

IslingtonNow

Issue 7 August 2007

your local magazine from Islington Council

Heading for a Heatwave

Whatever the weather, there's no shortage of things for Islington's children and young people to do this summer.

Hundreds of activities are on offer across the borough to keep children and young people amused and active over the summer break and what's more most of them are free! And to make it easy for parents and kids, all the activities are listed in a handy free magazine called Heatwave.

There really is something for every age and interest. Sport lovers can check out the new Superswim programme held at Cally Pool and Ironmonger Row Baths or attend football classes held by Arsenal coaches. Animal enthusiasts can head down to Freightliners Farm or find bugs and beetles in our local parks. And if the weather

remains unpredictable, our local libraries have a huge range of activities including theatre, arts and crafts and an almost endless supply of DVDs and books to pass away the hours.

SUMMER UNI IS BACK!

Summer University is back for its tenth year and once again has a bumper crop of classes available for young people aged 10-19. Summer Uni 2007 features classes and workshops on breakdancing, music production, motorcycle maintenance, circus skills, cookery, sports and study – so there is no reason to be bored!

Classes and workshops run from Monday 23 July until Friday 24 August, but you must enrol by 3 August.

For more information, or to request a brochure, call the Summer University



There really is something for every age and interest



Hotline on 020 7527 5641 or email summeruniversity@islington.gov.uk. To enrol visit www.summerunilondon.org

All Islington school children should have received a copy of Heatwave from their school. More copies are available from libraries, leisure centres or council offices or email heatwave@islington.gov.uk for a copy or download from www.islington.gov.uk/heatwave

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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

Nag's Head nuisance

I seem to recall that a recent copy of IslingtonNow reported that the problem with cigarette sellers at the Nag's Head area had been solved? It hasn't. They are back.

Ian Senior

I wouldn't ever say we've completely solved the problem at the Nag's Head, but I do hope that shoppers and residents are now beginning to see a significant reduction in the illegal cigarette sellers and illegal DVD sellers. Since last year, Nag's Head has had its own team of police who have been targeting the illegal traders. As a

result, the number of illegal traders has reduced by nearly three quarters and for many periods of time there have been no illegal traders in the area at all. We have had co-operation from the courts as well. In the last six months they have handed down five prison sentences and this is beginning to have a deterrent effect too.

I know how intimidating people find the illegal traders who have been at Nag's Head for many years now. However much the council and police do together to tackle this problem, it is only because people buy from them that the illegal traders are in business at all.

Ditch the packaging

Around 90 per cent of what my dustbin holds is supermarket packaging, mostly completely unnecessary. If this were reduced, there would be practically nothing left.

Can the council hold discussions with supermarkets in the borough to reduce packaging, or could the council campaign for supermarkets to deal with packaging waste?

Robert Tollemache

I'm not sure why supermarkets feel the need to use so much packaging. We don't locally have much influence over what are national and multinational businesses, but I was pleased to learn recently that the Government is taking steps to deal with this issue through a voluntary agreement with supermarkets which commits them to use less packaging.

Further information can be found on the WRAP website at www.wrap.org.uk.

In the meantime, we can do our bit by trying to buy products with little or no packaging. I am

also backing proposals which are supported by councils right across London calling on the Government to introduce a compulsory 10p charge for supermarket plastic bags. And meanwhile I am trying to reuse plastic bags too.

Car crisis

When I moved to Islington I decided that I should do my thing for the environment so I sold my car and joined StreetCar, the local car club. However, every now and again I do need a bigger car and I get my parents to come with their car. This has now become impossible because of the limit on day passes for visitors and the cost.

There should be a scheme for non-direct car owners to register a car for this purpose. I am happy to pay for this privilege but the current system is failing me.

Asif Ghafoor, N1

This is a tricky one. On the visitors issue, the reason we have a limit on the number of visitors' vouchers you can buy is so that we can guarantee parking places to everyone who

has bought a resident's parking permit. With our limited kerb space, it would hardly be responsible to issue unlimited numbers of permits.

However, following a review earlier this year, we increased the number of visitors' vouchers residents can buy and we'll continue to keep an eye on how this affects parking for residents.

I'm glad to hear you're using StreetCar, as it's a great scheme for people who only need to use a car occasionally and want to reduce harm to the environment. To make the scheme simpler for its members, StreetCar only offers one type of car, but when you need a larger vehicle you may benefit from the use of StreetVan. This allows you to use vans that comfortably seat three people and are suitable for moving bigger loads. Islington has one van at the moment and it is supplied with an all zone parking permit so you can park in any parking bay in the borough for free. Hopefully this will help you when you need to use a bigger vehicle, but keep damage to the environment down.

