



Merry Christmas from Barnet Council

Winning sculpture from schools'
recycling competition, see page 2

Contents

Leader's column	2
News in brief	3
Get involved	6
Budget consultation	7
Public health	8
My Barnet	10
Adult Social Care	12
Contact your councillors	14
What's on	15
Working hours	16

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 email us on:

barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk

Or write to us

First Contact, London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP

Leader's column



On page 7 of this magazine you will see our latest proposals for the council's budget. We are consulting on a modest reduction in council tax followed by a freeze for a further two years. In planning the One Barnet programme we made assumptions of a £102m saving in the council's costs up to 2019. In fact the savings have been larger than that, at £147m, with further savings to be delivered.

The majority of this saving will be put into supporting council services, but given the pressures on household bills I think it is sensible to return some of that saving to the taxpayer. Over the past five years council tax will have fallen slightly in cash terms. Taking all these measures into account, as well as inflation, this represents a reduction of 20 per cent in real terms. I hope you will give us your views.

In the centre pages of the magazine you will find information about how the council is coping with the rising demand for property in the borough while preserving the suburban nature of Barnet. We are using private sector investment in new homes to redevelop run down 1960s housing estates with high quality new homes. Over the coming decade Barnet will do its bit to support London's growing population, building 28,000 new homes. But if you were to go to any of the new estates in the borough you will be hard pushed to tell the difference between new social housing and high quality private sector homes. I am very proud of how the council has supported the regeneration of these estates and kept regeneration moving through the recession with limited use of taxpayers' money.

Yours

Richard Cornelius

Congratulations to the winners of Barnet Primary Schools' Recycling Competition. Winners are Woodridge Primary School and Holly Park School with 'Jeff the Snowman' (featured on cover).

news in brief



High streets get an early Christmas present

The council is giving Barnet's high streets a helping hand with a range of Christmas parking measures throughout December.

Motorists have already been able to park for free on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 December, and are able to park for free in all pay-to-park bays and across the council's car parks on the following weekends;

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 December

This means motorists won't need to use their phone, buy a ticket or a scratchcard to park on these days. However, drivers do have to make sure they are parked safely and legally.



Christmas waste collections

There will be no refuse and recycling collection on Christmas Day (Wednesday 25 December) and Boxing Day (Thursday 26 December).

If a resident's collection falls on these days, the collection will be Saturday 28 December in place of the Christmas Day and Thursday 2 January 2014 in place of the Boxing Day collection.

New Year's Day will also have no collections – the waste and recycling for this day will be collected on Saturday 4 January 2014.

Green waste collection will pause for two weeks from Monday 23 December. Green waste collections will resume on Monday 6 January 2014.

Visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/christmasbincollections

Social Care over Christmas

Our social care team offices will be closed on Tuesday 24 December (Christmas Eve) from 4pm and will open again on Friday 27 December.

The offices will close again over the weekend on 28 and 29 December before re-opening as normal on Monday 30 December. On New Year's Eve, the offices will close at 4pm and will re-open as normal on Thursday 2 January 2014.

Residents who are in urgent need of care when our offices are closed can contact our Emergency Duty Care Team on 020 8359 2000.

news in brief



£100,000 library improvement boost

Barnet residents and visitors to the borough will be able to enjoy £100,000 worth of improvements to the council's libraries.

This investment has seen libraries improve and increase access to a number of the services they run, as well as create new library spaces for the local community to enjoy.

Hendon Library now has two new meeting rooms of varying sizes available for hire. Edgware and Osidge Libraries also have new meeting rooms which are available for hire.

The ceiling in Mill Hill Library has been repaired and repainted and brand new lights have been installed, greatly improving the environment. Golders Green Library has also been repainted, as well as having new carpets and windows installed.

All council libraries now have access to free Wi-Fi internet access.

To hire a meeting room in a library please contact the relevant library.

To find a library, visit: www.barnet.gov.uk

We are making it easier for you to recycle more with your new blue bin

14 October

Find out your new bin day at: www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling

new items

recycle for Barnet

Recycling almost doubles on bin changes

On 14 October Barnet Council changed the way waste and recycling is collected in the borough. We brought the recycling service in-house, changed every collection route, bought new vehicles, trained new crews and, most notably, started collecting mixed recycling in blue bins and food waste in brown bins.

