

ENFIELD DISPATCH

N° 96

THE BOROUGH'S FREE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

SEPT 2026



The busiest junction in Enfield Town was dug up by Thames Water for three days as the privately-owned utility company attempted to restore supplies to people's homes – as well as Chase Farm Hospital

Thames Water slammed by MP after Enfield leak chaos

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Thames Water's handling of a major burst main in Enfield last month has been described as "appalling" by a local MP.

Enfield North MP Feryal Clark blasted the privately-owned utility company for what happened over five days in August when hundreds of homes were left without water and even Chase Farm Hospital was forced to cancel operations when its own supply ran dry.

In response to the crisis – which also caused major disruption to Enfield's road network as Thames Water dug up several key routes simultaneously – Clark said: "This has been an awful incident for residents across Enfield. Some households were left without water for days."

The Labour MP continued: "I have written to Thames Water because, while major infrastructure failures can happen, the handling of this incident has been appalling. Residents faced

conflicting information about bottled water stations, inaccessible collection points and uncertainty about when their supply would return.

"I have also demanded clear answers on compensation for affected customers and the lessons Thames Water will learn from this unacceptable incident."

The problem began on the morning of Sunday, 16th August, when a leak was reported at one of the borough's major water mains, in Bramley Road between Oakwood and Cockfosters. This impacted supplies across a wide area, from Enfield Town to Southgate and Winchmore Hill.

On Monday 17th, Thames Water reported the leak had become "more complex" and that a full replacement of a section of the main would be needed.

A bottled water station was set up at Forty Hall, forcing some people in Southgate and Cockfosters to find a way past Thames Water's own roadworks to get there. The company responded to complaints by setting up two other bottled water stations,

including one in Ponders End despite no supplies being affected there.

On Wednesday 19th, Chase Farm Hospital's supply was cut off, leaving Thames Water scrambling to bring tankers to keep the taps flowing. Most routine operations that day were cancelled. In an effort to reroute supplies from other areas, Thames Water also dug up the busiest junction in Enfield Town, forcing several bus routes to divert through clogged residential roads.

Clark said the impact was unacceptable and added: "This disruption also raises much wider questions about the state of our water industry and its infrastructure."

"I intend to raise this terrible experience of Enfield North residents when parliament debates the water industry on 14th September."

Prime Minister Andy Burnham has previously expressed support for nationalising the water industry, which was privatised by Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s. Thames Water is currently owned by a consortium

including a Chinese sovereign wealth fund and has been struggling financially for several years. It loses around 570 million litres of water per day, although the company claims to have reduced leaks by 15% since 2019.

Responding to Clark's compensation demand, a spokesperson said: "In terms of compensation, Thames Water follows the industry's Guaranteed Standards Scheme. Where customers are eligible for compensation following an unplanned interruption to their water supply, payments are applied automatically to customer accounts."

They added: "We appreciate how disruptive this incident has been and sincerely thank everyone affected for their patience and understanding while our teams worked to restore supplies and complete the repair."

"We're sorry for the disruption caused and thank you for your continued patience."

A hosepipe ban remained in effect across London as the *Dispatch* went to press, after one of the driest and hottest summers on record in the UK.

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Nº 96
SEPT 2026

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

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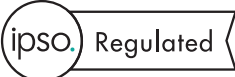
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Published on 28/08/26

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Legal battle over occupation of former police station

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council has become embroiled in a protracted legal dispute with a rogue landlord in Southgate who has repeatedly refused to comply with planning rules.

Last year the owner of Southgate Police Station in Chase Side lost a planning appeal against the council and was ordered, as a result, to clear the site of residents who had been moved in despite there being no planning permission for its use as a residential building.

The deadline for complying with the council’s enforcement notice was May this year, but as of last month people were continuing to live at the former police station.

While the council itself has declined to comment on the situation, local ward councillor Stephanos Ioannou said: “I recognise that in the run up to the May local elections we promised as your ward councillors the removal of all those residing at the former Southgate Police Station. We were given this guarantee back then, under the last [Labour] administration.

“I am therefore apologetic to report that due to issues of a legal nature, which cannot be disclosed, we cannot comment on the current situation. However, your Conservative councillors remain committed to removing those tenants as soon as possible, and we are talking to the legal team at the council on a weekly basis persuing constant update.”

Southgate Police Station was purchased by DN Property London Limited for £4.1million in February 2022, according to a Land Registry title deed obtained by the *Dispatch*.

In May 2024, a managing agent applied – on behalf of DN Property – for permission to convert the building into 65 rooms designed for people needing temporary accommodation. But the scheme was rejected by the council over antisocial behaviour and safety concerns.

Despite this rejection, the scheme went ahead without permission, and people began living in the building from October 2024 onwards. In December that year, the council issued its enforcement notice, but this was then appealed by DN Property to the government’s Planning Inspectorate.

The appeal was dismissed last summer, with the deadline of May 2026 then set to allow time for the building’s residents to be found alternative accommodation.

While the *Dispatch* understands that a number of people continue to live there now, the exact circumstances are unclear. The building remains under investigation by the council.

The rejected planning application was lodged on behalf of DN Property by Sajad Al-Hairi of Log Creation Ltd, who told the *Dispatch* in January 2025 that the police station was providing much-needed housing for “single mothers, the disabled, the out-of-work” and that it would otherwise be left empty and vulnerable to squatters.

The *Dispatch* has attempted to contact Al-Hairi for this story, but he declined to comment. DN Property has not responded to a request for comment.

Southgate Police Station



Lime bikes row erupts

A deal to allow Lime to operate in the south of the borough collapsed after the Tories took power in May

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Enfield Council and Lime issued contradictory statements last month over who was to blame for the firm’s e-bike users not being allowed to enter the borough.

The council announced in December 2024 that it had agreed to allow Lime to extend its e-bike services from Haringey up to the A406 North Circular through Edmonton, Palmers Green and New Southgate in Enfield borough, but recently accused the company of maintaining a “virtual barrier at the borough boundary” despite a deal being struck.

Lime refuted this, and claimed instead that it was the council which failed to honour the original deal.

The row erupted at the end of July when the council confirmed it was removing a number of ‘micromobility’ parking bays which had originally been installed to help accommodate Lime’s e-bikes in the south of the borough, in areas such as Bowes.

In response to the *Dispatch* story about these removals, Lime contacted the paper to claim the council’s statement about Lime “restricting access into the borough” was misleading. Instead the company said it remained keen to expand into Enfield.

Alice Pleasant, a senior public affairs manager at Lime’s UK arm, said: “We’d love to bring our service to Enfield and our door is always open if the council wants to talk more about how we could work together.”

In its latest statement on the situation, a council spokesperson said: “Enfield Council had authorised Lime to operate up to the A406. However, the Lime app ringfenced a virtual barrier at the borough boundary, so users could not ride their Lime bikes into Enfield.

“The council has since taken the decision not to allow Lime to operate in the borough.”

The dispute came after the new minority Conservative administration took power in May, having been elected on a far more pro-motorist manifesto compared to the previous Labour administration.

An announcement on major changes to two low-traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) in Palmers Green and Bowes – controversially installed by the former Labour administration six years ago – is now expected in early September.

The Tories promised during the election campaign to remove the two LTNs, but are likely to announce a compromise policy instead since the party does not hold a majority at the civic centre – with the pro-cycling Green Party having the balance of power.

