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News

BARNET

Issue Four



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and ears of Barnet
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Page 4

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ISSUE FOUR

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Russell Jones, Marketing and Public Relations Unit, Barnet Council, The Town Hall, The Boroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG
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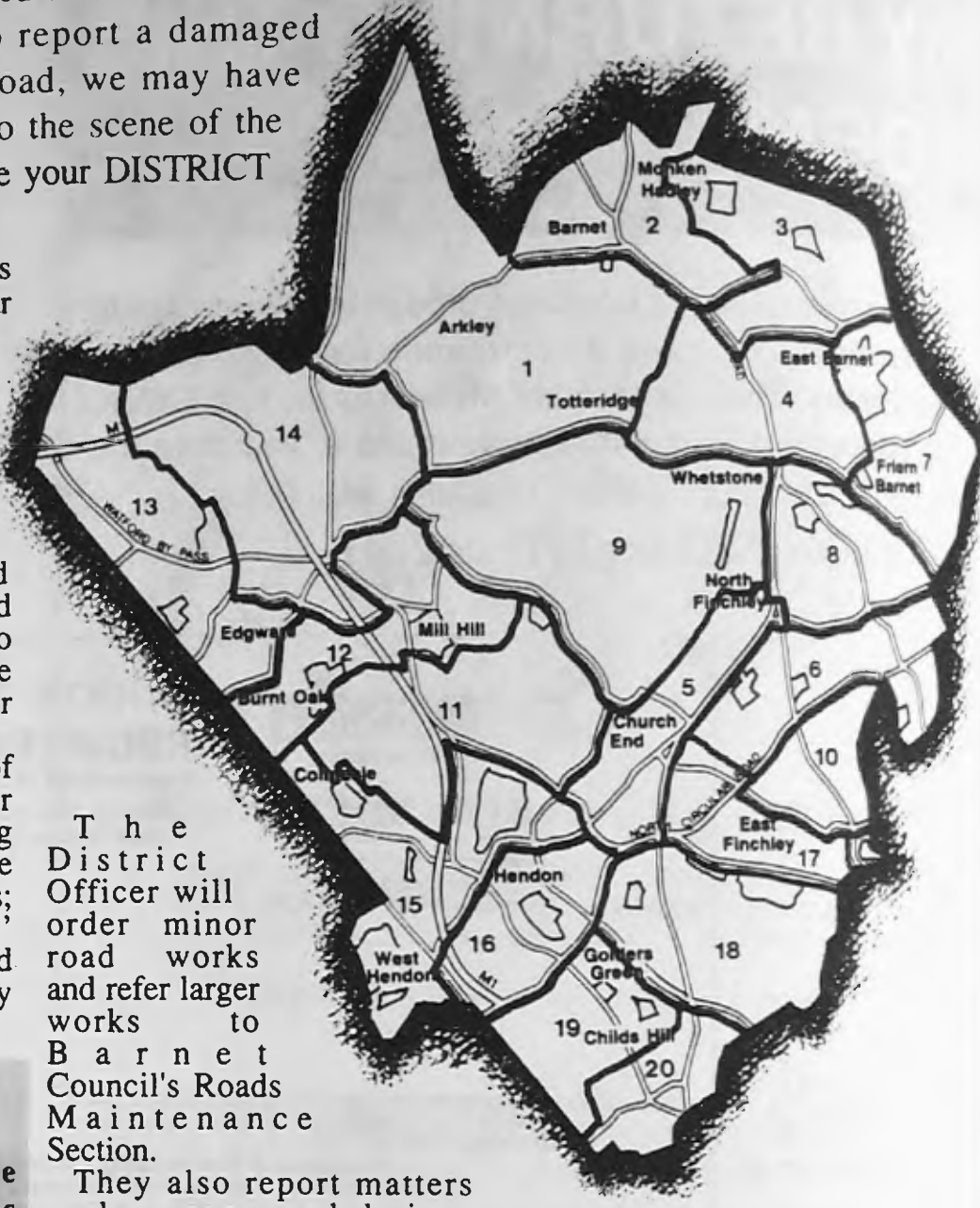
THE EYES AND EARS OF BARNET COUNCIL'S highways and cleansing services

Many residents will be surprised to know that when they call Barnet Council to report a damaged pavement, or a hole in the road, we may have already dispatched someone to the scene of the damage.....this person will be your DISTRICT OFFICER.

The London Borough of Barnet is divided into 20 District Officer Areas, with an officer responsible for each area. The team is led by Roger Newark, District Officer Co-ordinator, and his two Senior District Officers, John Corp and Tony Parish.

The District Officer is there to make sure that the roads and pavements are kept in a good condition and that there are no illegal obstructions that could be dangerous to drivers or pedestrians.

As well as routine inspection of all roads and footpaths, their responsibilities also include taking action over illegal parking on the pavement and abandoned vehicles; control of builders' and traders' activities on Barnet's roads and stopping obstructions caused by traders or shops.



The District Officer will order minor road works and refer larger works to Barnet Council's Roads Maintenance Section.

They also report matters such as poor road drainage, defects in street lighting, defective traffic signs, etc, and enforce other related legislation.

Their role also includes the monitoring of street cleansing and in the future the District Officer will oversee the refuse collection service. The service includes provision of a District Officer, available 24 hours a day, to respond to emergencies that occur

on roads within the London Borough of Barnet. If you need to report a matter relating to Barnet Council's Highways or Cleansing Services, contact the Customer Care Unit who will pass the details on to the District Officer Service.

☎ 081-446 5237/ 081-446 5219 between 9am-5pm.

TRIBUTE

Cllr Leslie Pym, Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet, has paid tribute to Cllr Denis Dippel, who died in July after a long illness.

It was Cllr Pym who first suggested Cllr Dippel stand for election to Barnet Council in 1974. "Denis was a down to earth, common sense councillor with a special interest in planning, road safety and public works. In these areas, he was quite brilliant," said Cllr Pym.

Cllr Dippel lived in Victoria Road, Mill Hill, and represented the Mill Hill ward. His proudest moment during his time with Barnet Council was being made Mayor of Barnet in 1986. The pinnacle of his Mayoral year was the granting of the Freedom of the Borough to RAF Hendon, when her Majesty, the Queen Mother attended the celebrations. "He was a popular mayor who took great interest around the borough in a wide variety of areas," said Cllr Pym.

Cllr Dippel leaves a widow, Lorna, a director of the family firm, and a daughter, Anne.

"He will be very much missed by his colleagues, many organisations and the residents of Mill Hill," said Cllr Pym.

CONTENTS

- Page 4
Introducing the District Officers
Tribute to Cllr Denis Dippel
- Page 5
Barnet News Survey
- Page 7
Councillors' and MPs' surgeries
- Page 9
New lease of life for MS sufferer, thanks to Barnet Council
- Page 10
Unitary Development Plan
Youth theatre re-opens
New Head of Libraries and Arts
- Page 12
Boundary Review spares Welsh Harp
- Page 15
New look Community Services
Opening of Francis Court
- Page 16
General Election
Young consumers return

- Page 17
Trees under attack
Environmental prosecutions
- Page 18
Arts round-up
New conveniences announced
Solar powered weather station
- Page 19
MURDER competition
Caring for children
- Page 20
Barnet's policy on 'Pindown'
Broadfields centre opened
- Page 21
8-year-old karate champ
Cable TV agreement
- Page 25
Barnet in Bloom winners
- Page 28
Barnet Council's new Information strategy
Consulting with older residents
- Page 30
Letters

"THUMBS UP" FOR BARNET

A massive 89% rate the London Borough of Barnet a 'good place to live', and three quarters recognise that Barnet is good for education.

That's the message that clearly comes across from the many hundreds of questionnaires that were returned in response to the survey conducted in the last issue of 'Barnet News'.

60% feel that Barnet is good for shopping and 55% for sports and recreation. 41% rate Barnet as a good place to work.

The most enjoyable aspect of Barnet was felt to be the parks and open spaces which was identified by 82%. Linked with the 62% who favoured the environment these figures show that Barnet is 'the borough with the green heart' that people like to live in.

BARNET NEWS 88% receive a copy

The questionnaire also had a section about Barnet News and

the figures show that over 80% find the magazine informative. Just under 40% feel that the magazine is professionally presented and attractive.

88% had their copy of the magazine delivered - See editor's note.

PARALLEL SURVEY

During June, Barnet Council also wrote to over 1200 households in the borough to ask about Barnet News.

Over 30% of the questionnaires were returned, by readers eager to give us their views on the magazine.

This response was unusually high for the type of survey and compares very well against the 10% to 20% that would normally be expected.

The questionnaire asked for readers opinions' on the subject matter covered, the appearance and distribution of the magazine as well as what they would like to see in future issues.

EDITOR'S NOTE - I find the results of these two surveys very valuable and I thank everyone who took the time and effort to respond.

The style and content of the magazine is under constant review and any comments or suggestions are always welcome.

Every household in the borough should receive a copy of Barnet News and I operate a checkback system to check on the performance of the independent distribution company that delivers the magazine.

If you know of someone who has not received a copy, or if you would be willing to help keep a check on the distribution, please leave your name and a contact number on Barnet Council's Publicity Hotline.

Call 081-203 8356 and leave details on our 24-hour answering machine.

