

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 5 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

FEB 2019

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Warning over crucial railway upgrades

Call to boost services at new train station to support home-building plans

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Plans to build tens of thousands of new homes in the Lea Valley could be scuppered if rail services are not drastically improved, a local transport group has warned.

Fears are growing that the funding needed to both build Crossrail 2 and upgrade the West Anglia Main Line is in jeopardy, potentially impacting Enfield Council's flagship housing project, Meridian Water. Delays and cost overruns to Crossrail 1 are likely to have a knock-on

affect with Crossrail 2, currently expected to open in the early 2030s and serve stations in both the east and west of Enfield borough – including the new Meridian Water Station due to open this May. Meridian Water is slated to provide 10,000 homes over the next 20 years, but has itself been delayed after two deals with master developers collapsed in 2017 and 2018. The council is now leading on the project and the first 725 homes are under construction. However, Meridian Water Station will only be served by two trains per hour when it opens. It had previously

been hoped that a daily service of four trains per hour – seen as a minimum requirement for suburban routes – would be ready much sooner. The council lost a judicial review case against the Department for Transport three years ago after discovering Network Rail would not provide such a high-frequency service when the new station opens. Philip Ridley, from Enfield Transport Users Group, told the *Dispatch*: “You have got 10,000 new homes being built and a station with only two trains per hour to serve them. Crossrail 2 is now on ice. How are you

going to get people living there if they have to wait half-an-hour for a train?” Documents recently obtained by Philip via a Freedom of Information request reveal that Network Rail sought savings of £25million in the construction of a third track at Meridian Water and in doing so made the future construction of a fourth track – a crucial component for boosting service frequency to six-to-eight trains per hour – more difficult. Philip added: “We don't actually know what additional costs there

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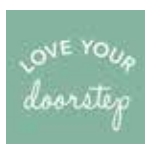
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are for Network Rail to boost capacity of the line, but we now know they have made savings. When you get a train every 15 minutes, they call it 'turn up and go' because you don't have to look up the timetable before you go to the station. That is what they need for Meridian Water and without it I don't know how they can build 10,000 homes there.

"The future of the whole borough rests on this. Without delivering homes in this part of Enfield they are going to have to build homes on the Green Belt in other parts."

The council is currently bidding to win government funding for a series of transport improvements in and around Meridian Water, some of which is earmarked for upgrading the West Anglia Main

Line to provide six-to-eight trains per hour. Crossrail 2 could subsequently provide twelve trains per hour, allowing even more homes to be built at Meridian Water and elsewhere in the Lea Valley.

A council spokesperson said: "The new Meridian Water Station will receive two-to-four trains per hour from September 2019. The council is also exploring further improvements through its Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bid which seeks £156m of government in-

vestment. If the bid is successful, £40m will be spent on improving the train service to six-to-eight trains per hour by 2024, in advance of full four-tracking to Broomfield, and Crossrail 2. The resulting frequency of trains will support the accelerated delivery of up to 10,000 homes at Meridian Water."

A Network Rail spokesperson said: "We have had early discussions with Enfield to provide advice on how their future proposals could interface with our wider strategic plans. The infrastructure we are con-

potential costs for any future project.

"As part of our wider strategic vision, we always consider what we can do now to ensure future capacity enhancements can be accommodated, but this must always be balanced with the responsibility for delivering value for money for the taxpayer."

Enfield North MP Joan Ryan has been campaigning for the West Anglia Main Line to be upgraded for several years. She told the *Dispatch*: "Politically speaking, Crossrail 2 has good support,

but the overrunning and over-spend of Crossrail 1 is not good news for Crossrail 2. I think the government making a funding commitment is the issue. The government is not proving itself competent at delivering big infrastructure projects.

"Four-tracking would have a big impact in Enfield because we don't have the underground here and our train lines are critical. I get a lot of complaints about this line because we have got a lot of commuters who depend on it, and a growing population, particularly in the eastern part of Enfield. "Two trains per hour are useless, it needs radically improving, and we are told we need four-tracking to make that happen. Compared to Crossrail 2 it is also cheaper and can be done sooner."

"How are you going to get people living there if they have to wait half-an-hour for a train?"

With two tracks on the West Anglia Main Line, only two trains per hour can currently serve stations such as Brimsdown, Ponders End and Angel Road – soon to be replaced by Meridian Water
Credit James Cracknell



Criticism over housing scheme

Enfield Council has come under fire after a cabinet report revealed extra cash will have to be pumped into a delayed housing scheme, writes Simon Allin, Local Democracy Reporter.

Conservative opposition leader Joanne Laban branded the situation a "disgrace" and called for people to be sacked after the report revealed the small sites housebuilding scheme – which aims to provide 140 homes – would be delayed for several months.

The report states "discrepancies in designs" by contractor AMCM led to cost overruns and homes due in early 2019 being delayed until June. It comes after earlier delays meant some half-completed homes had to be pulled down because of weather damage.

Council leader Nesil Caliskan, responding to the criticism, said: "The report sets out a direction to get phase one back on track and ensure that overall there is a positive contribution to the housing revenue account."

Council reclaims cemeteries

The management of five publicly-owned cemeteries will be taken over by Enfield Council.

Burial services at Lavender Hill, Strayfield Road, Hertford Road, Edmonton and Old Southgate cemeteries, including maintenance, site improvement works, and general upkeep, will now be run by the council's parks department.

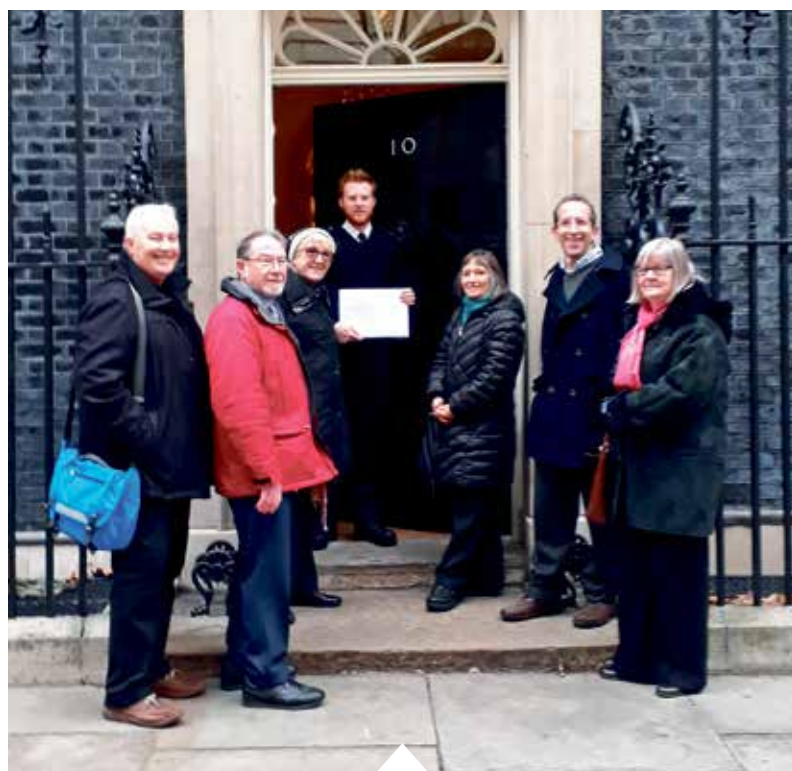
Guney Dogan, cabinet member for environment, said the move would "enable us to provide a high-quality, adaptable and value-for-money service". He added: "We know arranging a funeral can be a sensitive and distressing time and we are determined to make it as straightforward as possible for grieving families."

Correction

An article in last month's paper (*Enfield's violent crime rate doubles in seven years*, Page 1, Issue 4) stated there had been a multiple shooting in Gordon Road, Enfield Chase. This should have referred to Gordon Road, Edmonton.

