



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 2015.

I must also apologise that the last All-Members Meeting was postponed due to the building work at the Church.

I was proud to again join hundreds of local people at the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service by the East Barnet Village war memorial. Representatives from local churches and the synagogue made readings and many wreaths were laid from local organisations. Next year we hope to lay our own wreath.

The Council has recently started some consultations that will affect local services.

Libraries

The Council, like many others in London, is finding ways to deliver services on a lower budget. As part of this the Council has cut £2.85m from libraries over the next five years. It has presented options on how libraries would change on this lower budget. As they affect this immediate area one option would see Osidge Library close, another would see East Barnet Library close and the third would see both stay open but reduced in size with the space redeployed.

So do you agree with the Council or not? Are Libraries an expensive luxury in these austere times? Are they an essential service without which many will suffer? Whatever your view please let US and the Council know.

Church Farm Leisure Centre and Pool

It has long been recognised that this centre needs a lot of work and it was unlikely it would be practical on the current site. News has leaked out from the Council, we are more than disappointed that we have not been formally informed, that they are considering alternative locations for this facility. They are: Victoria Recreation Ground, New Southgate Recreation Ground, Brunswick Park, Danesgrove Playing Fields or Oakhill Park.

Despite the difficulties should the Council keep Church Farm at its current location? If not of the suggested locations which do you prefer? Please let US and the Council know.

Monkfrith School

The School is proposing to extend on its current site. They are currently engaged in informal consultation with a more detailed planning application in the new year.

Walksafe N14

These proposals continue to work their way through the Council. The Council had recently promised to publish detailed proposals but nothing has yet come to light. We have pressured the Council to make sure the public are consulted widely and the decisions are taken in public by Councillors at committee.

See further in the newsletter for more details on some of these consultations and how you can take part.

Daniel Hope

Dates For Your Diary:

East Barnet Residents' Association All-Members Meeting: Tuesday 3rd February 7:30pm in the small hall, Brookside Methodist Church, 2 Cat Hill, East Barnet, EN4 8JB.

Barnet Christmas Fayre Sunday 7th December – Barnet High Street and Museum (see below).

EBRA Officers

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

Committee Members

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

President Rev. James Mustard	Vice-President Pat Gladwin
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Our point of contact is the **Website:** eastbar.net

Railways

Following a tender exercise by the Government, the Great Northern Line rail services from New Barnet, Oakleigh Park and New Southgate stations were awarded to Govia replacing First Capital Connect. Govia took over in September 2014 but the first big change will be in December 2015 when late evening and weekend services switch from Kings Cross to Moorgate allowing cross platform interchange with the Victoria Line at Highbury and Islington.

Later new rolling stock will be introduced, train frequencies improved and a peak-time direct and fast service introduced to the Thameslink 'core' taking in St Pancras, Farringdon, City Thameslink, Blackfriars and London Bridge and then on through south London to Caterham. The new service will be complete by December 2018. More information is available on govia.info/gtr but we have got answers to a number of questions so let us know via our Barnet councillor contact addresses if there is anything else you would like to know about the plans.

Separately the Crossrail 2 high frequency railway proposed to be built in the 2020s is now likely to be extended to New Southgate. Construction and the traffic attracted to the station would have to be managed carefully but when complete the area would become much better connected. More information is available on crossrail2.co.uk

Rebecca Challice
Philip Cohen
Laurie Williams

East Barnet councillors



Brunswick Park Health Centre

Our vice-chairman George Irons (who is a member of the health centre's patient committee) tells us that the repeat prescription facility is now fully operational.

When you have set it up, you only need to phone the centre to be able to collect your prescription from the chemists.

Barnet U3A

The University of the Third Age has regular meetings and newsletters for people who are no longer in full employment.

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit their website barnetu3a.org.uk or you can attend three meetings free at Ewen Hall, Wood Street, before joining up.

Sports and Physical Activity Review

Autumn 2014 - ends 9 December 2014

The management and operation of the council's five leisure centres, at Burnt Oak, Hendon, Finchley, Copthall and Church Farm is currently sub-contracted to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) under their 'Better' brand. This contract expires in December 2017 and we are currently looking at options that will enable us to re-procure these services in a way that delivers improved services for the residents of Barnet.

The ultimate aims of this project are:

- To improve levels of physical activity within Barnet, particularly in target geographical areas for both adults and children, leading to improvements in public health outcomes and general wellbeing.
- Improved opportunities and access to sport and physical activities for individuals of all ages and abilities.
- Provide opportunities to improve the sport and physical activity landscape through planning gain and improvements to public realm via better understanding of need, supply, and demand on facilities.
- To achieve a cost-neutral provision of the council-owned leisure centre facilities.
- To better integrate the leisure centre facilities with the councils open spaces to provide a more integrated offer to residents.

