

IslingtonNow

Issue 15 May 2008

your local magazine from Islington Council

Local heroes

Some of the borough's unsung heroes have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to community life in Islington. These people often go unnoticed, so the Mayor's Civic Awards ceremony in Finsbury Town Hall was a way to say a big 'thank you' to all of them.

At just 18-years-old, Sophie Bardy was the youngest winner of this year's civic awards which were sponsored by the Islington Gazette. Sophie is the treasurer of the Cyrus House Tenants and Residents' Association in Clerkenwell, and she works tirelessly to gain funding for her community. Last year, the teenager raised an amazing £10,000 in funds, which has gone towards community events she organises, trips out every weekend of the summer holidays, and regular gardening clubs where children of all ages quite literally muck in!

Sophie and some willing young gardeners

As well as organising events, Sophie is known by everyone on the estate and is on call all the time to chat to people and help them out if they need it. "People need help at all times of the day and night and they know me and come to me about all sorts of things."

Jamie Fry, the association's chair, says: "From speaking to residents, we realised the best form of security is having a good community spirit, which we certainly have now. With so many great community events, everyone knows everyone here now, and we all look out for each other. Sophie does amazing work to ensure we keep these events and community spirit going."

ON CALL

The association also helps fund the A4 Allstars football club for 18- to 25-year-olds. "It's a real achievement to see how the team has developed and is winning things now," Sophie says. "The

Islington's Mayor Barbara Smith with this year's Civic Award winners



“

I'm just doing what I enjoy all the time. But then people have told me how much they appreciate the activities we organise

”

young men here would have nothing much to do – it's easy for them to hang out on the streets and get into trouble, but the football team gives them a real focus and responsibility, as well as helping them get fit!"

Sophie spends a lot of time on the computer looking for funding. "The biggest challenge at first was getting people involved in the events. But now, by far the biggest challenge is getting funding. Some people we approach aren't inclined to help as they think it will go to one-off events. But some of the trips we arrange will stay in children's memories forever. Their parents can't afford to pay out for trips to, say, Thorpe Park, so they really are the only opportunities these kids get to go on such exciting trips out."

A HAPPY SURPRISE

Sophie was shocked when she heard that she had won a civic award. "I didn't think I deserved it, because I'm just doing what I enjoy all the time. But then people have told me how much they appreciate the activities we organise with the funding I help to secure. Although it's hard work and takes up nearly all of my time, it's completely worth it. It's for reasons like this that I'm determined to continue doing this type of work and I want to get a career in it."



For information on other worthy civic award winners, turn to p11. You can also find out more at www.islington.gov.uk/council/political/mayor. There will be more on the borough's influential young people in the June edition of IslingtonNow.

INSIDE

2 **LETTERS**
Why can't I recycle shredded paper?

3 **NEWS**
New Chief Executive for Islington

4 **ENVIRONMENT**
Grow yourself a greener garden

6 **SAFER**
Stop the hate

7 **YOUNG ISLINGTON**
A scheme for young care leavers

8 **IN FOCUS**
Find out how we're improving the borough's schools



10 **LOCAL LIFE**
Islington's new museum opens its doors!

12 **LIFESTYLE**
Two months free membership at Aquaterra!

13 **YOUR VIEWS**
Tell us what you want to hear about

14 **OUT AND ABOUT**
Events for May

2 LETTERS



Councillor James Kempton, Leader of the Council, answers your letters...

I've made listening to what residents have to say about life in Islington, and what the council can do to improve it, top of my priorities. That's why I became a councillor in the first place.

I can't promise to solve every problem – especially when different residents have different views – but as Leader of the Council I do promise to read and consider all your letters carefully and get the council to help wherever it can.

Send your letters to:

Cllr James Kempton, Leader of Islington Council
IslingtonNow, Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD
Email: islingtonnow@islington.gov.uk
Phone: 020 7527 3416

Letter of the month

Shredded mystery

Why can shredded paper not be recycled...it is only paper after all? We are advised to shred important documents yet you seem unable to recycle them.

Dr Jill Nicholls, N1

We had a stack of emails on this subject after we said in the April edition of IslingtonNow that shredded paper can't be recycled. It certainly caused some confusion so I hope I can help clear it up!

We don't collect shredded paper because, although it can technically be recycled, the factory where your recycling goes to be sorted and many paper mills don't take it.

There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, the quality of paper decreases when it's shredded, so paper mills don't want it as

much. And secondly, shredded paper is difficult for facilities to sort and handle, and it can cause maintenance problems and fire hazards.

So what can you do with shredded paper? I'd recommend keeping it to a minimum if you can – you could just shred the confidential parts of a document rather than the entire document. For example, I often tear off my name and address from letters and shred that bit, then I can put the rest of the sheet of paper into the recycling box. I sometimes put it into my compost bin, which is particularly useful if the material in the bin is too wet – turn to p4 for loads more on composting. I am told that you can also use it as packing material for sending fragile items by post, and that it makes great animal bedding.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



CHILDREN "TURN THE TABLOIDS" ON TRADITIONAL FURNITURE BUILDING

These Islington youngsters give a new meaning to the phrase: "Sitting down with a good newspaper". The children made chairs and other objects by recycling old newspapers during a workshop at Islington Council's i-recycle centre.

Green homes

I wanted to know whether you are considering installing rain-harvesters and solar photovoltaic panels when building new homes.

Name and address withheld on request

Reducing the environmental impact of our homes is something we should all consider and as a council we are in a position to use the planning rules to actively promote and influence the installation of features like solar panels and rainwater harvesting in new and refurbished buildings.

All new homes and offices built are expected to generate around 20 percent of their energy by using renewable energy technologies. As a result, many of the new developments in Islington are currently enjoying the benefits of solar panels, ground source heat pumps and biomass heating.

We have policies to promote water efficiency and rainwater harvesting in new developments. Many new homes have facilities for collecting rainwater for use in gardens and we are encouraging more advanced rainwater recycling systems that can provide water for other uses.

But it's not just new developments that get to have these environmental features. The Islington Climate Change Fund will help residents or local organisations with funding so they can also take advantage of renewable technologies in their own home. Information about the fund is available from the Green Living Centre at 222 Upper Street, plus the staff there are on hand to provide free advice for anyone wanting to make their own homes more environmentally friendly.

While I am on this subject, may I take the opportunity to thank the many hundreds of residents who, like me, donated their council tax direct debit discount to the Climate Change Fund again this year.

Match info

I would like to raise the issue about Arsenal and the parking restrictions. I have received several parking tickets because I simply have not seen the match day notices. I think the new stadium is a great asset. Yet it does still have issues to be ironed out that allow local residents who are not football mad to go about their lives.

John Hyam, N4

If you're not a football fan, I can see why it's difficult to keep up with the games that are being played at the Emirates. We put in these match day restrictions to discourage fans from driving into Islington. I hope you will agree that it has stopped the problems getting significantly worse despite the massive increase in the capacity of the new stadium. But I agree that current matchday arrangements are not without their problems. As a result, we're trying to make it easier for local residents to find out about the next match day.

Forthcoming matches are always listed in the back of this magazine. But because games can change after the magazine has gone to print, we suggest subscribing to the Arsenal email fixture list for the most up-to-date information. Just send a blank email to fixtures@list.arsenal.co.uk and you will be added to the list.

And for those of you who may not be email-savvy, we're hoping to launch a phone line which will have completely up-to-date fixture, transport and parking information. We're just putting the finishing touches to the phoneline now, so look out in next month's IslingtonNow when I hope we can give more details.

