

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº. 10 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

JULY 2019

NEWS

Anger as bin collections petition is rejected by Enfield Council despite 6,000 people signing it

P. 2

INTERVIEW

Mayor of Enfield Kate Anolue talks about her extraordinary life, from fleeing war to midwifery

P. 7

COMMENT

Extinction Rebellion campaigner on why Enfield must declare a 'climate emergency'

P. 8

ARTS & CULTURE

How a community arts programme is celebrating local talent in Edmonton

P. 12



The new £46m Meridian Water Station, replete with golden roof, was opened in June – read more on Page 3

Council leader in multiple code of conduct breaches

Nesil Caliskan under pressure to apologise over 'bullying' of colleague

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

The Labour Party is being asked by local councillors to take disciplinary action against the leader of Enfield Council amid growing concern over her conduct.

Following two separate investigations it was revealed in June that Nesil Caliskan had been found guilty of breaching the code of conduct – with one concluding the leader's behaviour “amounted to bullying” and another that she attempted to “compromise the impartiality” of the council's scrutiny process.

There are also now fears that several key recommendations issued by the Labour Party's National Executive Committee (NEC) – following its investigation into “irregularities” with Enfield Labour group's selection process for the 2018 local election – are being ignored. In May half of the council's previous cabinet quit after complaining that party procedures were not being followed by the leadership team.

Cllr Caliskan has been ordered by the council's monitoring officer and deputy monitoring officer to write two formal letters of

apology to fellow Labour councillors Yasemin Brett and Derek Levy in relation to her code of conduct breaches, but as the *Dispatch* went to press there was no confirmation from either Cllr Brett or Cllr Levy that these letters had been sent.

In a statement made following the ruling by the director of law and governance that she had “failed to treat Cllr Brett with respect” and bullied her, the council leader declined to apologise and instead claimed her behaviour did not amount to bullying. The independent solicitor who investigated the incident between the pair had

rejected counter-claims from Cllr Caliskan that Cllr Brett had “instigated a smear campaign”.

In a statement Cllr Brett said: “Bullying has no place in public life and the perpetrators must be held to account. The Labour Party must now intervene and defend colleagues from bullying.”

Dismissing the council monitoring officer's findings, Cllr Caliskan said: “The report found that I could have given Cllr Brett more warning for temporarily removing her from cabinet for two

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



enfielddispatch.co.uk



@EnfieldDispatch



/EnfieldDispatch



enfielddispatch@socialspider.com



ED.

Nº.10
JULY 2019

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

Publisher
David Floyd

Editor
James Cracknell

Designer
Jonathan Duncan

Project Manager
Anna Merryfield

Contributors
Zac Ntim, Chris Horner, Nicole Brown, Chris Rash, Harriet Piercy, Alastair Ball, Vicki Pite, Alison Yates, Claire Docherty, Claire Fisher, David Williamson, Jo Johnson, Giuliana Rubinia, Simon Allin, Callum Shepherd

CONTACT

Call 020 8521 7956

Email EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com

Post Salisbury House, Bury Street West, Enfield N9 9LA

ADVERTISING

Contact **Klaudia Kiss:**

Call 020 8521 7956

Email klaudia@socialspider.com

LOVE YOUR
doorstep

We are grateful to Love Your Doorstep for their ongoing support



Enfield Dispatch is a member of IMPRESS: The Independent Monitor of The Press. For more information on the Dispatch's complaints policy and how to make a complaint visit: enfielddispatch.co.uk/complaints

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

weeks, after she publicly voted against democratically-agreed Labour policy. I don't think most people would call that bullying. In other councils, she would have been permanently sacked from the group."

A second investigation, the outcome of which was also revealed last month, found that Cllr Caliskan had again breached the code of conduct – this time by suggesting the chairman of the overview and scrutiny committee meet with her regularly to ensure he was "more closely aligned to key decisions" on Labour group priorities.

Cllr Caliskan made this remark after an overview and scrutiny committee meeting last October,

in an email sent to then-committee chair Cllr Levy. The committee's role is to hold the council's decision-makers to account, and it had voted to challenge proposed changes to bin collections, but the investigating solicitor concluded the council leader "overrode the obligation to accept the role of overview and scrutiny".

Since the incident came to light Cllr Levy said Cllr Caliskan had "broken the established principles of democracy" and that her pattern of behaviour "has potential to cause reputational damage to the council". As the *Dispatch* went to press Cllr Caliskan had not responded to requests for a comment.

In another example of the huge division between the council's leadership team and many

other Labour councillors, Dinah Barry has also revealed that she resigned as the group chair earlier this year because of "persistent bullying by a small number of people" and added that "hard-working councillors are being abused".

A spokesperson for the Labour Party's London region, in a statement, said: "We are in the process of implementing the NEC recommendations for Enfield Labour group and all recommendations will be carried out in due course."

The Labour spokesperson added that Cllr Caliskan's multiple code of conduct breaches, including the finding that her behaviour amounted to bullying, "was an internal council matter".

The council declined to comment.

Anger as bin collections petition rejected



BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council has rejected a petition signed by more than 6,000 people – because it says it cannot verify they are local residents.

The 'Bin the new bin collections' petition was launched in March by Palmers Green resident Helen Blairman in reaction to the council's plan to switch to fortnightly collections for both general waste and recycling.

Council guidelines state that any petition which amasses support from 1% of the borough population – deemed currently to be 3,124 people – will be debated at a meeting of the full council. While it says petitions can be rejected if

they do not include the addresses of signatories, Helen says she has submitted postcodes to the council for verification.

Helen said: "We have got twice as many signatures as we need for a debate but the council has moved the goalposts on the regulations for submitting petitions – saying they must now include addresses and emails. This is lunacy. I have postcodes for every signatory."

"Comments made online reveal anger and irritation at the cavalier and dismissive way that this matter has been managed by the council. People in Enfield are extremely unhappy about the lack of either consultation or willingness to discuss a compromise.

"We are all transparently aware of the council's need to make savings, but genuinely feel that this blanket decision is out of touch with the feelings of the electorate."

The council is already facing severe criticism over its changes to bin collections, with former deputy leader Daniel Anderson describing the public consultation held last December and January as a "sham" and a "fiasco" after the council chose to proceed with the least-popular option. The changes, due to be introduced from November, are expected to save £2million and will also include a new weekly food waste service and £65 charge for garden waste collection.

A council spokesperson said: "The lead petitioner has been informed that the petition was not accepted as it does not meet the requirements of Enfield Council's published petition scheme, which was approved by full council in 2017. "The petition scheme specifies that petitions presented to the local authority must include the addresses of everyone who has signed the document.

"In the case of the 'Bin the new bin collections' petition, this is not the case and addresses have not been provided.

"Officers from the scrutiny team are happy to meet the lead petitioner to discuss ways in which this can be taken forward."

Ward boundary changes

Enfield's political ward boundaries are set to change – and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking for feedback.

A review has recommended redrawing the borough's 21 existing wards and creating five new ones, although with many wards subsequently electing two representatives instead of three the borough would still be represented by 63 councillors in total.

Existing wards including Turkey Street, Chase, Enfield Highway, Southgate Green and Southbury would be renamed and replaced with new wards such as Bullsmoor, Whitewebbs, Ridgeway, Oakwood, Hoe Lane, King'smead, Raglan and Arnos Grove.

Residents have until 5th August to submit their views on the proposals via consultation.lgbce.org.uk.

New trains welcomed

Enfield North MP Joan Ryan has welcomed the arrival of new trains on a key commuter route – but is still calling for the line to be taken out of private hands.

The Change UK MP said new air-conditioned six-carriage Great Northern trains – with space for an extra 100 passengers – would greatly improve journeys along the Hertford Loop Line into Moorgate.

While only a few new Class 717 trains are running so far, the full £240million fleet will be introduced by the end of the year – serving Crews Hill, Gordon Hill, Enfield Chase, Grange Park, Winchmore Hill and Palmers Green stations. Joan Ryan said: "I've been calling on rail bosses at Great Northern to deliver a brand new fleet of trains, so I am pleased to see the new rolling stock operating on the line.

