

Community news

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BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH



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Inside Community News



Optical illusion: a council officer goes to work. Read all about the council's watchdogs, trading standards officers, in our special report page 4.



(above)
Hands across the sea:
Theatre visits Cyprus
see page 6.

(left)
Bouncing Banks:
Sports Minister
Tony Banks bounces
into Barnet - see Loud
page 9.

**Also Tackling Drugs, the
Barnet scene - special
report on page 8.**

SCHOOLS BOOST

Within months of the publication of the government's White Paper "Excellence in Schools", Barnet has launched a ground-breaking package of measures designed to boost standards in the classroom.

The council's first key aim will be to ensure 80 per cent of eleven year olds reach the levels of literacy expected of them by 2002.

Just over 60 per cent reach this target at present - slightly above the national average. In some secondary schools many pupils cannot read to the level required to cope with the first part of the secondary school curriculum.

To deal with this there will be a programme of teacher training, the introduction of a 'literacy hour' in all primary schools by September next year, a similar project for some secondary schools and close monitoring of the whole operation by Barnet's Inspection and Advisory Service.

Teaching aids and help for parents, a wide range of computer software, an expanded Literacy Project, reducing the cost of the School Library Resource Service, Summer Schools and Literacy Fairs - all will be used in the drive to reach the target.

As with literacy, targets have been set for numeracy.

Barnet aims to reach the national target of 75 per cent

of all eleven year olds reaching the standards expected for their age by 2002. At present the figure for Barnet Schools is about 60 per cent.

All primary schools will join the up-and-running Barnet Numeracy Project.

High on the agenda will be monitoring the effectiveness of teachers at all levels.

"Too many of our youngsters have slipped through the education net even in a borough as famous for high standards in education as ours," said Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of Education Committee.

"At last we have the opportunity and the means to tackle basic problems which have dogged the nation for years on a scale necessary to finally win the battle," she added.

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greetings
to all our
readers



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NEW BARNET BLUEPRINT MEANS ACTION

Barnet Council has launched its four-year blueprint for action, designed to take the borough into the new millennium.

The Corporate Plan - first produced in 1994 and updated every year since - has been revised and reorganised to take account of new key themes affecting how services will be delivered across the board.

Unveiling the new-look Corporate Plan, Leader of the Council, Councillor Alan Williams said the success of the previous plans had already transformed much of the council's work.

"Positive, forward planning has been the keynote of this council's approach to delivering services and our ability to adapt and develop the plan to meet the demands of our community has paid huge dividends," he added.

"We must continue to plan long-term to meet our overall objectives while rising to the challenge of confronting the changing needs of the community.

"We are now facing the challenges of a new millennium under a new government and this latest Corporate Plan reflects our priority themes and makes specific commitments for the future," said Councillor Alan Williams.

Each committee of the council has been able to report on objectives achieved and projects completed, each designed to meet the changing needs and expectations of residents.

The latest edition of the Corporate Plan builds on and overtakes those produced before by setting out key aims which will embrace all the council's services.

The Plan underlines Barnet's determination to deliver quality local services using the principle of Best Value, a safe environment and a thriving local economy.

A continuing commitment to open local government and working in partnership with all sections of the community will ensure the council continues to respond effectively to local needs and local aspirations.

Education again tops the list of priorities with key undertakings to improve standards, keep class sizes to a maximum of 30, radically

improve Early Years education and develop out of school activities.

Specific promises are included to help reduce crime and create a sustainable healthy environment.

New initiatives will again target resources at those most in need. These will be backed by new measures to give a boost to the local economy designed to create a climate of prosperity in which the whole community can share.

"All the council's actions and decisions will be guided by the promises to residents laid down in the Corporate Plan.

"At each stage in our decision making we will consult with residents and with proper regard to our aim to provide high-quality, value-for-money services we intend to continue to build on the already successful partnership between council and community into the next century," said Councillor Alan Williams.

YOUNG ARTISTS

Awards totalling £9,000 have been given to local young artists whose work was selected for purchase by the Apthorp Fund for Young Artists.

Now in its fourth year, the Fund's aim is to help young artists aged between 18 and 30 in developing their careers. The work purchased will be on permanent display in hospitals, schools, youth clubs, day centres and other public buildings.

The largest purchase prize went to Emma Wood, who received £2,000 for the two etchings she submitted. A piece of sculpture was selected for the first time this year. Marc Harding received an award for a small sculpture titled "Tensioned growth # 3". The other winning artists were Sophie Rizvi; Naomi Arton; Michael Ramsey; Nicola Deimbacher; Maryam Savis; Mark Irving; Lisa Billingham and Davina Jackson.

The funds are provided by the Milly Apthorp Charitable Trust and the scheme is administered by Barnet Council.



It was smiles all round for pupils at Whittings Hill School as they tucked into breakfast at the launch of the new Breakfast Club during National Education Business Activity Week.

The council supported Barnet Education Business Partnership brings together local businesses and schools and the week focused on everything from interview

training for 'A' level students to over 120 students from Friern Barnet County School gaining work experience with businesses throughout the borough.

The new Breakfast Club, which is sponsored by McDonalds, aims to give pupils a good start to the day and joins other Breakfast Clubs already in the borough.

The Barnet Education Business Partnership plays a

crucial part in helping to prepare young people for adult and working life. By working with Education Business Partnerships in the neighbouring boroughs of Haringey and Enfield and the North London Training and Enterprise Council over 6,350 young people have gained work experience with local companies this year.

Over 3,000 pupils have taken part in projects designed to help promote personal and social development and 50 young people have worked closely with a business mentor.

More than 1,500 young people have benefited from activities to raise personal achievement and over 1,000 companies across the three boroughs are working with the Education Business Partnerships to help young people gain an understanding of the working environment.

The government's White Paper - Excellence in Schools - highlights the importance of helping young people gain experience of the business world before they leave school or college.

HEDGEROWS PROTECTED

In a bid to protect hedgerows, Barnet Council will be using all the powers of the 1995 Environment Act. This means fines of up to £20,000 face anyone removing a hedge listed as 'important' to the archaeological, historical, wildlife and landscape of the borough.

Any resident who wants to remove a hedgerow listed as 'important' must now give Barnet notice.

The local authority will then make a decision on whether it can be removed or should remain in place.

"Barnet is one of the few London boroughs with a large area of open space and ancient meadows which include many 'important' hedgerows," said Councillor Jack Cohen, Chair of Development and

Protection Committee.

"It is our responsibility to protect these sites and we will use all our powers to make sure our hedgerows remain as an important part of our environment," added Councillor Cohen.

A guide to the regulations covering hedgerows is available from council offices or direct from the Department of Environment.

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COUNCIL WATCHDOG SPECIAL REPORT

MEASURE BY MEASURE

So what do Trading Standards do exactly?
From faulty toys to the sale of unroadworthy vehicles or dangerous electrical equipment, this vital unit at Barnet Council protects the consumer and enforces fair trading legislation.

Did you know that every time you visit your local public house for your favourite tipple it is a safe bet that Trading Standards will have been there before you. One of Trading Standards' jobs is to make sure public houses are serving the correct measurements of alcohol (see pic, right). Officers will visit public houses without warning and use special measures to make sure that residents are not paying for short measures.

Everytime you visit the petrol station the last thing on most people's minds is if they are actually paying for a litre of petrol. In some cases it could well be less. When filling a tank with petrol this can make a financial difference if you make a habit of using the same petrol station. Once again Trading Standards are here to protect you. Officers regularly visit petrol stations with special measuring cans and check to make sure a litre is a litre when it comes out of the pump.

Toy Safety

In the run-up to Christmas officers are focusing on toy safety and are warning residents not to be tempted to buy cheap or second-hand toys. Cheap imports or toys that are not suitable for the age of the child hold potential dangers. Some of the things to check are:-

- Age warnings - these tell you how old children must be to play safely with a particular toy
- Small parts, filling

materials or toys with hair - these can be inhaled, cause choking or be put into ears or noses

- Toys that look like food - children may try to eat these
- Sharp edges - check for these before you buy

● Trapped fingers - folding toys can easily trap little fingers

● Cot toys - a child can become tangled or even strangled by loose strings

● Flying toys - children often misuse toys that fly including arrows, bullets or darts. Be aware of what your

child might do

- Always read and follow all warnings and instructions
- Do not let children play with broken toys
- Always buy toys from reputable traders

Parents can check whether the toys meet safety standards by looking out for labelling. The CE mark shows the toy meets all current safety standards. The LION mark indicates the toy is approved by the British Toy and Hobby Association. Age ratings suggest what age the child should be before they

can safely play with the toy. Once again always check all instructions and warnings before buying the toy to make sure it is suitable.

