

Glimmer of hope on broadband

BT plans to upgrade five of the nine cabinets it left behind in the first rollout of high-speed broadband

After months of campaigning by MP Theresa Villiers, the Barnet Society, and pressure group Fibre4Barnet, British Telecom has finally given an assurance that it will improve the broadband service in High Barnet by upgrading at least half the cabinets that need to be fibre enabled.

Ms Villiers hopes that superfast broadband will be provided to 98 per cent of the homes and businesses in her constituency within the next two years. There are “some significant gaps” in the service provided in High Barnet. **‘The upgrade of the five cabinets is not yet a certainty as it will be subject to further physical surveys and work, and the whole process could take up to two years.’**

net and BT has told Mrs Villiers that the next phase of its delivery of fast broadband will include upgrades to five cabinets in High Barnet, at the following locations:

Wood Street, near the Black Horse public house (**Cabinet 39**)

Bells Hill, near the junction with Wood Street (**Cabinet 40**)

Manor Road, near the junction with Cedar Lawn Avenue (Cabinet 38)

Wood Street, near the entrance to the

Page 3 - Sting in the tale

New school likely to be built on the old Barnet FC ground dashing Bees' fans' hopes of a return



Old Court House recreation ground (**Cabinet 33**)

Salisbury Road, near the junction with Stapylton Road (**Cabinet 64**)

But another three cabinets have **NOT** been included in the upgrade programme:

Bruce Road, near the junction with St Albans Road (**cabinets 36 and 65**)

Salisbury Road, near the junction with

High Street (**Cabinet 34**)

Ms Villiers said the upgrading of five of the nine cabinets identified by Barnet Society was an important step towards addressing some of the “most serious” gaps in High Barnet’s broadband service.

“This announcement is good news, but the upgrade of the five cabinets is not yet a certainty as it will be subject to further physical surveys and work, and the whole process could take up to two years.”

She promised to keep fighting for faster broadband for the cabinets not included in the upgrade.

Ken Rowland, co-ordinator of the fibre4barnet campaign (*fibre4barnet@btinternet.com*), welcomed BT’s announcement, but said the battle had not yet been won.

He said the priority now should be for local residents who have missed out on the upgrade to put pressure on BT to be included.

Ken Rowland from Fibre4barnet adds that there is also a ‘voucher’ system for local businesses which can give up to £3,000 in a grant for high-speed broadband connections. He believes that this could be particularly useful for businesses that have missed the cut from the current upgrade round. He is also in talks with a group that uses high-frequency radio waves to deliver broadband. Businesses could club together and pay for installation with their grants, then once up and running, residential users could join. Deadline for grants is next month. More info: *fibre4barnet@btinternet.com*

Page 6 - Heading for new pastures

Outgoing headteacher at QE girls’ school reflects on the past 125 years of educational achievement

Page 10 - It’s a jumble out there

Barnet Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association relies on jumble sales to help fund activities for members



The roof of sedum rock plants is easily the largest living roof of its kind in Barnet and will help reduce global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide.

Byng Road centre's roof grows on you

A living roof planted with sedum is one of the eco-friendly features of the new Barnet Environment Centre in Byng Road, due open in mid-September, writes Nick Jones.

Friends and supporters have been busy fitting out new building ready for the start of the new academic year, when the centre and its nature reserve will re-open for school visits. Construction of the new centre began at the start of the year, and the aim was to make it as environmentally friendly as possible.

Its roof of sedum rock plants is easily the largest living roof of its kind in Barnet and will help reduce global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide. Planting a green roof of rock plants was quite an experience for the team employed by Maurice Williams Construction. "We

laid the sedum and watered it for the first three weeks," said site manager Lloyd Holliday. "Almost straight away we started to see pink and yellow flowers, and then before we knew it the roof was attracting bumble bees and lots of other insects. It's been a real privilege to work on such an environmentally friendly project." The centre has been constructed largely in wood, with cedar cladding at the upper level. Inside there is underfloor heating. Dick Elms, chair of the trustees, said anyone walking down Byng Road towards the rugby club and allotments would see that the new building is very attractive in appearance, especially with its green roof of sedum.

"Friends and supporters were on hand to transfer materials and equipment into the centre ready to celebrate the grand opening of what is a splendid new facility

which should be up and running for the autumn term."

Mr Elms said the environment centre had been awarded a £10,000-a-year grant by the John Lyon's Charity to help finance its schools programme. The grant will contribute to the cost of the centre's environmental education manager Caroline Gellor.

In 2014 the centre received over 50 school visits and Mr Elms said the aim was to increase that during the coming academic year.

"When we were visited by the John Lyon's Charity, they were very impressed by all the work we have been doing in our classroom and around the nature reserve.

