

Barnet CIVIC NEWS



No 1: January 1980



Your new monthly Civic News

I WOULD LIKE to introduce you to Barnet Civic News magazine. It will be produced monthly and delivered to every home in the Borough.

The first issue of a new publication is always accompanied by a feeling of trepidation on the part of the publishers. The planning has been done, the features written and the pages put together. But the big question still remains — will it do the job we want?

When the Borough was formed in 1965 it drew together five established communities but even today we still face the problem of communicating with its diverse areas. We feel the magazine will play an important part in filling this need.

Through communication we hope all residents will be drawn together and feel able to take a greater interest in local affairs and perhaps play a more active part in community life.

I think it is important to explain in these times of financial restraint that the magazine is produced at no cost to the Council. Production costs are covered by revenue from advertisements.

I hope the magazine will serve a worthwhile purpose in improving communications within the Borough. We are looking to our readers for support both in the field of advertisements and in ideas and contributions which will keep Civic News a lively community magazine.

E. M. Bennett
Chief Executive and Town Clerk

Produced and published on behalf of the London Borough of Barnet by Laurence Marshall (Advertisers) Ltd.

THE MAYOR of Barnet, Councillor Mrs Rita Levy, inspecting local TA units during the official adoption ceremony at Barnet Cophall Stadium. See p. 28.

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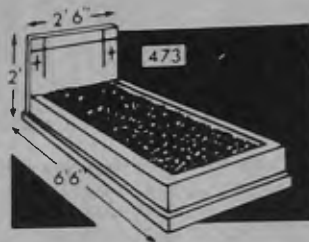
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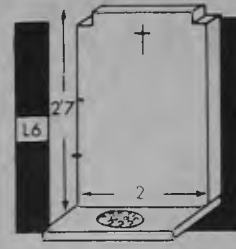
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Civic News,
London Borough of Barnet,
The Town Hall,
The Burroughs
Hendon NW4 4BG
Tel. 202 8282, Exts. 71 & 479

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Laurence Marshall (Advertisers)
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Barnet Civic News is edited jointly
by Mr. W. G. White, the Council's
Press and Information Officer, and
Rosemary Jude, Press Officer,
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enable the launch of the magazine.

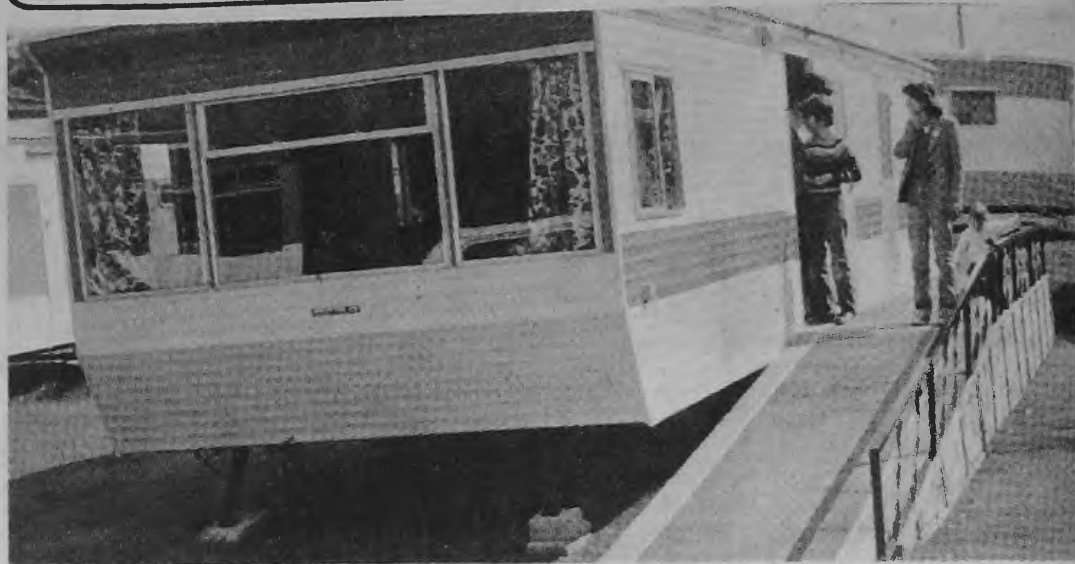
Bill White began his journalistic
career in South Devon. He has
lived in Barnet for more than 20
years and was sports editor and
then deputy editor of the Barnet
Press before joining the Council
as Press and Information Officer
almost five years ago.

Rosemary Jude began her
journalistic career on local
newspapers in Kent and later
South London and then joined the
public relations department of an
international construction com-
pany. She is a Fellow of the British
Association of Industrial Editors.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

IN this first issue of our new Barnet Civic News I would like to send New Year greetings to all the residents of the Borough. We are entering a new decade, and although we are all very much aware of the difficulties facing local government today, I believe that we have in our Borough a great heritage of caring and voluntary effort. If we can continue to work together in partnership I am sure we can look forward to the 1980s in a spirit of hope and determination to make Barnet an even better place to live in the years ahead.

RITA LEVY, MAYOR OF BARNET



A holiday home with access by ramp for the handicapped.

Mayor's Appeal Fund tops the target

THE MAYOR OF BARNET'S Appeal Fund has passed all expectations. A holiday home, sited near Poole in Dorset, has already been purchased and will be available for letting to families where one of them suffers from multiple sclerosis.

Now the target is to purchase a motorised caravan, specially adapted for users of wheelchairs, so that MS sufferers can enjoy a touring holiday with their families.

As soon as the original target of £7,000 was in sight arrangements went ahead to buy the holiday home. Today the appeal stands at the £14,000 mark and the target is now £20,000.

"I am thrilled at the response," the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Rita Levy, said. "People have been magnificent and through their generosity we are going to be able to help families in which the mother or father has been struck by multiple sclerosis to enjoy normal, active family holidays.

"We still need that generosity to continue if we are going to meet our new target, but I am sure the people of Barnet will continue to respond."

The appeal will run until May 5.

John Groom's, one of the leading charities for the disabled, who have homes and sheltered workshops in Mill Hill, have undertaken the siting and maintenance of the new holiday home.

It will be based near the sea and within easy reach of the New Forest, at

Sandford Park, near Poole, Dorset. This is a normal holiday caravan site, not a disabled centre, so that families using the holiday home will be able to enjoy an open camp which has its own self-service shop, bar, club room, and play pool.

But the holiday home is designed with handicapped people in mind. Access is by ramp, and inside there is ample space to move a wheelchair in. There is a fully equipped kitchen with cooker, refrigerator and hot water supply at wheelchair height, a shower room with a real porcelain loo, two separate double bedrooms and a convertible couch.

The holiday home has its own colour television set and a wheelchair is supplied. There is even central heating should the weather turn cold.

Bookings should now be made because preference is being given to Barnet families with a member suffering from multiple sclerosis. Contact Mr. A. K. Billington, John Groom's Association, 10 Gloucester Drive, London N4, telephone 802 7272.

"We didn't set out to break any records but the response has been terrific. Now we must keep up the momentum to achieve our new target," Councillor Mrs. Summers, chairman of the Appeal Committee, said.

The money has been coming in from private individuals, sports clubs, local organisations, schools and businesses. "I just wish I could thank everyone individually, people have been so marvellous," the Mayor said.



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT throughout Great Britain is having to tighten its metaphorical belt. With cut backs in Government support, economies have had to be made and projects postponed. In this current financial year — 1979/80 — Barnet has had to find savings of £1 million in its planned expenditure. And the coming financial year, which begins in April, will call for even tighter budgeting.

Barnet Council have tried to economise by maintaining the present level of essential services, pruning but not cutting out other services, and putting off some capital programmes. It means that some hoped for plans have had to be postponed and there will be almost no growth in public services.

Why has this happened? The Government is committed to a programme of cutting back on public expenditure. Local Government is financed in two main ways — money raised locally by fees, rents and above all rates, which might be seen as a local property tax; and Government money from national taxation known as the Rate Support Grant.

The Rate Support Grant accounts for about half the Council's income, and as an outer London borough Barnet does less well than many other authorities who get over 60 per cent of their finance from Government.

Every year in March the Council presents its spending plans for the coming financial year. But soon after these were put into effect this year the Government changed and Barnet was told that their Rate Support Grant was being cut by £1 million.

This placed the borough in exactly the same situation as any household which is suddenly told that there has been a large cut in its income.

The announcement of the cut was made at the end of May. There followed four months of intensive work for the elected members and officers of the borough, revising the year's plans and seeing where money could be saved.

Restraint needed

In their original plans for the year the Council had already been aware of the need for restraint and had planned for a very small growth programme — that is the spending of money to improve rather than to maintain services. About £400,000 — well under one per cent of the total budget — had been allocated for this growth and development and this was the first area to feel the pinch.

Some of the money had already been spent. A number of schemes in this area where the money had not already been committed was cut from the present financial year's estimates but some growth was retained in certain areas.

For instance, the Council had been planning to expand the Meals-on-

Wheels Service. There was a large programme for decentralising the housing service. But even when these had been removed from the spending plans more savings had to be made. Every spending committee went through its estimates seeking areas where savings could be made. These savings were debated in committee and at the full Council Meeting in October.

£1 million cut

A total of £988,400 was deducted from the original programme. This represents a reduction of 1½ per cent in the Council's total budgeted spending of £67,505,000 for 1979/80.

As more than half the Council's budget is spent on education it is not surprising to find that the service suffers the biggest reduction in expenditure.

Social Services rank as the second highest spending committee and in the original estimates for the year they were to have the largest growth rate of any Council service in the borough. Consequently they have a greater reduction in percentage terms.

The Government's proposals to reduce public sector spending are long-term which means we will see a reduction in real terms of the Council's expenditure in 1980/81 and subsequent years.

The need to make economies is not a new situation. All too frequently in the past cost-cutting exercises have been a necessary feature in the Council's budgeting. Superficially today's situation is no different from yesterday's but fundamentally the problem is very different and calls for a new approach.

On the previous occasions reductions in public spending were conditioned by necessity rather than philosophy. However difficult it was to frame the current budget, it was always realistic to assume that next year would bring growth in expenditure and services.

Against that background it is not

surprising that the economy exercises undertaken in the past have been considered as short-term expedients and not as planned permanent reductions in spending levels.

The situation that local government now faces is dramatically different. It is clear that a substantial reduction in the real level of local government spending will be required over the next few years. This in turn will call for changes in the pattern of spending within individual authorities.

Structural change

To approach the problem as a series of short-term economy exercises with pro-rata cuts across the whole range of services would certainly be disastrous to the efficiency of the Council and the morale of the authority and ratepayers alike. A different concept has to be achieved and to gain substantial reductions in spending it will be necessary to look at what might be called structural change. In this way specific areas would be identified where a defined element of service could be abandoned or run down without being too destructive to the main core of service responsibility.

