

Message from CLLR Catherine West, leader of the Council

Islington is home to hundreds of fantastic shops, restaurants and bars – everything you could want is right here on your doorstep. But with government cuts hitting our economy hard and people worrying about their jobs or paying their bills, our businesses haven't all had the easiest of years. We're on the side of our community and this Christmas I hope you can support our shop local campaign and use the free visitor parking vouchers to welcome family and friends here to enjoy all Islington has to offer (see pages 16-19).

Some of my best moments this year have been spent with our young people, from the launch of the state of the art Platform Youth Hub to joining students as they celebrated their exam results. I'm incredibly proud that Ofsted has awarded our children's services the highest possible 'excellent' rating – one of only 28 local authorities in the whole country to achieve this accolade. But I'm not complacent. I want us to keep improving until every child, whatever their background, achieves their full potential and all leave school with the skills they need to succeed in life.

2012 will see Homes for Islington formally become part of the council as we work to build more of the family sized council homes that we promised, and Islington so desperately needs. Find out more on page 6.

As 2011 draws to a close, I hope you all have a happy Christmas and a relaxing and enjoyable festive break.

Alexandra supports runaway charity

X-Factor star Alexandra Burke recently paid a visit to her former Islington school, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, to help launch a major project to help support children who run away from home

Alexandra is the UK ambassador for charity Railway Children which, along with Barnardo's, has been given a large cash grant by Aviva to pay for a new staff member in Islington to visit children who have returned after running away.

Alexandra said: "When I was young, at this very school, I was lucky enough to be encouraged by those around me to follow my dreams. Not every child is lucky enough to have such great support and that's why projects that reach out to kids on the ground are so important. If you're facing tough times at home and feel you have nowhere else to turn and are thinking about running away, remember – support is out there to help you. Don't suffer in silence."

Over 300 young people from Islington went missing in 2010, and the council will work closely with the charities to identify young people that may be at risk, as well as stage educational events.

Islington Giving celebrates its first birthday!

Islington Giving is now one year old. The charitable campaign aims to raise £3million over three years and recruit at least 500 new volunteers by getting residents and businesses to give money and time to support their local community.

The campaign has already raised over £1million, and council staff are being encouraged to volunteer in the community to do their bit too.

Visit www.islingtongiving.org.uk to find out how you can get involved.

Illegal shisha den stubbed out

Action from Islington Council has led to the closure of an illegal shisha smoking den and a bill totalling more than £6,000 for its operator. Local residents approached the council with concerns about the Manhattan Shisha Lounge on Seven Sisters Road regarding shisha (water-pipe) and cigarette smoking inside the premises. After repeated advice and warnings from the council about national smoke-free laws were ignored, council Environmental Health and Trading Standards officers were granted a warrant that led to two raids with police and fire brigade officers who had concerns about fire safety. A total of 68 shisha pipes were seized.

Businesses can call 020 7527 3816 for advice on smoke-free regulations.

IN BRIEF

By-election results

Gary Poole has been elected the new Labour councillor for the St Mary's ward following a by-election in November. The council now comprises 35 Labour councillors and 13 Liberal Democrat councillors.

Ready for the digital switch?

All TV signals will switch to digital in April next year. For help go to www.digitaluk.co.uk or call 08456 505050. Extra help is available for older and disabled viewers who can call free on 0800 408 7654.

Changes to your benefits

The government has made changes to a range of benefits including housing benefit, family tax credits and disability

benefits. To find out about how and when you might be affected, go to www.islington.gov.uk/benefitschanges or call 020 7527 4990

Page 4-5 – Safer Islington

Solving problems face to face

Experiencing anti-social behaviour in your neighbourhood and simply don't know what to do about it? What about meeting the perpetrator face-to-face and telling them how their behaviour makes you feel? For some, this seems a little too confrontational, but recent success stories in the borough show that the restorative justice process can have positive outcomes for both the victim and perpetrator alike.

Restorative justice working in Islington

A number of residents in Islington's Mildmay ward had been experiencing disruption and anti-social behaviour from one of their neighbours and his visitors. After reporting the issue and monitoring the behaviour, the victims and offender were brought together by the council's Community Safety Partnership Unit and housing group Family Mosaic in a restorative justice session that has been deemed a positive experience from all those involved.

One of the victims, Andrew Brown, commented that the environment provided was safe and open for all to have their say, despite feeling apprehensive about the process to begin with. He said: "I could air things at the meeting I would have been frightened to otherwise. By the end of the meeting I was a lot more positive and hopeful about what might happen. We have been listened to and there is a process in place now that is constructive."

The offender in this situation also said his experience with the restorative justice process was “very positive”. He added: “Every party had their turn to speak and it was beneficial for all concerned.” The offender was pleased that the process also allowed him to chat to the victims about how their behaviour made him feel. “It was much nicer to do this over tea and biscuits than behind closed doors,” he said. Since the meeting, there have been no reports of anti-social behaviour involving this offender, although the situation continues to be monitored.

What is it?

Restorative justice is about bringing together those harmed by crime or conflict with those responsible for the harm, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

This process could help you resolve an ongoing neighbourhood conflict or potentially prevent anti-social behaviour from turning into a more serious crime.

What should I do?

If you are experiencing anti-social behaviour and live in a social tenancy, contact your landlord in the first instance.

You can also contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team – you can find the details at www.met.police.uk/islington. Or call the police on the non-emergency number – 101. In an emergency always dial 999.

To find out more about restorative justice and how it could help you, contact Tracy Duligall in Islington Council’s Community Safety Partnership Unit on 020 7527 4125.

Dirty cafés forced to pay up

The council’s Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) have been

busy protecting Islington residents and visitors from dirty and unsafe restaurants, takeaways and shops. Cases before Highbury Magistrates heard in October resulted in one café owner having to pay £2,615 after being closed-down by EHOs for mice, another being closed down by EHOs for rats, and a third having to pay £1,515 for selling out-of-date cooked meat and dairy products.

Action on smuggled booze

In recent raids by the council's trading standards and HM Revenue and Customs, eight out of ten off licences inspected were found to be selling smuggled alcohol, which can be unsafe to drink. Over 6,341 bottles of smuggled wine and 1,500 litres of smuggled spirits were confiscated during operations.

Shops needing advice can call trading standards on 020 7527 4028

ASB plummets on Packington Estate

Earlier this year there were multiple complaints made about anti-social behaviour (ASB) on the Packington Estate. To tackle the problem, Islington Council teamed up with the St Peter's Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Hyde Housing and local residents to try and find solutions.

As well as the more traditional methods for dealing with ASB, the group also piloted Islington's first "Final Intervention Panel" where those involved were asked to take part in a meeting to talk about the issues and the potential for enforcement action. As a result of this meeting a number of young people were issued Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, and offered other support.

The result has been a decrease in anti-social behaviour and crime reports of an impressive 85 percent.

