

# ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 1 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

OCT 2018



Staff at the new £200m Chase Farm Hospital building have welcomed their first patients – full story on Page 3

## Huge homes deal ditched over 'foreign sales' fear

Council leader denies money was wasted on failed search for Meridian Water master-planner

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

**T**alks with a Chinese firm over the construction of thousands of new homes collapsed after it emerged they wanted to sell them to overseas buyers.

The new leader of Enfield Council, Nesil Caliskan, said the proposed Meridian Water deal went sour because the company told councillors it would market the new homes abroad.

Meridian Water in Edmonton is one of the largest redevelopment sites in London with 10,000 homes planned there over the next 10-15

years, but the £6billion project has been dogged by delays. Last year the top choice for a master developer, Barratt, pulled out, leaving the council to negotiate instead with its second choice, Pacific Century Premium Developments (PCPD).

Councillor Caliskan took over the reigns at the council in May after ousting former leader Doug Taylor following the local election. She told the *Dispatch*: “When I became leader all options were on the table. I spent a couple of weeks looking at the deal. I wasn't convinced, but we gave them a chance.

“PCPD made a presentation and it became obvious there would be

overseas sales. When I asked about it, they said new homes would be marketed in Enfield for the first month, nationally for the second month, and after that the whole world. It was unacceptable.”

Cllr Caliskan also said the firm only seemed interested in creating low-skilled jobs. “Coupled with the fact they talked about building luxury homes – I didn't think it was okay.”

The council confirmed in July that talks with PCPD had ended and that it would now take an entirely new approach to Meridian Water, with no master developer being sought. Instead, the council would retain overall control of the scheme and

enter into negotiation with developers on a site-by-site basis.

Three sites, providing around 1,000 new homes and 900 new jobs in total, are now being taken forward by the council – with the first homes built as soon as possible after the opening of Meridian Water's new railway station, currently scheduled for May 2019.

The council has also secured £120million from the government to fund a series of infrastructure works including a new road, flood defence scheme, cycle and pedestrian links, and a boost to local rail services.

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**Nº.1**  
**OCTOBER 2018**

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## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We need to make the area connected," Cllr Caliskan explained. "We need to look at the whole project and show the market we have a plan and that we will deliver it. We will have a phase-by-phase approach, giving many more companies a chance to bid for sites, and also generating greater financial returns for the council."

Cllr Caliskan dismissed suggestions that suddenly ditching talks to find a Meridian Water master-planner, which had lasted several years, meant starting from scratch. Opposition Conservative councillors claimed £3m was "wasted" on legal fees and advice during the failed procurement process. But the council leader pointed to progress made with land acquisition and said: "We have done a lot of the foundation work, building up knowledge of the sites, clean-



Original plans for the Meridian Water project, which may now change as the council seeks to work with new developers

***"They talked about building luxury homes – I didn't think it was okay"***

ing up the land – these are things we would have to pay for anyway."

Since 2014 the council has acquired 35 hectares at Meridian Water, at a cost of £157m, and now owns 64 percent of the land earmarked for development.

Cllr Caliskan also said the council was exploring the potential for key players from the film and music

industries to provide employment at Meridian Water during the early phase of works. "We could just rent it out to a chicken factory and make some money, but we are trying to get people to live here. We will get it right."

The council's aim for any new housing development in Enfield is to provide 50 percent 'affordable'

housing, and Cllr Caliskan says this also applies to Meridian Water. "My number one priority for the borough is reducing inequality, and Meridian Water will play a part in that."

**Find out more about the plans for Meridian Water:**  
**Visit** [meridianwater.co.uk](http://meridianwater.co.uk)

# Borough prepares for Brexit

Fears over impact on local services and construction projects after UK leaves European Union

BY STEPHEN COX

Six months before Brexit, bosses at Enfield Council say they need urgent clarity on the final deal to be able to manage the effects on its services.

The council's leadership has highlighted the potential economic impact and uncertainty for the 23,000 non-British EU citizens currently residing in the borough.

Earlier this year a council paper assessing risks to service delivery gave an 'Amber' rating for Brexit, meaning it has potential to cause disruption.

The report stated that, depending on the outcome of negotiations, "regeneration programmes could be placed at risk; housing supply may come under further pressure; business rate income could fall, and environmental

service arrangements will need to be reviewed".

Councillor Nesil Caliskan, the council leader, has called for new funding streams to cover the loss of EU regeneration funding. She said: "Enfield Council continues to be concerned as to the potential impact Brexit or a 'no deal Brexit' may have on our communities and our ability to continue to deliver high-quality services when we leave the EU.

"We continue to await firm direction from government and in the interim are developing contingency plans and gaining a better understanding of potential impacts on our residents and on service provision."

A third of all London's construction workers come from the rest of the EU and, after Brexit, such workers will need to apply for a

new and untried 'settled status'. Enfield's flagship £6billion Meridian Water development is intended to bring thousands of jobs and new housing, but could become one of many projects that struggles to find qualified workers, with the council warning that Brexit "may have a negative impact on [the] construction industry, which is reliant on EU nationals".

Last month the council's cabinet

Cllr Caliskan said: "As with the majority of local councils across the country, we are very keen that government should announce a fund to replace the EU structural funding that will no longer be open to us.

"We hope to see decisive leadership from government soon as the deadline draws closer. We cannot firm-up plans of action until more detail is made available to us on the final settlement."

The council leader has also joined those calling for a 'popular vote' on the final proposals – a second Brexit referendum.

She added: "I support the People's Vote and believe that Enfield residents deserve a say over what the deal is – if there is one."

***"Regeneration programmes could be placed at risk"***

discussed a projected gap in funding over spending of more than £9million, which may be met from reserves. Any economic downturn caused by Brexit could impact further on income and increase demand for services.



# Labour divided over leadership

Complaints about selection process, but action against local party unlikely

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Complaints by Labour councillors in Enfield about the selection process during this year's local election are unlikely to lead to disciplinary action being taken, the *Dispatch* understands.

Several sitting councillors were deselected prior to May's election, in what some in the local party claim was a co-ordinated move to enable Councillor Nesil Caliskan to become the new leader.

Just two weeks after former leader Councillor Doug Taylor won an increased majority on the council, a leadership ballot was held that resulted in Cllr Taylor being ousted and Cllr Caliskan taking his place.

Several councillors – including some who continue to serve in the council's cabinet – made complaints to the Labour Party's National Executive Committee (NEC) and called for an investigation into the selection process amid claims that “significant irregularities” had occurred.

A leaked letter also showed that some members were upset at the number of sitting black councillors who had been deselected.

However, the *Dispatch* has been told that Labour's NEC is not currently conducting a formal investigation into the selection process. While it is unlikely any disciplinary action will be taken over the matter, the party has not denied the possibility that rules were broken.

In an email to party members Cllr Caliskan defended the selec-



Enfield Council's cabinet, including new leader Nesil Caliskan (fifth from right) Credit: Enfield Council

tion process, saying all candidates were “interviewed by completely independent panels comprised of three Labour members from outside Enfield”. The council leader declined to comment further for this article.

Councillor Joanna Laban, the Tory group leader, said: “People deserve to know the truth and for any necessary action to be taken.”

The ongoing row over the circumstances that led to the change at the helm of the council last May comes as further Labour divisions were exposed by last month's vote of no confidence against Enfield North MP Joan Ryan, with constituency

members upset at comments about Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

The no confidence motion was agreed in a narrow vote of 94 to 92. It stated that members believed Joan had “publicly undermined the Labour Party in a manner that did not seek a constructive way forward”.

Much of the anger against Joan stems from the 2017 General Election, when the Enfield North MP openly disparaged the Labour Party's leadership and claimed voters have “more confidence in Theresa May as prime minister than they would have in Jeremy Corbyn”.

In response to the vote, Ms

Ryan pointed to the ongoing anti-Semitism row in the party and manoeuvres being made by “hard left” activists, citing her position as chair of the Labour Friends of Israel group as a decisive factor.

She said: “This was about anti-Semitism in the Labour Party and those of us who have stood by the Jewish community and said ‘enough is enough’. I will continue to speak out against anti-Semitism, against the campaign to demonise and delegitimise the world's only Jewish state, and for a Labour Party which is true to its values of anti-racism, respect and decency.”

## New £200m hospital building opens

The new Chase Farm Hospital building is set to host 10,000 operations each year



Newly-rebuilt Chase Farm Hospital has welcomed its first patients.

The £200million hospital building is described as being “equipped for the digital age” and features an urgent care centre, older person's assessment unit, and eight “state-of-the-art” operating theatres.

Chase Farm will now be the primary location for planned surgery within the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, which also runs the Barnet and Royal Free hospitals – delivering an expected 10,000 operations each year.

