 April **Road Safety Consultation Forum**

3 April **Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee**

8 April **Development & Protection Sub-Committees**

8 April **Barnet Town Centre Forum**

9 April **Policy and Resources Committee**

9 April **Environmental Consultation Forum**

9 April **Housing Consultation Forum**

15 April **Council Meeting**

16 April **Golders Green and Temple Fortune Town Centre Forum** (time and venue to be arranged)

17 April **Compulsory Competitive Tendering Executive Committee**

17 April **Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee**

24 April **Development & Protection Committee**



SAFETY FIRST:

Councillor Stan Cross, Chair of Public Works and Councillor Sheila Gottsche, ward councillor for Mill Hill, joined children and parents from St Paul's School, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill to officially open their new PUFFIN crossing outside the school. This new type of crossing detects how many people are crossing and the lights stay red until everyone has safely crossed. It will also only stop traffic if a resident is standing waiting to use the crossing. If they move away, detectors under the surface keep the lights at green, helping traffic flow.



HISTORICAL OCCASION:

It was a once in a lifetime day when Barnet Council's Church Farmhouse Museum hosted a special event. Six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren of the original owner of the museum converged on Hendon from all over the country to celebrate the official opening of a room devoted to the Dunlop family. Andrew Dunlop, who farmed land in the area, lived in Church Farmhouse until his death in 1904. He was also a JP and national judge at cattle shows. The Dunlop Room, which commemorates the family, will be used to put on local history exhibitions. On show at the moment is Dunlop family memorabilia, together with prints, photographs and paintings of Victorian and Edwardian Hendon.

Our picture shows Catherine Barbara Glen Dunlop (80) on the left, who lived at Church Farmhouse between 1935 and 1937, Andrew Dunlop who is the grandson of the first Andrew Dunlop and Councillor Katherine McGuirk (middle), Chair of Recreation, Leisure and Arts, looking at some of the family exhibits on show.

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YUF Team gets its Investors Award too

DEDICATION and hard work by Barnet's Youth Service have been rewarded with the prestigious Investors In People accolade – the second time a council department has gained the award in less than two weeks.

The award was announced shortly after the Chief Executive's Directorate was presented with its own Investors In People Award (see page 7).

The national award is given to organisations which have a proven track record in training and developing skills among their staff.

The Youth Service was able to show the assessors it had in place high quality training and developing skills among their staff.

These included a wide-range of in-house courses designed to give youth workers and other staff the skills needed to work successfully with young people in youth centres and on the streets.

ON HIS BIKE:

The Tower at Church Farm Youth Centre is now open for business.

Serving the area around East Barnet, Church Farm Youth Centre has long been a magnet for youngsters providing space for activities like snooker and table tennis.

By 1995 the club had outgrown the available space and the building of a new school nearby meant new accommodation had to be found urgently.

The old Water Tower on the site provided the ideal solution and Barnet Council gave the go-ahead to re-furbish the building, now open for all sorts of activities (see picture right).



BLOOMING SHOCK:

Georgina Keightley got a big surprise and a bouquet when she visited Grahame Park Area Housing Office recently. Mrs Keightley of Loraine, Grahame Park, was the 30,000th person to use the housing office opened to meet the needs of local families on the estate in March 1995, and received flowers from Chair of Barnet's Housing Committee Councillor Allan Turner.

GARDEN SUBURB INFANTS – Glowing Report

IN a glowing inspector's report Garden Suburb Infant School has been praised for its "happy and well cared for pupils and high education standards."

The report said the school's strength lies in the high quality of teaching by staff who plan well, make full use of their

DOING THE BUSINESS

Working with business to achieve more recycling of waste materials - that's a key priority for members of the Victoria Environmental Partnership (VEP).

This is the second area identified under Barnet Council's Local Agenda 21 programme, aimed to

improve the local environment, in line with international objectives to save the planet set by the United Nations Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Barnet is the only council in the country to tackle Agenda 21 on an area by area basis.

Other schemes in the VEP pipeline include working with the town centre forum and Chamber of Commerce on improvements to brighten the area up such as providing hanging baskets outside shops and businesses along Regents Park Road (from East End Road) and Ballards Lane through Finchley Central to Victoria Park.

resources and keep in close touch with parents.

The high expectations shown by the staff were responsible for ensuring pupils felt valued, safe and secure.

Garden Suburb Infant School, in Childs Way, Hampstead Garden Suburb, was visited by inspectors from education watchdog OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) who spent five days in October looking closely at every aspect of school life. Their final report has just been published.