If you are suffering from the effects of anti-social behaviour, contact your local

Safer Neighbourhood Team – you can find the details at www.met.police.uk/islington

20mph limit for main roads

The number of people killed or seriously injured on Islington's roads has fallen drastically in recent years, thanks in part to the introduction of 20mph limits in residential areas, and most accidents are now on main roads.

So, following support from residents, the 20mph limit is set to be extended to main routes such as Essex Road, Caledonian Road, Old Street, Hornsey Road, Stroud Green Road and Goswell Road.

Under the plans, drivers on main roads will be notified of the 20mph limit with regular speed limit signs. The limit would not apply on the main roads in Islington that are managed by Transport for London, which include Upper Street, Holloway Road and Seven Sisters Road.

Consultation will begin next year so watch this space and keep up-to-date at www.islington.gov.uk

CDZ crackdown

The council recently introduced a Controlled Drinking Zone (CDZ) right across Islington that enables police to stop people drinking in public places when it's causing or likely to cause a nuisance to other residents.

It doesn't ban drinking in public places, but it does give police extra powers to deal with anti-social drinkers. In a consultation earlier this year, 84 percent of people backed the idea of a

Controlled Drinking Zone across Islington.

The CDZ is one of many approaches being taken by Islington Council and police to tackle problem drinking in the borough. Another is the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) set up in the Caledonian Road area to tackle underage drinking, prevent underage alcohol sales and educate young people about the dangers of underage drinking.

Youth workers from the council's Y Team are now providing education and support to a group of young people who admitted to drinking.

To find out more about Islington's CAP visit www.islington.gov.uk/cap

Safer homes

Don't make it easy for intruders this festive season. For some tips on securing your home, go to www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention

Page 6-7 – Your Home

Council housing set to come home

The council has recently consulted tenants over the future of council housing, and a decision has now been made...

The council is proposing to return Islington's council homes to direct council management. This will be finalised by mid December, subject to the final 'call in' stage of the council's decision-making process. The recommendation follows a consultation with residents and other interested parties over the summer about the future of council housing currently managed by Homes for Islington. The council will write to all council

tenants and leaseholders to let them know what this means.

Ensuring there are more affordable, good quality homes for Islington residents is the council's top priority. Homes for Islington has already made significant progress by successfully upgrading thousands of council homes and building new ones.

The council is keen to continue this good work and hopes to make savings too as a result of its decisions. The council will be working closely with HFI to ensure that residents do not experience any interruption in the day to day management of their properties while the changes take place.

For more information see www.islington.gov.uk/housingreview

Help for private tenants

The council recently prosecuted a private landlord who continued to rent out a flat after a prohibition order was made on the property. We made the prohibition order as there were poor levels of natural light to the flat which made it unsuitable to live in and the landlord was prosecuted and fined over £2,500.

If you rent privately it is your landlord's responsibility to ensure the property is safe, and the council can inspect privately rented properties for a number of hazards, including damp and mould, heating, lighting and fire safety issues. If you are a private tenant and are concerned that your property is unsafe, contact the residential environmental health support team on 020 7527 3083 or email residential.envh@islington.gov.uk

Have you signed up yet?

Be in with the chance of winning £3,000 in our January prize draw, simply by signing up to pay your council tax by direct debit! Switching to direct debit is the quickest, easiest way to

pay your council tax. Sign up now at www.islington.gov.uk/directdebit or call 020 7527 2633.

Cut your bill

As winter draws in, it is important to try and make your home as energy efficient and cosy as possible. There are a number of things you can do to keep warm including fitting radiator panels, lining your curtains and adding draught proofing strips to your windows and doors.

One of the most important things you can do to save money is to regularly adjust your heating controls. By turning your thermostat down by just 1°C, you can save £40 per year on your heating bill.

You can find more information on energy saving measures to keep you warm and well during the colder months, and watch our new videos on setting your central heating controls correctly, at www.islington.gov.uk/energy.

For more advice you can also call 0800 953 1221 or email energy.advice@islington.gov.uk

New life for empty homes

As many as 500 private properties are lying empty in Islington. These empty homes can fall into disrepair and attract squatters, vandalism and other anti-social behaviour. They also represent a huge waste for the many people in need of a home and for the property owners.

Spotting an empty property is not always easy. Many owners tend to their properties and maintain them to a reasonable standard. However, there's a good chance a property is empty if:

- the property is boarded up or has metal screens over the doors and windows

- no one is ever seen entering or leaving the property
- the front and back gardens are overgrown
- there is rubbish dumped at the front or back of the property
- there are pests and vermin
- there is evidence of squatting or illegal activities
- the house looks derelict
- a large amount of uncollected post is building up.

If you know of a property that you think could be empty, please let us know. A wide range of support is available to help owners bring their properties back into use, including advice, information and grants. Contact our Empty Property Service on 020 7527 6073/6081 or 0800 953 6305 or by emailing empty.property@islington.gov.uk.

Take steps towards your first home

FIRST STEPS is working with Islington Council to provide shared ownership opportunities to local people. FIRST STEPS is a free service for first time buyers looking to buy a home for less, and homes are also available to rent to help you save towards your first home.

To find out more, go to www.firststepslondon.org or call 0845 230 8099.

Ways we're saving

We've saved £500,000 a year by renegotiating ICT-related contracts

Page 8-13 – Local Life

Local businesses do their bit

Businesses in Islington are getting involved in a new scheme to help young people back into work and training...


Business Works is a new pilot scheme designed to help disadvantaged young people into employment, education or enterprise so they can fulfil their potential.

Young people who are invited to join Business Works are matched with a volunteer mentor from a local business, and then get tailor-made support over a year to develop and pursue a career plan, including the opportunity to get work experience. Those chosen to take part will learn valuable workplace skills including communication, resilience, workplace behaviour and networking.

The first young people to be mentored were selected in the autumn and attended a launch event with Tim Campbell, the first ever winner of TV programme The Apprentice. Their mentors are volunteers who work for local businesses BDP Architects, Savills and the Business Design Centre.

Susan Falola, 25, has been chosen to participate in the scheme. She said: "The Business Works scheme is exactly what I've been looking for. I'm really excited about working with my mentor to develop my confidence, get their insight and use their advice to find work."

Jack Morris, chairman of the Business Design Centre, explains why he backs the scheme. "With almost one million young people unemployed in the country, I feel this is a vital initiative which all local communities could follow. I've encouraged our staff at the Business Design Centre to become volunteer mentors not only because it's a good thing to do but also because it will be a mutually beneficial experience. It is a practical opportunity for our staff to use their work skills and experience to help young people in Islington into employment and really make a difference. But also, they will learn new skills



themselves from building relationships with their mentees and by helping them to develop and pursue their goals.”

