

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 7 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson (centre) helped Enfield's Women into Leadership Board celebrate International Women's Day with a conference highlighting female leaders in the public sector. The gold medal-winning Paralympian was one of a number of inspirational speakers for the event held at Trent Park Country Club last month.

Youth services slashed since riots

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Cuts to youth services in Enfield since the 2011 riots have been more severe than in almost any other London borough, new figures reveal. A report by a member of the London Assembly highlighted that 104 youth centres had closed across the capital over the last eight years. Enfield Council was shown to have slashed its spending on youth services by 88% – from £3.5million in 2011-12 to £411,444 in 2018-19.

Although four of London's 32 boroughs did not provide data for the report, of those listed only Westminster

had cut youth service funding at a faster rate and only Hillingdon and Tower Hamlets had reduced their total spend by a higher amount over the same period. Just three London boroughs reported spending less on youth services than Enfield.

While the council does continue to run five youth centres across the borough, other services for young people such as after-school clubs, summer holiday courses, skills training and careers advice have been cut in recent years.

In the 2019-20 budget agreed by the council in February, further cuts of £18m across all services were agreed, including a £40,000 reduction in

spending on the borough's youth offending unit and a £50,000 cut to children's services staff.

Green Party co-leader Sian Berry, who wrote the damning report *London's Lost Youth Services*, said: "This issue means so much more than figures on a budget spreadsheet. Our young people are in crisis – they have lost places to hang out, lost trusted youth workers to help when they face problems in their lives, and lost training and mentoring to guide them to reach their fullest potential.

"Government ministers can't keep brushing off their responsibility to young people and expect squeezed councils to manage on crumbs. They

and the mayor must find new ways to fill this funding black hole."

A council spokesperson said: "Enfield Council has been forced to save £178m since 2010 because of reductions in government funding and pressure on services. A key priority is providing services young people need. Despite substantial savings, none of the borough's seven youth centres [five council-run and two independent] have been closed. There are also over 200 voluntary sector providers in the borough providing youth activities. We have invested additional money this year to provide a number of programmes for young people."



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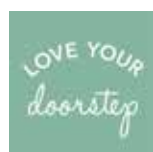
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Enfield ranks highly for poverty

BY KATE OGELSBY,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Enfield borough has the highest number of private renters claiming housing benefit in London, a new report has revealed. Research on poverty by the Smith Institute, a public policy think tank, revealed that 8% of all housing benefit claims made by the capital's private renters are in Enfield, ahead of neighbouring Barnet on 7%. Housing benefit claims are said to closely correlate with poverty rates.

The report – *The Unspoken Decline of Outer London* – noted that Enfield has the third-highest number of people

that are low paid out of all London boroughs, with 18% of people falling into this category.

A spokesperson for Enfield Council said: "Enfield is a place of great opportunity and the council has geared up to take as much direct control as possible to secure a future where all existing residents can prosper.

"There is no doubt that Enfield has high levels of poverty – especially in the eastern part of the borough, and with a high proportion of residents living in the private rented sector.

"In common with many other parts of the country, we have a shortage of affordable housing, but we are committed to tackling that issue and our 'Good

Growth' housing strategy is putting the development of a wider range of affordable housing products for existing residents at the centre of our plans."

Across outer London, 1.4 million people are living in poverty. Between 2011 and 2018 the number of people claiming housing benefit in outer boroughs increased by 17% – while that figure fell by 13% across inner London. Enfield has more than 30,000 housing benefit claimants in total – more than Hull, Newcastle and Leicester.

The Smith Institute report also found that low pay is more common in outer London boroughs and unemployment is greater in outer rather than inner London – 159,000 versus 105,000.

Crime patrol launched

Parents take action following spate of thefts



The first crime patrol took place in March

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Parents concerned for the safety of their children have started a community crime patrol to deter thieves.

It comes after a series of muggings in and around Enfield Town, deliberately targeting schoolchildren on their way home, prompted the headteacher of Enfield Grammar School to issue a warning to parents. The 'Enfield Says No To Crime' campaign was launched in February by Love Your Doorstep founder Emma Rigby, whose son is a pupil at the school. With support from local police officers and business leaders in the town centre, the first community patrols began in March.

Emma told the *Dispatch*: "They were being targeted because they

are children. There are other kids coming into Enfield Town from outside the borough, they are befriending kids here and then taking their money and their phones. "One of them was even kidnapped from Southbury Road by four guys in balaclavas and driven around in a car while they took his stuff."

A meeting between Emma, Enfield Grammar School headteacher Chris Lamb, town centre manager Mark Rudling, and Metropolitan Police representatives, took place at the end of February. It was decided to launch community patrols – with trained volunteers in hi-vis vests working shifts to coincide with the start and end of the school day, as well as at lunchtime.

Emma said: "We are not vigilantes, we are extra eyes and ears for the police. Similar patrols have been set

up around the UK and they have been getting huge support.

"We are trying to create a bigger adult presence on the street. It will hopefully deter this crime against young people. If people start to see us out and about the children will feel there is a sense of community, instead of feeling isolated."

Emma said she felt compelled to act when her 11-year-old son Jackson asked her whether he would "get through school alive".

She added: "My long-term vision is, if there is a major crisis in our borough, to have a team of people we can call on at the touch of a button."

More than 100 people have so far signed up to join the community patrol. The first shift hit the streets around Enfield Town centre, where children from several different schools pass through on their way home, on Monday 11th March. Emma said that two muggings were prevented on just the first day.

A crowdfunder has been launched to help fund the cost of running the campaign, which is currently being funded by Love Your Doorstep. Patrols for other parts of the borough could also be set up in future.

For more information about the Enfield Says No To Crime campaign and to get involved:

Email communitypatrol@loveyourdoorstep.co.uk

Visit enfield.loveyourdoorstep.co.uk/blog/community-coming-together-tackle-crime

Gang crime cash award

Enfield Council has been awarded nearly half-a-million pounds to help turn children away from gangs and crime.

The award of £492,691 from the government is a share of a £9.5million fund called Supporting Families Against Youth Crime (SFAYC), which will be divided among community projects in 21 areas said to be vulnerable to knife crime and gang culture.

The council says it will use the money to create a school-based initiative in four primary schools, where measures will be introduced to prevent any escalation into serious violence and criminal activity in the period before children start secondary school. It will include mentoring, group work activities, and co-ordinated support for families.

Councillor Achilleas Georgiou, cabinet member for children's services, said: "The additional funding will allow us to put an emphasis on early intervention programmes."

Top care

Adult social care services in Enfield have been ranked among the best in the country.

Rankings compiled by Impower, a social consultancy firm, placed Enfield Council's service as the eighth best in the country, and fourth best in London, after it was said to have made "very significant improvements in productivity".

Councillor Alev Cazimoglu, cabinet member for health and social care, said: "Enfield Council's adult social care provision is effective and makes a real difference in the lives of the residents it supports.

"This result is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our tremendous social care workforce who do an incredibly difficult job under challenging circumstances but who never lose sight of the fact that the client always comes first."

Correction

In the March edition (*Teachers strike over academy plans*, Page 1, Issue 6) our report stated that Enfield Council was supporting a strike by teachers opposed to the academisation of Galliard Primary School in Edmonton. However, while the council leader has offered her own personal support to the strikers, this is not official council policy.

Mayor funds £6m revamp of Enfield Town

Reducing car use and improving environment are key aims



An artist's impression of how a revamped Market Square could look

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Town is set to be “transformed” after the Mayor of London awarded the council £6million to improve public spaces and make the town centre more accessible. Enfield Council is now set to enter talks with business owners and local groups over ways to attract more shoppers to the area and help boost trade, with no firm plans having yet been made.