"However, residents continue to complain about the frequency of services and performance. That's why I am urging government ministers to devolve these services to Transport for London – polling has shown there is majority public support for TfL to be given control. "I believe this will be the most effective way to secure a more frequent, reliable and affordable train service and is in the best interests of Enfield's commuters."



Meridian Water Station replaces Angel Road

New railway station opens at Meridian Water

Replacement for Angel Road Station hoped to be catalyst for thousands of new homes

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Meridian Water Station has been officially opened by Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling. The new £46million transport hub in Edmonton is hoped to be a catalyst for the construction of 10,000 homes at one of London's biggest regeneration sites, with a developer recently being appointed to build the first 725 homes. It replaces nearby Angel Road Station, just 100 metres up the track, boosting accessibility for passengers with lifts to provide step-free access. An enclosed concourse features a "bespoke golden panel design".

Grayling described the station as "a vital rail link" that would be "a flagship for the area, unlocking homes and jobs".

Representatives from Network Rail, Enfield Council and rail firm Greater Anglia also joined the official opening, in what was hailed as a "team effort".

For now Meridian Water Station will only be served by trains during morning and evening rush hours, with nothing at

weekends, but in September a newly-built line to Stratford will be brought into use and will mean two trains per hour can run throughout the day, with up to four at peak times.

Meridian Water is part of a £170m package of upgrades by Network Rail, dubbed the 'Lee Valley Rail Programme', funded jointly by the Greater London Authority, Transport for London

and other local authorities, including Enfield Council.

Further planned upgrades to the West Anglia Main Line through Enfield, which could see between six and eight trains per hour serving Meridian Water, are dependent on securing money from the Department of Transport. Asked whether the government would pledge to fund this capacity boost, Grayling told the

Dispatch: "It is in the pipeline, it needs to be done."

"It is a difficult project because there is a huge amount of work to do and there are all kinds of obstacles to four-tracking through Enfield, but it is something on our radar and on Network Rail's radar."

In addition, Crossrail 2 might one day serve Meridian Water Station, but the project is now in doubt following significant delays and cost overruns with Crossrail 1 – the Elizabeth Line – which has yet to open.

Deputy Mayor of London for Transport Heidi Alexander was also at the station's opening. She said: "I hope it is a station the local community will be proud of, when these homes eventually materialise here."

Council leader Nesil Caliskan, talking to the *Dispatch*, said the new station was about more than just travel. She said: "I don't believe in building homes in the middle of nowhere. The potential for Meridian Water is only going to be realised through new rail infrastructure."

While Angel Road, with 33,000 annual passenger journeys, was the second-quietest station in London, Meridian Water is expected to be used four million times per year once the regeneration of the area is complete. Meliha Duymaz, Network Rail's route managing director for Anglia, added: "The delivery of the Lee Valley Rail Programme is the culmination of years of hard work. Reducing congestion at busy stations and building a brand new one for the people of Enfield will transform journeys."



Transport secretary Chris Grayling (centre) is joined at the station opening by representatives from Network Rail, Enfield Council and Greater Anglia

Poverty commission launched

BY ZAC NTIM

An independent commission tasked with tackling poverty and inequality has been launched by Enfield Council. The wide-ranging commission will aim to investigate the factors driving poverty in the borough and provide recommendations to help local residents deal with the challenges it poses.

Council leader Nesil Caliskan said the Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission was a "positive step" in tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality in Enfield.

Local residents are being urged to support the commission by sharing their own personal experiences and struggles at designated drop-in facilities, which will be set up at Enfield Civic Centre and local libraries over the summer.

Cllr Caliskan said: "It will not be an easy task, but it is a vital one and one that we are absolutely committed to solving. I would urge residents to get in touch to tell their stories of what it is like to live with poverty in Enfield, to help support the commission and help it come up with recommendations which enable us to tackle this vital issue."

The commission will be chaired by Baroness Tyler of Enfield, a long-time advocate of social policy reform and current co-chair of an all-party parliamentary group on social mobility. She said: "I am honoured to be chairing the Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission. Listening to the different communities in Enfield will give us a better understanding of the challenges many people face and give us an opportunity to make recommendations which will support local people who need a helping hand to reach their full potential."

Representatives from both national and local organisations, such as the housing charity Shelter and Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust, plus headteachers from local primary and secondary schools, will work alongside Baroness Tyler.

Bharat Mehta, chief executive of Trust for London, an independent charity which funds voluntary work aimed at tackling poverty, has backed the commission. He said: "Unfortunately too many Londoners lack the resources to make ends meet. This is true in Enfield with 27% of residents living in poverty after their housing costs are taken into account."

"That is why we welcome this new poverty and inequality commission. We hope the range of local organisations that will be working together will be able to tackle the issues faced by those living in the borough."

Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission will run from now until November, with a final report due to be published in December.



Members of Selborne Bowling Club celebrate planting up a drinking trough in Southgate

Blooming marvellous Bowling club helps bring life to disused horse trough

BY CHRIS HORNER

Horses are rarely seen now on roads, but were once a common sight. Cars have replaced carts and carriages, petrol stations have replaced drinking troughs.

In Enfield borough there are still nine drinking troughs that remain from the days when horse-riding was commonplace. Since they are not now needed for horses, they have been planted with flowers instead.

Members of Selborne Bowling Club recently took time out from their bowling championship match, being held on the club's bowling green behind Ye Olde Cherry Tree pub in Southgate, to plant up the horse trough in The Green.

They were keen to brighten up this part of Southgate opposite their club.

The horse and cattle trough at The Green is fairly typical; made from granite three metres long, it has a drinking fountain at one end and a water trough below for dogs and sheep. The trough was installed by the Metropolitan Drinking Foun-

tain and Cattle Trough Association in 1886 at a cost of £50 and was paid for by public subscription. This association was set up in 1859 by Samuel Gurney MP, to provide free clean drinking water and support animal welfare.

In the 19th Century, London was short of public drinking water fountains and cattle drinking troughs. There was a need to provide clean sources of water in urban areas to meet the needs of horses transporting goods and for cattle and sheep being driven into central London on market days. The supply of clean

stallation of public drinking water fountains located opposite public houses and coaching inns. Troughs were funded by public donations and by wealthy philanthropic patrons, together with support from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). By 1879 there were 800 troughs supplying the needs of over 50,000 horses in London.

Drinking troughs were the petrol stations of the 19th Century, commonly located adjacent to coaching inns such as Ye Olde Cherry Tree. The troughs were a vital element to facilitate transport and patrons at private establishments were expected to pay for this service, or to use the inn. Notices usually stated: "All that

water their horses here must pay a penny or have some beer."

In 1936, as petrol-driven motoring replaced horse-drawn transport, the installation of water troughs ceased.

For more information about Selborne Bowling Club:

Visit selbornebc.co.uk

"Drinking troughs were the petrol stations of the 19th Century"

drinking water was of major concern; there was a cholera epidemic in 1854 and London's growing population put increasing pressure on the supply of clean drinking water.

Beer had been a safer alternative to drinking contaminated water and to counter this the temperance movement encouraged the in-

My vision for student tuition

BY NICOLE BROWN

Growing up with my single mother and living in social deprivation as a young person meant that it was twice if not three times as hard to get access to the right opportunities and become successful.

I longed for the opportunity to get extra support with my studies, but accessing it also meant being able to afford it. Although it meant that I had to figure things out on my own, I was determined that I was going to make it no matter what.

I realised that studying was the way out of my circumstances. I worked hard and kept my head down, but even then, I wished that things would have been easier. Many of my peers did not have the same mindset as I did, nor did they have the support of a parent to push them to be ambitious and do well – they were sucked into the vicious cycle which comes with deprivation.

I recognised that one of the ways in which I could help other young people was through social change; giving them access to that educational opportunity which I myself longed to have as a teenager. This was my motivation for starting Visionaries Learning Centre (VLC).

VLC is a not-for-profit organisation that provides educational tuition in maths, English, science and drama for students in Enfield aged 11-16 years. Our aim is to also cover primary education in future.

