



# *East Barnet Residents Association*

*Incorporating Friends of Oak Hill Park*

## **Chairman's Message**

Well, it looks like the summer has gone as the rain comes and a definite chill has descended this week. It seems quite a while ago that the Committee and I were baking in the hot sun of the East Barnet Festival. This year we took the bold move of having our own marquee and it paid off. There was a really nice atmosphere and our eight chairs were filled for most of the day with members and friends. We also signed up a load of new members.

The biggest issue raised at the stall was incredulity that the Brunswick Park Health Centre is still not open nearly four years on. Please see my article on page 4 for more details.

Soon the Council will be delivering the new wheelie bins for recycling (see page 2). Whilst we generally welcome this move, we are disappointed that they have not taken up yours and our call to offer this bin in a smaller size for those with limited space.



*Mayor of Barnet visiting the EBRA stand*

Finally, can I urge you to read the article on page 3 and respond to the Council's much welcomed move to vote to bring back all Councillors into the running of the Council, reversing the forced change by the last government which led to 10 of 63 Councillors being in charge and the rest having little say. I hope this change that will come into effect in June 2014 will mean all Councillors can better represent residents interests and more decisions will be taken in public by elected representatives.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on 8th October for a good discussion and a cup of tea. If you have something you wish to be discussed please get in touch with Rob who will put it on the agenda.

***Daniel Hope***

## EBRA Committee Officers

<b>Chairman</b>	Daniel Hope	<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	George Irons
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Rob White	<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Wendy Alcock
<b>Newsletter Distribution</b>	Yvonne Ward	<b>President</b>	Rev. James Mustard

## Committee Members

Alan Kelley, James Bradshaw, Pauline Coakley Webb, Peter Robinson, Rosina Down, Sheila Solbé, Sue Scott, Sussanne Hassel.

## Contacting the EBRA

**Rob White** is our point of contact, via **Website:** [eastbar.net](http://eastbar.net)

## Dates For Your Diary:

**East Barnet Residents' Association All-Members Meeting: Tuesday 8th October 7:30pm** in the small hall, Brookside Methodist Church, 2 Cat Hill, East Barnet, EN4 8JB

**Chipping Barnet Residents' Forum: Tuesday 22nd October 6pm** at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ

**Friend In Need (FIN)** gospel concert on **Saturday 21st September 6:30pm** (see page 5)

## One Month Until The Council Launches New Recycling Service

Barnet Council is starting to deliver over 110,000 new blue recycling wheelie bins to houses across the borough, from the week beginning 9th September.

From the 14th October, residents will be able to put all of their mixed recycling in their new blue wheelie bin instead of sorting it into different boxes. The new service will allow the recycling of more plastics such as yogurt pots, margarine tubs and food trays.

The council will also be launching a new food waste collection service from the 14th October, as more than 30 per cent of waste in an average household in Barnet is currently food waste. There will be a brown food waste bin, a brown food waste caddy for the kitchen and a sample of 10 biodegradable bags to recycle food waste.

Once the new service has been launched the majority of residents will have their refuse, recycling and food waste bins collected on the same day as part of their weekly collection.

Residents can find out their new collection day by visiting [www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling).

Councillor Dean Cohen, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "We are about to make massive improvements to our recycling service – the scale of which is unprecedented by a local London council. These new bins will replace the unloved blue and black boxes. As well as delivering new blue and brown bins to homes across the borough, we will be using a new fleet of vehicles which will make collections as efficient as possible, training a new recycling team to deliver great service and creating new routes for same day collections. "

For more information on the new recycling service, visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/14-october](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/14-october).

For queries please contact the council at [first.contact@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:first.contact@barnet.gov.uk) or telephone 020 8359 4600.