Residents told us they wanted it to be easier to recycle more, and figures from the first months show residents are recycling more than ever before. Overall, Barnet residents are recycling almost twice as much as they were before the changes. These are some of the largest scale changes to be made to a waste and recycling service in London. Thank you for bearing with us whilst we made these improvements and for increasing Barnet's recycling rate.

For residents who live in flats, look out for more information in the New Year about the new flats' food waste service launching in 2014.

For details about the Christmas collection service see page 3.

To find more information on the new service, and to find out your new bin day, visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling





Don't lose your right to vote

We are now updating the Electoral Register for 2014.

Annual voter registration forms were delivered to all homes in the borough in October 2013.

If you have not already returned your form, please complete it and send it back to us as soon as possible.

From 17 December 2013 until mid-February 2014 (excluding Christmas week), canvassers will be visiting homes that have not returned their forms.

Remember, if you're not on the Electoral Register you cannot vote in any elections, and it can affect your credit rating. You can also be fined up to £1,000 for not responding or giving false information.

The new register will be published on **17 February 2014.**

Remember, if you do not need to change any details on your form, the easiest way to re-register is by phone or internet. See your form for more details.



There are two versions of the register – the full version, required by law, and the Edited Register, which can be bought for marketing purposes.

You can 'opt out' of appearing on the Edited Register.


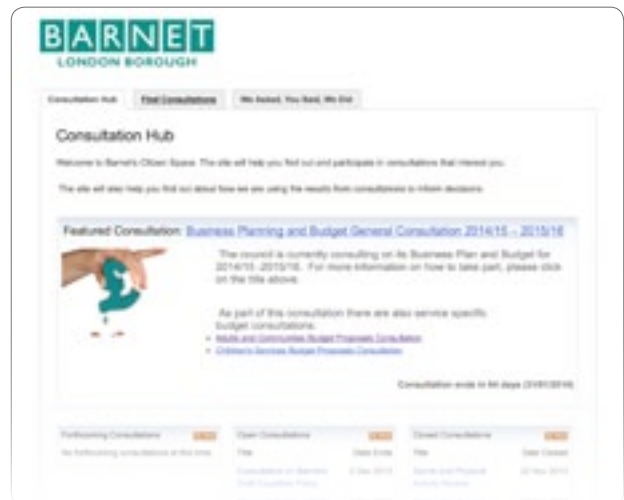
If, in previous years, you had 'opted out' of the Edited Register, we will have pre-printed a tick in the 'Edited Register' column. However, legally we are no longer able to do this so if you still wish to opt out **please ensure you tick the relevant box on your form.**

Get involved

The council is committed to hearing the views of local residents to help shape our services and our policies. This gives us an understanding of what is important to you so that we can continue to make further improvements to the services we provide.

We launched engage.barnet.gov.uk in 2010, a tool to promote all our consultations and engagement activities. You can use the engage space to find out how to take part in current consultations. You can also find out how we have listened and acted on the results of our consultations, under 'We Asked, You Said, We Did.'

Find out how you can get involved by visiting our engage space: engage.barnet.gov.uk

Current consultations:


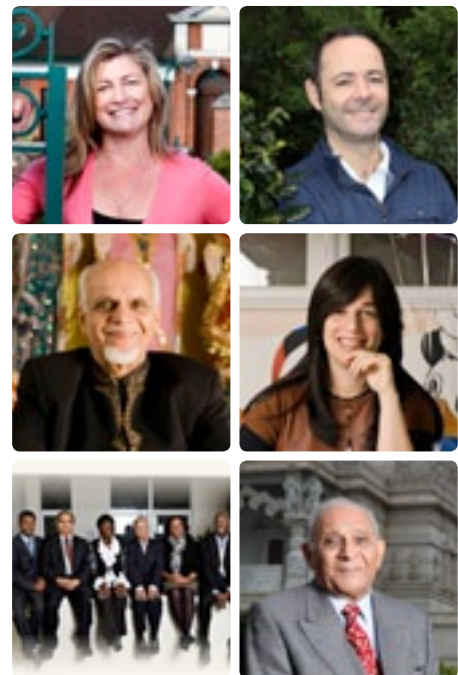
- Business Planning and Budget General Consultation (for further information please see page 7)
- Adults and Communities Budget Proposals Consultation
- Children's Services Budget Proposals Consultation
- Fitness Activities in Parks Consultation

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 2014. (Previous winners pictured right).

Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in March 2014. **All entries must be received no later than 31 December 2013.**

For a Civic Awards nomination form visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/civic-awards-nomination-2014

Budget consultation

The council continues to face the challenge of coping with declining funding from central government while demand for our services grows, particularly for adult and children's services.



Since 2010 we have made savings of £69 million in the cost of running council services. This has been done by reducing our back office or by hiring companies to provide services more cheaply than the council can. We have also brought the recycling service in-house and shared some services with other councils, notably our legal services and public health, which are both shared with Harrow Council.

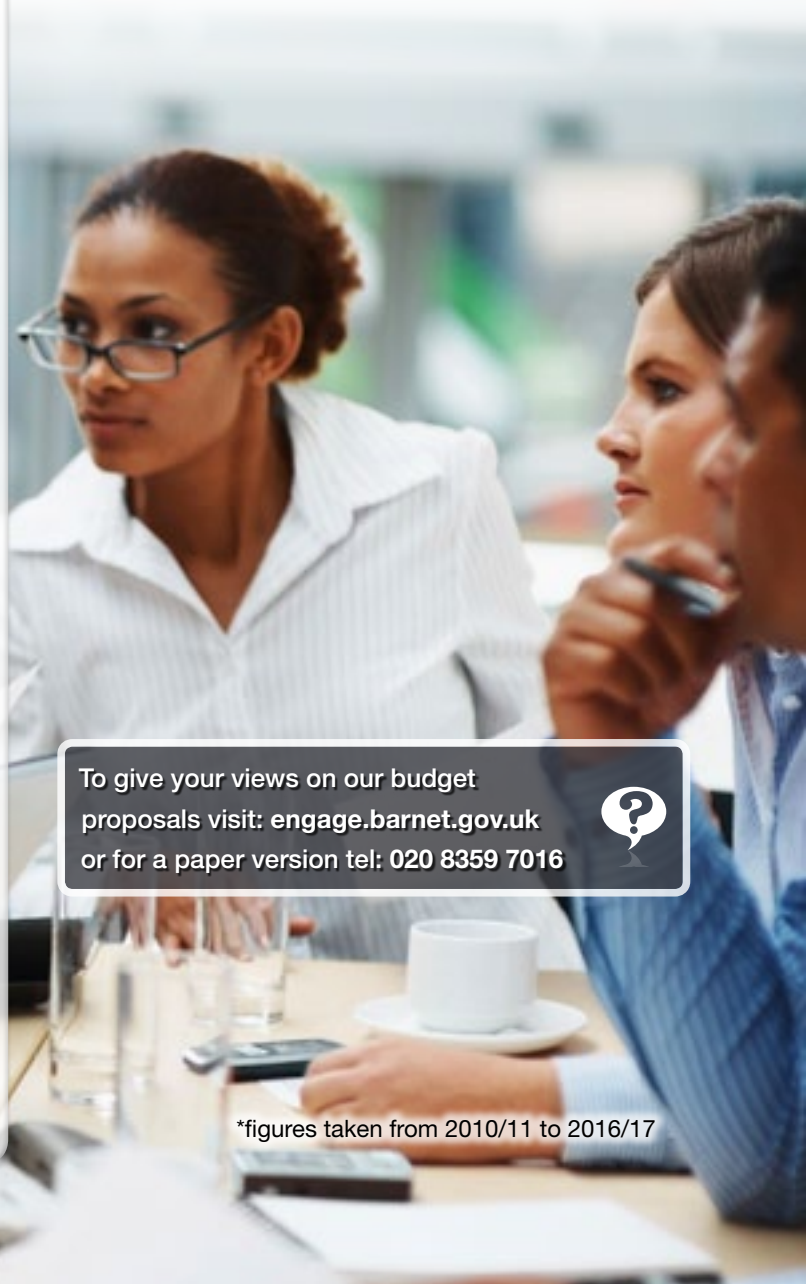
Over the next two years the council is planning to make savings of around £39 million, so all service areas need to make budget reductions. Most of these savings (around 89 per cent) will again be made by being more efficient in what we do.

At the same time the council has decided it can best support residents facing rising household bills by keeping council tax as low as possible. The tax has been frozen for the last four years, and for the coming year the council is proposing to lower it by one per cent. The council is then proposing to freeze it in 2015/16 and 2016/17. Taking into account inflation, these measures are equivalent to a 20 per cent cut to council tax since 2010.

