

# ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº.45 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

JUNE 2022

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Analysing the results of May's poll, after Labour wins fourth term

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LANCASTER ROAD IN Enfield Town has been brightened up thanks to the efforts of a shopkeeper who has hung dozens of hand-painted flower pots, ribbons and even bicycle wheels from pavement bollards and barriers along the busy street – read more on Page 7

## PM backs 'transformative' Crossrail 2

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

**B**oris Johnson has championed the “transformative” benefits of building Crossrail 2 – despite his own government currently blocking its progress.

As the Elizabeth Line – the £19billion railway formerly known as Crossrail – was opened to much fanfare last month, the prime minister was asked about future transport infrastructure projects. He voluntarily brought up Crossrail 2 and said it could “fix” a lot of the current problems with travelling between north and south London.

Crossrail 2 would connect stations in Surrey with Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, via Victoria, Euston and several stations in eastern Enfield, including Meridian Water and Ponders End. Transport for London (TfL) had previously been

developing detailed plans for the railway line, but the Department for Transport (DfT) inserted a clause in one of its many short-term funding deals with TfL that explicitly required this work to be brought to “an orderly end”, while still ensuring the proposed route was safeguarded.

TfL has been forced to negotiate its financing with the government over the last two years, since the Covid-19 pandemic led to a sudden shift in people's travel patterns and drastically reduced TfL's ticket revenue.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: “I have got absolutely no embarrassment – as a former mayor of London – about supporting projects in London.

“We have completed Crossrail, but frankly there is more that we should be doing; we should look at tax-increment financing like we

did with the Northern Line down to Battersea, and look at projects such as the Bakerloo Line extension, but I think the real thing for us now is to think about things like Crossrail 2 – the old Hackney/Chelsea line – that is going to be transformative again.

“All the problems of commuters coming into Waterloo, getting up to North London, you can fix that with another Crossrail.”

Johnson's comments came 18 months after the government demanded that consultancy work on Crossrail 2 be halted by TfL. A City Hall spokesperson said: “The mayor welcomes the prime minister's recognition of how important investment in London transport is for the whole country, and his comments about the need for Crossrail 2.

“The Elizabeth Line will transform transport in London and the south-east, but will also contribute £42bn

in net benefit to the UK economy.

“The key thing now is for the Department for Transport to realise that a properly-funded transport network in London is an issue of great national importance, and to commit to a long-term funding deal that will protect London's transport network – for the sake of the capital and the whole country.”

Enfield Council has long promoted the benefits of Crossrail 2, with a former head of strategic planning at the civic centre telling a conference in 2019 it would “secure employment opportunities and affordable housing for previously excluded communities”.

A DfT spokesperson said: “We are in discussions with Transport for London about updating the directions surrounding the latest safeguarding requirements. We hope to conclude these discussions in due course.”



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**Publisher**  
David Floyd

**Editor**  
James Cracknell

**Designer**  
Jonathan Duncan

**Head of Advertising**  
Klaudia Kiss

**Local Democracy Reporter**  
Simon Allin

**Engagement Manager**  
Penny Dampier

**Contributors**  
Dee Carter, Kate Osamor MP,  
Neil Littman, Sophie Cripps,  
Dr Cristina Lopez-Peig,  
Andrew Warshaw, David  
Williamson, Lesley Jorden,  
Elaine Hall-Freeman

## CONTACT

Call 020 8367 2975

Email [EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com)

Post Nicholas House, River Front, Enfield EN1 3TF

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# New Conservative group leader chosen

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Enfield's Conservative group has chosen a new leader after a strong showing in the local election last month.

Alessandro Georgiou won the backing of colleagues during the group's annual general meeting (AGM) on 16th May, bringing to an end Joanne Laban's five-year spell as opposition leader.

Michael Rye, the former council leader prior to 2010, has also been named as the new Tory deputy leader, while Chris Dey takes on the role of Conservative group whip at Enfield Civic Centre.

Cllr Georgiou, who was first elected in 2014 and represents Cockfosters ward, said with its new team in place the Tories were "ready to hold this Labour council to account".

Enfield's Conservative group bucked the London-wide trend for the Tories by winning eight seats



Alessandro Georgiou  
Credit Enfield Council

in the local election on 5th May, giving them their best result since 2010. It came as the traditional Conservative strongholds of Barnet, Westminster and Wandsworth fell to Labour.

Cllr Georgiou said: "I would like to thank Cllr Laban for her five years as leader of the Conservative group. Joanne is a dedicated councillor and has served not only her

own residents well, but also all residents that have worked with her over the last twelve years. I know Joanne will continue to be a major asset to the Conservative group and Enfield Council as a whole.

"Having gained eight seats at the local election on 5th May, we are a larger Conservative group ready to hold this Labour council to account. We have a hard-working and talented group of councillors, and we stand firm on the commitments we put forward at the election to protect our Green Belt, stop over-development within our communities, remove the LTNs [low-traffic neighbourhoods] and bring back weekly bin collections."

The new Tory group leader highlighted that the local election result saw Enfield jointly – along with Harrow – claim the largest number of Conservative seat gains across the country in the recent local elections. He added that this "should send a very clear message to Enfield's Labour council that we mean business".

# Labour group picks new deputy leader

BY SIMON ALLIN,  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Ergin Erbil has been chosen by Labour councillors as the group's new deputy leader.

Cllr Erbil, who represents Edmonton Green ward and has recently served as an associate cabinet member, has replaced Ian Barnes as Enfield Council's deputy leader, after Barnes decided not to stand for re-election last month.

Labour won a fourth straight local election in Enfield on 5th May, with a majority of 13, continuing the party's longest-ever spell in charge at Enfield Civic Centre. This was despite the Conservatives gaining eight seats, marking the first time since 2002 that Enfield Labour had lost ground in a local election.

Labour councillors met at the group's annual general meeting (AGM) on 16th May to select a new top team. As well as choosing Cllr Erbil as their new deputy,

Nesil Caliskan won support to continue as leader and hailed Labour's "incredibly ambitious agenda" for the borough. She also outlined an "exciting programme of initiatives".

Cllr Caliskan, who first became council leader in 2018, said: "Enfield Council has achieved a huge amount over the last four years, despite massive challenges, including the pandemic and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

"Our focus has been to invest in Enfield, create opportunities for residents and to protect the services that people rely on. The election showed residents trust Labour to keep fighting in their best interests."

The Labour leader pledged to deliver a new waste and recycling centre, 50 more school streets, a council law enforcement team and continued progress on a plan to build 3,500 affordable homes by 2035.

Cllr Caliskan added: "Enfield



Ergin Erbil  
Credit Enfield Council

Labour have an incredibly ambitious agenda, and we make no apologies for seeking and demanding the very best for the residents in our borough."

Alev Cazimoglu, Rick Jewell, Gina Needs and George Savva have all been re-elected to cabinet positions. But there are also some new faces, with Abdul Abdullahi, Chinelo Anyanwu, Tim Leaver and Susan Erbil set to serve at the top table.

## Yes we scan

North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust has installed a £1.1million high-tech computed tomography (CT) scanner.

The new equipment at the Edmonton hospital is now helping patients receive quicker, more accurate, and less harmful CT scans. The 'Aquilion One Prism' significantly improves the ability to obtain high-quality images consistently across patients, through its 16cm-wide area detector camera.

A major benefit of the scanner's camera is that patients can be scanned in one rotation and the speed of the scans are much quicker. And because the speed of rotation is faster than North Mid's previous scanners, patients will receive less radiation exposure – a third less overall. Alongside this, quicker and sharper imaging is "a guarantee".

The scanner not only benefits patients through the ability to have faster scans but it reduces the need to repeat scans by producing more accurate diagnoses.

Hamza Sultan, CT lead radiographer, said: "The new state-of-the-art CT scanner is a significant upgrade on our previous scanner, ensuring a better experience for our patients and staff.

"The scanner produces enhanced images with less radiation and at faster speeds. As a local community member, I am sure patients will be delighted to have access to this facility."

## Skatepark crowdfunder

A fundraising campaign has been launched to help create a new skatepark in Palmers Green.

