

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 2 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

NOV 2018



Little Green Dragon in Winchmore Hill has been named 'best pub in London' by CAMRA – full story on Page 6

Fears grow over impact of Universal Credit rollout

More than 5,000 families in Enfield are now claiming the controversial all-in-one benefits payment

BY STEPHEN COX

The introduction of Universal Credit (UC) in Enfield may make it more difficult for claimants to find private rented accommodation, landlords and voluntary organisations have warned. UC replaces housing benefit, working tax credit, and a variety of other benefits, with a single monthly payment. Because UC is being paid directly to claimants, it means landlords are not guaranteed prompt payment of rent, and the system's growing reputation for causing delays to benefit payments is increasing existing wariness about renting to claimants.

The first claimants from Enfield were transferred to UC last year and since then 5,168 households, as of October 2018, have been moved to the new system – around one-in-seven of the total number eligible. Chris Norris, director of policy and practice at the National Landlords Association (NLA), said: "The private-rented sector plays a key role in providing much needed affordable accommodation to tenants on low incomes, including those in receipt of housing support. Currently, only 19 percent of landlords in outer London let to those receiving any form of housing benefit. "While the NLA supports the concept behind Universal Credit, it is clearly

divorced from the realities of many tenants' lives. Many landlords now view letting to tenants in receipt of housing benefits as high risk, because they simply do not have the confidence that rent will be paid to them on time." UC is increasingly controversial, with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Esther McVey, last month admitting that families could be made up to £2,400 worse off each year. Local voluntary groups in Enfield have echoed these concerns, with Enfield Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) reporting that 740 local families have sought help from them. Jill Harrison, chief executive of Enfield CAB, told the *Dispatch*:

"Housing is expensive. I understand the argument that helping claimants to budget is a good thing, but many landlords are already reluctant to rent to people on benefits. "Fears they might not be paid might lead to some landlords refusing claimants as tenants. After all, if your kids are hungry, you would be tempted to put them first." UC already applies to most new claimants and is being gradually rolled out to existing claimants. The benefit is paid monthly in arrears, and there is a five-week gap between the end of the old benefit and the start of the new.

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Nº.2

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Four ticket offices under threat

Cuts planned at London Overground stations



Turkey Street is one of four stations in Enfield that could lose its ticket office

A local transport group has raised concerns over plans to close four London Overground ticket offices in Enfield.

Arriva Rail London (ARL) wants to close 51 ticket offices across London in total, including those at Bush Hill

Park, Silver Street, Southbury, and Turkey Street. The plans are backed by Transport for London (TfL), which runs London Overground services.

Phil Ridley, from Enfield Transport User Group, argues the decision does not account for future increas-

es in passenger numbers. He said: "Tens of thousands of new homes are planned for Tottenham and Enfield, with passenger numbers more than doubling and no signs of abatement.

"We run the risk of closing ticket offices that fail TfL's arbitrary busyness targets that, in a few years, may meet the standard they fail today.

"There could be a distinction made between peak and off-peak. Many of our ticket offices may fail to satisfy the TfL requirement on average, yet hit that target in the morning peak. Why not be sophisticated and have those offices as peak hours only, so we retain the infrastructure?"

TfL states that ARL's proposals will "not compromise safety" and include "making staff more visible, providing assistance where it is most needed, and modernising the process for selling tickets". Only offices that sell less than twelve tickets per hour are affected.

Arthur Leathley, chair of London TravelWatch, said: "We want to ensure passengers can still purchase the tickets that they need after these proposed changes."

Views given in a public consultation last month will be considered before a final decision is taken.

Help for renters

Enfield Council is launching two new housing initiatives to help residents renting both socially and privately.

For existing council tenants, an 'MOT' repairs service is being introduced for people who have repeated maintenance problems. The new service would improve the standard of social housing in Enfield, with tenants offered a free audit to diagnose and solve persistent faults.

Contractors currently carry out 42,000 repairs across the council's 10,500 properties each year. While £500,000 has been earmarked for spending on the scheme, council leader Nesil Caliskan said it would be "cost neutral" because money will be saved on repairs in the long-term.

Cllr Caliskan told the *Dispatch*: "People deserve to live in a decent property. They are waiting too long for repairs. It is an acute problem and we need to do something, so this new team will carry out repairs and I have asked them to target homes with tenants that are constantly contacting us."

As part of efforts to reduce the number of people declaring themselves homeless in Enfield, the council is also looking to launch its own 'social lettings agency'. Enfield has the second highest number of families in temporary accommodation in the country, with 3,350 as of March. Last year alone, 784 households were accepted as homeless and placed in temporary accommodation.

By far the biggest cause of homelessness in Enfield is the loss of private rented accommodation – the borough has the highest eviction rate in London. In a bid to address this, the social lettings agency will create a method of private renting for people without them having to pay high letting fees and deposits.

Cllr Caliskan said: "High street estate agents are ripping people off – it would be great to have a social lettings agency and create a trusted brand to help people get into private accommodation."

The agency would be run on a commercial basis, competing directly with high street estate agents.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

New claimants can apply for an advance, but this is a loan which must be repaid within the year.

Jill said: "Many clients are in irregular, minimum wage, zero hours contract work. They're not likely to have savings to tide them over. Any loan is a bad idea."

She thinks it is inevitable that there will be many struggling to cope in the transition. "Making everything online sounds good. But people may not have good English. A lot of our clients just need help understanding how to answer the questions or prove identity."

A recent report in *The Observer* said that almost two-in-five households in receipt of benefits lose an average of £52 a week switching to UC. The Trussell Trust, a national foodbank charity, claims foodbank usage has risen by half in boroughs where UC has been rolled out. North Enfield Foodbank was asked for figures for this article but stated that it doesn't record which clients seeking emergency help do so because of UC.

A spokesperson for the Department of Work and Pensions said: "UC replaces an out-of-date, complex benefits system with cliff edges that disincentivised work and often trapped people in unemployment.

"Under UC, evidence shows people are moving into work faster and staying in work longer. We have made improvements, including increasing advances to 100 percent, removing the seven-day waiting period, and paying people's housing benefit for two weeks while they wait for the first UC payment."



Government posters promoting the rollout of Universal Credit have been popping up around Enfield in recent weeks

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Making connections

The manager of a new voluntary services partnership explains the idea behind the project

BY JEAN PASSLEY

Enfield Connections was launched in April and forms part of a strategic approach by Enfield Council to transforming the voluntary and community sector.

As a funding titan, the council is trying to support vulnerable residents to stay healthy, informed and able to manage themselves better with confidence, so that when they do need public services these can be assessed more accurately and effectively and in a more timely manner.

Enfield Connection operates as a partnership service overseen by Community Barnet and delivered through Mind in Enfield, Citizens Advice Enfield, Enfield Disability Action, Age UK Enfield, and the Homeless Resource Centre.

Mind in Enfield is the front door of Enfield Connections and

receives all telephone calls and emails for the service. They will talk to you and try to understand what advice and information you need.

Citizens Advice Enfield provides a dedicated adviser for vulnerable and disabled people. You can access this service by appointment only. They also offer support for British Sign Language users through their website.

Enfield Disability Action provides volunteering opportunities for vulnerable and disabled people and supports volunteers to have increased employment opportunities by providing training, which enhances their skill sets and practical knowledge.

The Homeless Resource Centre provides counselling and support to its users through a facilitative tool called the Emotional Health Check, which both the council and Enfield



Enfield Connections programme manager Jean Passley and Community Barnet's head of wellbeing Fehintola Kolawole

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are enthusiastic in using as part of a broader wellbeing offer.

