

barnetfirst

issue 52 December 2012



New starters, first jobs

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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

www.barnet.gov.uk/parking

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

Leader's column



I am an optimist as far as Barnet is concerned. We look forward to the New Year, are on track to develop our budget proposals and can announce that we do not plan an increase in Council Tax.

Barnet raises money from Council Tax and receives a transfer of funds from central government. Whitehall has cut funding to Barnet but we have reacted with a variety of actions.

We have co-operated with other councils to share services, we have taken recycling in-house and we are outsourcing the back office and also the planning office. Planning decisions will remain under democratic control at all times.

I feel it is much better to save money by making our administration more efficient rather than stopping services or increasing Council Tax.

The programme of savings we have developed of around £125m over ten years would effectively be the same as a 38 per cent increase in Band D Council Tax – not a difficult choice to make.

With best wishes for the festive season.

Yours

Richard Cornelius

news in brief



Don't become a victim of crime this Christmas

For the second successive year, the council and police are combining forces on a campaign to encourage residents not to advertise their home to burglars over the festive period.

Christmas is a time which often sees a spike in burglary numbers as higher value items are stored in homes as presents, and people are out more often in the evening at Christmas parties.

Leaflets and posters will be distributed to residents, along with timer switches, reminding people to: ensure valuables are kept hidden away; make it appear you are in even when you are out; keep fences and gates secured and in a good state of repair; close and lock all doors and windows even if you are only leaving the house for a short period; and keep sheds locked so that tools cannot be used to break into your home.

Similarly, crimes of domestic violence often see an increase around the festive period. A variety of services are available in Barnet, including Solace Women's Aid, the Domestic Violence Intervention Project and Yuva, which works with 11 to 18-year-olds. For more information and contact details visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/domestic-violence



Early Christmas gift for Barnet residents and traders

Motorists across the borough are set to receive an early present from Barnet Council with the announcement of a free weekend's parking in the run-up to Christmas.

Motorists will be able to park free of charge on the weekend of 22 and 23 December in both on and off-street bays for a maximum of two hours.

The free parking will give residents and visitors a chance to make full use of the wide variety of shops and businesses available within the borough's town centres and allow them to stock up on their last-minute shopping.

Councillor Dean Cohen, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "Following a successful scheme last year I wanted to once again give a boost to both residents looking to shop in Barnet as well as those who own and run businesses here.

"I hope shoppers will take advantage of the scheme and use it to make the most of everything our high streets have to offer."

news in brief

Barnet Civic Awards nominations sought

Do you know an individual or group living or working in Barnet who you feel deserves recognition for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the borough? We are now inviting nominations for the London Borough of Barnet Annual Civic Awards 2013.

Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony in March 2013.

All entries must be received no later than 31 December 2012.

For a Civic Awards nomination form visit:
www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards-nomination-2013

2012 Civic Awards winners



William Ibbotson



Vivienne Bentley



Dr Oliver Natelson



Lachhya Bahadur Gurung



Paul Baldwin



Richa Karnani



Ursula Morrissey



Changes to recycling and waste collections

Over the Christmas and New Year period there will be some changes to the refuse, green waste and recycling collection days.

The Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre in Summers Lane, North Finchley, will be open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, and you can recycle Christmas trees, cards, cardboard and electrical items at the site.

A full schedule can be viewed at:
www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling

Recycling service to be brought in-house

Proposals to bring the council's recycling service in-house as part of its One Barnet change programme has been approved by Barnet Council's Cabinet.

The collection of recycling, currently outsourced to May Gurney, will now be run directly by the council from October 2013. The service will be merged with the council's in-house waste collection service, reducing costs to the taxpayer.

Barnet Council has previously announced plans to revise its waste collection services from late 2013, moving to 'co-mingled waste' to make it easier for residents to recycle more.



Proposed new block for The Compton School

Secondary schools share £10 million expansion plans

School expansion plans have been shared with parents and residents this autumn.

Christ's College and The Compton are set to take one additional form of entry each year from September 2013. Copthall Girls Secondary School will also create an additional teaching block to make room for extra students from September 2014.

The permanent expansions, which will create a new teaching block for each school, will provide additional space in some of the borough's successful secondary schools. Over the past four years, the council and local schools have created 57 primary classes to cope with rising demand.

The total cost of the permanent secondary school expansions is expected to be £10.8 million divided between the three schools.

