

# ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 12 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

SEPT 2019

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Volunteers from the Friends of Broomfield Park and Pymmes Brookers community groups were joined by local councillor Daniel Anderson (centre) to celebrate the opening of Broomfield Park Wetlands, a project to boost wildlife, reduce flood risk, and improve water quality in the nearby Pymmes Brook. It is supported by The Rivers Trust, Thames21 and Enfield Council, with funding provided by Coca-Cola Foundation. Photo Ana M. Wiggins

## Looming no-deal Brexit "puts thousands at risk"

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Preparations for a 'no-deal' Brexit are being stepped up by Enfield Council amid warnings that European Union (EU) citizens living in the borough could face "enormous problems".

The chances of the UK exiting the EU without an agreement have risen sharply since Boris Johnson became prime minister in July – despite previously claiming the odds were "a million to one" he admitted last month it was "touch and go".

To co-ordinate local preparations the council established a Brexit

panel last December and in March – before Brexit was postponed until 31st October – it produced a report identifying major risks to the borough; they included fuel and medicine shortages, disrupted supply chains and civil unrest. The panel comprises senior council officers alongside representatives from Citizens Advice Enfield, Metropolitan Police, Enterprise Enfield and London Fire Brigade. It is now meeting every fortnight and an updated 'risk register' is being compiled. Panel chairperson and council deputy leader Ian Barnes said: "I will ensure this council does

everything within its powers to safeguard Enfield's residents as much as possible."

The council has been given £315,000 from the government to assist Brexit preparations, with a key aim being to provide assistance for EU citizens wishing to remain in the UK. Any such person who has lived here for five years or more is entitled to obtain 'settled status' while other residents can obtain 'pre-settled status' that allows them to stay for five years, after which they must re-apply.

Nishan Dzvingozyan is an Enfield resident originally from Bulgaria who set up the Eastern European

Forum, representing 45 organisations. He says many of the borough's 26,000 EU citizens risk "losing everything" from a no-deal Brexit. "There is no legal framework to protect EU citizens after a no-deal Brexit, especially those who don't get settled status," Nishan told the *Dispatch*.

"Most Bulgarians have not managed to get settled status – only 40% in London have got it – so what does this mean for them? After no-deal they will have no rights, they will lose everything."

The government has maintained that the current 31st December 2020

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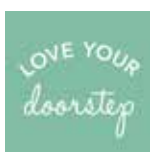
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## ► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

deadline for settled status applications will remain in event of a no-deal. But the fate of those who either fail to obtain settled status or have not yet made an application is uncertain.

Nishan said: "We [East European Forum] are being bombarded by phone calls from EU citizens saying they are already being asked about their immigration status – this should not be happening. It is going to create enormous problems.

"What will happen if they lose their rights to work and study in the UK? It is going to be a mess.

There is a lack of information. They need to be made aware of what they need to do. What if businesses in Enfield run by EU citizens have to close? What will be the impact on the local economy?"

Home Office statistics show around half of the borough's EU citizens have so far obtained settled status. Enfield Citizens Advice is running drop-in sessions at three borough libraries to help with the application process. Chief executive Jill Harrison said: "I would encourage any EU resident who hasn't yet applied to come to one of our drop-in sessions for the latest guidance. There's no need to make an appointment."

Cllr Barnes added: "I call on Boris Johnson to end this madness and stop the looming no-deal Brexit. In the meantime I urge EU citizens to safeguard themselves as much as possible."

**Drop-in sessions for EU citizens take place from 10am-4pm on Tuesdays at Edmonton Green Library, Wednesdays at Enfield Town Library and Fridays at Palmers Green Library.**

**For more information:**

**Visit** [citizensadviceenfield.org.uk/contact-us](http://citizensadviceenfield.org.uk/contact-us)

**For more information about Enfield Council's preparations for Brexit:**

**Visit** [new.enfield.gov.uk/services/your-council/enfield-and-brexit](http://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/your-council/enfield-and-brexit)

# Boost for Meridian Water homes



Sketch drawing of some of the new homes planned as part of Phase Two at Meridian Water

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

**M**eridian Water received a double boost after Enfield Council won £156million to spend on transport infrastructure – and submitted its own plans for 2,300 homes.

The £6billion housing scheme on disused industrial land in Edmonton has suffered a series of setbacks but the council now hopes the money awarded by the Department for Transport will be key to unlocking its potential.

New roads, environmental improvements and a high-frequency rail service at newly-opened Meridian Water Station are now set to be delivered by 2023. The cash from the government's Housing Infrastructure Fund will be spent on creating two new parks, cycle lanes, bridges and naturalised brooks, although the centrepiece will be an east-west "boulevard" linking Lee Valley Park with the station. Additional track will be laid to allow up to eight trains per hour to stop at Meridian Water.

Last year the council took over control of the whole project after

two big deals with developers went sour. Leader Nesil Caliskan said: "Enfield Council has invested more than £250m to drive this project forward. Since taking back control of Meridian Water, we have been ensuring residents will be the principal beneficiaries.

"This funding will allow us to forge ahead with providing improved infrastructure, including a more frequent train service, which is needed to support this incredible development. "The success of the bid reflects the fact that the government recognises the huge potential of Meridian Water."

News of the cash award came shortly after the council announced it was planning to build 2,300 homes at Meridian Water as part of Phase Two, with work on up to 1,000 homes in Phase One set to start this year.

A planning application for the creation of a "vibrant riverside community" is the largest ever submitted by the local authority and if approved would see at least 920 'affordable' homes built over the next decade – 40% of the total. It is being accompanied by a second

application for supporting infrastructure, including a primary school. A new green space called 'Brooks Park' would be created on the eastern bank of the Pymmes Brook.

However, a Labour councillor for Edmonton Green has criticised the council's plans, calling for more social housing to be included. Tolga Aramaz has helped launch a new campaign group called 'Meridian for Council Homes' which demands 100% of new homes built on council-owned land be for social rent.

Cllr Aramaz said: "The new homes will consist of 40% 'affordable' and 60% private sale. Those 'affordable' homes are made up of 70% at council rates and 30% at intermediate rates.

"It is my belief that public land should be used to address the housing crisis in the borough, with 4,500 people on the council waiting list and 3,500 in temporary accommodation. Only council homes can deal with this problem and that is what we need to prioritise."

Cllr Aramaz points out that of the 750 homes granted planning permission at Meridian Water to date, just 75 are for social rent.

## Late accounts

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

**E**nfield Council has been late finalising its accounts for a second year running – but says this will have "no effect" on residents. The council's group account was submitted late and there were also some mistakes on a summary of the incomings and outgoings which meant it had to be resubmitted.

The Conservative group's shadow cabinet member for finance, Lee David-Sanders, said: "The fact the council's companies accounts were late is alarming. The council needs to up its game on something as important as this."

The council blamed an early deadline. A spokesperson said: "The filing of accounts is largely an administrative process and has no effect on residents or the services provided to them. Local authorities nationally have been working to a much tighter deadline of 31st July compared to 30th September in the past, and the council is reviewing its overall approach to ensure the deadline is met in the future."

## Credit is due

**T**he number of people receiving Universal Credit (UC) in Enfield is the fifth-highest in London. Latest government figures show more than 16,000 people in the borough are now registered for the controversial new all-in-one benefit payments. UC was first introduced to Enfield in 2017 and with it now available in all job centres, the number of claimants is continuing to rise.

