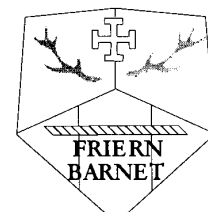


newsletter

## Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association

[www.fbwra.co.uk](http://www.fbwra.co.uk)



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## Eighty years, 80 miles by bike

*Local resident aims to celebrate his 80th year by a round trip pedalling to his old schools*

Local resident, David Gudgeon, says that he is going to celebrate his 80th birthday by taking an 80 mile round trip to the schools of his childhood.

After completing his National Service, David took up a career as an accountant. This he managed to combine with his serious rugby playing as well as bringing up a family.

In early April he will cycle from his home



At the end of his rugby playing career, he took up cycling again. He used to cycle to his place of work in Holborn (the Prudential). This meant climbing Dartmouth Park Hill and Highgate Hill, as well as braving the heavy traffic.

He has done the London to York bike run a couple of times, as well a

just off Oakleigh Park North, to St Dominic's Priory in Cuffley. From there to Marsden Hill Junior School near Hitchin. The last leg will be to St Edmond's (a Catholic private school) near Buntingford, then returning home.

couple of rides across the Pyrenees.

In the future, David hopes to cycle back from Rome through the attractive hills of Tuscany, visiting a number of monasteries along the way.

David has always been physically active. Playing rugby at St Edmond's school, before going on to play for Blackheath and Saracens, as well as representing Kent and later Hertfordshire, playing as a winger.

David and his wife, Pauline, settled down in the house where they have lived for over 50 years, bringing up their three children Debora, Rebecca and Simon.

# YOUR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU !



**TO ENSURE ITS  
SUCCESSFUL  
FUTURE**

Your Residents' Association is in need of new officers to continue its successful future..

In recent months we have lost Len Bull (see obituary May 2014) and Bruce Standing (ill-health). In recent months Michael Harold has been poorly (but is still striving to be our Secretary).

We are all busy people with children and grandchildren and houses to look after. We need YOU. All it takes is a couple of hours a week. In particular, we need hands for:

- \* Treasurer
- \* Membership
- \* Correspondence

(We have enough kind volunteers to help with delivery of the Newsletter.) Please call Harry Gluck 0795 660 9455 for more information.

## Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents' Association

- We are non-political
- We work for all residents in the area
- We discuss issues with Local Councillors and Council Officials
- Associated with the following bodies

- The Federation of Residents' Association of Barnet
- The Finchley Society
- Friends of Friary Park
- Open Spaces Society

- The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society
- Coppetts Wood Conservationists
- The London Green Belt Council

## Large scale developments threaten the future of the High Road in North Finchley and Whetstone

There are many housing schemes in the process of being built along the High Road between North Finchley and Whetstone.

The nine major schemes shown below will provide 905 new homes.

While there may not be an objection to any one development, but taken as a whole this is over-development. We can see the suburban nature of our Whetstone and

North Finchley neighbourhood being replaced by the look of the inner city.

Your Residents' Association has worked (successfully) to lessen the impact of these developments by making (modest) reductions in size, as well as appearance.

By the end of 2015 most of the schemes highlighted will be finished and the premises occupied. These develop-

ments will not be without problems - obviously there will be an increase in load on traffic, schools, parking, doctors, sewage and so on.

If there is blame, then it must be laid at the door of central government with its "relaxations of regulations" and insistence on meeting targets, at whatever the cost to the local community.

*Former Furniture Land, North Finchley  
886 to 902 High Road*

60 homes



*Former Police Garage, North Finchley  
931 High Road*

95 homes



*Former EMC building, North Finchley  
1060 to 1072 High Road*

56 homes



*Sweets Way, old Army site, Whetstone  
Between Oakleigh Road North & Friern  
Barnet Lane*

288 homes



*B&Q site, Whetstone  
1201 High Road*

130 homes



*Next to Lawson's, Whetstone  
1230 High Road*

39 homes



*Northway House (opposite M&S), 1379  
High Road, Whetstone*

145 homes



*Well Grove /Chandos Avenue, Brethren  
site off Well Grove, Whetstone*

70 homes



*Former BP Garage (next to M&S Whetstone, 1412 High Road*

22 homes





## North Finchley refurbishment draws to a close

Improvements to the townscape over the last couple of years should make the town centre a more attractive for local residents, shoppers and businesses

The project for regeneration of the North Finchley town centre is drawing to a close. Money provided by the Mayor of London, with a contribution from Barnet Council, has been used to improve the look and feel of the area.

There are a number of highlights to this project. One of the favourites, just outside the Arts Depot, is a model of the old North Finchley Gaumont cinema (which was knocked down to make way for the Tally Ho tower).

For the sake of weary shoppers and other tired people, a number of fixed hardwood benches have been installed near the bus terminus, outside Starbucks (which used to be the Torrington Arms) and outside Sainsbury's.

Another highlight is the refurbishment of the Grand Arcade. The arcade has been cleaned, the ceiling repainted, the lighting enhanced, and the shop fronts spruced up. A rather smart art deco style floor has been laid.

