

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 8 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

MAY 2019



Photo Ana M Wiggins

Reverend Fousseni Ouattara, from Christ Disciples Centre in Edmonton, was one of 135 local people recognised for their "tireless work" in the community at the Mayor's Vintage Awards Day. Hosted by Saray Karakus to mark the end of her year as Enfield mayor, the event was held at Salisbury House last month – more photos on Page 7

Call for 'government action' after spate of stabbings

Five people seriously hurt in latest violence

People in Edmonton have called for urgent government action to help prevent crime in their "neglected" neighbourhood – following a series of stabbings that left locals terrified.

Some residents were afraid to leave their homes during a week of violence in April when five people were stabbed, seemingly at random, in a series of attacks. A 29-year-old man was charged with five counts of attempted murder and a court later heard that one of the stabbing victims had been left paralysed.

The attacks led Edmonton MP Kate Osamor to describe the situa-

tion as "extremely alarming". She said: "My thoughts are with the victims of these attacks and their families and friends. The shock and worry families are going through must be appalling. I wish for the very best for the victims and hope they are able to recover from this terrible trauma."

Edmonton Green resident Sophie, who runs a social media account promoting the area, said the attacks had shaken the community. She told the *Dispatch*: "It suddenly hit home for the first time – I found myself thinking 'that could have been me, my family or friends' – and I was devastated for the people

who were injured.

"There was a real tense, terrified atmosphere across the neighbourhood for several days which was not something I've experienced before. What I find most upsetting is the general dismissive response to these attacks as 'normal for Edmonton'.

"It may have a reputation, but people living here are just like anywhere else; normal, hard-working people and families. It's not normal for us to go about our daily lives in fear of knife attacks and violence."

There have again been calls for additional funding for local police and better co-ordination between

various organisations working to tackle crime – but people in Edmonton seem to agree that government help is needed.

Edmonton Green councillor Tolga Aramaz, writing about knife crime in this month's *Dispatch* (Page 8), said: "I saw many of my friends joining gangs while growing up. Knife crime must be treated as a serious public health issue by the government, as only they have the means of tackling this problem. Yet, they are turning a 'blind eye' to what is going on."

Kate Osamor previously echoed this

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call for government action. Following a spate of stabbings and shootings in November that left seven people seriously injured, she said: "This violence must stop. Our communities cannot bear the fear, worry and devastation violence leaves. The lives of families, friends and loved ones of young people caught up in violence are being torn apart."

"This government must bear the responsibility for austerity and the devastating cuts it has inflicted on policing, local government and youth services. You can't keep the public safe on the cheap."

Enfield Council is also urging the government to do more, passing a motion in January condemning cuts to policing. Earlier the same month the *Dispatch* revealed that

the borough's violent crime rate had doubled in just seven years.

Nneka Keazor, the council's cabinet member for community safety, wrote in a letter to Home Secretary Sajid Javid: "They [police] do an incredible job under very difficult circumstances, but there simply aren't enough officers to go round and crime in our borough is at unacceptable levels."

"The Home Affairs Select Committee has been clear that policing urgently needs extra funding. Enfield Council believes it is incumbent on the government to significantly increase investment so that the police service is properly resourced, fit for purpose, and able to meet the challenges of the 21st Century."

In March the government pledged to spend an extra £100million this year to tackle violent crime – of

which £17m is being allocated to London. The Home Secretary said: "Law enforcement plays a key role – and it is clear from speaking to police leaders that they need an immediate increase in resources. I've listened to their concerns and this £100m will allow them to swiftly crack-down on knife crime on the areas of the country where it is most rife."

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan last year established a violence reduction unit for the capital. He separately called for school 'off-rolling' to be outlawed to help prevent serious youth violence. New government figures show exclusions of pupils have increased by 56% over three years, with research also revealing that nine out of ten children in custody have been excluded from school.

Axed lollipop warden hits out at council

All eleven school crossing patrols set to end in July



Lesley Robinson on duty at the zebra crossing in Church Street, Edmonton

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

A lollipop warden has warned that Enfield Council's decision to axe all eleven of the borough's remaining school crossing patrols "puts children's lives at risk".

The move will save taxpayers £68,000 per year and the council says that it has invested in other measures to improve road safety, such as new 20mph speed limits, which mean children will still be safe travelling to school.

But Lesley Robinson, who has been patrolling Church Street in Edmonton in her yellow uniform for the past six years, disagrees.

She is being made redundant by the council at the end of school term in July and told the *Dispatch*: "There are a lot of parents who let their kids walk to school on their own because they know I am here to keep them safe. I was once even hit myself – if they can't see me with my bright uniform, kids will get hurt. The cars come along here with horrendous speed."

Asked whether the council's improvements to road safety in the borough were enough to protect schoolchildren, Lesley said: "No. I have had to grab children back from the road. I wouldn't recommend kids walk to school on their own without us being here."

"It's only a matter of time before a child gets run over."

Lesley and the other ten lollipop wardens in Enfield found out they were losing their jobs in March, when they were called to a meeting by the council. She added: "They've kept it very hush-hush. We get paid a pittance so I don't see why they can't keep us, they probably spend more on stationary."

A council spokesperson said: "The council has invested heavily in recent years to improve road safety around schools, with the implementation of 20mph zones and zebra crossings, but a combination of significant spending cuts and an increase in pressure on services means the council has to make difficult decisions on where it spends its budget."

"Only a few schools have a crossing patrol and, with the measures either already in place or planned, children will continue to be able to travel safely to and from these schools in the future."

"Enfield Council and our schools are committed to doing what we can to promote healthy, active ways of getting to and from school, but the ultimate responsibility for ensuring children are safe while travelling is, and must remain, a parental one."

Ticket offices to stay open

The Mayor of London has ditched plans to close four ticket offices in Enfield.

Sadiq Khan said he had "listened closely to the views of passengers" in making his decision to keep all 51 ticket offices on the London Overground that had been under threat of closure.

Ticket offices at Bush Hill Park, Silver Street, Southbury and Turkey Street stations had been among those set to shut – and could still see staffing hours reduced.

Transport for London says ticket offices at quieter stations will open from 7.30am until 10am on weekdays, as a minimum. Specific times for each station are still being finalised.

Childcare 'good'

Education watchdog Ofsted has given children's social care services in Enfield a 'good' rating.

Inspectors said the borough's vulnerable children are being well cared for and found leaders at Enfield Council have "have worked effectively to strengthen and improve service provision".

A two-week inspection by Ofsted during March found that service provision had improved since a previous visit in 2015. Inspector Tara Geere said: "Children in need of help and protection, children in care, and care leavers in Enfield, receive good services."

Achilleas Georgiou, cabinet member for children's services, said: "This report is a testament to the hard work and dedication of each and every person working with and for children in Enfield."

Homes cash

Enfield Council has been given £750,000 to help homeless people and those at risk of homelessness find somewhere to live.

The council will use the funding to help vulnerable people secure their own tenancies – offering support in paying deposits and up-front rent so that they can avoid having to use temporary accommodation.

Enfield, which has the highest eviction rates in the country and 3,500 households living in temporary housing, is one of 13 London boroughs to successfully bid for the government funding.

Ex-councillors speak out after Labour Party rebuke

Party's head office to oversee Enfield selection process prior to next election



The Labour-led cabinet of Enfield Council, including leader Nesil Caliskan, fifth from right

Credit Enfield Council

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Concerns about a “corrosive influence” and “lack of integrity” within the Labour Party in Enfield have been raised by former councillors.

Three ex-councillors have spoken to the *Dispatch* following the outcome of an internal party investigation into “irregularities” in the selection process for last year’s council election – and Labour’s decision to

that month Doug Taylor was ousted as leader in favour of Nesil Caliskan.

Complaints were made to Labour’s National Executive Committee (NEC), including by serving cabinet members, amid claims the selection process was part of a co-ordinated effort to put Cllr Caliskan in power. She had been secretary of Labour’s local campaign forum for the 2018 election. Complaints were also made – including by Cllr Caliskan – relating to racism and sexism.

