

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 3 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

DEC 2018

NEWS

Assurances sought
as Edmonton Green
Shopping Centre
sold for £72m

P. 3

FEATURE

How North London
Hospice is helping
people cope with life-
limiting illnesses

P. 5

INTERVIEW

President of Enfield
Over 50s Forum talks
about group's work
helping the elderly

P. 7

COMMENT

Labour Party
members speak out
about their vote of
no confidence against
Enfield North MP

P. 9



Find out how Bush Hill Park wildlife garden has been brought back to life by volunteers – turn to Page 4

Council set for showdown with mayor over new homes

Sadiq Khan warns Enfield Council against building on Green Belt

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council could be heading for a showdown with the Mayor of London over the fate of the borough's Green Belt. The Labour-run council is considering building on Green Belt land as it struggles to meet a new target of building 1,876 homes in Enfield per year – with only 550 being built at present. Last month councillors rejected a call by opposition Conservatives to ban any new homes from being built on the Green Belt, which

has been protected against development since 1947. But the next day, after being quizzed during Mayor's Question Time about whether he would block attempts to build on Enfield's Green Belt, Sadiq Khan said: "If it is the case that their Local Plan is in breach of our policies I will object. It's important to protect the Green Belt." A draft document outlining the objectives of Enfield's new Local Plan, which will guide planning policy in the borough over the next 15 years, states there are "strong sustainability arguments in favour of developing some Green Belt land".

The railway station at Crews Hill is used as an example of an area that "has the greatest potential to act as a hub for sustainable growth". However, local plans drawn up by councils must comply with policies in the London Plan, which is decided by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and currently contains a commitment to protect the Green Belt. Enfield residents will soon be able to have their say on the document, with an initial public consultation set to be launched this month. Presenting an opposition motion calling for the Green Belt to be protected, Conservative Group

deputy leader Edward Smith told last month's full council meeting: "Crews Hill has been mentioned as a possible location for building on the Green Belt. Building on gardens will be made easier than in the past and building high-rise blocks in town centres will also be easier. This consultation will be a fishing expedition to get support for this basic thesis. "But we think the main reason for the lack of housing built in Enfield over the last ten years is down to the failures of the council."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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Nº.3

DECEMBER 2018

Enfield Dispatch is the borough's free community newspaper. We publish monthly and distribute 10,000 free copies of each issue to cafés, pubs, community centres, libraries, GP surgeries, schools, hair salons, and outside railway stations.

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► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Meridian Water in Edmonton was frequently brought up in last month's debate, with two deals with developers having fallen through in the last year and no new homes having yet been built there, despite the council pledging to build 10,000. Cllr Smith said:

"Large regeneration schemes have moved at a snail's pace. When will the council get a grip on Meridian Water?"

Council leader Nesil Caliskan admitted that building the number of new homes required by City Hall had proven difficult. She

said: "Previous housing targets were challenging, but were moderate in comparison to these new targets. We are now expected to deliver 1,900 homes per year. A step change is obviously needed. "We will be seeking the views of

"Large regeneration schemes have moved at a snail's pace"

all residents and stakeholders, in a 12-week consultation, before we come to a decision. We are asking people to suggest sites for new homes and come up with ideas."

Enfield has the fourth largest area of Green Belt land in London, with

37% of its total land falling under the designation. According to new figures released by charity Shelter, Enfield also has the seventh-highest rate of homelessness in the UK. Cllr Caliskan said: "We value our green spaces just as we value those

people in Edmonton, where one-in-four children live in poverty, largely down to the fact

they cannot afford their housing costs." Concerning a potential clash with the GLA over building on the Green Belt, the council's deputy leader, Daniel Anderson, said: "This is not a done deal. We are in a process of consultation."



Warning as foodbank use rises

BY STEPHEN COX

North Enfield Foodbank is preparing for Christmas having helped nearly seven thousand people over the last year – a 9.2% increase in demand.

Set up in 2012 by national charity the Trussell Trust, North Enfield Foodbank in Lumina Way is giving out more food parcels than ever before, with 6,868 people receiving aid in the year up to October 2018. Speaking to the *Dispatch*, foodbank manager Kerry Coe said: "We provide emergency food supplies for those in crisis. Each person can get three days food, up to six times a year. "They can be referred by three

hundred local partners – schools, children's centres, housing associations, GPs and voluntary bodies."

Nationwide, the Trussell Trust says use of its foodbanks is up 13% and

attributes much of this to benefit changes. It claims foodbank use rises faster in places where Universal Credit has been fully rolled out.

But Kerry is cautious about the figures. She said: "We don't know whether we are growing because more people need us, or because more people have heard of us. It is probably both."

North Enfield Foodbank actually offers a much wider range of services than it does food. Enfield Community Money Advice and Enfield Citizens Advice Bureau both hold regular sessions, there is a free language school, and cooking lessons are provided.

Kerry said: "We offer baby food, baby milk, nappies, toiletries and sanitary protection. We can buy families school uniforms. We try to signpost people to other places they can get help."

Christmas often leads to a surge in donations. Fresh fruit and vegetables are welcome, but the foodbank cannot

take more than it expects to distribute.

About one-tenth of clients are referred to Enfield North Foodbank because of benefit delays. Nationally, the Trussell Trust agrees that foodbanks are not a permanent solution, and has launched a three-year research programme. Emma Revie, the charity's chief executive, said: "Foodbanks are providing absolutely vital support, but no charity can replace the dignity of having long-term financial security."

"We need to end poverty – we need to ensure that everyone has enough money coming in to cover the cost of the essentials."

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesperson said: "The reasons why people use foodbanks are complex. We continue to spend around £90 billion a year supporting people who need it, including those out of work or on a low income."

Call for better hospital bus links rejected

More surgeries at Chase Farm prompt transport fears

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Transport for London (TfL) has rejected calls to provide better access to Chase Farm Hospital. The newly-expanded hospital in The Ridgeway is now expected to host 10,000 operations per year, as the primary location for planned surgery across the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, but there is currently no direct bus link between the hospital and its nearest tube station, Oakwood.

Enfield Council leader Nesil Caliskan wrote to TfL in October to ask them to look at options "to ensure patients and visitors travelling to the hospital can do so without any difficulty".

But TfL argues that redirecting one of the local bus services to Chase Farm would increase journey times, for passengers not visiting the hospital, by half-an-hour.

Geoff Hobbs, TfL's director of public transport service planning, said: "We have carried out a review of public transport to the hospital and believe it has the right service for the level of demand. A large number of high-frequency routes operate from Enfield town centre.

"Re-routing the 377, 121 or 307 would significantly increase journey times for all customers, and would reduce the high-frequency links for residents into Enfield town centre. We are happy to work with the borough to ensure changing buses in the town centre is as easy as possible."

Currently three bus services stop at Chase Farm; the 313 between Chingford and Potters Bar, the W8 to Lee Valley Leisure Complex, and the W9 to Southgate.

Natalie Forest, Chase Farm's chief executive, wrote to TfL with her concerns about poor bus links in July, while Enfield Over 50s Forum is now running a campaign to improve the hospital's access to public transport. Monty Meth, president of Enfield Over 50s Forum, told the *Dispatch*: "The Royal Free has done a terrific job transforming the hospital but now they are doing all the operations there and it is taking people forever to get to the hospital from train stations."