Mini Holland petition handed to No.10

Claims new cycle lanes discriminate against disabled people



Members of Enfield Town Residents' Association handing in their petition to 10 Downing Street last month

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Campaigners against the 'Mini Holland' cycling programme have handed a petition to 10 Downing Street claiming new cycle lanes in Enfield discriminate against disabled people. The five-page petition, addressed directly to Prime Minister Theresa May, states that “elderly, disabled and blind people have been dealt a major injustice based on negligent road planning”.

Among 21 demands, the petition calls on the government to force local authorities such as Enfield Council that have introduced shared space arrangements, reduced pavement widths, and 'orca' road segregations, to conduct an “urgent accessibility audit and remedial works to ensure safe access for all”.

It comes after a spate of reported accidents involving the 'orca' road humps – so-called because of their

resemblance to killer whales – installed as part of the A105 cycle scheme. They are intended to help segregate new cycle lanes from the main carriageway, but have been described as “trip hazards” because of the way they present obstacles to pedestrians crossing the road.

In one incident in Green Lanes a mum tripped over an 'orca' and fractured her knee cap – forcing her to spend Christmas on crutches. Several other incidents were cited in the petition submitted to the prime minister in January. Camden Council removed similar 'orca' road segregations over safety fears in 2017.

The Mini Holland petition lists 20 “supporting organisations” including several other local residents' associations across Enfield borough, plus disability campaign groups such as Transport for All and the National Federation of the Blind.

Dr Linda Green, on behalf of Enfield Town Residents' Association, wrote:

“We understand the desire to improve safety for cyclists, but this cannot and must not be at the cost of creating risks and decreasing access for vulnerable pedestrians and argue that this situation would never have been allowed to arise had a competent Equality Impact Assessment been conducted and its recommendations adhered to.”

Explaining the motivation behind the petition, Dr Green said: “This petition is just the first part of a campaign to change the law.”

The A105 cycle scheme – part of the ongoing £30million Mini Holland programme supported by the Mayor of London – was completed last year. However, the council is now conducting a public consultation on the removal of “experimental traffic orders” so that the cycle lanes can be made permanent.

The council did not respond to requests for a comment before the *Dispatch* went to press.

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Three out-buildings at Worcesters Primary School have been converted into a bank, shop and product showroom, where children can learn to use a fake currency



Money in the bank

National education charity uses Enfield school to trial 'micro economy' learning project

Parents fear their children will grow up poorer than them and miss out on opportunities to buy their own homes in the future. These worries are driving a new call for financial education in schools, which parents feel is one of the most effective ways for the next generation to avoid the poverty trap.

Nearly half (44%) of parents want compulsory finance education at school, but more than a quarter (26%) say their child's primary school simply isn't doing enough to help, according to a survey conducted by financial education charity RedSTART.

Without the resources, time, and expertise required to teach personal finance acumen, teachers face an uphill battle. RedSTART's research also found that 26% of parents think teachers lack the right support and knowledge to teach kids the critical money-saving habits they need.

This is why the charity, which is dedicated to financial education among primary school children, is commencing a long-term study at an Enfield school. The initiative will monitor and assess children's attitudes to money before and after financial education training, over the course of a year, to prove that financial education helps

to not only develop good habits that they will keep for a lifetime, but boosts pupils' prowess at maths and personal, social and health education.

The study takes the form of an interactive self-contained micro-economy at Worcesters Primary School in Goat Lane, Forty Hill, where pupils are earning, saving, and spending pretend currency – known as 'acorns'. Three out-buildings have been converted into a bank – named by pupils at the school as The Oak Bank – plus a shop and product showroom. As well as the pretend currency, there is also an online banking platform. Pupils will earn acorns which they can put into a current or savings account, that earns interest over time.

Over the course of the programme, data from the banking platform will be analysed to see whether students move money from their current account to a savings account after attending RedSTART's workshops, where they are taught about earning interest, along with many other financial skills.

The initiative has been supported by donations from AXA Investment Managers and Mash Virtual, and RedSTART is confident the results

will be useful in the charity's drive to prove that financial education for primary school children should be compulsory.

Karen Jaeggi, headteacher at Worcesters Primary School, said: "It has been a pleasure working with RedSTART to create our very own student bank. Its lesson plans are easy to teach and have been seamlessly integrated into our current learning programme.

"We are planning to use the 'currency' to reward our students for good behaviour and outstanding work. This project will not only excite and inspire our children but educate them in the basics of financial management for the future. We can't wait for it to be up and running and to see the impact of this very worthwhile initiative to ensure our pupils are financially literate when they leave our school."

Julian Wright, head of education expansion at RedSTART, added: "We know children form their money habits by the age of seven, and parents seem to agree that the earlier children learn these skills the better."

To find out more and download free RedSTART lesson plans: Visit redstarteducate.org

Educating Enfield

For nearly 80 years a charity has helped educate local people from all walks of life

BY NORMA CHAPMAN

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA) is Britain's major charitable voluntary adult education organisation, existing to provide high-quality learning opportunities with professional lecturers for adults from all walks of life.

The WEA also has a social and community role, providing courses from literacy and numeracy to accredited courses leading to certificate and diploma qualifications. Many ex-students have progressed to full-time degrees and some have become WEA tutors themselves, including former Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock and broadcaster Melvyn Bragg. Suffragettes Sylvia Pankhurst and Emily Davidson also worked for the WEA in the days before the First World War.

Another important aspect of WEA is the opportunity for socialising. There is always a break half-way through for chat and coffee, when many lifelong friendships have been forged.

Delving into the archives and memories of members, we can see why the WEA's three historic local branches – Edmonton, Enfield and Southgate – are inextricably entwined. From the treasurer's account books, it seems the Edmonton branch was founded in 1941. Edmonton and Enfield amalgamated in 1964, and then merged again with Southgate in September 2005 to become the present Enfield and Southgate Branch.

Some of our existing members have long memories that go back to 1952 when all the courses were evening classes for the benefit of those working. A one-day course was introduced, however, for housewives at home. The classes are now almost predominantly held in the daytime, with one evening course.

Enfield and Southgate WEA now runs courses in Enfield and Palmers Green. These can cover subjects as diverse as geology, art history, music, literature, social history and film studies. The first meeting of the daytime courses is free, people can pay and enroll at the second session. After Easter there is always a short course up to half-term and, at the invitation of Beaumont Care Homes, there is also another one in June on art history, for both residents and the general public.

WEA's Southgate House is in Cannon Hill and is perhaps better known as Northmet House. A lecture day is held at the beginning of September, which is usually on literature, and there are occasional Saturday morning lectures. An annual coach outing is organised in May or June to places of historical and archaeological interest.

At the beginning of September, Enfield Town Library makes a table available just inside the entrance to promote WEA with posters, publicity material, and brochures. The branch is also affiliated with the Enfield Over 50s Forum, which promotes our courses, and we also advertise on various local websites and online directories. Enfield and Southgate is a large and thriving branch of WEA with a lot to offer. Do please sample some of our courses.