Now Labour’s NEC has decided to oversee the selections for the next election directly and told party officials to carry out membership checks at branch meetings. While it has not determined that rules were broken, allegations of rule-breaking still need to be examined by the party’s governance and legal unit.

A chief concern was that the Labour councillors elected last year were not sufficiently diverse, after several black councillors were deselected. Currently three out of 46 Labour councillors – 6.5% – are black, compared to around

20% of the Enfield population. A key finding from the Labour NEC investigation was that “a programme of outreach, community engagement and community organising should be developed” to help boost under-represented ethnic groups.

Ozzie Uzoanya is a black former councillor for Enfield Lock, and while not one of those deselected, says he decided “to jump before I was pushed”. Ozzie told the *Dispatch*: “I could see what was on the horizon and decided to step aside. My decision was also influenced by family reasons.

“There used to be nine black councillors [for Labour]. Numbers always go up and down but the impact has been felt within the black community. They don’t feel represented.

“Back in 2013 [before the 2014 local election] I received two phone calls saying I would be targeted for deselection. In the end I was re-elected but I was absolutely fuming about what was brewing in the group. When candidates were being selected in 2017 I was contacted by two councillors concerned about

losing their seats.

“There has been a process of divide and rule, playing one group off against another, in order for people in positions of influence to maintain their position. I was seen as a threat because I said it was dysfunctional – I’ve been working in local government for 25 years and this kind of behaviour is unhealthy for local politics.”

Asked whether the deselections were co-ordinated, Ozzie said: “It would appear they were. I think there has been a corrosive influence.”

Another former councillor, Ingrid Cranfield, was serving as Enfield’s deputy mayor when she was deselected from her seat in Lower Edmonton in 2014 and forced to fight an election in Southgate instead, where the party had little chance of winning. She ended up losing by 50 votes.

Ingrid told the *Dispatch*: “There are only 40 or 50 [Labour] members in each ward and not all of them go to meetings, so it only takes a few people to select a candidate.

“In my ward there was a cabinet member, a party secretary, and myself a deputy mayor, who were the sitting councillors. We were all deselected – we were shocked.”

Alan Sitkin, a former cabinet member who stood down in 2018, has also spoken out. He told the *Dispatch*: “You have to ask how a newcomer with little political experience gets parachuted to the head of the group.

“There has been a lack of integrity. We have gone from an open democracy to a closed regime.”

Cllr Caliskan herself made complaints to Labour’s NEC regarding “intimidatory” behaviour within the local group and says she and others in her leadership team have been the victims of harassment. Refuting the accusations made by former councillors, and explaining the challenges faced since becoming leader, she told the *Dispatch*: “The reality is that being a senior female politician of an ethnic minority background means that you face discrimination.

“The combination of racism and misogyny is acute and I am very aware of that. More worryingly, other ethnic minority councillors have experienced this in Enfield.

“The Labour Party has taken the right decision and made good recommendations around equality and diversity training, making it clear that allegations of sexual harassment will be taken seriously and be dealt with appropriately.”

“There has been a process of divide and rule, playing one group off against another, in order for people in positions of influence to maintain their position”

ban local candidates from being involved in future.

Several councillors were deselected prior to the May 2018 vote, at which Labour increased its majority. Later

Fellowship of the retiring

The boss of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship introduces the charity's long-running Enfield group



Civil Service Retirement Fellowship members at their April meeting at St Andrews Church Hall, Enfield

BY DAVID TICKNER

For more than 50 years the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship (CSRF) has provided a forum for friendship and companionship within local commu-

nities around the country.

As we celebrate the contribution of our local groups, I paid a visit to Enfield's. Here there is a busy programme of activities, open to any local retired person. Established initially as a charity to support former civil

servants and their dependants, Enfield CSRF has evolved in recent years to offer services to those in later life. These currently include a local community group network, two national befriending schemes (Phone Buddy and National

Visitors Network) and information and advice.

The Enfield group's network provides a valuable service to retired and older people within the community, offering an important forum for friendship and companionship, educational speakers, and leisure activities. It has been running for more than 35 years and is keen to attract new interest from any retired people within the local area.

I visited the Enfield group for its monthly meeting in April to show our support of the incredible dedication and commitment of group volunteers. All groups are run by volunteers, many of whom spent their whole careers in public service. The Enfield group is run by Sue Simms and Susan Bentley who between them worked for 60 years in the civil service; the Department of Employment (then the Department of Social Security) and Inland Revenue (now HM Revenue and Customs) respec-

tively. Both ladies are good examples of the many group leaders we have across the country and have been instrumental in maintaining our group in Enfield.

As a charity, CSRF receives no government funding. We rely on fundraising activities and donations to support our work. Our 'Connecting Our Communities' initiative recognises and celebrates our group networks and their contribution to community life, with the intention of raising awareness of their activities to hopefully attract new people along to their meetings.

The Enfield CSRF meets on the first Monday of the month at 10.30am (other than bank holidays) at St Andrew's Church Hall, Silver Street, Enfield EN1 3EG. All local retired people are welcome to attend.

Email susanksims@gmail.com
Visit csrf.org.uk/enfield

Remembering Robert Offord

An obituary for the Winchmore Hill artist, who has died aged 67

BY NEIL LITTMAN

Robert Offord was one of the founder members of the London Gay Men's Chorus and a successful artist. Many of his art pieces were reproduced and sold as pictures and posters, and he regularly exhibited work in major exhibitions and art galleries, including the Royal Institute, the New English Art Club, Bankside, and the Mall Gallery.

Robert created all of his life, even working right through his cancer treatment over the last two years, creating artworks, jewellery and sculpture in mixed mediums, often abstract and using recycled materials.

He studied jewellery and ceramics at Middlesex University and graduated in 1981 with a first class degree. He taught life drawing for a short time at the Bezalel Art College in Jerusalem and after attaining a teaching qualification went on to lead several different art classes at Southgate Technical College.

Robert was active in artists' circles and groups in Palmers Green and across North London, where he had lived all his life. This included exhibiting at Salisbury House as part

of the Enfield Art Circle. He said of his work: "I cross boundaries and work in many different media, from conventional painting and drawing to 3D boxed constructions which can seem to extrapolate a vast alternative reality from some humble found object. A common theme, which has reoccurred in my work for many years, is the juxtaposition and contrast of elements. These can be anything from natural forms compared with man-made fabrications, to geometrical order, versus the chaos of randomness."

"I both explore opposites and propose similes. Figurative and abstract, body and soul, or simply earth."

At the City of London Boys School, Robert's teenage years were "constructively derailed" by psychedelic folk music. In the 1970s he developed a passion for pop-art, the punk revolution arrived and he said his career as a part-time art teacher "was cut short by accidentally achieving international success as a graphic artist".

Robert was an advocate and activist for social justice, motivated and active politically. A prolific letter



Robert Offord, from Winchmore Hill, was an acclaimed artist

writer and lobbyist for social justice, he was a private generous person, a good listener and mentor; often quiet and contemplative but vocal when he wanted to be. Robert was also an active member of the Edward

Carpenter movement, empowering gay men to reinforce self belief, living and loving themselves and others. Carpenter was a 19th Century pioneer of LGBTQ rights, women's rights, and environmentalism.

Robert wrote and published *A Secret History of the London Gay Men's Chorus*, a personal memoir that has been reprinted, sold and reviewed widely. He died of pneumonia aged 67 after a two-year battle with lung cancer.

Stitch! founders Karen Mautner, Suzanne Kelly and Carol Balfe



All sewn up

A new social enterprise aims to get people stitching

BY FRANCES BALCOMBE

Stitch! is an exciting new creative emporium arriving on bustling Green Lanes in Palmers Green. This community enterprise has been brought together by Carol Balfe, Karen Mautner and Suzanne Kelly – three highly energetic and motivated local residents who, like many in their area, mourned the recent closing of Rodwins, a supplier of crafting and haberdashery products.

