

# ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 6 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

MAR 2019

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## Teachers strike over academy plans

Galliard Primary School teachers walked out on strike over several days in February and vowed to continue their protest in March

### Council backs striking teachers opposed to multi-academy trust in Edmonton

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Support is growing for a group of striking teachers opposed to plans to convert their school into an academy.

Twenty-eight members of staff at Galliard Primary, including 14 teachers, walked out on strike in February to oppose the move, claiming they've not been properly consulted and that as an academy the school would "lack accountability". Several more strike days are scheduled in March before the academy conversion is due to take place in April.

Andy Griffiths, a Year 4 teacher who

has taught at the school for 13 years, told the *Dispatch*: "The school's leaders are avoiding us, they've not come to speak to the staff. I have asked them to suspend the process because there has been a breach of trust. We are thinking about getting an injunction. "Academies lack accountability and they have CEOs with large wages that could be spent on books and computers."

In total five primary schools in Edmonton – Galliard, Brettenham, Fleecefield, Raynham and Wilbury – are planning to join together as a multi-academy trust called 'Children First'.

In response teachers and parents have formed the 'Edmonton Against Academies' campaign, winning support from Enfield Council and hosting a rally attended by more than 100 people at Green Towers Community Centre.

Speakers at last month's public meeting included Kiri Tunks, joint president of the National Education Union (NEU), and Nesil Caliskan, the council leader. Galliard teacher Anne-Marie Hickling, who has been co-ordinating the strikes, told the meeting: "It looks like an academy empire. We have been told as teachers that if we don't want to work in

an academy we can resign.

"I am not happy to be taking part in strike action but there are many stakeholders who want this school to stay as part of the local authority and it leaves us with no other choice – we have not done this lightly and I appreciate it is very difficult for parents to deal with this."

Another Galliard teacher who addressed the rally broke down in tears as she said: "We've not been consulted – it's pre-determined."

Academies were introduced in 2000 under Labour and have been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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# ED.

**Nº.6**  
**MARCH 2019**

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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significantly expanded under the coalition and Conservative governments since 2010. They are funded directly by government and run by education trusts, rather than local councils, and do not have to follow the National Curriculum.

In a letter addressed to pupils' families Galliard headteacher Christine Dodd explained that discussions to convert to an academy began nearly two years ago, when meetings with parents were held, and that the Department for Education had approved their application in December.

Christine said: "We believe that not only is this the right time to convert, it is necessary in order to safeguard the identity and ethos of the school. Due to the political agenda that all

schools will become academies, we feel we need to take action now to be in control of the future of our school.

"In forming our own multi-academy trust with other local schools we can ensure the focus remains on improving standards and providing great opportunities for Edmonton children. This opportunity may not always be available to us and therefore we wish to take advantage of this now."

Cllr Caliskan told last month's campaign rally the council was opposed to the move. She said: "Nobody decides to strike on a whim. There is a chronic underfunding of education. That relationship between the local authority and local schools exists for a reason – we have a duty to support children and see an improvement in outcomes.

"One in three children are living in

poverty in this area. Now more than ever, that relationship between schools and the local authority is really, really important."

While most secondary schools are now run as academies, primaries remain predominantly under local authority control. So far in Enfield, 16 out of 73 primary schools have converted to academies.

Cllr Caliskan added: "Any change to any school should only ever be driven by the desire to improve outcomes for children, not because you are trying to find funding."

Kiri Tunks, NEU president, said: "Academies are not the answer. They will not solve the problems and in fact they make it worse."

Christine Dodd was approached for further comment but did not respond before we went to press.

# MP rules out by-election

## Enfield North's Joan Ryan quits Labour Party

Joan Ryan won her seat back in 2015 after first being elected to represent Enfield North in 1997  
Credit [parliament.uk](http://parliament.uk)



BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Newly independent Enfield North MP Joan Ryan has refused to call a by-election – even if most voters want one.

Speaking to the *Dispatch* following her decision to quit the Labour Party over its handling of anti-Semitism and the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, Joan said it was "not the right time" to stand for election. She has now joined the 'Independent Group' of anti-Brexit MPs that includes defectors from both Labour and the Conservatives.

Joan has represented Enfield North since 2015, when she won back the seat she lost in 2010 following her involvement in the parliamentary expenses scandal. Her majority increased ten-fold at the last election, from 1,086 in 2015 when Ed Miliband led Labour

to 10,247 in 2017, under Corbyn.

"I did not win my seat on his coat-tails, I won it despite him," Joan told the *Dispatch*. "During the general election I spent a large amount of time on the doorstep and voters told me they were very worried about Jeremy Corbyn becoming prime minister.

"I wrote to my constituents and I told them I didn't think there would be a change of government and they could vote for me without worrying about that."

Enfield North Constituency Labour Party (CLP) last year passed a motion of 'no confidence' in Joan. CLP secretary Maria McCaul said: "I'm relieved she has resigned because Joan has publicly shown that she does not support Jeremy Corbyn. If Joan Ryan truly has the interests of our vulnerable residents who are suffering tremendously under this Tory government, she will step aside."

Asked whether she would call a by-election, Joan said: "I don't think people want a by-election. I wouldn't do it even if there was pressure to do so, because it is not the right time."

Joan, who chaired Labour Friends of Israel, wrote extensively in her resignation letter about her concerns over anti-Semitism, saying the party was "infected with the scourge of anti-Jewish racism". She says she considered resigning for a long time – but seeing a Jewish MP quit over bullying from within the party finally made up her mind. Joan told the *Dispatch*: "I have tried for three years to fight this and to get Jeremy to recognise this problem.

"I was watching these seven [former Labour] MPs on TV. Listening to what Luciana Berger said, I couldn't disagree. I would stand in solidarity with any minority being treated like this.

"I spent 24 hours reflecting on it. It has been agonising, it has been my life standing for values of social change and social justice. I'm well aware Labour members helped me get into this position – but I joined the party because of my principles."

After quitting Joan was accused of accessing Labour Party data. She said: "I never and my office never accessed or used any Labour Party data since the resignation."

# Climate declaration

BY CHRISTINE ANCKER

Enfield Council could be about to declare a 'climate emergency'. A motion has been submitted by Vicki Pite, a Labour councillor for Chase ward, and is set to be discussed at an upcoming council meeting. It follows a strike against climate change held by schoolchildren in February.

Cllr Pite, who has had a lifelong interest in environmental education, says the motion represents a commitment to future generations. She told the *Dispatch*: "Climate change is a reality. The young people on strike have reminded us that climate change needs to be on top of the agenda."

Twenty local authorities across the UK have already declared climate emergencies, as well as the Mayor of London, who has been urged by the London Assembly to bring carbon reduction targets forward to 2030. Bristol and Manchester have set goals to be carbon neutral by 2030 and 2038 respectively – both more ambitious than the national target of an 80% carbon cut by 2050.

Cllr Pite wants her climate emergency motion to build on existing council policies. She said: "If Mayor Khan brings forward his climate action plan then it would have an impact on Enfield as well. We have made good progress in reducing our carbon footprint."

The council aims to reduce carbon emissions by 60% by 2025, with plans to introduce rapid-charging points for electric vehicles (EV) and install ground-source heat pumps in council buildings.

But climate change has also become a potential factor in the council's investment decisions. Campaign group Divest Enfield has put the borough's pension fund under scrutiny, with millions of pounds of the fund invested in fossil fuel companies. Four other London boroughs have pledged to divest their own funds, while the Divest Parliament campaign is supported by local MPs Bambos Charalambous, Joan Ryan, and Kate Osamor.

A council spokesperson said: "Enfield Council has recently looked at how environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues impact upon the council's pension fund. This year, ESG matters will be a high priority in the council's investment decisions and climate change is a major component of that process."

Divest Enfield has been invited to make a presentation to Enfield's pension committee. Campaigner Adam McGibbon said: "Investing in fossil fuels is financially risky and ethically wrong."

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Enfield National Trust Association organises trips to places like Flatford Mill in Suffolk

BY PETER HUNT

At the Enfield National Trust Association (ENTA) we are interested in preserving and

promoting our heritage.

