

## Diwali celebrated in style



**Time called on street drinking – page 3**  
**Festive refuse and recycling collection – pages 14**

A message from  
**Councillor  
Victor Lyon,**  
Leader of Barnet Council

**W**elcome to the December-January edition of Barnet First. On behalf of everyone at Barnet Council I would like to wish you all the very best over this festive season. In this edition of the residents' magazine you can read about how Barnet is leading the way on recycling - topping a table of North London Boroughs when it comes to re-using rubbish. I would urge you all to make it your resolution over this festive season to recycle as much of your household waste as possible. You can also read about how the council has stepped up its war on nuisance and anti-social behaviour with the introduction of the borough's first alcohol free zones. The zones are intended to stamp out street drinking in areas where this problem has blighted the lives of residents. Finally, I am delighted to announce that Barnet has received Government backing for a programme of initiatives worth £1.7 million over the next three years. Called Sure Start, the initiative will be aimed at improving the life chances for children and families in the West Hendon and Underhill areas.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Victor Lyon  
Leader of Barnet Council**

# firstthingsfirst

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# New town keeper for Mill Hill

Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr. Brian Coleman launched a new town keeper service in Mill Hill in September as Barnet Council continues to roll out the popular service across the borough.

Town keepers carry out early morning patrols to clear litter and graffiti that has appeared overnight.

They work closely with other council officers on removing abandoned vehicles and taking enforcement action. The initiative is also backed up by the council's mobile anti-graffiti units.

Mill Hill is the latest town centre to benefit from the service and follows the introduction of a town keeper in Finchley Church End in July.



# Council calls time on anti-social street drinkers

**The war on nuisance and anti-social behaviour in the borough continues after the council announced its first alcohol free zones to call time on drunks in the borough.**

The zones are intended to stamp out street drinking in areas where this problem is blighting the lives of residents. Drinking outside pubs, cafés and restaurants is only permitted if those outside areas are part of the licensed premises.

The move follows the launch of the council's new Street Enforcement Service to deal swiftly with anti-social behaviour and improve Barnet's streets, as well as a mobile CCTV unit.

Hendon Central, Finchley and North Finchley town centres have been chosen as pilot controlled zones as they are the worst hit by anti-social street drinking. The council is keen to roll out the scheme elsewhere in the borough if the first three zones

prove successful.

Street Enforcement Officers will be able to alert police to problems in the zones so that these can be tackled. Creating the zones will mean officers can highlight problems with ticket touts outside tube stations or beggars who have been drinking so they can be moved on or arrested by police.

Approval for the alcohol free zones is subject to consultation with the police and other bodies.

Cabinet Member for Environment Councillor Brian Coleman said: "Ridding the borough of anti-social behaviour is a top priority and these zones are the latest weapon in our armoury to achieve this. People should not have to put up with the unacceptable behaviour of drunks and our action will ensure that the problem in the three areas is quickly dealt with so that we can all enjoy better streets."



Another resident makes it to the finishing line

## Residents put their best foot forward

**Barnet residents have been putting their fitness to the test by taking part in the famous 'Rockport Mile'.**

Nearly one hundred people took part in the event which is held every six months at Barnet Copthall Stadium. The Rockport Mile is a recognised fitness test which involves participants walking a full mile, and then having their fitness levels monitored by health professionals.

The event is organised by Fitness for Life which is a scheme funded by Barnet Council and Barnet Primary Care Trust. They also run a number of fitness activities across the borough, including instructor-led health walks in parks and open spaces.

# News in brief

## Trading Standards warns over advance fee scam

Barnet Council's trading standards team is warning residents and businesses to beware of an advance fee scam which puts them at risk of losing considerable amounts of money.

Households and traders receive a mail shot or e-mail from Nigeria asking them to assist in money transfers, in return for a

percentage of the funds moved.

The catch is that an advance fee has to be paid before the transactions can take place.

Residents that receive these letters should send them to Barnet Council Trading Standards, Barnet House, 1255 Whetstone High Road, London N20 0EJ (tel: 020 8359 4917) or direct to: Metropolitan Police, National Criminal Intelligence Service, West African Organised Crime Section, Unit 2 Spring Gardens, PO Box 8000, London SE11 5EF.

## Schools Minister celebrates with Henrietta Barnett

Schools Minister Stephen Twigg joined teachers, students and governors of Henrietta Barnett School in Hampstead Garden Suburb to help them celebrate being named "School of the Year" for 2002 by the Sunday Times.

Last year, 94.1 per cent of all A-level papers sat by students were given A or B grades, results bettered by just three independent schools in the country. This was followed up in

2003 when nine-out-of-ten of the state school's students who took the examinations got A or B grades.

Henrietta Barnett was specifically praised for its innovative use of new technology and the way the school managed to meet not only the academic but emotional needs of its students.

## Life is sweeter in Barnet

Barnet residents are among the luckiest in London in terms of the quality of life they enjoy.

An Evening Standard survey into where life was sweetest found that the borough was in the top-five London areas.

In the rankings of quality of life - based on a range of criteria including crime levels, local public transport, pollution, parks, cost of buying a home, sports facilities and the quality of education provided by schools - Barnet was rated fifth out of 33 London boroughs.



The Minister meets pupils

# News in brief



## Get fit in 2004 at Copthall

The new Wellness Fitness Centre has opened at Copthall Leisure Centre and offers a wide range of facilities for those who want to get fit. The £1m centre has over a hundred pieces of the latest fitness equipment, as well as a dance studio, juice bar and relaxation area. This new centre marks the significant investment in leisure and sports centres by the council's



partner GLL and complements the opening of the new Barnet Burnt Oak Leisure Centre that also has a Wellness Fitness Centre. Further investment is planned for other centres within Barnet including another state-of-the-art Wellness Centre at Finchley Lido in 2004.

### Want to know more?

If you want to know more contact Copthall Leisure Centre on

**020 8457 9900**

## Tackling anti-social behaviour together

**Tackling anti-social behaviour is a growing priority for agencies and individuals concerned about the quality of life in their community.**

Barnet Council and the Metropolitan Police staged a conference to promote multi-agency working to tackle anti-social behaviour. The council was recently awarded Beacon status for its work in promoting community cohesion.

Keynote speakers included Cllr. Brian Salinger, Cabinet Member for Housing and Environmental Health; Sir Ian Blair, Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Joe Tuke of the Home Office Anti-social Behaviour Unit and Paul-Dunn, an anti-social behaviour advisor with the Metropolitan Police who works with London boroughs to develop successful approaches to tackling unacceptable behaviour.

Interactive workshops dealt with all aspects of anti-social behaviour - including environmental crime such as flytipping, graffiti, and abandoned vehicles.



Cllr. Brian Salinger addresses delegates

## Shalom FM is Barnet bound

The UK's only Jewish radio station is to relocate to Barnet thanks to help from the council. Shalom FM has found temporary accommodation within a council building near to Hendon Town Hall and will be seeking planning permission to make it a long term base in the future. Barnet Council stepped in to help the station after it was left struggling to find premises in north London to broadcast from. The organisation will take over the council building initially for a month from January 2004. The station transmits across north-west London on 101.4 fm.

## Text the council

There is now a new way to contact Barnet Council by using the text facility on your mobile phone.

'Text Barnet' will allow mobile phone users to text their questions and enquiries through to 07781 473279 - which also spells out 07781 IS EASY. All text messages will be acknowledged immediately, and an ID number sent through for future reference. Queries will be followed up swiftly and callers will be contacted by the relevant service dealing with their enquiry.

## Nursery gets bigger and better

A new two-floor extension part funded with a £83,000 grant from Barnet Council, is now being enjoyed by children at Moss Hall Nursery School in Finchley. Two Cabinet Members, Cllr. Lynne Hillan and Cllr. Brian Salinger, cut the ribbon at the official opening.

Because of the extra space available, high quality full-day care and support is now being provided for up to 40 children each week. The 156 place nursery is now able to offer breakfast, tea, lunches and extra sessions in separate, carefully planned accommodation.