Whilst it is not difficult to define the problem in words, results will not be easy to achieve. Extensive study will be necessary to specify those service areas where substantial economies are possible and to forecast the effect in social as well as financial terms. Decisions will be painful.

It will require considerable strength of purpose by all concerned to implement the changes. In the final analysis we must accept the fact that the breadth of the services the Council is able to offer will in future be restricted.

The previous across-the-board method of economising has often forced the Council to make decisions which could have in the medium or long-term, proved to be false economies. Obvious

A TIME TO TIGHTEN OUR CIVIC BELTS

examples are in the field of building maintenance and highway repair. Delayed maintenance invariably costs more in real terms than if the work had been undertaken at the proper time.

The basic economic philosophy leading the Government into its policy on local government finance is that it is necessary for Britain to divert more resources into the private, wealth-creating sector in order to regenerate the economy. Local government must depend upon its own resources, either from the ratepayer or the taxpayer, and if in times of economic stress those resources are limited, there is inevitably the need to curtail local government spending until such a time as the private sector is in a healthy state to provide more money to meet public needs.

Nevertheless, it is fair to emphasise the inter-dependency of the public and private sectors in a developed society, where local government in particular is a most important partner. Perhaps the most obvious example is in the field of education. A successful economy demands a highly-qualified work force which in turn requires adequate resources applied to education, training and the development of skills.

Factors such as these demonstrate the real need for local authorities to conceive an approach to cost reduction which will enable the essential core of service responsibilities to be retained.

Where the savings fall

Committee	Estimate 1979/80	Proposed Economies	Percentage of Estimate 1979/80
	£	£	%
Allotments	Cr. 5,500	-	
Carnival and Shows	7,800	-	
Development and Estates	2,515,800	28,000	1.11
Education	38,691,400	485,800	1.25
Finance (including Revenue Contingency) Provision	3,552,000	-	
General Purposes	1,043,500	22,600	2.17
Central Administration Expenses	4,984,800	68,600	1.38
Housing	731,600	16,500	2.26
Libraries and Arts	1,913,500	28,500	1.49
Public Works	4,842,400	99,400	2.054
Social Services	8,350,100	238,100	2.86
Town Planning and Research	877,600	900	0.10
TOTAL	67,505,000	988,400	1.46

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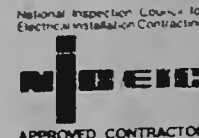
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PUBLISHERS' INTRODUCTION

The Publishers of Civic News take pleasure in supplying you with this first issue of a new magazine which is designed to improve communications between the Council, the residents and ratepayers of the Borough. Civic News is not a completely new idea as such. However, in its present form and with plans to issue it free each month throughout the year to every household within the Borough, we feel that we are creating an entirely new publication which will perform a service never before offered to the residents. At the same time it will offer to trade and industry in the Borough a new media of advertising designed to provide the largest circulation available within this area at the lowest possible cost. In many instances it will reach potential customers other advertising does not.

Both the Council and the Publishers invite suggestions and ideas for future issues. Civic News is designed as a community magazine. It can remain such only if residents and traders are prepared to take an active interest in it. The publication will be issued each month to approximately 110,000 households. While it is our intention to deliver to every household within the Borough, we must point out that to obtain a one hundred per cent distribution each month is a difficult task. The distribution is being carried out by an organisation highly skilled in this field, but it is possible for a number of households even sometimes a whole area to be missed. If you do not receive a copy or you know of any household that has been overlooked we will be extremely grateful if you will inform us direct, or the press office at the Town Hall. Only in this manner can we be sure of alerting our distributors of any defect in their distribution.

The editorial content of the magazine will be handled by Council officers who are qualified journalists. They will make every endeavour to ensure that the contents will be of general interest to the reader. This first copy contains a questions and answers page which, in due course, will be substituted for a letters to the Council and answers section. Where possible letters and answers will be published in the month following receipt. We must, however, impress upon readers that only a certain number of letters can be published. If the number of letters exceeds the allotted space, replies will be sent direct. Your letters should be sent

to the press office at Barnet along with any other suggestions and comments you may have in respect of this publication.

To all businesses and commerce in general within the Borough we offer in the Civic News the largest circulating news media within this area. Our distribution is in fact approximately 45 per cent greater than the combined present circulation of the long established newspapers available to you. Our advertising costs are lower than those of the same combined newspapers. This publication, which will find its way into many households the established media does not, is therefore the most cost effective advertising within the Borough. Support will be necessary from local traders to keep the magazine viable and to help it to grow month by month. We are satisfied that this is a media which will give advertisers the greatest possible return for the lowest possible cost.

We will be pleased to supply any information advertisers require. Please telephone us on 363 4626/7 or 367 0246 when your enquiries will receive our immediate attention and arrangements for a representative to call and discuss this matter can be made at your convenience.

We are publishing a classified advertisement column in future issues. This category must be pre-paid and our rates will be £1 per line of five words, with a minimum of two lines. The coupon on this page can be used for this purpose. Fill in each space and forward to our office with the correct remittance. Please print clearly in block letters. Each line of the coupon constitutes one line of the paper. If you have insufficient space on the coupon continue the advertisement on plain paper and enclose this with your coupon and remittance together. Classified advertising must reach our office not later than the 25th of each month for insertion in the following month's issue.

The London Borough of Barnet and the Publishers are making publishing history by launching this magazine. To the best of our knowledge no Borough Council undertakes to issue a magazine of this size each month to all of its residents. We trust that the first and subsequent issues will be well received and will be the forerunner of a publication that everyone will look forward to reading each month.

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Views of the past



Golders Green crossroads — before and after the Underground was built in 1907.

ABOVE: The view north in 1904.



LEFT: Nine years later . . . in 1913.

RIGHT: The White Swan, Golders Green Road, in 1912. The earliest record of the White Swan is dated 1734. The mounting stone (under the tree) is recorded in an engraving dated 1796.



BELOW: The Bull and Bush, North End Road, in 1877. There has been an inn on this site since the 17th century. During the 18th and 19th centuries it was a favourite haunt for painters and writers including Reynolds, Gainsborough, Romney, Constable, Dickens and Thackeray.

THESE pictures of the past are from one of the sets of postcards which comprise the historic views series published by Barnet Libraries. Each set reflects changes in familiar parts of the Borough of Barnet.

The cards are reproductions of photographs in the Local History Collection and sets of five can be bought for 30p from all borough libraries or singly from Church Farm House Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, for 6p each.

The Libraries Department are keen to add to their collection of old photographs. If you have any you think may be suitable please contact them on 01-202 5625.



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SANGAM HELPS ASIAN WOMEN

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From this very small beginning Sangam, the Association of Asian Women, was born. Its aim is to serve the Asian community in and around the Borough of Barnet, and particularly the women, the children and the elderly.

As the need for a more formal meeting place grew they met in a room within the Social Services offices in Golders Green, and formed a volunteer advisory service and planned classes. Today they have their own headquarters in West Hendon Broadway where their advice centre and

library is open every weekday with one evening session.

The name Sangam comes from a place in Allahabad in India where the waters of three rivers meet and it means a mingling. It has special significance for an Association which brings together volunteer helpers from many Asian countries and religious backgrounds.

Mrs. Tanuja Shah, president of the Association, has worked to see Sangam a recognised, grant-aided organisation. Her success can be seen by the attendance at the opening ceremony for the new offices at West Hendon Broadway last October. The Borough of Barnet was represented by the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Rita Levy, the Chief Executive and Town Clerk, the Director of Financial Services and senior officers from the Borough's Social Services, Education and Libraries Departments. The Association has received help from the Commission for Racial Equality, who were represented at the ceremony by the chairman, David Lane.

The advice centre is mainly manned by volunteers with the aid of one full-time secretary. They can give help and support on such matters as housing, education, employment, immigration, marital problems, health and social services and interpreting.

They organise classes and social events. Every Monday afternoon there is a music class. On Tuesdays between 1

and 7 pm there is a senior citizens' club. The busiest day is Saturday when there are Hindi and Gujarati classes in the morning and traditional Asian dance classes in the afternoon. These are held at Hendon School, Golders Rise, Hendon.

The opening of the advice centre saw a major ambition fulfilled for the Members of Sangam — to have a permanent place where people in difficulties could bring their problems and know Sangam will assist them to the best of their ability. One day they hope to have their own community centre to offer an even greater service.

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Homefield takes to the screen

THE RESIDENTS OF Homefield, one of Barnet Council's Sheltered Housing Schemes for the elderly, have taken to the printing industry.

They have set up a silk screen printing workshop in the communal lounge of Homefield, which is on the Dollis Valley Estate, Barnet, and they recently printed all their Christmas cards and posters, with a large batch for sale at their Open Day on December 8.

The screen printing hobby began with the encouragement of CRAB (Community and Recreational Arts in Barnet) with the help of the community arts worker, Mary Sarjeant and a grant from Social Services Community Projects Panel.

On September 20, Homefield's Handicrafts Group, with the warden, Miss Jennie Smithers, and the secretary, Miss Winifred Harris, met for their first lesson demonstrated on a hired screen. They now have a full set of inks and two screens of their own. Up to 17 members meet once a week and so far have produced posters and Christmas cards in two designs. They plan an even more ambitious programme for this year — printing fabrics.



Two residents of Homefield, Dollis Valley, Nellie Oakley (left) and Margaret Hardy, line up a Christmas card on their silk screen printing press

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Bottle Banks are a useful and welcome form of environmental action. Everyone can understand what they are for and appreciate the good they do. They help combat an environmental nuisance in towns; make life a little easier for local authorities; and assist industry with a supply of raw material. They require the public's co-operation, which I am sure will readily be forthcoming. I particularly welcome the co-operation of a progressive and socially conscious industry and the extent to which they have seen the economic and social usefulness of this form of recovery. It shows what the private sector and the public sector can do together. I wish this project every success.

THE PRIME MINISTER

Banking on bottles

WHEN BARNET'S "BOTTLE BANK" glass recycling scheme was launched by the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Rita Levy, at the end of November, she read a message from the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, wishing the project every success.

It was appropriate that the site, behind the Tesco Supermarket, Ballards Lane, Finchley, should have been selected for the opening ceremony, as it is in the Prime Minister's own constituency.

The other sites for the bottle bank scheme, opened on the same day, are the Staplyton Road car park, behind the High Street, Barnet, and Lodge Lane car park, North Finchley. More sites to cover other areas of the borough are planned and residents will be informed about the locations as the information becomes available.

The pre-Christmas launch of the scheme offers residents a golden opportunity to get the borough's glass recycling scheme off to a smashing start.