The money has been awarded to the council under Transport for London's 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' fund, which rewards

schemes that make town centres “cleaner, greener, and more pleasant places to live”. It is expected to focus on improving Market Square, the area outside Enfield Town Station, and reducing car use along Church Street. There have been growing concerns over the fate of Enfield Town with residents, businesses and councillors calling on the local authority to do more to reduce the number of empty shops. Council leader Nesil Caliskan told the *Dispatch*: “We want to connect

the town centre. One of the big issues is the public realm. When you come out of the station at Enfield Town and you try to cross the road, it takes ages. That whole area could be improved.

“We want to keep the market at the heart of any improvements we make. If we are honest, it is not reaching its full potential. The town is looking a bit drab and it is a tough time for local businesses. “These need to be nice places

“We need to make Enfield Town the destination it once was”

people want to hang out and spend their time.”

Chris Theodoulou, vice chair of Enfield Town Business Association, welcomed the TfL grant. He told the *Dispatch*: “We would like to be involved in the discussions before any consultation and we are in dialogue with the council leader and that is a good thing. She seems to understand what we are putting forward.

“We want to see it spent on events and making the street scene better

– Christmas lights, markets, Library Green having a flow of things going on so you can bring families to the area. We need to make Enfield Town the destination it once was – we need families.”

The council will also enter into talks with Deutsche Bank – which over the last two years has purchased both the Palace Gardens and Palace Exchange shopping centres – with a view to improving accessibility.

Creating an evening economy in Enfield Town is another aim.

However, one idea has been ruled out. Cllr Caliskan said: “In the past there

have been suggestions of pedestrianisation but that is not what we are thinking about with this.”

Earlier plans for a revamp drawn up as part of the £30m Cycle Enfield scheme were ditched after negative feedback. But while revamped road junctions and segregated cycle routes could now be taken forward, Cllr Caliskan said: “This money is about regenerating the town centre and cycle lanes alone won't do that.”

Land sales help plug budget gaps

Investigation reveals how local authorities are selling-off public assets to fund services

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

More than £22million-worth of property and land in Enfield has been sold to help fund public services – and make up for losses in central government funding.

As part of an investigation led by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ), the *Dispatch* can reveal that Enfield Council is one of dozens of local authorities that has taken advantage of a new law that allows them to spend money raised from asset sales on

money-saving schemes – including redundancies.

The news comes a few days after a further cut of £18m to local services was agreed by councillors, bringing the total cuts made in Enfield over the last decade to



Land at Chase Farm Hospital – seen here following its recent redevelopment – was sold by Enfield Council for £6.5m

£178m – cuts blamed by the Labour-run council on falling grant funding under various Conservative-led governments since 2010.

To help mitigate these losses in funding, since the 2016-17 financial year the government has allowed local authorities such as Enfield Council to use capital asset sales to fund so-called “transformation” projects that will help them save money in the long-term, such as projects investing in new technology. Previous to this, councils could only use money raised from asset sales to fund investment in new or existing property.

Among 18 properties sold by the council since this new rule was introduced is land at Chase Farm Hospital, sold to the government for £6,457,134 as part of the hospital's redevelopment, and two former care homes – Bridge House and Coppice Wood House – sold for £3.8m and £5.75m to residential developers.

Projects funded by the council using ‘flexible capital receipts’ includes a review of care packages for people with physical disabilities, contract and commissioning reviews, a project to reduce the costs of provision for looked-after children, a managerial restructure, and a new database for children with special needs to help “offset the cut in the educational support grant”.

The total spending by Enfield Council using flexible capital receipts, including both past and planned spending for the year ahead, is £22,727,952. At least £3m was spent on making redundancies, according to data revealed under Freedom of Information laws – understood to be enough to fund around 200 job losses.

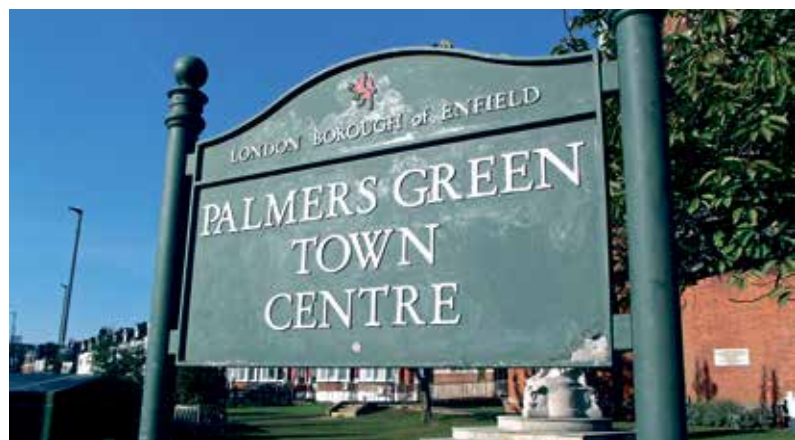
The council did not provide a statement but clarified that flexible capital receipts have only been spent within the guidelines set out by government, and that for the upcoming 2019-20 financial year it planned to spend significantly less than in previous years.

Read more from the Sold From Under You investigation by BIJ:

Visit thebureauinvestigates.com

The clean team

New group of volunteers taking action in Palmers Green



BY DANA BURSTOW

Do you think Palmers Green could look more attractive? Would you like to take part in a fun community event to help make it happen?

If so, come along and join in with our Spring Clean Palmers Green event next

month! Volunteers will be meeting at 10am on Saturday 11th May at the Triangle, in the centre of Palmers Green, to take part in an event organised by the Palmers Green Action Team.

Palmers Green Action Team is a new, local volunteer group who are looking at ways to improve the area. For this event, they are working with

the charity Cleanup UK, the Scouts, Enfield Council, Green Lanes Business Association, as well as other local businesses. Anthony Webb Estate Agents are kindly sponsoring the event.

The action team aims to mobilise the community to pull together, so everybody is welcome to come along, even for a short time. Businesses are taking the opportunity to refresh their shopfronts, the council will be jet-washing the pavements, and volunteers will be removing graffiti, stickers, weeding, planting, and litter-picking. Cleaning kits will be supplied and Papa Johns will be rewarding volunteers with free pizza!

There will be an opportunity to get creative too – using the spring theme. The group will be decorating shop windows with flowers, which anyone can come and create. Arts materials will be available. Sodexo,

which manages the job centre, and Boots, are both looking at what they can do to spruce up their buildings.

Dominvs, the developer of the Fox Pub, has kindly given the Palmers Green Action Team access to the vacant hairdresser's shop next door. The group is running an exhibition, competition, and survey about the high street. Do go in, have a look, and take part, whether or not you are spring cleaning.

The Palmers Green Action Team would love to hear from you if you would like to get involved or just want to find out what they are doing.

For more information about the Palmers Green Action Team:

Email palmersgreenactionteam@gmail.com

Facebook / [palmersgreenactionteam](https://www.facebook.com/palmersgreenactionteam)

Twitter @pgactionteam

Working with schools to end youth violence

For the public and police alike the number one priority at the moment is tackling youth violence, especially stopping youngsters from joining gangs and carrying knives in the first place.

It is evident that teachers are potentially some of the first people in a position to notice the signs and behaviours associated with gang membership and the slide into knife crime, but after consulting with headteachers in Enfield I realised that teachers did not necessarily know what to look for.

Schools themselves identified that training was necessary for their staff development and pastoral care, so I decided to organise – at no cost to the schools – a series of training days where the police and partners, including trauma leaders from North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust and Enfield Council, would take teachers and safeguarding staff through real scenarios concerned with knife crime, gangs, responses to serious incidents, and 'county lines'. We also welcomed Yvonne Lawson, from the local youth charity Godwin Lawson Foundation, to join our training panel. Yvonne's son Godwin, from Enfield, was stabbed to death in 2010.

