

barnet first

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

FREE of charge Issue 14
DEC 2004-JAN 2005

Barnet's community plan

see page 14

Remember to recycle

see page 4

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2002-2003
Improving Urban Green Spaces
Libraries as a Community Resource
2003-2004
Community Enterprise

A message from Councillor Victor Lyon,

Leader of Barnet Council

Barnet Council aims to provide services of the highest quality to local people. We also want to provide high standards of customer care to residents that use our services. The council has always been proud of its levels of customer care but that does not mean we are complacent.

In a survey carried out earlier this year, most residents who responded said that Barnet Council was good at keeping them informed about its work and that they were generally satisfied with the services we provide. However, a high percentage felt that we needed to improve the way the council listens to their views.

On page 20 of this month's edition of Barnet First you will find our new Customer Care Charter. The Charter is a 12-point pledge that will ensure we provide better standards of service to customers and is just one of the ways in which we are improving the way we respond to residents' wishes. Everyone who lives or works in the borough uses some of the services that the council provides and it is the Council's intention that there will be a programme of continuous improvement.

Councillor Victor Lyon
Leader of Barnet Council

firstthingsfirst

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Apthorp Lodge opens

Apthorp Lodge, the borough's largest and newest care home for older residents, opened in October.

The second of five new care homes in Barnet, Apthorp Lodge at Nurseryman's Road, provides the very latest in care facilities and forms part of a £27 million six-year programme in which older facilities are being replaced with five new state of the art care homes and four modern day centres. The new facilities will provide more than 300 residential care places and 100 day care places for older people.

In a cutting-edge approach to providing care for the elderly, the council is working in partnership with Catalyst Housing Group and the Fremantle Trust. Many other councils closed their

care homes in the late 1990's when new care standards came into force.

Residents and their families have been involved in developing the new care home programme. They helped to select partners for the council to work with to improve its care accommodation to meet the new standards. Once work had started, residents were involved in selecting colours for the communal areas and the decoration of their individual bedrooms.

New resident, Marjorie Dowling and the council's Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, Cllr Fiona Bulmer, mark the opening of Apthorp Lodge with the burial of a time capsule



Fireworks exhibition

The 'Explosive History of Fireworks' exhibition is now on at Church Farmhouse Museum, Hendon, until 6th February 2005.

Photographs, postcards, advertisements, scrap albums, cigarette cards and hundreds of examples of fireworks from the nineteenth century to the present day allow the exhibition to plot the history of peaceful pyrotechnics.



Children's champions

Youngsters in the care of the council who are due to sit their GCSEs next year are to be allocated senior council managers to supervise their progress under a new scheme.

These managers – including Chief Executive Leo Boland, Director for Education and Children Jill Stansfield and Head of Children's Services Paul Fallon – take on the role of corporate parents to their charges.

According to Paul Fallon: "The most important thing that the council can do for the children in its care is to be a good parent and one of the responsibilities of parenthood is making sure that your children progress well at school.

"Children in care generally do far worse in terms of GCSEs than those not in care but Barnet has great expectations for the young people it looks after. This scheme will help ensure that these young people meet the Government's targets for passing exams."

Under the Education Champions programme the managers and their protégés will never meet however the officers will work behind the scenes, dealing with any problems that could hinder progress towards exam success next summer.

Cabinet Member for Children Councillor Christopher Harris adds: "A good education is vital for success in life and we are doing all we can to make sure the children in our care reach their goals."

Be green this festive season

Christmas and New Year celebrations always bring with them more rubbish. Why not use the following tips to reduce your rubbish over the festive season:

- ▶ Buy rechargeable batteries for children's toys and electrical goods
- ▶ Be more creative with your gifts and buy products made from recycled materials
- ▶ Buy products in bulk – as it uses less packaging
- ▶ Re-use plastic containers to store leftovers rather than using clingfilm, plastic bags or foil
- ▶ Save your favourite Christmas cards to make next year's gift tags or you can recycle them at your local library. Tesco and WHSmith will also have

special recycling bins in their stores throughout January. This collection will help to support the Woodland Trust – the UK's leading woodland conservation charity.

Want to know more?

Call Barnet's Recycling Hotline on 020 8359 7400 or check out the website www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling

News in brief

Green scene in Barnet

Even more households are now benefiting from Barnet Council's free garden waste collection service.

Green fingered residents in areas covered by the service have an extra wheelie bin specifically for garden waste, which is collected weekly and recycled into compost.

"The extension of this excellent scheme ties in with our commitment to creating a cleaner, greener Barnet," says Cabinet Member for the Environment Councillor Matthew Offord. "It's also perfect for those residents who don't drive so can't get to their local civic amenity site and who otherwise have real problems getting rid of their garden waste."

The council's successful bid to the London Recycling Fund resulted in a cash award making



the scheme expansion possible – 11,000 households became eligible to join in the autumn and another 33,000 homes should be able to opt in from early 2005. This is in addition to the 33,000 properties already benefiting from the service, launched in 2002.

"The council collected 22,637 tonnes of waste for recycling last year and of that more than 10% was green waste – a great success for a scheme that's only two years old," adds Councillor Offord. "We need to get more people into the recycling habit and I hope all eligible households decide to take part."

Another benefit cheat caught out

Barnet Council has prosecuted a resident who had cheated the council out of over £2,700 of housing and council tax benefit.

On 17th September at Hendon Magistrates Court, Lorraine Cleaver-Basco of Bedford Road, Finchley admitted that she did not tell the council she had been living abroad between December 2002 and May 2003, and was still claiming benefits.

Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Anthony Finn

said: "Barnet Council is committed to clamping down on benefit cheats. Weeding out the fraudsters who abuse the benefit system ensures that money is available to assist vulnerable members of the community."

Any residents who know or suspect someone of committing fraud against the council should contact the fraud hotline in complete confidence on 020 8359 2007.

News in brief

National recognition for 13 years of service

Barnet Link carers Celia and Giuseppe Cusmano were honoured at the House of Commons for thirteen years of volunteering.

A presentation was made to the Cusmanos in front of an audience of Lord Firkin, David Cameron MP, who is the parent of a disabled child, and families and carers from all over the country.

The presentation was a highlight of the Shared Care Network's launch on 20th October of a new national campaign to emphasise the positive effect short breaks have on the lives of disabled children, their families and carers.

Barnet Link is one of many similar schemes operating across the country which form the Shared Care Network.



Celia and Giuseppe Cusmano

Love and laughter at Fun Day

Miles of smiles abounded at Barnet Countryside Centre when over 60 disabled children, their families and friends gathered for the annual Barnet Link fun day on 19th September.

