



One man and his dog

Two familiar figures have been lost to East Finchley. Last month saw the funeral of Jo Davey. His faithful dog, the ageing Jack Russell called George, has gone to live with Tom, one of Jo's four brothers.

Jo was born in 1920 in Holloway Road, but he came to live in East Finchley as a young boy. He has been in Beresford Road since his marriage to Jean and continued there after she died ten years ago.

Jo was a master carpenter, qualified at the City & Guilds Institute. He rose to be Clerk of Works for Westminster Council and then was the same for Barnet Council for many years.

During the Second World War Jo was in minesweepers. He kept a love and respect for the sea and for the old tall, sailing ships.

He was a good neighbour to many local residents who will miss him and his dog in Cherry Tree Woods and round about.



Sadly missed - Jo Davey

Fight Against Fraud Appeal

An appeal to all Barnet residents to help in the fight against benefit fraud has been made by council leader Alan Williams.

Launching a new hotline set up specifically for the public to report suspected fraudulent claims for benefit, Councillor Williams said: "Making a false claim for benefit is a crime and the council is stepping up its campaign against it.

"Fraud is not a victimless crime - we are all victims. Those guilty of making false claims for money they are not entitled to are costing each and every person in the community money, either directly in higher taxes or indirectly in the loss of much needed services.

"Each year benefit fraud costs money from all our pockets, money that could go to people in real need, money that should be invested in our community.

"It is time we all did all that we can to stamp it out. Call our hotline and help, it is your money and your services that are affected."

The new hotline, 8359 2007, is staffed from Monday to Friday by experienced staff who form part of a team specialising in dealing with suspected false claims. The line has an answering machine outside normal work hours.

All calls to the hotline will be treated in strictest confidence; callers do not even have to give their name.

Councillor Williams added, "I should emphasise that the council is not targeting the thousands of people who are genuinely claiming benefit. As part of our campaign we will be visiting all claimants and verifying their claims, but the genuine cases have nothing to fear.

"It is the small minority, who may be abusing the system, who are taking away resources from our community, who need to be fearful. Those who have will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

Barnet Council, in line with other local authorities, handles millions each year in payouts of housing and council tax benefit to those in need on behalf of itself and the Government. It is estimated that nationally £4 billion is falsely claimed in benefits.

Barnet is currently taking six individuals to court and prosecuting them for benefit fraud.

Health Advice

East Finchley residents can now get news, advice and details of health campaigns from Barnet's Mobile Action Point Bus.

The Bus tours the borough each week, bringing information and advice from the Council. Since October, this service has also included news from the Health Service. The Action Point Bus is outside East Finchley Library every Monday (except Bank Holidays), 2.30 - 4.30 pm.

Building Behind Budgens?

By Diana Cormack

An application has been made to Barnet Council regarding Viceroy Close, East End Road, N2. Woodstar Properties Limited want to construct one four-storey and one two-storey buildings to provide eighteen self-contained one-bedroom flats.

They also want associated landscaping and parking for 22 cars, with access from East End Road. At present eight of the car parking spaces are for the Viceroy Parade shops and flats.

This would adversely affect local people who park behind Budgens and Iceland, as it is particularly useful for the infirm, those carrying heavy shopping or with small children. However, the stores' home delivery vehicles and those bringing supplies to the back of Viceroy Parade shops would be able to continue this practice.

This is because the tentative plans are for the flats to be built on stilts, with residents' parking underneath. Shop employees and deliverers would have controlled entry to the parking space, but not customers. Whilst the area has never officially been for general parking, it does raise the question as to what impact this will have on the CPZ scheme, which is yet to be implemented.

Winter Walks to Warm you up

Get walking this winter! That's the message from "Fitness for Life" - Barnet Council's department for health and physical activity, who have put together a programme of winter fitness walks in local parks and open spaces.

The walks are designed to give an introduction to the benefits of fresh air and moderate exercise to people of all ages and all levels of fitness.

Councillor Susette Palmer, Cabinet Member for Community Development, said of the project, "This is a great idea. These walks are designed for everyone whatever their age, physical ability or medical condition. Both exercise in the open air and the company of other like-minded people are well known for raising the spirits. So, have fun and get fit - phone Chris on 8202 6458 NOW!"

There is a choice of 20 walks taking place every week around the borough. They are led by a qualified instructor and involve a warm-up, walking at various speeds and with different walking techniques, strengthening exercises and stretches. Each walk lasts an hour and costs £1 - or 80p if you buy a ten-ticket book. A season ticket giving unlimited access to the walks is £40. For further information and a timetable listing walking routes, contact Chris Smith on 8202 6458.

Bonus for Junior Savers

The Credit Union is launching a Junior Savers' Club for under-16s.

The juniors' money will be held in a separate account from that of the main Credit Union. Members will have passbooks, but will only be able to use them with their parents' permission.

Every child who joins on launch day will receive a goodie bag. The launch is on Saturday, 16 December, 11am - 1pm, at East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane.

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