



## *East Barnet Residents Association*

### **December 2011**

We have been very busy this autumn investigating the various plans which seem to be threatening the tranquillity of our beautiful part of the world. More about this below. We have been communicating since the last newsletter with members on email. Some of our members who are not on email have said that they feel left out... But there is really not much we can do about that, given the cost, time, and physical effort involved in distributing newsletters on paper. So we do encourage everyone to please let us know your email address so we can keep in touch more quickly. If you don't have email, do you have a friend neighbour or family member who could receive messages for you?

*Rob White*

### **Contacting the Association**

Rob is our point of contact:  
Email: [rob \[at\] eastbar.net](mailto:rob@eastbar.net)  
Web: [eastbar.net](http://eastbar.net)

### **Committee Officers**

Chairman: James Bradshaw  
Vice-Chairman: George Irons  
Treasurer: Sheila Solbé  
Newsletter Distribution: Yvonne Ward  
Membership & Communications: Rob White

### **Committee Members**

Pat Gladwin; Pauline Coakley Webb; Peter Robinson; Rosina Down; Sussanne Hassel.

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from us all***

### **Season's Greetings from Brunswick Park Safer Neighbourhood Team**

It is that time of the year again when everyone is busy - even criminals.

So, this season we are seeking your help to stop thieves and burglars in their tracks.

All we kindly ask for is if you are going away on holiday or on a short trip, please phone or email us with the name and contact details of a key holder or an emergency contact person who we could contact if there are any incidents at your property.

Residents of Brunswick Park Ward could contact their local SNT by phone on 020 8721 2974 or email us on [Brunswick.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:Brunswick.SNT@met.police.uk) or on the web: [metpolice.uk/saferneighbourhoods](http://metpolice.uk/saferneighbourhoods)

This will enable us to pass by your property when we can, during our patrols to discreetly check on your home. This is a new initiative we hope will help reduce crime.

In an emergency, please dial 999 - For non emergency calls please dial 101

## Brunswick Health Centre Is Still Empty!



In October we received an assurance from Barnet NHS via our MP Theresa Villiers that it is still "fully committed to redeveloping the health centre to accommodate GP practices".

Eventually we received a reply from the Director of Barnet NHS to say "We are currently still waiting for confirmation from our insurance arrangements about what level of funding will be available to complete all the works and open the centre. Once we have this we anticipate the redevelopment programme to last for 12 weeks. We are also bidding for additional monies so that not only will the building be restored to its former condition but there will also be improvements to ensure it is fit for the long term future." We find this a bit surprising, since there are documents in the public domain which show that as far back as March 2010 the insurers had confirmed that they would pay the full cost of repairing the buildings to their original condition, less the normal insurance excess on the policy.

As you can see by the photograph, the large convenient car park is still there, and the level footpath into the health centre is still there. Both provide easy access to the health centre. It is a very good community resource.

We feel that if the NHS is serious about "redeveloping the health centre to accommodate GP practices" then they should simply get on with it. January 4th is the second anniversary of the small fire. For two years we have had to manage without satisfactory GP surgeries to replace it. If you feel this is not acceptable, please contact:

Alison Blair, Borough Director - Barnet, NHS North Central London  
Westgate House, Edgware Community Hospital  
Burnt Oak Broadway  
London HA8 0AD  
Email: [alison.blair@barnet.nhs.uk](mailto:alison.blair@barnet.nhs.uk)  
Phone: 020 8937 7631

Thank you. **EBRA Committee**

*Rob White*

## Cat Hill Campus Plans

We've reported before how the **Campaign For Cat Hill** ([spanglefish.com/campaignforcathill](http://spanglefish.com/campaignforcathill)) has been set up to ensure any development on the previous Middlesex University campus is appropriate.

You have probably read in the local press how the campaigners staged a 67-hour protest at L&Q's intentions to fell 67 trees when they demolish the old buildings, starting even before planning permission has been granted for the proposed new buildings. The protesters were supported by Enfield MP David Burrows and our MP Theresa Villiers.



We have now heard that L&Q have responded to the

public outrage at their plans for 272 dwellings, by submitting amended plans to Enfield Council for 260 dwellings. Wow, twelve less! But to remove a 3 storey block of flats and a few houses, an extra storey has been put on other 3 and 4 storey flats!

The campaigners say: "The ground contamination issue has not been addressed; the flooding issue has not been addressed. Some consideration has been given to the Great Crested Newts and Bats but it is too little. Now only (their words) 64 trees will be felled."