EYES & EARS



1. Ron Copping



2. Richard Harris

FOR MORE DETAILS
SEE PAGE 4

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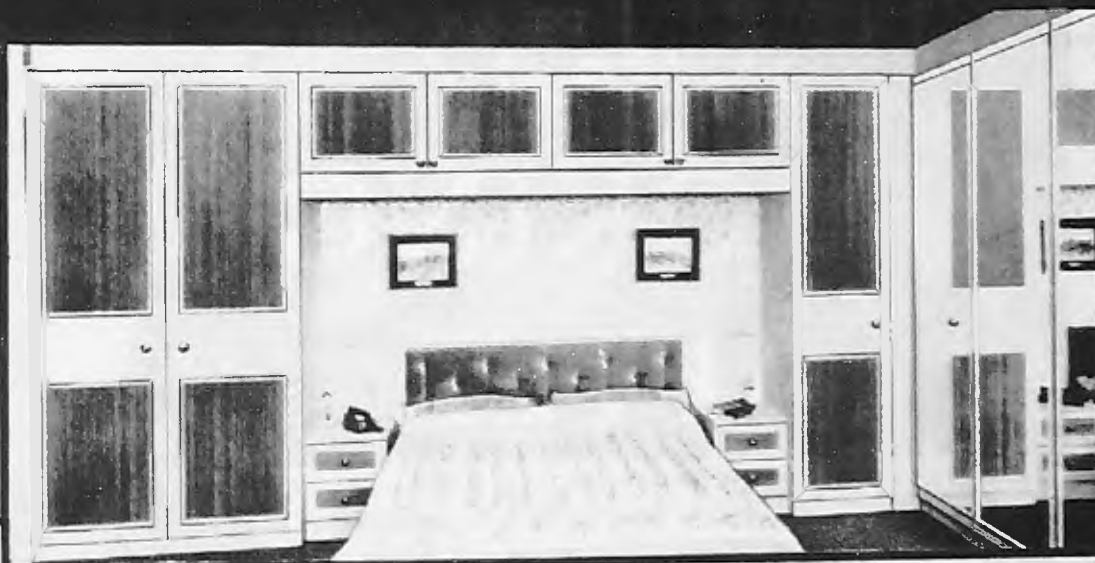
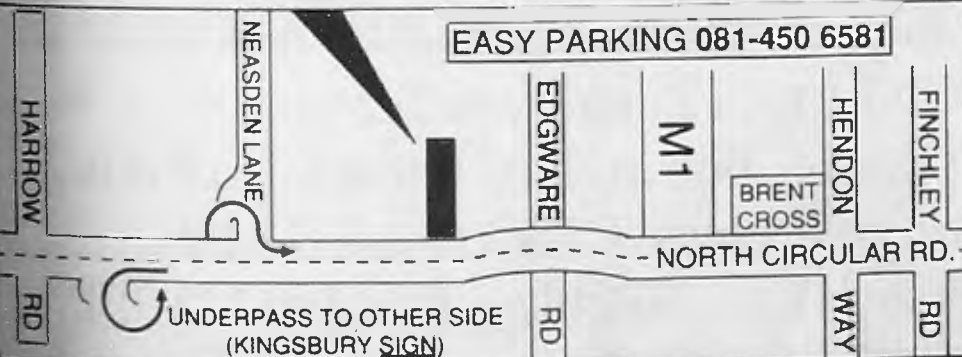
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Compression Ignition Engines 20-50 MW
Tyre and Rubber Combustion Processes 0.4 and 3 MW net rated thermal input
Straw Combustion Processes between 0.4 and 3 MW net rated thermal input
Wood Combustion Processes between 0.4 and 3 MW net rated thermal input
Poultry Litter Combustion Processes 0.4 and 3 MW net rated thermal input
Furnaces for the Extraction of Raw Ferrous Metals from Scrap
Blending, Packing, Loading and Use of Bulk Cement

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Glass (Excluding Lead Glass) Manufacturing Processes
Lead Glass Manufacturing Processes
Processes for Polishing or Etching of Glass or Glass Products using Hydrofluoric Acid
Clinical Waste Incineration Processes under 1 tonne an hour
Crematoria
Animal Carcasses Incinerators under 1 tonne per hour
General Waste Incineration processes under 1 tonne per hour
Sewage Sludge Incineration Processes under 1 tonne per hour
Manufacturer of Timber and Wood based Products
Chemical Treatment of Timber and Wood based Products
Processes for the Manufacture of Particle Board and Fibre Board
Maggot Breeding Processes
Fur Breeding Processes

If so contact Barnet Council's Environmental and Consumer Services
Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone N20 0EJ. ☎ 081-446 8511 ext 4717



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If you would like to learn more about how you can help children, we hold regular public meetings.....So give us a ring.

CONTACT

Children's Resources Team
London Borough of Barnet Community Services Park House 16 High Road East Finchley London N2 9PJ
☎ 081-883 5562



COUNCILLORS' & MPs' Surgeries

CHIPPING BARNET

Sydney Chapman, MP, first Saturday of month 10.30am-noon, 163 High Street, Barnet.

Arkley Ward: Contact Labour councillors Anita Campbell 440 2703, Pam Coleman 449 6254, Kevin Smith 440 4828. Councillors available first and third Saturdays of month, 10.30-11.30am, St Stephen's Vicarage, Bells Hill and at "Homefield" (common room), Dollis Valley Estate. Advice surgery with a Labour councillor second Saturday of month, 10.30-11.30am, 104 East Barnet Rd, New Barnet.

Brunswick Park Ward: Conservative councillors available second Saturday of month, 10.30am-noon, Monkfrith Boys' Club hall, Osidge Lane, N14.

East Barnet Ward: Cllr Olwen Evans (Conservative) available first Saturday of month, 10.30am-noon, Community Centre, Victoria Rd, New Barnet. Contact Cllr Jim Anani 445 3872 or Cllr John Perry 368 4368 for personal appointment.

Hadley Ward: Conservative councillors Gillian Bull, Liz Mammatt and Ashley Newman available third Saturday of month, 10.30am-noon, 163 High St, Barnet.

Totteridge Ward: Contact Conservative councillors Joan Levinson 368 3298, Victor Lyon 446 4423 and Victor Usher 445 4248.

FINCHLEY & FRIERN BARNET

Margaret Thatcher, MP, holds regular surgeries for constituents only. For appointment 445 4292 or 445 0856 (24hr message line). Conservative councillors, first Saturday of month, 10.30am-noon, 212 Ballards Lane, N3 or phone as above.

East Finchley Ward: Labour councillors every Saturday, 10-11.30am, East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane, N2.

Finchley Ward: Contact Conservative councillors Eva Greenspan 203 1598, Barbara Langstone 445 5443 or Leslie Sussman 346 6775. Eva Greenspan available first Friday of month, 10.30am-noon at 212 Ballards Lane, N3.

Friern Barnet Ward: Contact Conservative councillors Chris Platford 368 6817, Brian Salinger 368 1329, John Tiplady 445 5734.

St Paul's Ward: Contact Conservative councillors: Mike Freer 446 5396, Helena Hart 346 3128 or Mary Phillips 445 9426, or on every third Saturday of month from 10.30am-noon, 212 Ballards Lane, N3

Woodhouse Ward: Labour councillors Stan Cross, Mike Harris and Dennis Reed, every Thursday, 6.30-7.30pm, The Education Offices, (formerly known as Friern Barnet Town Hall), Friern Barnet Lane, N11.

HENDON NORTH

John Gorst, MP, by appointment, 959 1446 or via constituency office, Apex Parade, Selvage Lane, Mill Hill.

Edgware, Hale and Mill Hill Wards: Conservative councillors, constituency office, alternate Mondays by appointment 959 1446.

Burnt Oak Ward: Contact Labour councillors Allan Turner, 952 2106, Gerald Shamash, 458 2679, Alan Williams 906 0567. Also every Saturday, 10.30am-noon, Labour Hall, Back Lane, Burnt Oak, 952 5771 (24hr message line).

Colindale Ward: Labour councillors available first and last Saturday of month 2-3pm, St Augustine's, Grahame Park or phone councillors Ellis Hillman 202 7792, Tom McKendry 444 0594 or David Williams 343 1082.

HENDON SOUTH

John Marshall, MP, via constituency office, 202 7484 by appointment, see local press for details.

Garden Suburb, Golders Green and Hendon Wards: Conservative councillors, first Saturday of month, 202 7484.

Childs Hill Ward: Liberal Democrat councillors second Tuesday of month, 7-8pm, Garth Hall Community Centre, Mortimer Close, Granville Rd, NW2 or phone councillors Jack Cohen 445 3981, Monroe Palmer 455 5140 or Brian Stone 450 0762.

West Hendon Ward: Labour councillors second Saturday of month, 11am, West Hendon Youth Club, 4A Park Rd, NW4 by appointment, contact councillors Doreen Neall 202 9927, Tim Sims 071-734 8080 or Agnes Slocombe 202 4074.

EURO MP

Pauline Green. Phone 365 1892.

TWO OF THE BEST...