Charges over woman’s death

Two men appeared in court last month after being charged with causing the death of a 28-year-old woman on the A10 more than two years ago.

Laura Sone-Demetrious was hit and killed by a BMW as she used a pedestrian crossing on the dual carriageway in Edmonton on Tuesday, 9th January 2024.

At the time of the crash mum Laura had been walking her two dogs, who were also killed.

Laura’s death led to a road safety campaign by her sister, Gina, which eventually resulted in Transport for London (TfL) agreeing to install new average speed cameras along the A10 Great Cambridge Road last year.

Two-and-a-half years on from the fatal collision, Sedor Olmez, aged 20 and from Gardens Road in Tottenham, and Roderick Mirzakhanian, aged 31 and from Sycamore Gardens in Tottenham, have both been charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Additionally, Olmez has been charged with driving without insurance.

The pair appeared at Highbury Magistrates’ Court on Friday, 7th August before being granted unconditional bail, and are now due to appear for a plea hearing at the Old Bailey in central London on Friday, 4th September.

Boost for street cleaning

BY JOE IVES, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

Enfield Council is hoping to fill more than two dozen “vacant” posts on its street cleaning team as it aims to tidy up the borough.

The civic centre is launching a new recruitment campaign for 28 staff in the service, with the aim of creating a “significant, positive effect” for public spaces.

Maria Alexandrou, the Tory-led council’s cabinet member for environment, said: “We are absolutely focused on improving the cleanliness of Enfield for the long term, not with short-term fixes.

“To that end, we are filling 28 vacant posts in the street cleaning team. At the same time we are pursuing our proposals for weekly bin collections which we believe would have a dramatic, long-term impact on Enfield.”



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It's never too late to learn

Gill Fletcher from Enfield U3A on the benefits of joining the adult learning institution

Research consistently shows that staying physically, mentally and socially active after retirement/caring is one of the best ways to maintain health and wellbeing.

U3A exists to help people make the most of this stage of life (our 'third age') by offering opportunities to learn, share skills and make new friends.

U3A is a nationwide organisation with local groups run by and for their members. Rather than relying on professional tutors, members share their knowledge and experience with one another, creating a friendly, welcoming environment where everyone can both teach and learn. There are no tests to get in, and no qualifications given out.

This year's U3A Week, taking place from Saturday 19th to Sunday, 27th September, celebrates the many opportunities available to people who are no longer in full-time work or caring responsibilities.

As part of the national event, Enfield U3A will host an information stall at Palace Gardens Shopping Centre on Thursday, 24th September, from 10am to 3pm. Visitors can find out more about the wide range of activities on offer and meet current members.

Enfield U3A has something for almost everyone. Interest groups include art appreciation,

book clubs, Canasta, crafts, history, walking and many more. These groups meet throughout the borough in a variety of venues, including libraries, church halls, members' homes and local pubs.

Members also enjoy theatre visits and day trips; recent destinations include Hever Castle, Eastbourne and London's Brand Museum.

Enfield U3A's monthly general meeting, featuring notices and a guest speaker, is held at Revival Christian Church in London Road on the second Wednesday of every month. Visitors are welcome to attend up to two meetings on payment of a £2 fee. Doors open at 1.30pm when tea will be served, meetings start at 2.30pm.

A new member recently commented that "joining Enfield U3A is the best thing I have done since retiring a few years ago – I wish I had done it earlier, I have made so many friends".

Anyone considering joining Enfield U3A is invited to attend a coffee morning in October, providing an informal opportunity to meet members and discover more about the organisation.

Whether you want to learn a new skill, rediscover an old hobby or simply meet new people, Enfield U3A offers a warm welcome.

For more information, visit the Enfield U3A stall on Thursday, 24th September or find out more on the website:
Visit enfield.u3asite.uk

A passion for discovery

Rachel Burden from Enfield and Southgate Lifelong Learning on how the group is expanding people's horizons

Lifelong learning is a powerful way to stay curious, keep the mind active, and connect with a like-minded community. For adult learners, the opportunity to dive into new subjects is about far more than formal education – it is a source of personal inspiration, shared experiences and lasting friendships.

It is this exact passion for discovery that inspired a dedicated group of local volunteers to come together and launch Enfield and Southgate Lifelong Learning (ESLL), ensuring a bright, independent future for adult education right on our doorstep.

Our aim is to provide in-person courses that are fun and encourage participation but still challenge and enable us to expand our knowledge.

We started in January, initially offering three courses. In the summer we added a fourth course and are now adding further subjects this autumn. Located in central Enfield, the courses are two hours per session and five or six weeks long, taught by highly-qualified and experienced tutors. ESLL is an organisation run by volunteers with the intention of running high-quality courses open to all.

As a democratic not-for-profit group, we are able to keep our costs manageable at £9 per hour, which covers room hire and the cost of employing our tutors. A membership fee of £8 per academic year is charged which covers insurance, website, internet fees, and any other administrative expenses.

We are going from strength to strength, and are running a range of diverse courses this autumn – history, philosophy, local/social history and art history.

Some of the topics we will be covering include a discussion about whether morals can be objective; the influence of the Bloomsbury Group; important industries in the development of Enfield; and how crisis and revolution led to the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

Whether you want to delve into history, explore the arts, enjoy a lively debate or simply meet like minded people, ESLL offers a friendly local space to expand your horizons.

On Saturday, 5th September, from 1pm to 4pm at Enfield Baptist Church in Cecil Road, ESLL is hosting an afternoon talk by Dr Mark Banting about British artist Samuel Palmer and his group The Ancients. To book a place for £30 and for more information about ESLL courses:

Visit eslifelonglearning.uk

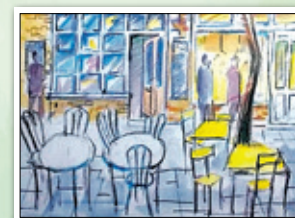
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Young People Are Our Future – Let's Listen

Learning beyond the school week

How a local education charity is creating a community space where children can learn, grow and build confidence beyond the school week

What if helping children thrive isn't just about what happens between Monday and Friday? This autumn, LocalMotion Enfield is supporting Success Club to pilot a new 'Saturday School' programme at the Lancaster Centre in Enfield.

The 15-week course is aimed at children in years four, five and six and will bring together learning, creativity, mentoring, wellbeing and mindfulness, creating a regular community space where children can learn, grow and build confidence beyond the school week.

The programme is particularly focused on ensuring that children and families who face barriers to engaging with activities and opportunities are able to take part. By providing a welcoming, community-based space close to home, the pilot aims to make it easier for families who may otherwise be excluded from enrichment and personal development opportunities to participate. Success Club was created by Tony Dallas, who has spent many years working with children, schools and communities. The organisation has been working in schools since 2014 and became a registered charity in 2018.

Its work is about much more than academic achievement; Success Club supports children's confidence, wellbeing, personal development

Tony Dallas is the founder of Success Club



and ability to flourish both inside and outside the classroom.

Tony has also placed mindfulness at the heart of Success Club's approach. Members of the team have undertaken mindfulness training, and mindfulness is used alongside creative activities, movement and opportunities for children to talk and connect.