Although independent of the National Trust, we raise funds for the benefit of its properties – whether great houses, castles, moors, heath,

coast or beaches.

We do this with a large variety of events, including monthly afternoon and evening meetings with speakers covering subjects as diverse as the

London Air Ambulance, the life of pioneering pilot Amy Johnson, and history of the Royal Ballet.

Now in our 42nd year, ENTA hosts afternoon meetings at Holtwhites Sports and Social Club and evening meetings at Enfield Grammar School. Our summer coach outings for 2019 will include visits to The Red House in Bexley, Down House in Bromley, Peckover House and Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire, and a trip along the River Thames. London outings have been arranged for the London Transport Depot in Acton, John Wesley's House in Shoreditch, a guided tour of The City's courtyards and alleyways, and the Cinema Museum in Kennington.

We also have monthly lunches in various local pubs and restaurants, which are very popular, not forgetting shows at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury and The Mill in Sonning, Berkshire. Christmas lunches have included Waddesdon Manor, Hever

Castle and Blenheim Palace.

The funds we raise for the National Trust – several thousand pounds each year – have provided items such as electric buggies, garden tools for volunteers, garden benches, signage, and even a brand new bird hide at Flatford Mill.

Our current membership numbers more than 300 and the annual fee is only £13 per person, or £22 for two at the same address. This entitles you to attend seven afternoon and nine evening meetings, and receive four newsletters detailing our programme. You may attend any meeting, without becoming a member, for £2 – but we hope you will join us! Why not come along to a meeting and see for yourself what we're all about?

For more information about Enfield National Trust Association:

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ENDMARCH



The Felix Project collects unsold food from supermarkets and distributes it to voluntary groups

## Food for all



### Enfield-based charity is supplying surplus food to groups across London

BY SAM KAGWI

**A**round four million adults in the UK live in a 'low' or 'very low' food secure household, according to the Food Standards Agency, while the Food Foundation says four million children live in households that struggle to afford to buy enough healthy food.

In our capital city, research shows at least 70,000 children go to school hungry each morning. Young mothers skip meals to feed their families, elderly people are malnourished, and those with a mental illness are often ignored. Yet many tonnes of fresh food are thrown away every day. The Felix Project in Enfield has set out to change this, because we believe that no-one should have to miss a meal. The Felix Project collects fresh, nu-

tritious food that cannot be sold and delivers this surplus food to charities, so they can provide healthy meals and help the most vulnerable in our society.

From our warehouse off Lincoln Road, vans go out daily to collect surplus food from supermarkets and food wholesalers and deliver it to more than 70 charities across north

more than one million meals per annum. Our plans are to grow the operation significantly in 2019 and in order to do this we need more surplus food and more volunteers.

There's a variety of volunteering roles available, ranging from driving our Felix vans, to helping in our warehouse and at events. Shifts are flexible; volunteers can come for a couple of hours per month or more often. We foster a friendly atmosphere, meaning that volunteers make many new friends. The roles are active so volunteers can boost their daily 'step count' and improve their strength as well as being part of an organisation that provides good food for good causes.

**For more information on the Felix Project:**

**Call** 020 3489 7374

**Email** northlondon@thefelixproject

**Visit** thefelixproject.org

***“We believe that no-one should have to miss a meal”***

and east London, as well as 32 schools in Enfield, each week. Our charity recipients include homeless shelters, foodbanks, youth clubs, older people's societies, addiction support groups, and environmental campaigns.

We currently deliver about ten tonnes of free food per week from our Enfield depot – enough for

## A novel way to write

Three authors from the same Southgate street have collaborated to create a wacky tale of woe

BY DAN BROTZEL

**T**hey say the most important bit of getting a book written is just showing up. But this one actually began by me not showing up.

It was 2016 and I'd accepted an invitation to join a creative writing group from Alex Woolf, a writer friend who lives on my road. Duly added to the email group, I started to read the messages between these men and women of letters, all very different, and felt I was getting to know them already.

For various reasons I couldn't make the first few meet-ups I was invited to. I could see from the emails being exchanged that people were beginning to doubt if I even existed, and I could hardly blame them.

Eventually, I did join, and I've never looked back. But I had the idea that an email exchange between writers – including one who never appears – might make for a fun story. I put the idea to Alex and Martin Jenkins, another new pal from the group, who also lives in our road, and the concept for *Kitten on a Fatberg* was born.

The novel is a farcical account, largely in emails, of a very eccentric writers' group. Characters include Keith, a mercenary sci-fi geek who can bang out 5,000 words before breakfast; Alice, who's been stuck on her first sentence for over two years; Blue, whose relentlessly gloomy poems include the notorious *Kitten on a Fatberg*; and Mavinder, who threatens never to show.

Led by Julia, a glamorous housewife with steely ambitions of her own, seven such budding writers meet every month to read out their work. But it's not long before the group's foibles and insecurities start to emerge, with frankly ludicrous consequences; an exploding sheep's head, a cosplay stalker, and an alien mothership invasion.

The book took nearly two years to write. We each took on a couple of the characters, and sent each other messages in character. We read the latest email, found out what their character had been up to, and came up with a response. Every so often we'd go to a pub and try to think about the overall plot.

Now we just hope it's as fun to read as it was to write!

'Kitten on a Fatberg' co-authors Dan Brotzel, Alex Woolf and Martin Jenkins



**For more information and to buy a copy of Kitten on a Fatberg:**

**Visit** [unbound.com/books/kitten-on-a-fatberg](http://unbound.com/books/kitten-on-a-fatberg)



## Council cuts agreed despite protest

Banner unfurled in support of rebellious Labour councillor during budget meeting



BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Further cuts to local services of £18million have been agreed by Enfield Council – plus a total council tax rise of nearly 5%.

It now brings the total cuts made in the borough over the last decade to £178m.

The Labour-run council blames its

cuts on the Conservative government's continued financial restrictions on local authorities, with a further £6.3m fall in central funding available for 2019-20. While the budget was voted through with support from both Labour and Conservative members, one Labour councillor took a stand by abstaining.

Tolga Aramaz, who represents Edmonton Green, told the meeting:

“I am putting my political career at risk. I will not be voting for the budget, knowing I will be punished by my party.

“There has been mass devastation in our borough – four out of ten Enfield children live in poverty and we are the eleventh most impoverished area for children in the UK. Young people are bearing the responsibility for austerity.

“Austerity kills, yet people still deny it. The devastation carries on under the Tories while they try to turn a blind eye. This is the ultimate betrayal of Enfield.”

Cllr Aramaz's speech was loudly cheered in the public gallery, from which a banner supporting him was hung during the meeting. Dozens of people had earlier held a demonstration outside Enfield Civic Centre to put pressure on all councillors to reject cuts in the budget.

The total 4.92% rise in council tax for Enfield residents, starting from April, is equivalent to an extra £1.47 per week for the average household. It is made up of a 2.99% core tax rise and 1% specifically earmarked for adult social care, with the rest attributable to the Greater London Authority (GLA).

The Mayor of London's portion of council tax has risen 8.93% – a hike strongly criticised by Tory councillor Terence Neville, who told the budget meeting: “It wouldn't be so bad if [GLA] services were getting better, but they're not.

“He [Sadiq Khan] has lost enormous amounts of money on Cross-rail, a scandal and an absolute dis-

grace of management – that's why he's had to impose an enormous tax increase.”

The opposition Conservative group proposed an amendment to the council's budget, criticising newly-agreed plans to drop weekly bin collections to save £2m a year (full story on Page 7).

Tory leader Joanne Laban said: “Weekly collection is a priority for residents. Cabinet members have come across as if they know best and residents do not. We want to show that the council does listen.”

However, the amendment was defeated.

Mary Maguire, the council's cabinet member for finance, said: “How on earth this Tory government expect us to continue to provide quality services to the people who rely on them, I don't know.

“We are minimising where we can. We have had to look at different ways of doing things. There is no certainty [over government funding] after 2020, as well as Brexit uncertainty. We have huge cost pressures with our demand-led services, but we have to find a way to fund them.”

