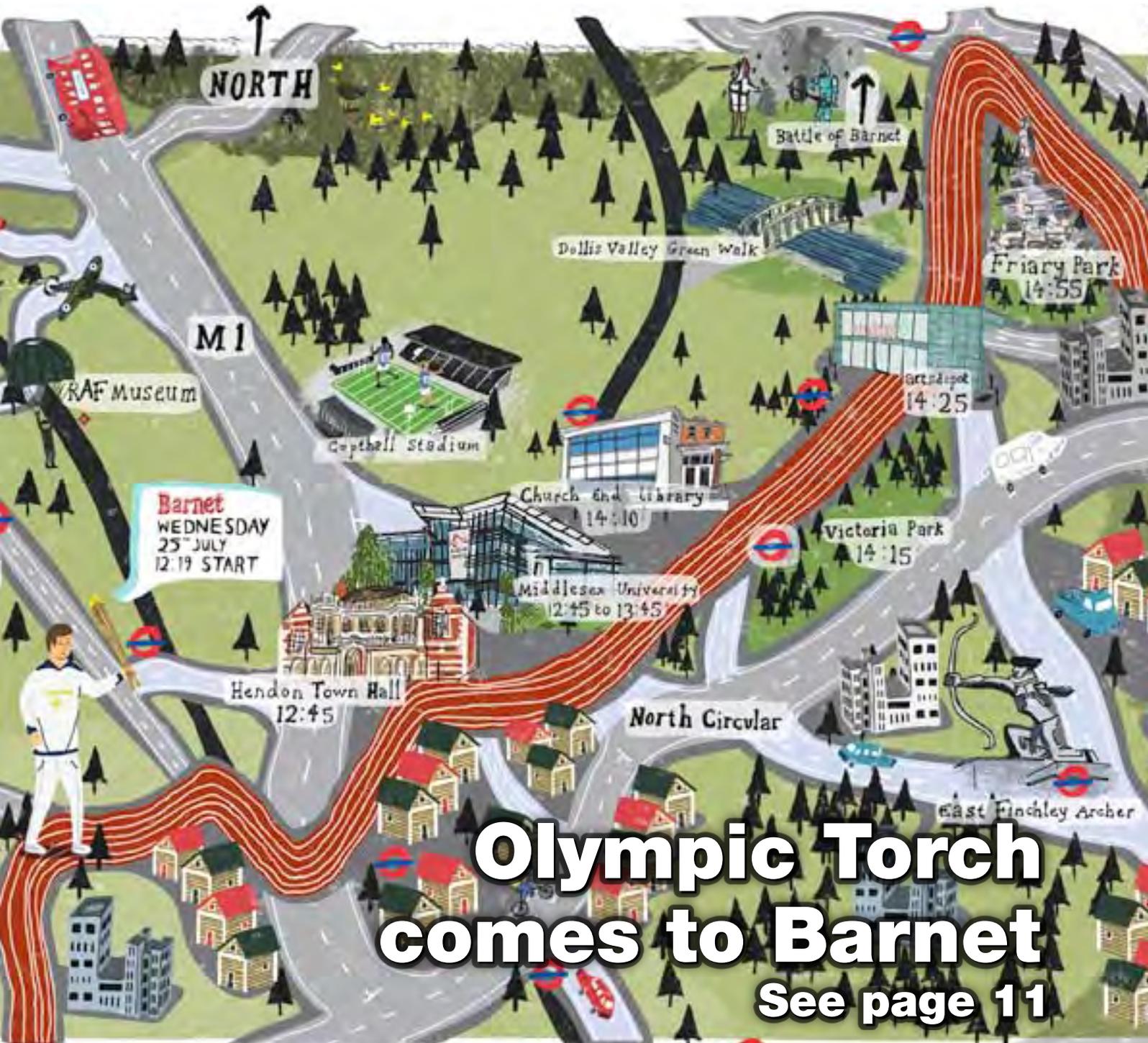


barnetfirst

issue 50 July 2012



Olympic Torch comes to Barnet See page 11

Illustration by final year Middlesex University student, Alex Foster, alex-foster.com

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Leader's column



Amid all the doom and gloom of economic news, it is remarkable the extent to which this is turning into a summer of celebration in London.

