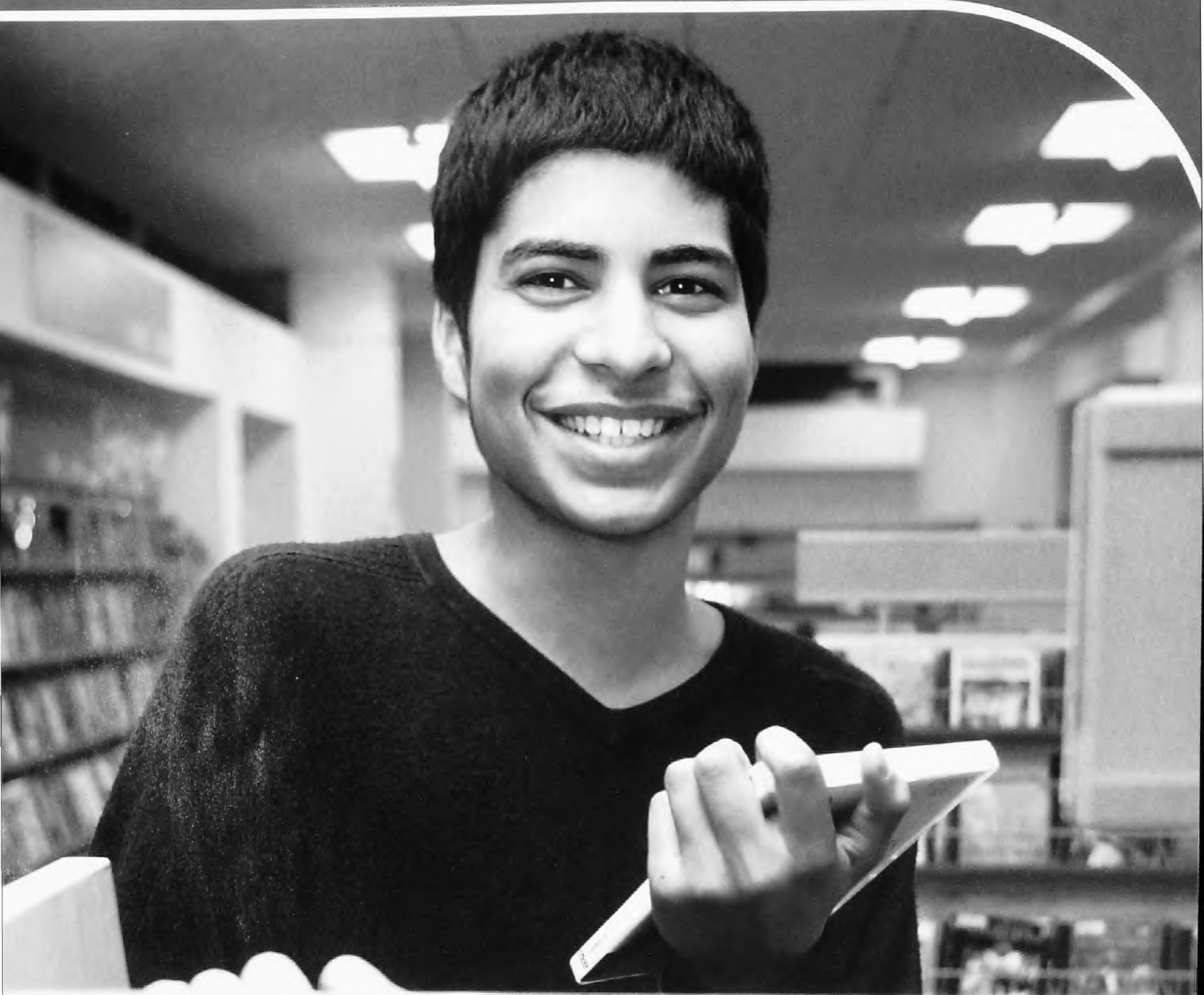


BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

barnetfirst

www.barnet.gov.uk

issue 34 November/December 2008



Something for everyone!

The new and improved Burnt Oak Library reopens

- see page three

contents



3 Barnet's first major library opens its doors



4 Spotlight on your ward – Totteridge



6 Where does your recycling go?



7 Regenerating Barnet



8 Brokers for change



9 Barnet Civic Awards 2009



10 Don't play with fire



11 Resource centre gets a new lease of life



12 Barnet roots out London's oldest tree



16 Town Hall restored to its former glory

Production details

Barnet First is your magazine, bringing you news and features about what your council is doing for you. For editorial and advertising enquiries, or to make comments about the magazine, please contact Sue Cocker on 020 8359 7039 or sue.cocker@barnet.gov.uk

Barnet Council does not accept responsibility for any goods or services offered by advertisers. Publication of an advertisement does not imply recommendation by the council of any goods or services advertised. Copies of Barnet First are delivered to every home in the borough. The magazine is printed on 100% recycled paper and can be recycled after use. The cost of designing, printing and distributing each magazine is just over 10 pence per issue.

Barnet First is also available in **large print** or on audio tape.
Designed by [hey moscow](http://hey.moscow) 020 8869 1420 hey.moscow.com

Message from the Leader

Welcome to the November/December edition of Barnet First. This comes at a time when many of us are beginning to look back on the successes of the past 12 months and forward to our aspirations for the new year.

I am pleased to say that for Barnet Council, 2008 has been a year of notable achievement in significant areas such as regeneration and modernising our libraries, and particularly for our plans to provide Barnet's children with a bright future.

Barnet is blessed with great schools, many are top performers in the country, and that is why we are investing millions in our new First Class Schools, or refurbishing many of our existing schools.

In fact, 2009 will see the opening of the new primary schools at Whitings Hill, Parkfield and The Hyde, as well as the new Underhill Children's Centre. Redevelopment will be completed at Edgware Junior School, and work will be well underway on the new East Barnet secondary school.

The builders will also move in to provide a new school at Broadfields, and even more new schools are in the pipeline, to ensure that the council delivers on its pledge to guarantee our children the best possible start. So you will see a great deal of activity at sites across the borough in the coming months. At the end of it all we will have schools we can be proud of and excellent facilities which the community can share.

It is a time of great change and one which will bring great benefits for Barnet.



Barnet's first major library opens its doors

The builders are out, the books are in and the floor is down. The new bigger, and better, Burnt Oak Library is now open.

The ground floor has been transformed into a state-of-the-art customer service centre with experienced staff on hand, while the first floor has been turned into a 'Leading Library' with facilities for all the family.

The customer service centre has been developed to serve the growing number of residents in the west of the borough that need to access council services, including Housing Benefits, housing advice and Council Tax.

