

# barnetfirst

issue 45 March/April 2011



**Census 2011**  
Why Natalie wants you  
to fill out your form

## Contents

Leader's column	2
News in brief	3
Why the 2011 Census is counting on you	6
My Barnet	12
Join in the Royal Wedding pledge	15
Working hours	16

# Leader's column



The council has set its budget for the coming year. I am sure you have seen coverage in the national media about what a difficult time it has been for local government.

You can now play your part in making sure that Barnet gets its fair share of central government funding.

As you read this, national census questionnaires are being distributed to every household in the borough. The information gathered as part of the census plays a large part in deciding just how much funding each part of the country gets. Central government uses the information to work out what funding Barnet gets for a range of services, from how many police we need, to how many school places or hospital beds we have.

At a rough calculation we reckon each completed census form is worth around £290 a year to the public services in Barnet.

So if you want us to have the right number of police officers, social workers, fire brigade staff, doctors and nurses, please fill in your form. I should probably add that it is a legal requirement that you do!

If you think you might need help with the form you can go to one of the completion events the council is running with the Office for National Statistics in several locations in the borough. Details of these, and a lot more information about the importance of the census can be found in this magazine.

Thank you in advance.

Lynne Hillan

## 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

Barnet First is published by Barnet Council's Communications Team. Please contact Sue Cocker on 020 8359 7039 or email [barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk)

Copies of Barnet First are delivered to every home in the borough. The magazine is printed on 100 percent recycled paper and can be recycled after use. The cost of designing, printing and distributing each magazine is just over 10 pence per issue.

# News in brief

## Exhibition marks start of work on Henlys Corner



Transport for London (TfL) is holding an exhibition this month to mark the start of the main work on the Henlys Corner road junction.

The Henlys Corner improvement project is designed to improve traffic flow at this busy junction of the A406 North Circular Road.

Developed in conjunction with Barnet Council, it will also provide new crossings to ease journeys for pedestrians and cyclists.

The exhibition will help local people find out more about construction works planned to begin on 4 April.

Staff from TfL and contractors Tarmac will be on hand to discuss measures to minimise disruption and explain the scheme, due for completion in December 2011.

The exhibition will take place from 16 – 20 March at Chalgrove Primary School, Chalgrove Gardens, N3 3PL.

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

## Barnet Council gets residents volunteering



The Barnet Pledgebank website has proved popular with community-minded residents since its launch earlier this year.

The site, which has been designed for people passionate about getting things done in their community, now has its first successful pledge. Three residents have signed up to provide IT training at Hendon Library in return for Barnet Council providing six computers with internet access and a training room.

Other pledges include “I’ll pick up litter in my street if three people help me” and “I’ll clear a patch of land opposite the Green Man Community Centre, if six other people take part”.

Do you have a pledge to make? Visit [pledgebank.barnet.gov.uk](http://pledgebank.barnet.gov.uk)

## New housing system launched



The way Barnet Council allocates rented housing is due to change from the beginning of April.

The current housing register and points system is being replaced with a new, simpler banding system which focuses on those in greatest housing need.

The system also recognises community contributions by those who are working, volunteering, training or who have served in the armed forces.

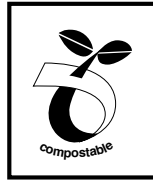
Successful applicants will be helped to choose a home meeting their needs from a pool of available properties.

These properties may include council, housing association and private rented sector homes.

You can find a copy of the new allocations policy at [www.barnet.gov.uk/housing-allocations-policy](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/housing-allocations-policy)

## Food waste recycling made easy

Compostable bin liners bearing the seedling logo can now be used in green bins for kitchen and garden waste.



Compostable liners are a convenient way of disposing of cooked and uncooked food waste including fruit and veg peelings, pasta, rice and bread, tea bags, coffee grounds and meat.

The only type of food waste that cannot be collected is meat bones.

The liners are available from large supermarkets and some local shops. Any brand of liner showing the seedling logo can be used.

Residents are still free to place loose food waste into their bin.

Food and garden waste collected from green bins is turned into quality compost for use in London parks and agriculture.

Residents can order a green bin free of charge by calling 020 8359 4600 or emailing [first.contact@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:first.contact@barnet.gov.uk)

For more information, visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/rubbish-waste-recycling](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/rubbish-waste-recycling)

## Children celebrate 'topping out' milestone for Colindale Primary School



Staff and pupils at Colindale Primary School have marked a significant milestone in the rebuilding of their school during a 'topping-out' ceremony.

