

ENFIELD DISPATCH

Nº 65

THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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PENSIONER SEAN WILKINSON, pictured above with dog Babski, is preparing to take on Enfield Council and Tottenham Hotspur at the High Court this month as a judicial review of the decision to lease half of Whitewebbs Park to the football club begins – read more on Page 2

Council set to balance budget but 'significant risk' remains

BY JAMES CRACKNELL & GRACE HOWARTH, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Enfield Council looks set to balance its 2024/25 budget after months of scrambling to find tens of millions of pounds in extra cash – but the civic centre's depleted reserves are causing alarm.

Finance chiefs confirmed last month they'd found a way to balance the books after facing £46m-worth of financial pressures from inflation, interest rates and soaring homelessness costs.

Inflation alone is accounting for £17m in extra costs for 2024/25, while social care for both adults and children will cost an additional £7.9m. But it's the rise in temporary accommodation costs that have proved the most difficult to control – as hundreds of homeless families have been forced to spend many weeks and months holed up in hotels following a collapse in the private rental market.

Forecast overspending on temporary

housing in the current financial year has reached £19m, out of a total £29m overspend on the budget, and is said to be "unsustainable". The council's risk reserve, used to cover unexpected costs, has reduced from around £118m two years ago to just £41m now.

The council is now budgeting for an extra £7.7m to be spent on temporary housing in 2024/25 with new policies such as moving homeless families out of the south-east of England expected to bring down spending. But in a report published last month, head of financial strategy Neil Goddard describes homelessness as "the single most significant pressure and risk faced by the council".

While grant income from central government is increasing again this year, with £3.9m provisionally allocated to Enfield, deputy leader Ergin Erbil told a scrutiny meeting last month that the borough continued to get a raw deal from the Treasury. "We're the second worst funded local authority across London,

and seventh worst in the country, according to recent studies, and this has been the situation over the past 14 years," said Cllr Erbil.

The opposition Conservatives have blamed the council's total debt of £1.1 billion for putting extra pressure on the budget, but Cllr Erbil defended the Labour administration's high borrowing strategy and said: "We are in debt to invest in our borough, the debt that we do have goes towards maintaining key services, delivering decent homes, decarbonising our council buildings, and investing in our parks and green spaces.

"The majority of our debts are locked in at low interest rates, and if the government hadn't skyrocketed interest rate levels then councils across the country would have been in better financial positions."

However, shadow cabinet member for finance James Hockney told the *Dispatch*: "Labour have trashed the council finances – and it will be the residents that feel the consequences of the huge ongoing

cuts. They recklessly rushed into massive additional borrowing and [Enfield is] now the tenth most indebted council in the country."

Cllr Hockney claimed the £30m annual cost of debt repayments would "be enough to bring back weekly bin collections 20 times over" and added: "On the current path Labour have set, it is not a matter of if the council will go bankrupt – but when."

To balance the budget for 2024/25, council tax will need to be raised by the maximum 5% allowed. Another £8.8m is being raised from a significant cut to the council tax support scheme for the borough's poorest households. The remaining £17m needed has been found through a series of new cuts and revenue-raising proposals – with fees and charges rising by an average of 9%. Some charges are rising by more, however, including the borough's garden waste collection service which will rise from £80 to £100. All these proposals are set to be debated by councillors on Thursday, 22nd February.



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Enfield Council has awarded a 25-year lease for half of Whitewebbs Park to Tottenham Hotspur



'I won't be intimidated by Enfield Council'

Supporters of Whitewebbs help raise £15,000 to fund legal case against Enfield Council's lease of the park to Tottenham Hotspur

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

The pensioner preparing to take on Enfield Council in court over its decision to lease Whitewebbs Park to Tottenham Hotspur says he "won't be intimidated" by the authority.

Friends of Whitewebbs Park chair Sean Wilkinson is bringing a judicial review case against the council's decision and is currently preparing his arguments for the case that will be heard at the High Court from 6th–8th February.

However, before then, a cost-capping hearing was due to take place on 30th January, shortly after the *Dispatch* went to press, which would determine whether Sean would also become liable for the council's legal costs should he lose the case.

It means that while an impressive sum of £18,000 raised so far through an online crowdfunder has met Sean's initial target for fighting his case, he could face further costs of between £20,000 and £40,000.

Sean told the *Dispatch* last month that he was "really pleased with the tremendous response" to the crowdfunder and that he was "really grateful to all the Whitewebbs supporters" who had contributed.

However, on the cost-capping issue, Sean said: "When we sought permission for the judicial review, the judge agreed there was a case and also awarded cost protection which limits the costs [that can

be claimed by the winning party] to £5,000.

"But the council and Spurs [as an interested party] have appealed the decision to provide cost-capping. I understand we have a reasonable chance of defeating that but you can never be certain.

"I think it is a form of intimidation – that's what it is. I think it is a way of trying to stop me going ahead with the case."

However, Sean adds: "I am not going to be bullied into standing down on this. We have to stand up for what we believe in."

The council has said in response that as a "publicly funded body" it is "right and proper" that it seeks to cover its costs in the case.

"I am not going to be bullied into standing down on this. We have to stand up for what we believe in"

It was last November that Sean, who is chair of the Friends of Whitewebbs Park group, was granted permission for a judicial review of the council's decision to award a 25-year lease to Tottenham Hotspur, which wants to set up a new women's football academy on the site of the park's former golf course in northern Enfield.

The council agreed in October 2021 to hand the lease for more than half the park to Spurs if its

proposals for the parkland win planning permission. It sparked a backlash from local residents, with multiple protests being staged.

The Premier League football club wants to create new training pitches in the north-eastern corner of the park – amounting to 18% of the total area – close to its existing training complex in Whitewebbs Lane. But the lease also includes land to the south of this, where Tottenham Hotspur plans to restore "areas of historic parkland".

The judicial review will consider Sean's arguments around the way that the lease was awarded, rather than the merits of the decision itself. This means the main focus of the case will be on how the council consulted local people and took opposing views into account.

A council spokesperson said: "Enfield Council is confident that proper legal processes and procedures have been followed at all times leading up to the award of the lease at Whitewebbs and expects to be successful in defending the claim. In these circumstances, as a publicly funded body, it is right and proper that the Council takes all reasonable steps to enable it to recover its legal costs."

Tottenham Hotspur FC declined to comment.