We have so far run training events at three London schools, including Suffolks Primary School in Enfield, although the audience always



BY INSPECTOR PAUL DWYER

A recent police training event led by Inspector Paul Dwyer

consists of staff from many schools across North London. I'm glad to say that the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

The headteacher of Suffolks, Andrea Cassius, said: "My teaching staff are now much more aware of what signs to look out for in relation to gang association."

That is exactly what I wanted to hear when I began to organise this project. More training events are being planned and the next ones will be at schools in Haringey, but I can share with you that the demand is high for many more after that and I hope every school in Enfield will eventually participate.

Ultimately what I am hoping to

achieve is a real increase in joint-working between the parties that can be mobilised to tackle youth violence. We want to increase the referrals to relevant agencies, be they police, local authorities, NHS practitioners, mental health partners, family support workers, or others – so we can all help young people alter their behaviour.

Get crafty

BY NICOLINA MARRA & STACEY ANNE BAGDI

The Monday Mindful Arts Café has continued to grow in popularity since its first session was held in the foyer of the Dugdale Centre at the beginning of the year.

It takes place every first and third Monday of the month and is a joint partnership with the Museum of Enfield and ArtStop, run by local artist Lisa Howes.

The Museum of Enfield wanted to provide art sessions in an informal and relaxed setting where anyone could learn new craft techniques, regardless of age or previous experience. It also provides a good opportunity for attendees to share their ideas with others in the group and socialise in a relaxing environment.

In recent months the group has focused on developing their creativity through paper cutting, working with oil pastels and drawing on inspirations from modern artists. Because of its increasing popularity, a timetable of events is being devised for further twice-monthly sessions through until December.

All materials are included in the cost of sessions (£6 per person), which also includes a 10% discount voucher for the Dugdale café during the workshop.

In terms of the benefits of practising craft and mindfulness, the feedback received has been positive. Participants have praised the calm setting and approach of the session, with others commenting on the relaxation they felt as they concentrated their efforts on completing their artwork. Many appreciated sharing ideas with others and listening to the live piano music being played in the background. Around half of the participants had no previous experience in craft, or had not attended an art class since attending lessons during secondary school.

Forthcoming Monday Mindful Arts Café sessions which can be found on the Dugdale website – in April they take place on Monday 1st (stitch a lavender sachet) and Monday 15th (maps of Enfield in colour).

For more information on the Monday Mindful Arts Café:

Visit dugdalecentre.co.uk/whats-on

Resourceful connections

Boosting confidence and motivation in homeless people

BY ANDREW GURR

Dr Jo-Ann Rowland,
director of the Homeless
Resource Centre



The Homeless Resource Centre (HRC) has tackled homelessness in Enfield through innovative means over the past two decades, helping those in need to

get back on their feet by providing them with vital employability skills and further personal development. Based at Angel Road Community Centre in Edmonton, HRC is a

grant-funded small charity which offers a friendly drop-in day centre to single homeless persons. It's here that service users can access IT and employability skills training, counsel-

ling, housing advocacy, food and drink, as well as signposting to further support agencies such as drug and alcohol clinics, GP surgeries, and job centres.

HRC director Dr Jo-Ann Rowland says the purpose of the organisation is to restore confidence and motivation to homeless people, as well as combat social and economic exclusion which prevents them from participating in the labour market.

Dr Rowland explains: "We believe that HRC is unique in its service provision in the borough, by looking at the holistic needs of each homeless person and applying specific interventions which improves the wellbeing of that individual.

As a key partner of Enfield Connections, a local information and advice service commissioned by Enfield Council, HRC can provide assistance to single homeless people who are referred to them.

"Working with Enfield Connections, we are able to strengthen socially-excluded members of the community

who come to us," says Dr Rowland. "We are also able to provide information, advice and signposting to help our service users navigate life events and support their unique circumstances."

As for the future, one of HRC's aims is to restart this employability training programme, which was successful in the past and now requires a part-time trainer.

Dr Rowland wishes to thank the HRC's management committee for their guidance over the last 19 years: "As director I am truly grateful for all their encouragement and support to the centre.

"Here at HRC we would also like to thank our funders who have contributed to our sustainability over the years, which has benefited our service users."

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Labour group awaits judgement



The Labour cabinet led by Nesil Caliskan (fifth from right) is the key decision-making body at Enfield Council

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

The Labour group on Enfield Council is due to find out this month whether it will face disciplinary action over the handling of its selection process for last year's local elections.

There has been growing unrest and division within the group

since the election last May and the subsequent leadership ballot which led to former leader Doug Taylor being replaced by Nesil Caliskan.

Last month the Labour Party's regional director sat in on a meeting of Enfield Labour group following concerns raised about the level of "aggressive" behaviour and infighting between members.

Labour councillors, including some of Cllr Caliskan's own cabinet, made complaints to the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) last summer to call for an investigation into the way the 2018 selection process was conducted. It was alleged that a number of de-selections of sitting councillors, prior to the May vote, had

been co-ordinated to help oust Cllr Taylor following the election.

The *Dispatch* now understands that Labour's NEC is due to pass judgement on the affair shortly – although the party's ruling body does not intend to make its conclusions public.

Responding to false reports last month that the Labour group had itself been suspended, Cllr Caliskan said: "The Labour group has not been suspended. I have asked for the Labour Party regional director to be present [at group meetings] because in recent weeks a number of our BME [black and minority ethnic] councillors, including myself, have been concerned about the intimidatory behaviour towards us.

"In addition, some councillors have raised concerns about the aggressive behaviour of those who attend our Labour group meetings who are not councillors."

Preacher arrest probe

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

The arrest of a Christian street preacher outside Southgate Underground Station has prompted an investigation into the conduct of police officers and a debate about freedom of speech.

Pastor Oluwale Ilesanmi was arrested on Saturday 23rd February after police received a call claiming that he was using Islamophobic language. A video of the arrest uploaded to YouTube showed police officers handcuffing the man and taking away his bible. He was then driven away and 'de-arrested' before being released without any further action being taken.

Following a complaint to the Metropolitan Police, an internal investigation was launched into the conduct of the police officers who made the arrest and is still ongoing. Acting Superintendent Neil Billany, from the North Area Command Unit, said: "The Met respects and upholds the rights of all individuals to practice freedom of speech, and this includes street preachers of all religions and backgrounds.

"However, if the language someone uses is perceived as being a potential hate crime, it is only right that we investigate. That is the role of the police, even if a decision is subsequently made that their actions are not criminal. In this case, it was deemed appropriate to remove the man from the area."

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan was subsequently quizzed on the incident at Mayor's Question Time in March. The mayor declined to comment on the specific incident because of the ongoing investigation, but said: "While freedom of speech should be protected the police must also be able to investigate a complaint. Officers have to strike a difficult balance on this issue, often in complex circumstances.

"The law should be applied equally to all Londoners regardless of background and beliefs."

London Assembly member David Kurten also asked the mayor if street preachers were able to read passages from the Bible without fear of arrest. Mayor Khan said: "The challenge the police have is that this behaviour can lead to public order concerns. There is not an unlimited right to freedom of speech."

Now's your chance

Residents can turn their creative ideas on making Enfield a better place to live into reality thanks to a new community grants scheme.

Enfield Now is an Enfield Council project giving away £50,000 to local groups or people who want to improve their neighbourhood. In partnership with crowdfunding platform Spacehive, Enfield Now can match-fund up to 50% of the cost of implementing someone's idea, with a maximum of £5,000 available per project. The deadline for submissions is 22nd April.

Nesil Caliskan, the council leader, said: "Enfield Now is about empowering people to creatively develop and support projects that will enhance our towns, parks and communal spaces. We ask that they are fun, exciting, accessible, promote volunteering, boost quality of life, and enhance the local economy."