Although some of the shops in the arcade are at present empty, it is hoped that the refurbishment will attract new businesses.

On the railings outside the Tally Ho public



*A scale model of the Gaumont cinema that used to occupy the site of the Tally Ho Tower. Older residents will remember the area as more spacious than now, with wide pavements and a triangle of grass in the Ballards Lane end and without high winds all year round.*

house is array of plaques, of different shapes and colours, highlighting some of the area's features, local history and well known characters.

Beneath these plaques is a small Council plaque which reads, "To mark the official inauguration of the Alcohol free Zone in North Finchley on 2 March 2004", which some locals have thought strange to place outside a pub.

Further up the High Road, outside Sains-

bury's, there are a couple of interesting new features to the townscape. There is a scale model of one of the more attractive local building, the North Finchley library.

Also outside of Sainsbury's is the seat dedicated to one of North Finchley's slightly eccentric characters, Horace. He spent many hours on the High Road, talking to passers-by and wishing them "the best of luck".



*Array of plaques outside the Tally Ho pub. Note the decorated paving beneath the Council sign*

*The "new" Grand Arcade has an elegant, grand new floor.*



*Young woman not wanting to have her picture taken sitting on "Horace's" seat. .*

*Near to Horace's set is the scale model of the North Finchley library. Hopefully both will remain as they are for many years to come.*



## Friary Park News

The Friends of Friary Park are still working on your behalf to maintain the standard of the Park. There is as you appreciate, much that needs doing. Apart from the sodden conditions which prevent any proper maintenance being carried out during the winter, the Friends are acutely aware of the cuts to Council resources which obviously affect the level of maintenance.

Since the last Newsletter we have had meetings with the Green Spaces Department about the condition of several trees. Since then a large bough fell from the tree near the concrete bridge which blocked the footpath for a time. The rest of the tree is dead and needs to be removed but it seems that in many cases the Council tends to leave fallen trees to decompose naturally and to give a home to insects.

Other dead trees such as the ancient oak on the perimeter below the cafe will be felled once ground conditions can support the weight of heavy equipment. Similarly the dead oak in the playground will be cut down to form a bench.

We have had a constant battle over the condition of the toilets which sadly are often abused and vandalised by Park users. At the same time we felt the toilets were not being properly maintained by the Council. The contractor has now changed although the Friends are still concerned at the condition and level of maintenance and monitor them regularly.

During the summer the Friends organised some 'litter picks'. On the first occasion we collected twelve bags of rubbish, but litter continues to be an ongoing problem.

We are also working with the Council

with a view to applying for a lottery grant to renovate the statue. This monument is of historical significance and is due for considerable attention, including the replacement of the missing part of its spear.

One piece of good news; the Friends were successful in applying for an award of over £3000 from the Area Budgets Scheme to install a concrete table-tennis table. These have proved to be popular in other parks and it is hoped our table will appeal to older children and even adults. We are also planning for a hopscotch grid to be set into the tarmac between the toilets and the adult exercise area.

In order to make sure that Friary Park remains an enjoyable place to visit we are always glad of any help. Further details can be obtained by contacting the Chairman, Richard Testar, email [richard-testar@btinternet.com](mailto:richard-testar@btinternet.com) or 0208 368 5581.

## Advising all how to live to 99+ in good health

A series of Workshops and Discussion Groups  
to help you enjoy life in your own home to a healthy 99 years.  
How to prevent / reduce sight loss, heart attack and stroke  
and to guide those who care for others with sight-loss / dementia

On the second Saturday of every month starting March 2015 at Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road N11 2:00 – 3:30 pm. Attending all sessions helps you understand the recommendations

### Food and Diet

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2 – 4 pm

Important foods to eat: antioxidants, omega-3 oils, zinc, Foods to avoid: Recipes Interpreting misleading food labelling.

### Do's and Don'ts

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2 – 4 pm

Do's: Why it's important to exercise – but exactly what does this mean? Clean teeth -- Get your eyes tested -- Lose weight.

Don'ts DON'T SMOKE Why not? How much Alcohol can I drink?

### Living with Sight-Loss and Dementia

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2 – 4 pm

Everyone needs to prepare for some loss of sight as we age. For us or for our partner or someone we care for. Can you prevent sight loss from worsening?

Aids and activities to help those with sight loss. How to enjoy Sport, use mobile phones and computers, TV, films and games even when blind. Caring for yourself or partner with sight loss.

More information? Dr Oliver Natelson, Barnet Borough Sight Impaired group

[Ollie.natelson@gmail.com](mailto:Ollie.natelson@gmail.com)

Tel: 020 8361 2496

BBSI / ON 2015-02-05

### Forthcoming Events

Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road **The Ladykillers** - Sunday 15th March - Saturday 21st March 21  
Written by *Graham Linehan* directed by *Bob Bradick*

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society -- Wednesday 25 March North Finchley Golf Club, The Manor House,  
Friern Barnet Lane **The National Census and a Look at a House in Clerkenwell** -- *Mariene McAndrew*

Coppetts Wood Spring Festival Sunday 31 May 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Food Music Dancers Raffle Sunshine and You