

# barnetfirst

issue 47 November 2011



**Adopt a street**  
**See page 7**

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# Leader's column



**A**s this column goes to print we are living through a period of unprecedented international financial turmoil. There is a sense of not knowing what will happen in our world, during the next few weeks and months. Against this background the council is preparing its budget with the certainty that there will be less money to spend next year and the years after.

We feel that the best way to help Barnet's people is to freeze Council Tax for another year, to cut back on administrative expenses and only reduce services where absolutely necessary.

Over the four years of the government spending review we plan to take £68.5m out of the budget. For the forthcoming year we will have £13.6m less to spend. An ambitious three quarters of these savings will come from increased efficiency.

In the budget we are committing £40m to expanding primary school places, providing a good school place for every child living in the borough. We are also funding £2.5m support to the most vulnerable in the community.

The budget is printed in the middle of this magazine together with the ways that residents can let us have their opinions and suggestions on it.

Our suburb is a nice place to live and we enjoy excellent schools and council services. Despite hard times and hard choices we are determined that Barnet will remain the best London borough.

Yours

Richard Cornelius

## Contacting your council

### Corporate Customer Services

tel: 020 8359 2000

email: [first.contact@barnet.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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

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# News in brief

## Barnet Civic Awards 2012

Do you know someone who deserves recognition? Someone who works tirelessly for little or no reward? Or someone that gives up their time to volunteer for a good cause?

Barnet Council is now inviting nominations for the 2012 Civic Awards. The deadline for submitting your nomination is 31 December 2011.

Open to anyone who lives or works in Barnet, this is your opportunity to nominate a person or group that you think has made a real difference in the borough.

Barnet councillors and previous winners are not eligible for nomination.

Award winners will be invited to attend the Civic Awards ceremony which will be held next March.

To download a Civic Awards Nominations Form, visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards)

## Residents thrilled at £400k town centre boost



Chipping Barnet residents and traders were delighted to receive £416,685 from the Mayor of London's Outer London Fund to improve their town centre.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, announced that Chipping Barnet was among 30 first round winners to "bring the buzz back" to their high streets from a £10m fund.

The proposals for Chipping Barnet include enhancing the green space at St John the Baptist Church in Wood Street as well as clutter removal and tree planting on the High Street along with other economy boosting initiatives.

A programme of retailer training and support will be delivered in time for Christmas to help businesses in this historic town centre attract additional local shoppers.

The council is currently submitting bids for the second round of funding for North Finchley, Edgware and Cricklewood town centres.

## Recycling residents make a 'nice save' in Barnet



A new campaign to highlight the financial benefits of recycling has been rolled out on the roads of Barnet.

Funded by Recycle for London (RfL), new banners have been added to ten of Barnet Council's refuse collection trucks, stressing how much money residents have saved over the course of the last year.

During 2010, Barnet residents saved a staggering £1m by recycling materials through the council's weekly kerbside collection scheme and by using the recycling banks service.

Unveiling the new banners at the council's Mill Hill Depot on 19 September, The Worshipful the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Lisa Rutter, said:

"I am delighted we have saved so much by diverting valuable materials from landfill, although there is still much more to do."

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## Council services available 'app' the touch of a button



Barnet residents now have access to the council's wide range of services at their fingertips, with the launch of Barnet Council's official Smartphone application.

Available to download on iPhone via the Apple App Store, the free application which has been designed and created in-house, allows users to find out local information wherever they are and whenever they want. The app also allows users to find useful information, see the latest council jobs, contact their local councillor, find answers to common questions and get involved in local consultations.

Residents can also pay for their Council Tax, sign up for pay-by-phone parking or search an interactive map of local activities via the application.

The official Barnet Council app is compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and the iPad. An operating system of iOS 4.3 or later is required. An application for

Android-supported Smartphones is currently being developed and will be launched in due course.

To download the iPhone application, visit: <http://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/barnet-mobile/id467700560?mt=8>

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## Tell Us Once... and we'll tell the rest



When a loved one dies, the last thing you feel like doing is getting in touch with lots of different government departments to tell them what has happened. Until now, you had to contact all of them individually.