Shopping mall site sold for £72m

Edmonton Green residents seek reassurances as "improvements" promised

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

The sale of a large housing estate will "not affect the rights of residents", according to one of its housing associations. Edmonton Green Shopping Centre was sold to a property investment firm last month for £72million, with the site's three tower blocks also made part of the deal. More than one thousand people live on the estate. Crosstree Real Estate Partners bought the town-centre site from previous owners St Modwen, which had itself bought it from Enfield Council in the 1990s. Crosstree already owns retail property in Soho, Mayfair, and at the O2 Arena in Greenwich, but now wants to exploit "growth opportunities in outer London". A spokesperson for housing association Metropolitan Thames Valley said: "The private sale will not affect our legal rights as the leaseholder at three of the site's residential blocks – or the rights of our residents who live in them." Edmonton Green Shopping Centre was built in the late 1960s and early 1970s and is regarded as an example of the period's brutalist architecture. In 1999 the leasehold for the site was sold by the council to St Modwen, while the homes in the tower blocks were transferred to a partnership between Metropolitan Housing Trust (now

called Metropolitan Thames Valley) and London and Quadrant (L&Q). Matt Mason, director of Crosstree, said: "We are excited to play our part in the improvement of this community-focused retail centre and to help create a thriving town centre and neighbourhood. "We are committed to the long-term future of Edmonton Green and look forward to working with the council and local community to support the growth and prosperity of this strategically important site within Enfield." Edmonton MP Kate Osamor said the sale has "potential to be positive" but also warned: "Understandably, shopkeepers and local residents have some trepidation about what the change of ownership will mean. Tenants are hoping to learn more soon about the new owners and their plans for the shopping centre.

"Of greatest anxiety, tenants are concerned about the content of future leases, what kind of relationship will be on offer from Crosstree and whether rents will rise. My hope is that tangible steps are taken to help businesses in the shopping centre flourish." In the late 2000s St Modwen regenerated the site, building new blocks of flats and a large supermarket, while a new bus station was also built. The company now says it lacks "strong struc-



Edmonton Green Shopping Centre was built in the late 1960s and early 1970s – then extended in the 2000s

tural growth characteristics". Crosstree has judged the potential of Edmonton Green differently. Speaking to the *Dispatch* about the sale, a company spokesperson said: "Crosstree believes there are growth opportunities in outer London." The Edmonton Green site covers ten hectares and includes 754 homes, 123 shops, a daily market, library, community centre, and more than 1,000 car parking spaces. Enfield Council retains the free-

hold of the site and would make the decision about any redevelopment plan, should it be proposed. Asked what changes Crosstree might make, the spokesperson added: "We are looking to make improvements in the short-term, as well as identify medium-term opportunities to enhance customer experience." An L&Q spokesperson said: "Our residents will not be affected by the sale of Edmonton Green Shopping Centre." The council declined to comment.

Vulnerable people 'at risk' from benefit changes

BY STEPHEN COX

People with a mental health diagnosis or learning disability are particularly likely to lose out on benefits they are entitled to, advocates for vulnerable people in Enfield have warned.

Danny Newland, business manager at Enfield Carers Centre, said Personal Independence Payment (PIP) awards were often incorrect, with government figures showing 70 per cent of appeals by claimants were successful.

Asked by the *Dispatch* how changes made last year to PIP eligibility was impacting local people, Danny said that although the system was difficult for all claimants, those with mental health issues were most easily discouraged from appealing.

"I've seen a lot of questionable benefit decisions," he said. "It's

essential to understand the system when you frame your claim. Those with mental health or learning issues find it particularly difficult."

He added that a difficulty was representation at appeal. "I have sometimes managed cases to be done on the papers without the claimant present. We're just not funded to

"Those with mental health or learning issues find it difficult"

represent people at hearings, although we do what we can."

A medical diagnosis or social work report doesn't explain how people's health conditions limit everyday life, which is what the system requires. Danny pointed out that correct PIP awards can be crucial because "Jobseekers Allowance is very difficult

for those with many mental health conditions – they can't always stick to an agreed weekly plan of activity".

Jill Harrison, of Enfield Citizens Advice Bureau, agrees the PIP application process is lengthy and off-putting. She said: "People have to claim every year, they are refused, they have to appeal, they win on

appeal, then it's time to apply again."

Jill agrees with Danny that representation at appeal is a key weakness. "Enfield CAB has two-and-a-half benefit advisers. We help with initial claims, and with appeals, even if we did not handle the original application.

"But to represent someone in person takes an adviser out of the office for

half a day. We always try to get clients representation, often through the Free Representation Unit."

The government recently agreed to give additional PIP payments to up to 220,000 claimants with a mental health diagnosis. The government had argued that claimants who suffered psychological distress when travelling were not entitled to the mobility part of the PIP award, but this decision was overturned in court.

A spokesperson for the Department for Work and Pensions said: "We are committed to ensuring that people with a health condition or disability get the support they're entitled to. A relatively small proportion of all decisions are overturned at appeal.

"In most successful appeals, decisions are overturned because people have submitted more oral or written evidence."

Money for kids

An extra £1million will be spent on children's social care, Enfield Council has agreed. The money will be used to hire 18 new staff to help ease growing pressure on the service. Speaking at a meeting last month, the cabinet member for children's services, Achilleas Georgiou, said the workload of caseworkers was significantly higher compared to other boroughs. "We need to make sure if there is a vulnerable child that we act," Cllr Georgiou told the meeting. "We can't allow our caseworkers to be overburdened. "The priority of this local authority is funding in children's services and we have moved swiftly to take action." An Ofsted inspection of the council's children's social care service is expected within six months.

New tube trains

New trains will be introduced on the Piccadilly line between 2024 and 2026, Transport for London (TfL) has announced.

The fleet of 94 air conditioned, walk-through trains, will improve accessibility and increase capacity on the line, which stops at four stations in Enfield borough. Frequency will also be raised from 24 to 27 trains-per-hour. The Piccadilly line's existing trains were built in the 1970s and are becoming increasingly unreliable.

Nigel Holness, managing director of London Underground, said: "The introduction of new trains on the Piccadilly line will significantly improve the journeys of millions of our customers, providing more frequent and more reliable trains for decades to come."

Bin consultation

Enfield Council is seeking people's views on its plans to change bin collections.

Seven different options for modifying the way household waste is collected have been drawn up by the council, including four which would see black wheelie bins picked up once a fortnight. Potential savings for taxpayers range from £97,000 to £2.8million. The council is also keen to boost recycling rates, which currently stand at 37% – below the 44% national average.

A council spokesperson said: "The primary driver will be the amount of financial savings projected. All options will be considered before a decision is reached."

The consultation ends on Sunday 6th January 2019. To take part visit: enfield.gov.uk/waste

Wildest dreams

Carole Stanley on how an overgrown corner has developed into a tranquil space for the community



Volunteers have helped to transform Bush Hill Park wildlife garden over the last year

It all started when I took part in a litter pick about two years ago. I hadn't set foot in Bush Hill Park before then, and I certainly knew nothing about its dishevelled wildlife garden.

What began as a couple of hours of volunteering subsequently turned into a huge part of my life – combining my love of nature, education, and community engagement.

The Bush Hill Park wildlife garden is a triangle of land which lies between the tennis courts and the back gardens of houses in Southbury Road. Although it had been maintained by the Friends of Bush Hill Park for many years, the number of volunteers was dwindling, and they had become somewhat disillusioned with the task.

The raised pond was a constant target for vandals, plants and amphibians were being stolen, rocks were thrown in, and the liner was damaged. Another issue was funding; the local authority was cash-strapped and so any improvements had to be funded by the friends group raising money or applying for charitable grants. As a result, the garden was becoming overgrown and unwelcoming.

Brambles, nettles and couch grass had pretty much taken over and litter was a constant problem. It looked unloved and was largely ignored by the majority of park users.

I do like a challenge, so I agreed to join the gardening group and the committee. We held public meetings and it became clear that anti-social behaviour was the main issue for local residents. They had strong views about

solutions, believing that locking the park at night, introducing security lighting, and installing CCTV, were the way forward. But these measures come with a heavy cost.