The Worshipful the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Anthony Finn attended the ceremony on 11 January 2011 and unveiled a commemorative plaque. He was accompanied by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families Councillor Andrew Harper.

Colindale Primary School, in Poolsford Road, Colindale, is the sixth school to be re-developed as part of Barnet Council's Primary Schools Capital Investment Programme (PSCIP) and the tenth in the borough's First Class Schools programme.

The new school, which has been designed to be as environmentally sustainable as possible, boasts a swimming pool available for community use, new play areas and flexible teaching spaces.

It will include a pre-school special educational needs assessment centre and will cater for children with physical disabilities throughout.

The construction company, Kier London, is due to complete the new school building in the summer with children moving in to their new classrooms at the beginning of September 2011.

## Beaufort Park scoops planning award



A major regeneration project in Colindale has been singled out for a commendation from the Mayor of London as 'The Best Place to Live' at the London Planning Awards.

Presenting the award for the Beaufort Park scheme, Sir Simon Milton, Deputy Mayor and Chief of Staff, praised the transformation of the 25-acre former RAF Hendon aerodrome as having been "carefully put together with many partners" and for "ticking all the boxes".

He also highlighted the scheme's use of landscaped parkland, residents' courtyards, shops, bars, restaurants and leisure facilities



to create a new neighbourhood, and its successful mix of affordable homes.

Councillor Richard Cornelius, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration, said: "We are thrilled that the Mayor has recognised what has been achieved at Beaufort Park. Barnet is committed to building quality homes and the Mayor supports the views of the hundreds of people who have voted with their feet and moved in to Beaufort Park."

---

## Trailblazing scheme to give people with disabilities more control over their support



A new initiative to give disabled residents more say in how money is spent on their support services is up and running in Barnet.

The introduction of 'Right to Control' comes after Barnet was chosen as one of just seven 'Trailblazer' local authorities to trial the radical approach early last year.

For the first time, eligible disabled people in the borough can combine money from different state funds such as Social Care and Job Centre schemes for disabled people, which can be spent on support that they choose because it is appropriate for them and meets their needs.

Right to Control will give people a chance to decide exactly how money is spent on their care right down to what type of equipment would make their lives easier. It will also allow them to have a cash payment to arrange this support for themselves if they want to.

Councillor Sachin Rajput, Cabinet Member for Adults, said: "Right to Control is a really important way of helping to give people independence in the way they live their lives and means it's much easier to make sure that the services they use are tailored specifically to their needs."

Social Care Direct –  
**020 8359 5000**  
[www.socialcareconnect.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.socialcareconnect.barnet.gov.uk)

---

## New council housing fraud campaign launched



Tenants who try to cheat their way through the housing system will be targeted in a new campaign to stamp out fraud in council homes across Barnet.

The initiative, launched by social landlord Barnet Homes with the support of Barnet Council, sees the introduction of two new dedicated fraud officers.

They will tackle any attempted misuse of social housing by dishonest tenants including non-occupation, illegal sub-letting, succession or assignment fraud and housing benefit fraud.

As part of the government-funded campaign, residents will be asked to report any suspected cases of tenancy fraud. All information will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Any resident who suspects housing fraud should call **020 8359 7254** or email [talk2us@barnethomes.org](mailto:talk2us@barnethomes.org)



# Why the 2011 Census is counting on you

## What is the Census and why is it so important?

Sunday 27 March is one of the most important days of the year for everyone living in Barnet.

This is when the next ten-yearly census is carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The census counts every household in England and Wales and is used by the government to plan and fund public services like education, care for the elderly and highways.

All Barnet Council funding from central government is directly linked to the census. And with the council needing to make savings of £53million over the next three years it is vital everyone fills out their questionnaire.

### Every person counts

Every householder must, by law, complete and return a 2011 Census questionnaire.

The funding each borough receives is based on the size of the population counted in the census.

During the last census in 2001, 88 per cent of Barnet households returned their forms and the council is aiming to improve this figure.

- between 1981 and 2011 Barnet's population grew by 54,600 people – above the average growth rate for London
- Barnet has a large number of people living in houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs). Many may be from ethnic communities which can be harder to reach. If people living in HMOs don't fill in their questionnaires, we may lose out.

## How to fill in and return the census

Census questionnaires will be distributed ahead of Census Day on 27 March.

Each questionnaire must be completed and returned (free of charge) on that day or as soon as possible. You can choose to complete the form securely online from 4 March 2011 at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk).

Ask a family member, friend or carer to help if you are having difficulty. Alternatively you can attend a completion event.