For more information about Enfield and Southgate WEA: Visit wea.org.uk/london/branches/enfield-southgate-branch

Directing the future

Richard Grant and James White are helping children in Enfield create their own 'mini movies'



Richard and James from Reel Movie Magic help children film and direct their mini movies

BY RICHARD GRANT

James and I began Reel Movie Magic last spring with the idea of creating filmmaking party experiences and clubs for children. We've both been teaching for many years and the idea developed back when we were working together at the same school. We wanted to raise money for Comic Relief so we decided to make a short film involving the pupils and staff. Raising money for charity was brilliant, as was seeing the buzz and excitement that the film created around the school from both children and adults alike. At

that point we knew that we had hit upon something special and were proud to see what we had achieved with no filmmaking experience and just a handheld camera. Developing the idea with my own class, I began doing film projects, introducing the children to genres that they would never have been exposed to before, such as silent comedies. The pupils then worked together to create their own films based on the different styles. I saw first-hand the amazing benefits of filmmaking for children, not only in developing their speaking, listening, writing and computing skills, but also their

ability to collaborate together. It was fantastic to see the look on their faces when they all finally watched their finished films. Reel Movie Magic developed from this, but we've moved on quite a bit from our early days. James and I have invested in professional equipment and added a real wow factor to proceedings by acquiring a green screen to create fantastic special effects. With our new course of lessons, the children will learn about different genres before working together to create their own films. They will write scripts, use cameras, create storyboards, and edit. They'll even

have a few special effects thrown in to spice things up a bit. We also have plans to show off their films at a red carpet awards ceremony! James and I are incredibly excited about the possibilities for the future. We feel that we are offering something different, where children will get to learn new things as well as develop their love of films and film-making. We have also talked about the idea of working with schools and running workshops there. And who knows? After the Comic Relief film, we think that many of the adults would love to get involved as well, so maybe there's room to branch out there too.

"It was fantastic to see the look on their faces when they all finally watched their finished films"

A new six-week filmmaking course for children aged between seven and eleven starts on Saturday 9th February and takes place at St Luke's Church Hall in Morley Hill. For more information: Email reelvideoevents@gmail.com

Supporting local culture

Fund available for young people in Southgate

BY IAN CAMERON BLACK

The Southgate Cultural Fund ultimately owes its existence to Victorian philanthropists who did so much for the wellbeing of the villagers of Southgate.

In its present form the fund was established by the Court of Chancery in 1950, when the court laid down how much the Southgate Club had to pay to purchase the lease of its premises in Chase Side, Southgate. The fund's early records were lost in a fire but it is believed that the annual ground rent paid by the club was the original source of income. Subsequently the fund has been supported by the investment of the price paid for the lease.

The resources of the Southgate Cultural Fund are necessarily limited but it deserves to be brought to wider notice as an aspect of Southgate history. The fund's operation is restricted to the area covered by the former Borough of Southgate, which the trustees now interpret as the parliamentary constituency of Enfield Southgate.

Its purpose is the provision of financial assistance for cultural activities undertaken by and for the benefit of groups of young people who are ineligible for support from Enfield Council. The definitions of a 'group' and 'young people' are for the trustees to decide, but broadly speaking, three or more are regarded as a 'group' and any age up until the early twenties is thought to be 'young'. In the recent past, there have been grants to groups involved in music-making, drama, bell-ringing and scouting. Groups in Southgate who would like to be considered for a grant should apply to the trustees by post. The trustees will wish to know the activity of the group, the number of people involved, the age level, the purpose for which funds are required, and what money is already available.

If you interested in applying for a grant from Southgate Cultural Fund write to 52 Townsend Avenue, Southgate N14 7HJ.

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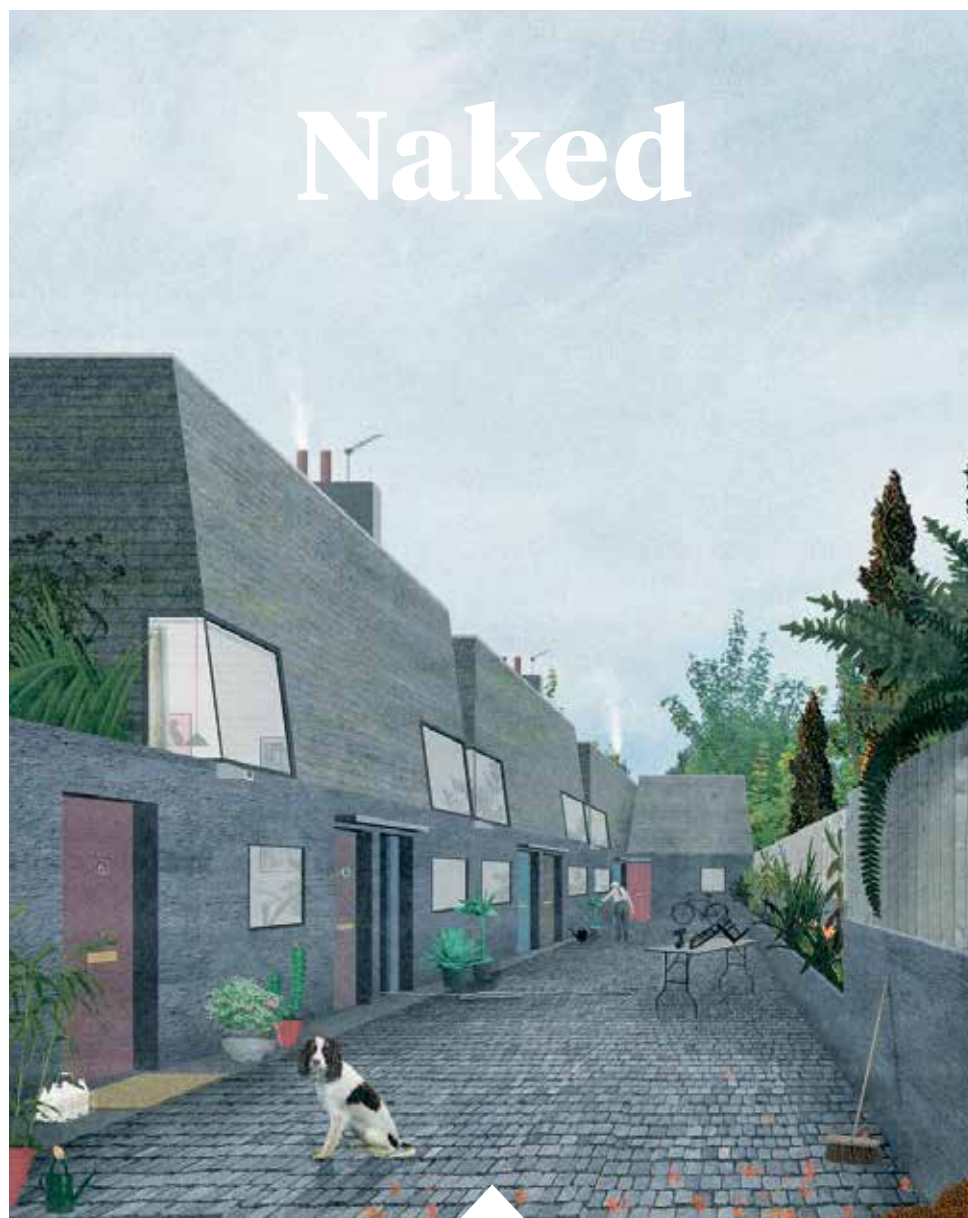
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INTERVIEW

By James Cracknell



Design concept for some of the 'naked' homes planned for Enfield

Credit OMMX



The new homes will have minimal fixtures and fittings, so they can be customised

Credit OMMX

Simon Chouffot is part of a team aiming to build 'custom homes' at affordable prices in Enfield

The number of renters in Enfield – and across London – has been rising rapidly over the past two decades.

According to the Greater London Authority (GLA), more than 42% of people now rent socially or privately in the borough, compared to 28% at the turn of the century. Home ownership has become increasingly out of reach; over a 20-year period the average cost of a home in Enfield rose from four times

the average income, to 14 times.

Statistics like these are the reason politicians today talk about a 'housing crisis', with young people in particular affected by soaring rents and the inability to get a foot on the housing ladder. The government has introduced policies aimed at tackling the problem, such as the Help to Buy scheme, while the GLA has introduced measures to try and boost the amount of 'affordable' housing being built.

But is it time to take a completely new approach to tackling the housing crisis? Simon Chouffot believes so. He's one of the co-founders of a not-for-profit developer that's aiming to turn the concept of house-building on its head – and is using Enfield as a test case.