Accessibility has also been greatly improved at the hospital in The Ridgeway, which was originally

founded in 1948 – the same year as the National Health Service. There is a hospital concierge service situated in the main lobby and volunteers will help patients and visitors find their way around.

In addition, the hospital is testing new technologies to improve patient experience and safety. This includes patients having greater control and involvement in their own care through a ‘patient portal’. They will be able to view their medical history, test results, and upcoming appointments.

Natalie Forrest, chief executive of Chase Farm Hospital, said: “It's exciting to welcome patients into our brand new hospital. We are very proud and know it will offer the

people of Enfield, as well as the wider population we serve, a brilliant environment to deliver the very best of modern healthcare.”

While Chase Farm's accident and emergency department was closed five years ago, the new urgent care centre (UCC) can treat minor illness or injury that isn't life-threatening, including sprains, strains and broken bones; minor burns and scalds; minor head and eye injuries; and bites and stings. No appointments are needed and the UCC is open every day from 8am to 10pm.

The old hospital buildings, including some structures that are more than 130 years old, are now being redeveloped for housing and education.

## Local Tories in racism row

*Councillor suspended after comments at meeting*

The local Conservative Party became embroiled in a racism row after two Enfield councillors in as many months were suspended over comments made about people of Turkish origin.

Councillor William Coleshill brought chaotic scenes to the council chamber last month when, in a debate about school spending, he asked if the Turkish family of a Labour councillor had “brought a classroom with them” – prompting howls of protest.

The furore came a few weeks after another Conservative councillor was suspended over an anti-Turkish post on social media.

In September's full council meeting at Enfield Civic Centre, Cllr Coleshill was responding to a motion put forward by Councillor Susan Erbil calling for the government to reverse spending cuts affecting local schools.

After claiming migrants had contributed to the pressure placed on education funding, he asked: “When the Erbil family entered this country, did they bring a classroom with them?”

Loud cries of “racist” and “shame” erupted from the Labour benches in the council chamber, with many councillors visibly angry and upset. The situation threatened to escalate before Councillor Saray Karakus, who as Mayor of Enfield was chairing the meeting, intervened and appealed for calm.

Cllr Coleshill said that he withdrew the remark and apologised, but after a ten-minute break, did not return to his seat. The meeting subsequently resumed with a motion, already scheduled, stating the council “condemns and stands against racism, xenophobia and hate crimes”.

Councillor Joanne Laban, the Tory leader, said: “Cllr Coleshill has had his party membership and the Conservative group whip suspended. He is sitting as an independent member.”

The member for Bush Hill Park is now the second newly-elected councillor to be suspended by the local party, after Councillor Stephanos Ioannou, who represents Southgate, shared a tabloid front page from the 1970s with a headline describing Turks as ‘Barbarians’.

Cllr Laban added: “The Conservative Party takes this sort of matter very seriously and on both occasions acted quickly.”

## Helping improve health services

Introducing Enfield's independent consumer champion for health and social care

BY CLAIRE FISHER

Even if you've never heard of us, chances are you've unknowingly benefited from some of our work at some point over the last five years.

Here at Healthwatch Enfield, we help improve local health and social care services by listening to the people who use them – that's you! – and negotiating with those who run them to ensure improvements are made using your feedback.

Our work covers more than 420 local services including NHS hospitals, mental health services, pharmacies, doctor's surgeries, opticians, dentists, and care homes. It involves anything from building a case to improve a service, to helping to spread the word about a new service or po-

tential changes to services that may affect you.

At our busy office in Edmonton we have a small team of dedicated staff and volunteers, where we run an information line, produce jargon busting leaflets, newsletters, surveys, reports, and plan pop-up events and focus groups across the borough.

We use your feedback to submit formal reports that represent your concerns, frustrations, and suggestions to leaders and commissioners of services. Because we are a statutory body, created by the government's Health and Social Care Act 2012, they must respond to our reports and clearly explain how they will address any of the issues raised.

We have found that services usually positively engage with

your feedback and implement most of the recommendations that you suggest. For example, last year North Middlesex University Hospital upheld five recommendations to improve emergency services for disabled patients visiting their accident and emergency department, including a disability mentoring programme for reception staff. We also helped secure four extra emergency ambulances across the borough.

All those surveys really do get read – and change does happen. Right now we are working with some local GP practices to improve patients' experience of

***“We help improve services by listening to those that use them”***

booking doctor's appointments. We would like to hear your views about it so we can highlight problems as well as

put forward any examples of systems that are working well.

As a founding member of *Enfield Dispatch* we are delighted to now have a regular column in this newspaper and we look forward to sharing more news and information with you about health and social care in Enfield.

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Enfield

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Visit [smartsurvey.com/s/EnfieldGP](https://smartsurvey.com/s/EnfieldGP)

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Call 020 8373 6283

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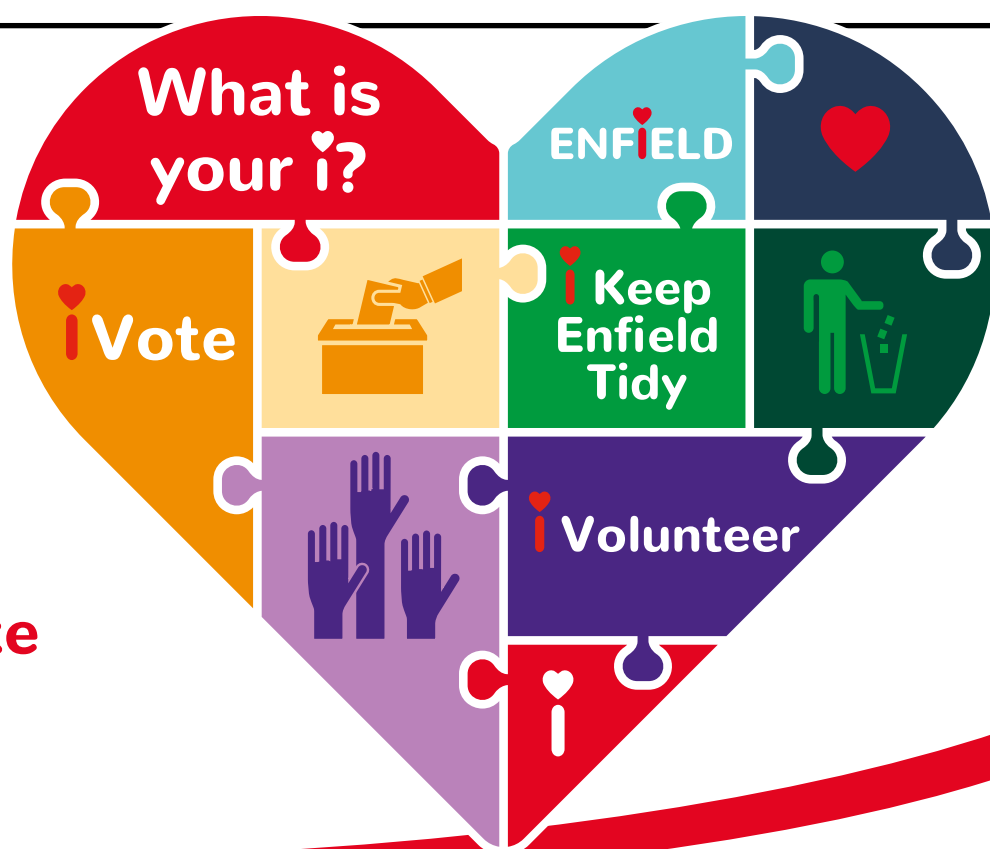
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## Interview P.7

Kate McGeevor talks about her seven years managing Forty Hall Farm

# Full stream ahead

A group of Enfield residents are working together to improve a local stream – and help boost wildlife

BY  
**Frances Dismore  
& Alison Archer**



The popular wetlands area recently opened at Firs Farm in Palmers Green is now being used as an example for other parks and open spaces to follow

Credit James Cracknell

Those who observed satellite images recording the progressive effect of this summer's heatwave on London may have noticed that as our city's green spaces scorched brown, our waterways turned green.

It seems we're so estranged from our rivers that we're unable to interpret conspicuous indicators of environmental calamity, even when they are visible from space. As social media wondered as the 'Astroturf' duckweed blooms proliferated, fish were dying. How uncanny that it was our iconic, critically-endangered, red-listed eels, surfacing from the anaerobic, polluted depths dead, that spelt out the home truth.

Fortunately, we can build interventions in Enfield to reduce the diffuse pollution blighting our waterways and improve our community's and our wildlife's resilience to climate change. We have an unprecedented opportunity in north London to build a matrix of Sustainable Drain Systems (SuDS) to improve water quality on a catchment scale while augmenting local flood defence measures to protect

people's homes.