There are thousands of bottles around following the festive season. So deposit them in your nearest bottle bank instead of the dustbin and Barnet could have the best-supported scheme in Greater London, if not the country!

Active participation will ensure the scheme's financial viability and help a good cause. All profits — although Barnet Council will be quite happy with a break-even situation in the early stages — will be set aside and used for projects

THE BENEFITS

- National energy savings
- Better use of natural resources
- Saving in refuse disposal costs
- Extra source of income for local authorities
- Public education of the need to save waste

which otherwise would not receive Council aid.

Introducing the scheme, Mr David Bailey, chairman of the Glass Manufacturer's Federation, commended Barnet Council on their initiative, providing a marvellous example of industry, local government and the public working together.

The Mayor emphasised that 9 per cent of all refuse emptied into dustbins was made of glass. She added: "If these three depots are a success, if we break even on it, if we really show there is a demand, then we will really spread these depots all over the borough. So it will be as easy for you to deposit your bottles and glass jars as it is to go shopping."

Councillor Frank Gibson, chairman of the Council's Public Works Committee, said: "Every bottle or jar

saved is one less to be collected by the borough's refuse service — giving a direct saving in local waste disposal costs."

Barnet is only the third London borough to introduce the scheme — Brent and Greenwich are the other two. Used bottles and jars are deposited in special containers and then sold to a glass container manufacturer to be recycled.

Each bottle bank container has separate compartments for brown, green and clear glass into which the appropriate coloured bottles and jars should be deposited.

Any type of glass container can be put into the bottle bank except milk bottles and bottles on which a deposit has been paid. These should be returned to the milkman or shop in the normal way.

After being weighed the glass is taken for storage to the Mays Lane Depot, Barnet. When 20 tonnes of each colour is accumulated it is transported by road to Yorkshire. Each container holds three to four tonnes of glass and initially will probably need emptying once a fortnight. Twice as much clear glass as amber or green is likely to be collected.

Please save all your bottles and glass jars, deposit them in your bottle bank container and ensure that Barnet has the best-supported scheme in the country. In addition to reducing waste disposal costs residents will be helping the nation, too, by contributing to the saving of energy and raw materials.



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Our new-style local lottery

YOU CAN "double your money" with a lucky clover leaf symbol in Barnet Council's new-style lottery which began on December 18 — and you can win £1,000 instantly.

If the clover leaf appears on one of the spots on your ticket you win 25p. And if your ticket is for one of the smaller prizes of up to £5 then the clover leaf symbol doubles your winnings.

Prizes up to £10 are paid on the spot. If you have won £50 or more fill in your name and address on the back of your ticket and take it to the lottery office in Ravensfield House, The Burroughs, Hendon (tel: 202 5862), where your winnings will be paid by cheque immediately.

The big innovation is that all prizes including the £1,000 are now "instant" as there is no longer a draw for the "jackpot". The ticket now contains nine spots rather than six and anyone who erases the masks to reveal three matching amounts wins that prize.

You also have a better chance to win. The ratio of winning tickets is now 1 in

10 as against 1 in 12 in the previous lottery.

The price of each ticket is the same as before — 25p.

The Council's share of the lottery is used to help provide and improve the social, recreational, cultural and environmental amenities in the borough.

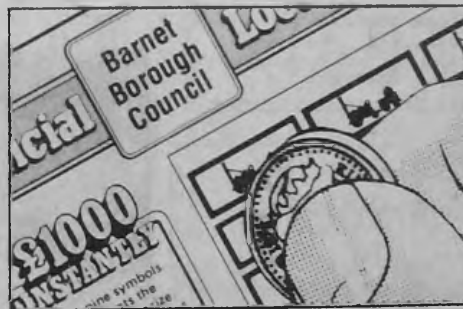
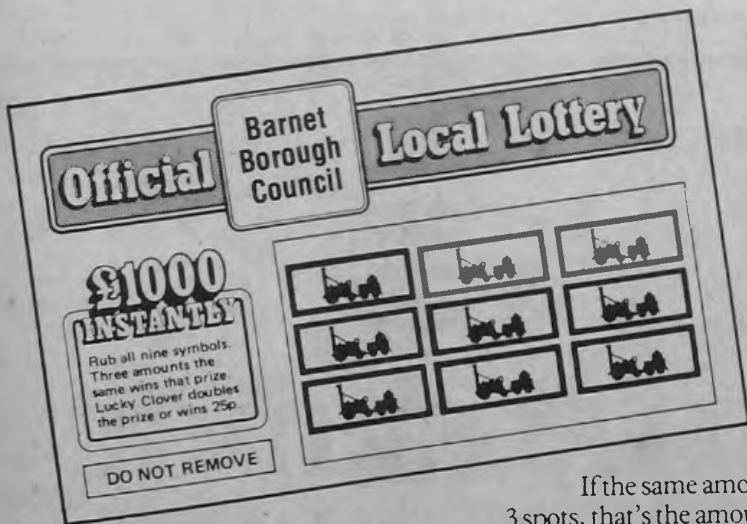
Projects on which money from the lottery has been or is being spent includes the provision of five gardens specially designed for the pleasure of blind people; colour television sets for day nurseries and residential homes; additional seating and a new public address system at Cophall Stadium; a donation of £5,000 to the Appeal Fund of the RAF Museum, Hendon; a £5,000

grant towards the establishment of a neighbourhood club for the elderly with an associated luncheon club at St Stephen's Church Hall, Bells Hill, Barnet; and improvements at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley.

Support for many other projects is planned for the future so support your local lottery. Win or lose you will be helping the community. Tickets are available from more than 70 vendors throughout the borough.



How to play.



Rub each of 9 spots gently with the edge of a coin until the money amount is revealed.

If the same amount appears under 3 spots, that's the amount you've won!
★ Lucky clover symbol doubles your prize or wins 25p.

£0.50 PENCE		£5.00 FIVE
£0.50 PENCE	£5.00 FIVE	£1,000 POUNDS
£50.00 FIFTY	£0.50 PENCE	£1,000 POUNDS

What to do if you've got a winner.

If you've won 25p, 50p, £1, £2, £5 or £10 you'll be paid on the spot. If you have won £50, or more, fill out your name and address on the back of your ticket, and take it to your local Lottery Office. Your winnings will be paid by cheque immediately. And remember, win or lose, you'll be helping the local community.



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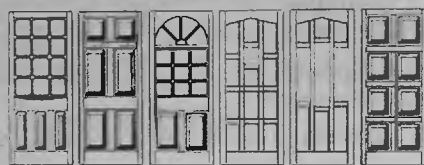
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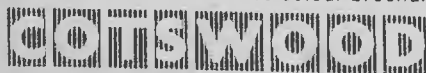
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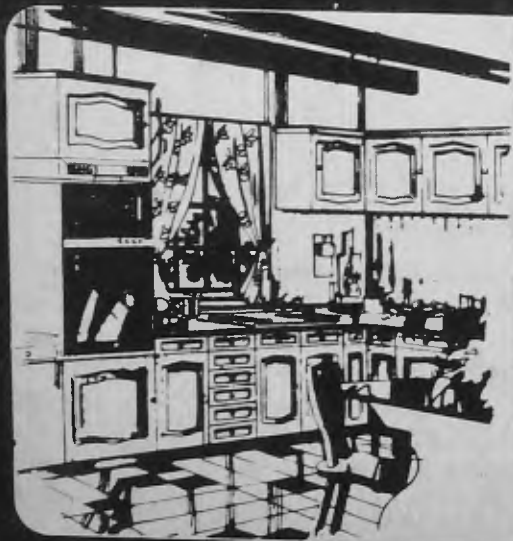
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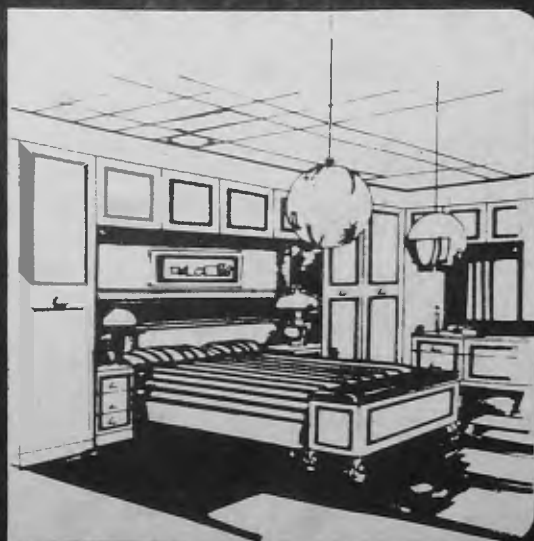
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Your Councillors

ARKLEY

This regular feature introduces readers to their local councillors, ward by ward. To open the series we begin in alphabetical order with Arkley Ward which includes the rural village of Arkley, the new housing estate at Dollis Valley and the older residential area running between Wood Street and Mays Lane.



Councillor Mrs Shirley More is this year's Deputy Mayoress and is finding life is, in her own words, "demanding, enjoyable and great fun".

It is quite usual for her to deal with 14 telephone calls before she leaves home mid-morning, she writes at least ten letters a day and her engagement diary is full.

Councillor Mrs More was chairman of Chipping Barnet constituency Conservative Women's Advisory, when she was asked to stand for Arkley Ward five years ago. She won the seat for her party.

She is now chairman of the Allotments Committee and is chairman of the managers of primary schools in her area and a Governor of Queen Elizabeth's Boys' and Girls' schools. She is a member of the Town Planning and Research and Education Committees. She also represents the borough on the Greater London Territorial Army Association and is an active member of the British Legion.

This gives a clue to her career. She was educated at Queenswood, Brookmans Park, and then began to study art. But it was wartime and she volunteered for the Wrens, serving at Windsor Castle and later at a gunnery school in Portsmouth.

Her interests include calligraphy (the art of handwriting), interior design, and the works of Thomas Hardy. She loves travel, visiting her mother's family in Australia whenever possible. Closer to home she is a member of Arkley WI and enjoys gardening and swimming. She has a son who is a solicitor and a daughter who is a journalist.



Councillor Mrs Joan Pudney is the Leader of the Labour opposition group on Barnet Council — the first woman to hold this office.

She grew up in New Barnet and won a scholarship to Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School, and when her own sons were at school she was drawn into local service, joining the Parent Teacher Association and serving as a co-opted member of the Housing Committee of the former Barnet Urban District Council.

She was always a keen member of the Labour Party and in 1963 was elected as a councillor for Arkley West on the UDC. When the London Borough of Barnet was formed she was a member for Arkley Ward from the beginning and has served on the Council since 1964 with a break of three years from 1968 to 1971.

Councillor Mrs Pudney is well known as a campaigner for Dollis Valley tenants, and housing has remained her major interest, although, as Leader of the opposition party, she is involved in all aspects of local administration.