Simon told the *Dispatch*: "There were four of us who were friends working in the housing sector, but we couldn't afford to buy anywhere, we had been priced out of the communities where we had put down roots.

"We wondered if we could be part

of the solution. We wanted to be part of the process of creating our own homes."

Naked House, the community interest company run by Simon and his three friends, uses the concept of 'naked' homes – where only the shell of a home is constructed. Leaving out fixtures and fittings dramatically lowers the cost of the build. It then means the homebuyer can complete the remainder of the work themselves, customising the interior to their own taste using contractors, or doing it themselves.

"We realised it was something a lot of people might want," said Simon. "And that it could potentially help thousands of people.

"We start by looking at local people's incomes, then we build something that is affordable to them – the opposite way around to other developers. If you get the basics right and make sure what is there is designed well then you can give people the freedom to decide what to do next,

so they can adapt their own homes."

After the initial concept won a design competition in 2016, Naked House obtained financial backing from the Mayor of London and is now working on launching its first development – 22 new homes in Enfield. Simon and the team are currently working with Enfield Council to identify suitable sites where they can be built, with planning applications likely to be submitted next year.

"We are looking at underused sites, such as derelict garages, that might be too small for the council to develop, but taken together can work.

"This will be an initial pilot project, we want to scale it up in Enfield and then neighbouring boroughs like Haringey, and elsewhere in London.

"We are in the middle of the biggest housing crisis for generations and there is a desperate need to build housing."

The homes, once built, will be allocated by the council to people who

live and work in Enfield, using the standard criteria to assess housing need, and will cost 70% of market value to buy. Simon says that by combining this discount with the 'naked' concept, the homes will be affordable to people in Enfield earning an average wage. He recommends that anyone interested register as a member of Naked House – for free – so they can take part in discussions and get updates as the project progresses.

"It is about showing the demand is there for these homes, that people want to tap into the DIY spirit of what we are doing.

"It feels like now is a good time for innovative and affordable housing. In every crisis there is an opportunity and that is how Naked House fits in.

"Profit isn't our motive. Providing great homes is our motive."

For more information about the Naked House project:

Visit nakedhouse.org

Fighting to save Green Belt

Keith Bilton from Enfield RoadWatch wants land protected

Enfield Council's cabinet member Ahmet Oykenar was recently quoted as saying that options for the borough's Local Plan include "looking at a tiny section – approximately five to seven percent – of Green Belt land and considering whether it may be suitable for quality and affordable homes for families". That is a lot of land, approximately double the size of Trent Park. The main area possibly earmarked to fulfil this need is Crews Hill. That has been confirmed in the council's draft Local Plan document, which is currently out for public consultation, and with the recent purchase by a property developer of Wyevalle Garden Centre.

Enfield RoadWatch is a campaign group that began life in 2015 following the production of a feasibility study by Fairview New Homes and the Wren Academy on the possibility of developing the Glebe, a field adja-

cent to Enfield Road. They wanted to build a new school and more than 300 homes there.

The Glebe is Green Belt land and was deemed by Enfield RoadWatch's 20,000 supporters as worth saving because of its importance to wildlife, as a green link between Trent Park and Boxers Lake. As our campaign developed it became apparent that the Green Belt not only in Enfield but throughout Britain was under threat and Enfield RoadWatch teamed up with the London branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) to resist and make people aware of this continuous threat.

The council's draft Local Plan suggests that brownfield land (land that has been previously developed) is in short supply in Enfield. With the help of CPRE London, a detailed study is now being undertaken to identify sufficient land which could be developed and provide the homes nec-

essary to meet all but the highest housing target.

Our message will be conveyed to the council as part of the consultation process, but we need more voices to make them listen and carry out the wishes of the people who live in the borough. We have studied the Local Plan and published a full response on the Enfield RoadWatch website.

This is where we need your help. If you care about keeping Enfield green, please visit the Enfield RoadWatch website for more information and complete the consultation. Let the council know your views about protecting the Green Belt and let's keep it for our future generations. Once it's gone, it's gone.

"Together we are stronger" is the mantra of Enfield RoadWatch.

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Best of Lock

In our regular councillor's column, Enfield Lock ward member Birsen Demirel highlights some big issues facing the borough

I became a councillor because I believe they can help make changes in people's everyday lives – and I was proud to be elected as a Labour councillor in May 2018 for Enfield Lock ward.

Fly tipping, increasing violent crime, drug use, housing, anti-social behaviour, access to GPs and transport problems, especially trains, have been among the biggest issues; concerns for many residents in Enfield Lock and, indeed, across whole of Enfield borough.

As a councillor I intend to focus on improving those areas by working together with my fellow councillors, council officers, police, and local residents' associations. I would like to create a community spirit where everyone cares about what happens in their neighbourhood. Since being elected, I have been working

hard to improve the lives of the residents in my ward. I do this by listening and raising their concerns, by being present and accessible, by being on the doorstep, by holding ward surgeries and ward forums.

Enfield Council has endured enormous cuts since 2010 and is facing further cuts. These threaten to have a big impact on our crucial public services. But as a Labour-run council we are trying our best

to make sure we still deliver for all in our communities. It is not easy. Each and every one of us feels the pain of those cuts and impact they will have on our communities. These cuts have already hurt our communities and of course has had a direct link with the reduction of 'bobbies on the beat' – hence the level of violent crime has soared in Enfield.

The council is accountable to residents and therefore we have regular consultations about proposed changes. We ask you to participate and make your voices heard. As a newly-elected councillor I am excited and passionate about my role. I love it when residents are also passionate about the area they live in and want to support us in achieving these improvements.

I invite residents to come and see me at my surgeries and make me aware of the issues they are facing. I promise to represent the many not the few.

Cllr Demirel is one of three councillors elected to represent Enfield Lock, alongside Guner Aydin and Elif Erbil (all Labour). Surgeries are held every Saturday 10.30am-11.30am at Ordnance Unity Centre and on the last Saturday of every month, 1pm-2pm at Enfield Island Village Library.

Call 07971 672 759

Email Cllr.Birsen.Demirel@Enfield.gov.uk

Cllr Birsen Demirel



The struggle to feel at 'home' in Brexit Britain

Enfield resident and German citizen Christine Ancker on how she's feeling as the UK gets set to exit the European Union next month



Christine Ancker has lived in Enfield since 2001

There is no more certainty on the future pathway of Brexit than there was when the country decided on the referendum in 2016. A clear majority in Enfield voted in favour of staying in the European Union (EU). For many of its residents, the outcome has had a lasting, even if only subtle impact on their lives. Unlike many of my friends or even colleagues at work who expected the vote to be in favour of remaining in the EU, I thought chances were 50/50. But I was still in disbelief when David Dimbleby announced the result with his now famous words: "We're out." I truly felt the collective "we" was aimed at me. Overnight a sense of certainty and belonging was turned upside down, in just a moment. Nobody has ever confronted me, but I started to speak more quietly in public, so my German accent did not show too much. I became more apologetic when using public services such as the NHS, perhaps somewhat irrationally thinking that I was

taking somebody else's place. The fun of being a foreigner in a multicultural city began to evaporate. I came to live in London in 2001. A planned stint of three months work experience turned into a permanent stay. In my workplace here, I was entrusted with exciting opportunities. When I described my new home to others, I would talk about the genuine kindness and tolerance of people and of London as being a place of vibrancy and multiculturalism. I am grateful for my experiences here and the opportunities given. As with many of my generation, I took for granted growing up and travelling in a seemingly borderless Europe. Of course there was the 'Iron Curtain' that partitioned Europe and I lived in Berlin when the wall fell in 1989. It was a time of rapid change as Germany grew into something new. I thought this would be the only time history had a direct impact on my life. My family's home is now Enfield; our daughter goes to a local school. We love going to Forty

Hall, Myddelton House, and Capel Manor. We really do not want to be anywhere else. I do worry how things will change, how the economic impact of Brexit (a word that makes me shudder) could make our borough poorer and less diverse. I expect that there will be an impact on the financing of public institutions and services. My partner and daughter hold British passports. I wonder how it will feel when one part of my family will go through different border controls than I. A 'hard' Brexit would make me reconsider if Enfield could remain home. Many of my fellow Germans have a strong affinity for the UK, its history, vibrancy, fashion, music, the Olympics, royal weddings. What I feel most saddened about is the potential loss of an experience for future generations; travelling and working abroad without borders has formed part of my identity and is a treasured experience in my life. It is undoubtedly an achievement of post-war Europe for which I have learned to be grateful.