“ The response to the census helps to make sure that Barnet’s services get the right level of government funding ”

### Census Completion Events

Completion events will be taking place soon for those wanting some help with the census. ONS staff will be available to answer any questions about the census and guide you through it. It’s vital you take your census along with you.

Library	Date	Time
Chipping Barnet	Monday 28 March	10am – 1pm
North Finchley	Tuesday 29 March	2pm – 5pm
Hendon	Wednesday 30 March	10am – 1pm
Burnt Oak	Thursday 31 March	5pm – 8pm
Edgware	Monday 4 April	2pm – 5pm
Golders Green	Tuesday 5 April	2pm – 5pm
Sangam Community Centre	Saturday 7 April	1pm – 4pm
North Finchley	Saturday 9 April	12noon – 4.30pm

### Everything you need to know...

- all the information you provide in your census will be dealt with in strict confidence and will only be used to produce statistics
- more than 200 countries worldwide have their own version of the census
- No information you provide as part of the census will be used for immigration or tax purposes.

For more information, visit  
[www.barnet.gov.uk/census2011](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/census2011)  
 or call the Census Helpline: 0300 0201 101.







## Education

“The school offers a vital support network for parents,” Natalie Salisbury, 29.

Every morning when Natalie waves her children off at the Orion school she feels secure in the knowledge they are having a fun time as well as gaining a good education.

“My children Callum, 11, Casey, 9, and Sky, 5, all love their school and it has become a real hub in the community,” she says.

“The children have all done really well since starting and the staff have all been helpful in supporting me if I’ve ever had any problems.”

Information from the census lets local authorities like Barnet know exactly where the highest demand for school places will be as children like Natalie’s get older and need to move school.

“There are so many young children around here the census will give the council important information on where it needs to plan for

secondary school places 10 years down the line,” she says.

“Before I didn’t really understand why the census was so important, but now I do I’ll make sure I fill it in.”



## History of the census

4000BC

Around 4,000 BC the Chinese held censuses to plan their armies and collect taxes

3800BC

The first detailed censuses were taken by the Babylonians nearly 6000 years ago in 3800BC. Records suggest it was taken



# Community Safety

"We see the police out on foot or in cars and it's a reassuring sight," Harry Snell and wife Rose.

For Harry, 89, and his wife Rose, 71, their local Safer Neighbourhood team provide a reassuring presence in the community.

The couple have lived on the edge of the Grahame Park estate for almost 20 years and knowing there are police nearby provides Harry and his wife peace of mind.

Police forces, including the Metropolitan Police, use information from the census to help map out where crime prevention efforts should be focused in each borough.

"It's just nice to know the police are there if you need them," says Harry.

"In the past we had a problem with a couple of lads trying to break-in. We were coming back home and saw them at the back door – I was panic struck.

"The police were there in no time at all and it was just such a reassurance that they were there so quickly. Afterwards they sent follow up letters and came around to check our windows were all secure.

"We were very happy with the way they went about things.

"I will definitely be filling my form in and we'll also try and convince our neighbours to do the same."



## 1086

every six or seven years and counted the number of people, livestock, quantities of butter, milk and honey, wool and vegetables

The first thorough survey of England was carried out in 1086 when William the Conqueror ordered a detailed list of all land

and property. Now known as the Domesday Book, this document provides a remarkable picture of life in Britain at that time



## Health

“Just knowing the support is there makes a massive difference,” Carol Johnson, 51.

For residents like Carol, local NHS services provide a lifeline in helping her cope with her Multiple Sclerosis.

Carol has lived in the west of the borough since she was 13 years old and was diagnosed with the condition 17 years ago.

She now benefits from a range of specialist support from staff at the Marie Foster Centre, in Wood Street, Barnet, as well as regular visits to her GP at the Everglade Medical Practice on the Grahame Park estate.

Information received from each completed census form will benefit residents like Carol as well as help shape future plans for NHS services in Barnet over the next decade.

“Just knowing the support is there makes a massive difference. I see a neurologist every six months, I have a physiotherapist, an MS nurse and my GP has been marvellous,” said Carol.

“With the MS nurse it’s having somebody to talk to who understands what you’re going

through. She sees how I’m getting on with my medication, what’s happened since we last met as well as having a general chit chat about things which is a great help.

“If I hadn’t been put in contact with them all I suppose I would just have had to carry on, but it would be hard.

“All the support and the tips and advice they are able to give you makes a real difference to your quality of life.

“I will definitely be filling in my census form as I always do.”



1666

Quebec completed the first ‘modern’ census

1801

Parliament passed the Census Act in 1800 and the first official census took place on 10 March 1801.