Instead, we embarked on a partnership approach. We were all volunteers; the friends group, adults with learning difficulties from the charity One-to-One, and children from George Spicer School. After realising that most damage was occurring in the evenings, we decided to install a lockable gate. The council was persuaded and agreed to work with the friends group, using funding from The Enfield Society, to make it happen. The gate was installed a year ago and occurrences of vandalism and

littering have fallen considerably since.

Now that we have more volunteers we've been able to hold regular meetings – and summer picnics! Every week, gardening club members work hard to keep the garden looking good. We have built three small sunken ponds, a wildflower meadow, outdoor classroom, and new flowerbeds sponsored by Enfield in Bloom. We have also secured funding from the council for a bench and living willow dome, which we hope to install this month.

The garden is now teeming with wildlife, including bats, bees, birds, amphibians, dragonflies, butterflies and moths. We have also been chosen for next year's Co-op Local Community Fund and will use this money to continue to promote the garden to everyone in the community.

“The garden is now teeming with wildlife”



Wildlife has returned to the pond after work to reduce littering and improve water quality

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Free consultation with this advert

Putting down roots

Thousands of trees set to be planted by residents in Edmonton

BY INGRID CRANFIELD

Trees have innumerable benefits for us and for the environment. They absorb carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. They reduce the amount of rain run-off, limiting erosion and pollution in our waterways and helping to alleviate the effects of flooding. They are also an important source of food, protection and shelter for wildlife.

At Montagu Recreation Ground in Edmonton – affectionately known by locals as Montagu Rec – the Environment Agency has recently completed a flood alleviation scheme. To people with memories of the floods of 2000, when 192 homes were underwater in the Montagu Road area, this has come as a blessing – lowering the flood risk to 1,393 properties. Once this scheme was finished in 2016, the Environment Agency also did some landscaping work, much improving the look of the area.

Now we want to do more. Bountagu is a local community organisation in Lower Edmonton that is funded with £1.1million over ten years from the Big Lottery Fund in order to deliver positive change to the area. Bountagu – named after Bounces Road and Montagu Road – is one of 150 'Big Local' areas in the country that have received this level of funding. Our latest project is a major tree-

planting scheme for Montagu Rec. On Sunday 2nd December we are hosting an event to plant 3,000 trees there. It will kick-off at 10am, with planting and mulching going on until around 3pm. Most of the planting will happen along the border of Montagu Road as a 'woodland fringe' to help block air pollution. There are also plans to plant small copses for fruit and nut trees on the mound.

The event is being organised by Trees for Cities and is backed by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, who wants to turn London into the UK's first 'National Park City'. The mayor's initiative chimes perfectly with one of the five principal goals of Bountagu, which is to improve the local environment, so it's an opportunity too good to miss.

St Peter's Church on Bounces Road is also involved in the tree-planting event. Inside the church is a plaque listing the names of the 143 men in the parish who were killed in the First World War.

As part of the centenary commemorations of the end of the war, 143 trees will be planted on a specially designated area of Montagu Rec. Residents who live in the houses once occupied by these heroes are invited to come and plant a tree in their memory.

After the planting event, there will be a celebration at St Peter's Church. Everyone is welcome to join us!



People of all ages can volunteer to help plant new trees at Montagu Rec in Edmonton Credit Trees for Cities



Peri Emiralı began volunteering at North London Hospice after seeing how the charity helped her mother

Care in the community

How North London Hospice is helping people cope with life-limiting illnesses

BY PAOLA NOTO

When you enter the Health and Wellbeing Centre in Barrowell Green, one of the first smiles that greets you is that of volunteer Peri Emiralı.

Peri's involvement with North London Hospice began three years ago when the charity cared for her mother Vasfiye, who had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Asked how she became involved with the hospice and what motivates her to give up her spare time, Peri said: "After mum was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer we were referred to the North London Hospice's palliative care team.

"I didn't know much about the hospice then. One of the community nurses came to visit mum at her home in Edmonton and we talked about how she could support us in managing her pain and what her wishes were. She was so patient, kind and caring.

"Mum was invited to attend the Health and Wellbeing Centre and it was here that she met so many lovely people. She used to look forward to coming and socialising.

She enjoyed the sing-alongs, art, and the great company. One of my fondest memories was of her singing with the violinist in the centre's living room. "On other days she was able to have acupuncture and reflexology to help relieve her pain. Mum found the centre calming and the staff very loving."

North London Hospice is a registered charity, caring for local people in the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey. We help people with specialist needs as a

"Mum found the centre calming and the staff very loving"

result of a potentially life-limiting illness and we support patients in making the most of their life despite their illness – last year we cared for almost 2,500 patients.

Peri continued: "Mum wanted to die at home and I knew that North London Hospice would support her when the time came. The hospice enabled us as a family to have this choice. Mum wanted as much normality around her as possible. "When it came to the end of her life she was surrounded by her

family. She died comfortably surrounded by the people she loved."

North London Hospice also offers emotional and practical support to patients' families, friends, and carers. It costs £10million a year to run our services, which are free to patients and their families.

"People mustn't be frightened of the word 'hospice'," says Peri. "It's just a word that we're conditioned to feel frightened of. "A year after mum's death I applied to be a front-of-house volunteer at the Health and Wellbeing Centre and to offer my support with their social programme. The people who come here are so positive and have such energy. It really rubs off on you.

"I love meeting the patients and their families. We always have a laugh and they tell me their stories. We sit and play dominoes, make cards and jewellery. The patients are all very special and that's why we're here, to make the unbearable bearable."

Find out more and help support North London Hospice:

Visit northlondonhospice.org

Set in stone

Local historian Gary Boudier on how a Victorian landmark in Enfield has endured



Enfield Town fountain in 1895

Credit Enfield Local Studies Libraries & Archives

came from. It's known that the local Baptist Tabernacle church was selling photographs of the fountain for sixpence and ninepence each, possibly to help raise the missing money. In 1895 the Enfield Gas Company installed four gas lamps for the fountain, which were hailed as a great improvement and featured in many photographs of the time.

However, some time over the ensuing years, the gas lamps were removed and a trio of electric lamps, protruding from above the cherubs, were installed instead.

It was reported in 1960 by the *Enfield Gazette* that the local council wanted to pull down the fountain, but this appears to have stirred up many a feeling against the idea – most residents viewed it as our own version of the fountain at Piccadilly Circus.

Again, in 1969, the idea of removing the fountain arose, with many residents venting their displeasure at the council. People were especially angry with Councillor Graham Eustance, who would later lead the council, after he wrote that the public would be channelled across the intended roadway through guardrails. This immediately caused a flood of letters to the *Gazette*, with residents saying they

would be “herded like cattle” across the road.

Enfield Council wanted a one-way system introduced in the town and they deemed the fountain an outdated piece of ‘Victoriana’. The matter was put to

the Enfield Preservation Society, asking them to suggest an alternate site. Thankfully, the situation was resolved, and the two cherubs atop the fountain are still clinging to each other while all around them carry on their daily deeds.

“Most saw it as our version of the fountain at Piccadilly Circus”

Made from Aberdeen granite, the fountain in Enfield Town has been a permanent feature since 1885. It stands where a great elm tree dominated the area for generations, before it was blown down

during a gale in 1836. A public fund for the fountain started in the summer of 1884 but because of a shortage of money was delayed until March 1885, when it was opened without ceremony. During 1884 the work to build the

fountain was placed in the hands of the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association, which had made its own contribution. When it finally opened in 1885, the fund was still £20 in arrears, and it is unclear as to where the final money

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at:
113 Bullsmoor Lane, Greater London, Enfield EN3 6TQ

Take notice that application is being made by:
Organisation name: Cocosa LTD
Applicant name: Mr. Eyal Moran C/O

For planning permission to:
Demolition of existing dwelling and rear garage, and erection of a two storey plus roof space, detached building to provide 7 no self-contained flats, rear detached dwelling, associated with rear cars parking with access from the rear, cycle store, refuse and recycling and landscaping.