The council is continuing to support investment in new schools, parks and regeneration. It has also added money to the budgets for adult care services and children's services to take account of growing demand.

“Times are tough for the council but times are also tough for many residents and we want to put pounds in residents’ pockets wherever possible. Freezing and now lowering council tax is the equivalent of £290* saving for every band D household.”

Councillor Richard Cornelius, Leader of the Council



To give your views on our budget proposals visit: engage.barnet.gov.uk or for a paper version tel: 020 8359 7016



*figures taken from 2010/11 to 2016/17

Dr Andrew Howe 

Ask your pharmacist about alcohol

How much is too much?

As part of a campaign to encourage safer drinking, people are now able to drop in to one of 21 participating pharmacies offering information and support.

The 'Ask Your Pharmacist' service organised by the council's public health team will allow residents to get advice and support on ways to reduce their weekly alcohol consumption, have their drinking assessed and provide useful tips to help people keep track of how many units they are drinking each day.

We know there are many residents who do not drink, but we also know that one in ten people in Barnet drink at a level which puts their health at risk.

Government guidelines say that men should drink no more than three to four units per day and women no more than two to three units per day.

These are daily limits and not weekly limits, and it is harmful to 'save up units' and binge drink over one or two days.

Drinking too much can worsen chronic conditions linked to alcohol such as stroke, diabetes and cancer.


All of these have been identified as a priority in Barnet's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Men nearly double their chances of developing heart disease by regularly drinking more than eight units of alcohol a day.












On average, to burn off a pint of lager you would need to run for 13 minutes on a treadmill, or play football for the same amount of time, cycle for 15 minutes, swim for 20 minutes or spend half an hour on the golf course.

One unit in the UK is equivalent to eight grammes or 1cl of alcohol, but as it is difficult to imagine how much this is the Ask Your Pharmacist initiative will be able to help.

As part of the campaign the council is also piloting a scratchcard. The cards provide a simple way for participating pharmacists to help you confidentially assess whether you might be drinking at levels that could put your health at risk.

For details of participating pharmacies visit: www.barnet.gov.uk/ask-your-pharmacist 

How many units in a drink?

one unit			two units			three units			four units	
 4%	 4%	 40%	 12%	 4%	 4.5%	 5%	 12%	 4%	 5.5%	 7.5%
275ml bottle	half pint	single measure	175ml standard glass	pint	440ml can	pint	250ml large glass	750ml bottle	750ml bottle	500ml can
alcopop lower strength	lager, beer or cider lower strength	spirit	wine or champagne lower strength	lager, beer or cider lower strength	lager, beer or cider medium strength	lager, beer or cider medium strength	wine or champagne low strength	alcopop lower strength	alcopop higher strength	lager, beer or cider high strength

Dr Andrew Howe 

Keeping safe and well this winter

Winter is here and with it the season for flu and falls. Dr Andrew Howe, Barnet Council's Director of Public Health, has put together some advice to help people keep warm and healthy this winter.



Get your free flu jab: You will be eligible if you are aged 65 or over, pregnant, have certain medical conditions like chronic bronchitis, live in a residential or nursing home, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person. Contact your GP to make an appointment.

Keep warm indoors: By setting your heating to the right temperature (18 – 21°C, 65 – 70°F), you can keep your home warm. When room temperature falls below 16°C there is an increased risk of chest infections. Below 12°C and your arteries will narrow, raising blood pressure and dramatically increasing the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Layer your clothing to stay warm: Two or three thinner layers of clothing are better than one thick layer.

Non-slip soles: When outside wear shoes with a good grip, especially if it has been wet and there are leaves or ice on the ground.

Reduce the risk of falls at home by wearing slippers: Slips indoors often occur due to the effects of cold, making us less flexible, and poor footwear. Slippers should be well fitted and have a good grip on the sole. Those that fasten with Velcro or a zip will keep them on your feet better.

Hot meals: Try to make sure that you have hot meals and drinks regularly throughout the day and keep active in the home if you can.

Hand hygiene: Good hand hygiene can help prevent the spread of the winter vomiting bug, norovirus and flu.

Wrap up warm: Remember to wrap up warmly when you go out – use a scarf across your nose and mouth if your breathing is affected by the cold air.