Calling local businesses! Would your business benefit from staff mentoring young people locally? To find out how to do your bit, contact Leo Trinick on 020 7527 8727 or email leo.trinick@islington.gov.uk

Top marks for our children’s services

Great schools, great children’s centres and great support for families – Islington’s children’s services are excellent!

Ofsted’s annual assessment of Islington’s children’s services has awarded the top rating of ‘excellent’.

The assessment covers all of the Children’s Services departments, from social care and child protection to schools, children’s centres, adoption, fostering and childminders.

More good news from Ofsted came in their report following a visit to Moreland Primary School. Inspectors found that “outcomes for pupils are now improving and there is a sense of confidence and optimism about the school’s future” following its federation with the “outstanding” St Luke’s CE Primary School in the summer.

Also, Prime Minister David Cameron endorsed Islington as a model of good practice when he visited Archway Children’s Centre to find out more about how to improve rates of adoption nationally. Islington has a strong record on adoption with more than three quarters (76%) of Islington’s children in care being adopted within 12 months – above the national average.

Last chance to apply for a school place. The deadline for applying for a place at primary school for September 2012 is 15

January. It's easy to do online. Just visit www.islington.gov.uk/admissions

Sign up now for spring courses

From everyday English, maths and computer skills, to help finding work and how to support your child's learning, lots of free courses are on offer at your local learning centre. They can help you improve your skills, gain confidence, prepare for college or get a job. So why not make it your New Year's resolution to learn a new skill?

Islington residents or parents with children in an Islington school, who are over 19, unemployed, low waged, or receiving benefits, can enrol at Arsenal Red Zone, Hargrave Learning Centre and 3 Corners on 4 and 5 January, from 9.30am-4pm, or find out more at www.islington.gov.uk/acl.

Healthier food for footie fans!

Football fan? If you want to find something healthier to eat on your way to the match then the Healthy Catering Commitment (HCC) is arriving at a food stall near you soon. As part of Hearty Lives Islington, a British Heart Foundation funded project, some mobile vendors around Arsenal's Emirates Stadium will be making changes to their cooking practices to help people make healthier choices.

Look for a HCC sticker on a van near you soon!

Upper Street's hidden gem begins to shine

Having been fully restored and reopened last year, Islington's Assembly Hall is fast becoming one to watch in the local area...

Showing off the grandeur of a time long past, the 1930s art deco influenced Assembly Hall on Upper Street is now fully restored to its former glory. Since reopening last spring, it

has been host to a huge range of events including weddings, conferences, concerts and private celebrations.

World class instrumentalist Courtney Pine recently appeared at the venue, and it's also host to the only London appearance this year of soul legend Alexander O'Neal on December 10. Popup Vintage Fairs will be holding a series of retro-themed fashion and homeware events in 2012, and there are many more surprises in the pipeline.

Combining 1930s charm with the best of modern technology, the beautifully restored hall is an impressive and adaptable venue, right in the heart of Islington. The hall is available for private hire to host a wide range of events.

To find out more visit our website at www.islington.gov.uk/assemblyhall. The Assembly Hall team can also be contacted by email at assemblyhall@islington.gov.uk or by calling 020 7527 8900.


Free hire!

Local community groups have the chance to apply for one free use of the Assembly Hall. For further details go to www.islington.gov.uk/assemblyhall

Royal protection for Gillespie Park

Gillespie Park Nature Reserve has been safeguarded for Islington residents thanks to a new scheme to protect outdoor space for generations to come. Islington Council is one of the first councils in London to dedicate recreational space for protection by royal decree as part of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

Gillespie Park provides a safe and welcoming green space for local residents and is home to Islington's ecology centre, which provides education for young and old alike.



Find out more about Islington's parks and greenspaces at www.islington.gov.uk/parks. More on the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge can be found at www.qe2fields.com

Estate recycling set to change

An extra 10,000 residents will soon be able to recycle their food waste and more blocks of flats will get easy to use recycling chutes. We will also be setting up hundreds of new communal recycling sites but we will have to withdraw the door-to-door recycling collection service because of new government fire guidelines on collecting recycling from flats.

We'll be in touch with residents soon to get feedback on proposed new recycling sites. Last year residents saved Islington more than £500,000 by recycling.

Find out more at www.islington.gov.uk/recycling

Saving energy

Work is set to start on the Bunhill Energy Centre, which will supply cheaper, greener heating to over 700 homes and two leisure centres. The scheme is the first of its kind in Islington and will be finished by autumn 2012. The energy centre will help residents save money. To find out more please visit www.islington.gov.uk/heatnetwork

Meanwhile, Islington Council has teamed up with the Mayor of London to help 1,500 Holloway residents save money on their energy bills as part of the RE:NEW scheme. Experts will visit residents and give them a free energy audit, install radiator panels and other money saving items.

Contact the Energy Saving Team on 0800 953 1221 or by emailing energy.advice@islington.gov.uk

Schools get into Shakespeare

Several schools recently took part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, including Islington's Duncombe Primary and Mount Carmel.

Four schools performed versions of Shakespeare plays at the Arts Depot in Finchley. Duncombe's year 5 pupils, pictured here, performed Romeo and Juliet, and many parents came along on the night to watch their children in action.

One parent said after the show: "What an evening! I thought a lot of hard work had gone into all productions and ... many congratulations to Duncombe pupils – what an outstanding production of Romeo and Juliet." Well done to all the performers!

Make a difference

You could make a real difference to a young girl's life by becoming a mentor through Chance UK's unique programme...

Chance UK's early intervention and prevention programme for girls is the first of its kind, aimed at identifying vulnerable girls in Islington and Hackney and intervening through working with them at primary school age, when they first show signs of possible future difficulties such as becoming involved with street gangs.

As a mentor you will meet with a young girl for a few hours a week over a year and, through tailored activities, have the opportunity to help them improve their self esteem and find more positive ways of interacting.

Chance UK offers comprehensive training and all mentors undergo a full screening and reference check before being allocated to a child.

Chance UK has a high success rate with almost all children demonstrating reductions in the level of behavioural difficulty and over half demonstrating no behavioural difficulties at all by the end of their mentoring year. So make it your New Year's resolution and do something amazing in 2012.

To find out more, call 020 7281 5858 or visit www.chanceuk.com

Nominate a hero!

Every day across Islington, people make a positive and selfless contribution to the lives of others. Do you know an individual, family or group who has made an outstanding contribution to life in Islington and deserves recognition for their hard work? If so, we want to hear from you with your nominations for next year's Mayor's Civic Awards.

The awards also include the Ben Kinsella award, a special youth award in memory of Ben to celebrate a young person whose positive actions and endeavours have made their mark on the local community.

Call 020 7527 3113 or email the.mayor@islington.gov.uk for a nomination form or visit www.islington.gov.uk/mayorscivicawards by 20 January.

Olympic celebrations on the way

Islington is gearing up for the 2012 Olympic Games with plenty of exciting events and activities planned...