If you would like IslingtonNow in large print, audiotape, or another format, please call 020 7527 3416

IslingtonNow is printed on 100% recycled paper. Please use your green box to recycle IslingtonNow when you have finished with it.

Contact us:

IslingtonNow, Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD
Email: islingtonnow@islington.gov.uk
Phone: 020 7527 3416

Tell us what you think of IslingtonNow – contact us at the above address or drop us an email
Please include your full address on all correspondence. Anonymous letters cannot be published, but names and addresses can be withheld on request.
We cannot guarantee to publish all letters received, and we reserve the right to edit letters for both length and content.

A mouth-watering addition at William Tyndale School

School dinners will now be a healthy treat at William Tyndale School thanks to the opening of a brand new school kitchen. Funded by Islington Council, the new facilities were welcomed by pupils, staff and parents alike. The school's meals were previously shipped in from an external supplier, but will now be prepared and cooked on site in the new kitchen by a trained chef.

Headteacher Tanya Watson said: "It's so important to encourage young people to eat healthily, so we're really pleased that the council has provided the money for this new kitchen."

Children can look forward to a fantastic and healthy new menu which caters for all. As well as tasty meals, fresh salads and fruit will also be on offer every day.



IN BRIEF

Fraudster beware

Residents have been warned about a conman who posed as a council benefits official and called at two homes asking for money. In both cases the residents realised something was wrong and asked him to leave.

Genuine staff from Islington Council will always make an appointment before visiting, and carry authentic photo identification. Anyone with any doubts should call 020 7527 3696.

Better health

Do you have an opinion about health problems and well being in Islington? The council and the PCT are looking at the causes and consequences of health problems and how we can make improvements. We'll be putting the findings on our website in May, with a questionnaire for residents to add their comments. To find out more, call 020 7527 3244 or email annette.hobart@islington.gov.uk

Weekly Whitecross

Whitecross Street Market has now gone weekly, with specialist food being served up every Thursday and Friday. Previously the food market was held monthly. For more on our markets, turn to p10.

Tree-mendous!

We've planted more street trees since October than we had to remove in the last year, including an extra 200 that were planted by the end of last month. The number of trees on Islington's streets has increased by an average of 2 percent every year for the last five years.



Making LINKs

A new organisation will give Islington residents more of a say in health and social care in the borough, and will ensure the council and Primary Care Trust are more accountable for service delivery.

The Local Involvement Network in Islington (LINK) will replace the borough's Patient and Public Involvement Forums and will include existing or new social care user organisations.

It will be run by its members and be independent of Islington Council, and give a much wider group of service users, carers, patients, voluntary and community organisations a voice in health and social care services.

Now we want your views on what the LINK's priorities should be, who should represent and be represented by it and how to reach those whose voices have been traditionally 'hard to hear'.



For more information, please go to www.islington.gov.uk/links or email ssconsultation@islington.gov.uk

Makeover for Six Acres

Six Acres Estate is to be the site of a major regeneration project which will include the building of 164 new homes, many of which will be affordable homes.

When one of the large 1960s blocks on the estate was demolished last year, an opportunity arose for the council and residents to completely rethink their estate.

Alongside Homes for Islington, the council identified the opportunity to build new housing, create a new square in the centre of the estate, and provide communal courtyard gardens as safe areas for play.

The plan also runs new roads through the estate, improving access and sightlines. A concierge system and better entrances for the existing blocks also improve security.

Chief change

Islington Council has appointed a new Chief Executive. John Foster, an experienced Chief Executive who has won national recognition for his strong track record in delivering improvements to local services, will be replacing Helen Bailey at the start of June.

Most recently, John was Chief Executive of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council where he oversaw the council's transformation and a significant increase in resident satisfaction with council services. This resulted in Wakefield being named the fastest improving council in the country in 2004 - an accolade given to Islington just one year later.

John said: "Islington has made fantastic progress in recent years. I'm very much looking forward to building on this success, and becoming part of the council's journey of improvement as we strive to deliver first class services for local residents."



Gardens glorious

Now the weather is starting to perk up, why not get out in the garden and enjoy some of what nature has to offer...

Nature gets into full swing from May. Butterflies are starting to emerge, fledglings have left the nest and many wildflowers are starting to show their vibrant colours. And our gardens begin to wake from their winter slumber.

Your front and back gardens, however small or large, are not only great for growing your own food or creating floral masterpieces, they are also a really important haven for the



“ I have been a keen composter since I first had my own garden and I got a compost bin as soon as the council started selling them. I put all sorts of things into it – so it really keeps down the amount I put out for the rubbish collection

” borough’s wildlife and as such a really important part of keeping Islington environmentally friendly. There are lots of exciting events going on in May that will encourage you to get outdoors! Turn to page 14 to find out more.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Regardless of whether you have a window box or a large backyard, making your own compost can make your plants and flowers bloom and reduce the amount of rubbish ending up in your dustbin. Believe it or not, around 25 percent of your rubbish bin can be composted easily and quickly using a compost bin.

Local resident Alison Barlow has been composting for years, and can’t recommend it highly enough. “I have been a keen composter since I first had my own garden and I got a compost bin as soon as the council started selling them.

“I put all sorts of things into it – vegetable peelings, pages of the Yellow Pages, cardboard, even the contents of my vacuum cleaner – so it really keeps down the amount I put out for the rubbish collection. Grass clippings and shredded garden prunings go in too. It all soon rots down to a nice sweet smelling dark brown humus which I use for potting up plants or spreading on the garden. Anyone can make compost. It really is very easy.



Composting dos and don’ts

- Do include a good mix of greens and browns for perfect compost! Greens can include uncooked fruit and veg peelings, grass cuttings, teabags and garden prunings. Browns can include scrunched up paper, cardboard egg boxes, cardboard, fallen leaves, hair and straw.
- Don’t put in cooked food, dairy products, meat and fish or diseased plants.

“I do need organic matter in my garden as the soil is dry and stony. Using my own compost helps keep the soil moist and improves fertility so that plants which might otherwise shrivel up, can thrive.”

AGE Concern Islington **Pension Service** **ISLINGTON**

Are you getting all your benefits?

If you or your partner are over 60, let us carry out a benefit check – extra money could be yours.

Call 020 7527 3696/7 for friendly and confidential advice regarding NEW claims for:

- Pension Credit
- Attendance Allowance
- Council Tax Benefit
- Disability Living Allowance (for over 60's)
- Housing Benefit

We have a team of Visiting Officers who will come to your home and help with all the paperwork to make a NEW claim.

www.islington.gov.uk



It’s the time of year when fledglings start to leave the nest

Did you know?

If we put together all the front and back gardens of our residents, it would make up the largest area of green space in Islington.

25% the amount of rubbish in your bin that could be composted

41mph wind speeds recorded this March

5



Got a gorgeous garden?

It's that time of year again when we ask you to tell us about your favourite gardens in the borough for the Islington In Bloom competition. The competition is open to all residents, schools and businesses in the borough and the only requirement is that all entries must be visible from the street (except for schools and community/allotment gardens). You can enter your own garden or someone else's, and the winners go through to represent Islington in the prestigious 'London in Bloom' competition. There are some great prizes up for grabs, so get involved!

For more information, call 020 7527 3288 or email supportservices@islington.gov.uk



Free compost

You can pick up free compost - made from Islington's garden and food waste collections - on 7 May at Highbury Fields as part of the Greener Cleaner Safer day.

What do you think?