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All For The Good Of The Game
No. 1725, 42nd Year 54p July 11, 1991

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14th JUNE, 1991 Issue No. 148 42p

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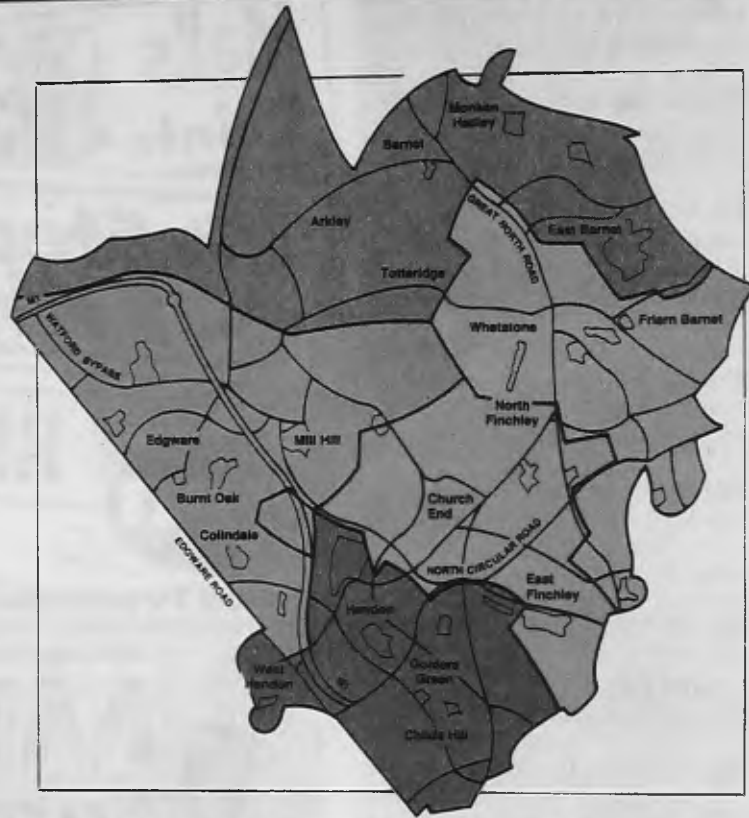
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 **BARNET**
LONDON BOROUGH

New lease of life thanks to Barnet Council

Andrew thought he was on his own when he was diagnosed as having Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

In the end it was up to a neighbour to phone Barnet Council to see if he could get some help. And now, after years of "being a prisoner in my own home", 41-year-old Andrew has a purpose-built extension, full of state of the art technology, which allows Maria, his wife, to move him without damaging her back.

Many people may consider that the couple should have been persuaded to move into a bungalow, but Occupational Therapist Liz Hillman, from Barnet Council's Services for People with Disabilities team points out, "We are there to support people, not take over their lives."

Maria believes that moving away from their home speeds the progress of his MS. "If you make him upset, you make him weak," she explained.

Plans for the extension involved such a large capital outlay, it had to be laid before



Barnet Council's Social Services Committees to be specifically approved.

The extension, completed in a few months, includes a mobile hoist to lift Andrew from his bed, to his specially-adapted toilet and shower-room, and a lift has been fitted so Andrew can go out in his garden for the first time in years. Both the kitchen and bathroom were built from scratch.

The extension was officially handed over in February, but the couple have only just got used to how much their lives have changed. "We can use our energy to get out and about now, it's strange really. We even can go to Tesco together," said Maria.

Jody Sacks, the Management Officer at Fiboard House, Totteridge, said: "If we had not intervened, up to £20,000 a year would have been needed to look after Andrew in a residential establishment, so we are saving money. I feel confident we have done a great job."

Cllr Barbara Langstone, the Chairman of the Social Services Committee, said: "This story about Andrew and Maria emphasises the care our staff give to their clients."

"Barnet Council's Community Services try to help wherever possible and we are grateful to Andrew and Maria for allowing us to tell their story."

● *Andrew and Maria's surname has been omitted from the article to respect their confidentiality.*

EYES & EARS



3. Tony Chapman



4. Richard Scott

**FOR MORE DETAILS
SEE PAGE 4**

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EYES & EARS



5. Charles Horner



6. Pauline Hegarty

**FOR MORE DETAILS
SEE PAGE 4**



'BILL' ACTRESS GIVES SEAL OF APPROVAL TO YOUTH THEATRE

Carolyn Pickles, who plays Detective Chief Inspector Reed in the hit TV series *The Bill*, described Barnet Council's Finchley Youth Centre as a "wonderful space" when she was guest of honour at a gala performance on Thursday 11 July.

Ms Pickles, whose children are members of the playgroup run at the theatre, said: "The improvements here are great. It really is a wonderful space for young people. I just wish facilities like this had been available for youth theatre when I was growing-up."

The workshop production of *The Demon Headmaster* was staged to mark the re-opening of the theatre at High Road, East Finchley, which was damaged by fire last summer.

The new facilities at the theatre include a professionally-equipped, 80-seat auditorium, coffee bar, dance and rehearsal studios. Barnet Council's Youth Service runs the theatre, which is located in the High Road, East Finchley.

Anyone wishing to join one of the groups should contact the Youth Theatre manager Andrew Dean on 081-883 9957.

New Controller of Libraries and Arts

Colin Page, Barnet Council's Acting Controller of Libraries and Arts retired in August after a 30 year association with the borough.

Mr Page spent the last sixteen months as Acting Controller after first joining Barnet Council back in 1966. He started as a Saturday assistant at Hendon Library while at college in 1959 before the London Borough of Barnet was formed.

He will be succeeded by Martyn Kempson (pictured right), who took up his duties on 2 September.

Mr Kempson, aged 43, was formerly the Assistant Director of Leisure (Libraries and Arts) at the London Borough of Sutton, a post he held for four years.

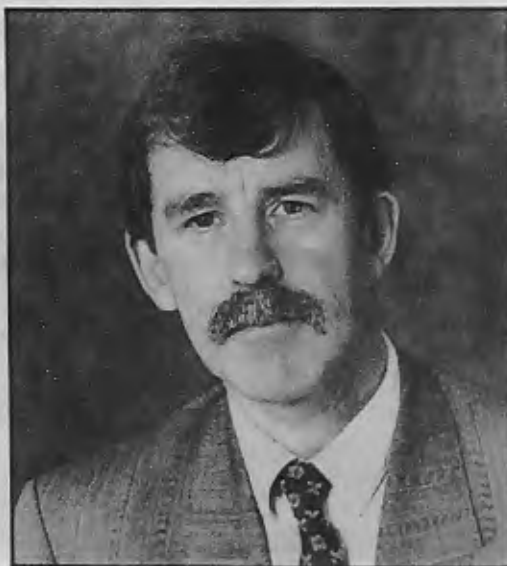
During this period, Sutton

libraries won several national awards and achieved the highest level of Library use in London.

Mr Kempson started his career in Luton and Buckinghamshire, before moving to Sutton in 1971 as a branch librarian.

Mr Page said: "Over many years of working for Barnet (and Hendon before that) I have been fortunate to work with colleagues who have had high ideals for the service and I know that still pertains today."

He added: "I would like to thank all those members of staff who have given me excellent support".



DEVELOPMENT PLAN AHEAD

Barnet Council is well on the way to having a new development plan, and if present progress is maintained, it will be the first of its kind to be adopted in the country.

The Government has decided that all the councils in London, Birmingham, Manchester and the other big English cities must produce new "Unitary Development Plans" (UDP).

As the first off the mark, Barnet's plan had attracted the attention of the national and regional press - as well as being given intense and careful scrutiny by Barnet's residents, employers and local groups. The UDP sets out the way in which Barnet Council would like to see the borough develop over the 10 year period from now to the year 2001.

The plan is concerned with protecting and enhancing the environment, providing facilities for leisure and community services, encouraging development which generates employment, providing adequate housing whilst maintaining the established character of the

borough and promoting efficient and less congested transport.

The draft UDP was the subject of public consultation early in 1990. The "Proposed UDP" was placed on deposit with the Department of the Environment (DOE) in May of that year, at the start of six weeks in which formal objections and statements of support were invited.

The representations made were considered at a month-long Public Inquiry presided over by DOE Inspector Simon Gibbs. Following the arrival of the Inspector's reports in February and April this year, Barnet Council prepared a series of modifications to the plan which were the subject of another six week public consultation in June and July.

It is hoped that the Town Planning and Research Committee will consider the comments made, and be able to adopt the UDP formally in November after all the legal procedures have been satisfied. Then the task of overhauling the plan and keeping it up to date will start.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Applications are now being invited for the year beginning 1 April 1992, for voluntary organisations wishing to provide specific services to Barnet residents and who need financial assistance to do so. Application forms may be obtained by telephoning the Grants Unit on ☎ 081-202 8282, ext 2092 or 2020.

Applications seeking £2,000 or more must be returned, properly completed, by Friday 4 October 1991.

Requests for less than £2,000 may be submitted at any time between 31 December 1991 and 30 June 1992 according to when the grant is required, but allowing approximately three months for a decision.

Particular emphasis will be placed on small grants to help with 'start up' costs of new groups and projects, where a clear objective can be demonstrated. Interest-free loans may also be available for capital projects by local voluntary groups.

Organisations whose services or activities cover the area of several London boroughs or London as a whole should apply to the London Boroughs Grants Unit which may be contacted on ☎ 081-891 5021.