Mayor Councillor Wendy Prentice mingled with guests in an afternoon that included live music, a picnic tea, games, bouncy castle and face painting.

The event was an opportunity for the children, families and carers to come together and relax. It also showed prospective volunteers what Barnet Link is about.

The scheme offers short break respite care to disabled youngsters and their families by recruiting volunteer carers who give a few hours or more of their time a month. Councillor Christopher Harris, Cabinet Member for Children said: "Caring for a disabled child is very rewarding but can be extremely demanding. Barnet Link provides a vital service – it gives youngsters the chance to make new friends and broaden their experiences while allowing their parents a much-needed break."

Barnet's youngsters 'spurred' into action

PE classes in Barnet's primary schools will never be the same again, after a scheme between Barnet Council Health and Sport Development Unit, and Tottenham Hotspur Football Club kicked off in September.

Coaches from the football club will be visiting 30 schools across the borough (ten schools a term) this year, teaching children new football skills and improving their enjoyment of the game.

Councillor John Marshall, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, says: "Sport plays an extremely important part in young people's well-being and health and is key to their academic development. I am sure the scheme will be hugely popular and who knows Barnet could just produce the next Jermain Defoe!"



The first year of the school coaching project has been hailed a great success, with 3,861 children taking part. But the scheme also helps some of our teachers to learn tried and tested methods.

But the biggest surprise is yet to come, with the children set to visit Spurs' home ground – White Hart Lane – to play the other children who have taken part in the scheme at the end of the school year.

Barnet First

Barnet blooms again

Green-fingered and environmentally-conscious residents have helped Barnet win a silver award in the 'Large City Category' of this year's London in Bloom competition.

Overall third place in the 'Residential Trophy Category' was awarded to the Rosa Freedman Centre in Cricklewood, one of the borough's residential care facilities and sheltered housing schemes. The centre also came second in Barnet's own 'In Bloom' competition held this summer.

The competition was judged on horticultural excellence as well as on environmental awareness and initiatives such as litter clearance, recycling, composting and conservation.

The London in Bloom judges were impressed with the council's management of household waste recycling and garden waste initiatives, and felt that street cleaning in the borough was being carried out to a high standard.

Cllr Katia David, Cabinet Member for Culture, Community Engagement & HR, said: "This is a marvellous achievement for the borough and is recognition of the council's and community's efforts to make Barnet cleaner and greener."



The Rosa Freedman Centre came overall third in London in the residential category.

Politician paves the way

Chipping Barnet MP Sir Sydney Chapman has been recognised for his services to the borough with a road renamed in his honour.

Hadley Green Slip Road is now Sydney Chapman Way, following a ceremony this autumn headed by Barnet Mayor, Councillor Wendy Prentice.

Cllr Prentice says: "We are proud to mark the contribution of Sir Sydney to the borough. It is particularly fitting that it comes at this time as he is due to retire from Parliament at the next General Election having spent the past 25 years serving his constituency."

Local dignitaries including councillors, fellow MP Dr Rudi Vis and council leader Councillor Victor Lyon attended the event.

"Sir Sydney has been an influential supporter of Barnet for a quarter of a century, particularly in his

defence of the Green Belt. He was also instrumental in ensuring that Barnet Hospital remained in the borough during the late 1990s," says Councillor Lyon. "We are delighted to acknowledge his work and dedication to local people with this accolade."



Sir Sydney Chapman

Education for the future

An innovative five year ICT strategy for education was launched by the council in November.

The vision, to harness cutting-edge technologies as they are developed, will help link schools, libraries, and colleges allowing learners to access their work no matter where they are.

The strategy was launched at an exhibition at North London Business Park, where state-of-

the-art software was demonstrated by leading ICT companies. These included Dartfish software which records athletes in training and plays back in slow motion allowing analysis of their performance, face recognition software for electronic registration, and remote internet printing allowing users to select a document from one location for printing at another.

Social Services inspection results

Barnet's children's service has "excellent prospects", say inspectors.

A rigorous inspection by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) in July has concluded that vulnerable children and young people in Barnet are now receiving some of the best support in the country.

The Inspectors' report describes the Council's Children's services as "serving most people well with excellent prospects", putting Barnet in the top 15% of Children and Families services in the country.

Three years ago, the inspection highlighted concern with the service saying it had uncertain prospects. Since then the service has worked

tirelessly to improve standards across the board.

Paul Fallon, Head of Children's Services, said: "This achievement is due to the dedication and professionalism of all of my staff, led by the innovative approach of the management team.

"We are also now bucking national trends on the recruitment of social workers and foster carers through our imaginative recruitment campaigns, which have seen vacancy rates for social workers fall from 35% to 3% in just 18 months.

In addition the care of looked after children has improved by ensuring that more of them are cared within the borough.

"We have come a long way in three years."

Honourable Mention for Barnet's musicians

Barnet Council has received an Honourable Mention at the National Music Council's LEA Music Awards.

The awards commend good practice and innovation in music education and Barnet was recognised for what it has achieved during the year and of the potential for even bigger and better things to come!

This is a great achievement as it is the first year Barnet has put itself forward for an award and the council will be looking to better its performance in next year's scheme. Next year also sees 1,500 of Barnet's young musicians taking part in a concert at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday 24th April.



Orchestra wins honours

Holocaust Memorial 2005

The Holocaust Memorial Day event will be held on Sunday 23 January 2005 in Hendon Park, Queens Road, Hendon.

The theme for the 2005 event is 'Survivors, Liberation and Rebuilding Lives'. This year's focus on survivors and their testimonies stems from the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps.

Trude Levi, a Holocaust survivor, will be the keynote speaker at the event and there will be performances and presentations from the London Cantorial Choir, the Edgware Junior School Choir, children from QE Boys School and members of the Holocaust Survivor Centre.

Other Holocaust memorial events for 2005 include; the Church Farmhouse Museum exhibition, in Hendon, entitled 'I never saw a butterfly' starting on 24 January until 11 February and the 'Children of the Holocaust Memorial Snowdrop Project'.

This is the third year of the snowdrop scheme, which aims to plant 1.5 million snowdrops over time. One for each child that died in the Holocaust. Everyone in Barnet is invited to participate.

One snowdrop will be planted for every child that died in the Holocaust

Want to know more?

For more information call Renae Randle on 020 8359 2339 or go to www.barnet.gov.uk/holocaust.

day in the life of...

A town keeper

When Barnet First met Paul Curson, one of the borough's 13 town keepers, it was a cold wet Friday morning but he greeted us with a welcoming smile and a firm handshake.