The council supported a fantastic 90 Diamond Jubilee parties in the streets and parks of Barnet and I am sure many of you had other parties off your own bat. You can see some of Barnet's Jubilee celebrations in pages 12 and 13.

The coming two months will be dominated by the Olympic and Paralympic Games and will once again see London as a celebration capital of the world. I have been delighted to see how so much of the promotion of the Games has been built around the achievements of paralympians, whose successes in the face of their challenges are surely amongst the great sporting triumphs.

But, coming back to economic doom and gloom, last year, when we asked you where you wanted the council to target resources, a common view was that we need to do what we can to support business and young people. With that in mind, the council recently agreed a new £1million Barnet Skills, Employment and Enterprise Action Plan. This will support young people in making the first step onto the jobs ladder and will help small businesses take on apprentices.

We obviously can't change the world's economic position or end recession in the Euro zone. But I want you to know that this is a council that wants the widest number of people in Barnet to have something to celebrate this year. And there can be few bigger causes of celebration than a young person getting their first job.

Yours

Richard Cornelius

Contacting your council

Corporate Customer Services

tel: 020 8359 2000

email: first.contact@barnet.gov.uk

Contact us and we will identify the correct service or person you are looking for

Street-based services

tel: 020 8359 4600

Covering refuse collection, holes in the road, abandoned vehicles and graffiti

Parking enquiries

tel: 020 8359 7446

email: parking@barnet.gov.uk

Planning and licensing advice

tel: 020 8359 3000

Social Care Direct

tel: 020 8359 5000

Out of hours emergencies

tel: 020 8359 2000

Barnet First is published by Barnet Council's Communications Team. Please contact us by email barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk

Travel advice during the Games

27 July – 12 August and 29 August – 9 September



With only weeks remaining until the capital hosts the greatest show on earth, Londoners are being encouraged to plan their journeys in advance.

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will unavoidably bring extra traffic and visitors to the city and surrounding areas, so forward planning will be essential to help minimise disruption for both businesses and residents.

To help plan your journeys during the Olympic period, Transport for London (TfL), the Mayor of London, London 2012 and the UK's other major transport networks have joined forces to launch getaheadofthegames.com, a website detailing how your day-to-day routes may be affected.

With road, Overground and Tube networks all listed, residents are able to search possible 'travel hotspots' by their local area as well as view alternative routes.

To help businesses plan for the Games, TfL have also launched a dedicated site london2012.com/business/travel offering advice on how to plan deliveries as well as what advice to pass on to employees about getting to and from work easily.

For further travel advice during the Games why not sign up to the Get Ahead of the Games Twitter feed @GAOTG or sign up to TfL email alerts at www.tfl.gov.uk



Going for Gold

Barnet's Olympic hopefuls

Anthony Joshua



Sport:	Boxing
Class:	Super-heavyweight
Club:	Finchley ABC
Current World Ranking:	4
First bout:	18 years old
Born:	15 October 1989
Weight:	91kg+
Height:	1.98m
Location:	Barnet / Finchley

While most people in their early 20s are still deciding which way they want to go in life, 22-year-old Anthony Joshua has his eyes firmly fixed on success.

Although naturally athletic, Anthony hadn't stepped into the boxing ring until his cousin introduced him to the sport at the gym at the age of 18.

It took him one punch to become hooked, two bouts to know he was good enough to compete, and three years to win a silver medal at the World Championships last year, which guaranteed his qualification for the Olympic Games this year.

With a distinct possibility of winning gold at the Games, there are some pretty high expectations pinned on Anthony.

Luckily, he's got the same expectations of himself, along with the mindset, stamina, perseverance, sheer skill and raw talent to get there.