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EYES & EARS



7. Ken Marsh



8. Ian Snook

**FOR MORE DETAILS
SEE PAGE 4**

WELSH HARP TO STAY IN BARNET

The Local Government Boundary Commission interim decision is to make no proposals to alter Barnet Council's current borders with neighbouring Brent.

Barnet Council had opposed suggestions by Brent and Harrow Councils that the Welsh Harp be united in Brent.

In addition Barnet opposed a suggestion from Brent that the boundary be re-aligned along the Edgware Road on the basis it would sever community ties, as it does elsewhere, and would be divisive.

The Boundary Commission received letters of opposition to change from Cllr Tim Sims, a West Hendon ward councillor; John Marshall MP; the West Hendon, Hyde and Verulam Court Residents' Associations and members of the public. Two petitions totalling 981 signatures

opposing the transfer of West Hendon to Brent were also received.

The proposals will be considered by Barnet Council's Policy and Resources Committee on Monday 7 October.

The draft proposals will be available for inspection at The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, until 27 September 1991 and on Barnet Council's mobile library, visiting the West Hendon estate on Tuesdays, until that date.

Anyone who wishes to comment on the draft proposals should write to: The Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Ref LGBC/J/47/4, Room 122, 20 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TJ, before 23 October 1991.

AROUND THE BOROUGH

●Boundaries with Hertfordshire, Hertsmere and Harrow.

The Boundary Commission submitted the final report to the Secretary of State in January and Barnet Council is awaiting a decision from him.

●Enfield boundary.

The closing date for the receipt of comments was 1 July and we understand that it will be some months before anything more is heard.

●Camden boundary.

The closing date for receipt of comments was 2 April. The Boundary Commission have yet to decide whether to issue a further draft or a final report.

●Haringey boundary.

The closing date for receipt of comments was 17 May. Within the course of the next few months the Boundary Commission are to decide whether to issue a further draft or a final report.

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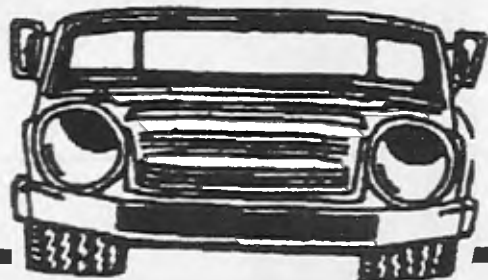
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The Barnet News would like to thank everyone who made this feature possible.

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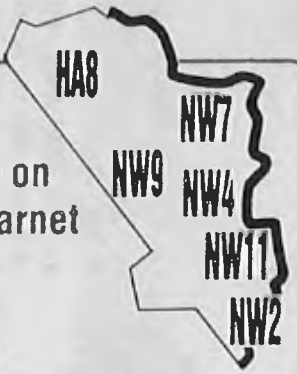


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- People with Physical Disabilities
- Older People
- Children and Families
- Meals at Home
- Home Helps
- Childminding
- Adolescent Services

STAG HOUSE
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Edgware HA8 0BR
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- Council Housing
- Tenancy Matters
- Applications
- Transfers
- Repairs
- Rent Problems

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People in Hospital

Where to go for services whichever area you live in



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- Occupational Therapists for Children
- Home Support for People with Severe Disabilities
- Community Workers

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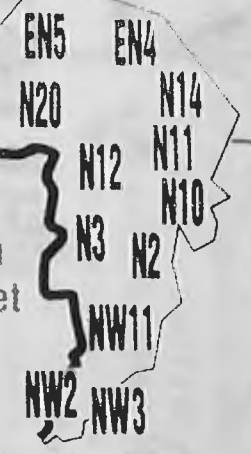
BARNET HOUSE
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- Environmental Health
- Private Sector Housing – Grants
- Help to older and disabled people
- Harassment and Unlawful Eviction
- Nuisances: Drainage, Refuse etc.
- Licensing/Registrations
- Health and Safety at Work
- Pollution including Noise
- Animal Welfare
- Council Housing
- Sales
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- Fostering
- Adoption
- Residential care for children and young people

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People in Hospital





BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Barnet Council has joined forces with local company the Watkins Group to provide a brand new purpose built block of 21 flats in Mill Hill.

Representatives from both the council and the developers joined up on Thursday, 20 June, for the unveiling of a special plaque by the Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Leslie Pym, to mark the completion of the flats, in Watford Way.

The flats have been allocated

to the homeless and to those with priority on the housing register.

Pictured above left to right at the unveiling of a plaque are Colin Simmons, Managing Director of Watkins; Victor Watkins, Chairman of the group; Cllr Malcolm Lester, Chairman of Barnet Council's Housing Committee; John Gorst, MP for Hendon North and Cllr Leslie Pym, Mayor of Barnet.

COMMUNITY SERVICES RE-ORGANISATION

Barnet Council's new Community Services department has been re-organised to help provide a more streamlined service.

Under the changes, the borough has been divided into two for the following services: People with physical disabilities; Older people; Meals at home; home helps; children and families; childminding; adolescent services; all council housing matters; mental health difficulties and people in hospital.

For all other services it doesn't matter which part of the borough you live in.

Details of how this affects residents are shown on the 'cut-out-and-keep' reference guide on the previous page.

The guide clearly shows where to go for a particular service and should make it easier for residents to get the help and advice they need.

EYES & EARS



9. Derek Bradley



10. Ray Stoten

FOR MORE DETAILS SEE PAGE 4

KIRKMAN & JOURDAIN

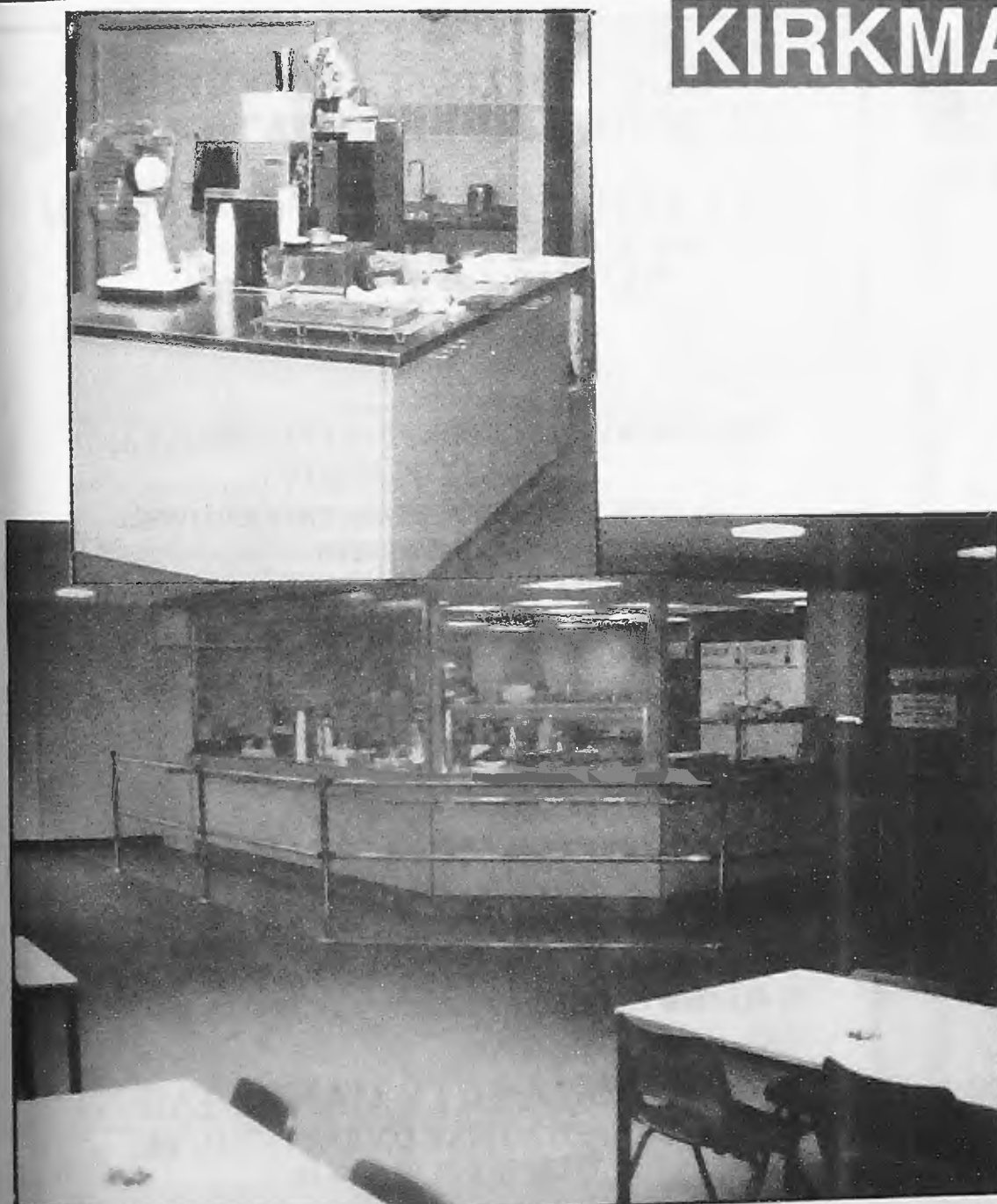
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Karate champ

Eight-year-old Jaede Tan has demonstrated his awesome karate skill by winning a prestigious tournament against opponents nearly twice his age.

