

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº.46 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

JULY 2022

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THE BOROUGH'S FIRST official Pride festival took place last month, with hundreds attending the free event on Library Green in Enfield Town to watch an assortment of drag acts, reality stars, singers and fire-eaters. Pictured on stage are (from left) host Benjy Potter, drag star Cheryl Hole, and DJ Tania Lecoq – for more pictures turn to Page 12 Credit Natalie Gee/Enfield Council

Mum's fears for autistic son

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

The mum of a boy with special needs says she has been left “stressed” and “anxiety ridden” after Enfield Council repeatedly failed to find her family a suitable home.

Samira Awil, whose six-year-old son has autism and does not cope well with change, said she felt “neglected” after having to move five times during the past six years, with another relocation now imminent.

The mother-of-three claims the council doesn't understand autism and that her case has not been given enough medical priority. She said she was repeatedly put into unsuitable accommodation against a medical recommendation for her son she received when he was two years old.

Samira told the Local Democracy Reporting Service: “I feel like we have kind of been neglected and my son has been neglected. We have been pushed from pillar to post.

“I don't think Enfield Council really understands autism and any type of invisible disability and how much it affects people.”

After her son was diagnosed with autism, Samira filled out a medical form containing evidence from schools, a psychologist and medical professionals. She is now considering legal action over the way she has been treated by the local authority and said the constant moving had been “extremely hard” on her son, who “has no way of communicating and has extremely rigid behaviours”.

Among the temporary housing properties the Awil family has been moved to since the autism diagnosis, one had an open-plan kitchen

which was unsuitable for her son because of his nut allergy, and another developed a leak which forced the family to move to a hotel for several days.

Samira said her latest property, in Freezywater, is also unsuitable because it is a first-floor flat with no window restrictors to keep her son safe. Despite complaining to the council, she had to wait six months for them to be fitted. She added: “The social workers, educational psychologists and school have all tried to speak with the council about how detrimental moving is for him, that his mental health and wellbeing is affected by the constant moves and that the private sector will not help.”

A council spokesperson said the authority was committed to making homelessness “rare, brief and non-recurring” and was “determined to enable everyone to access a stable, secure and decent home”.

The council's waiting list for social housing currently has 5,700 households, but only around 400 homes are let each year, meaning private rentals are the only option for most people. The spokesperson said: “Enfield Council introduced a new allocation policy in December 2020 to recognise this reality and to encourage and reward residents to access and sustain privately rented housing rather than living in long-term temporary accommodation.”

If the Awil family were to move to a private rental home and stay there for six months, they would get extra points, moving them higher up the council waiting list, with further points added each year they stay privately renting.

“In the meantime we have offered Ms Awil alternative temporary accommodation to meet her immediate needs,” the council spokesperson said.



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A CGI of the plans for a nature reserve at Dicken's Trough Meadow (bottom right) and an environmental centre together with a nature trail and multi-use sports facility (left) sited within the main Tottenham Hotspur training complex



Wait goes on for nature reserve promised by Spurs

Football club developing new plans for women's academy on site earmarked for wildlife and education

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Questions are being asked over whether Tottenham Hotspur can be "trusted" to deliver on its promises for Whitewebbs as the wait goes on for a long-promised nature reserve. The football club recently submitted plans for a temporary women's academy on part of its Bulls Cross training complex that was previously earmarked for a nature trail and environmental centre where local schoolchildren would learn about wildlife.

Spurs are keen to develop new training facilities for their women's team, who recorded a best-ever Women's Super League finish of fifth this year, but who currently train at a school in Mill Hill. The long-term plan is to build a permanent base at the now-closed Whitewebbs Park Golf Course, which Tottenham Hotspur won a 25-year lease to manage from Enfield Council last year. The academy would be within walking distance of the main training complex in Whitewebbs Lane, but no planning application has yet been submitted.

In the meantime, the urgent need for a new facility has led to the club drawing up an interim solution. These plans involve the construction of a smaller, "temporary" women's academy building and football pitch within the perimeter of their £45million training complex, on a vacant field – the same site where

Spurs won planning permission in 2018 to create a nature trail and environmental centre.

Asked by the *Dispatch* about the apparent conflict with its two different schemes, a club spokesperson insisted the original plans were "in progress" and that the proposed women's academy building, sited in a corner of the field, would not obstruct the environmental centre and nature trail. Both schemes feature the inclusion of sports pitches, although the original idea was for schoolchildren to use them, with plans describing "a unique and high-quality education experience for school pupils" where "education, sport recreation and nature conservation can be brought together".

At Dicken's Trough Meadow, an adjacent site just outside the perimeter of Tottenham Hotspur Training Centre, the club previously pledged to open a nature reserve that would help educate children about wildlife and – combined with the environmental centre – form an essential part of a "school visit" experience for pupils across Enfield.

Richard Stones, a committee member with The Enfield Society, explained that the promise related to a commitment Tottenham Hotspur made when the club built its training centre back in 2012. Because it was sited on Green Belt land in Bull's Cross, Spurs agreed to create a nature reserve and public footpath as compensation for the loss of natural habitat. Although the footpath was delivered several

years ago, Dicken's Trough Meadow remains closed to the public.

Richard told the *Dispatch*: "Spurs are a successful football club and business and therefore one has to be sceptical as to their priorities and whether there will be an impetus for them to create this nature reserve, because they will not make money out of it."

Tottenham Hotspur's plans for Whitewebbs include turning half of the former golf course into "historic parkland". In a summary of its proposals published last summer, the club stated it would "enhance public access, improve opportunities for recreational and community use".

Richard remains sceptical. He said: "From our point of view, the concern is that if we cannot trust Spurs to create this nature reserve, why should we believe that they can do the things they have said they are going to do with Whitewebbs?"

A club spokesperson said that the plans for Dicken's Trough Meadow and the environmental centre have "been formally commenced" after being "paused during the pandemic". However, the club has not been able to provide a timeline for their opening.

A planning statement submitted on behalf of Tottenham Hotspur states: "The western field benefits from extant planning permission to develop a new multi-use sports pitch, environmental centre and nature reserve. The applicant remains committed to delivering this development and the enclosed proposals are a temporary interim measure only."

Cladding win

Residents of a modern housing development who have been living with fire safety defects in their building have been told the scheme's developer will now fund remedial work.

Fire safety defects were discovered two years ago at Prowse Court in Fore Street, Edmonton, with residents initially told they would have to meet the cost of replacing the wooden cladding on their balconies themselves.