Local Planning Authority to whom the application is being submitted: Enfield Council
Local Planning Authority address: Silver St, London EN1 3XA

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Signatory
Mr Eyal Moran
Date: 03/12/2018

Statement of owners' rights: The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or lease.

Statement of agricultural tenants' rights: The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.
This notice is for publication in a local newspaper.

'Owner' means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years.

'Tenant' means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

CONSULTATION ON YOUR WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

To take part in the consultation visit www.enfield.gov.uk/waste

Access to, or help with the survey is available at Enfield Civic Centre and John Wilkes House, as well as these libraries:

- Ordnance Unity Centre
- Edmonton Green
- Palmers Green
- Enfield Town

Consultation closes on 6 January 2019

HAVE YOUR SAY

www.enfield.gov.uk/waste





Monty Meth has helped Enfield Over 50s Forum grow to become one of the largest groups of its kind in London

A lifetime of achievement

Monty Meth, president of Enfield Over 50s Forum, speaks to James Cracknell about the group's work helping local elderly people

When I meet Monty Meth, the tireless 92-year-old president of Enfield Over 50s Forum, he is in a triumphant mood. The news had just come in that one of the forum's long-running campaigns had taken a big step forward. Enfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the body responsible for delivering NHS primary care services in the borough, had agreed to support the forum's annual winter fair event early next year, helping to get the message out about keeping warm and well in the cold weather. "It is great that they want to work with us," Monty says. "There is no doubt that the number of elderly people dying during winter is far worse than the rest of the year. We want to help whatever way we can on fuel poverty, and on getting homes insulated and draught proof." Twenty years ago, when Monty first joined Enfield Over 50s Forum, the group had 70 members. It now has more than 6,000. "When I retired in 1999 I joined the forum – it was then called the Enfield Older People's Forum – and I went to a couple of meet-

ings, but all they were discussing was the state pension. It is limited what a local group can do about something like that and I didn't think the group had much of a future. Then, after two meetings, they made me the chairman." The forum is now thriving and claims to be the largest voluntary sector organisation in Enfield – and one of the largest of its kind in London. More than 3,500 people have sought help from its drop-in advice sessions since 2011, held every Monday morning at Dugdale Centre. There are regular social events hosted at Millfield House in Edmonton, an over-50s film club at Enfield Cineworld, and forum meetings with guest speakers including police officers, professors, council officials and beekeepers, among others. The forum also produces a 16-page newsletter six times a year, packed full of useful information and articles – including a regular column written

by Monty. Campaign wins include persuading the former Enfield Primary Care Trust to introduce digital hearing aids and persuading Transport for London to extend the 347 bus to Barnet Hospital. What has been the secret to the forum's success? "What we have been doing for the last 20 years is raising the quality of life for older people, in whatever way we can. We host a series of events during

"I have always wanted to be involved in community work and to put something back"

the year on things like helping to prevent people from falling – and Enfield does now have fewer people suffering from falls and going to hospital than anywhere else in London. "We have a brilliant development manager, Jan Oliver, who is full of passion and ideas and creativity; she is the inspiration for a lot of the work that we do." Another long-running campaign has

been tackling loneliness among older people, an issue for which the government now has a dedicated minister. "We were the first organisation in the country to offer support to the Campaign to End Loneliness," says Monty. "Their director Laura Ferguson came to us and said how great it was to have a local forum like ours. Not all people who live on their own are lonely, but some are, and we have tried to offer them the hand of friendship by offering them free membership of the forum. "We are also organising an event on Christmas Day itself, at the Quaker Meeting House in Winchmore Hill, to offer people company if they need it." Monty is a former journalist, having once been industrial editor at the *Daily Mail*, and has used his journalistic skills to help promote Enfield Over 50s Forum. For many years he had a regular column in the now defunct *Enfield Gazette and Advertiser*. "It was the local media that helped us

back when I first joined, when local newspapers were still thriving. I used the media to establish the credentials of the forum. Now we have a big influence locally and good contacts among MPs, the council, and NHS." Monty grew up in Bethnal Green in the 1920s and 30s, serving with the Royal Navy during the Second World War and later moving to Enfield in the 1960s as he established his career in journalism. Today the nonagenarian lives in Oakwood with Betty, his wife of 62 years. They have four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Monty was presented with a lifetime achievement award at this year's Enfield Together Awards, hosted by Enfield Voluntary Action. "I was very appreciative of that," he says. "I have always wanted to be involved in community work and to put something back."

Find out more about Enfield Over 50s Forum:

Call 020 8807 2076

Email info@enfieldover50sforum.org.uk

Visit enfieldover50sforum.org.uk

Help save our theatre

Warren McWilliams, from amateur drama group Saint Monica's Players, on why the Intimate Theatre must be saved

The Intimate Theatre in Palmers Green hosted the first-ever play broadcast live on television



Should the Intimate Theatre be demolished, Enfield stands to lose part of its artistic heritage. The venue in Palmers Green was built next to St Monica's Church Hall in 1931, but in 1935 was handed over to Sir John Clemence as the home for his repertory theatre company. This set the Intimate on its path to become part of not just local, but national cultural history.

As a theatre it has welcomed many famous actors, but the Intimate itself has also played an important role. It was the first theatre to reopen during the Second World War, and hosted the first-ever play to be screened live on television. The Intimate also contains significant architectural features, including its sprung floor, counterweight balcony, and plaster proscenium arch. In 1988, it was listed for dual use as a theatre and church hall.

Sadly, the church now views the theatre as a burden. They plan to demolish it to make way for a block of flats and new parish centre. To

fund this they will sell the current parish centre in Cannon Hill.

We fully support the good work of the parish, but feel that by developing the existing building the needs of both parish and community could be met sooner – at a reduced cost. We are under no illusions as to the current state of the venue; through mismanagement and neglect it has been allowed to deteriorate. Despite that, it still runs at a profit.

"We sent our proposals to the diocese, but they have been ignored"

With small financial investment and volunteer help, the Intimate would be an asset to the parish and community. Despite being users for decades, local groups such as ours were not consulted in the church's five-year building audit, because we are not considered parish groups. Our knowledge of the venue would have been a valuable asset and we would have relished the opportunity to take part.

There is already a large and small hall on the site. The proposed replacement will house one large hall that could be divided into two small halls. Access to the current small hall needs to be improved but this could be done without demolishing an entire building. This approach is akin to buying a new television because the batteries in your remote have died.

We devised alternative options and were told we would be granted a meeting with the committee, but it never materialised. We sent our proposals to the diocese, but they have been ignored. Our plans, available on the Saint Monica's Players website, retain all the church's assets and meet the needs of parish and community, while offering the potential for a greater financial return.

To sign the petition to save the Intimate Theatre:

Visit you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-the-intimate-theatre-palmers-green

Bowes ties

In our regular councillor's column, Katherine Chibah talks about cuts and campaigns

I was proud to be elected as a Labour councillor in Bowes ward in May this year. I wanted to stand because I truly believe in the power of politics to transform lives.

But there is no way to sugar the pill; central government cuts are hurting Enfield badly. In Bowes, the cuts translate into a myriad of issues. People come to surgery each week with well-founded anxiety about crime and the absence of police, or describe how soaring rents and harsh benefits cuts are pushing them to the brink – even when they work long hours.