For children, mindfulness isn't about asking them to sit still and empty their minds. It can give them practical ways to notice their feelings, manage strong emotions, concentrate, pause before reacting and develop greater awareness of themselves and the people around them.

These skills can support children's confidence, relationships and readiness to learn. The timing matters. Children and families are navigating pressures that don't disappear when the school week ends. For some, there are few affordable opportunities nearby to develop friendships, confidence, creativity and wellbeing outside school.

“Children and families are navigating pressures that don't disappear when the school week ends”

Schools do an enormous amount, but they cannot – and should not – be expected to provide everything children need to thrive. This is where community can play a different role.

Success Club is part of the Enfield Youth and Community Alliance, one of LocalMotion Enfield's partnership initiatives. Saturday School gives us an opportunity to explore what happens when community organisations work together to create a stronger network of support around children and families.

And we want to hear from local families. If you live in the Lancaster Road area of Enfield and have a child in years four, five or six, we'd love to hear if you would like your child to be part of Saturday School. The sessions will provide a welcoming space for children to learn, be creative, develop confidence, practise mindfulness and build positive relationships with other children and trusted adults.

This is a small pilot, but we hope it can teach us something much bigger; how communities, families, schools and local organisations can work together so that every child has more opportunities to thrive.



Local Voice, Local Stories



Chris Clarke is the
founder of 27 Community
Credit Kai Images

The new support group for people struggling to find answers

He disappeared for 27 hours, but now Chris is creating the community
he needed – Karen Heley and Ashley Pheonix went to meet him

When Chris Clarke went missing for 27 hours, his family feared the worst.

Chris himself thought he had only been away for an hour. The experience of dissociation changed his life – and has now led him to create a new kind of mental health community in Enfield.

We went to meet Chris with plenty of questions. Neither of us knew much about dissociation. We knew it was connected to mental health, but not what it could actually feel like to experience it. Chris was about to change that.

Dissociation is a mental process where someone can become disconnected

from their thoughts, memories, surroundings or sense of time and reality. It can be the mind's way of coping when life feels overwhelming, leaving someone feeling as though they are not fully present in the world around them.

In 2023, while out on a bike ride, Chris became overwhelmed. He describes his brain as having “switched off”. He continued travelling, eventually cycling from Surrey to Westminster, but his sense of time and reality had fundamentally altered.

He was gone for 27 hours.

Chris remembers only around 15 minutes of that time. For the people who loved him, those 27 hours were terrifying. They thought he might have died. For Chris, however, the

journey had felt like a much shorter period. His brain had effectively kept him moving while disconnecting him from the normal experience of time and reality.

“I realised something was wrong,” Chris told us. When a police officer said “it’s all right, Chris, we’ve been looking for you”, he broke down and cried.

What happened next was as difficult. Chris was diagnosed with dissociation, but found that very little was explained to him about what it actually meant. He had to research it himself. He also discovered that he did not fit easily into the categories used by many mental health services.

He wasn’t suicidal, he wasn’t clinically depressed, but he was frightened,

confused and struggling to understand what had happened to him. “I was lost. I was lonely,” he told us. “I just couldn’t make sense of it.”

The experience fundamentally changed his life. The confident person who had known where he was going suddenly had to learn who he was again. He worried constantly about another episode. He withdrew from people. He kept himself busy because stopping meant having to confront his thoughts.

Chris then decided to create the thing he couldn’t find – and that’s how 27 Community was born.

The aim is to create safe spaces where people can come together, talk, walk or simply be around people who

understand what it is like when life becomes overwhelming. The ‘Walk and Talk’ events take place monthly in Enfield at Forty Hall Estate – chosen deliberately because its grounds offer a break from the intensity of everyday life. Monthly group sessions also take place on the last Tuesday of each month at Enfield Town Library.

You don’t need a diagnosis to come along – you don’t even have to talk. Chris remembers a time when he couldn’t talk about what had happened to him, so 27 Community has been designed around the understanding that people need to join in at their own pace. “No pressure,” Chris told us. “You don’t have to explain yourself.”

What struck us was that Chris isn’t presenting himself as someone who has everything worked out. He is still learning about himself. He describes himself as a member of 27, not simply its facilitator.

“Chris was diagnosed with dissociation, but found that very little was explained to him about what it actually meant”

The group helps him too. And perhaps that is the most important thing we took away from our conversation. Lived experience isn’t just something that happens to people. It can become knowledge, connection and action.

Chris could have kept his experience private. Instead, he has turned it into a space where someone else might not have to feel as alone as he did. For us, as two people with our own lived experience of mental health challenges, this feels powerful.

“What happens when people with lived experience stop waiting for someone else to create the space they need – and create it themselves?”

For Chris, the answer is 27 Community. And his invitation is simple: you don’t have to explain everything. You don’t have to have the right words. You just have to know that you’re not alone.

For more information about 27 Community and upcoming activities:

Instagram @27communitygroup



Station slammed as ‘not fit for purpose’

Council leader joins local residents in demanding better services and facilities for a station at the centre of a major redevelopment zone

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

The leader of Enfield Council has joined users of Meridian Water Station in calling for a “critical intervention” to improve services and facilities.

The station was opened seven years ago at a cost of £46million but still does not have any direct services to central London and only two trains per hour – to Stratford and nowhere else – through most of the day.

In terms of facilities, the station lacks any parking or drop-off areas, making it difficult to even get a taxi to or from the station, while there also no toilets, no shops and no ticket office.

When it opened in June 2019, Network Rail predicted that the station would one day be used for four million journeys per year, but fewer than half-a-million were recorded in 2024/25.

Part of the problem is that only 301 homes have so far been completed across the Meridian Water development, but the station does also serve London’s largest nightclub – Drumsheds, at the former Ikea store – while hundreds more homes are due to be completed in the next year.

Both council leader Alessandro Georgiou and Meridian One Homeowners Association chair Ebony Lartey have written to Mayor of London Sir Sadiq Khan calling on him to intervene.

Ebony said: “Meridian Water Station, in its current form, is simply not fit for purpose. “Stakeholders were told that as occupation of the development increased, train frequencies would increase from two trains per hour to four trains per hour. That commitment has still not materialised.

“Even if four trains per hour were introduced tomorrow, this would only represent a train every 15 minutes. For a major regeneration development of this scale, this remains inadequate. At an absolute minimum, residents require four trains per hour throughout the day, with increased frequencies during peak commuting periods.”

In his letter, Cllr Georgiou wrote: “I want to highlight the imperative of the investment required to deliver a four trains per hour service. This is a critical intervention for London, as the required rail capacity is essential to realising the full housing, employment, economic and sustainable transport potential of one of the capital’s largest regeneration programmes.

“These service, facility and resilience issues point to a wider investment gap. Enfield

Outside Meridian Water Station, from left; React chair Alf Linney, Meridian One Homeowners Association chair Ebony Lartey, and React vice-chair Cellina Doswell



Council has identified opportunities to support an uplift to 3tph [trains per hour] in the short term. However, the scale of growth planned at Meridian Water requires a clear pathway to 4tph. This will require targeted infrastructure investment and wider network capacity enhancements.”

The *Dispatch* approached both the mayor’s office and Greater Anglia, the recently-nationalised operator of Meridian Water Station, for responses to the concerns raised.