But Countryside, which built the block in 2015, has now written to residents to confirm it would pay for remedial work. Resident Basim Jafar said: "This presents a massive victory for the innocent residents and we are hoping to complete the works as quickly as possible. This of course would not have been possible without the campaigning of leaseholders up and down the country demanding action from the government to make homes safe."

Beaver dead

One of two beavers released in Enfield has died.

Two Eurasian beavers, a male and female, were introduced to an enclosure at Forty Hall Farm in March and made headlines as the first to be released in London since the species went extinct in Britain 400 years ago.

The beaver reintroduction project is a collaboration between Enfield Council and Capel Manor College, which runs the farm. It had been hoped that the two beavers would mate and produce kits within a year. A council spokesperson said: "We are saddened and sorry to confirm one of the two beavers at Forty Hall Farm has died. The results of a post mortem have confirmed that the male beaver died of natural causes.

"In conjunction with experts the beaver enclosure was designed and built to the highest standards to meet Natural England's requirements in order to obtain the requisite licence. These experts are confident that the environment created is good.

"We also have a stringent monitoring programme in place that observes the health of the animals within the enclosure, food and water supply, topography and other environmental factors."

A replacement male beaver is now being sought.

Four jailed over killing of father in Edmonton



Roshane Watson, guilty of murder

Gizem Ozbahadir, guilty of murder

Four people have been jailed for a total of 74 years for their role in the killing of a 26-year-old father-of-two in Edmonton.

Christopher George died after being shot in Sebastopol Road on 29th July 2020. Two people – 25-year-old Roshane Watson from Edmonton and 23-year-old Gizem Ozbahadir from Waltham Cross – were found guilty of Christopher’s murder following a trial in March. Two others – 28-year-old Leo Donaldson from Haringey and 18-year-old Terrique Tomlin from Ilford – were found guilty of manslaughter.

The victim was shot in the chest in Sebastopol Road, not far from Edmonton Police Station, where he was on his way to meet an associate involved in his business selling designer bags and shoes. Watson was the person who gunned Christopher down and was identified by detectives when they found a music video he had starred in on YouTube and linked his clothing to that seen in CCTV footage from the day of the killing. Ozbahadir, meanwhile, had hired one of the two vehicles that were used to follow Christopher before he was killed.

At a sentencing hearing at the end of May, Watson was jailed for 32 years for murder, 20 years for possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life, and four years for perverting the course of justice; Ozbahadir was jailed for 23 years for murder; Donaldson was sentenced to 18 years’ imprisonment for manslaughter; and Tomlin was sentenced to eleven years’ imprisonment for manslaughter.

A fifth defendant, Nathaniel Donaldson, aged 22 of Ponders End, pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation in relation to the hire of the second vehicle that was used in the murder and has been sentenced to ten months’ imprisonment, suspended for two years.

As he handed down his sentences to the five guilty parties, Judge Lucas told Wood Green Crown Court: “This was a murder in cold blood. The events immediately before Mr George was murdered demonstrate the calculated nature of his killing and are significant in determining the appropriate

sentence to pass in this case.

“Despite the wish on the part of Mr George’s family to know why their son and brother was killed in the way in which he was, none of the defendants has had the courage or grace to inform them.”

In a statement, Christopher’s family said: “Christopher was a loving son, a caring brother to his three siblings, and a devoted father to his two young daughters, the youngest being only three months when he was killed.

“We know that nothing will bring Christopher back, but seeing those responsible for his death being convicted brings a little bit of comfort and closure.”

Detective Chief Inspector Joanna Yorke said: “I am pleased that those responsible for this brutal crime will now spend a significant period of time behind bars.

“Their convictions and sentencing are as a result of diligent, tenacious police work by a team of experienced homicide detectives. Our investigation revealed a significant amount of planning and co-ordination that went into this attack; an attack to which none of those involved has given a reason for carrying out.

“The actions of those involved have had a devastating impact on Christopher’s friends and family who must live for the rest of their lives dealing with the consequences of this senseless attack.”

Petition urges fresh Local Plan debate

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

More than 1,000 residents have backed calls for a fresh debate on Enfield Council’s draft Local Plan amid ongoing concerns over its impact on the environment and the Green Belt.

A new petition urges the authority to bring the revised Local Plan to a full council meeting to allow newly-elected councillors to have their say on what it calls the “most significant and important policy choice that can be made by local governments”.

The draft document, which included controversial proposals to allow more than 6,000 homes to be built on Green Belt land when it was first published a year ago, underwent a twelve-week public consultation last year. This will inform the next draft of the Local Plan, which is due to undergo a further round of consultation before being examined by a government planning inspector.

But four local groups – The Enfield Society, Enfield Road Watch, Enfield Climate Action Forum (EnCaf) and Better Homes Enfield – are calling for a fresh debate after 29 new councillors were elected in May. They say the new members should be allowed to share their views on the revised Local Plan.

The petition on the council website gained more than 1,000 signatures within three



Enfield Road Watch is one of the local groups campaigning to protect Enfield's Green Belt

weeks of launching on 3rd June, and is running until 31st July. If it receives 3,124 signatures (1% of the borough population) it will be debated at a full council meeting.

Dave Cockle, chair of The Enfield Society, said the society’s “core objective” was the protection of the Green Belt, but other concerns included tall buildings, the design of developments and housing affordability.

“It really does need to be debated by full council,” he said. “There are so many new councillors in now, and they were not around when they had the previous discussion on the Local Plan.”

Carol Fisk, vice chair of campaign group Enfield Road Watch, said her main concern was the “huge swathes” of Green Belt land that could be opened up for development under the Local Plan.

She said: “What will go on the Green Belt will probably not be homes for Enfield people and people on the housing list. The Green Belt is just too precious a resource to throw away.”

EnCaf’s land use working group has claimed the proposed Local Plan will fail to meet its goals on the Green Belt, affordability, heritage and the climate emergency. It claims there are “sufficient brownfield sites” to meet housing need, and building on the Green Belt would not provide affordable homes.

Matt Burn, of Better Homes Enfield, said his group wanted to see councillors talk about “affordable housing and how we get more in the right places”.

During a full council meeting in June last year, councillors agreed that the “final version of the Local Plan” would be brought back to a full council meeting following the twelve-week consultation. Later that month, Sarah Cary, the council’s head of place, told the council’s environment forum that the final version was due to be heard at full council in June or July 2022.