Meanwhile, Enfield Council has itself lost half its central government grant since 2010. It gets harder by the day for councillors to help the people we represent.

In this climate it is crucial that we listen to communities and work to stretch every pound left available. But we must be clear; austerity has been inflicted upon us and our communities because of political choices made by central government.

That is why I and many of my Labour colleagues support 'Breaking Point – Labour Councillors Fighting Austerity'. As part of this campaign,

more than 5,000 Labour councillors have signed a petition which was delivered to Downing Street, appealing for an end to the cuts in October's budget. Sadly it fell on deaf ears; the planned £1.3billion government cut to councils will go ahead in 2019/20.

I and my colleagues will continue to fight this assault on our communities, not only through protests but also through creativity. Whether you want to call it 'community wealth building' or 'municipal socialism', Labour councils are looking at radical ways to fight back against austerity.

In Enfield, schemes such as the 'Energetik' local authority energy supplier are looking beyond short-term profits and putting communities first. Similarly, the 'Housing Gateway' scheme is keeping public money in public hands and providing housing for the most vulnerable.

I also believe we can learn from radical innovations such as the 'Preston Model' which aims to truly transform local economies for the benefit of the community. In the coming months I look forward to working with colleagues to work in ways that benefit the many, not the few, in Bowes and across Enfield.



Cllr Katherine Chibah

Cllr Chibah is one of three councillors elected to represent Bowes, alongside Yasemin Brett and Achilles Georgiou (all Labour). Surgeries are held every Saturday morning between 10.30am and 11.30am at Bowes Methodist Church, Palmerston Road. Call 020 8379 2827 Email cllr.katherine.chibah@enfield.gov.uk



◀ Joan Ryan MP
Credit parliament.uk

Why we have no confidence in Joan Ryan

The treasurer and vice-chair of Enfield North Constituency Labour Party speak out about the recent vote against their MP

BY MIRA GLAVADARNOV & MARK FRENCH

We are writing as members of Enfield North Constituency Labour Party (CLP), following a vote of 'no confidence' in our Member of Parliament, Joan Ryan.

We are part of a local party membership that has massively increased since the election of Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn – finally giving voice to ordinary people who suffer under austerity as the rich get richer. We are also an active part of the democratisation process that is taking place within the Labour Party.

On Thursday 6th September we carried a vote of 'no confidence' against Joan. We now wish to answer some of the slurs directed at us in the media since this happened. There have been misrepresentations of the reasons for the vote by our MP, attempts to dismiss the result, as well as attacks and insults directed at some of the members in the press and social media.

The vote was part of a legitimate democratic process by ordinary party members. The motivation behind it was the long frustration felt by members over the conduct

of Joan Ryan, after she deliberately tried to undermine Jeremy Corbyn outside of party structures.

Examples included her quotes in the press that "Corbyn appals me" and "he is not interested in Middle East peace – just in meeting terrorists with blood on their hands". In the motion that was carried, it was stressed that disagreement with leadership was not the issue. Labour is a democratic party that welcomes debate, but ignoring due process and using the hostile press and social media to smear the leader's character was not acceptable.

Prior to the vote, emails were sent to all members – just under 1,000 people – inviting them to attend the meeting and giving details about the motion. Around 200 members turned up, which we understand is the highest number ever to attend an Enfield North CLP meeting. The motion was heard and there was an orderly debate, including an address by Joan herself. The motion was passed by 95 to 92 votes.

Afterwards, Joan immediately began to pour out abuse on Twitter, brandishing the 95 members who backed the motion as "Trotskyists, Communists, and assorted hard

left". The immediate dismissal of members' views is all too typical of the approach that led to this vote.

She also tried to resort to anti-Semitism accusations, claiming the motion was made against her because of her position as chair of Labour Friends of Israel. This is a very serious accusation against political opponents which avoids addressing our real concerns. As many Labour Party members will know, this is not the first time Joan has acted in such a way. She is not used to a democratic challenge and can only answer with insults.

It is not unusual that politicians whose time has passed at first try to ignore the results and dismiss them as a "plot" by a small number of people with "extreme" views. They don't realise that the world around them is changing and that the membership is reflecting that.

The Tory government's cuts, which even the United Nations envoy has condemned, are doing immeasurable harm to the working class of Enfield and the country – Labour's anti-austerity message is a growing echo. We are determined to campaign on this message and be part of electing a government to reverse austerity.

LETTERS

Send us your letters

Got an opinion on something in Enfield? We accept letters of up to 200 words from people and organisations in the borough. Email EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com before the next deadline on Wednesday 12th December.

Jean's loss is widely felt

Dear Enfield Dispatch

It was with great sadness that staff, trustees, volunteers, and clients in Enfield's voluntary sector, heard of the passing of Jean Passley last month. Jean was a well-respected member of Community Barnet, working as programme manager for Enfield Connections, where her support to Mind in Enfield employees Carol and Sufia was invaluable.

Prior to working at Community Barnet, Jean was employed at Mind in Enfield as a volunteer co-ordinator, and was a valued and loved member of staff during her time there. Jean was a warm and energetic person to be around and generous with her time, willing to take on extra tasks at a moment's notice and lend a hand in any emergency.

Jean was a valued and active member of the Enfield community and endeavoured to improve the services available to residents across the borough, making it a better place for all. We will all miss her kindness and commitment to wellbeing in the local community, her inspiring attitude, and her gentle spirit inside and outside of the workplace. Jean will be sadly missed by everyone.

Andrew Gurr
Community Barnet

Help for stammerers

Dear Enfield Dispatch

As an Enfield resident and member of the British and Irish Stammering Associations, I was recently invited as a delegate to attend the Irish Stammering Conference in Dublin.

The conference brought together stammering association members from Britain, Ireland, Nigeria, and Canada, with workshops, speakers, and events. Furthermore, the awareness day highlighted that through support groups a person who stammers does not have to suffer in silence and that help is available. For example, with guidance finding a specialist speech therapist or dealing with issues such as bullying in schools and workplaces.

Anyone needing help can call the British Stammering Association on 0208 983 1003 or email mail@stammering.org

Pat Sheils-Spurr
Palmers Green

Gov't should be ashamed

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Over three years, foodbank usage in Enfield has rocketed by 13%. The number of food supplies distributed in London from April to September 2018, compared to the same period last year, has risen by almost 25%.

Poverty rates in Enfield are on the rise and far too many hardworking families are struggling to put food on the table and feed their children. The government's policies risk making this situation worse, not better – they should be ashamed. We need a fairer, better benefits system, but the Universal Credit (UC) rollout has been a disaster.

I'm calling on the government to stop the rollout of UC and fix the system, before more families in Enfield and elsewhere are plunged into poverty.

Joan Ryan
Enfield North MP

Busy time for local police

Dear Enfield Dispatch

If you follow @MPSEnfield on Twitter, you might have seen several videos of our police officers responding to anti-social behaviour calls at Halloween. One of our videos was picked up by Sky News and was watched thousands of times. It shocked people, as it showed officers having fireworks thrown directly at them in Fore Street, Edmonton, by a large group of youngsters. It highlighted the dangers officers face when doing their job.

More positively, we had over 150 neighbourhood officers on patrol for both Halloween and Bonfire Night, and while it was undoubtedly a demanding time, we did see a reduction in the total calls received.

We are now focused on Christmas and how we can try to keep everyone safe over the festive period. Our advice is always to ensure gifts under the tree are not visible from the outside and to remember to lock windows and doors when you leave your homes. We will be out again in force on New Year's Eve – another very busy one for the police – and in the meantime I wish everyone in Enfield a very merry Christmas!