SuDS are constructed wetlands which can be built into the hard-landscaping of roads or housing developments as planters or swales. They can be landscaped into parks as rewilded spaces for recreation, outdoor classrooms, and habitat for wildlife. SuDS slow stormwater run-off, allowing sewer networks to function within capacity, averting emergency discharges of sewage into our rivers.

Often parks are sited on floodplains; here SuDS can be landscaped to create greater capacity to store floodwater. The wetland plants filter out grit, oil, microplastics, and heavy-metals from road run-off – preventing these from polluting our rivers. The plants also absorb excess nutrients from sewerage introduced by incorrect plumbing, mitigating extreme duckweed and algal blooms.

Residents, facilitated by the leading waterways charity Thames21, have used their local knowledge to identify areas to site SuDS in Enfield and other parts of the Lower Lea catchment in London. Using data on open-source geography, weather, land use, water quality, and sewers,

plus a computer modelling programme which simulates the flow of rainfall and run-off, 34 feasible sites have been identified.

The Pymmes Brook in Enfield is one of the streams that feeds into the River Lea, but it is currently one of the dirtiest in the country. Working with communities in the river's catchment area, as well as Enfield Council and Thames 21, a group of residents want to install a new wetlands area that will clean the water naturally, reduce flood risk, increase biodiversity, and improve Enfield's open spaces.

The project is a fantastic opportunity to improve, not just our local green spaces, but the whole river, and is an amazing opportunity to have a real and positive impact on our environment.

By working with people along the course of the river we can make our rivers and open spaces lovelier. We'd like to see kingfishers, herons and

egrets on the river, take our kids pond-dipping, and build outdoor classrooms and riverside paths.

Vicci Midwinter is one of the local people involved. She said: "Pymmes Brook, like many of London's rivers, is heavily polluted, mainly by the run-off from roads and by sewage mis-connections, but environmental crime is also a problem.

"We want to change how people think about their rivers, to understand that by getting involved we can do something about it!"

Eamonn Cannon, another resident working on the project, said the group were using a computer programme developed by Oxford University to model the impact that building wetlands can have on water quality. "We've shown that it will improve by a whopping 28 percent, which would transform Pymmes Brook from one of the dirtiest rivers in the UK to one whose water quality is rated as 'good'."

The group is now calling itself the Pymmes Brookers (short for 'Pymmes Brook Restorers'). They want to construct 16 wetlands along the river's catchment. Prospective sites in Enfield include Arnos Park, Tatem Park, and Tile Kiln Lane Green Space, in addition to wetlands already planned in Broomfield and Pymmes Park.

"There's lots to do," says volunteer Laura Hooke, "I love working with a group, outside, doing something practical to make our outdoor spaces more enjoyable for us all.

"We'd love people to help us spread the word, and we're going to need help with lots of things, from planting reedbeds, to litter-picking, and all sorts."

Peter Leedham is part of another group that is doing something similar for Salmon's Brook, which also runs through Enfield on its way to the River Lea. He said: "We'd love to hear from people who live or work next to Salmon's Brook to help us make it a part of our environment that we can all enjoy!"

**To find out more and to get involved with the Pymmes Brookers:**  
Email [pymmesbrook.alison@gmail.com](mailto:pymmesbrook.alison@gmail.com)

**To help with the group working on Salmon's Brook:**  
Email [rosie.nelson@thames21.org.uk](mailto:rosie.nelson@thames21.org.uk)

*"We're going to need help with lots of things, from planting reedbeds, to litter-picking, and all sorts"*

*"It's a fantastic opportunity to improve the whole river"*



# FEATURES

## ADVERTISE WITH ENFIELD DISPATCH

Enfield Dispatch is the borough's free community newspaper. It includes local news, features about community projects and campaigns, comment and opinion on what's happening in the borough, interviews with local people, and previews of local events.

The paper is published by Social Spider Community Interest Company, which runs two other papers in north-east London – Tottenham Community Press and Waltham Forest Echo – on a not-for-profit basis. The Dispatch relies on advertising revenue to cover production costs but all income is reinvested in the continuing success of the paper.

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### Local Tories in racism row

*Cllr William Coleshill has been suspended following comments made at a recent council meeting*

The local Conservative Party became embroiled in a racism row after two Enfield councillors in as many months were suspended over comments made about people of Turkish origin.

Councillor William Coleshill brought racist remarks to the council chamber last month when, in a debate about school spending, he asked if the Turkish family of a Labour councillor had "brought a classroom with them" – prompting howls of protest. The council suspended Coleshill for a week. In September's full council meeting at Enfield Civic Centre, Cllr Coleshill was responding to a motion forwarded by Councillor Susan Elford calling for the government to review spending cuts affecting local schools. After claiming migrants had contributed to the problem, he said: "When I think of the Turkish family, they bring a classroom with them."

Cllr Coleshill said that he withdrew the remark and apologised, but after a vote to suspend him, he did not return to his seat. The meeting subsequently resumed with a motion, already scheduled, stating the council "condemns and stands against racism, xenophobia and hate crimes".

## Support for older people

A new project run by Age UK Enfield is offering advice and support

BY CIARA MCNULTY

Nine months ago we launched the iCan project in Enfield – providing support for conditions such as dementia, diabetes and strokes to keep people independent and healthy.

This project was created by Age UK Enfield, Alphacare, Lea Valley Crossroads Care, and Attend – with a successful joint bid for funding made to Enfield Council. An added intervention for iCan is to support people who are isolated and lonely and might need end-of-life information.

For the project to function a manager and four 'navigators' were appointed and I was lucky to be one of the navigators. We began our task by mapping the whole borough to find out exactly what support services already existed in Enfield for these conditions. We then split the

borough into quadrants and each navigator went out and became an expert on everything that was going on in their patch.

This included not just health and social care services but voluntary sector support groups and social groups such as lunch clubs, memory clubs for people with dementia, exercise classes, and falls prevention classes. It was heart-warming to see how many voluntary groups there are and meet so many people who give their time to run these groups with enthusiasm and kindness.

The next task was to find ways of making ourselves as visible as possible in the community so that people could access help. We approached GP surgeries, libraries, Enfield Civic Centre, North Middlesex and Chase Farm hospitals, and other community centres. We then successfully set up 32 'pop-up' surgeries where people can come

and talk to us and we can hopefully help to signpost and organise support for them. If people's problems are complex we can offer home visits.

The other remit of my iCan navigator role is to give talks around the community and raise awareness of how to prevent or better manage these conditions. We organise quarterly awareness events and are currently in the process of setting up a 'Tea and Chatter' social group in a library in each part of the borough.

We have had some excellent feedback on iCan so far, including one GP surgery saying it was dealing with things that would have otherwise used up precious appointment time.

For more information:

Visit [ageuk.org.uk/enfield](http://ageuk.org.uk/enfield)



The iCan team



# INTERVIEW



Kate McGeevor is leaving Forty Hall Farm after working as manager for seven years

## Life begins at Forty Hall Farm

Kate McGeevor talks to Basil Clarke about her time managing Enfield's local farm

When Kate McGeevor moved to Enfield seven years ago most visitors to Forty Hall probably paid little attention to the adjacent farm buildings, if they noticed them at all.

Today, as Kate prepares to move on to pastures new after seven years managing Forty Hall Farm, she leaves behind a transformed place that, on top of its educational role, provides the borough with sustainably produced food, volunteering opportunities, fun days out for families, and enjoyable evenings for music lovers.

Back in 2011 there was no orchard, no market garden, no farm shop, no festivals and no music events. It was just a farm.

"Capel Manor College took it over in 1997 and ran it largely as a sheep farm and as somewhere for students to come and do practicals with animals," Kate tells me. "One of the previous managers decided to go organic, and then, in 2009, the college was approached by Sarah Vaughan-Roberts, who was looking for land to set up a community vineyard."

Forty Hall Vineyard went on to become a thriving business, producing still and sparkling wines from organically grown grapes grown by volunteers. Its success led to Capel Manor reassessing the role of the farm.

"The college saw the value of opening up the farm to the community and that's when I was taken on. The remit that I was given was to establish a centre to promote sustainable food production."

Capel Manor's new vision for the farm came at just the right time for Kate. She'd been working for the government, researching the impact of food on the environment and people's relationship with food. But following the arrival of the coalition government in 2010, she felt that her work was being ignored.

"In the early 2000s there was more of a commitment to environmental policy, and some of the work that the UK government was doing was pretty cutting-edge, looking at how

you could encourage people to make environmentally-friendly choices.

"Partly because of the recession and partly because of the change of government, the work that I was doing, into ways of helping people live more sustainably, was not at the top of the agenda.

"So I was looking for something else. I wasn't thinking of working on a farm, but then I saw this advertised."

Kate's first task on arrival was to put

also stocks food and drink from other local suppliers. The Enfield Veg weekly vegetable bag scheme distributes produce to nine local pick-up points in the borough.