Keen composter or eager gardener? Send us your top tips for a greener garden. Email islingtonnow@islington.gov.uk

Alison is also an active member of Islington Gardeners and edits their quarterly newsletter. She recommends the group to local people who have an interest in gardening and wildlife. "It is a really good opportunity to get together with other keen gardeners, pick up tips and have a chat. We have a few lectures each year, trips to visit gardens, summer walks, an annual plant sale and several of our members look after 'Forgotten Corners' - small pieces of neglected ground which they make attractive with plantings of flowers and shrubs."

To find out more about Islington Gardeners, pick up one of their leaflets at your local library or garden centre, go to www.islingtongardeners.org.uk or call Jo on 020 7278 6779.

→ All houses in the borough will receive a leaflet on composting this month, so keep a look out! You can also pick up copies at any council environmental events, and at the Green Living Centre at 222 Upper Street. Get more on composting, and how to get special discounted composters, at www.islington.gov.uk/greenwaste and clicking on Organic Waste. You can also find details of our wormeries, which offer great indoor composting options!

Fit for a king

After almost three years of planning and hard work, King Henry's Walk Garden, N1, is now open. TV presenter, local resident and president of the Woodland Trust Clive Anderson took a visit to King Henry's Walk recently. "It's brilliant to see a corner of Islington turned into a fantastic garden," he said. "King Henry would be impressed."

The garden is open to the public between 12-4 on Saturday afternoons and on Wednesdays from 10-3. There will also be a micro food farm demonstration at the garden on Sunday 11 May from 11-12 (contact Liam on 020 7503 9914 for details), and on Saturday 17 May there will be a crops workshop from 10-12.



TV presenter Clive Anderson has sung the praises of the new garden

→ Go to www.khwgarden.org.uk or email rsvp@khwgarden.org.uk for more information.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biodiversity month

May is Biodiversity Month in Islington, and it's one of the best months of the year to discover the variety of wildlife in Islington. For more information on the activities that are happening as part of Biodiversity Month then contact the Nature Conservation Team on 020 7354 5162 or email ecologycentre@islington.gov.uk

Wind power

Wind speeds gusting to 41 mph were recorded in March. During this period of high wind, the wind turbine at 222 Upper Street produced 167 kWh of electricity, which exceeds its rated output by 15 percent. That means our 6kW turbine was working flat out at 7kW. Now that's value for money!

Did you know?

FrostFrench, the designer fashion outlet owned by Sadie Frost, has become the 100th local business to sign up to the Climate Change Partnership to reduce CO2 emissions across the whole of the borough by 55,000 tonnes in three years.

Vouchers for permits

Nearly six out of 10 households in Islington don't own a car, and of the four out of 10 who do own one, many go unused for weeks if not months. So if you've got an underused car parked outside your house, why not save yourself money by trading in your resident's permit and get £200 towards a bicycle or Streetcar membership?

→ Find our more at www.islington.gov.uk/transport/greentravel/voucher_permits.asp



We are all different from each other, be it different beliefs, different body shapes or different skin colour. These differences make us who we are – so why are some people mistreated just because they are ‘different’?

Stop the hate

Hate crimes have become a sad part of our society and can cause the victims much anguish. The council together with the police and different voluntary groups are working together to stop hate crimes and give victims safe environments in which to report the crimes and receive support.

A hate crime is a crime or harassment motivated by hatred of another person simply because of their race, gender, colour, religion, disability, age or sexuality and includes domestic violence.

Hate crime includes everything from verbal abuse, threatening behaviour or

malicious communications, right through to serious violent crimes.

Any of these incidents should be reported but it can be hard for victims of some crimes to come forward and report their experiences.

Last year, we set up several sites around the borough where people can go and report hate crimes to fully trained staff in a non-police environment. Details can then be passed on to the police for further action and investigation. Anyone who reports a hate crime can remain completely anonymous and their personal details will not be disclosed to the police.

A FRIEND IN NEED

London Friend at 86 Caledonian Road is a safe place for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans) people that live in Islington to report hate crimes. A spokesperson for the centre said: “Victims are often afraid of making LGBT crime reports to the police. They feel they will be judged and mistreated because of their sexual orientation or gender. The problem is made even worse if the victim is in the closet. The threat of not remaining anonymous overshadows the fact that a crime has been committed.

“LGBT centres for hate crime reporting are safe because staff are from the LGBT community and are non-judgemental about the victim and their orientation and gender. This support allows the victim to report a crime, feel understood and remain anonymous.”

WHERE TO GO

Anyone can report suspected hate crime incidents in a safe and secure environment at these sites. Some centres have an area of focus.

Muslim Welfare House

(race/faith crime)
233 Seven Sisters Road, N4 2DA, tel: 020 7263 3071

Somali Speakers Association

(race/faith crime)
12 Barnsbury Road, N1 0HP, tel: 020 7833 9893

Islington Outlook Centre

(disability crime)
133 St John’s Way, N19 3RQ, tel: 020 7263 3537

London Friend

(transphobic/homophobic crime)
Monday afternoons, 86 Caledonian Road, N1 9DN, Tel: 020 7833 1674 or 020 7837 3337 (7.30pm–10pm)

Lyon Street Housing Office

(any hate crime)
1 Lyon Street, Islington, N1 1DQ, tel: 020 7527 6880

Islington Victim Support

(any hate crime)
1 Highbury Crescent, N5 1RN, tel: 020 7272 0784

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITES:

IMECE Turkish Speaking Women’s Group

2 Newington Green Road, N1 4RX, tel: 020 7354 1359

Latin American Women’s Aid

The Print House, 3rd floor, 18

Ashwin Street, E8 3DL, tel: 020 7275 0321

Islington Victim Support

1 Highbury Crescent, N5 1RN, tel: 020 7272 0784



You can also get more information by emailing the Hate

Crime desk on hatecrimereports@islington.gov.uk or calling 020 7527 3434

Teenager Faces Ban Under ASBO

A teenager involved in crime and intimidation in Islington has been given an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) – and warned to change his ways or face prison. Residents, shopkeepers and restaurateurs all complained about intimidating behaviour by Mohammed Ahmed in the Archway area. He has now been banned from the Harvist estate and other parts of Finsbury Park.

A better start in life

Deciding on a career path is challenging for most people but if you haven't had the advantages in life that others have had, finding the right job and training opportunities can be even more daunting. The council's Career Start scheme is providing a helping hand to young people that have been in care to find roles that are right for them

For children that have grown up in care, extra help and support to find the right jobs and training can make all the difference. The council's Career Start scheme aims to provide just that. For many of these young people, Career Start is providing the access to jobs and work experience that others would often get from their families.

The scheme helps young people access opportunities and provides support to give them the best chances of success. Often the jobs have training attached so young care leavers really have a chance to succeed and get ahead in life.