Paul starts work at 6.30am every morning. His first task is to survey the streets and report back any serious damage to the council.

Paul has lived in Barnet most of his life and has worked for the council for ten years. He was a road sweeper for three years before he started his job as the Town Keeper, for North Finchley town centre, in January 2003.

"As a road sweeper I was reporting vandalism to the police, broken traffic lights to the Traffic Light Maintenance company and damaged telephone boxes to BT.

"So, when this job arose it seemed like a natural progression.

"The Town Keeper project simplified everything. We have mobile phones to call the office to report damage or serious street cleaning issues and people

can call me directly. Shopkeepers ring me if, for example, they have an illegal street trader outside their shop or rubbish dumped near their shop front."

Fly-tipping and graffiti

When Paul has finished surveying the local environment he starts to clean it. Emptying the litterbins, sweeping the pavements and gullies takes him about two hours.

"While I'm on my rounds I'll stop and talk to the local police, shop owners, street enforcement officers and local people.

"The majority of days are problem-free but, we sometimes come across issues like fly-tipping, wobbly pavement slabs and graffiti scrawled on bus stops by school children - 'I love Malcolm', that sort of thing.

"It's important that the pavements are kept clear; we



Since January 2003 Paul has removed 190 square metres of flyposters

have an organisation for the blind in the area, so sometimes I have to speak to traders about removing clutter from the pavement.

"I enjoy all aspects of my job. It's a friendly environment and I get to work with people from other services. I have also built up a good relationship with most local traders.

"My being here has made a real difference. Over the past year we've had hardly any graffiti or vandalism compared to three years ago when it was a much bigger problem.



Paul takes to residents and traders

Want to know more?

Telephone 020 8359 4600 to report environmental problems like street cleaning and graffiti

Walk your way to health

In this day and age it is all too easy to live a 'couch-potato' lifestyle, but Barnet residents continue to flock to a council-run programme of health walks open to the whole community.

Organised as part of the council's Fitness For Life initiative, there are now 15 scenic walks available, leaving at various times of the day from different locations. The instructor-led walks are fun, a great way to get fit and they are a good way to meet new people.

Walkers can be any age and level of fitness and the hour-long walks always include mobilising, stretching and muscle and joint conditioning exercises.

Betty Compton, a regular walker said: "I have been on

the Fitness For Life walks for six months now and enjoy every minute. All the instructors are excellent. Not only am I walking for my health but I have made lots of new friends."

Fitness For Life, which is run by the council and funded by the Primary Care Trust, has been helping local people get fitter since 1996.

Residents can choose to go on the walks or they can be referred to the team by health professionals.

Specialist instructors then devise an exercise program to combat anything from obesity,

back pain or osteoporosis to stress or sedentary lifestyles. This can include aqua aerobics, for the more adventurous, gym sessions and classes at the Cophall, Hendon and Compton leisure centres.

Jess Trowbridge, who was referred to Cophall almost nine years ago, said: "Nine years ago I was crippled with arthritis and house-bound. Now I am active and go to the gym twice a week, walking on the treadmills, cycling and using the weight machines. The instructors really are dedicated to the cause."

The team also runs a Cardiac Rehab Exercise programme, which was established six years ago and offers health assessments and 14 different exercise classes a week for residents who have suffered a heart attack or angina or have had a heart bypass.

The names of participants have been changed at their request.



People are flocking to the council run scheme

Want to know more?

If you would like to know more about Fitness For Life contact Katherine Thompson, Health and Fitness Officer for Fitness for Life, on

{ 020 8359 7817

Jawed's amazing journey to success

Success stories in Barnet's schools are not hard to find. Great effort is made so that local children and teenagers are given the best grounding possible for their later life.

But once in a while a story comes along that captures the imagination.

Jawed, an 18-year-old Bishop Douglass student, left Afghanistan four years ago, leaving behind his family, and travelled by bus to the safety of Pakistan, dreaming of a better life and education in England.

He had witnessed atrocious scenes he would rather forget and had feared for his life on many occasions.

It was some months before he finally made the trip to England, not speaking a word of English and terrified for the safety of his family, whose home in Kabul had been destroyed in the fighting between the allies and the ruling Taliban regime.

A Levels and GCSEs

Now, two years later, and with the help of Barnet's education and housing services, Jawed is speaking to his family on a regular basis, all of whom lived through the fighting, and he is studying two A Levels and two



“England is a fantastic place. The people are so nice and friendly and I love the language”

AS Levels in Year 12 with an excellent grasp of the English language. He is also hoping to settle here permanently.

This follows a remarkable achievement earlier in 2004 when, despite his lack of English, he managed to gain 8 GCSEs.

Jawed said much of his success was down to the school and particularly The Barnet Refugee Induction Course organised through the Minorities Achievement Project (MAP) when

he joined the school in September 2002.

The courses have now been run in five schools in the borough and are open to pupils between the ages of 11 and 16 years for whom English is a new language. The course consists of two lessons per week of subject specific English.

Jawed said: “I could not understand English at all when I arrived, so school life was very difficult. But I began to make

friends and the induction course really helped me to improve my English and gave me confidence to speak up in class. Before I was so shy and couldn't understand anything that was being said.

"England is a fantastic place. The people are so nice and friendly and I love the language. Every day I read books and watch TV to improve my English."

Making the grade

Jane McNamara, the Head of English as a Second Language and Ethnic Minority Achievements Co-ordinator at Bishop Douglass, has been helping Jawed with the English language and said the induction course is extremely useful to students.

She added: "These students can suddenly find themselves thrown in to five hours of lessons a day and not understand a word. The induction is a way of easing them in to the language.

"We are really very pleased with how Jawed has done. He is an exemplary student and his achievements so far have been incredible. He has made the best out of a very difficult situation."

Sofia Ali, Refugee Education Consultant for MAP, said: "We have been running induction courses in some secondary schools in the borough for some time now and they have been a great success.

"Jawed has done remarkably well and made amazing progress for someone who arrived in this

country relatively recently with English as a new language. It is a phenomenal achievement.

"This shows how the council is promoting a supportive and inclusive environment in our schools which will give our pupils opportunities in education, regardless of their background."

Jawed turned 18 in November and hopes, along with the rest of Bishop Douglass, that he can remain in England.

He said: "I would be very worried about going back to Afghanistan. I remember it being very scary. Of course I miss my family. The last time I saw them was five years ago. But I want to stay in England because of the good education and become an engineer one day."