The orchard has more than one hundred different varieties of fruit – apples, pears, cherries, plums, damsons and mulberries. This is partly because of the importance of protecting genetic variety, but also for educational reasons.

"I think it's important to educate people about the lack of diversity in our food systems and

how that's come about because of the supermarkets.

"We recently discovered that a big old apple tree on the farm isn't on the national fruit database. DNA tests have confirmed that it's a unique variety – so we get to name it!"

All events have an educational component; for instance, at the Food Festival there were foraging workshops, and there are short

courses in skills such as scything and hedge-laying. A veg box scheme encourages people to think about seasonality and reducing food miles.

The farm also hosts many school visits, and Kate doesn't shy away from the issue of meat. "The first question we ask the children is usually: 'What food do we get from this animal?'"

Kate emphasises the value of volunteering. "As well as practical skills, such as sowing seeds, volunteering helps people to build soft skills – like being able to work in a team, turning up for work every day – the skills people sometimes lose if they're out of work or have been unwell for a long time.

"It's not about expecting people to straight away become a gardener. Maybe they leave with the confidence to go on to more formal training or employment elsewhere. It's a progression rather than a direct impact."

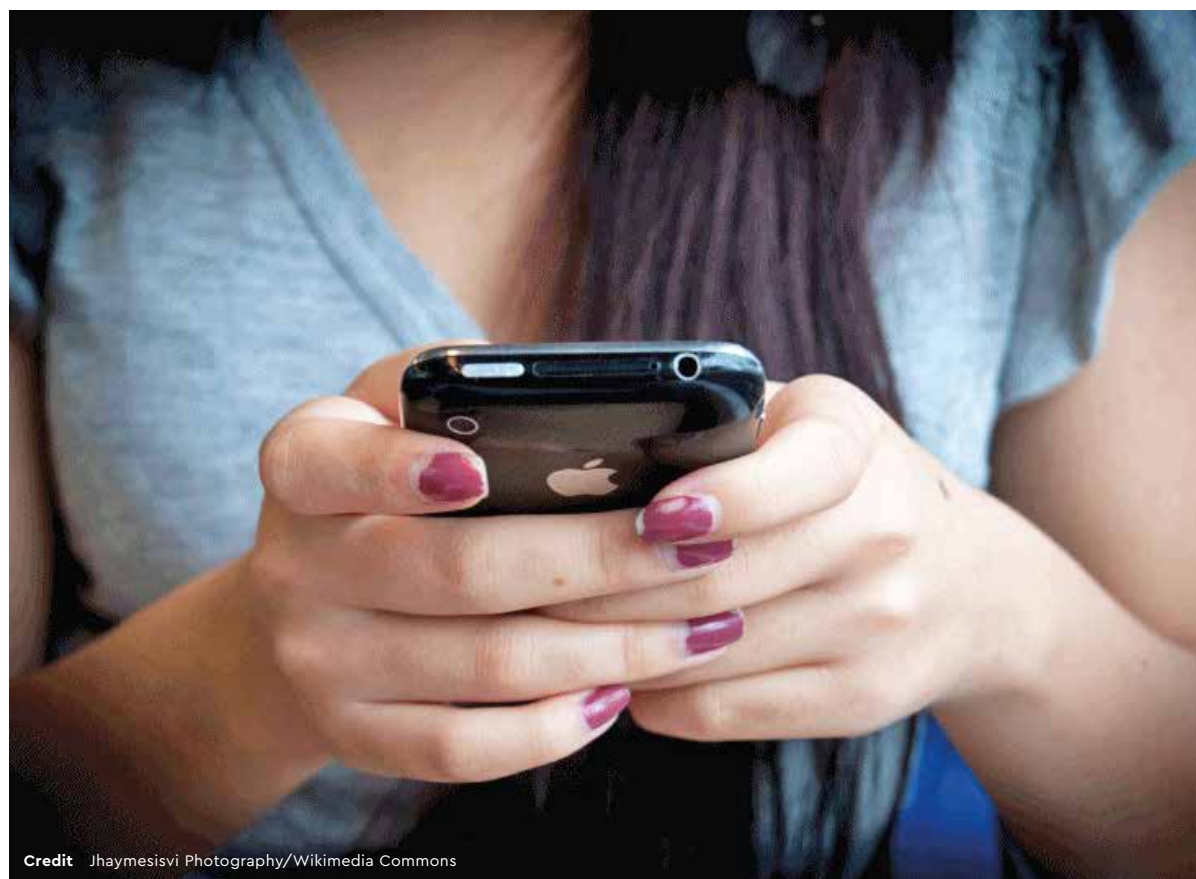
Kate McGeevor has certainly had a direct impact on Forty Hall Farm and the wider borough. I wish her well in her next job, which will be to transform a former theatre in Manchester into a community venue.

***"I think it's important to educate people about the lack of diversity in our food systems"***

flesh on the bones of Capel Manor's ideas for community production of organic fruit and vegetables. Seven years later both market garden and orchard are firmly established.

Organic produce from the orchard and market garden and meat from the farm's cattle and sheep are used in the kitchens at the Civic Centre and Dugdale Centre, as well as being sold in the shop, which





Credit Jhaymesivsi Photography/Wikimedia Commons

## You will not believe how dangerous social media can be

Local writer Jason McKenna offers some advice for navigating the online world

The headline of this article reflects the style of many posts that are shared through the medium of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media outlets.

They are attention-seeking 'clickbait' and quite often have little truth to them. However, there is truth in this article. There needs to be education in the use of social media when it comes to local activities. Connective technologies can help enhance community life, but at the moment a lot of harm is coming about because people are not fully 'in the know'.

The nature of the internet means that a message can be spread to a large audience almost instantaneously. This reach can be used positively, especially in regards to helping bring accountability to public figures or criminal activity. Recently, however, there has been a growth in harmful posts in

Enfield that could potentially hurt the lives and livelihoods of many people.

Enfield social media feeds have seen a sharp rise in online 'trials' where users share a post in good faith to try and help an apparent criminal be brought to justice. The danger is that these vigilante posts can be used to name and shame perfectly

***“There is a happy medium where sharing good quality information can help the community”***

innocent individuals.

Social media can be a force for good in many situations relating to crimes or unfair business practices but people need to wise up too. One must be always questioning what they read on the internet, as there are so many people who want to garner attention or make money in any way possible.

The sharing of these posts can be

useful but you should check for clues as to how trustworthy these sources are. In the other extreme, there are many people who dismiss all things that are shared on social media because of scare stories. But there is a happy medium where the sharing of good quality information can help aid the community as a

whole and the negatives can be minimised. Tips to avoid falling for scams include check-

ing spelling; checking web pages; checking the source; and comparing other people's testimonies. If you feel that it may be a hoax or the person is sharing potentially dangerous material about a crime then report the post or message. If you want to take matters further the police will help and can offer advice. You can easily contact them by dialling 101.

## Tackling issues in Edmonton

In our regular councillors' column, Cllr Margaret Greer talks about her priorities

I was proud to be elected councillor for the Lower Edmonton ward in May and I hope to make a real difference to the residents of my community.

Since my election, I have had several advice ward surgeries and arranged meetings with local residents. My first action was to go back to see some residents whom I had met on the campaign trail and thank them for their support and input over the summer period leading up to the landslide in Enfield for the local Labour Party.

It is clear, however, that a number of major concerns are a focus for residents and have been for several years; fly-tipping, knife crime, housing, prostitution, the impact of budget cuts on schools and social housing, cycle lanes, Meridian Water, anti-social behaviour, and more.

My focus has to be tackling what is important to the residents and raising those at every opportunity. I have met with several neighbourhood champions across my ward and have

been organising ward walkabouts with residents.

The Lower Edmonton area is clearly in need of more funding and this will be one of the many areas that we will be focusing on over the next four years, as we enter into what will be a time of difficult budget decisions in light



Cllr Margaret Greer is a newly-elected Labour member representing Lower Edmonton

of further central government cuts to local authorities.

Enfield Dispatch will be a great opportunity to get across to residents some of the important work of the council, what is happening in your local area, and what your elected councillors are doing and supporting to ensure your voices are heard. It is never an easy task, but I think I have managed to make some positive connections with those that have asked for my support and assistance over the past several months.

We held a joint ward forum meeting last month with members from Lower Edmonton, Haselbury, Edmonton Green, and Upper Edmonton; I was pleased to see so many people there. As lively as it was, with presentations on local policing, cycle lanes, and Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ), ward forums are the best way of communicating and my preferred option for having face-to-face discussions with residents.

The council recently held a knife crime awareness day, which brought many people together alongside the police to really look at what we need to be doing to address this terrible issue affecting our communities and young people. We are planning to hold further events to support our communities.

