

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº.49 THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

OCT 2022

FEATURES

The Enfield Talking Newspaper returns from a hiatus

P. 4

COMMENT

How a homelessness charity is supporting local rough sleepers

P. 10

NEWS

Delays to Meridian Water as costs spiral by £42m

P. 14



CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGAN last month on the controversial new incinerator at Edmonton Eco Park. It is being built by North London Waste Authority next to the existing, 51-year-old incinerator, allowing it to continue burning waste from across North London until the new facility is complete – expected to be within three years Credit North London Waste Authority

Pubs in crisis as bills rise

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Pubs across Enfield could go out of business within months as they face spiralling energy bills as well as lower sales from customers looking to save money amid rising inflation.

Although the government moved last month to limit rising energy costs for businesses, wholesale prices under the cap will still be around double what they were a year ago. Many pubs have also failed to recover the custom they have lost since the start of the pandemic.

Among seven Enfield publicans spoken to by the *Dispatch*, five said they thought their pubs would struggle to remain viable this winter if current trends continued.

Julie Waters, a manager working for The Taps and The Kings Head pubs in Enfield Town, said their

energy bills had already risen from £500 to £800 per week. "Across the board, suppliers have put their prices up, which is affecting everything. Whatever they [the government] do, it won't be enough. It is a drop in the ocean."

"It shouldn't have been allowed to get out of control like this in the first place."

Toni Duke from The King & Tinker in Whitewebbs Lane told a similar story. She said: "It is going extremely badly. We never recovered from the pandemic. These are worrying times."

"People don't have the leisure money to spend so that affects us as well. We are very worried."

Dan Fox, owner of The Arnos Arms in Arnos Grove, has reduced the pub's opening hours to save money. "We could go bust," he said. "I think anyone in hospitality, unless they

have massive cash reserves, they are just living hand-to-mouth."

"We are looking at paying twice what we were last year, which is better than six times more, but to survive we need to be where we were two or three years ago."

Richard Reeve, from the award-winning Little Green Dragon in Winchmore Hill, said many venues had been "unlucky" depending on when their fixed-price energy deals expired. "It makes a huge difference. If it was just the energy costs we would need to consider raising our prices, but it is also the breweries putting up their prices as well."

"I think some pubs will go out of business."

Another publican told the *Dispatch* that "the game was up" for his boozer and that he blamed the government, before putting the phone down.

Philip Ridley, from the Enfield and

Barnet branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra), told the *Dispatch*: "There is not much we can do locally about energy prices, but we can encourage the council to bring in its new pub protection policy [from the draft Local Plan, yet to be adopted]. The planning system hasn't been protecting pubs sufficiently."

"Ultimately some pubs will shut down. But we would urge the council not to allow this temporary crisis to justify pubs being granted change-of-use into restaurants."

Ponders End has been particularly hard hit, with four pubs shutting their doors over the last decade and now only one remaining – the last having submitted an application this year to convert into a restaurant. In Palmers Green, JD Wetherspoon announced on 28th September that The Alfred Herring was one of 32 of its pubs it was putting up for sale.



 enfielddispatch.co.uk

 enfielddispatch@socialspider.com

 [@EnfieldDispatch](https://twitter.com/EnfieldDispatch)

 [@EnfieldDispatch](https://www.instagram.com/EnfieldDispatch)

 [/EnfieldDispatch](https://www.facebook.com/EnfieldDispatch)



The Dispatch is supported by Chamberlains Estates – turn to page 5

ED.

Nº49
OCT 2022

Enfield Dispatch is the borough's free community newspaper. We publish monthly and distribute 15,000 free copies of each issue

Publisher
David Floyd

Editor
James Cracknell

Designer
Jonathan Duncan

Head of Advertising
Klaudia Kiss

Local Democracy Reporter
Simon Allin

Engagement Manager
Penny Dampier

Contributors
Dem Demetriou, Cheryl-lya Broadfoot, Toni Fielding, George Dunstall, James Hockney, Dave Carey, Royston Rose, Neil Littman, Andrew Warshaw

CONTACT

Call 020 8367 2975

Email EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com

Post Nicholas House, River Front, Enfield EN1 3TF

ADVERTISING

Call 07732 000 430

Email klaudia@socialspider.com

For licensing enquiries:
Email maia@socialspider.com



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

Ira Stubbs holds pictures of his daughter Zharyia, who died aged six in July 2019



Edmonton father's plea for justice over daughter's death

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

An Edmonton father is still seeking "justice" for his daughter three years after the six-year-old died at North Middlesex Hospital.

Ira Stubbs and his family have had no closure following the death of Zharyia, who died with an undiagnosed lung disease in July 2019 after spending the last year of her life in hospital. The family had moved to the UK from the Caribbean in 2018 – seeking a lung transplant for Zharyia – and have remained here ever since.

The family are from Turks and Caicos Islands, a British Overseas Territory with only two hospitals and no specialist care, so it's normal for islanders to travel abroad for treatment. Zharyia was born in February 2013 as the youngest of five children. Ira said initially she was "healthy" but, with a history of asthma in the family, he noticed when Zharyia developed symptoms. Ira said: "A doctor said her heart was enlarged – they said she had an adult-size heart in a four-year-old's body – and they immediately raised a flag."

After eventually being diagnosed with an unspecified type of interstitial lung disease, it was decided Zharyia's best hope was a lung transplant. The chances of finding the right organ donor for a girl of her age were low but it was more likely in the UK.

Zharyia arrived at Great Ormond Street in July 2018 and would remain there for nearly a year. Ira said he was unhappy with the way she was treated at the hospital, saying the family was disrespected by Zharyia's doctor. "Coming to London we knew there were more resources and we felt positive about it, but when we had that first meeting it started to go wrong. The patient liaison service was making us feel uncomfortable [...] no-one was helping us."

While the wait for a lung transplant continued, the Stubbs family moved to the UK and were placed into temporary accommodation. Ira wrote a letter to Great Ormond Street requesting Zharyia be discharged, while still seeking a transplant. "We were in fear for her safety," he said.

The family were given two portable ventilators by the hospital, but complained one was defective. A document from the manufacturer confirms it had to be repaired. Within two days Zharyia was readmitted to hospital, this time North Mid. She spent five days there, where her condition deteriorated. Ira had signed a form requesting the hospital attempt resuscitation in a worst-case scenario, but claims the hospital ignored his wishes. Zharyia died on 17th July 2019.

A coroner ruled Zharyia died of natural causes. Ira has sought to challenge this verdict, demanding an inquest to look into his claims

of medical negligence. "This should never have happened," he said. "They refused an inquest because they didn't want to see the evidence I had."

A spokesperson for Great Ormond Street said: "We are very sorry about Zharyia's death. We know how devastating her loss has been. Zharyia's health was very complex and we worked to put her best interests at the heart of all decision making."

"We know her family were unhappy with aspects of her care and made a complaint. We thoroughly investigated the concerns and shared the learnings with the team involved. We also met with the family to explain what we found and the action we were taking."

A North Mid spokesperson said: "We offer our sincere condolences to the family on the death of their daughter Zharyia."

"We regularly involved the family in Zharyia's treatment and actively worked with them to make sure we provided their daughter with the best possible care."

The Stubbs family continue to live in Nightingale Road, Edmonton, with Ira saying they intend to stay until they get closure for Zharyia's death. Reflecting on his daughter's short life, Ira added: "She was the smartest, brightest kid. She liked going to the petting zoo but when she came to Enfield she never got a chance to go outside. She just wanted to live a normal life."

Rent rise

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Enfield Council plans to hike rents for residents in temporary accommodation as it seeks to encourage them to move into the private sector.

