

COMMUNITY news

BUDGET SPECIAL

 **BARNET**
LONDON BOROUGH

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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2000

ISSUE No. 24

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HAVE YOUR SAY!

How much Council Tax should you pay?

BARNET residents will be consulted for the first time ever on how much council tax they should pay next year.

Leader Alan Williams announced the radical step at Council-in-Committee on January 13.

Local people will be presented with three options - a council tax rise of 5.5%, 6.5% or 7.5%.

They will also be consulted on the proposed budget which would lead to a 6.5 per cent council tax increase.

Street-based services, such as street cleaning, refuse collection, road repairs, parks, playgrounds and flower beds, would be given the biggest boost if that gets the go-ahead.

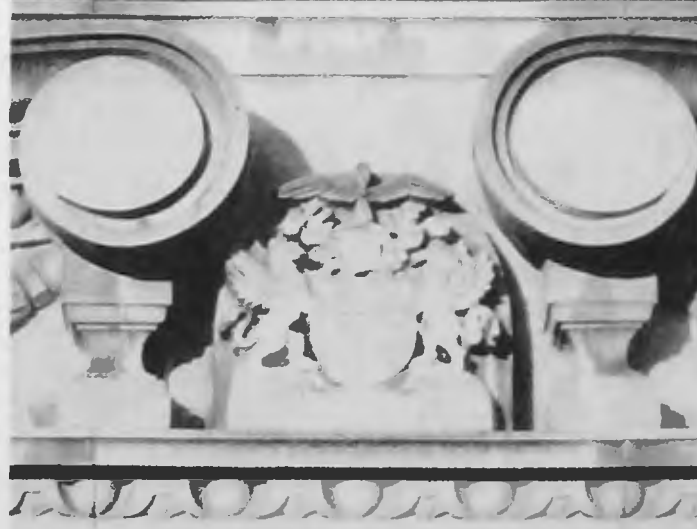
But before the budget is ratified, Barnet's residents will be asked what they think.

A total of 130,000 questionnaires will be distributed during the public consultation.

Meanwhile, a roadshow will travel around supermarkets, shopping centres, council offices and leisure venues between January 24 and February 6. Council officers will be on hand at 16 venues to answer questions about the budget.

Council leader Alan Williams, said: 'We have decided to go one important step further this year and ask local people what they want to spend on local services. If they decide to spend more or less than the proposed 6.5 % increase, then we will take their wishes on board.

'If they decide to spend less then we will have to reduce the amount we propose to spend and that means reduced services. If they say they want a higher council tax, it will mean more services, but they will have to dig deeper.'



TOWN HALL

Council Leader, Alan Williams and Resources Chair, Danish Chopra (left) urge people to have their say about the budget from Hendon Town Hall balcony.



Biggest and best ever firework display gets new millennium off with a bang

A FULL HOUSE of 10,000 local residents saw the biggest ever firework display in Barnet at Copthall Stadium on January 2. Twice as many fireworks were let off as at the borough's traditional display on November 5 with more than 15,000 fireworks set off in four displays.

There were three seven minute displays and the main 25 minute one at the end launched by Barnet Mayor Jack Cohen. The display included a 12 inch mortar, twice the size of anything used in London's Big Time on New Year's Eve. It shot fireworks nearly 400 ft in the air - the last one let off a huge umbrella of colour over the stadium. The display also included the simultaneous release of 2,000 rockets. Other events included a parade of Chinese dragons and lions, jazz bands, jugglers, vintage cars and a high wire act with the trapeze artist throwing himself off the wire from 40ft while on fire. There was also a parachute display.

Susette Palmer, Community Development lead member, said: 'I thought it was wonderful and magical. I was very pleased by the comments I have received saying how good the display was and how it was good old fashioned family entertainment. It was a brilliant start to the new millennium and I look forward to the rest of Barnet's celebrations throughout the year.'



ENGLAND'S CATHEDRALS

A NEW exhibition will open in March at Hendon's Church Farmhouse Museum.

England's Cathedrals is based on a book by Peter Hume, published in 1999.

Through original watercolours by Peter Hume, background material, models and photographs, the exhibition tells the story of England's Cathedrals.

The exhibition will be on display from 4 March until 21 May 2000. Admission is free.

For further information contact Gerrard Roots at the museum on 0181 203 0130.

Answers getting faster

RESIDENTS who write to Barnet Council's Neighbourhood Management Service and Environment Service can be sure of a speedy response.

The services, which look after environmental health, trading standards, refuse, street cleansing and local agenda 21 have significantly increased the number of letters they answer within the council target of 15 days.

Between 1 October and 31 December 1999, 84% of residents who wrote in to Environmental Services received replies within 15 working days compared with 56% recorded six months ago. Figures have also more than doubled for the Neighbourhood Management Service which now replies to 92% of letters within the deadline, compared with 40% in September.

Barnet Council Leader, Alan Williams said: "This is an excellent result and we hope to go on improving until all services reach the council's targets."

Previously, it was practice for the council to wait until all issues had been resolved before sending letters out, so some failed to meet response targets.

However, through councillors' surgeries, area forums and the new Neighbourhood Management Team, the council is able to pick up on issues earlier through direct contact with the public.

"This means we can put things right faster and responses can be sent out sooner rather than later," said Cllr Williams.

Barnet's housing needs to be looked at in biggest ever survey

THE MOST comprehensive review ever of housing needs in Barnet is underway.

An all-encompassing Housing Strategy was got under way by Barnet's council-in-committee in December.

Issues to be reviewed include the Housing Association Strategy, access to housing, temporary accommodation, housing for older people, the private rented sector, consultation, Housing Customer Services and housing and community safety. All of which will together to make-up a comprehensive new approach by the Social Affairs Committee.

Allan Turner, Social Affairs Committee Chair, said, "There are no easy answers to the problems facing housing in Barnet, many of which we share with other London Boroughs. A knee jerk response to just one part of the problem, for example introducing urgent measures to tackle the escalating number of homeless families, will have a knock on effect elsewhere, the ability of the council to move chronically overcrowded families into larger accommodation.

"Starting now means we can build an effective housing strategy. Housing problems have been recognised as a London-wide issue by the Association of London Government (ALG) which represents all 32 London Boroughs.

"The ALG has set up a working group to examine long-term housing policy in London and agreed an emergency package to ease current borough budget concerns. The Government has been asked for £900 million over the next three years to support this."

Cllr Turner added: "Borough leaders have already held one meeting with Nick Raynsford, Minister for Housing, where they presented him with evidence of London's housing crisis. The ALG is lobbying the government to give greater weight to homelessness in the formula for

allocating housing capital resources and we must support that process."

The review will need to grapple with major problems facing Barnet such as:

- Council housing has decreased by 13,000 homes since the Right to Buy was introduced (38% since 1980). Housing Association new builds have not made good this deficit with just over 2000 homes built in the past ten years.

- The backlog of repairs is £31 million, with this year's capital spending on housing just £6 million. At its worst, that's equivalent to a 6-year wait for repairs.

- The demand for social rented housing continues to exceed the homes available. The long-term deficit to 2015 simply for people in greatest need is estimated to exceed 9000 homes. The average house price in Barnet is now £137,000 with an average household income of over £30,000 for first time buyers. Rents are rising in parallel with house prices.

The Social Affairs PDC aims to report back by June 2000. The new draft strategy will require substantial consultation with housing associations and service users.

- About 1,250 people living in private and rented homes have been selected at random to take part in a confidential survey on housing need to be carried out by First Surveys Market Research. The interviews are all face-to-face and were carried out in January and also February.

COMMUNITY news

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The number is 0181-359
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telephone number with
your message.

Get ready for the big number change

THE telephone numbers for London are changing.

From April 22, Easter Saturday, local numbers for inner and outer London will have 8 digits. Outer London numbers will be prefixed by 8 and inner London numbers by 7.

For example, if you are calling one of Barnet Council's numbers, such as the libraries Action Point, which is currently 359 4000 you will need to ring 8359 4000 from April 22.

If you are dialling a London number from elsewhere in the

country, the national code has changed to (020).

The change to London numbers is only part of a reorganisation of numbers needed because of the vast increase in demand for telephone lines, including fax lines, e-commerce and web access.

You will need to ensure that all printed information, such as letterheads, address books and business cards, and stored numbers on databases and telephones are changed.

The Budget at a glance

- £2.2 million increase for schools
- £1.8 million extra for better street cleaning and bin service
- £1.313 million extra for children with special educational needs



Naomi Boyar, 9, at the launch of Hendon Library's Sunday opening hours which could be extended.

- £1 million extra for more places for elderly people in nursing and care homes
- £550,000 to improve highways maintenance
- £360,000 to support adults with learning difficulties
- £77,000 for two extra nursery classes
- £167,000 for a new customer care unit
- £80,000 for better horticultural displays
- £5,000 towards a holocaust memorial
- £57,000 for improved play facilities and equipment
- £150,000 for better winter roads maintenance
- £153,000 towards an arts centre for North Finchley
- £25,000 for continued Sunday opening at Hendon Library
- £50,000 for the publication of Community and Best Value plans
- £74,000 for three new park keepers
- £256,000 to pay for reductions in 'backroom' staff

The taxing question!

How much should you pay for your council services?

NEVER before have the Barnet public been directly asked how much council tax they should pay.

property of £691.91p for the year and raise £800,000 less than is needed for the council's proposed budget, or £91.1 million.

It is an historic and momentous occasion and very much in line with the borough's desire to involve local people in decisions that effect their lives.

Council services would have to be reduced in line with the amount of money raised.

They have three choices: A 5.5 per cent increase, 6.5 per cent or 7.5 per cent. The budget proposed by the ruling administration is based on a 6.5 per cent rise in council tax.

So that effectively means you have to decide whether councillors have just about got the level right, whether it is too much, or too little.

In real terms, Barnet's share of the council tax for a band D property on 6.5 per cent increase would mean an annual bill of £698.47p and would raise £91.9 million.

Meanwhile, the lower 5.5 per cent increase would mean a council tax bill for a band D

What you'd pay

↑ 5.5% £691.91

↑ 6.5% £698.47

↑ 7.5% £705.03

All figures are based on band D properties and only Barnet's share

And a higher 7.5 per cent increase would lead to a band D council tax of £705.03p, raising around £800,000 more or £92.7 million.

That would give the council more money to spend on services, but would mean you having to find more money to pay for them.

The budget consultation will finish on February 18 with the results reported to the policy and

implementation committee on March 1 and the budget will be set by the full council meeting on March 7.

How you can have your say



BARNET Council is again giving residents the opportunity to have their say on the council's draft budget for 2000. The council provides a huge range of services from refuse collection to schools, street cleaning to town centre regeneration.

Questionnaires asking for views on the budget have been delivered to every household, 128,000 in total. The questionnaires look like the one pictured left. They also include a letter from Council Leader Alan Williams specifically about the council tax figures. Residents can also visit a budget consultation roadshow at various public venues or get on-line and visit the council's website.

"This council is committed to giving every resident in the borough the chance to get involved in their local authority and the budget consultation is just one example of that commitment to open local government", said Councillor Alan Wil-

liams, Leader of Barnet Council.