Full details: engage.barnet.gov.uk/adult-social-services/spa-review-autumn-2014/consult_view

EBRA note: Also please tell your Councillors, details are on the back of this newsletter.

I Don't Buy That...

Hands up if you are like me and enjoy reading other people's letters. Calm down, not personal stuff, letters to newspapers and periodicals (sadly so often of complaint). Have you noticed like me that few people "buy" anything these days? They "purchase" it. Poor little "buy" so easy to say and write, much easier than the pompous if impressive "purchase". Useful in advertising I agree to ram the point home in print.

So when you have done that so pleasurable Christmas food and gift shopping, tell of what you bought, not what you purchased. Our language is ever changing (not always for the better) but don't let us allow short little buy and her derivatives to pass into history.

A successful and happy Christmas shopping to all. *Yvonne.*

Barnet Christmas Fayre

A full programme is planned on Sunday 7th December, beginning with the procession down Barnet High Street led by Councillor Hugh Rayner and Mrs Susan Rayner, Mayor and Mayoress of Barnet, who will be travelling in vintage cars from 434 Studio in Elstree, together with Sophia Theocharous, Festival Queen and Monica and Melissa Faldes, the twin Festival Princesses.

Everyone is encouraged to join the procession, if possible wearing a big hat of some sort, or waving a banner, to follow the drummers down to the church where the bells will be ringing out a welcome.



At that end of the High Street there are children's shows in the Bull, choirs and bands in Barnet Church, special exhibits in Barnet Museum (open 12-5), and the annual Craft Fair in Church House, open at the earlier times of 11.3.30 to 3.30 this year. Punch & Judy are at 1.30 and 2.30 near the church green.

EN5 Radio/disco, a dance stage, music in the pubs, Mannings funfair and about 100 stalls are along the High Street, and Father Christmas awaits with a Giant Rocking Reindeer in The Spires...

Look out for the Two Wise Men on a Camel, 2pm and 3pm near the church and at 4pm by the dance stage outside Iceland Store.

Many of the stalls are local charities, and the bucket collection this year is in aid of ENNAUS who have recently opened their new furniture store opposite the Police Station.

*The Fayre is organised jointly by Barnet Borough Arts Council and The Bull Theatre, together with Barnet Rotary Club, Barnet College and Barnet Traders. For further information contact The Bull Theatre at 68 High Street, Barnet 020 8441 5010 or TheBullTheatre.co.uk
Brochures also available at BBAC's Art & Information Exhibition outside Waitrose Store on The Spires from 1st to 7th December.*

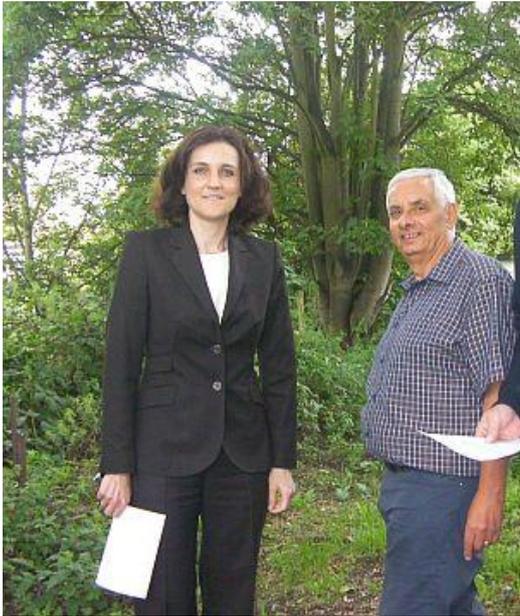
Victorian Society's photographic exhibition

Saving a Century, curated by noted architectural historian Gavin Stamp, is on show, free of charge, at Chipping Barnet Library, 3 Stapylton Road, Barnet, EN5 4QT until 31 December (7 days a week during Library hours).

This exhibition of photos from around the country shows examples of the best Victorian and Edwardian buildings and structures that the Society has campaigned to save, and some that have been lost. It demonstrates the Society's success in changing public attitudes towards the architecture of the nineteenth century, and its continued relevance for the twenty-first century.