This intrepid trio set about finding premises and suppliers for the courses and the haberdashery they want to offer. They were fortunate, when talking to the local retailers and business community, to meet Dana Burstow of the Palmers Green Action Team and Costas Georgiou, chair of the Green Lanes Business Association. He, in turn, introduced them to Stelios Solomou – who is now their landlord. Stitch! is the industrious new occupant of a spacious, light-filled corner shop at 379 Green Lanes. Here, the

team are bringing craft and sewing products, creative classes, and events, back to local enthusiasts. In and around Palmers Green there is a diverse and growing artistic and crafting community, accomplished in many areas but also looking to learn new skills.

Karen, Suzanne and Carol have listened to the requests of these fellow enthusiasts and Stitch! is tailoring its courses to suit demand, wherever possible employing skilled local train-

warmly welcomed.

Stitch! is also stocking a well-priced range of key haberdashery products, fabrics, sewing and crafting goodies. There will be a wonderful selection of original gift items, created by local crafters, along with regular opportunities for those attending and running classes to exhibit and sell their creations.

This social enterprise has come to life incredibly quickly and Suzanne, Carol and Karen recognise that this is largely due to the amazing encouragement of the local residents and business community. The team believe such support will

help them negotiate this new challenge and are unanimous in voicing their hope that Stitch! will become a “vibrant hub for the community, bringing like-minded creative people together to share their enthusiasm and knowledge”.

Stitch! opens on Wednesday 1st May at 379 Green Lanes, Palmers Green

“There is a diverse and growing artistic and crafting community”

ers to lead workshops. This underlines the ethos of Stitch! to invite the community to be involved with the business; by offering work experience to teenagers and apprenticeships to youngsters entering the workplace. For others wanting to be involved there are opportunities to volunteer and to be involved in running sessions and all ages and abilities are

Engineering grant

BY EMMA KOLARU

Enfield Town Schools’ Partnership (ETSP), an exciting alliance of 20 richly-diverse schools in Enfield, is celebrating after receiving a £6,790 grant to inspire children to become the engineers of the future.

The money will fund ETSP’s term-long project called ‘The Art of Engineering’. Children are already hard at work learning about structures and the work of engineers and the project will culminate in a science fair and exhibition.

Year five pupils at ETSP’s primary schools will undertake an engineering project and year nine pupils at Chace Community School will engage with, and support, the science fair. The project combines science and creative thinking to address the needs and capabilities of the pupils at Waverley School or others within the local school community.

We are absolutely thrilled to have

received this grant, which allows us to deliver an exciting project that will develop and nurture a passion for science and engineering. We want to inspire our children and help turn dreams into reality.

The Engineering Education Grant Scheme, which is run by the Institution of Engineering and Technology and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IME), aims to engage young people aged between five and 19 in learning about engineering and to develop the professional skills of those involved in supporting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning and careers awareness. It also supports projects that improve wider engineering literacy.

Peter Finegold, head of education and skills at IME, said: “The UK is facing a critical engineering skills shortage and showing young people how creative and exciting engineering can be is a key way of inspiring the engineers of tomorrow.”

Learn to love volunteering

BY TOLA KOLAWOLE

A new opportunity has emerged for Enfield residents to gain an accredited qualification through One-to-One Enfield’s volunteering programme.

Based at Community House in Fore Street, One-to-One Enfield is a local charity which aims to improve the lives of people with learning difficulties, as well increase awareness and inclusivity among the public.

Lesley Walls, the charity’s chief executive, says the overall aim is to remove prejudice and discrimination and empower people with learning difficulties to have their say and take part in all aspects of community life. We want to achieve two main outcomes; inclusion for people with learning difficulties so that they can live life on an equal footing with other people living in Enfield, and a community that is aware of the needs of people with learning difficulties and is open and accessible to them.

One-to-One Enfield is a holder of the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. You could call it the MBE for volunteer groups!

We have a long experience of

recruiting volunteers and have developed an Open College Network accredited volunteer training course. Our ‘Introduction to Volunteering’ training course is open to all members of the community. After completing the course, we particularly like it if people go on to volunteer with other local groups, because what they have learned from our course will help them better include people with learning difficulties in the communities where they volunteer.

This is why we are very happy to be working with Enfield Connections to recruit and train people to volunteer with the wide range of community groups in Enfield.

Outside of this accredited course, residents can still access volunteering opportunities through One-to-One Enfield, which will endeavour to find opportunities for anyone who is interested. One-to-One aims to increase people’s awareness about how they can make a difference in their community through volunteering, as well as improve their employability and social skills.

For more information about One-to-One Enfield:

Call 020 8373 6241

Email nusrath@

one-to-one-enfield.co.uk

Visit one-to-one-enfield.co.uk

Thousands sign petition to save weekly bin collections

Growing anger from residents over cost-cutting plans



Fortnightly bin collections will save the council more than £2m per year

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

A petition against introducing fortnightly bin collections in Enfield has been

signed by more than 4,000 people. The move to cut weekly bin rounds had previously been branded “undemocratic” by opposition councillors after Enfield Council decided to

opt for the least popular of a range of options for waste collections in a public consultation.

Two-thirds of people who responded to the consultation said they wanted to keep weekly collections, but instead the council is set to roll-out fortnightly waste and recycling collections next year, while also introducing a separate, weekly food waste service and a £65-a-year charge for collecting garden waste.

Now angry residents have signed in their thousands a “bin the new bin collections” petition on the website change.org. Helen Blairman, who started the petition, is a volunteer at Ruth Winston Community Centre. She said: “For me the council’s plans to change the bin collections to fortnightly and charge annually for garden waste was the final straw.

“Messing around with our bin collections is completely unacceptable. Apart from the obvious health and

safety issues, the council conducted a statutory consultation of 5,000 residents and 66% of respondents wanted to keep the current weekly collections. Yet the council chose to ignore this consultation and have proceeded with their plans.

“Emptying the rubbish and recycling bins weekly and garden waste bi-weekly, is the very least service that the council should be delivering to taxpayers. This isn’t a luxury. This is an essential service. I urge the council to acknowledge the sentiments of such a large number and reconsider its budget plans.”

The changes to bin collections will save more than £2million per year and have been made as part of the latest round of budget cuts. At the time of the decision in February council leader Nesil Caliskan said: “The local authority has been open and transparent. We have been forced to make £18million

of cuts this year.

“Because of all the cuts, it is really difficult to find these savings now. We could have gone for a different option, but with this option there is an extra £500,000 we can reinvest in street cleaning.”

Information on the council’s website states that petitions signed by more than 3,124 local people “can be presented to council for consideration” and can be put forward for debate by the overview and scrutiny committee. The council declined to provide further comment.

“This isn’t a luxury. This is an essential service”

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A good vintage

The Mayor's Vintage Awards at Salisbury House saw 135 dedicated local people and groups commended for their "tireless efforts" in the community. Mayor of Enfield Saray Karakus presented the awards while visitors enjoyed various stalls and entertainment at the event, which marked the end of Cllr Karakus's year as mayor. She said: "The most important thing is communities getting together. It was a truly amazing day."



ALL PHOTOS BY ANA M WIGGINS

A picket line of striking teachers outside Galliard Primary School in February



Continuing the fight against academies

Edmonton school teacher on the reality of academisation

BY ANNE-MARIE HICKLING

The start of a new school year for a teacher can have greater significance than the start of January, returning refreshed from the summer break with a new class of children, new ideas, and a renewed energy for all the months of teaching and learning ahead.

But September 2017 was a new year like no other for five Edmonton schools. It brought the disconcerting news that headteachers from Brettenham, Fleecefield, Galliard, Raynham and Wilbury were exploring the creation of a multi-academy trust, or 'MAT'. It took a little while for the reality to sink in, after all this was not a forced academisation, but five similar schools looking to academise in order to work together.

All five headteachers admitted anything they wanted to achieve could actually be done in a federation arrangement. We knew academisation did not improve the learning outcomes for primary children or secure additional funding. The fact there is no accountability, and that academies can change the terms and conditions of employment, fired us into action.

Educating ourselves about the facts was an empowering activity and it also gave members more confidence when speaking to people about the campaign. As the National Education Union rep at Galliard, I started by organising joint union meetings. Faced with a choice of doing nothing or making ourselves heard, we held member ballots for strike action.

At the time, I naively thought we would be offered a chance to negotiate and that there'd be no need to strike. However, after two meetings between staff and governors, it became clear those in power had their heads down. They could only say that "nothing would change" in a MAT and that we'd get "left behind" if we didn't join.

