Hooray for 2021!

2021 is here. 2020 was an incredibly tough year for all of us and we hope with the Covid vaccination program underway, we can start to make plans and get our lives back to normal in the coming year.

It will be wonderful to see our friends and family, and be able to hug once again. There are a number of craft projects and activities we will be restarting when it is safe to do so. We will be in touch when we start to plan this year’s activities.

Free transport from Age UK and Uber

Uber are offering a free journey to the main vaccination centres up to the value of £15.00. Age UK are also offering free transport for these journeys, please contact your SHO for more information.

Your views matter

Please take a moment to complete the questionnaire we sent out to you in January 2021 from our Chairman, we have enclosed a copy in case you lost the original. Please return it to your SHO by 24th February 2021. Your opinions and views are important to us and will develop how we engage and communicate with you.

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Ready Steady, Census 2021 Is Almost Here

Census day is 21st March 2021 - all households in Barnet are going to be contacted and asked to take part in it.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

For the first time this year some focus will be given to residents completing the Census online. At the start of March all households will be sent a letter that gives an access code, this will allow people to log on and complete the questionnaire on either their computers or smartphones. Don’t be put off by this though there will also be a telephone number for you to call if you would prefer to be sent a paper copy.

A successful census will ensure services and funding is given to areas where they are most needed. This includes things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and hospitals. Barnet already has one of the largest populations in London and it is expected to continue to grow to almost half a million by 2030. That is why it is more important than ever everyone takes part and makes sure they are included.

Statistical results will be available within 12 months but be assured - by law - all personal details will be locked away for 100 years; kept safe for future generations. For more information please visit: census.gov.uk

EU citizens and settled status after Brexit

An information sheet is available if this affects you. Please contact your SHO if you have any questions and would like an information sheet delivered to you.

Replacement Kitchens

MNM have been carrying out the kitchen replacement program, above is a happy resident in their new kitchen.
Calendar contributors

A huge thanks to all the residents who shared their arts and crafts for – The Finchley Charities 2021 Calendar. All entrants will be receiving a voucher or a mug with their work printed on it. Our trustees were very impressed with how talented our residents are. Chief Executive Susan Faridi had a wonderful time meeting everyone and talking about their pieces. If anyone would like a copy of the calendar for family and friends, it can be yours for a small donation of £3.50.

MNM Contractors Award

MNM Property Services – The Finchley Charities trusted contractor, won Contractor of the Year for the windows, doors and roof replacements at Homefield Gardens. This was in no small part thanks to the residents excellent feedback. MNM and staff worked really hard to ensure such a major project ran smoothly. The replacements have made such a difference to the residents in regards to light, warmth, security and noise.

Weekly Maintenance Contribution Increase 2021/22

TFC will be applying a small increase to your WMC from 5th April 2021. WMC will increase by 1.5% in line with the industry standard calculation of CPI (Consumer Prices Index) plus 1%. CPI in September 2020 was 0.5% so the total increase will be 1.5%. If your WMC is £200 per week, this would increase to £203. Individual letters will be distributed on 1st March and if you have any queries or concerns, the team will be available to support you.

Contractors Request

Our contractors have requested that residents wear a mask or keep 2m away, if an operative needs to enter their property. This is in line with government guideline’s and to keep everyone safe.
Competition Time

The Finchley Charities want to create a Resident, Trustee and Staff Cook Book. We are looking for your favourite recipe, how to cook it and photo of the end result. We can’t wait to see your entries.

Please send in your recipes by 17th March 2021, We will then collate the entries and produce our first cook book, we hope to have a testing party later in the year, when we can meet together safely.

Thank you MNM & Purdy’s

Thank you MNM & Purdy for providing the Christmas Raffle Prizes. Congratulations to all our winners.

New Community Garden for Archer Academy

The Archer Academy has been awarded £10,000 by the Grange Big Local to create a Community garden at the Lower school (Eagan's Close, N2). An area at the rear of the sports hall and a mounded area previously used for raised beds and the school allotment has been identified as the location. There will be a new access onto the footpath just over the bridge from Homefield Gardens through a gate wide enough to allow wheelchair and double buggy access. This will allow for community access at appropriate times.

The Archer are looking for local community members to get involved in building and planting the garden. If you are interested let the office know and we will pass on your details when the new project manager is appointed.

Big thank you

A big thank you to the sheltered housing officer for providing a lovely Christmas lunch for all residents who wanted one, it was lovely to see so many happy faces and messages of appreciation for a sterling job.