Stock up: Make sure you stock up so you have enough food and medicines.

Service heating appliances: Get heating and cooking appliances checked, and flues and chimneys swept, ensuring ventilation points are not blocked. Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm which is EN50291-compliant, although fitting an alarm should not replace regular maintenance of appliances.

Be a good neighbour: Check on your older or vulnerable neighbours or relatives to make sure they are safe, warm and well.

You could be eligible for a grant to make your home more energy-efficient or to repair or install a new heating system. The council is working with Energise Barnet who can advise on what help might be available if you are struggling to keep your home warm.

Contact Energise Barnet on 020 8370 0270 or email: info@energisebarnet.org.uk. Barnet Homes tenants can contact its energy advice team on 0300 555 0195 or email: energy.advice@barnethomes.org

My Barnet



Barnet's Centre for Independent Living (BCIL) in Colindale is seen as a trailblazer for its policy of running services for disabled people by disabled people. Not only does it promote independence and represent disabled people's views at a local and national level, it also provides detailed information, advice and support.

One person who has been intrinsically involved in its development since its inception is Paul Baldwin, now on BCIL's board of directors. Paul has had Parkinson's since 1975 and now uses a wheelchair to get around the borough. He also has a personal assistant for 30 hours every week which he pays for using direct payments.

He says: "I was born and bred in Barnet. I was brought up around Wood Street, High Barnet, went to school in Barnet and most of the jobs I have had have been here too. I like the diversity that can be found in Barnet, with its different types of people and areas. I enjoy variety. Doing the same thing all the time is boring," says Paul. Between 1969 and 1980 Paul had a number of jobs, including working as a casualty porter at the old Barnet General Hospital, an exhibition designer with the RNLI and receptionist at what was then Middlesex Polytechnic.

He now lives in an adapted flat in Colindale and has family who live in the borough too, with a sister in East Barnet.

"I do like Grahame Park, it's so diverse and constantly changing," he says. "If I sit outside in my wheelchair there are so many people who stop for a chat or to pass the time of day. It's great to feel that sense of community."

Paul was 27 when he first started showing signs of Parkinson's, but he has never let his disability affect how he wants to live his life. He soon got involved

in taking action for disabled people, campaigning for disability rights during the late 1980s.

He says: "I don't like labelling people or putting them in a box, and I believe people's attitudes towards those with disabilities is definitely changing. That may be more of the case within the council's social care department than in the general community. But on the whole I find people are generally positive rather than negative about disability."

In 2010 BCIL became a peer-led 'community interest company' which means it can trade, but all profits are protected for the benefit of its customers.

Paul recalls how he's seen the organisation change since its inception.

"Back in the 90s BCIL operated as a traditional day centre, but it is very different now. In the future I would like to see it become a service provider for the whole community, not just for those with a disability. I firmly believe we can provide a service for everyone in the community."

When Paul is not working for BCIL, he can often be found at the council's headquarters at North London Business Park, where he represents service users on the Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership Board and the Right to Control Programme Board.

He also enjoys trips out with his personal assistant (PA) Jyoti for meals out, at places including the Claddagh Ring in The Burroughs, Hendon, and to shop at the Broadwalk Shopping Centre in Edgware.

He explains: "Jyoti is not just my PA but a true friend. Being able to employ her through direct payments enables me to do almost everything that I do, without her I couldn't do half as much."

For more information on BCIL, visit www.barnetcil.org.uk or call 020 8359 2444



Campaigning for disability rights



Paul and Jyoti enjoy trips out



Shopping at the Broadwalk



Time to relax



North London Business Park



Barnet born and bred

The Care Homes Improvement project in Barnet

There are over 100 care homes in Barnet; the most of any local authority in London. This makes care homes a key way of supporting frail and elderly people in Barnet, and we want to be sure that there is constant learning and improvement taking place in our care homes to deliver the best possible care.

The Care Homes Improvement project is part of a wider Health and Social Care Integration Programme. Barnet Council and Barnet CCG (health authority) are working with nine other organisations to help deliver their vision for more joined-up services and partnership working in Barnet.

This particular project has involved working with five care homes to look at ways to improve the quality of care and the experiences of care home residents. The project aimed to make changes to how health and social care staff work with care homes, to build a stronger partnership. Achieving this will help to reduce the number of inappropriate hospital admissions and make sure people stay safe within their care home.