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 Tuesday 19th February.

Dubious stats

Dear Enfield Dispatch

The article about new cycle lanes (Mayor praises new cycle lanes, Page 7, Issue 4) was interesting, not least because of the way it played with statistics. The article stated that "the segregated cycle lanes along Green Lanes through Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill have seen a 52% increase in cycling, according to Transport for London (TfL)". Enfield Council does not publish any regular statistics about cycle journeys – the only London council that does is Bromley. There was a TfL survey in two locations on Green Lanes in early 2018, but the information had to be requested from the council. It showed the number of journeys but not the number of individuals, so again doesn't reflect the true picture. The 52% increase on Green Lanes is dubious. How many cyclists were counted and how many journeys? I think it is meaningless without a qualifying breakdown of how it was arrived at. One thing I do know is what I see with my own eyes, and the uptake on cycle lanes is not that high.

Neil Littman
Winchmore Hill

This is the year to divest

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Will 2019 be the year Enfield Council divests from fossil fuel companies? Momentum is growing for Divest Enfield, the campaign to get council to ditch its pension investments in unethical, climate-destroying fossil fuel companies. UNISON, one of the unions representing council workers, supports our campaign. Members of the Enfield Youth Parliament, realising that this concerns their future, support us too. A growing number of Labour Party members want their councillors to stop the council investing in companies that are destroying our future. Meanwhile, Lambeth has become the fourth London borough to divest from fossil fuels. Around the world, more than 1,000 institutions have now divested a total \$8trillion from fossil fuel companies. The movement is growing. Join us! Email divestenfield@yahoo.com.

Georgina Bavetta
Divest Enfield

End austerity

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Enfield North Labour Party passed a "no cuts budget" resolution on Thursday 17th January. Members are urging Labour-run Enfield Council to refuse to pass the catastrophic Tory cuts that are slashing public services. The council is preparing to implement a further £18million-worth of Tory cuts even though it has already cut £178m since 2010. More vital services will be cut, which will affect the poorest and most vulnerable people in Enfield. Already 39% of children in our borough live in poverty, according to the End Child Poverty coalition – how many more after the newest cuts? The resolution calls for the council to use all the legal means at their disposal. This includes use of the financial reserves and borrowing powers as well as the demand on the central government to immediately grant funding back to pre-austerity 2010 levels. Members are planning a lobby of the council on the budget-setting date of Wednesday 27th February. Please join us.

Mira Glavardanov
Enfield North Labour Party

Diabetes fight

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Since our founding in 1934, Diabetes UK has been at the forefront of diabetes breakthroughs. We have campaigned for change in diabetes care, supported people across the UK through our helpline and local support groups, championed the work of healthcare professionals, and funded life-changing research. From the development of the first insulin pen in the 1970s, or the launch of the digital handheld blood glucose meter, to being closer than ever to making the artificial pancreas a reality, research funded by Diabetes UK continues to change the lives of people with diabetes for the better. And now, as we learn more about Type 2 diabetes, we want to make remission from the condition a reality for as many people as possible. Diabetes UK's DiRECT study, our largest-ever research award, has added to the evidence that remission can be achieved and that this can potentially be done through routine NHS care.

Roz Rosenblatt
Head of London, Diabetes UK

Stay healthy this winter

The president of Enfield Over 50s Forum invites older people to seek advice on staying warm and well

BY MONTY METH

Shock figures of 50,000 excess deaths of older people from cold-related illnesses last winter – the worst for 42 years – are not expected to be repeated this year.

The early indications are that the special flu vaccine for people aged 65 and over launched this winter is proving to be the most effective for many years, and the weather so far has been much less severe.

Latest figures show that by early December, 61.2% of Enfield's over 65s had received this winter's flu jab. Professor Dame Sally Davies, chief medical officer for England, says that "initial data suggests this year's vaccine is a match for the flu strains that

are going around".

Hopefully, that's the good news. The bad news is that among older people in Enfield there have been excess winter deaths – meaning deaths between December and March over the normal monthly average – of between 100 and 220 in the five years ending March 2016.

More bad news is that in 2016 there were 14,131 Enfield families living in fuel-poor homes, meaning that their income after meeting energy bills placed them in the official poverty level. That's 11.3% of Enfield households with incomes too low to both heat and eat, and is the highest for the last five years.

Winter is a worrying time for elderly people who often struggle to pay high energy bills

Credit National Energy Action



A toxic cocktail of poor housing, high energy costs, inefficient boilers, and poor home insulation, coupled with long-term health problems such as breathing difficulties,

asthma and bronchitis, makes winter the most dangerous time for older people. This is why the Enfield Over 50s Forum is holding its sixth annual Winter Fair at

“Winter is the most dangerous time for older people”

Enfield County School in Enfield Town this month. Starting at 9.30am on Friday 22nd February, the fair will be highlighting the “keep warm and well this winter” message. Admission is free – the event is funded by Enfield NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – and will include workshops and informative stalls on health matters, yoga, folk and circle dancing, live jazz music, and an Asian dance troupe.

Guest speakers include John Wardell, Enfield CCG's chief operating officer; Natalie Forrest, chief executive of Chase Farm Hospital; and Tom Welfare from National Energy Action, the charity combating fuel poverty.

Residents lead GP technology research

Healthwatch Enfield is helping to shape NHS primary care services, writes Claire Fisher



You may have heard that the NHS published its long-term plan last month, but did you notice the promise that “patients will be able to access virtual services alongside face-to-face services via a computer or smartphone”?

Here at Healthwatch Enfield it is our role to ensure your views are represented and used to help develop future health and social care services. That's why we recently published our report *Using Technology to Ease the Burden on Primary Care* which shows the results of our survey of more than 1,000 Enfield residents. We asked how they felt about using online technology to contact their GP, as well as finding out how existing technology such as appointment booking and prescription services are already being used.

Our research found that on average, two in three patients said they would use a trusted NHS symptom checker app, video calling, and/or email, to contact their GP to seek medical help. It also showed that appointment bookings and repeat prescriptions technology is being under-used because of problems with accessing it.

So what happens next? As the largest survey of its kind in the UK, our timely report and analysis generated a considerable deal of interest from leading health providers. We presented our research findings to very receptive digital technology leads at NHS England and NHS Digital. Our research has made a compelling case for involving patients in co-designing these future systems as a go-to model for

shaping future primary care services.

We also highlighted sensitivities around patients not ready, or not equipped to make the switch to ‘virtual’ communications. We will continue to be involved in conversations with all of these providers to support the development of future services in a way that works for Enfield residents.

Thank you to all our readers who participated in this research. It goes to show that your voice really does count and together we can make change happen. You can read a full report on our website.

In other news, we are running a new survey alongside Enfield Council to assess residents' awareness of the early signs and symptoms of cancer, to help develop a new cancer awareness campaign. It is really easy to give your views and only takes a few minutes – just complete our online survey at smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CancerAwareness

Please note that our annual conference on Thursday 14th February is now fully booked. You can still join our waiting list by calling us on the number below.

