

barnetfirst

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Unlocking your past
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Leader's column



Post-election, the council has launched its 2010/11 Corporate Plan. This year we have streamlined priorities from five to three.

These priorities; Better Services with Less Money, Sharing Opportunities and Sharing Responsibilities, and A Successful London Suburb; will run through all of our work over the coming year. You can see how they are already making a mark on the work of the council in this issue of Barnet First.

Better Services with Less Money is shown in the work of the Barnet Youth Bank where young people have been involved in designing and funding services that really meet their needs. You can read how Amina El-Agamy became involved with the Youth Bank on page 5.

Sharing Opportunities and Sharing Responsibilities is illustrated by the work of the High Barnet Green Zone on page 10.

And finally, in what was a great evening in Barnet's calendar, Barnet One Voice at the Royal Albert Hall saw thousands of young people and their parents celebrate some of the musical talent in the borough. You can read about it on page 14.

We really are lucky to be able to hold this event in one of the world's greatest musical venues and I can think of no better illustration of life in **A Successful London Suburb**.

We face hard financial times and difficult choices in the public sector over the next few years. The days of improving services by simply providing more, or by spending extra money, have gone. We need more creative ways of giving you services and more sophisticated ways of working with residents, voluntary groups and other parts of the public sector. As these stories show, Barnet is up for that challenge.

Lynne Hillan

Barnet First is your magazine, bringing you news and features about what your council is doing for you. For editorial or advertising queries, or to make comments about the magazine, please contact Chris Palmer on 020 8359 7408 or email barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk

Copies of Barnet First are delivered to every home in the borough. The magazine is printed on 100% recycled paper and can be recycled after use. The cost of designing, printing and distributing each magazine is just over 10 pence per issue.

Barnet First is also available in large print or on audio tape.

News in brief

Bin your waste legally



Don't be taken in by illegal contractors claiming they can get rid of large and bulky waste for a small fee. These 'rogue traders' often take the waste and dump it illegally. It could be you that ends up paying much more for this if it is traced back to you.

Most large goods can be collected by the council's 'Special Collections' team for a fee. You should call 020 8359 4600 to book a visit.

If you are aware of anyone illegally carrying or dumping waste, call the council on 020 8359 7498.

To find out what the council cannot collect; visit www.barnet.gov.uk/special-collections

Calling all gardeners



If you're green fingered, why not add a splash of colour to the borough this summer by entering Barnet in Bloom?

Now in its 20th year, the annual awards invite entries from all sections of the local community, from private gardens to large businesses.

This year's eight categories up for grabs include 'Best Front Garden' and 'Most Eco Friendly Garden', as well as 'Young Gardener of the Year', a new category for under-16s .

The closing date is 30 June 2010. Judging will take place at the beginning of July. All entries must be within Barnet and be visible to the public, apart from the 'Best School Garden' and 'Young Gardener of the Year' categories. To request an entry form, email: civic.events@barnet.gov.uk or download a copy from www.barnet.gov.uk/barnetinbloom2010

Don't go it alone – get some advice

The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) has been given £284,000 to help continue its borough-wide advice service, while Barnet Law Service has received £58,000 to enable people on low incomes to access legal help.

The grants have come from the council to help provide information services for residents on a wide range of issues including benefits, housing and legal matters.



If you need advice, call your local CAB on 0844 826 9336 or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk. For advice and help with legal affairs, call Barnet Law Service on 020 8203 4141 or visit www.barnetlaw.co.uk

New community hub for Brunswick Park



Proposed plans for new and improved community facilities in Brunswick Park move a step closer with the submission of the planning application for 'Phase 1' in May.

Plans for the new centre have been developed by Barnet Council in partnership with NHS Barnet, and include replacing and relocating existing buildings so they form a new focal point for the community.

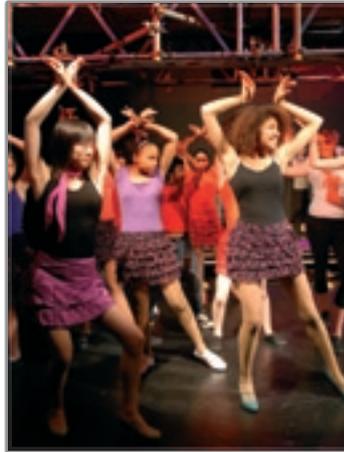
Working in partnership, Barnet Council and NHS Barnet are sharing design and commissioning costs, making it a more affordable scheme.