Here are some of the other areas on consumer protection Trading Standards are involved in:-



- Overloading of lorries
- Inspection of business premises to make sure they comply with Fair Trading Law
- Advise and support local businesses on Trading Standards regulations
- Make sure lottery schemes are registered with the council
- Registration of scrap metal dealers

This is just a small part of the varied and vital work undertaken by Trading Standards which protects you from dangerous goods or from

spending money on goods or services which give bad value.

On a final note...

Trading Standards want to hear from residents on any issue relating to consumer protection, from faulty toys to unlicensed loansharks, the sale of dangerous electrical goods to unbelievable claims made on environmental labels.

They can be contacted on 0181-359 2000.



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BID TO BLOCK UNDER 16 SALES

Barnet Council has once again given its backing to test purchasing by young people of cigarettes and tobacco.

As part of the Prevention of Cigarette Sales to Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 all local authorities are required to make sure retailers in their areas are not selling products to young people under the age of 16.

Since December 1995 Barnet Council has in certain cases used young people to test purchase tobacco products. These have been an effective element of the work of the council's Trading Standards Office in protecting the young residents of the borough.

"We have a duty to prevent the sale of harmful tobacco products to young people and test purchasing is an important part of the Trading Standards enforcement programme," said Councillor Jack Cohen, Chair of Barnet Council's Development and Protection Committee.

"Each time a young person is used to see if a retailer is selling tobacco products to underage children, a Trading Standards Officer and one of their parents are always present and this council follows the Association of London Government's Best Practice Guide on all test purchases," he added.

Since Barnet began its enforcement programme legal proceedings have occurred in ten cases. The council acts on complaints from residents and over the last year has launched investigations into three complaints.

Trading Standards Officers regularly visit retailers of tobacco products to make sure they display a notice warning that it is against the law to sell products to anyone under the age of 16.

"Last year the council conducted a test purchasing survey. I am pleased that in all cases the retailers refused to sell tobacco products. Our message is getting across.

"However we are determined to make sure our young people are protected and test purchasing will remain a vital part of this enforcement programme," added Councillor Cohen.

SIX OF THE BEST

Six Barnet schools are the first to benefit from a major government programme to tackle school repairs and renovation.

The schools are to receive a £140,000 boost following the council's bid for funds in the first round of "New Deal for Schools" cash.

The government has promised over £1 billion over this parliament to repair school buildings, improve security and upgrade technology facilities.



Councillor Jack Cohen,
Chair of Barnet Council's
Development and
Protection Committee.

Barnet's share on this round includes nearly £40,000 in matched funding from the borough.

"This is excellent news for the schools involved. It is a welcome boost for Barnet's drive to bring its school buildings up to the high standards needed to provide a first-class education for all," said Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council.

They all had to be capable of being completed by April next year.

"Barnet is committed to ensuring it gets its fair share of money available under the

new programme.

"We will be working closely with other schools in urgent need of improvements to prepare for the next round of bids when more funds will be available," said Councillor Alan Williams.

The first schools to be successful included St Josephs, Watford Way, which gets new toilets.

Queen Elizabeth Girls School, in Queens Road, Barnet, will have five science laboratories refurbished. They receive a total of £65,000.

Whitings Hill will have new power points to give

better access to the latest high-tech equipment as well as new sinks and plumbing. Broadfields Junior, Edgware, will also have classrooms modernised to cope with the latest technology.

Woodridge JMI, North Finchley, will get a dedicated classroom for its pupils with Special Educational Needs and a study area.

St Margaret's Nursery School, in New Barnet, is to expand with a new classroom and modern kitchen facilities giving more space for children whose parents are working and who spend the whole day at the nursery.

BEEHIVE BACK IN BARNET

A local landmark will soon be back where it belongs thanks to Barnet Council.

The 'Beehive Tree', which was removed during the expansion of the North Circular Road, is being replaced as part of the council's commitment to its greening the borough environmental programme.

The tree was removed for safe keeping in 1993 and has been looked after by Barnet College. Once back in place, near the north-east corner of the High Road and North Circular Road, the tree will be sculpted in the image of Dick Turpin with a plaque telling residents of the tree's history.

"This was once a significant landmark in the area and I am pleased we were able to put it back where it belongs," said Councillor Stan Cross, Chair of Public Works Committee.

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Cllr Andrew Dickie.

SUNDAY OPENING

The pilot scheme to open Golders Green Library on Sundays has been so successful with residents that councillors voted to make it permanent.

The six-month trial scheme was the first time ever a Sunday library service had been offered to residents in Barnet.

It followed a borough-wide survey of library users - the largest response in favour of Sunday opening came from the residents of Golders Green.

The experiment has exceeded all expectations with the number of loans an hour on Sundays higher than on any other day of the week.

Shopping parades in Cricklewood and Hendon are seeing the real benefits of Barnet Council's Rent Support Policy with three remaining shop units now let in the parade at Cricklewood Lane and units currently in the process of being let in Bell Lane, Hendon.

Barnet is pumping £50,000 in cash to support its commitment to 'revive the commercial base of the borough focusing in particular on high street shopping centres.'

"Encouraging traders to take up vacant council units is having the knock on effect of encouraging residents to shop in the areas where they live," said Councillor Andrew Dickie, Chair of Economic Development and Land Executive Committee.

"This will ultimately improve the local economy and have a significant impact on regenerating our town centres throughout Barnet," he added.



PLAYING AWAY

Thirty teenagers from the Finchley Youth Theatre represented Barnet in the first ever youth exchange with the borough's Twin Town of Morphou, Cyprus.

They flew out for five days taking with them a specially written production "Inspire Me" which they performed in Limassol.

The group, which normally plays in its own 80 seat theatre in Finchley, had the daunting experience of presenting its show to an audience of more than 750.

They shared a double bill with a local Cypriot youth group in one of the town's biggest theatres.

Greek speaking members of the group introduced "Inspire Me" which is a lively mixture of song, dance and scenes depicting young people's hopes, ambitions and fears.

It had been written and produced by the young people themselves.

Heavy concentration at Sunnyfields School's new nursery (see above) officially opened by Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council. This maintains Barnet Council's record since 1994 of creating two new nursery places every week.

Cllr Williams told an audience of parents, staff and governors that nursery education continues as a number one priority for Barnet.

"If our youngsters get a good start in life they will have a greater chance of being able to develop their future potential to the full.

"This council recognises that nursery education is the most effective way of giving our youngsters that best possible start in life."

Sunnyfields JMI School moved to its present site in Hatchcroft, off Greyhound Hill, Hendon in 1977. There are 185 pupils in the main school.

The new fully-equipped nursery, which stands alongside the main building, provides a total of 52 places and meets a pressing need in the local community.

Barnet Council's Social Services department has been nominated by an Edgware pensioner to receive a prestigious Charter Mark for exceptional care. The council has been nominated for a national award by Leslie Preece, 89, (left) who has been able to live an independent life in his own home thanks to the support of the council's Sensory Impairment Team.

"I enjoy being in my own home, eat well and look after myself but there are things which I cannot do," said Mr Preece in making the nomination to the government.

"It is such a relief to know that help is there when I need it."

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WATER PRESSURE

Barnet Council is putting pressure on Three Valleys Water Company to give adequate compensation to those who suffered during the water bug crisis in February.

Local families were forced to boil their water and some schools had to close in the borough when Three Valleys found *Cryptosporidium* in the water supply.

The council has joined with Hertsmere and Harrow Councils and the North London and Harrow Chambers of Commerce to call for at least £50 compensation for those households affected. Proper compensation for businesses, councils and schools is also being urged.

TRANSPORT MOVES

Barnet is to back a new Transport Committee for London in a move designed to pave the way for a more co-ordinated, integrated transport policy for the capital.

The new committee would take over responsibility for the concessionary fares schemes, parking policy, heavy goods vehicles and traffic control systems.

MULTIMEDIA SCOOP FOR HENDON

Barnet has won funding for a new Multimedia Library at Hendon.

The computer skills learning centre will be installed in refurbished rooms on the ground and first floors of Hendon Library in The Burroughs.

The project will set up a data computer facility with 40 workstations for use by individuals and groups from a wide cross-section of the community.

It is designed to meet the growing need for access to state-of-the-art technology by children, students, local businesses, the unemployed and all those wanting to improve their skills.

Barnet was one of only six London boroughs to successfully bid for funds under the Department of Culture and Wolfson Public Libraries £3 million Challenge Fund.

BARNET TAKES CARE

Hundreds of people wanting to learn more about the full range of services available for vulnerable people visited Barnet's first ever Community Care Fair.