Broomfield Park Skatepark Group, set up to support the project, is raising money to pay for a feasibility study to be produced, which would look at the potential for a skatepark to be built in Broomfield Park.

The proposed skatepark would not just cater for skateboarders but also BMX riders, scooter riders, rollerskaters and other users of multi-wheel devices. A petition launched last year showed there was much demand for a skatepark in the area, with 1,283 people signing it. A pop-up skate event to promote the project is now being planned for later this year.

Broomfield Park Skatepark Group's crowdfunder can be supported online via [gofundme.com/ff/broomfield-park-skatepark-feasibility-study](https://gofundme.com/ff/broomfield-park-skatepark-feasibility-study)

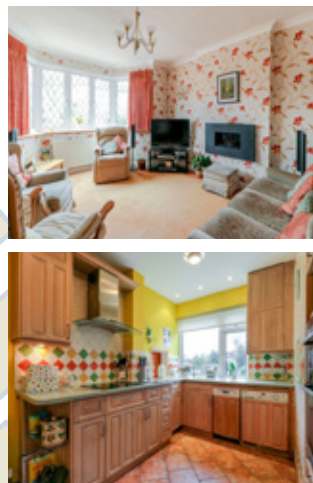
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# How the political landscape in Enfield has changed

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

**A**lmost half of the 63 councillors elected to the council on 5th May are new faces – but whether this results in a fresh approach being taken at Enfield Civic Centre remains to be seen.

The Labour Party remains in control and Nesil Caliskan remains council leader, vowing to stand up for residents who she says voted to support her administration's plans for significant public investment across the borough.

During the six weeks leading up to last month's poll, there were a series of scandals concerning Tory candidates – one of whom was even suspended from the Conservative Party over historic racist posts on social media – as well as an attempted arson attack on the local Conservative Party office in Enfield Town.

There was good news for the Conservatives on election night itself, however, with the Tories picking up eight seats from Labour despite the party receiving a drubbing elsewhere in London – not least in neighbouring Barnet, where Labour won an outright majority for the first time ever.

Shortly after the election, Enfield Council's outgoing deputy leader Ian Barnes was exposed for sending a vitriolic email from his official council address to a defeated Green candidate, telling him that "we will spend the next four years making sure the residents of Southgate know the lies you and the Green Party told during this election" – even though Barnes himself opted not to stand.

Such stories have likely given any Enfield residents fed up with the toxic tenor of political debate in this borough cause to remain sceptical about seeing any improvement in the near future. Nevertheless, change is inevitable, and the turbulence of the last four years – marked by a series of suspensions, resignations, defections and bullying scandals – is unlikely to be matched between now and 2026.

**Palmers Green was key to Labour's victory**  
On what was a generally quiet election night for Labour in Enfield, the biggest cheer from the party's activists came when the Palmers Green ward declaration was made at around 3am.

For the Tories to win control of the civic centre, they needed a clean sweep of every ward west of the A10, and they got off to a good start by winning in Arnos Grove where Labour had previously enjoyed success. Palmers Green was seen as particularly difficult for Labour to retain because it contained the bulk of the Fox Lane low-traffic neighbourhood (LTN),



Conservative candidates, including new group leader Alessandro Georgiou (right), celebrate some of their eight seat gains Credit Mr Evagoras Mandrides Photography

the most contentious of the council's two recent LTNs, where 56% of respondents to a public consultation said the LTN had a negative impact on them.

One of Labour's two candidates in the ward was Doug Taylor, the former council leader, who had moved from his previous safe seat of Ponders End. Both he and party colleague Chris James, a new councillor, defeated the Conservatives by a few hundred votes, prompting prolonged applause from the Labour supporters in attendance.

Coupled with the Labour win in Bowes – another ward containing a new LTN scheme – did it signal a thumbs up for the Labour administration's enthusiastic embrace of LTNs? The *Dispatch* attempted to contact both Cllr Taylor and Cllr James for their thoughts but instead received a response from Cllr Caliskan, who said: "The margin for Labour was very significant in Palmers Green. We're delighted that Palmers Green residents recognised Enfield Labour's record of delivering for our communities and endorsed the Enfield Labour manifesto, which includes commitments to sustainable travel and safer streets, alongside many other pledges that will see investment in our borough."

## Conservatives claim voter dissatisfaction with council

The interpretation of the election result by the local Conservatives was unsurprisingly

different. They claimed that Enfield's bucking of the national trend showed that voters had rejected many of the council's recent policies on cutting weekly bin collections, building on the Green Belt, and installing LTNs. Joanne Laban, who went into the election as the Tory group leader but has since been replaced by Alessandro Georgiou, wrote on the Conservative Home website after the election that "winning control was always going to be a bridge too far".

Cllr Laban said: "The arrogance of the Labour administration shone through with LTNs – its behaviour badly damaged the relationship between the council and the community. These schemes turned long-time Labour voters to vote Conservative, or at least another party. "Enfield Conservative group is very proud that despite everything on the news it left the count with more councillors than it went in with – on a night that was not fantastic overall for our party."

**Lib Dems make progress, but fail to win seat**  
The Lib Dems have struggled to gain a foothold in Enfield. Before the election they boasted one councillor, a defector from Labour, but she lost in Whitewebbs, where the party – ever pragmatic – had concentrated its resources. Nonetheless, the party gained significant vote share across the borough.

Guy Russo, another defeated Whitewebbs

candidate, told the *Dispatch*: "We are pleased with the overall picture. This was our best borough-wide result since at least 1998. There is a national Lib Dem revival and in Enfield we have been able to show we are serious contenders. In 2018 the Greens came third and we were fourth but this time we came third, so the overall picture is one of growth."

A significant obstacle for the Lib Dems is a voting system that forces them to focus on 'winnable' wards. Across the borough as a whole, the Lib Dems won 9.5% of the vote. Guy said: "We could have had between five and seven councillors with a PR [proportional representation] system – and Labour didn't get more than 50% so there would have been no overall control."

## No breakthrough for the Green Party

Like the Lib Dems, the Greens chose to focus their attention on a particular ward they thought was favourable for them. This was Southgate, which had previously been split between Labour and the Conservatives. Charith Gunawardena was defending his seat after becoming the first-ever Green Party councillor last year when he defected from Labour – but in the end the Tories won all three Southgate seats.

Charith said: "We are extremely proud of the positive campaign we ran in Southgate. Residents were very supportive of our local manifesto that helped increase the Green Party vote share from 4% to 24% in the ward."

"We are of course disappointed not to have won. Southgate and Enfield could have benefited from having Green Party voices elected to enhance the quality of debates in the council chamber and to help hold decision-makers to account through robust scrutiny. On the doorstep it was clear that due to the absence of proportional representation in local elections, too many residents still feel the need to vote to keep out the 'other' party. Greens have much more support than the overall vote share shows."

## Introducing the council's new youngest councillor

A political activist since the age of 14, Ruby Sampson – now aged 21 and working as a teaching assistant – had not originally planned to become a councillor this year. Just weeks before the election she was thrust into the campaign as a Conservative candidate for Cockfosters, after a sitting Tory councillor suddenly decided to stand down. Following her win in the ward, Cllr Sampson told the *Dispatch*: "I am fully committed to helping the people of Cockfosters – I am here to listen to them and help them. I will fight for what local people want."