But now, Barnet Council's Registration and Nationality Service has started to provide an initiative where, if you agree, we can help you to give the information to the Department for Work and Pensions and they can pass this information to a number of other government departments and local council services for you.

The following local council services are directly involved in the programme and will be receiving

the Tell Us Once notifications: Adult Social Care and Health, Blue Badge, Children's Services, Council Tax, Housing Benefits, Electoral Services, Finance/Monies owed to Council, Housing Needs/Barnet Homes and Libraries.

This service is offered when a death is registered. To make an appointment to register a death in Barnet call 020 8359 6400.

For more information, visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/deaths-funerals-cremations](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/deaths-funerals-cremations)

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## Save the dates for Barnet's Jubilee plans



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrates 60 years on the throne in 2012 (see above image of the announcement of her accession in 1952, at Hendon Town Hall. Credit Barnet Local Studies Centre), and Barnet is organising a series of events to mark the occasion.

The celebration will begin in December 2011 with the planting of a ceremonial Black Poplar tree, Her Majesty's favourite, in Sunny Hill Park, with 80 more trees being

planted in Barnet schools during the same month.

This will be followed by a Civic Service on Sunday 5 February 2012 at Golders Green Parish Church.

Residents can also put Monday 4 June 2012 in their diaries as it sees the showpiece Barnet event, a day of celebration to be held at Golders Hill Park, which will include music, stalls, a firework display and the lighting of a giant beacon as part of a spectacular national chain of beacons.

Many residents may also want to have street parties. The council will, as with this year's Royal Wedding, make the process as easy as possible with minimal paperwork for residents. Continue checking out Barnet Pledgebank at [pledgebank.barnet.gov.uk](http://pledgebank.barnet.gov.uk) for more details on how you can organise your own party.

Look out in the next edition of Barnet First for more on the Diamond Jubilee or check out the council's website at [www.barnet.gov.uk/jubilee](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/jubilee)

## Changes to recycling and waste collections



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

Look out for information on the council's website in December and in the local newspapers the week before Christmas, informing you of the changes.

In the meantime, if you're planning a festive party over the coming months, you can save money and prevent food waste using the Love Food Hate Waste Party Food Planner. This handy online tool removes the guesswork by suggesting how much to cook for the number of people that you're catering for. It's available at [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)

Any food waste that you can't avoid can be recycled in the green garden and kitchen waste bin.

## London TV region gets set for digital



In April 2012, analogue television will be switched off across London. If you don't have digital TV by the time of switchover, you will lose your TV channels.

If you are still watching analogue TV (five channels or fewer) on any of your sets, you need to convert them to digital. Virtually any existing TV can be converted using a Freeview box, a digital satellite service or digital cable.

If you're 75 and over or registered disabled, the Help Scheme will write to you directly and in plenty of time to ask if you want help. When you get in touch, they will arrange a date for visiting you, and will show identification when they arrive.

Most eligible people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard option of help. For eligible people on income-related benefits, it's free.

For more details, call the Digital UK advice line on 0845 650 5050 or visit [www.digitaluk.co.uk](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk)



## Council unveils multi-million pound programme for 3,000 new primary school places

**B**arnet Council has revealed the next steps in its ambitious proposals to create an additional 3,360 permanent primary school places over the next five years.

An initial £40m investment programme will see the permanent expansion of at least seven existing successful primary schools in the borough. The proposed expansions include creating 120 reception

places each year in the west of the borough, and would see the Orion Primary School expand and move. A new primary school is also proposed at Mill Hill East to meet demand from regeneration in the area.

Looking further ahead, the council has identified the need for a further £20m to plan for expansions in the primary sector including a potential new primary school in the south of the borough.

This investment programme coincides with the creation of 390 extra reception school places for this academic year to meet the current exceptional demand.

Barnet Council has been working closely with primary schools across the borough to make sure every child who applied on time has successfully been found a place.

This September also saw the Worshipful the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Lisa Rutter, officially open Northway Special School, Fairway Primary School and the Fairway Children's Centre on The Fairway in Mill Hill.

Pupils from the schools released balloons in celebration of the opening which marked the seventh First Class Schools building project in Barnet with partners Kier London.

Councillor Andrew Harper, Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families, said: "The high demand for primary school places in Barnet is testament to the fantastic success of our schools.