RED CARPET

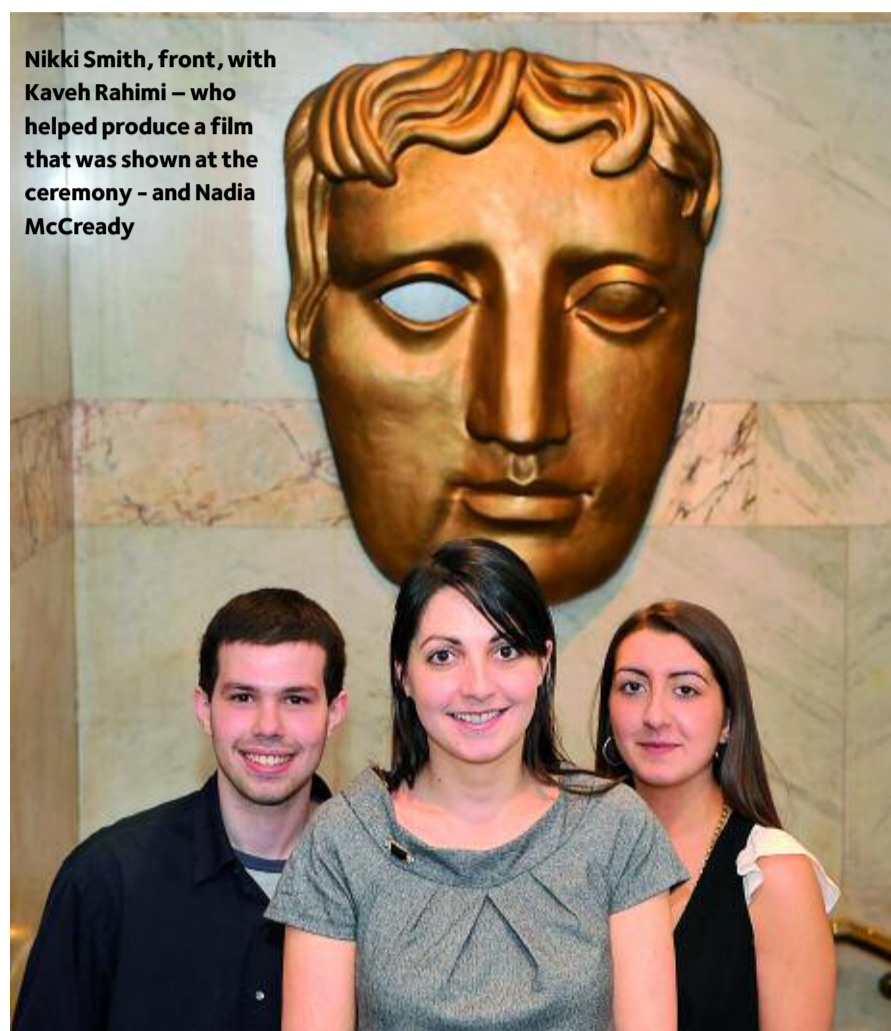
And in a real red carpet moment, young people involved with the scheme were treated to a glitzy awards evening at Bafta in the heart of London to celebrate their fantastic achievements.

Nadia McCready, 22, has been involved with Career Start since she was 19. She began by volunteering with youth projects and is now employed full time as a play and youth worker, helping young people aged between five and 20. Nadia feels Career

Start has really made a difference. "Without Career Start I'd still be in the same position, volunteering twice a week. Now I'm in full time work, working towards my level two qualification in play work and meeting new people. I'm passionate about working with young people and grateful to Career Start for giving me such a great opportunity for my career."

Nikki Smith, Career Start manager, believes it is really important to congratulate and showcase young people's successes. "The annual celebration event is the least we should do in saying well done to young people for all their hard work and achievements. It is also important to recognise employers' commitment and support for the scheme as their input has been invaluable."

Since it began in October 2005, the scheme has helped over 70 young people find work experience and employment in fields as diverse as administration, roadwork, customer service and youth work. Employers involved in Career Start come from a number of service areas within Islington Council along with its partners and contractors.



Nikki Smith, front, with Kaveh Rahimi – who helped produce a film that was shown at the ceremony – and Nadia McCready



If you think your business could offer opportunities for young care leavers, please call Nikki Smith on 020 7527 1820 or email nikki.smith@islington.gov.uk



Can you kick it?

Get your kids into football this May half term! There are sessions at the Sobell Leisure Centre, Whittington Park and Market Road pitches which aim to provide young children with facilities and

opportunities to play football during the school holidays. The sessions involve structured coaching led by FA qualified football coaches. Call 020 7700 1370 to find out more!

Islington schools are on the up!

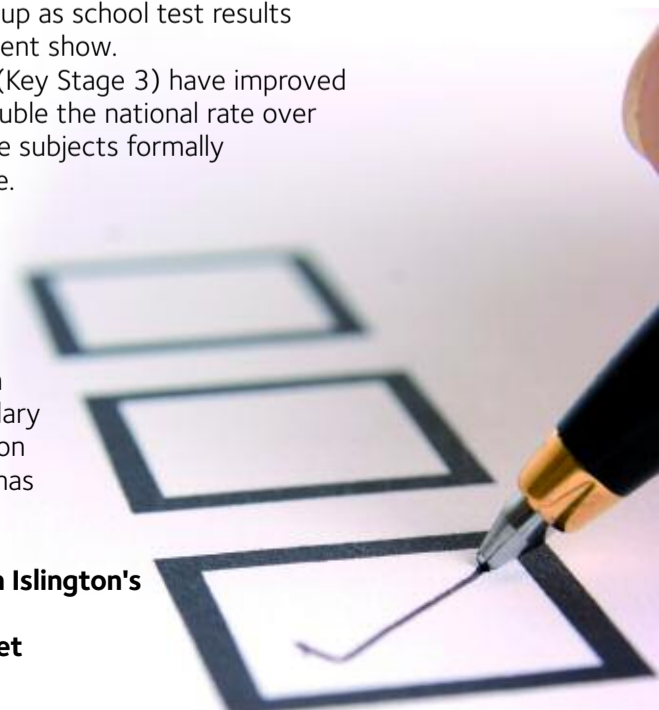
Education in Islington is still on the up as school test results published recently by the Government show.

Islington pupil results at age 14 (Key Stage 3) have improved by over 10 per cent, more than double the national rate over the last five years. That's in all three subjects formally tested – English, maths and science.

Since 2003, the year in which testing at Key Stage 3 was introduced, Islington schools have made remarkable progress. Improvement across all subject areas is greater than 10 per cent in seven of the borough's nine secondary schools, and in two schools (Islington Green and St.Aloysius) that figure has risen to above 15 per cent.



For more information on Islington's schools, visit www.islingtonschools.net



School rules!

We're pouring millions of pounds into our schools to ensure that all young people get the best possible education...

Over the past three years, around £83m has been spent rebuilding and refurbishing schools and early years facilities across the borough. And we're not standing still. Islington schools have secured more than £140m for its Building Schools for the Future programme. Plans are now underway to have every secondary school in the borough either substantially refurbished or completely rebuilt - ensuring Islington's young people have access to the best possible learning environments. IslingtonNow gives you an overview of some of the refurbishments, makeovers and new facilities that are making Islington schools a great place to learn.



ST ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE

St Aloysius' College will be significantly developed and brought up to modern standards by refurbishing 40 percent of the existing buildings and providing 60 percent new build. The new

build areas include a brand new entrance and modern science, design technology and ICT facilities. A new library and an adaptable area that houses a drama studio, assembly hall and chapel will also be built. In addition, a new sports hall, gym and multi use games area will be developed.

The original 19th century teaching block will be extensively refurbished to provide new teaching areas.

Headteacher Tom Mannion said: "The design of the new school will enrich the

educational experience of our pupils through state of the art teaching facilities in a well designed environment. It will enable our staff and pupils to have access to the resources they need and deserve. This will ensure our pupils reach their potential and become well rounded citizens, contributing positively to the local community."

Due date for completion: winter 2009 (with external work to be completed spring 2010)
Money invested: £21m



BRIDGE SCHOOL

Bridge School caters for pupils with special educational needs, particularly those with autistic spectrum disorders, severe learning difficulties and profound and multiple learning difficulties.

Last year the school moved into two new state-of-the-art buildings that are purpose built. Both sites are co-located with mainstream schools to facilitate inclusive links.