## Local rough sleeping among worst

Council appeals for more money to tackle problem

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield borough has recorded one of the highest number of rough sleepers in England – following a “shocking” eight-fold annual rise.

There were 78 people counted as sleeping rough on the streets of Enfield in autumn 2018, compared to just nine the year previously.

This placed the borough seventh among local authorities in England and fourth among councils in London for rough sleeping, according to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Universal Credit, a much-criticised new benefits system, has been blamed for exacerbating homelessness in areas, such as Enfield, where it has been introduced. Enfield Council has

also claimed that many rough sleepers have been “displaced” from neighbouring boroughs.

Susie Dye from Trust for London, a charitable foundation aiming to tackle poverty and inequality, said: “Our research shows Enfield has London's highest eviction rate for people living in the private rented sector. It is also one of the places in the country where Universal Credit is being rolled out.

“These two issues are likely linked to the increase in homelessness in the area, as being evicted from the private rented sector is one of the leading causes of homelessness in London, and being on Universal Credit, as opposed to separate housing benefit, has been associated with higher risk of becoming homeless.

“We recognise and welcome the

efforts of boroughs like Enfield to pro-actively identify households at risk of homelessness and prevent it. And as problems like rough sleeping spread even to wealthier parts of outer London, the government needs to listen to homeless charities on welfare reform, to avoid making things worse for the most vulnerable Londoners.”

Enfield now has the highest number of rough sleepers among all outer London boroughs, with only inner-London Westminster (306), Camden (141) and Newham (79) recording more.

The council has previously pledged to provide shelter for any rough sleeper when temperatures fall below zero and also provide accommodation until an individual support plan has been put in place.

Council leader Nesil Caliskan

said: “The dramatic increase in the number of rough sleepers nationally and locally is shocking.

“The anecdotal evidence suggests that some of these rough sleepers

“In Enfield, we are working with organisations such as ThamesReach to identify those who require our assistance and help them to engage with public services, encourage

**“Enfield urgently needs funding to tackle rough sleeping”**

in Enfield have been displaced from neighbouring boroughs who have received significant funding over the last few years. The social reasons as to why rough sleeping occurs are complicated and I am in no doubt the situation has got worse recently for people and the number has increased because of the cumulative impact of government cuts to key public services.

them into legal employment and to show them the most appropriate route to accommodation. We will continue to work collaboratively with partners, agencies and the community.”

Cllr Caliskan has also appealed for more money to help tackle homelessness. She added: “Enfield urgently needs funding to tackle this increase in rough sleeping.”



# Green groups slam council homes plan

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

A national environmental group has joined with local campaigners to oppose Enfield Council's plan to allow construction of new homes on the borough's Green Belt.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is now working with local groups Enfield RoadWatch and The Enfield Society against the council's draft Local Plan, which proposes building on some parts of the Green Belt in order to meet new higher home-building targets.

Evidence gathered by the groups has been included in a report entitled *Space to Build, Enfield* that has been submitted to the council as part of its recent public consultation on the Local Plan. Alice Roberts, from CPRE London, said: "Our report shows that Enfield Council should not even be considering building on Green Belt. There is plenty of space to build new homes within Enfield's previously developed land. We've already found space for 37,000 new homes and that's really just a start. "Our research shows that building housing at Crews Hill would be the worst possible option for Enfield residents. It cannot provide affordable housing, would mean more congestion and traffic, and would destroy a cluster of much-loved businesses which are visited by people from all over North London and beyond



The Enfield RoadWatch campaign opposes building homes on the Green Belt

— an important piece of Enfield's economy which cannot be replaced.

"The type of low-density housing which is typical of Green Belt developments will contribute little towards the borough's housing target. Building on Enfield's Green Belt would mean giving up large swathes of valuable green land for very few new homes. And those will predominantly be expensive homes."

The council has been told by the Mayor of London to build 1,876 homes per year – with only 550 being built on average at present.

Areas for largescale home-building suggested by CPRE include Southbury and Edmonton Green.

Councillor Ahmet Oykener, cabinet member for property and assets, said: "The Local Plan proposals aim to tackle the housing crisis in Enfield and address a wide range of chronic housing issues including improving the supply of genuinely affordable high-quality family homes for hard-working Enfield residents, helping to get young people on the housing ladder and eradicating the need for tempo-

rary accommodation.

"We will always prefer to meet Enfield's housing needs by building on brownfield and town centre sites but our Local Plan also needs to consider other options.

"Our Local Plan options include looking at a small section (5-7%) of Green Belt land and considering whether it may be suitable for quality and affordable homes for families. All options are currently on the table at this early stage. We will consider all the responses to the consultation."

# Backlash over bin collections

Changes come despite negative feedback

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Enfield Council has been accused of acting "like a dictatorship" over a decision to cut bin collections in the face of public opposition.

The council's Conservative group leader Councillor Joanne Laban urged the Labour administration to "respect the will of the people" after two-thirds of those who were consulted said they wanted to keep weekly collections.

The consultation – which drew the biggest response in Enfield's history – showed just 9% of more than 5,500 respondents backed the proposals to move to fortnightly collections for refuse and recycling. But senior councillors have now given the go ahead to cutting

bin rounds after a lengthy debate with council officers over why the changes had been recommended.

Cllr Laban said: "The Conservative group is extremely disappointed. There were many options to choose from in the consultation, but the administration has chosen the one that least reflected people's views. "Labour in this regard is acting more like a dictatorship than a democratic institution."

The Conservative leader said the most deprived areas would suffer the most from the changes and argued a rise in fly-tipping would wipe out any savings made from the shake-up.

Cllr Laban added: "The outcome of the bin consultation was to keep

the status quo. The results of the recent budget consultation were that the public wanted waste services and street cleaning protected.

"I ask that the cabinet respects the will of the people and backs off our bins!"

The waste collection shake-up – which is due to save the council more than £2million a year – will also see the roll-out of a separate, weekly food waste collection and a £65-a-year charge for garden waste rounds.

Labour councillors argue that failing to save money from waste collections would mean making cuts to services such as adult and children's social care, as local government continues to suffer from government austerity measures.

Guney Dogan, cabinet member for environment, wrote to residents to explain why the council is making the changes, which do not apply to communal collections from flats and hard-to-reach properties.

Cllr Dogan said: "The scale of the financial challenge means that the primary consideration when assessing the proposals has had to be the savings that can be achieved.

"If these savings are not made to waste and recycling collections, they would have to be made elsewhere."

The council will invest £500,000 a year in street cleaning and focus on tackling fly-tipping, Cllr Dogan added.

Enfield currently recycles 35.9% of waste – below the national average.

# Rail anger

The boss of Transport for London (TfL) has expressed frustration at the lack of progress on re-nationalising Enfield's suburban rail services.

TfL commissioner Mike Brown was quizzed on the situation by Joanne McCartney, London Assembly member for Enfield and Haringey, and described negotiations with the government on the issue as "like pulling teeth to get a proper discussion".

Joanne has since called on the government to do more to improve "shambolic" services through stations including Enfield Chase, Winchmore Hill, and Palmers Green. She said: "The government's inertia is failing local commuters who rely on this vital link."

# Shop closure

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

Tottenham Hotspur fans in Enfield have been dealt a blow with the closure of the official club shop in Church Street.

Spurs fans are now forced to buy official club gear online or at the club's new 'megastore' in Tottenham High Road – which has opened despite the new stadium being delayed. There are other Spurs shops in Harlow, Stevenage and Chelmsford, but the one in Waltham Cross has also closed.

A Tottenham Hotspur spokesperson said: "With our new retail space within The Tottenham Experience now up and running, the decision was taken to cease trading at our Enfield shop in January, which coincided with the lease ending.