Council Tax Benefit changes

The council recently consulted with residents on a range of options for the new Council Tax Support scheme, the local reduction scheme which will replace Council Tax Benefit when it's abolished next year.

Almost 3,000 people responded. The council is now considering responses and designing the new scheme, with proposals due to be considered at Cabinet later this month.

More information will be made available at:
www.barnet.gov.uk



Project underway to mark Diamond Jubilee



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated widely this summer throughout Barnet, including a festival attended by thousands of residents. Plans are now in progress to build a permanent local reminder of the Queen's 60 years on the throne.

Proposals are being developed involving Middlesex University, the council, the borough MPs and others, to construct a contemporary gateway between the Hatchcroft Building and the Ricketts Quadrangle. The works will include landscaping to parkland within the Middlesex campus.

Martin Russell, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Barnet, said: "This summer we saw the strength of support for Her Majesty and her Diamond Jubilee. Many want to be associated with a suitable and lasting commemoration of Her Majesty's wonderful reign to date. History shows public subscription helping to pay for memorials such as this. We will be seeking public and corporate donations as part of our funding."

Anyone wishing to pledge a donation should email: diamondjubilee@barnet.gov.uk
More information on proposals is available at: www.barnet.gov.uk/diamondjubilee



Supporting Independence Fund projects receive council backing

A series of projects aimed at helping adults with disabilities and older people live more independently have successfully bid for more than £162,000 from the council's Supporting Independence Fund.

The fund, which was launched in May, was set up to give imaginative projects help in getting off the ground.

Ten projects were selected to receive funding. These include a scheme run by charity Self Unlimited to reduce social isolation by supporting people with learning disabilities to set up their own dinner party experience, and a project to establish a network of 'safe havens' in shops and local businesses for people with learning disabilities. Another project, run by the

Saracens Sport Foundation, aims at getting the over-50s active through dance.

A full list of successful bidders, including details of their projects and updates on their progress, can be found at: www.barnet.gov.uk/supporting-independence-fund, and the Adult Social Care and Health department's Twitter, @lbbadults, and Facebook pages.



New starters in first jobs

£1 million programme takes on first recruits

This summer Barnet Council launched Platforms, a million-pound initiative to give young people in the borough help in entering the world of work.

Since the launch, dozens of Barnet young people and businesses have got involved with the many different strands the Platforms programme offers, including apprenticeships with local businesses, work placements in the voluntary sector and internships. The scheme also offers skills workshops, professional mentoring, employment support for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities and support for young people looking to start their own business.

Bisola Johnson, 18, from North Finchley, (pictured below and also on the front cover with Janet Brand, manager) is currently on a nine-month paid placement in the voluntary sector. She began her role with Advocacy in Barnet, a free advice service for residents, in early November. "I really like it here," she says.

"There is lots of work and I feel part of the team. I'm learning things all the time, such as how to take minutes of meetings and being clearer in the way I communicate. I'm hopeful these skills will help me get a job in the future."

Company Director Anna Pantelias, whose New Barnet-based business Spectrum Forwarding was the first to take on an apprentice, said: "This is our first apprentice and it's refreshing having someone quite young in the business."

Lauren Charnley, 22, from East Finchley, is looking for work after graduating this summer. She is currently attending the graduate employability support scheme, an eight-week course focusing on helping people find work in partnership with Middlesex University.

Lauren says: "I definitely think the scheme will help me find work. The in-depth interview skills and practice sessions should be really useful, and I'm looking forward to meeting my mentor."

- Apprenticeships
- Paid internships
- Careers advice and mentoring
- Enterprise start-up support
- Graduate careers support
- Paid placements in the voluntary sector
- Prince's Trust programmes



For more information, visit:
www.barnet.gov.uk/platforms



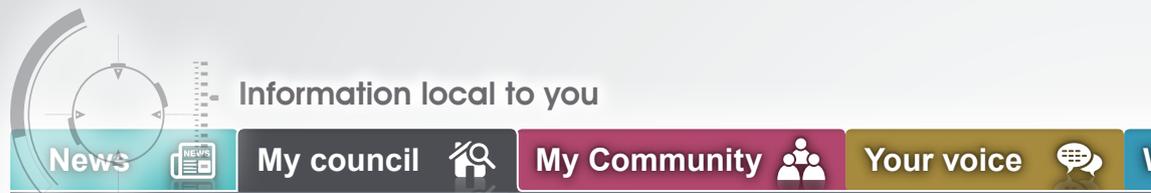
barnet.gov.uk

We have improved our website to make it easier for residents to access local services, make payments and engage with the council.