Our focus is on reaching students who are from socially deprived areas in the borough, including those who have been socially excluded from mainstream education – and by extension, society. We recognise that it may not be every month that a family can afford to pay the cost of sending their child for extra tuition and it is for this very reason that VLC's primary aim is to make it accessible, irrespective of financial circumstances, to enable continuity for the child through our pay-what-you-can scheme.

VLC is about making an impact through raising academic standards, helping to better students' chances and making an investment in the lives of our young people. This is what makes VLC unique compared to other tuition providers.

For more information about Visionaries Learning Centre:

Email info@visionarieslearningcentre.co.uk

Visit visionarieslearningcentre.co.uk

Charity opens community café

Founder Harriet Piercy says everyone is welcome to have a cuppa



Mayor of Enfield Kate Anolue and council leader Nesil Caliskan officially launch the community café

Zebbras Children and Adults Charity is pleased to announce the opening of a new community café in Ponders End.

The café aims to support students and adults who have disabilities with meaningful, supported employment opportunities. The project has been fully funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Both Mayor of Enfield Kate Anolue and Enfield Council leader Nesil Caliskan attended our launch party last month, together with councillors Rick Jewell and Gina Needs; all were impressed with the new initiative.

Following the opening of the café, Cllr Caliskan congratulated us on our successful lottery funding and stated on social media that those running the project are “absolute heroes”!

We are pleased to have formed valuable partnerships with local special needs schools and Equals – an integrated learning and disability service – to provide students and adults with disabilities the chance to gain voluntary experience which

is meaningful to them.

The café serves low-cost food and is a great place for our community to meet, come together and tackle the effects of isolation in the community. I’d like to thank National Lottery players for making our project possible; we are making a huge difference to the lives of many people thanks to lottery funding.

The Zebbras Community Café is open every Friday 10am–2pm during term time and is hosted by Ponders End Community Development Trust, at Vincent House in Nags Head Road. Please do come along, everyone is welcome!

If you would like to find out more about our charity and the work we are doing in your community, then please take the time to visit our website.

For more information about Zebbras Children and Adults charity:

Email zebrascacharity@outlook.com

Tweet @zebrascacharity

Visit zebrascacharity.org.uk

All under one Ruth

Ruth Winston Centre's vice chair of trustees describes the charity's work

BY CHRIS RASH

Retirement is not the ending of something, but rather the beginning of what can be a whole new life.

It is an opportunity to do those things that you have always wanted to do, but have never had the time – retirement is an adventure!

Ruth Winston Centre in Palmers Green provides plenty of opportunities to keep older people occupied. It is not a day care centre but a vibrant modern and self-contained community hub offering people aged 50 and over a wide variety of services, as well as a meeting place to socialise and learn new skills.

It was originally set up as a charity in the 1950s, largely thanks to the efforts of then mayor of Southgate Ruth Winston, who raised the funds needed to buy the property and dedicated the building to the welfare of the elderly. Situated at 190 Green Lanes, the centre has been welcoming senior citizens from across Enfield for nearly 60 years, offering good company, food, companionship, fitness and education.

An open day is being held at the centre on

Tuesday 24th September and will showcase its various activities. There will be an opportunity for a tour of the centre and to see for yourself the activities and facilities offered. As statutory funding is no longer available, the charity needs to raise funds from bazaars, quizzes and other events. Ideas are always welcome!

Liz Thoree, the centre manager, said: “Over the years it has been possible to increase the facilities for clubs and other organisations meeting at the centre to provide support to voluntary groups.”

Activities hosted at Ruth Winston from Monday to Friday include Tai Chi, yoga, Pilates, line dancing, art class, a book club, drama group, bridge, and a computers for beginners class. We also have a resident hairdresser, chiropodist and bereavement councillor. The community café runs Monday to Friday, enabling visitors to have a cup of coffee, play scrabble, and be entertained.

For more information about Ruth Winston Centre:

Visit ruthwinstoncentre.com



Ruth Winston Centre in Green Lanes was first opened in 1959

Migrant families facing welfare restrictions

Government's 'hostile environment' policy is affecting 156 Enfield families, figures reveal

BY ALASTAIR BALL

New figures show scores of migrant families with vulnerable children in Enfield sought support from social services in 2018 because they have 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF).

Many people with NRPF have the right to stay in the UK but are not entitled to any welfare benefits or social housing. The only support they can get is from social services through Section 17 of the Children's Act 1989 – which applies if they become destitute or homeless.

Yaa, a local single mother with NRPF, told the *Dispatch*: "I don't have anything. Sometimes, on the bus, if somebody is eating or drinking, my daughter starts crying. I'm stressed, always stressed.

"I don't have enough money to pay the rent. Now, if my daughter sees somebody shouting at the door, she cries. In her sleep, she shouts out; 'don't hurt my mummy, don't hurt my mummy'.

"Sometimes I go to the bus stop to beg."

NRPF is part of the government's 'hostile environment' policy, which attempts to discourage migration to the UK by making it difficult for those who arrive. A Freedom of Information request made by Project 17, a charity which works to end destitution among migrant children, has revealed there are 156 families affected by NRPF in Enfield.

Amy Murtagh, Project 17's interim director, said: "Many children in families with NRPF grow up in exceptional poverty, and are at high risk of homelessness, exploitation and abuse. Support provided under Section 17 of the Children's Act has become an essential safety net."

Rachel Benchekroun, an NRPF researcher, said: "Mothers with no recourse to public funds have no safety net. If they are in a relationship which breaks down, they and their children may become homeless and destitute."

She added that mothers with NRPF rely on informal support networks, such as friends or churches. Rachel said: "When friends aren't able to accommodate them, and they have nowhere else to go, their



Yaa is an Enfield resident with 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF)

situation can become desperate."

Other organisations that can help these families include Haringey Migrants Support Centre, which works with affected people across London. Among the people they have helped escape from NRPF restrictions is Yaa, the single mother from Enfield quoted above.

It is not known how many people in total are affected by NRPF. Eve Dickson, of Project 17, said: "Neither local authorities nor central government collect data on how many people are in the UK with NRPF.

The only data we do have is the number of families supported under Section 17 by local authorities, but this will only be a small proportion of the total population."

Amy Murtagh added: "We want the government to end the practice of restricting access to mainstream welfare, and provide enough funding to local authorities who urgently need more funding to meet their statutory obligations towards all children in their area."

Enfield Council was approached for comment.

Advertisement

OVER 1000 FREE COURSE SPACES FOR 11-19 YEAR OLDS FOR SUMMER!

KIDLODEON

TEENFLIXTV

Youngify

myTUNES

ourtv

YOUTH ENFIELD

SUMMER UNI 2019 SIGN UP DAY
SAT 20 JULY, 12PM - 5PM

Enfield Civic Centre, Enfield Town, Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3XA

LIMITED SPACES FREE COURSES ALL SUMMER LONG!

f YOUTH ENFIELD @Youth_Enfield #youthenfield

Email: summeruni@enfield.gov.uk

www.enfield.gov.uk/summeruni



NEW SERVICE

Express your interest in the Garden Waste Service

www.enfield.gov.uk/bins

A new optional, paid for, fortnightly collection for your existing green lidded bin - starts November 2019

Replaces your current mixed food and garden waste collection

£65.00 per year (normally April - March) but you will receive **5 months free of charge** if you sign up by November 2019

Good for Enfield, Good for the Planet

www.enfield.gov.uk/bins



From midwife to mayor

Councillor Kate Anolue speaks to James Cracknell after becoming mayor for a second time



Councillor Kate Anolue at May's mayor-making ceremony

While Kate Anolue has achieved a huge amount in her 70 years, she remains determined to do more.

In May, when Enfield's new Nigerian-born mayor was handed the chains of office for a second time, she immediately vowed to break the £44,000 fundraising record she herself had set during her previous term as mayor in 2012/13.

"Being mayor is very community based," Councillor Anolue tells me. "Raising funds for good causes, meeting people and seeing the work of volunteers that you don't otherwise get to see, for me it is very satisfying."

As a teenager in the 1960s Cllr Anolue was forced to flee violence during the Nigerian Civil War, and ended up sharing a single room with seven other family members. But her father ensured she continued in education so that she could one day become a nurse.