Nesil Caliskan led Labour to a fourth-successive win in Enfield

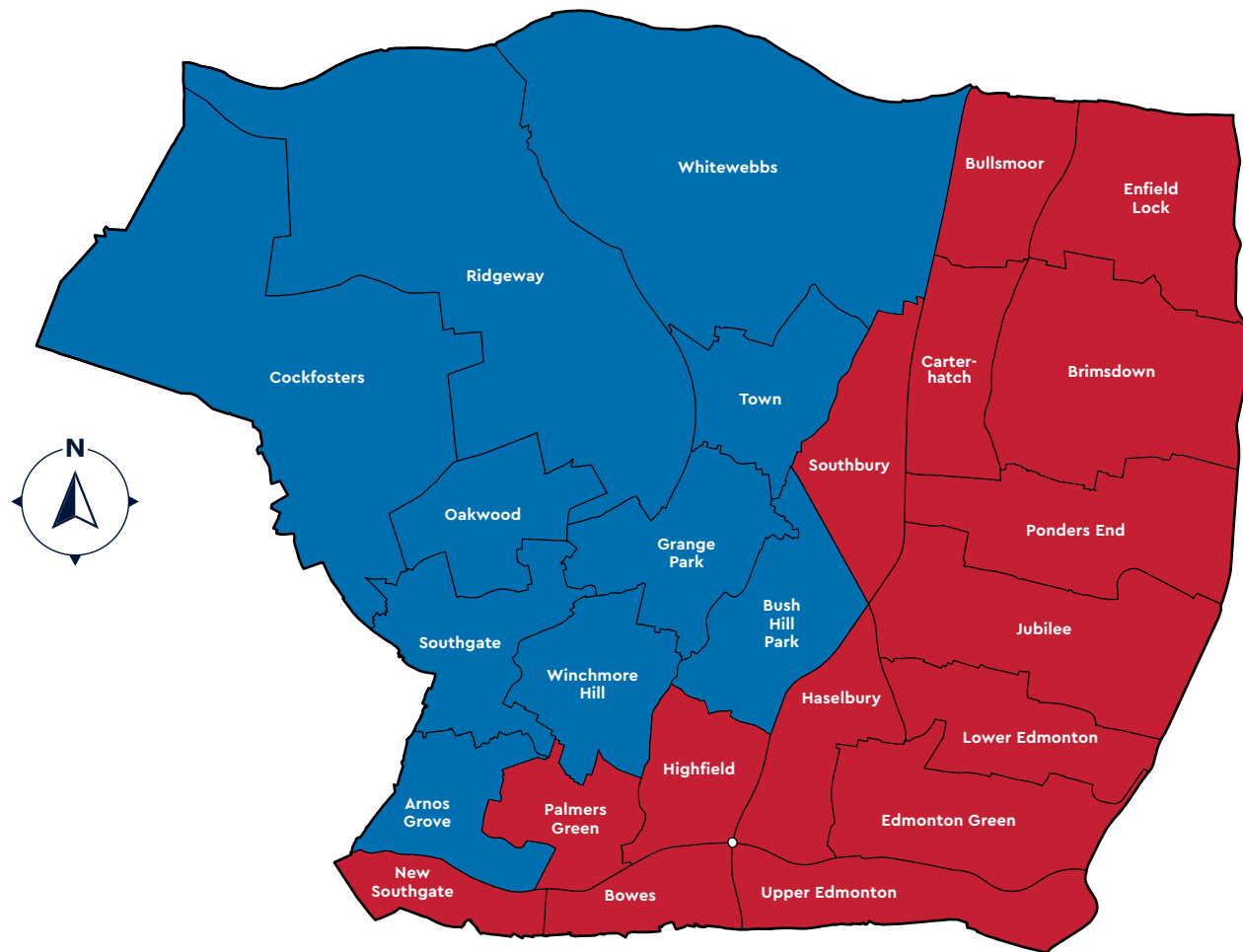


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# LOCAL ELECTION

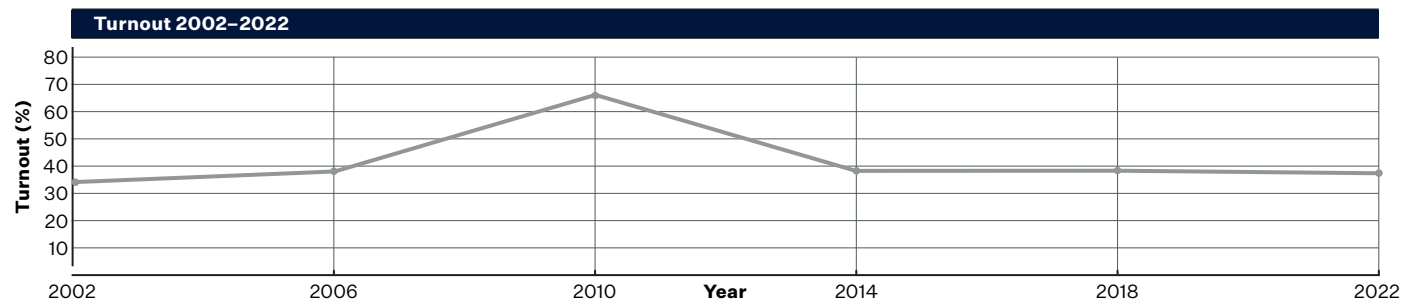
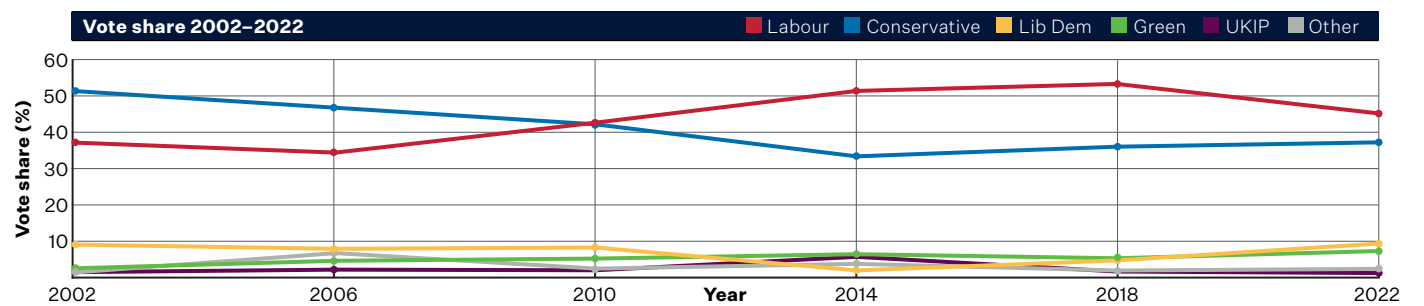
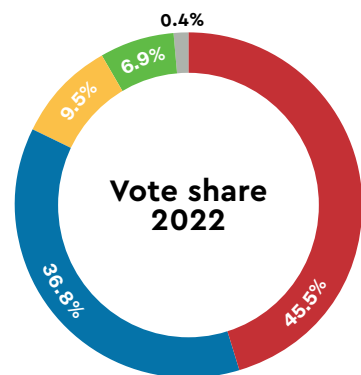
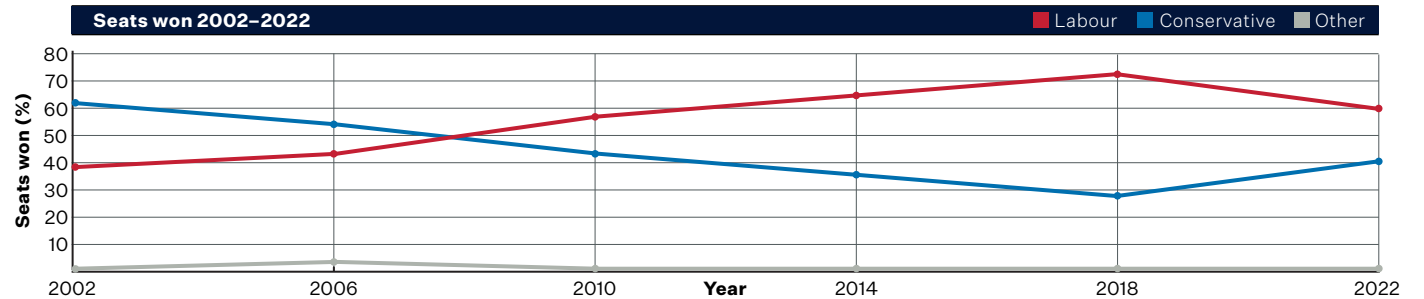
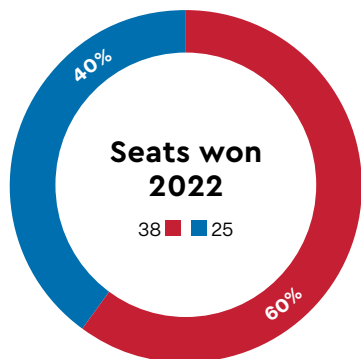
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2022

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Ward	Councillors elected
Arnos Grove*	2
Bowes	2
Brimsdown*	3
Bullsmoor*	2
Bush Hill Park	3
Carterhatch*	2
Cockfosters	2
Edmonton Green	3
Enfield Lock	3
Grange Park	2
Haselbury	3
Highfield*	2
Jubilee	3
Lower Edmonton	3
New Southgate*	2
Oakwood*	2
Palms Green	2
Ponders End	2
Ridgeway*	3
Southbury	3
Southgate	3
Town	3
Upper Edmonton	3
Whitewebbs*	3
Winchmore Hill	2

\* New wards for 2022





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# ENFIELD COMMUNITY HEROES

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## Brightening up Lancaster Road

Shop owner Kerrie Bullen has hung dozens of hand-painted flowerpots from bollards to help give the area a 'village feel'

**T**he owner of an Enfield gift shop has made it her "mission" to transform her high street using handmade flowerpots, ribbons and other colourful decorations.