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

Advertisement

Your plans for the future are at the heart of everything we do.

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Advertisement

MASTER-CRAFT THEATRE SCHOOL

Weekend Courses starting March

We aim to provide high quality professional actor training for young people aged 12 to 21 to prepare students for the challenges of the entertainment industry and to focus on the skills used in the profession.

We believe age is no barrier to incredible performances.

Courses run on Saturdays, at The Elstree UTC building (Borehamwood) and consist of a two hour lesson for six weeks. **Courses start 2nd March 2019**

10:00 – 12:00pm Acting Fundamentals (6 sessions for £120)

12:30 – 14:30 Developing Character and Stage Craft (6 sessions for £120)

15:00 – 17:00 Building to Showcases and Auditions (6 sessions for £120).

www.master-craft.co.uk

Show the love

Don't know where to go in Enfield for Valentine's Day gifts? Jo Johnson from Love Your Doorstep has you covered

After Christmas we now find ourselves hurtling towards another of the all-important retail calendar dates: Valentine's Day!

There are a few different theories about the origins of this particular celebration, the most popular being that it honours a Roman saint. Before you let out a collective groan, I would like to suggest that Valentine's Day doesn't have to be the overly-commercialised, overpriced event that people perceive us to be pressured into. You don't need to break the bank to make a romantic gesture, just a card or small token of affection can go a long way when showing how much someone means to you.

At Love Your Doorstep we believe any excuse to support our local economy is a good one and if Valentine's Day helps to shine a spotlight on our local businesses and encourages people to shop locally then surely that's a win-win situation?

We have some beautifully stocked local independent gift shops such as Déjà Vu in Enfield, Ruby Blu at the Dugdale Centre, and Tinker Tailor in Bush Hill Park. These are just some of the places you can have a browse and pick up gifts and cards with a personal touch. If you want a bespoke card made then we have creative people in our business directory who can make one for you. Likewise, if it's a handmade gift you're planning, our talented bunch of craft businesses can turn your ideas into a reality. Flowers are

always a popular option for this day of romance – it's estimated that flowers contribute £102million towards the £650m spent annually on Valentine's Day. Our local florists are on hand to assist with your floral requirements, or if it's chocolates you're after, one of our newest businesses makes chocolate bouquets!

Furthermore, if you want to wine and dine your partner we have a great selection of pubs and restaurants; browse the directory for what you fancy and book a table. Whether it's a nice steak, pasta dish, or pub food to dine out with, or even fish and chips to takeaway, we can help.

And if you're looking for ideas for a Valentine's night out, Janet Kay and Carroll Thompson return to the Millfield Theatre for their special live concert, *Lovers Rock Magic!* For a belated Valentine's night out, the following evening at the very same venue you can watch *The Opera Boys*. Alternatively, you could buy tickets for one of the upcoming events at our local venues for a future date night!

For more information about Love Your Doorstep:

Email customerservice@loveyourdoorstep.co.uk

Visit loveyourdoorstep.co.uk

Deja Vu in Enfield Chase sells a range of Valentine's Day gifts



Singing with friends

Enfield Choral Society is welcoming new members as it gears up for a busy year of performances



Enfield Choral Society performing last year at St Stephen's Church, in Bush Hill Park, for their 80th anniversary concert

Credit Waldek Godel

choruses and lighter songs, for example from Gilbert and Sullivan, and musical theatre.

On Saturday 2nd March we are looking forward to performing Handel's great oratorio *The Messiah* at St Mary Magdalene Church – a show that will raise money in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. We will have professional soloists and a Baroque orchestra with period instruments. It should be an exciting evening!

We enjoy working with other local musical organisations, having held concerts in the past with Enfield Chamber Orchestra and the Children's International Voices of Enfield.

On Saturday 29th June we will also be performing a jazz concert, including Will Todd's *Mass in Blue* and a new composition written by Mark. If you have an interest in singing, why not come along to a rehearsal and see if you would like to take part and enjoy the Enfield Choral Society experience for yourself? We are always looking for new singers to join our 79-strong team. No audition necessary, just some singing ability and enthusiasm!

Enfield Choral Society meet every Tuesday from 7.30pm at St Stephen's Church Hall, Bush Hill Park. For more information:

Email membership@enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk

BY IAN MACKENZIE

I have always enjoyed singing, so a few years ago I was persuaded to go along to an Enfield Choral Society rehearsal. I was immediately impressed by the choir's level of expertise and commitment. It was such a

warm, friendly group – people of all ages, with different jobs and backgrounds – that I felt lucky to be able to join them as one of the basses.

The standard of performance is driven by our musical director, Mark Sproson. Mark is a talented and experienced professional musician who has a leading role in

choral music in the UK. His enthusiasm and great sense of humour are encouraging for all members. In line with the society's educational aims, he provides choral training and also feedback for any member who wants to sing solos.

We perform four concerts each year. Our main repertoire is clas-

sical choral music; in recent years we have sung pieces by major European composers including Bach, Haydn, Schubert and Verdi. We have also performed music by more modern composers, such as Leonard Bernstein, Francis Poulenc, and the Estonian Avro Pärt. Summer concerts have included opera

Barnstorming live music

Venue's eclectic monthly gigs and summer festival make it one of the best places for live music in Enfield

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

Livestock, Enfield's annual community-organised, not-for-profit music festival, takes place this year on 27th July in the enchanting and picturesque setting of Forty Hall Farm.

The event, now in its eighth year, began as a small street party, when residents of Goat Lane built a stage at the end of their street for local musicians, and has since burgeoned into north London's most eagerly-awaited musical extravaganza.

Last year's Livestock attracted a record 2,600 revellers and the festival will again feature more than 20 high-calibre acts across three stages. The line-up will be announced in

the coming weeks with a number of mouth-watering acts being planned; some of them returning from last year, others new to the festival. 'Early bird' tickets are already on sale.

Being very much a community event, Livestock will once again donate part of its takings to local charities. The rest of the proceeds go to the festival's monthly spin-off, Music from the Black Barn, held on every second Saturday at the same venue.

Established four years ago, Music from the Black Barn takes place in a converted farmyard barn and has developed into the most intimate and atmospheric venue in the borough, complete with licensed bar provided by Phoenix Belles.

The rationale is to showcase a mix of well-established and up-and-coming acts. Next up on 9th February is California Screaming, making a welcome return and featuring some of the most talented and experienced session musicians in the business who, between them, have played with the likes of Rod Stewart, Sir Tom Jones, Bryan Ferry, Belinda Carlisle, Madness, Marc Almond, and Lily Allen. Expect to hear an eclectic mix of expertly crafted covers; everything from Led Zeppelin to Free, Tom Petty and the Foo Fighters.

While the 9th March line-up was yet to be finalised as the *Dispatch* went to press, 13th April promises to be the most super-charged night

in the venue's four-year history with the appearance of Dr and the Medics, best known for their 1980s number one hit, *Spirit in the Sky*, which sold over 24 million copies worldwide. Despite a few changes of personnel over the years, they are still recognised as one of the most flamboyant and exciting acts on the circuit with a mix of glam-rock, new wave and pop rock. Tickets for this unmissable event will go on sale soon.

Tickets for both Livestock 2019 and the monthly Music from the Black Barn gigs are available to buy now:

Facebook /LivestockMusicFestivalUK
Instagram @livestockmusicfestival
Visit livestockuk.com



The Blues Chapter performing at the Black Barn in November
Credit Joe Dengel

Cinema in suburbia

Talkies founder David Williamson introduces this year's HERE Film Festival



A scene from Sophie Ansell's 'The Girl in the Shed' showing as part of HERE Film Festival

Credit
Sarah Boezalt

Talkies Community Cinema is presenting its fifth annual HERE Suburban Film Festival at various venues in Enfield throughout February and March.