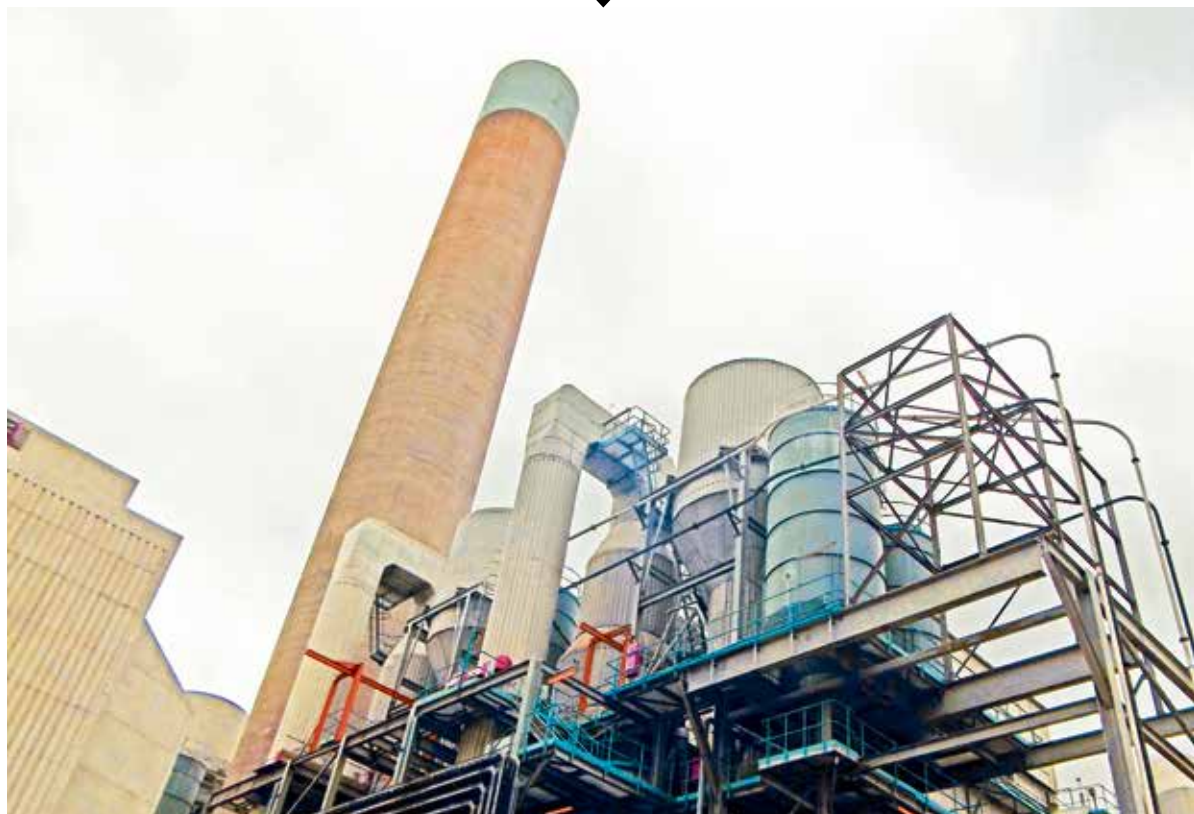
"Staff previously employed in Enfield have been offered alternative roles within the business, either at our retail head office or in The Tottenham Experience."

Enfield resident Peter Bradley, a Spurs fan since 1957, told the *Dispatch*: "I used to buy lots of stuff there and I'm sorry it had to close. It seems short-sighted."

Another local fan, Karen Banks, said: "The shop saved me going all the way to Tottenham. Obviously there is far more variety to choose from at the main store but it's very inconvenient, especially for elderly people."



The current incinerator in Edmonton, opened in 1969, is due to be rebuilt



## Feeling burned

Sharlene Gandhi asks if incinerators are really the best way to dispose of waste

Incineration – dubbed by its proponents as ‘energy-from-waste’ (EfW) – involves burning residual waste which cannot be recycled and would otherwise be left in landfill sites.

This process produces thermal energy that can heat local homes and commercial businesses – and Enfield’s waste is processed in this way at Edmonton EcoPark. Although evidently not a renewable energy source, EfW helps us steer away from our reliance on coal, oil and natural gas.

According to Jacob Hayler, director of the Environment Services Association, incineration also produces fewer emissions than if waste was sent instead to a landfill site. A brand new incinerator is soon set to be built in Edmonton, to replace the ageing one there currently.

Meanwhile, the North London Waste Plan (NLWP) proposed by seven local authorities, including Enfield Council, aims to increase the proportion of recyclable waste collected from homes and businesses. But by relying so heavily on a facility

that processes only residual waste, the NLWP is effectively turning its back on recycling targets.

As levels of recycling stagnate (Enfield’s recycling rate declined last year and remains below the national average) and levels of incineration are set to overtake the former, it seems as though local authorities are taking the lazy route out. Ironically, the new

is one of the larger sites that has been set aside for potential waste management. While there are “no immediate plans” to utilise it, locals have already expressed their discontent with the potential air pollution, noise pollution, congestion and other health hazards that would accompany a waste plant in this area, which currently acts as a wildlife haven.

Councillor Yasemin Brett, who is responsible for public health in Enfield, expressed her dissatisfaction with the inclusion of Pinkham Way in the NLWP by walking out of

***“Ironically, the new Edmonton incinerator is due to be built with a visitor centre in an attempt to educate people on recycling”***

Edmonton incinerator is due to be built with a community and visitor centre, in an attempt to educate Enfield citizens on correct recycling practice.

Collaborating with six other boroughs on the NLWP – namely Barnet, Camden, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest – does lessen the pressure on Enfield sites, particularly the Edmonton EcoPark, by spreading responsibility across North London. But Pinkham Way, a site in Haringey that borders Enfield,

a cabinet meeting last year, an act for which she was temporarily relieved from her post. The conflict of waste management and environmental sustainability is embodied perfectly through the example of Pinkham Way. On the one hand is the growing need for waste management facilities, being made all the more urgent by a stagnating recycling rate and unreactive authorities, and on the other, is the very biodiversity this waste plan seeks to protect.

## Top of the Grange

*In our regular councillor's column, Grange ward member Chris Dey discusses rising crime*

Since our election last year, Grange ward councillors Andy Milne, Terry Neville and I have been working hard on our residents' behalf.

Sadly I feel the need to talk about crime and the 10% increase for the year to end of January, against the backdrop of a 1% increase for the rest of London. Enfield now has the highest level of serious youth

violence with 393 incidents, higher than any London borough. This is increase of 5% while some boroughs have seen a significant year-on-year reductions such as neighbouring Barnet (down 13%).

In meetings last year I asked the head of community safety at the council what lessons can be learned from bor-

oughs where youth violence has reduced. I was very disappointed to learn at the January meeting of the council's crime scrutiny panel that they had not been to other boroughs to find out.

The biggest crime issue specifically affecting our residents is the increase in break-ins and car theft. Grange Park Residents' Association convened a meeting of the Grange ward police team and local councillors in February. This was held at St Peters Church in Grange Park and was attended by around 200 people, all of whom are very worried and concerned about the increase in this particular crime. There were 2,474 incidents of residential burglary in the borough, a 16% increase on the previous year.

The Enfield borough commander and her senior leadership team need to do more to tackle both of these vital issues, along with the relevant council officers. At the moment it is my opinion that residents are being short-changed, and we will continue to raise this issue until a resolution is found.

As the three Grange ward councillors we will be writing to the borough commander to request a meeting to discuss how residents' concerns can be addressed.

**Cllr Dey is one of three councillors elected to represent Grange, alongside Andy Milne and Terry Neville (all Conservative). The next ward forum is on Tuesday 19th March at the Dugdale Centre, from 7.30pm.**

**Call** 0208 379 3376

**Email** Cllr.Chris.Dey@Enfield.gov.uk

**Tweet** @grangewardtory

Grange ward councillors (from left) Terry Neville, Andy Milne, and Chris Dey





# Seeking justice over adoptions

*Enfield's Jean Robertson-Molloy is calling for an apology over the treatment of mothers forced to give up their children*

**“The loss of a child to adoption often feels to a woman like a death”**



Jean Robertson-Molloy co-founded the Movement for an Adoption Apology (MAA)

In the mid-20th Century sexual mores were changing but abortion was still illegal and contraception unreliable and mostly unavailable. Pregnant unmarried women were stigmatised as 'shameful' and were often forced to give up their children for adoption.