A council spokesperson said: “There’ll be opportunity to debate the next draft of the plan at full council before it’s approved.”

To view the Local Plan debate petition:

Visit governance.enfield.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?Id=256

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Volunteers from Enfield Archaeological Society at a previous dig on the site of Elsyng Palace



Discovering more about Enfield's lost palace

Judith Stones from Enfield Archaeological Society invites people to help with the group's mission to uncover the secrets of Elsyng Palace

Since the 1960s Enfield Archaeological Society has run professionally-led community-based excavations at the site of the historic royal palace of Elsyng, within the grounds of Forty Hall Estate.

Elsyng Palace developed from an earlier courtier's house into a royal palace occupied at various times by Henry VIII, Edward VI and Elizabeth I; in fact both Edward and Elizabeth were present at Elsyng 475 years ago in January 1547, when they were told of the death of their father Henry.

We'd like Elsyng to be better known in the area, especially as excavations and original historical research have added substantially to our knowledge of the palace layout, its structures, the people who lived there and their daily life.

Our society has existed since 1955 and includes professional archaeologists, experts in related fields and a core of volunteers among its hundred-or-so members. We were recently awarded a grant through Enfield Council's National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported 'Stories

of Enfield Project' which is enabling us to undertake a wider range of activities than we have been able to take on in past excavation seasons, with the central aim to increase awareness of this important historic feature in our borough.

Our upcoming excavation is planned to take place from 10th–24th July (on every day except the 18th) with the intention to explore the palace's

as those who rediscovered it through painstaking excavation.

Fundamental to the project is a definitive book, by our director of excavations Dr Martin Deane, reporting the results of all the excavations on the palace site since the 1960s, along with historical evidence derived from original research in local and national archives. That book, with extra funding from The Enfield Society,

is being published this month.

In addition, we are producing a highly illustrated guide to the site, by Neil Pinchbeck and John Pinchbeck, called *Enfield's Lost Palace*. This will be available later in autumn, and it will include the latest discoveries from our excavations this summer, as well as a contribution from the schools who visit the dig.

We're still looking for volunteers from across the community to join our team. Contact us using the details below.

For information about this month's dig, get in touch with Enfield Archaeological Society:
Email martin.deane@talktalk.net

To help with oral history interviews and filmmaking:
Email volunteer@enfarchsoc.org



An impression of how Elsyng Palace was thought to have looked, before it was demolished in the 17th Century

inner gatehouse. We have an education specialist working with local schools before, during and after the excavation, and are planning an open weekend on the weekend of 16th and 17th July. We also have a filmmaker who will create a compelling visual story of the site, the palace and the people who lived and worked there, as well

Helping women find their voice

Mimi Kay meets the founder of a local charity helping migrant women integrate with the local community

More than 90 languages are spoken by Enfield borough residents as a primary or only language. Language barriers can make it difficult for some women to obtain job opportunities and services to support their families and it can also make them more vulnerable to domestic abuse.

Voice Out Woman (VOW) is a charity that recognises that many ethnic minority women in the area feel isolated because of a lack of confidence, or because they speak little English. The charity was set up in 2017 to support women in Enfield by building their confidence and language skills so they can feel more embedded in the community.

Workshops run by the charity have included helping with job applications and business mentoring. As a result of these workshops, three women have set up their own businesses in the area.

Other workshops have focused

VOW's founder, Jasmine Bekale Assamoi, says: "I come from a French-speaking African country, so I understand how tough it can be to join a new community and not feel confident to integrate. I use my experience to help women and their children in similar situations."

One woman the charity helped had been in an 18-year abusive relationship. Despite her lack of confidence and limited English, the charity helped the woman leave the relationship, find her first job and regain her self-esteem. Estelle is another woman VOW worked with. They helped her and her three children move from one room to a three-bedroom flat in Enfield. This was after Estelle and her children struggled with housing issues for six years. Estelle says of VOW: "They have compassion. They are able to find a way to solve your problem or to help you look for a solution. They understand people who need help."

"Workshops run by the charity have included helping with job applications and business mentoring"

on raising awareness of domestic abuse. These workshops train the women as certified domestic abuse community champions to be able to support other women in the area. The training is offered alongside local police and social workers.

For the first time in January this year, the charity launched parenting workshops to focus on youth challenges from bullying, to getting in with the 'wrong crowd'. The parenting workshops were held in partnership with Enfield Council and Race Equality Foundation. More youth workshops are planned in September, on youth leadership in the community.

The charity also helped Mathilda when she had problems communicating with children's social services. The charity intervened to explain that she did not have an interpreter at the time. This intervention was vital in preventing Mathilda's children from being taken away from her. Mathilda says: "They helped me so much. They are like family to me now."

What's next for VOW? Jasmine says: "Our mission at VOW is to keep working with individuals and companies to help these women in Enfield find their voice."

For more information about VOW: Visit voiceoutwoman.org.uk

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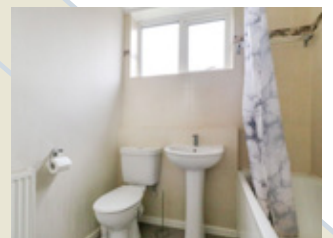
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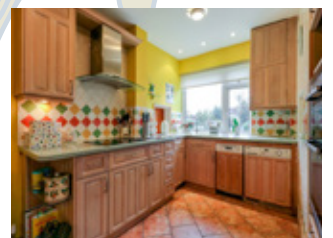
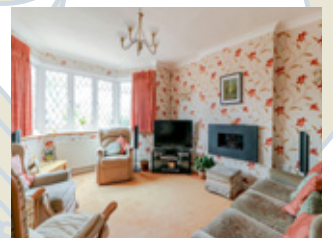
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New borough police chief wants to rebuild trust in Met

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

The new Metropolitan Police commander in Enfield and Haringey says rebuilding trust with communities is key to tackling crime.

Detective Chief Superintendent Caroline Haines says the force needs to “reinforce standards, culture and behaviour” and be “as transparent as possible with our partners and communities” in order to restore confidence in policing.

Figures from City Hall recently revealed trust in the force had dipped to an all-time low, following a string of scandals. In Enfield, just 44% of residents said they thought the Met did a good job in their area – one of the lowest scores in London.