The final planning decision will probably be taken in late Jan / early Feb and according to Enfield Council. If you think your comments relating to the original plans still stand, you have to write in again (before Christmas) saying so:

Reference TP/11/0904

Email: [development.control@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:development.control@enfield.gov.uk)

Post: London Borough of Enfield,  
Development Services,  
PO Box 53, Civic Centre,  
Enfield, EN1 3XE

Fax: 020 8379 3811

## Parking at Hampden Square

You may have noticed that the ticket machines have been covered over. This is because the Council has decided you need to "Pay By Phone" instead. When these parking bays were introduced, it was clear that the first 30 minutes were free parking, and residents have been asking if this is still the case.

The good news is that local Councillors have had it confirmed in writing that 30 minutes are still free, and you do not have to do anything to use them - simply park there and make sure you leave within 30 minutes. Your vehicle will be caught on camera, and if 30 minutes later it's still there but you haven't paid, then you will receive a fine. Please let us know if you find this is not working as intended.

To pay for parking by phone you need to set up an account with your credit or debit card, then you can call or text or email when you arrive at a parking bay, giving your registration and location numbers.

Or you can buy a £2 scratch card from a PayPoint shop (if you can find one; Hampden Square doesn't have any) or from the Council direct. See [barnet.gov.uk/cashless-parking-pay-by-phone](http://barnet.gov.uk/cashless-parking-pay-by-phone)



## Private Events in Oak Hill Park

The Council launched a "consultation" on 4th November to ask "Would you like to hold a wedding, barmitzvah or birthday celebration in your local park?" Our park has been identified as having two potential sites for private events of up to 499 people! One between the café and the tennis courts, the other between the pavilion and the bandstand.

It seems a few households in Church Hill Road did receive a leaflet, but most of the neighbouring roads, and this residents' association have not been consulted. We have done our own leaflet drop to houses in some of the worst affected roads, as well as publicising the plan on our website and email distribution.

The website [engage.barnet.gov.uk/environment-and-operations/consultation\\_parkevents/consult\\_view](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk/environment-and-operations/consultation_parkevents/consult_view) has the policy document which says they anticipate "that the majority of events will fall within the period 1st April to 30th September each year. Consideration will of course be given to events outside this core period."

Some weeks ago we complained that the Council had not consulted sufficient residents. We submitted detailed comments in response to the consultation, and asked for answers to the questions that immediately sprang to mind:

**Parking** is already critical in this area. With no additional parking in Oak Hill Park, a frequent influx of several hundred cars for events would be chaos. The car park at the Parkside Gardens entrance is always full during the summer. The surrounding roads are already extremely congested with park users.

**Toilet Facilities** are already inadequate, with the public toilets in the pavilion often closed. Two groups of up to 499 people eating and drinking in the park would need somewhere to go. If "porta-loos" are used, we envisage damage and nuisance caused by the trucks delivering, emptying, and collecting them.

**Frequency** - The policy document does not mention any limit on the number of private events that the Council would allow. A party every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from April to September would be intolerable. There seems to be no guarantee that any booking would not clash with either the East Barnet Festival or the Theatre in the park events.

**Timing & Security** - What curfews would be in place to enable local residents to get some sleep? Who would enforce the private event curfews? Who would ensure there is no rowdy or drunken behaviour in the surrounding streets? Presumably the Police would have to be notified of any large scale private events and this would incur extra costs in monitoring such events.

**Previous Experience** - The experience of Enfield council was that such private events in Trent Park caused so much disruption to the ambience of the park, and cost to the Council to clear up afterwards, that such events are no longer allowed to take place.

We encourage you to please send your own views on this proposal to the consultation. And please pass on this information to any friends and neighbours who are not members of the EBRA so may not have heard about it. The consultation ends on Friday **16th December**, so please respond as soon as possible via:

**email:** [e&o.consultation@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:e&o.consultation@barnet.gov.uk)

**post:** Matthew Gunyon, Leisure Contracts Manager  
The London Borough of Barnet  
North London Business Park  
Oakleigh Road South  
London N11 1NP

**phone:** 020 8359 4600

Matthew Gunyon has placed an "interim document" on the website to address some of the points already raised during the consultation, but it does not answer with any certainty the issues we have raised.

In a written answer to a question at the Residents' Forum in November they admit the plans are an "opportunity for revenue generation".