Headteacher Penny Barratt said: "We're really proud of our new school buildings. The Bridge is recognised as having an innovative approach to our practice. This is complemented by our buildings and facilities which include sensory rooms, cutting-edge technology and plasma screens."

Work completed in 2007
Money invested: £26m



HIGHBURY GROVE SCHOOL

Highbury Grove School is to be transformed. As well as first class teaching facilities, the new school will offer specialist areas

for business enterprise and ICT, performance and art, science and design technology, catering and sports. The existing swimming pool will be extensively refurbished and incorporated into the PE facilities in the new school. These changes will provide a positive and attractive learning environment for all pupils.

Many of the new school facilities will be able to be used by the community at the end of the school day and during weekends. The school has been thoughtfully designed so that community

facilities are easily and safely accessed.

Mr Jones, Associate Head at Highbury Grove School, said: "The new and improved facilities mean we can continue to develop the educational experience and opportunities of students in Islington. The project has the potential to make a real difference to young people's lives."

Due date for completion: early 2010 (with external work to be completed spring 2010)
Money invested: £29m

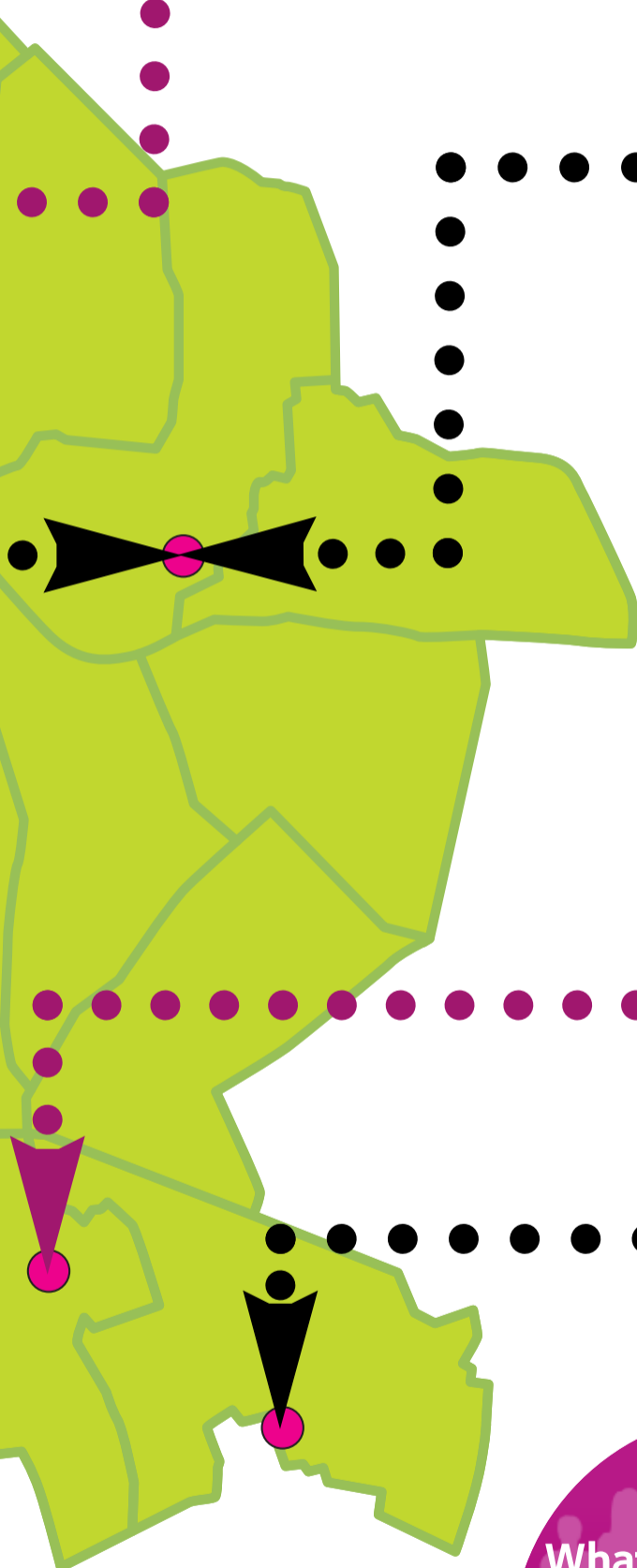


£140m

money secured for secondary school refurbishment and rebuilding programme

47 primary schools in the borough

9



HOLLOWAY SCHOOL

Holloway School is to be rebuilt, combining 40 percent new build with a 60 percent refurbishment. The new school will include specialist teaching areas and a new assembly hall. The education



block will be refurbished to include improved drama facilities and a learning

resource centre. In addition to these improvements, the school has already benefited from recent building work to improve the sports facilities, enabling the school to make the most of its specialist sports status.

Due date for completion: spring 2010
Money invested: £18m



SAMUEL RHODES SCHOOL

Secondary students are being moved to a brand new purpose built facility on the Highbury Grove School site. Both schools will operate separately but share dining and some sports facilities.

The new building will offer excellent vocational facilities as well as specialist art, music and technology areas. There will also be areas for health and social care workers to interact with pupils.

Due date for completion: autumn 2009
Money invested: £8m

HUGH MYDDELTON SCHOOL

As part of its fantastic refurbishment, the nursery, infants and juniors sections of Hugh Myddelton School will be brought together by connecting corridors. The development will provide a brand new library and staff room, improved toilets and better access for disabled users of the school.

The outside space at Hugh

Myddelton will also receive a makeover with complete landscaping and a habitat area created which will enable pupils to learn about and work with the natural environment.

Acting headteacher David Mylroie said: "We're really excited by the building works and the opportunity they will give us to continue to improve the quality of education we offer. Once the work is finished we'll be able to increase the range of



personalised learning activities on offer to all of our children and members of the local community."

Due date for completion: spring 2009
Money invested: £3m



GOLDEN LANE CAMPUS

The Golden Lane Campus has now opened its doors for its new intake of pupils. It is 'state-of-the-art' in all respects, and is the first school in the UK to combine

teaching facilities for children with special needs, a children's centre to support the under-fives and their families, and a mainstream primary school, all under one roof.

At any one time, 500 children will be educated there. The school represents a significant step in the council's mission to improve educational standards for the children of the borough.

Work completed spring 2008
Money invested: over £14m

What do you think?

What do you think of your school? We would love to hear from you. Write to us at IslingtonNow, Room G12, Town Hall, Upper Street N1 2UD or email islingtonnow@islington.gov.uk

History in the making

Islington's brand new museum has opened its doors to the public, and there's so much to see. The museum, on St John Street, is dedicated to the fascinating history of our borough and has a permanent gallery based around nine themes connected to Islington.

The themes include the Growth of Islington, from a small village outside the walls of the City of London, Islington Radicals, including Lenin who lived and worked in Clerkenwell, and Islington at War which includes wartime memories from local people who lived through the London Blitz. There are videos and sound recordings of local people telling their stories throughout the exhibition,

including the Italian community who came here and set up cafés in Clerkenwell and Upper Street.

The collections on display include some of the book covers that local playwright Joe Orton and his partner, Kenneth Halliwell, stole from Islington Library and modified with their own artwork in the 60s. They were both prosecuted for this in May 1962 and ended up spending six months in jail.

There is also a bust of Lenin that had once been on display in the entrance of Islington Town Hall.

A new gallery will house temporary exhibitions throughout the year. The first of these celebrates the history of Clerkenwell, the area in which the new museum is situated. There is also a dedicated education room for lectures, workshops and children's activities.