For more info on StreetVan or to book a van visit their website at www.streetcar.co.uk/vans.aspx

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Sunshine and smiles at the Big Day Out

Over 2,000 people of all ages enjoyed a sunny afternoon of theatre, music, dance and magic at the Big Day Out in Whittington Park last month.

The Big Day Out is part of the Holloway Arts Festival 2007. For more information go to www.hollowayartsfestival.co.uk

Contact us:

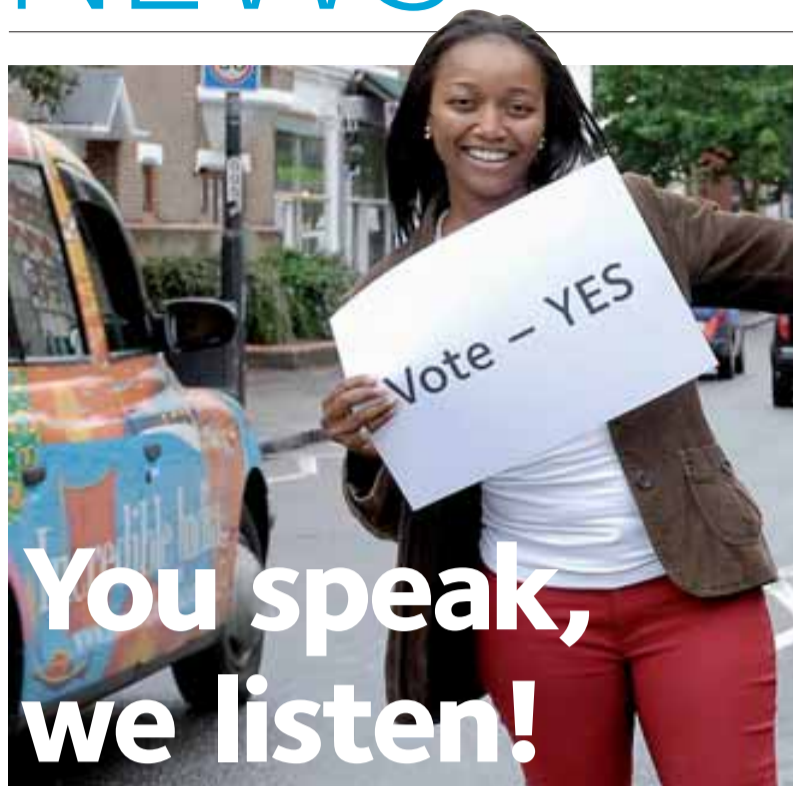
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Please include your full address on all correspondence. Anonymous letters cannot be published, but names and addresses can be withheld on request.
We cannot guarantee to publish all letters received, and we reserve the right to edit letters for both length and content.



You speak, we listen!

The people have spoken. And you've said 'yes' to higher parking charges for gas guzzlers in the country's first referendum on climate change and car use.

In June, Islington Council became the first local authority in the country to ballot every resident on the electoral roll - more than 127,500 people - on whether owners of more polluting cars should pay more for residents' parking permits.

After a careful count by the independent Electoral Reform Services, the results showed that 56 per cent of residents who responded said yes. And we are now acting

on these results.

It is hoped that the new charges will challenge people to think about the cars that they drive and will ultimately persuade people to switch to less polluting vehicles.

Islington already has a reputation for taking bold steps to cut local carbon emissions. We were the first council in the country to bring together local public, private and voluntary sector organisations in a Climate Change Partnership, and earlier this year we set up a £3million Climate Change Fund.

The new parking permit charges for residents will be introduced from 1 September 2007. See p7 for more.

IN BRIEF

Flowers on the terraces

The capital's celebration of all things floral rolled into Islington last month. The 40th annual London in Bloom competition was launched at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium ahead of the awards ceremony in September. Islington won a silver medal in the best city category last year.



Turbine-charged power for Upper Street

Stealing a march on the windmills of Holland, Islington Council is the proud home to Upper Street's first wind turbine.

The council has installed a wind turbine on the roof of the Municipal Office at 222 Upper Street.

Towering nine metres from the roof of the building, the turbine will produce energy to power the council's fleet of electric vehicles - ensuring it is a truly green fleet.