Anthony said: "I can't wait for the Games to start. All the work I've done over the past four years has brought me to where I am today. It's such an honour to compete in the Olympics and the fact that it is in my back yard is the cherry on top. I will be giving it everything to make my country and family proud."



James O'Shea

Sport:	Swimming
Category:	100m breaststroke (SB5)
Club:	Barnet Cophthall Swimming Club
Current Ranking:	1 in the UK for 100m breaststroke (SB5)
Born:	12 February 1978

James O'Shea is one of Great Britain's biggest hopes for gold at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

After losing his legs as a teenager he became an international wheelchair dancer and in 2010 won the BBC's "Dancing on Wheels" with partner TV presenter Caroline Flack.

It was while on the set of the show that James met ex-Olympian Mark Foster and he began his own interest in swimming.

Two years later and after a gruelling nutritional and training programme at Barnet Cophthall

Swimming Club, James has gone on to become the second fastest Paralympic swimmer in the world.

Medal hopes are riding high on James after he was selected to represent Great Britain at the London Paralympic Games in the 100m breaststroke.

James said: "I am delighted I will be swimming in the Olympics. I would like to thank GLL Leisure for allowing me to train for free for the past two years. I only made such quick progress because of Rhys and Ian at Barnet Cophthall coaching me from beginner to medal contender."

What's on



Come and join in Barnet's Olympic celebrations

Bells by Theater Tol & Akademi - 25 July Part of Showtime

Residents are being invited to join in a free spectacular following the Olympic Torch Relay passing through the borough.

artsdepot, in partnership with Barnet Council, is presenting a free performance at dusk on the evening of Wednesday 25 July – the same day the Olympic Torch Relay passes through Barnet - in Victoria Park, Finchley.

The performance will be the highlight of a day of festivities which start at 12.15pm when the Olympic Torch enters the borough at The Hyde, Hendon, and exits at Betstyle Circus, New Southgate, at 3.15pm.



'Bells' is an aerial theater and dance spectacle created by Theater Tol and Akademi from Belgium and London. Beginning with a dazzling procession into Victoria Park, the dance leads to a climax during which angels are suspended from cranes in the air moving with the dancers below.

Kerry Andrews, Artistic Director of artsdepot, said: "As the capital gets ready for its most amazing summer, we're delighted to be working with Barnet Council and the Mayor of London to start Barnet's celebrations. Bells by Theater Tol and Akademi combines Kathak dancing and aerial theatre and will be a truly magical and unforgettable event."

Bells is part of Showtime, presented by the Mayor of London. Showtime is a free outdoor arts festival giving all Londoners the chance to enjoy world class entertainment and culture on their doorstep. For more information visit: www.molpresents.com/showtime

For more information on 'Bells' in Barnet visit: www.artsdepot.co.uk or www.barnet.gov.uk



When: Wednesday 25 July
Where: Victoria Park, Finchley, N3
Time: From 9pm



Labyrinth youth festival - 28 July

Part of Showtime

Families and young people are invited to take part in a free outdoor festival which promises to bring together an exciting mix of music and live performance.

Labyrinth youth festival, which is being curated by artsdepot in partnership with Barnet Council, includes music, poetry, dance, theatre and circus from talented local young people aged 13-19, top tunes from 'Clive', artsdepot's club for young people with learning disabilities, and promenade performances from some of the UK's best live art acts throughout the day.

Stage 1: a showcase of local talent across the borough curated by artsdepot's Youth Panel including music, poetry, dance, theatre, live art and circus.

Stage 2: Clive – a club event specifically for young people with learning disabilities featuring an open mic session and young DJs.

And across Victoria Park:

Osadia Hairdressing

Combining street theatre, art and hairdressing to create astonishing hair sculptures among the crowds.

Bureau of Silly Ideas – 'The Hole Job'

Comedy and street theatre combine when road workers down tools and fly through the air in a jaw dropping show.

Chapeau Magique

An interactive family performance with lots of crazy origami hats created with the use of huge sheets of brown wrapping paper.

RASPO Steel Orchestra

One of the UK's leading steel pan orchestras playing calypso, pop, reggae and classical music.