The festival celebrates the diversity of interests, people and places in the suburbs of London. We don't mimic the West End, Southbank or Shoreditch – we are proud to be in the suburbs! This is where the film creatives of London produce their best output, where life is a rich tapestry of race, religion and culture. Here is where most of London lives.

We are so lucky to have such talented people around us who are prepared to talk about their work. Perhaps our proudest achievement in the festival is the short films we commission from young filmmakers. Our latest four commissions take the total to 23 films in all. Each has been shot in or around Palmers Green, probably making us the most filmed part of Enfield. Who knows, in time, perhaps Palmers Green will become the new Hollywood Hills?

Sophie Ansell, director of *The Girl in the Shed*, says: "The Talkies commission is an amazing

opportunity for me as a new director. They provide an incentive to get going, the creative freedom to develop ideas and the support that helps make it happen. My Talkies mentor, scriptwriter Jason Sutton, has been brilliant, giving me the confidence to take a lead and create a short film that I hope will do well on the national and international festival circuit."

Previous alumni have gone on to have wide professional success. Kate Herron, one of the 2017 filmmakers, is directing the successful new Netflix series *Sex Education*, and Charlotte Regan was a 2017 BAFTA nominee for 'Best Short Film'.

The festival programme launches with the British independent film *Funny Cow* on Saturday 16th February, at Waterhouse Hall in Winchmore Hill. Introduced by a cast member, the local actor Lindsey Coulson, the film is about a female comedian (played by Maxine Peake) breaking through the glass ceiling of an all-male comedy circuit in the 1980s. Lindsey has an impressive career in TV films and dramas, including *EastEnders*, *The Level* and *Bulletproof*. She lives in Palmers

Green and is an ambassador for Chickenshed Theatre, as well as being an acting mentor in many local schools.

Kurt Barling, a former BBC London correspondent and now Professor of Journalism at Middlesex University, hosts *The Lives of Londoners* at the Dugdale Centre on Thursday 21st March, using film to introduce ten Londoners whom he has met and whose experiences mark key social and political events over the past 15 years.

On Saturday 23rd March at Waterhouse Hall – on our 40th anniversary – Talkies revives the iconic 1979 film *Quadrophenia*, part of which was shot locally, and local musicians are forming a The Who tribute band as an introduction.

Other events include *London Unplugged*, hosted by director Nick Cohen and producer David Cohen, and *Beast*, introduced by producer Ivana MacKinnon, whose work includes *Slumdog Millionaire*, *The Descent* and *The Scouting Book for Boys*.

For more information about HERE Suburban Film Festival 2019:

Visit talkies.org.uk/film-festival-2019

LISTINGS

Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in Enfield. For March listings, email the details of your event to enfielddispatch@socialspider.com by Tuesday 19th February.

OUTDOORS

Pooches and Prams

Thursday 14th February, 10am
Grovelands Park, Southgate
(meet at the café)

Free walks every month for parents with dogs and babies.

Free to join

Email hello@poochesandprams.co.uk
Visit poochesandprams.co.uk

SINGING

MumSing

Every Monday, 10am–11.30am
St Stephen's Church Hall, Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park EN1 2ET

Be part of Enfield's only real choir for mums! Your children are more than welcome to come along as well. We cover anything from Disney songs, pop, urban and gospel music.

First five sessions £2.50 each

Call 07956 477 707
Visit vocallysound.co.uk/
Mumsing

The Big Choir

Every Wednesday, 10.30am–12pm
St Stephen's Church Hall, Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park EN1 2ET

The Big Choir aims to raise money for Cancer Research UK and the Francis Crick Institute. If you have personal experience with cancer or would just love to fight against cancer, then why now come along for a free taster?

£8 per session

Visit thebigchoir.org

THEATRE

Together We Are Enfield

Tuesday 26th February, 7.30pm
Millfield Theatre, Silver St, Edmonton N18 1PJ

A play written by Mayor of Enfield Saray Karakus which aims to "break down barriers between communities and spread joy".

£10 tickets

Visit millfieldtheatre.co.uk

LEISURE

Southgate Chess Club

Every Wednesday, 5.30pm–7pm
Fishmongers Arms, Winchmore Hill Road, Southgate N14 6AD

We love chess, and we want to get people to join us, whether you're a budding grandmaster or just starting out.

Free entry

Visit bit.ly/2BavoFs

NIGHT OUT

Murder Mystery

Thursday 14th February, 7pm
Salisbury House, Bury Street West, London N9 9LA

Take a step back in time and enjoy a 1960s-themed murder mystery. An evening full of cocktails, canapés, live music and murder! Play a suspect or enjoy watching everyone else act like butter wouldn't melt in their mouth.

Tickets £25

Visit enfieldfestivals.co.uk/whats-on

ADVICE

Winter Fair

Friday 22nd February, 9.30am
Enfield County School, Holly Walk Enfield Town EN2 6QG

Come in from the cold with talks, workshops, stalls, advice, information, folk dancing, and live music.

Free entry

Visit enfieldover50sforum.org.uk

GIG

California Screaming at Black Barn

Saturday 9th February, 7pm
Forty Hall Farm, Enfield EN2 9HA

California Screaming is a raucous evening of music from the louder section of your record collection. Featuring covers of The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Foo Fighters.

£10 tickets

Visit livestockuk.com

AROUND THE BOROUGH

EDMONTON GREEN

Lights display raises cash for charity

A CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY IN Chalfont Green helped raise £330 for a national children's charity.

Charles and Sandie Turner fitted a collection box to the garden wall of their home so passers-by who stopped to enjoy the illuminations could make a donation to NSPCC. In 2017 the couple raised £75 from the display but for Christmas 2018 they quintupled their collection by raising £361.

Charles said: "We hoped to raise more than last year's amount so when we opened the collection box and discovered we had raised more than £300 my wife and I were thrilled. "Yes, we might put on the display, but it is thanks to the generosity of the public that we have managed to raise that amount."

The Turner's front garden featured several inflatable snowmen, Santa Claus, a gazebo, plus a see-saw and snow-globe that children were able to have their photos taken in. There was also a snow machine which was switched on for spectators in return for a donation.

It takes a month to erect the display each year, says Charles. "It is a lot of hard work but seeing the smiles on people's faces and knowing the display is helping to raise money for a good cause at the same time makes it all worthwhile."

"They no longer cut down trees that wouldn't strike the line if they fell"

ENFIELD LOCK

Go ahead for £1m flood scheme

ALBANY PARK WILL BE USED to store floodwater from the Turkey Brook as part of a £1million project to reduce flood risk for more than 200 nearby homes.

It is proposed to restore 350 metres of the Turkey Brook within Albany Park, using it as a flood storage area at times of heavy rainfall. There is said to be a 1% annual chance of the river overflowing and flooding homes, but climate change will increase this risk.

Enfield Council last month agreed to

contribute £250,000 to the scheme, added to £346,000 from the Greater London Authority and £377,000 from the Environment Agency.

The new flood storage area would be able to hold 25,000 cubic metres of water – about the size of ten Olympic-size swimming pools. By naturalising the river the project will also create new habitats for wildlife, with the Turkey Brook currently being inaccessible to many species because it sits within a concrete channel.

HADLEY WOOD

Residents influence national tree policy

CAMPAIGNING BY LOCAL residents has helped contribute to a government review into the way railway lineside vegetation is managed.

Hadley Wood was one of three local areas consulted by the authors of a new report, which looked at how both passenger safety and wildlife can be considered by Network Rail when managing its thousands of miles of lineside across the country.

Last year residents launched a campaign against tree-felling either side of Hadley Wood Station. Hundreds of trees were cut down in early 2018, destroying valuable wildlife habitat and leaving the railway's banks bare.