"The expansions we're proposing will help us continue to ensure that every school is a good school for every child and that every Barnet child who needs a place in one of our schools gets one."

For more information, visit  
[www.barnet.gov.uk/first-class-schools](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/first-class-schools)

WWW



## Local residents lead the way with initiative to 'adopt' their street

**A** group of Finchley residents have become the first in the borough to 'adopt a street', under a pioneering initiative with Barnet Council.

'Adopt a street' encourages local volunteers to care for their area by carrying out extra work which will make their neighbourhoods look more attractive, including planting, gardening and litter sweeps.

With support and training from council staff, residents living on Ravensdale Avenue, N12, have for the past six months been collecting litter, pruning overgrown greenery, leaf sweeping and planting new bulbs ready for spring.

When residents sign up to adopt their street they will receive training from council officers and be provided with appropriate equipment such as litter pickers, shovels and rubbish sacks.

In the run up to the winter months, 'adopted' streets will also receive a delivery of grit and equipment to remove snow and spread grit on their pavements.

After a highly successful trial, Barnet Council is offering similar support to an initial ten streets who sign up to the scheme through the council's website.

The council pledges to 'provide the necessary equipment and training to an initial ten streets if six people from each street agree to adopt their street'.

Ruth Wildish, joint co-ordinator of the Ravensdale Avenue scheme, said:

"Since we took part in the scheme, the community spirit in our street has increased. There is no doubt in my mind that being involved in community life makes you happier and healthier.

"The benefits from taking part have so far been extremely positive, and the children absolutely loved the bulb planting. This scheme is a great way of showing young people that caring for their close environment is just as important as the bigger environment around them."

To sign up to 'adopt a street', visit  
[www.barnet.gov.uk/pledgebank](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/pledgebank)



WWW

# My Barnet

**N**o-one can say they've had a more hands-on approach within their local community than Michael McNeala.

Sitting in his muddy work boots with his hard hat placed to one side, Michael is taking a quick tea break from his job as a plumber on the Grahame Park Estate regeneration project.

Originally from the West Coast of Ireland, Michael moved to England in 1988 in search of work.

"All my working life I've been involved with the construction trade", he recalls.

After living in Cricklewood for a short period of time, Michael is now settled in Colindale with his wife and two daughters. His commute to work couldn't be easier. With his home directly opposite the site where he works, it is just a two-minute stroll from his front door every morning.

Michael started working on the regeneration project back in February on a trial basis but was soon rewarded for his work with a full-time position.

He is among a number of local craftsmen and women employed to work on the Grahame Park project. With a wide variety of skills required on site ranging from bricklayers, electricians, plumbers and carpenters, the project's developers, Countryside Properties, have been keen to use workers who live in the borough, even establishing an apprenticeship scheme for those looking to enter the construction industry.

"Grahame Park has unfairly been tarnished with a bad reputation over the years, but I hope this regeneration will allow the community to come together through cutting unemployment among other things", says Michael.

"Over the last five years there have been big improvements to the Colindale area and now things are starting to take shape fairly rapidly."

Built in the mid-70s, the Grahame Park Estate became the country's largest housing estate with a huge 1,777 homes. Over the years it outgrew its original design and became in need of vital rebuilding. A radical programme is now transforming the estate with almost 3,000 new homes and shops being built which will form part of a new heart for Colindale.

"Wherever I've worked or lived I've always enjoyed learning about a place's past", Michael points out. "There's certainly a bit of history around here, especially with the RAF Museum just around the corner.

"The old control tower building which now stands by the RAF Museum, for example, dates back to the Second World War when the area was used as an airbase. When the area was redeveloped the building did not fit in with the new plans so it was taken down brick-by-brick, moved to where it is now, turned southwards and rebuilt brick-by-brick to its original plans."

For Michael, the range of local facilities on offer contribute to his fondness of Barnet.

"Compared to other boroughs, Barnet feels comfortable and relaxed, there is a good selection of schools which is important and the local sports centre and libraries are popular with my daughters.

"Being a family man it's nice to have the parks. Montrose Park is one of our favourites, especially when the weather is nice and we can have picnics.

"You also have the Edgware Road, the main vein of Colindale with all its shops, so everything is conveniently located. There isn't the hustle and bustle; it's a relaxed place to shop."