"Securing the annual grant means we can continue to plan for extending our environmental education work, knowing that the basic costs will be covered."

Work on Noah's Ark hospice due to start next year

The construction of the new environment centre is the first phase in redeveloping the site of the former school premises, just off Byng Road, near Foulds and Christ Church schools. One of the disused buildings has now been demolished to provide access to the new centre, and the remaining buildings will be taken down during the second phase of the project, which will

include construction of the new Noah's Ark Hospice, due to start sometime in 2016.

The site of the former school, together with the nature reserve, is under the joint control of Noah's Ark and the London Wildlife Trust, and their precise relationship with the Barnet Environment Centre is to be finalised later this year.

'Bees' supporters stung by home defeat as new school is planned

Barnet football club's old stadium and its surrounding fields look set to become a new free school, in a decision that will disappoint the legion of fans who hankered after a return to the much-missed Underhill surroundings, writes Nick Jones

Barnet Football Club's vacant stadium at Underhill is to be demolished to make way for a proposed new free school - Ark Pioneer Academy - that would eventually accommodate more than 1,800 pupils.

The site has been bought by the government's Education Funding Agency, which is responsible for purchasing land and premises for new free schools and academies.

Barnet's new free school is one of 10 new academies due to be established by Ark Schools, one of the UK's largest academy operators, which already runs schools in several London boroughs. If planning permission is obtained, Ark Pioneer Academy would open in September 2017, and when at full capacity would offer three-form entry at primary and six-form entry at secondary. Eventually the school would have approximately 1,890 pupils, including 60 nursery places, 630 primary, 900 secondary, and 300 sixth-form pupils. The first year's intake would be 90 pupils in re-

Proper consultation needed

"A new all-age school could be a suitable use for the redundant football stadium, particularly in view of the rising shortage of primary - and before long, secondary - places in Barnet. But a lot will depend on its design.

"The Ark proposal seems big for the proposed site, which is in the Green Belt and could involve fencing off more of the Underhill recreation ground. There may also be a temptation to add some housing to offset the cost. There must be proper consultation with the local community - not just parents - before the designs are frozen."

- Robin Bishop, chair of the Barnet Society's planning and environment committee.



The old grounds are earmarked for new academy

ception and 180 in year seven. The main buildings would be situated in the centre of the Underhill stadium and the adjoining former cricket and hockey ground would become playing fields for the new school. Access would be via two separate one-way entrances located on Barnet Lane and Westcombe Drive; 40 car-parking spaces would be provided for staff.

An application for planning permission is due to be submitted shortly to Barnet Council by the EFA and the preliminary proposals suggest that the new buildings would be 'carefully designed' so as to minimise impact on both neighbouring houses and the Green Belt.

Ark Schools currently operate 31 academies, including Ark John Keats Academy, Enfield; Ark Academy and Ark Franklin Primary Academy, Brent; and Ark Priory Primary Academy, Ealing. Another ten new academies planned to open in the future include Ark Pioneer Academy, Barnet, and Ark North Enfield Academy, Enfield.

The sale of Underhill signals the last chapter in what became a tortuous saga surrounding the final years of professional football at Underhill. Barnet FC moved to the Hive Football Centre in Camrose Avenue, Edgware, in April 2013, and there has been speculation for some months that Underhill could be redeveloped as the site for a school.

Campaigners seek to save oak tree from developer's plans

A campaign to save what has been dubbed the "mighty oak" of Whittings Road has made significant progress. A tree preservation order was issued by Barnet Council in early July, and there were no objections by the deadline of mid-August, but fate of the tree will depend finally on the outcome of a planning application for 36 new homes proposed for a one-acre site next to Whittings Hill Primary School.

Local residents are being urged to prepare for a planning committee meeting on 17 September that will consider the proposed housing development, and for the possibility of a separate meeting of the planning group that deals with tree preservation orders. Under a plan prepared for the council by Capita Property and Infrastructure, the "mighty oak" would have to be cut down to make way for an access road to a new housing estate comprising 29 two- to three-storey houses and an apartment block of three or four storeys providing seven flats.

The Barnet Society has already written objecting to the felling of the oak. Robin Bishop, chair of the Society's planning and environment committee, says the purpose of its removal seems to be solely to maximise the development potential of the site.

"Our view, on the contrary, is that it is a long-established and delightful local landmark that would add value to the proposed design" An application for a tree preservation order on the oak was made by Paul Ashby, a Whittings Road resident. He organised an open meeting of local residents to consider Capita's plans for the site.

The scheme was opposed on the grounds that the proposed new homes "looked like expensive houses for



the rich"; were out of keeping with the area; and were much closer to the pavement than other Whittings Road houses.

