



# The Woodsider

January/February 2003

**A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
TO ALL  
OUR  
READERS!**

## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

A happy New Year to everyone. May it be successful and prosperous for you all.

The year has started well because Partingdale Lane has now been re-opened and, although the Lane is a bit like an obstacle course, I am hopeful that drivers will treat it with due respect and not speed down the road which could provide ammunition for another legislation to close it again.

The annual carol singing was held on 21<sup>st</sup> December and was very well attended. Despite a light drizzle, I think it was enjoyed by all those who participated and such enjoyment was heightened by the scrumptious mince pies, cakes, sweets, coffee and scotch provided by residents. The singing was led by Colette Landucci who ably guided us through the various carols. Children sang "Away in a Manger" and we were swept away by the deafening gusto of their soprano tones. Our thanks go to those who erected the Christmas tree and the lights at Sussex Ring. The tree was sponsored by Real Estates, supplied by Finchley Nurseries and lit by current from Blakes, to all of whom our thanks are also extended.

I expect we all wonder what 2003 has in store for us. I would hazard a guess at rising house prices, rising taxes, more humps, bumps and obstacles on the roads, more destruction of our environment through unsympathetic extensions and front garden drives, more crime, higher Council taxes, more Government

bureaucracy and lower Council/Government efficiency, strikes, an intercontinental war (I hope not), the total impoverishment of the National Health Service and so it goes on. The list is rather morose and some of you might wonder what on earth this has to do with Woodside Park.

But there must be some good things on the horizon. Yes!! I have a feeling that 2003 will be a good year for everyone in Woodside Park.

Frith Manor School will be re-built and retain its status as a centre of educational excellence. Barnet Council will climb out of Division Three and become the most efficient borough in the metropolis and thus we will have our refuse collected three times a week, our grass verges cut six times a year, our street lights improved, our roads and pavements made safe, our drains unblocked regularly, etc., etc. Barnet Football Club will win the Conference and be elected to the League again (with support from Barnet Council). Victor Lyon will become the new Barnet FC mascot. The new Arts Centre in Tally-Ho will open. Brian Coleman will be elected Mayor of London. Graffiti, road accidents, personal assaults, burglaries and litter will become a distant memory. Flowers will blossom. Trees will grow. All those newly planted shrubs in front gardens will bloom. Everyone in Woodside Park (and throughout the world) will live in peace and harmony. Hurrah!!

*Robert Shuttler*

Some useful numbers	
<b>Police</b> Emergencies:	999 or 8200 1212
Crimestoppers:	0800 555 111
Other:	8447 1212
<b>Council</b> Customer Care:	8359 4600
<b>Emergencies</b>	
Gas leaks:	0800 111 999
Water leaks:	0800 376 5323
NHS Direct:	0845 46 47

A Date For Your Diary  
our next

**CHEESE AND WINE  
EVENING**  
will be on

**TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
watch this space for further details

## Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

The months of work on the draft Council budget for 2003/4 came to a conclusion when the budget headlines were announced at a Council Policy Conference on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Barnet - having been placed on the "floor" in government grant terms along with other London boroughs, and the borough's reserves having been spent by the last administration - is facing a Council tax rise of 26 per cent, on top of which has to be added Ken Livingstone's rise. New Government arrangements on how much money has to be directly "passported" to schools has meant Barnet has to give schools a bigger increase than that which we have received from the Government. In the light of all this, difficult decisions have had to be taken over services. There is some good news in that block cleansing and the Town Keeper Service will be extended and the Graffiti Removal Service increased. The Neighbourhood Warden Service is to be merged with Neighbourhood Management to create a new service that can handle a fuller range of quality of life issues.

The new Council CCTV centre will be officially opened on February 26<sup>th</sup> and among the areas covered is North Finchley. The Council is opposing Ken Livingstone's plans for the North Circular road at Henly's Corner and supports the original scheme that was approved at Public Enquiry. A Council Scrutiny Committee with an independent panel of experts has been set up to investigate the sale of the freehold of Barnet Football Club.

### Frith Manor School rebuild

Following the devastating fire during the summer holiday, a new classroom block has been erected in the lower playground. While offering bright, warm and spacious rooms for the 210 children using that part of the school, this is a temporary facility pending the construction of a building fit for the needs of a primary school in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

There was a welcome morning, held in early October, to mark the opening of the new classroom block. Councillor Coleman promised parents that the Council was committed to rebuilding the school and that we would not be left with any of the current freestanding huts. A team of Council experts is working with members of the school community to ensure that this plan becomes a reality.

School governors and staff have been busy visiting a number of newly-built schools to gain ideas and learn from the experience of others.

Consultation is under way to establish a priority list of facilities to meet the needs of both the school and local residents. This is important because a demonstration that the school will be used by the local community out of school hours, would add support to the funding of the rebuilding project. **Please look out for the survey in Real Estates' next Community Newsletter and have your say about the plans for the new Frith Manor School.**

### Readers' letters

Letters will be welcomed – but may be shortened or held over. We also welcome members' announcements, such as arrivals, farewells, births, marriages and deaths.

From Fred Westphal  
*A young lady aged 12 named Emma in Chanctonbury Way has suggested that we might like to organise a litter-clear-up day in Riverside Walk. This has been on our agenda for some time but it now seems appropriate to take action. VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED PLEASE. The Council will provide tools, gloves, bags etc. All you need are some sturdy shoes and a strong back !! The date and time will be arranged between the volunteers, hopefully before the spring. Let's make Emma's day !! Call me on 8343 7201 or email [bandkwestphal@ntlworld.com](mailto:bandkwestphal@ntlworld.com).*

From Elizabeth Kendle  
*The effectiveness of the last block cleansing was severely limited by those who ignored the Council's notices asking us not to park our cars on the road that day. Please use the Woodsider to give extra publicity to future arrangements and to urge residents to cooperate.*

### The re-opening of Partingdale Lane

Partingdale Lane has been returned to the community after the heroic campaigning efforts of the late Bill Hampsher during the early years of its closure, and thanks to resolute support for our campaign from Councillor Coleman. Your committee will be monitoring the lane's road safety record and they ask motorists who use it to drive carefully, respect the 20 mph speed limit and be prepared to give a wide berth to pedestrians and horses.