In April DCS Haines became commander of the Met’s north area borough command unit (BCU), which covers Enfield and Haringey, following a 27-year policing career that has already seen her work across both boroughs. She says rebuilding trust is one of her key priorities, alongside being “really tough on crime”, particularly “the most serious crimes that matter most to Londoners”.

Speaking to the Local Democracy Reporting Service, DCS Haines said her priorities were to



Enfield and Haringey's new borough commander, DCS Caroline Haines. Credit Met Police

tackle serious violence, including knife crime, robbery, burglary and gang-related offending. Domestic abuse, hate crime and sexual offending will also be key areas of focus.

The police chief added: “Last performance year we achieved the biggest reduction in the Met for robbery – over 50% reduction in robbery on our comparison year. To reduce that even further is going to be slightly

more of a challenge.”

To help achieve the targeted reductions, the BCU will use “specialist teams” focusing on the key crime areas backed up by central resources from the Met, which can be deployed into Enfield and Haringey to provide “intelligence mapping of where our problems are and matching that with the right resources to be able to tackle those issues”.

DCS Haines explained: “Although we are not creating new teams, as such, we are saying our teams need to be able to adapt to changing situations and changing dynamics in terms of our crime profile.”

The other key priority the new borough commander has set for her unit is “to keep working to improve trust and confidence in policing”. She added: “We are in a really difficult situation from the point of view of trust and confidence after a number of high-profile, London-wide incidents, and now more than ever we need the trust of our community.”

“We have a huge need to reinforce professional standards,” DCS Haines said. “The overwhelming majority of police officers come to work to do a good job and the very best they can.”

“We need to reinforce our standards, culture and behaviour to make sure everybody under-

stands what is expected of them, to create an environment where they are able to report wrongdoing and we have the right processes in place to deal with those who fall short.”

DCS Haines said the force needed to be “as transparent as possible” with communities. The BCU uses an independent advisory group and a community monitoring group, which holds the force to account on practices such as stop and search. The police chief said new public encounter panels will also “challenge us around matters of interest to them and our communities and give us independent oversight and transparency around the work we do”.

Work with these three groups comes on top of outreach work the Met is doing in schools and with communities to divert young people away from crime.

DCS Haines also welcomed Enfield Council’s plan to create a law enforcement team of 50 officers to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour. “We are really keen to work together and use the resources in the most effective way we can in those crime areas,” she said.

Editor’s note: This interview was conducted before the Met was placed into ‘special measures’ on 28th June.

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EDMONTON GREEN

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Giving teens a chance to develop themselves

Costas Evangelou is the founder of an Edmonton boxing club with a social purpose

The founder of an Edmonton boxing club has made it his mission to help youngsters in the borough avoid a life of gangs and crime.

Costas Evangelou is the founder and head coach of Edmonton Eagles Boxing Club, first formed in 2004 and based at Montagu Recreation Ground. The club offers low-cost training sessions as well as free after-school ‘open sessions’ where youngsters can try their hand at boxing for the first time.

Costas, who was made an MBE in 2019 for his services to young people, told the *Dispatch*: “We want to give youngsters an outlet and help them develop a positive attitude, to get them away from gang culture, build their confidence and improve themselves.

“We have got a lot of kids here who have fallen out of school and we have



Costas Evangelou (second from left) in the ring with some of his young boxers

seen the positive impact that boxing has had on them.”

A big part of the club is offering opportunities for disadvantaged teenagers living locally, in an area of high social deprivation.

let them in.”

Among many success stories at the club is Beni Mondua, who has been a national junior cruiserweight champion and has recently joined the Team GB Olympic team. Beni continues to train with Edmonton Eagles today.

“We’ve had a number of young people from different backgrounds who have become champions,” says Costas. “But we welcome anyone here who just wants to develop themselves.”

For more information about
Edmonton Eagles Boxing Club:
Visit edmontoneaglesabc.com

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

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We need better alternatives to car travel

In our latest MP's column, Enfield North representative Feryal Clark gives her verdict on the proposal to expand Ulez

We are all aware of climate change and the damage it is already doing to our environment. If progress isn't made now, then the health and livelihoods of future generations will be under threat.

But there's one barrier to making that progress we need, and it's a barrier that is part of our daily lives. A car, for many people, isn't a luxury but a core part of enabling them to get on with their life. When it comes to schemes designed to improve our environment, that is the consideration that must be made.

How do we reduce reliance on cars when they are lifelines to so many? It is this challenge that the proposed Ultra Low Emission Zone (Ulez) expansion has failed to address for people in Enfield.

We know improving air quality is something we urgently need in our community. Residents living along main roads like the A10, or on Bullsmoor Lane just off the M25, will know this all too well.

I am acutely aware myself of the impact of air pollution. Every day, as I walk my



Feryal Clark has represented Enfield North since 2019
Credit: parliament.uk

child to the bus stop, I worry about the impact the pollution is having on her little lungs. The fumes she has to breathe in are having a serious effect on her development and, like any mother would be, I am concerned for her future.

With over 200,00 children in London

having asthma, it is clear action is needed now. So, what is the issue with expanding Ulez to combat this? On the surface, there isn't one, but when you dig deeper into communities like Enfield, we can see that local infrastructure just is not there.

"The key to getting people to transition away from cars is to deliver a robust and reliable public transport network"

The key to getting people to transition away from cars is to deliver a robust and reliable public transport network that gives people the flexibility that they need and use a car for. In Enfield, at present, we know that this is simply not the case. Bus routes are heavily concentrated in and around the town centre, rather than where most people live.

We have train stations, both mainline and London Overground, served by just

two trains an hour at off-peak times. Providing one train every 30 minutes simply does not give people the flexibility they need for them to get out of their cars and get on the train instead.

Given the age of a lot of the cars being affected by Ulez, an incentivised car scrappage scheme, as has been proposed, is another way of getting people to rethink their travel habits. But none of these policies will work in isolation, or together, if the voices of local residents are not listened to.

The current Ulez consultation, which is open until 29th July, is going to be crucial to ensuring your views are heard. I will be making a submission, and would urge everyone else across our borough to do so too.

To take part in Transport for London's Ulez expansion consultation:

Visit haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/cleanair

Feryal Clark is a Labour MP for Enfield North. If you are a constituent, you can get in touch with her by phone or email:

Call 0208 804 4543

Email feryal.clark.mp@parliament.uk

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T R A I N I N G

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 before the next deadline on **Monday 18th July**.