Kerrie Bullen runs Boho Flo, a shop in Lancaster Road where 80% of the products stocked are handmade, with many gifts being stitched, painted or crafted by Kerrie herself. Work produced by local artists are also sold in the shop.

Anyone passing by Lancaster Road recently, even if it's just on a bus, can't have failed to notice the added bursts of colour that now adorn bollards, lampposts and other street furniture along the road, either side of Boho Flo.

Kerrie explained: "Lancaster Road is a dreadful road. It is full of traffic. So I am on a mission to brighten it up."



Kerrie Bullen outside her shop Boho Flo, in Lancaster Road

Dozens of bollards in the street now boast hand-painted flowerpots containing pansies and other colourful flowers hung from them; lampposts are adorned with red, white and blue ribbons to mark the Queen's jubilee; and there are even some yellow, orange and pink bicycle wheels now attached to

guard railings at a pedestrian crossing.

"When I took the shop on, it was something I wanted to do," said Kerrie, of her desire to improve Lancaster Road. "Now all the flowers are out people have been coming in [to the shop] and thanking me. It is nice to be appreciated."

Kerrie hasn't done all the work her-

self; she runs regular workshops at Boho Flo, where some of the decorations have been put together.

"People have said that it is giving the area a 'village feel' or a 'community feel' which is exactly what I set out to achieve."

Kerrie's ideas don't stop here, however. In future she is looking at creating some street mosaics and artworks with the help of local artists.

A *Dispatch* reader, who nominated Kerrie as an 'Enfield Community Hero', said: "It makes me smile in these depressing times."

### Nominate your heroes

Dispatch readers are welcome to nominate their own 'Enfield Community Hero' – someone who you think has gone above and beyond to help support the local community. Simply email your nomination to [EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com)

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# Why there's 'no hope' for my son's overcrowded family

## An Enfield grandmother despairs at the lack of social housing

BY DEE CARTER

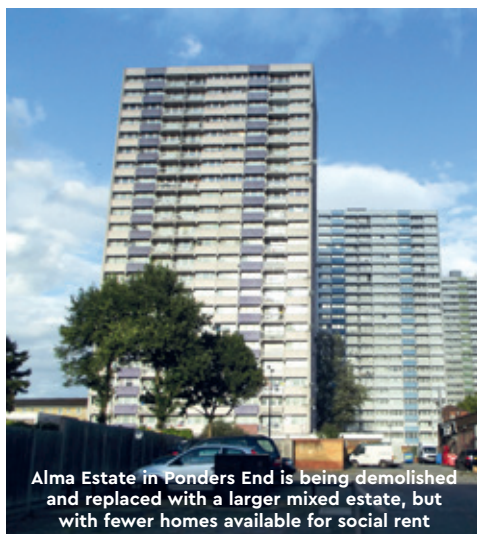
A home is a place where children should be able to live comfortably and a place where they can have a good quality of life.

My three grandchildren – two boys aged five and ten, and a girl of eight – are forced to share a tiny bedroom to sleep, study and play. But Enfield Council has told us there is no hope of my son's family being offered the three-bedroom property they need before the children grow into adults.

This is because the children's parents have "insufficient points" to allow for a transfer to a larger property, even in the next 15 years.

The law states that children of opposite genders should, from the age of ten, not be forced to share a bedroom, and that such situations are deemed to be overcrowding.

The reason why my son's family are in this situation is because of the sorry situation with the lack of three-bedroom social housing properties in the borough. The only route out, the council says to my son, is for the family to give up their tenancy and move into an insecure and expensive private-rent home. With the current cost-of-living crisis and rapidly rising rents, they



Alma Estate in Ponders End is being demolished and replaced with a larger mixed estate, but with fewer homes available for social rent

simply cannot do this.

My son's family have already tried the 'Home Swapper' website, a mutual exchange service for social housing tenants, but they have experienced nothing but time-wasters. The council itself seems short on ideas on how to incentivise those living in under-occupied council homes to swap with those in overcrowded homes.

I have been hearing the same old tired discussion about the lack of council homes for 20 years because I myself, together with

my three children, were forced to wait seven years to escape temporary accommodation. Since then, the wait to be housed has more than doubled, as the stock decreases and the population rises. New private builds go up all the time, but very few projects include any substantial amounts of social rent accommodation. This situation seems to have become an accepted norm and is far from unacceptable for a 'first world' country in the 21st Century.

Nowadays, the term 'affordable housing' is bandied about all the time, but the reality is that these homes are usually a far cry from being affordable for people on a low or even average income.

It seems that those in power have forgotten why council housing was originally built, who it was built for, and what it was supposed to achieve; instead nowadays it seems that people waiting on housing registers are an afterthought, only to be considered for very small numbers of properties built alongside private housing. These meagre numbers barely make a dent on the ever-growing council waiting list – it is a shameful indictment on our society.

If this is a country that claims to care about children, a place where every child

is supposed to matter, why in 2022 are children still being forced to live without dignity in poor, overcrowded conditions? Since the Covid-19 pandemic, poor mental health has become an even bigger issue for our children, so we must return to prioritising their wellbeing. This involves the provision of a basic need; a decent home for them and their families at a truly affordable rent.

***"We need a shake-up of housing policy and a desire from government to care about and provide for people who just don't happen to be rich"***

While the building of social housing has declined, it has mirrored the decline in the quality of life for children such as my own grandchildren. What we need is a shake-up of the current housing policy and a genuine desire from government to care about and provide for people who just don't happen to be rich.

*The author's name has been changed to protect the family's identity.*

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## We need a new plan to fix schools funding

*Edmonton MP Kate Osamor wants the government to do much more to support teachers and pupils*

**W**ith no plan, no ambition and no vision, the government is failing to deliver for the children of Enfield.

The government's upcoming schools bill will fail to meet the challenge we now face, after twelve years during which standards have declined in schools across the country. Since 2010, teachers have seen their pay cut by over £4,000 and the pupil-to-teacher ratio has increased dramatically. It's no wonder that 53% of primary school teachers and 57% of secondary school teachers feel their workload is now unmanageable.

What's worse is that the government's new national funding formula for distributing cash to schools has seen money redistributed from poor areas to rich areas. Funding in the most deprived parts of the country has been cut, while schools in the most affluent areas have seen an increase in the money they are getting.

The result is that the inequality between schools and pupils continues to increase rapidly. The latest data show that only 29% of pupils eligible for free school meals got a grade five or above

at GCSE compared with 57% of non-eligible pupils. Yet the government's proposed schools bill fails to set out a plan to drive-up standards in the classroom or turn around opportunities for more than 200,000 children who live in areas with no 'good' or 'outstanding' schools.

There is huge inequality within Enfield borough itself. While 47% of pupils attending Latymer School (where many

***"What we need is proper investment in schools, pupils and teachers"***

students actually come from outside the borough) achieved at least two A grades and one B in their A-levels, that number is below 10% for every other school in Edmonton constituency. We can surely all agree that a pupil's grades should be determined by their own ambition and effort, rather than their school.

Labour is calling on the government to focus on children's experiences in the classroom, not bureaucratic tinkering. Following publication of its strategy for schools, the government admitted that most schools already hit their new target for the length of the day, with the prime minister

himself having admitted the evidence for lengthening the school day was "not as good as it could have been".