Earlier this year, the council installed a turbine at the Ecology Centre in Drayton Park near the railway line, making it a landmark for commuters entering London through King's Cross.



Caroline Scott, Sustainability Officer, checks out the council's latest wind turbine



Huge cash boost for borough's parks

A £2million investment will improve parks and open spaces across the borough.

The cash boost - one of the largest in recent years - came as Islington celebrated Love Your Parks week (19-25 June), a national campaign to celebrate open spaces and promote their preservation.

One open space which has already benefited from the treatment is at Laycock Street, N1, which is connected to Highbury Station Road by a narrow alleyway. The park has become more than just a convenient detour thanks to new planting, lighting, pathways, seating and flower meadows.

Caught on camera

Islington Council's state-of-the-art CCTV control room has celebrated its first birthday by revealing its contribution to the fight against crime.

The first year has seen the CCTV centre play a pivotal role in a number of high profile incidents. It has provided 2,000 high quality images to the police, helping them solve crimes ranging from murder and assault to illegal trade and street brawls.

The control room has a radio link to the police 24 hours a day, meaning operators can direct police officers to incidents as they spot them, and record events for the police to use as evidence.

Notable successes include the arrest of gunman John Laidlaw as he ran from Upper Street to Finsbury Park. Laidlaw shot two people in the

incident but the close cooperation between control room staff and officers on the ground prevented further bloodshed. He was convicted and jailed for life in February this year.

Also, in a joint operation between the police, Customs and Excise and Islington's trading standards officers, CCTV was used to identify and prosecute illegal cigarette sellers on Holloway Road.



Fined for selling fireworks to children

A company director has been fined hundreds of pounds for supplying fireworks to a young girl following a successful prosecution by Islington Council.

Paul Shea was fined £500 and ordered to pay £350 costs after admitting that a shop assistant in the temporary Seven Sisters Road shop he set up sold fireworks to a 14-year old girl, despite having signs in the shop stating that such sales were illegal.

Silent addition to council's fleet

Islington Council has become the first in the country to introduce a totally electric vehicle to its fleet. The zero emission, battery-powered Modec vehicle will be used for highways maintenance and night time emergency repairs, as it is virtually silent.

Islington landlord fined

A landlord has been fined £2,000 after a successful investigation by Islington's residential environmental health team.

Chandrakant Ramanbhia Patel committed two offences under the Housing Act 2004, by re-letting two flats at 486 Caledonian Road, N7, despite being subject to an improvement notice and a prohibition order.



The contents of your recycling containers are collected from your doorstep and taken to the MRF in Greenwich



The recycling journey



Having been checked for quality, the separated recyclables are then sent off for recycling.



Paper goes under air knives to remove plastic bags and sheeted paper. Heavy paper goes through infra red detectors to remove any rogue containers, and card is removed manually

Recycling... Sorted!

Recycling is a lot more complex than simply tossing your newspaper in a recycling container. In fact that is only the start of the process.

To find out how 'mixed recycling' works, a group of Islington residents recently visited a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Greenwich.

Recycling schemes in Islington are co-mingled, meaning residents place a variety of recyclable materials such as paper, cardboard, glass, cans and plastic bottles in one bin only. This makes it as easy

as possible for people to recycle. The process of sorting takes place at a recycling facility, from where the materials are taken away to be recycled.

Resident Robin Small said: "I enjoyed the whole experience. I couldn't imagine how everything was separated before. I used to think it was magic, now I know."

Patricia Herbert, who also

visited the plant, said: "I was sceptical before as to how Islington's co-mingled waste could be separated successfully and recycled, but now my scepticism has disappeared."

The bigger picture

Each household in Islington produces over a tonne of rubbish each year - the same weight as an average car. Most of this is buried in landfill sites, which are rapidly filling up and damage the environment.

Islington currently recycles about 25 per cent of its waste but we want to increase this to 35 per cent by 2009.



"We're not always trouble!"

We'll help with

- training
- 24 hour support
- allowances up to £408 per week

Foster a teenager with Islington

0800 073 0428
or email us at fostering@islington.gov.uk
www.islington.gov.uk/fostering

ISLINGTON

35% our recycling target for 2009

8 million disposable nappies thrown out every day in the UK

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The mixed materials go into a huge spinning drum, where they are separated out using different sized holes



The 'containers' move along conveyor belts, where magnets are used to remove steel cans, a current separator removes aluminum cans and infra red light detects plastic bottles which are then removed with high-pressure air jets. Glass is screened out using equipment which works like a sieve



It is an ambitious target but already we have introduced new doorstep recycling on estates as well as green waste and kitchen waste collection services to make it easier for residents to recycle.