**Cllr Greer is one of three councillors elected to represent Lower Edmonton, alongside Sinan Boztas and Guney Dogan (all Labour). Surgeries are held every last Saturday of the month 11am-12.30pm at Edmonton Green Library. Get in touch:**

Call 020 8379 2647

Email [cllr.margaret.greer@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.margaret.greer@enfield.gov.uk)



# New police unit can help borough

## Merger of Haringey and Enfield police teams won't be 'so unfair'



Inspector Chris Byrne works on the partnerships and youth engagement team at Enfield Police

**Y**ou may have heard that a change is coming to the way in which local policing is organised throughout London.

Up until now Londoners have been used to thinking about policing in terms of their local borough – but boroughs vary in size, do things differently, have different issues, and are increasingly inconsistent and inflexible to police this way.

As from January 2019, the Metropolitan Police is moving away from that model and instead forming twelve Basic Command Units (BCU) across London. This means, in practical terms, that Enfield Police and Haringey Police will become one unit. Sadly we will not, as lots of people have joked, be called 'MPS Hari-Enfield'! It's going to be the rather more prosaic 'North Area'.

Obviously, as a merged BCU, we will continue to deliver all of the core functions of policing that we do already. It's actually more of a change in how resources are organised. However, I know from talking to residents that people clearly have questions about these changes, beginning with: "Why make a change at all?"

This is being done to improve our service in Enfield and Haringey by increasing the flexibility we have with personnel and resources. In times of increasing demand – and the police have never been in so much demand – this single command unit should make it easier for Enfield and Haringey police, who already work closely together, to support each other over borough lines at particularly busy times.

I'm often asked if it is a way to cut police officer numbers. The answer is categorically no. There will still be as many officers available to respond to calls across Enfield and Haringey and the commitment to keeping two dedicated neighbourhood officers and a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for every single electoral ward will be maintained.

***"Sadly we will not be called 'MPS Hari-Enfield'"***

BY INSPECTOR CHRIS BYRNE

Something that Enfield Police is already doing very successfully will be rolled out to become the norm across Haringey too; officers who respond to a call will often take charge of that investigation from beginning to end, which helps to ensure victims' continuity of service.

So what are the benefits Enfield residents can expect? We will be increasing the number of officers focusing on schools and youth work as an investment in preventing future youth violence, and we will slim down to one leadership team who will oversee the staffing across both boroughs. But we will still be organised into five strands of work; response, neighbourhoods, safeguarding, investigation, and a headquarters team that will support the four other areas.

It has taken a year of very intensive planning from the new North Area BCU commander Helen Millichap and the senior leadership teams in both boroughs, and it remains an undoubted fact that the police need to plan for a future with fewer resources, but we are confident that these changes in how we work can benefit the people of both Enfield and Haringey.

# How do 'outsiders' view Enfield?

## Let's not throw away borough's reputation

**H**aving travelled far and wide and been asked the classic question "where are you from?" I always proudly answer: "London, if you couldn't tell from my accent!"

If, by any chance, my conversation partner happens to know London quite well, they'll tend to extend the question to ask "where in London?" and I usually respond: "Enfield, in north London?" with an inflection in my tone because I know they'll have no idea where Enfield is.

I'm secretly excited that there are still parts of London that have not quite made it onto the tourist map. Recently though, Enfield seems to have popped into the collective consciousness for all the wrong reasons. A university friend once observed that he recognised the name from a crime module that he was taking. Enfield also popped up in a lecture of my own for having some of the highest rates of homelessness and citizen vulnerability in the country. Suddenly, I started to feel ashamed.



Sharlene Gandhi is a blogger from Edmonton

***"It's a place of contrasts and conflicts; a liminal space between city and country"***

The borough has experienced huge change and population growth – just under 15 percent between 2001 and 2011 alone. It encompasses affluent areas such as Winchmore Hill and Cockfosters, as well as less affluent areas such as Edmonton, where I grew up, a place that still struggles as its neighbouring districts undergo gentrification. Enfield is a place of contrasts and conflicts; a liminal space between city and country.

As I traded my idea of Enfield from the view of a resident for that of a newcomer, I noticed not only the steady increase of homelessness, crime, and buildings being boarded up, but also the disturbing amount of rubbish deposited in green areas.

Plastic bottles and packaging are scattered around Enfield, whether or not the bin two steps away is completely full or completely empty. Is it anyone's fault, or anyone's responsibility, that we are letting one of London's best-kept secrets rot under a sea of non-biodegradable waste?

We could blame the council for a lack of bins, failing to see our own laziness in putting the bins to use, while the authorities install new bins and blame citizens for not using them correctly. The answer comes not from blaming a large, siloed group of

people, but rather accepting collective responsibility for our environment and the effects that this rubbish has.

Beyond being an eyesore and seeping into local vegetation and water systems, the spread and inappropriate disposal of rubbish has severe implications for human health. Chemical components of plastic can be ingested through the nose, mouth and skin. Part of the problem, of course, is that we do not see a plastic bottle as a threat to our health and wellbeing, but rather a tool of convenience.

At Lancaster University, my alma mater, the recycling bins around the campus had a variety of shaped holes; a round hole for bottles, a smaller round hole for coffee cups, and a thin slit for paper. This technique, centred on behavioural economics, inspires positive change.

We need the support of local authorities to help cultivate these habits and shape our current behaviours, such that recycling plastic becomes just as routine as recycling paper. Perhaps, like Lancaster University, Enfield could also benefit from behaviour-changing bins dotted around the borough, and we could then proudly remain one of London's best-kept, and well-kept, secrets.

BY SHARLENE GANDHI



# Welcome to Enfield's new community newspaper

**H**ello and welcome to Issue 1 of *Enfield Dispatch*!

The *Dispatch* is the borough's free community newspaper, published each month and distributed across all parts of the borough. As you can see, it's a bit different to your typical local paper. Most of the articles are written by voluntary contributors – people who are active in their community and want to share something that matters to them.

For example, Frances Dismore and Alison Archer have written on Page 5 about a project, run by local residents, to rejuvenate Pymmes Brook. On Page 7, Basil Clarke has spoken to Kate McGeevor about her time managing Forty Hall Farm. And on Page 12, Regan O'Mahony has written about a popular children's choir.

As a community newspaper, we rely on these sorts of contributions from people who live and work in the borough. This is your opportunity to shout about the projects, events, stories and issues that matter to you. If you want to write about something, just email [EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com) – I'll discuss your idea with you before giving you a deadline and word count.

Of course, as well as these articles, we still have room for traditional news reporting. One of our motivations for launching the *Dispatch* was the sudden closure last year of Enfield Advertiser. When I was a freelance reporter I spent a few weeks writing for the Advertiser and I could see that it did a vital job in holding authority to account. The decline of such local papers creates a big hole in the community. As a monthly rather than weekly publication, the *Dispatch* will not be able to fill this hole on its own, but it can make a valuable contribution. I will be looking to report on some of the issues affecting Enfield, with help from other local journalists.

Launching a newspaper in the age of the internet and smartphones is no easy thing. Most of the revenue streams that local papers have relied on for decades have been significantly reduced. Corporate-owned publications are struggling, with very few exceptions, and it's unlikely they'll be able to recover what they've lost. That's why we're taking a different approach.

*Enfield Dispatch* is published by Social Spider Community Interest Company, which already runs two other community papers in north-east London; *Waltham Forest Echo* and *Tottenham Community Press*.

Social Spider director David Floyd, recognising the decline in local media was making it harder for voluntary groups to promote and communicate their activities, decided to launch the *Echo* in 2014. It operates a not-for-profit model, so all income is re-invested in the paper.

This model has proved successful, which is why David decided to launch *TCP* in 2016, and why we're now expanding into Enfield. While we are a growing organisation, our aim with each paper remains the same – to provide the community with a platform to promote local projects, campaigns, events, and hold authority to account.

The process of launching the *Dispatch* has been a challenge. Enfield is the fourth-largest borough in London, with a similar population to cities like Nottingham and Coventry. We want to make sure that everyone in the borough has a chance to read the paper; our distribution network features more than 200 outlets – including cafés, pubs, community centres, libraries, GP surgeries, schools, hair salons, and anywhere else that will have us! The papers are being delivered by cargo bike company ZED and if you have any suggestions for new places they could put the paper, just let us know.

The other big challenge is generating the money we need to cover our production costs. We knew we'd be unlikely to sell enough adverts in our first edition to do this, so we are incredibly grateful to the local people and organisations that have become 'Founding Members' of *Enfield Dispatch* by making a donation to help fund our launch. If you also want to support us in future, we will soon be launching a general membership scheme, with benefits including having the paper delivered to your door. More information will be on our website shortly – go to [enfielddispatch.co.uk](http://enfielddispatch.co.uk)

I'd like to end by thanking the people who have helped make this paper happen: David Floyd for taking the bold decision to go ahead with it; Jonathan Duncan for creating an incredible design; Basil Clarke for helping to promote the launch on his website Palmers Green Community; Emma Rigby and the team at Love Your Doorstep for promoting us and providing space at Salisbury House; and Anna Merryfield and Isabelle Green at Social Spider for their general support and encouragement.