What we need is proper investment in schools, pupils and teachers, plus a new determination to drive-up standards for all schools with the most ambitious school improvement programme for a generation. Labour's plan would include getting 6,500 new teachers into our schools, alongside embedding careers advice, work experience and digital skills in every child's learning, so young people leave education ready for work and ready for life, equipped with the skills they need for the future.

Pupils and teachers desperately need targeted support that will reduce inequality between schools, invest in infrastructure, and bring down barriers that are preventing disadvantaged pupils from getting ahead. It's time to stop tinkering around the edges and invest in our pupils so that no matter where a student comes from, they have the chance to fulfil their ambitions.

Kate Osamor is the Labour MP for Edmonton. Edmonton constituents are welcome to get in touch:

Call 020 7219 6602

Email kate.osamor.mp@parliament.uk

# LETTERS

## Send us your letters

Got an opinion on something in Enfield? We accept letters of up to 150 words from people and organisations in the borough. Email [EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com](mailto:EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com) before the next deadline on **Monday 20th June**.

## Problems using council website

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**I** recently tried to report two missed rubbish collections to Enfield Council via the Enfield Connected portal. I say 'tried' since both attempts failed because of IT issues on the site. What I noticed was the look of the site had changed and, when trying to sign in, my details which had previously been stored were no longer there and I had to re-submit them. Once that was done, I thought it would be a relatively simple matter to report the missed collections, but this proved impossible.

My rubbish is left out in bags (because my property has no space for wheelie bins). According to the new-look Enfield Connected website I had tried to report my missed collections as happening on the wrong day (not true) and they had no record of my blue bags. In the end, I phoned the council directly and they sorted it out the following day and admitted there were "lots of problems with the new site" but would not say specifically what they were. I had similar responses from other residents when I posted a question on social media sites Next Door and Enfield Matters. I even had a reply from the council website thanking me for bringing the matter to their attention and that they were "working on it".

What I find surprising is that the council appears to have gone ahead and implemented a website update without testing it properly.

Neil Littman  
Winchmore Hill

## Numbers that don't add up

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**E**nfield Council's decision to close Whitewebbs Park Golf Course last year was based on a reported six-year loss of £1.1million. But new numbers I have obtained via the Freedom of Information Act show this loss is a fabrication. In reality, the much-improved course had been operating profitably. In the accounts, the cash result (sales, purchases and costs) was break-even. The supposed 'loss' came from two non-cash items

that are a fantasy.

Firstly, depreciation; it should reflect the cost of investments spread over their useful life. This should have been less than £2,000 per year, but they were charged £99,000 per year. How? The accountants used massively inflated costs and very short lives. In one example, the old steel-framed agricultural warehouse should have been depreciated at £200 per year (an estimated build cost of £10,000 and a life of 50 years) but the golf course was charged £30,000 per year (equivalent to a site value of £450,000 and a life of 15 years).

Secondly, overheads; this allocation is made using a formula completely unrelated to the work actually carried out for each unit. Whitewebbs Park Golf Course was a simple self-contained business requiring minimal support, probably worth less than £5,000 per year. But instead they were allocated £74,139 in overheads each year.

The decision to close the course was wrong and dishonest.

Michael Lord  
Southgate

## Making life taste bitter

*Dear Enfield Dispatch*

**I**n common with other local residents who have health and/or mobility issues, we are reliant on supermarket online delivery services for our groceries. However, our latest scheduled, and confirmed, delivery with Sainsbury's was cancelled at the actual moment it was expected, leaving us with an almost empty fridge; we were advised to order again, but the earliest possible delivery date was four days ahead! No explanation was given, nor any suggestion of how we were to acquire food until then.

The only reason given for this last-minute cancellation was "problems at the Enfield store". We cannot believe we were the only people affected. Sainsbury's is a big presence in our borough; it receives a lot of our money and in return we expect a decent service. If a business of this immensity cannot organise itself to fulfil its responsibilities towards its most needy customers, does it deserve our support and our cash?

Marlene McAndrew  
Winchmore Hill

# Pies at the palace

## Sophie Cripps gives her verdict on one of a series of pop-up restaurants in Enfield Town

It might be a children's bookstore and activity centre by day, but after hosting several recent restaurant pop-ups, Culture Palace in Palace Gardens Shopping Centre is fast becoming a firm fixture on the Enfield culinary calendar.

After previous success with a Basque pintxos and tapas evenings by EN\_Food, local chef Marika Gauci brought us back to more familiar territory with her inaugural 'Pie Adventures' pop up. Offering a pre-paid two or three-course menu with pies taking centre stage, it offered a chance to sample Marika's wares, which have been much in demand since she set up London's first pie-making classes in 2009.

Marika attributes the enduring popularity of pies to their versatility and fun-filled nature, describing these parcels of flavour as "little presents coming out of the oven".



Pie Adventures is run by local chef Marika Gauci

And ensuring it was not just her food we were gifted with, we were lured into the venue by Marika's own curated soundtrack of 1980s synth disco.

As the evening commenced, a duo of starters proved to be worthy warm-up acts to the pies themselves. A plate of hummus topped with lightly-seared spring vegetables and wild garlic pesto was both creamy and fresh, while the watermelon and halloumi salad was the perfect marriage between salty and sweet.

With pisco cocktails flowing from the bar we were off to a good start. And the main event did not disappoint. A rich and wonderfully tender slow-cooked steak and ale pie was deservedly popular but, proving that pies are not just for winter, a mild and warmly spiced Thai green curry with fried tofu was a welcome lighter spring addition.

Also on offer was another classic in the

form of chicken, leek and pancetta, and a second vegetarian option of spiced butternut squash and spinach. Providing balance to the buttery, rich pastry was a generous array of well-seasoned, tender vegetables.

***"Pies have never tasted so good!"***

As an encore, perfect pastry was again the flavour of the day in the form of an alluring and satisfying 'ice cream pie' which proved to be more than the sum of its parts. Pies have never tasted so good!

For more information about Pie Adventures:  
Instagram @pie.adventures  
Visit pie-adventures.com

For more information about Culture Palace:  
Visit dugdalecentre.co.uk/culture-palace

# Eat like a king

## Neil Littman visits The King's Head in Winchmore Hill following its recent relaunch

On one visit to The King's Head, which overlooks The Green in Winchmore Hill, I was reminded of the famous line from *Superman*, which begins: "It's a bird, it's a plane..."

The question here is whether The King's Head is a pub, a restaurant, or both? It seems to have moved closer towards fine dining since its recent refurbishment, which has resulted in a much improved and stylish interior, boasting décor that could rival some of the best establishments in town.

Dating back to the 1460s and rebuilt in 1898, The King's Head is an important part of local history and has been my nearest 'local' for over eight years. However, during that time it's had a patchy journey. One dish that was consistently good was the fish and chips, which is still on the menu, but that wasn't enough to keep me returning.

I've had drinks in the bar and eaten in the garden, which has also just had a big makeover featuring huts designed for small groups who want some privacy. The main pub and dining areas now look very classy; sofas, soft cushions and mood lighting in the evening. The kitchen is now led by head chef Jurgita.

My own return to The King's Head was prompted by a special offer tied in with their 'soft' reopening in early March – two



free courses, not including drinks or dessert. It sounded ideal! I went with two regular dining pals and expectations were high.

The menu looked very interesting and more varied, plus there were some specials on offer. Our starters included shallot and lemon thyme tatin with celeriac and hazelnuts, Devon crab and crayfish cocktail, samphire, preserved lemon and seared Fowey scallops, cauliflower puree, smoked bacon and fennel. The scallops were on the small side, but flavours and pre-



sensation were good (even though I mistook my friend's tatin starter for a dessert!).

For mains, I had skate (from the specials list) and my friends ordered pork, leek and apple sausages, rainbow chard, crackling, gravy and hasselback British squash, crispy sage, pomegranate, basil and ponzu pesto. We also ordered some sides, including a portion of potato terrine, again with basil and ponzu pesto, which reminded me of a similar dish served at The Quality Chop House.

Puddings included sticky toffee pudding, salted caramel ice cream, dark chocolate delicé, blood orange and gooseberry trifle.