Age UK Enfield is delivering a later life planning service, providing information and awareness for people aged 55 and over, to help them prepare for the later stages of life. The charity will do this by going out into the community and meeting people, as it is critical not to rely on putting plans in place after a life-changing event occurs.

We are really excited about this service – it is a bold move by the

council to get members of the voluntary sector working collaboratively to provide a range of services. We believe that partnership working is the only way forwards as a community, and the best way to improve the wellbeing and health of all residents.

To find out more about Enfield Connections, contact a friendly member of the Mind in Enfield team:

Call 020 3960 0129

Email info@enfieldconnections.org

Visit enfieldconnections.org

Supporting people with MS

An appeal by Martynne Layton, from the Shane Project in Edmonton



The Shane Project was set up in 2002

Over 100,000 people in the UK have multiple sclerosis (MS), a disease of the central nervous system that damages the protective coating around the nerves which transmit messages to all parts of the body.

MS limits control of muscular and sensory activity, greatly affecting quality of life and potentially leading to death. Our organisation was established in 2002 by our chair Norma McFarlane, whose son, Shane, was diagnosed with MS and later died. A month before losing Shane, Norma's other son Ancel was also diagnosed with MS and continues to live with it.

The Shane Project aims to raise awareness and provide support to people living with MS, plus their families and carers. We are a small local registered charity in Edmonton and have just two part-time members of staff – our board of trustees and chair are volunteers. We also have volunteers who support us in various ways so our services run successfully.

We enhance the quality of life of people affected by MS by providing them with access to information, advice, training, and development. We endeavour to prevent social isolation, improve wellbeing, physical health, and employment prospects. Through all of this, it is our hope to increase the independence and improve the lifestyles of people living with MS.

Like any small charity, we rely on donations, to continue our much needed services, such as seated Tai chi, monthly peer support network club, reflexology, teleconferencing to members, and inclusive cycling. Please consider joining us as a member or supporter.

Find out more about the Shane Project:

Visit shaneproject.org.uk



Credit Robyn Kristen Photography

At a stretch

BY INDIRA DAS GUPTA

Have you ever wanted to try yoga but were worried you weren't bendy enough?

Well worry no more! North London Yoga Studio was founded five years ago with the intention of making yoga available to people of all ages and backgrounds in the local community – including those who aren't naturally flexible.

Thanks in part to Instagram images of incredibly supple yogis doing seemingly impossible poses in bikinis, yoga has developed an image that some might find off-putting. This is such a shame, because everyone can benefit.

Regular yoga practise can help you manage stress, sharpen your focus, improve your posture, and develop better body awareness. Once you start doing yoga you tend to find

that you make healthier lifestyle choices. Most people in London lead hectic, frantic lives, constantly rushing from one thing to the next. This can lead to burn out. We need to make time to just be still.

At North London Yoga Studio, opposite Grange Park Station, we offer a guided meditation class once a week where we simply ask for a suggested £5 donation to our charity of the month. We also

offer 'yin yoga', which is all about finding stillness, relaxing, and releasing tension by holding poses for longer with the aid of props.

The younger people start yoga, the better. We offer weekly kids and teen yoga classes but would also love to see yoga taught in local schools. Children are under so much pressure these days, with rising levels of anxiety and depression. Kids also lead an increasingly sedentary lifestyle, moving less and staring at screens, wreaking havoc with their posture and concentration.

While it is never too early to start yoga, it's also never too late. We have gentle classes on the timetable open to people of all ages. There's no reason you can't be flexible into your 70s and 80s – in fact the oldest yoga teacher in the world, Tao Porchon-Lynch, is 100 years old!

Ultimately our aim is to get people to take their yoga off the mat and make it part of their daily lives. With a North London Yoga Studio membership you can attend up to four classes a week, but it's also possible to just drop in for a one-off session. The main thing is to just get started and remember every journey begins with a single step!

For more information:

Email indira@northlondonyogastudio.co.uk

Visit northlondonyogastudio.co.uk

Visit northlondonyogastudio.co.uk

Revealing Enfield's wartime history

Secret wartime history to be revealed in new museum

BY KAY HEATHER & DR HELEN FRY



"The information they uncovered included details of Hitler's deadly weapons programme"

One of the 'Secret Listeners' at Trent Park whose job was to record the private conversations of German prisoners of war

Enfield's Trent Park has a remarkable place in our history. Once home to the Bevan and Sassoon families, it was at the centre of some of the most defining moments of the 20th Century.

During the Second World War it took on a top-secret role that would not be revealed for nearly 70 years. Last year, Historic England formally concluded that Trent Park's wartime work was "of considerable national and international historical interest which bears comparison to the code-breaking work at Bletchley Park".

During the war, Trent Park became the site of a covert listening operation by British Intelligence. German Generals who had been captured by the Allies were housed in the mansion house in relative luxury and comfort, and made to feel at ease. What the generals did not know was that the stately home was being bugged – and the private conversations of these top-ranking Nazis were being recorded by a team of 'Secret Listeners'.

The Secret Listeners were German-Jewish refugees, who had themselves escaped from Nazi persecution. The information they uncovered included details of Hitler's deadly weapons programme, new technology on German aircraft (the discovery of which helped the RAF win the Battle of Britain in 1940), enemy battle plans, and evidence of war crimes. Such crucial information provided intelligence that made a difference to the outcome of the war.

This unique history will be brought to life through the creation of a new national 'living' museum at Trent Park, due to open to the public in 2021. Its rooms will showcase the mansion as it was during the pre-war era, against which its stories will be told via audio-visual and immersive technology to bring to life the secret wartime surveillance operation.

Recognising its importance, the new site owner, developer Berkeley Homes, is supporting and working closely with Trent Park Museum Trust to realise the vision. At its heart will be an important educational programme for schools.

Please help to preserve and share the stories of Trent Park's history and consider a donation towards the vital fundraising programme.

Find out more and help support Trent Park Museum:
Visit trentparkmuseum.org.uk/donation

Soothing sounds

Royal Free Radio has been keeping hospital patients company for nearly 50 years

BY DAVID SCARFF

No-one likes to spend any time in hospital, and whether you are admitted for planned treatment or arrive unexpectedly, it can be quite daunting – especially without friends or relatives who can visit.

Royal Free Radio has been based at Chase Farm Hospital since May 1970 and now provides a dedicated service for patients at Chase Farm, North Middlesex, and Royal Free hospitals. It is one of the country's longest-running hospital radio sta-

tions and will be marking its 50th anniversary in two years' time.

Previously known as Radio Enfield, it's on air for 24 hours every day, seven-days-a-week, and its aim is to provide entertainment and company for patients during their stay in hospital. The service is operated entirely by volunteers and offers a unique blend of advice and information for patients. It includes a wide choice of music, including patients' requests; hourly news bulletins provided by Sky News; quizzes and interviews with guests from the local area; latest news from the hospitals;

plus special evening musical reminiscences designed for dementia patients.

A team of volunteers visit the wards throughout the week to chat to patients and find out if there is a particular piece of music they would like to hear in the nightly request programmes. The station covers all types of music – pop, jazz, classical, soul, country, ballet – and the presenters read out every request received, and, most of the time, find the piece from their vast record library.

Requests can be telephoned in by patients and visitors on 020 8363 6000, or via the website, where it's also possible to listen to the station.

