



East Barnet Residents Association

Autumn 2011

Apologies for this newsletter being a bit later than usual – this is for a variety of reasons, but does mean we can bring you a few more last-minute items.

We hope to publish our next newsletter in early December, so 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 the EBRA, please do 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; Sussanne Hassel.

Dates for your Diary

All-Members Meeting:

Wednesday **26th October** starting at 8pm at the Methodist Church Hall, 2 Cat Hill, East Barnet EN4 8JB.

Cat Hill Campus Planning Panel: (*see below*)

Tuesday **11th October** 7:30pm at the de Bohun Primary School, Green Road, London N14 4AD.

Roadworks

We continue to update our website at eastbar.net/roadworks with lists of planned roadworks in the Barnet area. Thanks to Councillor Andreas Tambourides for supplying this information.

Cat Hill Campus Plans

We reported previously how the **Campaign For Cat Hill** has been set up to ensure any development on the previous Middlesex University campus is appropriate.

More details at spanglefish.com/campaignforcathill

They have organised a petition to oppose the planning proposal for 270+ dwellings including 10 six-storey tower blocks. You are encouraged to sign this at petitiononline.com/kimkate/petition.html

A Planning Panel will now be held at de Bohun Primary School, Green Road, London N14 4AD at 7.30pm on 11th October. The Panel will be chaired by Cllr. Martin Prescott and attended by Enfield and Barnet councillors. The purpose of the meeting is not to determine the application, but is an opportunity to hear the views of local people, local interest groups and the applicant regarding the planning application. When the application is presented to a subsequent planning committee for determination, the notes of the panel meeting will be attached to the agenda.

It is imperative that we show the strength of our opposition to this development by attending this meeting. The meeting organisers have asked for confirmation of attendance so that they can gauge numbers. So if you can, please email:

development.control@enfield.gov.uk

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.

This year's Soulstice was in June at the Old Elizabethan's Sports Ground in Mays Lane, and raised another £13,000 for Cherry Lodge Cancer Care. A party to celebrate is being held on Sat 26th Nov 2011 at The Reks Bar & Restaurant (formerly Hadley Oak in Barnet High Street).

The 6th Soulstice is planned for 30th Jun 2012

More details at summersoulstice.co.uk or 01273 413800

Brunswick Health Centre

Despite several assurances from Cameron Ward (the then chairman of the Barnet Primary Care Trust) that the health centre which was damaged by fire in January 2010 would be refurbished this summer, we are now hearing that the insurers are not likely to pay enough for the work to be done. And of course with the public spending cuts, no other funds are available.

Since January 2010 the two GP practices and clinic have camped out in other surgeries as a temporary measure. This must have resulted in considerable savings in heating, lighting, cleaning, etc of the moth-balled buildings. What we can't understand, is why these cost savings were not ring-fenced to top-up the insurance payments? Where has this money gone? Where will the insurance money go if the health centre is not repaired?

If you feel this situation is unsatisfactory, please write to your local councillors to let them know. Without kicking up a fuss again, we fear that the "temporary" arrangements we've had to suffer for the past 20 months will become permanent.

Rob White

Riots

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to our local police teams, whose vigilance and dedication prevented many of the problems experienced in other London boroughs

Parking

Our area does not have CPZ's (Controlled Parking Zones) so thankfully we were not affected by the huge hikes in charges for resident bays and visitor passes.

But we have heard that the next revenue-generating target seems to be parking with two wheels off the road so please beware if this is something you do.

Derrick Parker

We were saddened to learn of the passing in August of long-term member and road steward Derrick Parker. Apart from his support of the EBRA, he did a lot of work for the local community. He will be greatly missed.

Barnet Museum



Barnet Museum, 31 Wood Street
(Photo: Google Street View)

We have heard from Dr Gillian Gear (vice-president of the Museum, and one of the founders of EBRA) that the Barnet Museum volunteers are extremely grateful for all the support from visitors, petitions, blogs, press coverage, legal advice, kind words, thoughts and donations which have been pouring in ever since the campaign to avoid closure began. Together we seem to have convinced the Borough of the importance of keeping Barnet Museum in Barnet Town.

The Museum continues to work closely with the Council to provide the information they need about how the Museum can continue. It is looking more hopeful that a way forward can be finalised soon.

Scams

We often hear about scams, and of course hope that we are clever enough not to get taken in by them. But we have had a few reports of attempted scams in our area recently, and with the Christmas season approaching there is the likelihood of even more attempts...