The move, which will see rents for those in temporary accommodation rise between £169 and £269.79, is also designed to save the council more than £950,000 on housing benefit subsidies.

Senior councillors said the majority of households in temporary accommodation would see their benefits rise to cover the costs, while claiming that those not currently on benefits could afford to move to the private sector.

According to the report presented to a meeting of the council's cabinet last month, current low rents mean the council is "effectively subsidising" temporary accommodation instead of focusing on measures to reduce the risk of residents becoming homeless.

Before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the council aimed to have fewer than 2,700 households in temporary accommodation by the end of 2021/22. But a failure to meet that target left the authority with a £1.5million budget deficit.

Advertisement

LICENSING ACT 2003 Application for a New Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Diane Bowman** has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Enfield for a Premises Licence to permit:

- The sale of alcohol between midday and 11pm
- For the premises: **St. Andrews Church and Hall, SOUTHGATE situated at Chase Side Southgate N14 5PP**

The 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: **26/10/2022**.

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: 27th day of September 2022

One third of Enfield workers 'not earning enough to live'

New data suggests Enfield has third-highest rate of low-paid jobs in the UK

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

One third of jobs in Enfield pay less than what it costs to live in London, according to the Living Wage Foundation.

The charity's research found that 33.4% of jobs in the borough – 27,000 positions – pay below £11.05 per hour, the current 'real living wage' rate for London-based workers. This is a rate calculated annually based on "a social consensus of what people need for a decent standard of living and to participate fully in society".

The Resolution Foundation's real living wage rate is higher than the government's own National Living Wage rate of £9.50, which is not deemed enough for people to live on. By this metric, Enfield has the second-highest number of low-paid workers in London and third-most in the UK, behind Bexley and Boston.

Enfield's high ranking for low pay is just the latest indicator that the borough is set to be particularly hard hit by the cost-of-living crisis caused by soaring food and



energy prices. In August, Friends of the Earth research put Enfield among the five worst-hit local areas in England and Wales for rising energy bills, while back in 2020 research suggested that Enfield residents were the most financially insecure in the whole of the UK.

The Living Wage Foundation has also published the results of a national poll which found that more than half (56%) of low-paid workers – 2.7 million workers nationally – have reported using foodbanks

over the past year. Of those low-paid workers who were already using foodbanks, 63% – an estimated 1.7 million people – said their use had increased during this time.

The situation is so bad that almost half of low-paid workers (42%) are now regularly skipping meals for financial reasons, a rate up ten percentage points since January 2022 alone.

Low pay was also found to affect workers' quality of life and mental health. More than two-thirds of the workers surveyed reported that low pay negatively affects their levels of anxiety and overall quality of life (both 69%, up from 43% and 42% in January respectively). There was also a gender disparity; data suggests women are being more negatively affected by low pay than men, with 72% of low-paid women saying their overall quality of life is negatively impacted by low pay, compared with 66% of low-paid men.

Nearly a third (32%) of low-paid workers report being unable to heat their homes, up nine percentage points since January, while almost a quarter (24%), have taken out a payday loan to cover essential spending, up seven percentage points since January.

Nine of the 25 local authority areas with the highest levels of below living wage pay are in London. The 'Making London a Living Wage City' project, launched by Citizens UK

and Trust for London, aims to lift employees in the capital out of in-work poverty, putting £635m back into the pockets of low-paid workers over the next four years.

"London was already an expensive city to live in, but the cost-of-living crisis has made getting by tougher than ever"

Despite the growth of the campaign, low pay remains a big issue, with 17.2% of jobs in London paying less than the real living wage – 700,000 jobs in total. Low pay is much more prevalent in some sectors than it is in others – in particular, wholesale, retail and hospitality. London also stands out as having the highest share of low-paid care workers.

Anna Libera, a Citizens UK leader from London, said: "London was already an expensive city to live in, but the cost-of-living crisis has made getting by tougher than ever. The prices of everything from groceries to heating has continued to rise extortionately – bills keep going up, but salaries haven't."

Rise in child protection cases across Enfield

Local safeguarding partnerships said to be enduring 'new challenges and pressures' since pandemic

BY SIMON ALLIN,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

The number of people contacting a children's safeguarding hub in Enfield has risen to its highest level in four years.

The children's multi-agency safeguarding hub (Mash) – a partnership between the council, police, health and other services – received 22,788 contacts during 2021/22, up from 20,034 in the previous year. Police, schools and health services were the main referrers.

In addition, the number of child protection investigations increased to 2,289, up from 2,078 in 2020/21. The number of children subject to a child protection plan climbed from 254 to 333.

The figures were revealed in reports to a meeting of the children, young people and education scrutiny panel last month. The documents, which include an annual safeguarding report and a self-evaluation report, state that safeguarding partnerships "are meeting new challenges and pressures"

following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Under questioning from the committee, Anne Stoker, the council's director of children and family services, said there had also been increases in children subject to special educational health and care plans (ECHPs) and children with disabilities.

She added: "There is an increase in children in need [...] We don't have an increase in looked-after children at this stage, which makes us think that we are doing the right things as early as we possibly can."

The committee reports also state that national children's social worker shortages were felt in Enfield, with "challenges around staffing numbers" leading to "increased caseloads in some teams". A decline in the number of children and family assessments completed within 45 days was "linked to vacant posts and Covid-related absence".

Anne told the committee there had been times when it was "really difficult" to get permanent social workers and "good-calibre agency staff if we do have a vacancy", adding that there had been a "high turnover of agency staff".

Explaining that the assessment time limit was improving, she said: "We have to actually get a good, strong, stable workforce. That is the answer to good practice and to good compliance."

Anne told the committee that children's ser-



Charles Babbage House, home to the council's children's services department

vices was "still struggling with Covid issues", which was one of the reasons it had continued to see "such high numbers of referrals".

The reports reveal that overseas recruitment, sabbaticals and retention payments are among the actions taken by the council to stabilise the workforce. They add that the costs of safeguarding adults and children services are increasing and this places "significant cost pressures on the council".

Angela Bent, head of service for practice

improvement and partnerships, told the committee the council had invested in apprenticeships to grow its own workforce. International social workers were being attracted to Enfield and were bringing "knowledge and experience" to the borough, she explained.

Angela added: "There has been a real plethora of different approaches to address workforce recruitment and retention, and we continue to do that in lots of different ways."

ETN is the oldest talking newspaper in the country



All the news that's fit to read

Dem Demetriou from The Enfield Talking Newspaper on the importance of the service it provides

The Enfield Talking Newspaper (ETN) is a local charity – powered entirely by volunteers – that provides the blind and visually-impaired residents of Enfield with a free weekly recording of articles from local newspapers and publications.

Incredibly, we are the oldest talking newspaper in the country, starting in 1961 with just six listeners. Today, we have grown to reach hundreds of people who either receive a recorded memory stick or hear the audio recordings via the internet each week.

Recording the latest news items is only possible with the kind permission of our local newspapers and publications, with the aim of providing our listeners with an up-to-the moment audio recording. We aim to stay as relevant and current as possible!

To some, ETN is companionship, to others a much-needed source of information. Perhaps all who receive the recordings would agree that ETN is a vital support network that breaks

the barriers of isolation, by helping listeners to keep in touch with what's going on in our community.

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, for the first time since we began in 1961, we have been on a hiatus. But now, thanks to Enfield Council continuing to support our efforts, we will soon be returning

"It is a vital support network that breaks the barriers of isolation, by helping listeners to keep in touch with what's going on in our community"

to normal. If you know of anyone blind or partially sighted in our local community who you think would benefit from receiving a weekly copy of ETN, then do get in touch. Also, if you would like to get involved, either in front of the microphone or behind, then why not become a volunteer?