A year of leisure ahead

A little over indulgence during the festive period rarely does any harm. But if you want to get back on the road to fitness Barnet Council and its leisure partner, Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL), are only too happy to lend a hand.

There are six leisure centres in the borough (including the newly refurbished Finchley Lido Leisure Centre), as well as a swimming pool complex. All are already benefiting greatly from the long term partnership between the council and leading leisure trust GLL.

How about a spot of Pilates at Burnt Oak Leisure Centre in Edgware? Or perhaps your child is a budding football player, in which case the GLL Football Academy based at the Copthall

Leisure Centre on the Great North Way is the place to be.

A programme of activities especially designed for older residents is held at a number of locations across the borough, but if gyms and weight machines aren't for you, a more relaxing atmosphere can be had at the Church Farm Swimming Pool, which has sporting and social activities throughout the week, including a water workout.

Whatever your whims over the coming year, they are all catered for in Barnet.

For information log on to www.gll.org

Barnet Burnt Oak Leisure Centre
Watling Avenue, Edgware
HA8 0NJ. 020 8201 0982

Barnet Copthall Leisure Centre
Great North Way, Hendon
NW4 1PS. 020 8457 9900

Church Farm Swimming Pool
Church Hill Road, East Barnet,
Herts EN4 8XE. 020 8368 7070

Compton Leisure Centre
Adjoining Compton School, off
Summers Lane, North Finchley
N12 0QB. 020 8361 8658

Finchley Lido Leisure Centre
Great North Leisure Park, High
Road, North Finchley N12 0AE
020 8343 9830

Hendon Leisure Centre
Marble Drive, off Claremont
Road, Brent Cross NW2 1XQ.
020 8455 0818

Queen Elizabeth's Leisure Centre
(with Queen Elizabeth's Girls
School), Meadway, Barnet EN5
5RR. 020 8441 2933

Barnet First

You can contact the council in a number of ways:

For general enquiries, or if you know the name of the person or section you want to speak to, call 020 8359 2000.

Visit the council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk for information on all services including contact details and telephone numbers. For more detailed enquiries on all council services or local community information call or visit first.contact@barnet.gov.uk

at: The Town Hall
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Last Tuesday of every month, Edgware Library, Hale Lane, HA8, 5.30-6.30pm

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(020) 8959 5921 cllr.j.scannell@barnet.gov.uk
Last Tuesday of every month, Edgware Library, Hale Lane, HA8, 5.30-6.30pm

FINCHLEY CHURCH END WARD

MICHAEL FREER (Con)

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

EVA GREENSPAN (Con)

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

LESLIE SUSSMAN (Con)

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

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

VANESSA GEARSON (Con)

(020) 8455 8759 cllr.v.gearson@barnet.gov.uk
4th Monday every month, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, 6pm-7pm

JOHN MARSHALL (Con)

(020) 8445 2597 cllr.j.marshall@barnet.gov.uk
4th Monday every month, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, 6pm-7pm

JAZMIN NAGHAR (Con)

(020) 8458 2466
conservative.grp@barnet.gov.uk
4th Monday every month, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, 6pm-7pm

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

MELVIN COHEN (Con)

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

ABA DUNNER (Con)

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

CHRISTOPHER HARRIS (Con)

07949 592 512 cllr.c.harris@barnet.gov.uk
2nd Sunday every month, Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Also 4th Sunday every month, Hendon Sports Centre, 12noon-1pm

HALE WARD

STEVEN BLOMER (Lab)

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

BRIAN GORDON (Con)

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

DAVID MENCER (Lab)

(020) 8922 6955 cllr.d.mencer@barnet.gov.uk
1st Sunday every month, 2.30pm-3.30pm, Edgware
Library, Hale Lane

HENDON WARD

MAUREEN BRAUN (Con)

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

ANTHONY FINN (Con)

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

MATTHEW OFFORD (Con)

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

HIGH BARNET WARD

KATIA DAVID (Con)

(020) 8445 1410 cllr.k.david@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-
12noon

KANTI PATEL (Con)

(020) 8446 6639 cllr.k.patel@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Conservative
Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-12noon

WENDY PRENTICE (Con) MAYOR

(020) 8364 9249 cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-
12noon

MILL HILL WARD

WAYNE CASEY (LibDem)

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

JEREMY DAVIES (LibDem)

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

SEAN HOOKER (LibDem)

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

OAKLEIGH WARD

ROBERT NEWTON (Con)

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

BRIAN SALINGER (Con)

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

GERARD SILVERSTONE (Con)

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

TOTTERIDGE WARD

**BRIAN COLEMAN (Con) DEPUTY MAYOR
GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR
BARNET & CAMDEN**

(020) 8349 2024 cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Barnet House, 1255
High Road Whetstone, N20, 10.30am-12noon

KEVIN EDSON (Con)

(020) 8447 1910 cllr.k.edson@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Barnet House, 1255
High Road Whetstone, N20, 10.30am-12noon

VICTOR LYON (Con)

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
(CONSERVATIVE GROUP LEADER)
(020) 8446 8253 cllr.v.lyon@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Barnet House, 1255
High Road Whetstone, N20, 10.30am-12noon

UNDERHILL WARD

FIONA BULMER (Con)

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3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Conservative
Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-12noon

ANITA CAMPBELL (Lab)

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

PETER DAVIS (Con)

(020) 8449 8968 cllr.p.davis@barnet.gov.uk
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet Conservative
Association, 163 High St., EN5, 10.30am-12noon

WEST FINCHLEY WARD

KITTY LYONS (Lab)

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

KATHY McGUIRK (Lab)

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

JIM TIERNEY (Lab)

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

WEST HENDON WARD

ARUN GHOSH (Lab)

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Saturdays, West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh
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AGNES SLOCOMBE (Lab)

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

ANSUYA SODHA (Lab)

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

WOODHOUSE WARD

ANNE HUTTON (Lab)

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10-11.30am

MARK LANGTON (Lab)

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

ALAN SCHNEIDERMAN (Lab)

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

CONTACTING YOUR MPs

CHIPPING BARNET

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FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN

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HENDON

ANDREW DISMORE
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Hendon, NW4 4AX
(020) 8202 2122

GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY

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

Progress report

Barnet's Community Plan

Every council has to prepare a strategy to improve the well-being of their area. This strategy is developed with the wider community and other local public services and is known as a Community Plan.

You may remember that we published a questionnaire last year in Barnet First, asking for your views on the priorities to be set out in the Community Plan for 2003-2006. Over 4000 local residents and organisations responded, and we were delighted with your level of interest. Your comments were very useful in developing a Plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of Barnet.