In 1960, aged 24, I sailed to New Zealand to 'rescue' my sister Marion who had emigrated there on the £10 scheme encouraging British people to move Down Under. After a major breakdown, Marion had been in a psychiatric hospital for a year. When she was discharged and went back home, I decided to stay on and see more of New Zealand. I found a job as a social worker in a hospital outside Auckland.

Much as I enjoyed New Zealand, I was still utterly determined to go home in the end. As I travelled for a few months before sailing home, I let my hair down and ended up pregnant. It felt like an utter disaster, a catastrophe. Friends in Auckland arranged for me to have the baby in Australia. Margaret was born in January 1963.

As an unmarried social worker I gave myself the usual social-work

advice; 'adoption is the best thing'. Years later I traced her and learned that she is happily married with three daughters. I met Margaret several times but she now chooses no more contact.

I went into therapy at home and was fortunate to have two more children. Many women were less lucky. Often they were sent to mother-and-baby homes run by church organisations, where they scrubbed floors and were treated like sinners, then sent away afterwards – the child being given to new parents. Most of these mothers were offered no support but were told to go away and forget it and not talk to anyone – the worst possible advice.

The loss of a child to adoption often feels to a woman like a death. But the grief that would normally be acknowledged after a death cannot be expressed if it has to be kept secret. And this can end up causing long-term problems, including depression and conditions such as agoraphobia.

As for the fathers, those who did not vanish were often told to do so by outraged parents.

Some did suffer subsequent grief and problems, but at least they had more time to recover.

Some of the affected mothers formed a support group, Natural Parents Network, in the late 1980s. The Movement for an Adoption Apology (MAA) was formed in 2010 as an online group campaigning for a government apology for past adoption practices. Other countries, notably Australia and Canada, have already begun to do this.

I still regard all those mothers, many of whom struggled desperately to keep their children, as my soul sisters. Although I don't feel entitled to an apology myself, I support this campaign strongly and was a co-founder of MAA. I want to see a public apology with full publicity as well as the publication of hidden information and help for women with tracing, counselling, and emotional support. Too many women are still unable to speak about their loss because of the shame and guilt over what happened years ago.

For more information about the campaign: Visit [movementforanadoptionapology.org](http://movementforanadoptionapology.org)

# LETTERS

## Send us your letters

Got an opinion on something in Enfield? We accept letters of up to 200 words from people and organisations in the borough. Email [EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com) before the next deadline on Tuesday 19th March.

## State of the arts

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

Having worked in community arts in Enfield for more than 25 years I am dismayed at the devastating cuts to arts and culture, the likes of which I have never seen before.

While the 'rubber stamping' may be done in council chambers, the recommendations for service cuts are done by officers. Enfield's arts and culture service has been moved into a commercial department and tasked with making money. It would be laughable if it wasn't so tragic.

Yes, there are elements that generate income, but the task is so difficult I really fear for the future of the service. I discovered recently that even historic buildings are subject to rates – Forty Hall, Salisbury House – why? That's between £20,000 and £30,000 to find before any staff or bills.

The main fault lies with government cuts to local authority grants, but I am totally disheartened by the lack of interest in the arts by Enfield Council. The rich history of community arts in Enfield will disappear altogether unless someone steps up and makes some positive changes.

Debbie Dean  
Edmonton Green

## Good news for youth

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

The Mayor of London has announced the launch of a new Fire Cadets unit in Enfield, as part of a £1.1million funding boost.

It has been fantastic to see the mayor listen to our calls and provide significant funding to the Fire Cadets programme, and that a unit will be launching in Enfield. The expansion of this scheme will go towards providing many local young people with a positive and invaluable opportunity to develop life and employability skills.

The Fire Cadets programme also plays a vital role in ensuring that London Fire Brigade is able to attract and nurture the next generation of talent from a wide range of communities and backgrounds.

Joanne McCartney  
London Assembly member for  
Enfield and Haringey

## Solidarity over cuts

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

We, on behalf of many Labour Party members, wish to express our complete solidarity with Labour councillors in these difficult times, when the Tory government cuts are destroying our services and hurting our people.

We in no way wish to undermine or challenge their authority or integrity and know that these cuts are as painful and distressing to them as they are to all of us who share socialist values. It is because of these shared values that we ask councillors to explore all radical alternatives and to exhaust all legal means to resist these deadly cuts.

Hannah Salvidge  
Labour Party member,  
Enfield North

## Government to blame for bin changes

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

The Conservative government has cut a £2.46million grant to Enfield Council which paid for weekly waste and recycling collections. In total, the government is forcing the council to cut £18m from our budget this year and a further £12m next year. This is on top of £178m of government cuts since 2010. That's why the council is redesigning some services so that we can protect our most vulnerable residents.

Household rubbish and dry recycling will be collected once a fortnight on alternate weeks, from spring 2020. We are introducing a new separate weekly food waste collection service from November 2019. There will be an optional garden waste collection service, costing £65 per bin each year, or £1.25 a week. These changes apply to kerbside properties with a wheeled bin.

If we do not change the waste collection service, it would cost the council an additional £1.5m every year. Which other council service should we cut instead? Children's services, adult social care?

Cllr Guney Dogan  
Cabinet member for environment,  
Enfield Council



## Boosting 'healthy' life expectancy

*Claire Fisher from Healthwatch Enfield on how NHS leaders and residents are working together to improve quality of life*

In partnership with Enfield Council, the local NHS, and voluntary sector, Healthwatch Enfield is developing a new strategy that aims to increase healthy life expectancy for Enfield residents.

In other words; living healthy and independent lives as we age, rather than simply living longer but in poor health. Research so far has shown that three main behaviours – smoking, lack of exercise, and unhealthy eating – contribute to four main diseases; cancer, diabetes, heart disease and lung disease.

Unsurprisingly, all these factors are intrinsically intertwined with good mental health. With the focus on developing the detail of Enfield Council's health and wellbeing strategy, we invited a panel of local NHS and council leaders to attend Healthwatch Enfield's annual

conference last month and work alongside more than 100 people. Working together in small groups, local residents and service leaders discussed the range of challenges preventing people from living, or switching, to a healthy lifestyle.

There were lots of creative ideas and solutions put forward by residents and it was great to see leaders, such as councillors and hospital chief executives, immersed in discussions with them throughout the day. You don't get more 'consultative' than that! The feedback from this event will help inform the final detail of the strategy, which is due to be signed off by the council's health and wellbeing board in May.

Our team is now busy typing up and analysing all the feedback into a formal report, but more importantly, your feedback went direct to the ears



More than 100 people attended Healthwatch Enfield's annual conference in February

of those who make the decisions, so watch this space!

Here's one example of feedback given by local residents who participated in Healthwatch Enfield's annual conference: "Hearing from the councillors and health leaders, meeting with other community champions, and learning about other services and projects going on in the community that I'd not heard about, was a key feature of the day."

Linking with Enfield's cancer prevention goals, did you know that many cancers are more effectively treatable if caught early? The council is working on developing an awareness campaign and we are helping them find out what residents already know about early signs and symptoms of cancer. Please support this really important cause by taking the short survey available at [smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CancerAwareness](https://smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CancerAwareness)

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

**Call** 020 8373 6283

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

**Tweet** @HealthwatchEnf

**Visit** [healthwatchenfield.co.uk](https://healthwatchenfield.co.uk)

**healthwatch**  
Enfield

## Local GP surgeries team up

Enfield Over 50s Forum president Monty Meth welcomes moves by local doctors to pool their resources

A big shake-up in patient care is underway in Enfield. Fourteen surgeries, mainly in the north and east of the borough, have taken the unprecedented decision to relinquish their individual financial independence to form a 'super GP practice' called Medicus Health Partners (MHP).

In line with a drive by NHS England to replace outdated single-doctor and small practices – often based in unfit premises – with surgeries catering for an average 50,000 patients, MHP now serves more than 90,000 patients spread over 14 sites from Edmonton to Bush Hill Park and Enfield Island Village.