She combines council service with a full-time job as a clerical officer with the Post Office Telecommunications Division — work which she took on after the death of her husband six years ago.

The demands of work and office leave her little time for outside interests but even so she manages to serve on local charity committees such as the Poores Allotment and when at home she enjoys gardening and reading.



Councillor John Thomson, elected in May, 1978, was prompted to stand for the Council by the word local in Local Government.

He explains: "I believe that a great deal was lost all over the country when local government reorganisation took place. Local government has become more remote from the people and to bring it back to them councillors should be truly local, living among the people they represent."

As well as being a councillor, John Thomson is in politics professionally. He has been a Fleet Street political journalist for some 20 years. Moving from Council Chamber to the Houses of Parliament and back again may seem a hefty political diet to most people. But he is an enthusiast for proper relaxation. "I am a keen horseman. Horses are a great way of refreshing yourself after politics," he said.

Social gatherings in which he is involved usually end up with a lively session of dancing ranging from Scottish to American Square with Councillor Thomson acting as caller.

Three brief phrases sum up his attitude to life and politics. They are the Thomson family motto: *Honesty is Good Policy*; the motto of the St John Ambulance Brigade, in which he served as a cadet, *For the Service of Mankind*; and the Corps motto of the Royal Military Police: *Exemplo Ducemos* — By Example I Lead.

He serves on the Development and Estates and Public Works Committees and Barnet Horse Fair Sub-committee.

TWO TALES OF HERO

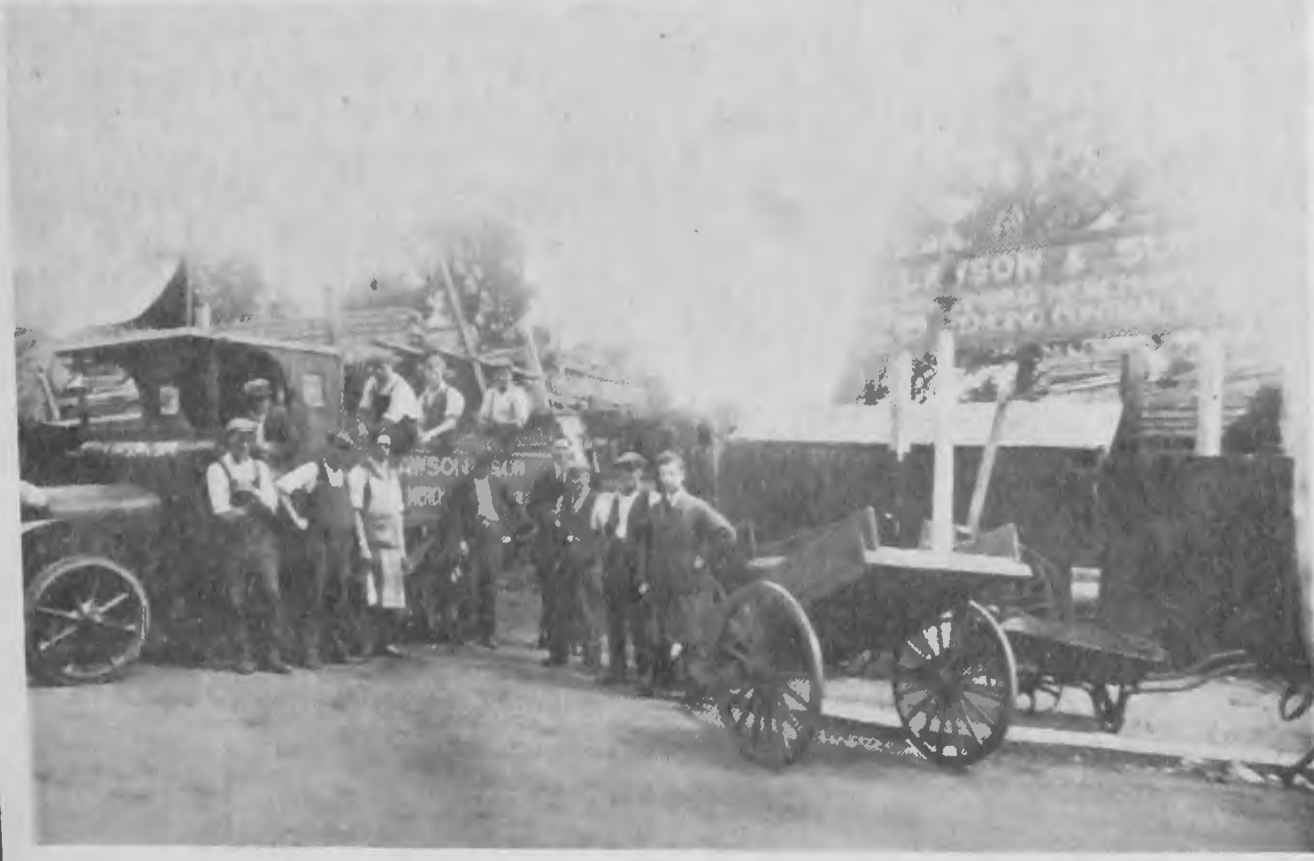


Salute to a hero. The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Mrs Rita Levy, hands the citation to Jim Clark, watched by Superintendent Frederick Wilson, of West Hendon Division Metropolitan Police, Mrs Clark and Mick Craven.

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and summerhouses, and took on the contract to build the Pavilion for The Barnet Cricket Club.
With the onset of war and the death of the company founders the firm met difficult times, but has since progressed steadily under the present management of J. E. M. LAWSON — the third generation.



A traditional summerhouse made by Lawsons in the 1930's which is typical of the ornamental garden buildings made at that time.



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HEROISM

The story of a man who entered a blazing car on Barnet Way to rescue the woman driver; and the story of an 11-year-old schoolgirl who rescued another girl from drowning in the swimming pool at Queen Elizabeth's Centre, were told by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Mrs Rita Levy, when she presented awards for bravery to the hero and heroine of the dramas at the Town Hall, Hendon, in December.

Jim Clark, 30, of Addlestone, Surrey, a machine operator for Tarmac Roadstone, received the Carnegie Hero Trust Fund award for selfless bravery; and Pippa Revolta, 11, of Silkfield Road, Colindale, the Royal Humane Society Certificate.

The story of Jim's heroism took place on the Barnet Way, south of Stirling Corner, on March 1, 1979. He was cleaning down his machine during road resurfacing work when he heard the crash of a car and lorry colliding. He turned to see the car on its side, flames leaping from the petrol tank and from fuel spilt on the road, and a woman driver trapped by her safety belt.

He and his colleague, Mick Craven, tried to get through to the driver by smashing the glass in the car door. But it would not break. So with their bare hands they manhandled the car back on to its wheels and Jim climbed in the back of the car, which was blazing from the exploded petrol tank, to release the woman from her safety belt.

He and Mick then dragged her out. By this time Jim's clothing was on fire and his colleagues, Mick and Roger Blackwell and Vince McGlynn, helped to beat out the flames with their hands. The metal toecaps of his safety boots were by then burning Jim's toes and he was rushed to hospital. He went back to work the next day but the burns proved more serious than at first thought and he spent eight weeks off work undergoing plastic surgery.

The Carnegie Hero Trust Fund was founded by Andrew Carnegie, a Scot who made his fortune in the United States in the early years of this century. The awards go to those who risk their life to save others in a peace-time situation and who suffer serious injury for their heroism.

Thanking the Mayor and the Metropolitan Police who had initiated the nomination of the award, Jim said: "I didn't do it with a thought to reward. I just did it because I was there."

Pippa's story took place in the same month, on March 23. As a member of the 6th Hendon Girls' Brigade, she was taking part in the Barnet Division swimming gala at the Queen Elizabeth's Centre. A junior race was in progress and everyone's attention was focused on the finishing line when Pippa saw that one of the slower competitors was in serious trouble in the deep end.

Without hesitation she dived in and using life-saving techniques she had seen on television, she drew the other girl to safety at the edge of the pool. To do so she had to swim most of the length of the baths and she is only a moderate swimmer and had never had any life-saving training.

She was accompanied at the presentation by her parents, Peter and Sheila Revolta, and her sister, Alison, and was presented to the Mayor by her Girls' Brigade captain, Mrs Joyce Field.



Salute to a heroine. Pippa Revolta receives her certificate from the Mayor. Left to right: Mrs Sheila Revolta, Pippa, Captain Joyce Field, The Mayor of Barnet, Mr Peter Revolta and Alison Revolta.

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Sneath Avenue, NW11. Larger than average 4 bedroom semi-detached house in fair decoration throughout. 2 reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, 2 separate wcs. Night storage heaters. Garden. £58,500.

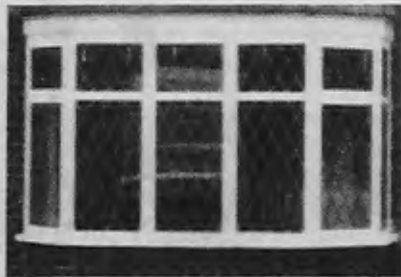
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WHAT'S ON

"WHAT'S ON IN BARNET" is a list of activities taking place in the Borough which will appear on a regular monthly basis.

If you are a secretary of a club, association or any local organisation, your help is needed to make this list as comprehensive as possible.

If you want your entry to appear please send details, preferably in writing, giving the name of your club or organisation, the event, date, venue, time and telephone number for contact, to the Civic News, Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG, tel: 01-202 8282, ext. 71.

Entries must be received by the first of the preceding month; earlier if possible. For example, March entries must arrive by February 1.

An asterisk* denotes a regular weekly meeting.

Sun Jan 13

*"Mind" Social Club, Etchingham Park Day Centre, Etchingham Park Road, Finchley, N3. 3.30—7.30 pm.

*Barnet Dance Workshop, St Peter's Hall, Albion Avenue, Muswell Hill. 6—8 pm (444 0160).

*Table Tennis, Barnet Table Tennis Centre, Barnet Lane, Barnet. Every evening 7.30—11 pm.

*Orange Tree Folk Club, Orange Tree, Friern Barnet Lane, N11. 8 pm (863 3608).

Mon Jan 14

Embroidery Exhibition, Hendon Library, library hours, until Feb 16.

Exhibition of woodcarvings, Stanhope Road Centre, North Finchley, until Jan 28 (445 6068).

Exhibition of paintings, etc., The Old Bull, High Street, Barnet. 10 am to 6 pm, until Jan 26 (449 0048).

*Task Force Bridge evening, Wendover Lodge, Marriott's Close, West Hendon (446 4221).

*Barnet Chess Club, Harold Fern Room, Salisbury Road, Barnet. 7.45 pm.

*Junior Girls' gymnastics, Herbert Wilmot Youth Centre, East Finchley, N2 (444 8422).