Residents doubted Capita's forecast that 60 per cent of the new homes would be "affordable", and governors at Whittings Hill Primary are concerned that the higher floors of the proposed block of flats will overlook the school and the playground.

The meeting expressed its total opposition to the destruction of the 100-year-old oak tree to make way for an access road.

Mr Ashby says that an 1865 map at Barnet Museum indicates that there were numerous big trees in Bells Hill, Chesterfield Road and Whittings Hill. "Sadly they are nearly all gone, which underlines why it is all the more important to stop Barnet Council felling the mighty Whittings oak."

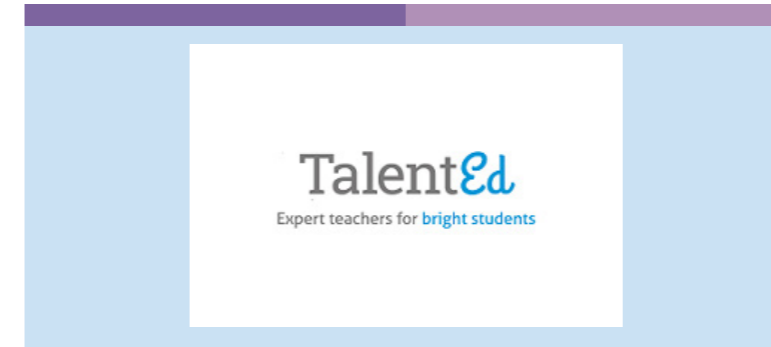
High Street in bloom - but no thanks to the council

Barnet High Street has been bedecked once again with flowering hanging baskets. But please do not be fooled into thinking Barnet Council deserves the credit for adding this splash of colour to the town centre.

The 19 hanging baskets are a community initiative, and the cost of supplying and maintaining them was shared between the Barnet Society, Barnet Residents Association and Hadley Residents Association, which each contributed just short of £500.

Their arrival was delayed because of low night-time temperatures and the fear of late frosts in May.

Judith Clouston, the Barnet Society committee member who organised the installation of the baskets, hopes that it might be possible next year to find a sponsor to meet the cost of future floral displays.



Any retired teachers out there with two hours a week free?

"Are you a passionate retired teacher with two hours a week free? Do you want to help bright young people across London?"

Children from low income areas experience greater barriers than those from more affluent families: in Britain today, children from low income households are significantly less likely to achieve at school, go to university or get a good job.

TalentEd aims to prevent this by matching expert teachers with bright students in weekly small group (1:6) tutoring sessions. We raise attainment and improve future options by developing life skills, study skills and career ambition.

For more information, head to www.talent-ed.uk or contact us via email info@talent-ed.uk or phone 07415 845 505 information and an application pack."



Now in its fourth year, the Chipping Barnet Foodbank, working as part of the Trussell Trust, provides local families and individuals with supplies to meet short-term needs arising from a variety of crises in personal circumstances. Approximately 120 volunteers are involved in the collection, sorting and distribution of donations. Those needing assistance are directed to the Foodbank by a system of voucher holders who include social workers, doctors, headteachers and clergy.

The work of sorting and storage is based at St Peters Church Somerset Road, whilst distribution takes place twice weekly at the Salvation Army in Albert Road New Barnet.

If you would like to help or to find out more visit chippingbarnet.foodbank.org.uk John Gardiner



Daniel Wrightson

High Barnet, and the living is easy . . .

A new website has been launched offering an online guide to life in and around Chipping Barnet. www.highlivingbarnet.com aims to provide a wide range of information and advice, including recommendations for local shops, restaurants and services together with suggestions for family days out.

The website's founder is Lucy Bridgers, a local resident, who has wide experience as a writer on food, wine and life-style interests, and also as a consultant in media and market research. "I moved to the area in 2013 with my family and we have been bowled over by Chipping Barnet's rare combination of urban and country living and its fascinating history. This inspired me to join the Barnet Society and Love Barnet and, in turn, to set up this website.

"Although there are advertising opportunities editorial content dominates the High Living website, covering a broad range of subjects. I believe that there are so many things to discover on your doorstep or without even leaving your home and I'll be sharing these, along with more obvious local recommendations and ideas for the broader locality beyond the M25.

"They'll be joined by particular favourites around London that are easily reached by the Northern Line. Reviews are conducted as anonymously as possible, covering all necessary expenses myself unless stated otherwise. I'll also be commissioning pieces from other local residents with particular areas of expertise and, ideally, original photography will be used to maintain the character of the site.



Outgoing QE Girls head looks back on 125 years of an illustrious history

KATE WEBSTER BOWS OUT AFTER 15 YEARS IN THE JOB AND HANDS OVER TO FORMER PUPIL VIOLET WALKER AT A TIME WHEN THE SCHOOL HAS JUST RECORDED ITS BEST-EVER SET OF GCSE RESULTS

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School first opened in September 1888 and was one of the early schools for girls.

