

**YOUR FREE NEWSPAPER
PRINTED AT NO COST
TO BARNET COUNCIL**

ISSUE No. 2 April 1995

TIGHT CONTROLS CUT TOWN HALL COSTS



*Education Day in Barnet
Friday 31 March*

IN CLASS OF THEIR OWN

Over 90 of the 106 schools in Barnet opened their doors to the whole community in a celebration of education in Barnet. These children at Woodcroft Junior School, Goldbeaters Grove, Edgware, were among the thousands who welcomed and entertained local residents, parents, governors and councillors. More pictures pages 8 and 9.

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OUR MESSAGE TO EUROPE



President of the European Parliament Klaus Hänsch saw at first hand the deprivation blighting many parts of Barnet on his first whistle-stop tour of the borough.

The President visited the borough at the invitation of London North Euro MP Pauline Green and was given a behind the scenes briefing with her on the real problems facing Barnet by Council Leader Alan Williams, Deputy Leader Joan Ryan and Mayor Ellis Hillman.

The visit came just weeks after the government turned down

Barnet's bid for much-needed regeneration funds for deprived areas of the borough.

Klaus Hänsch heard how your council was mobilising the whole community in a partnership bid to bring new hope and long-term prosperity to deprived areas of Cricklewood and West Hendon.

Pictured during the visit are (left to right) Pauline Green, Klaus Hänsch, Mayor of Barnet Councillor Ellis Hillman, Deputy Leader of the Council Joan Ryan and Leader of the Council Alan Williams.

More of Barnet's available money is being invested in services following a continuing round of tight management measures and scrutiny of all spending.

"Our approach to making every pound count has meant that with councils up and down the country struggling under the impact of government spending cuts, Barnet Council has been able to invest millions more in vital services while holding down the borough's Council Tax bills.

"We have attacked bureaucracy, made massive savings and invested money in the services the people of this borough need and want," says Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council.

Despite cuts in government spending limits of over

Front-line services benefit from economy & efficiency

£11m compared with last year, there is now more money than ever before for education, social services and targeted front-line services which affect every family and individual in the borough.

"We have produced a budget which takes account of real needs - which is a fair deal for the whole community and which ensures every resident is getting maximum value for money," said Councillor Williams.

The council is spending £120m on education this year - increasing the money local schools can spend by eight per cent to £61.5m from last year's £57m.

There will be four new nurseries for toddlers and despite government cuts Barnet is meeting the teachers' pay award in full.

This will cost the Council £145,000 more than was originally budgeted for.

The Council has agreed cash grants of nearly £2m to the voluntary sector this year with support for over 70 organisations.

Council house rents increases have been held down to 2.7 per cent with improved services for all tenants and a drive to cut down on bed and breakfast accommodation and provide permanent homes for the homeless is expected to save over £300,000 this year.

Nearly £1m has been set aside to support town centre regeneration.

Social Services gets an extra £6.7m taking overall spending to nearly £57m. Charges have been reduced for those in need, new services have been introduced and existing ones improved.



Over 2,000 children and adults flocked to the Dennis Bland Environmental Education Centre in Byng Road, New Barnet, for an Open Day this month and took part in 26 activities at the centre from balloon races to nature walks, orienteering to jumping around on a bouncy castle.

COMMUNITY NEWS CONTACTS

**Barnet Council, The Town Hall,
The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BG**

Editor George A. Bennett

Graphic Designer David Malcolm

Business Manager Adrienne Davis

Editorial Co-ordinator Susan Segar

Please telephone the 24-hour hotline number **0181-203 8356** with any comments or suggestions you have about Community News or if you have a problem with its delivery.

Please leave your name and a contact telephone number with your message.

Advertising Catherine Kaplan 0171 433 6250

Project Co-ordinator Helen Bull 0171 433 6247
Jo Revitt 0171 433 6206

Production Jane Gibbons 0171 433 6211
Daniel Gee 0171-433 6217

LISTENING AND LEARNING

Residents line up to join forums

Residents throughout the borough have come forward to play their part on the council's new Service Consultation Fora - groups of individuals who will work with councillors to make sure decisions meet the ever-changing needs of the community.

Since launched in Community News in February, over 100 residents have put their names forward to fill 22 vacancies. Council officers are currently sifting through these nominations which will be considered at forth-

coming council committee meetings.

There is already an Environmental Forum. Groups to discuss education, community care, council tenant and leaseholder services and road safety are about to begin their work.

The new groups being set up later this year include

- Planning and Building Control;

- Traffic, Highways, Street Cleansing, Drainage, Refuse Collection and Street Lighting;

- Libraries, the Arts,

Museums, Recreation, Countryside and Amenities; ■ Services for Children and Families.

Work has already started on identifying a wide range of topics of interest to the whole community for discussion at these meetings.

The council is arranging for a carers allowance to be paid for any resident appointed to a Forum who otherwise would be prevented by family circumstances from playing a full part in the meeting.

For hearing impaired

people attending the meeting, there will be 'induction' loop facilities and sign language interpreting available.

For those who are visually impaired, documents for the meetings can be produced in large print or braille. There are also facilities for wheelchair users and those who need an interpreter.

As part of your council's commitment to open local government, all committee meetings are open to residents.

H A V E Y O U R S A Y

These are just some of the ways your council is encouraging the whole community to play a part in its decision-making processes as we build a better Barnet.

- Question time at committees
- Petitions - where residents can put their views in writing to our committees
- Deputations - where

residents can speak to committees or a council meeting about a particular issue

- Public consultation groups which are being set up for each of our main service areas

- Public meetings, surveys

and questionnaires on particular issues affecting you.

Come along to our council, committee, sub-committee and panel meetings to listen to the discussion and hear the decisions made. The dates

of these meetings are available at The Information Centre, The Town Hall, Hendon and your local libraries as well as in your Community News. The dates of our council meetings are also advertised on public notice boards

throughout the borough by main road junctions, park entrances and close to civic buildings.

Everyone living in Barnet may ask the Chair of any of our committees a question at the beginning of every committee meeting.