A spokesperson for Khan said: “The mayor is aware of the concerns raised by Meridian Water residents, and his deputy mayor for transport will meet with Cllr Georgiou to discuss the asks for Greater Anglia, who operate the station and its services.

“The scale of growth planned at Meridian Water requires a clear pathway to four trains per hour”

“The mayor recognises that Londoners need more homes in the right places, with connections to jobs and other local services. His draft London Plan makes clear that housing delivery and economic growth is

only possible with investment in transport and other crucial infrastructure.

“That’s why he’s working closely with government on possible rail devolution projects across London that could bring substantial benefits to local communities, in addition to supporting significant housing delivery.

“The mayor will continue doing everything in his power to drive vital investment and sustainable growth across the capital as we build a better, fairer, more prosperous London for everyone.”

A Greater Anglia spokesperson said: “We will work with other stakeholders and other partners, including TfL [Transport for London] and local councils, to try and secure the funding and investment that would enable the improvements that the council has set out as future aspirations.”

Also concerned about the lack of improvements at Meridian Water is Cellina Doswell, vice chair of local residents’ group, React. She said: “We have repeatedly questioned why a station of this size still lacks a drop-off point [...] This has been on our agenda at meetings with Enfield Council, Meridian Water and [developer] Vistry since the station was opened.”

Mental health unit opens

A new mental health facility designed to support people with urgent needs has opened in Enfield.

North London NHS Foundation Trust (NLFT) opened its new Mental Health Crisis Assessment Service (MHCAS), within the Chase Farm Hospital NHS complex, at the end of July.

The new 24/7 service provides a dedicated alternative to accident and emergency (A&E) for people experiencing a mental health crisis, offering specialist assessment and support in a “calm, safe and therapeutic environment designed specifically for mental health care”.

The service has been created to ensure people can access “the right support, in the right place, at the right time”, helping reduce the need for people in crisis to wait in busy emergency departments.

As well as providing faster access to urgent mental health assessment and support, MHCAS delivers care in a “trauma-informed, recovery-focused environment” and reduces burdens on other parts of the health system.

Jess Livesey, chief operating officer at North London NHS Foundation Trust, said: “We’ve been supported by some brilliant staff, service users and carers who have helped shape and design this service, and for that I am incredibly grateful. MHCAS is what we believe modern mental health care should look like – compassionate, accessible and fit for the future.”

The primary route into urgent mental health support remains the NHS 111 telephone service, but people may now be referred directly to MHCAS, which will also accept walk-ins and assess and support anyone who presents directly. It is open 24 hours each day at The Chase Building, Chase Farm Hospital, 127 The Ridgeway EN2 8JL.

For anyone in immediate danger call 999.

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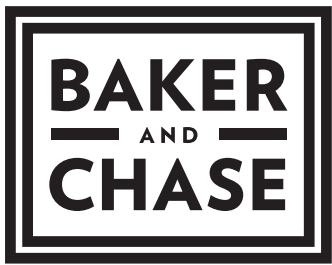
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ULSTER GARDENS, N13 | SSTC

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BRODIE ROAD, EN2 | £495,000

This spacious split-level flat offers well-balanced accommodation, modern conveniences, and a peaceful Enfield setting within easy reach of transport links and local amenities.



DOWNS ROAD, EN1 | SSTC

A beautifully extended two-bedroom period home, ideally located within easy reach of Enfield Town and offering bright, spacious living throughout.



CHASE RIDINGS, EN2 | SSTC

Well-equipped and excellently positioned original 4-bedroom semi-detached house, with large drive and garden, with utility room and downstairs w/c.



WHITEWEBBS LANE, EN2 | £2,750PCM

Charming 19th Century 3-double bedroom mid terraced cottage, nestled in the leafy area of Whitewebbs Lane.



BLACKSMITH COURT, N13 | TO LET £2,250PCM

Outstanding larger than average 1331 sq ft, 2 double bedroom 3rd (top) floor penthouse apartment, in a modern purpose-built block in the heart of Palmers Green.



DRAKE STREET, EN1 | TO LET £1,450PCM

Newly painted 2 bedroom (1 double bedroom and one cot room/study) first floor converted flat.



OLD PARK RIDE, EN7 | LET BY

Spacious 3-bedroom flat, situated on the edge of the Theobalds Park Estate, previously home to Theobalds Palace, a significant stately home.

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Carer’s allowance petition signed by thousands

Mary Griffin-Porter has spent 44 years as a full-time carer for her son and has now launched a petition calling for major reform of the carer’s allowance system

BY ANNA-LOUISE ADEPEGBA

A petition calling for major reform of the carer’s allowance system has been signed by more than 4,000 people. Mary Griffin-Porter from Winchmore Hill has been caring for her son Daniel for 44 years, since he was left brain damaged from six months of chemotherapy used to treat his neuroblastoma – when he was just a year old. She started her parliament.uk petition earlier this year in the hope of bringing attention to the “unfair” carer’s allowance system and to push the government for reform. So far, around 3,800 people have signed it, but the government will only issue a response if it passes 10,000 signatures. Mary calculated that she has worked over 300,000 hours as an unpaid carer for Daniel, saving the government millions of pounds, but she says politi-

cians are “ignoring our reality”. Her petition calls the government to reconsider the current carer’s allowance system, which pays carers £86.45 a week but is then completely cut if the carer earns a penny over the earnings cap of £204. Mary became frustrated with this system when she had to let go of a creative business idea, realising that two sessions of teaching painting would take her over the earnings limit. She told the *Dispatch*: “I am tired of successive governments completely side-stepping carers and ignoring our reality.” She said any outside earnings should be “none of the government’s business” and added: “We want a clean break from these restrictive earnings caps and to be left alone.” The government is currently reviewing the carer’s allowance, and considering an ‘earnings taper’ to replace the £204 cliff-edge by reducing people’s allowance in proportion to how much they earn over the cap.



Mary Griffin-Porter with her son Daniel

But Mary believes this continues to ignore the needs of unpaid carers. She said: “As someone who has spent a lifetime in this system, I am saying clearly that a

taper is just another bureaucratic trap designed to keep the state’s hands in our pockets.” Mary’s petition needs to reach 10,000 signatures by

Saturday, 24th October to force a government response. To sign Mary’s carer’s allowance petition: Visit petition.parliament.uk/petitions/765364

Backlash to bus cuts

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

Transport for London (TfL) is facing a backlash over plans to stop running the 149 bus to Edmonton Green. A petition was launched last month after TfL revealed its latest changes to bus routes in North London, which would see the busy 149 terminate at Wood Green instead. With around twelve million journeys annually, the 149 between Edmonton Green and London Bridge is currently the second busiest service in London, but TfL argues the move would “reduce duplication”. Seven buses currently run along Fore Street to/from Edmonton Green, while four buses run through the centre of Angel Edmonton. However, TfL has already agreed to axe the 349 bus from Ponders End through Edmonton. A *Change.org* petition, now signed by around 750 people, states: “Losing this vital link to Edmonton Green will mean passengers will have to forcefully change on multiple buses to complete their journey, considering 349 is getting withdrawn soon, this means routes 259 and 279 will be the only routes travelling through the A1010 corridor [in Angel Edmonton] if the changes were to proceed.”