At the time, there were mixed views on educating girls and women. There had been pressure from both the local school board and, particularly, the then Rector of Chipping Barnet, Revd Hutton, on the governors of Queen Elizabeth's School to devote some funds to the education of girls in line with the Endowed Schools Act of 1869.

Nevertheless, there were those who believed that educating girls was inadvisable.

Eventually a school was opened in 1888. In the last century and a quarter, the school has changed its name several times, as well as growing considerably and undergoing changes in governance, entrance requirements and accommodation.

However, the original decision to open a girls' school continues to be celebrated each May on Commemoration Day. Until 1985, Commemoration Day included a procession.

The school opened as The Girls' Grammar School, with 40 pupils. It was in Russell House, on the site of part of the current High Street building, and the first Headteacher was Miss Harland. Initial funding was a mixture of grants, fees and donations and was insecure and by early 1895 the governors were proposing to close the school.

It was agreed that two assistant mistresses, Miss Abbott and Miss King, would keep it running as a private school and 'Queen Elizabeth's' was removed from the name. The school flourished, debts were cleared and pupil numbers had risen to 115 by 1898, when Miss Abbott took sole charge. The 1902 Education Act enabled Miss Abbott to take the school back to public status in 1903 and the governors resumed charge. The school continued to grow and had 200 pupils by late 1907. Funding from the county council (Hertfordshire) allowed facilities to be improved and a new school building was completed in 1909; this included the gymnasium (on the High Street) and adjoining south wing which are still in use.

Following the 1918 Education Act, the school came under closer supervision from Hertfordshire and 25 per cent of the intake had scholarship places. Numbers continued to grow, reaching 420 by 1920 and as

for so much of its history, the school was struggling to accommodate girls. Lessons were held in corridors and an army hut, provided as a temporary classroom in 1919 but which remained in service for at least 20 years. 1920 saw Miss Abbott's retirement after 25 years at the helm, during which she had secured the school's future.

She was succeeded by Miss Clement and then in 1929 by Miss Griffiths. New buildings on the High Street frontage were completed in 1927, since when there has been little change from that angle. There were further new buildings on the Meadway side which were opened by the Duchess of Kent in 1938.

The 1944 Education Act meant that all pupils entered Queen Elizabeth's Girls' Grammar School on the basis of the 11+ examination. The school lost its younger years, all places were free and numbers had risen to over 500. The Sixth Form in particular had grown and more and more girls were going to university. 1957 saw the Queen's visit. This was historic both the school and the Queen, as it was her first ever visit to a state school.

The perennial issues with accommodation and piecemeal solutions continued. New dining rooms were built on Meadway in the 1950s, whilst Tudor House was demolished in the 1960s and replaced

"The school opened with just 40 girls, now it admits 180 new pupils every year and has a sixth form of over 250 students"



One of the later school buildings

with a 1960s extension, with other building on the playground to provide a lecture room, library and the parent funded swimming pool.

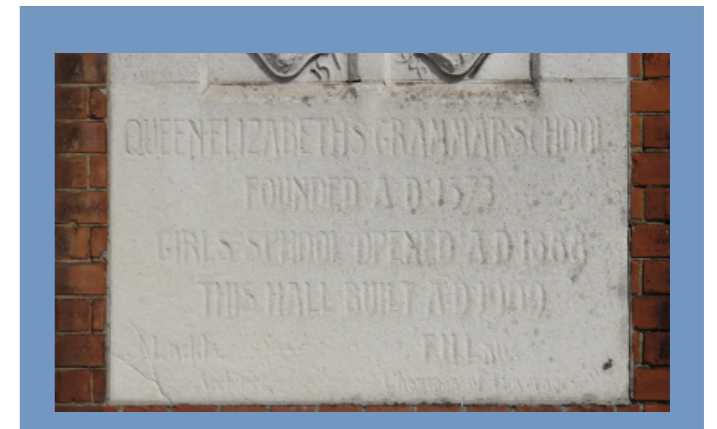
By 1965, the Barnet Urban District had been transferred from Hertfordshire to Greater London, as part of the London Borough of Barnet. Shortly afterwards Barnet voted to adopt a comprehensive system, although this took some time to come to fruition with the first comprehensive intake in 1973 and school's name reverting to Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School. This was an important and significant change which meant that admission was on the basis of where pupils lived and the catchment area became smaller and confined to Barnet and adjoining areas. Further building took place on Meadway to provide science and technology facilities.