"For the first time last year, we asked for your views on our draft budget. From your responses, we were able to plan for the year ahead and make changes, where possible, to services you wanted us to spend more money on

"I would like to encourage everyone to take part in the consultation. This is your council, so have your say."

The closing date for the budget consultation is Friday 18 February. If you have not filled out a questionnaire, the roadshows can be found in supermarkets, shopping centres, council offices and leisure venues from Monday 24 January to Sunday 6 February. Or you can visit the Council's website at www.barnet.gov.uk

For further information please contact the Public Consultation Unit on 0181-359 2466.

Alan Williams



Leader's View

BARNET is once again proving it is in the vanguard of modernising local authorities when it comes to opening up decision making to the public.

Last year we asked for your views on our proposed budget, but this year we've gone one bold step further - we want to know how much council tax you think you should pay.

Before you cast your vote, bear the following important things in mind.

Barnet is a council that believes in wise spending, not big spending. On top of that we have had some difficult decisions to make this year because of pressures on the budget mainly through our responsibilities towards children and care in the community.

Despite that we have managed to find nearly £20 million for exciting new spending projects next year. We have responded to what we've been told through area forums and other meetings with residents.

The message we have received is that you want street based services to be given priority and that is what we are proposing. As a result we will have cleaner, safer, better maintained streets and a better bin service.

We also want to continue to invest in our children's education through our Raising Achievement policies.

To do that we would have to raise council tax by 6.5 per cent.

But you have two other options. A higher 7.5 per cent increase which would give us even more money to invest in the borough, or a lower 5.5 per cent increase which would mean cuts to services and growth bids proposed.

At the end of the day it's your choice... use it and use it wisely!

Get involved in your community



One year on and Forums are going from strength to strength

TWELVE months ago area forums - meetings where the public can come to have their say on local issues - were introduced to the London Borough of Barnet.

Now, one year on, the forums held six times a year in Hendon, Finchley, Golders Green, Whetstone, Barnet and Edgware and Mill Hill each attract between 60 and 100 people.

Set up as part of the council's modernising agenda to consult more with the public, the forums allow residents to talk openly about things that matter to them in their area.

So far, 39 meetings have been held at various venues in each area and a host of queries relating to issues such as graffiti, planning, street cleansing and road repairs have been raised and resolved.

Golders Green Forum chair, Cllr. Monroe Palmer said: "The area forums have been a huge success and a great way of working together for the mutual benefit of the council and community.

"They allow local people to have their say on local issues knowing that their views will be heard by local councillors and officers. They also allow the council to gauge what residents think on important local issues.

"The council aims to put the involvement of local people in local affairs at the heart of all its activities. The forums, which are part of Barnet Council's reorganisation, are a great way of consulting with the public and we hope to see even more people attending over the next twelve months."

The agenda for each meeting is driven by the public who can put their questions to a panel of ward councillors assisted by council officers from planning, highways, housing and the

neighbourhood management service. A local police officer is also usually available to answer questions on local crime and disorder issues.

Through direct contact with the public, complaints and problems raised at the forums can be dealt with more quickly. Often issues can be dealt with the next day, but where important decisions need to be made, they are referred to the appropriate committee.

Petitions can also be given to forums and an enquiry desk, open 30 minutes before the start of each meeting, is available to deal with more minor or personal issues. The forums start at 6.30pm and generally finish around 9.30pm with a round-up of issues resolved and actions taken since the last meeting.

Cllr. Palmer said, "The forums are democracy in action. People who attend have told me that they are impressed. They have seen problems investigated, reported back and often solved."

The next Area Forums for Edgware and Mill Hill, Golders Green and Whetstone will be held on Tuesday 29 February at:

"The area forums have been a huge success and a great way of working together for the mutual benefit of the council and community," said Cllr. Monroe Palmer

Canada Villa Youth Centre, Pursley Road, Mill Hill

St Michael's Church Hall, The Ridings, off Golders Green Road, Golders Green

Queenswell Junior School, Sweets Way, Whetstone.

For further details, please call Barnet Council on 0181 359 2277.



North Finchley to become THE place to go!

PLANS for a landmark building at Tally Ho Corner, North Finchley, have been unveiled by developers and the council.

The £35 million scheme will not only breathe new life into N12, but will also provide North London with a much-needed arts centre.

The development includes high quality shops, town centre homes, a health and fitness centre and improved public transport facilities.

Following a lengthy tender and selection process, the council chose Chiltern Investment Properties and Wilcon Homes as its two development partners.

The community arts centre will be housed above the new bus interchange and retail units featuring a prominent ground floor entrance foyer.

Its facilities include:

- A main auditorium with around 400 seats
- A 120-seat studio theatre
- An art gallery
- Dance, drama and art studios
- Café/bar areas at three levels
- Full disabled access to all parts of the building

Backstage facilities include dressing rooms, offices, a props room, lights room, scenery dock, scenery store and technical workshops.

Disabled group, Community Focus, will have a self-contained suite of rooms in the arts centre. They will comprise of two workshops, photographic darkroom and developing

room, toilets and offices. There will be lift access to the suite from Community Focus mini-buses using the building's basement.

Barnet College will have its own separate entrance to the arts centre and a dance studio, rehearsal room, arts studio, classrooms, tutorial rooms, and information technology suite, students' lounge, toilets and offices.

New shops will be provided at street level for a major national retailer and smaller shops, along with an attractive café convenient for shoppers and users of the arts centre.

The new homes will comprise up to 139 high-quality flats, including 14 penthouse apartments and dedicated residential parking in the basement.

An integral part of the Tally Ho scheme will be a 25,000 sq ft health and fitness centre located on two floors, including a swimming pool.

The existing bus facilities on the Tally Ho Corner site will be significantly improved. A new passenger waiting area will occupy part of the ground floor of the arts centre and will include a food, drinks and newspaper kiosk. All external passenger areas will be fully roofed to protect passengers from the elements.

Pedestrians using Nether Street will no longer find their route blocked by parked buses, and the already pedestrianised part - running from Ballards Lane to the main entrance of the proposed arts centre - will be upgraded and re-laid with attractive new paving.

Cricklewood landlord fined for letting unfit dwelling

A CRICKLEWOOD LANDLORD was fined £1,500 and ordered to pay £1,174 costs for failing to make his property fit to live in.

Barnet Magistrates Court heard last December how Douglas Reynolds did not comply with a Barnet Council Direction Order placed on his Caddington Road property because of insufficient cooking and washing facilities, a lack of fire safety and poor management.

It prohibits the landlord from re-letting rooms until works are carried out to bring the property up to prescribed council standards.

But an investigation by Barnet Environmental Health Officers found that Mr Reynolds had ignored the order after previously being convicted of the same offence.

Barnet Council is now making arrangements to carry out the repairs, the cost of which will be recovered from Mr Reynolds.

The property in Caddington Road contains eight bedrooms each let to separate tenants. The tenants share a communal kitchen and bathroom facilities.

Chair of the Environment Policy Development Committee, Councillor Beverley Pearce, said:

'Housing is a basic human right and the links between poor housing and ill-health are well known.

'The council will ensure that private landlords, whose tenants are often amongst the most vulnerable in our community, provide housing accommodation which at least meets basic legal standards.'

Barnet **NHS**
Health Authority

It's a new year and a new millennium...

It's time to quit smoking

FREE help to stop smoking
and stay stopped!



Barnet residents can now
use a stop smoking
service in Camden which
offers specialist support
and advice.

Talk to your local doctor, nurse or
pharmacist or call the Camden and
Islington Smokers' Clinic
now on

0171 691 3111

Make a fresh start to the millennium and stop smoking!

Barnet businesses shine in Gold Awards ceremony

MAYOR of Barnet, Councillor Jack Cohen presented 36 local businesses with Gold Awards on Thursday 18 November as a special thank you for their support to Barnet's schools and colleges.

Barnet Education Business Partnership (EBP) and Trident based in Finchley, hosted the bi-annual awards ceremony for local businesses who have contributed to programmes, projects and services run by Barnet EBP and the Work Experience programme delivered by Trident.

Barnet EBP, substantially supported by Barnet Council, aims to bring businesses and

schools together to raise achievement for all young people in the borough.

Two hundred and eighty representatives from local businesses and education attended the event held at The Peel Centre, Metropolitan Police Training Centre in Hendon.

The 'Special Award' of the evening was handed to Business Studies student, Alex Hopkins, for her contribution during a one-year industrial placement at telecommunications company, Nortel Networks.

Before the presentations, Jim Smith, Area Manager of HSBC and Lynn Gadd, Headteacher of

Copthall School, Mill Hill, spoke about the benefits Barnet EBP can bring to business and education and Mike McCann, Chair of the National EBP Network praised Barnet EBP on its achievements and successful bid for national EBP accreditation.

The evening was rounded off with a buffet supper, and Jazz from Bernie Stringle and the Dixielanders.

Businesses wishing to work with local schools should contact Susan Read, Manager of Barnet Education Business Partnership on 0181 349 2793.



Business Studies student, Alex Hopkins, is presented with the 'Special Award' by Mayor Jack Cohen



Colindale pupil Latifah Usuanlele-Oshodi tells lead member for education, Anne Jarvis, about the breakfast

Colindale school kids start day with snap crackle and pop

CHILDREN at Colindale Primary School can be sure to receive a healthy start to the day with an extra year of free breakfasts sponsored by Nortel Networks.

The school, based in Poolsford Road, Colindale, will continue to run its popular breakfast club which provides free breakfast to children whose parents receive income support, thanks to a grant of £2,750 from the telecommunications company.

With help from Barnet Education Business Partnership, Colindale School began the initiative three years ago following extensive evidence that a hearty breakfast can improve classroom performance.

The breakfast club is run by a Welfare Assistant and a cook dishes up a daily diet of fruit juice, cereal, toast, baked beans, bacon, spaghetti and a cup of tea. It is open Monday to Friday 8.10 - 8.45am providing around 15 children with free morning meals. Children who are not entitled to a free breakfast can still eat at the breakfast club for just 56p.

Councillor Anne Jarvis said: "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and we want to make sure that every child benefits from a healthy start to the day.

"Apart from improving classroom performance, there is also growing evidence that eating healthily at a young age leads to healthy eating habits in adulthood."

Stay warm, stay healthy, stay happy this winter

Barnet committed to improving health of residents

ELDERLY PEOPLE suffering from the cold weather may be eligible for grants to help with their home insulation and heating bills.

Barnet Council is putting over 60s in touch with a number of money saving ways to heat their homes and stay warm during the winter months.

When temperatures drop, social workers in Barnet pay extra visits to the homes of vulnerable people making sure they stay warm and well. They also advise on benefits and grants available to assist with heating.

Councillor Phil Yeoman, lead member on Social Services said: "Keeping warm is a vital part of keeping well in winter and older people are often more susceptible to the cold than younger more active people.

"Barnet Council is committed to improving the health of local residents and protecting the most vulnerable members of our community. For this reason we have dedicated teams of staff who work tirelessly to provide care and support to these citizens."