Did you know that the 70-day, nationwide torch relay is visiting Islington on July 26? And here is a selection of what else you can look forward to:

- Community Heroes Olympic and Paralympic ticket give-away
- Sports and arts event on Highbury Fields
- Festivals, dance and new public art
- A cultural exchange of events and activities from the official representation of the Czech Olympic Team
- Schools' torch relay and exhibition
- Opening of the refurbished Ironmonger Row Baths.

Sebastian Coe, Chair of LOCOG (The London 2012 Olympic Committee) said: "This is the UK's moment to shine and I want to encourage people across Islington to start planning how they can be part of this once in a lifetime opportunity."

Look out for more news at www.islington.gov.uk/olympics

Travel changes

The Olympic Games are taking place between 27 July and 12 August and the Paralympic Games run from 29 August to 9 September.

Public transport and roads across London will be affected and will operate differently during this time. This will affect everyone travelling around London. Keep up-to-date at www.tfl.gov.uk/2012 or on twitter @London2012

The People's Plaque scheme is back!

Islington residents are being offered the chance to take part in the People's Plaque scheme, which gives you the chance to nominate your favourite local person, place or historic event. All nominations will then be shortlisted and residents will be able to vote, with the top three choices getting a commemorative green plaque.

Last year over 3,000 people voted for their favourite place, person or event to be commemorated with a special plaque.

The winners included science fiction writer Douglas Adams, the Peasants' Revolt and suffragette Edith Garrud.

Email your nomination by 31 January to local.history@islington.gov.uk. Find out more at www.islington.gov.uk/peoplesplaque

Page 14-19 – Festive Islington

True grit

Icy roads can make life difficult for all of us. IslingtonLife caught up with Chris Demetriou in the street environment team to find out how they deal with the cold weather...

IslingtonLife: How many gritters cover the Islington area?

Chris: We have four special gritting vehicles covering our 13 priority routes – that's about 75 miles of road. We also have four smaller sweepers that supplement the gritting vehicles. Our staff also help by gritting footpaths when the weather becomes icy. Depending on how bad the weather gets, we can have up to 350 people out there clearing snow and gritting pavements.

IL: How do you plan when you think the streets will need gritting? Are you ever taken by surprise?

Chris: We receive four daily weather reports from the Met Office as well as five-day weather forecasts which help us prepare for any oncoming cold weather fronts. The Met Office's forecasts are usually very good and they inform us when and how much snow is predicted to fall.

Despite some criticism in the last few years most councils up and down the country are well prepared for bad weather and do a very good job in keeping traffic moving which is vital in order not to bring the country to a standstill.

The heavy snow which fell in December last year brought London to a standstill for a few hours but all main routes in Islington were kept moving meaning that our residents could go about their business as normal.

IL: How much grit did you use last winter, and how much do have for this year? Could we run out?

Chris: We used about 800 tonnes of salt on our roads and footways last winter and we are currently fully stocked for the coming winter.

The chances of Islington or any other London borough running out of salt are really low, as Transport for London has a reserve stock of approximately 27,000 tonnes which we can buy if needed.

IL: When do the gritters go out?

Chris: We pre-treat our roads when the temperature is forecast to be at 1°C and falling. When snow settles we work around the clock to treat as many carriageways as we possibly can once our priority routes have been completed. My team and I are on call 24 hours a day from now until the end of March, so if there's a weather emergency we're able to respond quickly, whatever time of day or night it is.

IL: How do you decide which roads to grit?

Chris: We grit all our major, main and built up roads along with Transport for London who grit all red route roads which includes the A1. It is imperative that these priority roads are gritted first to keep traffic in the borough flowing.

We then move on to treat smaller residential roads once the priority routes have been completed. Unfortunately we can't grit every road and footway and we do ask residents and community groups to help us.

We have useful tips on how residents can act in a neighbourly way by safely clearing snow and ice from pavements and public spaces on the Roads This Winter page of our website (www.islington.gov.uk/transport and click on Roads and Parking, Highways Services).

Don't believe the myths about being sued! There is no law preventing you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces. It is very unlikely that you would face any legal liability, as long as you are careful and use common sense to ensure that you do not make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before. People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

Stroud Green Road closure

Network Rail is making changes to the tracks and platforms at Finsbury Park Station to improve rail capacity and to allow future Thameslink services to stop at Finsbury Park Station. Works include refurbishment and alterations to the bridges over Stroud Green Road. To carry out these works the section of Stroud Green Road under the bridges may need to be closed temporarily. To minimise disruption, some works will take place over the Christmas period. Please look out for local notices for updates.

Let's get active

If you feel like you've over-indulged a bit too much come January, there are plenty of ways you can get fit. With over 100 venues in the borough offering more than 60 types of activity there's a huge range of opportunities for everyone. Whether it's dancing, running, an Olympic sport or a new class, there's something for everyone. And it can be cheap or even free! Go to www.islington.gov.uk/active

Gym and swim offers!

Don't miss out on great winter and New Year offers at your local leisure centre. Check out www.aquaterra.org for the latest offers and the January 2012 edition of Motivation magazine.

Recycle your tree

Make sure your Christmas tree stays truly green even after the needles begin to fall by recycling it! If you live in a street property you can simply leave your Christmas tree at the edge of your property along with your normal green waste from 2 January. If you live on an estate, please contact your Area Housing Office for more information.

You can also take your tree to special signposted sites in King's Square, Rosemary Gardens, Elthorne Park and Barnard Park between 3-16 January. The Household Reuse and Recycling Centre, Hornsey Street will also accept green waste and Christmas trees all year round.

Avoid money worries this Christmas

Budget carefully before spending this Christmas, and try and avoid spending more than you had planned. Remember that buying on credit now could cost you later. Here are some tips to ensure you don't end up out of pocket:

- Look into all the different types of lenders – the Islington Credit Union offers very reasonable rates (see right).
- If you are borrowing, check what your repayments will be and how many you need to make.
- Get several quotes so you can compare loan interest rates.
- See if you can switch to a credit card with a lower APR (annual percentage rate).

Always beware of loan sharks – and never pay up front for a loan using Western Union or UKash as this is likely to be a scam.

If you are already struggling to pay your bills this Christmas, there is a lot of useful information on our website at www.islington.gov.uk/moneyadvice. This includes our updated Debt Directory – a guide to local organisations providing debt advice.

Other useful contacts:

- National Debtline on 0808 808 4000
- Islington CAB at 222 Upper Street Islington N1 1XR or call 0844 411 1444
- Report a loan shark/unlicensed lender on 0300 555 2222, or email reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk

Ethical loans

Islington's credit union has now got over 3,000 members as local people look for more ethical places to save. The credit union is a not for profit savings and loans co-operative that encourages people to save rather than borrow, but also provides low cost loans at times of need.