Emigrating to England in 1971

to meet the husband with whom she had an arranged marriage, Cllr Anolue was tragically left to raise their children alone when he died shortly after their fourth child was born. She went on to work at North Middlesex Hospital for 40 years, delivering thousands of babies as a midwife, before retiring in 2012 to focus on politics and community work.

The Upper Edmonton councillor has now written an autobiography about her extraordinary life to help raise extra funds during her mayoral term, with a book launch taking place later this month.

"I have achieved a lot, but I want to do more. When I left the council in 2014 [she was elected again in 2018] I travelled home to look after my mother, but I still had a sense that there was a job that I hadn't completed in Enfield.

"I went to Barking and Dagenham where they have a young mayor and I realised we need it here as well. Enfield has a youth parliament, but I saw what young mayors were doing in other boroughs and they are fantastic, so I thought it would be a good idea. "We need to make sure young people know they are loved. We

"We need to make sure young people know they are loved"

tend to forget we were once young ourselves and that we had someone who cared for us."

Cllr Anolue's fundraising for the year ahead will focus on health, benefiting charities tackling dementia, cancer and sickle cell anaemia, which are all causes close to her heart.

"I am a sickle cell carrier but

fortunately my husband didn't have it so it was not passed on. We encourage young girls to find out whether they carry it, before they have children."

One of Cllr Anolue's closest friends died last year from cancer, while another has dementia. "When my friend started developing dementia, it upset me very much. I visit her every week but she does not communicate."

Cllr Anolue, who is also a trained lawyer, has previously been recognised for her work in the community both here and in Nigeria. In Enfield she was awarded the freedom of the borough in 2007, while she was made a chieftain in her hometown Nanka a year later.

"Each town has its own king and queen, but there are not many women who are made chieftains, I was the only one out of 50."

It was this royal family that made the trip to London to celebrate Cllr Anolue's achievement of becoming mayor a second time, attending the mayor-making ceremony in May and using the occasion to introduce other Enfield councillors to their colourful culture.

Cllr Anolue still goes back regularly to Nanka, in Nigeria's Anambra state, but always feels at home in Enfield. Aside from fundraising and charity work, she has spoken about wanting to unite the borough.

"I want to work hard and listen to people; we have unemployment, young people who are not in education, housing problems. We need to talk about it and work together – if you don't do that you can never achieve anything."

Cllr Kate Anolue is launching her autobiography with an event on Friday 26th July at Enfield Civic Centre. 'Kate Anolue: The Autobiography' is now available to buy via Amazon.

Extinction Rebellion protesters at Oxford Circus in April



Why we must declare a 'climate emergency'

Alison Yates from Enfield Extinction Rebellion spells out the environmental problems we face

Local people are demanding that Enfield Council declares a 'climate emergency' at its next full meeting, joining neighbours Haringey and Waltham Forest, plus the Mayor of London and 83 other local councils around the country.

In October 2018 a United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report concluded that the risk of catastrophic climate change – including extreme heat, drought, flooding and climate-related poverty – would significantly increase unless global warming could be kept to a maximum of 1.5C. But this threshold is likely to be reached by 2030 unless radical action is taken.

As this is an unprecedented and imminent threat, Enfield residents and workers are therefore demanding and expecting the council to propose becoming carbon neutral by 2025 and to divest its pension funds from fossil fuels with

immediate effect.

Many people have become particularly aware this year of the climate emergency facing us. In March, Cyclone Idai brought devastating floods to Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi with a death toll of at least 750 and more than 100,000 displaced. In April, Sir David Attenborough's documentary *Climate Change – The Facts* aired, setting out

"The climate crisis is both the easiest and the hardest issue we have ever faced. The easiest because we know what we must do. We must stop the emissions of greenhouse gases. The hardest because our current economics are still totally dependent on burning fossil fuels, and thereby destroying ecosystems in order to create everlasting economic growth."

"Many people have become particularly aware this year of the climate emergency facing us"

the stark truth about our situation and the bleakness of our future if we don't act immediately. The same month Sweden's 16-year-old student climate striker Greta Thunberg was invited to address a packed House of Commons.

Greta, in her speech, said: "Basically nothing is being done to halt, or even slow, climate and ecological breakdown, despite all the beautiful words and promises.

Activists from Extinction Rebellion have taken to the streets of London to highlight Greta's message in their demonstrations at

Waterloo Bridge, Parliament Square, Marble Arch and Oxford Circus. Now, an Enfield branch of Extinction Rebellion has been formed, and we hope that as many local people as possible will join our demonstration outside Enfield Civic Centre from 6pm on Wednesday 10th July, to put pressure on the council to declare a climate emergency.

This is an emergency. We need to act now.

Thrill of the Chase

In our latest councillor's column, Chase ward member Vicki Pite highlights the difficulties facing Enfield's largest ward

In its diversity, Enfield is a microcosm of London – and Chase is itself a microcosm of Enfield. The most northerly, and enormous, of Enfield's wards, its geography dictates its many blessings and complexities.

Chase has a Jacobean mansion, a community vineyard, a world-famous horticultural college, a historic garden, three country parks, substantial farmlands, two golf courses, a world-class football academy, a tiny hamlet and a thriving hub of garden centres.

Bounded by major thoroughfares, it's largely residential and by-passed; but increasingly drivers divert through our quiet residential roads, and lorries are a serious concern. Residents report significant congestion and parking problems, particularly during the school run. So-called 'boy racers' on the A10 are noisy and dangerous. We're disappointed that Transport for London has reneged on its promise to install average speed cameras, but welcome the recent police crackdown. We actively lobby for better streets and share residents' increasing disquiet about environmental

issues such as pollution, carbon emissions and waste collections.

On the capital's outskirts, Chase has its share of London's overspill but, missing the vibrancy of a high street such as Green Lanes or Hertford Road, it lacks the community infrastructure necessary to support large housing developments.

Extraordinarily, there is no GP or dental surgery in Chase ward;



Cllr Vicki Pite was elected to represent Chase in 2014

health inequalities are among the worst in Enfield. The prevalence of excess weight and obesity in primary school age children in Chase is more than Enfield's average of one in three. Almost a third of five-year olds in Enfield also have one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth, exceeding the London average.

Public transport in the north of the ward is inadequate, exacerbating poor access to primary care. Plans for both a GP at Chase Farm Hospital and additional buses have, sadly, fallen through – despite my lobbying efforts since 2014.

Much of our casework relates to repairing our six ageing tower blocks, and residents complain about irresponsible behaviour regarding waste disposal, fly tipping and flooding. Our crime rate is relatively low and community links with the police are effective, but it has been recognised that just one police officer, one police community support officer and a shared police sergeant was insufficient; recently the Mayor of London funded an additional officer for Chase and other wards.

Meeting our diverse community's needs and maintaining our assets continues to be a challenge after nine years of government cuts affecting Enfield Council.

Cllr Vicki Pite represents Chase along with Dino Lemonides and Hass Yusuf (all Labour). Surgeries are held every Saturday, 10am-11am, at The Lancaster Centre, 53 Lancaster Road, Enfield:

Call 020 8379 2859

Email cllr.vicki.pite@enfield.gov.uk

The Enfield branch of the National Education Union has staged a series of protests and strikes against funding cuts at Oasis Academy Hadley, including on this very wet day in Westminster



Cuts to local schools are devastating

The National Education Union's Enfield deputy secretary on why two local schools are being hit particularly hard by government cuts

BY CLAIRE DOCHERTY

The government has cut £2.8billion from school budgets since 2015. This has taken a big toll on Enfield's schools, with £50.6million lost in total across the borough.

One of the worst hit schools in England is Oasis Academy Hadley, in Ponders End, where funding has been cut by £1.9million – £570 less per pupil – over the last four years.

Now the trustees of both Oasis Hadley and Oasis Enfield, its sister school in Enfield Lock, are being forced to make further cuts of £1.3m by 2020/21, with more cuts predicted for the future.