For more information about Universal Credit go to [understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk](http://understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk)

## Homes surveys

**E**nfield Council is asking for people's views as it develops two key strategies aimed at boosting housing supply and tackling homelessness and rough sleeping.

The strategies will seek to deliver "more and better homes in well-connected neighbourhoods" and "make homelessness prevention a priority for everyone so no-one in Enfield is left without a place to live".

To take part in the housing and homelessness surveys go to [enfield.gov.uk/consultations](http://enfield.gov.uk/consultations)



# Council forced to debate bin changes

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Residents opposed to the introduction of fortnightly bin collections in Enfield have successfully forced the council to schedule a debate on the issue.

Earlier this year a petition against the waste service changes was signed by more than 6,000 people, but was rejected by Enfield Council on a technicality – as the authority claimed not all signatories were local residents.

Undeterred, a campaigner launched a second petition, this time via the council's official e-petition system. Although it has not yet gained as many signatures as the original petition, it has passed the threshold

required to force councillors to debate the issue. Under council rules, if a petition is signed by more than 1% of the population – deemed to be 3,124 people – it must be debated at a full council meeting.

The council is planning to make both general waste and dry recycling bin collections fortnightly, charge £65 a year for garden waste collections, as well as introduce a weekly food waste collection. The changes are projected to save £2m, while an extra £500,000 will also be spent on street cleaning.

Palmer's Green resident Seraphim Leonidas launched the second petition against the bin changes. He said: "My hope and that of the many who supported this campaign is to get the council to revisit this dastardly scheme and reverse it."

"I can visualise more waste on our streets – more fly-tipping – and I may go as far as to suggest there will be 'bin wars'."

The new food waste service is due to start in November, while the fortnightly collections will start some time next year. This autumn the council is running a public information campaign to communicate the

changes to residents, which includes hosting a series of events around the borough where people can ask questions of its waste services team.

Guney Dogan, cabinet member for environment, said: "The scale of the central government funding cuts we continue to face mean we are having to make tough choices about how we deliver many of our services. Therefore, the overriding motivation for the change to waste services was to save money."

"However, we have viewed this as an opportunity to see what we can do to not only save money but redesign our services so they are fit for the future and drive up environmental standards and recycling levels across the borough."

"We have set a target of 49.55% recycling by 2020/21. Waste minimisation, education and behaviour change programmes will strengthen the success of the changes to our bin services, providing residents with the tools and information to make informed choices about what they throw away."

A council spokesperson said the bin collections debate was likely to take place on Wednesday 18th September.

***"My hope is to get the council to revisit this dastardly scheme and reverse it"***

## Tandem challenge



Mike Patston (front) and Alan Roe (behind) on their tandem bike in France

Two cyclists have raised more than £10,000 for charity by cycling across Europe – on a tandem bike.

Mike Patston from Bush Hill Park decided to team up on the tandem with friend Alan Roe for the epic three-stage ride, which they hope to complete later this month. Both cyclists have family members who have suffered with dementia and the pair are raising money for two charities; Alzheimer's Society and Insurance United Against Dementia.

They completed the first leg to Paris in July and Mike said: "There was 48C heat in France – it was brutal."

**To donate to Mike and Alan's fundraising campaign:**

Visit [justgiving.com/fundraising/alanmike-united-they-cycle](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/alanmike-united-they-cycle)



The Maze Inn as it looked shortly before its closure in 2016 – the whole building was demolished without permission this summer

Credit Ewan Munro/Flickr

## Pub demolitions probed by council

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council is taking legal action against the owners of a Southgate pub after it was demolished without permission – while another in Ponders End could face a similar fate.

The Maze Inn in Chase Side, dating from the 1930s and sitting within Southgate Circus Conservation Area, was unexpectedly demolished over the summer. Planning permission had been granted in 2015 to build a four-storey block of eight flats in its rear courtyard, but the front of the original pub building was supposed to be kept and restored.

Chris Horner, vice chair of Southgate District Civic Trust, told the *Dispatch*: "They had no

right to demolish it – this has come out of the blue and local residents were very surprised."

The Maze Inn had many previous names, including The Rising Sun and The Coach House, but it had not been open as a pub for four years and was most recently used for storing and selling Christmas trees. In 2016 the site was sold for £3m to Fio's Property Portfolio Ltd, but the *Dispatch* has been unable to contact the company for comment.

A council spokesperson said: "We are taking enforcement action with a view to a prosecution against the unlawful demolition but will not

be insisting that they rebuild the façade as was."

"They will also need a new planning application for redevelopment now and through this, they will need to demonstrate a quality approach to the replacement design."

On the other side of the borough, fears are growing over the fate of The Boundary House, a derelict 19th Century pub in Ponders End High Street.

A planning application to convert the building into a shop with six flats was refused in 2017, while another application for its demolition and replacement with a

five-storey block of flats is awaiting decision by the council. Despite no planning permission yet being granted for redevelopment of The Boundary House, its rear extension was recently demolished.

However, a council spokesperson said the local authority was not currently pursuing enforcement action in this case. They said: "We are aware of the rear extension [demolition] and contractors are working on the inside of the property to strip and make good any defects."

"Enforcement officers continue to monitor the situation but there is currently no breach of planning control. Another application related to the redevelopment of the site is pending a decision."

***"They had no right to demolish it"***





Residents celebrate their community at a summer street party held in the Hydeside neighbourhood of Edmonton

## The 'United Nations' neighbourhood

*An Edmonton resident on how her neighbourhood has maintained a healthy community spirit*

BY AMARI BLAIZE

Every summer the Hydeside neighbourhood, comprised of three roads in Edmonton, holds its annual street party in celebration of the local community. This tradition began five years ago when a charity, Street Play, put up the funds for the first event to focus on encouraging children to play safely outside. Since then it has become an annual event and this summer, for the second successive year, Edmonton MP Kate Osamor joined in the fun.

Whether residents are young or old, nearly everyone participates in the preparations. Iliana makes her 'marshmallow rice krispy' snacks, while Michael and Geoffrey take care of the barbecue sausages, burgers and chicken. Then there's the indefatigable Geraldine, who makes the whole event possible.

With only one way in and out of this particular neighbourhood, it is the epitome of a close-knit com-

munity. Sure, we have had crimes, but we look out for one another. People tend to live here for decades. Helen has lived here for over 50 years and refuses to move despite entreaties from her adult children. She says she feels safe and everyone is friendly.

"It's a wonderful thing when the immediate community can come together and share their cultural

cascades into my garden (shush don't tell him!).

You could call Hydeside a 'mini United Nations' – a beautiful representation of the vibrant multicultural heart of London. There are people living here with ancestral links to Turkey, Ireland, Africa, the Caribbean, Greece, Cyprus and Malaysia, to name a few.

There is always a pleasant greeting, smile or a wave. We gossip over the fence or pause at the front gate for a prolonged "how are you?" – as one person peels off, another passer-by will join in.

A long time ago, people often lived like this. It's different today. Technological advance, and especially the rise of social media, has curtailed much basic human interaction. At a time when polarisation, divisiveness and loneliness in society contributes to poor mental health, there is something very special and precious about our Hydeside community that everyone who lives here has a vested interest in preserving.

***"Hydeside is a beautiful representation of the vibrant multicultural heart of London"***

traditions" said one resident at our summer street party, speaking as the Turkish girls demonstrated how to do the traditional Halay dance.