The Plan is now a year old, and is overseen by Barnet Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), which brings together the council, local businesses and voluntary agencies and the main providers of local public

services. The LSP and council have reviewed our performance against the targets in the Plan. What follows will show you how we are performing on those issues that are important to you. All the information covers the year from 1st April 2003 to 31st March 2004.

We hope you find this summary useful and informative.

Councillor Victor Lyon
Leader of the Council

Tom Nathan
Commercial Director, Brent Cross
and Chair of Barnet's Local
Strategic Partnership

Fostering an enterprising community

Aim: Major investment in infrastructure and regenerating key areas

- We made good progress against the timetables on our infrastructure projects (Cricklewood/Brent Cross; estate regeneration)
- The LSP has been stimulating the development of a regulated evening economy in North Finchley

Aim: Getting the Borough moving - improving transport and accessibility

- Satisfaction levels with public transport in the borough increased
- We met our targets on schemes to ease traffic congestion
- Road and pavement repairs made steady progress

A secure and supportive community

Aim: Making Barnet the safest borough in London

- Fear of crime is still a big factor for local people but has fallen since the last residents' survey as an area of concern
- Reoffending rates by young people fell, ahead of our target
- In 2003/4 there were slight increases in street and vehicle crime and a slight decrease in burglary

Aim: Developing civic pride and individual responsibility

- Voluntary activity continued to increase as did the number of organisations belonging to Barnet Voluntary Service Council
- We held successful programmes of environmental education and cultural activity
- We need to work harder on improving access, celebrating diversity and involving young people in their community



Aim: Ensuring a good climate for business

- A North London Inward Investment Agency has been established
- We received funding from the London Development Agency for local projects, including a Golders Green business improvement project

Aim: Fostering enterprise through learning opportunities in school/college and the workplace

- We still need to identify more opportunities for Modern Apprenticeships with key local employers
- There has been a growth in young people learning basic skills and attending successful employer focused training programmes



A learning community

Aim: Helping children and adults to realise their full potential

- Universal education was made available for all 3 year olds and the Sure Start programme was rolled-out
- The People's Network is fully operational
- There is still progress to be made on targets for the educational attainment of Looked After Children and school attendance

Aim: Helping our diverse community to access innovative, high quality learning

- Participation in adult learning is widening through initiatives such as family learning
- We made progress on schemes for 'extended schools' for wider community use

Aim: Improving services for young people

- Some Connexions service

targets were met, although there were difficulties with collecting accurate data and information

Aim: Delivering a first class education service for the 21st Century

- We had mixed success in meeting targets for pupil attainment at the different Key Stage targets in Summer 2003

An environmentally-responsive community

Aim: Protecting Barnet's green spaces

- We held to our commitment to protect the green belt
- Satisfaction levels with Barnet's green spaces were maintained

Aim: Ensuring a borough that is cleaner and free of litter and graffiti

- Local people were much more satisfied with cleansing services than last year
- We made steady progress on graffiti removal across the borough

Aim: Successful recycling

- We increased recycling levels, making progress towards longer-term targets
- Local residents are much happier with the service

Aim: Providing homes and successful communities of choice

- We met most of our housing needs targets and we are awaiting funding to ensure all homes meet the Decent Homes standard



- Satisfaction levels with Education Services held steady
- We reduced the percentages of over-16's who were not in Education, Employment or Training

Aim: Improving services for those with learning difficulties and other Special Education Needs (SEN)

- We reduced Out of Borough placements and prepared statements more quickly where necessary
- We still have work to do to reach our targets on the attainment levels of adult learners with disabilities



Healthy and caring community

Aim: Ensuring accessible and responsive health and social care services for all our communities

- Waiting times: 79% were seen in Accident and Emergency within four hours, which was a significant increase on the previous year. Four hours is a government-set target that the council hopes to see reduced
- 100% of our targets were met on waiting times to see Primary Care professionals
- The number of children looked after by the local authority has fallen
- There was a mixed picture from different surveys on the public view of whether local health services were improving
- Most health and care targets were met that relate to particular groups, such as older adults, people with learning difficulties, physical disabilities and sensory impairment.

Aim: Delivering better services for people who have mental health needs

- The majority of targets set by the Mental Health Partnership Board were met or are on course to be achieved

Aim: Encouraging individuals to take responsibility for their own healthier communities and targeting health action at the vulnerable

- Many activities made progress, including healthy schools, fitness for life, screening services, and Sure Start
- We did not fully meet our smoking cessation targets

To find out more or request a full list of targets, Please Contact: Andrew Nathan, Corporate Performance Office, Barnet Council 020 8359 7029 or andrew.nathan@barnet.gov.uk

What's open in Barnet Council and when

Block cleanse

Block cleansing of every street, complete with free skips, takes place three times a year.

For further information please visit our website www.barnet.gov.uk/block-cleansing or call 020 8359 4600.

We notify all residents by letter at least one week in advance of the date of the block cleanse. Residents can take their Christmas trees to the skips provided during the January/February block cleanse.

Libraries

All libraries will close at 1pm on Friday 24 December and will remain closed until Wednesday 29 December. On Wednesday 29 and 30 Thursday December normal

opening hours will resume. All libraries will close at 5pm on Friday 31 December and remain closed until Tuesday 4 January when normal opening hours will resume.

Church Farmhouse Museum

The museum will be closed on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 December. On Monday 27 December normal opening hours will resume until Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 January when the museum will be closed. On Monday 3 January normal opening hours will resume. Please note that the museum is closed on Fridays.

Customer Care Unit

The Customer Care Unit (020 8359 4600), which takes residents' calls on street based issues such as road and pavement subsidence, street lighting, street cleaning, refuse and recycling services will have the following opening hours over the festive period:

Friday 24 December – 8am-4pm

Saturday 25 – Tuesday 28 December – closed

Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 December – 8am-6pm

Friday 31 December – 8am-4pm

Saturday 1 January – Monday 3 January – closed

Tuesday 4 January – 8am-6pm



Regenerating Barnet

Major plans to regenerate neighbourhoods in Barnet have picked up pace in recent months.

Schemes are getting underway to provide better quality housing and community facilities for residents of the Grahame Park and Stonegrove estates.

Under Barnet Council's regeneration masterplan the redevelopment of four priority housing estates and the Cricklewood, Brent Cross and West Hendon area will take place over the next fifteen years, subject to planning permission.

The strategy will allow Barnet to protect the green belt that makes the borough such an attractive place to live, whilst meeting a growing demand for new homes and revitalising the local economy.