For more information on Enfield Now: Visit spacehive.com/movement/enfieldnow



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Myra Schneider in
Arnos Park, close
to where she lives

Photo Ana M Wiggins

Poetry in motion

Poet Myra Schneider talks to Basil Clarke about the inspiration for her poetry and about her new book *Lifting the Sky*

Among the highlights of Enfield's cultural calendar are the twice-yearly poetry readings held in Palmers Green.

The spring 2019 reading on 27th April will include the North London launch of a new collection by Myra Schneider, a founding member of the Poetry in Palmers Green group and a poet renowned for her ability to find deep meaning in everyday experiences and balances despair at the state of the world with humour and hope gained from personal experience.

I met Myra in her house overlooking Arnos Park, where she has lived since 1965. "I love nature," she says. "I grew up on the edge of the moors in Scotland and I miss the countryside."

"Arnos Park is my countryside now, I walk there every day, and a lot of my poems are set against the park."

Myra had been writing poetry since her teenage years when, in around

1960, she was invited to join a group of well-known poets. However, they were "very precious and male-orientated" and this, she said, "put me off writing poetry for quite a long time". Instead she started to write novels.

The books were written for children, drawing on Myra's experience of bringing up a child and later working at a day centre on the Grahame Park Estate in Colindale, where her difficult but rewarding tasks included teaching deaf people.

Myra returned to poetry when Margaret Thatcher arrived in Downing Street and cut funding for libraries, cancelling novels designed to encourage teenagers to read. Her first collection of poetry, *Fistful of Yellow Hope*, was published in 1984.

I ask Myra what writing poetry

means for her. She says: "I do it because I'm a compulsive writer. I think it's a way to make sense of life, to give meaning to life, so to me poetry is deeply spiritual."

"That doesn't mean it has to be serious and heavy. Humour can be useful in making a serious point –

"I think it's a way to make sense of life, to give meaning to life"

it can drive things without people noticing what has happened.

"Sound is important in poetry. The strict formal rules and metric writing have largely gone – that's fine – but you must have some sort of form, some sort of music, some sort of rhythm. A lot of poetry isn't doing that, or it may be obscure, and I think poetry should be understandable.

"Otherwise we lose a poetry audience, which is a shame – I don't think poetry is only for people who write it."

Myra's new book is *Lifting the Sky*, named after a Qigong exercise. The theme is survival. In the last and longest poem – *Edge* – the first-person narrator goes through a period of intense depression and breakdown but eventually emerges renewed. It is fictional, but draws on Myra's own spell of serious depression.

Narrative poems are a feature of Myra's collections, perhaps reflecting her earlier novel-writing phase. Sometimes they re-envision legends; in her version of the Minotaur legend the story is turned on its head.

"The theme is not belonging, being a misfit, mistaken reputations. In my version Theseus is a villain and the Minotaur isn't."

I ask Myra about the Palmers Green Bookshop and the origins of Poetry in Palmers Green.

"Joanna Cameron managed the bookshop and put on poetry readings – she made it very much a social centre. When it closed she and I and Katherine Gallagher started Poetry in Palmers Green. We had readings in Palmers Green United Reformed Church, then in St John's Church and now in St John's Parish Centre.

"We have two main readings a year, with five poets, and music by the Helios Consort. Audiences find us very friendly, and the poets go away and tell their friends what lovely events they are.

"We also run workshops and occasional readings in Palmers Green Library where we are poets in residence."

Myra Schneider performs on Saturday April 27th at St John's Parish Centre. For more information: Visit facebook.com/PoetryinPalmersGreen

New cycle lanes in Enfield potentially bring pedestrians boarding buses into conflict with cyclists



These bus stops are discriminatory

The president of a charity for blind people is highly critical of new cycling infrastructure in Enfield

BY ANDREW HODGSON

The National Federation of the Blind UK (NFBUK) is concerned that councils are ignoring their obligations under equality law and designing road layouts to make towns less accessible to blind people.

We have visited several areas recently where planners have clearly not considered the needs of blind and disabled people. The Mini Holland cycle lane schemes funded by Transport for London (TfL) have created real distress. In Enfield, bus bypass and 'Copenhagen' shared-use bus stops have been introduced, which force passengers to cross cycle lanes to board their bus – especially dangerous for those who are blind.

Research in Denmark revealed that bus stop boarders present a particular hazard for all pedestrians; their introduction led to an increase in collisions with passengers from five to 73 – a 1,725% increase in collision rates on what had been expected.

NFBUK has regularly pointed out the dangers of boarder bus stops

for all passengers, but especially blind people. Bus stop bypasses – also known as 'floating' or 'island' bus stops – present dangers as well. After years of complaint about bus stop bypasses, TfL commissioned the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) to investigate how to improve safety. Their report last year recommended that zebra crossings be installed at all such bus stops,

“Designs must enhance and safeguard the independent mobility of disabled and vulnerable pedestrians”

although TRL found little improvement in the numbers of cyclists who stopped for pedestrians after zebra crossings were added.

Other recent changes to road layouts have brought particular dangers for blind people. At some places in Enfield, pedestrians have to cross the cycle lane first before they reach crossing controls or get on or off a bus. NFBUK's shared space co-ordinator Sarah Gayton said she was “shocked” at what she saw in Enfield and that bus stops which

put pedestrians and cyclists in the same place at the same time were “inherently dangerous”.

If the needs of blind and disabled people had been properly taken into account in designing Enfield's Mini Holland, we would not have ended up with this dangerous and discriminatory scheme. It is for this reason that we have recently supported a petition, organised by Enfield residents and submitted to the government, asking for a strengthening of the law relating to Equality Impact Assessments. If these administrations had properly fulfilled their duties in this regard we would not be having to fight such discriminatory schemes now.

NFBUK recognises the value of attempting to encourage more active transport. However, designs must enhance and safeguard the independent mobility of disabled and vulnerable pedestrians and their safe access on and off of transport, as well as ensuring the safety of cyclists. We are happy to engage with design teams to ensure future changes take the needs of all pedestrians into account.

Public services should be publicly run

In our latest councillor's column, Southgate Green ward member Claire Stewart calls for an end to austerity

At two years old, my family took me on marches against Margaret Thatcher and her policies. For as long as I can remember I have been part of the Trade Union movement, fighting for workers' rights and for decent and reliable public services. After nine years in the Labour Party, I am now part

of a Labour administration in Enfield taking radical steps to make this happen.

I have represented Southgate Green ward since 2014. The needs in the north of the ward differ hugely from the south. The last ten years of austerity have hit most people hard, but they've hit the hardest in the southern part of the ward, where the need for public services and support from our council is highest.



Cllr Stewart has represented Southgate Green ward since 2014

The threads that make up the fabric of our society are being snapped, one by one, by the acute austerity inflicted on our public services by the government. Local government is the last line of defence for our residents. That's why Enfield Council needs to take control of our public services – insourcing wherever we can.

Outsourcing is privatisation in everything but name. It damages our public services and workers' rights. If a private company wants to make profits from public money by cutting corners and exploiting workers, it will. Slashing wages to poverty pay, imposing zero-hour contracts, and removing sick pay, are typical effects of outsourcing.

In Enfield, we say that public money should be in public hands. We are making this a reality. The council is investing £500,000 in recruiting staff to Enfield's social housing repairs team and has brought our special educational needs (SEN) transport service in-house after the private contractor went into administration.

From a young age I was shown the damage of Thatcher's policies. This damage has lasted for decades. Now the sea change we need in Enfield against an individualistic, neo-liberal ideology is beginning. By keeping public money in public hands under Labour's watch, we can bring forward a programme of municipal socialism for the many in Enfield.