When I moved here nearly five years ago I was made to feel immediately welcomed. Michael left home-grown ripe figs outside my door, while Dorothy planted pumpkins in my garden. I also ate my fill from Albert's grapevine that

## Support for mums

*'Mumpreneur' Liz Sorton on how a networking club is helping support other local mums*

I am the manager of Mumpreneurs Networking Club (MNC) Enfield Town. I have been an MNC member myself for over seven years and as a lifecoach and mentor for teenagers I decided to open my own local MNC branch in 2015.

The group facilitates effective networking for mums who runs businesses. MNC Enfield Town has had 1,020 visitors and 30-plus members, with an average of 20-35 businesses coming to each monthly meeting at local café Malone & Co. All are invited to attend their first meeting free of charge and babies and children are also welcome.

Having also volunteered for North Enfield Foodbank I decided to support local families with an MNC event during the summer school holidays. Children miss out on free school meals in the summer, leaving parents to provide an extra meal each day. It sometimes leads them to turn to foodbanks for help.

In July I invited Kerry Coe, manager of North Enfield Foodbank, to tell members and visitors more about the project. It was founded by Jubilee Church and is supported by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger. Individuals or families are referred to them by local organisations and care professionals in order to receive three days' worth of nutritionally-balanced food and support.

The foodbank supports clients on a short-term basis to help with their immediate need of food but also offers advice sessions alongside groups such as Citizens Advice Bureau and Community Money Advice, to help address longer-term needs. Their aim is to support anyone in Enfield going through a crisis who is in need of emergency food.

We are grateful to MNC Enfield Town members and visitors who brought along contributions. Kerry said: "It was so lovely to be at the MNC Enfield Town meeting. Thank you for your warm welcome and donations for the foodbank. It's great to hear about some of the brilliant local businesses we have in Enfield."

The next scheduled MNC Enfield Town meeting is on Friday 13th September, 10am–11.30am. It would be great to see you there!

Liz Sorton (left) with Kerry Coe from Enfield North Foodbank (right)  
Credit Anne-Marie Sanderson



For more information about MNC Enfield Town:  
Visit [mumpreneursnetworkingclub.co.uk](http://mumpreneursnetworkingclub.co.uk)

For more information about Enfield North Foodbank:  
Visit [northernfield.foodbank.org.uk](http://northernfield.foodbank.org.uk)



## Out of the Ordnance

A new book by Dr Jim Lewis charts the history of the Royal Small Arms Factory and its transformation into Enfield Island Village

In September 1988 *Enfield Gazette* reported that the vacant Royal Ordnance site at Enfield Lock – known for nearly 200 years as the Royal Small Arms Factory – was at the centre of a fresh “asset stripping” storm.

It was further reported that in parliament the shadow defence secretary, Martin O'Neill, wanted a full investigation conducted – implying that Enfield Lock and other Royal Ordnance sites had been sold off too cheaply and taxpayers were shouldering the massive financial loss.

In the years that followed, several ideas for the Enfield Lock site were put forward; among them one from the National Army Museum to establish an outer-London base for some of its larger exhibits. While this particular proposal seemingly gained local popularity at the time, the scheme fell through when the directors of the museum allegedly asked Enfield Council for a dowry of £2million.

As various proposals for the site's regeneration came and went, the shell

of the large machine room began to deteriorate rapidly. Parts of the building were crumbling because of serious water ingress, as the structure had not been maintained following its sale to British Aerospace. Furthermore, the overall preservation of the complex, with its surrounding buildings, was not being helped by the fact that a number of local police forces had been allowed to use the site for training purposes. I can recall walking through the former factory grounds at the time and they were littered with spent ammunition rounds with a few derelict cars scattered throughout the site's internal roads.

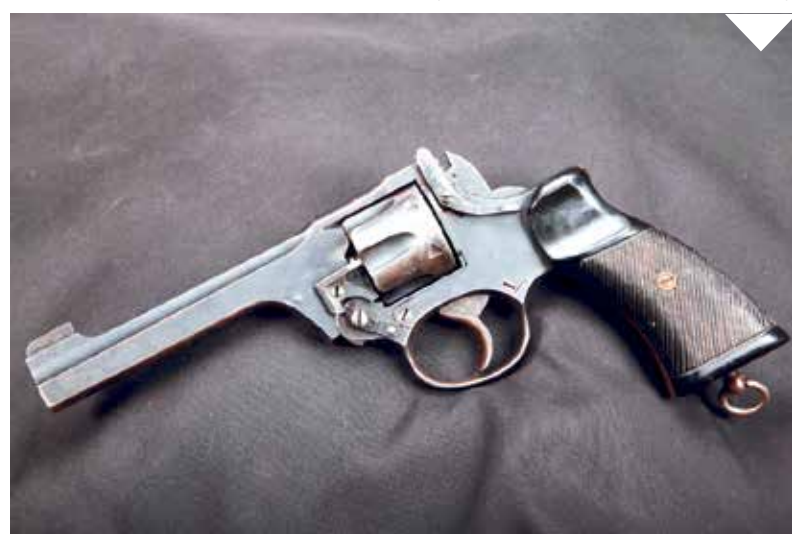
British Aerospace, which had purchased the site from the government in 1987, made two planning applications in the same year to redevelop the land. Later, it formed a joint venture company with property developer Trafalgar House under the name Lee Valley Developments, and in 1991 submitted an application for a residential development.

Regeneration was not just a ques-

tion of finding a new use for the Grade 2-listed factory building; development was further complicated by a range of quite thorny planning issues which had the potential to cause costly delays. Prior to 1994, the land on which the Royal Small Arms Factory stood had been designated part of the Green Belt, but the lifting of this designation and the subsequent boundary changes in 1995 brought it within the jurisdiction of Enfield Council, rather than Epping Forest District Council, of Essex.

Between the planning applications in 1987 and the later boundary and land use changes, Lee Valley Developments had been making a number of other applications to the local authority to redevelop the site. All were unsuccessful, including at least two appeals. To have gained planning approval Lee Valley Developments would have had to meet in excess of 60 stringent requirements under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

After eight years of setbacks, it is possible that Lee Valley Develop-



Enfield No2, a standard-issue revolver during the Second World War, was one of several weapons made at the Royal Small Arms Factory before it was transformed into a modern housing estate at the turn of the century

ments became frustrated, which caused them to cut their losses by selling the site in 1996 to Fairview New Homes. Outsiders watching these drawn-out negotiations must have wondered whether there was

ever going to be a sustainable regeneration plan that would meet all the required approvals, and if there was such a plan, whether anyone would be bold enough and perhaps foolhardy enough to take it forward.

**This article is an edited excerpt from the book 'The Factory that Became a Village' written by Dr Jim Lewis and published by Libri Publishing Ltd. To buy a copy:**

**Visit** [libripublishing.co.uk](http://libripublishing.co.uk)

## Good advice



Newly-qualified advisors at Citizens Advice Enfield

**BY ANDREW GURR**

Citizens Advice Enfield is celebrating eight decades of supporting residents in the borough. With nearly 4,000 families assisted this year alone, the charity based in Ponders End aims to provide advice and assistance to anyone in Enfield who requires social welfare support.

Common problems that Citizens Advice Enfield helps to resolve include issues with benefits, debt, employment, immigration, housing and homelessness. A new service will also be starting in doctors' surgeries next year to help residents access the help they need.

Citizens Advice Enfield chief executive Jill Harrison said: "At the moment, our key priorities are helping local people to sort out [problems with] Universal Credit and making sure that all European Union citizens in the borough apply for settlement before the December 2020 deadline."

Citizens Advice Enfield is also a key partner of Enfield Connections, a local information and advice service commissioned by Enfield Council.