In order to stay within budget, the academy chain is reducing its staff by at least 10% as part of yet another staff restructure. This will impact on class sizes and workload for staff. Oasis are also proposing to share staff between the two academies, reduce the

number of subjects offered, and share one special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) co-ordinator between Oasis Hadley Primary, Oasis Hadley Secondary and Oasis Enfield Secondary. Staff and parents have expressed their concerns about the potential negative impact that these plans will have on teaching and learning at the Oasis academies. In addition to the millions of pounds already cut from these school budgets there are fears that further cuts will risk the good education that the Oasis academies currently provide.

Proposals include cutting SEND and pastoral provision, including sharing a special educational needs co-ordinator. The safeguarding lead and education welfare officer have both raised concerns about maintaining the high standard of pastoral support currently provided.

National Education Union (NEU)

members called a public meeting last month to discuss the issues faced by Oasis in Enfield because they feel unable to remain quiet about the devastating impact that government cuts are having on our children and young people. Representatives from the NEU addressed parents along with teachers and councillors.

This rally was followed by one day of strike action to protest the proposed changes. The staff at Hadley do not take industrial action lightly, but have felt compelled to take action. Please support them.

For more information about the campaign to stop school cuts in Enfield:

Call 020 8443 7072

Email claire.docherty@neu.org.uk

Tweet @EnfieldNEU

Visit enfieldnut.org.uk

To see how government cuts have affected your local school:

Visit schoolcuts.org.uk

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 16th July.

Sad loss of D-Day veteran

Dear Enfield Dispatch

On Friday 31st May I had the funeral of my husband. Alfred 'Bob' Wilson, aged 94, was a D-Day veteran honoured two years ago by the French ambassador – as one of the Royal Marines who took Canadian soldiers to the beaches.

On the fifth day of the landings there was a storm and on leaving the beach to collect more soldiers Bob's landing craft struck a spike and sunk. After being picked up by a second landing craft, this unfortunately was also struck and sank, leaving all on board in the cold water for nine hours. Bob was eventually picked up and taken to hospital in Southampton, but after five days he returned to serve on the HMS Princess Beatrix – taking him to Singapore, India, Indonesia and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

Bob – only on signing our marriage register did I know his real name was Alfred – was a caring man who always helped anyone. He was also a very talented artist. I will miss him terribly.

Irene Wilson
Willow Estate

Vaccines decline is concerning

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Figures by Unicef and the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimate that between 2010 and 2017 more than half-a-million children in the UK did not receive their first dose of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Data from the NHS shows that in 2017/18, childhood MMR vaccination coverage in Enfield was 80.6% – below the national average of 91% and WHO's target of 95%.

It is very concerning that Enfield is falling short for MMR vaccination coverage. Among other factors, this is sadly a symptom of the spread of misinformation that surrounds the vaccine. It is vital that NHS clinical commissioning groups and local authorities work to prioritise educational campaigns around the importance of immunisation.

Joanne McCartney
London Assembly member for Enfield

Electric demands

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Why has Enfield Council not put electric charging points into council housing estates? I live in Newton House and have asked the council for this many times. I have invested in a new London taxi and would like to charge it overnight near where I live. Islington Council has a card scheme; if you are a resident you get to charge for free. I'd like Enfield Council to prove they are as green as they say – and not just put charging points in the wealthy parts of the borough. Step over the A10 divide and invest!

Andrew Bloom
Ponders End

Cycle lanes here to stay

Dear Enfield Dispatch

In response to the opinion piece written by Helen Osman (*Time running out for cycling 'experiment'*, Page 9, Issue 9), let us be clear that the cycle lanes have not been built on an experimental basis – they are here to stay.

The consultation which closed on 13th June related to very specific elements of the scheme introduced using experimental rather than permanent traffic management orders. These elements included the position of disabled bays, the need for and operation of certain free on-street parking bays, an additional loading bay in Lodge Drive, as well as the introduction of waiting and loading restrictions so that double yellow lines and kerb markings can be introduced to make it clear that vehicles should not park in the cycle lanes.

Traffic management orders allow traffic to be regulated in various ways and experimental traffic management orders have the advantage that they can be more easily adapted in light of feedback and experience. The council has used the appropriate powers to provide and regulate the new infrastructure on the A105 to improve the safety of more vulnerable road users.

Cllr Guney Dogan
Cabinet member for environment and sustainability

Making NHS services more accessible

Claire Fisher from Healthwatch Enfield on how local people can help 'grade' hospitals



Do you receive 'continuing healthcare' or a 'personal health' budget? Do you ever wonder who gets to decide the ratings for official hospital gradings in Enfield? Do you wish it was easier to give feedback?

If you answer yes to any one of these questions then please read on because we need your help. We rely on your involvement to help us gather evidence of how services are being experienced by the people actually using them. We then work with local NHS and social care leaders to make improvements.

Every person matters, every survey really does make a difference. So please be a part of that today and help us with the following if you can.

We are working with Enfield Disability Action (EDA) to find out about being assessed for and receiving NHS continuing healthcare and personal health budgets. To share your views simply go to smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CHCReview.

You may be aware that hospitals are 'graded' on their accessibility. But did you know that the process involves patients and local residents? North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust and Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust are holding a workshop at Community House in Edmonton on Thursday 11th July, 9.30am-3.30pm, and everyone is invited to attend and participate in grading their services.

This is a great opportunity to be involved in an open

and transparent process that serves to ensure fairness and accuracy in assessment of your local health services. Lunch and disability access will be provided.

While we are asking for your involvement, we thought this would be a good time to find out how and when you like to give feedback about your experiences. Are you an avid Trip Advisor user or maybe an Amazon addict? What motivates you to take the time to give feedback? What would make it easier for you to do so? Let us know through our survey at smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SharingViews.

You can find more information and links to all of the surveys on the news and events section of our website. Thank you for helping to make a difference!

healthwatch
Enfield

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

Drop in obesity rates

Enfield no longer among worst

Lower obesity rates for Enfield have been given a cautious welcome by the council's health chief.

New statistics from Public Health England show the number of adults in the borough who are overweight or obese fell to 56.7% in 2017/18, having been 61.4% in 2016/17.

It means Enfield has improved from being the fourth-worst borough in London for prevalence of excess weight in adults to the twelfth worst.

Being obese can increase the risk of developing many potentially serious health conditions, including Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and atherosclerosis, which can lead to coronary heart disease and stroke.

Councillor Mahtab Uddin, Enfield Council's cabinet member for public health, said the lower rate showed progress had been made, but that work still needed to be done. He said: "It is great news that adult obesity levels are dropping in Enfield but it is just the start of getting to where we want to be. We need to make sure we can maintain the improvement over the

long-term and ensure that everyone in Enfield adopts good habits and a lifestyle that makes them as resistant to disease and serious health conditions as they possibly can."

Cllr Uddin attributed the drop to a range of initiatives and activities in the borough, including healthy eating campaigns such as 'Sugar Smart' and the council's efforts to promote physical activity through its cycling initiatives and new 'green gyms' in parks.

He added: "It appears that encouraging behaviour change can make a real difference and we need to develop that approach further to ensure our residents continue to reap the health benefits."

So far 56 organisations across Enfield have signed up to the Sugar Smart campaign, which has reduced sugar content in school meals by a quarter. The council is also delivering 'Eat Better, Start Better' training to child carers and supporting other childcare providers to achieve the 'Healthy Early Years London' award, a scheme by the Mayor of London to help reduce health inequalities.

OBE for hospital boss

Maria Kane has worked in the NHS for more than 20 years

Maria Kane OBE
is chief executive
of North Middlesex
University Hospital
NHS Trust



The boss of North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust has been made an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours "for services to healthcare".

The honour recognises chief executive Maria Kane's contribution to healthcare over more than two decades. She said: "I'm incredibly grateful that the hard

work and improvements which everyone at North Mid and across the local community has helped deliver in recent months are being recognised in this way. I am clear that I am accepting it on behalf of so many colleagues and partners, without whom none of the local care and services would happen. "While going to Buckingham

Palace to accept the award will of course be a privilege, it is nothing compared to the privilege I have every day of working with so many talented and dedicated health and care staff, as well as partners across the public and voluntary sector, in and across north London."

