



East Barnet Residents Association

Incorporating Friends of Oak Hill Park

Chairman's Message

We have been busy supporting local residents' campaigns, many of which were discussed at the last well attended All Members Meeting. Remember, these are **your** meetings, so please contact Rob if you have an issue you would like to have discussed.

The ancient Russell Lane Woodland continues to raise emotions. We as an association are supporting the local campaign to see this wonderful historic landmark restored. This will take more than just a new sign and replacing diseased trees - but a commitment by the Council to replant many of the trees it has bureaucratically felled over the years. We would like to thank our local MP Theresa Villiers for her help, supporting Russell Lane woodland as passionately as she has done at Cat Hill.

It was a source of relief that Barnet Council has now replaced the bench on Russell Lane at Beresford avenue that it took away, apparently after consulting local Councillors! The missing bench was spotted by eagle eyed Rob and discussed at the last meeting and raised by local newspapers. Following EBRA's

campaigning the Council replaced it, but the mystery remains as to what happened to it in the first place.

Ashmole Academy Secondary School have now formally submitted a proposal to the Department for Education for a primary school on their site. This has been presented in some quarters as undiluted good news. Some members raised concerns at our meeting over press reports that this new school would have a special admissions policy meaning that predominantly children living immediately around Grovelands Park in Enfield would be granted places. Concern was expressed as to how that would impact children in East Barnet and Brunswick Park who currently hoped to secure places at Ashmole Academy.

Please come along to our next meeting on April 1st for an update on these and other issues.

Daniel Hope

Dates For Your Diary:

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

East Barnet Residents' Association AGM: Tuesday 8th July 7:30pm in the small hall, Brookside Methodist Church, 2 Cat Hill, East Barnet, EN4 8JB

East Barnet Festival Sat 5th & Sun 6th July If you would like to have a stall at the festival, or if you can sponsor the festival, or if you are able to help in any way, please contact Ros Staines on 020 8441 1359 or email rosstaines@yahoo.co.uk - thank you!

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 our **website**: eastbar.net

Russell Lane Preservation Scheme

In 1935/36, the local population became concerned about the preservation of Russell Lane - a forested area known locally as Lovers' Lane - because a similar area in Osidge Lane had been totally decimated by the making of a roadway. The site, owned by Ideal Homes, was to be developed for housing which involved the felling of many trees. In negotiation with the council, who could not afford to buy the land, the Russell Lane site was given to the council on the understanding that it would be preserved for future generations to enjoy. The council had to find £3,000 to carry out necessary work of tree preservation (cost of 5 bungalows at the time). There was a great deal of argument within the council about the cost and the value of preserving the Russell Lane site, but with the support of the majority and local homeowners and residents, Cllrs Bennet and Judge asked for a loan from the government, which they got. This was repaid by putting a farthing on the rates.

This area was maintained up until the 80's, but since then it has been destroyed piecemeal by the felling of trees leaving the Russell Lane green area in the parlous state it is today.

We have had meetings with council representatives who have assured us that the dozen or so trees which have been removed recently will be replaced in the spring of 2014 along with 3 or 4 extra (likely to be hornbeam and oak). A budget has been set aside for this. Trees will be in keeping with the ones found in the area.



We are hoping that it will be possible to restore the area to some of its past glory.

Because of the council's budget restrictions, we are hoping to investigate sources of free trees and grants to enable to us to pay for planting. This will be done in close contact with the council so we are aware, at every step, what it is possible to do. We do feel we can do this without jeopardising the current use of the Russell Lane green space by local residents to cross the lane and also help to reduce traffic noise and improve air quality.

Sue Scott

Pension Credit

Are you missing out on claiming Pension Credit to help with household bills?

Many older people are missing out on Pension Credit and other benefits so the Mayor of London has launched a campaign to highlight the fact that many pensioners in London may not be claiming vital benefits.

The help adds up to an average of £21 a week or £1,092 a year in pension credits. No small sums when you consider the straitened financial circumstances faced by many older Londoners.

If you are a single pensioner on less than £145.40 a week, or your joint pension is less than £222.05 a week, you could be missing out on additional income to help you pay household bills and keep your home warm.