Subjects include: Victorian Buildings Lost Before 1958, The Foundation of the Victorian Society, The Euston Murder And Other Cases, Victory In Whitehall, Places Of Worship, Railway Buildings, Iron, Glass & Stone, The Functional Tradition, The Purple Of Commerce, Country Houses, Domestic Architecture, Public Institutions, Beacons Of The Future, The Victorians Victorious...

West Road Housing Plans



Theresa Villiers MP and Lockie Bramzell

We have reported previously that the plans to build three 4-bedroom detached houses on the old allotments between West Walk, Uplands Road, and Woodfield Drive, have been vigorously opposed by the residents.

Lockie Bramzell, one of the organisers of the residents' group spoke at our AGM in July, and our MP Theresa Villiers asked to visit the site. This she did in August, walking around the private alleyways which surround the proposed development.

The residents' group raised enough money to employ a specialist solicitor to represent their interests and write to the developers informing them that they do not have permission to use the private alleyways as access roads to the site. At the time of this newsletter, we are still awaiting their reply.

The revised planning application has still not been approved by the Council; we are still waiting to see what the developer proposes next.

Rob White

Libraries Consultation

ends 22 February 2015

Using what residents and library users from outside the borough have told us in consultations since 2011, including most recently in a series of focus groups held in August and September 2014, the council has developed three potential options for how Barnet's library service could be provided in the future on a reduced budget.

We want to give everyone - regardless of whether they currently use libraries or not - the opportunity to have their say on our proposals before a decision is made.

In particular we want to hear your views on:

- Our vision for the future library service.
- The range of approaches we have identified that could deliver cost savings or increase income for the library service.
- Which option you would prefer out of the three described in this consultation.
- How you currently use the library service and what you value about it.

We will then use what you tell us to help develop a new library strategy which will be considered by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee in Spring 2015.

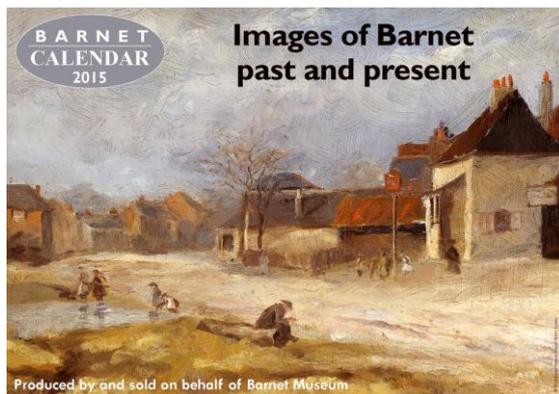
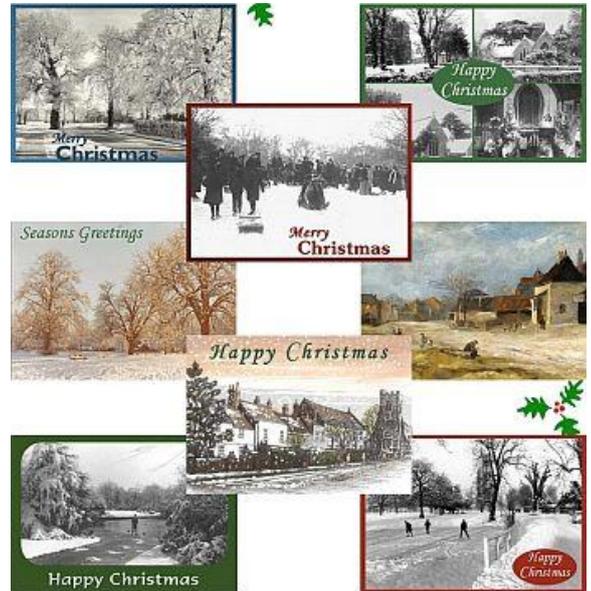
Drop in event at Osidge Library - Friday 12th December 2014 2-5pm

Full details: engage.barnet.gov.uk/consultation-team/library-review/consult_view

Barnet Museum

Barnet Christmas cards with 8 different wintery views of Barnet are now on sale at Barnet Museum. 50p each; 5 for £2; 10 for £3. The cards are produced by and sold on behalf of Barnet Museum.

Barnet Calendar 2015 is available from Barnet Museum. It contains 12 colour paintings of Barnet past and present, as well as old photos, information about the topics and important dates in Barnet's history. The size is A4 unfolding to A3 and the price is £9 (£7.50 for Barnet Museum & Local History Society Members). The calendar is produced by and sold on behalf of Barnet Museum. If you would like a calendar posted to you, post and packing in the UK is £1.40 per calendar (please send a cheque payable to Barnet Museum). You can see images of pages from the calendar on the website.