Any business in Barnet can also ask a question.

If you wish to ask the Chair a question, send your question to the Chief Executive by 10am seven clear working days before the meeting.

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NEW £1.5M YOUTH SPORTS CENTRE



A brand new £1.5 million council-run sports centre, aimed at nine to 21-year-olds but offering activities for all ages, will open at Brent Cross on 15 May. It replaces Hendon Youth Sports Centre housed in a former Territorial Army drill hall in Algernon Road. The purpose-built, international standard facility will offer everything that has been available at the old site - plus much, much more.

It's bigger, better and brighter, offering leisure exercise, training and tuition opportunities that are second

to none. That is how the council's Youth Service feels about its Youth Sports Centre, purpose built in Marple Drive, Brent Cross, next door to Tesco's supermarket and close to Whitefield School and Brent Cross Shopping Centre.

Because it's much larger than the old one, your new sports centre will have more staff, more specialist instructors and more modern equipment, giving you a better service than ever before.

Whatever your indoor exercise or sporting interest, the chances are the magnificent new centre will be able to offer something for the whole community.

The international standard facilities cater for nearly all physical activity tastes and include:

- A 42m by 18m multi-activity sports hall, featuring five badminton courts.
- A similar sized hall housing a specialist gymnastics facility fitted with the most modern, brand new apparatus.
- Fitness suite equipped with both cardio-vascular and resistance machines offering more health-

orientated programmes.

■ Weight training room fully equipped with loose weights and machines for those wanting to 'pump iron'.

■ Rock climbing room with a 'soft' landing area to enable enthusiasts to practice in safety. Three of the walls are hand-sculptured rock faces of varying degrees of difficulty - easy enough for novices and tough enough for experienced specialists.

■ General purpose room for various activities. It has a kitchen attached and can be hired for meetings or functions.

Other facilities include a first-aid room doubling as a drug testing facility and spectator accommodation.

Wheelchair access

There is full wheelchair access for participants and spectators alike. Disabled parking spaces are provided in the car park and there is a lift for those with disabilities to the first floor facilities.

A sunken trampoline has been installed for young children and for ease of access.

There are three ways of enjoying the centre's

marvellous facilities through:

■ casual bookings such as for a badminton court, weight training room, fitness suite or the rock climbing room

■ group bookings

■ signing up for expert tuition.

Community Support

The building of your new sports centre has been financed by the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, the Milly Apthorp Charitable Trust and through a partnership between your council and Tesco whose new superstore is on the same site near Whitefield School at Brent Cross.

This new facility is different from most local authority-run sports centres in that it is run by the Youth Service basically for young people. The aim is to provide talented youngsters with top class coaching in their chosen discipline. That means four or five sessions a week - subsidised by the income from adult users.

Your new sports facility will also save the council money. Instead of building a second gymnasium at Whitefield School next door, arrangements have been made for pupils to receive their physical education lessons at the centre.

Available to all

While primarily aimed at young people aged between nine and 21, anyone from very small children to our older residents will be encouraged to make full use of the excellent facilities.

A broad range of activities will be available to all, from parent and toddler gymnastics to fitness workouts for older people.

This is a centre for exercise-minded people where only the best facilities will do.

It is another 'first' from your council responding to the needs of the whole community.

For further details about what the new Hendon Youth Sports Centre can do for you, call our Algernon Road site on 0181-455 0818.

RECREATION FOR WHOLE COMMUNITY



CENTRE THAT PRODUCED LOCAL CHAMPIONS

The Hendon Youth Sports Centre in Algernon Road has become nationally known for producing top class gymnasts.

Over the past 30 years it has evolved into a specialist gymnastic centre incorporating a wide ranging community programme for young people.

This was due largely to the influence of the then manager, Evan Tuck, one of Britain's great gymnastics coaches. His enthusiasm, dedication and entrepreneurial flair was followed by a successor manager, Tim Smithers, who, while firmly supporting the specialist gymnastic sections, developed the community activities.

The roll of honour of former and current centre users includes:

1975 British champion Tommy Wilson, who represented Britain in the 1976 and 1980 Olympics and four World Championships; Eddie van Hoof who was in the British team at the World Students Games in 1977 and 1979, and the World and

European Championships three times each; Martin Ellis, 1978 British Junior Champion, winning all seven gold medals; Martin Ling, current centre manager, who was a senior British international for seven years to 1984 and British vault champion in 1983 and 1984.

Martin Ling also coached tumbler Philippa Musikant, British champion five times, who won 20 medals at World and European championships and is now a coach at the centre, training elite gymnasts including a tumbler whom she hopes will follow in her footsteps, and visiting schools in the borough to help and encourage gymnastic talent.



WHAT'S ON

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

EXHIBITION 'THE HOME FRONT'. DAILY LIFE IN BARNET 1939-45.

3 May - 3 September
Church Farmhouse Museum, Greyhound Hill, Hendon, NW4.
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25 April - 10 September
Art exhibition of sketches by Ley Kenyon drawn as a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft III.

4 May - 4 June
Exhibition by the Anne Frank Trust to mark the 50th anniversary of Anne Frank's death.

8 May 1995
The museum will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of VE Day with free admission on this day.
28 - 29 May
Come and meet the crews of the Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service and see special demonstrations of the Emergency Services in action.

LOCAL UNITED NATIONS 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

24 - 29 April
United Nations 50th Anniversary Exhibition at Hendon Library, The

Burroughs, NW4
25 April, 2pm
Ceremony and raising of the United Nations flag over The Town Hall, Hendon by the Mayor.

7 May, 2 - 6pm
Church End Festival. Avenue House Grounds, East End Road, Finchley, N3

13 May, 10am - 1pm
Guide Dogs for the Blind Association Grand May Fayre. Church House, Wood Street, Barnet. Admission 20p.