But the most important thing we can do is change our behaviour. If we make recycling an automatic part of our daily lives, and also reuse items instead of throwing them away, this will all help to reduce our waste.

Upping our recycling rates will also help us take action on climate change, save resources and energy, and protect our environment. So what are you waiting for? Get recycling!



Local Green Champions will be knocking on the doors of thousands of Islington residents over the next few weeks to give people great tips on how to become greener.

The green champions have been employed and trained by local environmental charity Groundwork. Wendy Baverstock, Development Director for Groundwork says:

"There are very easy changes that we can all make, that not only help the environment, but help people save money too. We are asking thousands of Islington residents to pledge three changes they are going to make to do their bit for the environment."

The Green Champions will be giving residents handy tips and advice to encourage them to identify and implement

easy lifestyle changes that help the environment. Green champion, Mavia Dyer says: "The response has been fantastic, residents seem to understand the need to improve the environment for coming generations."

The Groundwork Green Champion doorknockers project is funded by the Islington Strategic Partnership.

Do your bit for climate change - and save money too

Small and medium sized businesses or charities based in Islington can get a free energy audit from the Islington Climate Change Partnership. The audit will show easy ways to reduce the cost of energy bills, and has the added bonus of

helping organisations tackle climate change. Many organisations including local pubs and a homeless charity have already signed up for the free audit.



If you want to find out more, contact Laura Hales on 020 7527 2347 or email laura.hales@islington.gov.uk

IN BRIEF

Takeaway fined

Owners of a takeaway in Essex Road have been found guilty of dumping rotting food and raw chicken on the pavement, and fined £1,700. Owners of Pepperpot Islington Ltd failed to appear at the hearing and were ordered to pay £1,800 costs in their absence.

Getting greener - Real nappies make real difference

Eight million disposable nappies are thrown away every day in the UK.

Last year Islington Council's Real Nappy scheme diverted 79 tonnes of waste from householders, avoiding landfill costs of £1,425. Islington Council offers a £54 discount upon registration with the

laundry services Nappy Ever After or Number One for Nappies, or £54 cash-back on the first purchase of real nappies.

Real Nappies save money, save waste and benefit the environment. For more information, call 020 7527 5157.

WILD ABOUT ISLINGTON



Saving water in the garden

Even though we've had some rain this summer, it's still important to try and keep water usage in the garden down. It really is possible to maintain a fabulous garden without over using the hose pipe, and to help you be a green gardener we have compiled a list of tips...

WATER TIPS:

- Water your garden in the cool of the early morning or evening. This will reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation
- If you water plants and shrubs too often their roots will remain shallow, weakening the plant. Leave them alone until they show signs of wilting
- Collect rainwater in water-butts and use a watering can instead of a hose
- Regularly weed and hoe your garden to ensure that watering helps plants and not weeds
- Plant flowers and shrubs that thrive in hot and dry conditions
- Mulches such as wood chips, bark and gravel help to prevent water evaporation and also suppress weed growth
- Lawns can survive long periods of dry weather if the grass is not cut too short. Even if the grass turns brown, it will quickly recover after a few days of rain.



If you would like more detailed information on water saving in the garden, visit the Royal Horticultural Society website at www.rhs.org.uk/advice/watering.asp or come and visit the Islington Ecology Centre's drought tolerant wildlife garden in Gillespie Park, N5. For more information contact the Nature Conservation Team on 020 7354 5162



If you're entertaining this summer, remember to keep the noise down

Sounds of summer

Tips for tranquility

- If you're planning an outdoor party, particularly if it's late at night, talk to your neighbours in advance and let them know. It's worth remembering that many people still have to go to work in the morning and won't appreciate late-night noise
- If you're lighting a bonfire try to minimise the smoke by only burning dry wood – never household waste, and tell your neighbours before you start. While there are no legal restrictions on when bonfires can take place, it's wise not to let them continue after dark
- As an alternative to a bonfire, we provide a weekly green waste collection service, collecting compostable waste such as garden clippings and food waste. Another alternative is a home composter. See our website www.islington.gov.uk for details of how to obtain a composter, wormery or green cone for kitchen waste, all at special rates.