Hendon (St Mary's) Music Society, Central Library, Hendon. 8 pm (202 6908).

*New Barnet Literary and Debating Society, The Vestry Room, St James' Church, East Barnet Road. 8 pm (440 3859).

Tues Jan 15

Exhibition of oil paintings, etc., North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, North Finchley. Library hours until Feb 2.

Hendon Gramophone Society, Hendon Library. 7.30 pm (202 5625).

*Modern and Old Time Dancing, All Saints' Hall, Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone. 7.45—11 pm.

*Scottish Dancing, St Albans Church Hall, West Heath Drive, NW11. 8—10 pm.

Children's Scottish Dancing. 6.30—7.30 pm (455 1744).

*Instruction in Modern Ballroom and Latin American Dancing, Shakespeare Hall, Manor Park Crescent, Station Road, Edgware. 8.30 pm (346 5868).

*Judo, The Quinta Club, Mays Lane, Barnet (449 2914).

*Hendon South Young Socialists. Discussions and Social Activities, 7 Sunnyfields Road, Hendon. 8 pm.

*Hendon South Young Conservatives. Meetings at 166 Station Road, Hendon. 8 pm (202 7484).

*Friern Barnet Photographic Society, St John's Hall, Friern Barnet Lane, N20. 8 pm (445 2617).

Wed Jan 16

*Wednesday Bridge Club, St Andrew's Small Hall, Chase Side, Southgate. 1.30 pm (368 6085).

*Barnet Cycling Club, United Reformed Church Hall, Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone. 8 pm (888 7143).

*Modern Dancing, Barnet South Community Association, Mays Lane, Barnet. 8 pm (440 4424).

*Modern/Old Time Dancing, Manor Drive Methodist Church, Manor Drive, Whetstone. 8 pm (445 7127).

*Up-to-the-Centre Square Dance Club, Watling Community Centre, Orange Hill Road, Edgware. 8 pm.

*Old Time and Modern Dancing, St Luke's Hall, Mountfield Road, Finchley, N3. 8 pm.

*Dog Training, St Philip's Church Hall, Gravel Hill, Finchley, N3. Beginners 7—8 pm; Intermediate, etc., from 8 pm (449 2992).

*West Hendon Liberal Association, 78 Bartram Road, NW4. 7.45 pm (202 9013).

*Women's League of Health and Beauty, Christ Church Hall, High Road, North Finchley (455 3904).

*Chipping Barnet Y.Cs., East Barnet Senior High School, Chestnut Grove, Cat Hill, East Barnet. 8.15 pm.

*Finchley and Friern Barnet Y.Cs., 212 Ballards Lane, North Finchley. 8 pm (445 9426).

*Edgware Amateur Cine Society, Orange Hill Junior School, Hamonde Close, Edgware. 7.45 pm (959 7783).

*Whist at Fellowship House, Willifield Green, Willifield Way, Golders Green. 8 pm.

*Yoga, Whitchurch Institute, Buckingham Road, Edgware. 2.30 pm (203 1935).

Thurs Jan 17

Friern Barnet Library Gramophone Society, Friern Barnet Road, N11. 8 pm (368 6801).

*Drama Workshop for children and adults,

Old Bull Centre, High Street, Barnet (449 0048).

*North Side Bridge Club, St Mary's Church Hall, Victoria Avenue, Finchley, N3. 7.30 pm (445 7788).

*Contemporary Dancing, Manor Arrows Youth Club, Finchley Manorhill School, Summers Lane, North Finchley. 6.30 pm (368 8976).

*Modern Dancing, Holy Trinity Hall, Church Lane, Finchley, N2. 8 pm.

*Dog Obedience Training, All Saints' Parish Church Hall, Oakleigh Road North, Friern Barnet. Beginners 7.30 pm, Advanced 8.45 pm (449 4495).

*Keep Fit Classes, Herbert Wilmot Youth Centre, East Finchley. 7.30 pm (444 8422).

*Hendon and Edgware 18 Plus Group, Midland Arms, Church Road, Hendon. 8 pm (954 6929).

*North West London Club for Divorced or Separated, Cavalier Rooms, Prince Albert, Golders Green Road, Golders Green. 8 pm (959 2048).

*Twenty to Thirty Club, Stable Room, Whalebones, Wood Street, Barnet. 8.15 pm (886 2184).

*"Mind" Social Club, The Meritage Club, Church End, Hendon. 8—10 pm.

*British Meditation Society Talks, 26 Oakdene Park, Finchley, N3. 7.30 pm (346 2977).

*Black Bull Folk Club, Black Bull Public House, High Road, N20. 8 pm (77 58631).

Fri Jan 18

*International Folk Dancing, Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone. 8 pm (368 5345).

*Hendon Camera Club, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11. 7.45 pm (455 0837).

Sat Jan 19

*Table Tennis Training for Youngsters, Barnet Table Tennis Centre, Barnet Lane. 10.30 am—12.30 pm.

Mon Jan 21

Barnet and District Philatelic Society, Council Chamber, Station Road, New Barnet. 7.30 pm (441 0300).

Barnet Film Society, North Finchley Library. 7.45 pm (449 6682).

Hampstead Garden Suburb Antiques Circle, Bigwood House, NW11. 8 pm (202 0269).

Tues Jan 22

East Barnet Gramophone Society, East Barnet Library, Brookhill Road, East Barnet. 8 pm (440 4376).

Barnet National Trust Association, Barnet College, Wood Street, Barnet. 8 pm (449 5876).

Wed Jan 23

National Trust — Edgware and District Centre — John Keble Hall, Deans Lane, Edgware. 8 pm (954 3571).

Finchley Antiques Appreciation Group.

IN BARNET

Avenue House, East End Road, N3. 8 pm (445 7247).

Fri Jan 25

Exhibition of Souvenirs from all over the World. The Crest, Dollisfield Library, Totteridge Lane (361 9648). Until Feb 2.

Sat Jan 26

Hendon Recital Series, Guadagnini String Quartet, St Mary's School, Downage, NW4. 7.30 pm (202 6908).

Tues Jan 29

Hendon Gramophone Society, Hendon Library, NW4. 7.30 pm (202 5625).

Thurs Jan 31

Friern Barnet Library Gramophone Society, Friern Barnet Road, N11. 8.10 pm (368 2680).
The Finchley Society, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. 8 pm (883 4154).

Sat Feb 2

Amici String Quartet at Barnet College Hall. 7.30 pm (440 6321).
Barnet Parish Church Recitals. 7.30 pm (449 7760).

Mon Feb 4

Barnet and District Philatelic Society, Council Chamber, Station Road, New Barnet. 7.30 pm (441 0300).
Exhibition by members of Finchley Art Society, Barnet College, Stanhope Road Centre, N12 (445 6068). Until Feb 22, 1980.
Golders Green Townswomen's Guild, St Albans Hall, NW11. 2 pm (455 6999).

Tues Feb 5

East Barnet Gramophone Society, East Barnet Library, Brookhill Road, East Barnet. 8 pm (440 4376).
Hendon and District Archaeological Society, Central Library, NW4. 8.15 pm.
Barnet Anglo-French Club, Council Chamber, Wood Street, Barnet. 8 pm (346 0782).

Wed Feb 6

Finchley and District Philatelic Society, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. 7.30 pm (883 8724).
Lecture on Schubert, master of melody, East Finchley Library, 226 High Road, N2. 8.15 pm (883 2664).
Barnet Film Society, North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12. 7.45 pm (449 6682).
Barnet Ceramics and Glass Society, Church Hill Primary School, Burlington Rise, East Barnet (883 3961).

Thurs Feb 7

Woodside Park Club Players present "Panic Stations" by Derek Benfield. Woodside Park Club, Southover, N12. 8 pm (445 3510). Until Feb 9.

Sat Feb 9

Exhibition by members of Studio North Three, North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12. Until Mar 8.

Mon Feb 11

Hendon (St Mary's), Music Society, Central Library, NW4. 8 pm (202 6908).

Tues Feb 12

Hendon Gramophone Society, Hendon Library, NW4. 7.30 pm (202 5625).

Wed Feb 15

Library Lecture on the Gorillas of Rwanda, Burnt Oak Library, Watling Avenue, Edgware. 8.15 pm (958 3112).
Barnet and District Local History Society, Council Offices, Wood Street, Barnet. 8 pm (77 54150).
Finchley Antiques Appreciation Group, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. 8 pm (445 7247).

Thurs Feb 14

Friern Barnet Library Gramophone Society, Friern Barnet Road, N11. 8.10 pm (368 2680).

Sat Feb 16

Music in Central Square, St Jude's Church, NW11. 8 pm (935 5461 — day).

Mon Feb 18

Barnet and District Philatelic Society, Council Chamber, Station Road, New Barnet. 7.30 pm (441 0300).

COUNCIL MEETINGS

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC are welcome to attend Council and Committee meetings, all of which are held in the Town Hall, Hendon, at 7 pm.

The meetings from Monday, January 14 until the end of February are:

Mon Jan 14: General Purposes Committee

Tues Jan 15: Education

Wed Jan 16: Libraries and Arts

Mon Jan 21: Finance

Tues Feb 5: COUNCIL MEETING

Mon Feb 11: Housing, Development and Estates

Tues Feb 12: Public Works, Social Services

Wed Feb 13: Town Planning and Research

Mon Feb 18: General Purposes

Tues Feb 19: Education

Wed Feb 20: Allotments

Mon Feb 25: Finance

Barnet Centre Association, Exhibition by Anne Griffiths, The Old Bull, 65 High Street, Barnet. Until Mar 8.

Hampstead Garden Suburb Antiques Circle, Bigwood House, NW11. 8 pm (202 0269).

Films at Avenue House, BBAC Main Room, Avenue House, East End Road, N3.

Tues Feb 19

East Barnet Gramophone Society, East Barnet Library, Brookhill Road, East Barnet. 8 pm (440 4376).
Barnet Anglo-French Club, Council Offices, Wood Street, Barnet. 8 pm (346 0782).

Photographic Societies' Exhibition, The Crest, Dollisfield, Library, Totteridge Lane (361 9648). Until Mar 8.

Wed Feb 20

Finchley and District Philatelic Society, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. 7.30 pm (883 8724).

Library Lecture on the Craftsmanship of Stained Glass, North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12. 8.15 pm (445 4081).

Harlequin Players present "Aladdin", Hartley Hall, Mill Hill, NW7. 7.45 pm (907 4680). Until Feb 23.

Thurs Feb 21

Barnet National Trust Association, Barnet College, Wood Street, Barnet. 8 pm (449 5896).