This brought together under one roof a wide range of care services provided by social services and health, private and voluntary organisations in the borough.

There were also special workshops featuring expert speakers on volunteering, accident prevention and the European Year of Anti Racism.

"This is the first time Barnet Council has organised such a special event to promote awareness of the wide range of care services available and help with the recruitment of volunteers. It brought together all community care providers - the NHS, council, voluntary and private," said Councillor Helen Gordon, outgoing Chair of Social Services Committee.

The Fair was organised by Barnet Council and supported by British Gas.

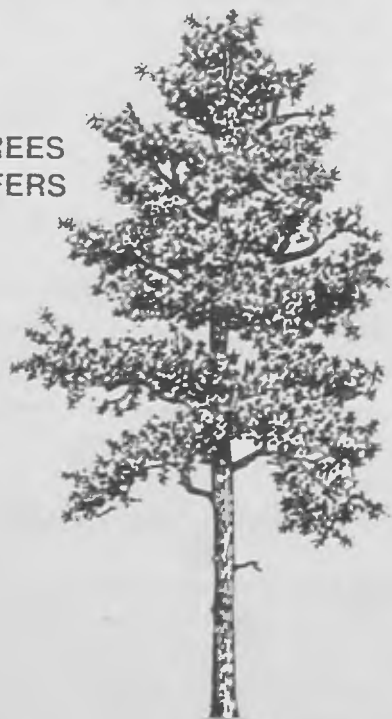


Welcome break: a visitor to the Community Care Fair enjoys a cuppa.

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TAKES CARE-TWO

Barnet Council has given local families the chance to buy directly the type of community care which best meets their needs.

Councillors have decided to introduce a Direct Payments scheme for people aged between 18 and 64 receiving community care, including those with physical or learning disabilities and sensory impairments.

The council has already been leading the way in Direct Payments with its own Care Brokerage Scheme, which has the highest number of service users in London supported by the government's Independent Living Fund.

"Barnet is already leading the way nationally and in London in enabling people to buy the community care they want directly from the providers," said Councillor Helen Gordon, Deputy Leader of the Council.

"This system will give those who qualify for services greater choice and control over their own care arrangements and help the council to better meet individual needs in the community," she said.

Direct Payments can be used to buy any type of service which the council has agreed, apart from long-term residential care.

INTERNET

Families connected to the Internet will be able to tap into Barnet Council's service information from the comfort of their homes in future.

The council also wants to use the world-wide stage it offers to stimulate greater economic development in the borough, attract investment and promote what Barnet can offer businesses to a larger audience.

LAKELAND

The council has given the go-ahead for the lakes of Brent Park and Stoneyfields Park to be dredged and for extensive environmental work to be done.

Both lakes have suffered from too much silt deposited partly from their feeder brooks and partly from the foliage from too many trees overhanging the water. This could have a bad effect on the rich variety of wildlife.

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PARENT ACTION

It is the time of year when many teenagers are looking forward to going to Christmas and New Year parties.

But this can also be a time of concern for parents worried by the national publicity about trendy drugs like Ecstasy and under-age drinking. Parents may feel confused, anxious and unsure what to do, particularly if they fear their children are involved.

The Health Education Authority has produced a Parents' Guide to Drugs and Solvents, a free copy of which is available from the National Drugs Helpline, which can be called free on 0800 776600.

The HEA warns parents of the dangers of drug-taking and points out young people try drugs for a variety of reasons, including curiosity, excitement, pressure from friends, boredom, fashion and to escape problems at home and school.

It is full of useful advice to parents, including:

- Talk to your children about their feelings on drugs and about how they might say no to them.
- Be firm without being aggressive, do not bully or lecture.
- Show and say you care even when they have done something you disapprove of and listen to what your child has to say.
- Watch for the sudden mood changes which might indicate a child is taking drugs or other signs such as irritability, loss of appetite or interest in school work. But be aware that many of these factors could just be a normal part of growing up.
- If you do find out your child is taking drugs stay calm, do not panic or blame yourself.
- Your child may need more help than you can provide alone so think about people from whom you can get advice and support.

TACKLING DRUGS

SPECIAL REPORT

Barnet Council is playing a key role in a multi-agency approach to tackle the national problem of drug abuse. The council works alongside the local health service, police, probation service and voluntary groups in supporting the partnership work of the Barnet Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT).

The government has set up DAAT teams throughout the country and Barnet DAAT has a three-year action plan to gather information, monitor the effectiveness of present policies and encourage all the agencies involved to work together, exchange ideas and promote best practice.

A key aim of the DAAT team is to get the message about the dangers of drugs across to young people, using their own age group where possible.

The Barnet agencies involved launched their "Tackling Drugs Together" drive to coordinate their efforts to combat the misuse of drugs in Barnet at East Barnet School last November.

"Young people can find any drug in Barnet and buy it and drugs are as available here as anywhere else in the country," said Jean Nicol, DAAT coordinator.

"But young people have a choice about whether they are going to use drugs or not - and that is where drugs education comes in," she said.

A total of 37 schools in Barnet have enthusiastically embraced the Barnet Health Promoting Schools Initiative, joint-funded by the council and health authority, with 18 schools choosing the drug education module.

The drug module of the Health Promoting Schools Initiative is aimed at informing teachers, governors and parents about drugs as well as children and involves youngsters in the decision-making process. The emphasis is placed on peer education, with children getting involved in arts and theatre projects and designing leaflets to warn of the dangers of drugs.

Some secondary schools in the borough are involved in developing a peer programme for young people based around substance abuse.

Piloted in five schools and one college, the aim is for young people to identify what services are available, increase awareness of drug misuse and assess the relevance of existing teaching materials for young people. This leads to a review of school drug education activities and the development of information more relevant to the needs of young people.

"Young people can find any drug in Barnet and buy it..."

"You are giving children information about what is in their world already so that they are better able to protect their own health," said Mrs Nicol.

Parents have to be involved in tackling drugs in schools and need to understand that if a child is found dealing in school strong action is likely to be taken. Parents need to discuss and support the action taken by their school.

The council takes a diversionary approach to drugs, with the youth service taking the lead in finding alternative lifestyles for young people.

Bored young people are helped to design a day that is satisfactory to them, involving music, trips out and youth service activities.

Jean Nicol describes the youth service in Barnet as excellent and she also praises police

and the probation service and health organisations for taking a proactive approach.

The health and probation services and the council work together in providing rehabilitation, counselling and an advice service for people with drugs and alcohol problems.

"More effective rehabilitation can have cost benefits for the whole community," Jean Nicol said.

"The council's mental health services manager Tony Riley produced a study of the cost of drug-related crime in Barnet for DAAT. The report stated that the average £6,200 cost of rehabilitating a person for 20 weeks is offset by saving the community £12,000 in drug-driven crime in the first year, and then £16,000 every year after that," she added.

The Department of Health has commended Barnet Council and the NHS community drug team Barnet Drug and Alcohol Service for their innovative practice in coming to joint agreement on community care assessments, eligibility and services for drug and alcohol misusers in the borough.

Assessments are completed in under five days and fast track assessments can be done within 24 hours and assessors work closely with users to identify the best



On-line

Jean Nicol DAAT co-ordinator
"Young people have a choice about whether they are going to use drugs or not and that is where drug education comes in."

rehabilitation to meet their needs.

Training is very much a part of the activities of DAAT and the tackling drugs together approach. Inter-agency training is being developed for people who come across people who may have a drugs and alcohol problem but are not experts in dealing with them.

Police, teachers, governors, doctors and pharmacists all undergo training in drug awareness and the Barnet youth service is set to launch a training course in basic drug counselling for anyone who works with young people.

DAAT is also involved in an information audit in libraries, checking that libraries have all the leaflets they need.



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SHARP FOCUS

LOUD the magazine for youth

Forty thousand people are stabbed in Britain every year. It is believed that the main group responsible for this is young people. Knife attacks can be the result of many events which conclude in the bloody, violent climax of a knife attack. It is believed that many people are attacked on the basis of theft gone wrong, racism or even drug related incidents.

It has been acknowledged that it is not only young people responsible for knife attacks. With so much publicity of incidents such as when the young boy was killed in Euston by a group of youths as the result of racism and of course the tragic death of the headmaster of St George's School in Maida Vale and Philip Lawrence who was killed by a young boy, it is difficult for people not to stereotype young people as malicious teenagers running around with knives.

Even though we are talking about a small minority of young people, there must be other ways of preventing such horrific events. Before this can be done, reasons why people carry out such attacks must be examined. Knives are often used to threaten people, but unfortunately if the situation gets out of hand someone may end up being killed. It is believed that many people will use a knife because of peer pressure or to look 'hard' in front of their friends, well they would not look too hard in front of a judge on a murder charge of an innocent victim.