We meet every Thursday from 7pm–9pm at the civic centre to record, produce and package up the memory sticks for posting to our

listeners. Everything is done by rota, so generally individual involvement is once a month for the recordists and readers, and on an ad hoc basis for helpers with the production and packaging process. We also keep a reserve list if you cannot commit so often, but are happy to help on an occasional basis.

We read with the help of three or four readers each week, while the recordist makes sure that all the technical stuff is taken care of. We are a friendly bunch and we are really looking forward to taking ETN into the post-Covid

age, with a replenished and reinvigorated volunteer cohort.

Sadly, many of the talking newspapers in the London boroughs around us have closed permanently and will not reopen again. So please help to make sure The Enfield Talking Newspaper bucks this trend and support us in whatever way you can!

For more information about The Enfield Talking Newspaper and to support the charity:
Email enfieldtn@hotmail.com
Visit etnlisten.com

Working together to keep Enfield healthy

Enfield Wellbeing Network project manager Cheryl-lya Broadfoot on the group's mission to make Enfield a healthier borough

With more than 150 local residents supported so far, Enfield Wellbeing Network (EWN) is making huge strides in making Enfield healthier.

Funded by Enfield Council, EWN is a network of some of the best health and wellbeing expertise in Enfield, including Age UK Enfield, Enfield Carers Centre and Mind in Enfield. Our strategic partners are Alpha Care Specialists and Citizens Advice Enfield, with Enfield Voluntary Action the strategic lead.

Our team of health and wellbeing practitioners have been offering free support to Enfield residents since the network launched in January this year. We are encouraging local residents to build self-confidence to manage longer-term health conditions and possibly prevent new ones. We also offer general health and wellbeing guidance, access to community-based activities, workshops and events. Support from our staff and volunteers has been essential in helping achieve the goal of a healthier Enfield.

and mindfulness among others.

Our experienced health and wellbeing practitioners assess individual needs and work on a one-to-one basis with our clients for up to twelve weeks. Together the client and practitioner create a tailored wellbeing plan, with the goal of helping them move toward healthier options. Often with the further support of volunteers, our clients are 'cheered' on to meet their goals with accountability for progress included.

Our first few months have been more successful than we expected. Since the launch, more than 150 Enfield residents have received support and more people are getting in touch daily. The team have been working so hard for local residents.

We have had wonderful feedback from clients – their positive comments about staff and volunteers are so heartwarming. It's such a privilege to be able to facilitate Enfield residents becoming even healthier through the Enfield Wellbeing Network.



With the aim of empowering Enfield residents to self-manage their health and wellbeing, we go 'the extra mile' for our clients by making plans that fit our clients' lifestyles. This includes self-care management tools and techniques, health awareness (including mental health), movement and exercise, diet and nutrition, support for carers

One EWN client had this to say: "Thank you for really listening, I had contacted other organisations and all they wanted to do was give me a link or phone number. You really helped me today, thank you so much."

Enfield residents aged 18 or older are welcome to join Enfield Wellbeing Network. To find out more:
Call 020 3827 2840
Email info@enfieldwellbeingnetwork.org.uk

CHAMBERLAINS

E S T A T E S

Free professional video tours for all new Sales & Lettings instructions



SOLE AGENTS

THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW – EPC C
Shooters Road, Enfield EN2 £575,000 Freehold



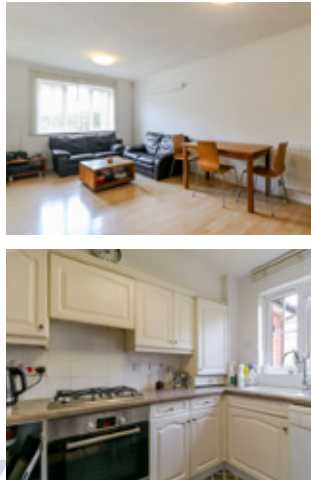
SOLE AGENTS

LUXURY TWO BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT – EPC C
Salmons Brook House, Windmill Hill, Enfield EN2 £450,000 Leasehold



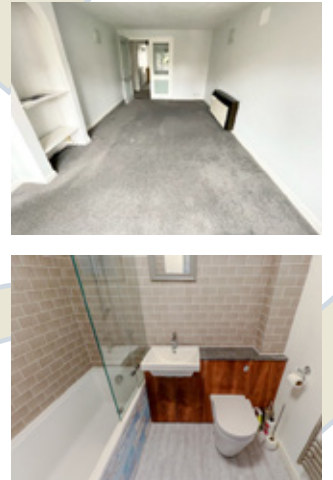
SOLE AGENTS

GROUND FLOOR TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM APARTMENT – EPC C
Vermont Close, Enfield EN2 Guide Price £350,000 Share of Freehold



SOLE AGENTS

TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT – EPC B
John Gooch Drive, Enfield EN2 £320,000 Share of Freehold



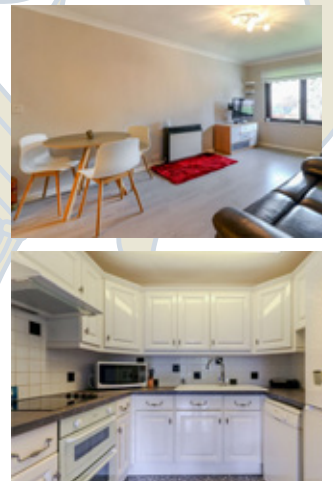
SOLE AGENTS

CHAIN FREE TWO BEDROOM MAISONETTE WITH REAR GARDEN – EPC C
Skeetty Road, Enfield EN1 £275,000 Leasehold



SOLE AGENTS

ONE BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR RETIREMENT FLAT – EPC B
Oakdene House, Bycullah Road, Enfield EN2 £175,000 Leasehold



47 Windmill Hill, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7AE Tel: 020 8366 3551
chamberlainsestates.com mail@chamberlainsestates.com



Waltham Forest College



think
BIG

OPEN EVENT

19th October, 4pm-7pm

Join us at our Open Event!

Guided Campus Tour

Chat to Students and Staff

Interactive Taster Events

Apprenticeship Workshops

Admissions Advice and Guidance

Apply for a Course



Visit waltham.ac.uk or
scan the QR code to register.

020 8501 8501

myfuture@waltham.ac.uk

707 Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JB



Learn about the people who shaped Enfield

Toni Fielding invites residents to join a new multimedia trail that highlights stories from the borough's older generation

In today's world we are more connected than ever and have the ability to share our life events at the press of a button with hundreds, sometimes even thousands of people. But how often do we reflect upon the person we are today and the life events that have led us there?

MHA Communities North London is a local charity supporting the older community in Enfield and neighbouring boroughs. With the support of Enfield Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we have spent the past year with Enfield's older generation doing just this. From Edmonton to Egypt, Crews Hill to Calcutta, we invite you to join us on a multimedia experience in Enfield Town this month, where you will learn about the people who have helped shape the borough we live in today and their living legacy to future generations.

Have your smartphone at the ready to scan a series of QR codes along the trail and enter into the lived experience of the borough's older residents, as they reflect on and share their memories and experiences of Enfield and beyond.



A knitting group at North London Hospice (led by Artemis, pictured left) have helped tell the life story of Norma (pictured right) in the form of a knitted artwork

"This project celebrates Enfield's heritage identity and identifies contrasts and parallels with today's way of living"

From stories about the Second World War, to memories of school days and much more, this intergenerational project celebrates Enfield's heritage identity and identifies contrasts and parallels with today's way of living.