The numbers of pensioners missing out are not insignificant either. In London, there are around 180,000 pensioners who aren't aware of what benefits they're entitled to, so fail to claim them.

Those who look after older or disabled people could be missing out too. The people they care for may also be entitled to extra help.

The mayor has partnered with charities Age UK, Citizens Advice and Carers Trust to raise awareness of pension credit and the other benefits available to older people as the benefits system can be complex and it can be difficult for people to work out what they're entitled to.

That's why it's saying to people, if you're a pensioner or perhaps know an older Londoner who may be missing out on benefits, call Age UK, the Carers Trust or pop down to your local Citizens Advice Bureau for a chat, and make sure you're claiming what you need.

Barnet Age UK: 020 8203 5040

www.ageuk.org.uk/barnet

Barnet Carers Trust: 020 8343 9698

www.barnetcarers.org

Barnet Citizens Advice: 30 Station Road, New Barnet, EN5 1PL (Mondays 9.30 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 2.30 pm). Also Wednesday and Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm at the Hendon office.

Wendy Alcock

Can you help Chipping Barnet Foodbank?

One of over 200 foodbanks in the UK, the Chipping Barnet foodbank is part of The Trussell Trust, a charity committed to action against poverty and marginalisation in our community. Around 50 agencies in the borough, including social workers, churches, doctors, the job centre and Children's Services of Barnet Council give vouchers to people they know are in difficult circumstances - and since opening at the end of 2012 Chipping Barnet foodbank has fed around 1,500 people, over 500 of them children.

The foodbank relies on donations of in-date non-perishable food (see suggested shopping list below) to feed local people in crisis.

To find out how the foodbank works, how to donate or other ways you can help:

Website: chippingbarnet.foodbank.org.uk

Email: info@chippingbarnet.foodbank.org.uk

Phone: 07716 890 535

Foodbank shopping list:

Milk (UHT or powdered), Sugar (500g), Long life fruit juice, Tins of Soup, Pasta sauces, Sponge pudding (tin), Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Vegetables, Breakfast cereals, Tinned Rice pudding, Tea Bags, Jar of instant coffee, Instant mash, 500g Rice, 500g Pasta, Tinned meat/fish, Tinned fruit, Jars of Jam, Packets of biscuits, Snacks

Wendy Alcock

Your Local Councillors

Here's a list (in alphabetical order) of your local councillors and their email addresses. They are happy to help and if there's anything you would like to discuss you can go to one of their surgeries (no appointment necessary)

Brunswick Park Ward

Andreas Ioannidis (*Labour*)
 cllr.a.ioannidis@barnet.gov.uk
 0791 759 9498
 Surgery: 2:30 - 3:30 1st Saturday of month

Lisa Rutter (*Conservative*)
 cllr.l.rutter@barnet.gov.uk
 020 8445 3829
 Surgery: 2:30 - 4:00 Last Saturday of month

Andreas Tambourides (*Conservative*)
 cllr.a.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk
 020 8368 5417
 Surgery: 10:30 -12:30 2nd Saturday of month

Surgeries are at Osidge Library

East Barnet Ward

Barry Evangelis (*Conservative*)
 cllr.b.evangelis@barnet.gov.uk
 (no phone number provided)

Robert Rams (*Conservative*)
 cllr.r.rams@barnet.gov.uk
 020 8446 7291

Joanna Tambourides (*Conservative*)
 cllr.j.tambourides@barnet.gov.uk
 020 8361 9154

Surgeries 10:30 to 12 noon on the:
 First Saturday of month at NBCA Victoria Road
 and
 Third Saturday at East Barnet Library

Local Elections

The Election Day for local and European elections is Thursday **22nd May 2014** 7am-10pm

If you haven't already registered to vote, the deadlines are:

5pm Tuesday 6th May 2014 - Deadline for registering to vote (if you aren't already registered)

5pm Wednesday 7th May 2014 - Deadline for the Council receiving new postal vote request or proxy vote request (a proxy is someone you authorise to go and vote for you on the day)

Contact the Electoral Registration Office (ERO)
 North London Business Park (NLBP), Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP
 Tel: 020 8359 5577 Email: ero@barnet.gov.uk



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