The new museum received a grant of over £900,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), as well as money from Islington Council and EC1 New Deal for Communities. Sue Bowers, Regional Manager for HLF London said: "We are delighted to support the new Islington Museum and help celebrate the diversity of the borough's cultural heritage by making it accessible to the local community for generations to come."

The museum is open from 10am to 5pm every day except Sunday and Wednesday when it is closed. If you are interested in volunteering at the museum, please call Alison Lister on 020 7527 3235 or email alison.lister@islington.gov.uk



This image shows a programme from Collins' Music Hall and dates from 1907. The music hall, on Islington Green, was one of the longest running music halls in London and it continued to have live variety act performances long after others had closed down or become cinemas. It survived until the 1950s when it burnt down. It boasted that, along with the Windmill Theatre in the West End, it never closed during World War Two.

Work underway at Agdon Street



Work has begun on Agdon Street Triangle to make it brighter and better for pedestrians to use. Improvements will include new feature lighting, wider footways, cycle stands, new plants and seating which takes in views of the city and Clerkenwell Church.

Consultation with the local community took place in

2005 with help from EC1 New Deal for Communities. Work is on course to be completed by June.

If you would like to know more about this scheme please contact Toby Bowden on 020 7527 8648 or toby.bowden@islington.gov.uk

Chapel Market cleaned up

Work on Chapel Market is now complete and the new pavement has been laid. The streets have also had a thorough spring clean.

You can now enjoy the international delights of Whitecross Street food market every week on Thursdays and Fridays. The market used to be monthly, but due to its popularity it will now be held twice a week. The general market at Whitecross runs every day from Monday to Friday.

And if you're in the Archway area on 7 June, why not pop along to the Feelgood Festival at Archway Market?



Islington's Affordable Home Ownership Show

When: Saturday June 21 10.30am - 4pm
Where: Legends Bar, Emirates Stadium, N5

Come and along and find out more about affordable home ownership including social homebuy.
 For more information visit www.islington.gov.uk/housing

ISLINGTON

Entry is free and you could win £50 of vouchers!



Islington's heroes awarded

If you've read our cover story this month, you'll know all about the Mayor's Civic Awards and the fantastic, worthy winners! A ceremony to say thank you to the winners was held recently at Finsbury Town Hall, and many local people were rewarded for their amazing work in the community.

Angie Passingham and Teresa McMeekan received one of the Mayor's civic awards for the hard work they do to improve the lives of people in their community. For seven years, they've been organising and running events in the Ringcross Community Centre, N7.

Angie told us: "We wanted to give people something to do. The pensioners' club was coming to an end and the children were bored, either staying in all the time or hanging around on the streets. We organise a

range of events so there's something for everyone. There's bingo for the elderly, parties with presents for the children, and events and trips out for everyone. There's a real community feel here now."

The two ladies had no idea they'd been nominated for the award. Teresa said: "We were shocked when we got the letter about the award. It's really nice to know we're doing something that people appreciate and to know we're making a difference."

Other worthy winners include Khalid Oumar, who's done a fantastic job of bringing together different communities in Islington, Tony White, whose hard work has helped support young people through sport, and Judith Williamson, who dedicates her time to make her estate a pleasant place to live.



Students were treated to a fantastic catwalk show

Photo credit: David Tothill

Thumbs up for uni students

The hard work of outstanding students at City and Islington College has been recognised at a glamorous awards ceremony. The annual event celebrates the superb academic achievements of students and those who go the extra mile contributing to college life.

As part of the ceremony, students from across the college showcased their talents with superb music and dance performances and even a catwalk show.

College principal Frank McLoughlin says the event

is a celebration of the achievements of both students and staff: "Our students' achievement is the best of any London college and among the best in the country. We only select 15 student award winners across the college – a task which is becoming more difficult each year, as so many of our students overcome adversity and achieve beyond expectation."

"We are also celebrating our talented, highly skilled and dedicated staff, who motivate and support our students to achieve their full potential."

Making LINKs

The council is working to develop a Local Involvement Network (LINK) aimed at giving residents more of a say on health and social care services. LINKs are replacing Patient Forums and Islington's will be up and running by the summer. To find out more and get involved call 020 7527 8153, email ssconsultation@islington.gov.uk or go to www.islington.gov.uk/links

Books for free

Get your hands on Richard and Judy's favourite books for free with a visit to one of Islington's libraries. The TV duo's best reads of the year are available in all of the borough's nine adult libraries.

Find out more about your local library at www.islington.gov.uk/libraries



Looking back...

If you're interested in the history of your family, your home, a local business or landmark, our Local History Centre can help.



Find out more at www.islington.gov.uk/education/localhistory, call 020 7527 7988 or email local.history@islington.gov.uk

Bats of Parkland Walk

Come and meet the ranger as he takes you on an evening stroll along the Parkland Walk. Using an electronic bat detector you will join the hunt for these fantastic creatures. Learn about what they eat and why they make their high pitched calls.

This is a free family event, but booking is essential.
Where: Parkland Walk, on the



corner of Ella Road on Crouch Hill

When: Friday 23 May, 9pm-10.30pm

Contact: To book please call the Islington Ecology Centre on 020 7354 5162 or email ecologycentre@islington.gov.uk

Get your club online for free

We're inviting all sport and leisure clubs in the borough to get their listings onto the Islington Council website at www.islington.gov.uk/leisure/sports. This free listing service will help attract new members and promote your club's activities. All clubs that sign up receive a seven day health and fitness pass for Aquaterra, which can be used

by a member of the group, auctioned off or awarded as a prize to a member of the club.



Send your club's details to:
Dan Jarvis, Club Development Officer,
Islington Council Leisure Team
25 North Road, Islington, N7 9TU or email
daniel.jarvis@islington.gov.uk

HEALTH

Take it easy!

We all know that life can be stressful at times. Some pressure can be good for us as it's motivating and challenging, but if it gets too much we may need to make some lifestyle changes.

Stress-busting tips

- Don't try to cope alone. Talk to someone you trust such as a friend, relative or colleague.
- Take time to relax. Saying "I just can't take the time off" is no use if you are forced to take time off later through ill health.
- Eat healthy food. Good nutrition makes a difference. Limit your intake of caffeine and alcohol which can aggravate symptoms of stress.
- Sleeping problems are common when you're suffering from stress, but try to ensure you get enough rest.
- Exercise. Twenty to thirty minutes of physical activity a day benefits both the body and the mind and helps you sleep well.
- One of the best antidotes for stress is enjoying yourself. The average child laughs more than 400 times a day. By the time we're adults, that's down to just 15 chuckles a day. Laughter can be a great medicine so have some fun!



For more information on mental health contact Islington Mind on 020 7561 5289 or email www.islingtonmind.org.uk

Leisure for free!

If you sign up for a 12-month Aquaterra membership any time in May, you'll get two months extra – for free!

New members will receive free one-to-one sessions with an instructor and a personal fitness programme designed to help you reach your fitness goals.



For more information, contact your

local centre:

Archway Leisure Centre, N19, tel 020 7253 0613

Highbury Pool, N5, tel 020 7690 0413

Sobell Leisure Centre, N7, tel 020 7686 2363

Ironmonger Row Baths, EC1V, tel 020 7689 9821

Islington Tennis Centre, N7, tel 020 7697 1205

Cally Pool, N1, tel 020 7278 1890

Ethical snacking

If you want your elevenses to come from an ethical source, Star Box Café in Newington Green should be your first port of call! The new café serves Fairtrade drinks and food, and avoids packaging wherever possible.