Jill added: "We deliver advice to disabled people, older people and those with long term health conditions as part of the Enfield Connections service."

Advice can be sought via email, phone, or in person. Drop-in sessions take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Vincent House in Nags Head Road (unfortunately because of roadworks we cannot offer drop-ins until 11th September).

**To find out more about Citizens Advice Enfield:**

**Call** 03454 040 506

**Visit** [citizensadviceenfield.org.uk](http://citizensadviceenfield.org.uk)



## Make a fresher start

Julie Kelly from University of Hertfordshire offers some useful tips for students starting in September



Julie Kelly is head of the student centre at University of Hertfordshire

**S**tarting university is an exciting time, but new faces and surroundings can often make it feel a bit daunting.

To get the most out of your first few weeks at university and make settling in a bit easier, I'd like to offer some advice for new students!

Firstly, get to know people. Introduce yourself to those on your course, your housemates and your lecturers. The more people you know, the more comfortable you will feel in class and around campus.

Secondly, get involved. During your first few weeks at university there will be many events and activities taking place. Get stuck in! You never know, you may find a new activity, hobby or interest.

Thirdly, get to know the local area. Familiarise yourself with the campus and your route to university if you're a commuter student. When your course starts, you'll need to know where your lectures are as well as other important places, such as the library. If you're new to the town or city, get out and explore. Find out where you can get your shopping, where the best restaurants are and what fun things you can do.

Fourthly, get savvy with your money. It's important to take a bit of time and work out your projected income as well as your essential expenditure. If you need a bit

of help, there are many apps that can help you keep track of spending. Some universities will also have a student centre where you can get financial advice and support.

Finally, look after yourself. One of the most important things you can do is to look after your wellbeing. Eat healthily, get plenty of sleep and find out where you can get further support should you ever need it. Starting university is a great time to assert your independence, but if you find yourself feeling homesick or struggling to manage your finances or workload, there are lots of places on campus that can offer support.

And don't forget to have fun! University will be one of the most exciting times of your life, so remember to take it all in.

**The UCAS deadline for clearing applications ahead of the 2019/20 academic year is Friday 20th September. For more information:**

**Visit** [ucas.com/undergraduate/results-clearing](https://ucas.com/undergraduate/results-clearing)

**To apply for a place at University of Hertfordshire, based in Hatfield:**

**Call** 0300 303 6300

**Visit** [herts.ac.uk/clearing](https://herts.ac.uk/clearing)

## Setting the standard

**W**est Lea School has won accreditation from Investors in People, the international standard for people management.

The school, which teaches 400 pupils from ages four to 25 across various campuses in Enfield borough, has been praised for the ongoing support and opportunities available to staff. Assessors noted West Lea's strength in creating autonomy in roles, facilitating collaborative working and setting objectives.

West Lea is a special educational needs school. Head-teacher Sue Tripp said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have been recognised. One of our core values is to ensure pupils, staff and the wider school community feel that they are a valued, respected and core part of the team here at West Lea."

Paul Devoy, head of Investors in People, added: "West Lea School should be extremely proud of its achievement. Investors in People accreditation is the sign of a great employer, and an organisation committed to realising the potential of its people."

In the October edition of Enfield Dispatch we will be publishing a special spotlight on education. If you would like to advertise your school, college or university contact our advertising salesperson Klaudia Kiss:

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Louis Velati on a climate change demo in London



# Be the change you wish to see

Student striker Louis Velati, 18, on why we must act now to stop climate change

**W**e are facing the end of the world as we know it.

Shocking statements such as this are sometimes easy to dismiss as hyperbole and scaremongering, yet we have sailed through vanilla warnings from scientists and environmentalists for decades. Our collective indifference means that we have reached a point where it really is 'make or break' for the planet.

The urgency of the problem is what led me to walk out of school several times as part of the global 'Fridays for Future' climate

strike movement, which has seen millions of school children across the world ditch lessons in classrooms for protest on the streets. Many claim this is simply youthful rebellion, but this does a disservice to the vast majority of students, who are there because they have educated themselves on the issue and feel a deep moral responsibility to act.

For me, I went out of desperation. I was exasperated with the lack of

urgency on the issue by the government and global politicians. I had sat in geography lessons where they taught us the dire impacts of global warming; the creation of millions of environmental refugees, a sixth mass extinction of species and the irreversible degradation of our planet.

When I heard that coral reefs would likely disappear in my lifetime, I sat there in disbelief. If

***"I was exasperated with the lack of urgency on the issue by the government and global politicians"***

we knew that these awful things were going to happen, why were we doing so little? For its critics this movement is devoid of hope, but it is borne out of a sentiment to the contrary; it is only through radical change that we can have any hope for our future.

So what are the solutions? In the words of Swedish school striker Greta Thunberg: "We can no longer save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed."

The government has enshrined the Paris Agreement's emission targets into law, but its own analysis shows we are not on track to meet them. This means those politicians who insist the UK is already taking sufficient action to combat climate change are misled at best and knowingly deceitful at worst. I therefore implore you to challenge politicians, at all levels and of all parties, when they make such claims.

It is brilliant news that at a recent Enfield Council meeting councillors voted to declare a 'climate emergency' and recommended that the pension committee commit to divest the borough's pension fund from fossil fuels. But we must ensure we pressure the council so that this declaration extends past virtue signalling and into meaningful action. I would also invite everyone reading this article, irrespective of your age, to join the worldwide Fridays for Future climate strike on Friday 20th September. We need transformative change; it begins with us.

## Taking action on speeding

*In our latest councillor's column, Mahmut Aksanoglu stands up for Southbury residents*

**I** am very honoured and privileged to be able to represent Southbury, the most vibrant ward in Enfield and home to Enfield Town Football Club and Enfield Ignatians Rugby Club.

The main issues and concerns we are tackling in the ward are housing, benefit payments and anti-social behaviour. We constantly have residents at our surgeries who have been hit by vicious Tory cuts.

In the whole of England, local authorities have faced a reduction of 26% in their budgets under the Tories since 2010, with the most deprived in society being the most affected by the cuts. We as Labour councillors are doing our utmost to make sure vital services remain intact.

Police numbers in the whole of London are at the lowest level per head in 20 years. The Metropolitan Police has been forced to make more than £700million in cuts since 2010 and will have to cut a further £325m by 2021. The Home Office determines funding numbers for policing in the whole of

our country and this is the ultimate reason for the rise in knife and youth crime.

Another big issue in our ward has been speeding on the A10. We are in constant contact with our local officers to fight this. 'Operation Vision Zero' has been a great success and I would like to thank Superintendent Andy Cox and the team for their endless hard work. Many recorded offences such as speeding,

uninsured and drink driving have been recorded. Recently this police operation moved to a different level with a camera safety van being deployed to the A10 in August, which resulted in 163 speeding offences being enforced.

Many incidents have resulted in the loss of lives of residents which is a huge concern. Average speed cameras must be installed on the A10 to stop dangerous drivers. I am calling on Transport for London to install fixed speed cameras on the A10 to protect our residents.

As well as being a ward councillor I am proud to chair the planning committee and sit on the licensing committee. These roles are vital to enable growth, development and enhance our borough. I am very lucky to be able to be part of shaping our lovely borough's future.

**Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu represents Southbury along with Chris Bond and Nneka Keazor (all Labour). Surgeries are held every Saturday 10.30am-11.30am at John Jackson Library, Agricola Place, Enfield EN1 1DW, and 11am-12pm at Highway Library, 205 Hertford Road, Enfield EN3 5JH.**

**Call** 07971 673 934

**Email** cllr.mahmut.aksanoglu@enfield.gov.uk



Cllr Aksanoglu was elected in 2018



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# LETTERS

## Send us your letters

Got an opinion on something in Enfield? We accept letters of up to 200 words from people and organisations in the borough. Email [EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com) before the next deadline on Tuesday 17th September.

## Give festival the Elrow

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**E**lrow proudly claimed its festival in Trent Park on 17th August was, with 25,000 revellers, the largest yet in Enfield. It followed another mega event, the 51st State festival, two weeks earlier.

This has meant Trent Park, relied on by thousands for exercise and relaxation, has been invaded by trucks and steel shuttering for much of the summer holidays and the surrounding streets have been burdened by thousands on event days, displacing traffic, leaving a trail of litter, spent drugs containers, ordure, thumping noise, and a badly damaged park gateway.

Friends and residents have pressed the case for moderation on Enfield Council, but they are not listening. It accepts no responsibility for these events but allows ever larger attendances, way beyond the resources of suburban Cockfosters to handle safely.

Two large public meetings recently delivered resounding rejections of the council's events policy. The council's net take is nugatory by comparison to the impact on residents. How can they consider this equitable?

**Peter Gibbs**  
Chairman, Friends of  
Trent Country Park

## The kids are alright

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**I** read with interest Alison Yates' comment piece in July (*Why we must declare a climate emergency*, Page 8, Issue 10). In May, after careful consideration I permitted my daughter to attend a climate change protest. As far as I know she and her friend were the only two in their school (an Enfield borough secondary) to do so. On the day they were told in no uncertain terms to change out of uniform as the school did not wish to be represented. I subsequently met with the headteacher and after a respectful but fruitless discussion, the school's position is that they will continue to classify such absences as unauthorised. Fortunately not every school in the UK has taken this approach.

**Ana Beard**  
Palmer's Green

## Get tested

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**T**here are almost 20,000 people in Enfield currently diagnosed with diabetes – with an estimated 4,440 people undiagnosed. Enfield Over 50s Forum is determined to find them.

Early signs and symptoms of Type 2 diabetes can include frequent urination, increased thirst, always feeling hungry, tiredness, having blurry vision, tingling sensations, numbness, or pain in the hands or feet. If it goes undiagnosed and untreated, high blood sugar can affect various cells and organs in the body and lead to severe complications include kidney damage, blindness, and risk of heart disease or stroke.

We are working with Enfield Council to bring a mobile diabetes test unit to the borough. It will be based at Southbury Leisure Centre, Southbury Road, on Wednesday 2nd October. It will be part of a fundraising day sponsored by Fusion. Starting at 8.30am, activities include badminton, pilates, walking football, yoga and table tennis.

**Monty Meth**  
President, Enfield  
Over 50s Forum

## Set a date

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**E**nfield Council declared a 'climate emergency' in July and pledged to divest its £1bn pension fund from fossil fuels.

This is a step in the right direction. Fossil fuel investments are unethical but also increasingly risky. Last month it emerged that Blackrock, the world's largest fund manager, lost £75bn because of its investment in fossil fuel companies. Enfield's pensioners are at risk from fossil fuel investments as the world turns to clean energy.

However, the council's announcement was not a full divestment commitment yet. Enfield needs to follow other London boroughs and set a firm divestment deadline. For example, Islington Council has said it will fully divest by 2022.

On Thursday 5th September Enfield's pension committee will meet. We hope they will set a deadline to divest. Many people from communities across Enfield – faith leaders, trade unionists, youth groups, the council's own employees – will be watching.

**Adam McGibbon**  
Divest Enfield



# Urgently seeking answers

Emma Friddin from Healthwatch Enfield on plans to reduce opening hours at Chase Farm Hospital

The urgent care centre at Chase Farm Hospital can treat patients without the need to book an appointment



Thanks to all 372 of you who shared your views about the proposals to reduce the opening times of the urgent care centre at Chase Farm Hospital. We have been busy analysing your feedback and have collated your views in a report, which we sent to Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in August. This is a

great example of how we use your feedback to influence local health and social care services. Enfield CCG has recently proposed changing the closing time of the urgent care centre from 10pm to 9pm. This is because the busiest hours are from 8am to 12pm, while the last hour of service is the quietest.

At Healthwatch Enfield, it is our job to amplify voices of local people on key issues that affect them; over the last few weeks we collected feedback relating to this proposal and can show that 84% of local people who responded to us did not agree with the proposal.

Our research findings suggest that the urgent care centre is a valuable resource. Those we heard from were concerned that the proposed changes will further reduce the provision of urgent care services in Enfield, will make accessing urgent care services in Enfield more difficult, and will have an impact on accident and emergency departments and ambulance services.

Informed by feedback from local people, Healthwatch Enfield have written to Enfield CCG, requesting that they maintain the current opening times of the urgent care centre at Chase Farm Hospital. At the time of writing, we are currently waiting for a response to our letter, but will keep you updated when we hear more.

Patricia Mecinska, chief executive of Healthwatch Enfield, said: "Local people have told us that the opening hours of the urgent care centre at Chase Farm should not be reduced. There is more work that needs to be done to provide information about the centre to local communities. "We hope that Enfield CCG will take note of local people's views when making its decision. We will be advocating for this through all available forums and meetings."

You can read our full report and the open letter to Enfield CCG on our website.

**healthwatch**  
Enfield

For more information about Healthwatch Enfield and to get in touch:

Call 020 8373 6283

Email [info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk)

Tweet @HealthwatchEnf

Visit [healthwatchenfield.co.uk](http://healthwatchenfield.co.uk)

# Row over sugar in hospital meals

Diabetic slams North Mid over lack of information for patients

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

North Middlesex University Hospital has been criticised by a diabetic patient for serving meals with high sugar content.

Mark Fisher was admitted to the Edmonton hospital in June and stayed for five days, with one of his symptoms being high blood sugar. He told the *Dispatch*: "There was no dietary advice given at all, and the nurses said that is not part of their role. "Breakfast was a choice of cereal, but no way of knowing if it had added sugar. I had omelette a couple of times, served with chips and peas

and a sachet of Heinz ketchup – which is 24% sugar. Why is this being served to diabetics in a hospital?"

"I could not trust any other hot meal as I had no idea how much added sugar there was. For dessert I tried a crumble and custard but it seemed ever so sweet."

Mark has called on the hospital to make it clearer what their meals contain and to provide low-sugar options.

"The government says diabetes is the big killer, sugar is bad, and proper nutrition is ultra important. But in hospital there is no link

between the ward staff and the catering staff. The nurses do not know what the patient is eating, or even if the patient has skipped meals.

"There is no calorie or sugar count for the diabetic patient to read, so they cannot control their sugar intake. The idea printed on the menu of asking a nurse for this information is ludicrous."

Food at North Mid is supplied by catering company Medirest, part of Compass Group UK. The hospital says meals are regularly reviewed

and taste-tested and "are nutritious, well-balanced and appetising". To ensure meals meet national guidelines and standards set by government, a full nutritional analysis of every food

**"I could not trust any hot meal as I had no idea how much added sugar there was"**

item on offer to patients is conducted. A spokesperson for North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust said: "We're sorry to hear Mr Fisher is unhappy with the food he experienced during his stay at North

Mid as one of our inpatients.