Colin Dye, who presented a programme on the first evening's broadcast in May 1970, still presents a request show every Monday evening. Two other members, myself and Howard White, have also been with the station since it started.

Station manager Andy Higgins is about to complete 40 years of service.

The station has just relocated to new studios at Chase Farm after broadcasting from temporary premises for the last three years, while the hospital was being rebuilt. It has also merged with the Royal Free Charity, which provides many other benefits and facilities for patients in the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust group.

The volunteers are involved in all sorts of different tasks, from mundane behind-the-scenes jobs to the more glamorous task of presenting programmes. Anyone interested in helping out at the station must be aged over 18 and be able to spare a couple of hours each week at either Chase Farm or North Middlesex hospitals.

Find out more, listen, or sign up as a volunteer:

Visit royalfreeradio.co.uk

Presenter Clare Scarff doing her Sunday night request programme



Concerns over decline in trade

Lack of parking is biggest concern for local businesses



New cycle lanes were installed in Palmers Green, as well as Winchmore Hill, at the end of last year

Business owners in two adjacent town centres say their turnover is in decline – and list lack of local parking as their biggest concern.

Retail reports for Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill, compiled by consultants on behalf of Enfield Council, both concluded that trade was declining despite significant investment in local infrastructure being made.

In Palmers Green, 58 percent of business owners said sales were down compared to last year, and 29 percent said a lack of parking was

the main weakness of the area. Too many vacant shops and the impact of new cycle lanes, as part of the Cycle Enfield programme, were the second and third most common 'weaknesses' listed by retailers.

Starbucks and Waitrose are two of the most significant recent businesses to quit Palmers Green, leaving large vacant units in the town centre. However, Aldermans Hill was said to be an area that was "pleasant and improving" with no empty shops at present. The cleanliness and appearance of the town centre was also praised.

In Winchmore Hill, 54 percent of business owners said trade had declined, with 37 percent blaming a lack of parking and 25 percent blaming the new cycle lanes. While the area as a whole was said to be in "reasonable health" the report states that there were several long-term vacant units causing concern. Winchmore Hill Green continues to be the most successful part of the town centre and is said to be "thriving".

Both reports concluded that the introduction of street markets in Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill would help boost footfall, as

part of a long-term strategy that should be drawn up by the council in conjunction with local businesses.

The council responded to the twin retail reports by insisting the issue of parking was being addressed and that the feedback given by retailers would be used to make further improvements.

A council spokesperson said: "Reassuringly, retailers are broadly satisfied with the performance of their shops. Retailers in both town centres recognise that the vast majority of their customers live nearby, indicating the importance of making these town centres accessible by foot, bike, and public transport.

"Though for a minority of retailers parking was identified as an issue, the council has already responded to this concern by providing a number of free short-stay parking bays in both Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill.

"Retailers are also keen to see improvements to the public realm and, though there was a degree of disruption while the A105 scheme was being constructed, our Cycle Enfield programme has already delivered a wide range of enhancements including better pavements, more seating, and more greenery.

"Importantly, the results from these surveys will help inform the work we will do to enhance our town centres."

Armistice centenary to be marked

Events planned to remember First World War

Events are taking place across the borough this month to mark one century since the Armistice that ended the First World War.

Remembrance Sunday parades will take place in Edmonton, Enfield Chase and Southgate on 11th November, exactly 100 years after arms were laid down on the Western Front. Wreathes will be laid at the war memorials before prayers, blessings and a moment of silence are held.

At least 2,739 local people who served in the war were killed between 1914 and 1918. Their names are now listed in a Book of Remembrance that can be viewed at libraries in Enfield Town, Palmers Green, and Edmonton Green, as well as the Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive at Dugdale Centre.

A range of other events are also being held this month to mark the centenary. Christ Church Southgate in Waterfall Road is hosting a free exhibition called 'Southgate Remembers' between Sunday 4th and Sunday 11th November – you can read Reverend Chrichton Limbert's article about this on Page 12.

A lecture on the poetry, art and music of Wilfred Owen and his contemporaries is being hosted by The Arts Society Enfield at Jubilee Hall in Parsonage Lane on Thursday 15th November. Historian Denis Moriarty will explore the development of art and poetry during the period of the First World War before looking at Owen in depth. Tickets for the lecture cost £36, or £30 for members, and can be booked by calling 020 8367 7374.

St Mary Magdalene Drama Group is performing a selection of poetry and readings from the First World War between Thursday 15th and Saturday 17th November, at St Mary Magdalene in Windmill Hill, Enfield. Tickets cost £10.

Enfield Society is also hosting a talk by local history speaker and guide Joe Studman on Wednesday 28th November, from 2pm. Tickets cost £3 on the door.

Local named best boozer in London

The Little Green Dragon in Winchmore Hill wins CAMRA award

A pub that opened last year on the site of an old hairdressers has been named the best in London.

The Little Green Dragon in Winchmore Hill is Enfield's first 'micro-pub' and only serves real ale. It is named after the former Green Dragon pub, around the corner, which closed in 2014 and is now a supermarket.

"It's taken us by surprise," Richard Reeve, who runs the pub in Green Lanes along with wife Sujal Zaveri, told

the *Dispatch*. "I never thought when we opened that in just a year's time we'd be named the best in London."

The award was made last month by the London branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) after The Little Green Dragon had earlier been judged the best in Enfield and Barnet. It only opened in August 2017 after Richard quit his job in IT to become a publican.

He said: "I discovered a micro-pub in Kent and I loved the concept, so I decided to do a sponsored bike ride around all the micro-pubs in the country. "They tend to be converted from shops and specialise in real ale. I get depressed whenever I see pubs closing but I met a lot of people along the way who had quit their jobs to run these pubs – and there wasn't anything like it in Enfield – so I decided to give it a go."

The Little Green Dragon dispenses



Richard Reeve (second from left) quit his job in IT to open the pub last year

with a lot of the usual distractions you'd find in many pubs, with no slot machines or televisions, and instead focuses on serving good beer. Some micro-pubs even ban mobile phones, but Richard hasn't taken it that far yet.

"Because of the lack of space a lot of people come in and end up sitting next to strangers and strik-

ing up conversation," says Richard. "We don't have loud music or TV screens so people make their own entertainment – although we do have some old-fashioned board games!"

Among the real ales served at the pub are beers from local breweries such as Enefeld, from Edmonton, and Bohem, from Tottenham.

INTERVIEW



Patrick Samuel's recent exhibition at Dugdale Centre was deemed a big success

Art and soul

Patrick Samuel speaks to James Cracknell about how rediscovering his love of art has helped turn his life around

Every day, Patrick Samuel paints a picture. It's always a new picture – something that has inspired him that day.

"I can't seem to hold the idea for longer than that," he tells me. "When I've finished each painting, I'll write a little poem to go with it."

This is something Patrick has done daily for nearly two years. Prior to 23rd December 2016, he hadn't painted for 20 years, but carer and friend Uwe Nietzold persuaded him to reconnect with his childhood hobby as a way to kick-start his recovery from a severe depressive episode.

"Art is now my therapy," Patrick explains. "Uwe knows my brain better than anyone, and he told me to just paint."

Patrick had not yet been diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, nor Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), but had been working with children with special needs because of his ability to connect with them.

Then, a bad experience working

at a school led Patrick into a deep depression. "I began banging my head against the wall, I became non-verbal. I attempted suicide."

Fortunately, long-time friend Uwe was there to help. "He couldn't express himself, but I'd heard he had painted a lot when he was younger," said Uwe. "So I told him to let the paintbrush do the talking, and it was stunning. He has an amazing talent."