13 May, 10am - 6pm
Family Holiday Association Fete. Central Square, NW11

16 - 20 May, 7.30pm
Manor House Hospital Operatic Society presents Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Ruddigore'. Box Office, 0181-958 4545

20 May, 2 - 4pm
Japanese Children's Day ('Kodomo no Hi') celebration at East Finchley Library, 226 High Road, N2.

29 May
Barnet Carnival. Byng Road Playing Fields

24 June
East Finchley Community Festival. Cherry Tree Woods, parade 11.30am, starts 12noon.
Children's Art Competition for Friern Barnet Summer Show. Young artists (under 18 yrs) invited to enter

pictures (closing date 31 May) on the theme - The Farm, also school trophy. Details Betty Hiteshi, 0181-346 2276

18 June, 10am-12noon
Stroll around Hadley and trace its history. Meet Bakers Hill car park, bottom of Bakers Hill, Hadley

10 May, 8pm
Hendon Horticultural Society. Mrs E Kirby will give a talk and demonstration on 'Heathers and how to grow them'. St Mary's Church House, Greyhound Hill, Church End, NW4.

27 April, 6 - 9pm
Barnet Mental Health Services Review Consultation Meeting. This is a meeting for black and minority ethnic communities to come and voice their opinions. Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3. For further information 0181-346 9723

18 May & 15 June, 7.30pm
Barnet Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Association Meeting. Cheshir Hall, Foster Street, NW4.

28 May, 2pm - 8pm
Barnet Racial Equality Council and Community Groups in the Borough of Barnet organising a Multi Cultural Festival for all the family. Moss Hall School, Nether Street, Finchley, N12. Information 0181-445 6051

28 May, 2pm - 8pm
Barnet Racial Equality Council and Community Groups in the Borough of Barnet organising a Multi Cultural Festival for all the family. Moss Hall School, Nether Street, Finchley, N12. Information 0181-445 6051

11 June, 2.30-4pm
A walk in Coppetts Wood. Meet carpark, junction of Friern Barnet Lane and Friern Barnet Road, N11

Your Council at Work

A full list of council meetings is on page 13. All meetings are open to residents.

This is your newspaper and we want to promote community activities. Please send us details of your forthcoming events.

Barnet Chamber of Commerce - Forthcoming Events

26 April, North London Chamber of Commerce, Seminar "Developing a Winning Team".

1 May, 6pm for 6.30pm
Barnet Network Meeting "Property Matters" - A talk by Terry Northwood.

3 May
North London Chamber of Commerce, Seminar on Construction, Design and Management Regulations, 1994.

Meet the Buyers launch.
24 May, 9.30am - 5pm
North London Chamber of Commerce, Seminar "Employment Law".

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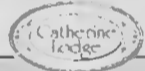
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Cricklewood & Grahame Park

RESIDENTS ASKED ABOUT AMBITIOUS 'NEW HOPE' PLANS

Your council has called on the whole communities in Cricklewood and Grahame Park to have their say on ambitious plans to breathe new life into the areas.

Last year the council and its partners made an unsuccessful bid for much-needed regeneration cash from the government. Despite this set-back, the council, the business partners, the community and voluntary organisations are forging ahead with ambitious plans to transform the fortunes of Grahame Park and Cricklewood.

Meetings were held in Grahame Park and Cricklewood when all members of the local community were invited to

hear at first hand what these partnership plans have to offer local residents and tell the council and the partners what they think.

Those attending the meetings heard how a united approach to regeneration will create a thriving local economy leading to more jobs, vibrant shopping centres and more affordable housing for all.

Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of the Council set out the way ahead following the rejection of the borough's bid for cash under the government's regeneration budget scheme.

The council and its partners will continue to work on projects for which new cash has been found to



Councillor Alan Williams

carry on the work and will seek the views of the whole community on the priorities and options for transforming the local economy.

COMMEMORATING PEACE

THROUGHOUT the borough this summer there will be events marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe.

The council wants to hear from organisers of parades and street parties with details of their plans as we need to ensure that access is maintained for emergency services.

We need to know the date, time, the name of the roads/streets involved and the name, address and phone

number of the organiser. Please contact Barnet Council's Traffic and Transportation section at Barnet House, 1225 High Road, N20 or phone 0181-446 8511 immediately.

The main borough-wide event is on Sunday, 9 July, when thousands will take part in a march from The Burroughs, Hendon, down Watford Way to a multi-denominational VE Day commemoration service in Hendon Park, Queen's Road.

Do you have any wartime memorabilia - a ration book, for example, or photographs of family and friends taken in the 1940s?

Church Farmhouse Museum in Greyhound Hill, Hendon, is looking for wartime objects which residents would be prepared to lend the museum for its exhibition running from 29 April to 3 September to mark the 50th anniversary of VE Day. If you have, the curator would like to hear from you on 0181-203 0130.

STOP HEARTLESS EVICTIONS PLEA

Angry Barnet councillors are seeking urgent government action to prevent some elderly residents in the borough being 'heartlessly' evicted from their homes.

The council is leading a chorus for change in calling for Westminster to amend the current position, which can mean hardship for elderly residents who have lived in residential care homes since before April 1993 and who have preserved rights to the higher level of income support.

It also means Barnet's hands are effectively tied when it comes to helping residents avoid often distressing evictions because government rules stop the council topping up income support to meet increased costs of residential care.

"The current situation is causing considerable suffering to local residents.

Councillors lead chorus for change

People exhaust their savings or fees increase beyond the higher level of income support and they find themselves threatened with eviction.

"In one case a person of 90, who has lived in a residential care home for five years, has been threatened with eviction and separation from her sister aged 94," said Councillor David Williams, Chair of the Social Services Committee.

Barnet is joining Age Concern and other action groups in focusing attention on the plight of older people with preserved rights to income support for residential and nursing care.

In a letter written to the Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley, the council demanded either a change in the regulations, giving

local authorities the resources and power to top up payments, or in the income support regulations so that the issue of local authority assistance need not arise.

Although many elderly people are facing the threat of eviction, Barnet has pulled out all the stops working within the limits of government legislation to ease the problem.

The council is also at the forefront of a campaign to counter the knock-on effect of making hospital discharge difficult in some cases.


Barnet will continue to work hard to ensure that elderly people never have to suffer the hardship and indignity that these evictions bring, added Councillor Williams.