*Rob White*

## Oak Hill Park "Satellite Depot"

We heard rumours that the Council intended to triple the size of the depot behind the car park; that big vehicles would be coming and going all day; and even that a new access road could be built through the almshouses on Parkside Gardens. We discovered that the Council's £12M plan to vacate the Mill Hill depot included £2.5M earmarked for the redevelopment and expansion of "satellite depots" at Copthall and Oak Hill Park. And they had already agreed to spend £51,800 on consultants plus £35,000 on surveys.

On the advice of a local councillor, we immediately contacted the Assistant Director of Operations, Environment Planning and Regeneration at the Council, to ask if the rumours were true, because they were causing considerable anxiety to local residents. We received no reply at all, so asked all six local councillors and our MP to press for an answer. Eventually we heard via the councillors that they have been assured there is not going to be a rubbish depot, or a bin lorry compound in Oak Hill Park, and that the Council Leader has said the project has been "stopped". We eventually did also receive an assurance that this Residents' Association would be included in the future planning and consultation process for the depot. Rest assured that the EBRA will keep a close eye on any such threats to our park.

*Rob White*

## Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge



From the website [qe2fields.com](http://qe2fields.com):

"2012 is an exciting year in the UK with two great events scheduled: Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, headed by its Patron The Duke of Cambridge and operated by Fields in Trust, is a fantastic programme to protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities all across the country as a permanent living legacy of these landmark occasions."

We searched to see which parks in Barnet our Council had nominated for this free but valuable and prestigious protection, thinking we would then encourage residents to vote for Oak Hill Park to receive it.

How many parks did Barnet Council nominate? Zero.

So in November we wrote to Nick Walkley, Chief Executive, and Richard Cornelius, Leader, of the Council to say how dismayed we were about this, and urging them to nominate Oak Hill Park.

You can probably guess what happened next - there is a theme developing here - we did not receive any reply or even an acknowledgment.

*Rob White*

## Christmas Carols at Oak Hill College

The staff and students at Oak Hill Theological College warmly invite you to **Carols On The Hill**  
 Sunday 11th December: Traditional Carols by Candlelight 5pm and 7:30pm  
 Monday 12th December: Family Carol Service 4pm  
 In the Oak Hill College Chapel. Refreshments provided, parking available

## Oak Hill Park History

The history of the Oak Hill estate goes back a long way. It was once part of a larger estate called Monkfrith. The first reference to Le Monkefrith was in 1273 and the first reference to 'Oak Hill heretofore called Moncken Frieth or Monkham Frieth' in 1536. This latter name is derived from a reference to woodland or fryth belonging to the monks of St Albans, who owned the manor of Chipping and East Barnet, until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539.

Oak Hill is part of the Kingham Hill Trust Corporation, a registered charity. The estate was left in 1928 by Charles Baring-Young junior, founder of the college, who lived from 1850 to 1928. He had inherited the estate which included the house, sixty acres of farmland and ornamental gardens, a park and woodland from his father. He also owned Bohun Lodge and it was there that theological training was initially provided.

In December 1928 the Urban District Council had bought two cottages which faced onto Church Hill Road, together with land at the back of them. The land was intended to be used as a recreation ground and the cottages to be converted as 'show places or museums' according to a newspaper report of December 28 1928. The cottages were pulled down by the Council but the recreation ground was formed. The old National School building, which lay next to the village pond (opposite St Mary's church hall) further along Church Hill Road, was also incorporated into the recreation ground with land at the rear. This building was not demolished until the 1950s.

The public park that lies below Oak Hill, known now as Oak Hill Park, was opened on 28 October 1933 by the Rt Hon Viscount Hampden. The local council had purchased 61 acres from the Kingham Hill Trust in October 1931 for £25,000, and, with a gift of a further five acres to the north, it was possible to extend the open parkland to include the eight acres already open as the East Barnet Recreation Ground.

*From a bulletin by Gillian Gear*

## Summer Looting

On Aug 8th, as the disturbances were at their height, a group of young men made an ill-judged decision to copy what was going on elsewhere and to engage in burgling PHONES 4 U in High Street, Barnet.

Two men were arrested that night, and on Nov 28th at Wood Green Court, pleaded guilty to burglary and were sentenced to 17 and 21 months in a Young Offenders Institute.

## Remembrance Day



*East Barnet War Memorial 2011  
photo by Jamie Topham*

The EBRA's poppy remembrance cross was placed in plot number 112 at Westminster Abbey on 11th November.

We received a very nice letter of thanks from the Royal British Legion.