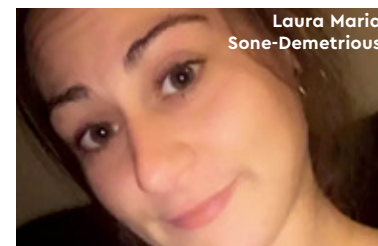
To find out the outcome of the cost-capping hearing at the High Court on 30th January, and to follow the judicial review hearing itself from 6th February, visit enfielddispatch.co.uk

Police probe hit-and-run

Detectives continue to appeal for any information as they investigate a hit-and-run on the A10 in Edmonton last month that killed a young woman who was out walking her dogs.

Laura Maria Sone-Demetrious, aged 28, was run over at around 7.23pm on Tuesday, 9th January. Her two dogs were also killed.

While a 17-year-old boy was later arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and failing to stop, he was later bailed and had not been charged at time of going to press.



Laura Maria Sone-Demetrious

The *Dispatch* understands that the incident happened at or near to the pedestrian crossing adjacent to Bury Lodge Wetlands. Detectives are particularly keen to speak with the driver of a red Audi who was in the vicinity of the collision at the time it happened.

Laura's family launched a crowd-funder to cover funeral expenses which raised more than £10,000. Sister Gina Sone-Demetrious said: "I'll miss everything about Laura. Her smile, the way she laughs and even annoying her. I can't believe that I'll never see her again.

"You could never expect this to happen to your family, especially my older sister who I looked up to and who protected me. It's so traumatic."

The police investigation into Laura's death continues. Anyone with dash cam footage, or who witnessed the incident, should call 020 8597 4874 or 101, quoting crime reference number CAD 5858/09Jan.

Correction

In the January issue of the *Dispatch* (Council plans for nearly 10,000 Green Belt homes, Page 2, Issue 64) it was stated that the draft Local Plan had earmarked 3,700 homes to Crews Hill and 5,500 at Vicarage Farm. This was the wrong way around. The 3,700 homes have actually been earmarked for Vicarage Farm ('Chase Park'), with 5,500 instead being put forward for Crews Hill.

The Local Plan can be read on Enfield Council's website at enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/new-enfield-local-plan

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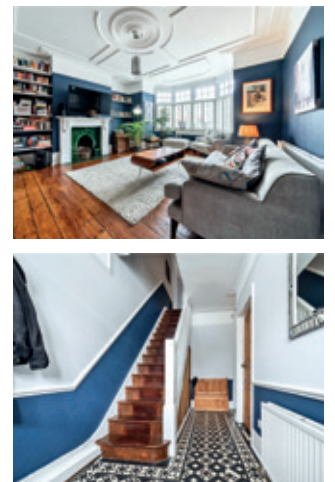
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£700,000



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Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2



£695,000

Praise for local contributions made by two honours recipients

Foodbank volunteer Goodeson Williams has been awarded a British Empire Medal while Enfield Council's principal educational psychologist Suzy Francis has been made an MBE

Two local people included in the New Years Honours have been praised for their contribution to the Enfield community.

Susan Francis, who works for Enfield Council as a principal educational psychologist and strategic lead for children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health, was made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) "for services to children with special educational needs and disabilities", while Goodeson Williams, a volunteer, was awarded the British Empire Medal for "services to the community in Enfield during Covid-19".

Abdul Abdullahi, Enfield Council's cabinet member for children's services, has paid tribute to Susan – better known to her colleagues as Suzy. He said: "We would like to congratulate Suzy for her many years of

service to the people of Enfield.

"Suzy has worked with the Enfield educational psychology service for 23 years and has been in contact with hundreds of children and young people and their families in the borough and beyond, making a real difference to their development and emotional wellbeing.

"We thank Suzy for her contribution to public service, her professionalism and her passion for working with children and young people in our borough."

Goodeson became a volunteer at The Felix Project in Enfield when he was unemployed, which later helped him secure a full-time job. But when Covid-19 hit, Goodeson was able to deliver food parcels directly to vulnerable people's homes. Goodeson is also a long-time member of Gospel Temple Apostolic Church in Ponders End, which

does a lot of work in the community, and it was Pastor Jason Young put him forward for the British Empire Medal.

"It was unexpected but wonderful," Goodeson told the *Dispatch* on finding out about the honour. "Jason put my name forward and I am very grateful, it is nice to be recognised."

With Gospel Temple, Goodeson organised a youth retreat in Suffolk for deprived local children, made possible thanks to his own fundraising efforts. Jason said: "With the help of volunteers from within the community he delivered a fundraising dinner that successfully raised all the finances that he needed to send local children to the youth congress in Ipswich.

"When the children returned, they said that the retreat gave them confidence in themselves and the desire to want to take up

drama classes to improve their self-esteem."

Through his work with The Felix Project, between 2017 and 2018 Goodeson collected over a tonne of surplus food from supermarkets that would otherwise have been thrown away, to redistribute to those in need. He also led fundraising campaigns at Asda Edmonton Green, and participated in Christmas carol singing events at Sainsbury's Enfield, Morrisons Enfield and Tesco Ponders End.

Using his own experience of being unemployed, between 2016 and 2019 Goodeson reached out to other unemployed people to help shape their future and get back into work. He now leads a ministry providing support to men in the community. Jason added: "To think that an ordinary person who lives in relative obscurity could be chosen for a British Empire Medal has left us all gobsmacked."



Suzy Francis MBE



Goodeson Williams BEM

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Girl is first in UK to earn coding black belt

A teenager has become the first girl in the UK to win a 'black belt' in coding as part of an international programme.

Melisa Deniz, aged 13, only began coding with Code Ninjas Enfield in 2022. In that short time, she has completed the coding workshop's nine-belt curriculum "with unwavering dedication" and a "genuine passion" for coding – earning her black belt status.

The achievement makes her the first girl to complete the gruelling nine-stage course, including modules on JavaScript, Lua in Roblox, and C# in Unity. During the final challenge, Melisa created her own game, which is now downloadable for the public.

Melisa says she is proud to represent other girls and young women in coding. "I chose to start with Code Ninjas to increase my skills," explained Melisa. "In the black



Melisa Deniz with her prize

belt programme, I embraced the opportunity to think creatively and turn my imaginative ideas into enjoyable games.

"Trying something new can be challenging, but it is also incredibly rewarding. If I was

going to give advice to any other girls out there, especially those my age, thinking about coding but worrying it might not be for them, I would tell them to be confident in their abilities.

"Pursue your interests with passion and don't be afraid to stand out. You can achieve remarkable things in any field – including technology and coding!"

Melisa's black belt game, Snail Ninja Showdown, sees players surviving for as long as they can while using different weapons from the shop, all while trying to get a high score.