ON THE ROAD

Former Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Victor Lyon, hands over the keys to a specially adapted ambulance for residents of the Marie Foster Home for Multiple Sclerosis sufferers in Barnet.

Money raised during his year of office (1993-94) helped to buy the ambulance and the remaining balance was donated to the home to help build a new physiotherapy centre.




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QUALITY CARE FOR OUR OLDER PEOPLE



An Asian surprise... Anila Sanganee, left, and Vanita Khimji show some traditional Asian culinary skills in preparing a delicious vegetarian meal.



The Rosa Freedman Centre

Residential care in Barnet offers older people a chance to enhance their quality of life by providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment.

The Rosa Freedman Centre in Claremont Way, Cricklewood, is one of 11 council-run residential care homes for elderly people offering both a high level of care and the greatest possible degree of independence.

Unusually, the centre is a multi-purpose complex - not only a residential care home but a day centre and a sheltered housing scheme.

The centre operates a keyworker system which means residents have a named worker to support and advise them on planning daily living requirements.

Any complaints or worries can be taken up with the keyworker, duty officer or written on a form which the management will deal with inside ten days. The centre also holds monthly meetings for residents to discuss issues, coming events and activities.

New arrivals at Rosa Freedman have a four-week trial period in which to make up their minds on whether the course is right for them. "At the end of the four weeks a meeting is held to invite relevant members of the resident's family, his or her keyworker, social worker or doctor, to talk about how the person is settling in," said Karen Fereday, centre manager.

"There are no structured routines to follow at the centre. Residents choose what time they get up and go

Flexible regime at centre

to bed, with breakfast and tea usually flexible and arranged with duty staff," added Karen.

When residents arrive their personal care needs are assessed. The keyworker makes a care plan which includes details of individual needs. If the person cannot manage to wash or dress him or herself the staff will help, while aiming to maintain their independence as much as possible.

The centre comprises 18 rooms in two units with one on the ground floor, accommodating up to ten people, and another of similar size on the first floor. There is access for people in wheelchairs, a lift within the residential unit, and two others elsewhere in the building. The units are small and homely with a kitchen/diner unit, two small lounges and plenty of bathrooms and toilets.



LIGHTNING RESPONSE BY COUNCIL STAFF

Council staff sped to the aid of distressed and frightened residents of a Mill Hill sheltered housing block after lightning struck a nearby tree shattering windows and smashing door locks.

A few residents at Moreton Close, Milesplit Hill, sustained minor injuries and many more suffered from shock.

Glaziers, carpenters and electricians worked round the clock to repair damage to 12 flats and to ensure the occupants did not have to leave their homes. Thoughtful staff also ensured that no-one went hungry by buying fish and chips for all the residents.

Our picture shows Jason Watson exchanging a word with sheltered housing warden Gwen Taylor while repairing a window frame.

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STILL TOGETHER 60 YEARS ON

After years of service to others as Baptist missionaries in China in the thirties, George and May Folkard celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 29 March being looked after by your caring council.

In fact, it was almost a double celebration at the council's residential care setting for older people at Meadowside, Holden Road, North Finchley, because it was George's 90th birthday 12 days later.

The couple have been residents in the borough since 1938, settling in Friern Barnet, after fleeing China because of that country's war with Japan.

George and May met at a Bible class. They were married in China - in the chapel of Cheloo University. "I shall never forget our wedding," said George. "It was one of the most wonderful moments of my life."

Because he was not trained for the Ministry, George moved into secular life, joining ICI in Birmingham. Later, he became a business consultant. May worked for Standard Telephones.

They have two children, a bachelor son, Richard, who lives in Bournemouth

and a daughter, Margery, who emigrated to Arizona.

Poor health confines George to a wheelchair. "But mentally he is as bright as a cricket," say Meadowside staff. May is sufficiently agile to wheel her husband around premises.

"We have had a very happy life with each other and we count our blessings that we are still together," declared May.

She was a member of the WVS for 20 years, serving in many capacities in hospitals and meals-on-wheels. George still takes a keen interest in his hobby of photography.

Mayor of Barnet Councillor Ellis Hillman

visited George and May to congratulate them on their 60 years of married life.

Meadowside has offered residential care to elderly people of the borough for 26 years. It has 52 beds in four units, 16 for permanent residents and the rest for respite care.

During the past years extensive work has been undertaken to improve the accommodation.

This is in line with the council's commitment to de-institutionalising services provided for older residents. It is pledged to meeting home life and registration standards and providing a consistently high level of service within its settings. ■

CENTRES — FACTS & FIGURES

- The council runs 15 residential and day care centres for older people.
- There are 385 residential places and 287 day care places.
- Four centres are residential only, seven offer a combination of both residential and day care and four are day care only, five days a week.
- Two settings, Rosa Freedman Centre and Etchingham Park, provide day care for Asian elders.
- Four settings offer a special service to people with dementia.
- Merrivale provides a special service for 21 older people with functional mental illness.

MAKING EVERY POUND COUNT

Over 100 representatives of local voluntary organisations who receive grants of £2,000 or more from Barnet packed a 'partnership' meeting with Councillor Richard Soer, Chair of the Grants Committee this month.

"We were determined we should get grass-roots reactions from the voluntary organisations we fund in an open forum. We are planning to work closer with the voluntary sector and to swap ideas

and deal with any problems they may be having," he said.

"This meeting was just the start of a series which enables us to work closely with the organisations in the borough who provide necessary and valuable services to our residents with the support of the council," added Councillor Soer.

"As Chair of the Grants Committee I found the evening stimulating and reward-

ing and invaluable in opening up two-way communication. We want to keep a continual flow of ideas with our friends in the voluntary sector," said Councillor Soer.

Among the topics covered by the council and its voluntary sector partners were equal access to services, good management practices and long-term funding based on pre-set performance criteria.

CARING AND SHARING

A service to help disabled people stand up for their rights and assist with problems they may be experiencing is being funded by the council supported by Barnet Health Authority.

It is a development of a further Council-Health Authority scheme which has been introduced by social services after being dropped by the previous council two years ago.