We have previously heard of cards being dropped through your door saying they had a parcel for you, asking you to ring and pay charges with a credit card to arrange delivery. Reports of calls from a 'representative' of BT, saying you would be disconnected because of an unpaid bill. Pay £31 immediately or it would be £118 to re-connect at a later date. Fraudsters are becoming ever more inventive with their attempts to trick us, but there is some good advice on the Royal Mail and Action Fraud websites. Here are some examples:

- **Scam letters and cards**
The Royal Mail working with the Metropolitan Police has resulted in almost six million scam letters being removed from the UK mail delivery network. But some may still slip through. Don't be conned!
- **HMRC Scam emails**
HM Revenue and Customs has confirmed that reports of fraudulent scam emails have risen by 300% over the last year.
- **Compensation scam**
Police are warning residents to be on the alert of a compensation scam where they could be contacted by someone purporting to be a bank official or from an official organisation claiming they are entitled to compensation or a refund.
- **Debt text scam**
Mobile phone owners are warned about scam text messages that claim to help them become debt free.
- **Cash machine fraud**
Police are warning card holders to look out for skimming devices that may have been attached to cash points by fraudsters
- **Romance Scams online**
New online research led by the University of Leicester reveals that over 200,000 people living in Britain may have fallen victim to online romance scams.

Action Fraud is run by the government's National Fraud Agency in partnership with the Home Office, the City of London Police, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Please see actionfraud.org.uk for more details. Also royalmail.com/customer-service/security/scam-mail

North London Waste Plan

The application to put a waste site at Pinkham Way (close to Friern retail park on the North Circular) has been put on hold by Haringey council (Barnet council owned the land but it is within the Haringey boundary) on the grounds that "it is not acceptable to assess an application for the Pinkham Wood site until the North London Waste Plan has been completed."

And as a result of pressure from the Pinkham Way Alliance and their lawyers, Haringey council are holding a 6-week revised consultation on "fundamental changes" to their Core Strategy. This includes an important change of designation to the Pinkham Wood site. What is currently woodland prized for its biodiversity and used for decades by local people for recreation is to be designated for industrial use. This consultation is scheduled to run until Thursday 3 November 2011.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

The two teams which cover our area are the East Barnet SNT and the Brunswick Park SNT.

As mentioned previously, spending cuts have meant that some SNTs are now sharing their Sergeant. Sergeant **Paul Purdy** of the Brunswick Park SNT is now also looking after the Coppetts SNT.

Sergeant **Greg Coates** has moved on from East Barnet SNT, we wish him well in his new role. And we are pleased to welcome his replacement, Sergeant **Vicky Nasmyth-Miller**.

You can contact the SNTs on 020 7161 9010 (EB) and 020 7161 8020 (BP).

Both teams hold frequent Drop-in Surgeries; the next ones are:

EB: Sunday 16th October 3pm
at Oak Hill Park Café

BP: Tuesday 18th October 10:15am
at Osidge Library

More info: content.met.police.uk/Borough/Barnet

Neighbourhood Link community messaging service

Neighbourhood Link is a community messaging service from the Metropolitan Police Service that provides news and information about policing activity or initiatives, crime prevention advice as well as major incidents affecting your area.

Through this service you can receive messages from your local Safer Neighbourhood Team, borough police or, in the event of a major incident or event affecting the whole of London, from other Met teams.

In order to receive messages you will need to register your details. This information will enable the service to send you messages relevant to the areas you live and work. Anyone can register, whether you live, work or travel in London. Registration is free and simple to follow.

Once you have registered you will receive messages via email unless you have specified otherwise. On some occasions it may be appropriate for messages to be sent via text messages or voicemail.

neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk



Our replacement tree - whilst not exactly flourishing, is at least still alive!

Hopefully it will grow even stronger in the years to come and brighten up this lovely corner of the Saxon Field.

Many more photos of the area are on our website eastbar.net/gallery

Rob White

101 is the new Police Contact Number

"Using 101 for situations that do not require an immediate police response helps keep 999 available for when there is an emergency."...
 "An emergency is when a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, someone is injured, being threatened or in danger." **Use 999 for emergency** and **101 for non-emergency**.

Calls to 101 from landlines and mobiles cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call or how long your call lasts.
 More details at met.police.uk/101

Energise Barnet

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

Nigel Farren, the founder of Energise Barnet, says he gave up his job, used his savings and his house to launch this initiative, and is now looking for sponsorship to take Energise Barnet to the next level.