Code Ninjas is built around fun; the curriculum is "self-paced but not self-taught". Kids get help and encouragement from 'code senseis' and fellow ninjas as

they advance from white to black belt on the nine-belt programme. There are currently around 400 Code Ninjas locations around the world.

Renee Romeo, co-owner of Code Ninjas Enfield, is proud of Melisa and how she is trailblazing for other girls in coding. "We are over the moon for Melisa – she truly deserves the status she has achieved.

"Words can't express how happy we are for her and how proud we all are of her determination and positive attitude."

Nominate your heroes

Dispatch readers are welcome to nominate their own 'Edmonton Youth Hero' – an inspirational young person (16 or under) from Edmonton who has made a valuable contribution to their local community.

Simply email your nomination to EnfieldDispatch@socialspider.com



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BETTER

ENFIELD
Council

Fresh concerns over Energetik heat network

BY GRACE HOWARTH,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Local environmental campaigners have raised fresh concerns around the viability of Enfield Council's district heating network after plans to extend it to Arnos Grove were withdrawn.

Energetik is a council-owned company established to create a 23km (14-mile) network of pipes around the borough that would take waste heat from the incinerator at Edmonton Eco Park and use it to provide central heating for residents.

But there are growing concerns over the scheme's cost and environmental benefits.

While Arnos Grove already has a "satellite" energy centre as part of Energetik, plans to connect it to the Enfield-wide network and the incinerator have been scuppered by Transport for London (TfL) according to Vicki Pite, a former Labour councillor who is now an environmental campaigner, because it would have "affected" six bus routes.

In response a spokesperson from Energetik said the application was withdrawn due to "connection opportunities arising in different areas of Enfield" and that it now intends to "split" the application into "several parts" with plans to extend to the North Middlesex Hospital area instead.

Construction work is currently going ahead on a 7km section of the heat network connecting Edmonton to Ponders End, but Vicki and fellow campaigner Matt Burn, from Better Homes Enfield, have criticised the removal of trees in Cemetery Walk to



Energetik pipes are currently being laid between Edmonton and Ponders End

allow the pipes to be installed.

Vicki says people in existing homes are not going to see "benefits" but would be "paying the price" of the disruption caused. "What's happening along that walk [Cemetery], is a beautiful avenue of trees, all cut down," she said.

"This is a massive development, it's 20 years in the making and yet it's not been in any manifestos."

Regarding replanting, the Energetik spokesperson claimed they worked "closely"

with local planning, tree specialists, and the council's tree officers to "deliver and ensure" that they "minimised the impact" of works on trees where they could.

In terms of Cemetery Walk, Energetik's spokesperson said: "We have agreed with the council that four trees will be planted for each tree felled. There will be at least a one-for-one replacement for each tree along Cemetery Walk with the remainder of the additional trees being planted elsewhere in the borough as directed by the council."

But Vicki and Matt say they want a "pause" on the scheme as there are "huge issues" with the way the project is being implemented, houses that were "scheduled to use the network" were still waiting to be connected, and residents in the meantime had to use "gas until they turned on the heat" linking it to the network.

Matt questioned why better environmental alternatives could not be used since this method of district heating – which relies on plastic and other waste being burnt by the incinerator – was no longer "state of the art" and better alternatives such as air pumps now existed.

The Energetik spokesperson disputed the claim and pointed out the district heating network captured heat that would otherwise would be wasted. They clarified this didn't mean they wouldn't consider alternatives in future but said at present heat pumps were a "more expensive solution".

But Matt has questioned whether the likely total of £100million needed to deliver the project can be justified and is also concerned with the "monopoly risk" of the council owning it's own heat supplier.

Energetik says heat networks are a central part of the government's net-zero plans "with one in five homes expected to receive heat from a heat network by 2050".

The company's spokesperson said: "Heat networks fall under the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) remit to protect customers by providing similar standards to the gas and electricity markets."

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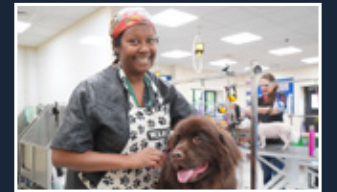
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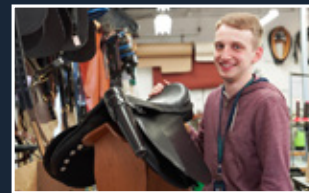
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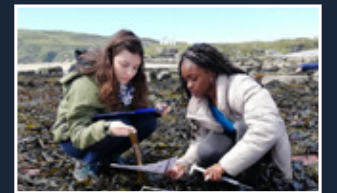
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‘Inadequate soundproofing’ blamed for threat to popular pub’s premises licence

Developer of flats next to The Fox defends construction as even toilet hand-dryers disturb residents

The Fox was reopened in February 2023 with a new block of flats built next door by developer Dominus



BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Soundproofing at a newly-built block of flats adjoining a pub has been described by Enfield Council as “inadequate” after noise complaints led the authority to review the venue’s premises licence.

More than 2,000 people have signed a petition in support of The Fox in Palmers Green after it was threatened with losing its licence by the council.

The pub in Green Lanes reopened in February last year after a major refurbishment but last month was forced to pause all live music events following council inspections.

Several residents living in the One Fox Lane flats next door made a series of complaints to the council over noise levels – with even hand dryers in the toilets apparently disturbing them.

An upcoming sub-licence committee hearing, on a date in February, will now decide

whether The Fox can keep its premises licence. A council spokesperson said: “We recognise that music and entertainment can play an important role for pubs and other similar premises. However, we must also be mindful of the impact on local people and take appropriate action if complaints are made.

“In regard to The Fox, Enfield Council received a considerable number of noise complaints from local residents. Following investigations, noise officers concluded that the premises are currently not suitable for music other than at a background level as the sound insulation in the building is simply not adequate.

“A statutory nuisance abatement notice was served and breached. Therefore, Enfield Council has submitted a review application under the Licensing Act 2003 of the premises licence to address the issues caused by the music, which will be determined by the licensing sub-committee.”

Residents and pub-goers have rallied round to support the popular pub with blame for the issue instead being directed at developer Dominus.

The Fox has been hosting regular live music nights, as well as various other entertainment, for the last year. Among the acts to play there have been rock act Redriffe. The cover band’s drummer Neil Littman told the *Dispatch*: “I have been playing in various bands for over 40 years and think live music is important to the local community and brings people together and encourages other musicians to aspire to playing in front of an audience.

“Following our debut at The Fox, we were offered two further gigs of which one has unfortunately already been cancelled [...] I think this is a shame as in times of economic hardship, it is important for venues like The Fox to demonstrate they are a community asset and their value to the area.”