Painting was the key to turning Patrick's life around, and within a year he was holding his first art exhibition. Last month, he held his sixth, at Dugdale Centre, with a series of paintings inspired by his regular visits to Broomfield Park in Palmers Green.

"They asked me if I wanted to do an exhibition based around the park and I thought it was perfect because I live around the corner and it is my go-to place for calming down and exercising and walking my dog.

"That was my summer – I spent every day at Broomfield Park. I got to know Broomfield House, the conservatory, the beehives, the orchard, and I got inspiration from all of them.

"Kim Lumley who runs the beehive invited me there and even put me in a bee suit. It was one of the most calming experiences of my life –

"I can't go on a bus at rush hour but I'm fine around bees"

they said they had never known anyone be so calm around bees – the buzzing helped reduce my heart rate.

"I can't go on a bus at rush hour but I'm fine around bees!"

The paintings inspired by Broomfield Park went on display at Dugdale Centre during October, in the exhibition *Passing Time: Moments in Broomfield*. It was the latest in a series of successful exhibitions for Patrick

over the last year. Three more are already planned for 2019, including one at Starfish and Coffee in Palmers Green and another at the Dugdale.

As well as painting and poetry, another creative outlet is music. Last year Patrick released a 19-track album of electronic songs, *Beyond The Spectrum*, that he com-

posed and produced himself – having previously scored music for short films, advertisements, and produced remixes for club nights.

Patrick styles himself as the 'Asperger Artist' and embraces the condition – describing himself as "neuro-diverse". He often gives talks about how it affects him and offers advice to others at conferences and other events.

Supporting him at every step is Uwe, who was shortlisted for Carer of the Year in last month's Autism Hero Awards, after Patrick nominated him: "Because he

is basically my family to me."

Another factor in Patrick's recovery is where he lives. "There is so much local support in Enfield," he says. "There are Facebook communities like Love Your Doorstep, they helped me with a kick-starter for my first exhibition; Baker and Chase [estate agents] got me to do their window; my local gym Energie Fitness have been really supportive; the Palmers Green Community website; even local MPs and the mayor – there's so much support from so many directions."

Find out more about Patrick's art and advice on living with autism:

Visit patricksamuel.net

If you need someone to talk to, Samaritans offer a free helpline available 24 hours a day:

Call 116 123

Visit samaritans.org

Why Enfield Council must ditch fossil fuels

Georgina Bavetta from Divest Enfield is calling on the council to remove fossil fuels from its pension fund

An oil rig off the coast of Brazil
Credit: Agência Brasil/Wikimedia Commons



If you're lucky enough to have a pension, it's normal not to know a lot about what your pension fund invests in on your behalf. That's fair enough – it's difficult to find out and life is short.

But recent investigations have shown that our pension funds end up investing in some quite sinister things. Freedom of Information requests reveal that Enfield Council's pension fund, which council workers and teaching assistants in our borough pay into, has more than £60million invested in coal, oil and gas companies.

This is bad because fossil fuel companies are increasingly seen as an immoral investment. They knew about climate change as long ago as the 1970s and they have spent decades undermining action to tackle it. There are currently more fossil fuel reserves held by these companies than will ever be safe for us to burn. Their business models will lead to a devastating future.

But as well as being immoral, fossil fuel companies are becoming risky investments. As clean energy becomes cheaper, fossil fuels become 'stranded assets' that no longer make a return for the people who invest

in them. Even people like Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, are now warning about this.

If you have savings in the London Borough of Enfield Pension Fund, they are at risk of underperforming. Fossil free pension funds now do either as well, or even better, than ones invested in fossil fuels.

Divest Enfield is a growing group of people campaigning to get the council to remove ('divest') its investments in fossil fuels. The best way to stop coal, oil and gas companies from holding back progress on clean energy is to rob

Wealth Fund, New York City Pension Fund, and the Church of England.

We have backers locally too. Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has called on London boroughs to divest their pension funds of fossil fuels. Already, Islington, Southwark and Waltham Forest have done so. In Enfield we have also now won pledges from all three local MPs to back a similar campaign to divest the Parliamentary Pension Fund.

The council claims it is doing all it can to fight climate change, but while it says this, it helps to fund the fossil fuel companies devastating our future via its pension investments. We are calling on them to divest, for a clean tomorrow and future-proofed pensions.

So many people feel powerless to do anything about climate change, but this is something powerful we can do locally. Get involved by writing to your Enfield councillors using writetothem.com

For more information:

Email divestenfield@yahoo.com
Visit campaigns.gofossilfree.org/p/divestenfield

“There's more fossil fuels held by these companies than will ever be safe for us to burn”

them of their power. Divestment campaigns work – it was a global divestment campaign which helped bring down the Apartheid regime in South Africa. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who was involved in that campaign, is now calling for “an Apartheid-style boycott to save the planet”.

Divest Enfield is part of a global movement. Across the world, funds worth £4.5trillion have already divested, including the Norwegian Sovereign

Working hard in Cockfosters

In our regular councillors column, Cllr Edward Smith talks all things Cockfosters

Since the local elections in May 2018, a new team of Conservative councillors have represented the residents of Cockfosters ward.

We are all experienced councillors, having represented other wards in the Enfield Southgate constituency in the past. Cockfosters is a very attractive place and we are proud to represent it, but it has some long-standing issues and we are doing our best to tackle them.

Enfield Council can sometimes appear to be a monolithic organisation that doesn't listen to residents' concerns. Our role is to identify the relevant council officers concerned, bring problems to their attention, and hold them to account.

Residents and residents' associations have voiced concern about a wide range of issues, such as poorly

managed licensed festivals and anti-social raves in Trent Park; traffic congestion and related incidents of selfish driving in adjacent slip roads along Cockfosters Road; speeding vehicles on several roads in the ward; residential over-development that threatens to change the suburban character of the area, such as the planned Black Horse Tower development; and rising incidences of burglary and car-related crime.

We are working closely with Chalk

Cllr Edward Smith



Lane Residents Association, Hadley Wood Association, the rail users group, Friends of Trent Park, and Cockfosters CAPE, to resolve these problems. The Cockfosters Ward Forum has also been reinstated to enable residents to raise their concerns with us face-to-face. Our next forum has been arranged for Monday 3rd December, from 7.30pm at Christ the King Church in Bramley Road.

If you would like to raise any concerns with us, please contact one of us by phone or email.

Cllr Smith is one of three councillors elected to represent Cockfosters, alongside Elaine Hayward and Alessandro Georgiou (all Conservative). Surgeries are available by appointment.

Call 07812 673 027
Email cllr.edward.smith@enfield.gov.uk



Rethinking education

Former secondary school teacher Ros Lucas discusses ideas for re-structuring the education system

Education in the borough of Enfield is always a good talking point and there are many, sometimes very heated, discussions taking place in online forums such as Enfield Voices, Enfield Matters, and Globalnet21.

'Rethinking education' was the title of an oversubscribed meeting at the House of Commons last month that was arranged by Francis Sealey of Globalnet21 and Enfield Voices.

Newcastle University's Sugata Mitra led the way by explaining his projects which explore new ways of learning. These include the 'Hole in the Wall' Indian village computer project, demonstrating how young people learn by themselves unsupervised given the right resources; self-organised learning environments where teachers facilitate; and schools 'in the cloud' where learners use the internet. Sugata spoke about the need to

recognise new ways of self-organised learning and present ways to deal with more effective e-learning strategies, teacher shortages, escalation of stress-related mental health concerns, and an outdated curriculum.