### Bookmark your new website!

At [www.thisiswoodsidepark.org.uk](http://www.thisiswoodsidepark.org.uk) you can find everything you want to know about Woodside Park and its history. Local services are extensively listed and there are links to the council, the police and other services. This is your website and your comments and suggestions for additional pages will be welcome.

### Barnet's Builders Register

The Council's Trading Standards Service has published a *Domestic Builders and Allied Traders Register* including electricians, plumbers, carpenters etc. These are traders who have publicly registered a commitment to fair professional and honest trading. The Council do not guarantee their work, but they are using customer feedback to eliminate cowboys. If you use a trader on the list, you will be asked to complete a form dealing with the quality of their work and return it to the Council. The register can be viewed on the Trading Standards website at [www.barnet.gov.uk/business/trading\\_standards/index.php3](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/business/trading_standards/index.php3) or by 'phoning for a copy at 8359 2606.

### Local Talent

Please let the editor know if you are a member who offers a service to fellow-woodsiders

Peter Butler is a carpenter  
tel 07944 720 637

Peter Mansi is a general handyman  
tel 07950 46571

Theresa arranges group theatre bookings  
tel 8346 7217

Maria arranges antique furniture restoration  
tel 07976 633083

### News from a founder member

Edna Donohue writes to say that she is having a very busy time in her new home. The garden there is lovely. She feels that she has much to look forward to but she misses Woodside Park. Her new address is Barns Lea, Blundells Road, Tiverton EX16 4NB

### Recycling: are we all playing our part?

Burying waste in landfill sites costs more every year. We can all help to avoid council tax increases by putting recyclable things in our recycling bins, or taking them to the council dump, instead of putting them in our wheelibins. For recycling bins call 8371 3670. The Summers recycling centre is open 8am to 4pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 4pm Sunday.







# The Woodsider

March/April 2003

## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

The few weeks that Partingdale Lane was opened were sufficient to show that the road does serve a useful purpose and now that it has closed again, roadworks have again appeared at the Bittacy Hill roundabout and the traffic is back to its normal standstill. Those of you who supported the re-opening of Partingdale Lane may be required again to vocalise your support otherwise the tiny minority of people who want the Lane to remain closed will take precedence over the vast majority and our, so-called, democratic society loses out again.

Council Tax is rocketing this year by some 25% and we are told that no improvements to Council services will ensue. Councillors readily blame each other but the fact of the matter is that Barnet Council is inefficient, over-bureaucratic and embroiled in pointless forums, meetings, consultations and expensive legal battles including Partingdale Lane and the debacle of Barnet Football Club all of which cost substantial amounts of money. There is no doubt that the constant search for ultimate democracy, which is supposed to involve every living soul in the Borough but actually involves less than 5% of the population, costs the Council a great deal of time and money.

I am not for one moment decreeing that the Council should be run by a dictator - some would say that it is, but that is just press propaganda. Democracy should surely be utilised by the majority and not just the few who often have nothing better to do than cause havoc within the Council corridors. The problem is that we are the silent majority who say nothing. Is it not time that we voiced our disapproval about the spiralling Council Tax? Is it not time that we examined the machinations of Barnet Council and ascertained where all of this money goes? If things carry on in this way, we could be paying £10,000 per year for an average house by the year 2012.

And now we have congestion charging. This is the start of a more insidious aimed at the motorist (soon to include the motor-cyclist, the cyclist and eventually the pedestrian). By the year 2012 (if not sooner), congestion charging will be rife and to cross the North Circular Road and the M25 you will need to pay a charge. Perhaps congestion charging will be introduced to Partingdale Lane. Soon all of our movements will be registered by camera. Welcome Big Brother. Presumably this is the only way that the government can monitor an over-populated country.

Finally, a word of praise for Eastern Electricity who, within a period of five hours on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2003, had turned up at the electrical sub-station in the park by Chanctonbury Way and repaired a vandalised fence after one telephone call. Well done to them. If only the Council were this efficient. We can live in hope, I suppose.

### What Needs Doing? The 2003 Membership Survey

Committee members will be calling on residents during April, May and June to collect subscriptions (still £1 per household) and collect members' views about the future work of the Association. Every suggestion will be recorded - the checklist below is only a reminder of some of the matters that may need our attention.

#### The checklist:

Why not make a note of your priorities now?

- Benches  Builders  Buses  Car parks  Children's playground  Consultations  Crime  Dog fouling  Extensions  Footpaths  Graffiti  Grass verges  Litter  Parking  Paths in the park  Pavements  Planning applications  Police response times  Pollution  Road safety  Road surfaces  Street cleaning  Tennis courts  Traffic  Vandalism

come to our friendly

## CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

at the



## Old Finchleas Clubhouse (Southover)

Starting at

7.30pm

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Admission (members only) £3 (including cheese and wine)

### Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

The big set piece occasion of the year in the Council chamber was the budget debate that took place on March 4<sup>th</sup> when the Council tax was set for the year 2003/4. The increase (including the GLA precept) is just over 23% - slightly below what was predicted in December, but still a significant rise. The Council had to take a view after the poor grant settlement for the Borough how much to raise council tax and how much to reduce services. There are reductions in the economic regeneration, tourism and central services budgets among others but the Council has protected front line especially street-based services. Schools budgets have been maintained but schools have suffered the withdrawal of central government's "standards fund" money. A Best Value Review of the Council's public affairs department has led to a reorganisation and significant savings.

