



East Barnet Residents Association

June 2011

As many of you have noticed, we have been trying to make our newsletters a bit more "chatty" recently. We welcome your feedback, and would also be interested to know what local issues concern you. If you have something you would like to get off your chest, or an idea for an article which would be of interest to fellow residents, then please do get in touch. We don't promise to publish everything we receive, but it will be considered!

If your friends or neighbours might be interested in joining, please spread the word. Thank you.

Rob White

Contacting the Association

Rob is our point of contact:

Email: [rob \[at\] eastbar.net](mailto:rob@eastbar.net)

Web: eastbar.net

Committee Officers

Chairman: James Bradshaw

Vice-Chairman: George Irons

Treasurer: Sheila Solbé

Newsletter Distribution: Yvonne Ward

Membership & Communications: Rob White

Committee Members

Joy Thornton; Lorna Doran; Pat Gladwin; Pauline Coakley Webb; Peter Robinson; Rosina Down; Susanne Hassel.

Dates for your Diary

All-Members Meetings: Wednesdays **13th July**, and **26th October**

starting at 8pm at the Methodist Church Hall, 2 Cat Hill, East Barnet EN4 8JB.

13th July is our AGM, and we will have guest speakers from the Campaign For Cat Hill (see feature on page 4) and Police Sergeant Paul Purdy from the Brunswick Park Safer Neighbourhood Team.

East Barnet Festival: 6.30pm Friday 1st July and from noon Saturday & Sunday 2nd & 3rd July.

See feature on page 3, and eastbarnetfestival.org.uk for full details.

Theatre In The Park: 3pm Sundays June – August. Bring a low-back chair or rug. Performances continue regardless of weather. Performances include: Twelfth Night - 19 Jun; Lost In Neverland - 26 Jun; The Tempest - 24 Jul; Robin Hood - 14 Aug.

Save the Sparrows!

In the past few years House Sparrows have declined so much that they are now on the Red Data List as a species of conservation concern. However, here in East Barnet there are a few areas where these birds hang on. Apart from being in several local residential roads, they can be heard chirping on the Saxon Field, which has become quite a valuable habitat for wildlife. The sparrows like the hawthorn hedge at the top of the field near the school, and they fly in and out of the larger bushes and trees.

There are several theories for the decline of these once



A house sparrow

common birds. Many people think that magpies are the problem, taking chicks from nests. Sparrowhawks and cats are also blamed. However, both the RSPB and the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) say that these are not the main problem. At the top of the list is loss of habitat for nesting places and foraging. As their name suggests, House Sparrows like to nest on houses, under loose tiles or in gaps in fascia boards. Modern building techniques and repairs prevent them from nesting. Although the adult birds generally eat seeds, their nestlings must have insect food: aphids, grubs and spiders. Lack of this kind of food can cause starvation of the young birds.

So what can we do to hold on to our sparrows? Sparrow nest-boxes, like little terraces of nesting holes are available, that can be put just under the eaves of your house. Alternatively they will nest in thick hedges or ivy, so holding back on trimming hedges and shrubs will help them. The other main consideration is natural food in spring and early summer. We can feed birds all the year round, but not with bread, which can cause problems for chicks. Try fat balls or seed mixtures, and put out water. However, the parent birds need to take insects to the nestlings. As they will eat aphids (greenflies), it would help if we stop using insecticides, and allow a corner of the garden to grow wild. (Tits will also eat aphids.) Sparrows will eat the fresh seeds from annual grasses, so allowing a few grasses to go to seed would help them. Just being a bit lazier in the garden can help not just sparrows but other wildlife too.

Sylvia Javes

News follow-up from previous articles

Sadly, nothing much to report about the **East Barnet Eco Team**. Wendy says that there has been no interest in the project, but she may try again in a few months time.

Not enough people signed up for the '**Smart Water**' security marking scheme we publicised last autumn to enable a bulk discount purchase.

The **Community Farm Project** has been abandoned because Kevin reports that the offer of the use of land near Oak Hill College was withdrawn.

Michael reports that they have had one or two people join the **Sunday Swimming Club** at Church Farm, but this is not enough; there is a danger it will close.

Prospective swimmers are invited to have a free come-and-try swim to try it out. Older people have the pool to themselves for the first hour, so this is a special opportunity.