Emma Hardy MP works for a cross-party committee in Westminster looking at the effectiveness of the present system of

squeezed out of the curriculum.

Evan Parker and Terry Sloane, two experienced people from the education sector, were also invited to speak at the parliamentary meeting. Evan concluded that it was now up to teachers, parents and learners to present the case for change through a 'Citizens Assembly'. He demanded that their concerns are prioritised and listened to.

Previous technical and vocational education (GNVQs and BTEC courses) relied on independent learning strategies with considerable success at all levels, but were cut back by the government because training of teachers was deemed too expensive.

Arts, music and design subjects already support independent learning, but so-called 'academic' subjects can also be learned in different ways, especially using self-organised e-learning.

“Arts, music and design subjects already support independent learning”

education – now widely seen as a 'production line' system and unfit for purpose. She spoke at the meeting about how the committee was looking at various aspects of education in light of new linear exams and other changes. Amanda Spielman, Ofsted's chief inspector, recently said it was a “scandal” that subjects like sports, arts, and music, were being

Cycle lanes are needed

Dear Enfield Dispatch

There is so much negativity about the new cycle lanes around Enfield. People say they are not needed or nobody uses them. The rate of cycling in Enfield is incredibly low and I suspect that these comments come from the many people who wouldn't dream of cycling – why?

Research shows that primarily it is because cycling has always felt dangerous. However, cycling is joyous when you remove the fear. I recently passed a lady singing an opera as she cycled into London. The cycle lanes go some way towards reducing the fear of traffic, but once off the lanes vehicles still pass you within inches of your elbow. So I was thrilled when the Met's cycle safety team came down to carry out a 'close pass' operation on Bourne Hill. It involves stopping drivers who fail to give cyclists enough room when overtaking. The drivers are then given some education in how to overtake. The team were surprised at how many drivers were stopped – six in the first hour.

It shows the poor standard of driving in Enfield – we definitely need those protected cycle lanes.

Hal Haines
Palmers Green

I hope Dispatch will flourish

Dear Enfield Dispatch

I am writing to say how much I welcome the introduction of *Enfield Dispatch* to the area. The fact that it has the word 'community' in the strap line says much about the intention of this new publication.

Previously I lived in an area served by several good local papers. Enfield by contrast has a real lack of communication despite being one of the largest boroughs in London. This is a shame. Enfield has a lot going for it in terms of open spaces, community initiatives, places to eat and drink, and shopping. Yet despite that, until recently much of the communication about news and events in the area has been via local websites, which excludes people who don't have online access.

The existing local paper seems to be mainly concerned with promoting the council or the property market and consists largely of ads, with little news considering how many pages it produces. I think *Enfield Dispatch* gives the local area an opportunity to contribute its news and views in a way that has not existed previously and hopefully it will flourish.

Neil Littman
Winchmore Hill

Sorry to see Kate go

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Congratulations on the launch of *Enfield Dispatch*. Your attractively-presented first issue shows we have community journalists able to write about a wide range of subjects and cover the entire borough. I'm confident the *Dispatch* will be a great boon to community spirit and local democracy in the borough.

I was particularly pleased to read the interview with Kate McGeever about her time as manager of Forty Hall Farm. The article brought out Kate's dedication to working with nature rather than against it, ensuring that farming looks after the health of workers, consumers, livestock and, ultimately, the entire planet. It also highlighted the important role that volunteering can play in helping those who find it hard to fit in with today's unnecessarily competitive work culture.

These are all values the Green Party stands for, so it will come as no surprise to readers to learn that throughout her seven years in Enfield Kate was an active member of Enfield Green Party, sharing some of her tremendous energy and enthusiasm. Latterly she was co-chair.

We're sorry to see Kate go, as no doubt are workers and volunteers at Forty Hall Farm. Enfield's loss will be Manchester's gain.

Alex McRae
Chair, Enfield Green Party

We must stamp out hate crime

Dear Enfield Dispatch

It is disgraceful that people in our community have been targeted with racist abuse. In Enfield and Haringey, our diversity has always been our strength, and we are proud to welcome and celebrate people from all backgrounds and cultures.

It takes a huge amount of courage for victims of racist abuse to come forward, but I would strongly urge anyone on the receiving end of any form of hate crime to report it. It is only by working closely with the police that we will be able to stamp it out and ensure victims are given the support they need.

We are fortunate to live in a city that is defined by its diversity and has always embraced people from around the world. In these uncertain political times and with the culminating tensions surrounding Brexit, it is more important than ever that, as Londoners, we stand firm against any attempts made to divide us.

Joanne McCartney
London Assembly
Member for Enfield

Surgical detail

Claire Fisher from Healthwatch Enfield on changes to orthopaedic operations

Are you a female over 50 years of age? A carer? A disabled person? Have you had gender reassignment surgery?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then please keep on reading as you may be affected by changes to how local surgeries are allocated. Across north London conversations are currently taking place to reduce the number of hospitals providing, for example, hip and knee replacements.

As an Enfield resident, it is likely you had your surgery or are scheduled to have your surgery at North Middlesex University Hospital, Chase Farm Hospital, or the BMI hospitals at Cavell or Kings Oak. If the proposed changes are introduced, it could mean that you may have to travel further for your assessment, surgery and rehabilitation.

Locations have not yet been decided but at Healthwatch Enfield we are

actively involving local residents in the conversations about the future of operations such as hip and knee replacements. Want to share your views? Simply go to smartsurvey.co.uk/s/yourview to tell us what you think.

In case you missed it, North Mid decided not to become a full member of the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust like Chase Farm did back in 2014. After just over two years of deliberations, the board decided there will be no acquisition. North Mid will continue in clinical partnership with the Royal Free. But is this what local people wanted?

At Healthwatch Enfield we heard from more than 200 local residents who were clear that any partnership the hospital considers should bring additional money and resources; while demonstrating how services would be



Healthwatch Enfield recently hosted a meeting to discuss changes to orthopaedic surgeries in north London

improved for local people. It should also understand the local population's needs and how to deliver services effectively, guarantee accountability to local people and demonstrate what additional support would be provided to staff. It seems Royal Free didn't pass the test.

If you have recently been to hospital or visited a GP, are supported by mental health services, or have received care in your own home, you can tell us if there is anything that works really well or could be improved. We will either share best practice or get on the case to improve its quality!

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

Call 020 8373 6283

Email info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk

Tweet @HealthwatchEnf

Visit healthwatchenfield.co.uk

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Gary – Enfield



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Living it lard

Owner of The Larder is enjoying life in business

BY DANA BURSTOW

Michael Ioannou's beaming smile and the smell of great, fresh coffee, welcomes every customer as they walk through the door into the warm, compact café.

"I'm a foodie so anywhere that is food-centric excites me," says Michael, owner of The Larder in Winchmore Hill.

Customers come for delicious food cooked to order with the freshest ingredients, served at scrubbed wood tables under Scandi style lighting. Some linger longer, enjoying the relaxed atmosphere, while others nip in for a quick take-out to fortify them on the way to the station.

Michael, Enfield born and raised, tells the story of how his business got off the ground three-and-a-half years ago: "The Larder was a shop I walked past a couple of times and looked at longingly, wishing I'd have a chance to open and run something similar.

"As soon as I found out it was on the market I went for it." It hasn't all been plain sailing though. As a first business "it has been a big learning curve with some tough lessons," says Michael. "The good moments have far outweighed the tough though."