A new design for road name signs has been introduced that includes the Borough coat of arms and will be slowly rolled out, as signs need replacing.

The former Leader of the Council, Councillor Alan Williams has decided to retire as Leader of the Opposition of the Council.

### Extensions – a proposed code of practice

As part of the Association's new *Extensions Guide* (see below) the committee is proposing the adoption of the following code of practice for members and their contractors, in addition to the practices required by the legislation and the by-laws.

The recommended practices are:

- to pave over no more of the front garden than is necessary to avoid regular street parking;
- to preserve or replace trees and shrubs;
- to discourage the use of pavements and front gardens for the storage of building materials and tools;
- to urge contractors to control their activities so as to avoid the unnecessary escape of dust and debris;
- to monitor the dumping of materials and the parking of contractors' vehicles so as to preserve access by neighbours and passers-by;
- not to permit contractors to park vehicles or dump equipment or materials on grass verges.

### Partingdale re-opening postponed

The final re-opening of Partingdale Lane has been postponed again because of a procedural dispute between some of its residents and the Council. In response to a temporary court injunction, the lane was closed for the second time on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The injunction was granted because the procedures used to re-open the lane were considered to have been contrary to the Council's constitution. The courts have no jurisdiction concerning the merits of the decision to re-open: that is a solely a matter for the Council.

Towards the end of March the court is to rule finally upon the correct procedure to be followed. When it does, we expect the Council to re-open the lane without further delay.

In the meantime we may expect a continuing stream of propaganda from those who hope to persuade the Council to keep the lane closed. We should all consider writing to the press about it – especially those of us who had enjoyed decades of trouble-free walks and rides along the lane in the years before it was first closed.

### Woodsider Publications obtainable from the editor

Welcome to the Woodside Park Garden Suburb  
*Public Transport. Shops & Businesses. The Police. Neighbourhood Watch. Health & Hospitals. Countryside Walks. Local Newspapers. MP and Councillors. The Council.*

Free to members

**Extensions:** an outline guide

*The regulations. Applying for Planning permission. Opposing Planning Permission. The Party Wall Act. The Building Regulations. Skips and Building Materials. A Recommended Code of Practice. Organisations and Publications.*

Price to members: 50p

**A History of the Woodside Park Garden Suburb** and its vicinity  
*The story of the neighbourhood from Frith Manor's 14th century origins, to the development of the garden suburb - and on to the present day. With a recollection of a wartime childhood.*

Free: (contributions to the North London Hospice)

### Walking bus: volunteers needed

Parent volunteers are wanted to escort children in a walking bus from Sussex Ring to Frith Manor School.

For details please call Jaimie on 8359 4662

### Chanctonbury Way pavements

We have been assured that the recent repair work on the pavement crossings was done at the contractors' expense.

### Do you enjoy going to the theatre?

As the local community group booker for the Ambassador Theatre Group, Theresa can obtain reduced price theatre tickets for some of the best shows, plays and comedies across the West End. She is arranging a theatre outing especially for Woodside Park Residents to see *Blood Brothers* on the evening of Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. *Blood Brothers* is the award winning musical which tells the captivating and moving story of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the tracks. Tickets are £18.50 per person (the usual retail price is £40).

To join, call Theresa on 8346 7217 by 31<sup>st</sup> March

### Another Woodside Park!

– an extract from another Woodside Park newsletter  
*Just as our Woodside Park is a neighborhood in a suburb of Washington, another Woodside Park is a suburb of London. Like our Woodside Park, London's Woodside Park was established in the 1920s as a real estate development of about 100 acres with no more than 8 houses per acre. The first houses were sold in 1931 – about 8 years later than the first of our Woodside Park's houses. During World War II, air raid shelters were built and a few of the houses were destroyed by bombs. Additional houses were built after the war as the area around Woodside Park became fully suburbanized.*

For more about Woodside Park, Washington, visit <http://users.starpower.net/oshel/>







# The Woodsider

May/June 2003

## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

Besides the battles in Iraq, there has also been the ongoing "Battle of Partingdale Lane". Due to the rather more important battles elsewhere in the world, the Battle of Partingdale Lane never actually made the national headlines, although the seemingly biased local press have no hesitation in filling their paper with much pro-closure propaganda. It seems strange to me that, despite the wishes of the vast majority of people, the road still cannot be re-opened.

Our Councillor, Brian Coleman, has been woefully maligned and misrepresented for his dealings with Partingdale Lane. Consequently, a few people have been able to block the democratic process. We masses need to rise up and let our views be known. It seems unlikely that the American army will rescue us (or the British Army for that matter) and we therefore need to openly support Messrs Coleman and Co., whose grenades and rocket launchers appear to have been temporarily removed by the courts whilst snipers in Partingdale Lane continue to take pot shots at them.

Since the last newsletter, we have been researching the astronomical Council tax rise and whilst I still think that there is good deal of wastage (and overpayment of executives) within the Council, it does seem that the rises have mostly been due to outside pressures from the GLA and similar bodies who have all demanded increased revenues. Conversely (or perhaps perversely) the Central Government grant has been reduced because of an apparent decline in the population within the Borough, highlighted by the 2001 census. On the basis that we do not live in Iraq, I find it very difficult to believe that 30,000 people have just "disappeared" in the past decade, especially as the number of dwellings has increased. I reach the inevitable conclusion that the census must be wrong. Westminster Council somehow managed to misplace 64,000 residents and has suffered a similar experience to Barnet. However, Westminster say the census understates their population because thousands of their missing residents never received census forms or were incapable of filling out the forms. Did this happen in Barnet as well?