It's summer in the city – at last! But as the temperature rises, so too can people's tempers, particularly if they're kept awake by outside parties, loud music and generally inconsiderate behaviour.

Each summer, complaints to Islington Council's Noise Service take a marked upturn, especially at weekends when people fling open their windows and doors and make merry for all to hear.

Everyone knows that noise can reduce our quality of life

“
Noise can reduce people's quality of life and we all have different tolerance levels
”

and that we all have different levels of tolerance. The problem is especially severe in the summer because we tend to spend more time outdoors to keep cool. Many of us will be enjoying barbeques, playing music, leaving their pets out and opening their windows. Pubs and clubs open longer and since the smoking ban in all public places, smokers are more likely to gather outside. Businesses may crank up the air conditioning and construction sites often try to maximise the use of daylight hours.

Many of the complaints we deal with are resolved amicably but noise can cause huge stress, loss of sleep and can even lead to violence. Sometimes legal action in the form of a statutory notice, seizure of equipment or prosecution is necessary.

So don't become a nuisance neighbour, be mindful of how your activities might impact on your neighbours' quality of life and prevent petty disagreements from becoming serious rows.

If you need us, we can be

contacted on the following numbers at the following times:

Day Noise Team: 020 7527 3258 (office hours)

Duty Noise Patrol Team: 020 7527 3229 (8pm - 2am Sunday to Thursday, 10pm - 4am Friday and Saturday)

If you are a Homes for Islington tenant you can either call the numbers above or call HFI's anti-social behaviour message line on 020 7527 7272, and you will be redirected to the relevant officer for your housing area.

YOUR VIEWS

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Tell 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. Consultations are open to everyone unless specified.

Childcare for Islington

Do you need a childminder, nursery, breakfast or after school club or holiday scheme for your children so you can work or study?

We want to speak to parents with children aged up to 14, or up to 18 with disabilities or special needs, to find out if childcare in the borough meets their needs and also what parents think the barriers to childcare are.

We will be conducting a door-to-door survey during the summer as well as smaller in-depth focus groups.

For more information or to get involved in a focus group contact Jane Wright on **020 7527 5560** or email

jane.wright@islington.gov.uk

Consultation open to: Islington parents using and not using childcare.

Running until: end of August

www.islington.gov.uk/consultation

Market research

What do you think of Islington? Do you use your local park? How much fruit and veg do you eat? Do you know your neighbours? The Islington Strategic Partnership (ISP) is asking 1,000 residents about their attitudes and behaviour. The purpose is to see what progress has been made towards achieving some of the ISP's three-year targets to make Islington safer, healthier and generally a better place to live.

The ISP has commissioned a leading market research company to do this work. So, if a researcher knocks on your door in late July or during August, do try to find the time to answer their questions, but make sure you check their ID first. If you have any doubts take their details and ask them to come back later when you've had a chance to check with Contact Islington on **020 7527 2000**.



Referendum result announced

Residents voted yes in Islington's green parking charges referendum held in June but how did the votes stack up?

Over 127,500 Islington residents were sent a ballot paper along with a leaflet explaining the issues and proposed new parking charges and were asked to vote on the question: should the cost of a residents' parking permit depend on how much the car pollutes?

The referendum had a response rate of 28.8% with a total of 36,792 people sending in their votes. Of the valid votes cast, 20,226 (56 per cent) were in favour and 15,883 (44 per cent) were against the green charging system for residents' permits.

To make it easier to take part, people could vote by post, telephone, internet and text message. Three quarters of voters used the traditional postal method to

cast their votes but over 9,000 people used one of the other three methods. Internet voting was the most popular of these with over 5,000 people voting on their computer. An independent organisation, Electoral Reform Services, managed the whole process including the task of counting the thousands of votes that were cast.

The green parking permit charges will be introduced from 1 September 2007.

“People could vote by post, telephone, internet and text message”

Cowcross Street goes car free!

The council has transformed one of the busiest locations in the borough outside Farringdon Station, EC1, into a pedestrian paradise.

What was a narrow and cluttered pavement has been widened, and a two-way cycle path has been added along with 12 new cycle stands.

The massive improvements are a result of listening to local residents, businesses and station users, who voted in favour of pedestrianising the area when consulted last September.

The new look Cowcross Street is now more attractive and safe, and local businesses are very supportive.

Gee Agathangelou, manager of Taste cafe, said: “I feel this scheme is very positive. Cyclists and pedestrians now feel free to walk around. They can also cross the road more easily and safely.”