There is also a self-serve machine for people wanting to pay bills, and a free repair line for Barnet Homes tenants. In addition, the Citizens Advice Bureau holds surgeries once a week and there is an array of forms and information available about other council services in Barnet.

The library, which has been enhanced, has a dedicated children's section and wi-fi throughout. It is also DDA compliant, which means people who find it difficult to get about because of a disability will be able to access all the services by using the newly-installed lift and ramps between floors.

There is also an array of books, CDs and DVDs to borrow and loads of activities planned throughout the year, including story time and baby rhyme time for toddlers plus discussion groups for eager readers and talks from local authors and historians.

Membership is available to anyone living in the borough, so for



those of you who haven't yet joined please call in to the library and see what's on offer.

Opening hours have been extended and the library and customer service centre are now open all day Saturday and late on a Thursday. This has been introduced to improve convenience and accessibility for local residents.

For further information, please call the customer service centre on 020 8359 2000.

Flag raising marks Olympic handover

As the Olympics drew to a close in the summer, the Mayor of Barnet took part in an official flag raising to mark the handover of the showpiece sporting competition from Beijing to London.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games co-ordinated with authorities nationwide to arrange for special London 2012 flags to be raised simultaneously around the UK as the baton was passed to the capital marking four years of preparation ahead of the 2012 Games.

In Barnet, the Mayor, Councillor John Marshall, alongside his Mayoress, Rosie Daniels (pictured), raised the flag at Copthall Stadium in Hendon, during the Southern Inter-Counties South of England Athletics meeting, with some of the region's top young athletes.

The flag raising ceremony was timed to coincide with the closing ceremony in Beijing.

A similar event was held in September to mark the Paralympic handover from Beijing to London.



New rating system shows high quality of care in Barnet

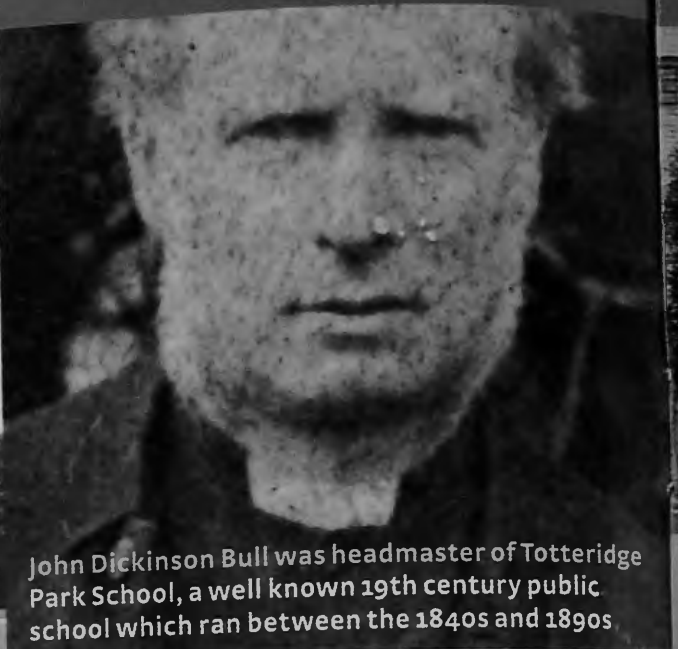
If you are looking for a residential or nursing care home or care service, a new rating system introduced by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) can help.

The system gives members of the public and professionals an "at a glance" look at the quality of a care home or care service with ratings ranging from one to four stars (or poor to excellent). In order to award an appropriate star rating, services are inspected by trained inspectors who visit the service, often unannounced. For example, if it is a residential care home, they inspect various aspects of the service including the quality of care, the training levels of care staff, the cleanliness of a home, the variety of activities available and the quality of the catering.

Residential homes and home care services within the Barnet Council area are rated as high quality with over 90 per cent scoring either good or excellent, which is positive news for those looking for residential or home cares for their family and loved ones.

To find out more, visit the CSCI website - www.csci.gov.uk. You can also contact CSCI on 0845 015 0120 or email enquiries@csci.gsi.gov.uk

Copped Hall. Cardinal Manning, the first Roman Catholic Primate of England, was born here in 1808



John Dickinson Bull was headmaster of Totteridge Park School, a well known 19th century public school which ran between the 1840s and 1890s

Light on your ward

Totteridge

In this issue we turn the spotlight on to Totteridge, the second largest of Barnet's 21 wards.

The name Totteridge is Saxon in origin and means Tata's ridge - but the earliest records are from the 13th century. There is an ancient yew tree in the church yard of St Andrews in the ward which is thought to be up to two thousand years old.

The area gained popularity, being well connected to London, to merchants and others from the city. From the 16th century through to the 19th a number of large houses and estates were established there.

The parish registers, kept since 1570, mention various trades more associated with towns such as High Barnet, including soap makers, and those involved in the making of clothes, as well as farmers.

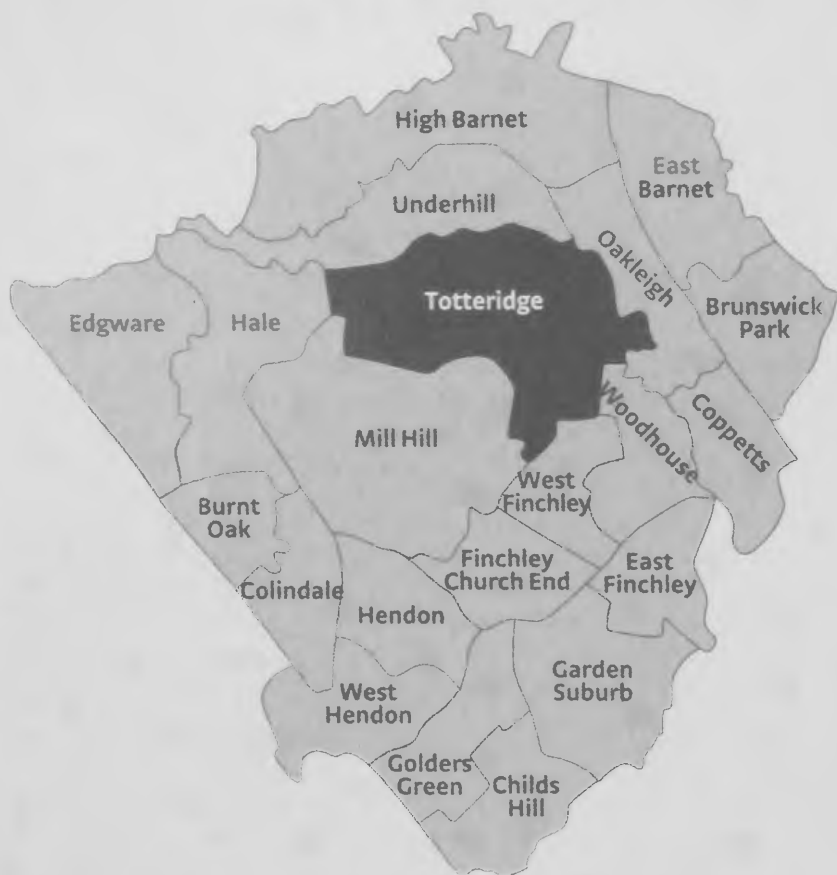
The population was unremarkable, remaining in the hundreds, and even declining a little after the opening of Totteridge and Whetstone Station in 1872. Until the 1900s, the number of houses remained low, but the arrival of the tram and private cars in the 1900s opened the district to an affluent commuting population.

