



East Barnet Residents Association

Incorporating Friends of Oak Hill Park

Chairman's Message

Can I first, on behalf of us all, wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2014.

We've had a busy few months since our last newsletter. After campaigning for so long to see GP services restored to the Brunswick Park Health Centre it finally re-opened to some patients last month and we understand more GPs will move in soon. We wouldn't have succeeded in this campaign without all your support, email and letters and I thank you for them.

I was proud to join hundreds of local people at the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service by the war memorial. Representatives from local churches and the synagogue made readings and many wreaths were laid from local organisations

Not long after that, as the picture shows, we were delighted that the Mayor of Barnet came to light the Christmas Tree in East Barnet village and join in some festive song singing.



I look forward to seeing many of you at the next all Members Meeting for a hot cuppa and biscuit.

Details are below but please note we are now starting meetings at 7.30 not 8pm.

Daniel Hope

Dates For Your Diary:

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

East Barnet Residents' Association All-Members Meeting: Tuesday 1st April 7:30pm in the small hall, Brookside Methodist Church, 2 Cat Hill, East Barnet, EN4 8JB

PLEASE NOTE that we now start our meetings at 7:30pm

EBRA Committee Officers

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

Committee Members

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

Contacting the EBRA

Rob White is our point of contact via the **Website:** eastbar.net

News Updates

Recycling: Barnet Council reports that the amount of recyclable waste being collected in the new blue bins far exceeds the old scheme. And by putting our food waste into the new brown bins, we will be causing less pollution from our black-bin landfill. So please keep it up!

Campaign for Cat Hill: The organisers of this campaign are very disappointed that they have had to scrap their legal challenge of the developers' plans due to the huge costs involved, and the likelihood that even if they did win, the developers would simply re-submit their plans, ticking all the boxes. So the blocks of flats will now be built on the site of the old Middlesex University Campus. We are grateful to the campaign for their tireless work over the past

years, and look forward to continuing to work with them as the new Cat Hill Area Residents' Association evolves. The CHARA will of course be keeping a very close eye on the developers, to ensure all of the planning and wildlife commitments are met.

Brunswick Park Health Centre: NHS England has moved the Hampden Square practice into the refurbished Health Centre, so it is finally being used after nearly four years. We have just heard that Dr Okonkwo's surgery will return there imminently, which should alleviate the ongoing overcrowding in the temporary accommodation, and re-enable much better access to the surgery for our less able residents, particularly in winter.

WalkSafeN14

This pressure group has petitioned Barnet Council to introduce 20mph speed limits and parking restrictions in a large area around Osidge Primary school (Hampden Way, Chase Way, Arlington Road, Cecil Road and Burleigh Gardens) with more crossings, double yellow lines on all road junctions in the catchment area of Osidge School, and more enforcement of parking regulations, particularly at start and end of the school day.

At a recent Brunswick Park Ward panel meeting, the police revealed that a survey of traffic speed recorded average speeds of around 24mph in the roads affected.

The EBRA does not have a policy on this yet, so please let us know what you think about the idea of 20mph restrictions or zones, and increased parking restrictions. Our contact details are at the top of page 2, or please come to our meeting on 7th January to discuss.

Barnet Museum

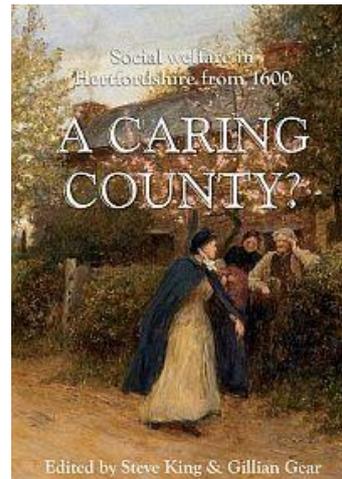
We have been fortunate enough to be given by a former design student at the Chelsea Arts College an architects' model she made as part of her MA project. The model is of the Friern Hospital, the former Colney Hatch Asylum. It's 2.5 metres long and mounted on a light box. The structure is made of Perspex.