At Grahame Park, outline planning permission has been granted for 3,000 new homes along with a new library, nursery, community centre, and shops. The estate will also feature an eye-catching central boulevard and attractive open spaces.

Northern Gateway

At Stonegrove the redevelopment will provide many hundreds of new homes, healthcare facilities, a community centre, and a rebuilt church. To further boost the area, the Edgware School will be redeveloped into a brand new City Academy.

On both estates, there will be a combination of social, shared-ownership and private homes to develop a genuinely mixed community. In both cases, the redevelopment will be of great benefit to the entire surrounding area as well as residents of the estates.

Plans for further regeneration will go before the planning committee in the new year. The vision for the Cricklewood, Brent Cross and West Hendon area is to create a new northern gateway into London that the capital can be proud of. Proposals include a new town centre with major shopping and leisure facilities, 7,500 new homes, an additional main line railway station, and a new bus station.

The West Hendon estate will be redeveloped to provide 2,200 homes in a discreet location overlooking a reservoir and site of special scientific interest. At Dollis Valley refurbishment of homes and redevelopment of flats is likely, along with a new school and community facilities.

The council's approach to handling the massive regeneration projects in the borough have been praised by the Audit Commission, the Government's local authority watchdog. Inspectors found that Barnet's regeneration strategy was based on good consultation with residents, strong partnership working, and a commitment to creating high-quality developments.



A new vision for Grahame Park

Charting our customer care pledges

Barnet Council's commitment to providing residents with the best customer care possible is laid out in a new 12-point pledge – the Customer Care Charter.

The charter is set to increase and improve the levels of customer service provided by Barnet and spells out the way the council will treat its customers - pledging responsiveness, commitment and courtesy.

All council buildings will display the new charter.

“The charter is a minimum standard and our over-riding aim is to always deliver the level of customer service that our residents expect.”

Councillor Katia David, Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Culture, Community Engagement and Human Resources, says: “The Customer Care Charter builds on an already impressive level of service to ensure that our customers are well served. It is important we have consistent and effective standards of customer care that are understood by everyone.

“The charter is a minimum standard and our over-riding aim is to always deliver the level of customer service that our residents expect.”

Want to know more?

Visit www.barnet.gov.uk or

020 8359 2277

Our standards set out clearly how you can expect to be treated when you contact us:

1. When phoning us we will answer courteously and aim to answer within 25 seconds or nine rings
2. We will resolve queries or respond to letters within ten working days
3. When writing to you we will always use plain language
4. If you contact us via the Contact Us service on our website, you will receive an acknowledgment within two working days
5. We will keep appointments on time
6. We will always be easily identified by wearing a name badge
7. We will always be courteous, respectful and polite
8. We will always respect the diversity of our customers
9. We will always deliver what we say we will
10. We will apologise if things go wrong and do our best to put them right
11. We will aim to meet our deadlines, and keep you informed of progress when handling complex enquiries or complaints
12. We will always listen to your feedback, act on it and respond.

what's on

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

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

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

Barnet First Magazine, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG, fax: 020 8359 2677 or email: susan.segar@barnet.gov.uk

Barnet First is delivered to over 130,000 homes and businesses in the borough. The next issue is out in February.



11 December - 2 January

Kazzum, in association with *artsdepot*, presents 'Pinocchio'. A contemporary adaptation of the original Italian tale about the 'boy-puppet' who runs away from the master carpenter only to find himself caught up in all kinds of mischief until he finally fulfils his dream of becoming a real boy. Set against a stunning backdrop of innovative staging, combining circus skills, puppetry and magical carpentry. For ages 4+ and their families. **21-24 December, 2 pm, pre-performance workshops. 5 December-2 January, Fevered Sleep** transform the gallery into 'The Field of Miracles' a magical interactive installation for all ages inspired by the story of Pinocchio. For more details about these events and other theatre, dance, music, comedy and spoken word activities, exhibitions, courses and classes at *artsdepot* phone 020 8369 5454 or log onto www.artsdepot.co.uk

► Leisure/Pastimes

Church Farmhouse Museum
Greyhound Hill, Hendon NW4.
Open Monday - Thursday 10am-1pm and 2-5pm; Saturday 10am-1pm and 2-5.30pm; Sunday 2-5.30pm. (Closed 25 & 26 December and 1 & 2 January).
Admission free.
Phone 020 8203 0130.

Until 6 February The Explosive Story of Fireworks

The origins of fireworks are obscure, but they have been used in China for festivals since earliest times, and have long had an important place in



many different cultures. The exhibition, the first on this subject for some years, is based on an extensive private collection, and includes posters, advertisements, photographs, programmes, postcards and prints, and hundreds of examples of fireworks from the 19th Century onwards.

**Until 9 January
Dolls' Houses**
A small exhibition of stunning

dolls' houses, dressed and furnished by Anne Styles, author and television set-designer.
6 December - 6 January.
'Christmas Past'. The museum's 1850s Dining Room decorated for a Victorian Christmas and accompanied by a small display of dolls and toys with Christmas and pantomime themes.

17 January - 11 February I Never Saw Another Butterfly

A display of pictures and writings by children caught in the Holocaust in Europe in the 1930s and 1940s. (An exhibition to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January).



5 December, 11am-4pm Barnet Town Centre Christmas Party

Reindeer plus other animals, synthetic ice skating rink, funfair rides, charity and trade stalls, children's entertainment area of Karaoke disco, balloon modelling, craft workshop, face painting, Santa's grotto and stage with music and activities.

Barnet 18plus

Barnet 18plus, non-profit making sports and social club for 18-35 year olds.

**5 December
Wheel of Fortune;**

**11 December
Xmas meal;**

**12 December
Bring a Game Night;**

**18 December
Pub Night;**

**19 December
Xmas Party Night;**

**27 December
Winter Walk;**

Barnet First

1 January
Bowling;

2 January
Quiz of the Year;

8 January
Barnet Plus Disco;

9 January
Bring a Bingo;

16 January
Cheese;

22 January
Pub/Food Night;

23 January
Quick on the Draw;

29 January
Play Bingo;

30 January
Blockbusters;

Future events include a trip to Prague and a weekend at Center Parcs, Longleat. See website for details: www.barnetplus.com or contact Mark on 020 8361 2827.

11 December, 7.30pm
Barnet Anglo-French Club Christmas Party

Free glass of wine. Ewen Hall, Wood Street, Barnet. Phone 020 8440 6805 for more details.