Councillor Robert Rams, Barnet's Cabinet Member for Customer Access says: "Our main focus, while

developing the website, has been to find ways to save time for busy people."

A broad range of public sector information – including crime figures, roadworks, volunteering and job opportunities – is now easy to find and provided on a local basis.



Information local to you

Ward: Underhill

Ward summary key facts

Underhill is the fifth largest ward in Barnet, with 17,255 residents in 2012. The population is not expected to grow significantly over the next decade.

33 per cent of school children in Underhill speak English as a second language. Persian-Farsi, Albanian-Shqip and Somali are the most common languages they speak at home.

Local activities

[Local Area Forum dates](#)

[Local Planning Committee dates](#)

[Local Planning Applications](#)

Local councillors



Cllr Anita Campbell
Labour



Cllr Andrew Strongolou
Conservative



Cllr Rowan Turner
Conservative

Local decisions

1822 – Dollis Valley Regeneration Scheme – Extension of Resident Independent Advisor Contract
25 Oct 2012



Enter your postcode, or select your ward to find local councillors, meeting dates and decisions. Search for council services, our partners' services, current consultations or nearby events and activities

“This is not just a council website, it’s a website for everyone in the borough,” says Councillor Rams.

“Using our map-based search, you can locate a local playgroup, check their opening hours, find a convenient car park, see if there are roadworks on the

way and find out how the café next door scores for food hygiene.”

The council has also rolled out planning alerts, which allow residents to request automated email updates on planning and licensing applications.

What's on 

NW7 4HT

Find your nearest...
Select a service



FOIs

- Housing Transfer Lists
- Legal Advice re Eruvim
- Primary School ICT
- Translation and Interpreters

Related information



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Service: Select...
Postcode:
Search Advanced search

Library links

- Barnet libraries catalogue
- Digital library catalogue
- Join the library
- Renew library books
- Strategic Library Review

FOIs

- Housing Transfer Lists
- Legal Advice to Eruvim
- Primary School ICT
- Translation and Interpreters

Each page links to relevant news stories, supplementary documents to downloads, directories to search, Freedom of Information requests and related events

Dynamic menus

A range of convenient online forms and services have been designed to save you time. Jump straight to 'top tasks' from any page

Apply for it now

- Barnet libraries membership
- Home library service application
- School libraries resources requests
- More...

Pay for it now

Report it now

Top tasks

- Find a library
- Find a school
- Find childcare
- FixMyStreet
- Order Visitor Vouchers
- Parking permits
- Pay a parking ticket (PCN)
- Pay Council Tax
- Planning applications
- Renew library books

Get involved

Services

My Barnet



Sitting in his office overlooking the complex of buildings which make up the RAF Museum in Colindale, Director General Peter Dye OBE reflects on how he came to renew his association with Barnet more than five decades after leaving the borough.

Born at the former Victoria Maternity Hospital in High Barnet, Peter spent the first two years of his life in the area before his father's work in the RAF took the family elsewhere. Peter later went on to follow in his father's footsteps, serving in the RAF for 37 years around the world in the role of aircraft support and maintenance before retiring at the rank of Air Vice-Marshal in 2008.

His passion for aviation then drew him to the job of Director of Collections at the museum in Grahame Park Way and ultimately to becoming its Director General in 2010.

"I have an interest in the history of the RAF and aviation, so when the job was advertised I suppose it matched my experience and interests. My father and grandfather were in the RAF so there's also an element of family tradition there," says Peter.

The museum, which opened in 1972, is currently home to a unique collection of more than 100 historic aircraft and attracts more than 300,000 visitors each year.

"Moving around every few years only really stopped when I retired. The irony is that when it all stopped I found myself here, where it all started," recalls Peter.

"I knew of the museum and had visited the airfield here before the museum was created. There was the officers' mess and the abandoned airfield but none of the development.

"Colindale grew up around the airfield and was the hub of the British aircraft manufacturing industry, so

I think we do share that sense of history with the local community."

Peter's pride in his job is evident when he describes the museum's latest achievement of taking on two apprentices.

"We're particularly proud to have taken on our first two apprentices recently - they study at Barnet and Southgate College and it's a three to four-year apprenticeship. They're already involved in maintenance of the aircraft. I think it's really important we provide those kinds of opportunities."