Rusty's Rampage

Rusty the Horse is a visually extraordinary, remote control entity. He's slipped his tether and is off on a solo quest for love and play...someone needs to tell him he's a horse.

Labyrinth is part of Showtime, presented by the Mayor of London and the London 2012 Festival. Showtime is a free outdoor arts festival giving all Londoners the chance to enjoy world-class entertainment on their doorstep. For more information visit: www.molpresents.com/showtime



For more information visit:
www.artsdepot.co.uk or www.barnet.gov.uk



When: Saturday 28 July
Where: Victoria Park, Finchley, N3
Time: 12noon to 6pm

Bright sparks

meet Barnet's torchbearers

Zahra Jessa

Dr Zahra Jessa has overcome a difficult childhood to become the successful optometrist she is today. Zahra grew up in Friern Barnet where she helped her parents care for her two older sisters who have profound learning difficulties.

Despite her challenging home life, Zahra completed an optometry degree in 2003, followed by a PhD at City University. She now practises as an optometrist at Moorfields Eye Hospital and Action for Blind People, as well as for community practices.

"I feel so privileged to be given this opportunity of putting my home borough of Barnet on the Olympic map," Zahra says. "It will be a special moment, not only for me, but for my parents and my two older sisters."



Kim Henderson

Kim's life in sport has seen her make a positive difference to children's sporting achievements. She introduced a girls' cricket section to a Barnet club and has worked for the Peacemakers International charity in Kenya, donating her time and money to train over 100 primary school teachers to deliver high-quality PE lessons. Kim is Child Protection Officer for Barnet and District Athletics Club, Ravenscroft Tennis Club and the cricket club, protecting the best interests of children in sport.

Kim says: "What an amazing opportunity London 2012 is and what an honour to carry the torch. If I can inspire at least 300 children and their families to become more physically active, then the day will be a triumph."



Michael Murphy

For three years, equestrian Michael has been a Junior International Dressage Champion, and was recently crowned the youngest winner of a 2* Senior Para Dressage international competition.

Michael, 15, was diagnosed with Dejerine-Sottas as a child, a rare genetic condition which causes extreme muscle weakness and wasting, and numbness in the limbs.



Late last year he underwent surgery to insert metal rods to correct the curvature of his spine. He is now focusing on preparing for his Paralympic Games debut in 2016.

His determination saw him recruited by the Lloyds TSB Local Heroes programme to visit schools, inspiring younger students to take up sport. "It's fantastic to be part of the Olympics and being involved makes me more determined to work hard for the Paralympics in 2016," he says.

Jas Jassal

Jas devotes more than 700 hours spare time each year to promoting community engagement and inclusion in sport.



As vice-chairman of Concorde Rangers FC, a multi-cultural youth development football club, he's been instrumental in developing a programme with Queens Park Rangers (QPR) to tackle under-representation in football. The player development centre he helped set up, which forms a link between grassroots and professional clubs, has been endorsed by the FA.

Jas says: "These sort of opportunities don't happen in ten lifetimes let alone one and I am truly overwhelmed. My inspiration comes from all the volunteers out there who give up their time and effort in helping others. I hope to represent them all."

Jamie Delane

Jamie Delane may only be 12, but his achievements already make an impressive list.



An avid tennis player, Jamie took part in the AEGON British Junior National Championships last summer and is competing again this year. He recently finished in the top ten in the London Mini Marathon despite competing in an age category a year above his own.

As one of the youngest torchbearers in the borough, James was nominated for his inspiring work to fellow pupils at his Belmont Preparatory School, Mill Hill, where he also plays in the rugby and football teams.

"I was very excited when I found out I'd been nominated. They brought the torch into assembly and I held it. Luckily it's not that heavy. My friends are really jealous," Jamie says.

Simon Davies

Simon Davies has worked industriously his whole life, achieving several GCSEs and 'A' Levels, as well as a First Class Honours Degree in Marketing.