One solution which appeared to be very effective was the knife amnesty. This was when police stations had boxes where people could leave their knives with no questions asked. This helped in two ways in the fact that young people who owned knives felt they could get rid of them without fear of questioning or being accused of anything as well as getting knives off the street. This prevents a knife ending up in the hands of someone who may one day use it to kill somebody.

It is also believed that if young people had other things to occupy them, they would not turn to violence or crime. There have been attempts made at finding alternative activities for young people in Barnet. There are various youth clubs including the new club in Clitterhouse and detached youth workers work with young people in confronting issues affecting the lives of the youth of today.

So if you are one of those people who thinks it is hard to carry a knife or to use it - think again. The only thing carrying a knife does is to give young people a bad name and effect the lives of many innocent victims and their families.



SPOT THE BALL



Minister of Sport, Tony Banks, MP, opening the Compton Sports Centre

The new, fully equipped, state-of-the-art Compton Sports Centre is the latest addition to a range of high quality health, sport and fitness facilities being provided for residents by Barnet Council.

The centre received high praise from Sports Minister, Tony Banks MP, who officially opened it.

Compton Sports Centre, off Summers Lane, Finchley, has a sports hall, three badminton courts, a fully equipped fitness room, changing rooms, offices and storage space.

The £800,000 partnership-financed facility will be available for use by the whole community.

On school days, next door Compton School will have priority use of the sports hall with residents having access to the fitness room.

After school and during holidays the centre will offer a wide range of activities for residents and community groups.

The council's Youth Service - which will run the centre - will ensure the facilities are available for children and teenagers, parents and toddlers and women's groups.

LIGHT UP

With it getting darker earlier vulnerable road users such as schoolpupils, cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders should make sure they can be seen by other road users. Remember though fluorescence does NOT work at night, only in the day or at dusk, you should wear reflective clothing at night.

A Day out to Sega World

Sega World is a gigantic place full of games and fun rides such as fighting, racing and shooting games. There are lots of floors full of different games. The cost to get in is quite expensive but if you save up it is worth the money. The rides are great such as Bazooka which is a bit like bumper cars but you don't bump into each other, you collect balls and shoot other people's cars. There are lights on the escalators which flash all over the place, and these lights are all around the building. I recommend Sega World to young people and families.

By Sameer

Year against racism
page 10

another new youth club
page 12

street wise -
see picture
page 12

Don't just shout about it, get into LOUD.

If you want to write for LOUD or be involved in other ways, contact the Detached Youth Work Project,
61-63 Watford Way,
LONDON NW4 3AX.

it's here...it's now...yo



1997 BARNET'S YEAR AGAINST RACISM

As the year draws to an end it is important to look back on events which have taken place in Barnet and the reasons behind such events.

sex education

What is sex education? That has been a question I have wanted answered for a long time and I'm still not sure what it means. I've visited a local school who were doing sex education for the last subject of the year. The children being taught were between the ages of nine and eleven. Is that old enough? Or is it too old?

Sex education has been taught through schools for a long time. Still, today, right up until you leave school, you are taught about sex and the risks you take by having sex.

Even though sex education is taught to children as young as nine there are still a lot of teenage pregnancies today. I don't know if sex is looked at as a good thing or bad but what I do know is that if you do have sex, use protection and if you don't, be prepared to face the consequences of your actions.

Sex is a serious matter and is not legal until you are 16 years old.

By Vivienne McEvoy

street alpha 2

Street Alpha 2 is fast and furious with dynamic moves. The graphics are good and the game play is fast. There are over 15 players and 18 stages and the music is great. Street Alpha 2 is a fighting game with 52 bosses, it is a bit like Super Street Fighter but much better.

On this game you do as many combo moves. There are also finishing moves with a big sound and graphic effects after it. There are different levels and characters, some of which have weapons. For marks out of five I would give this four.



youth action panel

Youth Action Panel was started by West Hendon in 1995 where young people come to discuss things they want in their area and also to discuss any problems they have with older people and find solutions. Some older residents blame young people for causing terror in the area, such as graffiti, noise disturbance and playing football in areas that are not allowed.

The reason that we have the problems is because there is nothing for us to do in the area. So we have Youth Action Panel meetings to discuss the things we want such as a football ground and we try to take responsibility for trying to get it.

From the West Hendon YAP other youth workers have formed Youth Action Panels in their areas. The success of the West Hendon YAP has been aided by our youth worker Colin Hunter.

Many efforts have been made to celebrate different cultures living together in one community. Various festivals took place in different areas of Barnet including Claremont, Canada Villa and New Barnet. These days were days of celebration where people experienced different cultures of their neighbours through food, clothes, dancing, music and gave people a real opportunity to understand cultures different from their own. These days

were not just your average festival, showbiz stars from the music world turned out to support the cause.

Claremont Festival

On the first day of June over 4000 people from different cultures attended the Claremont Festival which was the start of Barnet Council's first-ever Arts Festival. The Festival was about the fight against racism and different people and cultures came along to celebrate the day. Chart star Shola Ama helped launch the Festival with Ultimate Kaos and other top stars. Members of the West Hendon Youth Action Panel ran a stall selling soft drinks, crisps and sweets to raise money. There were other stalls selling books, foods from different countries and other things to buy. One of the members from the Panel, Ian Evans, performed a song based on racism and so did young people from other youth action panels. There was also dancing from different countries, music and drama all with the theme of anti-racism. It was a very successful day and enjoyed by all who went. Although much of our time was spent at the stall we did get the chance to see some of the bands and it was a great way to celebrate the different cultures living in Barnet.

Canada Villa Festival

At the Canada Villa Festival, young people were given the opportunity to do graffiti art designing pieces which had something to do with racism. These were displayed at the event which was attended by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Agnes Slocombe.



diy terror?

It all started when a boy the age of 13 was followed round a DIY store in Colindale by four members of staff. Why did this happen? I think this was because all young people in the eyes of adults are trouble, so adults you tell us what we are?

We asked a member of staff how long it would take to deliver some wood and he rudely told us it would take two weeks. We were then followed by four members of staff which made me feel bad. I left and phoned the store to ask about the time to deliver wood and also to complain about my treatment as a terror. They put me through to four different people to say sorry. So adults if you think we're thieves we think you're rude. If any young people have been through stereotyping please write to LOUD.

By Ian.

By Omar and Mubarak

can't miss it



What's On

Have you every woken up on a Saturday morning, watched the children's cartoons and realised your weekend is going to be as exciting as your double maths lesson? If you have we have the perfect remedy. Get yourself down to the Welsh Harp Sailing Base (see above). You will meet new people, learn new skills and most importantly have great fun! Relax in the lounge and chill or get out on the water and strut your stuff - the choice is

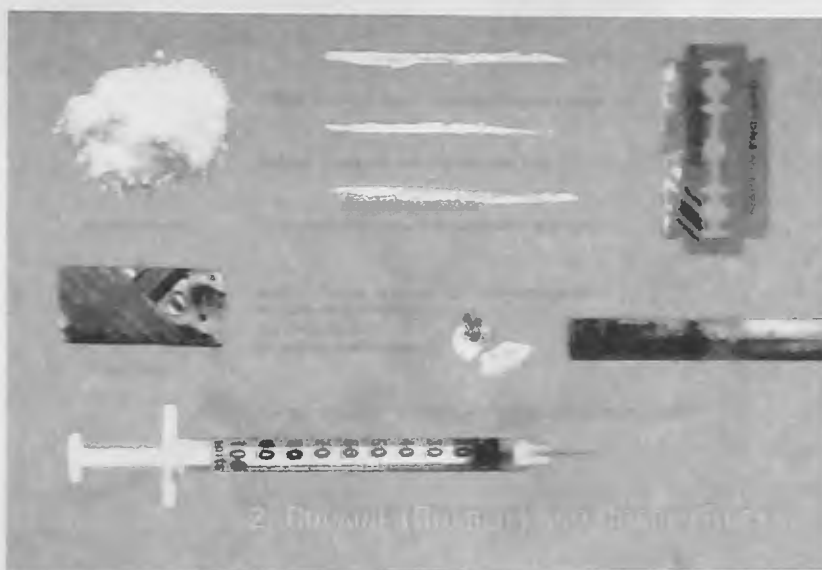
yours.

The base can give you all the fun you need such as canoeing and sailing. You learn all the safety points such as what to do when you capsize. The Welsh Harp is full of wildlife and many birds use it to bring up their young. If you want to have fun this is the place.

For more information call 0181-202 6672 or just go along to the base on Cool Oak Lane, Hendon, NW9.