If approved, work will start on the first phase providing a new health centre, library, nursery and children's centre and Acorn assessment centre.

To view the plans, visit: www.barnet.nhs.uk/brunswickpark

Curtains set to rise at Finchley Youth Theatre

After a two-month refurbishment programme, Finchley Youth Theatre will officially open its doors in early July.



A total of 340 performers aged between eight and 25 will celebrate the re-launch of their new look theatre in East Finchley by performing tasters from past shows.

The theatre's facelift includes a new foyer, box office reception, drinks and seating area. Theatre members celebrated the theatre's unofficial opening back in February with an urban 'rapsical'.

The youth theatre is part of the Barnet Youth and Connexions Service and is open to children and young people in Barnet. To enquire about membership, or find out more about performances, call 020 8359 3542 or email ftinfo@barnet.gov.uk

Over 1,000 eBooks available to Barnet's library members



Library users can now lose themselves in a crime thriller or a romantic classic without worrying about late fees with the launch of the council's eBook service.

Customers can log on to the council's digital library website from their own home, install free software then download the latest eBooks.

The collection features best-selling authors such as Nora Roberts, Stephenie Meyer, James Patterson and Dan Brown, with over 200 items for children and teens also available.

Barnet is one of only a handful of local authorities who have introduced eBooks into their library services.

To access the eBook service, visit www.barnet.gov.uk/digital-library. Non-members can join by visiting their local library (ID required).

A bank of experience

**BETTER SERVICES
WITH LESS MONEY**

“Teenagers often get a bad reputation, but the Youth Bank is a great way of showing people the positive work we do.”

A canoe club, a dance group and a project supporting young families are among some of the programmes receiving extra funds this year thanks to young decision makers in Barnet.

Anyone can join the Youth Bank, providing they live in Barnet and are aged 13 to 19 years old*.

Amina El-Agamy, 17, who's been a member since 2006, recently received a Youth and Connexions Service Award at Barnet Council's Youth Opportunity Celebration Event for her contribution to the Youth Bank.

She says: “The Youth Bank gives out funding to lots of different youth groups to make Barnet a better place. My mum suggested I join when I was 13 because I've always been pretty outspoken.

“Sometimes there can be a heated debate about where the money goes, but that just adds to the fun.”

For the past five years the Youth Bank has given out £1.5 million in funding for projects aimed specifically at young people. With support from the council's Youth and Connexions Service, members are trained in grant making and become part of a team

responsible for administering government funding of nearly £200,000 per year.

Since Amina joined she's seen money go towards Rolling Base, a single decker bus featuring state of the art recording equipment that visits young people in the borough, developing Chaverim Youth Centre and the Inclusive Play Opportunities Project (IPOP) as well as funding to renovate Canada Villa youth centre.

“It's great to see the work we've approved being carried out and to know that we really can make a difference,” she says.

If you are interested in joining the Youth Bank, or have an idea for new activities for young people in the borough, contact the Youth and Connexions team on 020 8359 6495 or email youthprogrammes@barnet.gov.uk

* Up to 25 years old with learning difficulties

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For more details on the Youth Bank visit
www.barnet.gov.uk/youth-and-connexions



My Barnet

Being nominated for a Civic Award was the last thing on Mushtaq Rehman's mind, so discovering he'd been named as one of the borough's seven winners came as quite a surprise.

"I thought I'd get a certificate through the post, so I was a bit embarrassed by the whole ceremony," admits Mushtaq with a huge smile that clearly shows his modesty.

Mushtaq, who lives in West Hendon with his family, was born in East Africa and educated in Lancashire. He moved to Barnet with his brother in 1977, and has been an active member of the local community ever since.

"Hendon has changed a lot in the past 30 years," he recalls. "The rich ethnicity we have now didn't exist back then. It was very clear cut; it was a working class area with working class white people and predominantly Asian people. Now there's a mix - a rich cultural and religious diversity - so in many ways it's much better.

"When I first came here, we had to travel to Brent for Friday worship – which is a communal worship, similar to Sunday Mass. But in 1984 the community elders pulled together to create a local mosque where their children could get a religious education and the community could worship." Mushtaq is now Chairman of Hendon Mosque.