2015 lectures from Barnet Museum & Local History Society. The History Society runs monthly lectures throughout the year at Church House in Wood Street at 3pm on Monday afternoons. The price is £2 (free to History Society Members). The lecture programme for next year has now been arranged. January's lecture (on Monday 12th) is 'An assorted history of Singapore: featuring the Mill Hill connection and the Five Foot Way' by Rob Kayne. For the rest of the 2015 lecture programme, please visit the website barnetmuseum.co.uk

31 Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BE

Renewing a Freedom Pass?

Anyone who needs to renew a Freedom Pass can only do so online now. Post Office is no longer an option. It does state in the renewal documentation that if the person renewing does not have access to the internet they should visit their local library. Or a family member, friend or neighbour may be able to help. Please let us know if you encounter difficulties, and we'll see if we can help too.

Contactless Payment Cards

If you don't have a Freedom Pass, you can now use contactless payment cards to travel on London transport. When using Contactless payment cards you will be charged an adult-rate pay as you go fare, the same as Oyster. There is no need to top-up, just touch in and out as you would with an Oyster card.

You will need to use the same contactless payment card for all your journeys. To see your contactless journey and payment history, add your contactless payment card to your online account. For more details, including how to set this up, visit tfl.gov.uk/contactless

Bank Advice

Eight Things Your Bank Will **Never** Do...

1. Ask for your full PIN number or any online banking passwords over the phone or via email
2. Send someone to your home collect cash, bank cards, or anything else
3. Ask you to email or text personal or banking information
4. Send an email with a link to a page which asks you to enter your online banking log-in details
5. Ask you to authorise the transfer of funds to a new account, or hand over cash
6. Call you to advise you to buy diamonds, land or other commodities
7. Ask you to carry out a test transaction online
8. Provide banking services through any mobile apps other than the bank's official apps

Remember - if it looks suspicious or it sounds suspicious, report it to your bank.



The crowd in East Barnet village on Remembrance Sunday.

You can watch a video of the event at [youtube.com/watch?v=MNucIGPeC7E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNucIGPeC7E)

Membership Subscriptions

Our membership year runs from July to June, so if you haven't already renewed for the current year, it's time now, please.

Members on email will have been told in their covering letter if their subscription is due, but if you receive the paper version and are unsure, please call me on 020 8144 8469 to check.

Membership is still only a nominal £2 per household per year to help cover some of our costs, and we welcome payments for up to five years at a time. To renew online by credit or debit card, please visit eastbar.net/subscribe or contact me if you would prefer to make a mobile payment or direct bank transfer.

Thank you for your support!

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

Nov 2014

Our Councillors

Brunswick Park Ward – Surgeries at Osidge Library, Brunswick Park Road, N11 1EU (see times below)			
	Andreas Ioannidis (Labour) cldr.a.ioannidis@barnet.gov.uk		Kathy Levine (Labour) cldr.k.levine@barnet.gov.uk
1st Saturday every month, 2.30pm - 3:30pm: (NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY) 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturday every month 10:30am - 12 noon: (NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY) 3rd Tuesday every month 5-30pm - 6:30pm: (BY APPOINTMENT)			
	Lisa Rutter (Conservative) cldr.l.rutter@barnet.gov.uk	Every Saturday between 3pm - 4pm (NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY)	

East Barnet Ward		
		
Rebecca Challice (Labour) cldr.r.challice@barnet.gov.uk	Philip Cohen (Labour) cldr.p.cohen@barnet.gov.uk	Laurie Williams (Labour) cldr.l.williams@barnet.gov.uk
Surgeries: Every first and third Saturday of the month from 10.30 - 12 noon at New Barnet Community Centre , 48/50 Victoria Road, EN4 9PF Every second and fourth Saturday of the month from 10.30 - 12 noon at East Barnet Library , 85 Brookhill Road, East Barnet, EN4 8SG		

To All My Road Stewards and Paper Copy Fans

The time has come for me to pack up the lists, plastic carrier bags and staples and hand them on to my successor from 2015, Mrs Rosina Down who lives just a few doors from me. I know she will find our Road Stewards the same helpful and willing ladies and gentlemen as I have done over the passing years. As we know, some of you started when the Newsletter began and are still

trudging the roads of East Barnet like me, helped by a stick and a pause for breath now and again! I always write at Christmastime and say a big "THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP" and this one is no less sincere.

FARE YOU WELL IN TIMES TO COME,

Yvonne



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