Georgina Georgiou has just started working at the café, which stocks a delicious range of

hot drinks, food and ice cream. She said: "I'm working with great people here and the customers are fantastically friendly. I've worked before in a shoe shop, a supermarket, and as a carer, but this café in Islington is a great opportunity and a real challenge for me."

The venture is supported by the Learning Disabilities Partnership, and the café is run by the Peter Bedford Housing Association, which has worked in Islington and Hackney for nearly 40 years. The organisation works alongside people with long-term experience of social exclusion, including those with learning difficulties.



Free Breast Cancer Screening!

Are you a woman aged 50-70 and registered with an Islington GP?
 Look out for your invitation for breast screening at the Whittington Hospital

Screening saves lives!

Women over 70 can telephone 020 7601 8305 to make an appointment

Contact your GP for more information or visit
www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk



YOUR VIEWS

Talk to us...

The council makes a lot of decisions for the community, but we don't want to make them without knowing your thoughts and views on issues that may affect you and your area.

Below is a list of consultations that you can contribute to. You will be able to find out more on the council website at www.islington.gov.uk/consultation. Consultations are open to everyone unless specified.

Improving your streets in Farringdon and Clerkenwell

A range of measures has been proposed for the Farringdon/Clerkenwell area to improve the streets and make way for major Crossrail and Thameslink developments. A public consultation is being held from 6 May until 3 June. If you would like to have your say on the proposals go to the public exhibitions being held at Alan Baxter Associates, 75 Cowcross Street, EC1M 6EL at the following times:
 Thursday 15 May 10am–2pm
 Saturday 17 May 10am–2pm
 Tuesday 20 May 4–8pm
 Online versions of the questionnaire can also be completed by going to www.islington.gov.uk/consultation
 For more information, please contact Anthony Bailey on anthony.bailey@islington.gov.uk or 020 7527 2041

You told us...

Dog muck – cleaned up

Islington's public places should be clean and safe for everyone to enjoy. We know that one of the key problems in this area is dog fouling and safety fears around uncontrolled dogs in public. Over 1,000 people wrote to tell us their concerns and thoughts about irresponsible dog owners in our consultation 'How should we

deal with irresponsible dog owners?' held through March and April.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to send us their views. We are now collating all of the information we received and will publish a summary of the results and our final decision on our website and in a future edition of IslingtonNow.



Ironmonger Row Baths and Finsbury Leisure Centre

Following last month's publication of the results of the Ironmonger Row Baths and Finsbury Leisure Centre consultation, we're pleased to let you know that we've now published our outline proposals for the centres. These proposals are available to download from www.islington.gov.uk/council/consultation/consultationresults/finsbury.asp

As part of the consultation, which was carried out in partnership with EC1 New Deal for Communities, we presented four options for the centres and asked local residents and users what they liked and disliked about each option, to draw out the key issues.

Based on the consultation results, we've drawn up some proposals, which involve:

- Retaining and fully refurbishing

Ironmonger Row Baths and providing additional and improved facilities;

- Replacing Finsbury Leisure Centre with a new, high quality leisure and community centre;
- Increasing and improving the surrounding greenspace, sports pitches and general open space.

The next stage is to start working with design and construction firms and the community to develop detailed designs, which will then be subject to a further round of consultation. We expect that this will take place early next year.

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving the borough's sports and leisure facilities in the lead-up to the London 2012 Olympics, Islington Council is also developing options for the redevelopment of the Sobell Leisure Centre. Look out in next month's IslingtonNow for details of how you can have your say.



Tell us what interests you

Would you like us to let you know when we are seeking residents' views on topics or issues you are interested in? We are setting up a 'register of interests'. The idea is that you tell us what you're interested in, and we will contact you either by email or post when we're seeking views on these topics.

Of course, we will still widely publicise our consultations and public meetings. But the idea is to let you know about issues that you have told us are of interest to you. It also helps us to make sure that as many people as possible can have their say.

If you're interested in joining our register of interests you can either fill in our online form at

www.islington.gov.uk/consultation or you can complete and return this tear-off slip.

Please tick the boxes for each subject you are interested in, and we'll let you know about any consultations that are coming up in these areas.

I AM INTERESTED IN:

[TICK AS MANY AS YOU LIKE]

- Children and young people
- Council tax and budget priorities
- Education and schools
- Green issues
- Health and well-being
- Housing
- Jobs and employment
- Keeping the borough clean

- Libraries
- Parks and green spaces
- Parking
- Planning and regeneration
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Transport and traffic
- Waste and recycling
- Other (please write in): _____

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS:

Title: _____
 First name: _____
 Last name: _____
 Postal address: _____
 Postcode: _____
 E-mail address (if you have one): _____

Telephone or mobile (optional): _____

It would help us if you could tell us a bit about yourself.

ARE YOU?

- Male
- Female

- Under 25
- 25-44
- 45-65
- over 65

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ETHNIC GROUP?

- white
- black
- Asian
- mixed
- other

DO YOU HAVE A DISABILITY OR OTHER IMPAIRMENT?

- Yes
- No

Please return this slip to **Register of Interests, FREEPOST LON 18606, Room G12, Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2BR** or complete the online form at www.islington.gov.uk/consultation

Please note that you can ask to have your details removed from the register of interests at any time, and we will not pass on your details to third parties without your permission.



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Sustainability Review Committee 6 May
Regeneration Review Committee 8 May
Annual council meeting 13 May
Overview committee meeting 15 May
Corporate services 22 May

For more information call Jakki Crowder on 020 7527 3251, email jakki.crowder@islington.gov.uk or see www.islington.gov.uk/democracy

All meetings are at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, at 7.30pm

Arsenal May fixtures

Saturday May 3, 3pm
Arsenal v Everton



All fixtures are subject to change. Please check www.arsenal.com/fixtures.asp for the most up-to-date information.

Community Events

Wellbeing Project

The Stuart Low Trust (SLT) is expanding its activities with a new Wellbeing Project, running alongside the trust's weekly Friday evening events at St Mary's Neighbourhood Centre, Upper Street. The project provides activities for local people, especially those experiencing social isolation or mental distress.
Where: Hargrave Park Extended Community School, 51 Bredgar Road, N19
When: Every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 6.30 to 10pm
For more information call 020 7713 9304 or visit www.slt.org.uk

Reading together

Storyteller Pat Ryan will be on hand to help families to develop their reading and story writing skills. There will be stories, poems, jokes, riddles, word play and singing.
Where: Central Library (1st floor gallery), 2 Fieldway Crescent, N5
When: Saturday 17 May, 2-4pm
For more information, and to book a place, contact Geoff James on 020 7527 6997 or email geoff.james@islington.gov.uk

Tunnel boat trips

Take a trip through Islington tunnel on the Regent's Canal on board one of London's community narrowboats, with commentary by a guide from the London Canal Museum
Where: London Canal Museum, 12-13 New Wharf Road, N1
When: 18 May, 11am, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm
For more information, call the London Canal Museum on 020 7713 0836, or visit www.canalmuseum.org.uk

Granville Square launch and fun day

Come and celebrate the launch of the new look Granville Square and join in with activities including organised sports, mosaic making and face painting.
Where: Granville Square, WC1
When: Wednesday 28 May 2-4pm
How much: Free
For more information please contact the ranger by telephone or text on 07825 098 460

Gardens glorious

Introduction to composting workshops

If you've read our feature on p4 and fancy trying your hand at composting, our workshops could be the perfect place to start! Get practical advice and top tips to help you set up your own compost bin at home.