"The mosque is quite a landmark," he adds proudly. "On a Friday we have about 1,500 visitors passing through its doors to pray. All you see is a long queue going round the corner onto the main road, so people driving past often wonder if there's a sale or something going on."

Mushtaq's three children all went to Parkfield Primary School in West Hendon. His two sons attended Christ's College School and Hendon School respectively, and his daughter went to St Mary's. "Even though we're Muslim, my daughter attended a CofE school, which we were fine with," he says.

Five years ago, Mushtaq was involved with setting up Ayesha Community School, an independent girls school with a strong Islamic ethos. From October 2009, the school opened a primary wing and in September 2010 it will open a sixth form, offering a range of A-level subjects.

"Barnet has plenty of successful faith schools, with various high-achieving Jewish, Catholic and CofE schools. We wanted Ayesha School to be the same to meet the needs of the local Muslim community."

His daughter, who now lives in the United Arab Emirates, went on to graduate from Middlesex University.

Talking about his favourite shops, Mushtaq says, "I go to the local Asda for shopping; I get my hair cut around the corner at a barber shop called Golden Scissors, and I often get really good pizzas from Euro Fried Chicken, a Halal takeaway on the high street."

"When we go on holiday I'm always happy to come back to Barnet," smiles Mushtaq. "When we drive back from the airport and come off the North Circular to see Staples Corner, I get a warm feeling inside and think 'yes', I'm home."

Tell us your story

If you would like to be featured in future issues of My Barnet, please email barnet.first@barnet.gov.uk with no more than 100 words describing your life in Barnet.



Pupils studying at Ayesha Community School



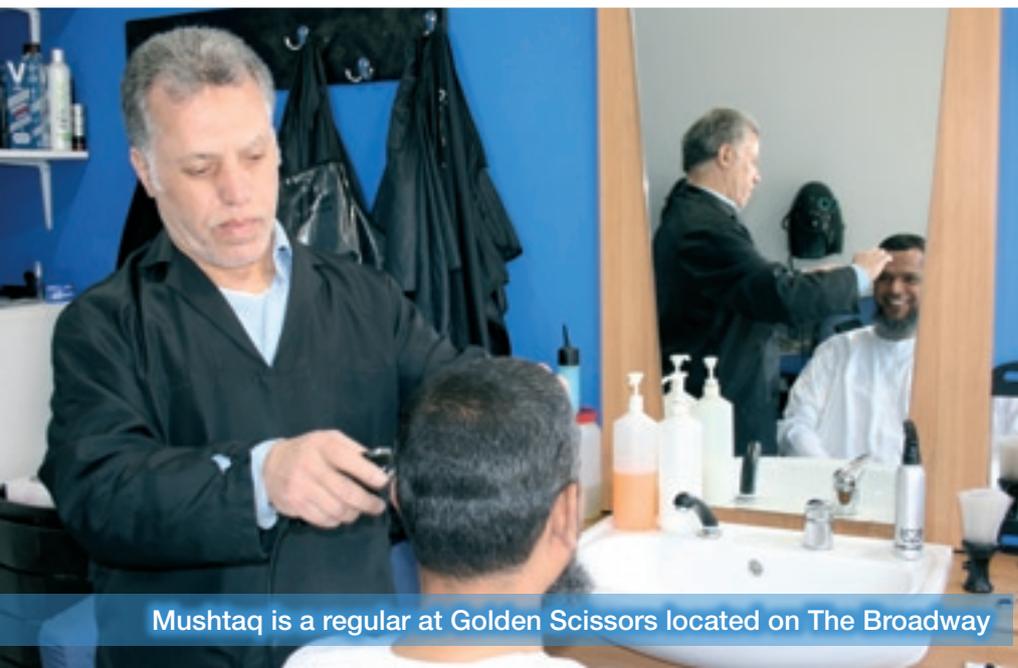
Mushtaq Rehman



Euro Fried Chicken is a Member of the Halal Monitoring Committee



Middlesex University in Hendon



Mushtaq is a regular at Golden Scissors located on The Broadway



West Hendon Mosque

Barnet – Meet your new councillors

Brunswick Park Conservative



1. Cllr Andreas Tambourides
2. Cllr Lisa Rutter
3. Cllr Lynne Hillan

Burnt Oak Labour



4. Cllr Charlie O-Macauley
5. Cllr Claire Farrier
6. Cllr Alex Brodtkin

Childs Hill Liberal Democrat



7. Cllr Monroe Palmer
8. Cllr Jack Cohen
9. Cllr Susette Palmer

Colindale Labour



10. Cllr Zakia Zubairi
11. Cllr Geoffrey Johnson
12. Cllr Gillian Sargeant

Coppetts Labour/Conservatives



13. Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb
14. Cllr Barry Rawlings
15. Cllr Kate Salinger