"It was a fantastic result," said his coach, Mick Strachan, who runs the Manorhill Club in Summers Lane, Finchley, where Jaede trains.

Jaede did not have to actually strike anybody to win his prize. He won the kata event, where the contestants demonstrate their fluency of movement in a series of Karate poses.

EYES & EARS



17. Robin Tassell



18. Charles Fox

**FOR MORE DETAILS
SEE PAGE 4**

Cable TV agreement reached

Agreement has been reached between Barnet Council and Videotron, the Cable TV company, for the cable-laying process to begin in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Members of Barnet Council's Public Works Committee insisted that Videotron provide advance information for any work planned near trees and reinstate the footways immediately after the ducts have been laid.

Committee Chairman Cllr Don

Goodman said: "I trust the work can be carried out with as little disturbance to residents as possible."

The company has agreed to pay for Barnet Council officers to supervise the permanent reinstatement throughout.

Householders in Hampstead Garden Suburb have not been granted planning permission to put up satellite dishes as the Suburb is a Conservation Area. This has been a major factor in choosing the

Suburb as the first place in the borough to receive the cable system.

Videotron plan to cable 20 per cent of the borough every year, therefore covering the whole of Barnet in five years. The company has agreed to coordinate its work with Barnet Council's own rolling programme for maintenance to minimise disturbance to residents.

Residents will be individually notified of works planned in their area by Videotron. It has also undertaken to deal with residents on any problems that arise.



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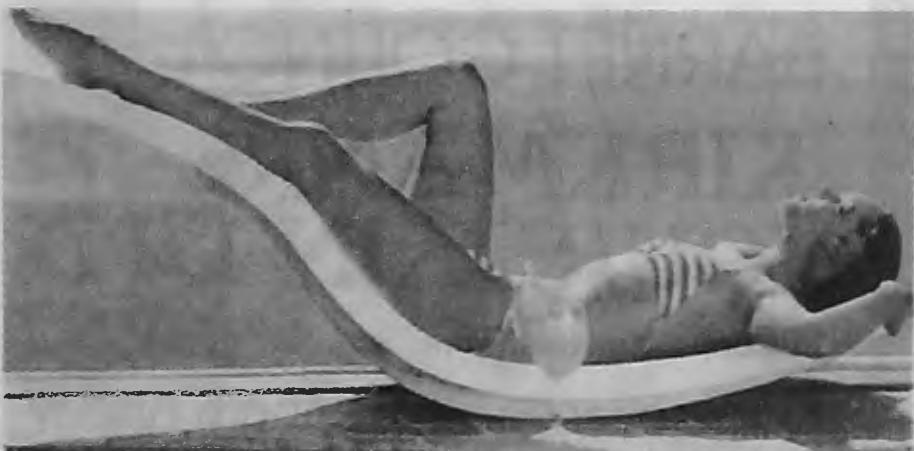
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RESIDENTS

ARE YOUR SERVICE CHARGES REASONABLE AND FULLY EXPLAINED?

IS YOUR PROPERTY CLEAN, TIDY AND WELL MAINTAINED?

DO YOU HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR LANDLORD?

LANDLORDS

ARE YOUR RENTS/GROUND RENTS COLLECTED PROMPTLY AND ECONOMICALLY?

ARE THEY PROPERLY ACCOUNTED FOR?

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROSECUTIONS

A man was fined £250 and was ordered to pay £50 costs by Hendon Magistrates Court on Monday 12 August for throwing litter from a car in Hendon.

Barnet Council brought the case under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, against Gerald Michael Greene of Northiam, Woodside Park, N12, who pleaded guilty by letter to depositing litter, including sweet wrappings and various serviettes, from a motor vehicle in Holders Hill Road, Hendon, on 19 February this year.

At the same court on 12 August Barratt Homes of Hitchin Road, Luton, pleaded guilty to five summonses brought by Barnet Council under the Highways Act 1980 to placing unauthorised structures - signs - on lamp posts in the Broadfields Avenue area of Edgware on 18 March this year.

Barratts were fined £250 on each of the five summonses and ordered to pay costs of £35 on each.

Trees Under Attack

Barnet Council's tree officers are taking action to prevent the spread of two viruses called fireblight and cherry blight which have already killed thousands of trees in the borough and which have been compared in their severity with Dutch Elm disease of the early 1970s.

Fireblight and cherry blight attack trees and bushes like the Apple, Pear, Cherry, Hawthorn, Cotoneaster, Pyracantha and Purple Plum, and there is no known cure for either virus.

Tree officers have been left with no alternative but to dig up all affected trees and burn them. Tools such as saws that are used for pruning or cutting then have to be disinfected to prevent the spread of the disease.

Barnet Council's Senior Arboricultural Officer, Stan Cook said: "We never remove trees without a very good reason and in this case there is no other option.

"People with trees in their gardens should make sure the

disease is not passed on by disinfecting all saws, whether their own or brought in by contractors, before and after use.

"We will be replacing the trees over a period of one to five years, planting different types that have more resistance to disease.

"The cost to the council is enormous, the trees cost about £100 to remove and £70 to replace but some of the trees dying are 40, 50 or 60 years old and environmentally are worth much more than that."

Trees for Life

This scheme gives residents the chance to sponsor extra trees in streets or conservation areas, or make a donation to the special fund which aims to plant more trees in the borough. Pick up a leaflet in your local library or write to: Trees for Life, Barnet Council, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG. - Or call the 24-hour answering machine ☎ 081-203 8356

EYES & EARS



13. Dianne Boyle



14. Sheila Newell

FOR MORE DETAILS SEE PAGE 4

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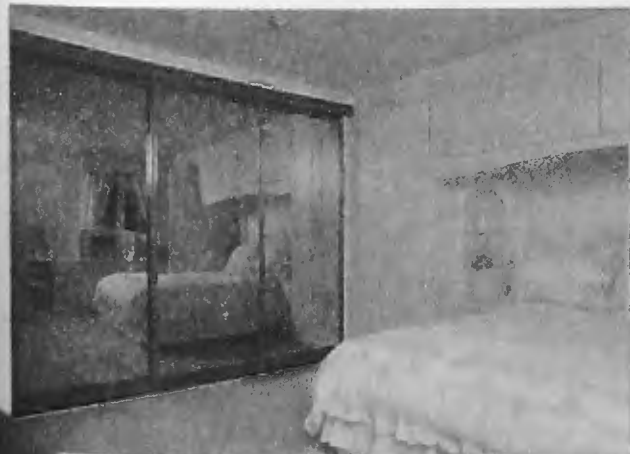
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Arts Round-up

28 September - 10 November at Church Farm House Museum. Exhibition of work by the Stanhope Group, a newly-formed arts and crafts society. Open Weekdays (except Tues) 10am-1pm & 2pm-5.30pm, Tues 10am-1pm, Suns 2pm-5.30pm.

10-20 September at your local library. The Festival of Crime and Mystery writing. A ten-day extravaganza for mystery fans, including these special events:

10 September at Mill Hill & East Finchley Libraries - don't be surprised if a well-known detective issues your books today. Several of them will be sleuthing around...

10 September at Golders Green Library, 8pm. A Writers' Forum with Maxim Jakubowski, who runs 'Murder One' bookshop and is a writer and crime editor, Steve Hayward, whose first novel is due out in October, and Mike Ripley, whose fourth title in his 'Angel' series was published in July.

11 September at Chipping Barnet Library, 8pm. An illustrated talk, "The making of Inspector Morse" by Mark Sanderson, author of the Inspector Morse books, and the announcement of the winner of the Mini-mystery competition.

17 September at North Finchley Library, 8pm. The Crime Writers' Forum, with Simon Brett (creator of actor/sleuth Charles Paris), Richard Grayson (writer of the Inspector Gautier series), Christine Green (whose first novel has just been published).

18 September at Chipping Barnet



Solar power will help when winter arrives, now Barnet Council's innovative new weather station is up and working on the M1 motorway at Mill Hill.

The station provides data automatically to a computerised weather prediction bureau, working in conjunction with the London Weather Centre, to give an early warning of ice on roads and allow Barnet Council's highways teams to get on with salting work.

This weather station is one of the first of its kind in London and was introduced after a comprehensive Thermal Mapping of the borough's roads.

Cllr Don Goodman, Chairman of Barnet Council's Public Works Committee, is pictured (second left) when council staff and representatives from the Department of Transport and the company which built the station, visited the site on a sunny July day.

Solar Power for Barnet Council's Weather Station

Library, 10am-5pm. 'Black Dagger Day' featuring classic crime stories and best-selling mysteries originally published between 1930 - 1972, reprinted with the recommendation of the Crime Writers' Association.

18 September at Hendon Library, 8pm. An illustrated talk, "The making of Inspector Morse" by Mark Sanderson, author of the Inspector Morse books.

19 September at Mill Hill Library, 7pm. A mysterious evening of plays read by

members of The Good Companions and Harlequin Theatre Club.

20 September at Edgware Library, 10am-4pm. 'Spot the Detective'. Have fun with this zany competition - with human questions! There's a £10 book token prize.

Admission to all events in the Festival of Crime and Mystery writing is free. For full details of these and the other events and displays, pick up a leaflet at any library.