The two authorities have signed a contract with CHOICE Advocacy Consultancy and Training to establish Barnet Advocacy Service. It will provide independent support, advice and representation to people with physical and learning disabilities, mental health problems and other social

Standing up for rights

and health services users.

The CHOICE approach involves working in partnership with individuals to facilitate their rights of citizenship, working alongside them in an 'empowering' way.

CHOICE will provide a mixture of professional and volunteer advocacy workers to ensure that people get their rights and receive the services they want and need, enabling them to have increased control over their lives.

Initially, the professional service will be restricted to referrals from Barnet Community Services and Barnet Health Agency. The volunteer service, to begin operating soon, will have a similar remit but will be available for direct access by

those who need it.

Residents who think they might be interested in acting as a volunteer advocate for the service should speak to Helen Rawlinson at the CHOICE office at Hyde House, West Hendon, telephone 0181-201 3436.

The service has been established by the council in response to user requests and needs. The Social Services Inspectorate has highlighted the importance of independent advocacy for care management and assessments.

This is an important development for Barnet because it will help us meet the aims and objectives of Care in the Community and promote the aims and values of the council's Corporate Plan.

FREE TRAVEL PLAN EXTENDED

Free travel on London Regional Transport tube trains and buses for elderly and disabled residents has been extended to include British Rail services within the London area.

The additional concession has been won after many months of negotiations with two other London boroughs - Wandsworth and Westminster - during which it was feared they might veto the plan.

Your council pushed for the scheme to be adopted.

"The objections of these two councils made no sense," declared Councillor David Williams, Chair of Social Services. The new

scheme, which came into operation on 2 April, actually saves London boroughs' money.

As a result of these two councils backing down, more than a million pensioners and disabled people in London will benefit from this new concession. The new scheme allows holders of concessionary fare permits to travel free on British Rail as far south as Chessington, Coulsdon and Surbiton, east to Dartford and Swanley and west to Amersham, Feltham and Hampton.

British Rail services within Barnet can be joined at Hadley Wood, Mill Hill Broadway and Cricklewood.

Free travel on trains, tubes and buses for men aged 65 and above and women aged 60 and above is available after 9.30am on weekdays and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

If you think you are eligible for a concessionary fare permit but have not got one, get in touch with the council's Concessionary Travel section on 0181-359 4272.

Your council has launched a new service to provide better and more frequent help for those suffering from the distressing problem of incontinence.

The Special Needs Laundry Service, as it is now called, is available free of charge for adults and children over the age of three living in the borough who have this condition.

The scheme offers:

- Laundry of soiled linen and garments up to three times a week
- Information and advice on managing incontinence

LAUNDRY SERVICE MEETS NEEDS

- Providing or loaning of items such as bed linen, incontinence pads, bedding protection, continence appliances.

The new service replaces an old scheme providing washing on a weekly basis for local people. The council expects the number of clients to increase several-fold now specialist continence products are being offered. Your council is spending an additional £21,000 on laundry equipment to provide this service.

Those needing this help can access it through their GP who will make the necessary arrangements or refer applicants to a District Nurse, Health Visitor or School Nurse.

You can get advice about incontinence from the Continence Advisers, Finchley Memorial Hospital, Granville Road, N12 0JE, telephone 0181-349 3121, ext 2283.



Councillor Usha Chopra with some of the girls of Livingstone School. Right: Twin opening... Barnet's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Pam Coleman and headteacher John Savage celebrate the combined openings of a new footpath round the school field and a pond created by the Parent-Teacher Association at Church Hill School, Burlington Rise, East Barnet.

Our ch OPEN DOOR WORLD LEAR

Barnet's Schools pulled down the ba and showed just what they have ach

In a borough-wide celebration of events throughout the day involving and parents.

From toddlers to sixth-formers, t learning - and being part of the loca

The work and achievements of a community took part.

Pupils and teachers worked for w to be the first of its kind ever held in

Parents and families, local busin governors at the Celebration Day ev

This 'open-house' day of achiev being undertaken by Barnet's Schoo and the education authority are wor



Right: A glimpse of the past... period music in period costume at St Joseph's School assembly.

Below: "But we were singing in tune, Miss." Infants from Goldbeaters School warming up for their production of "Hans Andersen".



Above: Councillor Sheila Gottsche accepts a ripe strawberry at Dollis County Infants' School.



Left: Hands-on computer experience for these girls in the newly-opened Franklin Library at Friern Barnet School.



in a class of

Children BRINGING BARRIERS ON THE WORLD OF LEARNING

the barriers on the world of learning last month
 e achieved in the last year.
 on of achievement, 90 Barnet schools held
 olving pupils, parents, teachers, school governors
 ers, the emphasis was on a celebration of
 e local community.
 s of all the schools was on view - and the whole
 for weeks to prepare for this big day - believed
 held in London.
 ussinesses and residents joined councillors and
 ay events.
 achievements showed the diversity of activity
 Schools - and the way the children, their teachers
 e working with the whole community.



Deputy Mayor Councillor Pam Coleman plays with children in the sand pit at Barnet Hill School.



Above: Councillor Alan Williams, Leader of Barnet Council, with pupils of Northside School.



Right: Education Committee Chair Councillor Anne Jarvis watches Melanie Rosario perform a handstand at Barnet Hill School.



Below: Councillor Rosemary Carney watches a demonstration of sensory work with one of a group of profoundly handicapped pupils at Maplewood School, Cricklewood Lane.

Left: Hitting the right note. Councillor Lynda McFadyen turns the music for two brass players in a music and drama workshop event at Ravenscroft School, Totteridge.



Far left: Thumbs up for the Big Breakfast... Woodcroft Junior School starts the day the healthy way.

Left: George Berry, aged eight, has fun while receiving physiotherapy at Colindale School.



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DROP INTO THE LIBRARY FOR A CUP OF COFFEE

Pull out a good book - sit back and relax with a cup of coffee. This is what is now on offer to the users of Grahame Park Library following the latest initiative from Barnet Council and the

Finchley and Barnet Friends of the Library. The Grahame Park library coffee lounge was given a civic send-off by Barnet's Mayor, Councillor Ellis Hillman, last month.