A large section of the eastern part of the parish developed into semi-detached housing and by the 1930s a great many large suburban detached houses had been built along Totteridge Lane and Barnet Lane. There were even some suburban streets, such as Oaklands Road, Northcliffe Drive and Grange Avenue. Post war Green Belt laws stopped the further development of Dollis Valley and Totteridge Valley, which now provide pleasant rural walks.

The ward of Totteridge is larger than the old parish of Totteridge and includes parts of Whetstone and Woodside Park.

In April 1872 the station opened, and shortly afterwards, in June, 45 acres of the Woodside estate was sold as "Torrington Park", and advertised for sale in The Times newspaper. In 1877, a man called Henry Holden inherited the land, and it was he who developed what we know as Woodside Park. Holden built an assembly room, Woodside Hall, in 1885 which was converted into Woodside Park Synagogue in 1950.

West of Dollis Brook, and north of Folly Brook, the Woodside Park Garden Suburb was built between 1929 and 1939. The original builder was FJC Ingram. By 1936, The Leyland Construction Company was also selling houses south of the Folly Brook. Both these builders knew that there were plans to electrify the railway and connect it to the Tube line.





Woodside Station originally opened as Torrington Park on the Great Northern Railway. It is one of the best preserved station buildings in the borough

Did you know.....?

- Totteridge is the second largest of Barnet's wards – covering 8.7 sq km
- there are more Chinese people living in Totteridge than any other Barnet ward
- over 12 per cent of the ward's population say they work from home – the second highest percentage in the whole of Barnet
- at 2.3 per cent, Totteridge has proportionately fewer unemployed residents than other Barnet wards.

* Figures taken from 2001 census.

The Brookside Walk was established by Finchley Council during the 1920s, with the last sections purchased in 1931. North of Folly Brook, Woodside Park Club (1934) was established to serve residents of the Garden Estate.

Famous people associated with the ward include the Puget Family, a notable family of dissenters who provided a chapel and school for the area, and were responsible for the construction of the first brick bridge over the Dollis in 1804. Cardinal Manning, the first Roman Catholic primate of England, was born in Totteridge. Harry Vardon, the famous golfer and winner of the US Open, worked at South Herts Golf Club; and Holden Road was the residence of the famous comedian Spike Milligan and Spice Girl Emma Bunton.

To find out more about the history of Totteridge, contact:
Barnet Local Studies and Archives Centre
80 Daws Lane
Mill Hill
London
NW7 4SL
Tel: 020 8359 3960. Email: library.archives@barnet.gov.uk

If you've enjoyed this series of ward spotlights, you may be interested in finding out more about where you live from our Pocket Histories. These cover the whole of the borough and can be found on our website: www.barnet.gov.uk/archives-histories

What's in Totteridge?

Parks and open spaces

- Barnet Playing Fields, Barnet Lane.
Facilities include: play area, basketball hoop and cricket
- Brook Farm Open Space, High Road
- Darlands Lake Nature Reserve, off Totteridge Lane (wildlife)
- Swan Lane Open Space, Woodside Lane (children's play area, water feature)
- Whetstone Stray, Totteridge Lane (wildlife interest)
- Woodridge Nature Reserve, Michaelham Down

Schools

- Queenswell Infant and Nursery, Sweets Way
- Queenswell Junior, Sweets Way
- St Andrew's CE, The Green
- St John's CE, Swan Lane
- The Ravenscroft, Barnet Lane
- Woodridge Primary School, Southover

Allotments

- Brook Farm North, High Road
- Brook Farm South, High Road
- Rathbone, Oakleigh Road North
- Whetstone Stray, Holden Road

Other services

- Recycling bring bank – Waitrose car park, Totteridge Lane

Your councillors

As with all of Barnet's 21 wards, Totteridge has three elected members, or councillors, who have been elected by the ward's residents to represent them. Councillors are elected for four years at a time.

Councillor Brian Coleman (Conservative)

has been a ward member since 1998. He is currently Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Community Safety and is also the London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden.

Tel: 020 7983 4366

Email: cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk

Councillor Richard Cornelius (Conservative)

joined the council in 2006. He was Deputy Mayor in 2007/08 and is currently Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance.

Tel: 020 8445 5886

Email: cllr.r.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk

Councillor Caroline Margo (Conservative)

was elected in 2006. She sits on a number of council committees including Planning and Environment Committee.

Tel: 07956 277534

Email: cllr.c.margo@barnet.gov.uk

Meet your councillors

Barnet's councillors hold regular advice surgeries to give residents the chance to discuss any topics they wish to raise. You can meet your Totteridge councillors on the third Saturday of every month between 10.30am and 12 noon at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone. No appointment is necessary.



Where does your recycling go?

You've taken the time to sort out your recycling, but do you know where it goes once it leaves your black box?

While some local authorities in the UK don't know the final destination of their recyclable materials, Barnet Council can trace exactly where they all go and how far they have travelled.

The council operates a 'source separated' collection system, which means your recycling is sorted and categorised at the kerbside, so non-recyclable items can be left behind and the materials provided to reprocessors (the people and companies who actually make use of the recycled materials) are high quality and clean.

Once sorted, aluminium is sent to the AMG steel plant in Llanelli, Wales, to be made into aluminium cans, while glass bottles and jars take a short journey to Harlow, Essex, where they are turned back into glass bottles by O-I Manufacturing Limited. Other low mileage recycled items include mobile phones, which go to the Tree House Trust in London, and paper which is sent to Aylesford Newsprint, Kent.

This autumn Barnet Council will further improve its commitment to recycling when it increases to 14 categories from 12 the number of items that residents can recycle at home (see below).

To find out more about exactly what happens to your recycling, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/black-box-destinations

Watch out for your new blue recycling box

Our new recycling service will be expanding this autumn for Barnet residents.

Those of you who live in houses can expect to receive a new blue recycling box within the next few weeks, which is to be used alongside the existing black box.

The new service will begin on 17 November and will include a collection of plastic bottles and cardboard in addition to the items already collected.