We have been preparing Jennie Lee Cobbans book on Geoffrey de Mandeville and the London Camelot. East Barnet and Oak Hill Park both feature strongly and this should interest residents in the East Barnet area: "Does the ghost of a medieval Earl haunt East Barnet and Hadley Woods? What is the secret of mysterious Camlet Moat in Trent Park – is this the real site of Camelot?"



We also have produced a 2014 Calendar which features Barnet People at work and Play.

A new book published by Herts University Press has three chapters written by Museum members. One is on the Hadley (Barnet) founding Hospital, another on the Certified Industrial schools including Church Farm, East Barnet and one on medical care in Royston.



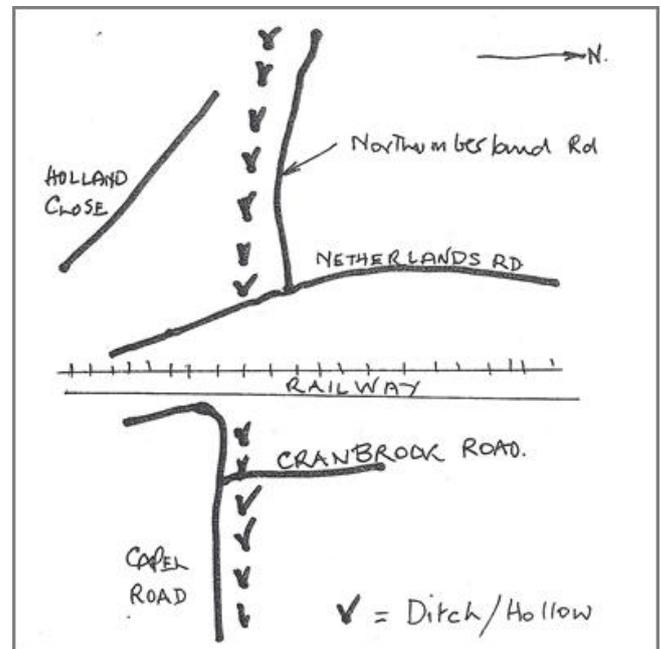
Gillian Gear

Was it a boundary ditch?

Three separate pieces of information:
A visitor to the museum explained some years ago that there was a ditch behind the boundary of his father's house in Northumberland Road (South Side) and local residents referred to it as 'Grimsdyke'.

Again some years ago I was told that there was a deep hollow where the green in front of Holland Close in Netherlands Road now exists, and that it was filled with clay from the building of the Piccadilly line at Cockfosters. A member of the Society told me recently that the sudden lowering of the road level in Cranbrook Road after leaving Capel Road was part of an area called Wakeling Moor.

Each in itself meant little, but then I realised that the so called 'ditch' is most likely to have run continuously from the Great North Road down to East Barnet. The feature didn't bear any signs of being natural, so was it a territorial boundary ditch from ancient times? It was certainly used by the Saxons to mark the boundary between Hertfordshire and Middlesex along its length.



It could have been man-made, its character changing over the centuries by weathering. The western end towards the Great North Road now appears much shallower than the eastern end, but there is now no evidence as to where the material from the depression went.

Don Baker

East Barnet Business Watch

It is the intention of Barnet Police to organise a business watch within the East Barnet area. The aim is to promote and facilitate local businesses communicating with one another about matters that affect their day to day running, to raise awareness of and provide a conduit for them to contact the local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and visa versa.

A questionnaire is to be distributed by local PCSOs to canvas the views of the businesses and obtain their thoughts and opinions of the proposal. This will include questions regarding crime and antisocial behaviour and whether regular meetings and a newsletter are wanted etc.

It is our intention to use existing social media (Facebook) specific to East Barnet to highlight pertinent and relevant information for businesses and the wider community. Police will use this to disseminate specific advice, appeals and news.

It is hoped that by doing so information will be shared quickly and efficiently within the business community of East Barnet, and further strengthen the relationship between businesses, the wider community and Police

DS Thomas Kearney

Do you know what type of locks you have?