Say no to Spurs

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Tottenham Hotspur's agenda is driven by the high cost of its Premier League and NFL ambitions, as one would expect from a multibillion-dollar offshore company such as [club owners] ENIC. Enfield's best interests are very low on the corporate priority list.

The temporary women's facility [Wait goes on for nature reserve promised by Spurs, Page 2] appears to be being built, even though it has yet to receive planning approval. Spurs cannot be trusted to carry out promises that conflict with its commercial ambitions and Enfield Council supinely gives in to their every demand.

The council is planning to give away [control of] 60% of Whitewebbs Park at a derisory price with no significant benefit to the people of Enfield. The annual rental is about one week's pay for their eleventh best player. As part of its green credentials, Spurs plan to cover beautiful, rapidly rewinding meadowland with astroturf and plastic reinforced pitches.

We are in the position as Enfield ratepayers, under a Labour-run council, of losing public space to subsidise a multibillion-dollar offshore corporation. Why this should be is beyond comprehension.

Sean Wilkinson

Chair, Friends of Whitewebbs

Larger Ulez fears

Dear Enfield Dispatch

When the London mayor imposed his Ultra Low Emissions Zone (Ulez) it had a ring of authenticity – remove the minority of older technology vehicles to reduce pollution. Number plate readers around the north and south circular roads enforced Ulez in central boroughs. The impact fell harshly on small traders and low-income individuals who either passed the charge on to customers or were forced off the road if they could not afford a more modern vehicle.

Now the mayor wants to extend Ulez to the whole of London. Commuters, residents and all travellers accessing London businesses and amenities, transport, health or educational services, would have to ditch

older cars and vans prematurely from mid-2023, buy a modern replacement, or rely on public transport.

This is now primarily a revenue-raising scheme with benefits hard to even measure, but clear downsides for many. It is disproportionate, unfair and onerous. It is anti-business. The mayor recognises no limits to his revenue ambitions and offers no reinvestment to redress the unfairness. He is bearing down on private transport to promote his inefficient loss-making public transport services. There is no justification for his creeping taxation scheme – mileage charging for all comes next, the ground being prepared by Ulez. We should all reject this policy via the ongoing Ulez consultation.

Peter Gibbs

Vice president, Federation of Enfield Residents

Justice for renters

Dear Enfield Dispatch

It's positive the government's new white paper includes mandatory registration of landlords and an ombudsman to hold landlords to account. The government has also rightly recognised renters need flexibility, which periodic tenancies will provide.

However, we're disappointed with the detail around the [restriction of] 'no fault' evictions. The government's proposals still mean a renter could be evicted every eight months. If the government can get the detail right and give tenants the confidence they need to request improvements and plan long-term, this legislation could improve the lives of millions.

Alicia Kennedy

Director, Generation Rent

Editor's note: Enfield had the highest rate of evictions in London, as of 2019

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A taste of modern Italian cuisine

Neil Littman continues his tour of Enfield's best restaurants with a stop at Zaza

Friends and neighbours who have seen my reviews appear in the *Dispatch* have asked me a couple of questions about my experiences and I am happy to dispel a few myths.

I pay for the meals and, if I go with company, we split the bill; I don't tell the restaurants why I am there, though may do afterwards when I give them a couple of complimentary copies of the paper. Reactions are generally positive and I only write about the places I like.

I have also been asked why Enfield doesn't have any destination restaurants run by celebrity chefs. I am guessing this is simply due to trends in eating. I grew up in Hackney and if you had told me back then it would have some of the best and most innovative dining experiences, I would have laughed.

But personally I think we do have some good places on our doorstep in Enfield. Zaza is one of those that simply gets it right. It is located on the corner of Chase Side and Holtwhites Hill and although it is technically part of a 'chain' their formula, if they have one, is good quality ingredients sourced direct from Italy.

We ordered two wines by the glass; a Sauvignon blanc and Nero D'avola, both were served well chilled. For starters we had



Goats cheese tart

goats cheese tart and mezzaluna croccante; pastry shells filled with melting mozzarella and aged Parmesan, sprinkled with crisped rosemary and served with chilli and garlic mayonnaise dip. I may have reluctantly shared one with my dining companion. They were very good and I only narrowly avoided

eating them all before I took a photo.

Our main courses were both chicken dishes. Pollo picante, a chicken breast in spicy tomato sauce, and conchigioni pollo, pasta shells filled with minced chicken and herbs, served with rocket and grated parmesan. The portions were good and service was very efficient, although I am not sure how many times it's advisable to ask if "everything was alright"!

I recommend Zaza as a good place to go for a taste of modern Italian cuisine. The prices are moderate; our bill came to £71 including service. There are also deals at lunch and a special 'classic Italy' meal on Tuesday evenings at £28.90 per head for two courses, including a bottle of wine per person.

Booking at weekends is essential. On the Saturday we went Zaza was only offering two-hour slots, which didn't feel like enough time to have a leisurely three-course meal. We skipped desserts and had cappuccinos instead, but as compensation I took a photo of the dessert menu and what I saw whizzing past our table looked good, so another visit seems in order.

Zaza at 88-90 Chase Side, Enfield EN2 6NX, is open from 12pm until late every day. To book: Call 0208 363 6974 Email enfield@zaza.co.uk Visit zaza.co.uk/restaurants/enfield

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LICENSING ACT 2003 Notice of Application for a New Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Rosemary Stanley-Mckenzie** has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Enfield for a Premises Licence to permit:

- The supply of alcohol every day of the week between 14.00-22.00
- For the premises: 35 Mayfield Crescent situated at Edmonton, London N9 7NL

Public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/business-and-licensing/> and following the link to the Licensing Register. Email licensing@enfield.gov.uk to request a copy of the application within 28 days from the date of this notice.

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice by emailing licensing@enfield.gov.uk, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **20/07/2022**

Representations received by post will not be accepted. Representations must include your full name and address. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application for a premises licence. A person guilty of an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level five on the standard scale.

Dated: 22 day of June 2022

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Celebration of LGBTQ

Enfield's first official 'Pride' event deemed big success



Young people join in the fun at Enfield Pride Credit Natalie Gee/Enfield Council



Fire-eating Credit Natalie Gee/Enfield Council



Enfield Council cabinet member Chinelo Anyanwu (centre, with Enfield Pride performers) Credit Natalie Gee/Enfield Council

Enfield's first official 'Pride' event has been deemed a big success and as representing "everything that is wonderful about our borough".