Clitterhouse outings

Over the last two years we have gone to a lot of places. We went to the Raleigh Project in Surrey and stayed for a whole weekend and took part in lots of activities. We go on trips to Chessington, snooker, quasar, bowling (see below) in Margate and we also take part in the motor project. We took part in Barnet 2000 and have our own youth action panel which meets every two weeks.



In the 90s young people are facing the increasing problem of ever present drugs. Whether directly or indirectly most people's lives will be affected by drugs. One drug in particular that is on the increase is cocaine.

It is believed the reason why cocaine as opposed to other drugs appeals to young people is the effect it creates. The reasons why young people take drugs range from low self-esteem to peer pressure or a form of escapism from the pressures of living in modern day society. Cocaine produces a feeling of exhilaration, power and confidence which combat feelings of inadequacy.

There are many different reasons put forward of why young people become involved in drugs. If you take drugs you may think that you do not do it because of the reasons



COKE NO JOKE

Charlie, Coke or Cocaine - whatever you want to call it, the class A drug causes the same amount of damage to you under all the different names it is referred to as. Anxiety, insomnia and nausea are the feelings obtained from this drug that supposedly makes you feel powerful and confident.

mentioned. Whatever your reason is, it is really an excuse for the damage you are causing yourself.

Although young people may like the effect caused by cocaine there are many dangers involved with the use of the drug. Firstly sniffing cocaine can cause severe damage to the nose leading to eventual collapse. Cocaine also causes feelings of anxiety, restlessness, insomnia, nausea and weight loss due to suppressed appetite. The immediate effects of cocaine are also unpleasant, a rise in blood pressure, increased heart rate, widening of the pupils, dryness of the mouth, diarrhoea and increased urination are all results of cocaine use. People argue that the feeling created by cocaine excuses all of these other effects, but think about it, which would you prefer?

The main problem with young people using cocaine is the amount of money it costs (approximately £50 per gram). If a young person does have a habit it is very unlikely that they will be able to afford to keep it up and so they are set on their way to a downward sloping spiral of drugs and crime that will probably end in prison or death.

Cocaine is one drug that is often overlooked when referring to young people's drug habits. The fact is there are young people out there who do take the drug and so people must make every effort to stay away from it.

Remember not to give in to peer pressure. People will respect you a lot more if you stand up for yourself and say no. You may think you find it difficult to say no to your friends but these people are trying to pressure you into something you really do not want to do and so you have to ask yourself are they really friends? In the end you will respect yourself a lot more if you have the willpower to stand up for yourself against others.

SPECIAL REPORT

SCHINO

The girls, Wendi (20), Tashaka (20) and Carla (18), got together through two adverts in Smash Hits and Melody Maker magazines. It said it was looking for girls to record and release material. They went to the brill building where Wet Wet Wet recorded 'Love is all around'. They did not know each other but were sisters of swing and knew their thing. They have lived together for six months in Glasgow and say "we are a group, not a band and all vocals are live". Wendi sings lead vocals, Tashaka sings top harmony and Carla sings bass. The style of music is Motown meets the 90s because they want their music to be precious to them and everyone else. They are an unsigned group unbelievably waiting for a record deal. So if there are any record producers out there sign them up - they are known as the Schino babes.

By Nic and Bhauna



CONTRACEPTION

Underage sex, unwanted pregnancies and facing the world alone with a newborn baby are just three things which face young people today. There is no way to stop people having sex whatever age they are. The one thing which can be done though is to make an informed decision before having sex and avoiding situations where you wish you could turn back the clock.

There is no way to deter young people from having sex if they want to. However, young people should know what they are doing and be informed, instead of ending up with unwanted pregnancies. The only way to avoid that situation is to know the facts about contraception. There are many different types of contraception and some people may feel more comfortable with one type than the other. Always bear in mind that contraception not only protects you from getting pregnant but can also prevent the contraction of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

Condoms

Condoms are now available for both men and women. There are many different types of condom but they all do the same job and protect you both from sexually transmitted diseases as well as from getting pregnant. The condom is 98 per cent effective and must be used correctly in order to be effective. The difference between the male condom and the female condom, also known as the femidom, is that it can be inserted several hours before intercourse. In order to use condoms properly and effectively you must read all the instructions thoroughly and make sure to follow them. Always check to make sure the packet is not out of date and that there is a British kitemark which guarantees they have been tested for quality. Do not store condoms with pins or badges which may pierce the condom. Condoms are available from chemists, family planning clinics, machines in toilets, petrol stations and many other places.

Contraceptive Pill

The contraceptive pill or simply the pill is a method of contraception for women. They take it orally, ie they swallow it and most courses are taken for twenty-one days. The pill contains chemicals called hormones which stop the release of the egg from the women's ovaries but does not stop periods. A tablet is taken everyday for 21 days or continually. Although the pill stops you from getting pregnant it does NOT provide any protection against sexually transmitted diseases or HIV/AIDS.

If you do have unprotected sex, there is a way of not becoming pregnant but there is nothing to prevent the transmission of diseases. Emergency contraception also known as the 'morning after pill' is taken as soon as possible after unprotected sex but can only be taken up to three days or 72 hours after the event. This pill prevents the women from becoming pregnant. The morning

after pill must only be used in an emergency and must in no way be used as a form of contraception.

Always remember do not have sex until you are ready, do not have sex just because your friends have or because you are afraid you will be dumped if you do not. If somebody tells you they will dump you for the fact you will not have sex with them you have to ask yourself, will you not be better off without this person in your life?

By Nichola Wilcox and Penny Crocker.

PROBLEM PAGE

Any problems you want solving, drop Problem Page a line at:

Detached Youth Work Project
61-63 Watford Way
LONDON
NW4 3AX

We will do our best to answer all your letters but not all letters can be published.



state-of-the-art

Cricklewood's new Claremont Club has officially opened creating for the first time a purpose built youth and community centre for local residents.

Barnet Council has targeted this much neglected area for action during the last three years, upgrading homes and schools and building one of London's finest youth sports centres in Marble Drive.

Now this latest venture offers an indoor venue - equal to any in the borough - as a meeting place and for a wide range of other activities (see right).

The new £300,000 building, at Claremont Road NW2, is the result of a successful partnership between the council and Hendon Football Club. Further financial help came from the John Lyons Charity and the Milly Apthorp Trust.



The Youth Service will run the Claremont Club on four days a week and Hendon Football Club will operate the facilities as the Brent Cross Conference and Banqueting suite on the remaining three days.

The LOUD Editorial panel are Sabrina Fitzgerald, Kelly McCarthy and Bhavna Lathia.

soap news

Coronation Street

The LOUD panel wrote to Coronation Street as we thought a piece about the new family in Coronation Street would be good. In the new Battersby family, 16 year old Leanne is played by 18-year-old Jane Danson (pictured on the right). Jane has recently appeared on television as Monica Jones in "The Grand". For someone as young as 18, Jane has a string of impressive television credits to her name. As well as a series of the "The Grand" Jane has also appeared on "The Ward", "Out of June", "Dorothy Place" and "The Bill". Jane has also appeared in numerous radio plays for both Radio Four and Five.

By Bhavna and Sameer



More backing for caring

Local people will benefit from an extra £155,000 worth of support for care projects in the borough.

This will support additional respite care for people with learning disabilities at Valley Way, a mental health communication strategy, courses at Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute for people with learning disabilities and the Refugee Health Access project.

These projects are being funded by cash available this year through joint Barnet Council and Barnet Health Authority funding.

Citizens' Panel

Barnet Council is going to use a new approach to public consultation by establishing its first Citizens' Panel.

What is a Citizens' Panel? This will be a group of around 1,000 residents selected in a way that is representative of the local population weighted for gender, age and ethnic background and occupation. They volunteer to answer questions about their experience of the council and its services through detailed questionnaires two or three times a year. Panel members will take part voluntarily and receive no payment.



It's a fair cop - Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Agnes Slocombe launches Autumn Days... find out more on page 20.

BARNET - ON TARGET

Barnet has kept its pledge not to be forced off target by last year's tough government budget settlement.

The council's latest set of accounts reveal Barnet has increased investment in services and made substantial savings through good management and careful control of the borough's finances.

Barnet's 1996-97 budget promised high standard, value-for-money services would be maintained and expanded and priority projects aimed at improving the quality of life for residents - especially the most

vulnerable - would go ahead as planned.

"We pursued a policy of protecting services while cutting down on bureaucracy and we made savings by using economy and efficiency measures to protect residents from the worst effects of the government's decision to slash spending," said Councillor Linda McFadyen, Chair of the Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee.

