Summer in Bloom

We all enjoyed this colourful group creation by residents at a recent art class run by Creative Mojo at Wilmot Close.
Major Works

As part of our planned maintenance programme, works are currently taking place at Homefield Gardens which involve significant repairs to the roofs and the replacement of windows and doors at flats 40 – 88. MNM are the contractors who, having met with residents in the early stages, are continuing to provide a friendly and efficient level of work. A resident liaison officer from MNM is available to help and support residents when required. Additionally, pathways leading up to the entrance doors at Pewterers Court are soon to be resurfaced in the same style as those at Wilmot and Thackrah Close.

Staffing Update

A belated but warm welcome to Geraldine Fox, administrator, in the main office who has been with us since the end of May. Also welcome to John Everett, interim property services manager, who started at the end of July and whom some of you will have met as he gets to know our various sites. Finally, after almost two years with The Finchley Charities, Adam Alive will be leaving at the end of August and handing over to the new office manager, Jason Green, during his last week. We wish them both well.

Parking

All residents are reminded that guests – whether relatives or friends – are not allowed to park on The Finchley Charities’ car parks. We are also aware that non-residents may be parking at Wilmot and Thackrah Close over the weekends and ask that residents give their sheltered housing officers details of non-resident vehicles on site.
Summer Party

This year’s Summer Party was a great success with the rain holding off for the evening and all enjoying the BBQ, entertainment and dancing. Here’s a few pictures taken when the night was still young…

![Summer Party](image1)

![Summer Party](image2)

![Summer Party](image3)

![Summer Party](image4)

Diary Dates cont...

**Wilmot & Thackrah**

- **Every Monday at 10.30am**
  - Coffee Morning
- **Every Tuesday at 10.30am**
  - Zumba Gold (exercise), £3.00 per session
- **First Tuesday of each month**
  - Bingo @ 2.00pm
- **Every Wednesday at 2.00pm**
  - Computer Club
- **Every Thursday at 2.00pm**
  - Bridge Club
- **Every Friday at 11.00am**
  - Tai Chi
- **Every Friday at 2.00pm**
  - Gardening Club
- **Monday 2nd Sep @10.30am**
  - Bacon Rolls
- **Friday 27th Sep @ 12.30pm**
  - Jacket Potato Lunch
- **Friday 25th October**
  - Cottage Pie Lunch

Open Day

The Finchley Charities will be holding an Open Day on Wednesday 2nd October at Wilmot Close. Please see notice boards for further details.

Polite Reminders

**Rubbish:** Please only put items that actually fit into the bin, into the bin… and please don’t leave rubbish by recycling bins. For larger items you must arrange a collection with the council.

**Careline:** Please remember that if Careline is activated by accident (by smoke or through other actions), please speak to the operative to ensure the emergency services are not called out for a false alarm.
Late August, given heavy rain
and sun
For a full week, the blackberries
would ripen.
At first, just one, a glossy purple clot
Among others, red, green, hard as
a knot.
You ate that first one and its flesh
was sweet
Like thickened wine: summer's
blood was in it
Leaving stains upon the tongue and
lust for
Picking. Then red ones inked up and
that hunger

Sent us out with milk cans, pea tins,
jam-pots
Where briars scratched and wet
grass bleached our boots.
Round hayfields, cornfields and
potato-drills
We trekked and picked until the
cans were full,
Until the tinkling bottom had been
covered
With green ones, and on top big
dark blobs burned
Like a plate of eyes. Our hands were
peppered
With thorn pricks, our palms sticky
as Bluebeard's.

We hoarded the fresh berries in
the byre.
But when the bath was filled we
found a fur,
A rat-grey fungus, glutting on
our cache.
The juice was stinking too. Once
off the bush
The fruit fermented, the sweet flesh
would turn sour.
I always felt like crying. It wasn't fair
That all the lovely canfuls smelt
of rot.
Each year I hoped they'd keep,
knew they would not.

Do people still pick blackberries these
days? The following is for anyone who
did as a child and perhaps still does…

Blackberry-Picking
By Seamus Heaney (1939 – 2013)
Widely recognised as one of the major poets of the
20th century, Heaney, a native of Northern Ireland, was
raised in County Derry and lived for many years
in Dublin.

Community Events

Barnet Classic
Car Show
Commencing at 11.00am
with a parade of about 40
classic cars along Barnet High
Street after which the cars
will park on the top floor of
The Spires NCP car park (lift
access available). Music and
refreshments. Cars will vary
from a fabulous 1920s Bentley
to contemporary models
along with some vintage
motorcycles. The event is free
to all and suitable for all ages.

Burnt Oak Library Over-55s coffee with Age UK
(Mondays at 10:30am)
Coffee morning for over 55s
with Age UK. Contact Age UK
on 020 8432 1420 for more
information.