Please contact Michael Stephens by email at michael@quantum-communications.co.uk or on his mobile: 0754 0707 235

WELCOME TO EAST BARNET FESTIVAL 2011 in Oak Hill Park
6.30pm Friday 1st July ~ From noon Saturday & Sunday 2nd & 3rd July

It might be difficult to beat 2010, with its perfect weather, but everyone will be trying.

There's more variety promised on the music stages, a fabulous list of dance groups from across North London, and new attractions such as "Cars in the Park", the Classic & Custom car show on the Sunday.

As ever, the Music & Dance Festival aims to bring together performers, stall holders, dog lovers, sportsmen and showmen at an event involving all in the community, a great big party with the chance to meet your neighbours, friends, Councillors and caterers and for everyone to enjoy themselves in the fine setting of Oak Hill Park.

Theatre in the Park brings top touring companies to the woodland setting of the Arena, spacious enough to allow young children to attend, and offering a fine programme of drama, comedy and music for all ages at 3pm on June Sundays and on 24th July and 17th August.

Free theatre tickets are on offer to volunteers who can give a hand on 1st-3rd July.

The festival relies wholly on the work of the volunteers who support the events, whether as members of the organising committee who meet all year, or as the stewards and helpers who come along just to the

event itself including members of St John Ambulance, the Police Cadets and teams from local schools. All the performers donate their services to provide the entertainment, and support is given by traders in the district who advertise in the brochure and offer prizes for the raffle.

Despite all this, the expenses involved in the infrastructure of marquees, staging, security and health and safety are still very high at about £30,000 each time and the support of the London Borough of Barnet towards the programming is appreciated, as are the donations of our loyal sponsors Chas Lowe Estates and the churches of St Mary's and Barnet Brookside Methodist Churches.

There is always scope to improve the business structure, and donations through Gift Aid are welcome as would be legacies from local people - Government policy is set to encourage gifts that may be set against Inheritance Tax and it is worth discussing such matters with your local solicitor. The Festival is a registered charity No.1063654 with the aims of running the festival and improving the quality of life in East Barnet.

For more information check out eastbarnetfestival.org.uk or ring 07071 781 745

Pam Edwards

Quality furniture with a price to suit everyone at Barnet's largest furniture reuse centre

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For more information call 020 8361 6802

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234, 221,
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BARNETFURNITURECENTRE.ORG



Middlesex University Cat Hill Campus Housing Development

In May there were two exhibitions about the proposals for the Middlesex University Cat Hill Campus site. Although this is in Enfield, it very much affects our residents who live on Cat Hill, Mansfield Avenue and Vernon Crescent, and all of us who enjoy that corner of our village.

Our members who attended were not impressed... In a nutshell there are concerns about:

- The impact of nearly 300 dwellings, some 5 or 6 storeys high, considerably higher than the existing university buildings.
- Talk of "thinning out" the trees (despite there being a tree preservation order in place).
- Only one parking space per dwelling - where will other cars park?
- Proposals to "enhance" the ponds with concrete edges and paths. How will this affect the diverse wildlife there?
- This development is in a corner of Enfield, who would receive 'Section 106 monies' in return for planning permission - but it is mainly Barnet residents who will be affected.
- Do we want this entry to Barnet to be past high rise blocks of modern flats instead of past an old pond in a rural setting?

Local residents have already set up a Campaign for Cat Hill action group, enlisted the support of Councillors Robert Rams and Joanna Tambourides, and set up a website at:

spanglefish.com/campaignforcathill

Two of the campaign organisers have asked to speak at our AGM on Wednesday 13th July, and in the meantime we are urged to write to our MP and councillors to show our concern for inappropriate development.

Finding the actual planning documents on Enfield Council's website is a bit tricky, so here's a quick link: go.eastbar.net/cat then click on SO/11/0004 then Documents.

Air Raid Shelters

I have heard that Dangrove school on Windsor Drive site (the former Littlegrove school) will be opening up the air raid shelters at the rear of the school shortly. I don't know yet if there will be a chance for people to see inside but the school and the children would love to hear from anyone who has any memories of these shelters. They are certainly quite large and quite a way underground but the ground has been scanned, and a group who investigate anything underground will be trying to find the entrance shortly. The same group did a similar investigation at a school in Hendon.

Pauline Coakley Webb

PS: If we don't already have your email address, please send it to us and we'll let you know as soon as we hear anything...