Inspector Chris Byrne
Enfield Police

Your feedback matters

The latest local health and social care updates from Healthwatch Enfield



Healthwatch Enfield volunteers at North Middlesex Hospital

BY CLAIRE FISHER

Did you know that Dover House and Angel GP surgeries have merged? The practices began to be co-located at Silverpoint in Fore Street,

Edmonton, earlier this year and are now known simply as 'Angel Surgery'. Patients of Dover House should call 020 8887 7555 for appointments. Has your child ever needed a blood test? North Middlesex University Hospital has extended

opening times for its children's blood clinic, which now operates between 9am and 12pm as well as 1pm to 5pm during the week. You can book your child's test online or simply call 020 8887 2366. Next I'd like to say a big 'thank you' to

everyone who got involved in conversations on proposed changes to joint surgery (such as hip replacements) in Enfield. We have now submitted our report with all your feedback to the North London Partners in Health and Care and you can read it on our website. Feedback from Enfield and other neighbouring boroughs is now being considered, with a view to deciding whether a more detailed proposal should be put together for public consultation early next year.

If you missed it in the last edition of *Enfield Dispatch*, proposals to reduce the number of hospitals that provide planned surgery for bones and joints are currently being considered. The operations would be provided in specialist centres instead. On the plus side, the centres could provide world-class care and bring teaching, research, and innovation opportunities to orthopaedics.

However, there is currently no information on where the centres might be located. Although one in two of those surveyed agreed with the concept of specialist centres, there was significant

concern about travel implications, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Our report finds that patients outlined clear caveats that any changes should guarantee shorter waiting times and better care; easy access for patients and their carers; and availability of high-quality staff and facilities. Stay tuned to Healthwatch Enfield for more information and updates on this.

Finally, what local health and social care services are most important to you? This month we are asking Enfield residents how they think our work could most help improve services. Please take our short online survey at smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PrioritiesNextYear

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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Budget consultation Have your say

A further £18million savings to be made in 2019/20

Government cuts and increasing pressure on Council services from a growing population means that difficult decisions will have to be made about the future of many Council services. This is in addition to £178million savings made since 2010 – efficiencies alone are no longer enough.

We want to hear from you – tell us what's important to you, your family and the community.

Please complete the online survey and see how you would balance the books by using the budget simulator.

**Budget consultation closes
6 January 2019**



Visit our website to complete the survey

www.enfield.gov.uk/budgetconsultation



A family enjoying the Christmas lights switch-on in Palmers Green
Credit Dana Burstow

Lighting up

BY DANA BURSTOW

The local community came out in force to welcome the festive season to Palmers Green town centre with a Christmas lights switch-on event last month. Local businesses and residents organised a string of activities to brighten the darkening days.

While the lights themselves are pretty, shops have also entered into friendly competition for the best-dressed window, leading to some great creativity. Children were invited to vote for their favourite and the winner will be announced in December. Walker Primary School's choir led the crowd in singing Christmas

carols and everyone joined in enthusiastically, including local MP Bambos Charalambous and Deputy Mayor of Enfield Kate Anolue. Everyone enjoyed the singsong but, as is always the case, people were a bit uncertain what 'nine' is in the *Twelve Days of Christmas* (it's "nine ladies dancing" by the way). Just when everyone thought the event was drawing to a close, who could be heard approaching down Green Lanes with bells ringing, but Mr and Mrs Claus! Accompanied by elves in their motorised 'sleigh', they handed out sweets and – for the health-conscious – pieces of fruit. The children went wild! The event could not have happened without everyone pulling together, contributing to the decorations, donating food and drink, singing, and just taking part. Also, watch out for the Christmas elf hunt competition being organised by Cyplon Travel!

Shopping local is for life

Jo Johnson from Love Your Doorstep urges people to shop local all year round

At Love Your Doorstep we're celebrating our seventh year of supporting local businesses. Not long after the community forum was set up as a Facebook group, following the 2011 riots in Enfield, it was clear that people were finding it a useful arena to recommend local businesses. The platform helped promote small firms, especially those without a website or physical premises. One of the aims has been for people to have the opportunity to get to know the person behind each business – all 750 of them, including charities, community groups, and schools. Sadly, we are seeing a major challenge to existing high street businesses: online shopping. According to a recent report from the accountancy firm PwC, 14 shops are closing every day, nationwide. This amounts to 2,692 shops shutting in the first half

of 2018, with London seeing the largest number of shop closures in the UK. But where fashion stores, electrical shops, and Italian restaurant chains, have seen the biggest closures; supermarkets, book-sellers, ice cream parlours and coffee shops are growing. Clearly there is pressure on our high street retailers, but there is also something we can do to save our shops. The first Saturday in December is an important date that we

like to support annually; on 'Small Business Saturday' people are urged to make a conscious effort to support local businesses. But Love Your Doorstep also aims to promote this ethos all year round and create a 'shop local' habit among our community. So here's three good reasons to shop local. First; a unique shopping experience. Shopping with a local business is a really special experience, fuelled with extra passion and care. You are able to build a relationship with the people behind the business. The personal touch helps to create repeat customers. Second; it strengthens the local economy. When you choose to spend your money locally you are choosing to invest in the economy of your community. This is also helped by local businesses choosing to use local suppliers of products and services, along with being able to offer employment opportunities. Last but not least; it makes high streets more attractive. To prevent the decline of the high street we need to support independent businesses but we also need to visit chain shops; both have a place on our high street. No-one wants to see vacant shops creating an eyesore on our doorstep.

For more information about Love Your Doorstep:

Email customerservice@loveyourdoorstep.co.uk

Visit loveyourdoorstep.co.uk

Shopping local has many benefits, says Jo Johnson



Ashley Driver (second from right) stars as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* Credit Ava de Souza



Your all inclusive Christmas

A theatre in Cockfosters is gearing up for its annual festive extravaganza

BY SUSAN JAMESON

The festive period is a massively busy time at Chickenshed – our brand new musical version of *A Christmas Carol* will run for seven weeks, with 59 performances and 800 people in the cast!

As if that isn't enough, we also have a show for young audiences called *Christmas Tales*, which performs 19 shows in our theatre and 20 at Dugdale Centre in Enfield. All this means that more than 20,000 people will see a Chickenshed show this Christmas.

So why choose to watch a Chickenshed show? For more than 40 years we've been showcasing our vision of social inclusion, creating beautiful theatre by bringing together children and young people from all backgrounds and abilities. We believe that by including and welcoming everyone, truly amazing things can happen. It's been said that Chickenshed offers a glimpse of a better world, and we know that many of our most loyal audience members say that it

is not really Christmas until they've seen our show.

For 2018, we've chosen to create a brand new production based on the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* – one that perhaps invented the modern idea of 'Christmas'. The famous story of the mean skinflint Ebenezer

“We believe in the value and importance of every individual”

Scrooge coming to understand its true meaning, after visitations from four ghosts, is of course well known. Scrooge is shown scenes from his own Christmases past, present and future, but also the experiences of the Cratchits, and especially of Tiny Tim.

It is in fact (spoiler alert!) not his own miserable end foretold that changes him; rather it is being shown that Tiny Tim is no longer where he should be, at the heart of the Cratchit family. This is what

moves Scrooge – this man who previously said: “Every idiot who goes around with Merry Christmas on his lips should be buried with a stake of holly through his heart!”

At Chickenshed we believe in the value and importance of every individual. This is what ultimately transforms Scrooge, who gets to know and care about Tiny Tim, rather than some obscure notion of ‘the poor’ or ‘the sick’ and who then feels the tragedy of his loss so terribly. Chickenshed works to give a voice to all young people – those who might be ignored, left behind, or disregarded. And because we work to include everyone, when you see one of our shows you'll see what society really looks like. We can guarantee a great show that will leave you feeling uplifted and inspired!