Pub manager James Sharkey

added: “The Fox is not just an ordinary pub; it is an integral part of our cultural fabric that brings together people from all walks of life through its music events. Stripping away its music licence will not only diminish our rich cultural heritage but will also lead to economic disadvantages for Palmers Green.”

The *Dispatch* has seen a copy of the application to review The Fox’s premises licence, with complaints detailed on the application stating that residents were being kept awake on Friday and Saturday nights because of noise from the pub and that they could “even hear the hand dryers in the toilets”. On one occasion last September, “lyrics to *Sweet Caroline* could be heard very clearly and was evident that the audience were also singing along”.

The *Dispatch* asked the developer of the One Fox Lane flats, Dominus, about the soundproofing installed when the development was built in 2022. A spokesperson said: “The One Fox Lane flats were constructed with acoustic insulation, fully compliant with performance standards and building regulations.

“Nevertheless, we empathise with the concerns voiced by the community on both sides. We have been actively engaging in dialogue and taking actions with stakeholders to explore additional measures that could further alleviate this issue, for instance adjusting the positioning of The Fox pub’s sound system, all with the aim of fostering a harmonious coexistence between vibrant cultural spaces like The Fox and the tranquillity of residential living.”

The petition in support of The Fox is available via [Change.org](https://change.org): Visit change.org/p/preserve-the-fox-s-music-licence-for-the-benefit-of-palmers-green



An Enfield Council repairs van

‘Non-emergency’ housing repairs put on hold by Enfield Council

BY GRACE HOWARTH,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Enfield Council has placed “non-emergency” housing repairs on hold until further notice amid increasing costs and “high demand” for services.

While requests for non-emergency repairs are still being recorded, the council warned on its website that the work will be “programmed for delivery at a future date”.

Asked to clarify what constituted an emergency, a council spokesperson confirmed the types of repairs prioritised would be damp and mould, electrical safety, heating, and lifts maintenance.

The website says the focus going forward is on issues that impact the health and safety of residents. How severe cases need to be, to be considered a priority, is not specified.

The postponement of non-emergency repairs by the council has been happening since 27th November.

In a statement, the council spokesperson blamed a “perfect financial storm” caused by government cuts, increasing repair service demand, and inflation.

They said: “The cost-of-living crisis has meant more residents are turning to us for assistance, while the costs for delivering our services have increased threefold as a result of inflation.”

Further explaining the reason the spokesperson emphasised the need to “prudently manage” the budget going forward, given the “rising costs” of fuel and material.

For non-emergency repairs residents will receive completion dates as “packages of work are compiled”.

Repairs reported up to the date of the change will be completed the usual way.

The spokesperson instructed residents to continue to log non-emergency repair requests via the council website as cases are still being recorded and reviewed on a “weekly basis”.

They added “appropriate action” would be taken to resolve works especially relating to vulnerable households “if necessary”.

Despite the concern that could arise amid the change, the spokesperson said results from a recent survey of tenants carried out by the council found satisfaction rates with housing services had improved year on year and satisfaction overall was “above the benchmark” when compared with other landlords.



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The impact of the cost-of-living crisis is heartbreaking

Labour councillor Hivran Dalkaya on how rising costs are impacting Brimsdown residents

Since being elected as a Brimsdown ward councillor in May 2022, I've been working with fellow ward colleagues in engaging with residents through walkabouts, community events and public meetings.

It is now clear that the top and recurring issues for local people in my ward relate to children's special educational needs and disabilities (Send), housing, and crime issues. Perhaps bigger than anything else, however, have been the challenges everyone is facing because of the cost-of-living.

It has been heartbreaking to hear and see how my residents have suffered as a result of spiralling energy costs and the out of control cost of food, mortgage and rent bills. That's why I'm proud that Enfield Council continues to prioritise its hardship fund.

While the Conservative government has abandoned families, the Labour administration at Enfield Council is ensuring we are there to support those most in need. For those grappling with the cost-of-living crisis, the council has now put

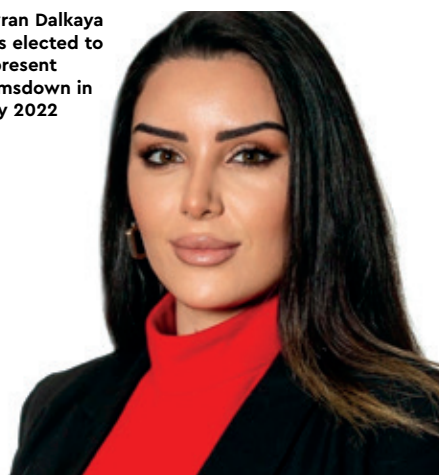
together a list of organisations and council support that is available to our residents, which you can access at enfield.gov.uk/services/your-council/cost-of-living-support.

It is really disappointing that the government has scrapped the Household Support Fund (HSF) despite the fact that a record number of people are turning to councils for help. Last year, Enfield Council received £5.6million through the HSF to support families in the borough. This funding enabled holiday activities, provided supplies for school foodbanks, covered the cost of school uniforms and gave £500 each to 4,000 low-income families in Enfield.

Cutting the HSF is a government attack on these vital interventions. Labour councillors in Enfield support the Local Government Association's call for the government to continue the HSF, so councils can continue working with local voluntary and charitable organisations and others to support residents through the continuing cost-of-living crisis.

While the national picture for public services continues to be challenging, I am

Hivran Dalkaya was elected to represent Brimsdown in May 2022



pleased that locally in Brimsdown ward, we have been able to champion and deliver great projects; the council has secured a new Send school called Salmons Brook School, invested in Albany Park to enhance our community spaces and improve flood alleviation, and renewed the existing tennis courts. I know that residents have also welcomed the change of management of the borough's leisure centres, including Albany

Leisure Centre, from being Fusion-run to coming under the control of Better.

I would strongly encourage residents to sign up to the council's newsletter to stay updated on what is happening in our area. The quarterly Community Action Partnership Enfield (Cape) panel meetings run by the police are also an opportunity for residents to keep updated on any crime and policing matters relating to their neighbourhood.

I became a councillor to help support my residents with individual casework as well as bigger projects that will improve our borough. If you would like any assistance, you can email me directly or pop along to our weekly councillor drop-in sessions held at Enfield Business Centre in Hertford Road.

As we enter 2024, I look forward to continuing my councillor duties in the year ahead, and wish everyone a healthy, and safer new year.

Hivran Dalkaya is one of two councillors representing Brimsdown, along with Bektas Ozer (both Labour). Cllr Dalkaya can be contacted by ward residents:

Call 020 7038 0182
Email cllr.hivran.dalkaya@enfield.gov.uk

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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 19th February**.