## Tell us your story

If you would like to be featured in future issues of My Barnet, please email [barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk) with no more than 100 words describing your life in Barnet.





Michael working on site



First phase construction works nearly complete



Outside the RAF Museum, Colindale



Michael at the local sports centre



Montrose Park



Edgware Road, Colindale

# The Leisure Challenge

**B**arnet Council is launching a review into how public sector leisure services are run in the borough.

Councillor Robert Rams, Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships, who is leading the review said:

“Every penny of council spending will have to work harder over the coming years. So we will be working with our colleagues in the NHS, Police and voluntary sectors to see how we get the best possible return for every pound we spend.”

Barnet Council currently spends around £1.7m supporting leisure activity, while residents collectively spend around £340m each year (around £48.10 each week for each household) on all leisure activities.

Councillor Rams added: “The most sensible use of council money is to lever in funding to support the opportunities which the private sector cannot provide alone, and to work with public sector partners on an agreed set of health benefits. This review will explore just how we can do this.

“I am particularly keen to see how we can be clearer about how we support the health benefits of exercise for all age groups. When we ran the library review we decided that we needed to invest in getting children into the habit of reading.

“Given growing levels of childhood obesity, we may need to be getting children into the exercise habit for life.”

The council will start consultation with focus groups of residents before Christmas to shape the full public consultation in the New Year.

To have your say, visit  
[engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk)

WWW

# Winter Well Campaign

**T**he idea that Barnet's winters can prove more dangerous than those in the harsh conditions of eastern Siberia may surprise some.

But according to Dr Andrew Burnett, Director for Public Health for Barnet, there are reasons why:

"Remarkably, people living in eastern Siberia have fewer health problems as a result of cold weather than people living in Barnet," he says.

"Each winter in Barnet, hundreds of people suffer from serious preventable illnesses such as heart attack, stroke or pneumonia due to the cold. Around 100 additional deaths occur from these illnesses each winter compared to the rest of the year. Eastern Siberia sees only slight rises in mortality rates as people understand how to cope with cold weather!

"They will wear several layers to trap warmth, stay mobile and wouldn't dream of leaving the house without a hat and gloves."

The NHS in Barnet and Barnet Council are working together to urge relatives and neighbours to help keep elderly and other vulnerable residents well this winter.

"When the room temperature falls below 16°C the tubes in your lungs narrow, increasing the risk of chest infection," says Dr Burnett. "Below 12°C your arteries will narrow, raising blood pressure and dramatically increasing the risk of heart attack and stroke."

That's why the campaign's key messages include encouraging residents to stay warm and to get the right jabs from their GP. As cold housing can have serious health implications, owner occupiers on certain means tested benefits can apply for grants to improve insulation and heating through Barnet Council's Private Sector Housing Team. You can contact the team on 020 8359 7462.

Dr Burnett added: "If there's one message I want to get across this winter it's that a hat and gloves are not just for Christmas."

For health advice, visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call NHS Direct on 0845 4647.

www





## Lend a hand in Barnet libraries

**A**n exciting partnership with Volunteer Centre Barnet is being launched this month.

The new project is looking for enthusiastic volunteers who love their local library and would like to gain new skills, meet people and contribute to their local community. Library volunteers will be supported with an induction and training programme, references and celebration events. They'll be able to get involved in a range of volunteering opportunities to support library activities such as the popular children's and teen events, computer classes and reading groups. 2011 is the European Year of Volunteering, emphasising the positive ways that volunteers can contribute to their local communities.

For more information about volunteer opportunities in Barnet Libraries, contact Hannah Richens on 020 8359 7779 or [hannah.richens@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.richens@barnet.gov.uk)

### Make friends with a book

Starting at community venues and libraries in the borough, The Reader Organisation will be running it's own brand of reading group. Beginning in November these weekly sessions are open to everyone.

Hearing good writing read aloud is the starting point for sharing thoughts, feelings and experiences about the characters and situations, about the world and our own lives. The book sharing sessions aim to improve wellbeing and build communities through a shared love of reading. The sessions are aimed to be informal and unlike a book club there is no need to have read a book first before joining in.