The Cheese and Wine Party was a success but it would have been more rewarding to have seen a few more new faces. Our thanks go to the Old Finchleas who allowed us to use their premises free of charge. Do attend the AGM and put 2<sup>nd</sup> June in your diary. The AGM should last ten minutes and, afterwards, you will then have an opportunity to put profound (and possibly deeply disturbing) questions to Councillors and Council representatives.

Marilyn Kendall and Therese Jones have retired from the Committee. We thank them for their past efforts and we wish them both well. Dr Estelle Phillips has joined us and we are seeking further members. If you would like to help, please contact us.

Have an enjoyable summer - plant a shrub, if it's no trouble. Please help to keep our Suburb green.

*Robert Shuttle*

**Bring your questions !**

to the Association's

**Annual General Meeting and**

**Woodside Park Forum**

- for answers from

**Ward Councillors, Frith Manor School's Head Teacher**

and representatives of the **Metropolitan Police**

on

**Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

at

**7.30pm**

at

**Frith Manor School**

## Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

Partingdale Lane aside, the Council has been dealing with a wide agenda in the last few weeks. The Council agreed amendments to the Council Constitution which means that full Council meets monthly (rather than 6 weekly) and will include questions to Cabinet Members; and the Council Policy Conference, which had no executive powers and was considered by many Councillors just a talking shop, is scrapped. There are no changes proposed at the moment to Area Forums.

The Cabinet have agreed a new graffiti policy that increases the areas in which free removal is offered to private landowners and guarantees 48-hour removal in town centres.

CCTV cameras are now operational in East Barnet and Hampden Square.

The Council, in conjunction with Enfield, is taking Transport for London to judicial review over the abandonment of the previously agreed North Circular Road schemes.

The Cabinet have agreed a "loan" scheme to help schools with this year's difficult budget. However, teacher redundancies are still likely. The Secretary of State, due to the borough's "exceptional difficulties", has agreed this - and yet when we asked for more funding to cover "exceptional difficulties", we were refused.

## Funding Approved for Frith Manor School

Funding has been approved for the rebuilding of Frith Manor School and the designs are well under way. At long last the outdated huts will be replaced by modern buildings in which to provide the children with the latest facilities and technology. The new school buildings will include a nursery and a new dining hall and kitchen. Facilities are also to be made available to the community. Construction will be in two phases with the first phase beginning in July.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to build a new school with wonderful facilities to support not only the learning of children aged three to eleven, but also with the potential to support on-going learning of all in our community," said headteacher Reg Herring. "Frith Manor is keen to involve all interested parties in the planning stages of our new community school: pupils, parents, staff, and of course, local residents. The changes that are about to take place at Frith Manor will affect many generations of Woodside Park residents for years to come."

A representative from the architectural team will make a short presentation and answer questions at the Woodside Park Forum on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

## Cheese and wine evening

All who came found the cheese and wine evening held in March to be an enjoyable occasion, but attendance was down. £137 was raised for the North London Hospice by a raffle of prizes donated by Sussex Ring shopkeepers. The next evening is being planned for September.

## Pavement repairs

Repairs to the pavements in Saddlescombe Way and Walmington Fold have been carried over from the 2002/2003 programme and are now in the 2003/2004 programme.

## Summer Fayre 17<sup>th</sup> May

The 11<sup>th</sup> Finchley Scout Group and the 7<sup>th</sup> North Finchley Brownies are holding this year's summer fair at the Woodside Park Club on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 4.00 pm.

Besides face painting, games, tombola, a bouncy castle, a barbeque, ice cream, candyfloss and all the other usual attractions, there will be a roundabout and a lunar slide.

Admission is only 50p.

## Partingdale Lane – a further delay

A judge has ruled the re-opening of Partingdale Lane to have been unlawful because Councillor Coleman did not have an open mind on the matter. Other accusations of procedural impropriety were rejected. The judge appeared not to have taken account of the Association's petition against the original closure, nor of the fact that users had not been consulted before the road was closed.

The Council have decided to challenge the implied restriction upon the implementation of election promises by lodging an appeal.

## Censored!

We sent this to the Hendon and Finchley Times (without the bold type and underlining)

*Mel Simpson seems to believe that the petition by Woodside Park residents was considered before Partingdale Lane was closed ('Lane closure resulted in fewer accidents', Letters April 24). In fact the Lane was closed without consulting any of them.*

*The consultations between the Council and the Partingdale Lane residents to which he refers, established that the Lane's accident record did not meet the Council's criteria for expenditure on safety measures. **The London Accident Analysis Unit's records show that in the seven years before the Lane was closed there were only three casualties caused by accidents there. No pedestrians were involved and there were no serious injuries. This confirms the experience of the many Woodside Park residents who used the Lane regularly for decades without incident.***

*(In order to claim that there were 16 casualties, Mr Simpson had to add a number which occurred in Frith Lane and the Ridgeway, including accidents having no connection with Partingdale Lane.)*

*Accidents in the surrounding area may have fallen since the Lane was closed (depending how "the surrounding area" is selected), but there is no evidence to justify Mr Simpson's claim that the reduction resulted from the closure.*

*By any objective measure Partingdale Lane has a better safety record than many of the borough's other roads - many of whose residents would also welcome their closure.*

They printed it without the underlined passage! What can we say?.

## Election of the committee – nominations please

The Association's committee for the year 2003/4 is to be elected at the AGM on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nominations for the posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and committee members must reach the Secretary at 15 Chanctonbury Way before that date. Each nomination should contain the signatures of two proposers and the nominee.