Leaf blowers

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Our street was recently 'cleaned' by operatives using leaf blowers. The first thing I noticed was a lot of noise coming from the street. That's another problem. I opened the front door to find out where the noise was coming from and there was the smell!

This just about sums up the machines' performance. They don't move the leaves stuck to the footpath; they make so much noise; they burn fossil fuel (some are electric, I do admit, but not the ones in question); they pollute the air.

I'm not commenting, at all, on the skill of the operatives. I'm sure they were working as instructed. Why aren't operatives given stiff brooms, to clean footpaths, avoiding polluting the air the operatives are forced to breathe, and the assault on their hearing?

That's not to comment on job satisfaction. If the footpaths were truly cleaned there would be a huge sense of pride, seeing a nice clean street. Food for thought.

Anthony Roper
Kynaston Road, Enfield

Dawlish Avenue

Dear Enfield Dispatch

We're a bit confused by the article *Residents of Palmers Green street blighted by burglaries and speeding traffic demand action* published on the Dispatch website on 28th December. According to the article there's been traffic issues for years yet the recently installed Bowes and Fox Lane low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) are also cited as a cause?

What are the actual traffic speed and traffic volume trends over the past few years in this street? Is there evidence that the LTNs are the cause of heavier traffic and/or speeding? If (as we suspect) there are vehicles by-passing the North Circular and rat-running down roads such as Dawlish Avenue, then filtering the roads in the area would make a material difference and improve the residents' quality of life.

Adrian Day
Better Streets for Enfield

Speak out on Gaza

Dear Enfield Dispatch

Enfield Trades Council, representing some of the biggest unions in the country, has called for local MPs and councillors to speak out on the escalating crisis in Gaza. Israel's military is killing Palestinians at an average rate of 250 people a day, which according to Oxfam massively exceeds the daily death toll of any other major conflict of recent years.

The trades council calls for the immediate lifting of the blockade on Gaza and the withdrawal of the Israeli military from the occupied territories. Trade unions and workers stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza. All our affiliated unions have called for a ceasefire at national level, and we want to see our political representatives in Enfield join that call.

Politicians of the capitalist establishment will not grant self-determination for Palestinians. The massive demonstrations in central London and local Enfield protests show that working class people and youth have a different view.

Paul Kershaw
Enfield Trades Council

Volunteering

Dear Enfield Dispatch

As one of the country's largest youth organisations, we at St John Ambulance are incredibly proud of our young people and their achievements. In 2023 alone, 2,000 of our badgers and cadets (aged 5–17) gave an astonishing 54,000 hours of their time over twelve months, covering events, training, teaching first aid and helping their communities.

We want to continue helping our young volunteers thrive and would like your readers to consider volunteering, themselves, as part of the youth team. They'll be instrumental in helping the next generation of first aiders develop their skills and help save lives.

Find out more and apply via our website at sja.org.uk/youthteam.

Matthew Atkinson
National Youth Operations Lead

Tributes paid to 'immensely talented' founder of Edmonton theatre group

*Face Front Inclusive Theatre CEO
Jon French has died aged 56*

Tributes have been paid to the co-founder of a "groundbreaking" Edmonton theatre group that has provided a platform for disabled actors for over 25 years.

Jon French, who helped establish Face Front Inclusive Theatre in 1998 and continued to run it as joint-CEO, died aged 56 on 1st January following a short illness.

Based in Edmonton Green, Face Front creates accessible theatre for schools and the public, with disabled and non-disabled performers, putting on shows and activities that "transform the lives of disadvantaged people" as well as highlighting social injustice.

Jon was also a director of Broken Silence, a drama group run by Face Front for disabled adults, and most recently co-directed *The Hero Next Door* – a professional show for young audiences which toured nationally last summer.

Jon was an Enfield borough resident all of his life, living in Palmers Green.

Annie Smol MBE, a Face Front co-founder and previous artistic director, said of Jon: "His legacy will live on through the many productions that he was a part of and the many lives that he enriched.

"Jon was an immensely talented, and creative theatre-maker, actor, facilitator, choreographer and director. And he was

an exciting, compassionate, witty and intelligent colleague who will be profoundly missed."

Ray Downing, Face Front's current artistic director, said: "Having just celebrated 25 years of Face Front Inclusive Theatre, we have had the opportunity to reflect upon all the wonderful and ground-breaking work that has been achieved by all the people who have passed through our doors – and Jon French was a constant, steady, and creative presence throughout it all.

"Whilst the performing industry has lost a legend in the field of dance and theatre, we feel the loss of an esteemed colleague and a most excellent friend."

Catrin Thomas, a Face Front trustee and co-founder, said: "Jon embraced Face Front in the same way that he embraced life, with dedication, loyalty, and humour. He immersed himself in every project with creativity and commitment. Words cannot express our loss.

"He was more than just a colleague, he was an ally and a friend. He will be sorely missed by all of us in the Face Front family."

Roger Cowe, chair of trustees at Face Front, added: "Jon was a key member of Face Front from the start, participating and encouraging others and leading



Jon French (front) both directed and acted in many productions for Face Front Theatre

performances for all our 25 years.

"Latterly as co-chief executive he was instrumental in helping to continue Face Front's success, adding a 'back room' role making sure our finances were in order and

the board was fully informed.

"His many qualities will be sadly missed."

Prior to his time with Face Front, Jon worked extensively with Candoco Dance Company as one of their founding members.

Lottery win for Broomfield House

The chair of Broomfield House Trust has welcomed news that the first stage of a lottery funding bid by Enfield Council to 'memorialise' the historic house has been successful.

The award from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the 'Unlocking Broomfield Park for the Community' project means the council can now develop detailed plans.

It was announced in September 2022 that the council was submitting a bid for lottery money after several other attempts to repair and restore the burnt-out shell of Broomfield House failed to attract the money needed.

Now deemed to be beyond repair, the historic house will instead be demolished and memorialised, while other improvements will help "reinvigorate" Broomfield Park in Palmers Green – including landscaping and a restoration of the park's unique Baroque water garden.

The project development funding of £532,490 will allow the council to progress its plans to apply for a full National Lottery grant of £3,672,231 at a later date.

Broomfield House is barely visible beneath a maze of scaffolding



Colin Younger, chair of Broomfield House Trust which has been fighting to save the building, told the *Dispatch*: "It is very good news. It will break a logjam we have been stuck with for many years.

"We are sad it has not been possible to restore or renovate the house but that was clearly not going to be fundable."