The school has larger classrooms and the extra space has meant the school's offices and reception are now at the front of the building, resulting in better overall security.

The school is also investing extra money in extending its range of services and equipment. A toddler group, toddler library and SEN toy library are planned.

Priority to the all-day provision will be given according to criteria set by the local authority, including children in need, children with special educational needs and children with parents who have disabilities or health problems.

# Swede like to learn from you

**Education specialists from Malmo in Sweden were in Barnet to observe how effective teaching can help build strong communities.**

**M**almo is Sweden's third biggest city. Barnet Council is providing advice to the city council there which is working with Malmo University to develop a new education centre - promoting and developing multi-cultural and anti-racist teaching methods in Malmo's schools.

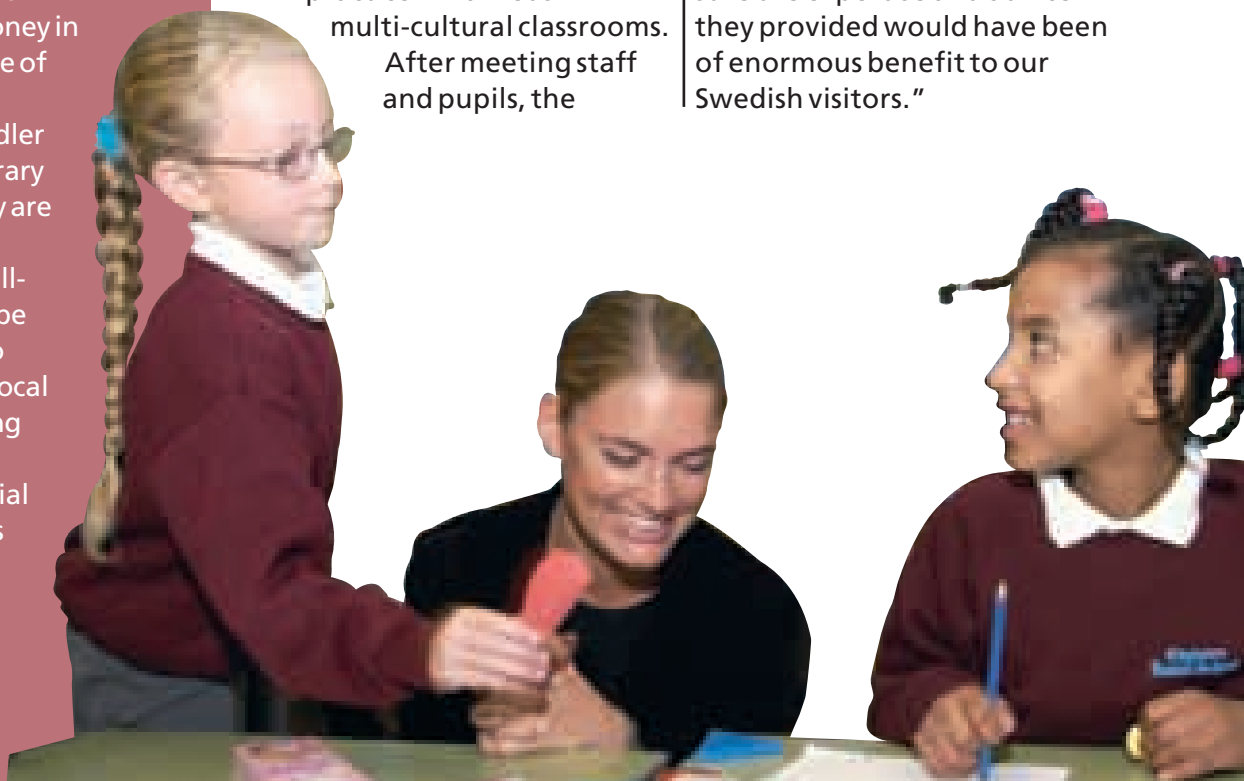
In September, a delegation of Malmo City Council's senior politicians visited Edgware Infant School, Edgware Junior School and Whitefield Secondary School to see examples of good teaching practice in Barnet's multi-cultural classrooms.

After meeting staff and pupils, the

delegation then moved on to Barnet Multi-Cultural Community Centre in West Hendon where they met centre manager Joyce Chiwela and were treated to a Caribbean lunch.

Cllr. Lynne Hillan, Cabinet Member for Education, said: "Education has a key role to play in tackling extremism and prejudice. It can help strengthen communities and we aim to ensure every Barnet resident has access to first class educational opportunities.

"We have excellent teachers in the borough's schools and I'm sure the expertise and advice they provided would have been of enormous benefit to our Swedish visitors."



# Building Dollis Valley a brighter future



Residents look over the plans

**Warden Housing Association has been selected as the preferred partner to regenerate the Dollis Valley estate after putting forward the most imaginative and financially strong proposals.**

Their regeneration plan will see the creation of a mixture of new high quality homes for existing residents and additional homes for private sale, with better links to the surrounding area through a revised layout. Run down blocks of flats will be replaced with more traditional

street houses with gardens while youth and community facilities will be improved.

Warden Housing Association will now be working with residents to develop further and strengthen a multi-million pound regeneration scheme that will bring improved housing, community facilities and employment opportunities, as well as putting in place innovative ways to tackle anti-social behaviour in the area.

The selection of Warden Housing Association follows months of consultation, including an exhibition in September when residents were able to view the various options being put forward by the housing associations and trusts bidding to transform Dollis Valley.

A selection panel which included residents, Councillor Fiona Bulmer, council officers and chaired by Cllr. Salinger, Cabinet Member for

Housing and Environmental Health, met on October 13 to hear detailed presentations from each housing association. They quizzed each association on the details of their proposals such as the financial viability, housing management, ways to tackle anti-social behaviour and involving residents in the process.

Warden Housing Association emerged as the strongest overall on these issues and Cllr. Salinger will now recommend Warden as the preferred development partner for the regeneration when the Council's Cabinet meets on December 1, 2003.

Cllr. Salinger said: "This is an important step towards giving people on the Dollis Valley Estate the homes they deserve.

"Now we have a proposal and a partner which can meet the needs and aspirations of residents for the regeneration of the area."

## Landmark conference on sheltered housing

**For the first time, residents and representatives from a diverse range of sheltered housing providers met at a conference to find the best ways to provide sheltered housing in the 21st Century, making sure it meets the needs of those requiring it.**

There are more than 2000 older people living in sheltered housing today in Barnet, provided by 30 separate organisations. Roughly a third of this provision is directly from the council, a third by housing associations and a third by charities and almshouses.

Residents were able to take part in conference workshops and had their say on the services currently provided. What they said will influence key decisions on the way

sheltered housing is delivered in coming years to make it even better.

The workshops also helped residents find out how to get a home of their choice, decide what they want from warden services and advised them on how to work with landlords most effectively so their voice is heard.



# Traffic to flow again in Temple Fortune

**Barnet Council has unveiled plans to cut congestion and accidents on the Finchley Road in Temple Fortune.**

The improvement scheme, which covers the A598 from the North Circular Road to Portsdown Avenue, will see removal of ineffective measures such as the little used traffic islands, kerb build-outs that encourage obstructive parking and speed tables that have collapsed.

There will also be an increase in parking provision near to shops and additional disabled parking facilities to boost the number of visitors to the high street.

The improvements are part of the council's on-going five-year programme of road resurfacing and maintenance. This year alone, the council is spending over £7m on repairing roads

and pavements.

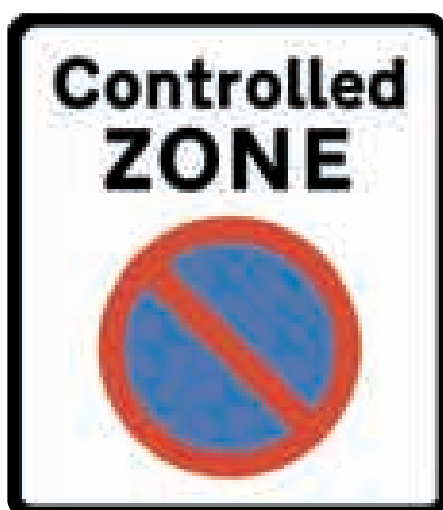
The Temple Fortune scheme will begin this month, with breaks over the Christmas and New Year period to minimise disruption to shoppers and traders.

Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr. Brian Coleman said: "This scheme is part of our policy to get traffic flowing again on the borough's roads whilst minimising accidents. By tackling the congestion problem at source and making conditions on main roads better, drivers will not want to rat run onto adjacent local roads."

**Want to know more?**  
 Contact the highways service on  
**020 8359 6074**



Improvement work being undertaken in Barnet



**Barnet Council is reviewing the Controlled Parking Zones in Finchley to assess their impact and make changes where necessary.**

## Council reviews CPZs

The schemes at Church End and North Finchley were brought in after extensive consultation and with the backing of residents and traders. However, the council undertakes a review of all CPZs after six months to iron out any teething problems.

It means that streets on the border of the zone which opted out during Barnet Council's original consultation will now get an opportunity to be included the scheme. The council will also consider requests to alter parking

controls, such as the hours of operation and parking bay layout. Residents and traders are being asked what they think of the proposals.

CPZs prioritise parking for local residents and businesses and provide suitable short-term parking for shoppers. They also curb traffic congestion caused by illegal and inconsiderate parking. The Church End zone, which covers roads around Finchley Central tube station, is particularly aimed at easing the problems created by commuter parking.

# Barnet tops recycling table

**Barnet is leading the way on recycling - topping a table of north London boroughs.**

Figures for 2002-2003 show that of the boroughs that make up the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) - Barnet, Hackney, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest - Barnet has collected the most rubbish to be sent for recycling - around 14,200 tonnes.

These efforts will reinforce the council's drive to create a cleaner, greener borough, as for each tonne of rubbish recycled Barnet will

receive 'credits' worth £46 from the NLWA. This means a grand total of £653,769 can now be ploughed back into recycling initiatives across the borough.

But far from being complacent the council is already on course to better this performance. New figures show that of all the boroughs in the NLWA area, Barnet is the most likely to reach its recycling target - 18 per cent of all rubbish - set for it by the Government in 2003-2004.

The amount of rubbish recycled by residents has already increased

to over 16 per cent, with 1,983 tonnes being sent for recycling in August this year compared with 857 tonnes in August 2001.

Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr. Brian Coleman said: "It's very rewarding to know that the whole of the borough is pulling together to dramatically reduce the rubbish sent to landfill sites. We provide six easy to use services for residents to recycle their domestic waste and with your help can go on to reach new heights in recycling and create an even cleaner, greener Barnet."

## Green festive season

**To help ensure more rubbish is recycled and re-used this festive season, residents can take advantage of Barnet's six easy-to-use services:**

**Recycle from Home:** is a free doorstep collection

**Bring Banks:** there are over 70 recycling bring banks at key locations throughout the borough.

**Flats Recycling Service:** a free easy-to-use weekly flat collection

**Compost at Home:** composters at subsidised prices

**Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre:** at the centre you can recycle over 30 different items

**Green Garden Waste Collection:** green wheeled bins offered to residents for the collection of garden waste in limited parts of the borough

**Tops tips for festive recycling**

Use our top tips to reduce your

rubbish over the festive season:

- ▶ Save your favourite Christmas cards to make next year's gift tags or recycle them
- ▶ Buy rechargeable batteries for children's toys and electrical goods
- ▶ Be more creative with your gifts and buy products made from recycled materials
- ▶ Buy products in bulk - it's cheaper and uses fewer resources
- ▶ Re-use your plastic containers to store leftovers rather than using clingfilm, plastic bags or foil

See page 14 for changes to recycling and refuse collection services over the Christmas period.

### Want to know more?

Call Barnet's Recycling Hotline on 020 8359 7505 quoting ref:GB 1BF



Emily Casimir-Brown, aged 4, has got the recycling bug early

**Recycling - So Simple, It's Easy!**

## Council crackdown on fraud continues

Barnet Council has secured another victory in its drive to crackdown on benefit cheats.

In its latest move to stamp out fraud the council has successfully prosecuted a woman who claimed £2,100 in housing benefit that she wasn't entitled to.

The council took legal action after it discovered Irene Nakibule of Langham Road, Edgware, was continuing to claim benefit but had failed to tell housing benefit officers she had started working.

Appearing at Hendon Magistrates Court on Monday (October 13), Ms Nakibule admitted failing to declare these relevant changes in her circumstances.

She received an 18 month community rehabilitation order and was ordered to pay £150 costs. She is also paying back the money she illegally obtained from the council.

Barnet Council's Cabinet Member for Value and Effectiveness Cllr. Mike Freer said: "Fraudulent benefit claims like these cost the council a lot of money – money that could be spent on vital council services.

"We are determined to stamp them out and successful legal actions such as this one send out a clear message that we will have no hesitation in prosecuting those people who attempt to cheat the council in this way.

"If any residents have any information that can help the council catch benefit cheats they can call our hot-line number in complete confidence on 020 8359 2007."



## Crime cameras catch criminals in the act

**Crime-busting CCTV cameras are making Barnet a safer place to live.**

In September alone, there were eight arrests as a result of the state-of-the-art surveillance now operating across the borough.

The offences took place at different locations and included attempted robbery, possession of offensive weapons, attempted theft and daubing graffiti.

This major investment in CCTV is spearheading Barnet Council's crackdown on crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

A mobile unit packed with the latest surveillance equipment is

now patrolling Barnet's crime hotspots. This latest weapon in the crusade for a safer environment follows the installation of more cameras in town centres and the opening of a new CCTV control centre in Hendon.

Cabinet Member for Environment Cllr. Brian Coleman said: "We are determined to do everything we can to reduce both crime and the fear of crime. These latest arrests show what a vital role CCTV plays in catching and deterring the thugs, vandals and thieves that blight the lives of ordinary, decent people."

# Warehouse proprietor fined for rat infestation

**The proprietor of a food warehouse in Edgware has ended up in court after Environmental Health Officers at Barnet Council discovered a grisly catalogue of horrors lurking in the building.**

In a case brought by the council's Environmental and Neighbourhood Services and Law



and Probity team, Elias Abaee, the proprietor of Bah Bah Ltd in the High Street, was found guilty of three offences under food safety laws at Hendon Magistrates Court on Friday, August 29. He was fined a total of £1000 plus £500 costs and banned from managing any food business.

The magistrates told Mr Abaee that it was the worst case of this kind that any of them had seen and that the fine would have been much higher were it not for Mr Abaee's very reduced means.

Officers from the council's Environmental and Neighbourhood Services found a severe rat infestation during an inspection of the premises in October 2002. Rodents were spotted running around the premises and a dead rat was

discovered in a bag of food. The court also heard how one officer nudged a box containing food and heard a squeak. In addition, the officers found a moth infestation in the warehouse.

Council food safety experts immediately shut down the premises using an emergency prohibition notice, and much of the food was later condemned by the court for destruction.

Cabinet Member for Housing and Environmental Health Cllr. Brian Salinger said: "This is a particularly disturbing case and once again shows that we will not hesitate to take tough action when the health of the public is put at risk."

## Want to know more?

Anyone with concerns about food safety and hygiene conditions in a shop, restaurant or any food premises should telephone Barnet Council on 020 8359 7443.

# Last family out of bed and breakfast accommodation

**The last family living in bed and breakfast accommodation in Barnet has been moved into a proper home – six months ahead of schedule.**

In 2002 there were still 90 families living in B & Bs, but last week saw the final family to be housed this way moved by the council into other self-contained temporary accommodation.

A number of factors have contributed to the council's success which has been noted by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

These include the introduction of a family mediation service to help stop people becoming homeless in

the first place; the speeding up of procedures for making decisions in homelessness cases and the development of better quality, better value temporary and permanent accommodation.

The council's achievement in finally closing the door on bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless families comes hot on the heels of the launch of its brand new 'Barnet Homeseekers' service.