Our campaign included a public meeting attended by 120 people, addressed by Enfield Council leader Nesil Caliskan and NEU president Kiri Tunks. We also gained support from Kate Osamor MP. Parents set up Edmonton Against Academies and organised two marches locally, each attended by more than a hundred people. The whole campaign was such a massive team effort.

Our picket lines on the strike days – 12 days in all – were the most

memorable elements of the campaign. We endured snow, freezing fog and high winds. After the first couple of strike days, we embraced different themes; a teddy bears' picket, funny hats, and cheerleading. Putting a smile on the faces of children, we communicated the message that we really did care about our school.

On Thursday 28th March we were informed the academy orders had been signed by education minister Damian Hinds and that from 1st April all five schools would no longer be publicly maintained.

We are saddened by the loss of five local authority schools to a MAT. Feelings of loss, at a time when the trees are in blossom and there are signs of new life all around, are sickening. However, our experience has brought with it a determination to share our ideas. We learned that having representation on governing bodies is vital; a campaign can never start too early; and there needs to be a change in the law to require a ballot of all stakeholders.

Ultimately, we hope there will be an end to academisation and changes to bring academies back into public hands. Children, families and communities deserve better.

Help needed to tackle knife crime

In our latest councillor's column, Edmonton Green member Tolga Aramaz calls for government action to stop stabbings

Edmonton Green ward is one of the most deprived in the country. Here, we have seen a drastic increase in knife crime that has led many residents to be concerned for their safety.

This comes at a time where there is extreme deprivation and no opportunities given to young people. Right now, while there is drastic unemployment in Edmonton, it is particularly high among young BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) people.

Institutional racism is faced by this community in our schools as many who are being excluded from school happen to be BME. In order to find a sense of belonging, local young people often find themselves joining gangs. They feel that there is nothing else for them



Cllr Aramaz was elected in 2018

and become exposed to the wrong sort of influence from people who do not have their interests at heart.

Ultimately people are a product of their environment and this is what their environment has bestowed upon them. I have lived in Enfield all my life and still share a small bedroom with my sister in a housing association flat. I saw many of my friends joining gangs while growing up.

To tackle this, knife crime must be treated as a serious public health issue by the government, as only they have the means of tackling this problem. Yet, they are turning a 'blind eye' to what is going on. They have cut the police service, meaning we have lost 241 police officers and PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) in Enfield and as well Enfield Town Police Station being closed to the public. The government has also cut youth services grants so that Enfield Council has no means for preventative services.

The council has lost 60% of its budget since 2010 and finds itself at breaking point. Edmonton is the eleventh most deprived area for children in the country. The burden of austerity has fallen on the shoulders of young people.

Knowing I would be punished for it by the Labour group, I abstained from passing the council's budget as I could not morally bring myself to impose cuts knowing how much suffering is going on in my ward. I believe I fulfilled the interests of my ward by doing so.

Cllr Aramaz represents Edmonton Green along with Mahym Bedekova and Ergin Erbil (all Labour). Surgeries are held at Edmonton Green Library on the first and third Wednesdays and Saturdays of the month, 10.30am-12pm.

Call 020 8379 5763
Email Cllr.Tolga.Aramaz@Enfield.gov.uk

Leave our street alone

Residents oppose idea to divert more traffic down Cecil Road



Lorries frequently use Cecil Road to make deliveries to the Palace Exchange and Palace Gardens shopping centres

BY CLAUDIA CARTER
AND LUKE NEVILLE

In the last issue of the *Dispatch* Better Streets for Enfield set out a 'vision' for Enfield Town where traffic is routed off Church Street, removing the one-way system and making Cecil Road two-way.

This is the same as the Cycle Enfield proposal that 70% of residents voted against in the 2015 consultation. Why was it rejected? One reason is because many resi-

dents can remember

when Cecil Road and Church Street were previously two-way. Both roads were frequently at a standstill.

As one resident

said: "We recall how congested Cecil Road was and how difficult it was to try and cross the road. The family never opened the front windows because of the traffic noise and fumes. Enfield Town used to frequently come to a standstill even in those days when a lot of families didn't have cars."

Cecil Road and Church Street are part of the main route between Enfield and the M25 – traffic stats

show it is used by 10,000 vehicles daily. Where do Better Streets envisage these going? This part of their 'vision' will inevitably lead to more tailbacks along Windmill Hill. Many residents live along that road, too. Does this constitute 'better streets'?

Delivery access to the shops in Palace Gardens and Palace Exchange is via Cecil Road. At the moment there is usually space for cars to manoeuvre around them, but imagine the resulting gridlock if Cecil Road is condemned

runs through to London Road for drivers seeking to avoid the major snarl ups the two-way system would create.

At this point, before any further suggestions are made to fix the flaws in this particular plan, can we repeat that as this is a major route between the M25 and Enfield, in reality traffic volumes are unlikely to reduce?

During the 2015 consultation, we heard about a resident being stopped by a Cycle Enfield representative on Church Street.

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was none of this traffic?" the official asked. "Yes," said the resident, "but where would

all the cars go?"

"Oh," the Cycle Enfield representative said, looking baffled. "I don't know."

It transpired the official had been recruited from south London to help with the Cycle Enfield scheme and had no idea of the area's geography. It is hard to avoid concluding that Better Streets for Enfield too has little knowledge of our local area. Please, spare us this 'vision'.

"Many residents remember when Cecil Road and Church Street were previously two-way. Both roads were frequently at a standstill"

to two-way traffic. Nighttime deliveries are not the cure to this – local residents have had to fight several battles in recent years when some shops started nighttime deliveries, leading to sleepless nights for residents opposite.

Let's not forget, either, that the 2015 consultation revealed serious knock-on effects for residents in Raleigh, Sydney and Essex roads, which would become rat

LETTERS

Send us your letters

Got an opinion on something in Enfield? We accept letters of up to 200 words from people and organisations in the borough. Email EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com before the next deadline on Tuesday 21st May.

Towers consultation was unfair

Dear Enfield Dispatch

I was surprised to read in your article regarding Viewpoint Estates building an 18-storey tower block in Southgate (*Hundreds of new homes planned*, Issue 6, Page 14) that "eight out of ten people expressed support".

Despite being a resident living right behind the proposed site, I had been excluded from this sample. The consultation claimed to have distributed 4,300 leaflets. However, neither my neighbours, local friends, nor I, received one. We would have opposed an 18-storey tower block, if they had notified us about it.

I have since obtained a copy of their glossy leaflet. Those who would have seen it would have been misled. It showed a six-storey building, not an 18-storey tower. There was no mention of this tower block.

Therefore, I feel that their consultation was biased. I hope that going forward, Viewpoint Estates and their associates will act ethically; I am currently feeling hoodwinked.

Tina Reynolds
Hillside Grove, Southgate

Southgate ignored again

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Enfield Town is getting £6m to spend on improvements to the town centre – again Southgate is ignored. We need a wider Chase Side, a wider exit from Chase Road into Winchmore Hill Road, and a wider The Bourne. For more than ten years I have been writing concerning Southgate's congestion and, in 2011 and 2016, I showed councillors the problems. But all that has happened is a renewal of Southgate Circus and removal of the bushes and shrubs – which no effect on relieving congestion. This is made worse by new taxi ranks.

Why, why, why?

Mike de Haan
Wynchgate, Southgate

Help me find my school friends

Dear Enfield Dispatch

I was born on in January 1946 and I lived in Enfield Lock during my youth. I went to Prince of Wales Primary School and Albany Secondary School. I have lived in Thailand and Asia for the last 23 years and I was wondering if you knew any way for me to try to contact any of my old friends from my school days as I lost contact with them all many years ago. Thank you for your time and I hope that there is a way that you can help.

Robert Goodhew
Thailand

Salary threshold bad for jobs

Dear Enfield Dispatch

According to Enfield's 2014 housing survey, less than two in five households in the borough earn at least £30,000. The most popular jobs that people who live here take up are in wholesale, retail, and social work. But employers pay significantly less than £30,000 for most of the roles within these industries.