East Barnet Conservative



16. Cllr Barry Evangeli
17. Cllr Robert Rams
18. Cllr Joanna Tambourides

East Finchley Labour



19. Cllr Alison Moore
20. Cllr Colin Rogers
21. Cllr Andrew McNeil

Edgware Conservative



22. Cllr Helena Hart
23. Cllr Darrell Yawitch
24. Cllr Joan Scannell

Finchley Church End Conservative



25. Cllr Eva Greenspan
26. Cllr Daniel Thomas
27. Cllr Graham Old

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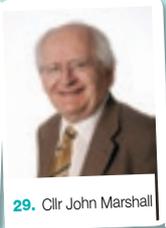
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33. Cllr Dean Cohen
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29. Cllr John Marshall



30. Cllr Daniel Gideon Seal

**Golders Green
Conservative**



31. Cllr Reuben Thompstone



32. Cllr Melvin Cohen



33. Cllr Dean Cohen

**Hale
Conservative**



34. Cllr Thomas Davey



35. Cllr Hugh Rayner



36. Cllr Brian Gordon

**Hendon
Conservative**



37. Cllr Mark Shooter



38. Cllr Maureen Braun



39. Cllr Anthony Finn

**High Barnet
Conservative**



40. Cllr David Longstaff



41. Cllr Bridget Perry



42. Cllr Wendy Prentice

**Mill Hill
Conservative**



43. Cllr Sury Khatri



44. Cllr Brian Schama

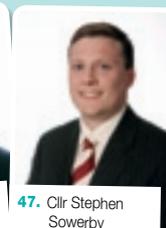


45. Cllr John Hart

**Oakleigh
Conservative**



46. Cllr Sachin Rajput



47. Cllr Stephen Sowerby



48. Cllr Brian Salinge

**Totteridge
Conservative**



49. Cllr Brian Coleman



50. Cllr Richard Cornelius



51. Cllr Alison Cornelius

**Underhill
Labour/Conservative**



52. Cllr Anita Campbell



53. Cllr Andrew Strongolou



54. Cllr Rowan Turner

**West Finchley
Labour**



55. Cllr Ross Houston



56. Cllr Jim Tierney



57. Cllr Kath McGuirk

**West Hendon
Labour**



58. Cllr Agnes Slocombe



59. Cllr Ansuya Sodha



60. Cllr Julie Johnson

**Woodhouse
Labour**



61. Cllr Alan Schneiderman



62. Cllr Anne Hutton



63. Cllr Geof Cooke

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high
barnet
Green Home Zone



People power points the way to greener living

A group of green-minded volunteers from High Barnet are leading the way in encouraging neighbours to be more environmentally friendly.

The High Barnet Green Home Zone, which includes 2,250 homes around The Spires and The Meadway, is a new neighbourhood campaign aimed at raising awareness of just how much the local community can do to cut their carbon emissions.

Run solely by local people, the initiative got off to a flying start with more than 300 people attending the Zone's launch at Chipping Barnet Library in March. The low carbon initiative involves volunteers visiting households and shops within the Zone and encouraging them to make small changes to their daily routines.

Their ambition is that every household will reduce their CO2 emissions by cutting back on energy and water use, recycling more and using their cars less.

Supported by Barnet Council, the Energy Saving Trust and sponsored by VELUX, the Zone's initiatives work alongside the council's key green priorities, such as looking at ways of disposing of household rubbish in a more efficient and cost effective way.

Property journalist and High Barnet resident Gordon Miller co-founded the Green Zone with friend Sarah Challice.

"It had been on my mind for a year or so that we need to do a bit more for the environment locally," Gordon says. "From that naive beginning, things have mushroomed. It's gone a lot bigger and a lot quicker than we thought."