In Ireland, the first modern census was taken in 1821



# Housing

“The accommodation you’re in is incredibly important,” Albert Smallman, 62, and Helen Harman, 63.

Albert and Helen are among the many residents who’ll be moving into newly constructed homes on the Grahame Park estate during the coming years as part of a massive regeneration scheme to completely transform the estate.

Accurate population statistics and information about where you live will help influence planning new housing in the borough as well contribute to making sure Barnet gets its fair share of funding from central government.

“The accommodation you’re living in is incredibly important, it’s central to your life,” said Albert.

“If we’re able to move into a flat the same size as the one we’re in at the moment we’ll be over the moon. It will be great to get a new place. It’s a new adventure for us, that’s how we look at it.

“I’m not sure whether people really understand how important the census is. For me it’s a bit like voting. It’s no good not getting involved and then complaining when things don’t change.”



With thanks to Audrey Martin, Resident Liaison Officer for Countryside Properties based in Grahame Park. Audrey helps residents with every detail in their move from providing their

new address to helping them carry out colour choices for their home. Contact her on 0800 0832 101 or 020 8358 4721

## 1941

No census was held in 1941 because of the Second World War, but a “mini-census” was held in 1939 so

that everybody could be issued with a National Identity Card.

## 1961

In 1961 an electronic computer was used for the first time to process the census results. It took 5½ years to produce the full set of statistics



# My Barnet

**C**ephas Akuklu gives off an air of quiet determination as he sips his tea and talks about his plans for the future.

Since moving back to Barnet two years ago he's taken a strong interest in his local community and this afternoon he'll be helping a single mother work through problems in her home life.

Cephas arrived in the UK from Ghana in the mid-80s, and after a spell in East London settled in the Adastral Village, Colindale, to take an accountancy, finance and business lecturer's job at Barnet College.

"The area is so quiet I thought 'wow' a place like this in London is quite unimaginable. I like being able to walk down Watling Avenue with its mix of shops and being able to stop and talk to people," says Cephas.

For Cephas, a new home and the chance of fulfilling his ambition of a career in teaching made his move from West Africa worthwhile.

"I really enjoyed teaching, it wasn't just about obtaining exam results but seeing your students develop," he says.

Sadly, in 2002 Cephas' plans for his family's future came to an abrupt halt when his 14-year-old son, Gameli, and his son's best friend William, drowned in a swimming accident at the Peel Centre, Hendon.

"My life was turned up-side down," Cephas recalls. "I couldn't cope with the work that I used to love."

Cephas decided to leave teaching and channel his energies elsewhere. He moved to Wolverhampton for a year before coming back to Barnet.

"Instead of staying home and becoming a couch potato, I started volunteering while gathering information on how to set up a befitting memorial charity for the boys.

"I was drawn to charities that were involved with youth and services that lift up the disadvantaged in and around the Grahame Park Estate."

Last September, Cephas became involved with Barnet Council's prototyping initiative, 'Community Coaching'.

The initiative, for which Cephas is Lead Volunteer, aims to work with families in some of the most deprived areas of the borough, helping them make contact with public sector organisations which can offer guidance and support in achieving their goals and aspirations.

"Coaching is all about pulling out people's strengths to help them move from one point to another.

"From my experience, when you're at the bottom, you find strengths you didn't even know you had."

Cephas also helps out at the International Gospel Church, which sits opposite Watling Park, one of his favourite places to take a stroll.

Working as a youth leader, Cephas mentors local young people who are facing difficult challenges in their lives.

Twice a week Cephas also gives his time to after-school homework clubs at both Grahame Park and Hendon libraries. Here, students can receive advice on research techniques for their studies. "It's good fun but I also learn a lot, you'll be surprised how much kids can teach you!," Cephas jokes.

Pausing to take stock of his work, Cephas concludes, "My short term goal is simply to serve my community with all my heart."

## 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.





Helping with homework at Hendon Library



Lending a hand on Grahame Park Estate



Watling Park



Mix of shops on Watling Avenue



Cephas outside International Gospel Church



## Contact your councillors

**Brunswick Park****Conservative**

Cllr Lynne Hillan  
leader@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Lisa Rutter  
cllr.l.rutter@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Andreas Tambourides  
cllr.a.tambourides@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

**Conservatives**

Cllr Kate Salinger  
cllr.c.salinger@barnet.gov.uk

**East Barnet****Conservative**

Cllr Barry Evangeli  
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 Alison Moore  
cllr.a.moore@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Andrew McNeil  
cllr.a.mcneil@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****Conservatives**

Cllr Andrew Harper  
cllr.a.harper@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr John Marshall  
cllr.j.marshall@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Daniel Gideon 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****Conservatives**

Cllr Brian Coleman  
cllr.b.coleman@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Alison Cornelius  
cllr.a.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Richard Cornelius  
cllr.r.cornelius@barnet.gov.uk

**Underhill****Conservative**

Cllr Andrew Strongolou  
cllr.a.strongolou@barnet.gov.uk

Cllr Rowan Turner  
cllr.r.turner@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

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



# Join in the Royal Wedding pledge

**B**arnet Council is encouraging residents to organise street parties in celebration of Prince William and Kate Middleton's big day by cutting the red tape needed to stage their event.