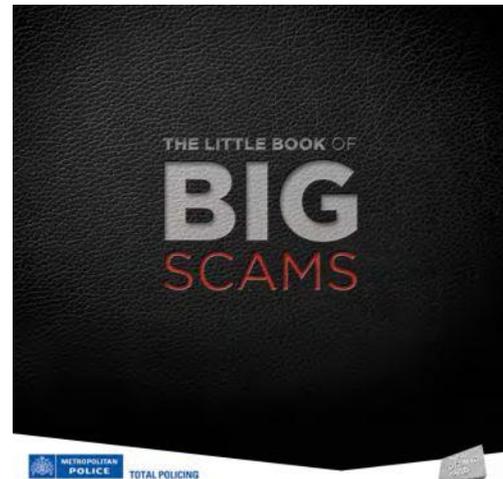
## Scams

There have been lots of warnings recently about scams, and some seem to have been targeted at Barnet residents.

The two main pieces of advice are "if it seems too good to be true, it probably is", and that the police, or your bank or credit card company will **never** ask you for your card PIN number or online passwords. And they certainly would never send a courier round to your house to collect your card. Please be aware of these scams and report any attempts to rob you to the police.

The Metropolitan Police and Mayor's Office have published an excellent 48-page "Little Book of Big Scams" which can be downloaded from [content.met.police.uk/Site/fraudalert](http://content.met.police.uk/Site/fraudalert). Sadly, it's not feasible for the EBRA to include this in our newsletter, but if you contact your local

Neighbourhood Policing Team (formerly Safer Neighbourhood Team) they may be able to provide you with a copy. We should also have some copies available at our next all-members meeting at 7:30pm on 8th October in Brookside Methodist Church Hall. First come first served!



## Barnet Council's Decision Making Process

Barnet Council is asking us for our views on proposed changes to the way it makes decisions.

The consultation, which will run until 22 September 2013, comes after full Council agreed in January to change from an executive system to a committee system.

These changes will take effect from June 2014.

As part of the consultation the council would like to hear from residents, voluntary groups, businesses and other organisations about their views on the current system and the principles behind the new system.

Barnet currently operates an executive system which involves the majority of decisions being taken by a single-party Cabinet, either during a Cabinet meeting or by individual Cabinet members.

The Executive's decisions and policies are then held to account by cross-party Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Next year the new committee system will see

decisions taken by committees with responsibility for particular themes and made up of members from all political parties in proportion to their representation on the Council. Full Council will also play a more central role.

The council will conduct further face to face consultation through workshops and focus groups with the public and the Citizens' Panel.

The changes follow the Localism Act 2011 which gives local authorities greater choice over which system is used to make decisions.

Council Leader, Councillor Richard Cornelius, said: "We are in the early stages of designing the new system and it's tremendously important that it works well for residents, voluntary groups and businesses. The system is fundamental to the way the council operates so I would encourage as many people as possible to get in touch with their views."

For more information, and to comment on the consultation, visit the 'engage' consultation website at [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk)

Hard copies of the consultation will also be available in libraries and council buildings.

## Forty Hall Vineyard

Not many people know about this little gem of a project hidden away in the farm behind Forty Hall in Enfield but it's a secret worth sharing.

For the past few years a group of volunteers (with a part-time project manager) have built up a social enterprise dedicated to producing quality English wine. There are 10 acres of vines planted in the south-facing plot and by the end of the year they hope to be making their first batch of still and sparkling wines.

If you like wine, local food or community projects

you might want to sponsor a vine for £50 (this gets you, amongst other things, a free bottle of wine when the first batch is ready), go along to the weekly volunteering sessions or buy the wine when it's on general sale.

If you want to know more take a look at their website: [fortyhallvineyard.com](http://fortyhallvineyard.com)  
email: [enquiries@fortyhallvineyard.com](mailto:enquiries@fortyhallvineyard.com)  
or telephone 020 8366 7511 (Mondays and Wednesdays).

*Wendy Alcock*

## Brunswick Park Health Centre To Open By December?

We have been leading a campaign locally to see GP services restored to Brunswick Park Health Centre after the small fire in January 2010 displaced 5,800 patients. EBRA has been supported by politicians of all parties in our demand that local people have waited long enough, three and a half years, to have services restored.

On July 4th, I as Chairman went for a second time to Barnet Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to question the NHS as to why matters are still unresolved and what the latest position is. The good news is that the NHS are now focusing on one solution that would see them leasing parts of the centre to different GPs. As we go to print it looks likely that agreement could well be reached, with the intervention of Theresa Villiers MP, to see services restored in time for December 2013.