Those who live in flats and have communal recycling bins will also benefit from the new service, but this will be implemented gradually over the next 12 months.

So keep an eye out for your new recycling container and a letter with details of the new service, which will both be delivered to your home shortly.

If you have any further questions, please call Rachel Jones on 020 8359 7441.

Q. How do you turn an aluminium can into an orange? A. Recycle it!



Keen recyclers in Barnet have helped to plant 154 orange trees in Malawi through their environmentally friendly actions.

The innovative scheme, which is being run by the not-for-profit organisation Alupro in partnership with the council, rewards the amount of aluminium cans recycled by planting trees in Malawi.

As residents recycled more than 150 tonnes of aluminium cans between July 2007 and June 2008, Alupro, in conjunction with the UK charity Ripple Africa, planted 154 trees in specially created nurseries in the country's rural communities.

The nurseries are run by local garden clubs and schools, and are also used to grow guava and pawpaw as well as lemon rootstock.

Barnet's contribution helps to bring to 48,000 the number of fruit trees which will be planted in Malawi this year as a result of cans being recycled throughout the UK.

Regenerating Barnet

Regeneration is proceeding apace on major sites in Barnet – despite the slowdown in the national economy and cutbacks in the construction industry.

The council and its partners, developers **Unitary Limited (a Barratt Group company)** and **Family Mosaic housing association**, have signed a **Principal Development Agreement**, which is a **major step forward to achieving the start of construction at the beginning of next year at Stonegrove and Spur Road.**

Council leaders see the decision to go ahead as a big vote of confidence in Barnet, especially so because this is only one of two council schemes across London which Barratt is progressing. It is also viewed as proof that partnership working can bring about major benefits for the community.



Barnet Council Leader, Mike Freer, shakes hands on the deal with Barratt director Peter Murphy

The regeneration of the Stonegrove and Spur Road housing estates will create a new community of 937 high quality homes, reflecting the housing needs of local people as well as creating sustainable housing growth. There will be a mix of affordable and private homes and the scheme includes a new community square and hall.

Meanwhile, a new round of consultation is getting underway on the council's flagship scheme, the £4.5bn regeneration of Brent Cross Cricklewood, following the submission of new planning documents by the development partners.

These include a highly detailed Traffic Assessment and a revised Environmental Statement on the scheme. The local planning authority is expected to consider the planning application for Brent Cross Cricklewood next spring.

At Grahame Park, the council's partners, Choices for Grahame Park, expect to make a start early in the New Year on the first major phase of 319 homes. A detailed planning application is also being made for the first phase of the regeneration of the West Hendon estate.

Barnet's Cypriot twin town honoured

A new road in Mill Hill has been named in recognition of one of the borough's twin towns.

The road, within the former Inglis barracks site, was officially named Morphou Road after the municipality of Morphou in Cyprus during a ceremony hosted by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor John Marshall, and several high profile members of the Cypriot community.

Barnet has enjoyed close links with Morphou since it was officially 'twinned' in 1995. The road was blessed by His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain and was attended by Mayor of Morphou, Charalambos Pittas and Haris Sophoclides, President of the World Organisation of Overseas Cypriots.

Representatives of Countryside Properties and Annington Developments Limited, who are constructing the development at the Inglis Barracks site, were also present at the ceremony.

The Mayor said: "I am delighted to be further affirming our close links with the municipality of Morphou by naming a road in our borough in its honour. The road underlines our friendship with Morphou and our commitment to a free undivided Cyprus. Already Tempelhof and Chaville are similarly honoured and I hope we will be able to name more roads after our other twin towns in the future."

Curious about adoption?

The council's Adoption Service, as part of the North London Adoption Consortium, will be celebrating National Adoption Week by co-hosting an open evening on Thursday 13 November between 6pm and 9pm.

The event is open to anyone who wants to find out about the adoption process, what kind of financial support is available and why children need adopting.

There will be a large but informal panel discussion at 7pm, and a chance to chat to people who work in adoption. There will also be music, a crèche and refreshments.

To find out more about how you can provide a family for children who need a new life through adoption, come along to the Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Town Hall Approach, Tottenham Green, London, N15 4RX.

For more information, please call Anna on 07946 412159 or visit www.adoptionnorthlondon.org/events



Councillor John Marshall, the Mayor of Barnet, unveils the new road sign with Mayor of Morphou, Charalambos Pittas

Brokers for change:

Giving nine young people greater choice and control

Adult Social Services and Barnet Mencap have worked together to give nine young adults with learning disabilities an exciting opportunity to take control over their social care. We told them roughly how much money was available to them for social care support, and then helped them decide how to spend this money in a way that met their needs and aspirations.

This made a real difference to the lives of those young people and their families, who often chose activities available to anyone in Barnet, instead of traditional social care services.

Felix Chow

The Chow family feel that the full programme of 'tailored' activities they developed through this project will help Felix (pictured with his personal assistant Kevin Gardner) develop and maybe eventually leave home.

Felix's father said "This project has opened a door for Felix... he is much happier and really looks forward to his days. Also, because he has the same support, we can get feedback on what he has been doing and how he is getting on. Before that, apart from one and a half days in college, Felix was sitting at home watching TV all day".

Richard Cooper

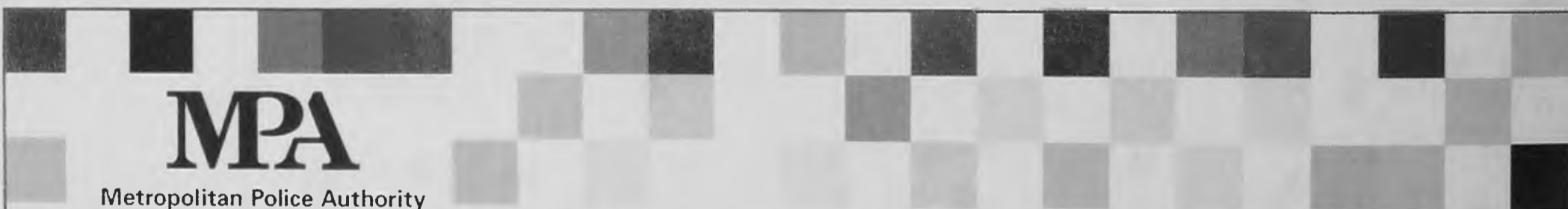
Richard's family feel that the project has given Richard new opportunities. These have included helping Richard's health and social inclusion through providing him with time at the gym and buying him second-hand golf clubs, so that he can spend time with his father.



Joshua Appadoo

Before he got a personal budget, Josh had been quite isolated. Now, he is excited by new opportunities, such as spending a small amount of his budget learning to play the guitar, which will help him develop his skills and become independent.

His mother says that they learnt a lot about what help is available from the project, which helped them stop 'muddling along'.