Broomfield House dates back to the 16th Century and was originally owned by John Broomfield, a leather merchant. The house has been used for various purposes over the centuries but remained derelict following

a series of fires in 1984, 1993, 1994 and 2019. The building is now surrounded by scaffolding, with more than 80% of the historic fabric lost. Elements of its interior were saved and are currently in storage.

The lottery project has been developed by the council in collaboration with the Friends of Broomfield Park, Broomfield House Trust, The Enfield Society, Southgate District Civic Voice, and councillors who helped steer and shape the application.

Chinelo Anyanwu, the council's cabinet member for open spaces, culture and local economy, said: "Enfield Council is committed to nurturing our arts, heritage and creative sectors to connect people through culture.

"During the development phase of this project, the council will work with the local community to produce a shared vision for the memorialisation of Broomfield House and its integration back into the historic park.

"For too many years, the shell of the house has stood with little purpose and no connection to the people who use the park. This project will finally address the

issue of the house and reinvigorate the area while acknowledging its importance to the people of Enfield."

Local people will be encouraged to get involved in a range of activities including heritage and nature-themed health and wellbeing schemes; a community archaeology dig; a mural hoardings project and engagement with young people in decisions about the park.

Stuart McLeod from The National Lottery Heritage Fund said: "We believe that investing in heritage means investing in the community it belongs to. It has the power to make our communities better places to live, bringing a sense of pride of place and this project in Enfield is no exception.

"It will not only see this Grade 2 listed park brought back to life but also engage with its community in new ways. We look forward to working with the team to progress their plans to apply for a full grant at a later date."

For more information on the Broomfield House project: Visit enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/broomfield-house

Welcome return for Turkish restaurant reopened after fire

Neil Littman visits Aksular in Palmers Green which has returned 18 months after it was destroyed by a blaze



Mixed grill

A big thank you to all those who have given me feedback on the reviews during the past year as well as recommendations for new places to eat out and interesting bits of information about moves and changes in the Enfield dining scene.

There is plenty of great talent out there opening new places to eat, despite the continuing fallout from the cost-of-living crisis. However, a recent article in the *Financial Times* about restaurant closures in London placed Enfield at the bottom of a table of boroughs with annual closures of 14.5%.

Based on my experience of eating in the borough this didn't make a lot of sense as it seems that when one restaurant closes, another often takes its place.

Since 2021 I've noted the disappearance of Pizza Express in Winchmore Hill, Romna Gate and Sydney Rocks in Southgate, and The Larder and Winchmore Tandoori in Winchmore Hill. But I've also seen many openings – and reopenings – including Turkish restaurant Aksular,

in Palmers Green, which is back again after being closed following a fire on the hottest day on record in July 2022.

Aksular returned to Palmers Green at the end of 2023 on the same site, opposite the triangle, and you could hear a collective sigh of relief from the local community. They do that thing that sounds deceptively easy; fresh ingredients cooked simply and well presented. It is something of a benchmark with most Turkish cuisine and why it remains a very popular choice for eating out.

I already knew about Aksular by reputation and recommendation when I first moved to the area nearly ten years ago and regret not trying it back then, but I am assured it hasn't lost anything since it was out of action.

Aksular is all about classic Turkish cuisine served in a modern setting with murals, faux marble tables, comfortable seating and those decorative wood strips on the counters and bar that seem to be the latest in interior styling.

I arrived in tow with my local

expert on Turkish cuisine. We shared starters; yogurtlu patli-can ezme (grilled aubergine with yoghurt) and sigara böreği (feta cheese rolls in filo pastry). Complimentary salad and bread appeared at the same time. I think the bread is a good benchmark of Turkish restaurants – the lighter and fluffier the better! Two dips also arrived, one with yoghurt and hot green peppers (unexpected and original) and another of hummus that tasted freshly homemade.

The aubergine tasted a bit too cold and under-seasoned for my liking and I think it may have been sitting in a chiller cabinet for too long, but the sigara were very good and disappeared quickly.

My dining companion decided it was time for a cocktail and ordered a pina colada (£10) while I stuck to a Peroni which seemed a bit steep at £5 but that is where the mark ups are made now as restaurants know the diners will only pay up to a certain amount for food.



The restored interior at Aksular

Our main courses were filleted sea bass with the skin grilled to a crisp and the tangy flavour of salt and spices, together with a mixed shish with grilled chicken and lamb. Both were served with rice.

I thought the main courses were well prepared and seasoned; good-quality lamb and chicken and the sea bass dish was outstanding and served with the usual yoghurt and hot sauce accompaniments.

We finished with Turkish coffee. Our bill came to £72, including drinks. The service at Aksular was friendly and efficient. It's great to have it back.

Aksular Turkish Kitchen can be found at 232-234 Green Lanes, Palmers Green N13 5UD and is open Fridays and Saturdays, 10am-1am, and Sunday to Thursday, 10am-12am. Book by phone or online: Call 020 8886 3503 Visit aksularpalmersgreen.foodbul.com



Aubergine salad



Grilled sea bass

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 19th February**.

FORUM

Financial impact of the cost-of-living crisis

Saturday 3rd February, 1pm-4pm
Edmonton Green Library
(community room two), 36-44
South Mall, Edmonton Green
Shopping Centre N9 0TN

Citizens Advice Enfield and Local Motion are holding a forum to find out how people in Enfield have been impacted financially during the cost-of-living crisis, how they are accessing financial products and financial information. What are the challenges residents are facing? What help is there and what needs to change?

Free entry

Visit shorturl.at/jwJKO

TALK

Southgate District Civic Voice spring open meeting

Saturday 3rd February, 2.30pm
Southgate Club, 17 Chase Side,
Southgate N14 5BP

This is a talk on the Piccadilly Line extension north of Arncliffe. In 2023 we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the opening of Southgate Station in style. One of our key events was a talk by Transport for London's heritage managers Gareth Leslie and Edmund Bird, which was hugely popular and oversubscribed. So, we are running it again! They will talk about this stretch of the line and Southgate Station in particular, its renowned architect Charles Holden and its design and architectural features which have been recognised by Historic England's Grade 2* designation.

Free for members, £5 for non-members (booking required)

Visit shorturl.at/bglZO

MEETING

Tackling A10 speeding, noise and car meets

Thursday 8th February, 7.30pm-9pm
St Peter's Church, Vera Avenue,
Grange Park N21 1RG

Public meeting organised by Bush Hill Park councillor James Hockney, pressing for action on A10 speeding, noise and car meets, building on the progress made so far. Invites have been sent to Enfield Council, Transport for London, Metropolitan Police, Greater London Authority, MPs, car park owners and Bush Hill Park Residents Association.