The council is also working in partnership with the government and voluntary organisations to maximise the take-up of benefits in Barnet, by making sure that people are aware of the financial support available.

Private tenants, owner-occupiers and housing association tenants with low incomes could be entitled to a grant up to £2,000 from Barnet council to help make their homes warmer.

The types of grant-aid include House Renovation Grants for work such as insulation; Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs); and Home Repair Assistance grants to help with small scale works to improve or adapt a dwelling. Help is limited to people who are over 60, or people who are infirm or disabled. The maximum available is £4,000 for any three year period.

For further details call Barnet Council on 0181 359 4895/4791.

Government Grants of up to £315 are also available for simple energy

efficiency improvements to make heating homes easier.

The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) helps towards the cost of loft insulation, cavity wall insulation; heating system control improvements and draught proofing of doors and windows.

The grants are available to people receiving various benefits. Those over 60 but not receiving benefit can get partial grants up to £78.75.

Winter Fuel Payments of £100 per household are automatically paid to pensioners to help with heating bills. This has just been extended to include men aged 60 and over and will be backdated by the government to when it was first introduced in 1997.

Smaller grants for people receiving income support are also available to help pay for bedding, heaters and reconnection charges and cold weather

payments are made to pensioners on benefit when there is a spell of very cold weather in their area.

For further information and advice about social security benefits call 0800 666 555 or the Free Winter Warmth Line on 0800 289 404.

- Keep a constant temperature of (21°C) and (70°F) in all rooms if possible
- Make sure your home is well insulated
- Use draught excluders and keep curtains closed but make sure you do not block air vents
- Make sure you have some hot food and drink every day
- Keep active as much as possible
- Wrap up warmly before going out
- Seek immediate medical help if you experience the danger signs of hypothermia - unusual drowsiness, no longer feeling cold in a very cold room, slurring speech, very cold skin on parts of the body normally kept covered (e.g. armpits, stomach)
- Free flu immunisation is recommended in the autumn each year for anyone aged 75 and over.

LANCELOT HASLUCK TRUST

Registered Charity No 207557

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

A few well-maintained single residential units near Oakhill Park, East Barnet, have become vacant. Applications to occupy them at a low weekly charge will be considered from single persons who are living or have lived in the areas of the former Urban Districts of East Barnet, Barnet and Friern Barnet. Applicants must be over the age of 55 years and have limited financial means. Applications are also invited from married couples who fulfil the same qualifications with a view to joining a waiting list for double accommodation.

Application forms can be obtained from the Clerk of the Lancelot Hasluck Trust, 48 Station Road, New Barnet, Herts., EN5 1QH. Tel: (020) 8449 0867

KEY STAGE TWO RESULTS

BARNET Council's investment in raising pupil's achievement is paying off.

According to the latest Key Stage Two test results released by the Government, Barnet schools are well ahead of the national average in Mathematics, Science and English - and have improved on last year.

A total of 76.2 per cent of 11-year-old pupils achieved Level 4 and above in Maths, a rise of 10 per cent on the 1998 figures and 8 per cent higher than the national average of 68.2 per cent.

The Science results have improved by 9 per cent to 81 per cent, 3.1 per cent above the national average.

Overall achievement in English now stands at 75.8 per cent, an increase of 2.7 per cent on the previous year and 6 per cent higher than the national average.

Barnet's lead member for raising achievement, Cllr Alison Moore said:

"The council is putting millions of pounds into schools and has worked extensively with them to help raise achievement - and these results show this investment is paying dividends.

"Barnet has set ambitious targets for Key Stage 2 results above the national average and we are exceeding them. But the council is not complacent and we will be working alongside coasting schools in particular to ensure results are even better next year."

SCHOOLS



THE new millennium sees the opening of a new school for pupils in Grahame Park this week.

Youngsters from the reception class were among the first to walk through the gates of The Orion School in Lanacre Avenue on Thursday with headteacher Chris Flathers.

They sported smart new uniforms and a badge depicting an Orion Star, the school's new emblem (pictured above).

The 300 strong Orion school was formed by the amalgamation of Grahame Park Junior and Infants schools.

Councillor Anne Jarvis, Chair of Barnet Education Committee, said: 'The council has worked extensively with the new management team to ensure pupils in Grahame Park get the best possible education.

We are confident that this team and fresh start for Orion School will help to address the problems suffered by both the former Grahame Park Junior and Infant schools.'

Barnet Schools exam success

BARNET schools are going from strength to strength, according to the latest GCSE results.

Barnet's schools are among the best in the country for pupils five GCSE passes grade A to C and fourth among outer London boroughs.

A total of 56.8 per cent of pupils achieved five GCSEs at grades A to C, a rise of 3.7 per cent on the previous year's statistics in 1997 and 10 per cent higher than the English average of 46.3 per cent.

Barnet's lead member for schools, Anne Jarvis said: 'Barnet has set targets for achieving GCSE results and I am delighted that thanks to the hard work of the local education authority, teachers, parents and children we are exceeding those targets.

'Nevertheless, performance is not consistent and we have got to get the highest standards in all schools. Barnet is not complacent and we are working with schools to ensure that we do even better in next year's figures.'

Barnet education authority gets 'positive' report from school OFSTED watchdogs

GOVERNMENT education inspectors have issued a new report which praises Barnet Education Authority for its strong leadership and effective working relationships between members and officers.

In a wide ranging report into the education authority and the council's schools, the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) says positive and forward thinking leadership has made the LEA 'effective in its major areas of responsibility'.

Delighted lead member for raising achievement, Cllr. Alison Moore, said: 'This report demonstrates how much we have achieved in raising education standards in our schools and highlights the fact that the vast majority are providing good or very good quality education higher than the national average.'

The report highlights the particularly effective support the LEA provides for

- literacy
- numeracy
- governors
- behaviour in mainstream schools
- multi-cultural education and English as an additional language
- early years education
- financial and personnel advice

The report states: 'The LEA is effective in its major areas of responsibility and takes considerable steps to meet its statutory duties. There is strong leadership and a cross-party commitment to the priorities for education by members.'

The report does contain some criticisms, including some management responsibilities

needing clarification and that statements for children with special needs could be dealt with quicker.

Cllr Moore added: "Although this is in OFSTED's words 'a positive report' we will not be complacent. There are areas which need to be dealt with.

"The report shows us how well we are doing, but also how much further we still want to go to secure high quality education and real achievements for all our children, whatever their starting point."

The LEA now has seventy working days to produce an action plan to address the report's 21 recommendations. This will provide a framework for future partnership with schools and learners.

£3 million windfall for Barnet school buildings and repairs

BARNET schools have been given nearly £3 million by the Government to spend on new buildings and repairs.

It was hailed by Anne Jarvis, Barnet's education chair, as 'wonderful news' and 'the Government showing it was truly committed to ensuring our children are taught in the best possible surroundings'.

The cash will mean:

- Work replacing St Vincent's RC Primary, Mill Hill, will start next year, consolidating it on one site and replacing temporary classrooms in The Ridgeway at a cost of £974,000.

- The Hasmoen Jewish Primary School will have major internal adaptations at a cost of £240,000.
- Design work costing £8,000 to replace a number of classrooms at Bishop Douglas High School, in East Finchley.

Within the capital allocation, Barnet is to receive £194,000 of so-called Seed Challenge Capital, one of the largest amounts for a London borough. The money can be used by primary and secondary schools in partnership with the LEA for innovative schemes.

Meanwhile, Barnet has received the second highest amount of Total Formula Capital in

London - £1.52 million - which is money delegated to schools for spending on things such as repairs.

Cllr Jarvis said: 'We're delighted by this generous capital allocation from the Government. We all know that if you give teachers and pupils the tools to do the job, it helps them do so much better.

'The £2.9 million is to be spent wisely, where it is most needed. With this kind of commitment, the days of pupils sitting in classrooms with water leaking through the roof or having to go to outside toilets in the rain will be a thing of the past.'



Lead member for schools, Cllr. Anne Jarvis

Help us decide where

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BLOOMIN' marvellous! That should be the reaction of residents and visitors to Barnet if £80,000 towards better borough horticultural displays gets your backing.

Barnet won the Most Improved Borough prize in London in Bloom last year - now we want to be even better.

The money would go towards even more colourful public flower beds and hanging gardens and making sure our parks and gardens are neat and tidy - and that will brighten every one's lives.

An extra £25,000 would be put in to continue with popular Sunday opening at Hendon Library and Multimedia Centre in The Burroughs.

It has been open since October, thanks to sponsorship from Middlesex University, who in return advertise the university on date labels and bookmarks.

Sunday opening - which runs from 2pm to 5pm - is part of Barnet's continued emphasis on improving services and has particularly been welcomed by the borough's large Jewish community for whom Saturday is the Sabbath.



Friary Park: in line for an extra park keeper

Barnet also wants to have a memorial garden in the borough to commemorate the estimated 10 million victims of Hitler's holocaust.

The Government is supporting Barnet Council and local MP Andrew Dismore's call for a Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Jews, Gypsies, Socialists and homosexuals were sent to their deaths in concentration camps such as Belsen and Auschwitz during World War Two.

Barnet Council passed a notice of motion in July calling for a day to remember the victims of Hitler's tyranny.

The Government is consulting widely on plans for a Holocaust Remembrance Day to be held on January 27 each year.

The council would contribute £5,000 towards a holocaust memorial garden in Barnet.

Exciting plans for a major new arts centre in North Finchley (see page 5) need further support to ensure they are realised.

£153,000 is needed for consultancy work in specialised areas such as architecture, acoustics, engineering, disabled access and theatre advice to make sure Barnet gets it right.

These costs are small compared to the overall consultancy costs being borne by our private sector partners which could total £1 million.



Susette Palmer, Community Development lead member, with three park keepers taking part in last year's pilot scheme.

S O C I A L A F F A I R S

MORE nursing home and elderly persons' places would be bought with an extra £1 million put into the budget.

There has been an increase in demand with more people being cared for in the community as an

alternative to blocking hospital beds.

One million pounds would buy the equivalent of 40 places in nursing or elderly persons' homes.

Up to six residential places for people with autism would be provided on the Birnbeck Project

at a cost of £240,000. The project meets the needs of young people with autism who can no longer be managed at home and would benefit from a high level of care not previously available locally.

Meanwhile, £120,000 would be spent providing eight self-

contained flats for people with learning disabilities through the Nottingham Trust at Beaver Hall, Fairmeads Crescent, Edgware. This would allow them to live a more independent life than is available in a residential home.

E N V I R O N M E N T



An extra £550,000 is proposed to improve roads and pavements.

ABOLDER, brighter, better Barnet! That's the key message in this year's budget with street based services the priority.

The council is proposing putting in an extra £1.8 million into street cleansing and an improved refuse service.

Top of the shopping list is block cleansing - where streets are given a thorough spring clean once a year with drains unblocked, graffiti removed and streets scrubbed. The plan is to block cleanse neighbourhoods twice a year instead.

An extra £150,000 would be put into gritting the roads to ensure motorists and public transport can still get around should there be a big freeze next winter.