With over 250 pupils – 40 per cent using English as a second language – the inspectors were able to single out for special praise the way the school used this rich cultural mix to the advantage of all.

The report made particular mention of exceptional standards reached in art, geography, English, science and history.

The report also focused on the excellent use made of outside activities such as visits to museums, galleries, parks and workplaces.

The school's positive atmosphere ensured children were well-behaved with a strong sense of right and wrong and good respect and tolerance for each other.

Head Teacher Diane Lewis welcomed the report saying the school was proud of its achievements and its close links with the local community.

"It is gratifying that all aspects of school life, and the contributions of everyone involved with the school, have been recognised as valuable to the children's well-being and progress," she said.



Well Well

LOCAL families are planning to set up a new group to work with Barnet Council to renovate a historic well in Barnet.

Known as both Pepys and Physic Well, it is a listed building in a green area between Well Approach and Well Road.

The well house is made of brick and timber and features a timber roof with felt tiles, timber shutters and a heavy timber door.

Residents are keen to set up a Friends of Pepys Well group, which would work with the council along the model of other successful Friends groups which have already been formed in borough parks. The group would play an active role in the restoration and maintenance of the well building.



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FMP 315 (May 1994)

Changes to Housing / Council Tax Benefit April 1997

Are you getting housing or council tax benefit? Do you have somebody else living in your household? If so you need to be aware you will have to pay more of your rent yourself as the amount that must be deducted from your housing and council tax benefits is to be increased from 1 April 1997.

There will be two new levels of deductions for Housing benefit and Council Tax benefit. The amounts to be deducted depend on the income of the other persons in your household. From April 1997 these deductions are as follows:

Housing benefit

Aged 18 or over and working	
Gross income £250 or more a week	£39.00
Gross income £200 - £249.99 a week	£36.00
Gross income £152 - £199.99 a week	£33.00
Gross income £116 - £151.99 a week	£17.00
Gross income £78 - £115.99 a week	£13.00
Gross income less than £78 a week	£7.00
All others on Income Support, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance or aged 18 or over and not in remunerative work	£7.00

Council Tax benefit

Aged 18 or over and working	
Gross income £250 or more a week	£4.00
Gross income £200 - £249.99	£3.50
Gross income £116 - £199.99 a week	£3.00
Gross income less than £116 a week	£1.50
Others aged 18 or over	£1.50

There will also be several changes to the way that Income Support, Housing and Council Tax benefit is calculated. These changes will take effect from 1 April 1997.

Currently the benefit paid for children goes up immediately following the 11th birthday, the 16th birthday and the 18th birthday. From April 1997 the increases will take effect from the first Monday in September following the 11th and 16th birthdays. There will no longer be a personal allowance for an 18 year old who is still dependent upon his parents.

There will also be no separate premium for lone parents. There will be an additional rate of family premium that will be included when benefit entitlement is worked out for lone parents.

Thinking of renting somewhere to live? Will you need help with the rent?

Before you take on a tenancy if you will need to claim housing benefit you should know that housing benefit will only meet in full rents which are around the general level in the area where you have chosen to live. If your rent is above this level you are unlikely to get all your rent from housing benefit.

If you are single and under 25 years of age the maximum rent which will be used to work out your housing benefit will be limited to the average cost of a non self contained room in the area in which you are thinking of living.

Do not get into debt. Before you take on a tenancy apply for a Pre-Tenancy Determination. You can get the form from the housing benefit office at Fenelia. This will give you the rent figure which will be used to work out your housing benefit entitlement.

TeamBarnet Leisure Management

Supported by Barnet & District A.C.
present

10k and Fun Run

In aid of the Mayor of Barnet's Annual Appeal
Homeless Action in Barnet

on

Sunday 16 March

At Barnet Cophall Stadium, Great North Way Hendon NW4 1PS

Fun Run 10.30am 10km 11.00am Closing Date for entries: 14 March 1997

A fast, flat, 2 lap race starting and finishing in the stadium. Extensive range of prizes including colour television, sports clothing and vouchers.
Prizes will be drawn at the presentation.

Entry Fee; Main Race: Affiliated £4.50 Unaffiliated £5.50 Fun Run £2.00. Entries on the day £1.00 extra for 10k



Entries to: Race Organiser, Barnet Cophall Pools,
Great North Way, Hendon NW4 1PS
(Please enclose SAE)



COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Telephone Numbers: all codes are 0181- unless otherwise indicated. No appointments are needed for those councillors holding regular surgeries. At Bank Holidays, surgery times may change. Please ring beforehand to check.