One initiative the scheme offers residents is a free energy assessment of their home, highlighting where money can be saved.

"A lot of people are engaged with environmental issues like global warming and climate change, but until it touches their own homes, through the amount of energy they use and how much it costs them, they don't always see how it impacts on them," Gordon adds.

"It's all about the community. We all live locally, we have children who go to school locally and so it's all about improving the local area and the environment in any way we can."

For more information visit
www.greenhomezone.org

www

**BETTER SERVICES
WITH LESS MONEY**

Finding new ways to care...

Current financial pressures on local government put a premium on new services that can provide better services for less money.

At the beginning of this year, Barnet Council launched its 'Innovation Fund' – a scheme which provides funding to a range of community and voluntary organisations, to work with the council and personalise the social care people receive.

A total of 13 bids were successful, one of which was submitted by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme (RSVP). The group is made up of older retired people who want to put something back into their community by volunteering in schools, hospitals and other venues.

Barnet First spoke to Bill Ibbotson, chairman of RSVP. His group are using some of their funding to set up a 'home share day care' scheme, whereby volunteers will provide lunch and personally tailored day activities for older people referred by the council's Adult Social Services department.

Mr Ibbotson said: "This project will aim to provide around 20 frail elderly people with respite care. I started volunteering 20 years ago and in Barnet we have around 600 retired people volunteering on various projects. We have a very strong presence in schools and quite a few projects already running with older people."

Some of the other recipients of funding include Barnet College, who are setting up a course in Makaton – a 'catch all' language programme, and the Finchley Horticultural Society, who will run a food growing programme for people with physical disabilities and sensory impairments.

For more information visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/
socialcare-providers-innovation-fund](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/socialcare-providers-innovation-fund)

WWW

**Volunteers from RSVP at
their regular book club**

Unlocking your past

**SUCCESSFUL
LONDON
SUBURB**

“Knowing the names and ages of the people who lived here before us really helped to bring our house’s history to life.”

Ever wondered who lived in your house before you, or what skeletons lie hidden in your family closet? The census offers a fascinating tool for delving into your family tree and learning about the history of your home, as Clare Hoskins discovered.

When Clare first set eyes on 40 Midland Terrace, Cricklewood, she knew instantly it was where she wanted to live with her husband Paul. With its original chequerboard floor tiles and clothes airer still hanging above the hearth, it remained barely untouched from when it was first built in the 1890s along with three other streets of identical terraced houses by the Midland Railway for its workers.

Fifteen years on the couple are still living at number 40 - along with number 41 which they bought and knocked through for extra space - with their children Dorothy, 14, Mabel, 11, and Jess, 9.

Apart from knowing that the previous occupier Grace had been born in the house where she'd later died aged in her 80s, the family knew very little else.

With the help of census records which they accessed online and through their local library, Clare and her family obtained a fascinating insight into their home's history.

“We learned from the 1911 census that Grace was in fact the youngest of eight children born to John Haywood, 47, a railway engineer, and his wife Elizabeth, 44,” Clare says.

“Grace was aged just two at the time and she had seven older brothers and sisters, which must have been a real squeeze living in just two rooms downstairs and three bedrooms. The 1901 census taught us that the Haywoods had another child,

Lydia, aged seven, who must have died in between the censuses, which was sad."

Delving back further into the 1891 census – the year their house was built – the Hoskins family learned that another engine driver, James Brady, 38, and his wife Rachel, 30, had lived in the house before the Haywoods with their children Catherine, 5, and Doris, one. The census records showed that no 41 was also home to different firemen and engine drivers employed by the company with their families.

"Knowing the names and ages of the people who lived here before us really helped to bring our house's history to life," Clare says. "Now when I see my son Jess kicking a football outside I often find myself wondering if any of the children from the families who lived here before us would have done the same."