In the past money for winter maintenance has come out of the

cash put aside for general roads repairs. Now to ensure there are enough funds, money will be specially designated.

Road repairs would get a further £550,000 so that pavements and road maintenance can be brought up to scratch systematically.

Around £50,000 would be used so that Neighbourhood Management Officers - who will be 60-strong by March 31 - can rapidly respond to complaints and get broken paving slabs or pot holes repaired more quickly.

And a further £74,000 would be made available for three new park keepers. It follows a highly successful pilot scheme last year which was well received by the public. The plan is to have one keeper in each of the three parliamentary constituency, although the designated parks has still to be established.

BUDGET

the money should go

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN

SOME of the most vulnerable children in Barnet would get extra help if proposals in the budget are approved. A generous £1.313m would be pumped into dealing with children with special needs to make sure they get the teaching and help they deserve.

And more children would be given a best possible start in life thanks to £77,860 for two new nursery classes in 2000-01.

The council already guarantees a free place for every four-year-old whose parents want it and by continuing to expand nursery classes, will ensure this is extended to all three-year-olds by 2002.

The total budget delegated to individual schools would be increased by £3.3 million which means the council is continuing to spend above targets set by the Government and that Barnet remains THE place parents want to send their children.

A further £15,500 has been earmarked to retain The Log Cabin Adventure Playground, off Lanacre Avenue, in Grahame Park.

The after school play service has been proving a big hit with children - and parents. It is the focus of a comprehensive service in which staff collect up to 20 children aged 5 to 12 from local

schools and escort them safely to the playground.

There they can enjoy excellent facilities, equipment and a wide range of play, sports and arts activities. Increased funding in 1999/2000 ensured it opened on Saturdays and for holiday play schemes.

It has made it easier for parents to work in the knowledge that their children are well looked after giving them peace of mind.

The Oasis Project - which provides an alternative to mainstream education for truants - would get £36,700 for extra staff. It came into existence in September 1998 to encourage and enable young people with a high level of non-attendance or severe lack of motivation or who are school phobic, to end year eleven with a higher level of academic attainment, life skills training and alternative accreditation than they would have achieved in school.

This is done by planning, organising and delivering an alternative education system, based at a youth centre, resourced by the Youth Service with a contribution from the school the young person should have attended. This involves a series of courses that emphasise key skills and personal development.



The Log Cabin Adventure Playground, Grahame Park, would get £15,500

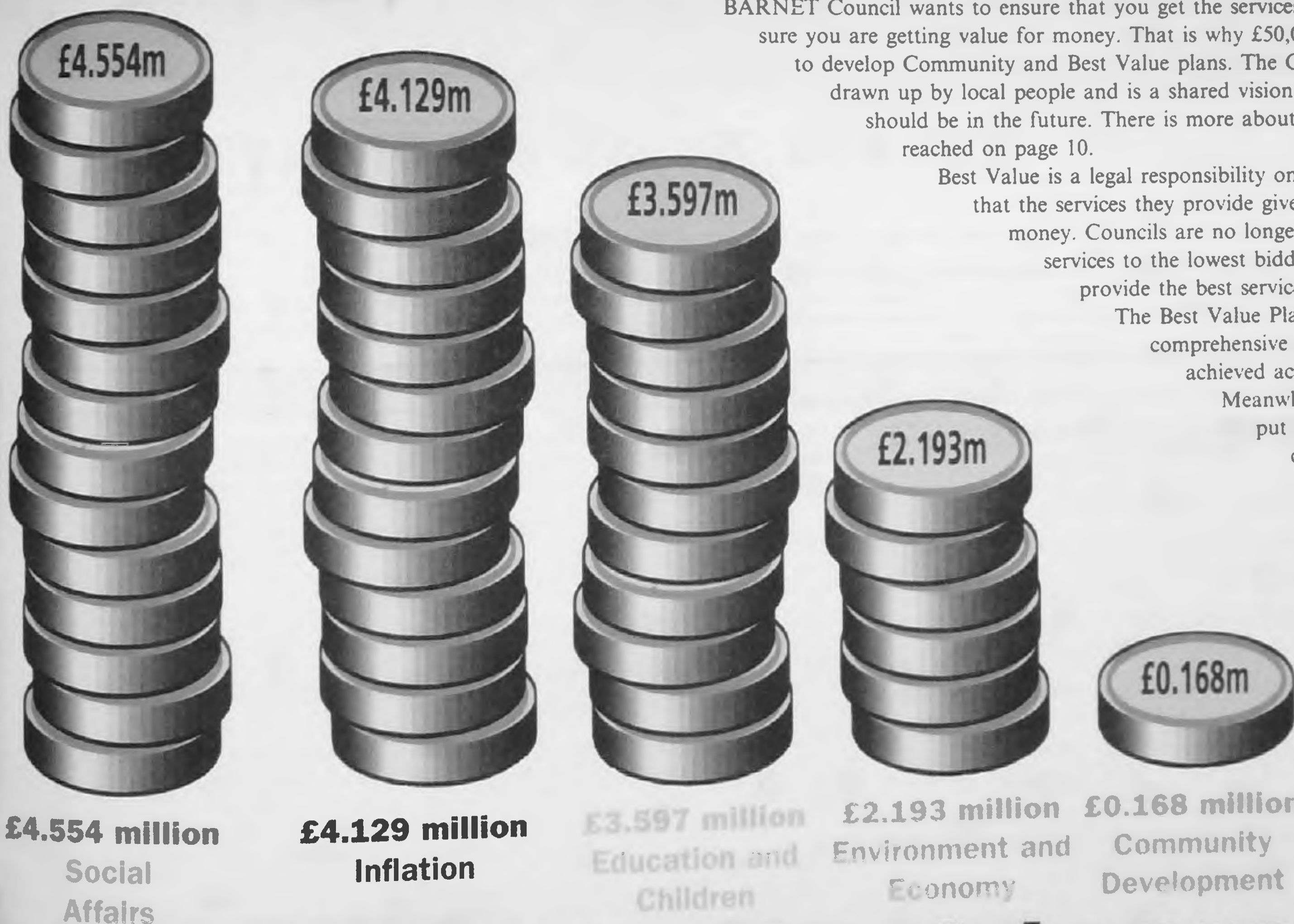
CORPORATE CORE

BARNET Council wants to ensure that you get the services you want and make sure you are getting value for money. That is why £50,000 has been earmarked to develop Community and Best Value plans. The Community Plan is being drawn up by local people and is a shared vision about how the borough should be in the future. There is more about the latest stage this has reached on page 10.

Best Value is a legal responsibility on all councils to ensure that the services they provide give the best value for money. Councils are no longer obliged to contract out services to the lowest bidder. They must be able to provide the best service for the best price.

The Best Value Plan would provide a comprehensive look at how that can be achieved across the council.

Meanwhile, £167,000 would be put into the budget for a new customer care unit to ensure Barnet Council deals more quickly and better with complaints.



Proposed budget increases

BARNET IN SWIM



The Mayor, Councillor Jack Cohen, presented the winners trophy to Barnet on Thursday December 2 for swimming into first place in this year's London Inter-Borough Swimming Championship Finals.

Barnet team captains Katherine Gardner and Daniel Prazer were accompanied by Cophall leisure manager Mike Lockwood and Barnet chief swimming coach Rhys Gormley for the prize giving at The Town Hall, Hendon.

Eight of London's 32 boroughs fought their way into the finals, with participants in five different age groups - 12 and under, 13 to 14 years, 15 to 16 years and 17 and over - taking part.

The inter-borough swimming championships are run by the Guild of London Sport and Recreation Managers and co-ordinated by Cophall leisure manager Mike Lockwood. The finals took place at Cophall Swimming Pools on Saturday 27 November.

Get Fit for Life

TO help tackle coronary heart disease, doctors and nurses are referring over 40 year-olds at risk to Barnet Council and Barnet Health Authority's Fitness for Life programme.

Fitness for Life is a free GP referral scheme aimed at reducing coronary heart disease in smokers, overweight people, people with high blood pressure, diabetics and people with a family history of heart attacks.

All Barnet GPs and practice nurses can refer patients aged between 40 and 74 to the scheme, provided they have one or more coronary heart disease risk factor.

By increasing physical activity, Fitness for Life hopes to demonstrate that exercise can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke. It is also a good way of raising fitness levels and referrals can save up to £200 on assessments and fitness class fees.

Fitness for Life was set up in 1995 with joint funding from Barnet Council and Barnet Health Authority. It is currently running a national research study which aims to improve the effectiveness of exercise referral schemes.

A grant of £350,000 from the Health Technology Assessment Programme has been awarded to assist the study making Fitness for Life the only GP referral scheme in Britain funded by the NHS.

The trial involves ten weeks of regular exercise plus before and after assessments including measurements of strength, stamina and flexibility, a full blood count and questionnaires about the patients' lifestyles.

During the ten weeks, patients can choose from around 50 supervised exercise classes a week taking place in the daytime, evening and early morning at various venues. Activities include guided walks, swimming, aqua aerobics and full use of the gym.

After the ten weeks, referrals report back to their GPs. So far the centre has around 600 patients on board the scheme and a 78 per cent completion rate.

Councillor Susette Palmer, Barnet Council's lead member of Community Development said: "Barnet Council takes very seriously the health and welfare of its citizens and we are delighted that Barnet has been chosen to carry out these trials.

"Fitness for Life is especially aimed at older, more vulnerable members of the community. Already, many people have discovered the wide range of health benefits regular physical activity can provide and now that we have secured extra funding even more people can take part in the scheme."

For further details about Fitness for Life please contact Chris Smith, Health and Fitness Officer at Barnet Cophall Centre on 0181 202 6458.

improving quality of life

Barnet Council

COUNCIL TENANTS WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED

The Government is changing the way that local councils consult and involve residents. **This means that you can have a greater say in the running of your housing services.**

Barnet Council is setting up '**Partnership Panels**' to ensure that the services we provide are what you want - **but we need your support.**

Partnership Panels will discuss:

- the local needs of tenants on an area basis
- improving the standard of the service we provide
- where money is to be spent
- information about estate improvements
- improving the safety of the community and the environment for your family.

This is just the start. There are many more opportunities for you to improve your neighbourhood.

It doesn't matter who you are - we want to hear from you.

We would especially like to hear from those of you who live in Edgware or Barnet.

Want to know more? Contact Yvonne Williams on **0181 359 4821.**

 **BARNET**
LONDON BOROUGH



Cheryl Gallon, tree warden and Gemma Sargant, voluntary officer on the tree warden scheme.

Mayor congratulates tree wardens

GREEN fingered volunteers who successfully completed a training programme to help them care for the Borough's trees, received certificates on Saturday 20 November.

The Mayor, Councillor Jack Cohen, presented the fully-fledged Tree Wardens with their accolades at Avenue House, Finchley after their final training session.

The Tree Warden Training Programme, funded by Barnet Council, provides free training to people interested in learning how to care for trees.

The training, supplied by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, includes eight sessions covering tree biology, tree law and the role of a tree warden. There are also field trips



Barnet Mayor Jack Cohen

to the Forestry Commissions arboretum at Westonbirt and Action Days which are a mixture of training and planting.