A Christmas Carol is on at Chickenshed from now until Saturday 5th January. Christmas Tales is on at Dugdale Centre from Wednesday 5th December until Sunday 30th December. For more information and to buy tickets:

**Call 020 8292 9222
Visit chickenshed.org.uk**

Festive family traditions

Hannah Dyson looks forward to a cosy Christmas

For the last four years my family has attended the annual Christingle Service at St Luke's Church, Clay Hill. For us, Christingle signifies the beginning of Christmas, a ritual that brings together the whole community in celebration.

Christingles are prepared in the days preceding the service and are made with a large orange, a red ribbon, and a candle placed inside the orange. Toothpicks surround the outside of the orange, holding an assortment of sweets in place.

Silhouettes surround the perimeter of the church; puffer jackets, hats and scarves guard against the chill. Candles flicker, creating a magical glow, eyes glistening with anticipation.

Away In A Manger is sung with gusto by adults and children alike. An amalgamation of all the colours of a Saharan desert sunset shimmer around the church; reds, yellows and oranges make us feel hope, joy, and elation, but also let us reflect on how lucky we are to all be together in this moment.

I love studying the children's faces as they concentrate so hard at holding the candle in place and not dropping it, some so nervous at the task, their hands trembling and their candle spilling tiny flecks of wax on the floor. Most children, including my own, are cheeky and eat most of the sweets before *Away In The Manger* is finished!

The Christmas Eve box is now a firm festive tradition for my family. It is

a simple cardboard box decorated with festive wrapping paper, containing new pyjamas and a special Christmas book. This year the box includes a beautiful snowy white hardback of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, *The Nutcracker* by Ernst Hoffman, *Geronimo* by David Walliams, plus new bear onesies, matching grey Christmas pyjamas, marshmallows, and a hot chocolate.

My children will certainly be warm and cosy as they prepare their stockings for the fireplace. They will leave mince pies, carrots, sherry, milk and cookies, for the 'arrival' of Santa, and then snuggle on the sofa together with their new books and a warming hot drink.

We are also going to see a panto at Millfield Theatre in Edmonton; *Beauty and the Beast*. My work colleague Trudy is taking her three-year-old granddaughter and suggested we go together – we can't contain our excitement!

After the show we will take the train to London to visit Regent Street, see the Christmas lights, admire the window decorations at Liberty, and soak up the Christmas Eve atmosphere at Trafalgar Square. We will then take the train home to Enfield when it will be nearly time for this year's Christingle service.

Christmas Eve is a special day for us and we may be exhausted by Christmas Day, but it is totally worth it.



Hannah Dyson's children, Zara and Beatrix

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5 - 30 Dec



Box Office: 020 8292 9222
www.chickenshed.org.uk

Registered charity no.1012369

POETRY CORNER

Brimsdown 1968 – Enfield Rolling Mills

by Anthony Fisher

My only way home was across the line. I remember a thousand bicycles eddying around me, held back by gates as slow as the locks of the Lee.

One rider was a “Catcher”. I had watched him as he stood by a low steel barrier holding long and unwieldy tongs.

He wore an overcoat down to his boots, tied with string at his waist. Thirty foot of luminous, copper rod shot through a small hole at his feet.

As quick as a mongoose he caught it by the neck, snapped it over and around to flail down a long, iron chute.

He threaded it back through the barrier to be pulled, to be rolled to wire.

The factory with great crucibles of flowing, smoking metal gone, he is no more.

LISTINGS

Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in Enfield. For January listings, email the details of your event to enfielddispatch@socialspider.com by Wednesday 12th December.

THEATRE

Wizard of Oz, The Pantomime

From Thursday 6th until Saturday 15th December
The Intimate Theatre, Green Lanes, Palmers Green N13 4DH

Help Dorothy get home in time for Christmas in this fun-filled original production brought to you by the award-winning London Pantomimers. Suitable for ages from two to 102!

Free entry

Tickets £10

Call 07932 607 901

Email boxoffice@londonpantomimers.org.uk

POETRY

Enfield Poets Christmas Evening

Saturday 1st December, 7.30pm
Room 4, Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS

Readers from the floor will be followed by guest poet Christine Vial reading from her debut collection *Dancing in Blue Flip-Flops*.

£3.50 entry, concessions £2.50

Visit enfieldpoets.com

HEALTH

Weekly Tai Chi

Thursdays, 12.30pm (last session of the year 20th December)
Wheatsheaf Hall, Main Avenue, Bush Hill Park EN1 1D

Tai Chi is an excellent holistic system for health and general wellbeing. Sessions can be adapted to suit people with a health condition. No booking needed.

£1 entry

Email martynne@shaneproject.org.uk

Visit shaneproject.org.uk

Singing for the Brain

Tuesday 4th & 11th Dec, 2pm–4pm
Bourne Methodist Church, The Bourne, Southgate N14 6RS

Bringing people with dementia and their carers together in a friendly, fun, and social environment.

Free entry

Call 020 3725 3001

Email Enfield@alzheimers.org.uk

CINEMA

Talkies present Mountain

Thursday 6th December, 7pm
Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS

Collated from more than 2,000 hours of footage shot in 15 countries, *Mountain* is a 70-minute rush of adrenaline, a safari into the sublime, a vertiginous voyage to the top of the world.

Tickets £6.50

Visit talkies.org.uk/event/mountain

MUSIC

Christmas Concerto

Winchmore Hill Methodist Church, Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill N13 4EP

The Christmas Concerto by Giuseppe Torelli, an accomplished writer of the 'concerto grosso' in which a small group of solo instrumentalists are accompanied by a larger ensemble.

Tickets £9, concessions £7.50

Call 020 8882 0351

Email info@winchmorestrings.com

Enfield Choral Society's Christmas Concert

Saturday 15th December, 7.30pm
St Stephen's Church, Bush Hill Park, 56 Village Road, Enfield EN1 2EU

We will be performing a selection of Christmas music, songs, carols, and readings.

Tickets £10, children/students £5

Call 07538 538 486

Email tickets@enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk

FESTIVE

Christmas Carol Singing

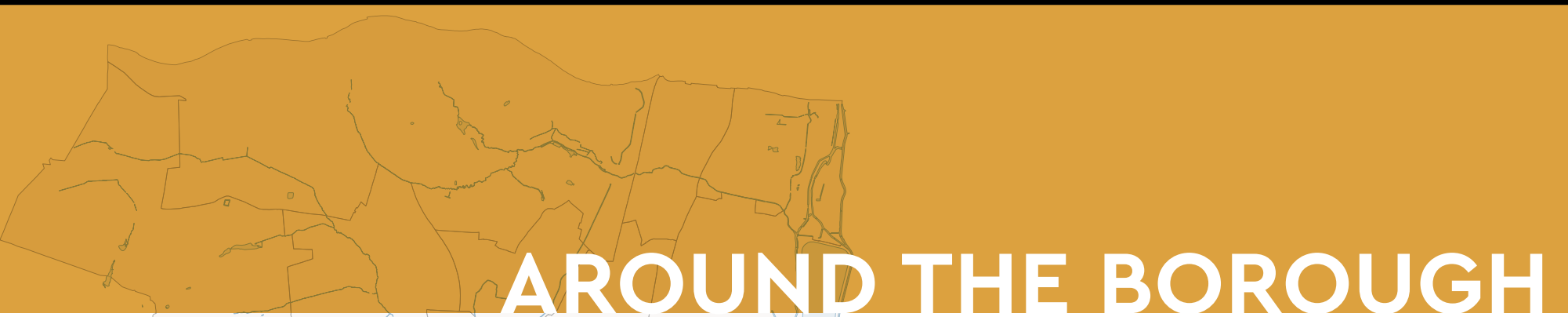
Sunday 23rd December, 4pm
Music Room, Raynham Primary School, Raynham Avenue, Edmonton N18 2JQ

Agape House invites all to our Christmas carol singing and talk, followed by light refreshments and networking.