Find out more at www.credit-union.coop or call 020 7561 1786

Need something? Shop local!

Need to do some last minute Christmas shopping? Wondering how you'll get it all done? Don't forget about the great shops and businesses right here on your doorstep in Islington...

Caledonian Road

Running from the Holloway Road end of Camden Road, all the way down to King's Cross station, Caledonian Road is a major route through the borough.

From a vintage design shop and café to delis and a bookshop, you can get lots of unique items on Caledonian Road. Grab some last minute groceries or a gift for someone special ... you may be surprised at the range of goodies on sale.

And it's looking festive too. The local Traders' Association approached businesses in the area to ask them to contribute to this year's lights, and traders rallied round to ensure Cally Road looks its best for the Christmas season.

The association also organised a festive market in early December which was a hit with everyone both young and old!

Matthew Jordan-Jones, creative director at Scarlet and Hollywood hair and beauty on Cally Road loves working in the area. He says: "I've owned my own business here for over three years now, and I love that the area has a real sense of community. People are friendly and say hi to you in the street. The locals do look out for each other here which is important. Come down at Christmas and get your hair done at the many salons here, visit the Georgian restaurant for a feast or any of the local cafes for a coffee. The local pharmacies are good for odds and ends too. Yassar is great for fruit and veg with their enticing continental delicacies, and let's not forget all of our other smaller shops for bits and bobs as well."

Did you know?

Caledonian Road is one and a half miles long

Essex Road

From rare records to vintage vases, Essex Road is the perfect destination if you want to find a one-off gift for someone really special. With a range of hidden treasures, you may be in for a pleasant surprise if you take a stroll along the road.

There are antique shops where you can spend ages rummaging around for one-off pieces, from jewellery and clothing to crockery and mirrors. There's a haberdashery shop if you fancy trying your hand at embellishing or customising your Christmas party outfit and plenty of places to get your hair and nails done.

And you won't go hungry – with cafes and restaurants to suit all budgets. From Indian and Japanese to an organic café and an American diner, as well as a range of pubs, there's something for all tastes, pockets and ages.

Dobbin, manager of Mosquito Bikes, says it's a great place to shop. "Essex Road offers a true eclectic shopping experience. There are independent shops specialising in music, clothes, bicycles, fabric and taxidermy, as well as food from around the world in markets and restaurants – and not forgetting some fantastic pubs."

Did you know?

Haggle Vinyl record shop on Essex Road recently featured in a Yellow Pages TV commercial

Nag's Head

From major high street retailers to small independent shops, the Holloway Road and Nag's Head area of Islington is the perfect destination for shopping all year round. The range of shops means you can pick up last minute Christmas gifts for all your friends and family from one of the local gift shops, jewellers, clothing retailers or sports stores – and there are plenty of places to pick up some other essentials like cards and wrapping paper! And with supermarkets and independent food stores galore, you can make sure you have everything you need for a slap up festive feast too.

All this shopping making you hungry? There are cafes and restaurants galore in this area so whether it's Indian, Italian, Spanish, Turkish or a simple sandwich you fancy, everything you have is right here.

And there are two markets to choose from if you fancy a bargain. The covered market is open seven days a week

and there's the Saturday Market and a Sunday Boot Market at Grafton Primary School.

Finally, finish off your shopping with a well earned treat – catch a film at the Odeon cinema!

The area has just had its very own special Christmas event too, which was attended by thousands of people.

Stephen Friday of Percy, Short and Cuthbert solicitors and chair of the Nag's Head Town Centre Management Group, said: "The Nag's Head is a great, vibrant place to shop, and it has so much to offer. We have some well-known high street retailers and specialist shops here as well as lots of fantastic independent stores. You really don't need to leave the borough to get your last minute Christmas shopping. And of course it's not all shopping – there are great places to eat and drink here too!" Find out more at <http://nagsheadlondon.co.uk>

Did you know?

Selbys on Holloway Road is the only department store in Islington

Finsbury Park

Finsbury Park is famous for many things – the bowling alley, Sobell Centre and of course the huge park itself – but it's also a good shopping destination.

Blackstock Road and Seven Sisters Road are both home to a range of unusual independent retailers, and you can find antiques, textiles, books and other last minute stocking fillers in the local shops. But it's a really great destination if you need something for the festive dinner table, with butchers and grocers galore to choose from.

The Pak Cosmetics Group has been based in Finsbury Park for over 40 years. Peter Mudahy, the company's CEO, says it is the people that make the area so special. "The success of our business is really down to our customers – customers who have supported us over the past 40 years, coming down to Finsbury Park week in week out to do their shopping."

And if you need a special something to wear to a Christmas party, pick yourself up something unique and inexpensive on Fonthill Road – a bargain hunting fashionista's best-kept secret! Vickie Christensen, manager of the London Fashion Centre on Fonthill Road, said: "The reason people shop in Fonthill Road is because you get fashion at factory prices and we cater for men, women and children. So come and get your party dresses for the cost of that first Christmas cocktail!"

Did you know?

Our cover star Alexandra Burke is said to be a fan of Fonthill Road

Seasonal opening hours

What's open and what's not? Find out with our handy guide!

Refuse and recycling

All rubbish and recycling collections will operate as normal during Christmas and New Year, with all collections being made on the usual days.

Contact Islington

Up to and including 23 December – normal hours 8am-6pm

24-27 December – closed

28-30 December – reduced opening hours 9am-5pm

31 December-2 January – closed

Normal opening hours resume on 3 January

Libraries

All libraries will close at 1pm on 24 December and reopen on 28 December. Libraries will also be closed on 1 and 2 January. Hours are the same for Islington Museum, although it is closed all day on 24 December.

Parks and open spaces

All Islington's parks will be open all day from 24-26 December and locked as usual in the evening of 27 December. They will also be open all day on 31 December and 1 January before being locked as usual in the evening of 2 January.

The Ecology Centre will be closed from 24 December to 2 January.

Leisure centres

For up-to-date information on leisure centres' opening hours over the festive period, go to the Aquaterra website at www.aquaterra.org and see posters in your local centre. For details of your local centre, turn to page 28.

Homes for Islington

All Homes for Islington (HFI) offices will shut at 4pm on 23 December and reopen on 3 January 2012 as normal.

HFI Direct and the anti-social behaviour out of hours services will operate a limited service during this period. Emergency repairs can be reported when HFI Direct is closed via the emergency freephone number 0800 694 3344.

Parking enforcement

Restrictions will be as normal except on 25 and 27 December, and 1 and 2 January when there will be minimal enforcement. On 26 December, restrictions apply in matchday zone only for Arsenal home match with minimal enforcement elsewhere.

There is also a match at Emirates Stadium on 31 December when normal matchday restrictions apply.

Stray dog collection

Normal service throughout the holiday period.

Noise patrol

No service on the nights of 24, 25 and 31 December.