'Homeseekers' represents a whole new way of working and a new range of housing options for people looking for somewhere to live.

Instead of waiting for an offer,



Barnet 'Homeseekers' is launched

all vacant properties will now be advertised for bidding in a new scheme called 'Home Connections'. People on the council's housing register can now 'bid' with their housing points for advertised properties. The applicant who bids for a property with the highest number of points based on housing need will get the keys.

You can contact the council in a number of ways:

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

Visit the council's website at [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk) for information on all services including contact details and telephone numbers. For more detailed enquiries on council services call into one of our Action Points. The council has four Action Points at: The Town Hall, Hendon, Chipping Barnet Library, Edgware Library and Golders Green Library.

Action Points can also be contacted by:

Telephone: 020 8359 4000

Fax: 020 8359 2197; Minicom: 020 8203 8942

Email: [info.centre@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:info.centre@barnet.gov.uk)

Con=Conservative, Lab=Labour, LibDem= Liberal Democrat

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Saturdays, East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, N2, 10-11.30am

### COLIN ROGERS (Lab)

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### PHIL YEOMAN (Lab)

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, LABOUR GROUP  
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## EDGWARE WARD

### HELENA HART (Con)

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### MALCOLM LESTER (Con)

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Tuesdays (excluding religious and bank holidays), Edgware Library, Hale Lane, HA8, 5.30-6.30pm

### JOAN SCANNELL (Con)

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## FINCHLEY CHURCH END WARD

### MICHAEL FREER (Con)

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### EVA GREENSPAN (Con)

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### LESLIE SUSSMAN (Con)

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## GARDEN SUBURB WARD

### VANESSA GEARSON (Con)

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### JOHN MARSHALL (Con)

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4th Monday every month, Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, 7.30-9pm

### JAZMIN NAGHAR (Con)

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## GOLDERS GREEN WARD

### MELVIN COHEN (Con) MAYOR

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

### ABA DUNNER (Con)

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2nd Sunday every month, Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Also 4th Sunday every month, Hendon Sports Centre, 12noon-1pm

### CHRISTOPHER HARRIS (Con)

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2nd Sunday every month, Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Also 4th Sunday every month, Hendon Sports Centre, 12noon-1pm

**HALE WARD**

**STEVEN BLOMER (Lab)**  
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10.30am-12noon

**BRIAN GORDON (Con)**  
07931 300 679  
conservative\_grp@barnet.gov.uk  
Please contact to arrange a meeting

**RUTH NYMAN (Lab)**  
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**HENDON WARD**

**MAUREEN BRAUN (Con)**  
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The Burroughs, NW4, 6-7pm

**MATTHEW OFFORD (Con)**  
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**HIGH BARNET WARD**

**KATIA DAVID (Con)**  
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Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 2-3.30pm

**KANTI PATEL (Con)**  
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3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet  
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 2-3.30pm

**WENDY PRENTICE (Con) DEPUTY MAYOR**  
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cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk  
3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet  
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 2-3.30pm

**MILL HILL WARD**

**WAYNE CASEY (LibDem)**  
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GROUP  
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10am-12 noon

**JEREMY DAVIES (LibDem)**  
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10am-12 noon

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

**OAKLEIGH WARD**

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

**BRIAN SALINGER (Con)**  
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Barnet Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

**GERARD SILVERSTONE (Con)**  
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1st Saturday every month, Friern Barnet Library, Friern  
Barnet Rd., N11, 10.30am-12noon

**TOTTERIDGE WARD**

**BRIAN COLEMAN (Con)**  
GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR  
BARNET & CAMDEN  
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Totteridge Lane, N20, 10.30am-12noon

**KEVIN EDSON (Con)**  
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Totteridge Lane, N20, 10.30am-12noon

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Totteridge Lane, N20, 10.30am-12noon

**UNDERHILL WARD**

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**FIONA BULMER (Con)**  
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Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 2-3.30pm

**PETER DAVIS (Con)**  
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3rd Saturday every month, Chipping Barnet  
Conservative Association, 163 High St., EN5, 2-3.30pm

**WEST FINCHLEY WARD**

**KITTY LYONS (Lab)**  
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10-11.30am

**WEST HENDON WARD**

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Drive, NW9, 10.30am-12noon

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**WOODHOUSE WARD**

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11.30am

**MARK LANGTON (Lab)**  
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N12,  
10-11.30am

**ALAN SCHNEIDERMAN (Lab)**  
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10-11.30am

CONTACTING  
YOUR MPs

**CHIPPING BARNET**  
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Office: 163 High St., Barnet, EN5 5SU  
(020) 8449 7345

**FINCHLEY & GOLDERS GREEN**  
DR RUDI VIS  
Office: 38 Church Lane, East Finchley, N2 8DT  
(020) 8883 0411

**HENDON**  
ANDREW DISMORE  
Office: St. George's Lodge, 79 The Burroughs,  
Hendon, NW4 4AX  
(020) 8202 2122

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

# Barnet Council holiday refuse and recycling collections for 2003/4

**Please note the following changes to your schedules over the festive period:**

## Refuse collections

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

### Collection due on

Thursday 25 December (No Service)  
 Friday 26 December (No Service)  
 Thursday 1 January (No Service)

### Rescheduled Collection day

Saturday 27 December  
 Friday 2 January  
 Saturday 3 January

All other refuse collections will take place as normal. For further information call 020 8359 4600, quoting ref: RC03

## Recycle from home, weekly doorstep collections (including flats)

Please ensure that your box is placed on the boundary of your property by 7.00am on your scheduled day of collection.

### Collection due on

Thursday 25 December (No Service)  
 Friday 26 December (No Service)  
 Thursday 1 January (No Service)

### Rescheduled Collection

Saturday 27 December  
 Friday 2 January  
 Saturday 3 January

All other Recycle from Home doorstep collections will take place as normal. For further information call the Recycling Hotline 020 8359 7505, quoting ref: RH03

Materials which can be placed in your black recycling box include: batteries (car and household), cans, engine oil, foil, glass, mobile phones, paper, shoes, textiles and yellow pages.

Please put excess materials in carrier bags next to your black recycling box. If this is a regular occurrence please call for a second box on 020 8359 7505. The Flats Recycling Service collects: cans, glass and paper.

## Green garden waste collection

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

### Collection due on

Saturday 27 December (No Service)  
 Saturday 3 January (No Service)

### Next Collection

Saturday 10 January  
 Saturday 10 January

All other Green Garden Waste collections will take place as normal. For further information call 020 8359 7400, quoting ref: GW03

Residents who have signed up to the Green Garden Waste Collection can leave their Christmas trees by the side of their GREEN wheeled bin for collection.

## Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, N12

Thursday 25 December Site Closed  
 Friday 26 December Site Closed  
 Thursday 1 January Site Closed

The site will be open as usual on all other days. For more information call the centre on 020 8362 0752, quoting ref: CA03

At the centre you can recycle 30 different materials, including: bicycles, books, cardboard, engine oil filters, electrical items, electronic items, fluorescent tubes, fridges, furniture, gas bottles, garden waste, hardcore, paint, plastic bottles, records, CD's and tapes, toner cartridges, scrap metal, sports equipment, tyres, wood and yellow pages. (General waste is also accepted). Christmas Trees can be taken to the site for composting.

# Recycling – So Simple, It's Easy!

# Festive season opening hours

## What's open in Barnet and when

### Libraries

**All libraries will close at 1pm on Wednesday, December 24th and will remain closed for Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th.**

Normal opening hours will resume on Saturday, December 27th until Tuesday, December 30th inclusive. All libraries will close at 5pm on Wednesday, December 31st and Thursday, January 1st.