Hadley Wood Association (HWA) and Hadley Wood Rail Users' Group persuaded managers from Network Rail to visit the site where trees had been cut down, later prompting an apology from the company.

Robert Wilson, HWA chair, told the *Dispatch*: "They were putting in new fencing with these spikes that made Hadley Wood look like Alcatraz – and cutting down trees to make way for it. It was totally disproportionate.

"We brought in the Tree Council and

persuaded Network Rail to stop the work until they had a new model for managing them.

"You could call it the 'Hadley Wood Model'. Instead of stripping back all the way to the fence they no longer cut down trees that wouldn't strike the line if they fell, or trees like hawthorn that are not tall enough to fall on the track."

A tree-planting trial is now underway at Hadley Wood which will help inform similar restoration work elsewhere.

Robert said: "There will be a new hedgerow, which is a mixture of trees that don't grow very tall and will make better habitats for wildlife. Unfortunately it will take a long time for the lineside to be restored and at the moment it still looks quite bare."

Rail Minister Andrew Jones, after a visit to Hadley Wood to launch the *Varley Report*, said: "Lineside vegetation and wildlife on our rail network are valuable assets which need protection. I understand people's concerns when they see trees being cut down, but it's important to recognise that without effective management we risk delays and compromise safety for passengers."

SOUTHGATE

Customers help foodbank



North Enfield Foodbank's Kerry Coe with Asda supermarket manager Gifty Banno

A SUPERMARKET HAS BEEN "overwhelmed" with donations since a foodbank collection point was installed.

Customers at Asda in Chase Side can donate non-perishable food items to North Enfield Foodbank on their way out of the store, and the drop-off point has become increasingly popular since being installed two years ago.

Shop manager Gifty Banno said:

"We're always overwhelmed with the generosity of our customers. It's not unusual here for a customer to do a £50 food shop and donate the entire trolley – the response is amazing."

Kerry Coe, from North Enfield Foodbank, said: "It allows us to have a donation point throughout the year. This is so vital to ensure we have enough food to meet the needs of our community."

"We are so thrilled to work with Asda to help support those in crisis."

BULLSMOOR

Bog standard

NEW TOILETS HAVE BEEN installed at a community centre thanks to a construction company.

Polyteck Group donated both expertise and materials to complete a £10,000 refurbishment project for charity Radiomathon, which helps young people with learning disabilities.

A team of three engineers from the company spent a week refurbishing the toilets at the Radiomathon Centre in Turkey Street.

Clifford Tolliday from Radiomathon, said: "We are able to deliver much-needed services to young adults with mild to moderate learning difficulties, as well as their families and carers, thanks to support like this. Thank you Polyteck and the team for all their help."

PONDERS END

School anniversary

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH OF England Primary School has celebrated its 180th anniversary.

Past pupils and staff members were invited for a reunion tea party at the school in South Street to mark the milestone, while a Victorian-themed dance show featuring current pupils was also held.

Headteacher Louise Whitaker said: "Both events have been really successful and the children have learnt so much about the history of the school and the surrounding areas. We were so proud of our year six pupils who were excellent guides to our visitors and all the pupils performed their dances and songs with joy and enthusiasm."

Learning the ropes

World Wrestling Entertainment launches training base in Enfield – its first outside the United States

An industrial estate off the A10 in Enfield has become the new British home of professional wrestling.

World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) has for decades been the leading promoter of theatrical grappling and the UK is said to have its largest fanbase outside of North America. Tens of thousands regularly flock to WWE shows in London and elsewhere around the country, inspiring several other smaller wrestling promotions to gain a cult following of their own. But WWE has never had a permanent presence in the UK – until now.

Inside a warehouse on the Great Cambridge Industrial Estate in Enfield has been created a 17,000-square-foot performance centre where WWE's young recruits

can hone their skills in one of two training rings and under the guidance of seasoned pros and former superstars such as Shawn Michaels ('The Heartbreak Kid') and Matt Bloom ('A Train', 'Prince Albert', 'Tensai').

Professional wrestling is non-competitive, with outcomes pre-determined and fights dramatised for entertainment, but to become a WWE superstar requires just as much determination, dedication, talent and physical athleticism as other professional sports.

At the launch of WWE's new UK Performance Center (don't blame us for the American spelling), trainer Robbie Brookside said: "This is a dream come true. Going back to 1988, when ITV unplugged their World of Sport wrestling show, ever since then we've wanted to

get British wrestling back on TV. "I came back here two years ago with WWE, trying to build the British brand – and this place is now our home."

One of WWE's weekly television shows, NXT, last year launched a British version, NXT UK, featuring homegrown wrestling stars such as Pete Dunne, Tyler Bate and Trent Seven. They are not the first British wrestlers to make it big in WWE, of course, with legends such as British Bulldog and William Regal paving the way before them – while the story of former women's champion Paige is about to be told in a Hollywood film – but the new training centre in Enfield now means there is a dedicated space for wrestlers to hone their craft.

Tyler Bate and Trent Seven currently wrestle as a tag team called Moustache Mountain. Asked by *Enfield*



NXT UK superstars at the launch of the new performance centre
Credit WWE

Dispatch what advice they'd give to fans who dream of one day joining them in WWE, Tyler said: "Watch as much wrestling as you can. I spent a lot of time travelling around and meeting people and being nice to them. Being a nice person can go a long way."

Pete Dunne, the current NXT UK champion, helped introduce the new training centre last month. He said: "With this amazing facility, we have a chance to train together and develop together, and that only increases the feeling

of being part of a winning team."

Last month's launch was also attended by Shawn Michaels, a four-time WWE world champion who is now a trainer, and Triple H ('The Game'), a 14-time world champion who is now the company's executive vice president of talent. Both will make regular visits to the new UK Performance Center, with Shawn helping to develop upcoming talent. "If you think it's cool to be in the ring with me, you're right, because I'm a pretty cool dude," explained Shawn.

Mad about Town

In a new regular Enfield Town column, Andrew Warshaw looks back at how it all began



In an age when professional football is becoming synonymous with big business and

many fans are losing touch with the game's roots, Enfield Town, the borough's highest ranked non-

league team, are striving to create a community hub of which local residents can be proud.

For those unfamiliar with the 'Townners', as they are known, Enfield play in the Bostik Premier League – the seventh tier of English football's pyramid – just below the National League (formerly Conference) North/South divisions.

As far as community football clubs are concerned, you can't get much more iconic. Based at Queen Elizabeth II Stadium in Donkey Lane, Enfield Town were the country's first-ever fully supporter-owned club, creating the template upon which the likes of AFC Wimbledon and FC United of Manchester were later modelled.

With a thriving membership scheme that grows year on year, it is no exaggeration to say the club has come a long way in a relatively short space of time since the Enfield Town Supporters' Society formed Enfield Town FC from the embers of the old Enfield FC in the summer of 2001. Starting off in the Essex Senior League, the club have climbed their way through the non-league divisions to finally land where they are now and where they have been since the start of the 2014/15 season.

At first, the "new" club led a nomadic existence outside the borough, but

ever since moving into the QEII Stadium they have gone from strength to strength, in large part because of a highly motivated and hard-working board led by chairman Paul Reed, but also thanks to a committed group of staff and hardcore supporters who give their time freely to help run the club, as well as before, during and after matches.

It is precisely this passionate collective spirit and supporter-owned inclusive ethos which makes the club so unique in terms of the community it serves. Having struggled somewhat in manager Andy Leese's first season in charge, the club is well-placed to challenge for the play-offs in 2019, with average crowds of around 400. While joining the ranks of the Conference South is the ultimate goal for the rest of the current campaign, it would constitute a massive achievement given that when Leese arrived he had to rebuild the entire squad. As Paul says: "There's never been a more exciting time to be an Enfield Town fan."

For more information about Enfield Town FC:

Visit enfieldtownfootballclub.co.uk

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

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