Teddy Taylor, Evening Standard seller, said: “Lunatics used to drive through too fast. The scheme has increased my own public space and improved my business.”

Two-way traffic into the NCP car park on Cowcross Street remains, and a shared use loading bay has been built at the western end.

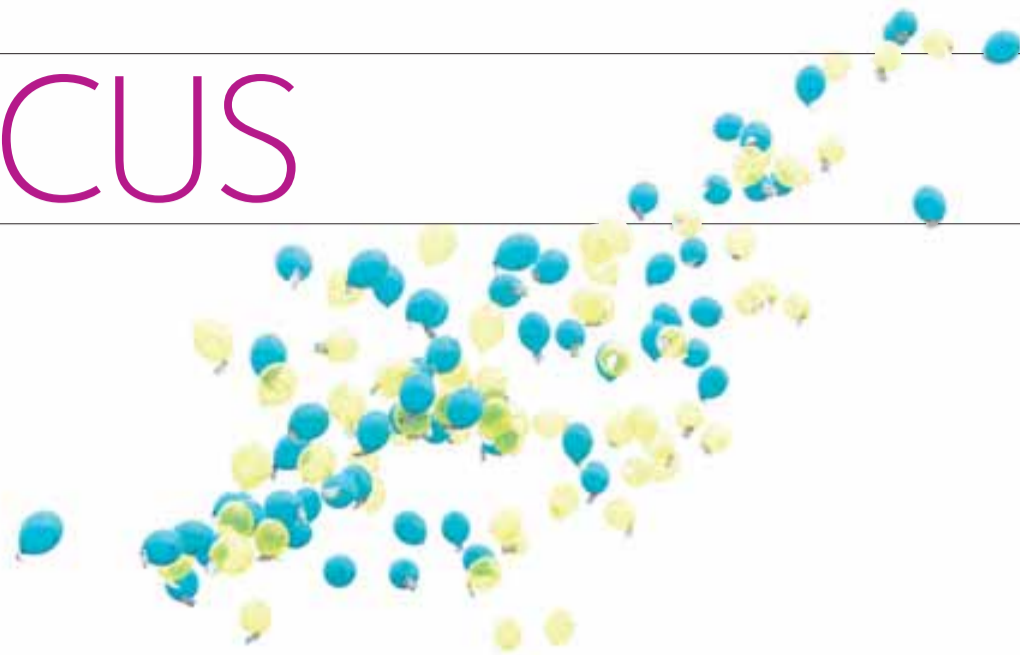


Teddy Taylor and Gee Agathangelou



To view all current consultations, go to www.islington.gov.uk/consultation

Whether you're a parent of a school age child or a young person yourself, education in Islington has never been more exciting than it is now!



An investment for the

With a peal of bells and the release of doves and balloons, pupils of New North Community School officially marked the opening of Islington's first new school in 30 years.

Signalling its status as more than just a school, but a landmark facility for the whole community, parents and children got together to attend the opening ceremony.

As well as providing up-to-the minute facilities for its 395 pupils including a dance

studio, games area, and modern staff offices, the primary school in New North Road is also a children's centre and venue for a host of 'extended school' activities, for use by residents of the area.

A UNIQUE BLEND

New North is a flagship building in Islington - not only because of its striking architecture and bold colour, but also because it has an integrated children's centre.

Children's centres are a key part of the government's drive to provide better, more joined-up services to children and families. For the lowdown on what these centres are all about see page 12.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

New North has been created with the needs of children and the community at its heart. The school is also special because it represents the merger of two schools - Charles Lamb and

Ecclesbourne primary schools. Headteacher Mary McStay says: "As a school, New North has been open since 2004. We are delighted that we have our very own, purpose-built

building. The children absolutely love it. They are taking very good care of it, and their concentration and behaviour have even improved as a result."

“
We are delighted that we have our very own building. The children absolutely love it.
”

395 pupils at New North Community School

66% people that want Ashmount School moved to Crouch Hill

9

Children release balloons at the opening of New North Community School



Artist's impression of Golden Lane



All that glitters is... Golden Lane

Hot on New North's heels is the Golden Lane campus. This major teaching and learning environment – set to be a model for the rest of London – will see the merger of Richard Cloudesley special school, Prior Weston primary school and Fortune Park Children's Centre.

The new building will combine all three facilities in one architect-designed site offering a full range of services to children and families.