The aim of the training is to help anyone interested in caring for trees to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to become a voluntary Tree Warden for Barnet.

Tree Wardens are not experts but learn to undertake practical skills and provide informed reports to the council on various tree issues. They can also take part in practical projects relating to trees in the community.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the future should contact Daryl Denby at The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers on 0171 837 9137.

Barnet Council to run new driver improvement scheme

MOTORISTS caught driving without due care and attention will now have the option of going back to driving school instead of facing court prosecution.

The London Driver Improvement Scheme, officially launched on 19 January, is a new rehabilitation service for careless drivers set up by Metropolitan Police and run by Barnet Council.

The scheme, first piloted in April 1997, will now operate on a permanent basis from five centres in London including Barnet Council's Accident Prevention Centre in Mill Hill.

Barnet Council, operating the scheme on behalf of the Metropolitan Police, beat off competition from the AA and British School of Motoring (BSM) in winning the contract to manage the London Driver Improvement Scheme.

Barnet Council Leader, Alan Williams said: "The London Driver Improvement Scheme is the largest of its kind in Britain and we are proud to be implementing this innovative initiative."

"Barnet Council is constantly striving to remove the causes of crime and this is clearly an effective way of ensuring there are fewer accidents on the roads and more safety-conscious drivers not just in Barnet but throughout the whole of London."



Driving without due care and attention includes offences such as eating or using a mobile phone while driving, falling asleep, failing to give way, driving without lights or any action causing a momentary lapse in concentration.

Previously, drivers automatically faced court prosecution resulting in heavy fines and between three and nine penalty points. Now drivers can choose to undergo a day and a half driving course at one of five training centres in London.

Government research has shown that Driver Improvement Schemes are effective in changing drivers skills and attitudes therefore reducing the risk of having another accident.

The training is carried out by approved driving instructors and involves theory and practical sessions tailored to drivers' individual requirements. The cost of the course is £120. There is no final test but drivers must complete all sections of the course.

Ian Counce, Manager of the Driver Improvement Scheme said: "The course uses a mixture of theory and practical training using the latest training methods. The course is something which even the most confident drivers can gain from."

NEW START FOR THE CENTURY

THOUGHTS on the environment, health, the economy and sustainability in Barnet were voiced at a Local Agenda 21 conference held on 23 January at Woodhouse College, North Finchley.

Local businesses, police, healthworkers, schools, religious groups and residents turned up to the council's New Century, New Start conference, to discuss the future of the borough and help shape the council's new sustainable development strategy to be launched in September.

Councillor Kathy McGuirk, chairing the conference said: "Local Agenda 21 is about protecting and enhancing the environment and ensuring a better quality of life for everyone now and for future generations."

"The conference was a huge

success and an excellent way of finding out people's views on how to improve the quality of life in Barnet by making it more socially and economically sustainable."

The conference included workshops with one reserved specially for young people. There was also a keynote speaker from Forum for the Future.

Local Agenda 21 in Barnet has achieved a number of environmental goals including community gardening and safety projects in Grahame Park, recycling projects for schools, Barnet Environmental Action for Real in Schools (BEARS), plus school and youth events during Environment Week.

For more details about Local Agenda 21 in Barnet, call 0181 359 4664.

New start agreed for Church Farm School

MINISTERS have given the go-ahead for a unique and radical solution to resolve the problems left by the closure of Church Farm Special School last year.

Church Farm will be closed permanently and provision for pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties is to be managed by one of the borough's most outstanding schools, Mill Hill County High.

Following an OFSTED report in the summer of 1998, Barnet Council suspended Church Farm School. The local education authority accepted the report's claim that the school was not providing the high standards expected and delivered in other parts of the borough.

After considering all possible options, the LEA backed the most radical drawing on the skill and expertise already available within the borough.

Now with the full backing of the staff and governors, the highly successful Mill Hill County School is to join forces with the LEA to create a partnership putting the interests of the children first.

The new project brings many advantages, including raising the pupils' self esteem through association with a high achieving school and a high level of support from the teaching staff at Mill Hill.

New Skills, New Job, New Hope Exhibition

OVER 40 employers including London Underground and Metrolink will take part in Barnet Council's The New Skills, New Job, New Hope exhibition on Thursday 10 February.

In partnership with North London Training and Enterprise Council and the

Edgware District Employment Service, the council will be helping the unemployed link up with local employers at the employment and training fair hosted by Middlesex University.

The aim of this special millennium event is to offer the unemployed thousands of jobs

and opportunities to gain skills needed locally, and for employers to access the local labour market.

The New Skills, New Job, New Hope Exhibition is free and will be held at Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon between 10am and 4pm.

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

(at Bank Holidays, surgery times may change. Please ring beforehand to check) (Con = Conservative, Lab = Labour, LibDem = Liberal Democrat)

ARKLEY WARD

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

PAM COLEMAN (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

GEOF COOKE (Lab)

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Fax: 0181-446 8315.
e-mail: cllr.g.cooke@barnet.gov.uk
Surgery: Tuesdays at New Southgate and Friern Barnet Social Club, 31 Oakleigh Road South, New Southgate, London N11, 7-8pm. Also: Saturdays at Labour Party Office, 104 East Barnet Road, New Barnet, EN4 8RE, 10.30am-12noon.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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Work Fax: 0181-450 3232.
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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BURNT OAK WARD

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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ALAN WILLIAMS (Lab)

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (LABOUR GROUP LEADER)
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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

CHILDS HILL WARD

JACK COHEN (LibDem)

MAYOR
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Surgery: 1st Thursday every month at Childs Hill Library, Cricklewood Lane, London NW2, 7-8pm. Also: 2nd Tuesday every month at Kent Hall, Westcroft Way, London NW2, 4-5pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

COLINDALE WARD

DANISH CHOPRA (Lab)

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NATHANIEL RUDOLF (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

EAST BARNET WARD

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

OLWEN EVANS (Con)

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Surgery: 1st Saturday every month at The Community Centre, Victoria Road, New Barnet, 10.30am-12noon.
Also: 3rd Saturday every month at East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Road, East Barnet, EN4 8SG, 10.30am-12noon.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANNE JARVIS (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

PHIL YEOMAN (Lab)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

EDGWARE WARD

MALCOLM LESTER (Con)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JOAN SCANNELL (Con)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

FINCHLEY WARD

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

LESLIE SUSSMAN (Con)

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

FRIERN BARNET WARD

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JAZMIN NAGHAR (Con)

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Surgery: 4th Monday every month at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, London NW11, 7.30-9pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

Dr. PETER SKOLAR (Con)

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e-mail: cllr.dr.p.skolar@barnet.gov.uk
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NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

MELVIN COHEN (Con)

Tel: 0181-343 7382. Work Fax: 0181-445 0979. e-mail: cllr.m.cohen@barnet.gov.uk
Surgery: 2nd Sunday every month at Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Fourth Sunday every month at Hendon Sports Centre, 11.15am-12.15pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ABA DUNNER (Con)

Tel: 0181-455 9960. Work Tel: 0181-731 9025. e-mail: cllr.a.dunner@barnet.gov.uk
Surgery: 2nd Sunday every month at Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Fourth Sunday every month at Hendon Sports Centre, 11.15am-12.15pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

CHRISTOPHER HARRIS (Con)

Tel and fax: 0181-731 8303
e-mail: ringold@london.web.net
Surgery: 2nd Sunday every month at Golders Green Library, 2.15-3.15pm. Fourth Sunday every month at Hendon Sports Centre, 11.15am-12.15pm.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

HADLEY WARD

KATIA DAVID (Con)

Tel: 0181-361 9805
e-mail: cllr.k.david@barnet.gov.uk
Surgery: 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Conservative Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SU, 10.30am-12noon. Tel: 0181-449 7345. Fax: 0181-449 7346.
Also: 4th Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 11.30am-1pm. Tel: 0181-359 4040.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

LIZ MAMMATT (Con)

LEADER OF CONSERVATIVE GROUP
Tel and fax: 0181-361 9720.
e-mail: cllr.l.mammatt@barnet.gov.uk
Surgery: 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Conservative Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SU, 10.30am-12noon. Tel: 0181 449 7345. Fax: 0181-449 7346.
Also: 4th Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 11.30am-1pm. Tel: 0181-359 4040.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

KANTI PATEL (Con)

Tel: 0181-446 6639.
e-mail: cllr.k.patel@barnet.gov.uk
Surgery: 3rd Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Conservative Association, 163 High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SU, 10.30am-12noon. Tel: 0181-449 7345. Fax: 0181-449 7346.
Also: 4th Saturday every month at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet EN5 4QT, 11.30am-1pm. Tel: 0181-359 4040.
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

HALE WARD

STEVEN BLOMER (Lab)

Home Tel: 0181-959 7878.
Work Tel: 0171-465 5348
e-mail: cllr.s.blomer@barnet.gov.uk
Surgery: 1st and 3rd Thursday every month 3.45-4.45pm, 1st and 3rd Saturday every month 1-2.30pm at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX,
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BRIAN GORDON (Con)

Tel: 0181-381 3339 (daytime).
 Fax: 0181-381 3336.
 Mobile: 07931 300679
 Surgery: Last Thursday in every month at Hendon Conservative Association, 2 Apex Parade, Selvage Lane, London, NW7, 8.15-9.15pm. Tel: 0181-381 3339
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

RUTH NYMAN (Lab)

Tel and fax: 0181-906 1418
 e-mail: cllr.r.nyman@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: 1st and 3rd Thursday every month 3.45-4.45pm, 1st and 3rd Saturday every month 1-2.30pm at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX,
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

HENDON WARD**MAUREEN BRAUN (Con)**

Tel and fax: 0181-203 1876.
 e-mail: cllr.m.braun@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANTHONY FINN (Con)

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP

Tel: 0181-202 9689.
 Work Tel: 0171-328 3272.
 Work Fax: 0171-328 2140.
 e-mail: cllr.a.finn@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANDREW SHERLING (Con)

Tel and fax: 0181-202 8630.
 e-mail: cllr.a.sherling@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: 1st Monday every month at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ, 6.45-7.45pm.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

MILL HILL WARD**ROGER AXWORTHY (LibDem)**

Tel: 0181-906 8863.
 Fax: 0181-906 4828
 Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, Mill Hill, London NW7 2HX, 10am-12noon.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

WAYNE CASEY (LibDem)

Tel: 0181-906 8189.
 Fax: 0181-959 6261
 e-mail: w.j.casey@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, London NW7 2HX, 10am-12noon.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JEREMY DAVIES (LibDem)

DEPUTY MAYOR
 Tel and fax: 0181-959 6261.
 e-mail: jeremy.e.davies@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: Saturdays at Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, London NW7 2HX, 10am-12noon.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ST. PAUL'S WARD**KITTY LYONS (Lab)**

Tel: 0181-346 6843
 Fax: 0181-349 9075
 e-mail: cllr.k.lyons@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 38 Church Lane, N2, 11am-12.30pm.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

KATHY McGUIRK (Lab)

Tel: 0181-346 8255
 Work Tel and fax: 0181-883 0411
 e-mail: cllr.k.mcguirk@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 38 Church Lane, N2, 11am-12.30pm
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