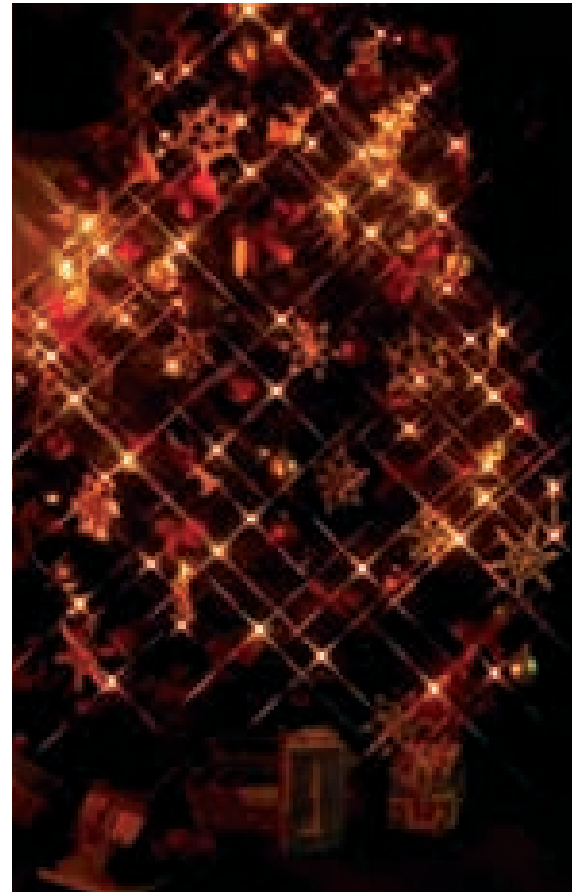
Residents should be aware that Monday is a closed day for all libraries except Chipping Barnet, Church End, East Barnet and Edgware so with the exception of these all other libraries will be closed on Monday, December 29th. Hendon Library remains closed for refurbishment.

### Church Farmhouse Museum

The museum will be closed from Wednesday, 24th December to Friday, 26th December (inclusive) and also on Thursday, 1st January. Normal opening hours will operate from Saturday, December 27th until Wednesday, December 31st inclusive.

### Customer Care Unit

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



- ▶ **Wednesday 24 December – 8am – 4pm**
- ▶ **Thursday 25 December, Friday 26 December, Saturday 27 December and Sunday 28 December – Closed**
- ▶ **Monday 29 December and Tuesday 30 December – 8am – 6pm**
- ▶ **Wednesday 31 December – 8am – 4pm**
- ▶ **Thursday 1 January – Closed**
- ▶ **Friday 2 January – 8am – 6pm**

### Waste collection and recycling

See advert opposite for collection times.

### Block cleanse

Block cleansing of every street complete with free skips has expanded and will now take place three times a year. For further information please visit our website [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk) or call **020 8359 4600**, quoting ref: BC03. We notify all residents by letter at least one week in advance of the date of the block cleanse. Residents can take their Christmas trees to the skips provided during the January/ February block cleanse.

### Christmas tree collection points

From 3rd January until 19th January, please leave your old Christmas trees for composting in the designated areas at the following sites:

1. The Civic Amenity & Recycling Centre, Summers Lane, N12
2. Daws Lane car park, NW7
3. West Hendon Playing Fields car park, NW9
4. Watling Park, behind the recycling banks off Abbots Road, HA8
5. Clitterhouse Playing Fields car park, off Claremont Road, NW2
6. Barnet Playing Fields car park, off Barnet Road, next to the Cricket & Hockey Club, EN5 2DW

See page 9 for our tops tips for festive recycling.

# Focus on the Corporate Plan: Repairing roads and pavements

**T**he Corporate Plan is the council's road map for improving service performance over the next five years.

In the last edition of Barnet First we looked in detail at one of the five key priorities of the plan – supporting the vulnerable in the community. In this issue we turn our attention to another key priority – repairing roads and pavements.

Barnet is maximising the resources available to carry out proper repairs and resurfacing and has embarked on a five-year programme of maintenance work.

This year alone, the council is spending over £7m on repairing roads and pavements. In 2002/03, more than 80 roads were resurfaced at a cost of £3m, with even more streets benefiting this year. The council wants to ensure that by 2007/8 the majority of roads will be up to national standards.

We also want to get traffic moving on the borough's roads. The council is tackling the issue at source by making conditions on the main road network better, so that drivers will not rat run through adjacent local roads. The Temple Fortune road improvement scheme, which is featured on page 8, is a good example of the priority Barnet is

giving to road repair and maintenance.

However, we are not responsible for the M1, A1, A41 and

proposals subject to TfL securing funding. Such improvements will further reduce the need for drivers to rat run.

Better street lighting reduces the fear of crime. It also helps cut the incidence of night time road accidents and improves the way streets look. We will aim to invest at least £3m on modernising street lighting over the life of the Corporate Plan.

Every resident has the right to expect the borough's roads and pavements to be safe to use. That is why we will make Barnet streets better by repairing and replacing worn roads and pavements and work to improve streets, street lighting and the way streets look.



the North Circular Road which together carry 250,000 vehicles a day through Barnet. Earlier this year, Barnet, along with Enfield Council, challenged Transport for London's decision to abandon major improvements to the North Circular Road at three major congestion points: Bounds Green, Henlys Corner and Brent Street. This intervention has ensured that the schemes remain firm

## The five key priorities of the Corporate Plan are:

- A first class education service
- Tackling crime
- Supporting the vulnerable in our community
- A cleaner, greener Barnet
- Repairing roads and pavements

## Want to know more?

To get hold of a copy of Barnet Council's Corporate Plan telephone 020 8359 7022 or e-mail [claire.johnston@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:claire.johnston@barnet.gov.uk)

## £1.7 million boost for children in West Hendon and Underhill

**The West Hendon and Underhill areas are set to receive a massive boost to services for very young children and their families when a local Sure Start programme is in full swing.**

Barnet Council has received Government backing for a programme of initiatives to improve life chances for children and families in West Hendon and Underhill with funding worth £1.7 million over three years.

Children will benefit from acquiring better skills before starting school, increased support and health advice for mums-to-be and for families when babies are born. There will be more support available for parents to explore education and employment opportunities through closer links with Jobcentre Plus, local training providers and further/higher education institutions. Computer training for mothers wanting to return to work is just one

envisaged project.

Activities planned when the programme is fully operational include: extra health visiting hours, training opportunities for parents, parenting groups, additional toy and book library services, extra child and family psychological support and development of full-day nursery provision as well as an increase in the number of toddler groups.

Barnet Council has been working with the Primary Care Trust and local voluntary groups to develop a strategy to increase the availability of high quality and affordable childcare, plus education and health services for families, with a particular focus on West Hendon and Underhill's 722 under fours.

Barnet's local Sure Start programme is part of an important national strategy to end child poverty which is aimed at improving opportunities for children and their families.



The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Melvin Cohen plays his part in the Civic Service

## Barnet honours first citizen

Mayors from all over London gathered together at Od Yosef Hai Synagogue in Hendon to take part in the borough's annual Civic Service. The service, which has been held every year since 1965, pays homage to the current Mayor and asks for a blessing on his or her year in office.

Also attending this year were local MPs, councillors, magistrates and representatives of organisations that have been given the freedom of the borough or which have been 'adopted' by the council.

## Community Plan competition winners

**The Community Plan affects everybody living and working in Barnet. It provides a strategy for tackling the key issues affecting local people by getting the borough's different agencies to work together.**

A questionnaire was sent to every household in the borough asking for feedback on the draft Community Plan and residents who returned their

questionnaires by the 12 September deadline were entered into a free prize draw to win one of three £50 shopping vouchers.

Over 3,500 completed questionnaires were returned and congratulations to the winners of the prize draw: Mrs L Asher of Mill Hill, Ms M Hoff of New Barnet and Mr J Edwards of Whetstone.

## Religious leaders show faith in Barnet



Delegates take part in the first faith conference.

**The leaders of faith communities within Barnet have come together in a landmark meeting, chaired by Cllr. Aba Dunner, to discuss the possibility of an inter-faith network within the borough.** The conference came about after representatives from major faiths suggested that Barnet would benefit from religious communities working together in the future. This would be particularly beneficial during the possibility of terrorist activity, or events that affect minority communities such as the SARS outbreak earlier this year. There were discussions at the conference about how faith communities will help shape the future of the major planning and regeneration schemes taking place within the borough.