I hope you enjoy our first paper – all feedback is welcome!



The Enfield Dispatch team, from left to right; publisher David Floyd, project manager Anna Merryfield, editor James Cracknell, designer Jonathan Duncan

## FOUNDING MEMBERS

Thank you to the following local people and organisations who have made donations to fund the first edition of *Enfield Dispatch*

**Basil Clarke**  
**Stephen Cox**  
**Sarah Dodgson**  
**Chris Lemin**  
**Matilde Valdivieso**  
**Rupert Price**



## Time for tea

Discover the café in Palmers Green serving up a treat

BY DANA BURSTOW

**E**thical and sexy, who'd have thought it at 375 Green Lanes?

The visionary behind My Time is Brian Lewis. You'll find the café slap bang in the middle of the Edwardian parade of shops on the replanted section of Green Lanes in Palmers Green.

Brian has high hopes for regeneration and is busy galvanising shop owners, landlords and local residents into exploring its charms. The My Time café ethos is keep it local, know your supplier, and know your customer. While I'm visiting, every customer says hello or has a joke with Brian.

"Each pot of tea delivers three delicious infusions," he says as he presents me with a pot of jasmine pearls. Here, theatre and ceremony goes into every coffee or tea.

What started just over two years ago as a café serving organic, independently-sourced fare, has developed

into a lightning rod for local businesses and a gathering spot for people interested in excellent cocktails, live music, and a passion for vinyl.

Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night, My Time entertains a crowd that would otherwise be traipsing to Winchmore Hill or Muswell Hill. Brian raves about his sexy funk, soul, and disco nights, which sees people strutting their funky stuff!

***"We are interested in offering something different, ethical, responsible, and fun"***

"Crown Heights Affair is the album I'd rescue from the café's vinyl collection," he says, referencing the self-titled 1974 debut by the New York disco group. Sometimes it's a parents' end-of-term party, and other times enthusiastic locals gather to enjoy Sunday live music sessions or open mic nights.

Locally-sourced ingredients with the lowest possible food miles are a passion for Brian; he explains how he has great

relationships with Enefeld Brewery; gin from the Old Bakery in Palmers Green; handmade sodas from Hackney; cakes from local bakers, some of whom are old friends; and experts in baking delicious creations which can be sampled in the café or ordered for special occasions. "It's really important to me that I have a relationship with my suppliers – we all work together to help each other," he says.

Increasing rents and rates challenge businesses. To beat that, Brian explains: "We are interested in offering something different, ethical, responsible, and fun."

Brian escaped the responsibilities of the corporate world to rule his own domain. He finishes by saying: "Our local business association is working to make Palmers Green a thriving hub of successful, busy businesses and, with residents' help, we're looking forward to making that a reality."

**For more information about My Time:**

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



My Time owner Brian Lewis (right) with his enthusiastic chef Alex Chetty (left)

## Bringing Enfield together

BY JO JOHNSON

***How an online community forum has helped unite the borough***

**L**ove Your Doorstep is very excited to be able to work alongside the fantastic new community newspaper *Enfield Dispatch*.

Many of you will have heard of Love Your Doorstep and the work we've been doing across the borough for the past seven years. If you weren't aware of our backstory, the concept was born when founder Emma Rigby personally witnessed the horror of the 2011 London Riots.

Emma wanted to create a focal point for information sharing and the riots motivated her to set up a Facebook group for Enfield. This was an instant success thanks to the number of like-minded people who wanted to bring back the community spirit to Enfield. In 2012, the Love Your Doorstep website was born.

Seven years on and the online community group on Facebook has close to 24,000 local members, making it the largest online community group in Enfield. Fully moderated by a team day and night, our platform is the perfect place to discuss anything local in 'real time'.

We put local people in touch with local products and services and support over 650 businesses. We bring together both businesses and individuals, promoting local job opportunities, supporting local charities, solving problems and sharing ideas; all in one spot!

We have witnessed a number of success stories, such as people being reunited with lost pets, people finding their dream job, donations for charity initiatives – the list goes on. Our borough truly is a wonderful place to live. If you want to witness acts of kindness on a daily basis, support a wide range of local businesses, and be a part of an amazing community, join our group and see for yourself!

Love Your Doorstep is holding a Winter Ball at Trent Park Golf Club on Saturday 24th November, in aid of the homeless charity Todos Together. It will be an incredible evening of fundraising for a van to help Todos with its outreach projects.

**For more information about Love Your Doorstep:**

**Email** [customerservice@loveyourdoorstep.co.uk](mailto:customerservice@loveyourdoorstep.co.uk)

**Twitter** @Loveurdoorstep

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

**For more information on Winter Ball and to buy tickets:**

**Visit** [todosttogether.org/2018/06/26/love-your-doorstep-charity-ball](http://todosttogether.org/2018/06/26/love-your-doorstep-charity-ball)



## Films celebrate black women's history



**A film about American poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou is one of those featured at Enfield's Dugdale Centre during Black History Month**

**Credit** William J. Clinton Presidential Library

country's female national hero, Queen Nanny.

No film series of this nature would be without *Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise* (2016) which was the first feature documentary to be made of American poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou, and went on to win several awards.

Filmmaker Kevin Macdonald delves into the life of Whitney Houston for Thursday's film *Whitney* (2018). Comprised of never-before-seen footage, alongside rare interviews and performances woven together, it makes for an intimate portrait of the music legend.

Finishing off the week is feature film *Breaking In* (2018). Starring Gabrielle Union, it tells the story of a woman who must protect her family during a home invasion at her late father's home.

From fighting apartheid, to rising up against social injustice and highlighting the great achievements of these women, these films are a celebration of black women's history.

**BY MARIANNA MICHAEL**

**E**nfield will become an epicentre of female empowerment through cinema across the second week of Black History Month.

Opening its doors for the community this October, the Dugdale Centre hosts a small but significant event to celebrate an array of strong films, alongside the Make It Happen Organisation. This

will also form part of a celebration for Black History Month in Britain.

The week-long event starting on Monday 8th October will create a platform, for stories worth seeing from a variety of filmmakers. As a collective, the series will depict some of the greatest biographies and narratives from a diverse community comprising a rich culture, heritage, and identity.

There are five films on show, start-

ing with *Winnie* (2017). Written and directed by Pascale Lamche, the documentary presents an intimate view of the turbulent, often misunderstood and intriguing life of the late Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

Second is the historical documentary *Queen Nanny: Legendary Maroon Chieftainess* (2015), telling the tale of an 18th Century leader of the revolting slaves, the Jamaican Maroons, and the

with live organ accompaniment.

Southgate Symphony Orchestra perform on Saturday 24th November at St Stephen's Church, Bush Hill Park, with Tom Torley, soloist in Vaughan Williams's *Tuba Concerto*, alongside two rarities; *Une Voix dans le Désert*, written by Elgar in 1915, and Hubert Parry's *Fifth Symphony*, heard at this year's Proms on the centenary of the composer's death.

There's more to Parry than *Jerusalem*, as we are belatedly discovering!

The North London Symphony Orchestra, originally formed in 1947, is now in its second full season under the internationally acclaimed cellist, teacher and conductor Robert Max. The programmes are ambitious and the orchestra delivers them with aplomb. The next concert, on Saturday 1st December in the Palmers Green United Reformed Church, includes William Walton's *First Symphony* – music of tremendous vitality and energy, as exciting now as when it was first performed in the 1930s.

Enfield is also the home of Children's International Voices, founded and inspired by June and Christopher Keyte. Ages range from four to 24 and many previous members have gone on to careers in the professional music world.

Enfield Music Services offers many opportunities for playing and singing too – their flagship Enfield Youth Symphony Orchestra can

be heard at St Giles Cripplegate, in the City of London, on Friday 7th December, playing Dvorák's *Eighth Symphony* and Grieg's *Piano Concerto*.

Opera preparation takes more time, but we can look forward to *La Traviata* from Southgate Opera in February 2019. There will also be many smaller vocal and instrumental recitals and community events.



**Enfield Youth Symphony Orchestra perform at St Giles Cripplegate**  
**Credit** Photocoverage

## A season for classics

*Where to see classical music performed in Enfield this autumn*

**BY GARRY HUMPHREYS**

**P**rior to writing this article I knew there were many local orchestras and classical music groups in the borough – but only in my research was the wide variety of activity in Enfield revealed.

Amateur choral singers are well served; this year the Enfield Choral Society sings Carl Orff's ever-popular *Carmina Burana* at St Paul's Church, Winchmore Hill, on Saturday 13th October.