*James Bradshaw*

## Barnet Council Budget

The London Borough of Barnet is inviting residents, local businesses, partners and community groups to comment on its Business Plan and its proposed budget for 2012/13.

You can give your views at [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk) by completing the online survey (before 2nd January).

The survey asks for your views on the Business Plan and the budget that is proposed in terms of the savings and priorities identified within each service area. LBB also want to know what you think of the relationship between keeping Council Tax low compared to protecting council services.

*message from [www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk)*

## Thoughts On A Bus

Christmas shopping - love it or hate it, it must be done. (Actually I usually quite enjoy it.)

I am on my way, and sitting at the front of the bus in a good observation position. A pretty young girl gets on, sits, then scrabbles in her bag. Out it comes, the mobile and she speaks. This vital news she must impart without delay. Will it be "I've just abseiled down The Gherkin"? But, you're ahead of me - "I'm on the bus." Oh joy. Put out more flags. Ring the bells. She's on the bus.

Further on, a young man with a man-bag joins us. A search and out with the obligatory bottle of water which has sustained him through the Sahara tramp to the bus and will last until we reach the oasis of Barnet, parched and gasping for liquid.

I give myself a mutual shake. What's the matter with you? It's Christmas, lighten up. And I do.

Much later, shopping done and pleased with my efforts, I'm on the return journey; sitting at the back this time. No mobiles or fluids here, just scholarly youth passengers, glassy-eyed and oblivious to their surroundings as they are transported to other worlds excluded from communication courtesy of the connecting wires hanging from their ears.

Feeling excluded, I gather my shopping around me (no, I don't own a tartan shopper!) to make room for a new passenger who greets me with a smile and we chat until she gets off. Then the bus arrives at the Village and there are the fairy lights and later the sparkling Christmas Tree by the church. Of course! It's Christmas, I belong, I'm nearly home and all sense of isolation has gone for good.

**Happy Christmas everyone and a joyful New Year too. With especially big "Thank You's" to my faithful Road Stewards for the foot-slogging, and braving angry letterboxes and dogs yet again.**

*Yvonne Ward*

### Membership Subscriptions

July was the start of our new membership year, and nearly all of our members have now renewed for one or more years. Thank you all for your support. There are a few memberships outstanding, and regretfully for those households this will be the last newsletter they receive - we have to draw the line somewhere! Our Road Stewards are happy to accept subs but they do find it embarrassing to have to keep asking for them.

If you are on email, I will have confirmed if you still need to renew or not. But 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 simply 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](http://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 is environmentally friendly. As mentioned above, if you let us have an email address then we can contact you much more efficiently as and when urgent matters arise.

Thank you. *Rob White*

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

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

If you have email, would you 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**

## Winter Visitors



*Redwing*

Every winter, flocks of Redwings can be seen in the park or in your garden, foraging among fallen leaves, or eating windfall fruit. Along with the slightly larger Fieldfares, they migrate here from Scandinavia where winters are much harsher. These are not the only garden birds to come here. In early autumn, Robins arrive in large numbers along the east coast, spreading westwards into parks and gardens. They may replace resident Robins that have themselves moved to milder climes of south west Britain, or they muscle in on an established Robin territory. 'Your' Robin may in fact be several different Robins at different times of the year. Blackbirds also migrate, and can form loose flocks, which can be seen when several birds together strip a bush of its fruit or berries. Resident Blackbirds defend their territories though, and will not tolerate other Blackbirds in close proximity. In the same way, resident Mistle Thrushes will aggressively defend a source of berries against any other birds, whatever the species.

The flocks of Starlings that fly around here, in the park, on rooftops and in gardens, are also likely to be migrants from Scandinavia. Starlings mimic various sounds in their songs, (remember the trim-phone Star-

lings?) They also mimic the songs of other birds, and experts can detect the calls of birds we don't have in Britain in the chirpings of these migrant Starlings.

Many other garden birds come here to escape the cold. These include Jays, Song Thrushes, Chaffinches, Greenfinches, sometimes Waxwings, and in recent years, Blackcaps, mainly from Germany. An interesting fact about Blackcaps is that the German ones that mi-



*Blackcap*

grate to Britain have shorter and rounder wings than the ones that go further south, also, they have bills that can take seed from bird tables as well as eating fruit. Apart from the Fieldfares, Redwings and Waxwings, these migrant birds are so familiar they go almost unnoticed. Other familiar birds such as Blue and Great Tits are unlikely to have travelled far, though they will move into our gardens from the countryside to feed.

*Sylvia Javes*

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