Twelve individual artworks, designed and created by community groups, will accompany each story along the trail and will be placed at locations linked to the stories throughout Enfield Town, including Enfield Town Library, Trinity Church and Enfield War Memorial, to name a few. Written transcriptions will be available for those who are not online to ensure this project is accessible to all.

So grab your friends, families or four-legged friends and take a walk down memory lane with us this autumn! The event is free and open to all.

MHA Communities and its members would like to thank Enfield Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund for making this project possible. We would also like to extend our thanks to each and every older resident who has shared their stories with us, as well as the community groups who have helped us to make the artworks and create our own little piece of history, here in Enfield.

The MHA Communities multimedia project is one of 13 community heritage projects funded through the 'Stories of Enfield' programme, led by Enfield Council and supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund.

For more information:
Visit enfield.gov.uk/services/property-and-economy/cultural-services/stories-of-enfield

Advertisement

DISCOVER YOUR INNER ARTIST 14 WEEK ART COURSE

We are offering a great £15 discount per person if you sign up for Spring Term and bring a friend.

As we run small classes our spaces get filled quickly so if you are interested get in touch and leave your details for our office to call you our booking lines will be opening soon. Our friendly classes run from 10am-1pm or 2pm-5pm every Thursday. We will cover Drawing, Oil Pastels, Water Colour, and Acrylics ending with an exhibition in week 14. Beginner or not this is a great way to learn improve your skills, have fun and make friends along the way. Visit our FB page for more info and to see some of the work we have created: The Seasons Art Class, Cockfosters, and Enfield



TO CONTACT US YOU CAN CALL US 020 4542 7606 AND LEAVE YOUR DETAILS. SOMEONE FROM THE OFFICE WILL CONTACT YOU WITH FURTHER INFORMATION



Divorce Mediation

Are you separating or getting divorced?

Do you need help with children or financial arrangements?

Mediation can save stress and costs

Phone or email free of charge to find out more

Jane Mace Family Mediation

Tel: 07702 365 988

Website: janemacefamilymediation.com

Email: jane@janemacefamilymediation.com

Advertisement



SCAN QR CODE FOR AR PERFORMANCE



Written & performed by A.F.K. (Year 2)

"Where onions make you cry
When flamingos need homes too
When only mummy's kinds words
will make it better."

SCAN QR CODE FOR AR PERFORMANCE



Written & performed by J.J.E. (Year 4)

"Where the cars beep day and night
Where the neighborhood is full of dirt
When my sisters ears begin to hurt
where the shouting never stops."

SCAN QR CODE FOR AR PERFORMANCE



Written & performed by S.D. (Year 2)

"Where she loves playing ball but can't
Where she can't because of that sign
Where she learns to kick that ball
when she decides to play anyway"

SCAN QR CODE FOR AR PERFORMANCE



Written & performed by A.D. (Year 2)

"When we keep moving house
Where the park is our only garden
Where my sister locks me out
when playing isn't fun."



SCAN QR CODE FOR AR PERFORMANCE



Written & performed by J.B. (Year 5)

"When my neighbour looks at me
When his eyes spin around
When my neighbour turns away---
--when our actions aren't the same"

SCAN QR CODE FOR AR PERFORMANCE



Written & performed by F.E. (Year 3)

"Where your neighbours are all rude
Where people act like puppets
Where the rubbish fills the streets---
--- children slip and fall."

SCAN QR CODE FOR AR PERFORMANCE



Written & performed by E.P. (Year 3)

"Where he is a mean old neighbour
When his dreams are all gone
When his faith is poor from trying
- and his God won't save him."

SCAN QR CODE FOR AR PERFORMANCE



Written & performed by A.V.B. (Year 3)

"When what we need is so simple
Where colour fill the streets
When people smile willingly
-- you realise love is all we need."

Students from Honilands Primary School created Poetry & AR videos on the theme of 'Community' during 6 specialised workshops with DYSPLA, a London-based arts organisation specializing in developing neurodivergent storytellers. Download the Eyejack App to watch their performances. Connect with DYSPLA for more information about how Bullsmoor, Highlands and Enfield Lock Wards are being turned into free Public Art spaces. [DYSPLA.com](https://dyspla.com) - @DYSPLA_festival

We need a co-ordinated approach to tackling homelessness

The boss of a local homelessness charity on how it plans to tackle rough sleeping during the cost-of-living crisis

BY GEORGE DUNSTALL

Homelessness is a complex issue. In June this year the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (Chain) data showed a big drop, year on year, in the number of people seen sleeping on the streets of London – a 24% fall from 11,018 to 8,329.

This is no small achievement and provided evidence that with political will and targeted funding, central government and local authorities in partnership with the voluntary sector can tackle this issue.

The longer view is important, however, and is less positive. According to Crisis analysis of the same data, compared with 2012/13 there has been an increase of 29% from a figure of 6,437. Should we consider such an increase in rough sleeping over a decade as a triumphant success in tackling the issue? Perhaps not.

For over ten years, All People All Places (APAP) has been working across Enfield and Haringey to provide emergency accommodation

to those people in our communities who are left with no other option but to sleep on the streets. Responding to the crisis as it presents is a necessary part of this work, but stopping people from reaching that crisis in the first place is where the real benefit is.

Stopping people from experiencing the crushing and personally devastating impact of rough sleeping reduces the impact on individuals and on the wide range of costly statutory and voluntary services which then must pick up the pieces.

That's why, at the start of 2022, we launched a day centre service in Fore Street, Edmonton. Our centre provides immediate respite to those sleeping rough, supports people through and beyond the housing crisis, and prevents people from becoming homeless in the first place through active casework and partnership with key agencies across Enfield and Haringey.

In eight months, our small service has had more than 1,000 visits, 170 individual clients and supported 110 people to address the underlying causes of their housing crisis. While around a third of visitors have had experience of or are currently sleeping rough when they come to us, two thirds are 'vulnerably housed'. Such people are either facing an ever-present threat of eviction, rent increases, or simply endure monthly outgoings that outstrip their income to such a degree that homelessness is an

There has been a 29% rise in rough sleeping across London over the last decade



imminent reality. They are a job loss, an illness or a pay cheque away from losing their accommodation.

With the cost-of-living crisis continuing to spiral, we are already seeing more clients week-by-week, with evermore more complex situations of debt, immigration and mental health. As the only day centre provision within Enfield, we are uniquely placed to

be an anchor service in the borough.

We offer a gateway to support for many people who do not know how to navigate the systems necessary to resolve their crisis; we offer a space where they will be warmly welcomed and listened to, one that can not only meet their immediate needs, but also provide advocacy to navigate those complex local and national systems with them.

We know we cannot do this alone and that is why we partner with key agencies and departments across the local government, health and voluntary sectors to access everything from immigration and legal services, to drug and alcohol treatment, to street outreach and housing support. We have an exciting three-year strategy to further develop our day centre provision and launch a static shelter, working in partnership with Enfield Council to plug the gaps that they cannot – either through funding constraints or legal limitations.

In the meantime, we continue to provide that gateway, that space for all visitors, whatever their housing situation, to engage on their terms; wrapping the support of services around them in a space that they feel is theirs.

Find out more about All People All Places:

Email info@allpeopleallplaces.org

Visit allpeopleallplaces.org

Advertisement

EDMONTON
GREEN

ENFIELD COMMUNITY HEROES
Sponsored by Edmonton Green Shopping Centre

Facilitating action in the community

Dionne John is involved with multiple community projects across Enfield

Dionne John has been a familiar face in Southgate for many years thanks to her work setting up a community partnership to tackle street crime and leading a campaign to make the area cleaner and greener.