Now we're into the darkest and shortest days of the year home safety is an even more important issue. One way to keep you home safe is to use the best lock on your doors and windows. The better your lock, the more secure your home is. Plus, even better news is that you should also pay less for your insurance too.

Know your locks to lower your premium

If you don't know your five-lever mortice deadlock from your rim automatic deadlatch, you should do. Getting the right lock on your doors could slash money from your home insurance premium.

Insurers often ask what type of lock you have so you risk invalidating your cover if you put down the wrong option. The descriptions and pictures below should help you tell what you have.

The main locks to watch out for:

The following are roughly in order of what is considered most secure and which will therefore lower your costs, but there is no hard and fast rule.

Five-lever mortice deadlock conforming to BS (British Standard) 3621. This is the gold standard of locks the police recommend and insurers often like to see on your policy. So if you're thinking of changing your locks, this is the one to go for. The British Standard kitemark is stamped on the metal plate so it's easy to see, it's heart-shaped with an 's' in the middle – like this:



Five-lever mortice deadlock. This is the same as above but without a British Standard kite-mark.



Key-operated multi-point locking system. A multi-point locking system has a minimum of three locking points that all lock simultaneously by the turn of a key. Multi-point locks are most common on uPVC doors or patio doors.



Rim automatic deadlatch with key-locking handle. These offer security at night, allowing you to lock your door more securely from the inside.



Any other lock? If it's none of the above, it's probably classed as "**other lock type**". To cut costs and improve security, they recommend you consider getting one of the recognised locks above.



The one pictured right, for example, although of decent quality, does not meet insurance standards when fitted alone on a door and has no external deadlocking feature allowing for the latch to be bypassed and opened easily with force.

(continued overleaf)

Which lock is best?

If you have one of the top four locks above (ie, not an 'other lock') you should have decent security and lower premiums.

Sometimes, insurers will distinguish between the quartet. Where they do, the five-lever mortice deadlock conforming to BS 3621 is normally the best, followed by the same lock but without the kitemark.

As approaches vary among insurers, however, it's a good idea to compare quotes from as many providers as possible.

What lock you can have fitted may also depend on how sturdy your door frame is, as a quality lock is only as strong as what they are attached to, so you'll need to take that into consideration.

The difference in quotes on a price comparison website for having a five-lever mortice deadlock (preferred by insurers) and a rim automatic deadlatch with key-locking handle, with the same insurer, could be around £50 for the year. With a five-lever mortice deadlock coming in at about £20 to £40 to buy, it's cheaper to change the locks and get a lower premium with the added comfort of extra security for your home.

Insurers recommend that the lock is professionally-fitted, the cost of which may be similar or higher than the lock itself. But don't let that put you off, as even if it means the lock doesn't pay for itself in year one, it's an investment so it will do in the future.

You can't just say you have the lock to get a cheaper premium. If you're burgled, and it turns out you don't have these locks, your insurer may not pay out.

Information adapted from an article on MoneySavingExpert.com

Wendy Alcock

Could You Be Entitled To A Free Boiler?

The ECO (Energy Companies' Obligation) boiler scheme has been funded by the Government to help those on low incomes improve the energy efficiency of their home. So far £875m has been invested in an attempt to help low-earning families reduce their bills and to help the environment with cleaner, more efficient gas boilers.

It may sound too good to be true but if your circumstances are approved and your existing boiler is 10 or more years old, with this ECO scheme you won't pay a penny for your new boiler and can save up to £300 a year on your bills.

To apply, call 0800 808 5852 or 0333 344 3922 (9am - 6pm Monday to Friday) or visit getfreeboiler.co.uk

They will need to know exactly what benefits you receive, and your home will be assessed by a

qualified and approved assessor. This will include a personal visit to generate an energy report on the efficiency of your property and potential improvements that could be made. If you qualify, the installation will be free of charge, but if extra work needs to be carried out (such as the fitting of new radiators or if the boiler needs to be sited elsewhere in the home) this will be mentioned before you sign up to a contract. A certified installer will carry out the work required. Private tenants will of course need to have a tenancy agreement in place and have the permission of the landlord before work can start.