Free entry

Call 07951 881 991

Email charismaticsuk@yahoo.co.uk



BUSH HILL PARK

Conservatives triumph in by-election



Tory candidate James Hockney defeated Labour's Bevin Betton

THE OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVES successfully defended their Bush Hill Park seat in a by-election prompted by the resignation of Jon Daniels. Labour's Bevin Betton had hopes of defeating Tory candidate James Hockney after coming 64 votes short of victory in the ward only six months ago – but in November's poll lost by 712 votes. The Tory vote share in the Bush Hill Park by-election was 52% (up 13%), compared to Labour's 28% (down 9%). Councillor Joanne Laban, leader of the Conservatives on Enfield Council, said: "It was a fantastic result for the Conservatives in Enfield. James will be great

councillor and I am excited that he is joining the Conservative team in Enfield. Thank you so much to everyone who helped on the campaign." James Hockney is a 40-year-old small business owner and amateur racing driver. He previously served as a councillor for South Cambridgeshire District Council, prior to moving with his family to Enfield. He said on Twitter: "Huge honour to be elected as the Bush Hill Park councillor – thank you to everyone who helped." Former Tory councillor Jon Daniels resigned in October after saying he was struggling to balance his work and family commitments. Bush Hill Park ward is now represented by two Conservative councillors rather than three, however, after Will Coleshill was suspended by the party for making racist comments at a council meeting in September. Cllr Coleshill is now an independent member. Council leader Nesil Caliskan said: "This by-election was triggered by the resignation of a Conservative councillor. The election result was not a gain for the Conservatives or a loss to Labour. Enfield Labour Party is of course disappointed because we fight for every vote and the view of every resident matters to us." Turnout for the by-election was 27.9%.

Full results for the Bush Hill Park by-election held on 22nd November 2018

James Hockney (Conservative)	1,540 votes	(52.4%)
Bevin Betton (Labour)	828 votes	(28.2%)
Robert Wilson (Lib Dems)	313 votes	(10.7%)
Benjamin Maydon (Green)	127 votes	(4.3%)
Tulip Hambleton (Women's Equality)	79 votes	(2.7%)
Erol Ovayolu (Independent)	50 votes	(1.7%)

EDMONTON

MP's son admits drug offences

THE SON OF EDMONTON MP KATE Osamor has quit as a councillor in Haringey after admitting his guilt to drugs offences. Ishmael Osamor, 29, is understood to still be employed as a senior communications officer by Kate in the House of Commons. The former Labour councillor was caught in possession of £2,500-worth of illegal drugs at Bestival music festival in Dorset. In October Ishmael admitted to four drugs-related charges at Bournemouth Crown Court and was

sentenced to a two-year community order and 20 days of rehabilitation. Ishmael expressed "great regret" at the incident as he resigned from Haringey Council. He said: "I apologise for the unwelcome attention my case has brought to Haringey." Asked by the *Dispatch* whether Ishmael was still employed by his mother in parliament, a Labour Party spokesperson said: "We don't comment on staffing matters." Kate's Edmonton constituency office declined to add any further comment.

BOWES

Councillor sacked over Pinkham Way concerns

BOWES COUNCILLOR YASEMIN Brett has been sacked from the cabinet of Enfield Council after expressing concern about a wildlife sanctuary. Cllr Brett walked out of a cabinet meeting last month prior to a discussion on the North London Waste Plan, which includes Pinkham Way in Haringey borough as a potential site for waste disposal. The former cabinet member for public health claimed her concern for wildlife at the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation meant she

could not participate in the debate. Council leader Nesil Caliskan later issued a statement: "I intend to reappoint the same councillor within two weeks. In the meantime, I have taken responsibility for the public health portfolio. The reason for my decision is that our cabinet operates on the basis of collective positions and confidence. I take the integrity of the cabinet structure of the council to be very important." Cllr Brett was approached for comment.

UPPER EDMONTON

Free fitness classes

FREE FITNESS CLASSES HAVE BEEN launched in Pymmes Park. The 'Our Parks' classes take place at 10am every Saturday and are delivered to over-16s by fully qualified and registered coaches. Sponsored by Sport England, the classes are part of an initiative that seeks to "harnesses the power of technology and sport" and aims to make outdoor classes accessible, enjoyable, and free.

The Our Parks website has a booking system that allows users to view classes in their area which are colour-coded to indicate the level of intensity, and also incorporate tools such as BMI and mood calculators which are designed to incentivise users. Local people who want to get involved can register online at ourparks.org.uk/borough/pymmes-park.

PALMERS GREEN

Wetlands approved

PLANS TO CREATE A WETLAND wildlife area in Broomfield Park have been granted permission. Enfield Council approved the wetlands scheme despite concerns raised by Historic England about its impact on the park. The council has launched two similar wetland areas at Firs Farm and Prince of Wales Open Space. They are said to reduce flood risk, improve water quality, and provide new habitats for wildlife. However, the proposed Broomfield Park Wetlands project has been criticised by Historic England for potentially harming the park's historic features. Last year, the public body added the park to its at-risk register and declared Broomfield House was "at immediate risk". It now argues the wetlands will "result in the permanent alteration of part of the surviving parkland". Citing similar concerns, Enfield's planning committee rejected Broomfield Park Wetlands in September. But planning officers subsequently made changes and recommended it be approved, claiming it would help reduce flood risk to 303 homes and offered "real tangible benefits... that outweigh the less than substantial harm to heritage assets". The plans were approved last month by a vote of four to three.

ENFIELD TOWN

Lights 'boost'

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS HAVE BEEN switched on after Enfield Town Business Association (ETBA) raised £7,443 to pay for them. A crowdfunder saw 61 people pledge money. ETBA claimed Enfield Town was "a shadow of its former self" but that Christmas lights were a way to bring more shoppers back. Cllr Joanne Laban, who donated, said: "Christmas lights will increase footfall and give Enfield a boost."

Net gains

Floodlit courts can be used all year round

Enfield's first-ever floodlit tennis courts have been opened.

The four new courts at Firs Farm in Winchmore Hill are free to use during off-peak hours, and at peak times can be hired for as little as £4 per hour. The floodlights allow the facility to open from 9am until 9pm all year round.

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has helped to develop and deliver the courts and continue to work with Enfield Council on its tennis programme, which includes a £500,000 investment in the sport locally.

At the opening of the new Firs Farm tennis courts, council leader Nesil Caliskan was joined by LTA members and students from Firs Farm Primary School. They received some coaching advice from Primal Health Tennis Academy, which is based in neighbouring Bush Hill Park.

Cllr Caliskan said: "This is a very exciting development for Enfield. By facilitating the development of

high-quality facilities, we can help the community become more active, provide opportunities for training and volunteering and make use of our fantastic open spaces."

LTA board member Sandi Procter and the Friends of Firs Farm Recreation Ground also came to support the launch. Sandi said: "Our research has shown that for those who don't play tennis but would like to, 80% would see a park court as their first option.

"This is fantastic news that Enfield Council has taken a proactive approach to promoting tennis in their parks and we look forward to welcoming the next tennis stars of the future."

As well as the new courts at Firs Farm, court refurbishments are due to take place at Albany Park, Arnos Park, Craig Park, and Town Park.

For more information on playing tennis in Enfield:

Visit clubspark.lta.org.uk/tennisinenfield

The new courts at Firs Farm are open from 9am until 9pm

Credit Enfield Council



"We look forward to welcoming the next tennis stars of the future"

Advertisement

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