MPA
Metropolitan Police Authority

POLICING IN BARNET

How are your local police performing?

The Metropolitan Police Authority regularly monitors how well London's police are performing to ensure our communities receive the most efficient and effective service.

For the sixth consecutive year crime in London is falling and detection rates rising. Total recorded crime for 2007/08 is at a ten year low.

How did Barnet perform during 2007/08?



Total recorded crime in Barnet is down 10.9% – that's 3,275 fewer crimes

Priorities for 2008/09

Barnet will be focusing on:

- Reducing youth violence by 5.3%
- Reducing knife crime by 5.1%
- Reducing gun crime by 5%
- Reducing robbery by 1%
- Reducing residential burglary by 8.4%

Have your say

Are the police focusing on areas that are important to you? Make your voice heard by taking part in the consultation for the 2010/11 London wide policing priorities. Log on to the MPA website to participate

www.mpa.gov.uk/reports/policingplans.htm

Find out more about policing in your borough at www.mpa.gov.uk/partnerships or call the MPA on 020 7202 0202

Payless parking

Barnet Council has become the first local authority in the United Kingdom to roll out a simultaneous trial of two cashless parking providers to car parks across the borough.

Under the trial, which began on 29 September, two separate pay by phone parking suppliers, RingGo and Verrus, will each operate in different off-street car parks. By running a simultaneous trial of two providers, the council believes that comparing the two services side by side will assist in the final evaluation process when the pilot comes to an end. In turn, this will make the decision about which supplier to roll out far more rigorous.

As part of the council's priority of delivering choice to residents, the introduction of the pilot will provide a safer, easier and more flexible method of payment for motorists as drivers are not required to carry cash to pay for their tickets, instead calling a telephone number, entering their vehicle registration, length of stay and their debit card number. Civil Enforcement Officers who patrol the car parks will be equipped with high-tech GPRS equipment to monitor which cars have purchased cashless parking and when their time will run out, in the same way that they currently monitor the times on 'pay and display' tickets.

RingGo will operate in the following car parks:

- Perrysfield Way NW9
- Fitzjohn Avenue EN5
- Moxon Street EN5
- Stanhope Road N12
- Castle Road N12
- The Burroughs, Hendon NW4
- East Barnet Road EN4
- Woodhouse Road N12

Verrus will be offered in:

- Lodge Lane Car Park N12
- Bunns Lane Car Park NW7
- Stapylton Road Car Park
- Barnet, Stanhope Road (Bottom) Car Park N12
- Watling Avenue Car Park HA8

Further information can be obtained by visiting www.barnet.gov.uk or by calling 020 8359 7446.

Barnet Civic Awards 2009



Last year's Civic Awards winners with past Mayor Councillor Maureen Braun

Do you know someone who deserves recognition? Someone who works tirelessly for little or no reward?

Then Barnet Council wants to hear from you.

The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor John Marshall, is now inviting nominations for the 2009 Civic Awards.

The awards are organised annually by the council to recognise those people who make a real difference in the borough.

Anyone who lives or works in Barnet can be nominated, although serving Barnet councillors and past vellum winners are not eligible.

Everyone nominated will be invited to a special awards ceremony early next year when they will receive a certificate from the Mayor. The council will also present vellums to those people whose contribution is judged as outstanding.

Nominations forms are available to download at www.barnet.gov.uk; from your local library or by calling 020 8359 2493.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 28 November.

Barnet school children take the big walk

In September, 32 Year 6 children, together with staff and parents from Monkfrith Primary School in Southgate, participated in the London-wide 'WOW! Landmarks!' campaign launch by walking all the way to and from the council's offices at North London Business Park.

At the business park they took part in a treasure hunt teaching them about road safety and the business park's history.

The campaign aims to encourage families to leave their cars behind and show their support for a greener, healthier London by walking to and from school at least once a week.

The children heard about the importance of planning their walking routes, the many benefits of walking for local journeys and the importance of road safety education.



Don't play with fire

As the nights are once again beginning to get shorter, Bonfire Night draws ever closer.



While for most, Bonfire Night and fireworks events are an opportunity to see friends and family and enjoy spectacular displays, the consequences can be catastrophic if fireworks are not treated with the respect they deserve.

The council's trading standards team are hoping that people will heed their advice to have a safe, fun and spectacular display this year, while also considering neighbours and ensuring that displays do not finish too late. Simple precautions, like ensuring that the fireworks you use are not too large for the garden space, not drinking alcohol if letting off fireworks, reading instructions with a torch rather than a naked flame and never returning to a firework that hasn't gone off, dramatically reduce the danger involved while running a private display.

Fireworks displays are always a highlight of the year for children, but you need to take extra care if youngsters are going to be at your display. Children should be kept well back from the release point, and sparklers shouldn't be given to children under 10 as they are the most common cause of burn injuries. If you have pets, make sure you keep them indoors, if possible in an area where they will be protected from the noise.

Licensing officers from the council have also been out and about checking that temporary premises set up to sell fireworks are correctly licensed and are working with the police to carry out a series of operations to make sure that fireworks are supplied and used responsibly but ultimately safely. When going out to buy fireworks, make sure you only buy those marked with the British Standard kitemark BS7114 and store them in a cool, dry place in a sealed box or tin.

For more information and safety tips, or to check any aspect of the law around fireworks, call the trading standards department on 020 8359 2115 or email trading_standards@barnet.gov.uk

Watch out, there's a rogue trader about

Barnet residents are being warned to be on their guard against rogue traders who are increasingly operating in the area.

These masters of deception use a range of different tactics to induce residents to pay for work at incredibly high prices, particularly targeting the elderly and vulnerable. Approaches include turning up unannounced claiming "we are only in the area today", "we've noticed a problem with your roof/guttering/chimney" or "your neighbour said we should call round".

In past cases, rogue traders have demanded sizeable deposits from residents under the pretence of purchasing materials, never to be seen again.

Tips to stay ahead of rogue traders include:

- only use recommended or reputable traders with a fixed address and genuine land line
- obtain written, properly itemised quotes (including materials) from at least three companies before making a decision
- avoid engaging in conversation with cold callers – just say NO
- if in doubt, don't open the door to unexpected callers. If you feel you must open the door, put the chain on first or speak through an upstairs open window
- if a caller harasses you, becomes aggressive or won't go away, dial 999.

Bloomin' marvellous!



The winners of this year's Barnet in Bloom competition gathered at Barnet House in Whetstone last month to receive their prizes from Barnet's Mayor, Councillor John Marshall.

We received a record number of entries this year and for the first time awarded prizes in two new categories - Most Eco-Friendly Garden (won by St Johns Primary C of E School in Friern Barnet) and Most Outstanding Garden, which was won by Hendon resident John Gaunt.