Cllr Stewart is one of three councillors representing Southgate Green, along with Daniel Anderson and Anne Brown (all Labour). A roving surgery is held on an appointment-only basis:

Call 020 8379 2852

Email claire.stewart@enfield.gov.uk

Our vision for Enfield Town

As council wins £6m to revamp town centre, independent campaign group Better Streets for Enfield sets out its stall



Church Street in Enfield Town is currently dominated by traffic

BY CLARE ROGERS

While we know very little about Enfield Council's new 'Liveable Neighbourhood' scheme, we welcome their stated aim to reduce the impact of motor traffic on pedestrians shopping in the town centre – and we hope this will also boost the local economy.

It will be vital that the scheme reduces traffic volume and speed on Church Street, as well as delivering better crossings. As long as Church Street stays dominated by loads of fast-moving cars cutting through the town without stopping, shops will suffer and so will Enfield Town.

We think in the medium term, the best answer will be to remove the one-way system – as many town centres are doing around the country – routing through

traffic instead via a two-way Cecil Road. That would give Church Street back to pedestrians, bikes and buses, making it truly people-friendly, boosting incomes for local shops and reviving the nighttime economy.

As a way of experimenting with this idea and bringing local people

And if the trials prove popular enough, they could be the basis for drawing up transformational plans for the town centre that the public are likely to approve.

We hope that as young people – who overwhelmingly support bold schemes like this – grow older, and as this and other Cycle Enfield

schemes mature, residents' fears will be allayed and we will see more steps to make the town better. Given the inactivity crisis, latest statistics on air pollution, and the

United Nations report on climate change, future generations will not thank us for anything less than bold action now.

This is our vision – and we look forward to working with the council, businesses, and other residents to come up with the best possible plans for a thriving and people-friendly town centre.

“The best answer will be to remove the one-way system”

along, why not hold a series of monthly car-free Saturdays or Sundays on Church Street, so people can experience it for themselves? Various temporary traffic arrangements could be trialled at the same time.

If these events boost high street income through extra footfall, that will reassure local businesses.

LETTERS

Send us your letters

Got an opinion on something in Enfield? We accept letters of up to 200 words. Email EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com before Tuesday 16th April.

Green groups are NIMBYs

Dear Enfield Dispatch

In last month's article on the Green Belt (*Green groups slam council homes plan*, Page 5, Issue 6) Alice Roberts from the Campaign to Protect Rural England said: “Building housing at Crews Hill would be the worst option for Enfield. It cannot provide affordable housing, would mean more congestion, and destroy much-loved businesses.”

I am furious. If there are businesses already there how is Crews Hill even described as Green Belt? We are not talking about ruining the countryside, we are talking about providing much-needed housing for Enfield residents. I am fed up with hearing that this housing can be built in Edmonton Green or Ponders End. It sounds too much like a NIMBY (not in my backyard) response. I would happily see lots of small developments of three-story blocks of flats than some monstrosity of a tower block in already overpopulated areas. Small developments where people could be proud of their area, with an underused train station, a local pub, and access to green space.

Why don't council tenants deserve this? I bought my flat in Enfield in the mid 1990s when housing was affordable; home ownership in Enfield is now out of reach for working-class families.

Kathy McMahon
Forty Hill

Scam danger

Dear Enfield Dispatch

There are a number of scams being committed against the elderly in Enfield. Cash machine distraction theft, parking ticket scams and bogus builders are the most common offences.

Cash machine distraction is when criminals wait near a cash machine and watch the PIN number being entered. They will then create a distraction to take the card. For parking tickets the criminal will say you'll be given a fine but if you use the nearby cash machine to pay it will be reduced. They will again distract you to steal the card. A bogus builder will offer to fix a repair but after starting work will say it was worse than first appeared and increase the price.

Anyone can contact their ward officers and request detailed advice on how to avoid these scams – go to met.police.uk

PC Brian Masters
Enfield and Haringey Police

Footy is life

Dear Enfield Dispatch

When I was younger my dad took me to White Hart Lane to watch Spurs play – and that was the day my love for football ignited. I joined a Sunday league team called Norsemen FC when I was six. I've been playing there now for nine years!

Norsemen have an extensive history over 100 years, playing at Edmonton Sports Club. The youth section plays in the Watford League and my team have been very successful, winning league titles in three of the last four years.

One of the things that has made me love playing Sunday league football is the social aspect of it. I have met people who will stick with me for life, including my best mate who is like a brother to me.

Whatever is going on in the world, football is one of those few things that bring people together in one of the best ways possible. Whether you win, lose or draw, there is still a sense of satisfaction as you are surrounded by people who love football. My advice to any parent is to get children outside, get them playing, and get them having fun!

Nathan Devonish
Edmonton

Bin bother

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Following last month's article on bin changes (*Backlash over bin collections*, Page 5, Issue 6) it is obvious the council is fixated over new green bin charges of £65 per annum.

But what about the great many Enfield residents concerned over possible charges to have larger blue and black bins? I, like so many others, opted for a small blue and black bin at the inception of the wheelie bin collections, because we have limited space and did not require larger ones at the time. If larger bins are now required, the homeowner must pay £65.

As a senior who will never see 73 again, I am concerned about the injustice of having to pay for a larger bin when it is the council dictating I will require one. To discover the council's intentions I sent emails to council staff and eventually I received a reply which states: “There won't be any change to your collections until next year. Nearer the time the council will be offering bigger bins for dry recycling free of charge.”

It would be helpful for the council to make this known to stop us worrying!

Colin Wackett
Enfield Highway

Help the NHS plan for the future

Claire Fisher from Healthwatch Enfield urges local people to have their say

In a nutshell, the NHS Long Term Plan is a ten-year plan devised by NHS England to make sure the service is fit for purpose in future.

The NHS has scrutinised all aspects of its services to make sure every penny of taxpayers' money, including government investment of an extra £20billion per year, is being used to make improvements to patient care.

With growing pressure on the NHS – an ageing population, more people living with long-term conditions, and lifestyle choices affecting people's health – changes are needed to make sure everybody gets the support they need.

Now our local NHS needs to hear from you about what those changes should look like in your community. What would you do to improve the service in Enfield? What would help you make the switch to a healthier lifestyle? These and other questions will be put to local residents over the next few months to make sure that your ideas, opinions and concerns are used to inform the next stage of planning.

A significant part of the plan will be around preventative action against illness and disease, so switching to a healthier lifestyle could prevent some health issues occurring. The Enfield Health and Wellbeing Board is currently



The NHS Long Term Plan was launched in January Credit NHS England

developing a new plan to support residents to do just that, aiming to reduce illnesses related to smoking, inactivity, and unhealthy eating. Early screening and awareness for cancer diagnosis, meaning more effective treatment, is a possibility too.

We are already engaging with Enfield residents to develop a new Cancer Awareness campaign in the borough. The plan also promises that more support will be available for people with mental health

conditions; heart and lung diseases; long-term conditions, such as diabetes and arthritis; learning disabilities; autism; and dementia.

There will be a drive to increase staff numbers to support this. Technology will be used to give medical professionals better access to information and the ability to share it with other service providers.

Changes are coming, but these plans can only work if they are built on what local residents want, so, please take just a few minutes out of

your day to share your views. What would you do to improve health and care services? We at Healthwatch Enfield want to hear from you!

For more information about Healthwatch Enfield:

Email info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk
Tweet @HealthwatchEnf
Visit healthwatchenfield.co.uk

healthwatch
Enfield

Advertisement



NHS
University College London Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

GP Practices in north and east London will soon be taking part in research called the SUMMIT Study

The **SUMMIT Study** is being run by University College London (UCL) and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UCLH).

Who will be invited?

People aged between 50-77 who are registered with participating GP practices in north and east London only.

What is involved?

If you are eligible, your GP will send you an invitation letter in the post, with a phone number to call.

Depending on your responses to some questions over the phone, you may be invited to attend a Lung Health Check or a SUMMIT Study appointment.