"Our menus contain clearly labelled meal options for a wide range of diets. These include 'healthier choice' options low in fat and salt, vegetarian and vegan selections, as well as desserts low in sugar which are recommended for

those with diabetes.

"We always welcome feedback from our patients and encourage anyone who has a concern about their food to raise it with one of our team so we can put things right at the time."



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## Compassionate Neighbours in North London

### Have you got time for a neighbour in need?

The Compassionate Neighbours project helps people living with a chronic illness stay connected to their community and avoid loneliness and isolation. As a Compassionate Neighbour you might visit someone regularly in your community, share common interests and help them get out and about, or help us extend our network.

Join our next free training on **26 & 27 September** at **Living Under One Sun community café, Tottenham**. Register your interest by emailing [cn@northlondonhospice.co.uk](mailto:cn@northlondonhospice.co.uk) or call **020 8343 6805**.

For further information on Compassionate Neighbours and future training dates visit:  
[www.northlondonhospice.org/compassionate-neighbours](http://www.northlondonhospice.org/compassionate-neighbours)

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## over 50s forum ENFIELD BOROUGH OVER 50s FORUM

The Forum is seeking to recruit an Office and Development Manager due to the retirement of the postholder. The post is for 22.5 hours/week and is key in supporting the Forum's 6000 members. Salary range is £20,000-£23,000

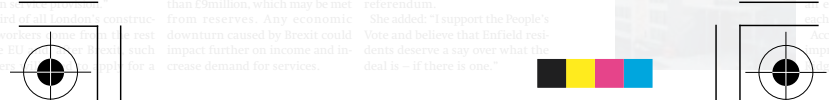
The job description, person specification and how to apply for the post is on our website: [enfieldover50sforum.org.uk](http://enfieldover50sforum.org.uk)

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## Having a ball

*Louise Tully from Nightingale Cancer Support Centre invites residents to the charity's big night of entertainment*

**A**t Nightingale Cancer Support Centre we're looking forward to a night to remember at our upcoming charity ball – and we hope you'll join us for a wonderfully decadent evening of entertainment!

Our local charity based in Baker Street, Enfield, provides cancer support services to people living or receiving treatment in the borough of Enfield. We provide physical and emotional support services, groups and activities for all those who may be affected by a cancer diagnosis, including patients, carers, family, friends and colleagues.

Currently supporting more than 350 people locally, Nightingale supports those people who have self-referred, alongside many referred via the NHS, Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) and national charity Macmillan Cancer Support. Nightingale is not funded by the government and that is why we have to raise our own funds –

by relying on the generosity of the general public and by organising our own special events.

At the Nightingale Charity Ball on Friday 20th September, we will be rolling out the red carpet! The evening will begin with a drinks reception accompanied by live music and magic entertainment. Following

an auction and raffle, which will include fantastic items such as weekend breaks, tickets to sporting events, immersive theatre experiences, jewellery and more.

Nightingale's director Joan Kearns said: "We're excited to host this event in September as it's the first charity ball we've planned in a few years."

"We hope that many of our clients and supporters will be joining us for a fabulous evening in aid of our charity."

Tickets for the event are priced at just £49.50 per person and can be purchased individually or in groups. Tables can seat a maximum of ten guests. We look forward to welcoming you!

**For more information and to book tickets to the Nightingale Charity Ball on Friday 20th September at Forty Hall:**

**Call** 020 8366 9674

**Visit** [nightingalesupport.org.uk](http://nightingalesupport.org.uk)

***"We hope that many of our clients and supporters will be joining us for a fabulous evening"***

this, guests will be invited to take their seats for a three-course meal served with an enjoyable night of entertainment including table games, a selfie pod, music from the big band English Jazz Orchestra alongside vocalists Michael Mendez and Tracy Warrington. There will also be a DJ to help you dance the night away!

The evening is set to be great fun for all those who attend and hopes to raise substantial funds for Nightin-

**Guests can expect a variety of entertainment at the Nightingale Charity Ball**

**Credit** Anne-Marie Sanderson

## Get set for the Shed

**C**hickenshed Theatre in Cockfosters has announced its autumn programme – including shows, events, workshops and classes for people of all ages.

The charity has begun rehearsals for its annual Christmas show spectacular, which will boast a huge cast of 800 people. This year's production is *Snow White* – with a swinging Sixties twist. It promises to be a "vibrant, colourful and heartwarming" show set in the 1960s where traditional roles are changing fast. What better place for a thoroughly modern *Snow White* to 'find herself'?

Arts critic Susannah Clapp said of last year's Chickenshed Christmas show: "This is theatre that changes the idea not only of who is being seen but of who is looking... meticulously drilled but completely lacking in uniformity, this is a myriad-faced crowd, unlike any other on the London stage."

*Snow White* will run from Wednesday 27th November until Saturday 11th January.

Also this autumn, Chickenshed's much-loved *Christmas Tales* will be sprinkling its festive magic. *Tales from the Shed* (the interactive theatre show which itself returns Friday 6th September) has been super-sized to bring this energetic experience to Chickenshed's biggest and brightest stage, the Rayne Theatre. With puppets, singing, dancing and some larger-than-life characters, *Christmas Tales* is guaranteed to entertain the very youngest audiences – and grown-ups too!

For Halloween on Thursday 31st October don't miss *The Return of the Living Shed* featuring spooky tunes and a suitably scary film, with other surprises along the way. It promises to be a terrifying night in 'Shockfosters'!

As well as these shows, Chickenshed will be hosting some of the funniest comedians around. At regular stand-up night Comedy Shed on Thursday 19th September will be Dane Baptiste, nominated for the 'Best Newcomer' at 2014's Edinburgh Comedy Awards; Aaron Simmonds, a BBC New Comedy Award finalist in 2017; and Andrew Ryan, who won 'Best New Show' at The Leicester Comedy Festival in 2018.

Chickenshed also hosts a range of classes and workshops to get stuck into for both adults and young people.

**For more information and to book tickets:**

**Visit** [chickenshed.org.uk/Pages/Events/Category/whats-on](http://chickenshed.org.uk/Pages/Events/Category/whats-on)



# The Market Place to be

**Susan Foss, deputy manager of The Old Enfield Charitable Trust, on its role in the community**



**M**arket Place in Enfield Town has become the place to be, with another hugely successful season of events.

In April we held our St George's Day Parade, in May there was the Charter Fayre, and in July there was the Enfield Market Beach event for children and parents alike – this year sponsored by Metaswitch and installed by McLaren Construction. All the above were free community events in the heart of Enfield.

Aside from these special events we host a weekly market open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. New stalls are opening all the time, adding to the appeal of a market that can trace its history back to 1303 – when the first licence for a market in Enfield was granted by Edward I.

For, despite being able to trace its history back hun-

dreds of years, Market Place is as relevant as ever and remains at the heart of the community. This is thanks to the work of The Old Enfield Charitable Trust, the registered charity which owns and runs the site. Profits from the weekly rent go towards the £250,000 awarded in grants each year to needy members from the ancient parish of Enfield.

The trust has been awarding grants since the year 1547. They are awarded under three categories; personal grants for items within the home; education grants for students in further education; and community grants for local charities, groups and organisations benefiting the local community.

We have a board of 15 trustees, who each bring different skills and experience to the organisation. The board sets the guidelines for us to follow, while the trust's day-to-day work is carried out by a team of dedicated staff.

If you feel you are in need of a grant and you reside within the ancient parish of Enfield, please get in touch. Our staff can advise you of your eligibility. If you are interested in local history you can also visit the Old Vestry Office in The Town on Saturday 21st September, 11am–3pm, as part of Open House London. The original Royal Charter and seal will be exhibited along with ledger books from the 1600s!