Our membership survey is in progress *Why not make a note of your priorities now?*

Benches  Builders  Buses  Car parks  Children's playground  Consultations  Crime  Dog fouling  Extensions  Footpaths  Graffiti  Grass verges  Litter  Parking  Paths in the park  Pavements  Planning applications  Police response times  Pollution  Road safety  Road surfaces  Street cleaning  Tennis courts  Traffic  Vandalism







www.thisiswoodsidepark.org.uk

# The Woodsider

July/August 2003

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

For your diary  
the next  
**CHEESE  
AND WINE  
EVENING**  
is at 7.30pm on  
**Tuesday  
16<sup>th</sup> September**  
at  
The Old Finchleas  
Club, Southover.

We were pleased to see the high attendance for the AGM and Forum and thank you to everyone who attended. Assertive and, indeed, somewhat tricky questions were thrown at the Forum's guests covering a multitude of items - but high on most people's agenda was Partingdale Lane which is covered elsewhere in this newsletter. We were also advised about the new plans for Frith Manor School which, regrettably, did not include a child drop-off zone.

Surprisingly, other than a few side remarks, no-one mentioned the hike in Council Tax and, as seems to be the way of things, we all seem to have meekly accepted the rise as inevitable, shrugged our shoulders and moved on to greater things. Did you realise that something like 75% of earned income disappears in tax in some form or the other. We are being taxed from all directions these days and I wonder how long we are just going to sit back and let it happen.

One issue, raised at the Forum, related to early morning refuse collections. Many of us now receive three collections a week, one for house refuse, one for garden refuse and

one for recycling. This would have been unheard of a year ago and we ought to congratulate the Council on this service.

However, the collections seem to start at about 7am and, when you couple this with low-flying aircraft, police sirens, car alarms, burglar alarms, fireworks, etc., trying to have a decent night's sleep these days seems to be impossible. The noise of aircraft is particularly disturbing. They seem to fly at night until about 2am and start again just after 5am. The government is talking about increasing the number of runways in London thus causing even more aircraft movement. Sometimes, I look up and see all of these aircraft zig-zagging across the sky (which has been remarkably blue lately). They seem to be so close to each other.

Tag-merchants have scrawled more graffiti just recently. An eagle-eyed Association member actually caught the culprits on camera and our congratulations to him for being so alert. More about this overleaf.

Oh well! Summer's here. Let's enjoy it while we can. I hope to see you at the Cheese and Wine Evening on 16<sup>th</sup> September. Please put it in your diary.

### Partingdale Lane: - the Times denies bias

Its Group Editor does not consider that the Hendon and Finchley Times gave the appearance of bias when, for example, it described Partingdale Lane as a "rat run", nor when it said that "another more serious accident is only a matter of time away". He says that the former is a fact and that the latter was only a comment on the Council's road safety policy; and that the only issue they had ever taken an editorial line on in relation to Partingdale Lane was the council's role in relation both to the democratic process and road safety issues. He complains that the Woodsider has made a one-sided assault on his newspaper's reputation.

### Partingdale Lane: - a resident's description

*"Partingdale Lane is a pleasant country lane a little over-half a mile long, bordered by fields and woods along part of its length.. It is in the Green Belt. Along other parts of the lane there are houses. The houses are built on the edge of the road and we step from our houses into the lane..."*

Witness statement to the Court by Mel Simpson in Partingdale Residents' Association v Barnet Council

### Partingdale Lane: - now have your say!

**When you get a consultation letter asking you whether you want Partingdale Lane re-opened, please -**

**TELL THEM  
WHAT YOU  
THINK!**

### Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

The Council met in June with Councillor Melvin Cohen in the chair as Mayor of the borough and discussed the issue of the shortfall of school budgets. The Government finally admitting that the borough has "passport" all the money it was given on to schools, the problem rests in Government under-funding, which they may correct next year. The secondary schools which have budget difficulties include Copthall, St James Colindale and East Barnet.

The cabinet has agreed the largest-ever public consultation exercise over the future of the site of Park House in East Finchley where Waitrose wish to build a new supermarket and public library. Residents may be interested to know that the road on which the new Waitrose in Mill Hill is situated in "Langstone Way" is named after the late Cllr Barbara Langstone, a popular local figure.

The Council has granted planning permission for the new Frith Manor School (including a nursery) and work should begin in the late summer. The new Controlled Parking Zones in North Finchley and Church End have come into operation and the Council will monitor any effects on Woodside Park. Discussions on the future of Darlands nature reserve continue, with no final decisions having been taken. Finally, in a colourful ceremony and parade at the Town Hall, the borough formally adopted the sea cadet unit TS Broadsword in recognition of all they do to organise remembrance ceremonies..

### A record Woodside Park Forum

Following the AGM and a presentation on the rebuilding of the school, this year's Forum was a lively event attended by over 80 members. On the panel were **Councillor Victor Lyon** (Ward Councillor and Council Leader), **Chief Superintendent Sue Akers** (Barnet Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police), **Councillor Brian Coleman** (GLA and Ward Councillor), **Reginald Herring** (Head Teacher, Frith Manor School), **Inspector Tony Scott** (Head of Barnet North Sector, Metropolitan Police), **Steve Presland** (Head of Environmental and Neighbourhood Services), and **Sara Lord** (Neighbourhood Management Coordinator, Chipping Barnet). There were questions on Partingdale Lane, police resources, graffiti, school admissions, speeding, litter, recycling boxes, parking on grass verges and the closure of the gate at the end of Walmington Fold.

Members present demonstrated a near-unanimous wish for the early re-opening of Partingdale Lane. The Council's withdrawal of its appeal against the court order closing the lane would enable a new consultation to be conducted in the near future, which would cover a wide area of Totteridge and Mill Hill, including all of Woodside Park. The prospect for re-opening would depend upon the response to that consultation.