Dr Peter Carter, the interim chairperson of the hospital trust, said Maria's OBE honour was a reflection of the tremendous commitment and integrity she has shown to the NHS in a number of different organisations and roles in her career so far. He said: "I am delighted that Maria has been recognised in this way. It's a wonderful acknowledgement of the dedication and loyalty she has shown to delivering and improving health services and care for local people in Enfield, Haringey and further afield.

"I know she would be the first to say that it is an honour which truly belongs to all the people she has worked with over the years, particularly all the team at North Mid."

New facility for Enfield entrepreneurs

Business centre wants to encourage collaboration

A new facility in Enfield Lock is providing flexible desk space for freelancers, start-up businesses and established employees looking for something different. The Collaboration Station was launched last month at The Wenta Business Centre in Electric Avenue.

It accommodates desk space for a range of business people and offers a variety of membership deals.

At the launch event was Mayor of Enfield Kate Anolue, who said:

“I enjoyed meeting the gang from Wenta and some of their clients. It’s a beautiful place to help businesses grow and prosper in our Enfield.”

Wenta already runs two start-up business programmes, both part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund, offering 12 hours of free

business support and advice with training workshops, advice online and face-to-face meetings. It also works in partnership with organisations such as The Prince’s Trust to provide business advice and support to start-up, new and existing businesses.

Daniel Evans from Wenta said: “We’ve had the centre in Enfield since 2013 and it’s great that we have continued to develop the space to suit the evolving needs of our clients and the Enfield business community.

“This new facility offers fantastic collaborative opportunities with a range of business types in a bustling location. Whether it’s a start-up business or a well-established business, this will be a fantastic flexible place to work.”

The Collaboration Station offers three different membership packages – business incubation, pay-as-you-go, or hot-desking – enabling people to work together or simply set-up and go.

Cathy Gilbert, centre manager, added: “The Collaboration Station promises to be fantastic for both new clients and current clients. It is set to provide great opportunities for business development and the launch event is just the start.

“We look forward to everyone coming to explore the new facility. It’s an exciting time here at the Wenta Business Centre.”

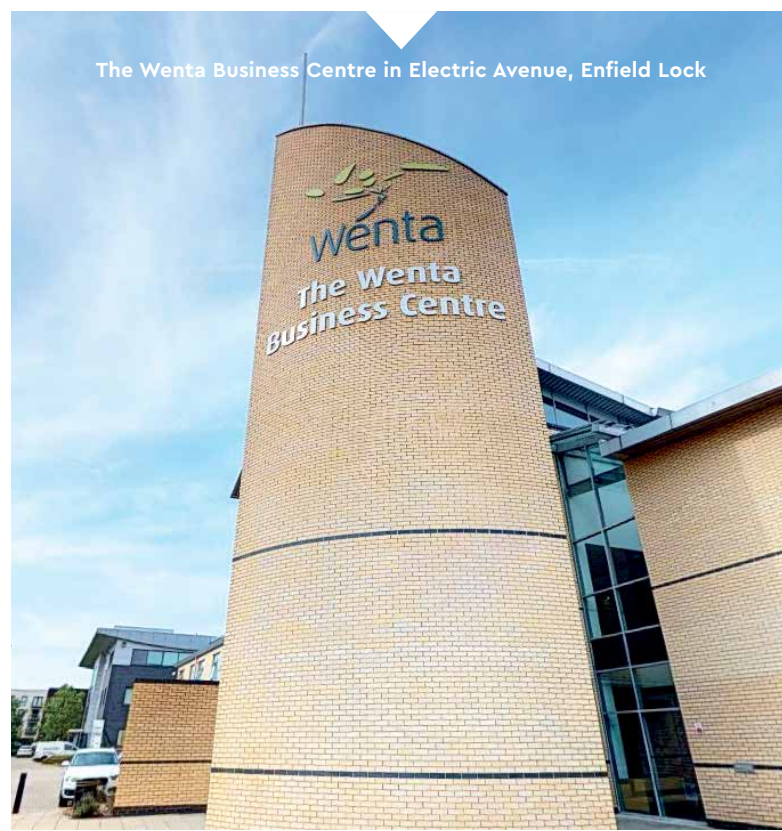
Wenta’s other services include one-to-one general business advice; training and skills development courses; specialist advice; and an online business advice portal.

For more information about Wenta and The Collaboration Station:

Call 0845 371 0891

Email enfield@wenta.co.uk

Visit wenta.co.uk



Advertisement

TRUSTED CARE & COMPANIONSHIP

IN YOUR OWN HOME

now serving Enfield and the surrounding areas



Our services include:

Companionship, Personal Care, Dementia Care & much more

- Our Care is person-centred - we go the extra mile
- All CareGivers are introduced to Clients in advance
- We do not wear uniforms, unless requested by Clients
- Our Care calls are never rushed
- 1 hr minimum up to 24/7 live-in care

Call now for a
FREE
care assessment

020 3967 7500
www.rahenfield.com

Performing with glee

Giuliana Rubinia from Edmonton Community Partnership on a project that celebrates local talent

Amid the negative stories and issues plaguing Edmonton at present, Edmonton Glee is a programme that positively changes the lives of many of the children and young people in the area. This is the flagship annual event for local charity Edmonton Community Partnership (ECP), and the finals took place last month at Hackney Empire—showcasing the talents of more than 300 Edmonton children and young people.

The project gives disadvantaged children the opportunity to experience the world of performing arts in an inclusive, safe and engaging way. Children who ordinarily wouldn't have the opportunity to dance, sing and act on stage, get to develop new skills under the talented guidance of Pineapple Performing Arts School tutors, perform in a London theatre, and show the world what they can do. But that's not all; children and young adults have the chance to win life-changing scholarships with Pineapple Performing Arts, so they can continue living their dream.

Edmonton Glee brings together 19

primary, secondary and special schools within Edmonton, one of the country's most deprived areas. Pineapple provides each school with 16 weeks' tuition in singing, dancing and drama, which culminates in the grand final performance. It is fully inclusive and vulnerable children are encouraged to take part, including those with disabilities, special educational needs, and

“The programme has a profound impact on the lives of many children”

those who are excluded or at risk of exclusion from school.

The programme has a profound impact on the lives of many children. It exposes them to new possibilities and opportunities, helps to re-engage students with school, learn new skills, build confidence and self-esteem, provide opportunities to meet new people, work as a team, and make friends. The biggest emphasis is on fun, while our annual event showcases the most amazing talent that otherwise might have gone unnoticed.

Our sponsor is the philanthropist

Sir Harvey McGrath and he, alongside the generosity of the funded scholarships provided by Pineapple Performing Arts, has allowed this programme to continue, flourish and provide a lasting legacy.

Maggie Peterson, principal at Pineapple Performing Arts School, said: “We are proud to be facilitators for the amazing Edmonton Glee project.

The raw talent and enthusiasm at every school is incredible, from the classroom every week to the final showcase at Hackney Empire our teachers absolutely love helping and seeing the confidence

grow in all the children taking part.

“We have awarded scholarships to a variety of individuals across the age groups to join our summer schools in musical theatre and street dance. We can't wait to see them develop their skills and talents even more!

“The skills and confidence gained and memories made from this year's Edmonton Glee will have a lasting impact on many of our local children and community.”

For more information:

Visit edmontoncommunitypartnership.org

Find your fun

Jo Johnson from Love Your Doorstep has got the summer holidays covered

When we reach this part of the year as parents we are conscious of the fact we are nearing the end of the school summer term and it's the final weeks of the academic year.

If you want to show your appreciation to your child's teacher, there's a variety of ideas that can be provided by our local businesses. For the traditional route of chocolates or flowers, you can find people on the Love Your Doorstep directory who can supply these for you. If you're looking for other gift ideas there's the wonderful Déjà vu, Tinker Tailor, or the gift shops at Forty Hall and the Dugdale Centre.

We find one of the most common posts on our community forum comes from parents seeking holiday clubs for their children to attend, or even just fun activities or places to go with visiting relatives. Fortunately there are plenty of local businesses to fulfil the demand! Powerleague Enfield has a summer camp running throughout the whole of the holiday with special discounts for children attending the full week, while Trent Park has a multi-sport camp with some fabulous opportunities for participants. Another great all-rounder holiday camp is Fitness Vibes' popular 'Creative Confidence Camp' at Highlands Village Hall.