But since the pandemic Dionne has also become known for her work in the east of the borough, where she helped establish a food delivery service, Together Our Community Survives (Tocs), which focused on providing African-Caribbean products for those who were self-isolating or experiencing financial hardship.

The success of this project led Dionne to be hired this year for a part-time role co-ordinating the new Enfield Food Alliance network, which is being supported by Enfield Council. Somehow she still



Dionne John set up a group during the pandemic to help deliver food to vulnerable people

finds time for her first job, running an after-school club in Haringey.

"I have always been involved locally in Southgate with issues in the community," says Dionne. "It was in 2018/19 that we were having lots of muggings in South-

gate and I thought we needed a public meeting about it.

"With the right people in the room I thought we'd get the right solution, but it didn't get taken forward."

Taking matters into her own hands, Dionne helped establish a network of local businesses and a street patrol backed by the police, under the name Enfield Street Watch.

Then, with the onset of the pandemic and having been put on furlough, Dionne decided to use her time to help the most vulnerable people in Enfield. "I felt my skills were needed in the east of the borough so I contacted Enfield Caribbean Association to see if I could help them."

This led to the creation of Tocs which, with help from volunteers, delivered

hundreds of food packages during the first months of the pandemic. Dionne later established Grassroots, a network of foodbanks and community pantries.

"After I went back to work, my role became more strategic," Dionne says. "The core of it is tackling poverty and inequality. When I stepped into these roles in the east of the borough, I looked at representing people and making sure they have access to what they need."

"I see myself as a facilitator – I am a people person, I can join the dots together."

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

James Hockney is a Conservative councillor for Bush Hill Park



The issues that matter in Bush Hill Park

In our latest councillor's column, Conservative James Hockney discusses what he's been focusing on

During the platinum jubilee events weekend in June, I was invited to a joyous street party on Gardenia Road in honour of Her Majesty the Queen.

But then last month we had the shock and sad news of her passing. With a community in mourning, Enfield Council organised a special meeting, with many heartfelt tributes to the memory of Her Majesty the Queen. It was one of the most moving meetings that I can remember.

In this article I would like to share three key local issues that I have been campaigning on.

Firstly, the Edmonton A10 Skatepark – which has been in a neglected condition for some time. One of the biggest issues is that part of the skatepark was torn up while being used as a cemetery expansion access road. After 16 months of pressing, this is now being repaired, with an array of other maintenance works taking place. There is still much to do and I will continue to hold the council to account.

The second issue is speeding on the A10. This road has some of the worst levels of speeding

in London; it is an issue I have campaigned on for many years with the community. We saw part of the A10 Enfield/Edmonton corridor have average speed cameras installed, but I will not rest until the Great Cambridge Road to Southbury Road section also has them installed.

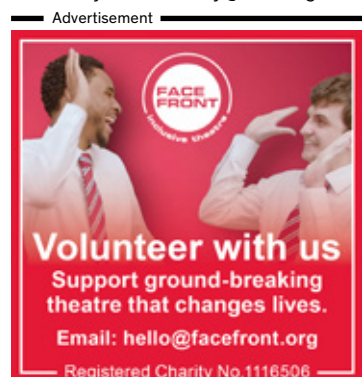
Recently I joined the police on a speed enforcement session in the daytime; what was clear is that the speeding issue on the road is not just racers at night. We see (and hear) the anti-social car meets on various car parks along the A10 and in the borough. There is now a multi-agency meeting approach; bringing together the council, police, Greater London Authority and other relevant partners to move forward the issue of A10 speeding and anti-social car meets.

The third issue is the maintenance of our four open spaces in Bush Hill Park ward. These are more important than ever, not just for exercise but also general wellbeing. Together with the local friends group I pressed the council for action and better maintenance of Bury Lodge Park. One substantial change was the pergolas being

repaired with fresh timber. Since the recent election, new boundaries for the ward mean we have inherited Bush Hill Gardens. We have brought the same zeal for improvements to this park as well.

Bush Hill Park has three councillors. My colleague Peter Fallart has led on maintenance improvements for the King George's (Delhi Road) playing fields, while Pat Gregory is leading on Bury Lodge Wetlands. Any local residents are always more than welcome to make contact with us. I look forward to what tomorrow brings in service of the community.

James Hockney represents Bush Hill Park alongside Peter Fallart and Pat Gregory (all Conservative). If you are a ward resident you can get in touch: Call 07970 403 276 Email cllr.james.hockney@enfield.gov.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 before the next deadline on **Monday 17th October**.

Act on climate

Dear Enfield Dispatch

As a 15-year-old who lives in Enfield I wanted to email the *Dispatch* for the youth to have a voice and have it heard. This year we have been facing more severe weather than ever before, with Storm Eunice and the hottest day ever recorded [in the UK] being a result of climate change. As a youth member of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) I want to address the problem. Many people, specifically children, in countries such as the Maldives, Pakistan and Thailand have to suffer in silence because their voices are not heard. According to Unicef, over 50 million children have been forced out of their homes due to the climate crisis. Is it worth stripping their education away because our society doesn't what to make a difference? People of Enfield can be the catalysts; we can change attitudes. Climate change is happening and we need to act now.

Estel Kayim
Enfield Town

Plastic waste

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Irecently went to Capel Manor College and was surprised to be given plastic single use cutlery in the canteen. I was further concerned about the use of foam plastic for flower arranging, where other environmentally safe products are available, and I made a polite comment and complaint regarding both these issues. No response has been received. This is a well-known and highly prestigious horticultural college in Enfield and this does not set a good image at all.

Malcolm Stow
Enfield Lock

NHS in crisis

Dear Enfield Dispatch

If you're not worried about your health, you should be. Acute NHS hospitals in London have more vacancies than anywhere else. Almost one in six posts in London's mental health services remains vacant. The government's lack of workforce planning means that

patients and those who treat us are all in a desperate situation. The cost-of-living emergency means colder homes, poor nutrition and endless worry. This will only make our NHS crisis worse. As nurses ballot for a strike over pay, I'm right behind them. If they and other health workers don't get a decent pay rise, we'll see the number of NHS vacancies continue to soar. NHS workers in Enfield who decide to stand up for decent pay are doing what they always do, looking after my health.

Sheila Spooner
Bush Hill Park

Forgotten?

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Freezywater and Enfield Lock seem to be ignored, uncared for and not invested in. At Albany Park, a recent redevelopment has only brought more rubbish and is of little benefit to locals. There's a building that could be used as an arts centre, cafe, club or youth centre, yet it appears to be unused. The streets are no better, where there's food, broken glass and bodily fluids. Despite approaching several councillors, no-one has responded to my questions. Is the fact that there's so many homes being rented in the area the cause for the lack of interest or response from councillors? Life's not easy. Ignoring us only serves to affect how the community feels, acts and responds on a daily basis. We want a community that thrives emotionally, physically and practically.

Zalihe Mustafa
Freezywater

Help needed

Dear Enfield Dispatch

The Enfield Society has been approached by the management team of Palace Gardens to help arrange volunteers to look after the three formal floral areas in the precinct. The centre is keen to see an increase of biodiversity for the planting used in the raised beds and we're keen to help, so are seeking volunteers from the community. At this stage just an expression of interest is a big help. If you would like to get involved, just email volunteers@enfieldsociety.org.uk.

