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Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

Copy deadlines 2008

March issue: 15 February
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet Council:
Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000
Council Tax 020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600
Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700
Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500
Employment Service 020 8258 3900
Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 7484950
City Airport 020 7646 0088
London Transport 020 7222 1234
National Express 08705 808080
Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

Hospitals

Barnet General 0845 111 4000
Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792
Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500
Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343
Royal Free 020 7794 0500
St Luke's 020 8219 1800
Whittington 020 7272 3070

Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141
Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555
Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688
Cancer Support 020 8202 2211
Carers' Line 0808 808 7777
Drinkline 0800 917 8282
Drugs Helpline 0800 776600
Health Info Service 0800 665544
MIND 020 8343 5700

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511
Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162

Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

Crime

Emergency 999
Finchley Police 020 8442 1212
Mus. Hill Police Stn. 020 8345 2148
CrimeStoppers 0800 555 111
Victim Support 0845 303 0900
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 7161 9014

Help & Advice

Childline 0800 1111
Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935
E.F. Advice Service 020 8444 6265
Gingerbread 020 8445 4227
National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800 500
Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300
Relate 020 8447 8101
RSPCA Inspector 08705 555 999
Samaritans 08457 909090
Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443



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

General Advice.

Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.

Legal Advice.

Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.

Councillors' Surgery.

Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

Community Services

❖ **Credit Union**, Green Man Community Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ **Careers advice**, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ **Toy library**, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Illegal flower sellers targeted in Barnet

Barnet Council is taking steps to combat the increasing number of illegal flower sellers who ply their trade in the borough.

The council says it has had complaints from residents and motorists about flower selling at junctions along the A406, A1, at Apex Corner and around Brent Cross. The council warns it will confiscate flowers from illegal vendors.

Councillor Brian Coleman, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Community Engagement, said: "Illegal flower sellers are a hazard not only to motorists but to themselves too. Most of the produce they sell is likely to be flown in from overseas and is not as fresh as flowers found in a florist. "There is no place in this borough for illegal flower sellers and the council's Trading Standards officers will continue to target the gangmasters behind this illegal activity and drive them out of Barnet."

If you have specific concerns about illegal flower sellers, you

can call the council's Trading Standards team on 020 8359 4600.

Planning Applications

Barnet Council

34 The Bishops Avenue, N2
Proposed underground pool hall to existing garden at rear of existing house.

5 Gurney Drive, N2
First floor rear extension. Enlarge existing dormer window. New rear roof light. External alterations including relaying simulated York stone paving to front side and rear, additional patio space to rear, change existing garage door and replacement of existing front door.

1-27 Prospect Place, N2
Replacement of existing windows.

Beware the bogus callers

By John Dearing

Two men pretending to be builders conned their way into a home in Church Crescent and threatened the occupants. Police are investigating the incident, which took place on 9 January at around 8.30am, and are asking anyone with information to contact Barnet Police Burglary squad on 020 8733 4525 or to phone Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The incident has sparked a warning for all Barnet residents, especially the elderly or vulnerable, to be on their guard against bogus callers.

By pretending to be workmen or representatives of one of the utility companies, burglars are frequently given access to homes, where they search for and steal valuable items and cash.

Check credentials

The utility companies go to great lengths to ensure that their genuine representatives wear some kind of uniform or logo and carry identity cards. Genuine representatives will never be offended if residents do not open the door to them or keep them waiting while they check their identity.

Other bogus callers pretend to be police officers. Again, genuine officers will always wait for a householder to check their identity. Usually, when officers not in uniform need to speak to a resident, they will try to arrange an appointment over the phone. If

you have any doubts, ring Barnet Police on 020 8200 1212 and check the caller's credentials.

Crime Manager for Barnet Police, Detective Chief Inspector Murray Duffin, said: "We have to try to persuade these vulnerable people to be tougher and refuse entry to anyone who has not made an appointment to call on them. If we can get this across, we hope the bogus callers will get the message that there is no business for them in Barnet."

Guidelines are:

- Never let someone into your home unless you are sure who it is.
- Never give out personal details or your bank details to strangers.
- If you are suspicious or in doubt, don't let them in, don't tell them anything and call 999.

If they go away, try to see where they go and write down as detailed a description as possible. Try to write down car or van registration numbers, but keep yourself safe first.

Historic images online

If you've ever passed an interesting building or memorial in Barnet that has made you wonder about its origin, the Local Studies Centre at 80 Daws Lane in Mill Hill is the place to start. If, however, you prefer to research while in the comfort of your own home, it is now possible to view more than 500 images from the centre online.

The centre, which has a range of information, images and archives available for viewing, now offers people the choice of viewing images of the borough, dating back to the 19th century, by logging onto www.barnet.gov.uk/archives.

The free resource includes rare and often under-used resourced images from Barnet Council's Local Studies Collection; some of the paintings and photographs confirm historical facts about the borough.

These include works by artists such as Agnes Holgate

(1850s), Childe Pockock (1930s), Herbert Norman (1980s) and some beautiful landscapes painted when the borough was still agricultural. It is also excellent for school projects and family historians.

Collections include the census, council minutes, directories, the electoral register, local newspapers, maps, photographs and illustrations, rate books and World War Two records.

Contact the centre on 020 8359 3960 or library.archives@barnet.gov.uk.

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www.robinkiashek.co.uk

for further information