From 1980, there was short period where QEGS shared a 6th form with the boys' school. Both schools were comprehensives at this point and although there was a growth in 'staying on' and an increasing percentage of pupils studying A Levels, some shared provision helped make the 6th forms cost effective. By the 1990s grant-maintained status had given the Boys' school independence from the local authority and enabled it to revert to grammar school status.

Meanwhile, the girls' school remained a community comprehensive school and sharing of provision in the 6th form disappeared.

QEGS has continued to grow and flourish. The school now admits 180 girls each year and has a large 6th form of over 250. Most of the girls live within walking distance of the school and it is not unusual for girls to be the second or third generation of their family to attend the school. The school and governors are committed to the school's being an integral part of the locality, with a truly comprehensive intake admitted purely on sibling and distance criteria.

In national and local terms, QEGS is a high achieving comprehensive school with strong outcomes. Girls know that our aim is for each one 'to be the best you can be' irrespective of her starting point. In August 2015 we have celebrated our best ever GCSE results. In 2013-14 the school marked 125 years since its opening and in the words of our current motto, we are 'Forward thinking' and looking towards the next 125 years.



Barnet Society's planning head Robin Bishop writes: Queen Elizabeth I's charter of 1573 provided for 'boys and youth', but it was not until 1888 that Barnet got a school for girls. Its oldest buildings are not just a gentle monument to a pioneering educational movement, but fine examples of the Arts and Crafts style. They deserve to be on the Council's list of local buildings worth protection.

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School's original home, Russell House on the High Street, was gradually altered and extended between 1890 and 1909 by the architect John Ladds (1835-1926). About a third of the cost, £600, was donated by two governors, Misses Annie & Lucy Paget. Ladds' work is not obvious from the road. His assembly hall (now gym, 1909) faces the High Street, but is dwarfed by J.W.Fisher's Neo-Georgian building (which replaced Russell House in 1924-7). The rest is mostly obscured by modernist additions in the 1960s & 1970s, and can only be glimpsed from Meadway.

However, they are fine examples of Arts and Crafts architecture and - I would argue - not only the best buildings on the campus, but among the best of their period in Chipping Barnet. Their sturdy red brick and clay tiled construction is enlivened by original touches that give them an informal, almost domestic, charm.

The assembly hall façade is modest in size, but its symmetry, brick buttresses and pitched roof give it a Classical flavour; and its big central bay window supported on idiosyncratic brick corbelling lends a touch of grandeur. Through it can be spied the fine timber trusses over its double-height hall. On its south wall, facing down the hill, is an entrance door - perhaps once the main one. A stone plaque on the hall wall commemorates its opening.

Running back from the High Street is a two-storey classroom building, but the fall of the ground makes it seem much taller. It is cranked in plan, its walls are dramatically buttressed, and above them rides an array of brick, rendered and half-timbered gables completing a highly picturesque effect.

This style was popular at the turn of the century in England and abroad. It was strongly influenced by the country houses of Norman Shaw, whose Grim's Dyke nearby in Harrow helped start the trend in 1870. Imagine Ladds' buildings in blackened sandstone or white harling, and you might almost be looking at work by his more celebrated contemporary, Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

The combination of traditional materials and informal composition was a defining feature of the English Free Style. It contrasts with both the Victorian Gothic of Queen Elizabeth's Boys' School (demolished to make way for Barnet College) and the Queen Anne style of London Board Schools.

Ladds gave QEGS a distinctive identity. His buildings were - and remain - a proud symbol of the value of education for girls in what was then still a small market town. They have a quiet, human scale that has been increasingly lacking from architecture in the century since they were built.

They deserve to be on the list of local buildings to be protected.

Golf club not quite up to scratch on tree proposal



Planning and Environment Report
Robin Bishop reports on some of the current issues that concern the Society, highlighting the need for vigilance in planning and related matters under the current council

Summer has been busy on the planning front. Two causes of particular concern have been chiefly to do with trees and greenery – defining features of Barnet.

The first is Old Fold Manor Golf Club’s proposal to fell the Poplars along St.Albans Road and remodel parts of its course with landfill, which has now been submitted to the planners. The concept has benefited from the advice of our Vice President and tree adviser, David Lee, and we are not objecting to it after modifications. However, the replacement planting would be inadequate and the work risks damaging existing planting, so more detail is required before we can give it our full support.

The second is in Finchley but could have serious implications for us. A developer proposes to replace eight flats on Holden Road with 43 new, and to acquire a 150-year lease on nearly an acre of Council-owned woodland, now known locally as Brookdene Nature Reserve, along the Dollis Brook. It is part of that remarkable thread of greenery extending most of the length of Barnet, and we have written opposing both the principle of selling off public space and the housing design. The Council’s Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee claims the woodland is inaccessible and unused (which is untrue); and if a similar line were taken over, say, Dollis meadows, we would risk losing access to parts of our Green Belt.