The free two-day festival was held at Library Green in Enfield Town on 18th and 19th June and featured drag acts including Sum Ting Wong, Vanity Milan and Cheryl Hole of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, plus *X Factor* winner Joe

McElderry and tribute acts to Cher, Beyonce and Lady Gaga. Also appearing was Enfield's very own drag superstar, Sissy Lea.

The event was organised by the Enfield Council team behind Dugdale Arts Centre and included a mini funfair and stalls from community groups such as North London Pride and Enfield LGBT Network.

Pride Month is celebrated around the world throughout the month of June and is about acceptance and equity. It highlights the work of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and queer (LGBTQ) people and their history and raises awareness of issues that impact them.

Chinelo Anyanwu, the council's cabinet member for public spaces, culture and local economy, appeared on stage on the first day of Enfield Pride to thank residents for coming along and supporting the borough's LGBTQ community.

Afterwards, Cllr Anyanwu said: "Enfield Pride embodied everything that is wonderful about our borough, particularly its inclusiveness, diversity and creativity.

"I was honoured to stand on the stage to address a sea of people of all ages draped in the Pride flag, fully supporting Enfield's first official festival celebrating the LGBTQ+ community.

"Judging by the amazing response received by all the performers, I hope this will become a regular event in the annual Pride calendar."



Cheryl Hole Credit Natalie Gee/Enfield Council

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Work with us: Caretaker

Situated in the heart of North London, N14, Salcombe Preparatory School is among the leading independent schools in the area providing an outstanding all-round education to children from 3 to 11 years.

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You will be the initial point of contact for buildings, grounds, maintenance and security.

Closing date: 15th July 2022. If you would like to apply for the role, please contact us at:
careers@salcombeprep.co.uk

The cast of Broken Silence production 'Equilibrium' as seen on their green screen set



Going green screen

Inclusive theatre group finds inventive way to bring stage show to big screen

An Edmonton-based drama group that produces accessible performances for disabled actors has premiered a unique show using green screen technology.

Broken Silence, which is part of Face Front Inclusive Theatre, last month launched its long-awaited production *Equilibrium* at Odeon Luxe Lee Valley. The story takes place on the fictional island of Hanalei and the surrounding waters, with the film focusing on how the world on land and the world below the sea must live in harmony for the natural equilibrium to be restored.

Originally conceptualised as a theatre production, the prolonged

impact of the pandemic meant that it could not be performed as originally planned. Instead, Face Front built a full-size professional green screen studio at its Edmonton premises to turn the stage show into a film.

Broken Silence is run by directors Jon French and Angie Wallis at Park Avenue Disability Resource Centre in Bush Hill Park. The group is made up of more than 25 adults with sensory and mobility impairments, mental health issues and learning disabilities. Jon said: "The hard work, imaginative use of technology, incredible patience, enormous talent, and desire to make something brilliant in an unprecedented and challenging

environment, was inspiring."

Maksym Stasiuk, an artist based in Ukraine, provided background illustrations for the show. Since the war there began, Maksym's family fled to Italy, while he has stayed in Smila in the centre of Ukraine and is housing a family who have fled from Kyiv. As part of the launch of *Equilibrium*, Face Front is raising funds to help Maksym and his family be reunited.

Broken Silence meets every Wednesday from 1-3pm at Park Avenue Resource Centre, Bush Hill Park, Enfield EN1 2HL. For more information:

Visit facefront.org/act-the-part/broken-silence

For more information about Face Front Inclusive Theatre:
Visit facefront.org

Enfield marks Queen's jubilee

Thousands of residents across Enfield held street parties and other events to celebrate the Queen's 70 years on the throne.

A bumper four-day bank holiday weekend at the start of June gave subjects a chance to honour Her Majesty during the platinum jubilee celebrations.

One of the largest events took place at Grovelands Park in Southgate, where hundreds turned out, including many decked out in patriotic red, white and blue. Other smaller events were held at schools, care homes, sports clubs and in residential streets.



Residents at Elizabeth Lodge Care Home get in the party mood to mark the Queen's 70 years on the throne

A beacon-lighting ceremony was also held at Library Green in Enfield Town for local political

leaders to pay tribute to the Queen, as part of a nationwide symbolic gesture.

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 **Monday 18th July**.

ADVICE

The Rebel Business School

Starting Monday 4th July, 10am-3pm
Online via Zoom

We're in Enfield to deliver our life-changing, alternative business course, through a series of online webinars. This free course is aimed at everyone.

Free entry, booking required

Visit therebelschool.com/enfield

COMMUNITY

Fore Street For All presents

'Beyond The Margin'

Thursday 7th July, 6.30pm-10.30pm
Fore Street Library, 109-111 Fore Street, Edmonton N18 2XF

Join us for a celebration of our libraries and archives. An evening of live music, poetry and workshops featuring Shane Delia, performances from Chickenshed, live band Lokandes, screen printing demonstrations, zine-making and spoken word workshops and live poetry.

Free for all

Visit forestreetforall.com/event

CHILDREN

Summer Reading Challenge

Starting Saturday 9th July
Your local Enfield Library

Every summer children across the borough are invited to attend their local Enfield library to sign up to the 'Summer Reading Challenge'. The challenge tasks young readers to complete six books over the summer holidays. Along the way they are rewarded with prizes and stickers, and those who complete the challenge will receive a medal and special certificate.

Free to enter

Visit summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

PARTY

Building Bloqs' tenth birthday party

Saturday 16th July, 3pm until late
Building Bloqs, 2 Anthony Way, Edmonton N18 3QT

To celebrate Building Bloqs' tenth birthday we are throwing the biggest Bloqs party yet! Celebrate with our members, friends, and all the amazing people who have helped build Bloqs. Featuring live music, DJs, food and drink.

Free entry

Visit buildingbloqs.com

FESTIVAL

Ghana Party in the Park

Saturday 16th July, 12pm-8pm
Trent Park, Snakes Lane EN4 0PS

Dance to afrobeats, feast on traditional cuisines and admire spectacular Ghanaian costumes at this annual outdoor festival which is the world's biggest Ghanaian event outside of Ghana!

Tickets £20

Visit gpitp.com

WALK

Explore Pymmes Brook

Sunday 17th July, 10.30am-4pm
Great Cambridge Road roundabout

Explore the Pymmes Brook through Palmers Green and Edmonton with this free guided walk and talk along the river.