BARNET COUNCIL AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

Barnet councillors have given their approval to a programme of new public conveniences to be installed in the borough over the next four years.

The programme involves the introduction of six new APC's (Automatic Public Conveniences) during the next 12 months and a further eleven over the following three years.

Members of Barnet Council's Public Works Committee approved the plans at a meeting on Tuesday 23 July.

Cllr Don Goodman, Chairman of the

Public Works Committee, said: "This programme will significantly upgrade the provision of public conveniences throughout the borough."

"The APCs are easier to keep clean than traditional public toilets. I am delighted that they are being introduced in Barnet," he added.

During 1991/2 APCs will be installed in Friern Barnet Lane, Friern Barnet; Cat Hill, East Barnet; Orange Hill Road, Burnt Oak; Ballards Lane, Finchley; High Road, Whetstone and Brent Street,

Hendon.

Between 1992 and 1995 new Automatic Public Conveniences will be introduced in all areas of the borough including Barnet, Golders Green, West Hendon, East Finchley, North Finchley, Mill Hill, Barnet and Grahame Park.

DPCs (Disabled Persons Conveniences) are also to be installed at the sites Wood Street, Barnet and Hartley Avenue, Mill Hill.

Barnet Council officers will now apply for planning permission where necessary.

MURDER



GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER!

Barnet Council's libraries will be giving local readers the chance to get away with murder - or at least a book about it! - during September.

The libraries are staging 'A Festival of Crime And Mystery Writing' made up of ten days' of events, displays, talks and competitions from 10 September to 20 September.

The festival, organised by the borough's Libraries Service, includes a presentation to the winner of a specially organised

Mini-Mystery Competition in which budding crime writers were invited to produce a mystery story of exactly 50 words.

The Libraries Service received over a hundred entries in the competition organised in conjunction with the Advertiser Newspaper, with local writer and broadcaster Alan Coren eventually picking the winner.

Organisers of the festival will also announce the Top Ten Crime Writers as chosen by the

borough's library users and also the name of the winner of a special prize draw run in conjunction with the compiling of the top ten list.

The festival itself has as its patron actor George Baker who plays Ruth Rendell's Detective Chief Inspector Wexford, and includes talks by major crime writers such as Simon Brett, Mike Ripley and Celia Fremlin.

There will be also be an illustrated talk on The Making of Inspector Morse by Mark Sanderson and readings of Emlyn Williams classic murder play 'Night Must Fall'.

A brand new Mystery Readers' Circle will be launched in the borough during the festival and there will be a Crime Writers' Forum with Simon Brett, Richard Grayson and Christine Green in the hot seats.

Other special events during the ten-day period include mystery quizzes, a Murder Mystery Trail, a Spot The Detective competition and displays in all the borough's libraries.

More details of the festival are available at all of the borough's libraries.

Partnership and Teamwork in a Caring Environment

Barnet Council believes in providing good quality residential care for young people. Training and support packages have been developed to enable staff to work positively and constructively in the council's three community homes.

No one knows better than Sue Westwood, manager of one of Barnet Council's residential settings, the challenges facing staff at a time when there are well documented national problems and major new legislation coming into effect in October.

Sue has a dream about the future and feels Barnet is well on the way to achieving it. "In the last year we have created a warm, stable, caring environment for young people where we can help them address relevant



issues. We are not caretakers. We are leaders in planning, goal setting and actively facilitating young people's progress from the unit," she said.

"We are in pursuit of excellence.

"Accommodating young people is only part of the

task. We are doing a lot more work in the community in areas such as prevention and crisis intervention."

The Children Act, which comes into effect later this year, specifies the need to provide local services for children, working in partnership with them and their families in as a preventative way as possible.

Barnet Council's restructuring has taken that into account in the Community Services department which deals with the management of residential care, fostering and adoption services.

"This means that when children are referred to us, one team considers their placement needs in an integrated way," said Dave Fry, Barnet Council's Central Resources Manager.

YOUR HELP NEEDED BY LOCAL CHILDREN

Calling anyone who can offer a short-term home to a local child who needs looking after! That's Barnet Council Fostering team's message to the local community.

They want to hear from you if you are prepared to take children and young people up to 18 years of age, often in an emergency, and also from those with the time and space to offer care to sisters and brothers so that they're not separated.

The fostering is looking for people who reflect the diversity of our community and recognise that children generally do best when they stay near to their local school, family and friends.

It's important, too, for them to be with a family that reflects their ethnic, religious and cultural background.

Training and support is given to all foster carers, and they can get together regularly with other carers to share their interests.

If you'd like to find out more, ring Barnet Council's Foster Care team on 081-883 5562.

CELEBRATION AT BROADFIELDS UNIT



Cllr Barbara Langstone joins in the fun of the ballpool.

There was a party atmosphere at Barnet Council's Broadfields Social Education Centre, Edgware on Monday 3 June when people who use a newly-designed unit, their carers and representatives of the Health Authority and Barnet Council gathered to celebrate the upcoming second

birthday of the Special Needs Unit.

The District Health Authority, who contributed £170,000 to the cost of the £200,000 plus Unit, was represented by Chairman, Dr John Carter.

Barnet Council's Cllr Barbara Langstone, Chairman of the Social Services Committee and John Marsden, Deputy Director of Community Services represented the borough.

The Unit has been designed by staff from Barnet Council's architecture group.

Architect Johnny Kwan, said: "The new unit was

created by the addition of new windows and doors, improving circulation within the unit while separating it from the rest of the centre.

"Planning for wheelchair users included structural alterations to afford easy access to bathroom and toilet, special kitchen units, external ramps for access to garden and fire escape and a special bath."

Part of a workshop was converted to provide a physical recreation area and other areas include a second training kitchen and group rooms for social activities.

Four full-time Barnet

Council staff work in the unit which offers day care including therapeutic activities, special programmes to assist with social skills, physiotherapy and a social atmosphere.

A specially adapted vehicle, jointly provided by Barnet Council and the District Health Authority, brings the clients to and from this new Edgware centre.

Centre manager, Mike Davies said: "This very valuable unit is now fully used, showing the need for a resource such as this within the borough."



A special bath has proved an asset to clients at Barnet Council's special needs unit at Broadfields Social Education Centre, Edgware. Pictured (from left) are: Cllr Barbara Langstone, Chairman of Barnet Council's Social Services Committee; Dr John Carter, Chairman of the District Health Authority; John Marsden, Deputy Director of Barnet Council's Community Service Department and Mike Davies, Broadfields' Centre Manager.

EYES & EARS



15. Paul Lamb



16. Michael Rosendale

**FOR MORE DETAILS
SEE PAGE 4**

Barnet Council Re-Affirms Opposition to 'Pindown'

Barnet Council, in considering the implications of the Staffordshire Child Care Inquiry at a Social Services Committee meeting on Tuesday 9 July, re-affirmed its opposition to practices such as 'pindown'.

Cllr Barbara Langstone, Chairman of the Social Services Committee said: "As long ago as 1986 this committee agreed a detailed report on social services for children and families which, amongst other things, set out our view that punishments similar to 'pindown' should not be used in residential or foster homes."

Mrs Langstone added:

"Another very important point is that in Barnet, members of the Social Services Committee have a policy of making unannounced visits on a rota basis to children's homes and comments from these visits are reported back to the committee."

John Marsden, Barnet's Deputy Director of Community Services, said that most of the recommendations by the Staffordshire Child Care Inquiry relating to management, supervision, staffing and training are already carried out in Barnet.

Barnet Council manages

three community homes where up to 27 children can be accommodated. There are at present 20 children resident at the addresses and 30 members of staff to look after them. Some 22 children are accommodated in 11 homes or boarding schools managed by other local authorities, voluntary organisations or other agencies.

Barnet proposes to prepare detailed vetting and monitoring procedures for all external placements to ensure that no child in Barnet Council's care is subjected to iniquitous practices such as 'pindown'.

BARNET'S YOUNG CONSUMERS ENJOY 'PERFECT' WEEKEND IN HOLLAND



Barnet Council's Mayor, Cllr Leslie Pym, is pictured giving the Ravenscroft School team a civic send-off from The Town Hall, Hendon, to Rotterdam

Pupils from Barnet Council's Ravenscroft School have returned from the finals of the Young Consumer of the Year competition in Rotterdam, beaten, but unbowed.

The team, Russell Chandler, Marc Brumwell, Natasha Litchmore, Neemesh Purohit and reserve Stephen Ptohopoulos, had battled through to the finals by first beating off other Barnet Schools, then by becoming Greater London champions.

However, the team were beaten for top spot in Rotterdam by a school from Cumbria, with Cheshire, last year's winners, coming in second.

Teacher Mary Karioles, who travelled with the team, said: "The youngsters gained enormously from the weekend. They had a really good educational trip to Holland."

The competition was organised by Barnet Council's Trading Standards staff.

The quintet were given a civic send-off from The Town Hall by the Mayor, Cllr Leslie Pym (pictured left), who talked to the students about the role of the Council in daily life and showed them around the civic buildings.

The team were transported to and from their ferry in Sheerness, Kent, in a mini-bus laid on by Fleet Cars, a mini-cab firm which takes part in Barnet Council's Travel Voucher scheme for elderly and disabled residents. The firm, who stepped in at the last moment to provide the transport, also supplied a driver.