Away from sport and fitness, Young Talent Academy is bringing back its 'Music Video Camp', allowing children the opportunity to feature in a professional music video. Chickenshed Theatre also hosts activities incorporating storytelling, dance, drama, movement and singing. Art Stop in Southgate will also be running some sessions for budding artists.

For days out in the summer there are great local attractions such as Go Ape, providing tree-top adventures in Trent Park, where you'll also find Jungle Falls, a great adventure golf venue that also offers bubble football! If the weather is not on side and you need to head indoors then take a trip to Jump In where, as well as enjoying a spot of trampolining, you can try out their climbing wall.

If you're looking for some delicious ice cream you have the whole summer to work your way through the variety of Gelato Di Ariela flavours produced locally in Edmonton and sold at the Dugdale Centre.

We love the events that take place over summer and one of our favourites is 'Fancy Fair'. This fantastic event is happening at Winchmore Hill Green on Saturday 6th July and Love Your Doorstep will be there with our gazebo, so do come and say hello!

For more information about Love Your Doorstep:

Visit loveyourdoorstep.co.uk

Children performing at Edmonton Glee Credit Paul Seaby



Broomfield Park is the location for a new community arts festival



All the people

David Williamson from Friends of Broomfield Park looks ahead to a new community-led arts festival in Palmers Green

Our communities are full of creativity and talent; Broomfield Park is one of the most popular parks in Enfield. A group of local volunteers is using these two ingredients to create the recipe for Park Life Arts Weekend, running this month. As Friends of Broomfield Park, we want to spark imagination and creativity, foster greater engagement between community groups, and develop a sense of ownership of the park as a resource for collective enjoyment.

Park Life begins on the night of Friday 12th July by showing how an old bowling green can be brought back to life. Our launch event 'Gin and Latin Dance Cocktail' features local gin distillers Old Bakery Gin from Bowes, hampers from local caterer Splendour and Sparkle, live music from Renaissance piano shop in Myddleton Road, plus dancing into the night led by Heather Ross of Salsatricity. Local storytellers start Saturday's

events, including an old favourite *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, played out for pre-school children in locations around the park. We also bring two new stories to life; Palmers Grin, created and told by local recounter Andrew Gelling, and marking the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landings is *Astrogirl*, created and told by Southgate's popular children's author Alex Woolf.

"We want to develop a sense of ownership of the park as a resource for collective enjoyment"

Saturday afternoon celebrates local voices, featuring Enfield Community Choir, led by Simon Gilbert; the award-winning St Anne's Girls School Choir, led by Marsha Morrison; and R Voices Choir, led by Richard Forbes.

Also on Saturday, one of Enfield's creative gems, Chickenshed Theatre, perform their family-friendly *Tales from the Shed On Tour* which follows a week's run in Hyde Park. Saturday's events

end with a galaxy of local talent lighting the night sky, organised by musicians Ruth and Dave Buckwell from That Blue Patch. Sunday morning is a time to relax body and mind with yoga teacher Penny Austin in the community orchard, Tai Chi with John Merrill by the lakes, and creative well-being led by Anna-Maria Popova at the bowling green. Breakfast follows with sourdough craft

bread from Holtwhites Bakery and honey from the bees at Broomfield Orchard.

Park Life Arts Weekend closes with more rhythm and dance throughout the afternoon surrounding the Palmers Greenery Café, encouraging old and young to get to their feet and dance.

For more information about Park Life Arts Weekend starting Friday 12th July:

Email events@friendsofbroomfieldpark.org
Visit fobp.events

LISTINGS

Submit your listing

We can include low-cost community events taking place in Enfield. For next month's listings, email the details of your event to enfielddispatch@socialspider.com by Tuesday 16th July.

CLEAN UPS

Town Centre Clean Ups

Saturday 13th July (Southgate) and Monday 15th July (Angel Edmonton)

Several successful clean-up events have taken place around Enfield – two more events are coming up in July at Southgate and Angel Edmonton.

Volunteers needed

Email towncentres@enfield.gov.uk

KIDS

MumSing's Disney Singalong

Monday 29th July, 2pm–3.15pm
St. Stephen's Church,
Park Avenue Enfield EN2 2BA

Come and join MumSing as they sing their favourite Disney songs! Fancy dress is a must.

Tickets £6 for children, £4 for adults

Email info@vocallysound.co.uk

AUDITIONS

Worlds End Productions

Saturday 13th July, 2pm–3.30pm
Highlands Secondary School, 148
Worlds End Lane, Enfield N21 1QQ

Enfield-based theatre company Worlds End Productions is holding open auditions for children aged 11–13.

Free to apply

Email enquiries@weproductions.co.uk
Visit weproductions.co.uk

KEEP FIT

Keep Fit Exercise Class

Every Friday, 12pm–2pm
Bush Hill Park Methodist Church, 135
Wellington Road, Enfield EN1 2RS

This is a gentle approach to exercise with music. Each Friday we'll be holding a keep fit class that will help you improve your strength, balance and co-ordination.

£3 suggested contribution

Call 020 8367 4137

Email toni.fielding@mha.org.uk

CONCERT

Winchmore String Orchestra

Saturday 13th July, 7.30pm
Winchmore Hill Methodist Church,
Green Lanes N13 4EP

A concert in aid of Alzheimer's Society, celebrating the Entente Cordiale agreements of 1904 between Britain and France which significantly improved Anglo-French relations.

Tickets £9 advance, £10 on door
Visit winchmorestrings.co.uk

SHOPPING

Chickenshed Summer Community Market

Saturday 20th July, 10am–4pm
Chickenshed Theatre, 290 Chase
Side, Cockfosters N14 4PE

The Chickenshed Summer Community Market will feature craft stalls including homemade glass, ceramics, jewellery and textiles from local crafts people.

Free entry

Visit chickenshed.org.uk

FESTIVAL

Livestock 2019

Saturday 27th July, 11am–11pm
Forty Hall Farm, Forty Hill EN2 9HA

Against the picturesque backdrop of Forty Hall Farm and featuring three diverse stages of superb music, Livestock supports and promotes local talent while drawing together some of the country's finest festival bands.

£25 advance tickets
Visit livestockuk.com

WORKSHOP

Introduction to Cross-Stitching

Saturday 20th July, 2pm–4pm
Stitch! 397 Green Lanes N13 4JG

Community enterprise Stitch! is now hosting a range of classes teaching sewing and crafting skills, including this introduction to cross-stitching.

£25 to book a place
Email hello@stitch.org.uk

AROUND THE BOROUGH

PALMERS GREEN

Scheme to cut traffic fails



Box planters which partially blocked the entrance to residential roads have not helped reduce traffic, Enfield Council admitted

EFFORTS BY ENFIELD COUNCIL to reduce motor traffic in a residential area have failed.

The Fox Lane Quieter Neighbourhood scheme was a trial carried out by Cycle Enfield, the council's 'Mini Holland' programme, which saw the entrances to several roads par-

tially blocked by large box planters – in the hope drivers would slow down to negotiate them.

But the council now admits the scheme has failed to cut traffic and said it will remove the obstacles. In an update they said: "We now have evidential data which

demonstrates that the planters are not achieving their intended objective of reducing through traffic in these areas.

"The council remains committed to measures to reduce motor traffic speed and volume through residential areas."

Alternative measures for tackling motor traffic through residential streets between Alderman's Hill, Cannon Hill and Fox Lane, are now being proposed by campaign group Better Streets for Enfield. In a blog the group claimed the only alternative to partial obstacles was blocking off streets entirely.

They wrote: "Current rat runs like The Mall, Meadway and Fox Lane itself would become safe routes for active travel, allowing children to walk, cycle and scoot to school. Traffic might rise at first on the surrounding main roads, but experience shows that it decreases again over time."

ENFIELD TOWN

Café closure

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A "MUCH-LOVED" COMMUNITY café due to be reopened last Christmas is still standing empty.

Enfield Town Library Café has been closed for more than a year. Last September, Enfield Council's property services team admitted having to rerun the process of finding a new operator because a previous bid did not follow the correct procedure.