31 December, 8pm-12.30am
New Year's Eve Dance

Ballroom, Latin American and Sequence. Singles and couples welcome. Christ Church Hall, 620 High Road, North Finchley, N12. £10 pre-book, £11 at door. Tickets include light buffet. BYOD. For more details phone John on 020 8444 0280 (and for details of Sunday Tea Dances).

9 January, 2.30pm

Pubs, Pomp and Paupers
Historical walk in High Barnet. Meet outside Barnet College, Wood Street, Barnet. Cost £5. Phone 020 8440 6805 for more details.

Line Dance Class

meets Thursdays 8.45-10.30pm at Sacred Heart Church, Flower Lane, Mill Hill, NW7. £3. Beginners welcome. For more details phone 020 8445 6580.

Kixa Self Defence Classes

Non contact, non aggressive self defence classes. Learn effective self defence, reduce stress, keep fit, and improve stamina. **Thursday evenings, Watling Community Centre, Edgware, 7.30-9.30pm.** Beginners welcome. Ages 12-60. For more information phone 07956 600148.

Belly Dancing Classes for beginners and intermediates with a Turkish professional teacher. Learn techniques to tone muscles as well as basic belly dancing movements in Turkish, Egyptian and Arabic choreography styles. Fun classes. **Thursdays and Saturdays** at David Lloyd Leisure Centre, North Finchley, and **Sundays** at Chipping Barnet Library. Places and times may change. Call Aylin Hansen on 07766 446008.

► Arts

Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture (MoDA)

Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet EN4 8HT. Open **Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm** (Closed from 20 December to 3 January inclusive). Tel. 020 8411 5244. Free entrance. www.moda.mdx.ac.uk

Two exhibitions until 20 March 2005

Woven Splendour

Italian textiles from the Medici to the modern age. MoDA has recently twinned with the Museo del Tessuto, Italy (first exchange exhibition). Italy is, and has long been, at the centre of luxury textile production, from the rich silks and velvets woven for noble families such as the Medici in the 15th Century to the technical innovations of the 19th and 20th

centuries. This exhibition brings a selection of these glorious fabrics and explores their use in furnishing European interiors over the centuries.

Telling Tales

An interactive display asking for your views about the stories that MoDA tells (and doesn't tell) and invites you to help shape future activities and events.

More Museum events:

4 December, 10.30am-4pm

Back to the Drawing Book

Conference re-examining furniture and furnishings 1760 - 1950, focusing on the less well-known firms and the cultural contexts of furniture design. £35/£25 conc. Lunch included. For more information contact Abigail Addison on 020 8411 4394.

29 January, 10am-4pm

Silk Painting for Adults

£25/£20 conc. Payable in advance. For more information contact Annabel Hunt on 020 8411 5441.

1-3 December, 8pm; 4 December, 2pm & 6pm

The Good Companions ADS presents

'Sing a Song of Sixpence'

A pantomime adapted from an original script by Rex Walford and Iris Lloyd. John Keble Hall, Deans

Lane, Edgware. Box Office: 0845 241 0364.

1 December-15 January
Chicken Shed Theatre Company presents 'Peter Pan'

Take a band of bloodthirsty pirates and Captain Hook, Tiger Lily and her Never Natives, a fairy with attitude, some feisty lost children, a ticking crocodile and a boy who never grows up and it's a magical experience. This dynamic company will transport you to Neverland in an adventure for the young at heart of all ages. **Chicken Shed Theatre, Chase Side, Southgate, N14 4PE.** Box office: 020 8292 9222.

2-5 December

Garden Suburb Theatre perform 'Dracula' by Bram Stoker

adapted by John Godber and Jane Thornton. Closely based on the original novel *Upstairs at The Gatehouse*, junction of Hampstead Lane and North Road, Highgate N6. Box office: 020 8340 3488. Also **3-6 February 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'**, adapted from C S Lewis at Henrietta Barnett School, Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11. Phone 020 7721 6609 for bookings/enquiries



Mill Hill Jazz Club

Wednesdays, 8.30pm

at Mill Hill Sports Club, Grahame Park Way, NW7. **Free events:**

Giorgio Serci Trio (8 December);

Christmas Party Blues Jam (22

December); Frankie Verney

Group (5 January); Salamander

(12 January); Stolen Moments

(19 January). 15 December, The

Sophie Garner Quintet performs

"Straight ahead jazz from the

swing era" with exciting

arrangements of established and

lesser-known jazz classics. Sophie

was runner-up in the prestigious

Perrier Young Jazz Vocalist of the

Year competition in 1998, has had

two CDs released and has appeared

on the BBC, Carlton and Channel 4.

8pm doors. Tickets on the door

£4/£2 for members.

For more information about Mill

Hill Jazz Club events phone 020

8958 4823/4824.

6-11 December

Incognito Theatre presents 'Alarms and Excursions' by Michael Frayn

Hilarious modern comedy of eight short plays examining the difficulties that modern technology has added to life; Also 24-29 January, **'Sons and Mothers'** by Gillian Griffiths. A new work often funny but also moving examining the relationship between two older women and their sons. Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road (behind Health Centre), Friern Barnet, N11. For more details and tickets phone 020 8361 8310.

**Finchley Art Society
8 December, 7.30pm**

Demonstration by John Harris - Watercolour and Gouache

Carey Room, Trinity Church Centre, Nether Street, N12. Spring term starts 10 January at Trinity Church Centre (sessions Mondays 7.30-9.30pm) and 12 January at St. Mary's Hall, Hendon Lane, N3 (sessions Wednesdays 12.30-3.30pm). For more information phone 020 8445 4765.

**11 December, 7.30pm
Finchley Choral Society's 'Christmas Cracker'**

Carols and Christmas music for all the family. Joined by the South Hampstead High School Chorale. St Mary-at-Finchley Church, Hendon Lane, N3. Tickets £8 adults; £1 children. Box office: 020 8445 9666 or at the door.

**11 December, 7.45pm
Hendon Music Society presents the Maggini String Quartet**

Laurence Jackson, violin; David Angel, violin; Martin Outram, viola; Michal Kaznowski, cello and Margaret Fingerhut, piano. Programme: Britten: 3 Divertimenti; Haydn: String Quartet Op. 76. No. 1; Arnold: Phantasy; Elgar: Piano Quintet. John Keble Church, Deans Lane, Edgware. £14/£12 conc. Young people in full-time education up to age 22 FREE, courtesy of Cavatina Chamber Music Trust. To book phone 020 8203 2355.

