



# Library under new management

By Daphne Chamberlain

As we reported in April, Barnet Council has closed its Hampstead Garden Suburb Library, and the local residents' association has taken it over.

The new Garden Suburb Library is in the same building in Hill Rise, just off the Market Place. Furniture, stock and opening hours are the same. Stock is borrowed on a Barnet Libraries card, though that has to be registered on the Suburb library system, and there is online access to the borough's council-run libraries. Books requested from Barnet libraries can be delivered and returned via the Barnet library van every Wednesday.

The staff, however, are different. The 11 shifts a week are divided between a pool of 70 volunteers. Three of these have library experience, two are administrators, and two are software specialists.

Software specialist Jeremy Clynes is also one of a group passing on training received from Barnet staff. He is proud of their own computer system,

and praised the hard work, organisation and enthusiasm of his fellow volunteers, some of whom don't want to go home at the end of their shifts.

They already run an Under-3s group and host Safer Neighbourhood surgeries, and plan to start a book club. Barnet Council is scheduled to carry out quarterly inspections, and will eventually give them a grant of £10,000 a year, of which £5-6,000 will be for new stock. Looking to the future, though, there are a lot of details to be worked out, and that future depends upon maintaining their volunteers.

Jeremy Clynes believes that HGS residents were allowed to take over the library because "We got our act together". Their newsletter urges everyone to "make the most of what is now our very own library", and when I visited, a user left with the words, "I'm very glad you're still here".

# Pupils train at the kiosk

Pupils from the Treehouse School for children with autism, based in Woodside Avenue, have had the chance to gain some work experience at the Lazy Sally Kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood.

Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the kiosk, said it had proven to be a very beneficial learning experience for the pupils and their teachers, and the support from customers and understanding that their orders may take just a little more time than usual had been extremely encouraging. She added: "I urge other local businesses to consider doing the same. The potential outcomes couldn't be more positive."

Training programmes for the pupils will take place every Thursday and Friday at the kiosk during school term, initially 10.30am to 3pm, with the possibility of extending these hours once the pupils confidence grows.

Amy Temple, catering and hospitality vocational specialist from the Treehouse said the experience would undoubtedly help in the pupils' transition from a school setting into adult life.



Parents and children demonstrate against the loss of their safety railings. Photo by Mike Coles.

# Campaigners win back railings

By Erini Rodis

Parents, children and residents have won their campaign to have safety railings reinstalled outside Martin Primary School at the junction with Church Lane.

The WALKSAFE N2 group staged a protest at the spot on 8 May, joined by Councillors Alison Moore, Arjun Mittra and Colin Rogers, and winning plenty of hoots of support from passers-by.

A few days later, representatives of the group met with Barnet Council and won agreement to have the barriers reinstalled on the corner next to the school. Parent Beverley Hadfield said everyone was surprised at the speed of the council's U-turn on the issue.

Councillor Dean Cohen, cabinet member for the environment, said he had listened to the views of the community and made the decision to reinstate the guard rail.

WALKSAFE N2 is a campaign set up by locals concerned by road safety in the area; objectives include the installation of a three-way traffic light where Church Lane meets the High

Road, a 20mph speed limit on Church Lane and a pelican crossing on Creighton Avenue.

Originally, Martin School were told that the railings were deemed "superfluous street

clutter" and the assessment had concluded that they were not "outside a school".

For updates or to offer support please email walksafen2@yahoo.co.uk

# Diamond Jubilee for Brookland

Brookland Infant, Nursery and Juniors Schools will be celebrating their Diamond Jubilee this year. Both schools will be hosting an open afternoon on 3 July from 2.45pm to 4.15pm.

If you are a former member of staff, governor or a pupil who is no longer in full time education, the schools would welcome you to this event. If you are interested in attending, further information is available from the school offices: infant office 020 8346 6824 or junior office: 020 8346 6937.

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