Andrew Lack
The Enfield Society

Dress rehearsals for 'Jack!' are now taking place
Credit: Chickenshed



Jack to the future

Chickenshed's senior creative producer Dave Carey on what audiences can expect from this year's Christmas show

This year's winter production at Chickenshed is a modern take on *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Set on a decaying amusement arcade in a downtrodden seaside town, Jack is drawn into a video game that signals the beginning of an epic journey. Desperately trying to complete the many different levels, Jack travels on a quest to conquer fears and ultimately find the future that he has longed for.

Being a Chickenshed show, it's created around a cast of 600 young people who represent the breadth of the community. For this production there are two actors taking on the role of Jack, for different shows. The fact they are different genders has meant exploring how we label genders. An added complexity has been creating songs that need to work in different keys to suit the two actors involved.

As always, the involvement of such a large cast is at the forefront of our thoughts. Engaging our young people to be a central part of the creative process is what sets a Chickenshed show apart.

Workshops before the summer allowed that input to develop the story and the script as well as the design ideas.

The three computer levels Jack must succeed at to reach the final level were designed and created by the cast. But even with a finished script and music, the show will evolve as the complex rehearsal schedule begins. It's important that each cast member sees their value and contribution to the show as an essential element.

For this year's production the

make for a breathless spectacle.

It is a bright, colourful and anarchic world that Jack enters, which mirrors the diverse lived experience of our young people that Chickenshed's approach taps into. From ghoulish monsters to pinball wizards and the land of the giant, the show weaves an uplifting story of acceptance and difference.

Jack! is just one of three shows that Chickenshed will be performing during the festive period. *Christmas Tales* is a fun show for children aged up to seven years.

Puppets, singing, dancing and some larger-than-life characters are guaranteed to entertain the very youngest of audiences – and grown-ups too, leaving everyone happy and joyful at this wonderful

time of the year.

For our youngest audiences, the under-threes, we have *Christmas Planet Play*, bringing the magical world of sensory learning, wonder and exploration – perfect for babies and toddlers – to the Chickenshed stage.

For more information about Chickenshed's shows: Visit chickenshed.org.uk

"Jack travels on a quest to conquer fears and ultimately find the future that he has longed for"

music will be performed by more than 25 young musicians playing everything from drums and bass to French horns and oboes. The resulting music is a truly a unique blend of energy, professionalism and joy. As always, Chickenshed's striking choreography takes centre stage and the set pieces where our casts can really strut their stuff

Giving jazz fans a warm welcome

Royston Rose introduces a long-running jazz club in northern Enfield

The Bay Jazz Club was formed in the mid-1990s and for the first few years it met weekly on Tuesday nights with the same band performing each time.

In 2000, a change took place with a committee being formed and a different band being invited to play every week. Under the chairmanship of Gordon Rose, a most wonderful character, the club quickly went from strength to strength.

A particular feature of Gordon's was that whatever the time of year, he always wore a very colourful Hawaiian shirt. Nobody could miss him, and everybody received a great welcome from him. Despite Gordon's death a few years ago, that warm welcome remains a hallmark of the club.

The primary aim of our club is to provide a mixture of traditional, Dixieland and New Orleans jazz. Over the years the club has proved very popular with musicians and it is fair to say that if there was such a thing as a 'Premier League' of jazz clubs, we would certainly be in it!

In keeping with changing trends, a few years ago the club moved from its Tuesday-evening slot to lunchtimes,

and this has proved very popular. Another change was to move from a weekly set up to the first and third Tuesdays of the month, with increasing numbers justifying the change.

During the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions and 'social distancing' the club was one of the very few to continue operating, as the bands played on the pavilion veranda outside with the audience sitting on the cricket field! This was obviously important for the club finances but

also the bands themselves, who formed a queue to come and play.

We always welcome newcomers, and it is not a requirement to be a member to attend. The

benefit of membership, however, is that for an annual fee of £17 all members get a reduction of £2 from the standard £14 admission cost. The club boasts a well-stocked bar, with club prices offering another saving to be had. All those attending bring their own lunch and there is much fun to be had by comparing the banquets!

The Bay Jazz Club runs on the first and third Tuesday or each month, from 12.30pm until 3pm, at Botany Bay Cricket Club in East Lodge Lane.

For more information: Visit pid-gen.uk/BayJazzClub



The Botany Bay Jazz Club hosts performances twice a month on Tuesdays

On the hunt for the best fish and chips in Enfield

Neil Littman samples three very different meals in his quest to find the borough's best fish and chips

Most sources seem to agree that a young Jewish immigrant named Joseph Malin opened the first 'chippy' in 1860 in London.

When I was at school a long, long time ago we used to buy 'six pennyworth' of chips (2.5p) served in newspaper on the way home from sport activity days. This was equivalent to 65p in today's money – allowing for inflation – but now that potatoes are more expensive, a portion of chips costs around £3. The price of fish has gone the same way. To make up for the price hike, the quality needs to be good. So I began my mission to find Enfield's best fish and chips with high expectations.

Cannons in Southgate Green is somewhere I have eaten numerous takeaways and it is usually good quality. My visit with a



friend the day after a bank holiday may have been a bad time to go there, however, because various dishes were unavailable. Our starters of whitebait and a prawn cocktail were perfect but for my main the plaice had too much batter, which resembled shoe leather, and the fillet lacked flavour – plus I wasn't asked how I wanted it served.

At Burlingtons in Windmill Hill, I ordered skate wing and

chips, plus a side order of gherkin. The fish was good underneath its batter overcoat – and arrived with an unexpected salad. Next time, however, I will go for grilled and stick to a takeaway rather than sitting in. I will give it an extra plus point though, for providing a proper fish knife!

You can now find fish and chips on pub menus almost everywhere, so I also decided to visit one local known for its good food. At The Salisbury Arms in Winchmore Hill, the fish was served with a small portion of chips, plus minted peas and tartare sauce. It tasted fresh and went down well with a couple of pints. For me, it was the best fish and chips of the three places I visited, which I found surprising!

Do you know a better place to buy fish and chips in Enfield? Email enfielddispatch@socialspider.com and tell us which is your favourite local chippy.

Advertisement



27th October 2022

Millfield Theatre, Edmonton

020 8807 6680

www.millfieldtheatre.co.uk

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 17th October**.

BOOKS

Meet the Author: Natasha Boydell

Friday 7th October, 12pm
Enfield Town Library, 66 Church Street, Enfield EN2 6AX

Meet local novelist Natasha Boydell, author of 'The Legacy of Eve'.

Free entry

Visit natashaboynell.co.uk

JAZZ

Ziggy's World Jazz Club

Friday 14th October, 7.30pm
Upstairs at The Kings Head, 1 The Green, Winchmore Hill N21 1BB

Fleet-fingered piano virtuoso Neil Angille returns to Ziggy's leading his thrilling trio on a dazzling trip through Afro Cuban Latin jazz.

Tickets £20 in advance

Visit ziggysclub.com

Jazz Funk Night

Friday 28th October, 7.30pm
Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, 1 Kirkland Drive, Enfield EN2 0RN

Live danceable 70s jazz funk music from Equinox band. Great foot-tapping music.

Tickets £7

Email eternalechoes2002@yahoo.ie

FILM

River of Stories

Saturday 29th October, 2-4pm
Silver Street Community Church, Statham Grove, Edmonton N18 1RE

'River of Stories' is a short film about the Pymmes Brook and its people. Meet the film-making team and learn more about Enfield's rivers.

Free entry

Visit bit.ly/3LENz9h

CABARET

Spirit Walkers

Saturday 15th October, 7pm
Culture Palace, 38-40 Palace Gardens, Enfield Town EN2 6SN

Patrick Samuel returns to guide you through ancient times in a contemporary setting. Inspired by tales of what lies beyond.