The winners are pictured with the Mayor and their trophies.

Flightways Resource Centre gets a new lease of life

Earlier this year, Adult Social Services asked residents to comment on the proposed changes to services for people with a physical or sensory impairment offered from Flightways Resource Centre in Grahame Park.

We have listened and are now focusing on developing more services that promote independent living.

This will not mean closing Flightways but will lead to improving access to activities already available in the local community such as sports clubs, social activities, education and employment opportunities. Offering these new services will mean that people who currently attend Flightways will no longer be isolated at a specialist day service and will have the opportunity to get out and about and try out different activities, discover new skills and meet new people.

From November 2008, we will be offering the new range of activities, changing the focus of Flightways into a Centre for Independent Living.

More of the activities will be led and run by people who use the services. These services will include a Disability Awareness Group which will advise local businesses about the needs of disabled people. They will also arrange more social activities like quiz nights and offer other disabled people advice and information drawn from their own experience.

Flightways will also offer more services for young disabled people. These will include help with getting paid work through the Employment Advisor, and building people's confidence using public transport through the Travel Training Scheme.



Flightways will also be developing new services that aim to help older people and people who are housebound. These schemes will include a Computer Outreach Service which will help people to access new opportunities such as training and employment through using computers in their own home. The new "Say Go" scheme will provide taster sessions in different sports and exercise classes for older people.

To find out more about the changes happening at Flightways Resource Centre or to get involved, please contact Shirley Regan on 020 8359 4784 or email flightways@barnet.gov.uk

Trouble coping?

Supporting People services offer practical support to:

- set up and manage your home
- keep your home safe
- organise adaptations
- handle difficult forms and letters
- deal with debts or arrears
- manage your money
- access training or employment
- develop skills to cope with these things in future.

If you are interested in finding out more about Supporting People services and whether they can help you, please contact one of our information points:

For Barnet Council tenants:

Tel: 0800 389 5225 (Barnet Homes) and ask for the Housing Support Service
Email: bhsupport@barnethomes.org

For people over 60:

Tel: 020 8343 5730 (Hornsey Housing Trust)
Email: bsop@hornseyht.co.uk
Fax: 020 8343 5744

For everyone else

Tel: 020 8359 3215 (Housing Support Team)
Email: housingsupportteam@barnet.gov.uk
Fax: 020 8492 8575

If you would like to contact the team who manage and monitor Supporting People services, please phone 020 8359 4264 or email supportingpeopleteam@barnet.gov.uk

Website:

www.supportingpeople.barnet.gov.uk

Max and Sean swap places!

Barnet Council is benefiting from an exchange of skills and expertise after one of the authority's most senior officers swapped roles with a senior manager from private industry.

Sean Powley, Assistant Director for Customer Service at the council, has gone on secondment to BT, while Max Wide moves in the opposite direction taking up a position as Executive Director for Organisational Development.

Mr Wide, who was Director of Strategic Development with BT Local Government, joins Barnet Council to take lead responsibility for developing ways to further improve the council's customer service and performance as well as meeting the challenge of organisational change.

Join in the conversation

Here at the council, we have always been keen to involve residents in decisions being made about things that affect their lives. Whether it's attending council meetings, taking part in focus groups, becoming a member of the Citizens Panel or helping us to set our priorities through the budget process each year, we try to provide a number of ways in which residents can engage with their council.

And now we have a new development to tell you about....

So that we get to hear from as many of you as possible, we've launched a new way for you to get in touch with us (and each other) and share your thoughts on life in Barnet.

Whereilive.org

www.whereilive.org is an interactive website where you can tell us about your life, your experiences, your views and your thoughts on your area, by either posting a picture, uploading a video or starting a

blog. You might want to video a chat with your friends, neighbours and family on your mobile or just take a picture of something that bugs you in your area – and then share it through the website.

When you go to the website you'll see that we've already started to put up some examples of how you might like to use the site or the kinds of things you might want to talk about.

If you're not sure about using the website, you can also email your story, picture or video to whereilive@barnet.gov.uk or send a message, photo or video to:

Whereilive
Building 2, North London Business Park
London Borough of Barnet
Oakleigh Road South
London
N11 1NP

So go on - tell us what it's like where you live...



Barnet's sporting heroes recognised by awards

The borough's top sportsmen, women and children were recognised at a glittering ceremony this month attended by the Mayor of Barnet.

Winners of the 2008 Barnet Celebrating Sports Awards included Paralympic gold medallist Tom Aggar, who scooped Disabled Sports Performer of the Year, and Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers, who have a number of Olympic athletes on their books, who took Club of the Year.

Sports Performer of the Year was Alison Waters, who is currently the British National Women's Squash Champion and has previously competed for Barnet in the London Youth Games, and Young Sports Performer of the Year was Charlotte Wingfield, who impressed judges by her under-15 UK ranking in long jump, 100 metres and 200 metres.

Foulds Primary School and Christchurch CE School jointly took the Primary School Team of the Year prize, and the Secondary School Team of the Year went to the Hendon School Indoor Rowing Team.

The awards were given to recognise all those people who have made a significant contribution over the last year to the sporting scene in Barnet, including 13 sport 'leaders' from Whitefield School who were commended on their volunteering – between them they accumulated 2,500 hours of volunteering in the last year alone.

The prize winners at the ceremony held at North London Business Park, in New Southgate, were given trophies, vouchers and tickets to major sporting events, which were presented to them by the Olympic triple jumper Larry Achike.

A full list of the winners can be found on Barnet Online at www.barnet.gov.uk

Barnet roots out London's oldest tree



An ancient yew tree dating back 2,000 years has been discovered in a Barnet churchyard. The yew in St Andrew's Churchyard in Totteridge has been declared the oldest tree in London by tree experts at the Conservation Foundation and the Ancient Yew Group.

Dating back to the early Anglo-Saxon period, the tree was also a meeting place for the 'Hundred Court', the ancient legal system which saw each district, or 'hundred', hold its own court hearings for the area covering much of the current London Borough of Barnet and south Hertfordshire.

What's on in Barnet during November and December?

Music

K-Grove

6 November

artsdepot, Studio Theatre, 5 Nether Street, N12. The performance is part of Olam Musica, a series of world music events at artsdepot, showcasing the best in Jewish music. The five-piece band fuses Klezmer and Arabic melodies with modern dance grooves. Cost: £14; conc £12. For further information, contact the Box Office on 020 8369 5454.

Barnet Symphony Orchestra in Mill Hill

7 December at 7pm

St Michael's Church, Flower Lane, Mill Hill. An exciting programme for the whole audience - Borodin - Overture 'Prince Igor', Haydn - Cello Concerto in C, Dvorak - Symphony no. 9 'New World'. For further details, email: info@barnetsymphony.org.uk or call 07990 510102. Cost: £8 adults; £1 children.