There is also an emergency advice service for Public Protection matters on 28 and 30 January between 9am and 5pm via Contact Islington – 020 7527 2000.

Islington and St Pancras cemetery

The cemetery will be opening from 10am-2pm on 25 December, and from 9am-4pm on 26-27 December and 1-2 January. There will be a free cemetery bus running within the grounds on these days. The office will be closed on these days, as well as on 24 and 31 December. For more information please call 020 7527 8300.

Register office

There are limited services over the Christmas and New Year periods. For emergency death registration on 24, 26 and 27 December, you can call 07986 680574. On 31 December and 1-2 January, you can call 07986 678 742. Emergency numbers are only available from 9.30-11am. Otherwise the office is closed on these dates.

Children's Social Care Services

Normal opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, except for bank holidays, including those over Christmas and New Year. There is an Emergency Duty Team 5pm-9am Monday to Friday and 24 hours a day on weekends and bank holidays. You can contact them on 020 7226 0992 or email islington.linkline@islington.gov.uk

Page 20-21 – Islington People

Youth council search is on

Young people aged 13-17 who live or go to school in Islington have risen to the challenge and applied to stand for election to become one of Islington's first youth councillors.

Being on the youth council is a fantastic opportunity for teenagers to influence how money is spent on services for young people, act as a voice for young people to make sure their ideas and concerns are heard, and help to change society's views about young people.

Cllr Richard Watts, executive member for children and families, said: "I am really looking forward to working with our youth councillors once they are elected. Our young people have so much to offer. Islington needs your experience, your opinions and your ideas to help us make sure that all our young people are given the opportunities they need to succeed."

From mid-January, the candidates will be campaigning about what they'll do if they get elected and get as many votes as possible. You can find out more at www.izzy-info.com

New venue for teens!

The youth council elections will also give young people the chance to check out Islington's brand new youth hub, which will be one of the polling stations.

On the site of the old White Lion Centre youth club, the fantastic new venue will focus on healthy living and will have the very latest fitness equipment, dance sessions, food growing sessions and workshops to help young people to choose healthy lifestyles.

As at Platform youth hub, which opened in the summer, young people will also be able to get information, advice and support about a wide range of topics at the new hub.

Groups of young people are spending time in the hub at the moment to tell us what they want to see in the building and what they want to call it.

Visit www.islington.gov.uk/youthhubs for more information about opening events in the spring.

Bridging the gap

One of Islington's Older People's Champions, Virginia Low, talks about the generations coming together...

With the fastest-growing sector of the population now said to be the over 90s, the need for us older people to look after our health and keep up contacts with younger people has never been clearer. We all need encouragement to be healthy and socially active or life could get pretty grim. The more we can keep up our skills, our willingness to listen and to encourage others, our interest in the experience of younger people and our participation in local and national debates, the better. We cannot afford to sit back and hope for the best.

To me this underlines the need to open up services currently set aside for older people so that they are open to all members of the community with similar interests. I don't want to be defined by my age and I do value the perspective of younger as well as older people. Out of sight is out of mind: we need to learn how to make best use of and enhance the resources of young and old through encouraging each other.

Help a local teenager

You could help a young person in Islington by offering a room or home to a young person in need. Islington's fostering team urgently needs carers with a spare room to help local teenagers. These are important years for over 11s when they need support with education and developing their life skills – foster carers really do change lives.

Alternatively you could give a home to a young person aged 16-21 as a supportive lodgings carer. You offer a listening ear and help with basics such as budgeting, shopping and cooking, guiding them towards full independence. In return you will receive a financial allowance, support and training.

To find out more about these schemes, call 08000 730428 or go to www.islington.gov.uk/fostering

Independent living

If you or someone in your family wants to live independently in their own home for as long as possible, Islington Telecare can help. By signing up to the scheme, you can have simple, safe equipment fitted in your home to connect you to our experienced, Islington-based Telecare team whenever you need help, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Having the team on hand if you have an emergency can bring peace of mind to you and your family from as little as £2.97 per week for a monitored community alarm or up to £7.10 per week for the full Telecare service.

Cynthia Daniel, pictured, has been with Islington Telecare for more than two years and called the service when she fell in her home. The team called an ambulance and came straight round. She said: "They were wonderful, couldn't be better. I would recommend Telecare – it's nice to know they're there."

To find out more go to www.islington.gov.uk/telecare, call 020 7527 5456 or visit 222 Upper Street from 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday.

Ways we're saving

The council has saved £900,000 on school meals by working with Camden Council

Volunteering heroes honoured!

Local people have been recognised for their work in the community at the annual Volunteer of the Year Awards, organised by Voluntary Action Islington. The Mayor of Islington, Councillor Phil Kelly, presented the awards. Among the winners were Barbara Firebrace, who has been helping children with their reading at St Mary's Primary School for more than 27 years, Sue Jandy (pictured), who has been secretary of Friends of Gillespie Park since it was founded over 25 years ago, and Rose Collins, who volunteers at Caxton House Community Centre and is currently studying for her A Levels. Rowan Arts were also recognised for involving volunteers in their work.

To find out more, email volunteer@vai.org.uk, call 020 7832 5833 or drop in at 200a Pentonville Road on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 4pm.

An easier crossing

Over the past two years, Islington Council has been working to remove the barriers many disabled people face when travelling around the borough. One of the ways the council has done this is to replace the tactile paving at junctions where they were not up to standard. Partially sighted and blind pedestrians rely on these to safely guide them to the crossing point at a junction. The council has also ensured that crossing areas have been cleared of obstructive street furniture and ensured that trip hazards were repaired.

Page 22-23 – Your Community

Talking News

Do you know someone living in the Islington area who is blind or visually impaired? If you do, they may be interested in Talking News Islington. This monthly CD or cassette covers a range of local issues such as news, events, letters, arts, gossip, sport, fun and politics. It's posted to members completely free.

If you, or anyone you know, would like further information please contact Elizabeth Jones on 020 7272 5481 or Katy Gold on 020 7263 5263, email katygold@gmail.com.

Other formats

You can also get IslingtonLife in large print or audio cassette formats. Simply email islingtonlife@islington.gov.uk or call 020 7527 3416 and leave your name and address, and details of the format you would like to receive.

Have you had changes made?

Islington LINK is an independent group of volunteers working to improve health and care services in Islington. They are keen to speak to residents who have had adaptations made in their home to improve independence, and to find out if the adaptations were suitable for their needs. If you would like to take part in a short telephone interview, please contact Emma Whitby on emma.whitby@vai.org.uk or 020 7832 5814.

Managing personal budgets

Local disabled people can get free training and advice on how to use their personal budget to best effect. The ILTAS project brings people together to do the things they want to such as:

- managing your budget
- finding new ways of using your budget, such as pooling

money with other disabled people

- helping you set up peer support groups on the issues that are important to you
- providing access to Peer Support Mentors
- helping you engage in and influence the independent living agenda locally and nationally.