TfL’s public consultation on its changes to the 149 bus runs until Sunday, 20th September. A spokesperson said: “We want to know how it may impact you, positively or negatively, if there is anything you do not agree with, and to understand the reasons why you feel this way.” “You can reply by completing our survey, which should take no more than ten minutes to complete or if you are short on time, you can submit a quick response.” In a joint letter to TfL, Labour group leader Ergin Erbil and London Assembly member Joanne McCartney wrote: “These proposed changes would remove capacity connecting communities between Edmonton Green and South Tottenham [...] Furthermore, these proposed changes do not appear to take into account the already planned reduction in capacity between Ponders End and Stamford Hill with the withdrawal of the 349 route.” To take part in TfL’s consultation: Email haveyoursay@tfl.gov.uk Visit haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/67-149-proposals

Future of fire-damaged building yet to be decided

A blaze recently tore through Addison House in Southgate

BY JAMES CRACKNELL

The “long-term future” of a building previously earmarked by Enfield Council for a new special needs school remains in doubt following a serious fire. Addison House in Southgate, which had been vacant for the last few years, went up in flames on Sunday, 5th July. Asked last month by the *Dispatch* if a decision had been made on whether the building could still be repaired and reopened as a school, as had been planned, a council

spokesperson said that there still needed to be a structural assessment of the site as well as an insurance claims

process before any decision could be taken. Addison House was previously used as a behaviour support service, before being closed in 2021. It was later earmarked by the council as a potential site for a 48-place secondary school for pupils with

special educational needs and disabilities (Send). Although it ultimately failed to win government backing, the council resolved earlier this year to develop a scheme using capital funds. A council spokesperson said: “Following the fire, no updated decisions have been made on the long-term future of Addison House. Our priority is to ensure the building is safe and that any risk to the public is removed. “Demolition works to the front gable end will be undertaken this week to remove unstable elements of the structure. Once the works have been safely completed, Addison Road will reopen. “The fire caused significant damage to the building and any future decision on whether the

building is repaired, partially demolished or demolished in full will be informed by the findings of the structural assessments and the outcome of the insurance process. “The council remains committed to ensuring that any decision represents the best outcome for residents and is committed to providing additional Send provision in the borough, regardless of the outcome of the investigation into the long-term future of Addison House. “However, our focus at this stage remains on public safety while the necessary investigations and assessments are completed.” The cause of the Addison House fire remains under investigation.



The roof of Addison House was completely destroyed

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THE BIG SING

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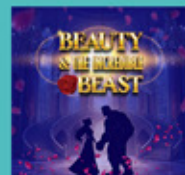
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LETTERS

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 14th September**.

Stop the slots

Dear Enfield Dispatch

In relation to your article [*Latest adult gaming centre 'regrettably' approved by councillors*, Issue 95], I represented local residents opposing the 24-hour gambling venue at the council's July licensing committee hearing.

Local residents in Bowes Park are deeply disappointed with the decision and how the consultation and hearing were conducted. During consultation, councillors, including the leader, said they opposed the application. But the committee approved it anyway, saying the law left them no alternative.

Residents question whether more robust processes might have produced a different outcome. Public health was notably absent, an omission highlighted by the applicant's own lawyer. At the hearing, committee members left themselves in a weak legal position by expressing their personal negativity towards gambling; one focusing on the potential cost of a legal appeal rather than the application itself.

Exasperatingly, having decided to approve it, they failed to consider reducing 24-hour operating hours to mitigate impact.

We continue to campaign against this venture.

Danielle Barron
Bowes Park

Lime loss

Dear Enfield Dispatch

It has been disappointing to witness the dispute between Enfield Council and Lime [*Lime bikes row erupts*, page two].

Recent legislation gives Transport for London the power to licence operators across the capital, so it is possible that a scheme will arrive in any case.

The east of our borough in particular needs schemes like this given lower car ownership, and a minority of journeys made within the whole borough are by car.

Lime has had issues, but modern contracts are much more specific with GPS parking accuracy. It is far less likely that bikes would be left across pavements than was the case when the council first got involved [in 2024].

A contract with Lime costs the council little to nothing, and would be of benefit to many residents.

Alex Atherton
Enfield Cycling Campaign

Chopped tree

Dear Enfield Dispatch

I was appalled to discover that the much-loved mature mulberry tree behind Barclays in Enfield Market Square was felled with Enfield Council's permission.

This was a significant tree. White mulberries are relatively unusual in Enfield, and this one had been protected by a tree preservation order since 1979. It stood within a conservation area, beside the Grade 2-listed Barclays building. It had ecological value and helped provide greenery and shade in a built-up area. Its unusual fruit also made it a local talking point.

The arboricultural report for the application, prepared for Barclays by Ground Control, said the tree could be retained through pruning. But Ground Control recommended removal because retention would cost more. It's difficult to accept that the cost of maintaining a protected tree should have carried much weight when the owner is one of Britain's largest banks.

The council approved the felling with no public consultation whatsoever and no requirement for a replacement tree. Tree preservation orders exist to prevent unnecessary loss. Enfield has already lost too many of its old trees. Those that remain should be protected as part of our natural and historic heritage, not felled to save money.

Matt Burn
Enfield Town

Are you enjoying the Dispatch?



If you want more, you can find new stories every day online at enfielddispatch.co.uk

AROUND THE BOROUGH

ANGEL EDMONTON

New pedestrian crossing opens



BY JAMES CRACKNELL

The installation of a new pedestrian crossing has been welcomed as a “major improvement” for road safety. Sterling Way, a road running above the North Circular near Silver Street Station, had for years been cited as a dangerous spot for pedestrians

because of a lack of safe crossing points – exacerbated by people dashing across traffic to catch their train. Because the road is managed by Transport for London (TfL), however, councillors had to repeatedly lobby City Hall for improvements to be made. Funding for a signalised crossing was finally secured two years ago when the nearby Joyce Avenue and Snells Park

estates redevelopment was granted planning approval. TfL began work at Sterling Way this summer and the crossing finally opened at the end of July. Former council leader Ergin Erbil, who continues to lead the Labour group and serve Edmonton Green ward, said: “This new crossing is a major improvement for our community and something we’ve been campaigning for over many years. “Thanks to Labour government investment, working with the Labour mayor, and local Labour councillors, we’ve been able to make this long-awaited project a reality. “The crossing will make it much safer for school children, commuters using Silver Street Station, patients visiting North Mid Hospital, and local businesses. It’s a clear example of what investment in local neighbourhoods can achieve.” He added: “I’m grateful to everyone who worked alongside us to make this happen, and I hope residents will enjoy the benefits for many years to come.”

BOWES

Restaurant keeps licence despite Home Office concerns

BY JOE IVES, LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

The Home Office failed in an attempt to revoke the licence of a restaurant it alleged employed illegal workers. Councillors on Enfield Council’s licensing sub-committee last month declined a request by the government department to revoke the premises licence of Illyrian Grill House, in Green Lanes, following a visit by immigration enforcement officers over a year ago. This was despite the council’s own licensing team supporting the Home Office’s position and arguing that further issues were found when its staff visited the premises in July. But the legal validity of the council’s visit was questioned by the licence holder’s solicitor during the debate at Enfield Civic Centre on Wednesday, 12th August. Concerns had first been raised on 18th May 2025, when Home Office enforcement staff visited the restaurant “following intelligence that illegal workers were being employed”.