Many do this to stay afloat and have therefore traditionally relied on hiring EU labour, which has helped to fill shortages and gaps. Currently, EU workers do not have to apply for a Tier 2 Work Visa, meaning they do not have to meet the £30,000 minimum salary threshold requirement. However, because of Brexit, this salary requirement will soon apply for EU labour as well as non-EU labour.

That means the reasons sectors had for hiring them – to fill job vacancies and plug skills gaps – could soon become a problem once more. Businesses in Enfield will have to make a choice; hire and train up UK nationals or increase wages.

In the 2011 Census, one in nine of Enfield's population are EU migrants. If these people leave because of the threshold, that will damage business and damage Enfield.

Jack Gevertz
Immigration Advice Service

We want to hear your views

Claire Fisher from Healthwatch Enfield on the importance of patient feedback



The NHS Long Term Plan will help improve services for people with learning disabilities, autism and other disabilities

In the last edition of the *Dispatch* we told you how the NHS Long Term Plan outlines the way in which health services need to change over the next decade to make them fit for the future.

We continue to support this work, starting by listening to people's experiences of health and care services for those with learning disabilities, autism, ADHD, and other disabilities. Our work is your opportunity to influence how these services may look in Enfield! Look out for our engagement campaigns over the next few weeks and please make sure you take part by giving your feedback.

We will be hosting pop-up events at various public centres across the borough, where you will be able to take part in our survey. If you have access to social media, you can also follow us on Twitter or Facebook for updates and complete our survey online. Or you can simply call our office to share your views.

So, what exactly is the NHS Long Term Plan aiming to do to help improve services for people with learning disabilities, autism and other disabilities? Over the next three years the plan will focus on many aspects of care for these groups including, but not limited to; reducing causes of death and preventable deaths in care; specially designed annual health checks; over-medication; staff training to help improve the general understanding and awareness throughout the NHS from the first point of

contact; better-integrated care systems; bringing hearing, sight and dental checks into specialist schools; reduced waiting times for diagnoses; designated key workers and personal health budgets where possible; and improved quality of inpatient care and discharge.

At our first focus group with parents and carers of people with learning disabilities in April, it was clear that there was room for improvement. Local carers told us that some of the processes "are horrendous", that staff "don't listen to us even though they have no idea how to communicate" and that "health checks strike me as a tick box exercise".

Do you or the person you care for have any views or opinions about health and care services in Enfield that you'd want to share? Tell us now and together we can design NHS services that are fit for the future.

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

Call 020 8373 6283

Email info@healthwatchenfield.co.uk

Tweet @HealthwatchEnf

Visit healthwatchenfield.co.uk

healthwatch
Enfield

Waiting for answers over Enfield's health funding

Enfield Over 50s Forum president makes funding plea

BY MONTY METH

Enfield borough will this year receive £47 per head of its population, Haringey £67, Islington £103, Camden £100, Kensington and Chelsea £130.

These figures are examples of the amount of money allocated to local authorities by the Department of Health and Social Care for spending on vital local health services – funding illness prevention and helping to sustain our coveted NHS.

The table of London boroughs tells us that once again Enfield is seriously under-funded, that compared with our £47 per head, the average in the capital is £73 per head. And this gap is widening – four years ago there was a £24 difference between Enfield and the London average, while now it is £26. This is despite the fact that in 2015, ministers

accepted that Enfield was getting 13.6% less than its target figure.

So what happened in April when Enfield North MP Joan Ryan tabled a parliamentary question asking health secretary Matt Hancock: "What steps is he taking to increase to at least the London average the level of public health funding allocated to the London borough of Enfield?"

We are still waiting for a straight answer. Instead, we have had junior health minister Seema Kennedy trot out irrelevant historic funding figures in reply to Joan, at the same time admitting that ministers had "made no specific assessment of any relationship between funding since 2015 and the effectiveness of services in Enfield".

In my view this is a shameful admission because it takes no account of the changing needs of Enfield's people in a borough which has some

of the most poverty-stricken and deprived wards in the country. What other organisation would confess to making key policy decisions based on outdated figures?

We think it is time that ministers got their act together and recognised that this arbitrary and undemocratic way of working is unacceptable. This is why Enfield Over 50s Forum is suggesting we send a message to ministers in the form of a protest letter, asking why Enfield's grant is so much lower than the London average and why it hasn't changed since 2015.

If enough of us write, we can at least ensure that when the next spending review takes place in 2020, Enfield gets a fair deal.

Write to the government:

Seema Kennedy MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Activities & classes for the Over 50s in Enfield

EXERCISE
Pilates, Tai Chi, Keep Fit, Zumba, Chair Exercises, STRONG

DANCE
Latin American, Line Dancing, Tea Dance

LANGUAGES
Spanish, Italian, French conversation

ARTS & CRAFTS
Dressmaking, Art, Mosaics, Flower Power

COMPUTER COURSES
Windows, Word, Internet, Smartphone, Ipad

AS WELL AS
Bridge, Whist, Creative Writing, Drama, Book Club & many more...

Other Events Which May Interest You
Drop in which includes, Bingo, Scrabble, Knitting Group, Tea and Coffee & Great Company

Daily Lunches & Thursday Hot Lunch Club
WE'RE ALWAYS HAPPY TO ENROL NEW ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR VIBRANT CENTRE CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION.

www.ruthwinstoncentre.com
Call us for more details on 020 8886 5346
190 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, London, N13 5UE
Registered Charity 1057968 Company Limited by Guarantee 3168660

Just the tonic

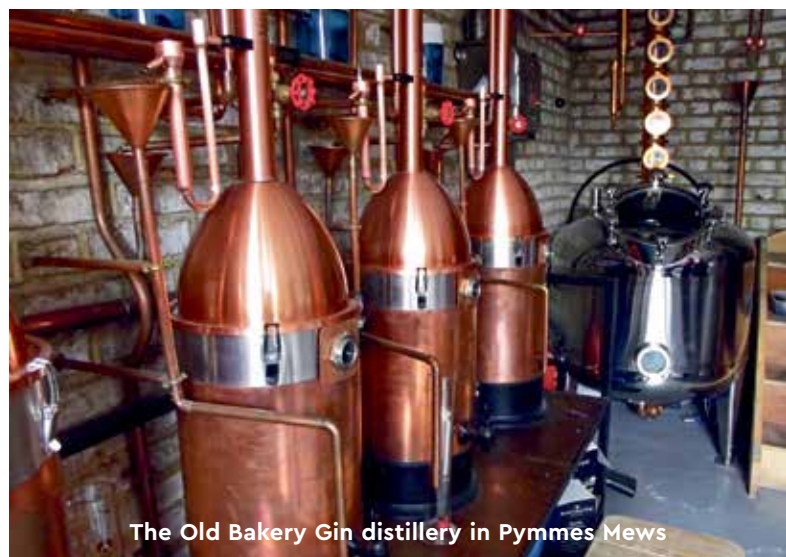
A small gin distillery in Bowes is making a big name for itself, writes James Cracknell

Close to the North Circular in Bowes is a pretty mews of small Victorian buildings today used as offices for local businesses. It is in this unique setting that you will find the distillery of Old Bakery Gin, the best-selling gin at Harrods – and also now at the new Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The rapid rise of Old Bakery Gin to becoming one of Enfield borough's most famous exports is remarkable. It was only six years ago that owner Ian Puddick bought the site – not to make gin, but as a home for his plumbing firm. Ian's 'other' business Leakbusters remains his day job, with gin-making still something he describes as “a glorified hobby”.

That may soon be about to change, with the recent purchase of a new still enabling Old Bakery Gin to produce up to 1,200 bottles of gin per day, compared to 300 per week with their existing equipment. At the moment they are still waiting to obtain a licence to use it, however. “It's like having a Ferrari and not being allowed to drive it,” says Ian, “but hopefully it should get licensed any moment now.”

Drastically boosting the capacity of the distillery should allow Ian to finally pack in the plumbing and focus on Old Bakery Gin as his full-time job: “We're plumbers by trade and Leakbusters has funded the cost of setting up the gin business, but if I could give it up tomorrow, I would.”