A Colindale resident himself, Peter explains a little of why he likes the borough he has returned to.

"I think there's a real variety here. It's a lot more rural than people perhaps expect, just up the road you can be in the countryside.

"Living locally you tend to shop locally, there are some good restaurants at Beaufort Park and Brent Cross is a great shopping centre. I also like to take advantage of being so close to central London."

Peter explains his vision for the museum playing a key role in the future regeneration of the Colindale area which will see 10,000 new homes built over the next 15 years.

"Given the scale of the Colindale regeneration there's every opportunity to enhance the area. It's also very important that people have a sense of place from familiar landmarks and landscape.

"I think by protecting things like the airfield's old watch tower, and other buildings from the Grahame White aircraft factory, we provide a bit of an anchor while the building work is going on. I think that's as important a role as many of the other things we try to do. We're also looking to keep the development of the museum integral with the regeneration plans, both to better present the story of the RAF and aviation, and also to meet the other demands made of us."



The Beaufort Park development



Peter Dye at the RAF Museum



One of the apprentices at work



Restoration work



Another regeneration development



One of the aircraft on display

Keeping well this winter

Each winter hundreds of people suffer from serious illnesses such as heart attack, stroke and pneumonia during the cold weather, which could very easily be prevented.

Around 100 additional deaths occur from these illnesses in Barnet each winter compared to the rest of the year.

Barnet Council, working with NHS Barnet, have grants available to residents receiving means-tested benefits to assist with heating and insulation improvements in their home, especially for those who are elderly or vulnerable.

More than 100 households have been helped by the council's Decent Homes programme in the past year. Barnet First paid a visit to an elderly couple who live in Hendon to find out what a difference the work has made to their lives.

Mr and Mrs Smith* have lived in the same home for 35 years but in recent years it has fallen into a state of disrepair. They were put in touch with the council's Environmental Health department who assessed them and realised they were eligible for a host of improvements through the Decent Homes and Winter Well grant schemes.

The work undertaken to make the house safer and warmer included:

- replastering a bedroom wall damaged by leaking water from the gutter
- carrying out boiler repairs and fitting thermostatic valves to the radiators
- supplying loft insulation
- replacing the toilet window
- repairing the chimney
- installing a new fire alarm.

* names changed





Speaking to Barnet First, Mr Smith, aged 85, said: “The repair works are a great improvement and I am more than happy. Not only has this made my home warmer, it has made a real and positive difference to my health and that of my wife, who has respiratory problems. Before the works were carried out we got regular chest pains, now we don’t.”

As well as the Decent Homes programme, the borough’s Winter Well campaign is able to give residents advice and help with insulation and heating improvements.

Councillor Helena Hart, Cabinet Member for Public Health, said: “This is a fantastic scheme and the council is ready to help and assist anyone who needs advice on keeping safe and warm. If either you or anyone you know – a neighbour, friend or relative – may be in need this winter, make sure you check on them and let them know about the help that is available.”

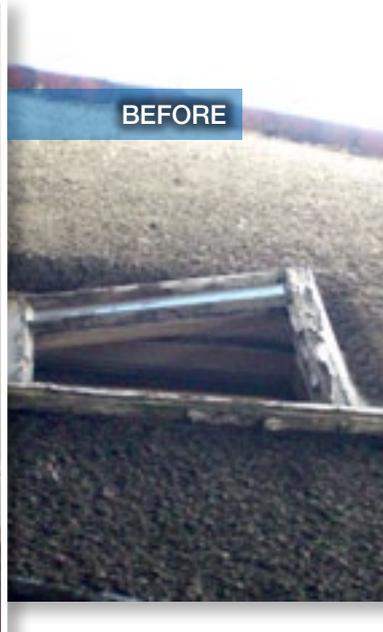
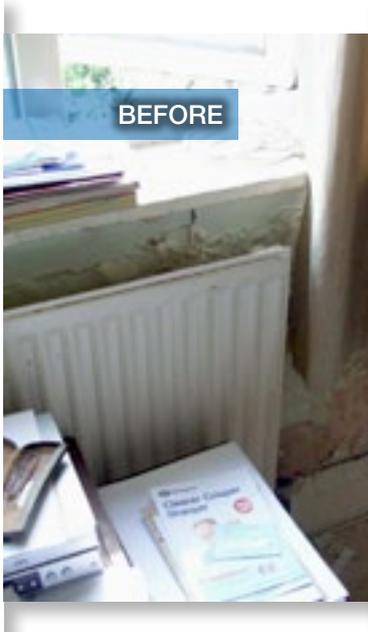
“

Not only has this made my home warmer, it has made a real and positive difference to my health and that of my wife...

