

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
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| • The Federation of Residents' Association of Barnet | • The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society |
| • The Finchley Society | • Coppetts Wood Conservationists |
| • Friends of Friary Park | • The London Green Belt Council |
| • North Finchley Environmental Forum | |



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Friary Park playground upgrade proves a great success



The playground in Friary Park was upgraded and extended during September of this year. The upgrade was to provide more swings for the older children. At the same time the playground was extended. This extension is designed primarily for disabled children but there is no way of restricting it solely for them. Visitors to the park will notice that teenagers use this

equipment most vigorously.

At the end of September and beginning of October, during the fine weather of our Indian summer, attendance records at the park were repeatedly broken—on one Sunday afternoon over 250 people (men, women, children and babies) were gathered around the café/playground area.

Barnet's online reference library contains many jewels

In recent years Barnet's library service has subscribed to a number of reference books which are available in electronic form. These books can be accessed, via the Internet, from any of Barnet's libraries. Even better, they can be accessed from your home broadband connected PC. Among the books available are:

The Times (1785—1985);
Who's Who and Who was Who, 2009 edition;
Oxford English Dictionary (the mighty big one);
Encyclopaedia Judaica (2nd edition)
Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

This is a great resource that is conveniently available to Barnet residents (especially students, school children and scholars). Once you know these books are available, the next step is to learn how to access them. If you want to access them from one of the Barnet libraries there may be no display posters or pamphlets telling you how to do so. From your home Internet connected PC, go to:

www.barnet.gov.uk
 Leisure & culture
 24/7 Online Reference Library

the system will display a list of reference books, newspapers and dictionaries that can be viewed online. Once you have selected the material you want to view, you will be asked for your library reference number.

Beginners may be advised to use their local library when first attempting to access any of these materials—should you have any difficulties, there will be a professional librarian on hand to help. Barnet do produce a pamphlet, which is available in some of their libraries, it is called "24/7 online Reference Library" (a switched on groovy title, named to attract the young gangsta rappers of the Borough).



Friary Park Summer Show—August 2011

This year's Summer Show was cruelly cut in half, thanks to the heavens opening on Saturday 20th August. Apart from those stalls housed in the large marquees, by 2.30 pm. nearly everyone who was outside had packed up and gone home. Some stands had nowhere to put their leaflets, goods, prizes and books, as a deluge completely soaked everything that was in sight.

Up until two hours into proceedings, stall holders were happily chatting to customers, neighbours, friends and acquaintances. The sun had been shining, and most people were dressed in summery clothes.

Then the rains came. Soaked, cold and with nothing to protect themselves or their stalls, everything was packed away and executive decisions were made to go home. By 5 pm, the sky looked as if it didn't know what rain was. There wasn't a cloud in the sky, and everyone wondered if they had packed up too soon. Perhaps it was premature, but no one really wanted to come down with pneumonia!

Saturday evening there was an aerial ballet. A young dancer performed aerial movements while harnessed to a balloon, which rose and fell to some dramatic music. The balloon was illuminated by changing coloured lights and the young men squealed when the balloon lowered towards the ground and the aerial ballerina was almost in touching distance.



By Sunday, things were different. The weather was kind, the stalls and marquees were bustling – although probably not as much as previous years – and business was brisk. The Zorbs races were particularly funny (Zorbs are large see-through plastic balls—see picture above), especially when the ever game, Rev. Adrian Benjamin took part. There were a number of high quality entrants in the various categories in the floral and produce sections. The fair was enjoyed by young and old alike. As ever, the weekend finished with a spectacular firework display, and by 10.30 on Sunday 21st August – it was all over for another year.

Forthcoming Events

Finchley Society: "40 Years at Kodak" by Tony Earle

Thursday 24 November at A2:30 pm—Avenue House, 17 East End Road; £2 non-members

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society: "Entertainment in Finchley" by Yasmin Webb

Wed 23 November

All meetings take place at St John's Church Hall, next to Whetstone Police Station, Friern Barnet Lane. Starts 7:45 p.m.; cost £2 to non-members.

Barnet Walks 'The Heart of High Barnet' A walk through a thousand years of history in High Barnet

Sun 11 December. Meet outside Barnet College

£7:00, accompanied under 12s £3:00.

Joe's Garage at the All Saints Arts Centre, Oakleigh Road North

Sun 27 Nov The Stone Electric (from Austin Texas) £12 door, £10 advance

Wed 7 Dec Stoney Curtis Acid Experience (USA) + Dave Jackson Band

Wed 28 Dec Rollin'Stoned - end of year party

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Commemorative plaque unveiled on Friary House

Recent visitors and passers-by may have noticed that a commemorative plaque has been installed near to the main entrance to Friary House. The inscription reads:

Friary House

Friary Park opened to the public on Saturday 7th May 1910 after Sydney Simmons, JP, local resident and founder of the Patent steam Carpet Beating Company Ltd, re-imbursed Friern Barnet Urban District Council with the purchase cost of £7500.