In Rotterdam, the team met their local Member of the European Parliament Pauline Green, who had specifically requested to meet them as Ravenscroft is the closest school to her home.

GENERAL ELECTION

A General Election will be held by June 1992.

Every household in the borough should have

received an Electoral Registration Form like the one printed on page 3.

If you do not fill in your form, you cannot vote, if you can't vote, your viewpoint will not register.

For your ease, Barnet Council has sent the current electoral information on each form. This means that all you need to do is check that the information is correct, sign and date the form and return it in the pre-paid envelope.

This information is required by law and is an annual event. Names are deleted from the register on non-receipt of the forms.

● *Keith Porter, Barnet Council's Principal Election Officer, would like to thank those residents who by accident received two forms, for their patience and understanding. This was a despatching error which has now been rectified.*

EYES & EARS



11. Geoffrey Tibble



12. Mark Clegg

FOR MORE DETAILS SEE PAGE 4

RETURN TO LEARNING

More and more people are enjoying the wide range of learning opportunities that are available for adults. Are you among them?

Educational Guidance for Adults is the name of a new free service from Barnet Council which can advise you about full-time and part-time courses available and help you take that important first step to study. People return to learning for all sorts of reasons:

- you may realise school didn't develop all your talents and interests to the full and you may want to develop your potential
- the qualifications you have may no longer be enough to further your career. This includes people in work as well as job-seekers
- learning is a worthwhile and enjoyable way of spending leisure time. Going on courses can be addictive!

Whatever stage you're at, whatever your circumstances, there is a course that could help you. It doesn't have to mean learning notes and taking exams - adult education is designed to develop your skills and confidence.

Courses range from basic reading and writing, training for particular careers, through to part-time degree study, and most colleges will enrol you even if you haven't got any formal qualifications. This is a good time of year to think about studying, when courses are beginning at local colleges, so why not get in touch with Educational Guidance and have a chat?

You can talk to the experts with no obligation, so you've nothing to lose by getting in touch. Barnet Council has two offices you can contact at:

- Burnt Oak, 081-959 3632
- Finchley, 081-346 7714



ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Women want more training

'Young people can bridge the knowledge gap ...'

FIGURES from the Business & Technician Education Council (BTEC) show more women opting for vocational education. Numbers starting BTEC programmes this year rose by more than 8,000 to 94,831, nine per cent up on 1989-90.

Biggest growth - 27 per cent - was in science and caring, with a traditional female bias. Almost 19,000 women registered.

Male-dominated engineering courses also succeeded in attracting more women. Numbers rose from 2,400 to almost 3,000 compared with around 50,000 male students. Women on computing courses also increased - from 3,000 to over 4,000 - but again they are far outnumbered by men.

"Efforts to encourage more women on courses in engineering and information technology are beginning to pay off," says BTEC chief executive, John Sellars, "but outdated images and women's lack of confidence in their undoubted ability to succeed in these professions are still holding them back."

Business and finance courses, BTEC's biggest area of operation, continued to attract more women than men by around 8,000; more than 41,000.

Last year's increase on construction courses, another male-dominated sector has not been maintained, nor has the encouraging increase in women on management programmes, though in both cases fall back has been minimal.

Total BTEC registrations, men and women, increased by seven per cent in the academic year 1990-91, bringing growth over the past four years to 28 per cent at a time when the school-leaving population is dwindling.

"Britain won't be labelled as the dunce of the civilised world for much longer," comments John Sellars.

"We are still behind France, Germany, Japan and the USA in terms of further and higher education. However, BTEC's consistent growth shows that, once young people realise that a traditional schoolroom education isn't the only way of getting ahead, they do want to learn and can bridge the knowledge and skills gap between us and our competitors."



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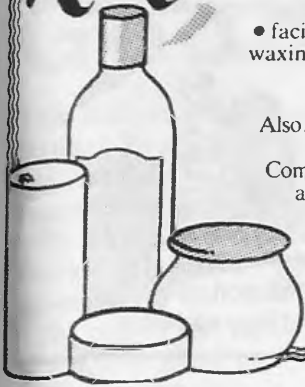
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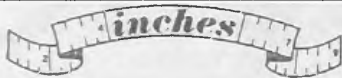
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A Bloomin' Good Show!

The Railway Bell in East Barnet Road, New Barnet has emerged victorious in a competition to find the pub with the most attractive floral displays in the borough.

The pub is the first winner of the prestigious new Barnet In Bloom competition.

The landlord, Eamon Hogan

was presented with the top prize, a beautiful vase, by the Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Leslie Pym at a special ceremony on Thursday 27 June (pictured right).

The centrepiece of the pub's display, a raised bed of busy lizzies in the shape of a bell coupled with an attractive range of



hanging baskets helped win top prize.

This is the first ever Barnet In Bloom competition and the response from pubs up and down the borough exceeded all the organisers' expectations.

Barnet Council's Marketing Officer, Adrienne Davis, one of the organisers said: "To get 21 entries in the first year was remarkable, and I think the results show that our pubs compare well with any in London."

Runners up were the Queens Arms in Barnet (bottom left) and the newly-reopened Tally Ho in North Finchley (top left), both of which were congratulated on the high standard of their entries.

Also commended were the White Bear, The Burroughs, Hendon; the White Lion of Mortimer, The Broadway,

West Hendon;

Sebright Arms, Sebright Road, Barnet; Three Horseshoes, Whetstone and the Kings Head, East Barnet;

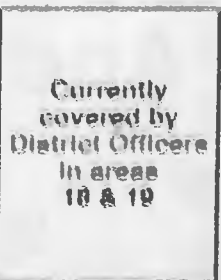
The winners, runners-up and commended pubs were all presented with certificates to mark their achievement.

The Railway Bell has also received further commendation by being shortlisted for the final of the capital-wide 'London in Bloom' competition.

EYES & EARS



19. Gary Davis



Currently covered by District Officers in areas 18 & 19

20

FOR MORE DETAILS SEE PAGE 4

Flowers On Your Doorstep



A horticultural student has emerged as the deserved winner of Barnet Council's first ever Porch and Doorstep Competition.

Paul Thompson of Alston Road, Barnet was chosen after creating a beautiful floral display outside his front door.

Mr Thompson beat off competition from 55 other green fingered residents who decorated their porch or doorstep areas with floral displays of all shapes, sizes and descriptions.

The two runners-up were

Mrs Colquhoun of Brookside South in East Barnet, and Mr F Jayes of Crispin Road, Edgware. They both received certificates to mark their achievements.

Mr Thompson was presented with the winner's trophy outside his house at on Monday 15 July, by the Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Leslie Pym (left) and the Mayoress, Mrs Gwen Pym.

Two representatives from competition sponsors, Liberty Life Assurance also attended the prize-giving.

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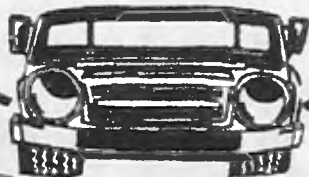
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Barnet Council adopts new Information Systems Strategy

Barnet Council is set to introduce a comprehensive Information Systems Strategy to take it into the 21st century.

Members of the council's Policy and Resources Committee approved the new strategy and gave the go ahead for the high priority systems to be introduced, at a special meeting on Wednesday 3 July.

Efficient and effective

The new strategy will enable Barnet Council to provide an efficient and effective delivery of all its services.

The strategy has been welcomed by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Roy Shutz, who said: "The strategy has been designed with the business objectives of the council in mind so that we can concentrate our investment in Information Technology where it will be of most benefit.

"It will also open doors for continued organisational development in the future," he said.

Management Information

The new strategy will improve the quality and delivery of financial and management information. It will enable the many hundreds of managers throughout the council responsible for budgets, such as head teachers of

schools and managers of homes for the elderly, to keep an accurate check on their expenditure throughout the year.

It also provides substantial support and training for staff - something that has not been available in the past.

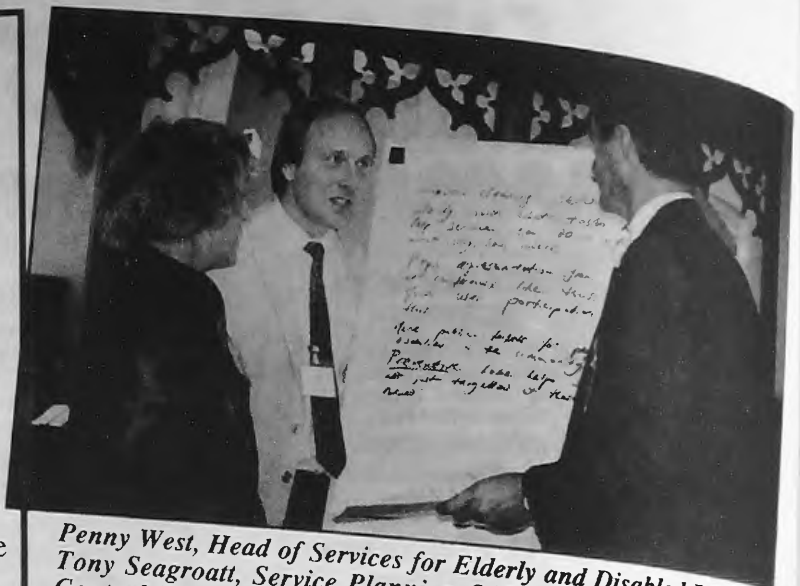
The strategy will play a vital role in putting into effect new government legislation such as Care In The Community, Compulsory Competitive Tendering, the National Curriculum and Student Assessment - completing the introduction of computers and printers, for administration use, into all 91 of Barnet Council's primary schools.