The council and local health service also have a dedicated team of professionals in a Quality in Care Homes Team working to provide ongoing support for care home managers and to promote best practice within care homes in Barnet.

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



Enter and View – another check on care home quality

Healthwatch Barnet is a new organisation that listens and acts upon your experiences of health and social care to help develop good quality services.

Through their Enter and View visits, trained volunteers visit health and social care services such as care homes, nursing homes and services for people with mental health conditions. Visits to hospitals will also start in January 2014. Volunteers observe the care being provided and talk to residents, patients, their relatives and staff. Their report is then presented to the service managers, Barnet Council and the Care Quality Commission. These visits are helping to produce real change - two-thirds of the care homes visited have made positive changes as a result of the recommendations made.

As one of the volunteers explained, the most satisfactory aspect of Enter and View is 'the feeling that we can provide a voice for users to express their opinions and to highlight good and bad practice. The providers listen to us and gradually the quality of life of users will improve.'

Healthwatch Barnet also runs an information line on health and social care services. Call the Healthwatch Barnet information line at Barnet CAB for impartial advice or information; for example how to find a GP or dentist where you live, how to access your medical notes, or how to make a complaint.

tel: 0844 826 9336 (from landlines)

tel: 0300 456 8365 (from mobiles)

or visit: www.barnetcab.org.uk

Visit: www.healthwatchbarnet.co.uk
to see Enter and View reports
or call 020 8364 8400



Entrepreneurial over-50s given funding boost

A national charity has been awarded a grant to help people in the borough aged over 50 and not in full-time work, set-up their own businesses as an alternative route back into sustained employment. The Prince's Initiative for Mature Enterprise (PRIME) was awarded the grant as part of the council's Big Society Innovation Bank, which provided £220,000 worth of funding across 13 projects.

PRIME's services are specifically designed for older people. In Barnet the charity is planning to deliver training courses and self-employment information events, as well as business clinics and clubs where people can have their plans reviewed by expert advisors. PRIME will also help new entrepreneurs access experienced professionals to act as mentors, guiding them through the first six months of setting up a business.

To find out more contact
www.prime.org.uk/courses
or call 0845 862 2023



Contact your councillors

Brunswick Park

Conservative

Cllr Lisa Rutter

cllr.l.rutter@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Andreas Tambourides

cllr.a.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

Labour

Cllr Andreas Ioannidis

cllr.a.ioannidis@barnet.gov.uk

Burnt Oak

Labour

Cllr Alex Brodtkin

cllr.a.brodtkin@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Claire Farrier

cllr.c.farrier@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Charlie O-Macauley

cllr.c.omacauley@barnet.gov.uk

Childs Hill

Liberal Democrat

Cllr Jack Cohen

cllr.j.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Monroe Palmer

cllr.m.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Susette Palmer

cllr.s.palmer@barnet.gov.uk

Colindale

Labour

Cllr Geoffrey Johnson

cllr.g.johnson@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Gillian Sargeant

cllr.g.sargeant@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Zakia Zubairi

cllr.z.zubairi@barnet.gov.uk

Coppetts

Labour

Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb

cllr.p.coakleywebb@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Barry Rawlings

cllr.b.rawlings@barnet.gov.uk

Conservative

Cllr Kate Salinger

cllr.c.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

East Barnet

Conservative

Cllr Barry Evangelii

cllr.b.evangelii@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Robert Rams

cllr.r.rams@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Joanna Tambourides

cllr.j.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk

East Finchley

Labour

Cllr Arjun Mitra

cllr.a.mitra@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Alison Moore

cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Colin Rogers

cllr.c.rogers@barnet.gov.uk

Edgware

Conservative

Cllr Helena Hart

cllr.h.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Joan Scannell

cllr.j.scannell@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Darrell Yawitch

cllr.d.yawitch@barnet.gov.uk

Finchley Church End

Conservative

Cllr Eva Greenspan

cllr.e.greenspan@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Graham Old

cllr.g.old@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Daniel Thomas

cllr.d.thomas@barnet.gov.uk

Garden Suburb

Conservative

Cllr Andrew Harper

cllr.a.harper@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr John Marshall