The service was enthusiastic, though slightly inexperienced in a restaurant setting. It's also worth noting that The King's Head sometimes hosts live jazz courtesy of Ziggy's Jazz Club!

The King's Head can be found at 1 The Green, Winchmore Hill N21 1BB and is open 11am-11pm daily, with food served 11am-9pm. A two-course meal plus a drink costs an average of £45 per head, plus service. For more information:

Call 020 8886 1988

Email kingshead@youngs.co.uk

Visit thekingsheadn21.co.uk

— Advertisement —

## Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

BRUK Transport Logistic LTD of 9 Robinson Avenue, Waltham Cross, EN7 5NX is applying for a licence to use NFC Auto LTD, 2 Baird Rd, Enfield, EN1 1SJ as operating centre for 5 goods vehicles.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s), who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the traffic Commissioner's Office.

Pictured, from left, are Verginiya Miteva, Dr Cristina López-Peig and Dr Katherine Bluston



## It's good to 'twalk'

GPs from The Woodberry Practice in Winchmore Hill have launched a local initiative aiming to tackle loneliness

BY DR CRISTINA LÓPEZ-PEIG

In recent years we have seen how loneliness and sedentary lifestyles have wreaked havoc on people's health.

Loneliness is a direct cause of mental illness and a predictor of early death, even more potent than obesity, while lack of exercise is a risk factor for chronic diseases. During the Covid-19 pandemic this situation became even worse, with gyms being closed and people being forced to spend more time at home.

Physical activity such as walking reduces the risk of serious illness, including coronary heart disease, strokes, Type 2 diabetes and cancer – it can actually lower the risk of an early death by up to 30%. Walking can also boost self-esteem, lift your mood, improve sleep and reduce the risk of dementia, stress and clinical depression.

As doctors at The Woodberry Practice we came up with a fun idea to help our patients increase physical activity and become more connected. We are launching a new project – 'Twalking Enfield' – with the

aim of increasing the physical activity of Enfield residents and reducing social isolation, by encouraging them to both walk and talk.

The challenge is for local people to walk, in teams of three, the equivalent distance from Enfield Civic Centre to the top of England's highest peak, Scafell Pike! This is a distance of 360 miles and should be completed by the end of July. The teams of three will contain at least one person who has either a cardiovascular health risk, a mental health issue, is aged over 60, or is a carer.

Twalking Enfield is free for all participants. Health professionals, social workers and others will be participating as well. The full distance can be completed with short walks every day, in and around Enfield, or anywhere else you like.

As soon as we shared the Twalking Enfield idea with other agencies, such as charities Mind, Age UK and Fusion Lifestyle (which runs several leisure centres in Enfield) they quickly joined us to help promote the project. All GP practices in Enfield also agreed

to participate. We have since worked together to create and promote the event launch at the end of May.

We are very conscious that this will not be easy. Young people complain of not finding the time for walking and some older people fear using phones and apps. This is why it becomes a real challenge and the reason why we organised teams of three, so people who are more active and tech-savvy can help their family members, friends, or neighbours to take part. We all need to work together to help our population to become fitter.

Twalking Enfield is meant to be fun, while helping everyone to become fitter, including us as professionals. Let's see how it goes – we hope people in Enfield engage with it! We are enjoying the experience of having different agencies working together for a common purpose and participating in something different from our daily work lives, while keeping in mind our main goal; helping our population to become fitter and healthier.

For more information about Twalking Enfield and to take part: Visit [interestelar.es/description](https://interestelar.es/description)

## Helping to end period poverty



The Anthro Vision team delivering their wellbeing packs around Enfield

A local project has been launched to help people facing period poverty.

Anthro Vision, a local community interest company (CIC), is helping young people access wellbeing care packages when they need them most. The organisation's 'People with Periods' (PWP) initiative provides free essential items to those who are experiencing period poverty or are from a low-income household within Enfield borough.

Care packages are designed to help by stimulating each one of the senses to ensure all recipients experience a positive period. Packs include, for example, sanitary towels, facial products, chocolates and biscuits.

Anthro Vision – meaning 'human vision' – was founded by local resident Lea Gibson in the midst of Covid-19 lockdown to create a space where people can "be their true selves and grow in an environment that allows them to flourish".

The small but passionate and experienced team aim to help others achieve within society. Lea said: "During lockdown, it became apparent to me that there was a need for support in our local community. Young people were reaching out to me around period and hygiene poverty and I couldn't stand by and watch.

"It was also evident that there needed to be something available that was inclusive, so Anthro Vision was born. We aim to tackle period poverty, one wellbeing care pack at a time.

"We are the only organisation within the borough that supports trans men, women and non-binary individuals with our care packages. We want to change the narrative

and educate society on what it means to have a period."

Rebecca Bird, retail manager at Edmonton Green Shopping Centre, which is supporting the project, said: "When I first met Lea, I could see the passion she had for the community and how much she wanted to make a difference to young people today. We are really proud to support their efforts within the community and have made a donation ourselves."

Anthro Vision is also running workshops across a wide range of areas including mindfulness, expressive arts, creative writing and sexual health awareness. In addition, there is a mentoring programme which pairs a young person with an older person, helping them to build confidence.

Lea added: "Young people are our future leaders and game changers, so if we don't give them an environment to thrive in, we are setting them up for failure. We aim to empower and uplift young people to become their best selves.

"It is very easy to feel alone in this world and that is something we seek to change."

For more information about Anthro Vision: Visit [anthrovision.co.uk](https://anthrovision.co.uk)

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# Back to Broomfield

*David Williamson invites locals to join in the fun at this year's Broomfield Summer Festival*

**F**riends of Broomfield Park are creating another summer to remember with a kaleidoscope of events featuring music, theatre, family events, a food festival and much more – there will be something for everyone!

Broomfield Summer Festival runs from June to September, using an old bowling green dubbed 'Broomfield Bowl' after it was repurposed for live outdoor events. In 2021 we held our first ambitious summer-long festival and this year we build on that experience with another great programme.

Last year we had great success with music events. Paul Dingle, who organises Livestock Festival in Forty Hall, is also running a series of must-see acts from cover bands Foo Fighters, Reggae Matic, Vipers and Britpop Boys. St Harmonica's Blues Club also returns with its regular Sunday afternoon performances in August.

We have a growing reputation as a venue for national touring theatre groups and in 2022 they will bring lots of family fun with *The Gunpowder Plot*, *Awfuo Auntie* and *Wind in the Willows*. Enfield's own Chickenshed Theatre is performing a summer panto, *Cinderella in Boots*, which promises a mad adventure.

Other not-to-miss events include Bram

Stoker's *Dracula*, Shakespeare's comedy *Twelfth Night* and Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*.

Local performing arts school Centre Stage also feature in the programme. Principal Carole O'Shea said: "Last year we had our first outdoor events at Broomfield Bowl and we are delighted to return this summer."

In June, Clare Donovan and her social enterprise Cooking Champions is holding a mid-summer feast at Broomfield Orchard and a delicious food festival featuring lots of local suppliers.

The Ghana Festival in Trent Park attracts thousands of people, but organiser Dennis Tawiah saw another great opportunity in the Broomfield Summer Festival. He said: "Our

big events are great but we would also like to do something more intimate, with smaller groups and with a strong community feel and Broomfield Bowl is an ideal place to try out

this new approach."

Broomfield Summer festival is packed with new events and annual traditions such as Cogger's and Bidall's fun fairs and Zippos Circus. There is lots to enjoy, whatever your tastes.

**For more information and to see the full programme of events:**

Visit [fobp.events](http://fobp.events)

***"The festival is packed with new events and annual traditions"***



Livestock returned in 2021 following a hiatus during the first year of the pandemic

## Music festival returns to Forty Hall Farm

*Andrew Warshaw previews Enfield's biggest one-off music event of the summer*

**L**ivestock Music Festival – Enfield's premier live music event – is back at Forty Hall Farm this July with a sensational line-up.

As ever, Livestock will have a fantastic array of acts on the three live stages, DJs after dark, and activities for children all included in the ticket price. There will plenty of food stalls to choose from as well as the usual bars spread around the festival site.

This year the bill is as diverse as ever, with everything from post-punk trash pop, through to cutting-edge British hip-hop, Britpop and 90s dance bangers.