ILTAS is offering free training to people who are being assessed for or hold a personal budget, and the next courses will take place in spring 2012.

To find out more contact Andy Greene or Isabel Munoz on 020 7354 8925, text 07949 577 347 or email andy@daii.org

App helps keep Islington's streets clean

Residents and visitors can now use the free Love Clean London mobile phone app to help keep Islington clean.

People can report a 'grime-crime' such as graffiti, litter and fly-tipping by simply opening the application and taking a photo of the problem and writing a description. When the submit button is pressed a GPS signal sends a report to Islington Council and they can go and clean up the problem. You'll even get a photo of the location when the work is finished, just to show you it's been done.

The free Love Clean London app is available on iPhone, Android and Windows 7 mobile. You can also use the system by simply sending a text or picture message to 07725 202020 with LCS in the subject field or the first part of the message. For more information please visit <http://lovecleanlondon.org>

Older people's input wanted!

Senior citizens in Islington are helping the council improve services and have a stake in the issues that affect them via a new forum. The Islington Older People's Reference Group is organised by Age UK Islington and Islington Council.

It is hoped older people will get involved in many ways. Cllr Janet Burgess, Islington Council's executive member for adult social care and health, said: "Older people are a powerful voice in Islington and we want to hear from them about how we can help them live more healthy, active and independent lives and feel part of the wider community."

"Life can be challenging in old age – especially for those on fixed incomes. But coming together to share problems and opportunities can enrich life for many. We are aware that not everyone knows about the support available for older people, so we want to encourage new and existing networks, lunch clubs and day centres to spread the word."

To find out more and get involved, call 020 7281 6018 or email suj.ahmed@ageukislington.org.uk

Libraries to stay open

Following a consultation with residents and library users this summer, the council has outlined plans showing how it will protect library services, while making the savings needed due to cuts from central government.

Cllr Paul Convery, executive member for planning, regeneration and transport, said: "We are keeping all Islington's ten libraries open, as we promised. We are also not cutting what we spend on books. Central government cuts mean we do need to reduce opening hours at all libraries except Finsbury and Central, but if things get better we will be able to increase them again."

The council will also be introducing automated terminals, which will save £250,000 per year, as well as other ways to save the service money.

To find out more go to www.islington.gov.uk/libraries



Have your say

There will be a range of consultations taking place in the coming months...

● CIL proposals

The council is carrying out work to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which is a charge on development to pay for local infrastructure. Consultation on a CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule is due to start in the coming months. Further details will be published on www.islington.gov.uk/cil

● Other consultations coming soon...

Ashmount school site – further details will be published on www.islington.gov.uk/ashmount

Moreland School – further details will be published on www.islington.gov.uk/moreland

● Archway Gyratory

Islington Council is currently investigating if the Archway gyratory can be removed. If you would like to find out more about this or other projects happening in Archway please visit www.islington.gov.uk/archway

Streetbook design guide

The council is planning a new public realm design guidance and supplementary planning document called Streetbook. The Streetbook is a design guide to help the people who build and look after our streets and open spaces make Islington a good place to be. It will be used to help people decide whether improvements or changes to our streets are appropriate. Find out more at www.islington.gov.uk/streetbook or call 020 7527 2394 or text 07584 151531.

Page 24-25 – Out and About

Community events

Designer maker craft fair

Visit the fantastic new craft market in Chapel Market for incredible handmade, unique homeware, jewellery, clothes, cards, Christmas decorations, ceramics and much more. Perfect for last minute gifts.

Where: Chapel Market, N1

When: 17 December, 10am–6pm

Islington Health Fair

Come along for free health checks, diet and nutrition advice, massages and manicure. It's all free but first come, first served!

Where: The Resource Centre (next to Waitrose), 356 Holloway Road, N7 6PA

When: 28 January, 11am–4pm

To find out more, call or text Sue on 020 7704 7245.

Fostering information sessions

Interested in finding out more about fostering with Islington? There are regular information sessions at Islington Town Hall to find out more about fostering, the process of application and also to meet some of the carers who foster with Islington.

To find out more, call 020 7527 7933, email fostering@islington.gov.uk or go to www.islington.gov.uk/events and search for 'Fostering'

Culture

The City is a Burning, Blazing Bonfire

This exhibition looks at how the spaces we inhabit are constructed, connected and divided through the energy that flows through them. It focuses on artistic practices and works

that visualise and explore the relationships people have with energy and its infrastructure.

Where: CUBITT, Gallery and Studios, 8 Angel Mews, N1 9HH

When: until 23 December

Find out more at <http://cubittartists.org.uk>

London Art Fair

The UK's largest art fair for Modern British and contemporary art returns, with over 100 galleries featuring the great names of the 20th century alongside exceptional recent work, from leading figures and emerging talent.

Where: Business Design Centre, Upper Street, N1

When: 18-22 January

How much? £11 (plus £1.50 booking fee) in advance, or £16 on the door.

Find out more at www.londonartfair.co.uk

Office Party

You're invited to join Office Party. Get ready to be recruited as an employee of a fictitious company and be witness to all the hilarious activities at this riotous annual party.

Where: Pleasance Theatre, North Road, N7

When: until 21 January

How much? Tickets from £30

To find out more, call 020 7609 1800 or go to www.pleasance.co.uk

Graphic novel workshops

Hands-on creative workshops for young people aged 10-15 given by one of the country's top graphic artists, on how to produce the illustrations and text you need to create a graphic novel.

Where and when: Central Library, 13 February 2.30-4.30pm. Archway Library, 14 February 2.30-4.30pm. West Library, 15 February 2.30-4.30pm. Finsbury Library, 17 February 2.30-4.30pm.

To find out more contact the relevant library

Get active

Table tennis coaching

Sign up for six female-only table tennis coaching sessions at Highbury Table Tennis Club. Learn a new sport, keep fit, meet new people, improve your existing ability or become a table tennis champion!

Where: St Mary Magdalene Academy, Liverpool Road, N7

When: February-March

How much: Juniors £9, adults £18 (for six sessions)

Find out more at www.highburytabletennis.co.uk

Sports for young people with learning disabilities

The Elfrida Society organises a range of sports for those 16+ with learning disabilities at venues around the borough. Sports include badminton, cricket and football.

WIN

Tickets to see The Ladykillers

Win a pair of tickets to this classic black comedy which is showing at the Gielgud Theatre. A sweet little old lady, alone in her house, is pitted against a gang of criminal misfits who will stop at nothing...

Simply email your name and contact number to islingtonlife@islington.gov.uk or post to Ladykillers Competition, IslingtonLife, Room G17, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD by 16 December. Find out more about the show at www.ladykillers.co.uk

Terms and conditions: Prize includes two top price tickets valid for Monday to Thursday for performances between 9-19 January 2012, subject to availability. There is no cash alternative to the prizes, prizes are non-refundable and non-transferable and not for re-sale.