During this visit, the government department alleged they found one person “working in breach of skilled worker visa conditions” and three other people who “had no entitlement to work in the United Kingdom”. A civil penalty of £40,000 was issued on 18th November last year and was paid by designated premises supervisor Idajet Bokciu. Solicitor David Dadds, Bokciu’s legal counsel, underlined it was a civil penalty, that it was in regards to one worker only, and that no criminal conviction or further allegation has been made in relation to illegal working at the restaurant since the

incident in May 2025. Alexandra Romano, from the Home Office, admitted the government was unaware of further breaches since its visit last year, and committee chair Penny Heathwood noted the “significant lapse of time” since the alleged incident when explaining the committee’s decision to decline the revocation request. Cllr Heathwood said immigration officials had not received any “intelligence regarding illegal working” since the incident in May 2025. She added that the licence holder “has since changed its processes” regarding staff employment and had improved its practices generally. Summarising the committee’s reasoning, Cllr Heathwood said: “There have been changes and we will give the licence holder the opportunity to comply with the licence it holds and the licensing conditions.”



WHITEWEBBS

Historic pub for sale

A historic pub which recently closed has now been put up for sale. The King & Tinker in Whitewebbs Lane, which is about 400 years old, is now available for leasehold purchase at a price of £220,000. The freeholder is Star Pubs, which is part of Heineken UK, but the pub was run until June by leaseholder Barry Duke. According to Camra, there was an attempt last year to convert the Grade 2-listed pub into a

Turkish restaurant, but this move never materialised. Now the pub is up for sale, and is being listed by Easy Properties London Ltd. The online listing states: “This distinguished public house presents a unique opportunity for those seeking a property steeped in history and character. As a listed building, it boasts a heritage that dates back to the early 17th Century, with notable alterations made in the 18th and 19th centuries, adding to its architectural allure.”

SOUTHGATE

New sauna launched

A new sauna has been launched at Southgate Leisure Centre as part of a major upgrade. The “high-end” facility was officially opened last month by Edward Smith, Enfield Council’s cabinet member for council assets and culture. Members of the leisure centre will now be able to take advantage of the “many health benefits” of sauna and steam, including “improved blood flow, muscle relief, stress reduction, lower blood pressure and improved sleep”. In addition to the new sauna and steam cabins, improvements include new tiling, feature lighting, an incorporated shower with water fountain and redesigned layout. Like the council’s other sport and leisure facilities, Southgate Leisure Centre is managed by



Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL), through its ‘Better’ brand. Vishal Karia, GLL’s partnership manager, said: “This refurbishment is designed to enhance both the facilities and the overall customer experience, giving our members a more modern, comfortable and enjoyable wellness experience.”

ENFIELD ISLAND VILLAGE

Energy bills discount

Residents living within 500 metres of newly-upgraded electricity pylons are set to benefit from energy bill discounts. The government confirmed that those living near 43 transmission projects across the UK will be eligible for the payments for up to ten years under its new “pounds for pylons” bill discount scheme. One of these is the North London Reinforcement (NLR) project, which is improving National Grid connections between Hertfordshire and Hackney, via

eastern Enfield. While most of this route of pylons passes through industrial areas, it also cuts through the middle of Enfield Island Village. This means that residents living on the island should be eligible to receive the £250-a-year energy bills discount. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero announcement explained that people’s eligibility for the scheme will “begin being confirmed in the first half of 2027 for projects that have started construction”.

Published: 28th August 2026

LICENSING ACT 2003
Notice Of Application For
A New Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **REFUGEE WORKERS CULTURAL ASSC LTD** has applied to the Licensing Authority of the London Borough of Enfield for a Premises Licence to permit:

- Sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises: Monday to Sunday: 10:00–22:00
- Recorded music (indoors): Monday to Sunday: 10:00–22:00
- For the premises **BAHCE COMMUNITY CAFE** situated at **Bowling Pavilion, Durants Park, Hertford Road, Enfield, EN3 5JE**

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 **23rd September 2026**.

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: 26th day of August 2026

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Celebrating 20 years of Platinum Performing Arts



Platinum Performing Arts' end of year show, when founder Nina Lewis-Hart (centre) was presented with flowers Credit: Natalie Gee

Founder Nina Lewis-Hart reflects on what the Edmonton arts group has achieved so far and what is still to come

Twenty years ago, Platinum began with a dream, a passion for the arts, and a belief that every young person deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential.

What started as a small performing arts school in Edmonton has grown into a thriving organisation supporting hundreds of young people and families every week through Platinum Performing Arts, Platinum Academy, Platinum Community, and Millfield Theatre.

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we are reflecting on an incredible journey filled with challenges, achievements, partnerships and, most importantly, people.

Growing up with undiagnosed dyslexia, I was told I would never achieve very much. Yet through dance, theatre, music, and creativity, a different path emerged – one built on confidence, self-expression, and opportunity.

The arts provided a voice for me when words were difficult. They created a sense of belonging, purpose, and achievement when other pathways seemed out of reach. What began as a simple idea to create opportunities for young people through the arts has now grown into an organisation that has transformed thousands of lives.

Over the last 20 years, we have become a community organisation, training provider, theatre operator, production company, and a place where aspirations become reality. We have

produced countless theatre productions, films, community projects, festivals, pantomimes and professional performances.

Platinum stands as proof that potential cannot be measured by traditional expectations alone and that every young person deserves the chance to be seen, heard, and believed in.

Today, we provide opportunities for young people from the age of three right through to adulthood. Our part-time performing arts school supports children and young people aged from three to 18 years, helping them develop confidence, creativity, technical skills – and a lifelong love of the arts.

Through Platinum Academy, we offer industry-focused training for students aged 16-plus, ensuring that young people can progress from their first class all the way through to professional careers, leadership roles, and opportunities within the creative industries.

We are incredibly proud of the thousands of young people who have been part of the Platinum family. Many have gone on to perform professionally, while others have become teachers, choreographers, directors, producers, writers, technicians, stage managers, fitness professionals, entrepreneurs or community leaders.

One of the things that makes Platinum truly special is the diversity of the people we serve. Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds, bringing with them unique experiences, perspectives, and talents. We are proud to be a reflection of the community around us. It is this rich diversity that strengthens our organisation, enriches our work, and makes Platinum the vibrant and

inclusive community it is today.

One of our proudest achievements has been securing the future of Millfield Theatre. When the theatre was facing closure, we knew we could not stand by and watch such an important cultural asset disappear. For generations, Millfield has been a place where memories were made, talent was nurtured, and communities came together.

Platinum stepped forward, took on the lease, and began revitalising the venue. What many saw as the end of an era became the beginning of a new chapter.

Today, Millfield Theatre is home to professional productions, community performances, educational programmes, youth theatre, cultural celebrations, training opportunities, and events that bring people together. The theatre belongs to the community, and we are proud to be its custodians.

Our ambition is for Millfield Theatre to become a leading example of how arts, education, community engagement and sustainability can work together to create a lasting impact.

As we reflect on the past 20 years, we do so with immense gratitude. To every student, parent, teacher, volunteer, supporter, partner, trustee, artist, and community member who

has been part of this journey – thank you. You are Platinum!

As we look to the future, our mission remains unchanged; to inspire, empower, and create opportunities for every young person regardless of their circumstances. The Platinum story is still being written – and the best chapters are yet to come.