Co-headlining the Feelgood Stage this year are the acts that were previously booked but were postponed because of Covid-19. Playing the best songs from the 90s, a quarter-of-a-century after the Britpop chart wars, are the incredibly popular Britpop Boys, followed by an eagerly-anticipated headline set from Rhythm of The 90s, featuring that decade's dance hits you know and love.

Other acts already confirmed include Lazy Habits, as part of their UK tour. A unique British hip-hop act with a full live band, Lazy Habits have spent the last decade forging their own path in a territory increasingly populated by sound-alikes, thanks to a unique take on the live band angle, which includes two drummers and a full brass section – creating a spectacular show.

Also on the Feelgood Stage are Underline The Sky, Temper Diablo, Reggae Matik and Natalie Shay, an award-winning local singer-songwriter who sadly missed out last time because of coronavirus, plus the wonderfully infectious Ukulele Ska Collective and a special appearance by Enfield's very own drag queen Sissy Lea!

In The Black Barn there is a full programme of new, upcoming and original acts headlined

by the not-to-be-missed Hitman Blues band from New York City, who are in the UK on tour this summer. Fronted by Russell Alexander, the band present a unique show of original and modern blues, so expect the barn to be rammed to the roof for this one!

Also confirmed for the barn are The Metatrons, Shelf Lives, The Ramshackles, Dave Burn, Toffees, Andy Bell Space Station and Cujo, an award-winning three-piece who were together in 1998–2007 but reformed last year.

Down in the woods, on the legendary Woodland Stage curated by St Harmonica's Blues Club, there is an amazing line-up of blues, including Shufflepack and Tyzack and Tortora, headlined by The Feelgood Band, indistinguishable from the real Dr Feelgood and endorsed by Wilko Johnson himself.

In response to the positive feedback received last year on the DJs playing outside after dark, Livestock will launch a new dance tent in the amazing new Purple Big Top after the Quercus Circus children's activities are packed up for the night. This will feature a headline DJ set from 8 Bit Society.

Established in 2010, Livestock Music Festival grew out of now-legendary street parties in nearby Goat Lane. The founders of Livestock set out to create a distinctive festival experience, rooted in the local community, but leaving visitors in no doubt they have been to a proper music festival.

Livestock aims to bring together talented bands from all over the country, festival favourites, local heroes, emerging talent and established artists alike.

**Livestock Music Festival takes place on Saturday 23rd July. To find out more and book your tickets (£28 adults, £5 teens, under-12s free):**

**Facebook** /LivestockMusicFestivalUK

**Instagram** [instagram.com/livestockmusicfestival](https://www.instagram.com/livestockmusicfestival)

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



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# Musical groups collaborate on upcoming concerts

*Enfield Choral Society chair Lesley Jordan on what audiences can look forward to this month and beyond*

**E**nfield Choral Society's forthcoming concert series is exciting and widely varied.

We will be singing 'Songs from the Shows' in our summer concert on Saturday, 18th June, Beethoven's 9th Symphony on 12th November and, of course, our Christmas concert on a date to be confirmed!

Our summer concert will be conducted by our musical director Mark Sproson and includes many well-known and popular songs from shows of the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s, including *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story*, *Chicago* and *Les Misérables*.

As a tribute to the renowned composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, who died aged 91 in November 2021, we will also be featuring his music, including

the classics *Send in the Clowns* from *A Little Night Music* and *Comedy Tonight* from *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

The November concert is a collaboration with Enfield Chamber Orchestra, who have worked with us previously and invited us to help celebrate their 80th anniversary in style with a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, conducted by their musical director Martin Smith.

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams' birth, the November programme also includes the choral arrangement of his beautiful *Serenade to Music*, which Mark will conduct.

As for previous performances of major works to mark Enfield Choral Society's own special

anniversaries, we are looking to recruit additional singers for the Beethoven concert. Rehearsals of the choral movement *Ode to Joy* commence on the evening of Tuesday, 21st June in Enfield. Previous choral experience is a requirement. Since the music is challenging to sing, we plan to incorporate some vocal coaching into rehearsals. For further details and to take advantage of this opportunity, contact [membership@enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk).

**Enfield Choral Society performs 'Songs from the Shows' at 7.30pm on Saturday, 18th June at St Paul's Church, Church Hill, Winchmore Hill N21 1JA. Advance tickets are £14 for adults, or £7 for under-25s in full-time education. To purchase your tickets: Call 07793 082 991 Email [tickets@enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:tickets@enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk)**



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T R A I N I N G

# 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](mailto:enfielddispatch@socialspider.com) by **Monday 20th June**.

## ROCK

### Park Live: Foo Fighterz

Saturday 4th June, 6.30pm  
Broomfield Park (old bowling green), Alderman's Hill, Palmers Green N13 4RH

Park Live celebrates the music of the legendary US rock band, Foo Fighters. Tribute band Foo Fighterz will take you on an unforgettable musical journey through the Dave Grohl-led band's back catalogue.

**Advance tickets £12 adults, £8 under-16s**

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

## BLUES

### Music from The Black Barn

Saturday 11th June, 4pm-11pm  
Forty Hall Farm, Forty Hill EN2 9HA

Music from The Black Barn returns with a 'beer, blues and barbecue' for the first time since 2019. It features a blues line-up curated by the fantastic St Harmonica's Blues Club, including House Red, The Spikedrivers, The Blues Chapter and more. All of this accompanied by excellent ales from New River Brewery.

**Tickets £10 adults, £5 under-18s, children under ten free**

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

### St Harmonica's Blues Club

Friday 24th June, 7pm  
The Southgate Club, 17 Chase Side, Southgate N14 5BP

It is an absolute coup for us to be able to host Australian singer/songwriter Kara Grainger on her 2022 UK tour with her band. Her slide-guitar virtuosity and sultry soulful vocals have drawn comparison with Bonnie Raitt and Susan Tedeschi. Not to be missed!

**Tickets £10**

**Visit** [stharmonicas.co.uk](http://stharmonicas.co.uk)

## COMEDY

### Jo Collins and Friends

Sunday 12th June, 7pm  
Chickenshed, 290 Chase Side, Southgate N14 4PE

The immensely talented co-founder of Chickenshed, Jo Collins, invites guests for a thrilling set of eclectic covers from pop to soul, funk, folk and more.

**Tickets £12**

**Call** 020 8292 9222

**Email** [bookings@chickenshed.org.uk](mailto:bookings@chickenshed.org.uk)

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

## JAZZ

### Ziggy's World Jazz Club

Friday 17th June, 7.30pm  
Upstairs at The Kings Head, 1 The Green, Winchmore Hill N21 1BB

This month's Ziggy's World Jazz Club features the Lauren Bush quartet, an award-winning Canadian jazz vocalist.

**Tickets £20**

**Call** 07496 442 926

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

## BRASS

### Lazy Sunday Afternoon at Hilly Fields

Sunday 19th June, 3pm  
Hilly Fields Bandstand, Hilly Fields, Phipps Hatch Lane, Enfield EN2 9BS

Lazy Sunday Afternoons in Hilly Fields returns for 2022! Our first event features Brass Band London playing traditional and not-so-traditional tunes for a (belated) jubilee celebration.

**Free entry (suggested donation of £3 for charity)**

**Visit** [hillyfields.info](http://hillyfields.info)

## CHOIR

### Music and Majesty

Saturday 25th June, 7.30pm  
St Andrew's Church, Chase Side, Southgate N14 5PP

A new choir, Aurora, comes to Southgate to present its debut concert, 'Music and Majesty', to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee. The programme will include well-known classics, such as Elgar's 'Lux Aeterna', Vaughn Williams' 'Old Hundredth' and a medley of songs from the Queen's favourite musical.

**Tickets £12**

**Email** [AuroraChoirLondon@gmail.com](mailto:AuroraChoirLondon@gmail.com)

**Facebook** /104536322211462

## WORKSHOP

### Vegetarian healthy eating

Saturdays 11th, 18th, 25th June and 2nd July, 10.30am to 1pm  
The Wheatsheaf Hall, Main Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield EN1 1DS

Enfield Asian Welfare Association (EAWA) presents a series of workshops promoting healthy eating and a vegetarian diet.