At the Lung Health Check, you may be offered a scan of your lungs (called a CT scan), be asked to

give a blood sample and fill out a questionnaire.

At the SUMMIT Study appointment, you may be asked to give a blood sample and fill out a questionnaire.

The study is entirely voluntary and you do not have to take part.

UCLH researchers are organising the appointments for the study

For this to happen, participating GP practices will securely **share the names and addresses of potentially eligible individuals** with UCLH researchers.

The study team will invite people and coordinate study appointments. They will keep the details of everyone they invite for up to 10 years, to collect important health-related information and help develop future health services.

Strict security measures will ensure your information is kept safe and confidential.

What do I do now?

Invitations will be sent out over the next year. If you receive one and you would like to take part, contact the phone number included with the letter.

If you do not want to receive an invitation and you do not want UCLH researchers to have your information, please phone 0300 303 4109 or email uclh.summitstudy@nhs.net.

Opting out will not stop you being invited for other NHS appointments.

Further details are available at
www.summitstudy.co.uk

Leading innovator goes back to school

BY JAMES CRACKNELL



Award-winning entrepreneur Alex Haslehurst (centre) returned to Latymer School in Edmonton where a purple plaque was unveiled in her honour

An Edmonton entrepreneur was hailed as a role model for young people as a plaque in her honour was unveiled at her former school.

Award-winning innovator Alex Haslehurst is the co-founder of research and development company Vitru Health, which specialises in blood diagnostics and is creating a tool that helps doctors assess patient health more efficiently.

With a masters degree in mechanical engineering from Cambridge University, Alex has worked on the development of several high-tech products, including magnet design for MRI scanners and ultra-high precision machining tools, as well as leading device research at Vitru Health.

Alex, who says her aim is to help people enjoy at least five extra healthy years of life by 2035, was honoured in the 'Women in Innovation Awards' run by Innovate UK, a public body promoting British innovation. The awards, announced on International Women's Day last month, follow a search for female innovators who are tackling some of the biggest challenges facing society.

Alex was one of eight winners receiving £50,000 each to boost their work. In a celebration at Latymer School where she was a pupil, Alex also unveiled a 'purple plaque' and hosted an assembly to talk about innovation and challenge perceptions of what and who an entrepreneur can be.

Alex said: "I'm working to develop a medical device that could improve the quality of life for millions of people living with musculoskeletal issues. Getting a start-up like that off the ground is a huge challenge and the Innovate UK award, both the cash and support that comes with it, is a massive help.

"There's also a bigger goal of encouraging more women into STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics]. This award is letting me build my company with that as a core value.

"Recently I was contacted by someone who said this kind of thing was inspiring to his granddaughter, which is an amazing thing to be part of."

Best of Easter

Jo Johnson from Love Your Doorstep gets 'egg-cited'

April is a busy month for the Enfield community – the big event of course being Easter. I've already been eyeing up some adorable chocolate ducklings and beautiful chocolate eggs at Holtwhites Bakery in Chase Side!

Ever since Love Your Doorstep began, we have been proud to see the community come together for Easter egg appeals. This year's charities looking for donations include The Little Things UK, which is collecting for its homelessness outreach work. You can drop off eggs to The Wonder in Batley Road, the Stag and Hounds in Bury Street West, or Anglian Windows in Palmers Green. Enfield Carers Centre is also asking for eggs for their young carers' treasure hunt.

April sees the end of the spring term for local schools. Active Enfield has a variety of sports courses available over Easter including gymnastics, trampolining, and horse riding. Art Stop is holding some fun, creative craft sessions. And Children Pamper Parties are offering a special two-hour session with a red carpet catwalk finale!

Theatre highlights include the Dugdale's Easter panto *Rapunzel*; a hair-raising, fun-packed traditional pantomime featuring song, dance, comedy and audience participation. Meanwhile, Chickenshed's 'Tales from the Shed' team will be presenting a new show based on author Keilly Swift's book *The Tigon and the Liger*.

For something completely different, Wood Green Crown Court is holding an open day on Thursday 18th April. This is a fantastic opportunity for families to learn about the criminal justice system, with police officers on hand to chat and a vintage car to explore. This is set to be a brilliant day, with the opportunity to look inside the courthouse and take part in a mock trial.

Look out for our blog on the Love Your Doorstep website with more details of Easter holiday camps and events taking place during the school break. There's also fun for the grown-ups over Easter, with *Game of Thrones* fans looking forward to The Kings Head in Winchmore Hill hosting a special GoT-themed quiz on Thursday 11th April.

I hope you have a wonderful Easter!

Advertisement



Romeo & Juliet and Wuthering Heights



PRESENTS

Romeo & Juliet

Saturday 8th June at 5.30pm

Wuthering Heights

Wednesday 3rd July at 7.30pm

Forty Hall Estate

Enjoy the unique enjoyment of outdoor theatre and get your tickets today. Refreshments will be available to purchase before and during the event. Please dress for weather as this performance is outside.

www.fortyhallestate.co.uk/whatson



Doctor and the Medics were formed in 1982 by Clive Jackson, a former DJ



BY ANDREW WARSHAW

Glam rock legends return

Doctor and the Medics had huge 1986 hit 'Spirit in the Sky'

From *Top of the Pops* and a number one smash hit in more than 20 countries, to Forty Hall Farm.

Doctor and the Medics are best known for their 1986 version of *Spirit in the Sky*, which sold several million copies worldwide. Now they are coming to Enfield to help celebrate the fourth anniversary of the popular monthly gig series, Music from the Black Barn.

The intimate and atmospheric venue has become the borough's number one live music location and has built up a loyal following since being set up as a spin-off of the annual Livestock summer festival.

Doctor and the Medics were formed in 1982 by Clive Jackson, a former DJ, and their musical style has been variously described as neo-psychedelia, glam rock, new wave, punk, and pop-rock. The band has had a colourful career as both recording artists and performers and remain one of the most iconic acts of the 1980s, playing a mix of covers and original material, and are famed as much for their flamboyant appearance

as their music.

While the Medics have undergone various changes to their line-up over the years, several current members have been with Clive for the best part of a generation. In fact, just to add spice to the occasion, the Black Barn appearance of Medics' bass player Jon Randle represents his 20th anniversary gig with the band.

"We try to put on a real show," Clive told the *Dispatch*. "Some bands just turn up in T-shirt and jeans and that's absolutely fine unless you are associated with a particular style, era, or look, which of course we are."

A former school governor and scout leader, Clive retains an infectious modesty as well as a passion for gigging.

"Since we started, we've performed in the United States, Japan, the Middle East and Europe, in fact probably every continent except Australia. Yet last year was our busiest for 25 years!"

Clive, a 57-year-old father of four, has not allowed fame to go to his head, despite several appearances on *Top of the Pops* and

hundreds of gigs, including supporting Rod Stewart in the mid-1980s in front of 80,000 fans, and playing on the same bill as other famous names including Motörhead, Simple Minds, and The Damned.

Refreshingly, Clive retains a special affection for smaller live music venues such as the Black Barn. "Over the years I've seen so many disappear but these are the kinds of places we learned our craft and cut our teeth."

"Before the internet, this is how bands got their name. The YouTube of yesteryear was 200-capacity clubs. In these very divisive times, live music is a way of bringing communities together, which I'm told is exactly what the Black Barn is all about. That's why we are so looking forward to coming."

For the Doctor and the Medics show on Saturday 13th April, the support act band are the ebullient covers band White Light, making a welcome return to the Black Barn.

Music from the Black Barn tickets can be bought in advance or on the night:

Visit livestockuk.com

Marching into Edmonton

Local composer Alastair Gavin on the success of an atmospheric series of poetry and music concerts

Over the past two years in All Saints' Church, Edmonton, an exciting new arts project has been building momentum.