Benefit

The council will also seek to benefit from increasing standardisation in computer systems, becoming less dependent on one or two suppliers, as it has been in the past.

The strategy also coincides with an internal review of the Information Systems and Technology Division (ISTD), being carried out by its head, Roger Rickard. The systems of highest priority which will be introduced first are expected to cost £4.2m over a three and a half year period.

The Information Systems strategy has been developed jointly by Barnet Council officers and KPMG Management Consulting.



Penny West, Head of Services for Elderly and Disabled Persons, Tony Seagroatt, Service Planning Officer, and George Ogden, Central Resources Manager, discuss a point at the Elderly Persons' forum.

CONSULTING WITH OLDER RESIDENTS

More than 100 people gathered at a meeting between Barnet Council and the borough's older residents to discuss services for the elderly.

The event was held in association with the District Health Authority and the Family Health Services Authority.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Barbara Langstone, Chairman of Barnet Council's Social Services Committee, with the topic for the day being support for elderly people at home.

This subject was selected following a Barnet Council survey asking the borough's senior citizens what concerned them most.

Penny West, Head of Elderly Persons Services, said she was "impressed by the energy, enthusiasm and seriousness of the groups' suggestions."

These included: extending services to cover seven days a week, a flexible shopping service and the introduction of a mobile care team.

The over-riding consensus of opinion was for the formation

of a joint agency comprising health, social and voluntary services which would go a long way towards resolving communication difficulties.

Pilot project

The possibility of a pilot project is now being investigated by Barnet Council officers.

Nigel Weaver, Chief Executive of Barnet Health Authority, said: "There is a very high level of co-operation now going on between the Council and the Health Authority."

He cited the success of the forum as one example of co-operation in practice.

Cllr Mrs Langstone said: "The invaluable suggestions and comments that have emerged from this forum will be taken into account in the planning of future services."

The matters arising from the consultation meeting will be considered by the Policy Implementation Group for Elderly Persons.

DISABILITY

From June of this year, the Borough of Barnet has made a firm commitment to giving people with disabilities training opportunities as a first step towards a meaningful career.

Our Job Access Scheme is designed to provide a period of planned on-the-job training and work experience alongside someone already carrying out a job suited to your ambition and needs.

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A placement will initially be for two or three months. If it's successful and you are sufficiently well-equipped to take on the job you will be eligible for the next suitable vacancy.

Through our assessment and interview process we will ensure that your skills and abilities match the needs of the job and you will be earning the full rate of pay for the work you do.

One of the best things about the scheme is that because we feel that no one knows your disability and how to deal with it as well as you do, you will be part of the decision-making process throughout your training.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE ?

Our scheme is open to all people with disabilities but we will give preference to those who are registered disabled. Equal opportunities is an important part of Barnet's business like approach and we welcome applications from all sections of the community.

WHAT NEXT ?

If you want to take this opportunity to start a new career with Barnet then get in touch with us today Contact Vandana on ☎ 081-202 8282 ext 2367 for more information or to register your interest in joining our scheme.

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LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter in the hope that something might be done about the deplorable situation regarding the refuse collection in my area.

We recently received a leaflet informing us that Barnet Council had placed the important job of refuse collection in the hands of Tyler Waste Management.

This leaflet gave precise details and instructions to be carried out by householders. I wonder how many people, like myself, assumed the contractors had also been given instructions, such as returning the bins to the edge of the property where they had collected them from. Alas, if any instructions have been given to the contractors, they are being completely ignored by their employees.

On Thursday 1 August I put my bin at the edge of my property but it was not returned, it was left on the pavement outside the house next door. I went out and told the man concerned that I did not live there. I had abuse from two of the men and I was told "it won't do you any harm to go for a walk, just shut your mouth". It really is unbelievable that we are expected to do part of the job they are being paid for out of my Community Charge. I telephoned the Hotline 446 5237, but obviously nothing has been done about it because things have certainly not changed.

Yesterday morning, Thursday 8 August, once again I put my bin in the correct position. At 11.00am a man came along the road and put all the bins out on the pavement at the edge of the kerb. Numerous drives were blocked, this caused inconvenience to people wishing to get their cars in and out. I had to go out but understand the bins were emptied at 2.00pm. When I returned the whole road was strewn with bins, in the middle of the pavement, on the kerb and even in the road!

My bin once again was left outside the house next door right on the kerb.

Apart from a hazard to pedestrians and motorists when these bins are left out it is also so obvious which houses are left empty during the day, something the police warn us about.

I appreciate this is a new contractor but I cannot accept this as teething troubles, numerous friends of mine are experiencing similar difficulties.

I look forward to your comments.

Mrs I Adams,
Farm Road,
Edgware.

●Reply from Graham Beattie, Controller of Engineering Services.

There is no excuse to be made for rudeness, and any complaint made to our Customer Care

Unit, as Mrs Adams' was, will be investigated and acted upon. The refuse contract calls for the collection from and return to the front boundary of the property, and a default procedure is available within the contract to penalise non-compliance with the specification.

Initially, concern has been concentrated on non-collection as the introduction of a new area clearance system has meant that about 80% of the borough's 115,000 households have had their day of collection changed.

The contractor is now however able to deploy three supervisors to monitor the performance of the collection crews and these will ensure that the on-site performance is improved.

All complaints should in the first instance be directed to Barnet Council's Customer Care Unit on 081-446 5237 or 081-446 5219.



ABOVE: Cllr Roy Shutz, the Leader of Barnet Council, met Michael Stewart, Group Managing Director of Tyler Waste Management, the company now in charge of clearing the borough's refuse, at the Mays Lane depot in Barnet.

Dear Sir,

I arrived in Edgware from Suffolk on 31 August 1986.

I was then able to walk, but alas, I have now become housebound, but all I want to do is say "Thank you" to Barnet Council especially to Karen Zetta.

Also a special thank you to social services, especially to Jan Byrne, for all their help.

God bless you all and thank you for everything.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Friedrich,
Fairmead Crescent,
Edgware.

Dear Sir,

I would like to express some views on the present housing situation in London, and in particular Barnet where we live.

There are a number of families living in B+B costing the Borough of Barnet an extravagant amount of money for inadequate housing.

The borough is also housing families in private houses and flats at very high rents.

I don't expect that all the people in need of

housing can be accommodated in the short term. but Barnet, like the rest of the London boroughs, has unoccupied property.

Perhaps a sizeable portion of this property is in disrepair and not suitable for dwelling. This is the kind of property I feel could be renovated by some of the people who are now living in premises described by the Rent Allowance people as 'Over-accommodated'.

Why would Barnet Council want to do this? Why give these people a chance to renovate a run down piece of property? The answer is simple, MONEY. It would save them money, and provide another livable house in the borough.

The borough could sell and hold the mortgage on the house. The person or family involved could renovate with a council grant added to the price of the property and the prospective owner could supply the labour.

John Baker,
The Vale,
London NW11.

● We are very much aware of the need to utilise all our unoccupied property, and it is for that reason that we give absolute priority to carrying out all the repairs and checks that are necessary when the property becomes vacant and offer it as soon as possible to another potential occupier.

Our procedures are very effective; at any one time less than 1% of our 14,500+ homes are vacant. This compares to the average for London boroughs of 2.9%, and our performance puts us in the top three of the 31 London boroughs in turning round our vacant properties.

We also see the need to do much more. We encourage people under occupying council homes to move down to smaller homes by our 'Trade Down Sceme' offering £1,000 to those willing to give up valuable 2 and 3 bed roomed accomodation. In 12 months we have released 99 homes in this way. We offer grants of up to £20,000 to council tenants who are able to purchase homes in the private sector, thereby releasing more valuable accomodation for our needs.

Finally, just as Mr Baker suggests, we finance Housing Associations in the borough who frequently are able to purchase properties in the sort of condition described and convert them into units of accomodation to which we at Barnet Council are able to nominate families in need.

It is clear then that we are making every effort to make the most of accomodation in Barnet, and we can be proud of our efforts. However, such is the pressure on our stock of homes for homeless families whom we are legally obliged to rehouse, that we will continue to have to use Bed & Breakfast accomodation to a certain extent.

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

Russell Jones, The Editor - Barnet News,
Barnet Council, The Town Hall, The
Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4BG

OR LEAVE A MESSAGE ON BARNET

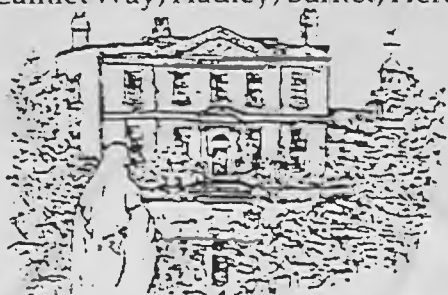
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Trees for Life, London Borough of Barnet
Town Hall, The Burroughs
London NW4 4BG

or phone 081-202 8282 extension 2076.