I have made it clear on behalf of EBRA that it is simply unacceptable for the old and vulnerable to have to put up with more difficult to access

services when a brand new centre is mothballed costing £200 a day to secure. GP services must be restored by December which means agreement must be reached sometime in November. Local residents will not put up with this situation rolling into a fourth year in January 2014.

Please write to Theresa Villiers, 163 High Street, Barnet, Herts, EN5 5SU or email her at [theresa@theresavilliers.co.uk](mailto:theresa@theresavilliers.co.uk) or phone 020 8449 7345 and let her know that you feel this centre must be reopened for this winter. The more support she has the stronger will be her hand in pressuring the NHS bureaucrats.

I look forward to seeing you at the reopening of the centre in November of this year. Let us hope, that rare thing, common sense will prevail.

*Daniel Hope*

## Community Growing Garden

Are you interested in growing fruit and veg? We've been contacted by environmental regeneration charity Groundwork to see if the residents of East Barnet would like help setting up a community growing garden.

Whether you're already skilled at growing strawberries, need help to get started with swedes, don't have the time to look after tomatoes by yourself or are fed up waiting for an allotment to expand into aubergines we'd love to hear what you think. The idea is at a very early stage - no land has been confirmed just yet - but email [wendy@eastbar.net](mailto:wendy@eastbar.net) (or call Rob on 020 8144 8469) if you're keen on the idea and would like to know more.

*Wendy Alcock*

## National Gardens Scheme - Feedback

We were pleased to help publicise the National Gardens Scheme ([ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk)) open garden event in Oakhurst Avenue in July, and received this report from the organisers:

Dear Residents

Thank you for publicising our event on 14 July, and especially to those of you who came to support us. The day was brilliantly successful, and we made over £1,130 - a great improvement on last year's £750. This is not the final total, as we still have a couple of private visits in the pipeline, but the NGS is thrilled with the contribution. In Macmillan Cancer Support's 100 years of existence, the NGS has been its biggest single benefactor; the NGS also supports Marie Curie, Help the Hospices and the Carers' Trust, together with smaller donations to the Queen's Nursing Institute, Perennial, and the National Trust.

Opening two gardens is hard work, especially considering the raffle, the plant sale and the home made cakes, but it's worth it, to be able to support charities that are close to so many hearts. Pencilled in for next year is Sunday 13 July, but we will confirm nearer the date. Thank you so much for your support.

*Alyne & Mike Lidgley*

## Massage Therapy & Pilates Clinic

Wellness Embodied provides high quality massage therapies, one-to-one Pilates and exercise rehabilitation in the local area.

Whether you want to relax and de-stress, reduce pain or recover from an injury, they tailor each treatment and session to meet your specific needs.

Wellness Embodied is based within a private clinic room set in the scenic grounds of North London Business Park. They also offer a 'to you' service so that you can enjoy and benefit from our services in the comfort of your own home.

Gavin Smith has been working as a sports therapist and personal trainer since 2002, during that time he has taken a special interest in helping people to overcome pain and injuries, and has studied and practiced intensely to improve his skills and knowledge base.

Gavin works both through hands-on massage therapies, and using exercise therapeutically to help to strengthen key stabilising muscles, and re-teach optimal movement and posture habits.

More information from:  
website: [wellnessembodied.co.uk](http://wellnessembodied.co.uk)  
email: [gavin@wellnessembodied.co.uk](mailto:gavin@wellnessembodied.co.uk)  
phone 07958 070 680

FRIEND IN NEED & EAST BARNET BAPTIST CHURCH



After our success last year we are presenting another concert of jubilant and uplifting Gospel music

**Saturday 21st September  
6.30 - 10.00 pm**

East Barnet Baptist Church  
Crescent Road  
East Barnet, Herts EN4 8PS

TICKETS: £12.50  
TEENAGERS: £5.00  
CHILDREN UNDER 13 FREE

**Available from Friend in Need, or  
East Barnet Baptist Church**  
Tel: 020 8449 8225

Including a buffet  
of Bagels, Wraps and  
Patties



**'Building Community - Raising Funds'**

Registered Charity No. 1090701

## East Barnet Festival - Report

It proved to be a splendid Festival this year, with fine weather that was doubly welcome after the wash out of 2012.