cllr.j.marshall@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Daniel Seal

cllr.d.seal@barnet.gov.uk

Golders Green

Conservative

Cllr Dean Cohen

cllr.d.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Melvin Cohen

cllr.m.cohen@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Reuben Thompstone

cllr.r.thompstone@barnet.gov.uk

Hale

Conservative

Cllr Thomas Davey

cllr.t.davey@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Brian Gordon

cllr.b.gordon@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Hugh Rayner

cllr.h.rayner@barnet.gov.uk

Hendon

Conservative

Cllr Maureen Braun

cllr.m.braun@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Anthony Finn

cllr.a.finn@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Mark Shooter

cllr.m.shooter@barnet.gov.uk

High Barnet

Conservative

Cllr David Longstaff

cllr.d.longstaff@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Bridget Perry

cllr.b.perry@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Wendy Prentice

cllr.w.prentice@barnet.gov.uk

Mill Hill

Conservative

Cllr John Hart

cllr.j.hart@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Sury Khatri

cllr.s.khatri@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Brian Schama

cllr.b.schama@barnet.gov.uk

Oakleigh

Conservative

Cllr Sachin Rajput

cllr.s.rajput@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Brian Salinger

cllr.b.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Stephen Sowerby

cllr.s.sowerby@barnet.gov.uk

Totteridge

Conservative

Cllr Richard Cornelius

leader@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Alison Cornelius

cllr.a.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk

Independent

Cllr Brian Coleman

cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk

Underhill

Conservative

Cllr Andrew Strongolou

cllr.a.strongolou@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Rowan Quigley Turner

cllr.r.quigleyturner@barnet.gov.uk

Labour

Cllr Anita Campbell

cllr.a.campbell@barnet.gov.uk

West Finchley

Labour

Cllr Ross Houston

cllr.r.houston@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Kath McGuirk

cllr.k.mcguirk@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Jim Tierney

cllr.j.tierney@barnet.gov.uk

West Hendon

Labour

Cllr Julie Johnson

cllr.j.johnson@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Agnes Slocombe

cllr.a.slocombe@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Ansuya Sodha

cllr.a.sodha@barnet.gov.uk

Woodhouse

Labour

Cllr Geof Cooke

cllr.g.cooke@barnet.gov.uk

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, email first.contact@barnet.gov.uk or write to us: Members' Room, Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BG

what's on



Holocaust Memorial Day 2014

HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL DAY



Sunday 19 January 2014

**1pm at the Ricketts Quadrangle, Middlesex University,
The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BT.**

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 and speakers.

This year's theme is 'Journeys'

The London Cantorial Singers, Alyth Youth Singers choir groups and the Hendon Salvation Army will perform at the service. In attendance will be students from Mill Hill County High School who will read the statement of commitment.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

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



Christmas Concert

Date: Saturday 14 December Sunday
15 December, 2 – 5pm

Venue: RAF Museum London, Hendon,
Free entry

The Tiger Who Came To Tea

Date: Tuesday 3 December – Sunday
5 January

Venue: artsdepot, £14 / £12.50 (£46 for
4) / £8

Hold on to your biscuit tin!

Olivier Award Nominee 2012

Little Howard's Big Show for Kids

Date: Sunday 2 February

Venue: artsdepot, £7

A unique live animation comedy.

Ages: 6+

artsdepot bookings: 020 8369 5454

www.artsdepot.co.uk

Libraries Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Date: Christmas Eve – all services will
close at 5pm

Date: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27 28
and 29 - all services will be closed

Date: 30 December – all services will be
open as normal

Date: 31 December – all services will
close at 5pm

Date: 1 January – all services will be
closed

Date: 2 January – all services will be
open as normal.

Working hours

Mubeen Akhtar is 37 years old and has been a library volunteer since May 2013.

What made you decide to become a library volunteer?

I became a volunteer as I wanted to remain busy and put my IT skills to good use while I look for work. I also enjoy teaching people and giving something back to the community. My uncle told me about the volunteer opportunities and I was interviewed by two people who were extremely polite. I started out volunteering two hours per day every week but after a few weeks I increased this to three hours as there was so much demand for my IT sessions.

What do you enjoy the most about volunteering?

Volunteering and helping people is a reward in its own right. When I'm teaching people how to use a computer and the person finally succeeds, the sense of accomplishment is like that of being a proud parent. I also enjoy working with other people as part of a team. At the library I have a supervisor who encourages me and helps me if I need it. The staff are very helpful and I enjoy being here.