Simon was born with cerebral palsy and requires a wheelchair to help him get around. He has the use of one finger and requires the aid of a voice-synthesizer to speak.

Currently he is a full time volunteer for Jewish Care as well as running his own greeting card business.

The profits from his business go back to Jewish Care to provide better care and comfort for the residents in Rela Goldhill Lodge, the home for young disabled people where Simon lives.

"It is a great honour to have been picked to carry the torch. I'm very overwhelmed by the attention it is causing," he says. "I'm delighted to be a part of London 2012."

Barnet's Olympic torchbearers

1 Jamie Delane

2 Christian Aquino

3 Charlotte Michael

4 Danuta Ryland

5 Kim Henderson

6 Jayshri Singh

7 Jas Jassal

8 Zahra Jessa

9 Nicholas Tiller

10 Leslie Lyndon

11 Bela Nagy

12 Simon Davies

13 Derek Wood



Olympic Torch Relay – 25 July

The route through our borough



1	Hendon Town Hall The Burroughs	12.45pm
2	Middlesex University The Burroughs	12.45 – 1.45pm
3	Church End Library Hendon Lane	2.10pm
4	Victoria Park Ballards Lane	2.15pm
5	artsdepot Tally Ho Corner (Ballards Lane)	2.25pm
6	Friary Park Friern Barnet Lane	2.55pm

For more information about the Olympics in the borough visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/olympics



Relay timings are approximate. Due to road closures, visitors are advised to use public transport or walk to the Olympic torch route.



Barnet catches Jubilee fever

The borough turned shades of red, white and blue at the beginning of June, as thousands of Barnet residents celebrated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

An incredible 90 parties took place in the borough's streets and parks in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee.

Residents took up the council's 'Pledgebank' process for organising a party, with free insurance provided and guidance on road closure – provided organisers could get another three households to sign up to their 'pledge'.

Resident Elizabeth Sayer, who attended a party in Crewys Road, Cricklewood, said: "It was lots of fun and great to meet our neighbours. It was a very multi-cultural event with attendees from Somalia, Bali, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, USA, Germany, Ireland, France, to name but a few and everyone waved the flag."

The borough's flagship event was held in Golders Hill Park on 4 June, hosted jointly by the council and the City of London Corporation. Thousands of people enjoyed a variety of entertainment including stalls, music, a funfair, sports and a spectacular fireworks display. Martin Russell, the borough's



Representative Deputy Lieutenant who chaired the Barnet Diamond Jubilee steering group, said: "The many thousands who attended the Diamond Jubilee Festival in Golders Hill Park had a most memorable time. I was moved to witness the enthusiasm and joy created by nearly 100 street parties held across Barnet. Together with the wide range of religious services, tree plantings, competitions and other events, it really brought out the best of Britain over the long weekend. I am proud to have played my part in it here in Barnet."

Photo credit for Diamond Jubilee Festival: Clive Totman – City of London

For more information about the Diamond Jubilee in the borough visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/jubilee



My Barnet



As half of an award-winning comedy duo, co-founding artist and producer of an interactive performance collective and an assistant producer managing a social games project, Iván González is one busy man.

Part Argentinian and part English, Iván lived in both Liverpool and Spain, before meeting his girlfriend while studying at Royal Holloway University, and following her to East Finchley soon after.

Apprehensive about the move to Barnet at first, Iván has grown to love his new home of four years.

“I come from up north where people talk to each other more, so I initially found the move to London very daunting,” he admits. “But, everyone I have encountered here so far has been absolutely lovely and extremely welcoming.”

Not long after his move, Iván received a paid training placement with Hide&Seek, a social games and design studio, where he is now the Assistant Producer managing the 99 Tiny Games project.

The project is part of the London 2012 Festival and will see three small, easy to understand and play games, set up in each of the 33 boroughs across London in time for the Olympics.

“The games will all be site specific, so over the next month, I’m going to the 165 nominated venues, to see what is available that we can actually use to make up a game,” says Iván.

“It sounds hectic and it is, but it’s a great project. I get to travel all around London and think of games to play,” he grins.