WATCHDOG BARES TEETH AT LOANSHARKS

Barnet Council's Trading Standards Officers are calling on residents to help them in the fight against illegal loansharks operating in the borough.

Complaints from residents of harassment from unlicensed moneylenders has led to Trading Standards setting up a hotline over the next three months for residents and businesses to call and let officers know of any problems they are having with loansharks.

Trading Standards Officers are keen to know the size of the problem in the borough and want to hear from anyone who may have or is suffering at the hands of unscrupulous loansharks.

Officers will be able to advise residents on their legal rights and although will not be able to deal with specific debt problems can offer callers numbers of agencies who will be able to give further advice such as the Citizens Advice Bureau.

"We need to know who these people are and do all we can to stop them operating in the borough," said Councillor

HOTLINE
0181
359
4300

Jack Cohen, Chair of Development and Protection Committee.

"Loansharks target people who are already suffering from debt problems with easy fix solutions. However the debt becomes far worse with harassment often being the main way of collecting the debt. Evidence also suggests some loansharks even resort to physical violence.

Benefits Brief

Evidence needed within a month

From 27 October 1997, whatever date people first contact the Benefits Agency (DSS) will become the date their Income Support claim begins, but only if the form is completed fully to their satisfaction. Similar rules will apply for Job Seeker's Allowance.

They must also ensure that any other information or evidence required in support of their claim, is produced within one month of their claim. If it takes longer than one month to provide the required 'proof', then the date of claim will become the date when the proof is delivered (unless there is a case to backdate the benefit).

Exemptions from this new rule

Some claimants can be exempt from this change in the rules if they give notice - as soon as possible - that they are unable to complete the form, and also show that:

- the form could not be completed or the required proof obtained because of a physical, mental or communication difficulty and it is not 'reasonably practical' for someone to complete the form on their behalf, or
- the required proof does not exist, or
- the required proof could not be obtained without serious risk of physical or mental harm to the claimant, and it is not 'reasonably practicable' to get it another way, or
- the required proof could only be obtained from a third party, and it is not 'reasonably practicable' to get it from him/her.

While this new rule is intended to cut down on fraud or unintentional overclaiming, it will inevitably create serious problems for many deserving people with one likely consequence: some genuine claimants will fall further into debt with essential expenses like their rent and fuel bills.

Agenda 21

The borough's second Local Agenda 21 area, the Victoria Environmental Partnership is backing Barnet Council in its work to build thriving local town centres.

The Partnership now has a representative from the new Ballards Lane Traders Association committed to working with the town centre to ensure its survival.

Promoting a sustainable economic and social environment for everyone is one of the main aims of Local Agenda 21 and this is reflected in both the council's Corporate Plan and Economic Development Strategy.

The Partnership is now working with Church End traders on getting more local people to come in and use the shops and services in the town centre rather than travel away from the area.

It also wants to encourage more residents to walk or cycle to the town centre or use public transport which is also one of the aims of Barnet's Transport Strategy.

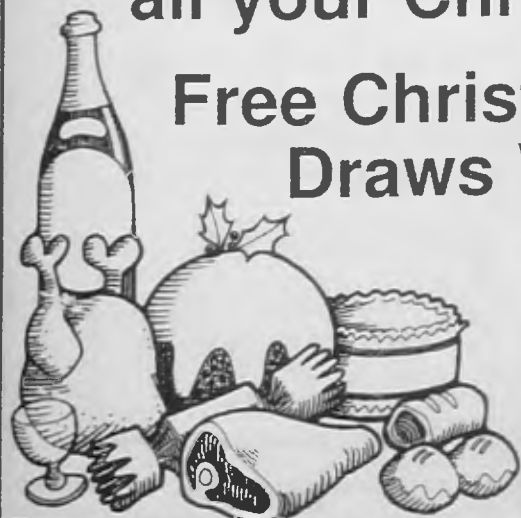
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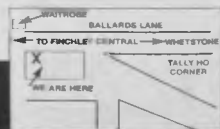
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or
0181-359 2277

Broadwalk
Shopping Centre HA8
Tuesdays 9.30am - 12.30pm

Salcombe Gardens NW7
Wednesdays 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Grahame Park NW9
Mondays 10am - 12.30pm

Hendon Tesco NW4
Thursdays 10am - 12.30pm

Clitterhouse NW2
Mondays 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Safeway NW2
Fridays 2.30pm - 4.30pm and
Wednesdays 6pm - 7pm

Food Giant NW2
Saturdays 10am - 12.30pm and 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Dollis Valley Way EN5
Wednesdays 10am - 12.30pm

Waitrose N12
Thursdays 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Tesco, Colney Hatch N12
Fridays 10am - 12.30pm

Tarling Road N2
Tuesdays 2.30pm - 4.30pm



HOLIDAY PLAYSCHMES IN BARNET 1998

Anyone who provides Day Care for children under the age of eight, for two hours or more on any day, must inform the local authority responsible under the Children Act 1989.

The process of registration may take three to six months, so it is important that contact is made with the Registration and Inspection Unit at an early stage.

Applications for 1998 Easter holiday playschemes should be received at the Inspection Unit by 31 December 1997 at the latest.

The Inspection Unit
Friary House, Friary Park
Friern Barnet Lane, London N20 0NR
Tel: 0181-361 2525



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Hendon NW4 1PS
0181 457 9900

TeamBarnet Leisure offer a wide range of sports and activities for children and adults.

New for Spring

Adult golf courses at the Metro Centre, Copthall and Hadley Wood, starting in February.

Why not try our Aromatherapy or Reflexology courses at Copthall or Jazz Dance and Yoga courses at the Finchley Lido. For details of all courses contact Sports Development on 0181 457 9909



Take the plunge with our term time swimming courses for adults and children. These include Parent and Baby, Tadpoles and Ducklings for the 3 to 5 year olds, Learn to Swim for 5 and over, together with diving and synchro for over 7 year olds. Over 18 and want to master a new sport or improve your technique? Join an adult course and enjoy yourself, as well as making new friends. Ring Swimming Development on 0181 457 9902



Childrens courses

for Spring include dance, Fitkids and junior keepfit at the Finchley Lido. At Copthall new courses in dance, Fitclub, karate and soccer start from January 6.

For booking details contact 0181 457 9900.



Holiday bulges starting to show?

A wide range of adult's classes restart in the New Year, so take your pick from Aerobics, Keepfit, Men's Circuit, Personal Training, Ante/post Natal Aquaerobics, Box-a-Cise, Walk Reebok, New Body, Step Reebok, Yoga, 50+, Gym and Womens Circuit sessions. All classes are available on a sessional basis and a free swim is included subject to pool availability.



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There are still some places in a few age groups for 1997 - 1998

OPEN DAY WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 1997 From 3.00-6.00pm

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Please telephone the school admissions officer for a prospectus

0181 959 3403 or Fax: 0181 959 1503

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comprising

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The Borehamwood Care Village, set in the heart of Borehamwood, provides for different levels of care; Sheltered Accommodation, a Residential Home and a Nursing Home. This affords the Client peace of mind, knowing that should dependency increase, the appropriate level of care can be provided in the same secure and luxurious environment.

The Sheltered Accommodation offers independent living in well appointed, self-contained apartments comprising a lounge, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom with an in-house help call system. A team of trained Home-Helps can provide care, meals, domestic and laundry services.

This allows the Client time to take advantage of our full activities and events programme.

The Residential Home, registered with Hertfordshire County Council, provides each client with an apartment. This encourages the maintenance of daily living skills and independence. The Home's Care Team ensures care is implemented by way of Care Plans, designed to meet the requirements of the Residents' Charter. An Activities Organiser offers a full and extensive activities programme.

The Nursing Home, which opened in 1996, has thirty-eight tastefully decorated rooms, all with en-suite facilities and colour television. Full nursing care is on hand 24 hours a day to ensure the Client's comfort. We provide a varied menu and special diets can be catered for. As with the Residential Home a full time Activities Co-ordinator is on hand to provide a full activities and events programme.

If you would like to view the Village or would like to discuss your personal requirements please contact:

Scott Paterson, on 0181 207 0305 for the Sheltered Accommodation and the Residential Home.

For Nursing Home enquiries contact **Germaine Bellerby on 0181 207 0599**



A MORE CARING CONCERN

WHAT'S ON

We welcome contributions to the What's On column. Write to: The Editor, Community News, Barnet Council, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG. We reserve the right to shorten entries and no responsibility can be accepted for the accuracy of information supplied for the column.

