



## Be part of the talking newspaper

By Sue White

Barnet Borough Talking Newspaper (BBTN) is a local charity that has been working for the visually impaired in Barnet for more than 30 years. We are proud that one of the Borough's own MPs, Theresa Villiers, is our Honorary President.

Teams of unpaid volunteers meet every week at our studio in Muswell Hill to read a selection of articles on a wide range of local topics from the Barnet newspapers, and record them onto CDs for free distribution to sight-impaired people in the Borough.

Our aim is to help those with visual impairment to keep up to date with what's going on in Barnet and to let them know about coming events and services.

We use free postal services to distribute the CDs and we have enjoyed a beneficial lease from the Borough on our studio. For all other expenses such as elec-

tricity, stationery, maintenance, CDs and equipment, BBTN relies on the generosity of its Friends and other donors.

Do you have the time to help in any aspect of our work, for instance on the technical side, as a producer or reader, or as part of the editorial or admin teams (full training given)? Could you act as a contact with our blind friends in your area? Would you become a Friend?

For details on how to get involved please contact BBTN at: BBTN, The Studio, 11a Wetherill Road, London N10 2LS. Telephone: 020 8883 8008 or email: [BBTN@talktalk.net](mailto:BBTN@talktalk.net)

## Just giving?

By Diana Cormack

**"Could you give me 20p for the telephone please? It's so difficult to get change these days". At least that's what I think the lady who followed me out of the shop said.**

As I fumbled in my purse she held up what looked like a ten-pence and two five-pence pieces in her left hand. Finding a 20p coin, I held it out towards her. Saying "How very kind of you," she took the coin and walked off along the pavement towards East Finchley station, leaving me open mouthed with my outstretched hand still waiting for her coins in exchange.

I watched her approach

several other people and, in the space of a few minutes, she would have made £1 as hardly any refused. She was well dressed and well spoken and there were a lot of hours left in the day.

If I'm going to give money away, I like to choose my own charity. I'm hoping to be more aware of the words used in future. Because, after all, she did say "give".

## Muswell Hill riot damage

Some of the rioting in August reached Muswell Hill, where two shops were damaged. Panoptica, the opticians, came off worst, with a bill for approximately £9,000, when thieves smashed windows and looted designer frames.

The following day, windows at Carphone Warehouse were broken, but an arrest was made.

Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association Chairman, John Hajdu, said: "These disturbances have taken us all aback. It is almost unimaginable that this should be happening here, (but) it is reassuring to note that our local police teams were so effective in dispelling any further trouble in this area."

The MHFGA has details of how to help people in Tottenham (Muswell Hill's Haringey neighbours) who have lost homes or businesses. Cheques made payable to "Mayor's Special Fund ñ Tottenham Fund" can be sent to PO Box 55235, London, N22 9DF, or money can be transferred online using sort code 60-24-23 and account number 90724828.

## New life for Thomas More building

The redeveloped building on the site of the former Thomas More Community Centre, in Thomas More Way, off East End Road, is about to be occupied.

As reported in March 2009, it will be occupied by the Gooch Charitable Trust with an architectural office on the ground floor. The trust purchased the site, including the adjoining car park, in January 2009. Residents say it was interesting to note that, during the excavation stage, concrete drums were dug up but their origins are unknown.



Time for a cuppa in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

## A cuppa to beat cystic fibrosis

Coffee, cakes and crafts combined to raise £500 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust at an East Finchley home this September. The morning was hosted by Sarah Reavley, whose godson Jake has cystic fibrosis. Sarah was keen to support the Trust's current drive to raise sufficient funds to allow gene therapy trials to go ahead in 2012. Jake's mother Elaine said: "This is a really important time in raising funds for the Trust. It needs a huge amount of money, £6 million, to ensure that the trials go ahead."

"Obviously the Trust is looking for large grants and donations, but it's equally important to raise smaller amounts and spread the word about why it's crucial. The sale was wonderful. People have been incredibly generous, baking lots of cakes to be sold and then staying around to enjoy eating them." As well as cakes and chutneys for sale, clothes by Captain Tortue and Alison Dishington and crafts from Dandy Lion-Days all made donations to the Trust. The sale was supported by lots of parents from

Coldfall Primary School and their local friends.

### Tackling CF

Cystic fibrosis is one of the UK's most common life-threatening inherited diseases, affecting more than 9,000 people in the UK. It affects the internal organs, especially the lungs and digestive system, by clogging them with thick sticky mucus making it hard to breathe and digest food. The UK CF Gene Therapy Consortium is concentrating on replacing the faulty gene in a patient's lungs with a normal gene. For more information, see [www.cftrust.org.uk](http://www.cftrust.org.uk).

## Brass band boom

We had several musicians interested in joining the North London Brass group as featured in last month's issue.

If you would like to join, the band rehearses every Wednesday at the Methodist Church, Pages Lane, Muswell Hill, between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. Please contact director Martyn Stogden at [martyn@fourhillsLtd.com](mailto:martyn@fourhillsLtd.com) for further details.



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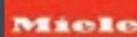


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## Have you had your 'flu jab?

If you are registered with a Barnet GP:

- are 65 years old or over, or suffer from:
- Diabetes,
- Chronic respiratory disease,
- Had a stroke or mini-stroke,
- Chronic heart disease,
- Certain other medical conditions.

Then get your **FREE** flu jab

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