Alongside its 34 GP partners, MHP is developing a multi-professional team of clinical pharmacists, emergency care practitioners, nurses, and physician associates, to provide a wide variety of health care services.

Already in place is MHP's own diabetes consultant, Debbie Hicks,

who advises and checks on patients at the 14 surgeries in the group, while also facilitating the wider education of the workforce.

MHP aims to ensure that patients are seen by the most appropriate healthcare professional and, when a new computer system is fully operational, patients will be seen by a doctor at any of the sites, so hopefully avoiding the three-week wait for an appointment which is prevalent across Enfield.

I am told the aim is that patients with complex or chronic long-term conditions are seen by the more experienced GPs. Conversely, patients with minor complaints can see young doctors attracted to

join the MHP which, as a larger organisation, will offer exciting career opportunities in training and clinical support.

The medical services provided by MHP are obviously still evolving. With Enfield's population not just increasing, but

getting older, a key issue for every surgery is the growing number of elderly patients with long-term medical problems. MHP hopes in due course to develop its own home-care visiting service – and what a boon that would be for elderly people. Speaking with the MHP doctors is like a breath of fresh air. They are full of innovative and creative ideas to make our precious NHS better than ever. They are helping each other to develop their skills and knowledge of dementia, for example, as part of a wide education programme which ultimately will benefit their patients.

**Monty Meth is available to discuss changes to GP surgeries including Forest Road, Lincoln Road, Curzon Avenue, Dean House, Connaught, Bush Hill, Carlton House, Willow Road, Southbury, Enfield Island Village, Freezywater, Riley House, Green Street and Moorfield Road.**

**Email** [info@enfieldover50sforum.org.uk](mailto:info@enfieldover50sforum.org.uk)

**Post** Enfield Over 50s Forum, Millfield House, Silver Street, Edmonton N18 1PJ

**“A key issue for every surgery is the growing number of elderly patients with long-term medical problems”**



# Spring into action

Jo Johnson from local business network Love Your Doorstep gets tidying

What’s not to love about spring? Following winter, we finally get the chance to put our heavy coats and boots away. The blossom in the trees, the bulbs popping up; snowdrops, daffodils, crocuses; all bringing colour back to our lovely borough.

Spring cleaning is one of the first things we think of at this time of year. I’m not sure what it is about the season which sparks the motivation to have a good old clear-out. Maybe the sense of new beginnings? Either way, not all of us have the time or inclination to get on with the task ourselves. If this sounds like you, hop over to the Love Your Doorstep directory and find yourself a cleaner to come and work their magic! They can help you with a one-off full clean to get you

back on track.

The idea of spring cleaning has reached a whole new level since the Netflix series *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo*. The modern-day version of the spring clean involves facing up to the ‘stuff’ in your home and what does and doesn’t spark joy. As well as de-cluttering, new approaches to home organisation are explored. If you like the idea of all of this but can’t face tackling it on your own, again, we have people on the Love Your Doorstep directory who specialise in this area.

It’s not just the inside of our homes that we turn our focus to at spring, however. We are already having an influx of posts on our community forums from people suddenly filled with the desire to do the equivalent of a spring clean with their garden or outdoor space. The better weather

sees us wanting to enjoy the outdoors and our Love Your Doorstep gardeners are on hand to sort this for you!

We are fortunate to have plenty of green space around our borough, and it looks particularly stunning when all the spring blossom and flowers bloom.

An annual tradition in Enfield is the Lambing Weekend at Forty Hall Farm – this year taking place 23rd-24th March. It’s lovely to see the hoards of visitors flock to see the new-born lambs while enjoying the grounds of Forty Hall Estate. For me, that’s the official sign that spring has sprung!

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

**Email** customerservice@loveyourdoorstep.co.uk

**Visit** loveyourdoorstep.co.uk

Lamb Weekend takes place at Forty Hall Farm this month



Credit Wikicommons

Advertisement



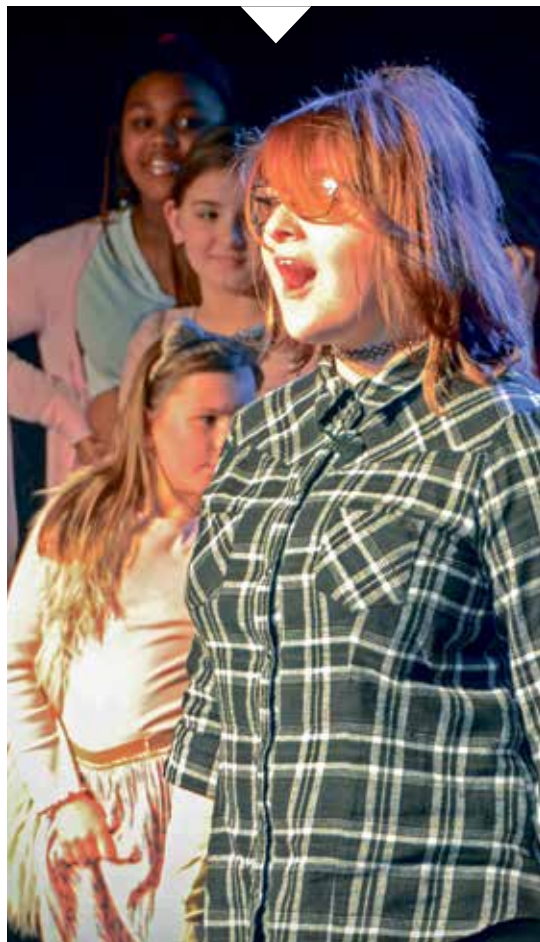
Help line numbers:	
National Domestic violence helpline number:	0808 2000 247
Non-emergency police:	101
Solace Women's Aid Advice Line:	0808 802 5565
Enfield Women's Centre:	020 8443 1902
Enfield Saheli:	020 8373 6218
Victim Support:	0808 168 9111
Men's Advice Line:	0808 801 0327
National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline:	0800 999 5428
Police emergency:	999

www.enfield.gov.uk/dv





Young Talent Academy is open to anyone aged from three to 18 years  
Credit Every Element Photography



## Homegrown talent

Regan O'Mahony on why she wanted to provide a platform for young performers

**A**n inclusive performing arts school opened last year at the Dugdale Centre in Enfield and last month Young Talent Academy celebrated its opening with an official launch party.

As a former assistant headteacher and founder of the award-winning Young Notes Pop Choir, I'm passionate about performing arts for everyone. I love working with young people and have always had a passion for the performing arts.

My father was an actor and as a child I wanted to be either an actor, a singer, a chef, or a teacher. My claim to fame was that I was very nearly in a girl band in my early twenties! You can guess which my family thought was the most practical career option, so I trained as a primary school teacher, where I found I was still drawn to teaching the arts.

I began to lead singing assemblies, teach school choirs, and often wrote, produced and directed large productions and shows. The arts have always been where my passion has lain. My mum Christine is deaf and I actually ended

up working in two mainstream schools with provision for deaf students. I have close relatives with disabilities who are also professional performers and I have seen first-hand the opportunities that have opened up to them because of the performing arts.

As a result, I am passionate about inclusion and ensuring that the arts are accessible to everyone.

Young Talent Academy came about after the success of our pop and British Sign Language choir Young Notes, which is still going strong. We wanted to create an inclusive performing arts school that would provide singing, dance and drama classes in a friendly environment where all children are encouraged to achieve to the very best of their potential.

The benefits that dancing, singing and acting have on young people should not be underestimated and it is really important that we appreciate the possibilities that the arts open up to them. Children gain so much from a performing arts education, reducing stress and providing a focus and an outlet for self expression. Perform-

ing arts enable children to face everyday challenges and provide them with the tools needed for their future.

The launch event at the Dugdale Centre was an amazing celebration of all young people and in particular the talent that we have here in Enfield. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony by Councillor Bernadette Lappage, audience members enjoyed solo and group performances from street dance to ballet, Irish dancing, musical theatre, and drama. Performers were thrilled to receive a standing ovation at the end!