An innovation on the Friday evening was the opening by the WTW Big Band playing classic standards. There was then a large crowd on the hillside throughout Saturday and Sunday enjoying the music on the Main Stage at one end and the Start-up Stage at the other. Old favourites were joined with some new talent such as Joe Angel and Pamodzi Reggae Band who had everyone dancing.

Dance groups from across North London filled the Big Top, including new Turkish dancers from Southgate, and when the dancers finished at 5pm more music was presented there --- an experiment that worked well. On Sunday the programme opened with Songs of Praise by St Mary's Church and East Barnet Methodist Church, with orchestral music by young musicians from East Barnet Music Centre who meet on Saturday at East Barnet School. Anne Marie Pierce was, as always, a very competent MC.

This big programme was supplemented by the Dog Show on Saturday, and Classic Cars on Sunday where Cllr Melvin Cohen, Mayor of Barnet presented the Best in Show prize to a VW Camper, chosen by public vote from the 80 cars. Children's World, organised by St James Church, Punch & Judy, The Monkfrith Majorettes and the new Cheerleaders group all added to the entertainment.

East Barnet vet Ralph Bailey helped organiser Chris King with judging at the dog show, and they chose an English bulldog as best in show, a French toy poodle as reserve and an English cocker spaniel as runner up, with another French bulldog as best puppy in the show.

A record number of over 100 stalls, arranged by Ros Staines, presented a multitude of goods for sale, services and information by community and charity groups, with the Food Fayre offering a great choice at 14 stalls. There were again delicious home made cakes served in the Tea Tent and the Pinnacle Bar was really busy all weekend, including Friday evening.

Trustee Baz Swain accompanied Barnet's Festival Queen Candy Fern and Princess Sophia Theocharous with the Mayor of Barnet and Deputy Mayor Cllr Bridget Perry and also the Mayor of Enfield, Cllr. Anwar Choudhury, emphasising the appeal of the Festival across this area of North London, so close to the border with Enfield.

It was all smoothly marshalled by Pauline Coakley Webb in the office and by Ian Bartrum with the rota of volunteer stewards, supplemented this year by the 5th East Barnet Scouts from Osidge Lane who used the occasion to qualify for their Group Environment badge, and with extra litter picking and cleaning supplied by sponsors Top Quality Cleaners of Finchley.

An unforeseen consequence of the popularity of the Festival was a huge amount of rubbish which could not be cleared by the usual team until the Wednesday after the Festival and thanks are due to the Borough Council for helping to clear.

Other sponsors included the Hadley Trust for the music, the churches for the tea tent, and new sponsors Barnet Football Supporters Club who underwrote the Start-Up Stage, giving young artists a very welcome platform for a live performance before an audience. Musicians from The Sound Garden in Barnet, Barnet for U and CD & DVD Copy Shop worked with Stannard Associates on sound and electricity for all and Barnet Hospital Radio ran a non-stop commentary through both days. Chas Lowe Estates again gave much general support, as they have over the years, as have Barnet Arts (Barnet Borough Arts Council) and Barry Ainsworth through Freeway Associates who oversees all the music and website publicity.

Chas Lowe and Bodens Theatre Arts have also supported the Theatre in the Park season on Sunday afternoons from June to August with a range of children's shows and Shakespeare --- both traditional and modern musical performances. These have been able to use the green arena and old bandstand area up by the

## East Barnet Festival (continued)

woods where thanks are due for the new drain dug out by members of the Friends of Oak Hill Woods. This has worked well in draining the woodland stream so it no longer floods the arena, even during flash floods, but runs along the top hedge to form the mini swamp in the centre of the Riverside field.

The weather has held for the theatre shows this season --- indeed sometimes the audience has been invited to sit in the shade of the trees because of the heat. Luckily while it was hot through the main festival weekend, it only seemed to deter people somewhat in the afternoons who then came along later, and that was also probably an effect of the clash with Wimbledon and Andy Murray's final.