Iván confesses he is hoping to have one of the Barnet games located just outside the artsdepot in North Finchley.

“artsdepot is just such an amazing multi-arts venue, and you normally don’t see these types of venues outside of the very epicentre of central London. To have one on our doorstep in Barnet is really cool,” he says.

When he’s not creating and playing games, Iván can be found rehearsing for the latest production by non zero one, the interactive performance collective he founded, which will debut at the National Theatre in July.

Otherwise, he can be found feeding his creative juices at one of Finchley’s many pubs and coffee shops, such as The Bald Faced Stag, and scribbling away new material for his comedy show.

With three highly creative and demanding jobs, it’s impressive Iván still finds time to explore and enjoy all that his new borough has to offer.

“Sometimes it feels like it doesn’t matter where I live, as all I do at home is sleep. But when I do have that rare chance to unwind, I enjoy running, and Barnet’s got some lovely hills and parks for this.

“I like to get in at least five to six miles, so the run from Victoria Park down to Kenwood House in Camden and back is a favourite of mine.

“If I’m really lucky, I sometimes even manage to squeeze in a show at the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley, or at the artsdepot. East Finchley is a great location, with loads of good coffee shops, restaurants and bars and so much green space nearby. There are also a few comedians who live round there, which adds to the character and buzz of the place.”

Tell us your story. If you would like to be featured in future issues of My Barnet, please email barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk with no more than 100 words describing your life in Barnet.

Iván relaxing in his home



Iván keeping fit



East Finchley Archer



Iván visiting the artsdepot



news in brief



Interim library opens in North Finchley

Barnet Council's new interim library service in North Finchley has opened its doors to residents.

Based in the artsdepot building at Tally Ho Corner, the library opened on 24 April and offers a collection of around 10,000 items of stock as well as newspapers and magazines. There are study tables, comfortable seating and a children's area.

Plans are also being made for a reading group, reading scheme for under-fives and for links with nearby schools.

The interim service has been set up while plans are developed for a permanent Landmark Library within artsdepot.

The interim library's opening hours are: Tuesdays 2pm – 5pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am – 1pm and Fridays 2pm – 5pm.

For more information on the library service visit www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries

New £1million fund to boost apprenticeships and employment

Barnet Council has announced a £1million Barnet Skills, Employment and Enterprise Action Plan aimed at supporting 16-24 year old residents who are not in employment education or training (NEETS).

The plan is designed to give unemployed young people their first experience of work, as well as offer financial support to Barnet businesses taking on a young person as an apprentice or intern, or voluntary organisations giving unemployed young people work experience.

The plan also includes an intern scheme at the council itself, support for young entrepreneurs and graduates, employment support for young people with learning difficulties and the development of a retail skills 'one stop shop'.





48th Mayor of Barnet sworn into office

Councillor Brian Schama has become the 48th Mayor of Barnet after being officially sworn in during the annual meeting of the council at Hendon Town Hall on 15 May 2012.

Councillor Schama's wife Lynda will be Mayoress, with Councillor Kate Salinger appointed as Deputy Mayor and Councillor Brian Salinger as the Deputy Mayor's escort.

During his mayoral year Councillor Schama has chosen to support two charities: Barnet Carers, which helps and supports over 5,000 carers, and Barnet Hospital – with any money raised helping to pay for specialised ward equipment for nursing stations.

The new Mayor said: "I treasure the honour of being the 48th Mayor of our wonderful borough.

"I'm proud of what has been achieved in Barnet over many years; it is a pleasant and safe haven for all.

"Times are difficult for the UK with the current economic climate but we should never forget to celebrate all that we have here for which we can be justifiably proud - our residents, schools, hospitals, local businesses and our multi-faith community living together in harmony."

Meet your new councillors



Arjun Mittra (Labour) has been elected as a ward councillor for East Finchley following a by-election held on Wednesday 11 April, 2012.

The by-election was called following the resignation of Councillor Andrew McNeil on 22 February, 2012.