Free entry

Visit bit.ly/3Cdp7sk

BUSINESS

Business Brunch for Black History Month

Saturday 29th October, 11am-3pm
Unit 15, Alexandra Business Centre, 278 Alma Road, Enfield Highway EN3 7BB

An indoor event where different businesses get together to showcase their products, ranging from merchandise to delicious foods, all part of Black History Month. Everyone is invited. Funds raised go to The Sickle Cell Society and British Heart Foundation.

Free entry

Email afurlong78@gmail.com

CLASS

English at the House

Thursdays 10am-11.30am
The House Café, Christ Church House, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters EN4 9JQ

A free class for speakers of other languages who want to practise their spoken English.

Free entry

Call 020 3137 5711

Email office@cockfosters.church

BRIDGE

Chicago Bridge

Every Friday, 10am-12pm (Enfield) and every Tuesday, 2pm-4pm (Cockfosters) Mary Magdalen Church, Windmill Hill (Fridays) and Vita Pax Catholic Church, Bramley Road (Tuesdays)

Entry £3 for Enfield, £4 for Cockfosters

Call 020 8245 2587

FITNESS

Fit For a Fiver

Monday-Thursday every week
Edmonton Sports and Social Club, 169 Church Street, Edmonton N9 9HL

Fit For a Fiver is a 45-minute outdoor training class which will run at set times from Monday-Thursday. The classes are specially designed to be inclusive for everyone. Even those who haven't taken part in exercise for years will be able to participate.

£5 per class

Visit fitforafiver.com

AROUND THE BOROUGH

MERIDIAN WATER

Delays to housing project as costs spiral by £42m

Work began at the first Meridian Water housing development site last year, but other schemes are now being delayed



BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

ENFIELD COUNCIL'S £6BILLION Meridian Water regeneration scheme has been hit by further delays amid surging construction and borrowing costs.

Forecast spending on the 10,000-home development is set to drop by £67million during the current financial year as housing and infrastructure works are pushed back in a bid to control costs.

It is one of multiple housing projects in the borough – totalling more than 1,000 proposed homes – to face delays or be withdrawn as the rate of inflation has soared to 10%. The details are set out in a report that was presented to the council's

cabinet last month.

The report reveals the final design work for Meridian Four, which is expected to deliver more than 800 homes within the wider Meridian Water development zone, will be pushed back to the next financial year.

A contract to deliver street works for the Meridian Water scheme that was due to begin this summer is now expected to start early next year due to “significant budget pressure”.

The latest project cost plan indicates a £42m budget pressure, which is “mainly due to exceptional inflation cost increases” totalling £30m and “fees related to prolongation and design changes” which add up to £12m.

Railway upgrade works that would help boost train services

at Meridian Water Station have also been pushed back because of design hold-ups and delays in the procurement of a contractor.

After years of delays and setbacks, construction work on the first homes at Meridian Water finally began in August last year. In 2020, opposition councillors warned that the council's “unashamedly ambitious” capital programme, funded partly through increased borrowing, could leave the council vulnerable to a rise in interest rates.

Interest rates have risen in response to inflation, pushing up public sector borrowing rates. The report says these increases “have an acute impact on the revenue financing costs of borrowing undertaken to deliver the capital programme”.

PALMERS GREEN

Council submits Broomfield House bid

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

ENFIELD COUNCIL HAS SUBMITTED a first-stage bid for lottery funding in relation to Broomfield House – but is keeping quiet about what its plans are for the historic building.

The Grade 2*-listed mansion house in Broomfield Park has been damaged by a series of fires going back to 1984, leaving almost no hope of fully restoring it. However, various proposals for a partial restoration, reconstruction or memorialisation of Broomfield House have been put forward in recent years.

Now the council has confirmed it has submitted an ‘expression of interest’ bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the first of three stages to obtain grant funding. It says “there will be a form of engagement and/or consultation later this year” but has not revealed what plans it has put forward. Should the council win through to the next stage, its proposals will be considered by the cabinet in 2023.

The most recent proposal – endorsed by Broomfield House Trust – was to permit a small housing development in the adjacent

stable yard, using the money raised to secure the external structure of the house, with further fundraising efforts to restore the interior. However, this idea was rejected by the council in 2020.

Broomfield House Trust chair Colin Younger told the *Dispatch*: “It could be that they are putting some sort of plan to the lottery that they won't support so they get easy permission to demolish [Broomfield House] – but then they will still be left with the stable yard.

“Whatever you do you are left with a problem.”

EDMONTON

New day surgery unit at North Mid

A NEW £6MILLION DAY SURGERY unit at North Middlesex University Hospital will help tackle the long backlog of patients waiting for surgery.

The NHS trust which runs the Edmonton hospital is one of 50 to receive the funding for new hubs which will help treat an additional 4,000 patients every year once construction is completed in spring 2023.

The new hub will treat a mix of outpatient and admitted patients and will reduce waiting times for some of the most common procedures. It will focus mainly on providing high-volume, low-complexity

surgery, as previously recommended by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, with particular emphasis on ophthalmology, general surgery, trauma and orthopaedics (including spinal surgery), gynaecology, ear nose and throat, and urology.

According to North Mid, such operations can be performed “quickly and effectively in one place, improving quality and efficiency” meaning patients have shorter waits for surgery, will be more likely to go home on the same day, and be less likely to need additional treatment after surgery.

NEW SOUTHGATE

Disused church hall facing demolition

BY SIMON ALLIN, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A DISUSED CHURCH HALL COULD be demolished to make way for 24 new homes under plans drawn up by a developer.

Beverley Homes wants to knock down Grove Road Church Hall in Grove Road, New Southgate, and build a residential block up to six storeys high. Ten of the homes would be for social rent, three for intermediate rent and eleven for private sale.

Built in the 1950s, and with addi-

tions in the 1970s, the church hall was used by Christ Church New Southgate and Friern Barnet before its closure in 2020. It was put up for sale because of high upkeep costs and to help fund the refurbishment of a Grade 2-listed church building in Friern Barnet Road, with the groups that previously used the hall having moved to alternative sites.

Enfield Council's planning policies state that the loss of community facilities will not be permitted unless a replacement is provided or evidence shows there is no demand.

OAKWOOD

Residents knot happy about weed



RESIDENTS FEAR AN INVASIVE weed could devalue their properties and make them impossible to sell.

People living near the Glenbrook stream, east of Boxers Lake, staged a protest last month against the proliferation of Japanese knotweed along its banks.

Japanese knotweed is notorious for spreading rapidly and causing damage to buildings thanks to its deep roots and ability to suppress other plant growth – devaluing homes if it

is found. The plant grows along the banks of Glenbrook and residents fear it could reach their gardens.

Lowther Drive resident Hardi Samsami said: “If it gets rooted into the ground it can come through the foundations and then it undermines the building and you have to underpin the house. You won't be able to sell it.”

A council spokesperson said the weed had been treated in summer but that it would take a long time to eradicate fully. They said: “While we expect this treatment to be effective it can take two to three years of repeated treatment to permanently eradicate Japanese knotweed so we will monitor the site to ensure the action we have taken is successful and take the relevant steps if further treatment is required.”

How Enfield Town champions disability sport

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

Disabled athletes don't always get the publicity they deserve but being the inclusive, fan-owned club it is, Enfield Town FC attaches great importance to the wellbeing of its disabled squad.

Every Saturday morning, the club's disabled footballers, aged 14 upwards, can be seen training on the 3G pitch a stone's throw away from the main pitch in Donkey Lane.

Just as for the men's and ladies' teams, training is all-important, with competitive matches invariably staged on Sunday afternoons and transport provided by a minibus owned by local charity, Enfield Children and Young Persons Services (ECYPS), which partners Enfield Town.