A big thank you to everyone that came along to support and also helped to make this event possible. A special mention goes to Emma Rigby from Love Your Doorstep, Paul Everitt from Enfield Council, and Cllr Lappage.

**Young Talent Academy runs classes for 3-18-year-olds at the Dugdale Centre on Saturday mornings, 10am-1pm. If you would like to book a free trial:**

**Call** 07961 782 864

**Email** info@youngtalentacademy.co.uk

## Music for the masses

*Find a local music project that suits you*

BY MARTYN STOGDEN

**F**our Hills Music provides an amazing range of pro-coached community music projects for the people of Enfield.

We inspire people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to learn or to get back to playing music. We exist to help you achieve your musical dreams and we work to delight and surprise you!

We are, uniquely, offering free membership of our Enfield music projects to all children still at school. Young people learn and play music with us at no cost, receiving professional-standard coaching and fantastic performance opportunities.

Our all-age educational projects in Enfield include Enfield Film Orchestra, a symphonic ensemble for all string, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments; North London Brass, a traditional British brass band; English Jazz Orchestra, where you can learn to play and perform jazz; and North London Singers, which hosts singing workshops for people of any experience or none.

Our ensembles perform regularly in Enfield, at events such as Enfield Christmas Parade, Enfield Pageant of Motoring, Remembrance Sunday Parade, and shows at the Dugdale Centre, Millfield Theatre, Hilly Fields Bandstand, and local concerts. Further

afield we perform at the London New Year's Day Parade, Royal Hospital Chelsea, Regent's Park, and Golders Hill bandstands, plus tours across Britain and France.

We are always looking for new members of any age, from beginners to advanced and everyone in-between. We offer a full range of performance options, so if you need a band or a choir for your local event, do get in touch and we will see if we can help.

**For more information about Four Hills Music Enfield:**  
**Visit** [fourhills.co.uk](http://fourhills.co.uk)

**For more information about Enfield Jazz Orchestra performing at St Luke's Church in Enfield on Thursday 14th March:**  
**Visit** [englishjazzorchestra.co.uk](http://englishjazzorchestra.co.uk)

**For more information about Enfield Film Orchestra:**  
**Visit** [enfieldfilmorchestra.co.uk](http://enfieldfilmorchestra.co.uk)

**For more information about North London Brass:**  
**Visit** [northlondonbrass.co.uk](http://northlondonbrass.co.uk)

**For more information about North London Singers:**  
**Visit** [northlondonsingers.co.uk](http://northlondonsingers.co.uk)



Enfield Jazz Orchestra is performing on Thursday 14th March at St Luke's Church



The Enfield Community Singers have been performing locally for eight years



Credit Ana M. Wiggins

## In fine voice

The director of Enfield Community Singers invites people to a series of spring concerts

BY SIMON GILBERT

I made it my mission two years ago, in my early eighties, to not only retain the singing voice that I achieved in my earlier years but to improve upon it.

Normally the singing voice deteriorates with age, but I never believed that this should be the case. I set about the task of selecting classical songs that I love and working on them continuously to hone them into my system.

The result is my beautiful compilation album *With All My Heart*. It is a collection of popular, theatrical and classical songs which show all sides of my art. My illustrious career includes being the singing voice for Peter O'Toole for the great song *The Impossible Dream* from the 1972 film *Man of La Mancha*. I was also the leading man to both Ginger Rogers in *Mame* and Cleo Lane in *Showboat*.

From 1987 until 2010 I toured extensively with my professional musical company, Spun Gold, performing successful concerts to leading theatres across the UK.

I am now choral director of The Enfield Community Singers, which in our eighth year has become a leading choir in borough. We have had many sell-out performances in churches, the Dugdale Centre, Forty Hall, and Millfield Theatre, where we supported The Opera Boys in 2017. Our extensive repertoire covers selections from all the musicals; the Dixie, Garland, Beatles, Sixties and Latin American eras; as well as music which covers all the seasons of the year! All of our concerts are free to enjoy, with collections for worthy causes.

Don't miss our next two brilliant concerts. The first will be a return to St Andrew's Church in Southgate on Saturday 30th March, with a show entitled *Spring Awakening*

— held in support of London Air Ambulance. The programme will include Rodgers and Hammerstein, the best of London's musicals, and a selection from *Les Miserables*, Gershwin and Gerome favourites, and of course some spring songs.

Then on Friday 5th April we join forces again with the popular local ladies' choir Bella Cora at the United Reform Church in Palmers Green to perform *All In The April Evening!* This will be to support the international humanitarian charity Medecins Sans Frontieres.

My unique album *With All My Heart* will be on sale at St Andrew's for £10. It comes to you with all my heart!

**For more information regarding Enfield Community Singers, future concerts, and Simon's album:**

**Call** 020 8360 7386  
**Email** [simon@letthepeopleliving.co.uk](mailto:simon@letthepeopleliving.co.uk)

## ADVERTISE WITH ENFIELD DISPATCH

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

**To enquire about advertising contact Ben Cawthra**  
**Call** 020 3892 0061  
**Email** [ben.cawthra@hackneycitizen.co.uk](mailto:ben.cawthra@hackneycitizen.co.uk)

# 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](mailto:enfielddispatch@socialspider.com) by Tuesday 19th March.

## FILM

### The Lives of Londoners

Thursday 21st March, 7pm  
Dugdale Centre, London Road,  
Enfield EN2 6DS

Kurt Barling spent three decades in BBC journalism. Working as the BBC's special London correspondent gave him fascinating insights into the transformation of the city. A special event for Talkies HERE Film Festival.

**£6.50 advance tickets**

**Visit** [talkies.org.uk/event/lives-of-londoners](http://talkies.org.uk/event/lives-of-londoners)

## WORKSHOP

### Enfield Writers Workshop

Fri 1st, 15th, 29th March, 8pm–10pm  
Salisbury House, Bury Street West,  
Enfield N9 9LA

Enfield Writers Workshop is a place where you can come and meet with other aspiring writers, with a chance to discuss your work in a friendly atmosphere. We cover all forms of writing.

**£3 (first meeting free)**

**Email** [james.holden@talk21.com](mailto:james.holden@talk21.com)

## EDUCATION

### From Page to Screen

Starts Monday 11th March, 7pm  
Enfield Baptist Church, Cecil Road,  
Enfield EN2 6TG

A five-week course with the Workers' Educational Association, exploring film adaptations.

**£10 per session**

**Call** 0300 303 3464

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

## MUSIC

### Music from the Black Barn presents Foo Fighterz

Saturday 9th March, 7.30pm–11pm  
Forty Hall Farm, Enfield EN2 9HA

Foo Fighterz are one of the UK's premier Foo Fighters tribute bands.

**£10 entry**

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

## SHOPPING

### The Nightingale Wedding Fair

Saturday 9th March, 11am–3pm  
The Nightingale Centre EN1 3JT

A wedding fair with a difference! Pre-loved, vintage and new wedding dresses and occasion wear, crockery hire service, plus meet with local suppliers for all your wedding needs.

**Free entry (inc. refreshments)**

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

## COFFEE

### Over-55s Ladies Friendly Group

Every Thursday, 7.15pm–9.15pm  
St Helier Hall, 12 Eastfield Road,  
Enfield EN3 5XF

Over 55s are welcome to join this ladies-friendly group for coffee, chat, games and guest speakers.

**Free entry**

**Call** 0208 363 6242

## OUTDOORS

### Tree Planting at Trent Park

Saturday 16th March, 10am–4pm  
Trent Park Café, Trent Park,  
Cockfosters Road EN4 0PS

Help leaf your country park! Thames21 has 1,350 trees to plant. Bring warm clothes, waterproofs and some lunch. Wellies, gloves and tools are provided.

**Visit** [thames21.org.uk/event/tree-planting-trent-park](http://thames21.org.uk/event/tree-planting-trent-park)

## SCIENCE

### Ministry of Science Live

Tuesday 19th March, 1pm & 6.30pm  
Millfield Theatre, Silver Street,  
Edmonton N18 1PJ

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## AROUND THE BOROUGH

### SOUTHGATE

## Hundreds of new homes planned



PLANS FOR 189 HOMES IN buildings up to 18 storeys tall have been proposed for Southgate town centre.