Barnet had not gained any additional police officers

from this year's allocation, but seven Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) had been recruited and it was intended to raise that number to 30 by the end of the year. (PCSOs wear different uniforms from police officers, and have more limited powers.) They would work closely with police officers and neighbourhood wardens. The CCTV cameras at Tally-ho had scored some success against graffiti vandals and a mobile CCTV unit was shortly to come into service. Further action was to be taken against local graffiti perpetrators. A new Beat Officer would shortly be appointed following the posting of PC Gavin Philp.

It is intended that places will be available in September at Frith Manor School for all children for whom applications are made by parents living in the Suburb. Discussions were continuing about the introduction of a walking bus to escort children to the school, with pick-up points at Sussex Ring and Cissbury Ring.

Consultation letters were to be issued concerning proposals to place small posts to discourage parking on the grass verges in parts of Chanctonbury Way, and there would be a joint approach to the golf course management by Council and Association officers concerning the gate at the end of Walmington Fold.

### The AGM

After the Chairman's review of the year, the Treasurer reported a record subscription total of £722, bringing the surplus for the year to £193 and leaving a balance of £834. The main outgoings had been a net loss of £91 on the cheese and wine evening, and £185 spent on the Christmas tree and its insurance. Robert Shutler was re-elected Chairman, and Nick Gardner and Fred Westphal were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer. Following the resignations of Marilyn Kendall and Therese Jones and the co-option of Estelle Phillips, the other members of the committee were confirmed as Stephen Coulson, Simon Goodwin, Elizabeth Kendle, Jonathan Ladipo, Estelle Phillips, John Robinson, Kiyotaka Suzuki and Jacqueline Weiner.

### Extensions

Extensions are planned at these addresses:  
2 Linkside, 16 Chanctonbury Way, 41 Chanctonbury Way, 25 Saddlescombe Way, 16 Wolstonbury, 17 Wolstonbury, 80 Lullington Garth.

### Caught!

A recent TV programme showed how police achieved a high number of arrests when residents helped them by collecting photographic evidence of the youths in question. A Woodside Park resident has recently photographed a youth adding graffiti to a wall in the suburb and also a youth who is one of those who has been riding a scooter through Riverside walk and across local roads with the number plate covered up. In the first case the police arrested the youth in question. In the second case the youth has been excluded from school pending further enquiries.

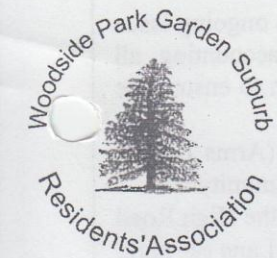
### Drivers wanted

The Union Church urgently needs drivers to take members of its Stroke Club to and from its meetings on Wednesday afternoons – a distance of up to 2 miles. If you can help, please ring Bill Leyland on 8445 7163.

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# The Woodsider

September/October 2003

## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

High summer temperatures and balmy evenings have turned the grass brown but fortunately we seemed to have avoided water shortages this year and for this we should perhaps be grateful. And, as the new building known as the Tallyho Artsdepot becomes a huge blot on the landscape and snarls up the traffic, let us hope that the autumn will be equally warm and that this carbuncle (to quote Prince Charles) has some decent form of external cladding which will make it appear somewhat less ugly than at present.

Whilst on the subject of blots on landscapes, the Association has submitted an objection on your behalf to a planning application by T-Mobile to install a 12m high telephone mast outside 14-17 Sussex Ring to serve the new 3G networks. To some extent, I do not object to the mast itself which appears fairly similar to a lamp-post except for the three aerials on top. It is the large equipment cabinet which accompanies the base of the mast that I find rather difficult to swallow. These things are needed if we are to progress in this world and improve communications still further. The vast majority of us do, after all, use mobile phones these days although I do not suppose that many of us have yet moved onto the new 3G system where the new phone does just about everything except water the garden. There is, of course, the question of microwaves, etc. about which I am not qualified to comment. Objections or letters of support can be sent to the Council, ref: N13830/03.

People in Folkington Corner who complained to me about the state of the road and pavement will, I hope, be pleased to see that something is being done at last. We applied a little pressure on the Council and it seems to have worked.

The summer months brought the usual spate of graffiti, yobs and itinerants. Most disturbing, was the appearance of a rather scruffy vagrant down by Riverside Brook who hung around the children's play area and hid in the bushes. Despite protestations to the police and the Council about this person, the authorities have been unable to finally resolve the matter. Unfortunately, the man's appearance and demeanour make him seem rather menacing, although he may be quite harmless. It seems strange to me however that we have to wait until he does something awful (which he may not of course) before any action is taken. Allowing people to sleep in the streets and to mix with the community as a whole is a matter which needs careful re-consideration by the authorities.

We look forward to seeing you at the Cheese and Wine on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

*Robert Shutter*

come to our friendly

## CHEESE AND WINE EVENING

at the



## Old Finchleans Clubhouse (Southover)

Starting at

7.30pm

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September

Admission (members only) £3 (including cheese and wine)

## The Partingdale Lane Consultation

Following last April's High Court decision, a further consultation concerning the future of Partingdale Lane is to be conducted this Autumn. Its results are to be reported to Barnet's Cabinet next January and it is expected that a decision will then be taken. The scope and form of the consultation are still under discussion between the Council and the consultants who have been engaged to carry it out. Early indications are that a wide area of Totteridge and Mill Hill will be covered, and our guess is that a range of options will be included. The launch of the consultation may be expected to prompt a resumption of a media lobby organised by Mr Simpson and his Resident's Association.

## Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

Several issues have occupied the mind of the members of the Council's Cabinet in recent months including the ongoing issue of schools funding. No more money has been forthcoming from the Government and with some imaginative accounting, all but two secondary schools have agreed budgets for the current year with the Council and action is being taken to ensure the remaining two do so soon.

The Government has agreed that all our Council housing should be vested in a so-called ALAMO (Arms Length Management Organisation.), the Board of which will include Councillors, tenants and representatives of the community.