“One of the things that makes Platinum truly special is the diversity of the people we serve”

Q&A with local filmmaker

An Enfield filmmaker will introduce his debut feature film *Exodus* as part of the autumn season of Talkies Community Cinema.

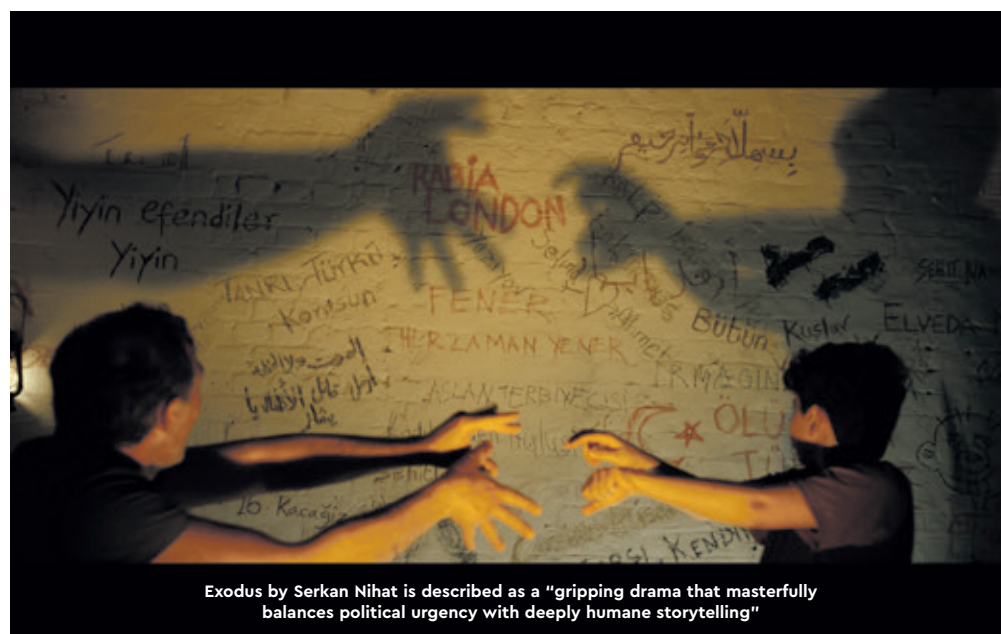
Serkan Nihat, who grew up in Edmonton and still lives in the borough, has enjoyed a long career in film and television, working as an editor on productions including *Spooks*, *Broadchurch*, *Call the Midwife*, *Law & Order UK* and *Taboo*.

He subsequently moved into directing, making award-winning commercials and short films before embarking on his first feature.

Exodus is a powerful human story about displacement, following people forced to leave their homes in Turkey and undertake dangerous journeys in search of safety and a better future.

Inspired by real events, the film explores themes of family, loss, resilience and hope, focusing on the human stories behind the headlines.

The Talkies screening will be followed by a live Q&A with Nihat, giving audiences the opportunity to hear from the director about



Exodus by Serkan Nihat is described as a “gripping drama that masterfully balances political urgency with deeply humane storytelling”

making the film, his career and the journey from growing up in Edmonton to making an internationally recognised and prize-winning feature film.

Steve Foster, of Talkies Community Cinema, said: “We are delighted to welcome Serkan to Talkies. The fact that he is local to Enfield makes this a particularly special screening for us.

“*Exodus* is a powerful and moving film, and we’re looking forward to giving local audiences the chance to see it and then hear directly from the filmmaker about how it came to life.”

Talkies Community Cinema is a volunteer-led organisation that has been bringing independent, international and locally produced cinema to audiences in Enfield for more than 14 years. Its programme regularly features filmmaker Q&As and provides opportunities for audiences to engage directly with the people behind the films.

The screening is part of Talkies’ continuing commitment to showcasing independent filmmaking and supporting emerging and established filmmakers with “connections to the local community”.

Exodus will be showing Dugdale Arts Centre in London Road, Enfield Town, on Thursday, 1st October, from 7.30pm–10pm. For more information and to buy tickets:

Visit talkies.org.uk/events/exodus

Joining the supper club



Massaman
curry with rice
and Japanese
cucumber salad

Neil Littman enjoys a set menu at The Winchmore Hill Supper Club

I've noticed a lot of restaurants now promote their 'journey' or 'story' to make connections with diners, but I don't find it that convincing when the messages, though accurate, are not memorable or original.

However, there are compelling reasons to believe The Winchmore Hill Supper Club has got a genuinely good story to tell about its ambitions and aspirations to change the culinary landscape in Enfield, by offering something different through well-earned experience.

The supper club is headed by Holly Ashdown, a chef with a decade of hospitality experience, having begun as a bartender at The Kings Head in Winchmore Hill. She later worked alongside culinary icons like Angela Hartnett, José Pizarro and Michel Roux Junior, as well as collaborating with top restaurants such as Som Saa, Bubala and Oklava.

Holly's inspiration for The Winchmore Hill Supper Club came from exploring the dynamic world of food start-ups, with roles at Grub Club and Eatwith, where her love

for supper clubs flourished. It was hosted initially at The Larder but then stopped temporarily due to the pandemic.

Holly came back with a bigger and better offer a couple of years ago that currently takes place at two venues; Chi-Chis in Green Lanes (with its great cocktail bar and stylish interior), and Holtwhites in Palmers Green (where they have communal tables plus the bonus of 'bring your own' alcohol).

The Winchmore Hill Supper Club is a different kind of eating out experience, in that you're potentially surrounded by like-minded people, comforted by all being there for the same experience, and served the same menu (with some vegetarian options).

It is a very interesting concept and is more permanent than most 'pop-ups', helping to support existing local venues.

I went there on my own after a hectic week but, despite that, I found it a fun experience. The occasion was an 'Asian night' starting at 6.30pm.

The four-course menu included chicken satay skewers to start (with a tofu alternative available), which I thought was the star dish. The moreish peanut sauce, with lime juice, was a combination I could have eaten several portions of.

The next course was a prawn bao bun with plum sauce (or soy and maple marinated oyster mushrooms, whipped tofu and chilli crisp). The dip with the bao buns was a spicy hoisin and plum sauce and the bun was like a brioche with a crusty outer and soft inner texture filled 'chunky prawn toast style' and covered in nigella and sesame seeds. Delicious!

The main course was Malaysian beef massaman curry or tofu and mixed vegetable massaman curry with yellow peppers, tofu and potato, which tasted of tamarind and lemon grass and had a nice blast of chilli heat. It was served with steamed basmati rice, smashed cucumber and garlic salad alongside miso, soy and chopped peanuts with a recognisable and welcome umami flavour. For dessert there was mango sticky rice, served warm.



Chicken satay skewers

The noise level of the conversation in the room was very loud, a sign of how much people were enjoying themselves. Although I was there on my own for that first visit, I still managed to have a few side conversations with other tables, followed by a chat with Holly, which was very interesting and informative.

The supper club also offers seasonal menus, themed around French, Thai, Indian and Italian cuisine. Holly's cooking is of a high standard with good ingredients, and impeccable flavours. Anyone can go, but the catch is you need to sign up for the free online newsletter and be prepared to fork out at least £50 per head. But what you get for that is one of the best dining experiences in Enfield!