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

ARKLEY WARD

Anita Campbell (Lab) 440 2703
Pam Coleman (Lab) 449 6254
Linda McFadyen (Lab) 440 6254
1st and 3rd Monday every month 8-9pm
St Stephen's Church Hall, Bells Hill, Barnet
Every Saturday 10am-12noon
104 East Barnet Road, East Barnet

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

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

BURNT OAK WARD

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

CHILDS HILL WARD

Jack Cohen (LD) 445 3981
Jonathan Davies (LD) 203 6690
Susette Palmer (LD) 455 5140
1st Thursday every month (not 6 March) 7-8pm
Childs Hill Library, 320 Cricklewood Lane, NW2
2nd Tuesday every month 4-5pm
Kent Hall, Westcroft Estate, NW2

COLINDALE WARD

Danish Chopra (Lab) 449 3231
Gill Sargeant (Lab) 455 1070
David Williams (Lab) 343 1082
1st Saturday every month 2-3pm
St. Augustine's Church (small lounge),
Grahame Park, Colindale, NW9

David Williams 1st Saturday every month 10-11am
Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, Colindale

EAST BARNET WARD

Usha Chopra (Lab) 449 3231
Anne Jarvis (Lab) 449 9001
Richard Soer (Lab) 441 0170
1st Monday every month 7-8pm
New Barnet Residents' Association
48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet
Every Saturday 10am-12noon
104 East Barnet Road, East Barnet

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

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

EDGWARE WARD

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

FINCHLEY WARD

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

FRIERN BARNET WARD

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

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

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

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

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

HADLEY WARD

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

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

HALE WARD

Andrew Dickie (Lab) 906 2807
Every Saturday 10am-12noon
Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue

Leslie Pym (Con) 959 5484
Sheila Scott (Con) 906 0825
Contact councillors direct or
Tel. 959 1446
Fortnightly on Mondays 6.30pm
Hendon Conservative Association,
2 Apex Parade, Selvage Lane NW7 3JT

HENDON WARD

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

MILL HILL WARD

Wayne Casey (LD) 203 8189
Jeremy Davies (LD) 202 6105
Sheila Gottsche (LD) 959 3990
Every Saturday 1-2.30pm
Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue
Last Saturday every month 12noon-1pm
Canada Villa, Pursley Road, Mill Hill

ST. PAUL'S WARD

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

TOTTERIDGE WARD

Kevin Edson (Con) 446 8343
Victor Lyon (Con) 446 4423
Victor Usher (Con) 445 4248
Contact councillors direct or Chipping Barnet
Conservative Association
Tel. 449 7345

WEST HENDON WARD

Nicholas Kissen (Lab) 200 9861
Gina Marks (Lab) 959 0525
Agnes Slocombe (Lab) 202 4074
1st and 3rd Saturday every month
10.30am-12noon
West Hendon Clinic, West Hendon Broadway
(entrance in Perryfield Way)

WOODHOUSE WARD

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

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suggestions you have about Community News or if you have a problem with its delivery.
Please leave your name and a contact number with your message.



AHOY THERE

UP THE CREEK:

but keeping firm hold on her paddle, Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of Education Committee, enjoys an outing on the open waves with young people from Oakleigh School. The Welsh Harp Sailing Base was presented with four new Canadian canoes bought with a grant of £2,000 from the Prince's Trust. These will be used by young people aged 9-25 from schools and voluntary organisations. The canoes have been adapted so they can be used by children with special needs and can also take wheelchairs.



RIGHT, LEFT and RIGHT AGAIN:

These pupils from St Paul's School, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill have something to be pleased about, full story page 12.

RECYCLING PILOT

BARNET'S door-to-door paper collection has taken off and is heading for greater heights – of participation and quantities.

In the first week of collection, the participation (in the pilot areas) reached 70 per cent, and the average tonnage for the week was over two tonnes per day.

"This is good news for recycling and good news for the borough's residents. The more of the borough's waste paper that can be captured for recycling, the less waste will have to go to landfill," said Fred Woodworth, Barnet's Senior Engineer responsible for recycling.

People living in blocks of flats could not be included in the scheme immediately, but ways of collecting paper from these types of homes will be found.

As the scheme is introduced across Barnet residents are given a leaflet explaining the collection in advance of its beginning in their area. They are then given a box in which to store their paper for the fortnight between collections. Each box includes a sticker or leaflet setting out the actual dates of collection until the end of March. A specially marked calendar will be issued for April and beyond for each area involved by then.

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