The poplar trees along St.Albans Road

Concern over After Office Hours plan

Turning to buildings, our biggest concern has been an application to rebuild 70 High Street (formerly After Office Hours) as a bar with seven flats above.

While we don’t oppose its redevelopment in principle – especially if this site on Barnet’s original market-place could be excavated – we have drawn attention to its adverse impact on the Susi Earnshaw Theatre School and its public arts programme.

The site is only accessible from the High Street



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and The Bull’s yard, and the old party walls would require at least partial reconstruction, but no alternative accommodation has currently been suggested. There would need to be “stringent conditions” regarding underpinning and foundations for the new building, and great care taken with the party walls.

This is one of a surge of new residential proposals. In general we welcome them, especially if they include affordable or social housing – but very few of them do. Susi Earnshaw, whose theatre school is based in the Bull, fears the demolition and construction work could cause “tremendous upheaval” for her teachers and pupils.

“I don’t know how we are going to keep operating through all the noise and mess that will be going on for at least a year.”

Ms Earnshaw says the After Office Hours building should not have been allowed to deteriorate to the point that it needs to be demolished.”

At the former Old Red Lion on Barnet Hill, we have suggested that the six houses are reconfigured to avoid worsening traffic congestion at the A1000/Underhill junction. We have also urged the planting of two London Planes on the adjoining public land, to connect ‘Lee’s Trees’ along Barnet Hill with those that he had planted by the railway bridge.

We have also supported addition of a storey to a two-storey house in Bridle Mews, behind Dilber Kebabs in the High Street. Planners had rejected a previous, taller, proposal, but the site is invisible from the street and, in our view, the design is at least as good as others that have been permitted in former inn stable-yards.

We have objected to a new retail and three residential units in the former Lloyds Bank, 85 High Street, because it would substantially alter the façade and banking hall.



This is one of the Neo-Classical buildings that, along with the Old Courthouse, Hyde Institute and our two former town halls, bring class – in the best sense – to our town centre.

Speaking of town halls, we worry about the one at 29 Union Street. We cannot object to its conversion into five flats unless external changes are made, due to the government’s recent relaxation of planning laws. For the same reason, we were unable to influence the conversion of two barns into three new homes at Brent Lodge Farm in Mays Lane. Planners have approved it, and we just have to hope that the recladding and external works are sympathetic to the Dollis valley.

We have supported several other residential schemes, albeit with qualifications.

The biggest is for the former nurse’s home site of Elmbank, opposite the Arkley pub. We have reservations about the high proportion of flats (93 out of 114 homes) and their traffic impact, given its current poor public transport links.



Spires goes under the hammer

A Canadian investment fund is the new owner of the Spires shopping centre in High Barnet, having paid £40 million for what the agents say is prime retail space in “one of London’s largest and fastest-growing boroughs, as well as one of the most affluent”.

The purchase was made by Hunter real estate investment managers on behalf of AIMCo, the Alberta Investment Management Corporation, which is one of Canada’s largest investment groups with more than \$75 billion of assets under its management.

Andrew Moffat, fund manager at Hunter, told Property Magazine International, that £7 million would be invested in the Spires to “improve the environment of the centre and create a tenant mix to match the requirements of the local community”.

The Spires had been in the ownership of the William Pears Group since April 2013. Earlier this summer Pears, one of Britain’s biggest privately owned property groups, completed work on the reconstruction of the High Street entrance. Other improvements have included a £100,000 scheme to re-surface the adjoining site of the twice-weekly Barnet Market, which is part of the Spires complex.

New tenants signed up by Spires include the Italian restaurant chain Carluccio’s and Anytime Fitness. The centre comprises 37 units in 90,000 square feet of prime retail space anchored by Waitrose, and other tenants include New Look, Body Shop and Costa. When the Spires was sold by UBS Triton in 2013, the Pears group refused to reveal the price it had paid, although it was said to have been higher than the £34 million offered by Redefine International which later dropped out of the bidding.

Jonathan Rose, Pears’ group managing director, said that during its ownership of the Spires the group completed its business plan, which included a major upgrade and attracted a letting to Carluccio’s.

AIMCo describes itself as one of Canada’s most diversified institutional investment managers, and is responsible for the investments of 27 pension, endowment and government funds in Alberta. The Spires deal is the fourth arranged by Hunter on behalf of AIMCo and their first retail tie-up.

In his interview for Property Magazine International, Mr Moffat said that Hunter had a strong track record in enhancing high street assets across the UK in order to deliver a strong return for investors.

“We will be putting a pro-active management approach in place to maximise the Spires’ considerable potential.”

place to maximise the Spires’ considerable potential.”