If you can help, please contact Nigel by phoning 020 8441 6599 or visiting energisebarnet.org.uk

Membership Subscriptions

Grateful thanks as always to our hard-working road stewards who deliver the paper newsletters.

July was the start of our new membership year, so a renewal slip is below for those who have not already paid. Yvonne says "Please remember that while stewards are happy to accept subs they do find it embarrassing to have to keep asking for them". If you receive a paper newsletter and can't remember if you have paid or not, please contact me or your road

steward. If you don't know who your road steward is, Yvonne or I will be happy to inform you; they will normally be very close by, so you can drop your sub in if that's your choice of payment.

We do encourage you to pay online by credit or debit card at eastbar.net/subscribe because this saves us the administrative effort of cash and cheques. And of course if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, that saves the cost of printing, the big distribution effort, and a tree or two...

Thank you. **Rob White**

*Rob White
 16 Woodfield Drive*

Does anyone recognise their handwriting on the left? Someone kindly dropped an envelope with their £2 coin subscription through my door in September, but I have no idea who it was. Please contact me so that I can update my records. Thanks!

I enclose £~~2~~ for ~~1~~ years' subscription to the East Barnet Residents' Association (£2 per year per household)

Name: 2
 Address:
 Email:
 I would like to receive newsletters on paper / email (please indicate)

Please send cash / cheques (payable to "EBRA") to Rob White, 16 Woodfield Drive, East Barnet, EN4 8PA

Page 7 of 8

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

Name:
 Address:
 Email:
 If you have email, would like to receive newsletters by email? Yes / No (please indicate)

Please send cash / cheques (payable to "EBRA") to Rob White, 16 Woodfield Drive, East Barnet, EN4 8PA

Urban Foxes

The number of foxes in our cities has increased dramatically in the last few years. Growing up in rural Yorkshire, I would have loved to have seen a fox, but it was in East Barnet in the 1980s where I saw my first one, late at night. Now it's not unusual to see one trotting across the road, or curled up in the garden in broad daylight. The London Wildlife Trust estimates that 10,000 foxes roam London.

Foxes are reputed to have first arrived here soon after World War II. Since then they have settled in, raiding bins, clearing up discarded fast food, and generally feeding on our waste. These urban foxes are noticeably bolder than their country cousins, even raising cubs in people's back gardens. The problem is that living so close, some of their more annoying habits can impact on us. A most annoying habit is leaving their droppings in a conspicuous place: right in the middle of the lawn or patio. This is because they need to mark their territory. They will scent mark, either with urine or droppings, to let other foxes know they are around. They are inquisitive and will investigate, and sometimes destroy, things left around the garden. Last year I put a bundle of barley straw in our pond to control blanket weed. I tied a string round it, threw it into the middle of the pond, and tethered it. Next morning there was straw all over the lawn. A fox had hauled the bundle in and torn it to pieces.

From December to February they mate, noisily. Very noisily. Cubs are born in March or April. This is when they are at their cutest, and the temptation is to feed them. However, this isn't a good idea. Urban foxes don't need extra food. They hunt at night, taking small rodents, squirrels and especially rats, and will snack on earthworms and slugs. If they are encouraged by feeding, they will become bolder, and that can cause problems, such as foxes entering houses.

Foxes are a top predator in Britain, and in the countryside they take rabbits. They will take your pet rabbits, even in the daytime, so they need to be kept secure. If a fox gets into a chicken run it will kill many chickens. That isn't because foxes take a delight in killing

for the sake of it, but because instinctively they will kill more than they need and hide the rest against leaner times. Normally that doesn't happen because they are disturbed before they can come back for the surplus, so the folklore persists.



(Photo: Wikipedia)

As a general rule foxes will not harm dogs and cats, but small puppies and kittens may be at risk, so they need to be watched. Foxes carry diseases such as mange, but are unlikely to pass them on unless in close contact with your pet. Foxes are far less likely to attack humans or pets than domestic dogs; they are not aggressive and prefer to keep their distance. Until recently we had a fox that slept in the garden all day, sometimes getting up to find another sunny patch, or going under the bushes to get out of the rain. He wasn't interested in the scraps that we put out for the birds. If I went out to hang the washing he would lift his head, then go back to sleep, but if I went too close he was off. He hasn't been seen for a few months now, but I feel privileged to have shared our garden with him for about two years.

Sylvia Javes

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ESTATES
EST 1876

tel: 020 8440 6449 www.chaslowe.com

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