There has been a house on this site since around 1551 and it was occupied by, among others, John Popham, Lord Chief Justice who presided at the trial of Sir Walter Raleigh in 1603 and Guy Fawkes and his co-conspirators in 1605. Guests at the house included Queen Elizabeth I and, in the early 1700s, Queen Anne.

The house and estate were bought in 1800 by John Bacon when there were only 55 houses in Friern Barnet and 33 in the hamlet of Colney Hatch, where Friern Barnet Lane and Friern Barnet Road meet.

The old house was demolished around 1871 and the present house was built by Edmund William Richardson, the Company Secretary of the Planet Building Society, who lived in it until his death in 1908.

The house was extensively renovated in 2010 by Barnet Council for the use of local organisations.

The restoration of the clock on the house was made possible by generous donations from:

Friends of Friary Park; Friern Barnet & District Local History Society (in memory of their founder, John Donovan); Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association; T & B Builders; The Whetstone Society



The position of the plaque is indicated in the circled area in the photograph. Notice that the contributors are local groups, as well as the builders who carried out the restoration work. It does not include a contribution by Barnet Council—who in fairness did spend a great deal of money improving the building.

What a difference a year makes—in Whetstone



Last year, looking like a dump, the slip road in front of the Griffin was full of giant wheelie bins and there was a barrier by the road



This year—no giant wheelie bins, no plastics waste bags, no barrier— thanks to the tireless efforts of local resident and your Association's Treasurer, Bruce Standing. Once more, an upmarket suburban town centre, is looking clean and prosperous.

Two cheers for the North Circular

As the road works upgrading the Bounds Green section of the North Circular come to an end it is possible to see the likely impact on residents of Friern Barnet and Whetstone.

Traffic which has been using Colney Hatch Lane and Friern Barnet Road, as a means of avoiding some of the roadworks on the North Circular Road, should migrate back to using the North Circular Road.

Residents of Friern Barnet and Whetstone will go back to using the North Circular much as they used to do. For some years now, local residents have used their knowledge of the local road network to avoid this section of the North Circular and its congestion.

Furthermore, should residents walk the route of the road works they will see much to be applauded. The houses that were compulsorily purchased, and left to rot, have been renovated and are being brought back into residential use. Land released by closing off Stanley Road is in use as an extension of Bowes Primary School playground.

The most obvious feature of the enhancement is that the North Circular has been widened between Station Road (by the old gas holder) and the Clockhouse junction at Green Lanes. Although the road has been widened to three lanes in each direction at the intersections with Station Road, Wilmer Way, Brownlow Road and Green Lanes, the North Circular Road in this section is essentially two lanes wide in each direction (enhancements to other parts of the North Circular in the last twenty years have been to make it three lanes wide in each direction).

There are a couple of changes which may not please local resident-motorists. The intersection of the North Circular with Bowes Road (the road which runs downhill past Arnos Grove station) has been designed so that it is not possible for traffic coming south down Bowes Road to turn right onto the Westbound stream of the North Circular. Such traffic will have to go along Friern Barnet Road and down Station Road.

In the past there was no pedestrian phase at the traffic lights at this junction, so to turn right on Station Road onto the westbound North Circular could take 10 – 15 minutes in the morning. It is not known if the phasing of the lights on Station Road will change to be more accommodating for traffic wanting to turn. Some drivers wanting to make such a journey may decide that this junction is too slow and will try their luck at the Colney Hatch intersection.

Similarly, traffic heading north along Bounds Green Road will not be able to make a right turn at the North Circular intersection. Such traffic will have to head north along Station Road and do a U-turn and head back south to the intersection where they will be able to do a legitimate left turn to join the east bound stream of the North Circular.

So, two cheers for the new North Circular. If there were three lanes in each direction with underpasses and/or



Magnificent new footbridge spans the intersection of the North Circular Road at the Bowes Road and Wilmer Way intersection. Having no local McDonalds, or anywhere else to hang out, local teenagers have been known to gather here in the evening.

flyovers at the key intersections; and if passing traffic was not urged to use Friern Barnet as a transit route then local residents could call for three cheers

Some time in the future (maybe in ten years) further

The future

improvements to this section of the North Circular could be made (as long as Boris Johnson doesn't sell off the land). Walking the route of the improvements, it can be seen that the North Circular could be made into three lanes in each direction, all the way from the Station Road intersection to the Green Lanes intersection (except for one or maybe two pinch points).

The railway bridge on the Hertford North branch is a possible pinch point but three lanes in each direction could be created by shaving off some of the pavement. The other pinch point is the Piccadilly line rail bridge. This bridge has two unused arches on either side of the road but bringing these into use, to make the road wider, in a safe manner would seem to be very difficult. So, maybe in the future a new bridge will have to be constructed (highly disruptive). The intersections at Station Road, Wilmer Way, Brownlow Road and Green Lanes are wide enough to accommodate flyovers and/or underpasses.