Rob White

Summer Soulstice

In 2006 just a few weeks after the death of their good friend Andy Weekes from cancer, some of his closest buddies decided to throw a party to remember him by and that would have made Andy and his family proud. In June 2007 their notion had become reality and the first Summer Soulstice took place.

Now in its fifth year, this all-day soulful music festival has already become an annual outdoor family favourite and raises money for Cherry Lodge Cancer Care.

This year's Soulstice takes place from 1pm on Saturday 25th June at the Old Elizabethan's Sports Ground, Mays Lane, EN5 2AG.

Full details at summersoulstice.co.uk or 01273 413800

Church Farm Youth Centre

This youth club was set up by the YMCA and local police, and the Council rented the premises to the club for the same amount as the grant they provided. But recently the Council decided to increase the rent whilst stopping the grant completely. This would cause the club to close, but when it was pointed out that the building does not comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and therefore is unlettable on the open market, and Mill Hill School don't want it in its present condition, the Council are having a re-think. We will let you know the outcome, but in the meantime here's some information Marcella has provided about the Club which is running their summer programme in July:

Church Farm Youth Centre is located off Church Hill Road, East Barnet, EN4 8XE.

The Youth Centre is open 3 days a week:

- Wednesday 6.00 -9.00 pm - Barnet National Autistic Society Session
- Thursday and Friday 5.30- 9.30 pm Youth Club Session

We provide a range of activities for young people which include:

- Fully equipped ICT suite
- Homework Support project
- Arts and Crafts session
- Gym session (fully equipped gym for young people)
- Sports programme (Football, table tennis, badminton, basketball)
- Music programme (DJing, Sound recording, Singing)

- A Schools Holiday programme
- Healthy living programme
- Dance and Drama programme
- Residential trips
- Pool, table tennis, PS3, etc
- A juice bar which provides refreshments

We have access to:

- Indoor sports hall
- Outdoor Play ground
- Use of local swimming pool

Fee: £1.00 per session

For further information please contact:
 Marcella Amartey
 Youth Project Manager
 on 0772 633 7758





Supporting Community Organisations

Barnet has a strong history of volunteering. Nearly 98 people from within the borough (aged 18 and above) register with the Volunteer Centre every month! Volunteer Centre Barnet, is the infrastructure volunteer developmental agency for the Borough. It is based within CommUNITY Barnet. It is estimated that there are nearly 25,000 active volunteers in Barnet including Trustees, befrienders, mentors and advocates. There are many benefits to volunteering, to both the individual and the community. Volunteering within the local community can help individuals develop new skills, aid community cohesion, improves their overall general well being and giving an individual a sense of achievement.

Volunteering also has a huge positive impact on the economy. According to research from the Institute for Volunteering Research there is an economic return of about £6 on every pound spent on volunteering! But this does not, in any way imply, that volunteers must be seen as a substitution for paid employees. To the contrary Volunteers should be involved to enhance and enrich the work done by paid staff member.

Volunteer Centre Barnet

Whether you are interested in volunteering OR an organisation looking for volunteers, our fantastic volunteer centre can help you.

Volunteer Centre Barnet supports and promotes good practices related to volunteer management. The centre works with various voluntary and community groups practices related to volunteer management, develop volunteering opportunities and offer brokerage service to the residents of the London Borough of Barnet (aged 18 and above), matching them with suitable volunteering opportunities as per their skills and interest.

If you would like to volunteer or are looking for volunteers please see our Volunteering page on communitybarnet.org.uk (short link go.eastbar.net/cbv)

James Bradshaw

Speeding Vehicles

The Police are asking for individuals to work with the community police to record speeding motors along several roads in East Barnet. They will use updated equipment, guilty parties will be sent warning notices. We were pushing this idea some 6/7 years ago, and only now are we getting support. Please contact the East Barnet SNT if you'd like to be involved.

Alfresco Gym

The alfresco gym we raised money for in Oak Hill Park now has tarmac over the full area, with space for 2 more facilities as soon as we can raise further funds.

George Irons



Cars In the Park

A Classic and Custom Car Show
Sunday 3rd July

Part of the East Barnet Festival

Met Forward

Met Forward is the Metropolitan Police Authority's strategic plan from now to 2014 to make sure the Met will:

- Fight crime and reduce criminality
- Increase public confidence in policing
- Achieve better value for money

To find out more, please go to:
mpa.gov.uk/publications/metforward

James Bradshaw

North London Waste Plan

This seems to have been going on for ever, but the latest plans have now been published, and comments can be sent by 8th July for consideration before the public hearing is held in 2012. As mentioned in previous newsletters, Pinkham Way on the North Circular is still being considered as a "waste transfer" site and there are concerns over the possibility of smells, and increased traffic congestion on the main road.