Free entry

Email cllr.james.hockney@enfield.gov.uk

QUIZ

Nightingale Quiz Night

Saturday 10th February, 7.30pm
Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St George, 45 London Road, Enfield
EN2 6DS

Join us for some mind-boggling quiz fun! Tickets include a ploughman's supper, so do let us know if you have any dietary requirements we should be aware of. The evening is both BYOB (bring your own booze) and BYTC (bring your thinking cap). Sign up your team today.

Tickets £15 per person

Visit nightingalesupport.org.uk/product/quiz-night

CINEMA

Talkies Community

Cinema presents *Scrapper*

Saturday 17th February, 7.30 PM
Waterhouse Hall Theatre,
Compton Road, Winchmore Hill,
N21 3NU

Living alone in her London flat, twelve-year-old Georgie must confront reality when her estranged father, Jason, shows up out of nowhere. Uninterested in a sudden new parental figure, she remains stubbornly resistant to his efforts. As they both adjust to their new circumstances, Georgie and Jason soon find that they still have a lot of growing up to do. *Scrapper* is the bittersweet debut from director Charlotte Regan.

Tickets £6.50

Visit talkies.org.uk/events

WORKSHOP

'When Magic Happens' with Karen Poley

Thursday 22nd February, 5pm-7.30pm
Living Room Library, 109-111 Fore Street, Edmonton N18 2XF

Karen Poley has created and produced outdoor arts festivals, performances and community engagement projects for 25 years. Her projects are focused on the environment, sustainability and healthy living, and explore cycling, recycling, environmental awareness, digital storytelling and new technologies. For this event, Karen will present some of her inspirational projects followed by a practical co-creation session for us to explore how we can create the conditions for 'magic to happen'!

Free entry but RSVP by 9th Feb:

Email penny.skerrett@enfield.gov.uk
Visit kp-projects.co.uk

AROUND THE BOROUGH

PONDERS END

'Depraved' child sex offender jailed

A MAN HAS BEEN JAILED AFTER being convicted of multiple child sexual offences following a cross-border investigation.

Amanuel Ehdego, aged 37 of Derby Road, was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment, with an extended six-year licence, following a hearing at Chelmsford Crown Court.

In August 2022 Ehdego had begun engaging with an undercover officer on a chat room. Ehdego believed the person was a twelve-year-old girl and turned the conversation to sex, encouraging the 'girl' to send videos and attempting to arrange to meet her.

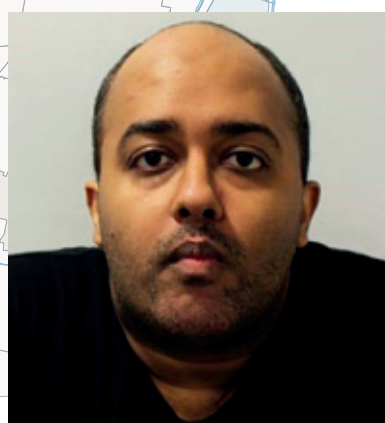
When Ehdego's devices were examined, detectives discovered 49 indecent images and videos of children. In the interim, Ehdego attempted to meet another underage girl, in Scotland. But in fact, he was talking to an adult who called police and Ehdego was arrested and charged.

Met Police detectives continued to investigate and discovered Ehdego

was paying money to arrange, direct and view live streams of children being sexually abused in the Philippines. They informed authorities there, who managed to safeguard twelve children aged from seven to 18.

Ehdego pleaded guilty to engaging in sexual communication with a child; causing a child aged between 13 and 15 to view sexual activity; three counts of making indecent images of a child; paying for sexual services of a girl under the age of 13; arranging/facilitating the sexual exploitation of a child under the age of 13; and attempting to arrange/facilitate the commission of a child sexual offence/sexual assault of a child.

In court, judge Mary Loram KC praised the investigation led by PC Gurpreet Singh and said: "PC Singh conducted a vast amount of work, viewing over 17,000 life-changing images, which is truly stressful. "He has worked with US Homeland



Amanuel Ehdego Credit Met Police Security and authorities in Manila tirelessly to protect the public. If it were not for the likes of PC Singh, these heinous crimes would have continued to be perpetrated."

PC Singh said: "Amanuel Ehdego is a prolific sexual predator who preys on vulnerable children. At each stage of this investigation, further aspects of his depravity were unearthed, which made it even more crucial he was stopped and held to his account for his appalling acts."

EDMONTON

Government seeks closure of cemetery

ONE OF THE LARGEST TURKISH cemeteries in the UK is facing closure after the government said its owners had "repeatedly failed" to make necessary improvements and ensure the safety of burials.

The Ministry of Justice last month announced its intention to apply to the Privy Council for an order requiring burials be stopped at the privately-run Tottenham Park Cemetery in Montagu Road, Edmonton.

This would mean no new burials would be permitted, except where plots have previously been reserved. Visitors to the existing graves would still be allowed.

The move follows two government-ordered inspections which found remains were being unlawfully disturbed during the burial process.

Complaints about the site were first raised by Enfield Council, Tottenham Park Cemetery Action Group, Baroness Meral Hussein-Ece who is part of the group, as well as local MPs.

Justice minister Mike Freer said: "The people buried in this cemetery were laid to rest and the repeated disturbance of their remains is not only illegal but a breach of trust. I believe it is necessary to seek this closure to ensure that Tottenham

Park Cemetery can safely serve its community in future."

Enfield Council attempted to buy Tottenham Park Cemetery last year, but then-owner Peter Demetriou rejected its offer. He subsequently sold the site to British Turkish businessmen Mustafa Dari and Ersin Savas.

Co-owner Mustafa Dari has defended the continuation of burials at Tottenham Park Cemetery. He said: "Any application to close the cemetery will be strongly opposed. This purported intention to closure is motivated by individuals with influence within the MoJ and Enfield Council for personal motives that has nothing to do with the cemetery and its current operation.

"The closure of the cemetery will be a disaster for the community and the users of the cemetery. A forced sale will put the cemetery into unscrupulous hands looking to shut it down completely and possibly redevelop."

Council leader Nesil Caliskan told the *Dispatch*: "I have been calling for the closure of it for a long time. It is clear that this site is full and it is outrageous that it continues to be used."

OAKWOOD

Homes allocated to station car park



Oakwood Station

A CONSERVATIVE COUNCILLOR has described the allocation of housing at Oakwood Station's car park as "inappropriate".

The latest draft version of Enfield Council's Local Plan, which will go through a final consultation exercise in March and April, allocates up to 52 homes for the car park behind the iconic Art Deco tube station.