Operating an extended school day, the site will be open 49 weeks a year and will include holiday schemes and respite care for physically challenged and sick pupils. Education and care will be provided all day with extended days for working parents. The site is due to open in April 2008.

Secondary overhaul

Every secondary school in the borough will be rebuilt and refurbished by 2012, thanks to more than £100million secured from the Government's 'Building Schools for the Future' fund. In addition, two academies are planned to further increase the range of choices available.

WHAT WILL CHANGE:

- secondary education in Islington will become more personalised and tailored to the individual needs of children and young people
- schools across the boroughs will work more closely together

- parents and pupils will have a greater range of quality schools to choose from
- schools will develop specialisms, becoming experts in areas like technology and the arts
- all secondary schools will have access to the latest ICT services and equipment
- the new facilities will provide adult learning and vocational opportunities for the local community.

Listening to you

Schools are vital to communities. That is why we asked parents and residents near Ashmount Primary School in Hornsey for their views on possible solutions to the current problems of the school building. Almost 50 years old and suffering from a lack of top-grade facilities, everyone agrees that something has to be done.

The results of the consultation earlier this year show that 66 per cent of respondents support the idea of moving the school to the site of a former recreation centre in Crouch Hill.

We are now commissioning detailed plans for a 'green' school building and improvements to the open space at the Crouch Hill site. We will also look at possible ways of refurbishing the existing school building. We promise to keep you informed every step of the way.



future

She adds: "It has been a huge challenge which required a lot of planning, and staff have worked extremely well as a team. We feel very settled already and are enjoying a school to be proud of."

BENEFITS FOR ALL

The benefits don't stop at the school gates. As part of the deal with contractors to build the school, Islington Council insisted on the development of much-needed affordable housing

alongside it. As a result, there are now 59 new flats for affordable housing, aimed partly at key workers like teachers, and 62 flats for private sale.

Investing £7.6 million in building New North School is only a fraction of the work the council is doing to transform education in Islington. In fact there are more education initiatives and projects happening now than at any other time in the council's history.

MBE for local legend

Lloyd Coombes, manager of older people's day care centres in Islington, was delighted to discover he had been awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire.

With around 27 years of service to the people of Islington, Lloyd Coombes remains as dedicated to his job as he ever was and he always brings a smile to the faces of people in Islington.

And to prove his dedication to the role, Lloyd has been awarded an MBE in this year's honours list.

"I'm still quite bemused by it all," says Lloyd. "I didn't know anything about it until I got a call from Downing Street asking me why I hadn't responded and was I going to accept the MBE. The letter had gone to a different office so it took a while to find me. I think I took all of 10 seconds to accept!"

Free legal and welfare advice

For advice on everything from housing and small claims to welfare and immigration, pop along to advice sessions held by Islington Law Centre and Islington People's Rights.

They hold surgeries on Tuesday afternoons at the Upper Street housing office at 257 Upper Street, on Wednesday afternoons at Holland Walk housing office at 85/88 Holland Walk, and Thursday afternoons at Lyon Street housing office at 1 Lyon Street. Customers can make appointments to be seen by telephoning 020 7527 5300/7480/6880 respectively.

Lloyd heads up Alsen Day Centre in Durham Road, N7, and New Park Day Centre in Highbury. Over the years, he has encouraged many people to befriend the centres and has developed them into thriving facilities for social services and the wider community.

He has also developed partnerships between the centres and local groups including 'Blooming Wonderful', a gardening project with young offenders. Lloyd has also worked with health agencies to run a disease prevention service and is now working with schools to bring older people and youngsters together using music and song.

TRYING NEW THINGS

Lloyd says: "I feel really blessed to be working for a council that's never been afraid to try new things and take on board my ideas. It sounds cheesy but I really believe that my greatest achievement is simply working here. I'm still excited to go to work each day.

"Working with older people should never be thought of as sad or depressing. There's so much they are capable of and eager to achieve, and people now want to do more in their old age. It means we always have to come up with new ideas and projects to ensure they can live a fulfilling life. Luckily at Islington, thinking creatively is what we're good at."



Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

If you know a group of volunteers who devote their time to helping others in the community, why not nominate them for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service?

Just go to www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk for more details on the Awards and to

download a nomination form. Alternatively you can email queensaward@volunteeringengland.org or call the hotline on 0845 000 2002 for further information.

The deadline for nomination is 30 September 2007.