The Old Bakery Gin distillery in Pymmes Mews



Ian Puddick (right) and 'Gorgeous George' (left) outside Old Bakery Gin in Pymmes Mews, Bowes

And although he wants Old Bakery Gin to become a favourite among gin drinkers across the country, Ian does not want to compromise his brand by selling to supermarkets or by making fancy flavours. Instead he'll continue selling to independent shops.

“The gin market has changed in the last few years, now you've got rhubarb and custard gins and colour-changing gins, and people are asking us what different flavours we do, but it's not what we're about.

“We make one gin and we do it really well.”

The incredible story of how Old Bakery Gin first came into being is one that has been told on the BBC,

Channel 4, and via many other media outlets, but it's one that Ian never tires of telling.

“A hundred years ago this was an old bakery with a grain store. Next door was a stables, the horse-and-cart delivery service for the bakery. When we moved in there was a chimney between the buildings but it was unsafe and we had to take it down. Then we got into a legal dispute over who owned the chimney.

“As the lawyers looked at the history of the place they found out that the people who ran the bakery had also been making illegal gin here. I tracked down the last descendent of the bakers and I managed to work out the gin recipe from him. We are resurrecting

what was the original gin – but now it's legal!”

Ian's distilling team includes his dad, Ron, whose face adorns the labels. They have also recently made their first-ever batch of rum – and the *Dispatch* can confirm that it tastes exquisite.

Fortunately for Enfield residents, Old Bakery Gin is easy to find. It is sold at several local shops and pubs, including Little Green Dragon in Winchmore Hill, Claude W Dennis in Southgate, My Time in Palmers Green, and Forty Hall Farmers Market.

For more information about Old Bakery Gin:

Tweet @OldBakeryGin
Visit oldbakerygin.com

Come what May

Jo Johnson from Love Your Doorstep on some of the best places to visit this month

It's amazing how many people on our community forum comment to say that they've never visited some of the most iconic local gems, despite living in the borough for many years.

May is National Walking Month and Enfield has plenty of places to explore by foot with 123 parks and open spaces, making up 900 hectares of greenery for you to discover! If the weather is not appropriate there's always the local theatres, where you can catch one of

the wonderful shows on offer during May, such as *Stig of the Dump* at Chickenshed. Classic puppet Sooty will be visiting Millfield at the beginning of the month and Channel 5's *Milkshake! Live* brings a selection of fave characters to the stage later in the month in a musical extravaganza.

Rather aptly, it is also Local and Community History Month. If you have yet to visit the Enfield Museum, located at the Dugdale Centre, you will find a vast range of artefacts on display in the per-

manent exhibitions. There are also temporary exhibits throughout the year; past examples include *Hidden Treasures* which revealed some of the saved features from the historic Broomfield House.

One of my favourite local gems is Forty Hall, a magnificent Grade 1 listed Jacobean manor house steeped in history and fortunate enough to have undergone extensive refurbishments in recent years. With free entry and surrounded by beautiful gardens it's definitely one to

visit if you haven't already.

Another historical building on our doorstep is of course Salisbury House which as well as hosting art classes, and being available for hire to the community, is home to Love Your Doorstep. When you enter the late Tudor building you can't help but feel in awe, looking at the unique historic features. There's even a 1960s-themed murder mystery event planned there for Friday 17th May.

May is a great month for events across the borough with annual

favourites such as the Pyjama Walk for the Nightingale Cancer Support Centre and the Enfield Pageant of Motoring. If you're looking for some Bank Holiday fun, Cockfosters Festival is taking place from Saturday 25th until Monday 27th May. There will be live music, a family funfair, family circus, donkey rides, stalls, and a massive inflatable assault course! I hope you manage to squeeze in some of these suggestions this month. Visit our online community forum – we'd love to know how you get on!



Pete Pritchard grew up in Edmonton

Singer's ode to Edmonton

Local musician Pete Pritchard writes about life in Edmonton – and how it inspired a new song

I grew up in Edmonton, attending Houndsfield School and leaving at 15 to work at the MK Electric factory, then the area's largest employer.

In those days, before computers, the main interest for youngsters was either football or music. I chose music, and as far back as I can remember all I wanted to do was be in a band. It wasn't long before I joined a local group and was performing in the local pubs and clubs.

I met so many wonderful Edmonton characters in those early days, and happily, many remain my friends to this day. The band received so much support from the local community that it wasn't long before MK Electric had to manage without me. My band, The Flying Saucers, had several successful years touring throughout Europe. We even became backing musicians for many artists – including Chuck Berry!

Edmonton has always been full of creativity. My second band, The Avengers, was again made up of local musicians. We recorded several albums together and still occasionally reform for a reunion gig.

I went on to become a freelance musician and my career got a big boost in 1992 when I started working with Elvis Presley musicians; guitarist Scotty Moore, drummer DJ Fontana, sax player Boots Randolph, vocal quartet The Jordanares, and later guitarist James Burton. These guys played on everything from *Heartbreak Hotel* to *Hound Dog*. I was spending more and more time recording in Nash-

“Edmonton people are still resolute, humorous, and kind”

ville, and touring America. While playing in Jackson, Tennessee, I was even inducted into the International Rockabilly Hall of Fame!

I loved being in Nashville but I was always happy to get back to my Edmonton home. Since then, I've co-owned my own record label, produced an award-winning documentary for BBC Radio 2, and worked with some of the world's great rock musicians including Eric Clapton, Alvin Lee, Chris Isaak, and Billy Swan.

Last year an invitation came from studio owner James Johnston to

record a new solo album at The Cowshed Recording Studio in Bounds Green. It was to be all original work, so I decided to write a song about Edmonton. I wanted to express my love for my home town but also write it as a counter-balance to recent horrendous events.

Of course, we do have really serious social issues that urgently need to be addressed, but Edmonton people are still resolute, full of good humour, kind and generous. Our young people are good natured and creative; we need to invest in them and give them hope.

I want them to have the same opportunities that I enjoyed.

My song *Edmonton* is a snapshot of my life and reflects the happiness that the area has given me. I remain optimistic for Edmonton. The nearby Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and surrounding regeneration can only be a good thing. A few more venues for musicians to perform at would be a good thing too!

Listen to and buy Pete Pritchard's new album *Making Tracks*, including the song *Edmonton*:

Visit petepritchard.co.uk

Having a Field Day

Sharlene Gandhi on how a huge new music festival relocating to Enfield could impact the borough

Enfield is set to become the new home of one of London's largest music festivals.

A two-day festival expected to attract up to 25,000 people, Field Day is relocating this year from Victoria Park in East London to a complex of four large warehouses at Meridian Water.

Organisers are excited at the prospect of “creating a new cultural hub for London” as part of the borough's biggest regeneration project, according to festival director Luke Huxham. Field Day's move to Meridian Water will also enable the festival to run through the night at a volume that a residential area would oppose – although work is underway on the new district's first 725 homes.

Meridian Water seems to want to be a family-friendly neighbourhood and the newest hip spot for city commuters. Hosting Field Day could be a 'soft' revolution for the borough – simply having an Enfield postcode attached to advertising for a world-class festival is likely to enhance the Enfield 'brand'.

Field Day – headlined by Skepta and Jorja Smith – could be a massive income generator for Enfield, but festivals tend to be a money

bubble, with all food, drink and facilities served within a certain geographical boundary to ensure constant revenue generation for the festival. The question, then, is who gets permission to enter this festival bubble? Will local businesses be approached to be festival partners?

Similarly, creating a new cultural hub in London may have a positive outcome, but there is a risk of attracting new cultural capital at the expense of those already residing in area. Field Day would only be a successful cultural hub if people from Edmonton and Enfield can get involved. For example, will there be subsidised tickets for local young people?

The final question is whether Meridian Water will be ready in time for 25,000 music fans to descend upon it in June. With the new railway station due to open and be functional from May, and Tottenham Hale being the only tube station within walking distance, Field Day risks not being prepared for potential over-crowding. Some tight planning and operations work will be required.