JIM TIERNEY (Lab)

Tel: 0181-346 3359.
 e-mail: cllr.j.tierney@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: Saturdays at the Labour Party Office, 38 Church Lane, N2, 11am-12.30pm.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

TOTTERIDGE WARD**BRIAN COLEMAN (Con)**

Tel: 0181-349 2024.
 e-mail: cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk
 Next surgeries are 19 February and April 15, 10.30am-12noon at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ, 0181-445 5288 and 18 March 10.30am-12noon at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12 9HP, 0181-445 4081.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY or contact

163 High Street, Barnet (0181-449 7345)

KEVIN EDSON (Con)

Tel: 0181-446 8343. Next surgeries are 19 February and April 15, 10.30am-12noon at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ, 0181-445 5288 and 18 March 10.30am-12noon at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12 9HP, 0181-445 4081.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY or contact

VICTOR LYON (Con)

Tel: 0181-446 4423.
 e-mail: cllr.v.lyon@barnet.gov.uk
 Next surgeries are 19 February and April 15, 10.30am-12noon at Totteridge Library, 109 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8DZ, 0181-445 5288 and 18 March 10.30am-12noon at North Finchley Library, Ravensdale Avenue, N12 9HP, 0181-445 4081.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY or contact 163 High Street, Barnet (0181-449 7345)

WEST HENDON WARD**ARUN GHOSH (Lab)**

Tel and fax: 0181-202 6541.
 e-mail: cllr.a.ghosh@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: Saturdays at West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh Drive, West Hendon, NW9, 10.30am-12noon.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

AGNES SLOCOMBE (Lab)

Tel: 0181-202 4074
 e-mail: cllr.a.slocombe@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: Saturdays at West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh Drive, West Hendon, NW9, 10.30am-12noon.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

ANSUYA SODHA (Lab)

Tel and fax: 0181-906 1083
 e-mail: cllr.a.sodha@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: Saturdays at West Hendon Community Centre, Marsh Drive, West Hendon, NW9, 10.30am-12noon.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

WOODHOUSE WARD**BEVERLEY PEARCE (Lab)**

Tel: 0181-440 0918.
 e-mail: cllr.b.pearce@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: 1st Saturday every month, South Friern Library, Colney Hatch Lane, N10, 11am-12.30pm and other Saturdays at 1 Friern Park, North Finchley, N12 (portacabin), 11am-12.30pm.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

BARRY RAWLINGS (Lab)

Tel. and fax: 0181-343 7259.
 e-mail: cllr.b.rawlings@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: 1st Saturday every month, South Friern Library, Colney Hatch Lane, N10, 11am-12.30pm and other Saturdays at 1 Friern Park, North Finchley, N12 (portacabin), 11am-12.30pm.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

PAUL ROGERS (Lab)

Tel. and fax: 0181-368 1427.
 Mobile: 07957 376552
 e-mail: cllr.p.rogers@barnet.gov.uk
 Surgery: 1st Saturday every month, South Friern Library, Colney Hatch Lane, N10, 11am-12.30pm and other Saturdays at 1 Friern Park, North Finchley, N12 (portacabin), 11am-12.30pm.
 NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

MEETINGS OF COUNCIL, COMMITTEES etc**7 February 2000 - 18 April 2000****Notes:**

- (a) Normally, meetings will commence at 7pm and will be held at The Town Hall, Hendon unless otherwise arranged.
 (b) Other arrangements operate for Area Forums and Area Sub-Committees. Each Area Forum takes place every two months. To find out details for one near you ring 0181 359 2018.
 (c) Meetings not included will be arranged as and when required.

FEBRUARY 2000

- 7 (Mon) Social Services Scrutiny Commission (Adults & Older People)
 8 (Tues) Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub (The Old Town Hall, Friern Barnet Lane, N11 3DL)
 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub (Avenue House)
 Hendon Area Planning Sub
 9 (Wed) Education & Children Policy Development Committee
 Reserved for Policy Development Committees
 10 (Thurs) Council-In-Committee (then Council)
 15 (Tues) Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub (Barnet House)
 Social Services Scrutiny Commission (Adults & Older People) (Avenue House, N3)
 16 (Wed) Policy and Implementation Committee
 17 (Thurs) Central Services Scrutiny Commission (6.30pm)
 28 (Mon) Central Services Scrutiny Commission
 Social Services Scrutiny Commission (Adults & Older People) (consultative conference, Avenue House, N3)
 29 (Tues) Edgware and Mill Hill Area Forum (Canada Villa Youth Centre, Pursley Road, Mill Hill NW7 at 6.30pm)
 Golders Green Area Forum (St Michael's Church Hall, The Riding, Golders Green Road, NW11 at 6.30pm)
 Whetstone Area Forum (Queenswell Junior School, Sweets Way, Whetstone, N20 0NG at 6.30pm)

MARCH 2000

- 1 (Wed) Policy and Implementation Committee
 6 (Mon) Education & Children Scrutiny Commission
 Social Services Scrutiny Commission (Adults & Older People) (Avenue House, N3)
 7 (Tues) Council Meeting (including Mayoralty nomination and Council Tax setting)
 8 (Wed) Housing Scrutiny Commission Consultative Conference (venue to be announced)
 8 (Wed) Resources Executive Committee
 14 (Tues) Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub (The Old Town Hall, Friern Barnet Lane, N11 3DL)
 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub (Avenue House)
 Hendon Area Planning Sub
 15 (Wed) Scrutiny Commission (Recreation, Leisure & Arts)
 Reserved for Policy Development Committee
 16 (Thurs) Council-In-Committee (then Council)
 21 (Tues) Finchley and Golders Green Area Environment Sub (Avenue House)
 Hendon Area Environment Sub
 22 (Wed) Environment Policy Development Committee
 27 (Mon) Social Services Scrutiny Commission (Adults & Older People)
 28 (Tues) Barnet Area Forum (Underhill Junior School, Mays Lane, Barnet, EN5 2LZ at 6.30pm)
 Finchley Area Forum (Old Barn Community Centre, 20 Fallows Close, Tarling Road, N2 at 6.30pm)
 Hendon Area Forum (Sunnyfields JMI School, Hatchcroft, off Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4 4JH at 6.30pm)
 29 (Wed) Policy and Implementation Committee

APRIL 2000

- 5 (Wed) Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub
 11 (Tues) Chipping Barnet Area Planning Sub (The Old Town Hall, Friern Barnet Lane, N11 3DL)
 Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Sub (Avenue House)
 Hendon Area Planning Sub
 12 (Wed) Reserved for Policy Development Committee
 13 (Thurs) Council-In-Committee (then Council)
 17 (Mon) Reserved for Scrutiny Commission
 18 (Tues) Edgware and Mill Hill Area Forum (Watling Centre, Orange Hill Road, Edgware, at 6.30pm)
 Golders Green Area Forum (Childs Hill School, Dersingham Road, NW2 at 6.30pm)
 Whetstone Area Forum (Barnet College Sports Hall, Barnet College, Russell Lane, N20 at 6.30pm)

Bright start to the Millennium for sick children

BARNET Council's free firework extravaganza held on 2 January has provided a bright start to the New Year for many children suffering from life-threatening illnesses.

Despite the expense of Christmas, residents at Copt-hall's firework display dug deep in their pockets for The Make-a-Wish Foundation which grants wishes for seriously ill children aged three to 18.



Make-A-Wish Foundation UK

Barnet Council has adopted Make-a-Wish as its Millennium Charity and the New Year firework display was the first of many fund-raising events the Council has planned for the Year 2000.

We hope to help grant more wishes than ever during the Millennium Year", said Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Jack Cohen.

"Supporting this worthwhile organisation is a poignant way to mark the millennium and one which will be remembered and treasured by many sick children."

Make-A-Wish works tirelessly to ensure that wishes are fulfilled to the highest excellence. Trained volunteers visit each child to find out their special wish and then, once the wish has been approved, the Organisation ensures it is carried out. Nearly 1600 very special wishes have been granted since it was set up in 1986 with each wish costing an average £2,500.

Other Millennium events in Barnet include: a week-long arts festival; a Midsummer Ball and tree-planting to commemorate every birth in the borough throughout the year.

Make-A-Wish is also looking for volunteers to help in all aspects of the charity's work. To find out more call Make-A-Wish on 0800 389 8025.

MILLENNIUM GRANT AWARDS

A TRIP to the Millennium Dome for the elderly, an 'It's a Knockout' competition for siblings of disabled children and a camping trip for the Guides, are just some of the events which will happen in the Year 2000 thanks to Barnet Council.

Grants of up to £500 each have been handed to 48 residents in Barnet to help with the cost of organising community activities to mark the new Millennium.

The Council last year earmarked £25,000 for the grant scheme and applications for small grants of between £50 and £500 were invited.

In December the cash was handed to community and voluntary groups whose events will improve the quality of life of less advantaged people or leave a lasting memory of the millennium gone by.

Other activities which have received millennium grants

include: street parties, a New Year's Eve party for sheltered housing residents, a community garden for Grahame Park, outings for elderly groups and people on low incomes, a drama evening for the Jewish Refugees Society and new 5-a-side goal posts for Dollis Valley Tenants and Residents.

Councillor Susette Palmer, who chairs Barnet Council's Community Development Policy Committee said: "We

have come to the end of a century and of a thousand years and this makes it a poignant time to celebrate Barnet's different and developing cultures, histories and lifestyles.

"There is no doubt that the millennium gives us the chance for a unique celebration and it is refreshing to see so many people have planned events and activities for the benefit of the others in the community."

Barnet schools Dance Festival 2000

OVER 500 children from nursery, primary, secondary and special schools across the borough will come together for Barnet's tenth annual Dance Festival.

The event, involving 40 schools, will be staged at The Hippodrome in Golders Green on 10, 11 and 12 April. Each school will be under the spotlight for three minutes while they perform dances of Indian, African, Greek, classical and contemporary origin.

Acts will also include music composed, played or sung by the dancers or other children along with hand-made masks, costumes and art work.

Councillor Anne Jarvis, chair of Barnet's Education Committee said: "The festival gives children of all ages the chance to perform to a large audience in a theatre and to see others performing a diverse range of dance work. It also demonstrates the excellent and varied work that is happening in our schools."

For further details about Dance Festival 2000 please call 0181 359 3924.



Children will perform Indian, African, Greek, classical and contemporary dance.

Barnet Festival of Gymnastics

OVER 450 young gymnasts representing around 30 schools and centres in the borough will take part in Barnet's Festival of Gymnastics hosted by Hendon Youth Sports Centre on Sunday 9 April.

The event, involving teams and individuals aged five to 18, is a showcase of Barnet Council's Gymnastics Development Programme as well as an opportunity for youngsters to experience gymnastics in Barnet.

The highlight of the festival will be the Barnet Gymnastics Championships - a floor and vault competition.

Gymnasts based at the centre in Marble Drive, will also perform on a range of apparatus and the Childs Hill Gym Club will stage a choreographed routine, featuring synchronised gymnastics and dance.