Sat Feb 23

Exhibition, Finchley Art Society, Hendon Library, NW4. Until April 3.
Mill Hill Choral Society, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank. 7.45 pm (959 3079).
Mill Hill Toc H Music Club, Civic Hall, Borehamwood. 7.45 pm (959 1173).
The Crowndale Orchestra, Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute Hall, NW11. 8 pm.

Mon Feb 25

Hendon Recital Series, St Mary's School, Downage, NW4. 8 pm (202 6908).

Tues Feb 26

Hendon Gramophone Society, Hendon Library, NW4. 7.30 pm (202 5625).
National Trust — Edgware and District Centre — John Keble Hall, Deans Lane, Edgware. 8 pm (954 3571).

Wed Feb 27

Library Lecture on the Characteristics of English Silver, Hendon Library, NW4. 8.15 pm (202 5625).
Finchley Antiques Appreciation Group, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. 8 pm (445 7247).

Thurs Feb 28

Friern Barnet Library Gramophone Society, Friern Barnet Road, N11. 8.10 pm (368 2680).
The Finchley Society, Avenue House, East End Road, N3. 8 pm (883 4154).

TA units' proud history

THREE TERRITORIAL Army units, which have historical links with the Borough, have been adopted by Barnet.

The Adoption Ceremony took place on October 21 at Barnet Cophall Stadium — a day of brilliant autumn sunshine and colourful military ceremonial. Led by the Band of the Royal Corps of Transport, the three units paraded their colours and were inspected by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Mrs Rita Levy. The units are (B) Company 6/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment; No. 3 Company, 10th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment; 240 (Hertfordshire) Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers). All three have given distinguished military service to their country.

(B) Company 6/7th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Regiment has its TA Centre in Deansbrook Road, Edgware, and traces its origins back to the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) which has had its headquarters at Mill Hill Barracks since 1904 and which earned its nickname, The Diehards, for its gallantry at the Battle of Albuhera in the Peninsular War in 1811.

No. 3 Company, 10th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, was raised at Kabrit in the Suez Canal Zone in 1942 and fought in Palestine, Italy and finally in the Netherlands in 1944. They were dropped over Arnhem on Monday, September 18, 1944. Seven days later their numbers were so desimated that the 4th Parachute Brigade was never reformed until, in 1947, the 10th Parachute Battalion was reformed and now comes under the operational command of the 6th Field Force (UK Mobile Force). No. 3 Company has its base in High Road, East Finchley.

240 (Hertfordshire) Squadron Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers) has an unbroken link with Barnet going back



Members of No. 3 Company 10th (Volunteer) Btn The Parachute Regiment taking part in a NATO training exercise in Turkey.

25 years when the 557 Company RASC TA moved into the St Albans Road Drill Hall, Barnet. And it can trace its ancestry to the 44th Territorial Division Army Service Corps which was based in Barnet in 1908. 240 Squadron is now trained to take its part in an emergency in the NATO supply chain in Europe.

Young men who are interested in joining the Territorial Army should contact their local TA Centre. There are also a few opportunities for young women to join the units.

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Building a partnership

BARNET BOROUGH Voluntary Service Council was formed last March when 150 local voluntary organisations became founder members. It has set up its office at 275 Regents Park Road, Finchley, upstairs from Barnet Volunteer Bureau, with which it works very closely. In this article Mary Bruce, general secretary, writes about its aims and objectives.

The VSC and Volunteer Bureau are in for a busy time, judging by current references to the need for volunteers, and the vital role which voluntary organisations play, especially in the welfare field and particularly at a time when statutory welfare services can't expand because of financial restraint.

Some people are asking whether Barnet really needs a Voluntary Service Council when we already have an effective Volunteer Bureau. What is the difference between the two organisations?

The Bureau's task is practical and easily understood. It puts volunteers in touch with jobs, usually with agencies who have registered with the Bureau, such as voluntary organisations or groups, clubs, day centres and residential homes. It also finds volunteers to take on jobs referred by agencies, frequently

statutory agencies, like Social Services. The Bureau's work is essentially to do with individuals.

The task of the Voluntary Service Council is not so straightforward, although it does offer some practical services. Organisations can rent a committee room, or take advantage of the VSC's Resource Centre, with its low-cost secretarial help (typing, duplicating and photocopying). Many groups can't easily provide this kind of service for themselves, especially when they're new. In time the VSC hopes to provide printing facilities too, so that groups can print their own newsletters or handle their own publicity. The search is on for a retired printer who could help.

The VSC also exists to provide information, advice and support. Since its executive committee, elected by member organisations, is drawn from a range of voluntary bodies, it can tap a great deal of knowledge and experience. This side of the work is bound to expand. One task is to produce up-to-date lists of services, to help put people in touch. Another is to highlight the work voluntary bodies do — many of them are so busy getting on with the job in hand they have no spare resources for the

necessary publicity that will attract new blood, support, and money.

But the major role of the VSC is to encourage voluntary bodies and statutory services to work together, to share ideas, experience and resources. Building this kind of partnership will take time, there won't be instant results, but when resources are short, most people see the sense in working together.

The first year's programme is well under way, with the secretary in post, and a bulletin, LINK, out this month.

Beginning in the New Year a series of evening meetings on community transport will be open to anyone interested in this priority problem. Another working group will be discussing ways of developing services for the elderly.

To work effectively the VSC must be in touch — communication is the name of the game. Do make sure the VSC knows about your organisation. Then you'll get LINK and know what else is going on. You'll also have a chance to influence the future.

For details contact: **The General Secretary, Voluntary Service Council, 275 Regents Park Road, Finchley, London N3. Telephone: 346 9723.**



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How to get Council help with housing in TWENTY QUESTIONS

HOW TO GET a council house in 20 easy questions.

... Well, not get a council house exactly — but at least find out if you are eligible to get one and how to go about being put on Barnet Council's housing waiting list.

Can I register for a council home in Barnet?

Yes, anyone resident in Barnet can register for council housing — but a word of warning. You will only be considered for accommodation if you have lived in the Greater London area (and that includes the London Borough of Barnet), for at least three years.

How do I apply for council housing?

You can write to, or call at, the Borough's Housing Department at 65 Watford Way, Hendon, NW4, or telephone us on 01-202 8282 and ask for an application form. It is important, when you fill in this form, to be as accurate as possible. Our staff in the department will be pleased to help you.

What are my chances of getting a home quickly?

Of course this depends on your present housing circumstances. We want to help those in need as a matter of priority so we have a points system. Your application will be assessed and you will be given points based on such matters as your present accommodation and the size of your family. Applicants living in overcrowded accommodation with poor facilities, or who have a medical priority will be housed first.

I am a single person. Can I register?

Yes, you can register an application but you must appreciate that the majority of the single accommodation is reserved for the elderly or infirm. But we have good news for you. The council is increasing the amount of accommodation available for single people under pensionable age so don't give up hope.

I have a serious medical problem which makes my present home unsuitable. How do you take this into account when assessing my chances for being rehoused?

The Council's medical adviser will consider your special circumstances. There is a simple form at the Housing Department, available on request, but do remember that only serious health problems or disabilities merit priority.

I am engaged to be married. Can I register for housing?

Yes, certainly. The Council makes a small percentage of its dwellings

available to recently married couples, so you can register for housing during your engagement.

When I apply to join the waiting list, can I say where I want to live?

You can choose the area in which you want to live but we may not be able to match your preference. It is important to remember that there are very few council dwellings in West and Central Finchley, Totteridge or Golders Green and you will increase your chances of early rehousing if you make the areas of your choice as wide as possible.

Can I ask for a house with a garden, or will I have to take a flat?

The majority of council properties are flats or maisonettes. We do have council houses with gardens and where possible these go to families with young children.

I have young children. If no houses are available will we have to live in a high-rise block?

No. It is the council's policy not to house families with children under the age of 11 in flats above the first floor.

What happens if I don't like the home that the council offers me?

You can turn it down. But if you refuse two offers without good reason you will have to wait for 12 months before another offer is made.

I have a limited income. Will I be able to afford the rent of a council dwelling?

Don't worry too much. If you cannot afford the full rent you can apply for a rebate which will take the rent and your income into account.

If my circumstances change after I register on the housing waiting list, what should I do?

Contact the Housing Department straightaway so that your application can be reassessed.

I want to leave Barnet and need housing in another area. Can you help?

● If you qualify for housing in Barnet, but wish to live in another part of London, we may be able to nominate you for rehousing in the London borough of your choice.

● If you wish to live and work in one of the new towns, such as Peterborough or Milton Keynes, we are able to nominate you for housing and even advise you on getting work.

● There are also limited opportunities to arrange rehousing in other parts of the country.

● You might even be interested in the Greater London Council's Low Demand Scheme.

I want to stay in Barnet, but do not want to be a council tenant. What can you suggest?

The council have nomination rights with a number of local housing associations. These are voluntary, non-profitmaking organisations which build and manage housing schemes and give the council the right to nominate applicants for a number of the homes in each scheme. You can apply for such a nomination — but remember, the rents in housing association schemes are generally higher.

What happens if I move out of Barnet?

You can remain on the Barnet waiting list for a year, but if you wish to be rehoused in your new area, please let us know and we will arrange for your application to be transferred.

If I find alternative accommodation after joining the waiting list, what should I do?

Please tell us immediately if you no longer want council housing.

When I am rehoused, can I buy my council house?

In certain cases the council does sell its council housing to tenants — mainly where it is a house or a flat or maisonette with its own separate entrance. You can check the situation with the Housing Department.

Do the council build houses for sale?

Yes, we have a number of schemes where houses are built for sale to applicants on the housing waiting list and to council tenants. If you would like to be considered for the house purchase scheme, indicate this on your application form and we will send you further details. The council can help with mortgage facilities.

Can the council help me to buy a private house?

The Borough of Barnet has limited funds available for home loans. If you are buying a home on the open market we can only help if the dwelling was built before 1940 and costs under £25,000. Further details from the Director of Financial Services, Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4.

Is there any other way I can buy my own home?

Yes, if you save with a building society you may get preferential treatment from that society.

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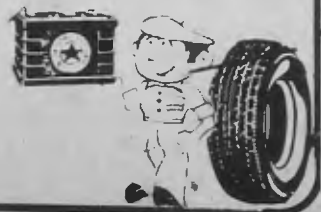
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QUESTION: I have an old refrigerator and settee which I want removed from my home. Do you have a collection service?

ANSWER: This question needs two separate answers.

First, the refrigerator: phone our refuse service on 361 0013 and they will arrange to collect it. This will be free of charge because old fridges are considered very dangerous and there have been cases of children getting locked in them when they were playing.

Second, the settee: because of the cuts imposed throughout local government the Council has had to suspend its free collection service for large household items. The refuse service will make a special collection but there will be a small charge. Again phone 361 0013 for this service.

All items for these special collections should be available on the ground-floor when the collectors come.