**For more information about  
The Old Enfield Charitable Trust:**

**Visit** [thetrustenfield.org.uk](http://thetrustenfield.org.uk)

## POETRY CORNER

### Coots

*M. Anne Alexander*

Five little red beaks  
peak through the black coat  
of the coots' mum,  
till their dad comes.

A month before,  
a drake called at their nest,  
and tried to extract a straw,  
till their dad saw him off.

Today, their dad leads them,  
gliding along the sparkling river,  
darting and foraging  
and back to their home.

Little boys gather, to watch,  
entranced, in awe,  
along the river bank  
in Enfield Town.

# LISTINGS

## Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in Enfield. For next month's listings, email the details of your event to [enfielddispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:enfielddispatch@socialspider.com) by Tuesday 17th September.

## HEALTH

### Edmonton Diabetes Support Group

Thursday 12th September, 7pm  
The Salvation Army Edmonton,  
339 Fore Street, Edmonton N9 0NU

Our group offers support and information to people living with diabetes, their families, friends and carers. Hear speakers, ask questions and chat about living with diabetes.

**Free entry**

**Call** 07861 709 001

**Email** [edmontondiabetes.iff@gmail.com](mailto:edmontondiabetes.iff@gmail.com)

## MEETING

### Enfield Transport User Group

Wednesday 4th September, 6.30pm  
Enfield Civic Centre, Silver Street,  
Enfield EN1 3XA

Meeting to discuss various transport issues facing the borough. Open to all people interested in improving public transport in Enfield.

**Free entry**

**Email** [enfieldtransportusergroup@gmail.com](mailto:enfieldtransportusergroup@gmail.com)

## POETRY

### The Enfield Poets

Saturday 7th September, 7.30pm  
Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road,  
Enfield EN2 6DS

The Enfield Poets will start their new season of poetry evenings this month. The talented Enfield Stanza group will be the first guests.

**£3 entry**

**Visit** [enfieldpoets.com](http://enfieldpoets.com)

### Poetry Writing Workshop

Saturday 21st September, 1.30pm  
Palmer's Green Library, Broomfield Lane, Palmer's Green N13 4EY

Katherine Gallagher will lead this workshop focusing on the enigma of Stevie Smith; her status as outsider, the range and voices of her poetry, and her life as a Palmer's Green poet with a formidable national reputation.

**Tickets £28, concessions £21**

**Visit** [katherine-gallagher.com](http://katherine-gallagher.com)

## MUSIC

### Music at Myddelton

Sunday 1st September, 5.30pm  
Myddelton House Gardens, Bulls Cross, Enfield EN2 9HG

Enjoy the magic and beauty of Myddelton House Gardens while listening to the sounds of funk, disco and Motown. Including classic hits by James Brown and Stevie Wonder.

**£10 entry**

**Visit** [visitlee valley.org.uk](http://visitlee valley.org.uk)

## HISTORY

### Local History Meeting

Tuesday 10th September, 7.30pm  
Friends Meeting House, 61 Church Hill, Winchmore Hill N21 1LE

A talk by Joe Studman on the subject of '20th Century Women of Enfield'. Event organised by Southgate District Civic Trust.

**Members free, non-members £2**

**Visit** [southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk](http://southgatedistrictcivictrust.org.uk)

### World War Two Conference

Sat 14th September, 9.30am–4.15pm  
Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road,  
Enfield EN2 6DS

Organised by The Enfield Society and Museum of Enfield, coinciding with the new exhibition 'Enfield at War', this event brings together historians, actors and poets to showcase the history and impact of the Second World War in Enfield.

**Tickets £15 for Enfield Society members, £17 for non-members**

**Call** 020 8807 6680

**Visit** [dugdalecentre.co.uk](http://dugdalecentre.co.uk)

## AUDITION

### Gospel Singers

Tuesday 17th September, 11am–1pm  
Ponders End URC, College Court,  
Enfield EN3 4EY

Gospel Temple Apostolic Church is holding open auditions for gospel singers to sing at three events this autumn. Apply by sending a CV or showreel.

**All welcome to apply**

**Email** [gospeltemple@outlook.com](mailto:gospeltemple@outlook.com)

**Visit** [gospeltemple.org.uk](http://gospeltemple.org.uk)



## AROUND THE BOROUGH

## EDMONTON

## Local councillors under fire

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

COUNCILLORS HAVE BEEN accused of failing to turn up to meetings aimed at tackling crime in part of Edmonton.

The Lower Edmonton branch of Community Action Partnership in Enfield (CAPE) meets once a month to report criminal offences logged by residents and Neighbourhood Watch teams, but while police officers regularly attend, its chair Jany Badoye says no local councillors have shown up for at least two years.

Jany said: “When I took over the role of chair, residents were saying ‘we have not had councillors attend

the meetings for a very long time’. Some of them have never even met the councillors – they don’t know what they look like.”

Jany said councillors had previously told CAPE members they did not attend because they feared for their safety, after a former councillor was attacked. She added: “Because there are no councillors to report the issues to, I am doing all the reporting online – there is only so much I can do. It is not a legal obligation to attend, but it is important to share what they are doing.”

Lower Edmonton councillors Guney Donan, Sinan Boztas and Margaret Greer are all Labour members. All three were approached for comment.

## SOUTHGATE

## Books returned

SOUTHGATE LIBRARY HAS returned to its original home in High Street.

The library had been controversially relocated in 2016 – when it was known as Southgate Circus Library – to nearby Barnet and Southgate College, where it shared a floor with the college’s own library facility.

The move was part of cost-cutting measures by Enfield Council.

On Monday 19th August the library moved back to the original building, which had been used as office space over the past three years. According to the council the return to the High Street site will mean the library “can be a real hub for the community”.

## BULLSMOOR

## Junction works row

UPCOMING EXPANSION WORKS at junction 25 of the M25 will not benefit Enfield, according to a local campaign group.

Extra lanes are set to be built at the junction, which connects the A10 in Bullsmoor to London’s orbital motorway, with the main aim of cutting queues for drivers turning off the M25. However, Enfield Transport Users Group has claimed an alternative proposal that would have also reduced queues on the A10 in Enfield was rejected before a consultation could be held.

Philip Ridley, group chair, said: “We are about to have three years’ disruption on the A10 despite Highways England rejecting an option that would have delivered capacity for London.”

The government agency says the junction upgrade, projected to cost up to £50million, will “increase capacity, improve safety, support future traffic demands, maintain access for pedestrians and cyclists, and minimise environmental effects”.

Work is due to start in 2020.

## CLAY HILL

## Grave concern over cemetery clearance



BEREAVED FAMILIES HAVE HIT out at Enfield Council over the clearance of graves at Strayfield Road Lawn Cemetery.

Relatives of people buried at the cemetery were told only headstones and small kerbs at the foot of the graves were allowed to remain and that “no other surrounds, fences, trees or shrubs are permitted”.

Clearance work began in August but families now fear the graves will be trampled by visitors, disrespecting the dead. Trevor Docherty, whose sister-in-law Deniz Halil is buried at the cemetery, told the *Dispatch*: “If a grave isn’t clearly marked out people will walk over it because they don’t know it’s there. We saw someone do that and they were quite embarrassed when we told them what they were walking over.”

“What the council is doing is totally outrageous. A graveyard should be somewhere you find peace and sanctuary.”