Although there are licensed premises near the Grahame Park Estate, there has been no-where parents, individuals and families could drop in for a relaxing coffee.

The Friends of the Library and the council recognised the need to fill this gap in local amenities - and at the same time encourage even more use of this highly popular library.



100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

The Hendon and Finchley Times issues in April 1895 show that though life was far more parochial in those days, many of the problems that existed then still do so today.

Frank Welling of East Finchley was fined 20 shillings (£1) with 7s. 6d. costs for travelling on the Great Northern Railway with intent to avoid paying his fare. He was seen by the station master at East Finchley climbing over a fence to leave the station. Welling gave a false address when challenged.

Harlesden magistrates convicted parents Frederick and Martha

Hall of neglecting their children, Martha, 13, and Frances, 12, both of whom had died during the previous fortnight, and sentenced each to four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

50 years ago

Hendon Borough Council decided that peace should not be celebrated until the end of the world war - the defeat of Germany and Japan - but that thanksgiving services should be held in various parts of the borough on the first Sunday following the end of hostilities in Europe.

Eric

William

Richardson of The Hyde, West Hendon, celebrating his golden wedding anniversary, claimed to remember stage coaches rattling along the Edgware Road "and we had to keep a sharp lookout for highwaymen".

He added: "I remember when there was only one home on The Broadway, There were no shops anywhere near and Cricklewood was all fields."

Showing at local cinemas: Man from Morocco, billed as the English 'Casablanca', starring Anton Walbrook, Margaretta Scott and Peter Sinclair.

Japanese Children's Day

Saturday, 20 May, is Japanese Children's Day at East Finchley library - part of the council's on-going programme of initiatives and events to cement ties with the many ethnic communities in the borough.

This event is a celebration of the Japanese festival of **KODOMO NO HI**, traditionally Boy's Day but now generally known as Children's Day - the counterpart to Dolls' Day (*Hinamatsuri*).

It will be the third year running that Barnet Libraries and the Japanese Friendship Group (*Nakayoshi Kai*) have organised an event

in the libraries which helps to promote and strengthen the link between the borough and the local Japanese community.

Both Church End and East Finchley Libraries have a collection of books in Japanese.

The Japanese Friendship Group holds informal meetings once a month for Japanese mothers and children for advice, support and information.

The afternoon programme at East Finchley includes talks about Japan and Children's Day, demonstrations of origami, making a Japanese doll and a name tag in

Japanese, trying a Japanese song, games and story-telling.

On Children's/Boys' Day (actually 5 May) models of samurai helmets and armour are presented and displayed, boys' interests being presumed, traditionally, to be martial. In modern times the custom is not restricted to homes where there is a samurai heritage.

Cloth streamers in the shape of a carp, a fish known for its bravery and long life, are flown above houses where there is a boy whose parents and relatives wish these qualities for him.

AT A GLANCE

ACTION ON HOMELESS

Barnet Council's fight against homelessness in the borough has been boosted by a site being found for a new day centre in Woodhouse Road, North Finchley. It will be funded by the council and managed by Homeless Action in Barnet.

CALL US - DIRECT

Getting in touch with your council will be simpler, quicker and cheaper in future thanks to the introduction of direct dialling.

On Phone Day on Sunday, 16 April, Barnet is launching the new easy-to-use service to bring you closer to your council. There will be one central switchboard number - 0181 359 2000 - making initial contact easier than ever.

GREEN EFFICIENCY

With an eye on the future, Barnet Council is showing the way by doing its bit for a greener borough. Grahame Park boiler house, already providing heating and hot water for many schools, homes and council buildings, is being upgraded to generate electricity as a by-product.

HISTORY

Borough archivists Pamela Taylor's and Joanna Corden's recently published local history book 'Barnet, Edgware Hadley and Totteridge' contains 120 local photographs and drawings. The book, priced £12.95, is available from all libraries in the borough as well as the local Studies Centre in Egerton Gardens, Hendon and Church Farmhouse Museum.

TOP MARKS IN

Barnet's pledge to put nursery education at the top of the agenda passed the test with flying colours with the opening of the first new nursery extension.

Shadow Leader of the House of Commons Ann Taylor came to Barnet to see for herself how the council's drive to boost nursery education is taking shape.

In bright spring sunshine and surrounded by earnest toddlers she joined the Mayor, Councillor Ellis Hillman, to open Brookhill Nursery extension.

Brookhill Nursery School in New Barnet now has places for 156 children, an increase of 39 in the two daily sessions. The school has gained an additional

nursery teacher, new work and play areas and supporting equipment.

The nursery is the first of four which your council will be opening in the next 18 months. A second, with 26 new places at Barnet Hill school, is due to open within weeks.

NURSERY SCHOOL DRIVE

Making
the
most
of our
housing



"We knew you were coming so we've started baking a cake," these Brookhill Nursery Pupils told MP Anne Taylor.

Ann Taylor applauded the council's commitment to give a fair start in life to every toddler in the borough.

"I am delighted that in its first year of office the new administration in Barnet has demonstrated its determination to turn the tide and is providing this start in life every parent and child has a right to expect" she said.

The Chair of Education, Councillor Anne Jarvis, praised parents and governors for their support for the council's plans.

"This nursery was under threat of closure in 1993 when the previous council called for a cut of at least one member of staff. We have now expanded it - a complete turnaround from 18 months ago," said Councillor Jarvis.

"Our programme of expansion will continue and soon new targets will be set for the most needy areas. This is a vital investment in the adults of tomorrow."

Your council has been working closely with Network Housing Association to reduce the number of empty houses in the borough.

One way this is being tackled is by encouraging older couples or single people living on their own in large properties to move to smaller homes.

A housing initiative at Kingsley Court, Tayside Drive, Edgware, provides sheltered housing for households where one member is over 55. It was set up through a joint venture between the council and Network Housing Association.

Barnet Councillors Gina Marks, left, and Allan Turner, Chair of the Housing Committee, right, are pictured meeting Network Housing Association chief executive Richard Smillie and two residents of Kingsley Court.