**Free entry**

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

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

## AROUND THE BOROUGH

## PONDERS END

## Bid to turn last pub into restaurant

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

DRINKERS IN PONDERS END could be left without a single local watering hole if a new planning application wins approval.

The owner of the area's last remaining pub – The Goat, in High Street – wants to turn the building into a restaurant, following unsuccessful attempts to market the venue to pub operators.

It comes shortly after the closure of The Picture Palace pub last year and a similar bid by new owners Tiger Bay to also change its use to a restaurant.

The Goat is a locally listed building, with the current mock Tudor structure dating to around 1930. According to Enfield Council's local heritage list, the earliest known reference to The Goat was in 1778.

Publican Angela Clapham, who has worked at The Goat for the past ten years, described the venue as a "traditional pub" and a "local community meeting-place" that serves home-cooked food, real ales, and hosts quiz nights and fundraisers.

"It's very diverse," she added. "We have a really broad collection of people from many different cultures,



The Goat in Ponders End High Street

and backgrounds. For some of the old boys, this is their only social connection. Women come in on their own for a quick drink. It is a very social environment."

Philip Ridley, a pub protection officer for the Enfield and Barnet branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra), said: "It would be a devastating blow to the local community if this turned into a restaurant."

Philip encouraged people to have their say on the planning application submitted by the new owner.

There are a number of Enfield Council and London Plan policies

designed to protect pubs and community facilities, which require evidence that the venues have been marketed and that there is a lack of demand for their current use before conversions can go ahead.

Current owner Ponders End Properties Ltd bought The Goat from brewer Greene King in 2018. It subsequently instructed surveyors AG&G to market the pub for sale or to let but, since being advertised in November 2020, estate agents say there have been "no offers". The company was approached for comment.

## SOUTHGATE

## MP raising awareness of thalassemia

ENFIELD SOUTHGATE MP BAMBOS Charalambous joined a fun run in Grovelands Park to help raise money for the UK Thalassaemia Society.

Most people with thalassaemia – an inherited blood disorder – are of either Asian or eastern Mediterranean origin, with the Enfield Southgate constituency having among the highest number of people with the condition in the country because of its large Cypriot population.

Last month Bambos, who is himself of Cypriot origin, helped raise awareness of thalassaemia by hosting a parliamentary debate on the issue. The fun run in Grov-

Bambos Charalambous MP in Grovelands Park after completing the charity fun run



elands Park took place shortly afterwards, on International Thalassaemia Day.

Bambos said: "Those living with transfusion-dependent thalassaemia receive blood transfusions every three weeks for life and daily iron chelation therapy. All these patients develop secondary conditions and complications due to thalassaemia and iron overload.

"Sadly, they develop conditions such as diabetes, heart failure, osteoporosis and liver failure. Patients therefore have to spend a lot of time in hospital, whether it is for blood transfusions for thalassaemia, or for the treatment and monitoring of secondary conditions."

## ANGEL EDMONTON

## Cereal winners

MERIDIAN ANGEL PRIMARY School has won a prize for having the "best breakfast club in London".

The school in Ladysmith Road was crowned as part of the annual Kellogg's Breakfast Club Awards and was given a cash prize of £1,000.

A panel of judges, which included MPs, selected the winners based on the "inspiring individuals and activities that transform the mornings of children across the UK".

Kelly Bennett, an office manager at Meridian Angel, said: "We are delighted and incredibly

proud to have won.

"We are so grateful to Kellogg's for this amazing opportunity. These funds will continue our efforts to support our pupils and the local community for the coming year, and also help us towards our goal of ensuring no child comes to our school hungry."

Around 50 pupils attend the breakfast club at Meridian Angel each day – they also walk a mile every day. The school will now use its winnings to maintain and expand the club.

## PALMERS GREEN

## Heartless thieves

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

THIEVES STOLE A DEFIBRILLATOR from a railway station just six months after it was installed.

The life-saving device – used to restart people's hearts after they have had a cardiac arrest – was reported missing in late April, although it is not known exactly when it was stolen.

Duncan Primrose, station manager for rail firm Great Northern, said: "Sadly, we can confirm that the defibrillator at Palmers Green Station has been stolen. This equipment could potentially save someone's life and the fact that it has been taken is appalling. We are working with



A notice left by station staff on the defibrillator Credit Tom Parry

local police on the matter."

Palmers Green resident Tom Parry said on Twitter: "Stealing a defibrillator positioned outside a railway station to potentially save lives in emergencies is about as selfish as it gets."

## PONDERS END

## Bandstand back together

ENFIELD COUNCIL IS DUE TO begin extensive repair work to the damaged bandstand in Ponders End Park.

The structure was blown over by high winds during Storm Eunice, which battered the UK in February with winds up to 122mph, causing three deaths.

Since the record-breaking storm the council has commissioned engineers to assess the damage to the bandstand and how much of it can

be saved and restored. A council spokesperson said: "We were saddened to see the damage to the bandstand in Ponders End Park that was caused by Storm Eunice.

"The extent of the damage to the bandstand is being investigated by structural engineers, who have been instructed to save as much of the historical structure as possible.

"The reconstruction is expected to start on 30th May and completion is expected around the end of June."

# Having a bowl

Elaine Hall-Freeman on why lawn bowls is a sport for all

**H**aving moved to Southgate in 1990, my husband and I often walked along the alleyway that joined Norman Way to High Street and heard the click of bowls from behind the high wall that ran alongside – but for a long time we had no idea where to find the entrance!

Although Selborne Bowling Club had been founded as long ago as 1912 by Bert Plumb, landlord of the Cherry Tree Inn, it seems to be one of Southgate's best-kept secrets. It took 19 years for my husband and I to notice an 'open day' sign, welcoming visitors into the grounds to try out the game on a sunny Southgate spring afternoon. "Will we? Won't we?" we asked, until eventually we plucked up the courage and ventured down to have a go.

People tend to think of lawn bowls as a bit of an old folks' game, but it's one of the most inclusive sports you can find and can be played and enjoyed by anyone, no matter their age or ability. Whether you want to play the sport socially or at a higher, more competitive level, the choice is yours. Not everyone is a fitness fanatic and at senior school; I well remember



Elaine Hall-Freeman with some of her family and fellow Selborne Bowling Club members

being the one who was never chosen to be in the team. I hated rough games such as hockey, where I would jump over the ball to avoid it hitting my ankles, and I could never run fast enough to return a tennis ball.

I would do anything to get out of PE lessons, but bowls is something else. It takes a lot more than just brute strength to succeed.

It develops your hand-eye coordination, your analytical and tactical thinking, your balance and coordination, your ability to work as a team but, most of all, it's a great game and I guarantee you'll really enjoy it once you try.

At Selborne, the club prides itself in its friendly welcome and is keen to encourage

new members from all sectors of our community. In recent times, Bowls England, the sport's governing body, has seen the need to develop and modernise the sport to protect its future. A look at the national finals, which take place in Royal Leamington Spa each year, will show that bowls is moving with the times and fast becoming popular with younger players.

Being part of Selborne, like many bowls clubs, means being part of a strong bowling family, where you can make friends for life and enjoy not just bowls but other social events and holidays throughout the year, whether you are on your own, in a couple or with a family. Later this year, I'm off to spend a couple of weeks volunteering at the Commonwealth Games bowls events at Victoria Park in Leamington as an athlete services team member, something I would never have dreamed of doing had it not been for Selborne Bowling Club. Out of around 41,000 applications, I'll be one of the lucky 14,000 volunteers, who will help make the games so special.

**Find out more about Selborne Bowling Club:**  
Visit [selbornebc.co.uk](http://selbornebc.co.uk)

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# Support independent local journalism

## What we do

Here at *Enfield Dispatch* we do things differently. We combine professional journalism with voluntary contributions from people who live and work in the borough 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 journalism which is inclusive and accountable.

## 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 us.

You can do this by becoming a member either as an individual or as an organisation. See the rewards opposite and once you've decided what package you would like, visit our website:

[enfelddispatch.co.uk/join](https://enfelddispatch.co.uk/join)

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