Handel's Samson

14 December

North Western Reform Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, NW11. Alyth Choral Society perform Handel's dramatic oratorio Samson conducted by Alexander Walker, with soloists and Alyth Chamber Orchestra. For further information, contact: 020 8958 7641. Cost: £15, £12 conc, children free.

Miscellaneous

Arts and Crafts Fair

15 November 10.30am - 4.30pm

St Paul's Church Hall, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill. Pottery, jewellery, cards, painted glass, needlecraft and woodwork. Children's craft room available. Cost: £1.

A Brief History of London's Underground

26 November at 7.30pm

St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane, N20. The Friern Barnet and District Local History Society presents an illustrated talk by Peter McMahon. Free light refreshments. For further information, call 020 8292 7328 or visit www.friernbarnethistory.org.uk. Cost: members free, £2 for non-members.

Sinbad the Sailor

30 November

artsdepot, Studio Theatre, 5 Nether Street, N12. Lanternfish Theatre Company production based on the Arabian Nights story. An exciting adventure story with great comedy, catchy songs and audience participation. Ages 3+. For details, contact the Box Office on 020 8369 5454. Tickets: £8; children £6.



The Night Before Christmas

12 December - 4 January 2009

artsdepot, 5 Nether Street, N12. Big Wooden Horse and Brighten Dome present a magical tale for the festive season. With audience participation, catchy tunes and a sprinkling of fairy dust, this show is the perfect Christmas treat for children aged three to seven. Tickets: £10 adults; £8 children/concs; £32 for family of four. Tickets are available from the box office on 020 8369 5454 or online at www.artsdepot.co.uk

If you would like your event to be considered for inclusion in Barnet First, please visit: www.barnet.gov.uk, and add your event details to the "What's On" page.

Council meetings - dates for your diary

Meetings are open to the public and are generally held at Barnet House, Whetstone, starting at 7pm, unless otherwise stated. The Residents Forums (which start at 6.30pm) meet at a variety of venues around the borough, and details can be found online, on our posters or by contacting the Democratic Services team on 020 8359 2031. Members of the public can ask to speak at most meetings. Further information can be obtained by contacting Democratic Services.

November

- 3 Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 4 Council
- 5 Hendon Residents Forum; Standards Committee
- 6 Chipping Barnet Residents Forum
- 9 Council
- 11 First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 12 Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum
- 17 Licensing Committee
- 18 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee; Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee; Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee;
- 19 Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 20 Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 24 Tackling Crime and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 25 Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 26 Planning and Environment Committee

December

- 1 Cabinet Resources Committee
- 2 Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub-Committee; Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub-Committee; Hendon Area Environment Sub-Committee
- 3 Cabinet
- 4 Standards Committee
- 8 General Functions Committee
- 9 Audit Committee
- 10 Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 15 Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub-Committee; Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub-Committee; Hendon Area Planning Sub-Committee
- 16 Council
- 22 Planning and Environment Committee



What's open and when?

On this page you will find information about opening times and services provided over the Christmas period. Information will also be available online at www.barnet.gov.uk

Refuse collection

Wednesday 24 December
Normal collection

Thursday 25 December
Collection will be on Saturday 27 December

Friday 26 December
Collection will be on Friday 2 January

Saturday 27 December
N/A

Monday 29 December - Wednesday 31 December
Normal collection

Thursday 1 January
Collection will be on Saturday 3 January

Friday 2 January onwards
Normal collection

Black and blue box recycling

Wednesday 24 December
Normal collection

Thursday 25 December
Collection will be on Saturday 27 December

Friday 26 December
Collection will be on Friday 2 January

Saturday 27 December
N/A

Monday 29 December - Wednesday 31st December
Normal collection

Thursday 1 January
Collection will be on Saturday 3 January

Friday 2 January onwards
Normal collection

Green garden and kitchen waste collections

Wednesday 24 December
Normal collection

Thursday 25 December
Collection will be on Saturday 27 December

Friday 26 December
Collection will be on Friday 2 January

Saturday 27 December
Collection will be on Saturday 10 January

Monday 29 December - Wednesday 31 December
Normal collection

Thursday 1 January
Collection will be on Saturday 3 January

Friday 2 January
Normal collection

Saturday 3 January
Collection will be on Saturday 10 January

Libraries

All libraries will close at 1pm on Wednesday 24 December and remain closed until Saturday 27 December when normal opening hours will apply until 5pm on Wednesday 31 December. All libraries will be closed on Thursday 1 January. Normal opening hours will resume on Friday 2 January.

Church Farmhouse Museum

Wednesday 24 December - Friday 26 December
CLOSED

Saturday 27 December
Open 10am-1pm and 2pm-5.30pm

Sunday 28 December
Open 2pm-5.30pm

Monday 29 December - Wednesday 31 December
Open 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm

Thursday 1 January - Friday 2 January
CLOSED

Saturday 3 January
Open 10am-1pm, 2pm-5.30pm

Local Studies Service

Wednesday 24 December
Open 9.30am-1pm

Thursday 25 December - Monday 29 December
CLOSED

Tuesday 30 December - Wednesday 31 December
Open 9.30am-4.30pm

Thursday 1 January
CLOSED

Friday 2 January - Saturday 3 January
Open 9.30am-4.30pm

**Switchboard,
Customer Care Unit
and First Contact...**

...will be open on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve between 8am and 4pm. Normal opening hours will resume from Friday 2 January 2009.

Residents invited to add to Leader's blog

Local residents are being asked to give their views about issues which affect them on the Council Leader's blog.

For the past two years Barnet Council's Leader, Councillor Mike Freer, has been inviting local residents to meet him out and about in the borough.

Known as 'Leader Listens', every resident in a chosen ward is invited to go along to the meetings held in school halls, community centres and other local venues. The meetings are an opportunity for everyone to air their views about issues that matter to them. All comments are acted on and the notes of the meeting are posted on the council's website and to all residents in the ward.

But for those who cannot make the

meetings there is a new opportunity to have their voices heard. Leaderlistens.com is a new blog written by Councillor Freer, containing highlights from each meeting along with notes and actions following up from the meetings.

As well as being given the chance to share video highlights of Councillor Freer speaking at each Leader Listens event, residents can see what their neighbours are saying, and get involved after each event by posting their thoughts on the night's discussion.

To find out more, visit www.leaderlistens.com

The planners are coming

Television viewers discovered the ups and downs of life in Barnet's planning office through The Planners are Coming on BBC1. The series, which followed the challenges facing senior planning officer Fabien Bernard-Gaudin, showed Fabien discovering a block of flats being built without permission and Hampstead Garden Suburb residents raising objections to a mobile phone mast application.