For more details, contact a Barnet Library or Paul Higgins on 07985 718 744 or email [paulhiggins@thereader.org.uk](mailto:paulhiggins@thereader.org.uk)

### Conversation Café

Sparked by an interest in 'having a chat' with other fellow speakers of English as an additional language, the Conversation Café at Hendon Library from 11am to 12noon every Thursday is going from strength to strength.

To find out more, contact Lauren La Tulip on 020 8359 2878.

For more information, visit  
[www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries)

www

# Putting an end to potholes

**B**arnet Council spent £2.6m last year fixing more than 20,580 potholes on Barnet's 433 mile road network.

Under this year's Pothole Elimination Programme (PEP) the council removed all potholes from the borough's roads by the end of September. 538 potholes were repaired during one month alone, with another 409 potholes filled up to the end of September at a cost of £404,000.

Large-scale machine patching was used to completely re-lay some sections of road in areas with a high number of potholes, costing a further £70,000.

This year, Barnet received £395,000 from the Department of Transport's pothole fund to help tackle the large number of potholes which appeared following last winter's severe weather.

It is estimated that by the end of the financial year, the council will spend a further £350,000 on routine pothole repairs. And with another harsh winter predicted, the council has received its order of nine

new high-tech gritting vehicles and has stockpiled more than 3,800 tonnes of grit.

Each truck can hold up to nine tonnes of grit and boasts state-of-the-art electronic tracking and monitoring systems which calculates its route and the amount of grit spread. The new design allows for a more even spread of salt and even a mechanism for spreading under parked cars.

Councillor Brian Coleman,  
Cabinet Member for Environment, said:

"Once again the council is going to significant effort to bring Barnet's roads back up to the high standards residents have always enjoyed. We're grateful to the government for their financial contribution, but of course it's Barnet taxpayers' money which has covered the majority of these repairs."

To report a pothole, go to  
[barnet.fixmystreet.com](http://barnet.fixmystreet.com)

www

# Contact your councillors

## Brunswick Park

### Conservative

Cllr Lynne Hillan  
cllr.l.hillan@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Lisa Rutter  
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Cllr Andreas Tambourides  
cllr.a.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

## Burnt Oak

### Labour

Cllr Alex Brodtkin  
cllr.a.brodtkin@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Claire Farrier  
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Cllr Charlie O-Macauley  
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## Childs Hill

### Liberal Democrat

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Cllr Susette Palmer  
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## Colindale

### Labour

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Cllr Zakia Zubairi  
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## Coppetts

### Labour

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Cllr Barry Rawlings  
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### Conservatives

Cllr Kate Salinger  
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## East Barnet

### Conservative

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Cllr Robert Rams  
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Cllr Joanna Tambourides  
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## East Finchley

### Labour

Cllr Alison Moore  
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Cllr Andrew McNeil  
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Cllr Colin Rogers  
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## Edgware

### Conservative

Cllr Helena Hart  
cllr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Joan Scannell  
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Cllr Darrell Yawitch  
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## Finchley Church End

### Conservative

Cllr Eva Greenspan  
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Cllr Graham Old  
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## Garden Suburb

### Conservatives

Cllr Andrew Harper  
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Cllr John Marshall  
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Cllr Daniel Gideon Seal  
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## Golders Green

### Conservative

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Cllr Melvin Cohen  
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Cllr Reuben Thompstone  
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## Hale

### Conservative

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Cllr Hugh Rayner  
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## Hendon

### Conservative

Cllr Maureen Braun  
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Cllr Anthony Finn  
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Cllr Mark Shooter  
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## High Barnet

### Conservative

Cllr David Longstaff  
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Cllr Bridget Perry  
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Cllr Wendy Prentice  
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## Mill Hill

### Conservative

Cllr John Hart  
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Cllr Sury Khatri  
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Cllr Brian Schama  
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## Oakleigh

### Conservative

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Cllr Brian Salinger  
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## Totteridge

### Conservatives

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## Underhill

### Conservative

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### Labour

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## West Finchley

### Labour

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Cllr Kath McGuirk  
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Cllr Jim Tierney  
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## West Hendon

### Labour

Cllr Julie Johnson  
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Cllr Agnes Slocombe  
cllr.a.slocombe@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Ansuya Sodha  
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## Woodhouse

### Labour

Cllr Geof Cooke  
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Cllr Anne Hutton  
cllr.a.hutton@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Alan Schneiderman  
cllr.a.schneiderman@barnet.gov.uk

For details of surgeries, call 020 8359 2000

or email [first.contact@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:first.contact@barnet.gov.uk)

# Holocaust Memorial Day 2012

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 in front of an audience about their own personal experiences.