Mr Smith, aged 85

”

To get in touch about either scheme, call Barnet's Winter Well team on 020 8359 7441 or visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/keeping-well-this-winter



contact your councillors

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Cllr Ansuya Sodha

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what's on



Holocaust Memorial Day 2013



Every year the council marks Holocaust Memorial Day by inviting all residents to attend a special ceremony to remember those who lost their lives through genocide.

The ceremony, which starts with a civic procession in Hendon led by the Mayor of Barnet, culminates in a range of special guests talking about their own personal experiences.

This year's theme is 'Communities together: Build a bridge'.

The London Cantorial Singers and Alyth Youth Singers choir groups will perform.

In attendance will be students from Bishop Douglass School who will read the statement of commitment.

The event is being held on Sunday 20 January at 1pm at the Ricketts Quadrangle, Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BT.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Last month, as part of Barnet Council's Snowdrop Project, the Mayor of Barnet joined pupils from Colindale Primary School in an annual ceremony to plant snowdrop bulbs in commemoration of those children who lost their lives in the Holocaust.



For more information visit:
www.barnet.gov.uk/holocaustmemorial



Dickensian Christmas Carols

Date: 18 December, 2.30pm

Venue: East Barnet Library

Join the East Barnet Library Afternoon Tea Group for free tea, mince pies and the best in traditional carols. Staff will be dressed in traditional costume and read excerpts from a Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

For more information contact East Barnet Library on 020 8359 3863 or email east.barnet.library@barnet.gov.uk

The Gruffalo

Date: 8 December – 6 January, various times

Venue: artsdepot – £12.50/£44 Family Ticket (admits 4)

Everyone's favourite monster returns in a show full of songs, laughs and scary fun for everyone. Presented by Tall Stories. Ages three and over.

Box Office: 020 8369 5454

Shazia Mirza

Date: 9 February, 8pm

Venue: artsdepot – £14/£12 conc

A brand new show from the award-winning comedian. Ages 14 and over.
 Box Office: 020 8369 5454

BalletBoyz – the TALENT 2013

Date: 12 February, 7.30pm

Venue: artsdepot – £20/£16 conc

An exhilarating evening of dance featuring 10 exceptional young dancers.
 Box Office: 020 8369 5454

Working hours

Lynn Holman-Fox is the Head of Barnet's Music Service, now based at Dollis Junior School in Mill Hill. She has worked for the council for 20 years and is currently putting the finishing touches to a pioneering move which will give the Barnet Music Service independent charity status.

What does the Barnet Music Service mean to you?

I am very passionate about children taking part in positive activities and seeing the difference it makes to their lives. Music can have a huge impact on their lives and we have always worked hard to create advantage where there is disadvantage. Part of the reason we are transferring to charitable status is so that we can offer more help to those families who struggle to pay for lessons.

Have you got any stand-out memories of your 20 years working for the Barnet Music Service?

The best thing is listening to kids play. Particular memories are of listening to a group playing West Side Story at the Regent Hall in Oxford Street and similarly Carmen at the Royal Albert Hall. Some of the Infant Music Festivals also stand out in the memory.

What is the most challenging part of your role?

Managing staff from a distance. The music service has 170 staff and it is almost like management by remote control. However, having various staff who have duties other than teaching, harnessing their skills as middle managers, is very helpful.

Barnet Music Service is about to take on charitable status. Can you tell us more about this?

We are already a fully traded service and by taking on charitable status, it is possible that some of our fees could be Gift Aided. This means we could earn another 25 per cent, which can then be used as a fund to help children and families who struggle to afford music lessons. Being a charity also opens up other funding streams to the service. We should be able to complete the move by February 2013.

Barnet First understands that you have some interesting 'claims to fame' from before you worked in Barnet. Can you tell us more?

When I was still a student, I taught Mayor of London Boris Johnson the recorder at a primary school in Camden. Even then, he was very funny, sharp and quick-witted. Also before coming to Barnet, I was a professional musician playing the clarinet and saxophone and played for several TV theme tunes including Red Dwarf.

To find out more visit:
[www.barnet.gov.uk/
barnetmusicservice](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/barnetmusicservice)