# Grant for legal service helping the vulnerable

**A £76,600 grant from Barnet Council will help ensure that the most vulnerable people in the borough will continue to have access to high quality legal advice on a variety of social welfare issues.**

The 2003/4 funding for Barnet Law Service (BLS), an independent charity based at Bell Lane, Hendon, has been given the go-ahead.

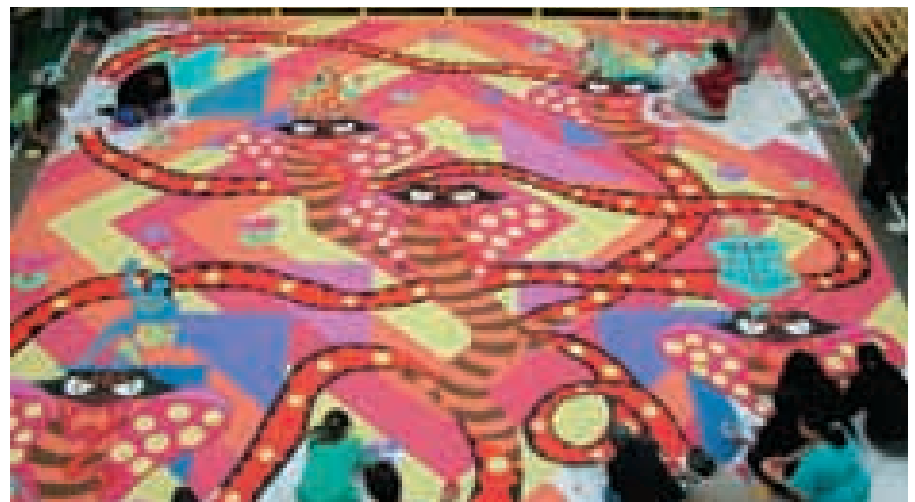
Funding totalling £78,515 in 2004/05 and £80,480 in 2005/06 was also agreed in principle pending approval of a business plan and targets being agreed.

BLS is an independent legal service specialising in social welfare law for disadvantaged local groups - in particular older and disabled people, those with mental health problems, people

on low incomes, minority ethnic groups, refugees and asylum seekers.

These groups could be at a disadvantage when faced with legal issues, either because they do not understand the law, are unable to represent themselves effectively or cannot find someone to represent them.

The service works with the voluntary sector to provide free legal help covering issues including employment, housing, immigration, mental health, community care and welfare benefits, representing clients from disadvantaged groups at appeals, tribunals and lower courts. BLS takes referrals from 'front-line' voluntary agencies operating in the borough such as Barnet Citizens Advice Bureau.



**A massive Rangoli was created at Brent Cross Shopping Centre by women from local Indian communities to celebrate Diwali.**

Rangoli is an Indian artform traditionally using coloured rice powder which is carefully sprinkled on the floor to make patterns and images.

The stunning project was a partnership between the shopping centre, the council, artsdepot and community groups.



Some of the history making Ravenscroft School students: (L-R) Sarah Prior, Catherine Amaro and Donna Oddi who notched up 41 GCSE passes at A\*-C between them

# A year of achievement

**History making exam results, sporting excellence and personal stories of triumph against the odds - it has been quite a year for the Ravenscroft School in Totteridge.**

The school celebrated the achievements of pupils past and current at its presentation evening.

Over 100 awards were presented including a Special Award for Community Languages to Zahra Zana, who achieved 14 A\*-C grade GCSEs despite arriving at the school three years ago from Afghanistan speaking no English at all.

The Governors Award for Excellence went to Emma Abotsi, who is now studying at St. Martin's College of Art and Design.

Mohammad Dehabadi received the Chair of Governors Award for his staggering 14 GCSE

passes at A\* or A grade.

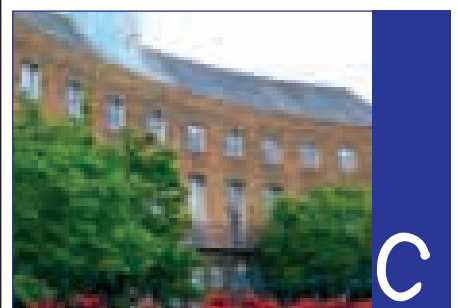
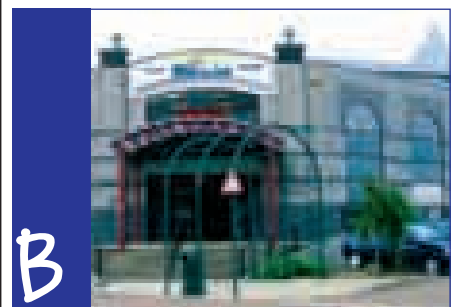
Special Awards for sport were given to Roberta Akpan, who is the Barnet champion in 100 and 200 metres and highjump and Simon Dawkins who plays football for the Tottenham Hotspur Academy and also represents England Schoolboys. Boxer Gary Barker also received a Special Award after winning the Junior Olympic title and is the Amateur Boxing Association Schoolboy Champion.

Cllr. Lynne Hillan, Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Lifelong Learning presented the awards praising the school for opening up "so many routes to success".

## Think you know your borough?

Barnet First is giving its readers the chance to win £20 worth of Marks and Spencer's vouchers by putting their local knowledge to the test in a prize draw.

If you recognise the three landmark buildings featured in the photographs below write and let us know what they are.



Send your entries to Barnet First **Landmark Competition**, Communications Unit, Room 75, Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, NW44BG. Closing date for entries is January 7th.

# Diwali lights up Barnet

**Diwali – also known as the Hindu ‘Festival of Lights’ – got off to a great start this year as Barnet Council laid on a giant light display at the Sangham Centre on Burnt Oak Broadway.**

The display marked the largest ever investment in the festival by the council, and kick started a whole host of events across the borough.

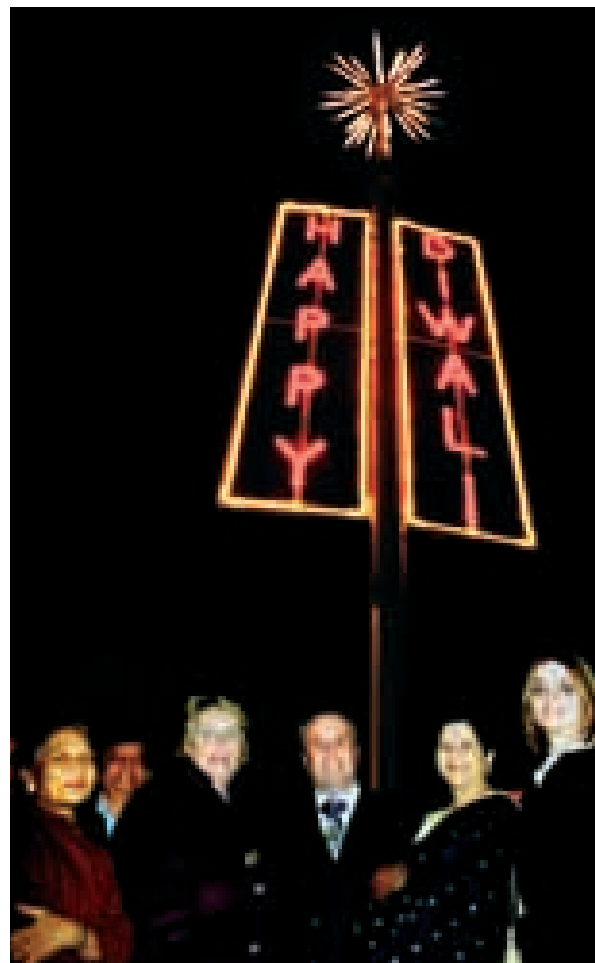
A number of events have been supported by Barnet Council including the Barnet Asians Old People Association’s Diwali Celebration, the Jain Sangha of Europe Diwali Dinner at the Indian YMCA, and a Diwali lunch for Barnet Council staff at the North London Business Park site.