Players range in age and disability level, from Asperger's to autism, ADHD and cerebral palsy, but cash flow is an understandable problem.

One of those who has made a significant contribution is Enfield Town vice-chairman Paul Milling-

ton, a key driver in the disability squad's ongoing welfare, who a few months ago completed a fundraising Capital Ring walk around London. Originally the walk, which raised several hundred pounds, was designed to pay for travel to a tournament in Germany, but that got scuppered by Covid-19. Instead the money is being split between a donation to ECYPS for the upkeep of the minivan and kit for the squad.

Paul Busson, a former grenadier guard and head coach of the disability squad – which comprises two separate teams depending on the severity of disability – explained the extent to which football is a huge part of his players' lives.

"Win, lose or draw they just appreciate playing," he says. "I don't get any grief from any of them as some people get with able-bodied players!

"They are just happy at what they do. And we don't stop during the summer, unlike clubs who take six weeks off. That's how keen they are."

The squad includes Paul's own autistic son, who plays in goal –



Enfield Town FC's disability team provides valuable opportunities for disabled people in the borough

"Win, lose or draw they just appreciate playing"

just as he did many years ago on Woking's books. "If a game gets postponed they are not happy. We were due to start our league around the time of the Queen's funeral and obviously the game

had to be called off."

Claire Whetstone, who set up ECYPS in 2002, says the link with Enfield Town FC is crucial in terms of young disabled people gaining confidence and self-esteem in a safe

and fun environment.

Claire, who is now semi-retired, told the *Dispatch*: "[We realised] one of the areas in which young people were disadvantaged was in the field of disability sports.

"I realised there was a service gap in terms of a stimulating space. The link with the club is vitally important. Football clubs serve such a strong social purpose. It's about feeling part of the community and social interaction."

In other Enfield Town news, midfielder Sam Youngs has now passed the landmark of 200 games for the club. Fans' favourite Sam, who has been with the club for five years, said: "It's a privilege to have played so many games for such a good club and hopefully there are many more to come.

"It's safe to say it's been a slow start this season. It was never going to be easy coming from the highs and ultimate low of last season and losing a few key players. Saying that, the levels and expectations have been set so I fully expect us to start picking up results and moving in the right direction very soon."

Home Instead Enfield supporting the community

 **Home Instead.**
To us, it's personal

Home Instead Enfield, which provides personalised at-home care for ageing adults, is raising money for Home Instead Charities by taking part in a fundraising walk around Enfield on Silver Sunday, the National Day for Older People (2nd October).

The money raised will help to fund a charity or community group which works to keep ageing adults happy, healthy and connected to their communities.

Alexandra Sacker, Owner and Managing Director at Home Instead Enfield, is co-ordinating the fundraising project. She explains: "As well as

providing personalised care and companionship services to people living in their own homes, we understand the importance of ensuring that ageing adults are connected to their communities and their peers, irrespective of whether or not they will ever be Home Instead clients. This is why we support Home Instead Charities and their mission to end loneliness in ageing adults.

"The money we will raise will go to local community groups and charities who work to prevent loneliness and isolation in ageing adults. With so many physical and mental health issues linked to loneliness, we are proud to champion the essential work of our community groups and charities who support older people."

If you would like to support Enfield and help improve the wellbeing of ageing adults, then please donate, as every penny counts:

Visit justgiving.com/fundraising/homeinstedenfield

For more information on the day itself:
Call 020 3641 8870



"Empowering charities and community groups to ensure ageing adults are happy, healthy and connected."



WE NEED YOUR HELP



WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE IN ENFIELD WHO CAN HELP SUPPORT US TO PRODUCE MORE HIGH-QUALITY LOCAL JOURNALISM IN ENFIELD DISPATCH

- We have NO shareholders
- We have NO wealthy backers
- We are run by a small but dedicated team as part of a not-for-profit community interest company
- We hold authority to account, expose scandals, highlight inequality, promote good causes, and provide a platform for local people
- Every penny of income from Enfield Dispatch helps us deliver more journalism in Enfield
- The paper costs nearly £6,000 per month to produce and distribute, but monthly income is under £5,000 currently
- We currently have 144 supporters who contribute around 12% of our income, but we need more!

Can you help us? Our membership scheme has many different options, starting from £3 per month, depending on your ability to contribute. Rewards include having a copy of the paper posted to you every month. Local businesses and charities can also sign up and, from as little as £10 per month, access discounts on advertising.

Find out more at: enfielddispatch.co.uk/join

OUR CURRENT MEMBERS

Derek Grant, Michael Dickinson, Young Notes, Ed Balleny, Natasha Boydell, Elizabeth Crosthwait, Richard Stones, Philip Ridley, Suzanne Beard, Chris Kaufman, Martyn Stogden, Susan Cook, Rupert Price, Meryn Cutler, Andrew Irvine, Basil Clarke, John Naughton, Right at Home Enfield, MumSing Choir, Lloyd Tew-Cragg, Andrew Warshaw, Neil Churchill, Karl Brown, Anthony Fisher, Dan Wright, Kay Heather, Julia Mountain, Jerome O'Callaghan, Carole Stanley, Mervyn Maggs, Aditya Chakraborty, Norman Bennett, Vivien Giladi, Greg Andrews, The Old Enfield Charitable Trust, Matt Burn, Martin Russo, Marilyn Hamilton, Laura Davenport, Mick Wood, Helen Osman, Enfield Over 50s Forum, Francis Sealey, Caroline Banks, Bill Linton, Joe Hickey, William Yates, Petr Mitterbach, Gianni Sarra, Tracy Hughes, Kristiana Heapy, Neil Bachelor, John Crowther, Hannah Salvidge, Sean Wilkinson, Janice Nunn, Julia Daniel, Deborah Dalglish, Phil H, Dána Roberts, A Cleary, Stephen Evans, Julian Rhys-Williams, Steve King, Robert Pite, Lauri Clarke, Anne Cullen, Ross Cunningham, Diana Goforth, Kirsten Lowe, Seton Daring, Aurora Yaacov, Sylvia Collicott, Paula Lamont, Liz Wright, Elsie Rigden, Sangeeta Waldron, David Mickleburgh, John Machin, The Enfield Society, Joe Studman, Ryan Hebbs, Adam White, Sue Grayson Ford, Bush Hill Park Residents Association, Zoe White, Carol Fisk, Harriet Ray, Hannah Dyson, Peter Krakowiak, Friends of Hillyfields, Julie Nedza, Lynda Dyson, Phil Gooch, Chris Skilbeck, Peter Campling, Alison Shepherd, Chris Graham, Lindsay Rawlings, Harri Ramanathan, Per Hansen, Carlo Rimini, Jean Christou, Bhasmank Mehta, Sheila Spooner, Harry Redmond, Marcia Jane Chamberlain, Anita Jena-Smol, Pat Kane, Ben Sulaiman, Peter Batten, Jim Shepherd, Graham Halle, Keith Comley, Thomas Whiteway, Anthony Maddox, Neil Littman, Janet Carrick, Tricia Sharpe, Robert Dawes, Paul O'Brien, Richard Mapleston, Malcolm Stow, Graham Cleur, Evan Hughes, Isobel Whittaker, Andrew Murray, Andy Bean, Debbie McVitty, Richard Whitaker, Mark Shaw, Peter Moutell, Jane Maggs, John Cole, Vanessa Wiseman, Caroline Bernard Moxey, Ioannis Chronakis, Caley Montgomery, Sarah Jackson, Liz Gilbert, Edward Smith.