Councillor Susette Palmer, chair of the council's Community Development Committee said: "The festival is a fitting display of the excellent work carried out by the teachers and coaches who work towards providing opportunities for young people and raising achievements. It also illustrates the hard work and dedication required to become a competitive gymnast."

The Gymnastics Development Programme is seeking local companies who would like to support the event. Companies interested should contact Barry Martin, Head of Gymnastics at Hendon Youth Sports Centre on 0181 455 0818.

Bookstart for babies

FROM March, every new born baby in the borough will receive free books courtesy of Barnet Council.

Bookstart, a national scheme to encourage parents to share books with their children from a very early age, will be launched next month by Barnet council and Barnet Healthcare.

The Bookstart packs, supplied by Barnet Library service, will be handed out by Health visitors at the seven month development check to around 4,000 babies each year. They include two free board books, a laminated place mat plus information about Bookstart and using books with young babies.

Barnet sings songs for the millennium

CHILDREN from across the borough will have a chance to exercise their voices on 23 March when they perform in Barnet Council's 'Songs for the Millennium' Festival.

Barnet's nursery, primary, secondary and special schools have been invited to share their musical talents at the first ever festival of its kind to be held at The

Edgware School, Green Lane, Edgware.

Children of all ages will perform as groups, soloists, classes and choirs. The songs will be composed by children and teachers and there will be a special song for all of the schools to sing together.

The festival was inspired by the national Voices of

Promise - a millennium songwriting competition sponsored by Marks and Spencer and the New Millennium Experience Company. Martin Junior School, East Finchley, was one of only 11 schools in London chosen to perform in the prestigious concert held in December at the Playhouse Theatre, Charing Cross.

Curriculum Advisor for music, Debbie Goldman who organised Songs for the Millennium said: "After entering the national competition, we wanted to come up with a local festival where children of all ages, from all schools in Barnet, could demonstrate their creative and musical talents in a non-competitive environment."

PAVILION IS NOW STUDIO TO THE STARS

TELEVISION celebrity Denise Van Outen was at Barnet Council's once derelict West Hendon Pavilion before Christmas for the production of a BBC comedy programme.

The building off Goldsmith Avenue, once faced demolition until Barnet Council decided to rent it out two years ago to the Carol Winifred Studios, a small film production company.

Now, thanks to the council's foresight, the studio is beginning to thrive with big name stars appearing at the increasingly popular venue.

Former Big Breakfast star, Denise Van Outen and Ray Burdis, who starred in the 80s comedy *Three Up Two Down* were part of an all-star comedy cast in the BBC's *Operation Good Guys* to be screened shortly.

Ray Burdis, also producer of *The Krays* said: "This is a wonderful facility for Barnet where professionals can come to work and where young people can come to learn about film production. We've had a great

time and would definitely come back to Carol Winifred Studios"

The film studios have been substantially supported in their struggle by Barnet Council which also waived the first ten months rent so the company could adapt the building.

There are now six production offices, dressing room facilities, recording facilities, a car park and canteen. The studios also employ local college students and invite local children and disabled groups into the studios to learn about film-making and try out some of the film equipment.

Councillor Susette Palmer, the council's community development lead member said: "Barnet Council is continually looking for ways of extending community involvement in arts activities and Carol Winifred Film Studios provide an excellent facility for the borough. We hope to be able to continue working with the Studio for the social and economic benefit of the borough.

The studios are managed and owned by film director, Michael Kenwright who said: "We're not



Actor Ray Burdis at the Carol Winifred Studios

out of the woods yet, but with the help of Barnet Council we're getting there! Carol Winifred Film Studios is not just a business venture it is something which the whole of Barnet can

benefit from and we are extremely grateful for the support we have received from the community, especially the young people living near-by the studios who have been an enormous help to us.



Honour for former mayor's escort

THE QUEEN'S New Year's Honours list has this year recognised a number of Barnet residents including local voluntary worker Hukam Chand Chopra.

Mr Chopra, 66 of Margaret Road, New Barnet has received an MBE for his work on behalf of local charities which has included raising almost £28,000 for the North London Deaf Children's Society and 40 years spent working with special needs children for the Inner London Education Authority.

Since retiring, Mr Chopra, father of Councillor Danish Chopra and husband of former Barnet Mayor Councillor Usha Chopra, has also helped a number of voluntary groups based in Barnet.

He said: "You have to have a soft corner in your heart to help other people."

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1 Apr. 7.30pm. Finchley Choral Society. Handel's 'Messiah' with George Vass (conductor), Natalie Clifton-Griffith (soprano), Hyacinth Nicholls (mezzo-soprano), Bjorn Arvidsson (tenor), Simon Neal (baritone) accompanied by The Camerata of London and Richard Harvey (organ). St Jude-on-the-Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11. Tickets £10, £8 conc. Tickets available in advance from 0181 445 9666 or at entry.

Recorded Music Society Meetings East Barnet Library Recorded Music Society, 15 Feb, 'An evening in the country' - Brian Strong; 29 Feb, 'Not just a match' - Ken Nelms; 14 Mar, Ruddom's selection with R & S - David Ruddom; 28 Mar, 'Tenors and other performers' - David Moldon; 11 Apr, 'More of Ray's favourites' - Ray Jones. Meetings at East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Road, East Barnet, EN4 8SG. Details, Hon. Secretary, 0181 361 9050. **Friern Barnet Library Recorded Music Society,** 10 Feb, 'A Baroque feast' - Tony Bralant; 24 Feb, 'A vocal programme' - Marie Smith; 9 Mar, '2000: a musical odyssey' - Richard Bayfield; 23 Mar, 'A personal selection' - Robin Chapman; 6 Apr, 'Return to Arcadia' - Ray Hirst. Meetings at Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DS. Details, Hon. Chairman, 0181 444 7215. **Hendon Library Recorded Music Society,** 15 Feb, 'Choral music from around the world' - Tony Bralant; 29 Feb, 'Musicians in the making' - another of the popular visits by Barnet's A-level students and tutors; 14 Mar, 'More musical images' - Pat Clark; 28 Mar, 'Hope and joy: musical

expressions' - John Spinks. 11 Apr, 'The Music of friends: I' - Liz Hart. Meetings at Hendon Library, The Burroughs, NW4 4BQ. Details, 0181 958 5353/0181 450 8305

DANCE

Dancin'Line classes. Mondays, 8 - 10pm, beginners only, Thursdays 7.30-10pm, intermediate, at Mill Hill County High School, Worcester Crescent, Mill Hill, NW7; Wednesdays 2-3.30pm, beginners at The Parish Church Hall, Rectory Lane, Edgware, Middx.; Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm, general, at Canons Community Centre, Wemborough Road, Stanmore Middx. You don't need a partner just bring yourself, wear comfortable shoes (pref. not trainers). Further details, phone Laurel on 0181 958 4123.

MUSEUMS

Until 13 Feb. Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4. **'Barnet: A Century of Change'** an exhibition of photographs tracing the development of our area, based on the recent book by local authors Percy Rebound and John Heathfield. **Also 4 Mar-21 May, 'England's Cathedrals'**, a celebration of important buildings of the last millennium by local artist and architect Peter Hume. Tel. 0181 203 0130.

19-27 Feb. Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, NW9. **'Evacuees Experience'**, including 1940's style school lesson. Phone 0181 205 2266 for more information on this and other events.

ARTS

Milldon Art Society, Wednesdays, 7.30pm, Harwood Hall, Union Church, Mill Hill Broadway. Details, 0181 346 7481. Monthly lectures: 1 March, Paul Howard 'Fairground Scenes'; 5 Apr, David Jackson 'Crit Evening'. **Poetry Once Every Month Group** meet third Monday of month. Do come along and join to read, discuss, write or just relax and listen. Details, call Irene on 0181 446 7063.

GARDENS

10 Feb, 8pm, **New Barnet Amateur Gardeners' and Floral Art Society.** Mr. Jolyon Lea - 'The Pleasures of Alpines'; also 9 Mar, Mrs Miriam Hammond - 'A Standing Ovation' (floral art); 13 Apr, Mrs Patricia Liechti - 'Gardens to Visit'. Meetings at Lyonsdown Hall, Lyonsdown Rd, New Barnet starting at 8pm. Members £1.50, visitors £2. Also 8 Apr, 2pm, Spring Show at St John's Church Hall, Mowbray Rd, New Barnet. Admission 50p.

WALKS

For further details phone 0181 359 3052/3317. All children attending any activity must be accompanied by an adult. **13 Feb, 2-4pm,** 4km walk around the **Welsh Harp Reservoir** (visiting sites which will benefit from Heritage Lottery Funding) led by Catherine Cairns, Barnet's Countryside Officer and Roy Beddard of the Welsh Harp Conservation Group. Meet in the car park at the top of Woodfield Park, off Cool Oak Lane (approach from West Hendon Bdw).

Buses 32, 83, 142, 183. **12 Mar, 10am-12noon,** join Mel Lloyd, Barnet Council's Leisure Services, on this 5km circular walk to look for the signs of spring in the **Totteridge Valley and Darlands Lake nature reserve.** Meet at Orange Tree Public House, Totteridge Lane, N20 Bus 251. **29 Mar, 10am-1pm,** a ramble from **Hendon to Highgate along the Capital RING,** which was opened a year ago, led by Barnet Council's Leisure Services and the Countryside Management Service. Bring money for bus fares. Meet at Hendon Central Tube Stn, Hendon Way (A41) **15 Apr, 2-4pm. Open Day at Barfield Avenue** Come and discover the secret world of this new nature reserve. Staff from the Countryside Management Service and Barnet Council will be on hand to assist with environmental activities for children. There is very little street parking at the reserve so please come by public transport or on foot. Buses 125, 184, 34 and 251 stop nearby. **16 Apr, 10am-12noon,** join Roy Beddard of the **Welsh Harp Conservation Group** on this 4km circular walk to look for spring migrants (warblers, martins etc) visiting birdwatching hides and other habitats. Meet at Woodfield Park car park off Cool Oak Lane (best approached from West Hendon Bdw). Buses 32, 83, 142, 183.

BARNET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 15 Feb, 6.30pm for 7pm, Members' Evening. Learn how networking can improve your net worth with motivational guru Nigel Risner. £15. All welcome. Contact Jill on 0181 443 4464. **29 Feb, 9.30am-4.30pm,** One day marketing

seminar. These days marketing is the lifeblood of a business. Come along for new ideas and inspiration. All members welcome! Members £149 + VAT, non-members £199 + VAT. Contact Deidre on 0181 443 3833. Both events held at Dumayne House, 1 Fox Lane, Palmers Green, N13. For more details on other events contact Deidre Cavanagh on 0181 343 3833.

25 March, 2-4pm, BARNET BOROUGH CONFEDERATION OF TENANTS' AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS SURGERY at Mill Hill Library. This is a service for London Borough of Barnet Tenant, Resident and Leasehold Associations representatives to bring along issues that have proved difficult to resolve. Perhaps we can mediate on your behalf.