Helmed by poet Cheryl Moskowitz and myself, the All Saints Sessions feature a changing line-up of guest poets and musicians. The unique candle-lit music and poetry performance give full voice to the spectacular visuals and acoustics of this 15th Century church.

The concerts take place every two months and have already welcomed contributions from top world poets including Phil Fried, editor of the *Manhattan Review*. Entrance is normally £5, but local residents from N9 and N18 postcodes can, for the time being, be allowed in for free! There is always a well-stocked wine bar for intervals.

Key to the success of these sessions are the sound-mixing skills of All Saints vicar Reverend Stuart Owen, who approached myself and Cheryl after we performed as a duo for the church's Lamb Festival in 2016. Charles and Mary Lamb – the 19th Century brother and sister who co-authored the highly popular chil-

dren's book *Tales From Shakespeare* – are buried in the churchyard and the annual summer week-long festival in their name celebrates local arts.

Next up at the All Saints Sessions on Thursday 4th April is poet Will Harris and percussionist and keyboardist Malcolm Ball, one of the very few British masters of the extraordinary ondes martenot. It is a rare opportunity to hear this early electronic instrument invented in 1928, which produces swooping and haunting theremin-like textures, played either on its own keyboard, or by a finger ring sliding along a wire.

After the most recent All Saints Sessions in February, audience member Celia Hunt, Emeritus Reader in Continuing Education at Sussex University, wrote to us. She said: "I was blown away by your last outing. The unexpected combination of voice and sound, the lovely acoustics and surroundings of the church, your final piece... created for me an affecting immersive experience, which I try to conjure up in retrospect but it really has to be lived in the moment. You are creating something unique and deeply moving here."

"Key to the success of these sessions are the sound-mixing skills of Reverend Stuart Owen"



All Saints Sessions take place under candlelight in a 15th Century Edmonton church

Come together

The Oxford Beatles are no ordinary tribute act

BY RIAZ AHMAD



The Oxford Beatles are a cover band that perform the music of The Beatles – with not a wig nor funny accent in sight!

This month we are taking our *Songs from the Studio Years* show to Millfield Theatre in Edmonton. It focuses on the more complex Beatles songs that marked the band's transition from a live touring act to an innovative studio band. The show features songs from *Revolver* spanning all the way to *Let It Be*, a four-year period of recording that includes classics such as *Something*, *Here Comes The Sun* and *Revolution*.

Performing as a five-piece at Millfield, audiences can expect to hear some of the more complex songs from this period, with the band reproducing the iconic Billy Preston keys parts of the late Beatles material, including *Get Back* and *Don't Let Me Down*.

This show sold out at the Old Fire Station in Oxford in 2018 and is part of a long line of innovative events

that we've organised in recent years. In February we performed the *Revolver* and *Sgt Pepper* albums live, accompanied by a twelve-piece orchestra and Indian classical musicians, alongside a psychedelic liquid light show performed by Peter Wynne-Willson. Peter has worked in lighting design since the 1960s and his early collaborations were with Pink Floyd, a relationship that has endured over the decades.

The show sold out at the iconic 700-seat Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford and we will return in November, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of *Abbey Road*.

This ambitious run of shows started in 2017 with *The Sgt Pepper Show*. During a five-night run we performed the album live, accompanied by an original play about The Beatles' manager, Brian Epstein.

Tickets for the Oxford Beatles show on Saturday 27th April:
Visit millfieldtheatre.co.uk

POETRY CORNER

The Enfield Fox by Terry Jones

In a car showroom on Great Cambridge Road
waiting for a replaced casing of my nearside
wing mirror I looked out through a West window,
twenty feet high and thirty yards wide,
as I calculate the giant screen showing
the Enfield sky over a frieze of scutcheons
ranked by waxed gleaming hatchbacks
when, not quite out of vision, running swift and low
a fox makes for a safe haven, north towards Cambridge.
In this same instant running back as though
his way was blocked and shaming retreat
his only hope. This I exclaimed, to the overalled man
who came to fit my near-side wing-mirror casing,
and showed no animation.
Later, the job done, I nosed into the stream of traffic
past where factories used to line the A10
following the fox's direction.

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 16th April.

CHILDREN

The Tigon and the Liger

Saturday 13th April until Thursday 18th April
Chickenshed, Chase Side, Cockfosters N14 4PE

Chickenshed's 'Tales from the Shed' team have been working with renowned author Keilly Swift to bring her brilliant children's book, 'The Tigon and the Liger' to the Chickenshed stage. The jungle will come to life as Tyler the Tigon and Lyla the Liger meet, learn and play. A big show for inquisitive minds! Suitable for children aged between three and seven.

£7 entry

Call 020 8292 9222

Email bookings@chickenshed.org.uk

Visit chickenshed.org.uk

DANCING

Winchmore Folk Dance Club

Every Tuesday 10am–12pm
The Village Hall, St Peter's Church, Vera Avenue, Winchmore Hill N21 1RJ

Love dancing but your partner doesn't? Then come to dance to the lovely music from the *Pride and Prejudice* era to the present day. Dancing is ideal for women, men, the young and the mature. New dancers are welcome – the 'caller' tells you what to do!

Call 020 8360 6226

Visit facebook.com/winchmorefolkdance

OUTDOORS

Open Day at New Southgate Millennium Green

Saturday 6th April, 10am–4pm
New Southgate Millennium Green, N11 1SY

A chance to meet our volunteer team and the trustees, learn about our work running the green, ask us questions over a cup of tea, and join in as little or as much as you like with our volunteer work; litter picking, mowing, planting and whatever needs to be done.

Free entry

Visit facebook.com/FriendsOfNewSouthgateMillenniumGreen

Revealing Tour of Broomfield Park

Wednesday 17th April, 1.30pm
Broomfield Park (meet at the corner of Powys Lane and Aldermans Hill)

A guided walk revealing little-known gems about the historical importance of the park, led by Broomfield House Trust. Please book in advance.

£3 entry, children free

Visit dugdalecentre.co.uk/whats-on

AWARDS

Mayor's Vintage Awards Day

Saturday 20th April, 10am–10pm
Salisbury House, Bury Street West, Enfield N9 9LA

The Mayor of Enfield Sarah Karakus will be presenting awards to local people who have worked tirelessly for the community. Also featuring stalls selling books, jewellery and flowers, children's activities, and food and drink.

Free entry

Visit enfieldfestivals.co.uk/page/salisbury-house

POETRY

Poetry in Palmers Green

Saturday 27th April, 7pm
Parish Centre, St John's Church, Bourne Hill, Palmers Green N13 4DB

Guest poets Matt Barnard and Pam Zimmerman-Smith will read with local poets Lynda How, Myra Schneider and Tim Waller. Open mic session, books for sale, refreshments.

£5 entry, concessions £3.50

Email myrarschneider@gmail.com

HISTORY

The Lost Buildings of Southgate

Wednesday 24th April, 2.30pm
Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ

A talk by local history speaker and guide Joe Studman on how two wealthy families were responsible for demolishing dozens of buildings in Southgate. Was it wanton destruction or the first greenbelt?

£3 entry

Visit enfieldsociety.org.uk

AROUND THE BOROUGH

EDMONTON

Full power for dance school



A PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL HAS been awarded a share of a National Lottery funding pot for community projects. Platinum Performing Arts, based at Millfield Theatre in Silver Street, was granted the equivalent of five years

of funding for its 'Power to Make a Change' programme, which enables young people to prevent and create awareness of knife, gun and gang crime, as well as social and health issues within the borough.

Young people's thoughts, feelings and experiences will be recorded and then transformed into a "professional urban narration" dance and theatre production. It will also be filmed as a documentary.

COCKFOSTERS

Dance festival arrives

A POPULAR DANCE MUSIC FESTIVAL has been relocated to Trent Park. Elrow Festival, a London version of the global dance music brand, takes place on Saturday 17th August. In previous years it had been held at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford.

