



THE ARCHER

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*Thank you to Madden's Ale
House for providing us with
a meeting place.*

*THE ARCHER team wishes
to thank all the generous
people who give up their
spare time, in all weather,
to deliver the paper for us.*

Your contributions

If you have a news item,
memory or anecdote please send
it in to us at the above address.

THE ARCHER aims to publish on
the first weekend each month.
To maximise the chance of
publication, all contributors are
urged to submit their articles
early the preceding month:

*The 14th January is the
copy deadline for the
February issue.*

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Utilities (for N2)

Eastern Energy 0800 783 8838
London Electricity 0800 096 9000
OFTEL 020 7634 8700
Thames Water 0845 920 0888
Three Valleys Water 0845 782 3333
Gas consumers cncl. 0645 060708
Transco Gas Emerg. 0800 111 999

Councils

Barnet
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Health Authority 020 8201 4700
Com'ty Health Cncl 020 8349 4364
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8975 9700

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
Cophthall Sports Ctr. 020 8361 8658
E. Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
Gt North Leisure Pk. 020 8343 9830
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema. 020 8883 2233
Tourist Info Service 0870 126 4018
Warner Cinema Village 020 8446 9933

**Calls to 09065 numbers are
charged at £1.50 per minute.*

Help & Advice

Barnet Racial Equality Council 020 8446 0445
Childline 0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau 020 8349 0954
Cruse Bereavement Care 020 7431 7122
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935
E Finchley Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500
Rape Crisis Centre 020 7837 1600
Relate 020 8445 0888
Samaritans 020 8889 6888
Refuge National Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDS Helpline 0800 567123
Alcoholics Anonymous 020 7352 3001
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
CancerLink 0800 132905
Carers National Assoc. 020 8343 3665
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Information Service 0800 665544
Homeopathic Helpline 09065 343404*
MIND 020 8343 5700
N. London Blood Service 020 8258 2700

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Barnet OAPs Welfare 020 8441 4853
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162
Counsel & Care 0845 300 7585
Help the Aged 0800 096 2541

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8342 1212
Golders Gr. Police 020 8209 1212
Muswell Hill Police 020 8442 1212
CrimeStoppers 0800 555111
Victim Support 020 8343 4435

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Edgware General 020 8952 2381
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 3121
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070
Western Eye Hosp 020 7886 6666

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 484950
City Airport 020 7646 0000
Greenline 020 8668 7261
LT Enquiries 020 7222 1234
Grey-Green 020 8800 8010
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow 020 8759 4321

Animal Welfare

Nat Strays Bureau 09065 123999*
RSPCA 0870 5555999

Mother & toddler club

By Diana Cormack
If you would like to get together with other local mums and children, then the Methodist Church Hall Annexe, High Road, East Finchley is the place to go.

Between 9am and 11.30am daily both young and old can meet and mingle. It is an ideal opportunity to introduce little ones to the lifelong process of interacting with others in a safe and structured environment. It costs £2.50 for one child and £1 for each extra child that you bring. For full details phone 0208 883 0609

Breakfast Club

From 8 January 2001 children can be taken to the Methodist Church Hall Annexe and be served breakfast, along with a selection of activities, before being walked to school. The club opens at 7.45am and after a helping of cereal, toast and games adults will escort your children to Martin or Holy Trinity Schools. The daily cost is £3.50 per child then £3 per sibling. Phone 020 8444 6212 for more details.

Healthy Barnet

The quality of life for all local people is set to improve after initiatives to promote better health and tackle health inequalities in Barnet have been given the go ahead.

Members of the Environment Policy Development Committee have backed the council's five-year public health strategy.

Measures to address the priorities include:

*Designating specific areas of deprivation and poor health as "areas for special action".

*Developing food co-operatives so people have access to low-cost, high quality foods.

*Extending the "Smoke Free in Barnet" initiative to promote more eateries that provide smoke-free environments for their customers.

*Increasing the take up of the Heartbeat Awards to promote healthier menu options.

*Providing and promoting affordable leisure facilities.

This work builds on a wealth of successful schemes within the borough such as the Fitness for Life programme for the over-40s at risk from coronary heart disease, the healthy schools initiative and the Autumn Days scheme which promotes recreation and leisure activities for older people.

Now that's service

by Daphne Chamberlain
We all know when they could try harder. Now here's some satisfactory progress:

On Monday 11 December, traffic was severely disrupted for hours after a serious accident at Highgate.

An 81-year-old reader had waited nearly an hour in the rain for a 263 bus to take her to Finchley Memorial Hospital.

She was already half-an-hour late for her appointment when a bus finally approached. Relief soon turned to dismay. It was "out of service". However, it did stop beside her.

Our reader rapped on the window. The driver said that he had to stand there until told to move off, but there would be another one along in a quarter of an hour.

Now comes the good bit. He agreed to let her use his phone to contact the hospital, and then asked - and got - permission to open the doors and move off, picking up the enormous queues along the way.

Gordon steps down

Pressure of work has forced Councillor Helen Gordon to give up her position as Deputy Leader of Barnet Council.

She is also standing down as Policy committee Chair and will no longer sit in the cabinet in charge of social exclusion.

Councillor Gordon was Labour's candidate for the Barnet-Camden seat on the

Greater London Assembly last May which she lost narrowly to Tory Councillor Brian Coleman.

However Helen will continue to represent East Finchley ward.

EAST FINCHLEY
ADVICE SERVICE

42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

General Advice.
Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.
Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.
Immigration Advice.
Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appointment only.
Legal Advice.
Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.
Councillors' Surgery.
Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

Support for clean-up campaign

Posters encouraging local residents and businesses to continue supporting Barnet Council's £2m clean-up campaign by reporting grime hotspots to the new hotline will be displayed in the borough.

The clean-up hotline is 020 8359 6035. It has been introduced for street litter, overflowing bins, fly-tipping, abandoned cars, graffiti, broken pavements and potholes.

The hotline operates from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday. At weekends and outside these hours, callers are able to leave a message, which will be responded to on the next working day. Once a call has been logged, the council's clean-up teams will act effectively and quickly.

Barnet Council also wants the public to use the clean-up hotline to report fly-tippers and graffiti vandals and it will press for prosecutions every time.

Traffic and parking review

A major review of traffic, transportation and parking in the borough is soon to be re-launched.

An initial review was started two years ago but has been dogged by problems of changing staff and difficulties in meeting set deadlines for the process.

Cabinet member for Best Value and Performance, Cllr Nathaniel Rudolf, said: "This review has highlighted organisational issues in the service area and the fact that we were learning as we went along in this new process".

The review will cover issues such as transport strategy, public transport planning, air quality management, street lighting, street cleaning, cycling, road safety and parking.