Free to join

Visit bit.ly/3QMIMoq

MUSIC

Livestock Music Festival

Saturday 23rd July, 11.30am until late
Forty Hall Farm, Enfield EN2 9HA

Presenting our best line-up ever, you will not want to miss out. Featuring three diverse stages of superb music showcasing some incredible new acts and some huge festival favourites. Children's activities are laid on, plus the new 'after dark dance tent', great food and excellent value bars.

Advance tickets £28, teens under 17 years £5, children up to 12 free
Visit livestockuk.com

FITNESS

Zumba at Unite in Fitness

Every Tuesday, 10.30am
Unite in Fitness, 9 Oakwood Parade, Queen Anne's Place, Bush Hill Park EN1 2PX

Unite in Fitness was founded in January by Pedro Cardoso and Jackie Dyer. Both have a passion for dance fitness and the fact that fitness can change people's lives. Exercising is for all abilities and doesn't need to be boring. Unite in Fitness makes it fun by incorporating a fitness element to different fitness classes throughout, with a weekly timetable. Other classes include salsa, yoga and pilates.

£7 pay as you go

Visit uniteinfitness.com

AROUND THE BOROUGH

EDMONTON

Call for more A10 speed cameras

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

RESIDENTS PLAGUED BY SPEEDING cars and dangerous driving on the A10 are continuing to demand action to tackle the menace.

Amid ongoing concerns over noise and accidents, more than 1,000 people have now signed a petition calling for average speed cameras to cover the section of the dual carriageway from Southbury Road to Great Cambridge Junction, where the A10 meets the North Circular Road.

In early 2020, Transport for London (TfL) installed average speed cameras along a section of the road from Southbury to Bullsmoor deemed to be worst affected by speeding motorists. But Bush Hill Park councillor James Hockney, who launched the petition, said that in recent weeks hundreds more people had backed his call for more cameras following

a resurgence of the problems.

One resident, who lives in Crawley Road just off the A10, said he was considering moving away from the area after being kept awake by noise. “The noise is ridiculous,” he said. “It’s like a race track.”

“Me and my wife have to sleep in the back bedroom and try to avoid the noise, and we keep our windows shut.”

Sonia Soteriou moved out of her Dimsdale Drive home 18 months ago because she’d “had enough” of the noise and accidents on the A10. She said: “I lived there for 16 years and have seen lots of accidents, sometimes fatalities as well [...] The noise was unbearable.”

Lilli Matson from Transport for London said average speed cameras, spot speed cameras and a recently-introduced 30mph limit on a section of the A10 were being used to tackle the problems.

She added: “Although we have no

immediate plans to install a fixed safety camera system or acoustic cameras between Southbury Road and Great Cambridge Road roundabout, the A10 corridor is a priority for the jointly-funded TfL/Metropolitan Police roads and transport policing command, which continues to be deployed to the area to deal with a range of criminal and antisocial driving offences. This has included the deployment of the new mobile safety camera team.

“Breaking the speed limit is selfish and reckless, and we will continue working with the borough and policing partners to ensure that roads are safe for everyone who lives and works in Enfield.”

A spokesperson for the Met said a “robust strategy” had been developed to tackle illegal car meets, and vehicles observed committing offences were stopped and processed under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act.

PONDERS END

Headteacher wins top prize



'Headteacher of the year' Arthur Barzey

THE BOSS OF HERON HALL Academy has been named ‘headteacher of the year’.

At the Tes Schools Awards, billed as one of the biggest nights in the UK education calendar, Arthur Barzey won the top teaching prize for his efforts at turning the Ponders End school into a “place of hope”.

Judges praised Arthur for “enabling young people to follow their dreams to wherever their talents can take them”. Born and raised in Sierra Leone, Arthur was said to have “a laser-like focus

on developing character and self-belief” at Heron Hall while embedding pastoral care, creating a careers programme in partnership with Enfield Caribbean Association to promote ethnic-minority role models, and inviting diverse external speakers – from High Court judges to world-leading speechwriters – to inspire students.

Tes Schools Awards judge Julie Robson said: “Arthur comes across as outstandingly inspiring. He focuses on pride and aspiration in a disadvantaged multicultural community, and is all about aspiration and inclusion. He has a huge personal impact and stands out as a great leader.”

Arthur said: “This will mean a tremendous amount to the school. The whole team puts itself above the call of duty and we are a real family. This award is for that family.”

ENFIELD TOWN

Workers help catch fleeing suspect



Thames Water workers Nick Savva and Shaun Phillips, who helped police arrest a suspect following the high-speed car chase

TWO MAINTENANCE MEN working on water pipes in a quiet street helped police apprehend a suspect who had fled following a high-speed car chase through Enfield Town.

The Thames Water workers reacted quickly when they heard officers shout “armed police” and saw a suspect running towards

them. Shaun Phillips stuck out his leg, tripping up the suspect, and his colleague Nick Savva then immediately jumped on his back while the chasing police officers caught up with him to make the arrest.

Shaun told the *Dispatch*: “We saw them running up the street, shouting ‘armed police’, and I was just standing here, so I stuck my leg

out and tripped him [the suspect].”

Nick added: “I jumped on him. I didn’t know if he was armed or not, I didn’t think about it.”

Moments earlier, the suspect had crashed his BMW outside The Hop Poles pub in Baker Street, colliding with a private hire vehicle, after screeching around the junction with Canonbury Road. A barber shop owner nearby told the *Dispatch* he saw the suspect flee on foot, before running around the corner into Primrose Avenue. “There were loads of armed police and sniffer dogs – they were chasing him,” he said.

The crash and subsequent dramatic arrest brought an end to a long police chase through Enfield Town on 26th May, involving both marked and unmarked vehicles. A Met Police spokesperson said: “Officers stopped a suspect vehicle following a collision and arrested a man on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm and possession of a firearm.”

BUSH HILL PARK

Pupils help grow wildlife garden

LOCAL SCHOOLCHILDREN HAVE lent a hand in making improvements to Bush Hill Park.

A project led by the Friends of Bush Hill Park volunteer group has seen the installation of nine newly-designed and illustrated wildlife information boards with an accompanying trail map, plus a new sensory area in the park’s wildlife garden.

The wildlife illustrations were designed by pupils from George Spicer and Kingsmead schools. Each board contains information and fun facts about the wildlife in the park, including insects, birds and flowers, and the trail will encourage people to visit all areas of the park.