The plans are available for comment at nlwp.net and the opposing campaign is at:
pinkhamwayincinerator.blogspot.com

Energise Barnet

Each and every one of us has a responsibility to 'do our bit' to improve the environmental wellbeing of Barnet by changing the way we use and save energy. We cannot expect or wait for the Council to do this for us and Government has introduced financial incentives to encourage residents to act such as [Feed in Tariffs](#).

Energise Barnet is all about helping residents benefit from these incentives in a drive to lower carbon emissions and protect the environment. We explain the incentives, arrange buying groups to reduce the cost of installing energy efficiency measures and protect residents from untrustworthy installers. And, any surplus from our activities will go back into the community to improve the energy efficiency of social housing and reduce fuel poverty in the borough.

The environment affects every single one of us, not just a few. As a Residents' Association you have the ability to bring the whole community together to improve the environmental well being of Barnet for the benefit of all who live and work in the borough, children and generations to come.

With kind regards,

Nigel Farren
 T: 020 8441 6599
 M: 07531 591739
energisebarnet.org.uk

Membership Subscriptions

Grateful thanks as always to our hard-working road stewards who deliver the paper newsletters. Yvonne says "always mentioned in our chats is the irksome task of asking for outstanding subs. So please remember while stewards are happy to accept subs they do find it embarrassing to have to ask for them."

July is the start of our new membership year, so a renewal slip is below for those who have not already

paid. If you can't remember if you have paid or not, please contact me or your road steward. Yvonne or I will be delighted to tell you if you do not know who your road steward is; they will normally be very close by, so you can drop it in if that is your choice of payment.

We will have a stall at the Fair on Sunday 3rd July - alternatively we encourage you to pay online by credit or debit card at eastbar.net/subscribe

Thank you, *Rob White*

I enclose £_____ for _____ years' subscription to the East Barnet Residents' Association (£2 per year per household)

Name:
 Address:

Email:
 I would like to receive newsletters on paper / email (*please indicate*)

Please send cash / cheques (payable to "EBRA") to Rob White

Water Palaver!

Hands up anyone who has taken off a gold chain at night with care, and found a knotted rope next morning? That many, eh? Well, that happened to my garden hosepipe too.

In autumn I attached the nozzle end to the hook on the reel and rolled up finishing with the tap attachment on a similar hook. Now, in theory, come spring, I should be able to reconnect the tap-end and back down the garden hose unwinding from the reel as I go. Oh! yeah?

Scarcely 10 ft away from base it had passed itself beneath a lower coil and I had to remove the end from the tap and pass it under the tightly wound and unyielding coil so that I could continue to unwind. A couple more feet and the same again - and again, each time having to disconnect at the tap and struggle as before.

Now I will admit I had turned the tap on briefly - just to see if there were any leaks, you understand. Delighted to be helped along the gallons (I promise I only let in a dribble) gushed out of the still coiled end over my feet and did so each time I unwound a coil from the reel.

At last it was done and I aimed the business end into the rhubarb (always water this, even when it's raining, it's a

thirsty plant) and went back up the garden (two flights of steps) and turned on the water, muttering "I'll show you who's boss" and finally down to begin watering the veg.

The thing had spat out its spray fitting, turned itself around and like an angry python was waiting for me as the water arrived with force...

HOSE BAN ANYBODY?

Yvonne Ward



In May, Jo Gething held a plant sale for the MacMillan Cancer Care charity, and wrote:

"Many thanks for the publicity - we had a successful sale - not quite as good as previous years - we raised £170. But as several regular customers said, their gardens were full of my plants! So I hope I haven't saturated the market! I have been doing an annual sale for some years now.

The raffle was won by ticket No 1 (no, we couldn't believe it either) which was bought by Janet. Thanks again - Jo"

We have been contacted by the Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents' Association (which has been in operation for nearly 100 years) asking to set up reciprocal links to their new website fbwra.co.uk which of course we are delighted to do.

Chas R
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tel: 020 8440 6449 www.chaslowe.com

Chas R Lowe Estates are proud to sponsor the East Barnet Residents' Association newsletters.