This year's theme is 'Speak Up, Speak Out' and guests will be encouraged to remember the past, reflect on the present and react to create a better future.

In attendance will be The Worshipful the Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet, Councillor Lisa Rutter, and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Cornelius.

Speakers included at the event include:

- Sir Erich Reich, Chairman of the Kindertransport Association
- His Excellency Mr. Edward M. Turay, High Commissioner of Sierra Leone
- A representative from Middlesex University
- Students from Ashmole Academy.

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

The event is being held on Sunday 22 January 2012 at 1pm at the Ricketts Quadrangle, Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BT.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information visit  
[www.barnet.gov.uk/holocaust](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/holocaust)

WWW

What's on  
in Barnet?

## November - December

### Jobseekers advice session

**Date:** Friday 9 December, 11am – 1pm,  
Golders Green Library

Do you need help writing up a successful CV? If you need some pointers then come along to this session with a professionally trained career adviser. Booking required.

Contact Golders Green Library on 020 8359 2060 or email  
[mary.ochigbo@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:mary.ochigbo@barnet.gov.uk)

### Leisure and Entertainment in and around Finchley

**Date:** Wednesday 23 November, 7.45pm,  
The Friern Barnet and District Local History Society, St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane, Whetstone, N20

A look at popular entertainment from around 1900 to the advent of the Cinema. Take a visual tour of archival images from the Barnet Local Studies Collection. £2 per person for non-members.

### Snow Dragon

**Date:** Sunday 20 November,  
12noon and 3pm, artsdepot, £7

A wintry show bursting with energy, catchy tunes and audience participation.

Presented by Tall Stories. Ages 3+  
 Box Office: 020 8369 5454.

### Operation Greenfield

**Date:** Friday 25 November, 8pm,  
artsdepot, £12/£10 concessions

A sweet, bizarre theatrical treat overflowing with faith, friendship and Forest Fruits squash. Presented by Little Bulb Theatre. Strictly 11+. Box Office: 020 8369 5454.

### The Gruffalo's Child Christmas Show

**Date:** Sunday 11 – Friday 30 December,  
various times, artsdepot,  
£12/£40 Family Ticket (admits four)

Presented by Tall Stories. Ages 3+  
 Box Office: 020 8369 5454.



# Working hours

Rosie Evangelou has worked at Barnet Council for the past 14 years as a consultation and insight officer, and until recently had lived in the borough for many years.

**Q** Can you describe your main responsibilities?

**A** I lead on our corporate consultations such as our Residents' Perception Survey and running our Citizens' Panel. I recently led on launching our new 'engage' website where the council publishes all its consultations.

**Q** What drew you to the job?

**A** Having worked for the BBC for eight years as a television audience researcher in west London, I really wanted to work closer to home and put something back into my local community.

**Q** How important has consultation become for the way the council operates?

**A** Consultation has become integral to what we do, as it's so important that we understand the views and needs of all our residents in order to deliver excellent services.

**Q** What's the most challenging thing about the job you do?

**A** Making sure that as many people across our diverse communities get the opportunity to give us their views.

**Q** What's the most rewarding aspect of your work?

**A** When we can clearly show residents and service users how the results of our consultations have informed the decisions we've made. I also find the face-to-face consultative events we run really rewarding.

**Q** How has the way the council consults changed in recent years?

**A** In recent years we've tried to move away from just conducting surveys to more of a two-way dialogue and conversation. Also, we are engaging with residents more and more on the web, using tools such as our 'Ideas' website, YouTube and social media, such as Twitter and Facebook.

**Q** What did you like most about living in Barnet?

**A** I spent many years living in the borough and loved the fact that there were so many facilities on my doorstep as well as excellent schools.

**Q** What is the most unusual thing the council has consulted on?

**A** Probably abandoned shopping trolleys.

To view current consultations, visit [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk)

www