While the Local Plan site allocation

does not mean there are any existing housing plans for the site, it will encourage potential developers to submit a proposal.

Like both Cockfosters and Arnos Grove stations, where housing schemes have won planning permission in recent years, Oakwood Station has two car parks, with a large one to the rear and a smaller one in front. The draft Local Plan

allocates housing for the rear car park only.

However, Oakwood councillor Julian Sampson has criticised the move. He told the *Dispatch*: "My initial reaction is that the loss of the car park at Oakwood Station, along with similar plans at Cockfosters and Arnos Grove, is at best a perverse idea when we're trying to get more people to use the tube. Given that the proposal is for a 52-home tower block, it is at worst an inappropriate development in the wrong place."

TfL has been pursuing plans to build homes on a number of outer London tube station car parks in recent years, with mayor Sadiq Khan stating in 2021: "TfL is one of the capital's largest landowners and it must continue to transform its surplus land into the new homes that London desperately needs while also delivering a vital long-term income stream that can be reinvested into the transport network."

PALMERS GREEN

'Extensive' fire damage to church

A FIRE AT A CHURCH HAS BEEN described by its vicar as causing "extensive damage".

The blaze began at St John the Evangelist in Green Lanes on New Year's Day at around 2pm. While firefighters successfully extinguished the fire in around an hour, Reverend Julie Coleman later said: "Thankfully nobody was hurt, but the fire has caused extensive damage [...] our thanks go to the fire service for their quick response and support, and to the police, who continue to investigate the cause."

Alternative arrangements were made enabling the church to continue services. Rev Coleman added:



Fire crews tackle the blaze on 1st January

"This terrible situation will not stop us being a missional church here in Palmers Green. We will continue to meet as a church community, albeit in the parish centre."



Lucas Yoxall with his Players' Player of the Year trophy which he won while playing for the Enfield Ignatians second team

Enfield Ignatians rugby player dies aged 24

Jonathan Landi pays tribute to rising star whose sudden death has rocked the club

A dark shadow hangs over Enfield Ignatians RFC after Lucas Yoxall, one of the team's brightest young talents, unexpectedly passed away last month.

His untimely death comes as a huge shock to all concerned, particularly as the 24-year-old's best playing days were still ahead of him.

A product of the club's youth system, he was first capped at first team level during the 2019/20 season, before going on to become a very effective flanker – noted for his ability to break the gain-line and make thumping tackles.

Lucas continued his rise up the ranks at senior level, and his Players' Player of the Year accolade at second-team level served notice that his elevation to first team rugby was only a matter of time.

He enjoyed a particularly fruitful 2021/22 season which yielded eight league tries for the talented loose forward/occasional three-quarter, with the highlight being a memorable hat-trick in the 29–14 win over Hackney.

This season, Lucas got on the scoresheet in the 53–39 win against Hampstead in September, but we could never have imagined that his appearance in the 15–9

loss against Hackney at Spring Hill on 9th December would be his last for a club which he loved.

Ignatians' head coach Jack Wilson said: "Lucas was not only an exceptional rugby player, but also a kind soul, and he was always a pleasure to be around. He will be sorely missed by everyone, and on behalf of everyone at the club, I would like to extend our condolences to his father Mark and all his family."

"Lucas was not only an exceptional rugby player but a kind soul"

Lucas was symptomatic of the home-grown talent produced at the club. In our ladies section, Niamh Gallagher recently broke into the Ireland under-20s rugby squad. Tom Mann, head coach of the Enfield Ignatians girls' section, said: "The club responded to a call [from the Irish selectors] who were seeking Ireland-qualified players. Niamh attended two training camps in Ireland before receiving the good news that she had been accepted."

"Niamh has variously played for the Enfield Tigers under-18s, the

Middlesex under-18s and the Saracens under-18s ladies' teams, and all at the club are delighted for her."

Erik Nagy, part of the 2022 Ignatians' under-16s title winning side, experienced some unforgettable moments as part of the Romanian squad which finished an honourable fifth in the European under-18s Rugby Championship in Prague last November. The winger/centre featured in all three of Romania's games which included a 22–15 loss to eventual beaten finalists Portugal, and the respective 18–15 and 22–20 nail-biting wins over the Czech Republic and Belgium.

Congratulations, too, go to the three Ignatians' players – Hadee Fayaz, Farhad Fayaz and Matt Georgiou – who represented Cyprus with distinction in a 22–17 loss against Malta at the Tony Bezzina Football Stadium, Paola, also in November. Indeed, winger Hadee Fayaz and second-half replacement prop Georgiou, certainly made a big impact as they were responsible for scoring the three Cypriot tries.

Hadee said: "It was an absolute pleasure to score my first try for Cyprus, and congratulations, too, to Matt who crowned a memorable debut with a brace of tries."

Taylor made for Enfield Town

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

It isn't every day that a non-league footballer remains at the same club for over five years, becomes captain, then moves to his closest rival and plays his very first game against his previous club!

Understandably therefore, Taylor McKenzie admits it wasn't an easy decision when an offer came in just before Christmas to join Enfield Town – make that rejoin – from Cheshunt just up the A10 where he was almost part of the furniture.

An experienced, physically-imposing defender, Taylor played 35 games for Town during the 2017/18 campaign and remembers his time there fondly. But he agonised over whether to go back having helped Cheshunt to two promotions – ironically one of them at Enfield's expense – and one relegation.

But non-league players are just as ambitious as those higher up the pyramid and with Enfield on course for the play-offs, Taylor just had a hunch he made the right call. "The timing probably wasn't the best given that my first game just happened to be away against my old club," he told the *Dispatch*. "But I probably only have a few years left in the bank and I saw this as a great opportunity."

"I wasn't really thinking of moving but it made a big difference that I already knew some of the



Taylor McKenzie (pictured winning a header) has rejoined Enfield Town from rivals Cheshunt Credit @NickyHayesPhoto

Enfield players. Sometimes you have to be a little bit selfish and look after number one. And that means another push for success.

"It hurts to hear some of the things that came out of Cheshunt but over time, hopefully they will see my side of it. You very rarely get players in non-league who stay in one place as long as I did. Of course it shows loyalty but sometimes you can get complacent and I felt it was right to step out of my comfort zone."

Although Enfield Town are a very different club in terms of personnel from his first spell, the fanbase remains just as strong – if not stronger.

"It's renowned all over non-league," said Taylor. "Enfield have always had a reputation for a loud following. Not only that, I believe fan-owned clubs are the way forward. It's like a mini-democracy, especially at a non-league club that is so much part of the community."

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