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Thrice-yearly jumble sales help keep Barnet Boys' Brigade on the road

Alan King, leader of the 1st Barnet Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association tells Nick Jones how the sales help towards paying for equipment and camping

High Barnet's biggest and best jumble sale - that is the proud boast of the 1st Barnet Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association, which holds three jumble sales a year to pay for the cost of the brigade's upkeep and equipment.

Ewen Hall, at the Barnet United Reform Church in Wood Street, was packed out once again for this year's summer jumble sale which attracted crowds of bargain hunters.

Over the years hundreds of local boys and girls have been members of the brigade, and many of them have enjoyed one of the annual camps. This year's expedition was to Great Yarmouth in July. Much of the impetus behind the brigade's success is down to the commitment of the indefatigable Alan King, who has been the head leader for almost 40 years, and who was once again in command during the collection, sorting and sale of the bags and boxes of jumble donated by local residents. The three annual jumble sales each make around £1,000, vital funding for a brigade that numbers 150 boys and girls aged from five to 15. Local householders do their best to help, and many look forward to the regular appeals for jumble as an opportunity to donate unwanted items to a worthy cause. Mr King says that running a jumble sale is hard work and needs a tremendous amount of effort. "Not many jumble sales are held these days because they are so hard to organise, and it is difficult to get the jumble as there is so much competition from charity shops. But we are lucky because our teenagers in the brigade

can go out collecting bags and boxes from the households in the 30 or so local streets which we leaflet in advance. "Luckily very few local organisations can match what we do when it comes to collecting jumble, and on the day we can rely on lots of helpers to man the stalls. We usually get well over a dozen parents volunteering to help the leaders. "We get so many unwanted items donated that we have to have a skip to take away unsold bric-a-brac, but dealers come along to buy all the unsold books, clothes and shoes, so we try to raise as much as we can."

Mr King, who is a teacher at Broadfields School in Edgware, is a member of Barnet United Reform Church and has been with the brigade for over 40 years, first as a leader and then after three years becoming head leader. "Of course I used to be known as the captain, but nowadays the Boys' Brigade steers clear of military terminology like that. Looking back on over 40 years with 1st Barnet, "I would have to say I do have a great sense of achievement. I do like running the brigade and it is such rewarding work. Mr King said that the jumble sale proceeds did so much to help subsidise the brigade's running costs, and help with the cost of equipment needed for the annual camp, which had always been one of the highlights of the year.

"Nationally, the Boys' Brigade started holding camps long before the Boy Scouts, so we have lots of experience"

"The annual camp is something we all look forward to, and we alternate between Great Yarmouth, Skegness and Chichester - and Skeggie is probably the favourite. "The juniors, aged eight to ten, have a weekend camp with the Boys' Brigade at Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, and that is just as popular." For further information, you can log on to the website at lbarnet.boys-brigade.org.uk

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Leader Alan King (above, top) at a recent jumble sale, the proceeds of which go a long way to help funding the brigade's activities. (Middle) Happy campers at last year's holiday in Chichester - this year they went to Great Yarmouth. (Left) Members on one of their regular church parades and (right) showing off some of the trophies they won last year



124 YEARS IN BARNET

The 1st Barnet Boys Brigade, now incorporating the Girls' Association, opened in Wood Street, Barnet in 1891.

This was 8 years after the first BB Company in Glasgow and 17 years before the Scouts was founded.

The Company now has 150 members. Children aged 5 - 7 years, called "Anchors" do mainly games, arts and crafts. Anchors meet on Thursday evenings 5:30 - 7:00pm.

Juniors, aged 8 to 10 years, do arts and crafts, music and drama, interests and hobbies, outings and special activities. Members collect stickers and badges for their achievements at BB/GA.

Juniors meet on Monday evenings, 5:30 - 8:00pm.

Older members, 11 and over, are given more choices in their programme. A wide range of activities is offered. Special evenings, about once a month, include 10-Pin-Bowling, Quasar, Funzone, Ice Skating, Quizzes, Film Evenings and Inflatables.

This age group meet on Thursday evenings, 7:00 - 9:00pm.

Each year the Company produces a show. Some examples are: *A Chorus Line*, *Oklahoma*, *The King and I*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *Frozen*.

Ewen Hall has a stage and top quality sound and stage lighting equipment. There is also a floodlit playground on the premises, where members play football and other games.

There is a Marching Band with drums, cymbals, bell lyras and bugles and a choir with over 60 members which performed at the Mansion House for the Lord Mayor of London just before Christmas.

When asked, "What is the best thing about BB/GA?" Most young people said their summer camps. For Juniors this is a fun packed weekend.

For the older ones it is an annual week at Great Yarmouth, Chichester or Skegness. There are funfairs, boating, swimming, crazy golf and all the excitement of sleeping with friends in a modern tent.