□ □ □

Q: I am worried about another freeze like we had last winter. What action should I take if the water freezes?

A: Shut off main stopcock. It is normally situated under the kitchen sink, at the foot of the stairs inside the front door, or under a floorboard trap.

- Locate it before trouble arrives and try it out to ensure it works well. Other stopcocks should be provided at various points within the dwelling, find out where they are and what they are for and check that they work.

- Turn off any supply to external WCs and flush cistern to drain out as much water as possible.

- Open any drain cocks and run off water within the pipes. Do not attempt to drain off the boiler or hot water cylinder.

- After shutting down the supply leave cold taps over baths, basins or sinks open. This will help drain off any water within pipework.

- Burst pipes occur upon freezing. If you have shut off the supply and drained down there will be no flooding caused by water under pressure when the thaw comes.

- After the thaw turn on carefully and check for bursts before leaving the house unattended.

- If water has to be shut off, keep the boiler running at a very low heat until advised that you may use it normally. A

low heat may prevent complete freezing. Too much heat can cause further damage if freezing has occurred.

- Hot water tanks cannot normally be drained off when the cold water main is shut off and provided water runs from the hot tap, the hot water system can be used. Once water stops flowing from the hot water tap shut down the boiler and switch off immersion heaters and other water-heating appliances.

- Keep as much heating in operation as possible in the home in an effort to prevent freezing. Ensure exposed pipes are lagged and any air ventilator driving cold air on to the pipes is temporarily blocked off.

- Council tenants should advise their area works depot immediately a freeze-up occurs to obtain advice. Remember the staff will be inundated with emergency calls and a visit will only be made when a plumber becomes available and a visit is necessary. Acquaint yourself with the local depot telephone number, and the emergency number (202 8282 between 5.15 pm and 9 am).

- Private residents should contact a local plumber before trouble arises. Ask the local water company for lists of competent plumbers or look up the Yellow Pages of the telephone directory.

- The Institute of Plumbing, Scottish Mutual House, North Street, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 1PU (telephone: Hornchurch 51236) exists to safeguard the members of the public and can assist with advice and lists of competent plumbers. They also provide copies of their list of Registered Plumbers to Public Libraries and Local Authorities for use by private householders.

As every case is different the above points can only be looked upon as general guidelines and the council cannot take responsibility for the consequences of emergency action taken at a time of freeze. This is why it is so important to get in touch with a reliable plumber so don't

wait until trouble arises, get to know a plumber and have his telephone number and address ready for an emergency.

□ □ □

Q: I have seen mice in my house. Do you have a service to get rid of them?

A: Yes, contact the Pest Control Section at the Council's Environmental Health Office at Grove Lodge, 287 Regents Park Road, N3. Telephone 349 9121.

An officer will take details of your complaint and pass this information to the rodent operative for the particular area in which you live. It would always be helpful to leave a telephone number where you can be contacted in normal working hours and, if possible, an indication when you or someone else is normally at home.

The treatment for eradication of rats as well as mice in domestic premises and land is usually carried out free of charge by the Council.

However, should any work be necessary in connection with a defect in the structure or fittings of the dwelling which it is considered should be attended to, this will be pointed out to the owner of the property for attention. Officers of the Department will give advice if required on precautionary measures to avoid infestations by rodents.

□ □ □

Q: I have just reached retirement age. How do I get my concessionary bus pass?

A: Go to your local Main Post Office where they have the forms to fill in. You will need two passport-type photographs, such as you can obtain from a coin photography machine and it will save you time if you take these with you when you go for the application forms.

OUR NEW SERVICE

THIS QUESTION page represents a new service which we hope will be of use and interest to our readers. We invite readers to send in their questions on subjects related to the local authority's services and those which we feel are of general interest to our readers we hope to publish in future issues.

In these first issues we shall be using some of the questions which have been

asked by local residents who have telephoned the Council's Information Centre at Ravensfield House, The Burroughs, Hendon.

If you have questions which you would like answered please send them to:

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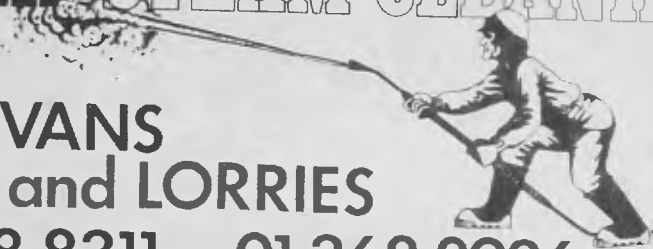
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Focus on the Arts theatre

BARNET THEATRE COMPANY was formed by John Sichel in 1977. The aim was to bring first-class professional theatrical entertainment to North London. The company has staged a variety of productions, appealing to all sections of the community — particularly to young people, new to theatre-going.

John Sichel is an internationally-known television film and theatre director. His credits include the first colour production Shakespeare for ITV, "Twelfth Night" with Alec Guinness, Ralph Richardson and Joan Plowright; "The Merchant of Venice" with Sir Laurence Olivier; and co-direction with Sir Laurence Olivier of the film of Chekhov's "The Three Sisters".

BTC's policy is to produce worthwhile plays often combining professional actors with local artistes and even local children, as in their pantomime.

They have included in their programme over the past two years

classic plays and entertainments specially written for the company.

The 1979 season opened at the Barnet College Theatre on November 6 with "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie". Then came a double-bill of Chekhov's "Jests", "The Bear and the Proposal" and the Edinburgh production of "The Visitor". Three other productions, including a new play written for the company by Carey Harrison, "Who's Playing God?" followed.

Among their projected productions for 1980 is a musical "A Kind of Game" based on the spy Kim Philby. For this musicians particularly are welcome to get in touch with the Press Officer on 445 7961 for the purpose of auditions.

lectures

THE MUSIC OF SCHUBERT, the gorillas of Central Africa, the craftsmanship of stained glass and the history of English silver are the four subjects for library lectures organised by the Borough's library services during February.

Every Wednesday evening throughout the month a well-known speaker will present an illustrated talk.

On Wednesday, February 6, at East

Finchley Library, Joan Burns will be speaking on Schubert — the Master of Melody. She is a popular speaker who returns to the borough to give a lecture and recital on the works of this widely known and well-loved composer.

On Wednesday, February 13, at Burnt Oak Library, Ian Redmond, international naturalist, talks on the mountain gorilla, a species being hunted to extinction by unscrupulous poachers. The talk is based on two years' experience studying the gorillas in the Virunga volcano region of Rwanda.

On Wednesday, February 20, at North Finchley Library, Douglas Priestley, art critic of the Barnet Press, will describe the craftsmanship of stained glass.

The lecture season is closed on Wednesday, February 27, when Myrtle Ellis talks on the special characteristics of English silver.

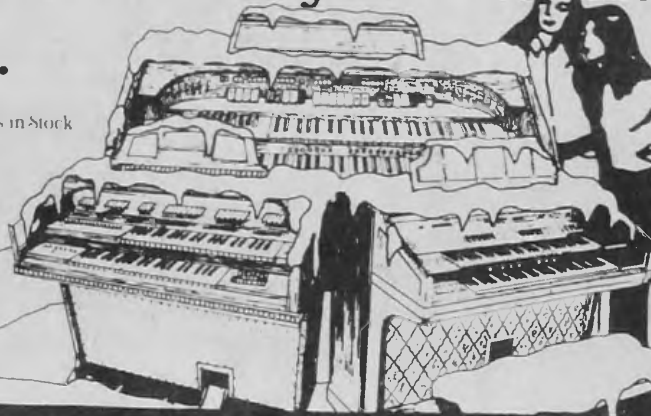
paintings

LOCAL ARTISTS Gladys Denman and Harland Hinchliffe are exhibiting oil paintings and water colours at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12, until February 2.

Until February 16 Letitia Crunden is showing a selection of her superb embroidery at Hendon Library.

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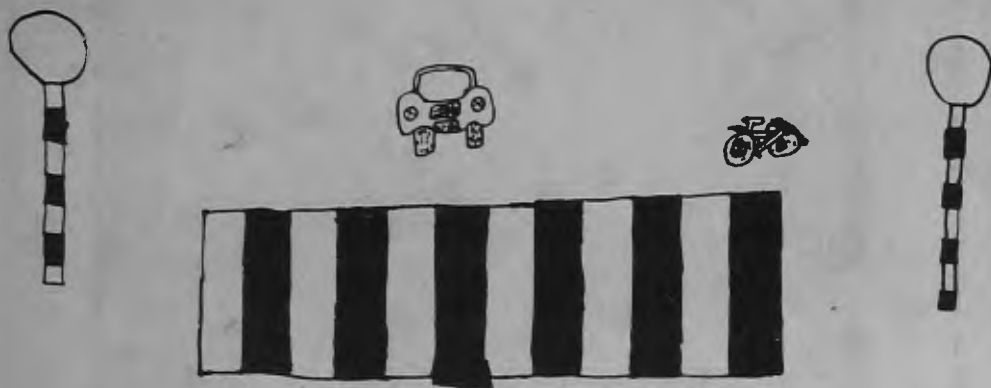


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... say Northside children

THE CHILDREN of Northside Junior School, North Finchley, are so worried about traffic conditions in Gainsborough Road and Lodge Lane that they have petitioned the Council to have a Zebra or Pelican crossing installed outside their school.

When Northside children take up a campaign they take things seriously. They carried out their own traffic survey between 8.30 am and 9.30 am on November 15.

Then they drew up plans for a new crossing and sent these, together with all the figures from their survey and posters illustrating their petition, to Barnet Council.

This month Public Works Committee are discussing their petition and if the idea is supported by members then it will go to the Greater London Council for their views.

**BE SAFE
BE SEEN**

BE SAFE, BE SEEN, is the message for young cyclists, especially those delivering newspapers during dusk and darkness at this time of the year.

Make sure your machines are in good condition. You should pay particular attention to your headlights, rear lights and reflectors and keep them clean. You should also wear orange or yellow reflective/fluorescent material to make it easier for other road users to see you.

For safety's sake, make sure you can be seen.

Motorcyclists are also very vulnerable, so the same message applies — BE SAFE, BE SEEN.

Blue plaque

THE GLC HAVE agreed that a blue commemorative plaque should go up on the home of the late Dame Henrietta Barnett in Hampstead Garden Suburb. Called Heath End House, it is near the Spaniards Inn on the edge of the suburb.

Hendon and District Archaeological Society applied for permission five years ago.

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School Merger Debate

BARNET EDUCATION Committee are carrying out a full consultative exercise to obtain the views of teachers, parents and school governors to help them in their debates on whether or not certain secondary schools in the borough should be amalgamated.

The proposals have generated more discussion in the borough than any other educational subject for many years.