Those of you who are regular shoppers at North Finchley will have noticed that the pelican crossing on the High Road near the junction of Lodge Lane has been restored to its original position to improve access and egress to Lodge Lane car park. The dangerous cycle lane on the pavement has also been removed.

To coincide with the start of the autumn term and the introduction of "walking buses" and other measures under the Council's *Safe Routes to School* programme, new waiting restrictions will come into force around Frith Manor School, aimed at reducing congestion and encouraging more children to walk to school.

### Kidz Conga - A new bus service for Woodside Park

There will be a new bus service operating on weekdays in Woodside Park beginning this autumn. The bus will be non-polluting, won't take up precious space on our already crowded roads and won't even charge its passengers!

The 'Kidz Conga', Frith Manor's walking bus is due to debut by early October. Parent volunteers have been police checked and trained by Local Authority officials before beginning their new healthy method of transporting school children to Frith Manor School. The initial Kidz Conga will travel the ½ mile route from Sussex Ring up Lullington Garth to the school. Children registered for the walking bus can be taken to the meeting point at Sussex Ring where they can be checked in with a volunteer, so avoiding the need for them to be taken to the school by car.

Children on the Kidz Conga will be able to develop their road safety skills, improve physical fitness and arrive alert and on time to start their school day. Various incentives will be offered to the children including baseball caps and certificates awarded in assembly.

Parking spaces outside Frith Manor School will be at an even greater premium this autumn as the Council's experimental parking restrictions come into force. As a result of complaints by the bus company and the emergency services over badly parked cars outside the school, new parking restrictions will be in force between 8 and 9.30 am and 2 to 4 pm every weekday beginning this autumn.

It looks like the new walking bus couldn't have come at a better time. Good luck to the Frith Manor Kidz Conga!

### Graffiti Kit

The Association has been given a graffiti kit by Barnet Council, to enable us to help anyone who has had problems with graffiti. Between us, we should be able to clean it up.

Contact the Treasurer, Frederick Westphal on 020 8343 7201 or email [fandkwestphal@ntlworld.com](mailto:fandkwestphal@ntlworld.com).

### Link Carers wanted

The Council's *Barnet Link Scheme* provides disabled children or young people and their families with regular short breaks by linking a child with a local person. Most children enjoy visiting friends and benefit from experiencing different environments and situations. Those are things that disabled children often can't do.

If you could welcome a child into your home or would enjoy taking a child out, you may be able to help. The Council are looking for people who can regularly offer a few hours, a weekend or longer. You can find out more from Robyn Verney on 8359 4249

### Members' emails

The secretary has a list of members' email addresses which he uses occasionally for urgent messages. If you wish your address to be added or deleted, please let him know at [NickKGardner@aol.com](mailto:NickKGardner@aol.com)

### Staywarm

If you are over 60 and worried about ever-increasing gas and electricity bills, then contact Staywarm on freephone 0800 479 0125. They will give you a quotation for a combined monthly price for gas and electricity that does not change throughout the period of your contract, irrespective of how much is used, based on the number of people and the amount of bedrooms in the house. The cheapest method of payment is by a monthly direct debit through your bank. You can also get a quote if you log on to Staywarm's internet site ([www.staywarm.co.uk](http://www.staywarm.co.uk)). In fact, you may get a slightly cheaper quote this way. Give them a call, it could save you money. (More from Frederick Westphal on 020 8343 7201 or email [fandkwestphal@ntlworld.com](mailto:fandkwestphal@ntlworld.com)).

### Caught In The Act

Once again, due to the vigilance of some of our local residents, local youths were recently caught smashing the windows of the phone box on Sussex Ring. The Police were called and arrests were made. Thank you and *well done* to those residents.

### Local Talent

Please let the editor know if you are a member who offers a service to fellow-woodsiders  
Peter Butler is a carpenter  
tel 07944 720 637

Peter Mansi is a general handyman  
tel 07950 465718

Theresa arranges group theatre bookings  
tel 8346 7217

Maria arranges antique furniture restoration  
tel 07976 633083

### Extensions

Extensions are planned at these addresses:  
4 Singleton Scarp, 16 Wolstonbury  
80 Lullington Garth, 39 Chanctonbury Way  
41 Chanctonbury Way





## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

The latest “spin” to emanate from the corridors of power is that the boroughs of Barnet, Haringey, Enfield and Waltham Forest might be joined together to make a borough larger than Birmingham. There was talk that Barnet would be joined to Camden. It seems that, if Mayor Livingstone has his way, Barnet will actually disappear. What would the new borough be called? Bargeyfield Forest? Or, maybe, just plain Bhewf! Suggestions on a post-card, please. More importantly, the little pressure that we can apply on the Council, which relates to our area, would be lost in a borough of more than a million people.

Would the new “Superborough” have cared two hoots about the mast in Sussex Ring? I wonder. At least Barnet Council have refused the application for the telecommunications mast but I doubt that this is the end of the matter. It will probably go to appeal and be dealt with by someone serving the Government. We all know where their loyalties lie – with the big companies and the fortune they have collected from the new multi-million pound contracts for the airwaves.

Rumours abound about a new wealth tax to be imposed on us all. If this is similar to the French tax, we will all be taxed on an annual basis on a percentage of our total wealth. This is in addition to the normal taxes, income tax, NHI, VAT, purchase tax, Council tax, inheritance tax, etc. I would not mind so much if I did not see the money we pay in tax being frittered away by all of these logically-minded politicians, not just in local government but in mainstream government as well. The paradox is that whilst all of the expenditure is supposed to be transparent, no-one seems to know where the money really goes because the figures are massaged with bureaucratic gobbledegook.

And so, loads of money is wasted on fruitless wars, weapons of mass destruction (for our protection of course), unreserved torrents of bureaucracy and ancillary nonsense but no money can be found to secure a comfortable place for our poor local vagrant to reside. How sad it is that we have reached these depths.