All leaders are registered with the National BB/GA Headquarters. The central office arrange all the necessary checks to ensure children are looked after by responsible and qualified leaders in a safe environment when they are at BB/GA. Anyone interested in joining can just turn up at the Ewen Hall Wood Street on Thursday evenings



Bones the pick of the fruit stalls

THIRD GENERATION OF FAMILY IS NOW IN CHARGE OF BARNET MARKET'S LONGEST-RUNNING PITCH, WRITES NICK JONES

"Pineapples, two for a pound!" – father and son David and Tyler Bone have both been shouting out prices for fruit and vegetables at Barnet Market since before they were 10 and together they are carrying on a tradition that was started by David's father, Albert in the 1950s. The Bones' stall is one of the most popular at Barnet's twice-weekly market, and the Bone family were first to open a stall in what in the 1950s was solely a cattle market.

Tyler, Albert's grandson, is now in charge of the stall and is helped by his father David, who remembers the early days when the cattle market was still in full swing.

"I was only eight when my dad used to send me out into the crowd at the cattle market with a cauliflower in each hand. He told me to shout out the price, and it worked as I used to sell quite a few."

David, now in his "late fifties", said his father Albert, who is 89, and his mother Joan, who is 87, were old-style market traders, and knew just how to clear their stall of fruit and vegetables each Wednesday and Saturday.

"Dad was from Edmonton and used to come to the cattle market every week to buy chickens and rabbits. In 1958 he asked the guvnor, Mr Young, if he could open a fruit and vegetable stall in the corner, so Dad had the very first stall at Barnet Market.

"When the cattle trade fell away, Mr Young let the Booths open up another fruit and vegetable stall." David recalls that in its heyday in the

1970s and 1980s Barnet Market was packed out with stalls. Albert and Joan had their pitch just inside the St Albans Road entrance selling fruit, and David had a separate stall selling vegetables.

David took over both stalls after his father lost a leg in a car crash 15 years ago, and his son Tyler, aged 24, took charge two years ago. Like his father, Tyler started as a boy.

"I have been helping at the market since I was eight or nine, helping my father, so it has always been part of my life. When I left school there was no point going into anything else but fruit and veg."

David and Tyler said their motto has always been to buy cheap and sell cheap, aiming for East End prices but West End quality.

"On Tuesdays and Fridays we leave home at 11 p.m. and get to Spitalfields market by midnight. We buy everything fresh, load up the lorry and are back in Barnet by 3.30 a.m. We aim to be open from 5.30 a.m. and you'd be surprised how many customers we get then Everything we sell is fresh from Spitalfields every Wednesday and Saturday and we also get fresh vegetables from a farm in Essex."

The Bones say one reason for their success is that they are prepared to sell fruit and vegetables by the box or tray. "We sell in bulk to local restaurants, and often families buy up boxes and trays, and then share out the produce between them."

Tyler said that they were concerned about the uncertainty over the market's long-term future. "We have no real concern about our own business, but obviously that if the market goes down, then our stall will go with it.

"We are only as good as the market itself. Our message to the people of Barnet is simple: 'Unless you use it, you'll lose it.'

The Bones were the first stall at Barnet, and hopefully we will be the last one out."

Chair's report

At our annual meeting, we heard a talk on the Battle of Barnet. Simon Marsh, of the Battlefields Trust, brought to life the events of 14 April 1471 when a Yorkist army of around 10,000 men clashed with a Lancastrian force of around 15,000. Some historians place the battle on Hadley Green, but other accounts suggest that it was in Wrotham Park, which will be surveyed by military archaeologists from Huddersfield University. The Barnet Society, along with the Battlefields Trust, is supporting Barnet Museum, which has taken the lead in the Battle of Barnet Project to obtain financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote a wider understanding and appreciation of Barnet's role in the Wars of the Roses.

*Nicholas Jones, chair, Barnet Society
29 Granville Road, Barnet, EN5 4DS*

Membership

Thank you to members who have already renewed their subscription for 2015. Many of you have also very kindly donated amounts over and above the fee and we are indeed very grateful. For those who have yet to respond to the request for payment do please act now; we need both your financial support and your name on our list of members for the coming year.

We are pleased to welcome the following members who have joined us since the last update: Mr Messiter, Mr Norris, Ms Holtum, Ms Davies, Mr Kerr, Ms Brennock, Ms Malyali, Mr Ashby, Ms Bartolome, Ms Johns and Mr Haggerty.

Can the following society members – D Cooper and Mrs Shirley – please make contact with the membership secretary, Teresa Kelly, on 020 8449 6812 or by email at membership@barnetsociety.org.uk as there is a query about your membership renewal.

Teresa Kelly, Membership Secretary