**11 December, 7.45pm
Tudor Symphony Orchestra Concert**

Programme: Vaughan Williams Overture; Brahms Double Concerto; Haydn 'Clock' Symphony. The Trinity Church

Centre, 15 Nether Street, North Finchley, N12. Tickets (£7.50 adults/£6 conc./Under 14s £2) at the door or to reserve phone 020 8954 7302.

All Saints' Arts Centre, Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, N20. Phone 020 8445 8388.

**11 December, 8.30pm
Later with Dadzone**

A group of dads that includes the composer Marc Folan, Paul Sadler who was the rock correspondent for the 'Big Breakfast Show' and Bruce Byron who's in 'The Bill'. £8/in advance £6; 18 & 19 December, 7.30pm. **'Starmakers'**.

Children's Theatre Group's End of Term Show. £5/in advance £4; **18 December, 7.30pm.**

Da Capo. Christmas Concert - the music of Holst, Vaughan Williams and Cole Porter. £8/in advance £6.

**12 December, 7.30pm
Finchley Chamber Choir and Finchley Chamber Orchestra present 'The Glory of Christmas'**

Programme includes Handel - Zadok, The Priest; JS Bach - Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring; Cox - Christmas Fantasia; music by Tchaikovsky, Delius and Mascagni and favourite carols for all to sing. Musical director David Lardi. Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12. Adults £10/£7 conc. £3 children. For more details and tickets phone 020 8440 1899.

► Talks

**11 January, 8pm
Hendon and District Archaeological Society. Lecture 'Colchester: follow up to summer visit' by Kate Orr**

Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3. For more information about HADAS and its activities phone 020 8361 1350 or email: mary.rawitzer@ic24.net

Anglo-Italian Circle of Barnet.

A group of people who share an interest in Italian art, literature, history and music. Meetings consist of a talk (in English) on an aspect of Italian culture, followed by a refreshment break before a discussion (in Italian) about a short Italian 'novella'. Visitors welcome. For more details phone 020 8205 5611.



4 December, 8pm

Germaine Greer in conversation

An evening hosted by Alex Kasriel, the Barnet Times Arts Editor. An opportunity to talk with, and listen to, the candid and witty agenda-setting author. Book-signing over wine afterwards. £20/ in advance £15. All Saints' Arts Centre, Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, N20. Phone 020 8445 8388.

► Under 18s

Children's Yoga Class for ages 7-11. Mondays, 5.45-6.45pm. Scout Hall, Badgers Croft, N20. Phone 07976 901371 for more information.

Theatretrain Barnet for ages 6-18. Dance, singing and drama classes, Saturdays, 10am-1pm. For more details phone 07821 179509.

► Miscellaneous

Until 30 January
An exhibition 'Connections - Hidden British Histories' detailing Britain's Asian, Black and Jewish Communities' shared experiences of immigration and settlement. It also celebrates the music, comedy, food and language of the three communities, challenging traditional stereotypes and promoting greater cross-cultural understanding. The Jewish Museum, Finchley, The Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road, London, N3 2SY. Open Monday-Thursday 10.30am-5pm, Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm. (Closed 24 December to 3 January). Admission: £2, £1 conc. Museum Friends free. Group visits and educational programmes welcome by prior arrangement. For more information about the exhibition and events, phone 020 8349 1143.

Home-Start Barnet
Could you offer friendship to a Barnet family? Do you know what it's like being a parent or carer? Can you volunteer a few hours a week? To find out more, contact Home-Start

Barnet, which supports Barnet families with at least one child aged under five. Come to an open evening on 2 December (6.30-8pm) or morning 11 January (10-11.30am). Details from 020 8371 0674 or Linda@homestartbarnet.org

**11 December, 7.30pm
Barnet Band Concert**
Local group playing light classics and popular music including Christmas music. At Queen Elizabeth School, Queens Road, Barnet. Raising funds for Alzheimer's Society, Barnet Branch. For tickets £7 (incl. interval refreshments) or more details phone 020 8201 3828.

**15 December, 7pm
Edgware Chiropractic Clinic** at 96 Edgware Way, is holding a FREE back and spinal care class. Call 020 8905 4440 for more information and dates of classes in 2005.

**Starting 10 January, 7-8.15pm
A six-week pregnancy yoga course.**
Suitable from 16 weeks of pregnancy to birth. St Agnes Centre, Gillingham Road, Cricklewood, NW2. £45 for course. For more information and booking phone Varsha on 07764 159318.



Refuse Collection

Please ensure that your wheeled bin is placed on the boundary of your property by 6.30am on your scheduled day of collection.

Monday 27 December	normal service
Tuesday 28 December	normal service
Wednesday 29 December	normal service
Thursday 30 December	normal service
Friday 31 December	normal service
Monday 3 January	normal service

For further information call 020 8359 4600, quoting ref: RC04

Black Box Recycling Collection

The black box scheme collects: glass bottles and jars, newspapers and magazines, food and drink cans, textiles, shoes, engine oil, car and household batteries, foil, mobile phones and Yellow Pages. Please put excess materials in carrier bags and place next to your black box.

Your black box must be placed on the boundary of your property by 7.00am on your scheduled day of collection.

Monday 27 December	normal service
Tuesday 28 December	normal service
Wednesday 29 December	normal service
Thursday 30 December	normal service
Friday 31 December	normal service
Monday 3 January	normal service

For further information or to order a box call 020 8371 3670, quoting ref: BB04

Green Garden Waste Collection Service

There will be no collections from Saturday 18 December to Friday 7 January inclusive. Collections restart on Saturday 8 January. Please ensure that your green wheeled bin is placed on the boundary of your property, by 6.30am on your scheduled day of collection.

For further information or to order a green bin call 020 8359 7400, quoting ref: GGW04

Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, N12

The site will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day only. The opening hours of the site are Monday to Saturday 8 am to 4 pm and Sundays and Bank Holidays 9 am to 4 pm.

At the site you can recycle over thirty different items and general waste is also accepted. For further information call 020 8362 0752, quoting ref CA04

Recycle your Christmas Tree

If your household is taking part in the Green Garden Waste scheme, please leave your tree by the side of your green wheeled bin where it will be collected. You can also take your tree to one of the following sites from Tuesday 6 January to Monday 17 January:

- ▶ The Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, N12
- ▶ Daws Lane car park, NW7
- ▶ West Hendon Playing Fields car park, NW9
- ▶ Watling Park, behind the recycling banks off Abbots Rd, HA8
- ▶ Clitterhouse Playing Fields car park, off Claremont Rd, NW2
- ▶ Barnet Playing Fields car park, off Barnet Lane, next to the Cricket and Hockey Club, EN5 2DW

For further information call 020 8359 7400, quoting ref: TC04