13 Dec-25 Jan

'Compendium of Games', special holiday exhibition of hundreds of old and new games and puzzles with dozens to try. Also 6 Dec-6 Jan the dining room is dressed to celebrate a Victorian family Christmas. (The museum will be closed from 24-26 Dec & 1 Jan). Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. Tel. 0181-203 0130

WINTER FUN IN BARNET'S CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES

16 December

Jingle Bells! stories, songs and a visit from Father Christmas, Childs Hill Library, 10.30-11.30am; Christmas storytime with special guest Father Christmas, Totteridge Library, 2.30-3.15pm; Make Christmas tree decorations, for 6s+, free tickets from Edgware Library, 6-7pm; Happy Chanukah! crafts, songs and stories, Golders Green Library, 6.30-7.30pm

17 December

Happy Chanukah! crafts, songs and stories, Hendon Library, 6.30-7.30pm

18 December

Father Christmas comes to Friern Barnet Library, 10.30-11.30am, tickets 50p from the library; Christmas storytime with special guest Father Christmas, Burnt Oak Library, 2.30-3pm; Christmas storytime with special guest Father Christmas, tickets 50p from North Finchley Library, 2.30-3pm; Christmas storytime with special guest Father Christmas, Osidge Library, 2.15-3pm; Happy Chanukah! crafts, songs and stories, Hampstead Garden Suburb Library, 6.30-7.30pm

19 December

Christmas storytime with special guest Father Christmas, East Barnet Library,

11-11.45am; Drop-In Christmas party with Father Christmas, free tickets from Grahame Park Library, 11.15am-12.15pm; Christmas Party for under 5s, free tickets from Mill Hill Library, 2-3pm; Father Christmas party for under 5s, tickets 50p from South Friern Library, 2.30-3pm

20 December

Christmas storytime for under 7s, Chipping Barnet Library, 11-11.30am; Jingle Bells! stories, songs and a visit from Father Christmas, Hampstead Garden Suburb Library, 10.30-11.30am; Eric the Reindeer and Father Christmas party, free tickets from East Finchley Library, 2-3.30pm

22 December

Jingle Bells! stories, songs and a visit from Father Christmas, Hendon Library, 10.30-11.30am; Make a Father Christmas mask, Chipping Barnet Library, 2-3.15pm; Father Christmas party for 3-6s, tickets 50p from Church End Library, 2.30-3.30pm

23 December

Jingle Bells! stories, songs and a visit from Father Christmas, Golders Green Library, 2.30-3.30pm; Make glitter pictures, for 5-12s, free tickets from Grahame Park Library, 2-3pm; Winter stories for under 7s, Mill Hill Library, 2.30-3pm

2 January

Make a New Year calendar, for under 7s, Mill Hill Library, 2-3pm

THE BULL, THEATRE, GALLERY, STUDIOS

Drama: 18 Dec-3 Jan, The Bull & Glenn Lee Productions present 'Hansel & Gretel', a new family musical for Christmas inspired by the Brothers Grimm fairytale. Bringing to life the music, mystery and magic of the story together with a host of other Grimm

characters. **7, 8, 10, 11 Jan** Star Theatre Co. 'Burns on Seats'

14, 15, 17 Jan Besht Tellers 'Angels and Demons', **16 Jan** ARC Theatre Ensemble 'Ooh Ah Showab Khan', **22 Jan**, Sue Lee & Kosta Andrea Theatre Co. 'Sharks', **31 Jan**, Death by Theatre - 24 hours from Stanislavski,

4-7 Feb, Middlesex University BA Performing Arts 'Hair', **11-14 Feb**, One Nation Under a Groove...innit

'Arrange that Marriage', **25 & 26 Feb**, Guy Masterson Productions in assn. with the Salisbury Playhouse 'Shylock', **28 Feb**, The People Show 'People Show Number 105'

Dance: 21 Feb, Priyar Pawar & Nilima Devi 'Milap' (meeting point)

Comedy: 12 Dec, John Hegley and Nigel, **18 Jan** Sunday Comedy Club,

24 & 25 Jan, Peter Moss & Klezmer Groove 'Too Jewish for Luton!!', **29 Jan**, One Nation Under a Groove...innit 'Asian Comedy Night',

22 Feb, Sunday Comedy Club.

Music: 1 Feb, Humphrey Lyttelton & His Band, **8 Feb**, Durga Rising,

15 Feb, Indo-Jazz Fusions.

Children's Shows: 18 Jan, Besht Tellers 'Tales for Tots and Under Tens',

25 Jan, Booster Cushion Theatre 'Never Judge a Book by its Cover',

1 Feb, Movingstage Touring Puppet Theatre 'Three Little Pigs and Other Stories',

8 Feb, Indefinite Articles 'Pinocchio', **15 Feb**, Fizz Theatre Co. 'Our Excellent Adventure',

17-20 Feb, Tiebreak Theatre Co. 'Dick King-Smith's George Speaks',

22 Feb, Kazzum 'Safe as Houses'.

Exhibitions: until 5 Jan,

'A Different View' landscape artists David Drinkwater, Mari l'Anson, Paul Robinson; **14 Jan-18 Feb**, 'Object

Abject Subject' Penelope Haynes, Barbara Dean and Yasmin Abrams

undergraduates from The University of Hertfordshire's Faculty of Art and Design; **14 Jan-18 Feb**, Karen

Rawlinson's figurative photographs.

Classes: Raqs Sharqi (Egyptian dance); Afternoon Arts (over 50s); Bull

Youth Theatre 1 (15-19yrs); Stand-Up Comedy; Theatre Improvisation;

Acapella Voices; Physical Theatre;

Theatre Workshop; Stained Glass; Carved Seams Patchwork; Canvaswork.

Sunday classes: 25 Jan, Belly dancing masterclass, **1 Feb**, 'An

Introduction to Brecht', **8 Feb**, 'A Day with Grotowski', **22 Feb**, Self-portraiture.

March & April '98, A Festival of Celtic Arts and Culture when The Bull

will be taken over by all things Celtic. Main festival listings available mid Jan.

For details of the above listings contact The Bull, 68 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SJ,

tel. 0181-449 0048

2 & 9 January 7.30pm

3 & 10 January 3pm & 7.30pm

The All Saints' Instant Theatre Co. in 'The Twelve Dancing Princesses' a

phantomime by Ann Deutsch based on the traditional fairy tale but with some

new characters and lots of comedy and music. All Saints' Arts Centre, 122

Oakleigh Road North, N20 9EZ. Details and box office tel. 0181-445

8388

8 January 8pm

New Barnet Amateur Gardeners' and Floral Art Society. Quiz Night. Details

0181-449 8836

22 January 7.30pm

Barnet Borough Confederation of Tenants and Residents Association

Meeting, Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley

21 February 7.45pm

Hendon Music Society presents Elisabeth Wallfisch (violin) with

Richard Tunnicliffe (cello) and Paul Nicholson (piano). Programme is a

mix of trios and duos by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert incl.

Beethoven's first published work Op 1, No. 1. Trinity Church, Hodford Road,

Golders Green. Tickets £9.50 (children £5, conc. £7.50). Details, 0181-203

2355

Rock/Blues Concerts every Sunday night at The Torrington, Lodge

Lane/High Road, North Finchley. Details 0181-445 4710

Walks/Activities with Barnet Leisure Services and CMS

For more information and meeting points, phone 0181-359 3052.

21 December, 10am-12.30pm

At winter solstice time learn about the varied woodland on the new tree trail

at Moat Mount then contrast this with Barnet Gate Wood and Rowley Green.

1 January, 2-4pm

Join the London Wildlife Trust on their first nature walk of 1998. 4km stroll

around the wilder parts of Edgwarebury Park and Clay Lane.

11 January, 10am-1pm

9km ramble looking at the history of Mill Hill and across the Totteridge

Valley. The southern part of the walk is along a disused underground line rich

in wildlife.

25 January, 2-4pm

3km stroll along the banks of the Welsh Harp to see the varied water

fowl.

8 February, 2-4pm

Walk along the banks of the Welsh Harp, visit the bird hide, watch the

winter wildfowl on the water.

11 February, 10am-12noon

2.5km ramble from St Andrews in Totteridge to St Johns in Barnet seeing

the trees of the Old Court House along the way.

15 February, 10am-12noon

2km guided walk with London Wildlife Trust to Brent Reservoir and the bird

hides with help to identify the exceptional wildlife visiting this area at

this time of year.

Barnet Chamber of Commerce - Forthcoming Events

20 January An IT Seminar on - How to Make Your Fortune and How to

Save a Fortune Using the Internet

24 February An IT Seminar on - Accounting for the Future

26 February Chamber Lunch at The Pavilion on the Park

For the latest information on events please contact Peter Starling or De

Cavanagh on 0181-343 3833

Your council committees at work

List of Committee

Meetings at The Town

Hall, Hendon for the period 10 December 1997 to 24 February 1998.