It is known for its colourful, elaborate

production, with organisers claiming the new location will enable "more ambitious staging and bustling forest parties".

More than 50 DJs are expected to be on the line-up for Elrow Festival, which last year was headlined by Fatboy Slim and Idris Elba and was attended by 25,000 people.

BUSH HILL PARK

Church to divest

BUSH HILL PARK UNITED REFORMED Church has pledged to divest from fossil fuels.

Reverend Mark Meatcher said the current climate crisis was "the biggest threat this generation has faced" as he made a series of green commitments.

He added: "We've been challenged by increasing awareness of climate chaos and the need to make changes

to the way we live, to protect our environment. Many children have been speaking out about the enormous issues facing our communities, and the church should be at the forefront of responding to these challenges."

The move comes amid growing pressure on public institutions to end investments in fossil fuel companies.

BOWES

Cleaner air

BOWES PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS been awarded £10,000 to help reduce air pollution.

The school is close to the North Circular Road, which is one of London's most polluted roads, and wants to install an air filtration system to reduce the health risks for pupils.

Other ideas to help reduce pollution include extending an existing green wall and creating a rain garden.

The grant was made as part of the Mayor of London's 'Schools Air Quality Audit Programme'. Enfield Council's cabinet member for public health, Yasemin Brett, said: "We have been working closely with Bowes Primary for several years and I am glad we can now help to take positive action for the children and staff of the school.

"Air pollution-related illness is awful and debilitating. I now look forward to working with the public health and environment teams at the council to get these propositions moving."

PONDERS END

Cycling route announced

NEW PLANS FOR A CYCLE route linking Ponders End with Enfield Town have been announced by Enfield Council, as part of its £30million 'Mini Holland' project.

Previous proposals for a segregated cycle route along Southbury Road were ditched after negative feedback and fears about the impact it would have on several key bus routes. The new suggested route will instead run along quieter residential streets between the two town centres.

Deputy leader Daniel Anderson, who leads the local authority's Cycle Enfield programme, said: "Enfield Council is committed to promoting a healthier more active borough and to that end we continue to invest in improvements to encourage more walking and cycling.

"Ponders End has entered a period of significant regeneration and change,

benefiting the lives of all those who live, work and study there. By providing accessible, active forms of travel, we will compliment the changes and help facilitate healthier lifestyles.

"Cycle Enfield was never about just one single route. With the funding provided by Transport for London, we are already beginning to see the formation of an interconnected network of routes across the borough.

"By connecting up our high streets, town centres, transport hubs and schools, our residents can make more active transport choices, particularly for their shorter journeys."

Designs for the new cycle route will be finalised later this year, following public consultation, before construction work can begin in 2020. Residents can track progress of the scheme and find out more information at cycleenfield.co.uk

SOUTHGATE

Boats plan sunk



ENFIELD COUNCIL HAS DITCHED plans to introduce boating at Grovelands Park, following a public outcry.

The local authority had been considering the move as a way to generate money to help fund the park's upkeep, but faced opposition from the Friends of Grovelands Park, which said it would ruin the "peaceful" lake and harm wildlife.

The boats could have been similar to the plastic pedal boats currently used on the lake at Alexandra Palace

Park, but a council spokesperson said: "Enfield Council considered introducing boating at Grovelands Park lake but the proposals were not viable and we will not be proceeding with the proposals."

Friends chair Mick McDonagh said: "This is wonderful news. It is heartening to know that at last there is a senior officer in Enfield who can see common sense and take a pragmatic decision in the interests of all of us."

One of our own

In his regular Enfield Town FC column, Andrew Warshaw speaks to one of the club's homegrown talents

Mickey Parcell is only 23 but is already approaching 200 appearances for Enfield Town

Credit Tom Scott



Mickey Parcell might be a world away from Harry Kane in terms of the footballing limelight but the Enfield Town defender shares one thing in common with the highly-prized England and Tottenham Hotspur marksman.

Just like Kane, Parcell delights in chants of “he’s one of our own”, in his case a reference to the fact that he is Enfield through-and-through. Loyalty may be a fading commodity in football but it is easy to see why Towners fans have such a special place in their hearts for Mickey, who was born and raised in the borough and has dedicated most of his non-league career to his local club.

Parcell joined Enfield in the 2015-16 season, after hopes of a professional career with Torquay United were cruelly cut short by injury. The 23-year-old, who can also play as a wing-back or wide midfielder, told the *Dispatch*:

“I wasn’t really too sure after I fell out of the pro game what was next for me, because it was so good being part

of that environment.”

Since coming ‘home’ he has become very much a one-club man. So much so that at the beginning of last season, when then Town manager Bradley Quinton was prized away by Braintree further up the footballing pyramid, Mickey was the one Enfield Town player who resisted the temptation to join an exodus of team-mates, deciding to stay with his local club instead.

“It was difficult at first being virtually the only player left but I knew the new gaffer, Andy Leese. I’d be lying if I said I haven’t had offers to play in a higher division but Andy had to rebuild the whole team and I wanted to help try and instil in the new players what it meant to play for Enfield.”

Having agonisingly missed out on a play-off place by one point in 2016, then lost in the play-off semi-final to Dulwich Hamlet the following season, Mickey is desperate to finish the current campaign on a high and

hopes, having been brought up in Edmonton, that his beloved Tottenham Hotspur can do the same.

His other ambition is to get to 200 appearances for Enfield, a landmark he will be closing in on come the end of the season. “It would be a great personal achievement. I’ve got a lot of respect for the people at Enfield. We don’t win every game, no club does, but over the last four years I’ve seen all the hard work everyone has put in, the vast majority of it voluntary.”

Giving something back to the fans is Mickey’s way of appreciating the same kind of special relationship Kane has at Spurs.

“It’s a bit different, of course, hearing your name being chanted by a few hundred rather than several thousand supporters, but it doesn’t really matter. Even if it was just one fan, it gees you up.

“This is a special one-off club. Of course I’d like to play at a higher level but I want to try and do it with Enfield Town.”

Behind the wheel

BY ROBERT TAYLOR

Green Belt Motor Club (GBMC) was founded in 1965 by a group of friends who enjoyed doing Sunday afternoon car treasure hunts around the country lanes of Hertfordshire.

For many years it held weekly meetings at the Jolly Farmers in Enfield and then at Trent Park Golf Club in Oakwood. As GBMC expanded it soon moved on to higher levels of motorsport and, for about 20 years, its main event was the Mad

Hatter Rally. This was a 120-mile nighttime road rally that was run on the back roads of sparsely-populated areas in East Anglia, around the Thetford Forest.

In more recent years the club has switched its attention to running special stages rallies – mainly on unsurfaced farm tracks and disused airfields. Many of GBMC’s competitors take part in this type of motorsport in their specially-modified cars. Quite often these are Ford Escorts, popular with rally competitors.

Chris Deal, from Edmonton, is the

club’s competitions secretary. He has competed as a co-driver for several years on the national rally section of the Wales Rally Great Britain – this country’s round of the World Rally Championship.

The club’s main event is a sprint racing meeting that it runs annually in July at North Weald Airfield in Essex. In these events there are numerous classes which cater for cars that range from road-going family saloons to single-seater racing cars. They all whizz around a series of high-speed runs on a 1.5-mile course.

GBMC’s chairman Malcom Wise, an Enfield resident, drives a Ford Escort Cosworth in the Modified Saloon Car Championship, mainly at



Green Belt Motoring Club members take parts in rallies around the UK

Brands Hatch. Last year he drove this 500-horsepower racing saloon car to one overall victory and five class wins. The club also has a social programme,

including an annual dinner at which 15 motorsport trophies are presented.

For more information:
Visit greenbeltmc.org.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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