The trustees have met through the year, and will soon be involved in arranging Barnet Christmas Fayre on 1st December. It is found that initiatives in one area can often be developed in the other festival, and do much to create links within the community.

An open meeting on the Christmas Fayre is at 8pm on 17th September at The Bull Theatre.

Offers of assistance are welcome, either at committee level or for a couple of hours as a steward or helper on the day of the events. Let us know if you would like to perform or book a stall, or might like to encourage a particular activity by acting as a sponsor.

***Pam Edwards***

## Cat Hill Campus

The Campaign For Cat Hill lobbied Mayor Boris Johnson to oppose Enfield Council's recommendation to allow the plans for redevelopment of the former Middlesex University Campus, and his decision is expected just after we go to print. They are also trying to get a judicial review of Enfield's decision.

## Membership Subscriptions

Thank you to all the members who renewed at the East Barnet Festival and by post or in person to me. If you received this by email I will have indicated if your subs are due, but if you are on the paper distribution and not sure if your subscription has expired please ask at our meeting on 8th October or phone me on [020 8144 8469](tel:02081448469) (please leave a message if no reply) and we will let you know.

We do encourage you to pay online by credit or debit card at [eastbar.net/subscribe](http://eastbar.net/subscribe) because this

reduces 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 considerable distribution effort, and is environmentally friendly. If you do let us have an email address then we can contact you much more efficiently as and when urgent matters arise. We do not send 'spam' and will not reveal your email address to anyone.

Alternatively, please fill in the renewal slip below and send or bring it to me. Thank you.

***Rob White***

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

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

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

Sep 2013

## Credit Unions

There's been a lot in the papers recently about the perils of payday loans. Credit unions are often mentioned as an alternative for people needing to borrow small amounts of cash but not many people know what credit unions are, what they are for and how to find their nearest.

### What are they

Credit unions are small non-profit financial organisations set up by members with something in common to benefit their community. That common factor may be living in the same town, working in the same industry or belonging to a particular trade union. Members pool their savings to lend to one another and help to run the credit union, and there's no profit for shareholders so all the cash stays locally.

### What are they for

Their aim is to encourage people to save what they can, and borrow only what they can afford to repay. They can be a welcome alternative to payday loans but they may also appeal to those who want to bank ethically and benefit their community.

Credit unions are very good for loans of smaller amounts (£50 to £3,000). Loans come with a maximum interest rate of 26.8% APR. Better rates are possible if you've a good credit rating but compared to the typical 5,853% APR from

one well known payday lender, it's a very good price!

They also all offer some form of savings account. The interest rate is usually around 2% but depends on the individual union. All savings have exactly the same protection as normal savings accounts (the Financial Services Compensation Scheme will pay back £85,000 per person, per institution in the unlikely event anything goes wrong).

### Where are they in Barnet

There are roughly 500 unions across the UK and we're lucky enough to have two available to us in Barnet. They are not based in the borough but cover all East Barnet and Brunswick Park residents. They would be more than happy to hear from you.

London Capital Credit Union

Website: [www.credit-union.coop](http://www.credit-union.coop)

Tel: 020 7561 1786

Email: [info@credit-union.coop](mailto:info@credit-union.coop)

Address: Credit Union, The Jeremy Hopgood Rooms, Caxton House, 129 St John's Way, Archway, London N19 3RQ

North London Credit Union

Website: [www.northlondoncommunityfinance.org](http://www.northlondoncommunityfinance.org)

Tel: 020 8366 8244

Email: [info@northlondoncommunityfinance.org](mailto:info@northlondoncommunityfinance.org)

Address: 3 George Mews, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 6JA

*Wendy Alcock*

## Oak Hill Park Café

Ewa and Jacek, who have owned the café in Oak Hill Park for 17 years, have finally been granted permission to serve alcohol with meals. They have been trying to expand their business for years, and hope people will relish this new opportunity to have a meal and a drink in the al fresco café.



Chas R **L O W E** ESTATES  
EST 1876  
tel: 020 8440 6449 [www.chaslowe.com](http://www.chaslowe.com)

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