Viewpoint Estates wants to redevelop Southgate Office Village in Chase Road, which lies adjacent to Southgate Circus Conservation Area. The site is currently occupied by more than 30 local businesses but the plans include a new “modern business hub” that will accommodate the existing firms as well as provide “co-working space and opportunities

for local business start-ups”.

Three residential towers of up to 18 storeys are proposed, plus a new public space between Chase Road and Park Road leading to the footbridge over the Piccadilly Line railway.

An exhibition was hosted by Viewpoint Estates in February to allow local people to give their views on the scheme, with a planning application due to be submitted to Enfield Council this spring. It is understood that around 25% of the new homes will be designated

for ‘affordable’ shared ownership. Jane Maggs from Southgate District Civic Trust was one of those who attended the exhibition. She told the *Dispatch*: “We welcome the idea of a mixed development, particularly the focus on start-ups, but there does only seem to be two floors for businesses so there’s not as much space as you might think. “The highest tower is 18 storeys and will be completely out-of-keeping with Southgate.”

Viewpoint Estates is a consortium of Southgate-based business people which has run Southgate Office Village for nearly ten years. The company claims eight out of ten people who filled in feedback forms at last month’s exhibition expressed support for its redevelopment plans. Stephanos Ioannou, a Southgate ward councillor, said: “I am deeply concerned. These blocks are not only too high and don’t keep with the area’s character, but they shadow nearby roads and raise privacy concerns. I think the developers will have to go back to the drawing board.”

### WINCHMORE HILL

## Outrage over river rubbish

HUGE PILES OF HOUSEHOLD waste including fridges, chairs, tables and doors have lain untouched next to the New River for several weeks.

The fly-tipped rubbish was dumped by the waterway near Ridge Avenue. In mid-February Enfield Council ordered Thames Water to remove the eyesore within 14 days, but it was still there as the *Dispatch* went to press at the end of the month.

Helen Osman, who runs local website N21online.com, said: “It is apparent that the persons unknown who are dumping builders’ waste and other detritus are still adding to the piles. How do you solve this anti-social behaviour without denying people access to public space such as this lovely tow path walk? This is the second major fly-tipping incident inflicted on N21 in the last three months.”

A spokesperson for Thames Water said: “We’re arranging for the rubbish to be removed as soon as possible.”

### WORLD'S END

## Botched repairs

THAMES WATER HAS BEEN ordered to pay £85,000 in fines for carrying out sub-standard repairs.

Enfield Council took action after botched water main repairs in Slades Hill caused disruption for residents during the new year period. A few hours after initial repairs, the road began to deteriorate, forcing cars to swerve dangerously around it.

In court Thames Water was found to have broken the law by failing to reinstate the road properly at Slades Hill and three other roads in Enfield. Guney Dogan, cabinet member for environment, said: “We expect companies carrying out roadworks to do so efficiently, safely, to required standards and in accordance with law.”

### GORDON HILL

## Appeal to help disabled boy

A MUM IS APPEALING FOR HELP to keep her three-year-old child safe.

Laura Parker’s son Christopher wakes up bloodied and bruised from banging his head every night. A chromosome disorder means he can’t speak, is unsteady on his feet, and has no awareness of danger.

Laura and husband James turned to disabled children’s charity Newlife to help raise the £2,500 they need to buy a specialist bed with high sides and padding. Laura said: “Christopher bangs his head on any hard surface he can find until it bleeds and will also bite himself. His behaviour is caused by his condition and frustration. The council said he couldn’t be assessed until he is five.”

The council has since pledged to help Christopher. A spokesperson said: “Enfield Council is committed to supporting disabled children and would not expect any family to wait two years for an assessment. We will ensure Christopher receives the equipment he needs and clarify how this misunderstanding arose.” Visit [newlife.support/HelpChristopher](http://newlife.support/HelpChristopher)

### PALMERS GREEN

## Theatre row deepens

ST MONICA’S CHURCH HAS refused to drop its plans to demolish Intimate Theatre despite more than 4,000 people signing a petition against it.

The church announced plans last autumn to build a new parish centre on the site of the venue, also known as St Monica’s Large Hall, in Green Lanes. The 88-year-old repertory theatre hosted the first-ever play broadcast live on television, with Richard Attenborough and Roger Moore among actors to have performed there. In a statement, Father Mehall Lowry

said: “Use by theatre groups has represented about 20% of total usage over recent years. It is unfortunate some groups have misunderstood the function of the large hall and have created the perception it is a theatre, which it is not.

“The large hall does not meet current, let alone future, needs. The parish community needs an

accessible, flexible, multi-function building near the church where all parish

activities can take place. While not an easy decision, we believe the only way we can achieve this is to create a new building on the current site.”

Intimate Theatre is currently on the Theatres Trust’s ‘at risk’ register. The church is in talks with Enfield Council prior to submitting a planning application.

***"It doesn't meet our needs"***

### BUSH HILL PARK

## Take your litter-pick



THE FRIENDS OF BUSH HILL PARK are keeping their local green space free of rubbish through regular community litter-picks.

Twelve large sacks were filled during the group’s second litter-pick event of the year. George Spicer School also donated some extra pickers to help. Carole Stanley, the group’s co-chair, said: “The idea came from a local

dad who was looking for something positive to do with his children on a Sunday morning. The additional litter pickers will come in handy now these events are becoming so popular. People are noticing how much tidier the park is looking – that’s what makes it worthwhile.”

The next community litter pick is at 10am on Sunday 10th March.



# Cup final beckons for Towners

Big game ahead after Enfield win through semi-final penalties

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

It may not have the glamour of the Champions League or the prestige of the FA Cup but there is a genuine buzz of excitement among fans of Enfield Town as the club prepares for its very own cup final.

Next month the Towners bid for arguably their most important piece of silverware since the club was formed 18 years ago. They will contest the final of the Velocity Trophy, otherwise known as the Isthmian League Cup, against AFC Hornchurch on 10th April.

While a play-off place at the end of the season is the undoubted priority, picking up a trophy ranks as a close second, especially after the disappointment of three seasons ago when the club were beaten in the final of the Middlesex Senior Cup, the second time in the competition that they

had fallen at the last hurdle.

The Velocity Cup Final will be contested on neutral ground at Aveley in Essex and promises to be a tight affair between two evenly-matched teams, although Hornchurch have fared better in the two league meetings between the sides this season, snatching a 2-2 draw back in August and then winning the return fixture 2-0 in February.

But cup games are one-off affairs and if omens are anything to go by, Enfield can be optimistic about their chances – and in particular who might score their goals. This will be the third-straight cup final for Towners striker Billy Bricknell who, remarkably, scored hattricks in the last two for his previous club Billericay.

For Enfield chairman Paul Reed, the prospect of picking up £3,000 in prize money for winning the trophy (or £1,500 as runners-up) cannot be

over-estimated. At non-league level, every penny spent has to be wisely accounted for. After disappointing early exits in both the FA Cup and FA Trophy this season, getting to the Velocity Cup Final will bring in vital revenue.

“It may not seem much on paper but it’s the sort of money that probably constitutes around 20% of our shirt sponsorship,” Paul explained. “To put it into context, it’s the equivalent, say, of £2million prize money to a Premier League club with a £10m shirt sponsorship deal. “We’d probably have to sell ten advertising boards around the pitch for this kind of money, or the equivalent of all our programme adverts.”

But it’s not just about the cash. “We’ve not been in a cup final of this magnitude for several years and it’s reward for the hard work of the management team,” adds

Josh Davison celebrates scoring for Town in the 3-3 Velocity Trophy semi-final against Bishop's Stortford, which Enfield eventually won on penalties

Credit Tom Scott



Paul. “We had a terrible record at the old Aveley ground but it’s our first-ever visit to their new ground, so hopefully our luck will change.

“You don’t get many chances to win something and if we can do it, it will boost confidence for the rest of the season.”

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