Can you describe your typical day?

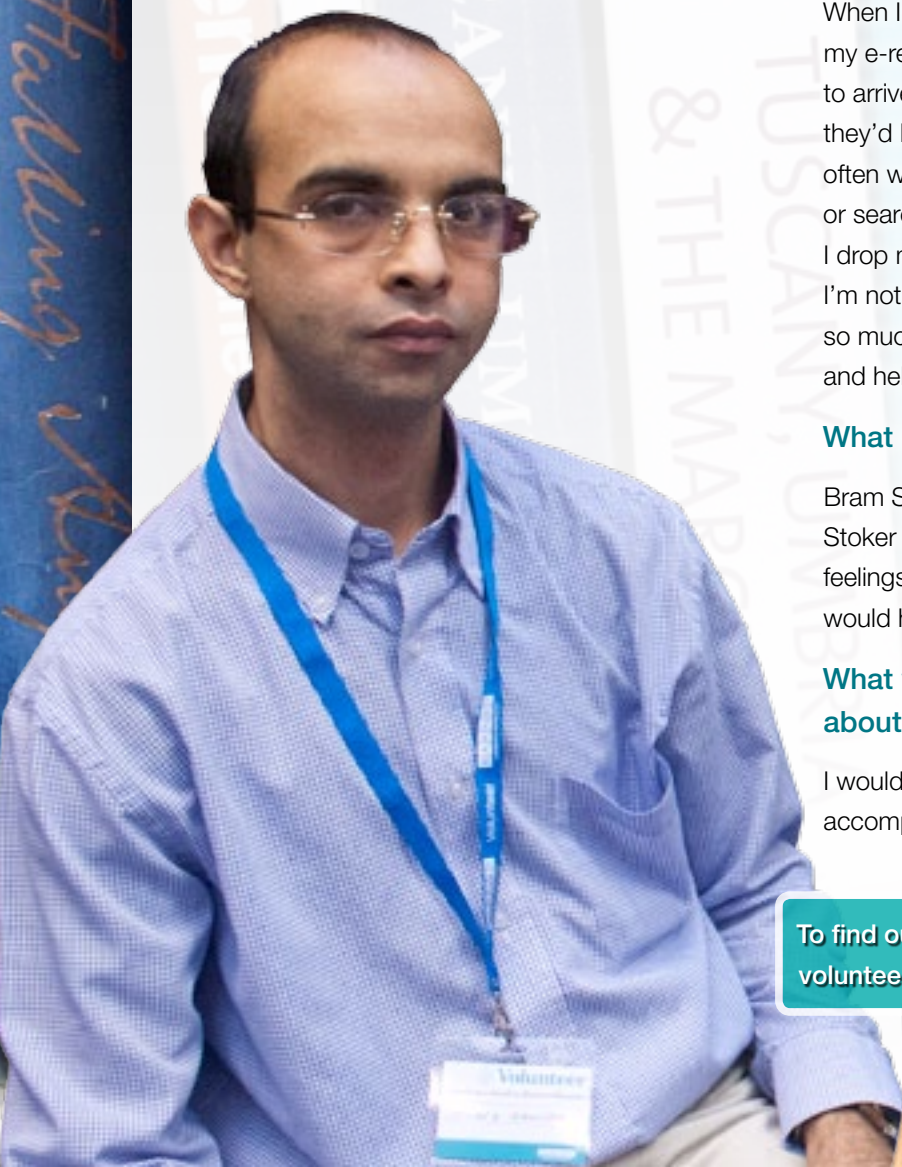
When I'm volunteering I travel to the library reading my e-reader on the way. I wait for my first student to arrive then introduce myself and ask them what they'd like me to show them. For instance, people often want help setting up or using an email account or searching the internet. When I'm not volunteering, I drop my nieces to school then read books when I'm not looking for work. Because I enjoy reading so much I do prefer going to libraries for the tranquil and helpful environment.

What is your favourite book?

Bram Stoker's Dracula - I especially like the way Stoker describes the landscape and the characters' feelings. Having read the book a number of times I would highly recommend it.

What would you say to anyone thinking about becoming a volunteer?

I would definitely say yes as the sense of accomplishment and rewards are many.



To find out more about becoming a library volunteer visit www.barnet.gov.uk/volunteer