There's a long tradition in this country of marking momentous occasions with street parties and the council wants to take as flexible an approach as possible.

All the information you will need to make your event a success on Friday 29 April for the Royal Wedding can be found on our website.

The council has also put together a useful guide to help make your party a success and an application form you'll need to fill in if you wish to close your road.

Check our website for a link to our PledgeBank page where the council is setting out what it's doing to help residents organise their own street parties.

The council has pledged to make the process as easy as possible in return for residents' commitment to making the party happen on the big day.

The pledge will set out what Barnet Council is doing to support as many events as it can in return for your street's commitment to making the party happen.

It is important you give yourself plenty of time to make all the necessary preparations and get the ball rolling on your application as soon as possible.

For more information and to begin organising your event visit [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)

www

## What's on in Barnet? March April

### Harry Beck and the London Tube Map

**Date:** Mon – Thurs: 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm, Sat: 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5.30pm, Sun: 2pm – 5.30pm, exhibiting until 27 March 2011, at the Church Farmhouse Museum (Greyhound Hill, London NW4 4JR).

The iconic London tube map, which is 80 years old this year, was the creation of Harry Beck (1902 – 1974), who lived in Finchley. This free exhibition is based on a local private collection and traces the tube map from the 19th Century to present day.

For more information call 020 8359 3942.

### Memoirs of a biscuit tin

**Date:** 24 March, 7.30pm, Artsdepot  
£12/£10 Conc/£5 Ignite (per person).

An inventive blend of clowning, visual theatre and puppetry brings to life the story of a wall, a floor and a chimney, a forgotten old lady and the memories that lie within.

For more information call 020 8369 5454.

### Binal Trivedy's Bollywood dance workshop

**Date:** 21 April, 6.30pm – 7.30pm,  
Edgware Library

Academy for a Freestyle Bollywood Dance.

All ages welcome. For more information visit [www.binalsdanceacademy.co.uk](http://www.binalsdanceacademy.co.uk)

Please contact Edgware Library to reserve a free place.

### Japanese Golden Week celebration

**Date:** 30 April, 1.30pm – 4.30pm,  
Church End Library

Learn about Japanese food, language and arts through activities for adults and children.

Visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/library-events](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/library-events) for details.

Adult Learners' Week: 14 – 20 May

# Working hours

Mick Harrison is the borough's longest serving gritter driver, having worked as a member of the council's highways team for the past 25 years.

He lives in High Barnet with his wife and two sons, one of whom also works as a refuse collector.

Mick enjoys spending his spare time on his allotment.

**Q** Can you explain a typical night's gritting routine?

**A** We arrive about half an hour before our 'on the road time' to check the gritters over and get any last minute instructions. Sometimes the amount of grit we're spreading or the route we're taking changes depending on the latest weather forecasts. Our routes are timed to last approximately two hours depending on the amount of traffic on the road, and of course weather conditions.

**Q** What's the coldest temperature you've gritted in?

**A** This year we've been out in -10 degrees Celsius but luckily it wasn't raining.

**Q** What's the first thing you do to warm up when you arrive back at the depot?

**A** Coffee... and lots of it!

**Q** Do you look forward to snow?

**A** I used to until I became involved in winter maintenance!

**Q** Who keeps you company on the road during the night?

**A** Talk Sport or Radio 5, especially if Arsenal are playing.

**Q** Have you had any close shaves when driving a gritting truck?

**A** We had a few hairy moments when the council used to be responsible for gritting the M1 motorway. Running three gritters side by side certainly takes some doing.

**Q** How do the gritting crews keep their spirits high overnight and in the cold?

**A** Light hearted football banter is usually exchanged. Again coffee helps, and if we're in all night then a takeaway run is normally made.

**Q** What kind of feedback do you get from residents?

**A** Generally we get a lot of thumbs up and smiles from people, but there's always someone who blames you for the weather!



www

For more information email  
[first.contact@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:first.contact@barnet.gov.uk)