



# Barnet makes recycling compulsory

By David Hobbs

**Barnet Council has made recycling compulsory for all 113,000 households in the borough. In what the council claims to be a national first, all residents are now required to put glass bottles, jars, tin cans, paper and magazines in their recycling boxes and not in their refuse bins. Although the council says it will only prosecute as a last resort, anyone who persistently and deliberately fails to recycle could receive a £1,000 fine.**

The aim of this scheme is to increase the amount of household waste that is recycled and if the council hits the government target of 30% recycling the council will receive £629,000 from the government in March 2006. This money will go into the council's funds and could be put towards services in need of funding such as education.

Councillor Matthew Offord, the Cabinet Member for the Environment, said, "Barnet is leading the way in new approaches to recycling. We provide one of the best kerbside recycling collections in the country; now we are requiring our residents to use it."

However, flats and communal buildings cannot recycle because they do not have kerbside recycling boxes. In addition, the council is reducing the number of recycling banks in the borough from 69 to 51 by April as a result of concerns about vandalism, fly-tipping and under use. Despite reducing the opportunities for those without recycling boxes,

the council still aims to raise the percentage of waste recycled in Barnet from 21 to 30% over the next year so that it can receive the £629,000 from the government.

## Holocaust Memorial Day Event

**On 27 January, a Holocaust Memorial Day Event was held at The Jewish Museum at the Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road, Finchley N3.**

It was a reflective evening on the theme of liberation, resistance and renewal for National Holocaust Memorial Day, with Helen Bamber, a former Belsen relief worker and founder of the Medical Campaign for the Care of Victims of Torture, and Jack Kagen who, at the age of 14, escaped from Nazi labour camp in Belarus and joined the partisans.

## Are you covered?

By John Dearing

**A few weeks ago, the colleague of a friend of mine had her car stolen (not locally). Apparently she got out of the car to unlock the padlock on the office car park gate, and was bundled away by thieves who drove off in her car. Imagine her distress when, after reporting this to the police and her insurance company, the latter told her that, as she had not taken reasonable care to protect the vehicle, it was not covered and they would not accept the claim. As it was a fairly new car, she was out of pocket by several thousand pounds!**

I checked my car insurance policy and found exactly the same clause. I have been in the habit of doing almost the same thing when unlocking my garage – not anymore, I won't! I have no doubt that this clause is present in most if not all vehicle insurance policies. I would add that I checked the Highway Code, and the *Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986*. It is an offence to leave a vehicle with the engine still running, and recently an order has gone out to local authorities to issue fixed penalties to drivers who do so.

While checking my insurance policy I discovered I am not covered if the car is stolen by 'fraud, trickery or deception'!

Various other such clauses also caught my eye, and again,

I expect these are universal. Readers may be interested to know that:

- \* people are generally not covered to drive other cars abroad, even if their policies cover them to do so in the UK
- \* even with fully comprehensive insurance they are probably not covered for slashed tyres, frost damage, damage caused by using the wrong fuel, or if the car is used when unroadworthy, or used in the restricted area of an airport(!)
- \* personal accident clauses do not cover you or your passengers if a seat belt is not worn. Check it out!



Viceroy Close car park behind Budgens. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Car Park to become Pay-and-Display

**The company that owns the Viceroy Close car park (behind Budgens) has decided to run it on a basis of Pay-And-Display, and have written to residents of Viceroy Close and local shopkeepers informing them of this.**

To this end, they have (belatedly) removed the latest crop of fly-tipped rubbish, and at least four dumped cars. They have also had the car park surface repaired.

Further information on how the car park will be run is awaited; it is likely that a gate will be installed across the entrance, bays painted on the surface, permits sold to regular users and occasional users charged on entry at a commercial rate, and control measures such as clamping instigated, but none of this has been confirmed yet.

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