The point at issue is the falling birth rate since the late 1960s. The number of children entering secondary schools is expected to fall quite considerably over the coming years.

With this in mind a consultative document, 'School Population Trends — Future School Provision,' was prepared by Mr. Jack Dawkins, Director of Educational Services.

This put forward a proposition that over a period of three to five years Orange Hill School should be merged into Grahame Park School; Southaw into Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School; and Friern Barnet County into Finchley Manorhill.

Over the next few months these proposals, together with the views of all who have been consulted, will go before the Education Schools and Special Services Sub-Committee, the Education Committee and the full Council.

All views had to be submitted to the Director by the end of the first week in January so that he could prepare and submit a further report to the Schools and Special Services Sub-Committee on January 29.

Originally the report was to have gone before the sub-committee on March 4. The reason for bringing the date forward was to reduce as far as possible the period of uncertainty.

The Chairman of the Education Committee, Councillor Mrs. Rosa Freedman, and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Leslie Pym, spelt out what they saw as the alternatives facing parents in a recent interview with the Hendon Times. Basically they are:

- To merge schools.
- To play 'Russian roulette' and decide that the schools with the fewest pupils in 1981 or 1982 should close.
- To pay the premium of having three-form entry schools dotted all over the borough which would work out at £20 to £25 extra a year for every ratepayer.

Figures show that school rolls have already started to fall dramatically. From last year's secondary intake of 3,630 the figure dropped in September, 1979, to 3,450. By 1986 it is estimated the intake will be down to 2,760 a drop of 870 or 29 forms.

Councillor Pym said that at the moment the secondary schools can take 128 forms of entry. With 30 pupils to a class this means there is

accommodation for 3,840.

Councillor Mrs. Freedman said that by 1986-87 there will be more than 25 per cent. of the desks empty in our secondary schools.

She added: 'The cost per pupil, if you do nothing, will rise by £84 from £684 to £768 in 1985-86. Sixty per cent of what the borough spends, apart from the police and GLC precepts, goes on education. Today it is £39m.'

As school rolls drop the Government gives less to the borough in rate support grant. The decrease this year was £48,000. By 1985 it will be an estimated £662,000.

Councillor Pym summed up his and Councillor Mrs. Freedman's joint attitude by saying: 'We recognise the understandable concern of parents, teachers and, of course, pupils. There has to be a solution — but it is going to be a thorny path.'

In his conclusion to his consultative document Mr. Dawkins said: 'The proposals will obviously be unpalatable to many people but in view of the situation firm and clear-cut decisions are needed as quickly as possible.'

'Even if money were available it is not desirable to run three-form entry comprehensive schools but the economic circumstances of the next few years demand measures which will obviate the need for any additional secondary school building, and reduce teaching staff and non-teaching staff to take account of the decline in secondary school rolls.'

'Such measures might make available for other purposes, lease or sale, up to five major buildings and sites in the borough. Eventual revenue saving alone could well be in the order of £1,500,000 while the sites and buildings available are attractive for other Council use or disposal.'

'No doubt there are other permutations and variations on the proposals but one cannot escape the basic facts that there must be rationalisation of secondary school provision on both educational and economic grounds,' he added.

In a joint statement to the Civic News, Councillor Mrs. Freedman and Councillor Pym said: 'In our interview with the local newspaper we felt we must spell out the alternatives facing parents. The final decision, whatever it may be, rests with all members of the council. It will be a difficult choice but we believe that in the end we will come to the correct solution.'

Footnote: It should not be forgotten that falling school rolls also affects primary schools. Rolls in many schools are falling rapidly but the borough is prepared to pay a financial premium to keep all primary schools open rather than involve some children in long journeys.

Proposed schedules

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' and Southaw

	1	2	3	4	5	L6	U6	Totals	Total	
Sept 1980										
O.E.G.	150	150	150	150	91	70	50	811	1405	
Southaw	90*	100	115	106	143	30	10	594		
Sept 1981										
O.E.G.	—	150	150	150	150	70	50	875	1331	
Southaw	150	90	100	—	106	—	10	456		
Sept 1982										
O.E.G.	—	—	150	150	—	265	120	75	860	1250
Southaw	150	150	90	—	—	—	—	390		
Sept 1983										
O.E.G.	—	—	—	150	—	250	125	80	695	1145
Southaw	150	150	150	—	—	—	—	450		
Sept 1984										
O.E.G.	—	—	—	150	240	120	80	590	1040	
Southaw	(150)	(150)	(150)	—	—	—	—	450		
Sept 1985										
O.E.G.	150	150	150	150	150	120	80	950	950	
Southaw	C	L	O	S	E	D				

*Notional figure only

Grahame Park and Orange Hill

	1	2	3	4	5	L6	U6	Totals	Total
Sept 1980									
Grahame Park	90*	93	99	118	117	60	20	597	1732
Orange Hill JH	180	180	182	—	—	—	—	542	
Orange Hill SH	—	—	—	184	189	120	100	593	
Sept 1981									
Grahame Park	180	90	93	99	118	50	20	1010	1581
Orange Hill JH	C	L	O	S	E	D	—	—	
Orange Hill SH	—	—	—	182	184	120	85	571	
Sept 1982									
Grahame Park	180	180	270	273	99	50	20	1072	1459
Orange Hill SH	—	—	—	—	182	120	85	387	
Sept 1983									
Grahame Park	150	180	180	270	273	—	—	1053	1303
Orange Hill SH	—	—	—	—	—	150	100	250	
Sept 1984									
Grahame Park	150	150	180	180	270	—	—	930	1170
Orange Hill SH	—	—	—	—	—	140	100	240	
Sept 1985									
Grahame Park	150	150	150	180	180	140	100	1050	1050
Orange Hill SH	C	L	O	S	E	D			

*Notional figure only

Finchley Manorhill and Friern Barnet

	1	2	3	4	5	L6	U6	Totals	Total
Sept 1980									
Manorhill	180	167	178	178	209	100	70	1082	2701
Friern Barnet	90*	96	120	113	122	—	—	541	
Woodhouse	—	—	—	90	91	200	165	546	
Christ Church	120	115	119	89	89	—	—	532	
Sept 1981									
Manorhill	180	180	167	178	—	—	70	1073	2485
Friern Barnet	—	90	96	—	113	—	—	299	
Woodhouse	—	—	—	—	90	310	150	550	
Christ Church	120	120	115	119	89	—	—	563	
Sept 1982									
Manorhill	180	180	180	167	—	—	—	1191	2280
Friern Barnet	C	L	O	S	E	D	—	—	
Woodhouse	—	—	—	—	—	290	205	495	
Christ Church	120	120	120	115	119	—	—	594	
Sept 1983									
Manorhill	150	180	180	270	263	—	—	1043	2063
Woodhouse	—	—	—	—	—	235	190	425	
Christ Church	120	120	120	120	115	—	—	595	
Sept 1984									
Manorhill	150	150	180	180	270	—	—	930	1910
Woodhouse	—	—	—	—	—	220	160	380	
Christ Church	120	120	120	120	120	—	—	600	

*Notional figure only



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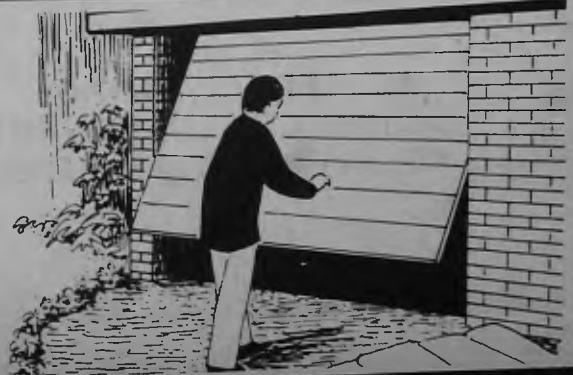
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New councillor



DONALD ERNEST BAKER, of 14 Warwick Road, New Barnet, is the new representative for Hadley Ward on Barnet Council.

Councillor Baker, married with two children, has lived in Barnet most of his life. He is employed as an executive in the Post Office, formerly at Barnet and now in the London headquarters.

He has had close links with the Services. He joined the Army in 1962 and was commissioned into the Royal Engineers (PCC). Since 1967 he has served in the Territorial Army and has also been working for service and ex-service family welfare.

Keenly interested in education, he has served for several years as a governor of Ashmole School, Southgate, and was recently appointed to the governing body of Queen Elizabeth's Boys' and Girls' Schools, Barnet.

His spare time interests include archaeology, local history and gardening.

The by-election, held in November, followed the death of Councillor E. A. E. Asker a former Mayor of Barnet.

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VANDALISM in Barnet, although not as bad as in many other areas, is costing ratepayers at least £250,000 a year. And this is a conservative estimate.

A leaflet "Facing up to Vandalism" is now available in Barnet Council offices and libraries.

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"So if you see property being damaged, dial 999. The police won't give you a false alarm and you won't have to give your name and address if you prefer not to."

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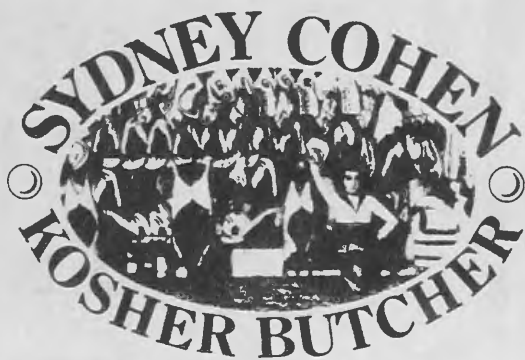
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AN EIGHT-PAGE LEAFLET — complete with map — full of local and historical snippets of information about Hendon, is available from the libraries and Church Farm House Museum, price 10p.

The guide, Town Trail — Hendon, was written by members of the Hendon and District Archaeological Society and published by the Libraries Department as part of their Local History Publications series.

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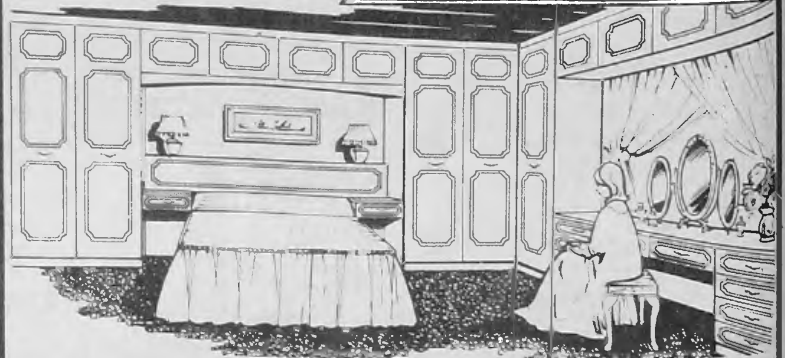
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