Booking essential.
Where: 4 May Freightliners Farm N7 and 10 May Culpeper Gardens N1
When: 11am to 12.30pm
How much: Free
For more information and to book call 020 7527 5157 or email jean.hughes@islington.gov.uk

From Clippings to Compost - compost centre visit

Come on a tour of the Eco-Park Compost Centre at Edmonton to find out how your food and green waste is recycled. Free transport and lunch is provided. Please note this tour is not suitable for children. Booking essential.
Where: Eco-Park Compost Centre at Edmonton
When: Tuesday 6 May, 9.30am to 2pm
To book call 020 7527 5996/4766 or email irecyclecentre@islington.gov.uk

Gardening for wildlife

Members of Islington's Nature Conservation Team will be on hand to answer your wildlife related gardening questions, with the opportunity to take away your own recycled plant pot and wild flower seeds as well. No need to book, just turn up!
Where: Green Living Centre, 222 Upper Street
When: Wednesday 7 May 4-6pm
How much: Free

Compost clinic

Want to start composting but don't know how? Visit the compost clinic to get helpful tips and advice. No need to book, just drop in!
Where: Green Living Centre, 222 Upper Street
When: Thursday 8 May, 4-6pm

Culpeper gardening and plant sale

Come and meet new people, learn new skills and enjoy gardening through the seasons. There will be a plant sale at the garden the previous day.
Where: Culpeper Community Garden, 1 Cloudesley Road, N1
When: Plant sale: Sunday 11 May 11-3pm, gardening day: Monday 12 May 1.30-4pm
For more information please call 07825 098460 or 020 7833 3951.

Get active

Capoeira

Come and have a go at this Brazilian martial art, which combines elements of self-defence, dance, acrobatics, music, ritual & game. It's a great way to work out.
Where: Jean Stokes Community Hall, Carnoustie Drive, N1 ODX
When: Every Monday 7-8.30pm
For more information, contact Professor Topera (Brazilian) 07756 478649, or Victoria (English) 07789 462151

£20
Don't miss out!
Pay your council tax by direct debit and get a £20 discount
www.islington.gov.uk/directdebit
ISLINGTON

Green Living

All these events take place at the Green Living Centre at 222 Upper Street and are free of charge. For more information, please call 020 7527 2262 or email greenliving@islington.gov.uk

Nappuccinos

Come along and find out about the advantages of using real cloth nappies and how to apply for a real nappy voucher.

When: 6 May, 10.30– 12.30

Greening your business

Advice and information will be given on ways to make your business more sustainable.

When: 14 May, 6–8pm

Energy Doctor

Come along and meet our Energy Doctor who will give expert advice on ways to reduce your energy use.

When: 21 May, 2–5pm

(NB: The following event is at the Islington Ecology Centre)

Paper making – family workshop

Come and make your own recycled paper and create unique handmade cards. All equipment and materials are provided. Booking essential.

Where: Islington Ecology Centre, N5 1PH

When: 27 May, 2–4pm

To book a FREE place call 020 7354 5162 or email ecologycentre@islington.gov.uk

Recycling in Islington

Interested in what is happening with recycling in Islington now and in the future? Want to know why some materials can be recycled and not others? To find out, come along to a presentation by Islington Council's Recycling Manager, followed by a question and answer session. Food and refreshments provided.

When: Tuesday 3 June 6.30–8pm

To book a FREE place call 020 7527 5996/4766 or email irecyclecentre@islington.gov.uk

The big recycle – family fun!

Come and celebrate the big recycle with a series of fun games and activities about recycling. Suitable for young people aged 5+ and their carers. No need to book, just drop in!

When: Wednesday 4 June, 4–6pm

The arts

Rosmersholm

When the seductive Rebecca West arrives at Rosmersholm, Johannes Rosmer's beliefs are thrown into turmoil in this play by Henrik Ibsen.

Where: Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, N1

When: 15 May – 5 July

How much: £6–£29.50

For more information and to book, call the box office on 020 7359 4404, visit www.almeida.co.uk or email info@almeida.co.uk

Balletboyz

Michael Nunn and William Trevitt (aka Balletboyz) perform selected crowd pleasing routines from the past seven years.

Where: Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1R

When: 7 May – 10 May, 7.30pm

How much: £10–£35

For more information and to book, call 020 7863 8198 or visit www.sadlerswells.com

Myth

Acclaimed choreographer Sidi Larbi presents a work for a large ensemble of 21 performers and musicians.

Where: Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1R

When: 16 May – 17 May, 7.30pm

How much: £10–£35

For more information and to book, call 020 7863 8198 or visit www.sadlerswells.com

CONTACT ISLINGTON

Contact Islington is the council's telephone and customer service centre based on the ground floor of **222 Upper Street, N1**. Contact Islington can help you with a range of services including housing advice and environmental queries.

The service centre is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday (8.30am to 6pm on Wednesday only) for your face-to-face service needs. It also opens **every fourth Saturday of the month, from 9am to 1pm** (third Saturday if coinciding with Bank Holiday weekends). **Phonelines are open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 6pm every Saturday.**

Phone: **020 7527 2000**

Email: contact@islington.gov.uk

Minicom: **020 7527 1900**

Fax: **020 7527 5001**

Other useful contact numbers

HFI Direct (repairs)

0800 694 3344

(minicom 0800 073 0536)

repairs@homesforislington.org.uk

Islington Police

020 7704 1212

Report non-emergencies at

www.online.police.uk

NHSDirect

0845 46 47

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Local leisure centres

Archway Leisure Centre

020 7281 4105

Cally Pool

020 7278 1890

Finsbury Leisure Centre

020 7253 2346

Highbury Pool

020 7704 2312

Ironmonger Row Baths

020 7253 4011

Islington Tennis Centre

020 7700 1370

Sobell Leisure Centre

020 7609 2166

www.aquaterra.org

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Islington has 48 councillors. Councillors make decisions on council policy and spending. They are the people who know what's going on in your local area, and are there for you to talk to about any problems you may have with council services. They can take up your case themselves or point you in the right direction to get more advice.

You can meet any of your ward councillors in person at one of their regular surgeries, write to them at the Town Hall, email or telephone them.

For councillors' contact details, to find out when they hold surgeries, and for details of your local Member of Parliament, Member of European Parliament and Greater London Authority representative, please call 020 7527 2000 or visit www.islington.gov.uk/councillors

Win tickets!

Havana Rakatan

Following a smash-hit run in 2007, the intoxicating rhythms of Cuban dance and music return to London's Peacock Theatre as part of this Sadler's Wells co-production. From the sultry rumba to the slick footwork of the cha-cha-cha, 14 dancers perform a captivating and colourful display of Cuba's many vibrant dance forms.

We have two pairs of tickets up for grabs for the performance of this fantastic show on Tuesday 27 May. Simply answer the following question:

How many dancers perform in Havana Rakatan?

Email answers to islingtonnow@islington.gov.uk or post to Havana Rakatan competition, IslingtonNow, Room G12, Town Hall, Upper Street, London

N1 2UD. Closing date is 19 May. Good luck!

Where: Peacock Theatre, Portugal St, WC2

When: Wednesday 21 May – Sunday 22 June

For more information go to www.sadlerswells.com or call the box office on 0844 412 4300



Fostering

more than just a job!

Islington Foster Carers

- keep brothers and sisters together
- offer a home in or near Islington
- can be single people or couples
- receive generous allowances



0800 073 0428

or email us at fostering@islington.gov.uk
www.islington.gov.uk/fostering



ISLINGTON