The Diwali Festival in Barnet has become an important part of local life for the Hindu community, and is traditionally

marked by the lighting of candles, lights and fireworks to celebrate the victory of good over evil.

Councillor Brian Coleman GLA, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: “I am very pleased that we were able to fund the Diwali lights, which shows the council’s commitment to the many different communities that make their home within the borough.”

Councillor Katia David, Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Equalities and Social Inclusion, said: “Earlier this year Barnet Council gained Beacon status for the work it undertakes with ethnic communities, and the Diwali celebrations build on the council’s work with the local Hindu population.”



Deputy Mayor Cllr. Wendy Prentice (third from left), Cllr. Brian Coleman (centre) and Cllr. Katia David (right) with representatives from the Sangham Centre



Cllr. Peter Davis and Cllr. Aba Dunner at the Holocaust Memorial Arch

## Victims of the Holocaust remembered

**Holocaust Memorial Day will take place on Sunday January 25th, and will remember those that have lost their lives in Holocaust situations across the world. Last year’s event attracted thousands of people, many of whom were Holocaust victims themselves.**

To commemorate the lives of the 1.5 million children who were killed in the Holocaust, the council is looking to plant snowdrop gardens across the borough. Launched last year, the scheme has already attracted interest from community groups and local residents who are keen

to establish their own memorial gardens. The council has written to every school in Barnet to see if they would like to set up their own garden, and already there has been an enormous response.

Barnet Council’s Parks Team has also planted a snowdrop garden within the Hendon Park so that residents can go along and pay their respects.

### Want to know more?

For more information call Renae Randle on **020 8359 2339** or go to **[www.barnet.gov.uk/holocaust](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/holocaust)**

# Top tips for safe toys

**Barnet's Trading Standards officers wish all families and their children a happy – and safe - festive season.**

These are their top 12 tips for buying safe toys.

1. Buy toys only from recognised outlets
2. Make sure the toy is suitable for the child – check the age range and consider health issues
3. Be particularly careful with toys for children under three
4. Be wary of young children playing with older children's toys
5. Check for loose hair, small parts, sharp edges, points and entrapment problems
6. Ensure garden swings and slides are robust and there is no strangulation hazard
7. Check toys regularly for wear or damage - dispose of them where necessary
8. Keep the play area tidy
9. Follow the instructions and warnings provided with toys
10. Always supervise young children at play
11. Keep the address of the toy supplier/importer, which should be near the CE mark. This mark is mandatory and indicates the toy meets the requirements of Toy Safety Regulations
12. Be careful when installing batteries. Make sure they are the correct ones and are inserted the correct way round. Dispose of old batteries immediately.

## Fair view restored for residents



Going, going gone! The Somerton Road flats are turned to rubble.

**Thirty three luxury apartments built in the wrong place have been demolished following a decision by the council.**

The £6 million luxury apartments on Somerton Road NW2 were bulldozed after being built over four metres out of place, in breach of the original plans.

Although the developers, Fairview, argued this was of little consequence, the Government Planning Inspectorate ruled that the flats must be demolished.

This followed retrospective planning permission being refused by the Council's Planning and Environment Committee.

Cllr. Kanti Patel, Cabinet Member for Borough Development and Planning said: "This five metre error meant that the building was situated too close to existing residential properties nearby, disturbing the privacy of those living there."



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# what's on

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

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

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

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

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

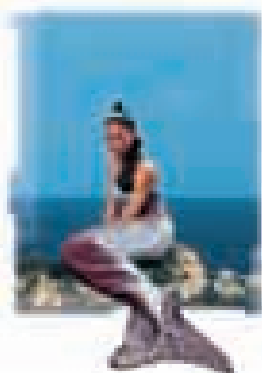
**2 December-17 January.** Chicken Shed Theatre Co. presents 'The Night before Christmas'. It's Christmas Eve and the children must make a journey of a lifetime to return a sack full of presents to their owners by midnight. Chicken Shed Theatre, Chase Side, Southgate, N14. **Box office 020 8292 9222.**

**3 December, 7.30pm.** Finchley and District Philatelic Society. Talk by Peter Forrestier-Smith from the London Postal History Group and display on London Local Posts. The society meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month (not July or Aug). Carey Room, Trinity Church Hall, Nether Street, North Finchley. **For further information phone 020 8444 3251 or see [www.stampdomain.com/finchley](http://www.stampdomain.com/finchley)**

**3-7 December.** Garden Suburb Theatre presents Arthur Miller's play 'Broken Glass'. Upstairs, the Gatehouse, Highgate. **Box office 020 8340 3488.**

**6 December, 7.30pm.** Barnet Band Concert. Wind band playing a selection of music in aid of the North London Hospice. Queen Elizabeth's Boys School, Queens Road, Barnet. Tickets £6 adults/£3 children from **020 8441 0605.**

**6 December, 12noon-4pm.** Christmas Bazaar. Meet Father Christmas, face painting, books, cakes, crafts and many more stalls. St. Mary's CE Primary School, Littlegrove, off Church Hill Road, East Barnet.



**6 December 2003-4 January 2004.** Kazzum in association with artsdepot present Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale 'The Little Mermaid'. The theatre will be transformed into an underwater paradise with sea creatures, coral gardens, shipwrecks and sea

## Until 8 February. 'Spike Milligan'.

Possibly the most influential comedian of the last 50 years, this small exhibition indicates the great variety of Spike Milligan's work in radio and on TV and on record and in print. It includes never before seen photographs and letters, and shows his activities, when he was a resident of Barnet borough, in preserving the area's heritage.

**10 December - 8 February.** 'Edwardian and Victorian Toys and Games'. Exhibition shows playthings from the 19th and early 20th centuries: from board games to building blocks, plush toys to paper scraps. There will also be a special display of Christmas angels, fairies and Nutcracker men. Lots of toys to see and some to play with.

**6 December - 6 January** The museum's 1850s dining room will be decorated for a Victorian Christmas. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon NW4. Open Mon-Thurs 10am-1pm and 2-5pm; Sat 10am - 1pm and 2-5.30pm; Sun 2-5.30pm. (closed 24-26 December and 1 January). Admission free. For more information about the above museum events phone 020 8203 0130.



castles, guarded by sea witches. In this magical watery world the beautiful Alani, daughter of the great Mer King, makes a magnificent journey beyond the deep blue sea. Tickets £9/£7 conc. and children.

(Every member of the audience will be given a sea shell to keep safe until artsdepot opens next year. Bring it with you to artsdepot and contribute to a display in the new centre... and receive money off your first theatre ticket at artsdepot!)

**30 December and 3 January, 11am.** Creative pre-performance workshops exploring underwater themes through imaginative, artistic play. Tickets £8 (including 12noon performance). artsdepot at The Bull, 68 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SJ. **Box Office on 020 8449 0048 or see website [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk)**

**7 December** from 12noon. **Barnet Town Centre Christmas Party.** This year the party is the biggest and best yet. The High Street is closing for an afternoon of festivities including music (acts include local band Soultax along with Spun Gold and Coast); dance groups; Barnet Hospital Radio DJ playing music and requests; J Manning Amusements providing rides for children and adults; the Paradise Wildlife Park bringing animals for everyone to enjoy; Barnet Football Club with a 'Beat the Goalie' competition and team players signing autographs, shirts and footballs; the Churches Together Group singing traditional carols. Along with shops open in the town, there's a whole host of stalls and for the first time Barnet Market is opening with a range of Christmas goodies. The Spires Shopping Centre is having its own Santa's Grotto, carousel ride, carol singers and some bigger rides.