Note that Chancellor George Osborne has announced plans to reduce annual energy bills by around £50, and this may affect schemes such as ECO. So ECO advise you to act quickly, with full Government plans and timings yet to be unveiled.

Ashmole Academy

Ashmole Academy has announced a plan to build a completely new primary school on the same site as the existing secondary school. At this stage, the announcement is only a proposal. The academy needs to raise the money for the construction of the school, as well as being able to demonstrate that there is sufficient interest to fill the school. The proposal is to have the school open for September 2015.

The plans are announced on the website ashmoleacademy.org/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=72 where there is an information pamphlet to download and a survey for parents to register their interest in sending their children to the proposed school.

Recent newspaper reports suggest that one of the reasons the new primary school is being proposed is to solve a problem in the Fox Lane and Grovelands Park areas of Enfield where there is a severe shortage of primary school places. The reports suggest that admissions from those areas may be given priority over Barnet residents. If this happened, and if children from the primary school are given priority places when they progress to the secondary school, there could hypothetically be a possibility that residents in the Brunswick Park ward of Barnet could be at a disadvantage, despite living very close to the schools.

There are no definite plans or policies available yet, but we would be interested to know what our members feel about these proposals, so that we can provide informed feedback to the academy when the time comes. Our contact details are at the top of page 2.

Thank you,

Rob White

Membership Subscriptions

Thank you to all the members who have renewed their subscriptions for the July 2013 – June 2014 year. Our membership numbers are showing a steady growth which is great news.

For those on email I have indicated if membership has expired, but if you're not sure please call me (leave a message if no reply) and I will let you know. Membership will unfortunately lapse for the few who have still not renewed by the new year...

We do encourage you to pay online by credit or debit card at eastbar.net/subscribe because this reduces administration. And of course if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, that saves the cost of printing and distribution, 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

Dec 2013

Sticky Business

These days, like so many of us, I use a stick to help me on my way. Treacherous pavements lie in malevolent wait to catch and trip the unwary. There's no soft option when you bite the dust. But, my goodness, how many doors that stick has opened. Not literally, but then you guessed that.

First, the bus drivers who obligingly make their charge kneel so's I can get on more easily (pity they can't also repeat the action when we get off laden with shopping). Once on board, the guilt-stricken able bodied leap from our special front seats (well, more often than not). Only yesterday on a bus filled with homecoming schoolchildren I was given a seat by a lollipop sucking young man who might have collapsed at any moment if the extra sugar he was desperately imbibing had not reached the vital bits quickly. (Do lolly sticks have nourishment too?) Later, getting up early to allow for a struggle through the scrum to the door, a young girl told the driver to "STOP" as a lady wanted to



get off - mistimed, but how thoughtful. I humbly accepted the gritted teeth and ire of the driver, who had stopped for nothing the first time, when I actually reached my Hail & Ride Stop.

Road crossings benefit too. Lurking a little way from a zebra crossing to sort out my immediate life but not needing to cross, a kindly young couple, toddler and buggy in hand, stopped and offered to help me across the road. So much appreciated, I let them take me. Many the arm I have been offered to dice with death on Church Hill Road. Don't really need one yet, but I'm grateful and it makes me feel fragile! Now, I'm certain it's not just all happening to me - even if I have kissed the Blarney Stone.

So I do hope that like me, you too have experienced similar thoughtfulness and can be thankful that we still live in a pleasantly civilised part of the Borough. Perhaps with a bit of luck our Council will attend to the dreadful pavements which are a hazard to us all. "YES PLEASE" they all chorused, waving their sticks to emphasise the point.

Now, where is that Boy Scout to see me across the road and on to the bus with my "festive bottles" shopping? Dry sherry anyone?

The best of seasonal wishes to you all,

Yvonne Ward

Chas R

L O W E

Estates

Established 1876

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