Andreas Ioannidis (Labour) has been elected as a ward councillor for Brunswick Park following a by-election held on Thursday 31 May, 2012.

The by-election was called following the death of Councillor Lynne Hillan on 5 April, 2012.

contact your councillors

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For details of surgeries, call 020 8359 2000 or email first.contact@barnet.gov.uk

STORY LAB

Step into the Story Lab for the 2012 Summer Reading Challenge

Last summer over 5,000 children took part in the Summer Reading Challenge in Barnet. Let's get even more children reading this year.

The Summer Reading Challenge runs from 14 July to 10 September and is designed for children of all ages and reading abilities.

Register for free at your local library and receive your pop-up 3D starter pack. You can read any books you like – fact books, stories, joke books, picture books – it's up to you. After every two books you read, you'll get stickers and brilliant prizes. If you finish six books, you'll get a special medal and a certificate and you will be entered into an exciting prize draw. Those who want to carry on and read at least four more books can do the 'Mega Lab' challenge next and win a free DVD loan and a certificate.

Come and join in the great range of Story Lab activities in Barnet Libraries and Children's Centres this summer. All events are free and you can join in at any library. For dates and time of events, contact your local library or visit:

www.barnet.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge

For more information please contact Justina Gore at justina.gore@barnet.gov.uk or 020 8359 2869.



What's on in Barnet? July-Sept

Barnet Positive Activities Day

Date: 25 July, 11am - 4pm

Venue: Friary Park, N12

Event organised by the Barnet Youth Support Service through the Positive Activities programme. A range of fun and challenging taster activities available to try on the day and the opportunity to reserve your place on our summer holiday programmes.

For more information call
020 8359 3530.

Olympic White Water Crafting: Make an Olympic Friendship Wristband

Date: 11 August, 2pm – 3.30pm

Venue: East Barnet Library

Join artist Madhumita Bose for this special Olympic themed craft event. All are welcome.

To reserve a place contact East Barnet Library on 020 8359 3863 or email east.barnet.library@barnet.gov.uk

Mind, Body and Soul

Date: 29 September, 10am - 4pm

Venue: Chipping Barnet Library

Join us for demonstrations of different techniques to relax the body and uplift the soul.

Places are limited so call
020 8359 4040 or email
natalie.harmer@barnet.gov.uk
to reserve a place.



Working hours

Tom Burton has worked as Barnet Council's Sport Development Manager with the Youth Support Service for the last two years.

What does it mean to be involved with Sports Development at Barnet Council?

As part of the Youth Support Service, my role is to use sport and physical activity as a tool to connect with vulnerable or disengaged young people. This might be through co-ordinating activities and qualifications or through partnerships with local voluntary sports clubs and providers.

How did you get into this line of work?

Since I can remember I've always had a passion for sport. My favourite sports in school were tennis and football which I played at club level. I took a sports degree at university, and worked professionally for various sporting organisations. I was drawn to this particular role because of the diverse nature of the work here in Barnet and the fact I'd be in London for the build-up to, and during, the Olympic Games.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your role?

It's always rewarding to see how sport and physical activity can play such a positive role in a young person's life, particularly when that young person doesn't see themselves as 'sporty'. Getting involved in one of our activities isn't just about getting fitter, it's about building confidence and improving self-esteem.

What is the most challenging aspect of your role?

There can be many complex issues affecting the lives of the young people referred into our service. Sometimes sport will be the last thing on their mind. Finding the right activities and locations to engage with them can often be a real challenge. However, many want to feel better about themselves, build their skills base or find employment – and sport can play a pivotal role in all of these.

What is the most memorable thing you've helped organise?

It's hard to beat my involvement in various award ceremonies where young people are recognised for their achievements in sport. Young people often get a bad press and it's these types of events that challenge those perceptions.

What do the Olympics mean for your work?

The Olympics has created real enthusiasm for sport across the country. With so many competing priorities in young people's lives, it's crucial we harness the power of the Games to inspire and motivate young people to lead more active, healthy lives.