On the same day, at Christ Church Southgate, a silent film, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* (1923), will be shown

## Join the club

*David Williamson explains how a film club became a local touring cinema*

**A** group of my friends in Palmers Green have had a film club for many years. Each month we go to a different house and the hosts choose a film and cook a meal.

When I retired six years ago I wondered if this mix of social and cultural glue would work for a wider group of people. Talkies Community Cinema was launched in January 2013 and we now run about 30 events a year, including outdoor screenings for families in Broomfield Park, art house cinema at the Dugdale Centre in Enfield, and several other venues showing a range of films.

Most of the background organisation is done by friend Steve Foster and I, but it needs the dedication of a brilliant team of volunteers to make Talkies events happen.

Talkies is a not-for-profit organisation and receives no grants or subsidies. We value the occasional sponsored event by local businesses, but mainly we survive on ticket sales. Any surplus and the generous contributions from friends of Talkies members is used to support young filmmakers.

In the last four years we have commissioned 23 short films, each with a £500 award. Filmmakers also receive mentoring from local film professionals and support from Talkies volunteers who assist in production.

Your next chance to experience Talkies in action is on Thursday 4th October at Dugdale Centre, when former BBC journalist, Professor Kurt Barling, introduces 2016 film *Alone in Berlin*. Emma Thompson and Brendan Gleeson play a couple who, galvanised by grief and rage at the loss of their son in battle, embark on small but extremely dangerous acts of resistance; leaving anonymous anti-Hitler postcards in stairwells and public places.

On Saturday 13th October the Gothic Christ Church in Southgate Green provides the atmospheric setting for the 1923 Lon Chaney classic *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, with live church organ improvisation from the talented David Hinitt.

The setting shifts to 1960s London on Saturday 27th October, at Waterhouse Hall in Winchmore Hill, when a live tribute to The Who precedes a screening of the classic 1979 film *Quadrophenia*.



Children from Young Notes, a new pop choir based in Enfield



# Hitting the right notes

A new children's choir in Enfield is proving popular, writes Regan O'Mahony

As a teacher, my passion for the arts led me to head school singing assemblies, teach the choir, and produce large school productions.

This was where my passion lay; I love to help young people discover the joy of performing and watching them grow their talent and confidence – and this was where the idea for Young Notes Pop Choir first came about.

I knew young people loved to sing and that they idolised their favourite pop stars. The idea of Young Notes was to create a cool and inclusive choir, but with a difference.

I was raised single-handedly by my mother, who is deaf, and I have taught many deaf children in a mainstream setting as well. I am passionate about inclusion (my mother is an inclusion trainer now) and I knew that this had to be reflected in any business that I ran.

I decided that Young Notes would be inclusive and open to all. I also made a decision to use British Sign Language (BSL) in some of our songs so that our performances could be enjoyed by both deaf and hearing people.

Young Notes first opened its doors in January 2017. We started

our first class in Enfield with about five members; we now have nearer 90 and counting!

It has grown very quickly and we now run classes for children aged from four to 18 years, three days a week. Monday and Tuesday sessions are in Enfield, while on Wednesday we run classes in Loughton, Essex.

We are not a traditional choir at all, which is why we have adopted the hashtag: #NotYourAverageChoir. We believe music is for everyone and sessions are lively and fun.

***“The children who attend our sessions grow in confidence very quickly”***

However, our members are still taught vocal and performance techniques.

The children who attend our sessions grow in confidence very quickly. We have a child who initially came to us as a selective mute and was shy and unsure at first. She is now chatting away to us, singing solos and performing on large stages! This is why we love what we do so much.

When children join Young Notes,

there is no obligation to participate in any performances but there are lots of performance opportunities if you wish to participate.

Last year, our choir were asked to appear on the CITV show *Scrambled* and this year our children were invited to audition for the new John Lewis and Waitrose commercial – one of our members was even selected to feature in it!

Recently, we have been asked to perform at Nightingale Cancer Trust's outdoor cinema screening of *The Greatest Showman* at Lee Valley White Water Rafting Centre, near Waltham Cross, which we are very excited about!

Following the success of Young Notes, we have now opened our own inclusive performing arts school, the Young Talent Academy, at Dugdale Centre in Enfield.

Weekly classes consist of an hour each of dance, singing, and drama. We have a great team of specialist staff working with us at and it's going to be something really special.

**If you would like more information on Young Notes Pop Choir or to book a free trial at Young Talent Academy:**

**Email** [info@youngnotes.co.uk](mailto:info@youngnotes.co.uk)  
**Visit** [youngtalentacademy.co.uk](http://youngtalentacademy.co.uk)

# LISTINGS

## Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in Enfield. For November listings, email the details of your event to [enfielddispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:enfielddispatch@socialspider.com) by 15th October.

## MUSIC

**Hits from the Blitz at St Andrew's Church Hall**  
Saturday 6th October, 7.30pm  
St Andrew's Church Hall, Chase Side, Southgate N14 5PP

Southgate Opera perform an evening of popular songs not only from the war years, but the whole of the 1940s. Includes light refreshments.

**£14 tickets**  
**Call** 01767 310 459

**Enfield Choral Society presents Carmina Burana**  
Saturday 13th October, 7.30pm  
St Paul's Church, Church Hill, Winchmore Hill N21 1JA

Carmina Burana, Carl Orff's boisterous cantata on the perils and pleasures of drunkenness, gambling and desire – the unpredictability of fortune and transience of life.

**Tickets £12 advance, £14 on door**  
**Call** 07538 538 486  
**Email** [tickets@enfieldchoralsociety.org](mailto:tickets@enfieldchoralsociety.org)

## HARVEST

**Apple Fair at Forty Hall Farm**  
Sunday 7th October, 10am–4pm  
Forty Hall Farm, Forty Hill EN2 9HA

Join us this October for our annual Apple Fair. Expect old favourites like apple bobbing, the longest peel competition, apple pressing demonstrations, and more apples than you can wave a Morris dancer's stick at. With plenty of activities for young and old, as well as local food stalls.

**£5 entry, £2.50 children**  
**Visit** [fortyhallfarm.org.uk](http://fortyhallfarm.org.uk)

**Apple Day at Broomfield Community Orchard**  
Sunday 21st October, 1.30pm–5pm  
Broomfield Community Orchard, Broomfield Park, Aldermans Hill, Palmers Green N13 4HE

The orchard has more than 40 varieties of apples. Come along for apple tasting, live music, home baking and refreshments. The Broomfield Community Orchard is a new orchard created by local people working with Enfield Council.

**Free entry**  
**Email** [broomfieldcommunityorchard@gmail.com](mailto:broomfieldcommunityorchard@gmail.com)  
**Visit** [friendsofbroomfieldpark.org](http://friendsofbroomfieldpark.org)

## KIDS

**Make a Broomfield Inspired Haunted House**  
Thursday 25th October, 10.30am–12pm and 1pm–2.30pm  
Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS

Broomfield House is an important building in Enfield's history, dating back to the 16th Century. The house sadly suffered a number of fires, but key items were salvaged. Come along to explore an exhibition that brings Broomfield House back to life through objects, paintings, and photographs. Then take inspiration from the decorative features you've seen to create a beautiful and fascinating haunted house to take home!

**£5 advance, £7 on the door**  
**Visit** [dugdalecentre.co.uk](http://dugdalecentre.co.uk)

**Spooky Shed: What awaits you this Halloween?**

Wednesday 31st October, 7pm–9pm  
Chickenshed Theatre, 290 Chase Side, Cockfosters N14 4PE

Down in Shockfosters, and just along Chase Hide, something truly terrifying awaits you this Halloween. With creepy tunes from Chickenshed's Youth Band, scary ghost stories and pop-up performances, this will be a Halloween party like no other.

**Tickets £10**  
**Call** 020 8292 9222  
**Visit** [chickenshed.org.uk](http://chickenshed.org.uk)

## FASHION

**Nightingale Fashion Show and Afternoon Tea**  
Friday 26th October, 2pm–4.30pm  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. George, 45 London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS

Come and join us for our latest fashion show and afternoon tea. All items have been donated to The Nightingale and will be available to buy at the event. There will also be an afternoon tea served during the event. All proceeds from this event will go to the Nightingale Cancer Support Centre.

**Tickets £25**  
**Call** 020 8366 9674  
**Email** [fundraising@nightingalesupport.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@nightingalesupport.org.uk)  
**Visit** [nightingalesupport.org.uk](http://nightingalesupport.org.uk)





## SOUTHGATE

### MP hits out at plan to abolish his seat

THE PARLIAMENTARY SEAT OF Enfield Southgate should be abolished, a review of constituency boundaries has concluded.