Michael has developed his green fingers too, caring for the charming courtyard garden which traps the sun.

"Over time the business has evolved into a café, coffee shop, deli, and wine merchants – we do some catering and private hire for small functions and have recently begun doing pop-up restaurants." Everyone loves a pop-up, don't they? They're new and interesting with a sense

you might miss something if you're not there – which is indeed the case judging by the sell-out success of the first event run by talented local chef Holly Ashdown. Details of upcoming events are available on eatwith.com

Treats available are own-brand speciality coffee roasted in Wood Green, fresh bread and pastries from Holt-whites bakery, own-brand pâtés, raw basil pesto, and more. London beekeeper's

honey, teas, and Italian panettone for Christmas, will be in stock soon.

Quality and customer service depends on a strong team. Michael says it's like a family – not least because, he says: "I've been

lucky to have mum with me, she cooks in the shop, makes the soups and cakes from home and generally keeps me in check."

Aren't mums great?



Advertisement

Time to get festive

In her regular local business column, Jo Johnson from Love Your Doorstep is in festive mood

With Christmas fast approaching, many of us are starting to plan for the festive season. Whether it's present buying, food for the big day, or hair and beauty appointments for the party season, we would love you to choose to use the businesses here on your doorstep.

Every year in the lead up to Christmas, we encourage our local businesses to post what they have available, to give our community inspiration. We encourage our members to use local businesses where possible and we absolutely love the 'hard to buy for' type posts where everyone pulls together with ideas and solutions for those awkward gift recipients.

As well as the local shops there are gift-makers that run their business from their own homes and orders can be placed with them directly online. There's also a lot of fairs and markets where you can hopefully make a big dent in your gift shopping all in one go.

New this year is a fair called 'Under the Arches' at the beautiful viaduct that runs through Arnos Grove Park. Taking place on 25th November, it will offer a carefully curated selection of stalls offering their wares.

Forty Hall has its popular Christmas Market over three days, starting Friday 30th November, when there'll be a late night event running until 9pm. And Salisbury House in Bush Hill Park will be home to a vast array of local makers and sellers between Friday 14th and Sunday 16th December.

Another popular question on our forum is: "Where can we have our work Christmas party?" We are fortunate to have plenty of fantastic venues including restaurants, pubs, and bars in the borough that can cater for gatherings of all sizes. Pop online and ask who can take your reservation!

One of our favourite annual events, and a sure sign that Christmas is on its way, is the Parade of Lights. Taking place on Sunday 2nd December, it's a magical occasion where lots of local community groups, including Love Your Doorstep (look out for us and the Mini!), form a procession from Enfield Town with lit-up floats. The event culminates with carols, the Christmas tree lights switch-on, and fireworks.

Our wonderful local theatres have some great shows on offer over the festive period. Chickenshed in Cockfosters is bringing *A Christmas Carol* to the stage this year, as well as their Christmas Tales for younger audiences. The traditional panto at Millfield Theatre this year will be *Beauty and the Beast*. Book now to avoid disappointment!

Another Love Your Doorstep obsession is the Santa float that visits different streets in the run up to Christmas. Keep your eyes peeled for when we publish the routes and you might even catch me posting live videos to give you real-time info on Santa's location!

For more information about Love Your Doorstep:

Email customerservice@loveyourdoorstep.co.uk

Twitter @Loveyourdoorstep

Visit loveyourdoorstep.co.uk

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ENFIELD Council

History to treasure

Hannah Dyson visits a photographic exhibition at Forty Hall



The 'Hidden Treasures' exhibition runs until 30th December

Tinker, Caesar, Cinder and Little Susie; Lady Florence Bowles would not have been without her beloved pet dogs throughout her life.

Serenely posing on the lawn in front of Forty Hall House, glistening lake in the background, Lady Florence is one of the characters from the estate's past that are celebrated in the ongoing exhibition *Hidden Treasures: Forty Hall, a Family Home*. The people who so drastically shaped Forty Hall spring to life once again and tell their story through photographs and paintings.

Exquisitely understated and simple, no clever technology is needed to convey Lady Florence's profound love of motoring. A 1920s newspaper article depicts her proudly standing at the entrance to Forty Hall with her 'standard car', saying: "I bought a one-cylinder De Dion two-seater from a butcher for £80; at times it was a willing little car, but often had the sulks, and went thousands of miles in her taking my husband to France down the Touraine country."

"Then I bought the new four seater all-weather 11 HP [horse-power] standard. I took it down to Monmouthshire from Enfield – 160 miles in eight hours."

You could easily walk past and miss

the intricate and lovingly handmade photo album placed on the round table, but if you do find it, you are invited to take a seat and transport yourself back in history. Black and white photographs of Lady Florence and her husband Henry Ferryman Bowles striding confidently along the promenade in Cannes in the 1930s are a highlight of the album. Lady Florence's love of photography comes alive again through her own photos taken at her parents' home Penally Abbey. Dated 1896, villagers in Penally pose outside their thatched cottages. Photos titled "tea time" and "washing day" are a unique glimpse into this period of history.

Head back, pipe in hand, laughing with a friend outside the door to Forty Hall House, the photo of Henry Ferryman Bowles in 1890 titled "good story" exudes the elation and pure delight of living at Forty Hall.

You can see what Forty Hall meant to Henry and how happy the house made the entire Bowles family when they lived here from 1895 until it was sold in 1951.

'Hidden Treasures: Forty Hall, a Family Home' runs at Forty Hall until 30th December. For more information:

Visit fortyhallestate.co.uk/whats-on

Remembering the fallen

Reverend Chrichton Limbert introduces a week of First World War commemoration at Christ Church Southgate

In November the whole country will be commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

The centenary of the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month will fall on Sunday 11th November. In the week before there will be a week of events at Christ Church in Waterfall Road, Southgate, to remember the 146 local people who lost their lives and are commemorated on our war memorial, as well as all those whose lives were affected in any way.

Southgate Remembers will start on Sunday 4th November with a sung Requiem Mass at 6.30 pm, including the names of the fallen and will end with a Remembrance service on Sunday 11th November at 10.30 am, including the silence at 11am and a full parade.

Throughout the week the church will host a free exhibition of local First World War memorabilia, including displays with information about the fallen of Southgate, an installation of handmade poppies, and commemorative poems and artwork by local children.

The centrepiece, however, will be an installation of ten soldier silhouettes from the 'There But Not There' project, which we have been donated by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust. These transparent seated military figures will be placed around the church to represent some of those that we know used to sit in the building.

Other events are being planned, including a music and readings evening on Thursday 8th November and an illustrated talk on First World War posters from 12pm on Wednesday 7th November.

There will be a memories book to record tributes and reflections. This will be a very moving and unique chance to reflect on the effect of the war on our community, making it real and personal for the next generation.

For more information

Visit christchurch-southgate.org

Keep it in house

BY KEEGAN KESSEWNATH

Salisbury House was Enfield's first arts centre when it opened in 1957. Today it still hosts many community art classes and provides a wonderful environment for community events.

We have a variety of events and classes going on including art groups, writers' workshops, spiritual activities, yoga classes, and church meetings.

The house dates to the early 17th Century and is Grade 2-listed, being situated alongside the beautiful Bury Lodge Gardens in Edmonton. The late Tudor mansion was a private residence up until it was sold to Enfield Council and reopened as an arts centre in the 1950s. All the rooms and outdoor

space at Salisbury House are now available to hire, from the beautiful Tudor room with its original exposed timbers to the lovely garden and newly refurbished ground floor kitchen where you can buy teas, coffees and delicious cakes from our new café.