The new sensory area in the wildlife garden is being created by Friends of Bush Hill Park, drawing on imaginative ideas from George Spicer pupils. So far it contains a stumpery, rocks and ferns, scented climbing plants, culinary herbs and tactile grasses. The next stage will include the installation of decorative stone chippings, bamboo canes, wind chimes, sun catchers

Pupils hold up the illustrations they created for the wildlife garden



and tactile pathways.

School pupils who have helped out were thanked by Enfield North MP Feryal Clark, who said: “The pupils from both schools have done some fantastic work to design both a wildlife trail and a new garden, which will be a brilliant resource for all local residents to enjoy.”

Carole Stanley, chair of Friends of Bush Hill Park, added: “We think it’s very important to work in partnership with the local community. We particularly value the input of young people and local organisations, such as The Enfield Society, who provided funding for the sensory garden.”

Youngsters enjoying the Parkrun life

Emma Maloney invites Enfield children to join a weekly fun run for juniors



Children warming up before they take on the challenge of Enfield Junior Parkrun, which takes place every Sunday morning in Town Park

Parkrun, first started in 2004, has become a well-known running event for adults across the world every Saturday morning.

Runners of all abilities show up to complete their local course and try to beat their personal best, usually in a local park. Grovelands Park in Southgate and Pymmes Parks

in Edmonton both host weekly events.

But did you know there is also a Parkrun for juniors? And that Enfield has its very own? Every Sunday throughout the year, at 9am come rain or shine, children aged from four to 14 gather for this free event in Enfield's Town Park to run, walk, hop or skip the two-kilometre course. Each child is given a finish token

and their time is recorded so they can see how they have performed each week.

Part of the reason to launch the event was that Enfield is a borough where 40% of children aged ten or eleven are obese, one of the highest rates in London. But we also recognise that families may simply be looking for free, fun activities for their children.

The Town Park event has been running since early 2020 (although with a long pandemic break) and now sees up to around 80 children taking part, at no expense. It is amazing to see how capable these youngsters are, often leaving their parents who try to run with them behind! For those who prefer more of a saunter, then they will be welcomed with equal joy and applause.

No children ever come last, as we always have a 'tail-walker' who is the final person to cross the finish line. Regulars will be awarded their half-marathon and marathon wristbands to reward them for their efforts.

If you fancy coming along to give it a go, we would love to see you. Beginners are always welcome; there's a first-timers briefing at 8.50am, plus a quick warm-up to get everyone raring to go.

I look forward to see you in your running shoes soon!

For more information and to sign up for Parkrun Juniors:
Visit parkrun.org.uk/enfieldtown-juniors

Overcoming barriers to sports participation

Andrew Walmsley from Sports4Kids North London on the launch of a new weekend class in Southgate for children with special needs

We launched Sport4Kids around four years ago and have now established ourselves as one of the largest and fastest-growing children's sports providers in North London.

Operating across five weekend venues, we predominantly focus on children's football between the ages of 18 months and eleven years and have several teams competing in local leagues. We also host a dance academy, coached by a dance world cup gold medallist.

In addition, we partner with more than 30 local primary schools and nurseries to deliver a variety of sports through breakfast, lunch and after-school clubs. During school holidays, we run three multi-activity camps, and we also host many children's birthday parties throughout the year.

While our current provision caters for children with special educational needs and disabilities (Send), these sessions can sometimes be overwhelming, with participation and engagement becoming sporadic. Looking to change this, we have spent the last six months having discussions with various parents who have been struggling to find appropriate weekend sports activities for their children with additional needs.

No current sports clubs in the borough are really set up to provide appropriate sessions



Sport4Kids has been running local football sessions for four years

for Send children in a safe, welcoming, and non-judgmental environment, making it hard for these families to find the right place for their children to be active, fit and healthy, and to be introduced to the benefits of sport properly.

We have been working with parents and partner schools to put together Send-friendly weekend sporting activities, and these are now set to take place on Saturday mornings at Southgate School. My sister Alison Walmsley has been a nursery and primary school teacher for 20 years in North London, as well as having 17 years' experience working in a specialist respite centre for children with severe, multiple and profound

special needs. Alison will be assisting with the launch of our new Send sessions and will be working closely with the coaches.

Alison will be joined as joint Send community lead by Jeddiah, who has 16 years' experience teaching primary-aged children with varying needs and is herself a mother of an autistic child.

At Sport4Kids North London we have a vision to create a community hub for Send children to be introduced to, participate in and enjoy local sporting activities, and we hope this will be something of help to local families.

For more information:
Email andrew.walmsley@sport4kids.biz

League honours Town stalwart

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

Just weeks after the heart-break of missing out on promotion, Enfield Town FC dusted themselves down and began preparing to go again, with a number of pre-season friendlies now arranged for July.

First up at home after a visit to nearby Cockfosters is an eagerly anticipated fixture against Tottenham Hotspur's development squad on Tuesday, 12th July.

The Spurs under-21s, who like the senior side train at the club's Bulls Cross training ground just up the road, will provide invaluable opposition as part of Town's preparations. Other friendlies for the Towners include a home tie with St Albans City on the 19th, a trip to rivals Cheshunt – who won promotion via last season's Isthmian League Premier Division play-offs after Town were knocked out – on the 23rd, plus away games at Ware on the 25th and Hayes and Yeading on the 30th.

The new league season begins on 13th August. Town's management team is unchanged and final negotiations with a new sponsor were in full swing at the time of going to press, as were talks with a number of potential new signings who will be revealed in the next edition of the *Dispatch*, along with the fixtures.

Off the field, Town's life president Roger Reed – father of chairman Paul Reed – has just been made a 'life member' of the Isthmian League, an incredibly rare accolade bestowed on Roger at last month's AGM in Brighton, when he stepped down as a board member after acquiring legendary status over almost two decades.

In the entire history of the league, founded in 1905, only a small group of officials have ever been made life members and Roger is one of only two life members currently living. "I had no idea about the award," said the 75-year-old. "I thought they would do something for me but not that. I was bowled over by it. To be honest, it's still sinking in. I'm immensely proud.

"I never dreamed for ten seconds that I'd end up a life member of the league. I just did what I did because I had the knowledge and the time. One of the things I enjoyed most was giving advice to clubs on how to improve their facilities in the most cost-effective way."

Roger says he can now "relax and do other things" but, of course "I'll still be coming to watch the Town as often as I can".

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