Field Day takes place from Friday 7th until Sunday 9th June. For more information and to buy tickets:

Visit fielddayfestivals.com



Credit Jake Davis (@HungryVisuals)

Field Day will be the first major event held at The Drumsheds, an entertainment venue making use of four interlinked warehouses at a former gasworks on the Meridian Water regeneration site

Some of the mums who take part in MumSing sessions on Mondays at St Stephen's Church Hall



Mum's the word

Sophia Hutchinson on what led her to start popular local choir MumSing

A day in the life of a mum is pretty much the same everywhere; wake up really early, tidy, sort out breakfast and lunch for the children, spend half-an-hour trying to get them out of bed, another half-hour getting them showered and ready to leave, and 20 minutes getting them out the door, only to find one hasn't brushed their teeth!

After the morning school run we also still have to clean, cook, look after the little ones not yet in school, do the laundry, iron uniforms, pay the bills, attend appointments; the list goes on. Despite all that, some mums today now also find time to be amazing at the things they love.

Three years ago I realised I wanted to do the thing I love as well. I wanted to do the thing that, after

years of doubting myself and comparing myself to others, I had finally accepted I was good at.

I grew up in a Christian denomination that prided itself on musical excellence. My father was always singing in church and in choirs, starting ensembles which my sister and I would get dragged into – we'd sing hymns most evenings.

I took everything I learned for granted – I'd never known life without music, nor realised many people didn't have access to it. I'd always been surrounded by amazing singers and so I'd always felt I wasn't quite as good.

Eventually I realised the thing I'm good at is what I loved all along; choirs and harmonies. I wanted to share what I've taken for granted. The problem with choirs is that they're usually in the evenings,

and as a mum evenings are precious and babysitters are expensive.

MumSing is a morning choir for mums and any little ones not yet at school. It was born out of a necessity for me to do what I love, at a time of day that did not impact upon my family. I soon realised that there would be many mums looking for just the same thing.

The first session in January 2018 was very encouraging. However, it slowed down, until we only had three or four mums turning up. I nearly gave up, but those women who were coming were kind, encouraging, and inspiring. They too were combining motherhood with running their own projects from home. They spurred me to keep going in the belief that MumSing would grow. And they were right!

Now I have a wonderful group attending regularly. Our mums are fantastic; they're funny, talented, generous. There's journalists, professional dancers, home educators, night nannies, graphic designers, editors, teachers, and mums simply busy being the world to their little ones.

MumSing Enfield member Kathryn, who comes with her little boy, said: "I joined as I love to sing and – for once – wanted to do something for myself, where I could bring my little one along."

MumSing Enfield meets at 10am on Mondays at St Stephen's Church Hall in Park Avenue. Find out more:
Visit vocallysound.co.uk/mumsing/html

Getting Ziggy with it

Enfield jazz club is relaunching at new venue

BY JOSIE FRATER
& STEVE TAYLOR

Imitable soul-jazz vocalist Mica Paris says "Ziggy's get's it right" on one of her numerous performances under the Ziggy's World Jazz Club banner.

As professional musicians and local residents ourselves, in April 2012 we decided to present live jazz nights at the newly-opened Dugdale Centre. Having previously run such a club in Great Portland Street years before, we believed we could recreate it successfully in Enfield, where we have lived for 22 years.

We longed for some great live

music locally and felt confident our tried-and-tested brand and many musical connections would create a space in Enfield where fans of first class jazz and world music would feel welcome. We turned the studio theatre into a Ziggy's version of the best jazz clubs – Ronnie Scott's and the like. With tables, candles, and a Ziggy's logo on stage, the scene was set for some of the best evenings of live professional music that London could offer. The music includes everything from hard-swinging big band, Latin, funk and jazz voice, to eclectic world-jazz-folk, jazz tap and even flamenco.

Our audience has grown consistently, as has our mailing list!

Now, after seven brilliant years of Ziggy's at the Dugdale Centre, we are extremely excited to announce that Ziggy's World Jazz is moving to Chickenshed Theatre. We will be offering everything that our loyal Ziggy's fans have come to expect from us – plus easier parking, food, and being closer to the tube. We expect our audience to continue growing in this exciting new venture for Ziggy's. Your favourite jazz and world musicians are already lining up to play for you!

Launch night is on Friday 31st May. For more information on Ziggy's World Jazz Club and to buy tickets:
Call 020 8292 9222
Visit ziggyclub.com

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 21st May.

SPORT

Elite Soccer School

Weekdays starting Wednesday 1st May, 4.30pm and 6pm
Tuckers Park, Hawthorn Grove, Enfield EN2 0DS

New training sessions designed for children of all abilities and led by an FA coach. Bring shin pads and boots.

£5 per session
Call 07488 360 067

COFFEE

Philosophy Café

Friday 3rd May, 2pm
Dugdale Centre, 39 London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS

Learn about philosophy and discuss contemporary issues over a cake and a cup of coffee.

Tickets £5
Visit enfieldphilosophycafe.com

WRESTLING

LDN Wrestling Live

Sunday 5th May, 3pm
Millfield Theatre, Silver Street, Edmonton N18 1PJ

The bone-crunching, pile-driving superstars of LDN Wrestling are back with an explosive day of top action, bringing a host of top American wrestling stars to the ring to face the very best of home-grown talent and fan favourites in a two-hour rip-roaring entertainment for all the family to enjoy.

Tickets £15.50, concessions £12.50
Visit millfieldtheatre.co.uk

GIG

Music from the Black Barn

Saturday 11th May, 7pm–11pm
The Black Barn, Forty Hall Farm, Enfield EN2 9HA

Dig out your skinny jeans and braces and get down to The Black Barn for an amazing night of two-tone, rock steady and ska with the Skatonics!

£10 entry
Visit livestockuk.com

CHARITY

Nightingale Pyjama Walk 2019

Friday 17th May, 7.30pm
Enfield Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield EN1 3XA

This charity walk takes you through picturesque parks and streets in Enfield to help raise funds for Nightingale Cancer Support Centre, a local charity serving the people of Enfield. Walk 10km or 15km – you decide. The walk starts and finishes at Enfield Civic Centre. Entrants need to be aged twelve or over. Don't forget to wear your pyjamas!

£15 entry
Call 020 8366 9674
Visit nightingalesupport.org.uk/product/night-hike-2019

INFO

Meridian Water Information Event

Saturday 18th May, 10–4pm
Angel Community Centre, 48 Raynham Road, Edmonton

Enfield Council is holding free information events where people can find out more about the £6billion Meridian Water project in Edmonton, which is set to deliver 10,000 homes, 6,000 jobs, a new railway station, and other key infrastructure. Visitors will be able to see images and models of what the project will look like and find out more about what's in the pipeline.

Free entry
Visit meridianwater.co.uk

THEATRE

Crime of the Century

Tuesday 21st May until Saturday 25th May, various times
Chickenshed Theatre, Chase Side, Cockfosters N14 4PE

A hard-hitting, raw piece of theatre which explores the issues surrounding gang violence using words and movement alongside a contemporary score of hip-hop and dance music. After touring 500 venues over ten years, the production returns to Chickenshed, its place of origin.

£8 tickets, £5 concessions
Visit chickenshed.org.uk

AROUND THE BOROUGH

EDMONTON

Hospital's boost for cancer patients



Councillors and North Middlesex Hospital staff celebrate the cancer treatment facility's opening, along with *Eastenders* actor Davood Ghadami (sixth from right)

A NEW £3MILLION RADIOTHERAPY room has opened at North Middlesex University Hospital – helping doctors treat cancer tumours in patients.

The centrepiece of the facility is a 'linear accelerator machine' that can target tumours anywhere in the body with pinpoint accuracy – up to four times faster than conventional radiotherapy equipment.

To celebrate the room's opening, staff at North Middlesex were joined by *Eastenders* star Davood Ghadami, whose relative recent-

ly had treatment at the hospital, plus local councillors.

Justine Mooney, head of radiotherapy at the hospital, said: "This is a fantastic milestone in our efforts to improve cancer outcomes for patients in our local community. We see over 1,200 patients each year and they will now be able to benefit from our state-of-the-art equipment.

"It will allow us to treat patients sooner and with greater precision, helping to make the treatment experience better."