The whole event is supporting the newly registered charity for the neo-natal 'Starlight' ward at Barnet General Hospital. **Further information can be obtained by contacting: 020 8449 7505 or 07811 378 582.**

**8-13 December.** 'The Office Party'. The office can be a minefield of social and sexual politics and the advertising group of Chapman and Howard is no exception. John Godber's hilarious look at the office Christmas party. **26-31 January.** 'Theatre of Menace' two

one act plays by Harold Pinter. 8pm. Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road (behind Health Centre), Friern Barnet, N11. **Tickets 020 8361 8310 or email [graham.sawtell@btopenworld.com](mailto:graham.sawtell@btopenworld.com)**



**10 December, 8.30pm.** Serci/Page Quartet. Two fine guitarists in complementary styles, Nick Page and Giorgio Serci. From Flamenco to the blues - they have performed with just about everyone in the jazz world and played almost everywhere from Brazil to Australia. **17 December,** Christmas Blues Jam featuring Billy Chong. Mill Hill Jazz Club at The Three Hammers, Hammers Lane NW7. Free entry.

**13 December, 7.30pm.** Finchley Chamber Choir and Finchley Chamber Orchestra. 'The Glory of Christmas'. JS Bach - Sheep May Safely Graze; Schutz - Christmas Story (part 1); Sullivan - The Lost Chord; Richard Cox - Christmas Fantasia (first performance). Music by Tchaikovsky and Taverner. Carols for all to sing. Conductor David Lardi. Trinity Church, Nether Street, North Finchley. Adults £10/£7 conc./children £3.

**13 December, 7pm.** Barnet Anglo-French Club, Soirée de Noël. Celebrate Xmas with French food, wine and ambience. United Reformed Church, Wood Street, Barnet. **Phone 020 8440 6805 for more details.**

**13 December, 7.30pm.** Finchley Choral Society. Carols and Christmas music. Richard Harvey (organ/piano); Channing School pupils; George Vass (conductor). St Mary-at-Finchley. £7 adults/£1 children. **Box office 020 8445 9666.**

**13 December, 10.15am-3.30pm.** Amateur Geological Society's Annual 'Mineral and Fossil Bazaar'. St. Mary's Hall, Hendon Lane, Finchley, N3. Entry 50p. **For more details phone 020 8445 3639.**

**13 December, 7.45pm.** Hendon Music Society presents the Florestan Trio. Programme: Mendelssohn - Piano Trio Op. 66; Mozart - Piano Trio K502; Beethoven - Piano Trio Op. 97 Archduke. John Keble Church, Deans Lane, Edgware. **For details of concert programmes and more information phone 020 8203 2355. Free tickets to ages 8-22 in full time education (courtesy of Cavatina Chamber Music Trust).**

**14 December, 3pm.** Christmas/Chanukah 'Join in and sing'. Christian and Jewish choirs singing well known carols, hymns and songs reflecting the traditions of both faiths. Come and listen and/or sing along. Vita et Pax Church, Bramley Road, Oakwood. **For more information phone 020 8440 8516.**

**Opening 18 December.** The dramatic 'Milestones of Flight' exhibition, which explores the first 100 years of flight. Full of suspended aircraft, split level viewing, touch screen plinths, a time line wall and cutting edge screen displays. Alongside this is the fully restored Grahame-White Factory. Visitors can enter this time trip building, one of the first ever purpose built aircraft factories in the UK. Also there is the exciting new Aeronauts Interactive centre as well as the collection of legendary aircraft. Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, London NW9 5LL. **For further information phone 020 8358 4849 or see website [www.rafmuseum.org](http://www.rafmuseum.org) Free admission and parking.**

**Walk for Life Programme.** Walks open to anyone and led by trained volunteers. Free of charge. For details phone the co-ordinator on **020 8359 7816.**

**Barnet Elderly Asians Group** (Finchley) Walks. For details phone Premchand Savla on **020 8445 3644.**

**Barnet Asian Old People's Association** (West Hendon) Walks. For details phone Sangita Pandya on **020 8202 4414.**

**Salsa classes.** Tuesdays, Beginners 8-9.30pm; Improvers 9-10.30pm. £5. Christ Church Hall, High Road, North Finchley. Also dance classes for beginners (cha cha, rumba, jive, waltz, quickstep, foxtrot) 7.30-8.30pm, Wednesdays, £5. St. Mary's Hall, Hendon Lane, Finchley, N3. **For details phone 020 8444 0280.**

**Barnet Karate Club.** Traditional kyokushin karate and self defence. Saturdays, adults 1-2pm, £5; juniors (ages 7+) 2-3pm, £3. Beginners welcome. LA Fitness, 18 East Barnet Road. **For more information phone 07976 732103.**

**Monthly Rapidplay Chess Tournaments.** 10.30am-5pm. Six rounds, not a knock-out, all players get 6 games, cash prizes. Hendon Chess Club meets Thursdays, 7.30-10pm. Ages 6+ are welcome. Golders Green Church Hall, West Heath Drive, NW11. **For more information see website [www.adamraoof.tk](http://www.adamraoof.tk) or phone 020 8202 0982.**

**Ramblers' Association** (Finchley and Hornsey Group) organise a short and long walk every Sunday and sometimes midweek. **Phone 020 8883 8190 for more details.**

**First Tuesday in the month, 8.30pm,** dance and jive to music of 1920s/30s period. Dance/jazz orchestra playing Duke Ellington, Fletcher Henderson, Frankie Trambauer etc. numbers. Torrington Arms, Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley. Entrance £5/£3 conc. **For more details phone Dave Burman on 020 8445 3462.**

**Chipping Barnet Folk Dance Club** meets alternate Mondays, 7.45-10.15pm for English Country Dancing and Barnet Barndance Group meets on the alternative Monday, 8-10pm for simpler barndancing, sometimes to live music. Church House, Wood Street, Barnet. **For more details phone 020 8883 8190.**

**10 January, 7.30pm.** The London Welsh Male Voice Choir. Musical director Dr. Haydn Jones. In aid of Cherry Lodge Cancer Care and The North London Hospice. Pre-concert cheese and wine £10 (limited to first 200). The Cathedral & Abbey Church of St. Alban. Tickets £15, £12.50, £5 available from **020 8216 4486.**

**31 January, 7.45pm.** Finchley Chamber Orchestra. 'A Gala Night in Vienna'. Schubert - Symphony No. 8 'Unfinished'; Mozart - Exsultate jubilate; music by Suppe, Lehar and the Strauss Family. Conductor David Lardi. Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12. Adults £10/conc. £7.

# artsdepot

## – Everyone has a Part to Play

**artsdepot is the groundbreaking new arts centre situated at the heart of North Finchley's exciting new town centre regeneration project, which also includes shops, restaurants, residential apartments and a health & leisure club.**

**artsdepot**, hosting events and projects throughout the borough from spring 2004 and due to open with a full programme in September 2004, will offer a vibrant mix of performance and visual arts alongside a diverse range of education activities for all ages. **artsdepot** will have fully accessible, state of the art facilities in the form of an extremely flexible 400 seat main theatre, suitable for classical concerts and full scale theatre productions; an intimate 150 seat studio theatre ideal for children's theatre, poetry, music and comedy; a dedicated gallery space which will accommodate a wide range of contemporary exhibitions; education and rehearsal studios for the provision of dance, drama and visual art. All of these will be complemented by stylish café and bar areas which will be the perfect

meeting place for morning coffee, a quick bite for lunch, pre-theatre dinner or an adventurous early evening cocktail!

There are many ways in which Barnet residents can play their part in this exciting new arts centre. To register your support for the future of the arts in north London why not join one of **artsdepot's** membership levels today and receive an extra six months membership absolutely free, until May 2005. **artsdepot's** membership ranges from £10 - £100 and includes a membership card, priority mailings and selected ticket discounts on pre-opening events at The Bull until January 2004, events around the borough next spring and all events in the full programme from September 2004.

**artsdepot** has also recently launched a 'Name a Seat' fundraising initiative which allows individuals, families, couples or groups to name one of **artsdepot's** 400 theatre seats after a friend, a loved one or themselves, for only £250. The chosen name will be etched, for life, on an attractive plaque on the front of one of the theatre's seats. Naming a seat is the perfect gift or ideal Christmas present for those with a love of the arts or a long time Barnet resident who wishes to leave their mark.

**For more information about artsdepot, the membership or Name a Seat schemes please log onto [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk) or call 02083597767.**