## The 2003 Membership Survey

This year, committee members called on each of the 859 houses in the suburb and spoke to members of 86% of their households (the other houses were empty or their residents were out). Subscriptions were collected from 94% of the households that were contacted – bringing in a total of £629. Asked what topics the Association should tackle in the coming year, there were replies from 28% of households. Of those who replied, 46% said they wanted Partingdale Lane re-opened (as compared with 0.2% who said they wanted it kept closed); 15% wanted less graffiti; 14% wanted less litter; and 11% wanted something done about dog fouling. The remainder of those who replied were mainly concerned about crime, traffic safety, the tennis courts, or the condition of the roads and pavements.

Please contact Nick Gardner on 8922 0847 or [NickKGardner@aol.com](mailto:NickKGardner@aol.com) if you were out or if you have anything to add.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

come and join us  
at our annual



## Carol Singing

at  
4.30pm  
on  
Saturday 20th  
December  
at  
Sussex Ring

Free refreshments

Please bring your  
children



## Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

The October meeting of the Council considered a number of matters including recycling, where the Council welcomed the improved rates being achieved in Barnet (16% of domestic waste) but urged residents to greater efforts so that the Government targets (18% in the current year) can be achieved. The Council also heard an announcement on the creation of over 200 new nursery school places (including Frith Manor) and welcomed the opening that afternoon of the extension to Moss Hall Nursery School.

The Council also endorsed the Community Plan (not to be confused with the Council's own Corporate plan!) produced by the Civic Forum and covering many of the same issues, including fear of crime and clean streets. The Council also heard an emergency statement from the Leader (Cllr Lyon) on the actions the Council was taking to alleviate problems caused by the Camden Town derailment.

Contrary to some stories in the local press, the Borough Police Commander and the Council are at one on the introduction of an alcohol-free zone in North Finchley, and the experimental zone should be in operation before Christmas.

### No Mast at Sussex Ring?

The Council has refused the application to install a mast and consul at Sussex Ring on the grounds that *The proposal by reason of its size, height and siting would be visually intrusive and detrimental to the appearance of the street scene.*

Our thanks to residents who supported the Association's opposition to the application by writing to the Council. We are told that individual letters have more influence than petitions – if there are enough on them. Attendance at planning committee meetings is probably even more effective, but was not necessary this time because the application was dealt with by officers, using the powers delegated to them by the Council. We do not yet know whether Marconi plan to appeal against the decision.

### Extensions without tears

If you are planning an extension, please remember the Association's code of practice:-

- pave over no more of the front garden than is necessary to avoid regular street parking;
- preserve or replace trees and shrubs;
- discourage the use of pavements and front gardens for the storage of building materials and tools;
- urge contractors to control their activities so as to avoid the unnecessary escape of dust and debris;
- monitor the dumping of materials and the parking of contractors' vehicles so as to preserve access by neighbours and passers-by;
- stop contractors parking vehicles or dumping equipment or materials on grass verges.

Copies of the Association's booklet *Extensions – an outline guide*. are available from the editor, price 50p.

### Slow Down!

The bollard and speed tables outside Frith Manor School have been removed to give better access to contractors' vehicles during the school rebuilding. When the rebuilding is finished, there will be a review of the case for traffic-calming measures. In the meantime, *vehicle-activated signs* are to be installed in Lullington Garth. They will flash *Slow Down!* warnings at motorists who exceed the speed limit.

### Whose will be the best-kept front garden in 2004?

A Woodsider prize is being planned for its owner. Watch this space!

### Extensions in the pipeline

Extensions or alterations are being planned at:  
42 Walmington Fold, 27 Chanctonbury Way, 4 Pyecombe Corner, 39 Chanctonbury Way, and 56 Lullington Garth.

### The Conga walks!

The Frith Manor School Kidz Conga Club is now up and walking every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning, led by trained parent volunteers - one for every six children. After registering and collecting their armbands and reflective jackets at Blakes Dry Cleaners, a group of at least 15 children walk the half-mile route from Sussex Ring to the School.

At a school assembly on 21st October, they were delighted to be rewarded with goody bags, containing – for those who had completed ten walks - a bright orange Kidz Conga baseball cap, a badge, a balloon, a pencil and a voucher from the International Supermarket.

The Kidz Conga Club ask us to thank Blakes and the International Supermarket for their support. Their thanks also go to those residents who give supportive waves and words of encouragement in the mornings.

Applications to join the Conga can be collected from the School office. For more information call Jaimie Meagor, the borough's Walking Bus Organiser on 8359 4662.

### Cheese and wine and good company

All who came found September's cheese and wine evening to be a lively and enjoyable occasion, but attendance was again down. Welcome guests included Councillors Victor Lyon and Brian Coleman. £110 was raised for the North London Hospice by a raffle of prizes donated by committee members and Sussex Ring shopkeepers.

### Support the Hospice

The North London Hospice is holding a *Gift Fair* on 20<sup>th</sup> November at 10am to 5pm There will be 15 stalls selling gifts, collectables, toys etc. This year's *Light up a Life* ceremony will on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 4:30pm. Call 8446 2288 to sponsor a bulb in memory or in honour of somebody special.

### A Woodsider Special

The Partingdale Lane consultation has been postponed until December or January. When it is announced, you will be getting a copy of a Woodsider *Partingdale Special*, giving you a reminder of the issues involved

### Trick or treat?

A resident writes:  
*We think that "trick or treat" threats by local 8-9-year-olds should be a matter of concern to their parents. We rewarded the first group that called this year - out of fun, not because they made threatening remarks - but when we refused a second group, they retaliated by pouring flour on our doorstep and path. (name and address supplied)*