With no sign of it reopening, Conservative group leader Joanne Laban called for the council to act. "We need to draw a line under this debacle and get the café back up and running as soon as possible," said Cllr Laban.

Enfield Council did not comment.

SOUTHGATE

Nut allergy sufferer ejected by airline

AN AIRLINE IS REFUSING TO offer compensation to a woman from Southgate who was kicked off a flight because of her nut allergy.

Eleanor Varnavides was travelling to Cyprus to spend Greek Easter with her family in April and had warned airline Blue Air in advance about her nut allergy. After being questioned about it during boarding, she presented a doctor's note, at which point she heard the pilot telling staff over the phone that he would "not stop selling nuts" because they would "lose money".

The staff from Blue Air refused to let Eleanor board the plane and she was instead forced to book another flight with a different airline – two days later. This was despite her travelling with the same airline previously without a hitch.

On her return from holiday Eleanor has sought compensation, but Blue Air refused and told her that "the commander of the aircraft considered it safer to deny your boarding" because they were unable to guarantee other passengers would not be eating nuts.

Eleanor told the *Dispatch*: "I was heartbroken. I was escorted out of the security area and they told me to go home. I missed the flight and I missed Greek Easter – I was in tears.

"I wrote to them asking for compensation. I had lost out on bookings for my car hire as well as the flight, and most importantly I missed time seeing my family.

"We demanded full compensation not only for our flight but for negligence and the embarrassment they have caused. After a few weeks they got back to me, but the pilot twisted the story and told Blue Air that we had refused to go on the plane – not that he refused us."

Blue Air did not respond to requests for a comment.

EDMONTON

Incinerator warning

NEW INCINERATORS SHOULD not be built in the capital because of the health risk posed to local residents, according to Mayor of London Sadiq Khan.

London Energy Ltd is due to begin work shortly on the construction of a replacement for

Edmonton incinerator, with two other plants also set to be built in London – which has both the UK's highest incineration rate for local authority waste (54%) and lowest recycling rate (30%).

Khan said: "London's air is a toxic health crisis and the last thing

we need, in our modern green global city, is another harmful waste-burning incinerator polluting our city.

"Emissions from incinerators are bad for our health, bad for our environment and bad for our planet."

WINCHMORE HILL

Green space opened

THE NEW RIVER PATH HAS been "transformed" by the creation of a new public space connecting it with Green Lanes.

An overgrown and blighted patch of land opposite Winchmore Hill Library was converted into an accessible area of green space by Enfield Council, in partnership with Thames Water. Colourful flowers have been planted

and etched patterns on boulders evoke wetland wildlife. Public seating and cycle stands have also been installed. Councillor Guney Dogan, cabinet member for environment, said: "Although this is a relatively small patch of land, it has had a remarkable transformation. Not only is it attractive and welcoming, it is much safer for those using it."



Cllr Guney Dogan (left) at the new public space

Up for the fight

Wrestler from Enfield Chase takes part in try-outs for the sport's biggest global brand



Enfield wrestler Mariah Mays salutes the crowd

BY CALLUM SHEPHERD

Mariah May began training at Hustle Wrestling, based at Edmonton County School, in January 2018. Fast forward 18 months and she's

debuting for the promotion that she's training with and having try-outs with the largest wrestling company in the world.

Mariah, from Enfield Chase, was trained by fellow local wrestling star Sid Scala. She has grasped

her new skills quickly and has got herself into the shape required for a professional athlete.

World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) has a rigorous selection process, with the final stage being a try-out with trainers boasting years

of experience in the industry. It pits trainees against all the things a wrestler might come up against in the industry, from speaking in front of a crowd on a microphone, to testing strength and stamina through multiple different fitness and endurance tests. Those that come out the other side of such a ruthless trial definitely know about it. Regardless of the result, just getting to that stage is a monumental achievement.

Hustle Wrestling's head trainer Sid Scala, who successfully tried out for WWE himself and now wrestles with its NXT UK brand, said: "Seeing one of the Hustle trainees go out and take a step closer to their dream is so motivating."

"It not only motivates me to help these trainees become the best wrestlers they can be, but it shows them what they need to do to get there. Mariah embodies exactly what Hustle teaches all of its trainees and that is hard work, passion and desire to succeed. We are all so proud of her."

Earlier this year WWE launched its UK Performance Center in Enfield. After a whirlwind week ending with her try-out there, Mariah said: "These past few days have just been

surreal. To be in that performance centre and just having a chance to show WWE what I have to offer is absolutely massive and I'm just so excited for whatever is next."

"I've been watching wrestling ever since I was young and to now be given this opportunity in what has to be the most exciting period in professional wrestling ever, I just can't wait to take my next step."

Hustle Wrestling training is all about stepping out of your comfort zone to become the best possible version of yourself. The only thing expected from trainees is that they

"I'm just so excited for whatever is next"

put in their best effort and commit themselves to reaching their goal, whether

that's just staying fit or honing every aspect necessary to become a professional wrestler.

Hustle even runs shows for trainees to build towards, allowing them to show-off their new characters and skills. The next one takes place on Saturday 27th July at Edmonton County School.

For more information about Hustle Wrestling and to buy tickets:
Visit hustlewrestling.com

Time for table tennis

Playing table tennis has become the most popular activity at Broomfield School since the arrival of four outdoor table tennis tables donated by Jack Petchey and Table Tennis England.

The sport has inspired the school's 600 students and the tables are in regular use both as part of the curriculum and during break

times and after school. The new tables were delivered following a successful application to the Jack Petchey Table Tennis programme, in partnership with Table Tennis England, which offers donated tables and equipment to schools.

Katherine Millen, head of PE at Broomfield School, said: "These

tables are a great success and we are pleased table tennis is proving so popular with our students. As table tennis has become more well liked, we have noticed the behaviour of some of our students has improved along with their wellbeing and desire

in their education attainment.

"All the tables are being well used and

we now offer table tennis at lunchtimes and as an extra-curricular activity. Our pupils with disabilities are also fans and we plan to run competitions."

Such is the enthusiasm for the game that club coach Basil Cunningham trained a team to play in the North London round of a table



Students at Broomfield School enjoy the new donated tables with Katherine Millen, head of PE, and club coach Basil Cunningham

tennis schools competition – and they got through to the final.

Sir Jack Petchey, the 93-year-old founder of the Jack Petchey Founda-

tion, said: "As a young man I loved playing table tennis. It kept me fit and active and looking back I can see how it also developed my self-disci-

pline and confidence.

"It's great to know so many young people take part in the sport. This programme is close to my heart."

Support local independent journalism



What we do

Here at *Enfield Dispatch*, we do things differently. We believe that local newspapers should put the concerns of the local community at the heart of their publication. We combine professional journalism with voluntary contributions from people who live and work in the local area and create content which is responsive to and reflective of the community.

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.

Visit enfielddispatch.co.uk/join

How you can help

As a not-for-profit publication we rely on the generous support of our community. We look to our readers, who recognise the value of independent journalism, to help support the continuing publication of *Enfield Dispatch*.

Rewards

By becoming a member, not only will you support our publication, but you can access rewards.

£3 per month upwards:

membership certificate, name in the paper and website, pin badge

£5 per month upwards:

home delivery, tote bag, membership certificate, name in the paper and website, pin badge

Current members

Derek Grant, Michael Dickinson, Michael Cole, Brendan O'Brien, Young Notes, Ed Balleny, Natasha Boydell, Elizabeth Crosthwait, Richard Stones, Philip Ridley, Suzanne Beard, Chris Kaufman, Martyn Stogden, Susan Cook, Rupert Price, Meryn Cutler, Andrew Irvine, Seton During, Basil Clarke, John Naughton, Right at Home Enfield, MumSing Choir, Penelope Williams, Lloyd Tew-Cragg, Stephen Hoyer, Andrew Warshaw, Anna Crowley, Neil Churchill, Karl Brown, Anthony Fisher, Dan Wright, Residents of Edmonton Green, Kay Heather, Julia Mountain, Excellence in Learning Community, Jerome O'Callaghan, Basim Jafar, Danilo Barani.