Ham&High Supplements 1995

Watch out for these forthcoming supplements:

- ✓ Summer Schools 19 May
- ✓ Food & Drink 30 June
- ✓ Education..... 25 Aug
- ✓ Jewish New Year 8 Sept
- ✓ Health & Beauty 29 Sept
- ✓ Autumn Homes & Gardens 27 Oct

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Your council committees at work

List of Committee Meetings at The Town Hall, Hendon for the period 25 April - 28 June 1995

25 April
Council Meeting

27 April
Direct Service
Organisations
Executive Committee

27 April
Compulsory
Competitive
Tendering Executive
Committee

1 May
Social Services
Committee

9 May
Council Annual
Meeting

10 May
Area Development
and Protection Sub-
Committees

17 May
Environmental
Consultative Forum

22 May
Housing Committee

24 May
Development and
Protection Committee

25 May
Education Committee

31 May
Recreation, Leisure
and Arts Committee

1 June
Economic
Development and
Land Executive
Committee

6 June
Social Services
Committee

7 June
Grants Committee

8 June
Direct Service
Organisations
Executive Committee

8 June
Compulsory
Competitive
Tendering Executive
Committee

12 June
Area Development
and Protection Sub-
Committees

13 June
Public Works
Committee

14 June
Personnel Executive
Committee

15 June
Budget, Financing
and Performance
Review Executive
Committee

19 June
General Executive
Committee

21 June
Policy and Resources
Committee

22 June
Allotments Advisory
Panel

28 June
Development and
Protection Committee



Disabled
Access



Loop
system

BARNET LISTENS AND ACTS

Facilities for residents inspecting planning applications at Barnet House in Whetstone are to be improved following a council customer survey.

Almost half of those questioned said they wanted more space, seats and tables at the planning reception area in the High Road building.

"The survey has given the council valuable feedback on what residents feel about our services and ways of improving them," said Councillor Jack Cohen, Chair of the Town Planning and Research Committee.

Nearly 300 people replied to the survey - almost 75 percent of those sent questionnaires.

The survey showed most people found staff helpful and the planning applications easy to read.

"There will always be room for improvement and we will be listening to and learning from what our residents are saying," added Councillor Cohen.

"We are introducing new procedures to ensure everyone is seen within 10 minutes and letters of objection are acknowledged within five working days.

"Further surveys on opening hours will also be carried out later this year", said Councillor Cohen, pictured, right.



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BOGUS RATING SURVEYORS WARNING

Small businesses are being targeted by bogus rating surveyors claiming they can reduce business premises rates and asking for payment 'up front'.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), among others, is expressing concern that these dubious consultants are actively touting for work, using this year's forthcoming commercial rates revaluation as a selling lever.

Barnet Chamber of Commerce says business proprietors should be extremely cautious about engaging professionals to act for them in these circumstances, particularly when payment in advance is requested.

The Chamber can supply on request details of local firms who employ professionals properly qualified to undertake this work. Information can also be obtained from the RICS itself.

Meet the buyers

How much would any businessman give to be put in a room full of 60 to 100 committed buyers of their business's goods and services? Even better than that, a set up that will organise specific times for you to meet each buyer they wish to sell to on a one-to-one basis?

This is exactly what the 'Meet the Buyers' exhibition, to be organised by Barnet Chamber of Commerce and their partners, on 21 and 22 June will do.

The organisers will arrange for more than 60 companies who wish to buy local goods and services to attend the two-day exhibition.



FAST ON THE CONSUMER BUZZER

This fast-on-the-buzzer team from St James' Catholic High School, Grahame Park, have become Barnet Young Consumers of the Year.

It is the second year running a team from St James' has won the title.

The quartet beat teams from two other schools - Edgware and Ravenscroft - winning a trophy and each member receiving a shield and shopping vouchers worth £20.

The quiz night was organised by the council's Trading Standards Service and sponsored by Perrys (North London), the Ford dealership, and Sears Womenswear Ltd, parent company of Miss Selfridge, Richard Shops and Warehouse. The event, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, was held at St James' School.

It was the fifth year Barnet has participated in the contest which acts as the local heat of a national competition run by the Institute of Trading Standards Administration.

The teams were questioned about a variety of consumer issues including trading legislation. The contest aims to raise consumer awareness among young people in an enjoyable way.

To reach the national final in Scarborough in June, the St James' team must be placed in the first three in a regional competition to be held in Westminster at the end of this month.

On the buzzer are, from the left: Robert Moore, Michelle Butler, Sharon Shanahan and Gemma Chiappani.

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Telephone Numbers: all codes are 0181- unless otherwise indicated. No appointments are needed for those councillors holding regular surgeries. At Bank Holidays, surgery times may change. Please ring beforehand to check.

Political groups are indicated in an abbreviated form (Lab) = Labour (Con) = Conservative (LD) = Liberal Democrat

ARKLEY WARD

Anita Campbell (Lab) 440 2703
 Pam Coleman (Lab) 449 6254
 Linda McFadyen (Lab) 440 6254
 1st and 3rd Monday every month 8-9pm
 St Stephen's Church Hall, Bells Hill, Barnet
 Every Saturday 10am-12noon
 104 East Barnet Road, East Barnet

BRUNSWICK PARK WARD

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

BURNT OAK WARD

Rosemary Carney (Lab) 959 6757
 Allan Turner (Lab) 952 2106
 Alan Williams (Lab) 906 0576
 Every Saturday 10.30am-12noon
 The Labour Hall, Back Lane, Burnt Oak
 24 hour answerphone 951 5771

CHILDS HILL WARD

Jack Cohen (LD) 445 3981
 Jonathan Davies (LD) 203 6690
 Susette Palmer (LD) 455 5140
 1st Thursday every month 7-8pm
 Childs Hill Library, 320 Cricklewood Lane,
 NW2

COLINDALE WARD

Ellis Hillman (Lab) 202 7792
 Gill Sargeant (Lab) 455 1070
 David Williams (Lab) 343 1082
 1st Saturday every month 2-3pm
 St. Augustine's Church (small lounge),
 Grahame Park, Colindale, NW9