Meet Your Members

The Meet the Members information will return in the next issue of Barnet First. If you require any information about councillors in Barnet, visit www.barnet.gov.uk

Barnet's Councillors and Good Conduct

Code of Conduct

There is a Barnet Council Code of Conduct based on a national model that applies to all Councillors and other members of Council Committees ('Members'). It primarily applies to conduct when 'on duty'.

The Code includes obligations in respect of:

- bullying, intimidation and equalities
- disclosure of confidential information
- using one's position improperly
- registering and declaring interests

The Code of Conduct is part of the Council's Constitution and can be found on the Council's Website: www.barnet.gov.uk/memberscodeofconduct.pdf

Barnet Council places a very strong emphasis on good governance and good conduct. When allegations were made to the Standards Board for England (www.standardsboard.gov.uk), there were few allegations about Barnet Members and very few of these were found to involve a breach of the Code of Conduct.

The Council believes in the importance of maintaining robust systems to identify and appropriately deal with any instances of poor conduct that might arise, whilst recognising that the majority of Members and Officers at the Council, in common with Local Government as a whole, demonstrate the highest levels of personal conduct and integrity.

Register of Interests

The Register of Members' Interest is an important part of complying with the Code of Conduct.

The Register is a public document and is available for inspection during office hours and by appointment. It is held at the Council offices at North London Business Park.

For an appointment please call the office of the Monitoring Officer on 020 8359 2516.

Making a complaint

There are full details of how to make a complaint that any Barnet Member may have breached the Code of Conduct, including a downloadable complaint form on the Council's Website: www.barnet.gov.uk/standards-committee

What happens to a complaint

- a Standards Sub-committee will assess any allegation within 20 days
- a decision notice will be issued
- there is a right of appeal to a different Standards Sub-committee if the decision is 'no further action'
- if investigated, the case will usually be heard by a further Standards Sub-committee who will make a determination and may impose sanction on the Member.

Standards Sub-committees comprise two Independent Members and one Barnet Councillor and are always chaired by an Independent Member.

For further information, please contact:

Donna Knight-Olds
Corporate Governance Directorate, London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP

email: donna.knight-olds@barnet.gov.uk
tel: 020 8359 7156 fax: 0870 889 6792

Town Hall restored to its former glory

Following an intensive period of design and consultation, the refurbishment and restoration of the Town Hall in Hendon has begun.

This is the latest chapter in the history of Hendon Town Hall, which over the past 100 years has been through a number of transformations in order to meet the changing needs of local government.

The building was originally opened in 1901 when the population of the district was only 22,000. Before this, the council meetings for the then parish had been held in a number of locations including, up until 1876, The Greyhound Inn.

After being extended and adapted in 1934 and then again in the Sixties to meet the requirements of the newly formed London Borough of Barnet, the current rooms are now in need of repair and restoration to meet the needs of the council serving a growing population of more than 334,000.

The project, which started in October and is scheduled for completion in May 2009, will provide excellent access into and around the Town Hall for everyone and will have a fully accessible lift to the first floor.

The Council Chamber and committee rooms will be restored and a new large meeting room will be formed, which will also be accessible for the disabled.

A new 'Heritage Room' will be developed to display some of the civic treasures and artefacts reflecting the history of the borough



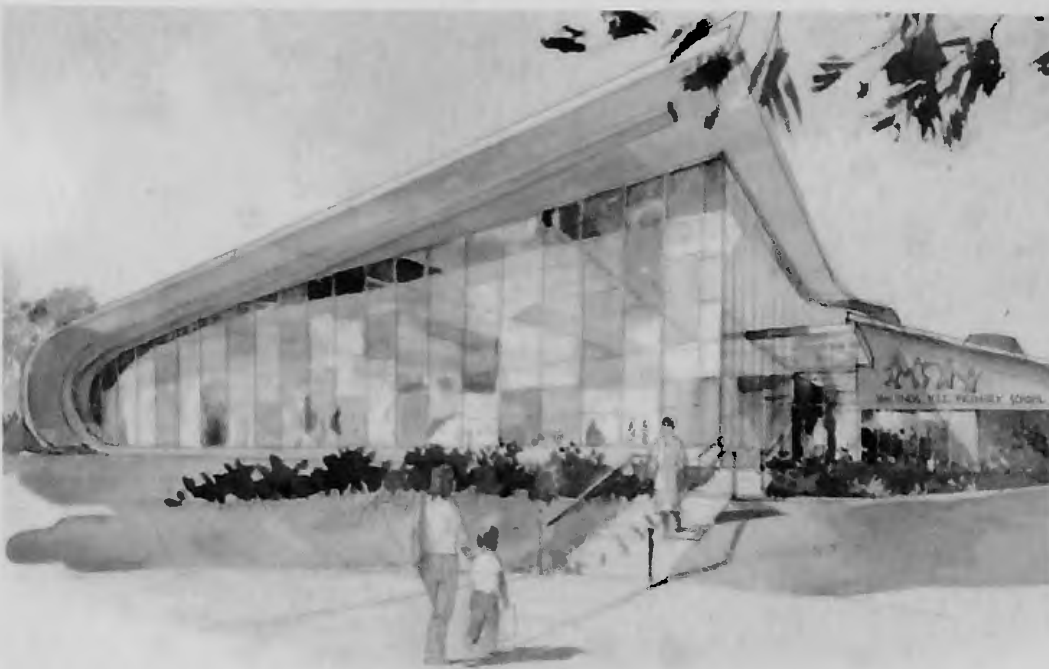
and the links with our partners and twin towns. The public rooms will have improved facilities making them all available for hire – particularly for weddings and civil partnerships, which would be enhanced by the decorated surroundings.

In addition, the ground floor will be completely remodelled, forming open wide spaces with offices for staff, with wi-fi available throughout.

Please keep a look out for updates in the next issue of Barnet First.

Barnet's schools are first class!

New building is underway at five school sites across Barnet – laying the foundations for the start of a new era in primary education, and a fresh beginning for a successful secondary school.



An artist's impression of Whitings Hill School

Most advanced is work on the new, state of the art primary school at Whitings Hill, where the old infants' school has been demolished to make way for the new building. It is due to open as a two-form entry school, catering for up to 420 pupils plus a nursery, in the autumn of 2009.

In common with the other schools being developed by the council's First Class school building programme, Whitings Hill will provide extended use of its facilities, which include a new swimming pool and multi-use games area, for both the school and the local community.

Construction has also started at the East Barnet secondary school, The Hyde in Colindale and Parkfield in Hendon, and a new Children's Centre for Underhill. Design work has been completed on a new building for Broadfields School in Edgware, which is the next school in line to be rebuilt, and design has also begun at Northway and Fairway schools.