Salisbury House is also the home of the community network Love Your Doorstep, community arts organisation Artstart – and now *Enfield Dispatch*!

So whether you are looking for a place to hold a party, class, or even a photoshoot, we have what you're looking for. Salisbury House is a truly unique space to hold any function and a true hidden gem.

For more information about Salisbury House:

Call 0208 887 7333

Email millfield.hire@enfield.gov.uk



Salisbury House is one of the oldest buildings in Enfield

London Pantomimers have been performing at Intimate Theatre for nearly half-a-century



Intimate surroundings

Kate Durcan from London Pantomimers looks forward to what might be the drama group's last show at Intimate Theatre

With rehearsals well underway for our 2018 Christmas show *Wizard of Oz – The Pantomime*, news that our home for nearly 50 years is to be demolished hit us hard.

The London Pantomimers have performed at Intimate Theatre for decades. Our drama group was conceived in 1944 by local scouts seeking to raise funds and lift the spirits of the local community amid the despair of the Second World War. That year, a cast of more than 40 performed *Jack and the Beanstalk* at Trinity-at-Bowes Methodist Church, Palmerston Road, charging three pence for entry.

That was the start of something truly special; a group of performers bringing pantomime to Palmers Green each

year for no other reason than a mutual love of theatre – collecting audience donations for local charities along the way.

In 1970 the London Pantomimers transferred to the Intimate Theatre in Green Lanes, where we have performed the annual Christmas pantomime ever since. Today, we are stronger than ever, last year even winning the 'Best Panto' award for this area from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association.

With such a strong heritage, we are more than just a theatre company, we are a family, and the Intimate is our home. Our cast and crew of 50-plus comprise a live performance band, scriptwriters, set builders, costume designers, marketing team, technicians, and an ever-growing pool of talented performers.

Secretary and one-time performer Elaine Alles, now in her 38th consecutive show, says: "It is great to see the enjoyment on the faces of all the people involved, both

"It is great to see the enjoyment on the faces of all the people involved"

on stage and behind the scenes, but also everyone in the audience. It keeps me young and I have made many friends over the years."

This year actually marks our first departure from the traditional pantomime tale. *Wizard of Oz* will bring a panto twist to an iconic story, in an original script by Colin Dowland and Ian James.

It is our most ambitious production yet, promising a feast for the eyes and ears, admittedly placing

huge demands on our wonderful costume and set designers, who always rise to the challenge!

Director and producer Sylvia Orsi says: "I'm incredibly excited about this production, which is packed with fantastic musical numbers and plenty of audience participation that is sure to have everyone singing along. It's an honour to be directing such an amazing group of people."

However, our biggest drama is still to come. When this run ends on 15th December, we may well be taking our final bow at Intimate Theatre. This year alone, we will have performed to a total audience number in the thousands, across eleven shows, rebutting those who question the theatre's attendance and usage.

Demolishing Intimate Theatre threatens to bring the curtain down on 73 years of performances – and a Christmas tradition for many local families. But we are determined to go on. Somewhere, over the rainbow, dreams come true.

Wizard of Oz – The Pantomime shows 6th–15th December at Intimate Theatre, Green Lanes, Palmers Green N13 4DH. To book:

Call 07932 607 901
Email boxoffice@londonpantomimers.org.uk
Visit londonpantomimers.org.uk

LISTINGS

Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in Enfield. For December listings, email the details of your event to enfielddispatch@socialspider.com by 15th November.

COMEDY

Comedy Shed

Thursday 15th November, 8pm
Chickenshed Theatre, Chase Side,
Cockfosters N14 4PE

Join us for some of the best and brightest comedy around – a chance to see both established and upcoming acts, hand-picked for a great night out. This season's comedy shed will be hosted by award-winning comedian Joe Bor. A fantastic evening is planned, featuring Lou Sanders, Simon Feilder, and Robert White (Britain's Got Talent runner up)!

£10 tickets

Call 020 8292 9222

Visit chickenshed.org.uk

SPORT

Basketball Tournament

Saturday 10th November, 3pm–9pm
Edmonton Green Leisure Centre,
The Broadway, Edmonton N9 0TR

Enfield Police and its partners are going to hold a basketball tournament for young people, centring around inclusion, diversion, and providing alternatives to gang membership and crime. The event will raise money for the Godwin Lawson Foundation, a charity set up in memory of 17-year-old Godwin from Enfield who was stabbed to death in 2010.

Free entry

Email info@godwinlawson.org

Visit godwinlawsonfoundation.org

FOOD

Forty Hall Farmers Market

Sunday 11th November, 11am–4pm
Forty Hall Farm, Forty Hill EN2 9HA

Forty Hall Farm will be hosting its monthly community farmers market. Come ready to fill your bag with a bounty of local produce. We'll be getting cosy in the Black Barn where Cheryl will be serving coffee and hot chocolate and we welcome the return of Old Bakery Gin and the volunteers from Forty Hall Vineyard who will be selling the latest vintage.

Free entry

Call 020 8363 1393

Email fortyhallfarm@capel.ac.uk

Visit fortyhallfarm.org.uk

FESTIVE

Fireworks Display

Saturday 3rd November, 6pm
Scout Field, Fords Grove,
Winchmore Hill N21 3DN

The 5th Southgate Scout Group put on their annual fireworks display. Bonfire, hot dogs, mulled wine, popcorn – all funds raised in support of the group. Please buy in advance.

£8 adults, £5 child

Text 07887 821 119

Christmas Lights Switch On

Thursday 15th November, 4pm
Palmers Green Triangle, Green
Lanes, Palmers Green N13 4XS

The Christmas lights will be turned on by the Christmas tree near Palmers Green Triangle. Green Lanes Business Association, other businesses, and residents, have raised around £5,000 for the tree and lights. There will be a window display competition and a Father Christmas hunt.

Free entry

Visit lovepalmergreen.co.uk

POETRY

Writing Workshops

Saturday 24th November, 1pm–4.30pm
Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road,
Enfield EN2 6DS

A writing workshop with well-known poet and tutor, Katherine Gallagher. Using the Museum of Enfield's splendid exhibition on Broomfield Park, alongside our memories, we will write poems to bring Broomfield House to life.

Call 020 8807 6680

Email mail@katherine-gallagher.com

Visit katherine-gallagher.com

THEATRE

Age UK Enfield's Afternoon with the Padwicks

Tuesday 20th November, from 2pm
St Peter's Church Hall, Vera Ave,
Winchmore Hill N21 1DN

Monthly shows for local elderly people. This month we're looking back at the time of the First World War: Ivor Novello, Lord Kitchener, Einstein, and more.

£5 entry

Call 020 8375 4118

AROUND THE BOROUGH

ENFIELD LOCK

Wetlands officially opened



Children from Prince of Wales Primary School explore the new wetlands

THE PRINCE WALES WETLANDS have been officially opened. The new wildlife area within Prince of Wales Open Space will help prevent flooding of nearby homes, improve water quality, enhance biodiversity, and create an outdoor learning space for the community. One thousand trees

were planted there last winter. It's been created by Enfield Council in partnership with Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and Thames Water. The council's cabinet member for environment, Councillor Guney Dogan, said: "The transformation has been absolutely amazing. Two years ago the open space was secluded, underused, and lacking in personality. Now it is a beautiful and accessible park which will also serve as an important area for education and learning. "I would especially like to recognise the help and support of the students at Prince of Wales Primary School and volunteers who have given their time to make this project come to life."