ENFIELD CHASE

Family seeks justice

THE FAMILY OF A MAN WHO died of cancer are seeking justice after learning his former job at a repairs company may have contributed to his death.

John Ransome died aged 81 in May 2018, just eight days after being diagnosed with mesothelioma, a form of terminal cancer linked with exposure to hazardous asbestos.

His family have since sought help from lawyers Irwin Mitchell to investigate how he was exposed to the material. In the 1960s John worked as a foreman for Enfield Chase firm Stator Electrical Ltd, then known as Cook's, which often involved him crawling through lofts and ceiling voids where there were pipes insu-

lated by asbestos.

Lawyer Lacey St James said: "This is yet another incredibly tragic case which highlights the devastating impact that asbestos exposure can have, with John developing the illness many years after his contact with the material is thought to have occurred.

"We would be grateful to anyone who can provide information regarding these employers and the working conditions John would have faced.

"Any detail, no matter how small, could ultimately prove vital to our efforts to secure justice for his family."

Anyone with information should email james.aiken@irwinmitchell.com

SOUTHGATE

Parents drop academy fight

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

PARENTS HOPE "LESSONS will be learned" following the controversial conversion of a primary school into an academy.

The academisation of Walker Primary School in Waterfall Road went ahead last month despite widespread anger with the way the process was handled by governors – and a poll showing 77% of parents opposed it.

Parents even threatened to take legal action over the way the governing body made its decision to transfer the school from being council-run to becoming part of the Ivy Learning Trust academy group,

raising £5,000 to fight them in court, but later conceded they had left it too late.

Imran Shaikh, a father of three pupils at the school, told the *Dispatch* that concerns had centred around the way parents were consulted, with meeting minutes showing the decision had been taken before views were sought, and allegations of "conflicts of interest" also being made.

"The consultation was a tick-box exercise," said Imran. "The board had decided before the consultation that they were going through with it.

"I understand there may be an argument for academisation, but we felt other options weren't being

considered. As parents we wanted to be given a choice.

"Unfortunately we raised these issues too late and we weren't really equipped to oppose it. Now we want to help educate other parents so that some lessons can be learned."

Ivy Learning Trust runs six primary schools, including five in Enfield borough; Lavender, Churchfield, Brimsdown, Eastfield, and now Walker.

In a statement responding to the attempted legal challenge from parents, chair of governors Alison Bowman said: "The consultation was a robust process where governors followed an equality duty process. The governing body had a full, open and clear consultation with plenty of time for parents to express their views. The governing body seriously considered the impact on pupils with additional needs."

ENFIELD TOWN

New office block under construction

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER



How the new office block will look

WORK HAS BEGUN ON A £27million headquarters for global communications firm Metaswitch.

The five-storey office block will provide space for 500 workers, allowing the company – founded in Enfield in 1981 – to expand. It is being built on the site of the Genotin Road council-owned car park and also features a café and conference centre.

Councillors approved the plans last November after Metaswitch agreed

to allow the public to use the new building's basement car park on weekends and weekday evenings. The company will sign a 15-year lease once the building is complete, raising more than £5.7m for Enfield Council.

Boss Martin Lund said: "This will be a stunning building which will help us attract the best talent to maintain our position as one of the world's best in our field. It is a very exciting project for us."

PONDERS END

Councillor suspended

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A COUNCILLOR HAS BEEN suspended from Enfield Council's Labour Party group after sharing an allegedly anti-Semitic post on social media.

Ponders End councillor Ayfer Orhan shared a claim that Israel had supported terrorist groups Al Qaeda and Isis in a bid to destabilise Syria and secure control of disputed territory, the Golan

Heights. The post, written by Twitter user Partisangirl, said: "#Israel hoped that destabilising #Syria by supporting ALQaeda & #ISIS would help legitimise their annexation of the #Golan Heights. The Golan has a lot of water, but they discovered it also has oil."

United States president Donald Trump recently signed an order officially recognising Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which was captured by Israel during the Six Day War in 1967. The Labour Party has faced growing

pressure to take a tougher stance on anti-Semitism in its ranks following accusations it had been slow to act on reports of anti-Semitic incidents.

Council leader Nesil Caliskan said: "Cllr Orhan has been suspended from the Labour group at Enfield Council, pending investigation. This swift decision was taken following an anti-Semitic tweet posted by Cllr Orhan, which caused great offence."

Cllr Orhan was approached for comment.

Playing hall

Simon Parkinson, chair of Enfield Sport, on the revival of a local sports hall



Nine different badminton clubs use Enfield Drill Hall

Two years ago Enfield Drill Hall was facing closure. The management committee decided to stand down and it looked

as if the building would be handed back to Enfield Council, with no certainty it would remain open. Two years later, the new manage-

ment committee has signed a long-term lease with the council, so they can now begin to invest in the building, knowing its future as a commu-

nity sports facility is secure.

Many improvements have already been made and the sports facility is now being run in a professional manner by a group of committed and enthusiastic volunteers. The facilities that are available for hire include a sports hall (with three badminton courts), archery range, meeting room with a kitchen attached, and changing rooms.

Enfield Drill Hall is now thriving again, with nine badminton clubs and groups playing there on a regular basis. The archery range is not as well used, but the management committee is making strenuous efforts to try to increase bookings. Based on their successful track record to date, it won't be long before the archery range is equally well used.

Saving the building was important, not only to ensure its continued use as a sports facility, but also because it is an important community hub and a building of

historic importance. Opened in 1901 as a Territorial Army building, it is now included on the Enfield Local Heritage List.

The revival of Enfield Drill Hall is a major success story and is a fantastic example of what can be achieved when a group of people work together to save a sports facility under threat. This will increasingly become important as an example of good practice, as the government's austerity programme and local authority funding cuts continue to bite, putting more community sports facilities under threat.

The committee is rightly proud of what has been achieved in the last couple of years. Although challenges remain, Enfield Drill Hall now has a positive future; a future that didn't look likely a couple of years ago.

For more information and to book the sports facilities:

Visit enfielddrillhall.club

Boosting Town's profile

Enfield Town FC board member talks to Andrew Warshaw about her new role

Like many other clubs up and down the country, Enfield Town FC is now taking stock of the season just ending and planning for the next campaign on the field.

When it comes to the non-league game, however, it is also all about awareness and ensuring that as many people as possible buy into the fact that there is local team on their doorstep. It helps, in Town's case, that they have the borough's former mayor to spread the word.

Christine Hamilton, still an elected local councillor after her tenure as the borough's top civil administrator, may have been a familiar face in her mayoral robes. But these days, her various roles include putting all her efforts into supporting Enfield Town as the club's first ever female board member.

A big part of that role is fundraising, not least publicising the club's eagerly awaited gala dinner at the end of May, when none other than Tottenham Hotspur legend Gary Mabbutt is the guest speaker and for which tickets priced £60 are still available. It's something she knows a lot about having raised £30,000 for ten charities when she was mayor.

But if you think Christine is simply a

figurehead who knows little or nothing about football, think again. Brought up in Wigan, she ardently supported both the city's football and rugby league clubs, and since moving south has committed herself to Enfield Town.

"I've lived around 50 years in Enfield and consider it my home town," she told the *Dispatch*. "My children were born at North Middlesex Hospital and I just think

"The work the football club does in the community, and helping young people, is something I'm passionate about"

Former mayor Christine Hamilton (left) at Enfield Town's Queen Elizabeth II Stadium



it's a fantastic place to live.

"The work the football club does in the community and helping young people, including young offenders, is something I'm passionate about. What I want to do most in the summer is get our name out there.

"Everyone living in the borough should know where we are."

Enfield Town's commercial director Steve Read says Christine's contribution is invaluable in terms of awareness, sponsorship, and communication. Signposts near the club's QE2 stadium

proclaiming it as "the home of Enfield Town" was just one of her successful campaigns. Another is her link with Spurs – hence the forthcoming Gary Mabbutt evening on Friday 31st May.

"The fact that she was mayor and is still a councillor, she knows a lot of people," says Steve. "She probably has more contacts than the rest of the board put together.

"She is still learning about the club but she's incredibly influential. In a nutshell, she opens doors."

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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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