BOOK SALES

8-12 Feb, East Finchley Library, 226 High Road, N2 9BB. Tel. 0181 883 2664; 10-12 Feb, Grahame Park Library, The Concourse, Colindale, NW9 5XL. Tel. 0181 200 0470, 15-18 Feb, East Barnet Library, 85 Brookhill Road, EN4 8SG. Tel. 0181 440 4376, 17-20 Feb, Golders Green Library, 156 Golders Green Road, NW11 8HE. Tel. 0181 359 2060, 9-11 & 13 & 14 Mar, Church End Library, 24 Hendon Lane, N3 1TR. Tel. 0181 346 5711; 16-18 Mar, Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue, NW7 2HX. Tel. 0181 959 5066; 16-18 & 21 March, Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DS. Tel. 0181 368 2680.

WHAT'S ON

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

MILLENNIUM EVENTS

7 Feb-1 Mar, Barnet Schools' Art and Design Event.

Exhibitions and activities. Professional Development Centre. Details, phone Paul King, 0181 359 3918 **10 Feb, 10am-4pm, New skills, New Job, New Hope Exhibition.** New recruitment opportunities for those in need of a job. Employers and training providers offering the unemployed opportunities to work or be trained for locally needed skills. Middlesex University Business School, Main Halls 1 & 2, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BT. Barnet Council in partnership with North London Training and Enterprise Council and Edgware District Employment Service. Details, phone James Miller, 0181 447 9422. **16 Feb, 4.15pm, Keynote Address.** Talk by Professor Tina Bruce on early years issues in education. Professional Development Centre. Details, phone Sally Barnes, 0181 359 3934. **9 Apr, Barnet Festival of Gymnastics.** Includes Barnet Council Gymnastics Championships open to young people in Barnet schools and centres. Hendon Youth Sports Centre. Details, phone Barry Martin 0181 455 0818. **10-12 Apr, Barnet Schools' Dance Festival 2000.** Involving primary, secondary and special schools. Golders Green Hippodrome. Details, phone Anne Fisher 0181 359 3928.

THE BULL

68 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SJ. Tel. 0181 449 0048. For details of other events not listed below, please contact The Bull. **Theatre**
6 Feb. 1-6pm. LAUNCH DAY

FOR THE BULL'S SOUTH EAST

ASIAN ARTS FESTIVAL Starts with a total Tea House experience, a variety of teas, snacks and cakes from South East Asia. Taking part in the Launch will be the Lahing Kayumanggi Dance Co. of traditional Filipino dancers, Syair classical Malaysian poetry, the Festival of the Dragon Moon children's show, folktales, music and martial art forms. £3, £2 conc. **12 Feb, 8pm, Kazuko Hohki,** leader of the pop group Frank Chickens presents 'Toothless' a comic elegy to her mother Yukiko, who was a popular priestess/entertainer in modern Japan. She uses video, computer animation, songs, wind-up toys and stick puppets in a witty and poignant examination of her relationship with her mother, her country, life and death. £8, £6 conc. **3 Mar, 7.30pm, The Chinese Cultural Centre presents The Quanzhou Puppet Theatre Troupe in 'Fire Dragon 2000'.** This double bill features an appearance from **China's Quanzhou Marionette Theatre** offering a sophisticated and highly skilled form of puppetry. Celebrating the three major annual Chinese Festivals - The Dragon Boat, the Autumn Moon and the Chinese New Year. Programme of traditional dance, music, puppets and storytelling will also feature the **Chinese Cultural Centre's Young Chinese Artists in Residence** as well as exotic, colourful costumes, moon cake, dumplings and incense. £7, £5 conc. Family ticket for 5 £25. **25 Mar 8pm, Yellow Earth Theatre** present **'No Man', performed by Tom Wu** (winner of the Asian Film Academy's Best

Actor Award and British Martial Arts Gold Medal Winner) in a chilling piece of theatre that retells the ancient story of the Samurai using storytelling, martial arts and swordsmanship and **'Face' is performed by Veronica Needa,** who tells stories from a Hong Kong Eurasian family. £8, £6 conc. **14 Apr, 8pm, Continuum Arts present 'Hungry For It'** based on Hi Ching's award winning short story Violin Practice and performed by Peter Sakon-Lee. Huang is the wrong person to be growing up in a straightforward Taiwanese family marooned in Britain. (Contains strong language and material). £8, £6 conc. **Comedy**
Ha Bloody Ha Comedy: 18 Mar, 8pm, 'Junior Simpson plus support'; **1 Apr, 8pm, Steve Best, Mark Hurst and Paul Tonkinson.** £8, £6 conc. **Music**
20 Feb, 8pm, Joji Hirota & Peter Lockett 'Taiko to Tabla' A unique fusion of percussion traditions from all over the world featuring an awesome array of drums, cymbals, gongs, bells and customised sound effects with over 40 drums onstage. £9, £7 conc. **5 Mar, 8pm, James Reyne** the Australian singer/songwriter playing songs from his latest platinum-selling CD Design for Living and other material. £9, £7 conc. **11 Mar, 8pm, Strings of India 'Chandru'** accompanied by an Indo-western percussion ensemble from India and an Indian classical flautist and guitarist. £9, £7 conc. **24 Mar 8pm, Waxing Music Group 'Appropriation'**. Waxing (5 elements) the contemporary British Chinese improvisatory group perform on traditional Chinese musical instruments and include classical Chinese poetry and contemporary Chinese dance. £8, £6 conc. **5 Apr, 8pm, Byron Wallen 'Gayan'**, Indonesian Gamelan music, blended with traditional Ugandan sounds and jazz rhythms tracing the origins of music from its roots in SE Asia as far as the Americas, the Middle East and Africa bringing together an array of percussion instruments. £10, £8 conc. **7 Apr, 8pm, Frank Chickens.** Japanese kitsch performance pop phenomenon that mingles fantasy and social observation. £8, £6 conc. **Dance**
17 Feb, 8pm, Sankalpam present 'ULAA & Tat' re-defining the Bharata Natyam technique of Abhinaya, offering a new entry point into classical Indian dance. £8, £6 conc. **8 Apr, 8pm, Lahing Kayumanggi Dance Co.,** traditional troupe of Filipino dancers perform their colourful and lively traditional dances, drawn from their diverse heritage of Spanish and local cultures. £8, £6 conc. **LITTLE BULL**
(All shows £3.50 in advance, £4

The Quanzhou Puppet Theatre Troupe in 'Fire Dragon 2000'

on the day, unless otherwise stated. For other shows not listed below contact The Bull for details)

6 Feb, 3pm, Professor Popup's Puppet Theatre 'Festival of the Dragon Moon'. A colourful and delightful new show to celebrate the Chinese New Year, using traditional Chinese Palm Puppets and a travelling Pagoda Theatre with authentic Chinese music. Ages 4+. (Admission also includes entry into the Chinese Tea House and launch activities of the South East Asian Festival). Plus **Chinese Dragon**

Workshop, 4.30-5.30pm A chance to make your very own Chinese Dragon to take home. Admission £3. **27 Feb, 2-4pm, Chinese Kite-making Workshop** led by Qinian Wang of the Beijing Children's Palace in China, children create, make and take home their own Chinese kite. Ages 5-9. £5. **27 Feb, 3-5pm, Chinese Puppet Workshop** led by Quanzhou Puppet Troupe of China, children get the chance to see how puppets work, how they are made and operate the puppets themselves! Ages 5-9. £5.

Half Term 22-25 Feb, 12pm & 3pm, Pop-Up Theatre presents 'Breaking the Ice'. Set in a beautiful icy landscape with a hot and rhythmic Cuban soundtrack, a young girl ventures on a journey meeting the sun and moon and thunder and lightning. Ages 3-8.

Gallery 14 Mar-25 Apr. A co-commission with the Chinese Arts Centre in Manchester, **Suki Chan's installation 'Shadow-Time'** uses habitual objects such as dyed rice and chicken bones that are staged to create a poetic imagery. A shadow is cast by a gently swinging light source.

Foyer 3 Feb-5 Mar, Nana vol.1: Time Originally a theatre designer, **Nanako Kume's perspex montages** combine recreated photographs and silk screen to capture the drama and events happening in the various streets of Tokyo and multinational, multicultural London. **9 Mar-6 Apr, Dinu Li's photographs of the Long Horn Miao in Southern China** - a tribe which has remained isolated from other civilisations. Their lifestyle remains very much as it was when the first settlers arrived.

THEATRE

24-26 Feb, 2.30pm & 7.30pm, Harlequin Theatre Panto, 'Hickory Dickory Dock', tickets £5, £2.50 children and pensioners. Box office, phone 0181 959 2344.

MUSIC

12 Feb, 1-4pm, Edgware Symphony Orchestra playing at the Broadwalk, Edgware; **12 Feb, 7.45pm, Chamber Music Concert by The Aylwin String Ensemble** (members of the BBC Symphony Orchestra) in St



Brouhaha present 'Witch Hunt', at the Bull, High Street Barnet on 10 March, 8pm Black witches converted to white with endless cups of tea. Brouhaha uses pure visual comedy to explore themes covering the hidden side of human existence. £8, £6 conc.

Andrew's Church, Totteridge in aid of the North London Hospice. Programme includes Dvorak: String Sextet, Beethoven: String Quintet, Borodin: String Sextet. Tickets £8 from 0181 445 2934/0181 445 4948 or at the door. **12 Feb, 7.45pm, Finchley Chamber Choir 'In Celebration of Rossini's 50th Birthday'**. Programme: Rossini, O salutaris Hostia, Petite Messe Solennelle. Trinity Church, Nether St, N Finchley, N12. Admission, £7.50, £5 conc. **26 Feb, 7.45pm, Hendon Music Society** present the **Vellinger String Quartet**. Programme includes Beethoven's Quartet Op 59 No 3 'Rasumovsky' preceded by quartets by Haydn and Mendelssohn. **Also 25 Mar, Peter Frankl (piano)** Programme includes Schubert's Sonata in B minor D575, Schumann's Sonata in G minor Op 22 and other works by the same composers. Tickets £9.50 (children free, senior citizens /students/UB40s £7.50).

(Facilities for the disabled and hard of hearing). Apply with cheque and s.a.e. to Hendon Music Society, 3 Southfields, Hendon, NW4 4LX.

4 Mar, 7.30pm, Barnet Choral Society Elgar 'Dream of Gerontius' performed by Roehampton Institute London Choir, Harrow Young Musicians Choir, Hyacinth Nicholls (mezzo soprano), Phillip Bell (tenor), Jonathan Gunthorpe (baritone), Amici Chamber Orchestra. Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban, St Albans. Tickets £15, £12 (reserved); £10, £5 (unreserved). Details, 0181 441 1443, box office 0181 449 6809. **11 Mar, 7.45pm, Finchley Chamber Orchestra.** Programme: Tchaikovsky 'Romeo and Juliet Overture', Rachmaninov 'Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini' (Simon Mulligan); Rimsky-Korsakov 'Scheherazade' Trinity Church, Nether St, N Finchley, N12. Admission £7.50, £5 conc.

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The Quanzhou Puppet Theatre Troupe in 'Fire Dragon 2000'



"Living like Victor" - contact The Bull 0181-449 0048 for details