A petition against the removal of artefacts from graves has been signed by more than 1,000 people. Amid the growing controversy council leader Nesil Caliskan said: “It is important that the council provides attractive,

peaceful and safe cemeteries where graves can be properly prepared, well maintained and easily accessed by all grave owners and visitors.

“We have simply asked grave owners of plots where the surround, planting or memorial items do not comply with agreed guidelines to undertake remedial action to help prevent intrusions on other graves and help with accessibility, maintenance and safety issues.

“We understand that it can be distressing to be asked to remove non-compliant items or planting.” Trevor denies that the cemetery is a health hazard. He added: “The truth is they want to cram as many graves in there as possible.”

Concerned relatives are asked to call the council’s bereavement services manager on: 020 8379 3767.

## PALMERS GREEN

## Objection to theatre redevelopment

THE THEATRES TRUST HAS TOLD Enfield Council it “strongly objects” to plans to demolish a much-loved theatre.

The national body opposes plans by St Monica’s Church to knock down Intimate Theatre in Green Lanes, describing it as a “rare survivor” of inter-war theatre design.

Last year 4,500 people signed a petition to save the 88-year-old building, also known as St Monica’s Hall, because of its rich history – including hosting the first-ever play broadcast live on television.

Writing a formal objection to the council, which will decide whether to approve construction of a new church hall and six residential flats, Tom Clarke from The Theatres Trust said: “Intimate Theatre has unique history and heritage and is highly valued by the local community... It has high-quality ornate interior features and fittings. The history of the building and its contribution to repertory theatre in London as well as the artists that played there adds to its special historic interest.”



Intimate Theatre in Green Lanes was where Richard Attenborough made his professional stage debut



Winchmore Hill FC (in purple) playing at Ford's Grove Credit John Johnson



# Ton up for football club

BY JOHN JOHNSON

**N**estling in the heart of N21 is the oldest football club in the area – Winchmore Hill FC is about to celebrate its 100th season.

Founded in 1920 as a subsection of Winchmore Hill Cricket Club, the football team joined the Southern Amateur League in 1927 and has played in that competition ever since.

The club is based at Ford's Grove, which has four grass pitches and an artificial training surface. It fields seven adult men's teams on a Saturday afternoon, two veter-

ans' sides on a Sunday, and also boasts a substantial youth set up for both boys and girls. Current Spurs player Kyle Walker-Peters even spent some time playing in the youth teams here!

Completely run by volunteers, WHFC is proud of its achievements over the past century; these include what is known as the 'purple patch' (they play in a purple strip) between 1948 and 1956, when they won the Southern Amateur League six times.

While the quest for trophies has always been high on the agenda as each new season begins, Winchmore Hill is about much

more than just playing 90 minutes each Saturday. Reflecting over a few drinks in the bar afterwards with your own team mates and the opposition is part of the culture, and lifelong friendships are formed along the way.

Former players who have been associated with the club for many years, some for over half a century, continue to be involved in running the club, giving up their own time to ensure it continues to prosper.

Most amateur football clubs these days are finding it harder to attract players for various reasons, not least because of the growth of five-a-side leagues where a quick-

fix of football can be attained each week after work. Winchmore Hill FC is no different and is always actively looking for new players of all standards.

The upcoming centenary season will be marked by a number of events culminating in a gala dinner next May and also the purchase of a new kit for all teams – if sufficient sponsorship can be found. The new season starts on Saturday 14th September – entrance is free and everybody is welcome!

**For more information about Winchmore Hill Football Club:**

**Visit** [winchmorehillfc.co.uk](http://winchmorehillfc.co.uk)

## Towners get Meta

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

**S**ponsoring your local non-league football club is not only about having billboard advertising and putting your name to individual players – essential though that is for a club's existence.

It's also about identifying how you can most effectively make a difference behind the scenes. Multinational software development giants Metaswitch, Enfield's largest private employer, is doing just that in its collaboration with Enfield Town FC, with whom they have established a community partner relationship.

The work Enfield Town does in the community often goes unnoticed, not least its learning disability squad and helping children with special needs. But this work cannot be organised efficiently without funding. Metaswitch, based in Church Street, provides the club with the financial support it needs for specific projects; covering children with dyspraxia, cerebral palsy and behavioural problems.

Roger Reed, Enfield Town's life president, told the *Dispatch*: "Frankly, it is only with their support that we could carry out this work."

"We give them recognition in the club's matchday programme and with a pitch-side advert, but they ask nothing from us other than that we deliver the projects they have supported."

The collaboration started in August 2017 when the company donated £1,500 – funding a new kit for the disability squad and the expansion of the club's work with youngsters. In December 2018, a further donation of £4,000 funded coaching for children with dyspraxia and cerebral palsy and other children with emotional and behavioural support needs.

Gill Paschalis, executive assistant of community affairs at Enfield's Metaswitch branch, explained the rationale behind the collaboration. She said: "We have always been interested in helping local organisations and charities in the borough."

"The brief is to try and support disadvantaged children in the local community and this fitted perfectly with the football club's ethos."

"When the club approached me and told me about their plans to support kids with special needs, I thought it was a great idea."

Gill has spoken to many of the families and remembers one particular incident. "There was a parent with tears in his eyes on the touchline," she said. "He never imagined in his wildest dreams that his son would be able to kick a ball around."

What's in it for the company? "Just the feeling that we can give something back to our local community. We've been in the town for almost 35 years and have a long history of trying to be a good neighbour."

## Check us out

Devina Rishi and Ryan Hebbs on how youngsters are inspired to play chess

**I**t's all hotting up in Enfield's growing chess community!

With the amazing work of Acorns Chess Club, the Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC) charity thriving locally, and the birth of 'Enfield Beasts' chess clubs at our local libraries last summer, it was only a matter of time before things became competitive between our talented youngsters.

In July, 32 young minds met across the famous eight-by-eight board at Enfield Town Library for the first-ever Enfield Junior Chess Fest, an under-16s knock-out chess tournament celebrating chess in Enfield.

The event was a roaring success. In addition to playing for the excitement of the game and rising to the challenge of tougher competition, participants were also playing for prizes. No-one left empty handed, with certificates and a little something for everyone. There were chess sets, book vouchers, learning materials, medals and an impressive trophy for those who reached the final rounds. Prizes were donated by CSC, Enfield Business Association and WHSmith, and were presented by chess enthusiast and local councillor, Yasemin Brett.

After two-and-half hours of compe-

tition, 32 intense games from our inspiring prodigies, lots of smiles and yes, even a few tears, we finally had a winner; eight-year-old Albert regularly plays chess at Palmers Green Library and along with so many others has developed and grown so much over the past year.

We are passionate about promoting chess in the community via local clubs and sharing the many benefits of the game for all ages and abilities. Chess improves cognitive functions such as reasoning, problem-solving and developing strategies, plus social skills such as good etiquette, sportsmanship

and developing friendships.

Acorns Chess Club (for children up to 15 years) runs on Saturday mornings and Wednesdays after school during term time at Millfield Arts Centre, with different classes depending on ability. Enfield Beasts chess clubs run on Saturdays at Enfield Town, Palmers Green and Edmonton Green libraries, and is open to all ages and abilities. Other chess clubs are available for over-50s and for people with autism.

**For further information on chess clubs in Enfield:**  
Email [acorns-chess@outlook.com](mailto:acorns-chess@outlook.com)



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These are challenging times for print media, with many newspapers closing and advertising revenue in decline, but our not-for-profit model offers a new approach to creating local news which is inclusive and accountable.

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