For more information:
Email hello@thewinchmorehillssupperclub.com
Visit thewinchmorehillssupperclub.com

Do you have any suggestions for restaurants in Enfield to review or feedback on the places Neil has already reviewed? He would love to hear from Dispatch readers:
Email eatingoutinenfield@gmail.com



Prawn bao bun

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 14th September**.

ART

'Still Life' exhibition

Open daily until Friday 4th September, 10am-4pm
Myddleton House Gardens EN2 9HG

An exhibition of new paintings and drawings by Diana Laurie.

Free entry

Visit visitleealley.org.uk

COMEDY

Are You Funny?

Friday 4th September, 7pm (Enfield Town) and Friday 18th, 7pm (Edmonton)
Babylon Bar, EN1 2AA (4th) and Edmonton Sports and Social Club N9 9HL (18th)

A live competition bringing together some of the UK's most exciting up-and-coming comedians.

Tickets from £15

Visit jttevents.com

FESTIVAL

Palmers Green Festival

Sunday 6th September, 12pm-5pm
Broomfield Park, Palmers Green

Enjoy the funfair, vintage village, family zone, artisan food and crafts, art, live music, donkey rides and more!

Free entry, raising money for charity

Visit fobp.uk/pg-festival

BANDSTAND

Lazy Sunday Afternoons at Hilly Fields

Sunday 6th September, from 3pm
Hilly Fields Park, Clay Hill EN2 9AJ

Our summer programme continues with Blue North providing the entertainment this month.

Free entry, raising money for charity

Visit hillyfields.info

HERITAGE

Enfield National Trust Association

Thursday 10th September, 7pm
Holtwhites Sports and Social Club, Kirkland Drive, Holtwhites Hill EN2 0RN

We are a friendly group with an interest in our heritage. We arrange outings to various locations.

Annual subscription £16 per person

Visit enta.chessck.co.uk

GOLF

Pindrop Golf Tournament

Friday, 11th September, all day
Crews Hill Golf Club, Cattlegate Road EN2 8AZ

Organised by Pindrop Property, prizes and competitions are on offer throughout the day and there's a chance to meet and network with other participants. For golfers of all abilities.

Tickets £30 for non-members

Email alfie@pindropproperty.com

MARKET

The Little Children's Market

Saturday 19th September, 10.30am-3pm
Enfield Grammar School (Upper), Market Place EN2 6LN

We are on a mission to provide high-quality, pre-loved baby and children's items for your little ones at unbeatable prices.

Free entry

Visit thelittlechildrensmarket.co.uk

RUNNING

Whitewebbs Open Trail Race

Sunday 20th September, 10am
Whitewebbs Park, Enfield EN2 9JN

Organised by local club Enfield Chasers, this England Athletics-licensed 8.5km race offers classic trail conditions set across rolling terrain and woodland – a proper leg-stretcher!

Entry is £10 per person

Visit enfieldchasers.co.uk/shop/p/whitewebbsxc

ORCHESTRA

Enfield Community Orchestra

Every Thursday, 7.45pm-9.45pm
St Stephen's Church Hall, Village Road EN1 2EY

Do you play a musical instrument? Is it lurking in the loft? Why not kick off the new term by joining our friendly, non-audition orchestra. We are keen to recruit brass and string players.

One month free trial

Visit enfieldcommunityorchestra.co.uk

Read more about upcoming events in Enfield on the Dispatch website:

Visit enfielddispatch.co.uk

Billy Holland in the dugout at The Dave Bryant Stadium for the opening home game of the season



Strong start to season for Enfield Town as boss Billy beds in

New Towners boss Billy Holland praises players after three wins from four to start the campaign

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

When new Enfield Town manager Billy Holland last month described the club's first four games of the season as being "thrown in the deep end" and asked for patience, he was being understandably cautious.

Nobody is getting carried away, but Town's opening weeks of the campaign have laid down a marker going into the autumn. The club collected nine points out of twelve from the first four fixtures – their one loss coming against St. Albans when they played 45 minutes with nine men.

Canny recruitment has been at the heart of Town's positive start, with players like Tommy Avgoustidis and Amrit Bansal-McNulty proving instant crowd-pleasers. But the one-touch passing style, allied to players able to adapt to different circumstances, has got fans purring.

"The boys have been brilliant at times and maybe I don't give them enough credit," Billy told the *Dispatch* following the 3-1 win at promotion favourites Brentwood.

"Those first four teams all had decent managers and decent squads, and finances. That was my worry, whether we could stand up and be counted amongst them. Even when we've not been at our best, like at Brentwood, we have won football matches, which is a great look because we can only improve."

"The more games we win early in the season, the more everyone buys in to what we're trying to do. We're going to come up against different teams and different formations. It's a question of how quick we learn."

One intriguing question doing the rounds is whether Town's highly watchable style will be able to withstand heavy, rain-sodden pitches when the winter sets in and pass and move becomes trickier. Bristling at the notion it can't, Billy's is unequivocal. "I've worked this way throughout my managerial career. Last season, albeit at step four, we went to certain pitches where you wouldn't let your dog on it and managed to play our way. Yes, we may change things slightly, but it will all be from the same base."

Whilst the new players at the club are gradually bedding in, the stalwarts

who remained from last season – captain Mickey Parcell, record appearance holder Sam Youngs and ex-Northern Ireland international Adam Thompson – are relishing the latest phase of their respective careers.

Keeping hold of all three of them, plus Billy Leonard, was a major coup. But 'Tommo', as Adam is affectionately known, was perhaps the least expected to stay given his obvious pedigree. Explaining his decision to continue as the club's defensive lynchpin, he told the *Dispatch*: "To be honest initially I just came in to keep fit but the staff and the players blew me away with their technical ability. So many of them are still young but trust me, some will go a lot higher."

"The manager and his staff are happy to let the players make mistakes if they play the way they've been asked to. Once you've seen the knowledge of the management team, it's infectious. We feel like we're being coached."

"Even myself at 33, I feel I'm learning again, which I haven't felt in a long time. They really go into detail how we can improve as individuals and as a team."

"Did I have a couple of offers? Yes, but I don't consider this as a come-down. At this point in my career, I'm looking for enjoyment."

Adam acknowledges Town's front-foot, enterprising style won't always achieve its objective. "It's high-risk and sometimes won't go to plan. The last couple of seasons we've played low risk. There's no right and wrong, but despite the huge turnover during the summer, there's no better club and fan base to have patience. They are real supporters."

"Even when we conceded eight at Maidstone last season, they were still clapping. That doesn't happen at any other club. It's hugely important for the young players who have come in, especially when they make mistakes, which they will learn from."

Lending a guiding hand to those novice recruits, many of whom have arrived from step four despite their undoubted ability, is another plus point for Tommo, particularly given his day job as a youth mentor.

"I think myself, Youngy and Mickey are the kind of people who like helping young players. There are no cliques despite the age gap. There's a youthful exuberance and no-one is above their station. Everyone's down to earth and listens. If you have that as a group, you can't go far wrong."

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Wed 02 September	10am - 6:30pm
Thur 03 September	10am - 6:30pm
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Sat 05 September	10am - 1pm



Scan here or visit
waltham.ac.uk/enrolment
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