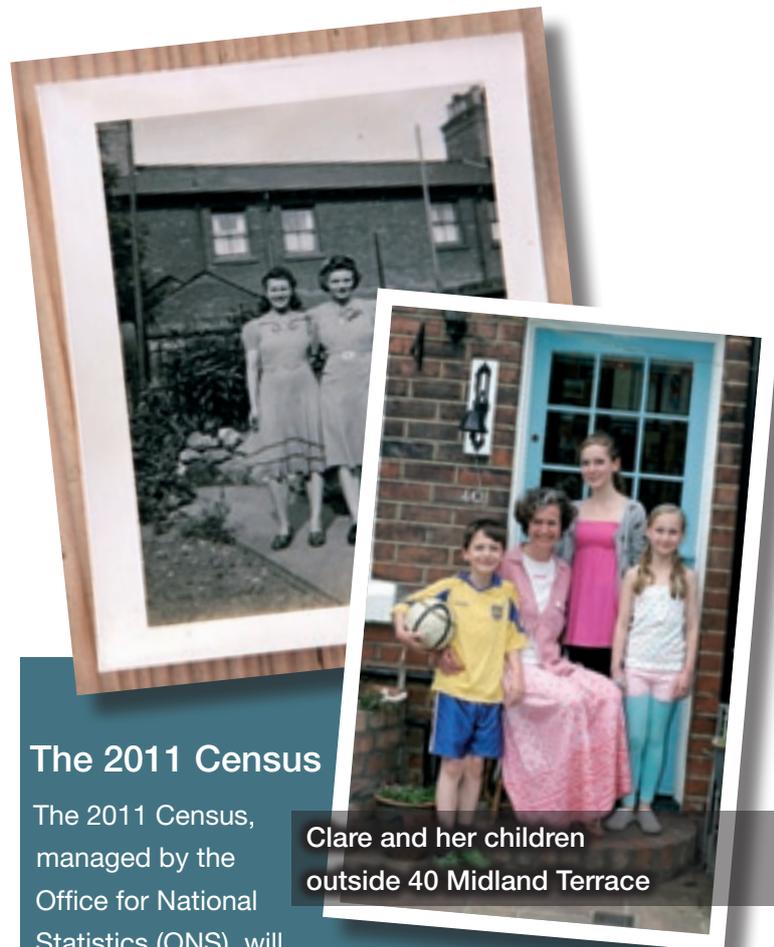
Census records can be accessed through your local library free of charge.



A history of the census

Governments of every era from the Greeks and Romans have recognised the need to collect information about their residents.

The Domesday Book in 1086 was our first insight into how people lived in Norman Britain. But it wasn't until 1801 that the first official census of England and Wales was taken. Since then the census has been taken every ten years except 1941, during the Second World War.



Clare and her children
outside 40 Midland Terrace

The 2011 Census

The 2011 Census, managed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), will

help Barnet Council learn useful information about exactly how many people, and of what age and occupation, are living in the borough. That data will in turn be used by the council to calculate which services will be most in demand over the coming decade. All personal information held is strictly confidential and will not become public for 100 years. Householders will have a choice to submit their answers to census questions online or by post.

Census population statistics have a direct bearing on the central government support each local authority receives to fund public services and their accuracy depends on getting information from everyone who receives the form.

For more information visit
www.barnet.gov.uk/census-information

WWW



**SUCCESSFUL
LONDON
SUBURB**



Barnet pupils put on an unforgettable performance...

Barnet pupils have put on an unforgettable performance at the Royal Albert Hall. A musical spectacular bringing together the hard work and talents of hundreds of children in Barnet has been hailed a night to remember.

More than 1,500 children from 31 Barnet primary and secondary schools, and bands and orchestras from three music centres took part in the massive Barnet One Voice concert at the Royal Albert Hall on 29 April, watched by 2,000 parents.

The night kicked off to the sounds of Barnet Fanfare, commissioned specifically by Barnet Music Service for the concert and composed by teacher Stuart Quinlan.

The first half of the performance featured music by some of the borough's school choirs and bands as well as dancers from three secondary schools and compositions from the A-Level music service.

The second half of the concert, supported by the English Pocket Opera Company, included Barnet's own performance of Bizet's *Carmen*.

Caroline Thornton, whose daughter Holly performed with the St Josephs Primary School choir, said: "I felt honoured to attend such a fantastic performance. I was amazed at how much talent there was amongst

the young people of Barnet, and also the effort and energy from all those involved in organising it. The music and singing was beautiful and it was a night I will always remember."