BUSH HILL PARK

By-election called

A BY-ELECTION HAS BEEN CALLED for the Bush Hill Park ward on Thursday 22nd November. It comes after the resignation of a Conservative councillor newly elected this year. Jon Daniels said he had been struggling to balance his family and work life since winning election in May. The decision by Cllr Daniels to quit has – at least temporarily – reduced the ranks of the opposition Conservative group to 14, down from 17 at the election. Two other Tory

councillors were suspended amid claims they made racist comments about the Turkish community, as reported in last month's *Dispatch*. The complete list of candidates has not yet been confirmed, however, the Conservatives say James Hockney is their candidate, with Labour selecting Bevin Betton, who narrowly lost out in May's election, to go up against him. Rob Wilson is standing for the Lib Dems, Tulip Hambleton for the Women's Equality Party, and Benji Maydon for the Green Party.

PALMERS GREEN

Historic sale

BROOMFIELD HOUSE IS UP FOR SALE. The Grade 2*-listed building has lain derelict for 34 years following a fire, despite numerous attempts to fund its restoration. Enfield Council's attempt to find a buyer for the 16th Century house, along with the adjacent stable block, is described as the "last hope" to save it.

Writing for Palmers Green Community website, trust chair Colin Younger said: "We've reached this position after six years of intensive lobbying and working closely with Enfield Council and Historic England to find ways of funding the restoration. None of this has been successful, and this is the final throw of the dice."

EDMONTON

Changes to bus service

THE 149 BUS SERVICE IS SET TO become more regular during the day – but less regular in the evening. In a bid to cut costs Transport for London (TfL) wants to modify 33 bus routes around the capital, in one of the biggest-ever shake-ups to the London bus network. Route 149 links Edmonton Green Bus Station with London Bridge but follows a similar route to two buses running between Tottenham and Shoreditch. To match customer demand TfL wants to increase daytime Monday to Saturday frequencies from every eight or nine minutes to every six minutes, decrease evening frequencies from every eight minutes to every ten minutes, and decrease Sunday frequencies from every

eight minutes to every ten minutes. Passenger demand across Enfield borough has declined by three percent over the last three years, according to TfL. Geoff Hobbs, director of public transport service planning, said: "Our proposals to reorganise the bus network would modernise bus travel in London by matching capacity with demand, reducing congestion while enabling year-on-year increases in bus services in outer London. "Ultimately these changes, which are predominately minor route restructures or timetable adjustments, would create an efficient modern network." A public consultation runs until Friday 9th November. Go to consultations.tfl.gov.uk/buses/central-london

COCKFOSTERS

Community awards

A COMMUNITY PLATFORM FOR children and families held its first awards ceremony, at The Venue in Chalk Lane. More than 11,000 people voted for their favourite local businesses to win prizes at the Sophia's Diary Awards, in 35 different categories. Sophia's Diary was launched three years ago by Andrea Krase.

She said: "We held the awards to celebrate the excellent work from members and showcase the wide range of activities, particularly for families, within the community." One winner was Ebru Misirli, who organised N21 Summer Fair – voted 'Best Family Event'. Ebru said: "It shows the hard work we have put in has been recognised and appreciated."



Some of the 35 winners at the first-ever Sophia's Diary Awards

PONDERS END

Anger over library closure

PONDERS END LIBRARY HAS been closed despite temporary replacement facilities being unavailable until next year. The library was shut in October as the building in College Court is due to be redeveloped as part of the 'Electric Quarter' scheme. A new library in Ponders End High Street is due to open in 2021. The council had promised to provide temporary facilities in the interim period, but now says these will not be ready "until spring 2019". Anthony O'Connor, who has lived in the area for 40 years, told the *Dispatch*: "There was supposed to be a public meeting in September to discuss the closure but it got cancelled – the whole thing has been done very quickly and has given us no time to react."

"I mainly use the library for the computers because you get an hour free and I don't have the internet at home. I usually go there three or four times a week. "A couple of years ago the council spent a fortune upgrading the library, and Age Concern moved in, so I don't understand why they did all that if they wanted to close it." Ponders End residents have been told to use other nearby libraries for at least the next four months. A council spokesperson said: "This is to enable the £50million redevelopment of the 'heart' of Ponders End, including a range of new homes, shops, community space and a fantastic new library facility. "From spring 2019, temporary library services will be provided in a fully-accessible venue. In the meantime, library users can order books, DVDs, CDs, audio books and other resources at any of our other 16 libraries across the borough – including at Edmonton Green and Enfield Highway – and will be given extended renewal time."

More than a run in the park

Stephen Lloyd-Jones on why a simple idea is helping people in Enfield get fit and have fun

Grovelands Parkrun is more popular than ever, with nearly 200 runners taking part in recent weeks



“Regulars include a lady in her 70s who has now finished 175 runs”

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Enfield is one of London's greenest boroughs in terms of total area of parks and woodland. But like anywhere, we also have people living busy lives or with health or economic issues that affect their ability to achieve the recommended 150 minutes of physical activity per week.

Add in Enfield's great community spirit and you have the ingredients for us to be part of one of the country's most successful mass-participation exercise and volunteering programmes, Parkrun. It offers free, volunteer-led weekly 5km runs every Saturday morning and is open to people of all ages and abilities.

Enfield has two well-established Parkrun events at Pymmes Park in Edmonton and Grovelands Park in Southgate. I'm a regular at Grovelands and am about to reach a personal milestone of 250 Parkrun finishes – you get a free running shirt after completing 50, 100, 250 and 500.

Like many, I was fit in my younger days, but a busy work and family life soon meant middle-aged spread and general aches and pains were creeping in by my mid-40s. But Parkrun fits my needs perfectly.

On a recent visit to the Pymmes event, I heard great stories from run director Gareth and his team of volunteers and from runners of all backgrounds. Many have been involved since the first run there in 2011 and numbers have risen steadily, from 30-40 per week, to a peak of 112 this summer.

One participant, Mark, was on his fourth run following medical advice to lose weight, and admitted being nervous, but said he finds the volunteers and other runners supportive. He is aiming to finish in under 30 minutes soon. I also saw Tim, of Bush Hill Park Runners, celebrate his 100th run – a great achievement.

Father and daughter team Alkin and Kayla took on the role of 'tail runners' to encourage slower runners like Mark around the three-

lap course. Kayla, aged eleven, has run over 50 times herself with her dad, mainly at Grovelands.

Pymmes is a flat course, but Grovelands has a fairly challenging hill. At the top, you are rewarded with a view of the Grade I listed Grovelands House (now Priory Hospital) and of the large lake. Numbers at Grovelands have also grown steadily in the last couple of years to average 180 runners per week in 2018, with a course record 232 set this month. Regulars include a lady in her 70s who has now finished 175 runs, people pushing baby buggies, a wheelchair user, a deaf-blind runner who runs with a guide, and 20 runners under the age of 15.

So why not give it a try? You will definitely #LoveParkrun!

For more information on the Pymmes and Grovelands Parkrun events, held each Saturday from 9am:

Visit parkrun.org.uk/pymmes

Visit parkrun.org.uk/grovelands

Father and daughter Alkin and Kayla take on the role of 'tail runners' to encourage slower runners at Pymmes Park



Support local independent journalism



What we do

Here at *Enfield Dispatch*, we do things differently. We believe that local newspapers should put the concerns of the local community at the heart of their publication. We combine professional journalism with voluntary contributions from people who live and work in the local area and create content which is responsive to and reflective of the community.

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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