Commencing 7pm unless otherwise stated.

10 December Development and Protection Sub-Committees

10 December Barnet Town Centre Forum (Barnet College, Russell Lane, N14)

15 December Finchley Town Centre Forum (Barnet College, Stanhope Road, N12)

16 December Council Meeting

18 December Compulsory Competitive Tendering Executive Committee

18 December Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee

22 December Development and Protection Committee

5 January Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee

6 January Social Services Committee

7 January Personnel Executive Committee

8 January Economic Development and Land Executive Committee

12 January General Executive Committee

13 January Public Works Committee

14 January Development and Protection Sub-Committees

15 January Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee

19 January Family Care Sub-Committee

20 January Public Works Consultation Forum

21 January Policy and Resources Committee (special meeting to approve calculation of Council Tax base for 1998/99)

21 January Council Meeting (to approve recommendation from Policy and Resources Committee special meeting on Council Tax base)

21 January Policy and Resources Committee

22 January Metropolitan Police and Barnet Community Consultative Group, 7.30pm (venue to be confirmed)

22 January Compulsory Competitive Tendering Executive Committee

22 January Direct Service Organisations Executive Committee

22 January Children and Families Consultation Forum

26 January Road Safety Consultation Forum

28 January Development and Protection Committee

28 January Community Care Consultation Forum

2 February Economic Development and Land Executive Committee (Special Budget Meeting)

3 February Council Meeting

4 February Grants Committee (Special Budget Meeting)

4 February Inspection Advisory Panel

5 February Public Works Committee (Special Budget Meeting)

9 February Housing Committee (Special Budget Meeting)

11 February Social Services Committee (Special Budget Meeting)

12 February Education Committee (Special Budget Meeting)

16 February General Executive Committee (Special Budget Meeting)

17 February Development and Protection Committee (Special Budget Meeting 6.30pm)

17 February Development and Protection Sub-Committees

18 February Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee (Special Budget Meeting)

19 February Budget, Financing and Performance Review Executive Committee (Special Budget Meeting)

23 February Policy and Resources Committee (Budget Meeting)

24 February Children and Families Consultation Forum (Annual Conference)

24 February Joint Meeting of all Town Centre Fora (venue to be arranged)



Disabled Access



Loop system

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Telephone Numbers: all codes are 0181- unless otherwise indicated. No appointments are needed for those councillors holding regular surgeries. At Bank Holidays, surgery times may change. Please ring beforehand to check. Political groups are indicated in an abbreviated form (Lab) = Labour (Con) = Conservative (LD) = Liberal Democrat

ARKLEY WARD

Anita Campbell (Lab) 440 2703
Pam Coleman (Lab) 449 6254
Linda McFadyen (Lab) 440 6254
1st and 3rd Saturday every month 2-3pm
Chipping Barnet Library
3 Stapylton Road
Barnet

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

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

BURNT OAK WARD

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

CHILDS HILL WARD

Jack Cohen (LD) 445 3981
Jonathan Davies (LD) 203 6690
Susette Palmer (LD) 455 5140
1st Thursday every month 7-8pm
Childs Hill Library, 320 Cricklewood Lane, NW2
2nd Tuesday every month 4-5pm
Kent Hall, Westcroft Estate, NW2

COLINDALE WARD

Danish Chopra (Lab) 449 3231
Gill Sargeant (Lab) 455 1070
David Williams (Lab) 343 1082
1st Saturday every month 10-11am
Grahame Park Library,
The Concourse,
Colindale

EAST BARNET WARD

Usha Chopra (Lab) 449 3231
Anne Jarvis (Lab) 449 9001
Richard Soer (Lab) 440 5060
1st Monday every month 7-8pm
New Barnet Residents' Association
48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet
Every Saturday 10am-12noon
104 East Barnet Road, East Barnet

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

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

EDGWARE WARD

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

FINCHLEY WARD

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

FRIERN BARNET WARD

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

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

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

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

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

HADLEY WARD

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

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

HALE WARD

Andrew Dickie (Lab) 906 2807
Every Saturday 11am-12.30pm
Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue

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

HENDON WARD

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

MILL HILL WARD

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

ST. PAUL'S WARD

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

TOTTERIDGE WARD

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

WEST HENDON WARD

Nicholas Kissen (Lab) 200 9861
Gina Marks (Lab) 906 9898
Agnes Slocombe (Lab) 202 4074
1st and 3rd Saturday every month
10.30am-12noon
West Hendon Clinic, West Hendon Broadway
(entrance in Perryfield Way)

WOODHOUSE WARD

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

COMMUNITY NEWS Barnet Council, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BG
Editorial, design & production Barnet Council, Press & Public Relations Unit

Please telephone the 24-hour hotline number 0181-359 2325 with any comments or suggestions you have about Community News or if you have a problem with its delivery. Please leave your name and a contact number with your message.



Getting to grips with nature: Bethany Playdell and Alexandra Deveraux from Monken Hadley JMI School help celebrate the launch of the Nature Conservation Handbook for Barnet.

Barnet residents have the chance to learn everything there is to know about nature conservation and wildlife with the launch of a new book - *Nature Conservation in Barnet*.

The guide, which has been produced by the London Ecology Unit with backing from Barnet Council, details the huge variety of wildlife habitat to be found in the area.

Barnet is a borough of contrasts with large built-up areas but also with some of the largest areas of open space in the capital.

The Welsh Harp Reservoir in the south west of the borough is a site of Special Scientific Interest and is nationally important for resident and visiting wildfowl.

The borough also boasts four Local Nature Reserves, Oak Hill Woods, Coppetts Wood and Glebelands, Rowley Green Common and Scratchwood and Moat Mount Open Space Countryside Park.

One of the borough's most important ecological features is its ancient meadows, such as Totteridge Fields and Arrandene Open Space which supports wild flowers such as sneezewort, devil's-bit scabious and pepper saxifrage, all of which are uncommon elsewhere in London.

Barnet is renowned for its magnificent hedgerows, many of which have survived from field patterns established in Elizabethan times or even earlier. Woodland at Scratchwood, Oak Hill Woods and Barnet Gate Wood are also believed to have formed part of the massive forest which once covered much of Middlesex.

Whether it is birds or butterflies, flowers or fungi, waterfowl or wildlife walks, the new guide has the answers.



Hands on the wheel: Councillor Stan Cross finds out all about Barnet's Driver Improvement Scheme geared to help drivers who have committed minor traffic offences stay on the right track in future.

KEEPING SAFE

ACCIDENT PREVENTION UNIT

From safety in the home, to better driving techniques Barnet Council's Accident Prevention Unit can offer help and advice on accident prevention, training education and publicity to schools, residents, businesses or voluntary organisations on everything to do with safety and the prevention of accidents.

The unit has a number of initiatives running including the innovative and awardwinning play *As Time Goes By*. The play, which won in the regional finals of the 1997 Health Alliance Awards, targets over 65s and aims to show what help and advice is available to older residents following accidental falls at home. It also highlights potentially dangerous situations

and how older people can avoid them.

Statistics show that broken bones in older people are often caused by accidental falls at home. The play focuses on one character who has recently been sent home from hospital after falling at home damaging her hip. As she lives on her own, it shows how difficult it can be to cope and examines what help and services are available to her, giving practical advice to older people who might face a similar situation.

"The play has been very popular with residents. It gets the message across far better than just a lecture would," said Councillor Stan Cross, Chair of Public Works Committee.

"We want to teach older

ALL ABOARD IN STYLE!



All packed up and ready to go: Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Mel Packer is seen above at a special exhibition, organised by The Pullman Society to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of George Pullman, the designer of luxury dining and sleeping cars for railways, which went on display at Barnet Council's Church Farmhouse Museum.

Pullman cars were renowned for the quality of their comfort and service. The first Pullman cars to run in Britain were used by the Midland Railway on its route through Hendon.

The first in service left St Pancras station at midnight on 1 June 1874 and arrived in Bradford at 5.30am. Luxury train travel reached its peak in the 1920s and 1930s with such famous services as *The Golden Arrow* and *The Brighton Belle*.

people to avoid situations that result in falls and if they do break any bones what help and services are available while they get better," he added.

The play toured the borough during the council's Autumn Days fortnight in October, and has been seen by thousands of older residents over the last year.

The Autumn Days fortnight, which was a joint partnership between Barnet Council and the Health Authority's Health Promotion Unit, aimed to get more older people to try out some healthy activities, from swimming to cycling, keep fit to bowling, for themselves and to encourage them to continue after the fortnight had ended.

Now you've read Community News - recycle it