EAST BARNET WARD

Usha Chopra (Lab) 449 3231
 Anne Jarvis (Lab) 449 9001
 Richard Soer (Lab) 449 2410
 Usha Chopra 1st Monday every month 7-8pm
 New Barnet Residents' Association, 48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet Tel: 441 7044

EAST FINCHLEY WARD

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

EDGWARE WARD

Julian Czarny (Con) 958 6999
 Malcolm Lester (Con) 349 2595
 Joan Scannell (Con) 959 5921
 Contact councillors direct or Hendon North
 Conservative Association
 Tel. 959 1446

FINCHLEY WARD

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

FRIERN BARNET WARD

John Carter (Con) 343 4005
 Brian Salinger (Con) 368 1329
 John Tiplady (Con) 445 5734
 Contact councillors direct by telephone 7 days
 of the week or through the Finchley & Friern
 Barnet Conservative Association Tel. 445 4292

GARDEN SUBURB WARD

Frank Davis (Con) 455 0403
 Mohammed Khamisa (Con) 458 1996
 Roy Shutz (Con) 455 2248
 c/o Hendon South Conservative Association
 or write to 20 Connaught Drive,
 London NW11 6BJ
 Contact councillors direct or Hendon South
 Conservative Association Tel. 202 7484

GOLDERS GREEN WARD

Melvin Cohen (Con) 346 2550
 John Hedge (Con) 203 0137
 Michele Moulin (Con) 205 0531
 Contact councillors direct or Hendon South
 Conservative Association
 Tel. 202 7484

HADLEY WARD

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

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

HALE WARD

Andrew Dickie (Lab) 906 2807
 Leslie Pym (Con) 959 5484
 Sheila Scott (Con) 906 0825
 Every Saturday 10am-12noon
 Mill Hill Library, Hartley Avenue
 Contact councillors direct or
 Tel. 959 1446
 Fortnightly on Mondays 6.30pm
 Hendon North Conservative Association,
 2 Apex Parade, Selvage Lane NW7 3JT

HENDON WARD

Edward Bunn (Con) 906 2793
 Anthony Finn (Con) 202 9689
 Fred Poole (Con) 203 0813
 Contact councillors direct or Hendon North
 Conservative Association
 Tel. 202 7484

MILL HILL WARD

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

ST PAUL'S WARD

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

TOTTERIDGE WARD

Kevin Edson (Con) 446 8343
 Victor Lyon (Con) 446 4423
 Victor Usher (Con) 445 4248
 Contact councillors direct or Chipping Barnet
 Conservative Association
 Tel. 449 7345

WEST HENDON WARD

Nicholas Kissen (Lab) 200 9861
 Gina Marks (Lab) 959 0525
 Agnes Slocombe (Lab) 202 4074
 1st and 3rd Saturday every month
 10.30am-12noon
 West Hendon Clinic, West Handon Broadway
 (entrance in Perryfield Way)

WOODHOUSE WARD

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

BOOST FOR DAY CENTRE



FLYING START TO FIRST 10km RUN

The first-ever 10km run at Barnet Copthall Centre proved a runaway success with athletes from across the borough donning their running shoes for charity.

An athletics double-bill, featuring the inaugural race and a 2km Fun Run, was held to raise cash for the Mayor's charity - the Flightways Day Centre for people with disabilities in Colindale. Funds raised will go to providing improved physiotherapy facilities at the centre.

Club athletes from Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers, who supplied both the first male and female to finish, and Barnet and District Athletic Club joined others in the well-contested event.

The main race took place over a flat, two-lap course around the Barnet Copthall Centre. The Fun Run, which also featured wheelchair participants, was held within the centre itself.

Race organisers were delighted with the response to the first running of the event. "It augurs well for the future. A turnout of 127 for the 10km run is really good for the first staging. Normally it takes several years to establish this type of event," said Councillor Anita Campbell, Chair of the Recreation Leisure and Arts Committee.

First prize winners received portable colour TVs donated by Kirkman and Jourdain Ltd.

They're off... Runners set off on their way around the 10km course in the first race of its kind at the Copthall Centre.



It's Ready... steady... and push

Ready, steady, push... Pat Phillpot, from Flightways Day Centre, gets a helping hand from the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Ellis Hillman, during the charity races at the Copthall Centre. The Mayor is flanked by Councillor Richard Soer, left, and Councillor David Williams, who both ran in aid of the charity.



OUT OF THE WOODS AND ON TO THE GREENS

Brenda Wood, right, and Valerie Jones see who's closest to the jack with Tony Wood looking on. Part of the Active Life programme at Copthall, geared to the over-50s, short bowls is proving

very popular. Also on offer: table tennis, bridge and darts. Active Life takes place in the centre's multi-activities room at Copthall from 1.30pm to 3.30pm on Thursdays. Price: £2.50 (including tea and biscuits).



WATER BABES

Mothers and toddlers enjoy a splash around at Copthall pool during parent and baby classes. The course, aimed to promote water confidence through fun and games, is designed for children from three months to four years. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. The classes are in 20 minute sessions held on Thursdays and are bookable from April 2 onwards. Price: £29.40 for 12 sessions.

HORSES FOR COURSES

There is something for everyone at Barnet Copthall Sports Centre, from pony riding to football fun weeks, karate to 'Fit Kids', and badminton to bridge.

There is a programme of summer courses starting this

month at both Copthall Sports Centre and at other sites in the borough.

'Fit Kids' is a club for children aged three and over and is a fun way to teach them co-ordination and the importance of proper exercise.

The course starts on

24 April at Copthall Pools, Monday 4.15pm for three to five-year-olds, 5.15pm for six to nine year olds. Cost is £35 for 12 sessions.

For men and women Barnet Leisure has kept fit/body conditioning, step aerobics and multi gym training sessions

to get residents fit and healthy.

For further information on courses and sessions contact the sports development officer on 0181-203 3788 or the swimming development officer on 0181-203 4187.