A report by the Boundary Commission submitted to the government last month recommended the seven wards currently comprising Enfield Southgate be split four different ways.

The boundaries review was launched by the Conservative government in February 2016 to reduce the overall number of seats in the House of Commons, from 650 at present to 600 at the next election.

Bambos Charalambous, the Labour MP for Enfield Southgate elected last year, has hit out at the move as a bid to “rig” the electoral system.

David Burrowes, the former Conservative MP for the seat, previously launched a ‘Save Our Southgate’ campaign to keep it together.

However, the Boundary Commission recommended that Grange ward move into an expanded Enfield North seat; Palmers Green move into Edmonton; Bowes move into Hornsey; and the remaining wards merge with four others in Barnet to create a new ‘Finchley and Enfield Southgate’ constituency.

Bambos said: “Placing more power in the hands of fewer MPs is an attack on our democracy and an attempt to rig our electoral system. And who is set to lose the most seats? Labour, of course.

“This gerrymandering will spell the end of the iconic seat that I now represent. Tight-knit communities in Enfield Southgate will be torn apart, but the Boundary Commission has completely ignored their views and the views of millions of voters in the UK who have registered since 2015. “For the sake of our democracy, the government should scrap these proposals.”

Sam Hartley, secretary to the commission, said: “We think the new map of constituencies best reflects the rules set for us by parliament and we’re delighted that our recommendations are based heavily on what members of the public have told us about their local areas.”

## PONDERS END

### New homes

PLANS FOR A SECOND PHASE OF homes at the ‘Electric Quarter’ site will be taken forward by Enfield Council.

Construction for Phase A of the High Street redevelopment is already underway, with 61 homes now nearing completion. The second phase will comprise 167 homes, of which 31 percent will be designated ‘affordable’. Community space and retail units will also be included – with expansion of the adjacent mosque also a possibility.

Ninety percent of the land for Phase B is owned by the council but compulsory purchase orders will now be issued to buy the remaining land by December 2018.

## WINCHMORE HILL

### Cycle plans

THE COUNCIL HAS PUBLISHED new proposals for its cycle scheme around Firs Farm.

The latest plans include a 20mph speed limit at Barrowell Green, while pavement widening along the road could also create space for cycling between Green Lanes and the recycling centre, subject to funding. On Firs Lane, an existing width restriction is set to be relocated north to accommodate a new zebra crossing.

Once complete the proposed Firs Farm ‘quiet route’ is intended to make it easier and safer for Enfield residents to access the park by foot or by bike. To comment on the latest plans go to [consultations.cycleenfield.co.uk](http://consultations.cycleenfield.co.uk)

## ENFIELD TOWN

### Plea to tackle empty shops

THE COUNCIL HAS REJECTED a plea by opposition councillors to adopt a series of measures to help fill empty shops.

At last month’s full council meeting the Conservative group highlighted the decline of the high street in the town centre, with 20 shops now lying vacant. Councillor Joanne Laban, the Tory leader, proposed a raft of measures including rate relief for new retailers; enforcement against landlords who allow shops to become untidy; reversing the decision to increase parking charges; and investing in Christmas lights.

Labour councillors voted down the plans, however, arguing that action should be taken to improve all town centres in the borough and not just Enfield Town. Councillor Nesil Caliskan, the council leader, said a new Local Plan was due to be launched soon and would include proposals to “boost businesses in our town centres”.

Cllr Laban said: “The Local Plan is a long-term solution – we need action now.”

## EDMONTON

### Hospital needs ‘improvement’

NORTH MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL has been told it ‘requires improvement’ following an inspection by health watchdogs.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) report rated three out of eight core services as ‘good’, compared to just one following a previous inspection in 2016, but this wasn’t enough to raise the hospital’s overall rating. Picked out for praise were maternity, surgery, and intensive care services.

Deborah Wheeler, director of nursing and midwifery, said: “Everyone with a connection to North Mid – patients, staff, local residents, and partners – has the right to be proud of the progress we’ve made.

“We’re still rated as ‘requires improvement’ overall, so let there be no mistake – we are absolutely committed to getting better. But there is no doubt that we have built a very strong foundation for continued progress, and that we are already seeing significant green shoots of improvement.”

***“Let there be no mistake – we are absolutely committed to getting better”***

## PALMERS GREEN

### Petition to save theatre



Intimate Theatre in Green Lanes is on the Enfield Local Heritage List

MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE HAVE signed a petition to save a historic theatre.

Plans to redevelop Intimate Theatre in Green Lanes were announced last month, but have met with significant opposition by local people.

The 80-year-old repertory theatre, now known as St Monica’s Large Hall, was the site of the first-ever play broadcast live on television. It hosted John Clements Theatre Company and among the actors to have performed there were Richard Attenborough, Roger Moore, and a young David Bowie.

The building is owned by Saint Monica’s Catholic Church. Father Mehall Lowry said in his parish newsletter:

“It is proposed to build a new parish centre, one that will be a legacy for future generations. The new building would be energy efficient, low in maintenance, would be accessed by lift, and would be able to host multiple events at the same time.”

Intimate Theatre is one of the last remaining local theatres in London and is included in the Enfield Local Heritage List. It is still used by local dramatic societies, including Saint Monica’s Players.

In his petition to save the theatre on campaign website 38 Degrees, Garry Humphreys said: “While the parish clearly has plans to redevelop, if they see the opposition this will create they may revise their plans.”



# Town aiming high

*Best is yet to come for Enfield Town, writes Arthur Salisbury*

**Lewes' Steve Brinkhurst and Enfield Town's Aaron Greene tussle for the ball**

**Credit** Tom Scott



**E**nfield Town were 2-0 down at Lewes, but two goals from Billy Bricknell in the last ten minutes earned them a point.

Bricknell, signed from Billericay Town in June, has only played eighteen minutes of football this season but already it's clear that he will have a major role to play if Enfield are to win promotion from the Isthmian Premier League.

It has been slightly difficult to gauge how well the Town have played so far. Over the course of a season, the table doesn't lie, but after only seven matches there is a wide margin of error – and having won three and drawn four, Enfield might consider themselves slightly lucky to be sitting in third place.

The giddiness of a rare good start to a season has been tempered by being dumped out of the FA Cup

3-0 at home to lower-league opposition. And, while new players like Sam Chaney and club talisman Liam Hope have sometimes shined, nearly every match has had a period of sluggishness, or panic, or both.

Enfield Town, as a fairly young club, are arguably yet to reach their natural level. The old Enfield FC were giants of the non-league game and were twice winners of the Alliance Premier (now the National League) in the 1980s, including the year before automatic promotion and relegation between it and the Football League was introduced.

Crowds are not currently as big as they were in this heyday, but at an average of around 450 they are in the upper third of the division and growing. It is a fan base big enough to sustain the club at least a level higher.

Last season's 17th place finish is best viewed as an anomaly, caused by then-manager Bradley Quinton's

decision to leave for Braintree Town, taking with him almost the entire starting line-up. In the years leading up to that, Enfield had finished 7th, 6th and 4th.

Supporters at Donkey Lane should be excited for the year ahead, in an unusually open division without the perennial financially-doped favourites. The restructuring of the non-league pyramid that took effect this year has resulted in six of the top ten from last season having been promoted or transferred elsewhere. Even without possessing the clinical air of a title-winning side, it would be a surprise not to see Enfield Town in the play-offs come the end of the season.

**Keep up to date with Enfield Town FC:**

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



Children from Capel Manor Primary School are joined by Spurs under-23 stars Kazaiah Sterling and Shilow Tracey. Credit Tottenham Hotspur Football Club

## Spurs stars help kids get physical

**T**ottenham Hotspur players are helping to deliver free physical education lessons at local primary schools in Enfield throughout this academic year.

Spurs coaches are running six-week courses for pupils aged between seven and eleven, with star players also turning up to give advice and encouragement.

The education programme is the result of a new partnership between Enfield Council and Tottenham Hotspur Foundation, the charity arm of the Premier League club, which has a training base in the borough.

It consists of 30 lesson plans based on simple physical challenges and orienteering-type activities, designed to improve important skills such as team-building, map-reading, problem-solving, and creative thinking.

Last month under-23 players Kazaiah Sterling and Shilow Tracey visited Capel Manor Primary School in Bullsmoor to join one of the lessons and encourage children to get involved.

Jan Hickman, from Enfield Council's physical education team, said:

"Many schools organise annual activities such as rock climbing or canoeing for their pupils. Although beneficial, they are often one-off experiences and can be expensive to run. This new programme centres on the school environment itself, meaning it can be delivered all-year-round with very few additional costs."

Lucy Peirce, school sport development manager at Tottenham Hotspur Foundation, added: "We hope to inspire more children to get outside and be adventurous."





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[www.enfieldveg.co.uk](http://www.enfieldveg.co.uk)