



# Parents urged to immunise against measles

Parents in Barnet are being urged to have their children immunised against the threat of a measles outbreak. Barnet Primary Care Trust is planning an MMR catch-up campaign and intends to make immunisations more easily available through GP surgeries.

In Barnet, there have been three outbreaks of measles in the last few months and many individual cases. The borough has had the third largest number of cases of measles in the capital with several people so ill that they have required hospitalisation.

The first priority is to ensure that anyone aged between three months and 18 years who has not received MMR vaccine has a first dose. Thereafter, the priority is to give a second dose of MMR vaccine to children aged three years and seven months to 11 years; then children aged 12-18 years; then school leavers aged 18 and over going to higher or to further education establishments.

Barnet PCT points out that the small research study that was published in 1998 that led to the reduced uptake of MMR vaccine has been totally discredited.

### Risk of epidemic

Dr Andrew Burnett, Director for Health Improvement/Medical Director at Barnet PCT says: "There is now a significant risk of a measles epidemic in Barnet. Last year, we saw a big increase in the number of children and adults getting measles when the schools went back after the summer holiday. I urge parents to protect their children against this very real danger by ensuring that they have at least one dose of MMR vaccine."



## Yes, we made it!

By Tracy Quirke

On a rare sunny day back in the summer, staff and students from Bishop Douglass School took part in the Race for Life 2008, a 5km event in Trent Park, Enfield, to raise money for Cancer Research.

Well done to Abigail Gaskin, Mandi Chivasa, Leyla

Hilmi, Aisha Sallahdeen, Rachel Mugungu, Tovonya Murray, Monique Hilbert, Jane O'Reilly, and Jamila Afzal. Also to Ms Quirke, Mrs Gumbs, Ms Delaney and Mrs Evans.

Special thanks to Liz Goddard, the team's personal trainer who prepared them for the event and an extra special congratulation to Jane who completed the race in 19mins. Well done, Jane!

## Gardening online

Gardeners may be interested in a new website specifically for garden and allotment news in East Finchley, Muswell Hill, Highgate and Alexandra Palace.

The new site can be found at [www.muswellhillgardeners.co.uk](http://www.muswellhillgardeners.co.uk) and contains information on open gardens, community gardens, allotments, horticulture courses and important dates in the gardening calendar.



Bollards and barrier block off part of Brompton Grove. Photo by Diana Cormack

## Bollards to Barnet's land

By Diana Cormack

Earlier this year, a heavily-loaded skip was put in place across Brompton Grove, which runs alongside Cherry Tree Wood from the bottom of Summerlee Avenue to Park House, opposite East Finchley tube station. It effectively blocked off most of the made-up area from the unlevel part of the road, as did a barrier that had been lowered for the same purpose. In addition, the gates to the car park at the back of the building had been chained together.

A statement in the March edition of *THE ARCHER* said: "Barnet Council has blocked access to prevent unauthorised parking on a piece of land that the council owns. The public footpath remains passable."

Since then, a possible sale of Park House to a development company has fallen through and the council-owned property is now being offered to let as office space. The premises are guarded by Camelot, whose live-in employees provide

on-site protection. Recently another form of protection has been given to the made-up area behind the barrier: the skip has been removed and replaced by a row of concrete bollards.

Barnet Council told us: "These bollards were installed as a more permanent solution to the skip, to prevent motorists parking illegally on council owned land, and they will be staying there indefinitely. Park House is currently being marketed for short-term letting."

## Cherry Tree Wood Café

This summer's inclement weather was not the only reason for some inconsistencies in the opening times at the Lazy Sally kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood.

Some of the closures were due to the fact that Sally-Anne Wigfield was in the middle of planning her wedding.

However, she has lined up two trustworthy friends to run the place while she is on her honeymoon this month.

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