Green living

Community gardening days

Come and help keep your local park beautiful.

Bulb planting and general gardening jobs Even half an hour helps!
Tools and refreshments provided.

Where and when: Rosemary Gardens, Southgate Road, N1
7 January, 11am-2pm. Arlington Square, N1, 4 February,
11am-2pm.

Islington Assembly Hall

Live music, vintage fairs and community events – there is something for everyone at the Islington Assembly Hall.

Turn to page 10 to find out more about the venue, or go to www.islington.gov.uk/assemblyhall

Upcoming events include Michael Kiwanuka on 16 February, Bad Manners on 18 February and Scott Matthews on 20 April.

Full events listings

For loads more events and activities in Islington, check out the events diary at www.islington.gov.uk/events

Page 26-29 – Noticeboard

Childline stories wanted

It is 25 years since ChildLine was launched. Now provided by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), the service helps children and young people who want

confidential help and advice about anything that is bothering them, from relationship issues, to bullying and exam stress, physical or sexual abuse, or worries about the future. Last year ChildLine counselled and received almost 600 landline calls from children and young people in the Islington area.

As part of its 25th anniversary, the charity would like to hear from anyone in Islington aged over 18 who received support from ChildLine when they were younger, and who would be willing to talk about their experiences.

Head of ChildLine, Sue Minto, said: “You can always tell your story anonymously if you prefer, and by sharing your personal story about how ChildLine helped you, we hope that it will encourage other children in need of our support to contact us.” If you would like to share your story, call 01293 651 841 or email regionalcommunicationsse@nspcc.org.uk

Childline can be contacted by calling freephone 0800 1111, accessing the online counselling service or emailing via www.childline.org.uk

Whittington Health – who are we?

Whittington Health was formed in April and is an NHS organisation which looks after your health, both within a hospital setting and out in the community. The hospital is situated in Archway. The organisation offers a high quality service provided in caring, friendly and efficient environments.

Having brought hospital and community services together as one organisation, Whittington Health now aims to improve the quality of care provided by working as one team to deliver care to patients and service users – not only on the acute hospital site but also from a variety of other community venues and through visits to people’s homes.

You can view the Foundation Trust consultation and get further information at www.whittington.nhs.uk

Help for refugees

Islington has been awarded funding from the European Refugee Fund (ERF) for a project called ESOL+. The project will be delivered in partnership with four community organisations and is designed to help refugees in Islington work towards integration and citizenship by providing free-targeted ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes and additional support tailored to individual needs. Support could include information advice and guidance, IT and computer skills, practical help with everyday tasks, vocational skills, or a mentoring programme to help kick-start your career.

If you know anyone who has refugee status and would be interested in applying to be part of ESOL+ please contact Olvia Fellas on 020 7527 7146 or email olvia.fellas@islington.gov.uk

Your local councillors

The borough of Islington is divided into 16 areas or 'wards'. Every four years, local people elect 48 councillors to represent them in their wards.

You can find out who your councillor is by phoning either 020 7527 2000 or 020 7527 3114. You can also find out more at www.islington.gov.uk/councillors

In each edition of IslingtonLife, we feature a different ward in the borough. This time we have details for St Peter's.

St Peter's

Your local councillors

Gary Doolan

(Labour)

Call: 07973 126642

Email: gary.doolan@islington.gov.uk

Martin Klute

(Labour)

Call: 020 7527 3015

Email: martin.klute@islington.gov.uk

Alice Perry

(Labour)

Call: 07985 141775

Email: richard.watts@islington.gov.uk

Cllr Doolan – third Monday of the month from 6.30–7.30pm at St James’s Church Hall, N1 8PF. No surgery in August.

Cllr Klute – last Saturday of the month from 10.30–11.30am at The Housing Aid Centre, 38 Devonian Road, N1 8UY. No surgery in August or December.

Cllr Perry – second Tuesday of the month from 6.30–7.30pm at St James’s Church Hall, corner of Prebend Street & Packington Street, N1 8PF. No surgery in August.

Find your local library

There are ten libraries in Islington, and following a recent consultation with residents, they will all be staying open despite large cuts to the council’s budget (turn to page 23 to find out more). Each library offers a range of services, and it’s free and easy to join, so get down to your local library now! Find out more, or join online, at www.islington.gov.uk/libraries

Archway Library

Hamlyn House, Highgate Hill, N19

Tel: 020 7527 7820

Email: archway.library@islington.gov.uk

Central Library

2 Fieldway Crescent, N5

Tel: 020 7527 6900

Email: centrallending.library@islington.gov.uk

Finsbury Library

245 St John Street EC1V

Tel: 020 7527 7960

Email: finsbury.library@islington.gov.uk

John Barnes Library

275 Camden Road, N7

Tel: 020 7527 7900

Email: johnbarnes.library@islington.gov.uk

Lewis Carroll Children's Library

166 Copenhagen Street, N1

Tel: 020 7527 7936

Email: lewiscarroll.library@islington.gov.uk

Mildmay Library

21-23 Mildmay Park, N1

Tel: 020 7527 7880

Email: mildmay.library@islington.gov.uk

N4 Library

26 Blackstock Road, N4

Tel: 020 7527 7800

Email: n4.library@islington.gov.uk



North Library

Manor Gardens, N7

Tel: 020 7527 7840

Email: north.library@islington.gov.uk

South Library

115-117 Essex Road, N1

Tel: 020 7527 7860

Email: south.library@islington.gov.uk

West Library

Bridgeman Road, N1

Tel: 020 7527 7920

Email: west.library@islington.gov.uk

Find your local leisure centre

As well as leisure centres, there are football pitches and tennis courts available for hire.

Call your local centre for membership details, opening hours and facilities, or go to www.aquaterra.org

Archway Leisure Centre

MacDonald Road, N19 5DD

Tel: 020 7281 4105 (reception) or 020 7263 0613
(memberships)

Cally Pool

Caledonian Road, N1 0NH

Tel: 020 7278 1890

Finsbury Leisure Centre

Norman Street, EC1V 3PU

Tel: 020 7253 2346 (reception) or 020 7689 9821
(memberships)



Highbury Pool and Fitness Centre

Highbury Crescent, N5 1RR

Tel: 020 7704 2312 (reception) or 020 7690 0413
(memberships)

Sobell Leisure Centre

Hornsey Road, N7 7NY

Tel: 020 7609 2166 (reception) or 020 7686 2363
(memberships)

Silencing annoying alarms

The council is able to deal with any misfiring alarm that is causing annoyance or nuisance to neighbours. We regularly silence audible intruder alarms and this can result in a large bill for the premises owner.

All businesses should register their alarm for free with the council's Noise Service. Do it online at www.islington.gov.uk/online_survey/keyholder.asp