Holly added: "I was very happy and proud to be part of One Voice and to sing at the Royal Albert Hall with my school choir. It was really exciting singing with all the other choirs and orchestras in such a big venue with all our parents and teachers watching us. My favourite part was singing the final song 'One Voice'."

The previous concert at the Royal Albert Hall in 2005 was a spectacular showcase of the musical achievements of Barnet's young people with some now training to become our next generation of professional musicians and music educators.

The £12,200 fee for the hire of the Royal Albert Hall was donated by The Friends of Barnet Schools Music Services which represents parents or guardians of children studying music in Barnet.

For a copy of the DVD, which covers all the performances, please send a cheque for £15.00 made payable to Barnet Music Centres Fund to: Barnet Council, Music Office, Building 2, NLBP, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP.

For more information visit www.barnet.gov.uk and click on the Youtube link

www

What's on
in **Barnet?**

*June
July*

Anyone for tennis?

Summer's here so why not dig out your old tennis racquet and head off to your local court? With the majority of the borough's courts free to use, it's one of the cheapest ways to keep fit.

If you're stuck for a partner or want to play a friendly yet competitive match, why not get in touch with Hendon Park Tennis League? The league – an initiative of Local Tennis Leagues working with Barnet Council – aims to make more friendly, competitive tennis available for adults playing on local park courts.

Although the league takes its name from Hendon Park, the matches can be played at any of the borough's 60-plus park courts.

The next round of the Hendon Park Tennis League is from 14 June to 8 August, with the deadline to enter 11 June.

You don't need to be the next Andy Murray or Venus Williams though to take part. All adults, regardless of their ability, can join. Entry costs just £10. For further information call 07713 640726.

Visit www.localtennisleagues.com/hendonpark



For more information visit
www.localtennisleagues.com/hendonpark
or call 07713 640 726.

350 Years of Church Farmhouse

Date: Until 26 September

Hendon's oldest surviving dwelling house celebrates its 350th anniversary.

For further details on this special exhibition call 020 8359 3942 or visit

www.churchfarmhousemuseum.co.uk

Happy Healthy Fun Day

Date: 22 June

A full day of health and fitness advice for people with learning disabilities.

Call 020 8349 3842 or email:

Shelley.Gibbons@barnetmencap.org.uk

Proms at St Jude's

Date: 19 – 27 June

Nine-day midsummer music festival held in the renowned Church of St Jude-on-the Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb. Surplus funds go to Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice.

Visit www.promsatstjudes.org.uk

East Barnet Festival

Date: 2 – 4 July

Bring family, friends and neighbours for an entertaining and fun weekend.

Call 07071 781 745 or visit

www.eastbarnetfestival.org.uk

Summer Reading Challenge Space Hop 2010!

Date: 17 July – 11 September

For information on this and other library events, call Justina Gore on 020 8359 7774

or www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries

Summer Uni

Date: 26 July – 20 August

Free activities for children and young people in the holiday. Call 020 8359 7842

or visit www.summerunilondon.org/barnet. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Working hours

Karina Sissman, 29, has worked in Barnet Council's planning department for nearly eight years and is currently Area Planning Manager for Finchley and Golders Green. She lives in Hendon.

Q Describe your main responsibilities.

A My typical day involves deciding on planning applications and signing off recommendations made by officers in my team. I don't get out on site visits as often as I used to now as I'm managing the team.

Q What attracted you to the role?

A Planning involves looking at where we live and learning from the past to improve our environment for the future. This involves a huge variety of work and speaking with different people, which was a big attraction to the job.

Q How did you get into planning?

A I had an interest in geography and the environment at school but didn't know much about planning. I took a degree and then a masters in town planning at university and joined Barnet eight years ago, and have stayed here and worked my way up.

Q Why do you like living in Barnet?

A It is an accessible location, near to central London, and I've got a wealth of facilities on my doorstep.

Q What is the most unusual application you've ever dealt with?

A We recently had an application for a pet cemetery. It's certainly the first one we've ever had in Barnet and probably one of the first in the country!

Q What is the best and worst part of your job?

A The best part is seeing a new development built that improves the area and knowing I was involved in its making. The worst part is the frustration of seeing bad developments that people have built without planning permission.

Q What do you do in your spare time?

A At the moment, most of my spare time is spent preparing for my wedding in August!

For more information on planning visit
www.barnet.gov.uk/planning

www