Ade Adepitan with some budding young sport stars



Festival success at Emirates Stadium

Around 10,000 residents attended the ProActive health and sports festival and Tour d' Arsenal cycling festival held at Emirates Stadium on 23 June. Both festivals promoted healthy lifestyles, and gave local people the opportunity to take part in basic health checks, advice on healthy eating and different activities such as cycling, climbing and basketball.

Ade Adepitan MBE, paralympian wheelchair basketball hero who won

bronze at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, attended the festivals and his presence was an inspiration to all local young people for the London 2012 Olympics.

The ProActive festival was held with the aim of getting more local people involved in sport and physical activity in the borough, whilst Tour d' Arsenal encouraged more people to get on their bikes as well as celebrating the Tour de France coming to London.

Get out and about!

Get your kids kicking at girls and boys' football sessions. For further details call Mike MacNeill on 020 7686 8810 or email michael.macneill@aquaterra.org



FOOD FOR THOUGHT – DRINKS COUNT TOO!

Fizzy drinks can be fattening, and flavoured waters are often full of sugar. Opt for a glass of water or fruit juice instead.



Sport Islington launched

We want to give everyone the chance to get involved in sport in their community, and if you are a voluntary sports club or an individual based in Islington, you could be eligible for a sports grant through Sport Islington.

Sport Islington has an annual grant of £20,000, and if you meet the grant aid criteria you could get some cash to help you develop sports in the community. Applications for £500 or less will be considered.



If you would like to attend Sport Islington meetings or would like further information or a copy of the application form and criteria, please email karen.smith@islington.gov.uk or call 020 7527 2615.



Time to quit?

With England now officially smokefree, this is as good a time as any to kick the habit. So why not get help to stop smoking from Smokefree Islington. Check out www.smokefreeislington.nhs.uk or email smokefree@islington.gov.uk for advice, resources and support.

If you are concerned about any possible breaches of the ban, please contact Andrew Walker on 020 7527 3857 or email andrew.walker@islington.gov.uk



For more information, or to become a Smokefree Islington Ambassador, call Caroline Coen on 020 7527 1233.

Make a difference
to a child's life...
...and yours!



We need single people, couples and families to adopt our babies, toddlers and school age children.

Please think about adoption; it can be rewarding, challenging and life changing. Contact us on:

0800 073 3344

adoption@islington.gov.uk
www.islington.gov.uk/adoption

 ISLINGTON



Fartun with twins
Abu and Mohamed

A good start to life



Patience with
Steffan and Eugene

What do you get when you combine a nursery, health centre and café all under one roof? The answer is a children's centre – and if you've got a child under five, your local centre could become a regular part of your life.

Islington's 10 children's centres, 16 by March 2008, offer babies and toddlers the chance to play, socialise and learn new skills – and they offer a range of support to families too. They are all about meeting parents' needs early on and supporting them as they care for their young children.

By next year, all families will have a children's centre within 'pram-pushing' distance of where they live. And best of all you can just drop in to take advantage of all your local centre has to offer.

ALL THE SUPPORT YOU NEED

Children's centres are essentially 'one stop shops' offering a full package of support to children and families, including organised activities for the under-fives, family support and health services and links with further education.

At the heart of each centre will be high quality day care for children from birth to five years old. They are a step on from sure start centres, with a much broader range of services and links to other helpful agencies.

From the moment a woman finds out she is pregnant, her local children's centre will become her first port of call – for appointments with her midwife, antenatal classes, through to the weekly baby clinic and affordable childcare.

Run in partnership between the council and the primary care trust, the centres have been designed to make it easy for families to access the full spectrum of community support. So instead of travelling to one place to drop your child off at nursery, and then going somewhere else for career advice or parenting classes, the children's centre will provide it all.

A couple of children's centres are based in schools, like the one at the newly-opened New North Community School in New North Road, and at the Golden Lane campus due to open next year. If you live in the catchment areas of these schools then these will be your local children's centres.

16 children's centres that will be open by 2008

30 children taking part in Reading Stars

13

“Coming to the children's centre has definitely made me a better parent.”

WHAT THEY SAY....

Charmaine Russell has been taking her four-year-old son Khadim and two-year-old Tamir to Fortune Park Children's Centre for several months.

Charmaine says: “The children can play together, which enables them to build social skills, and they speak to a range of people, young and old. This makes my children feel confident, and that's great for me.”


At the same time, Charmaine has been taking a range of parenting classes at the centre, which have helped her understand her children even better. “I used to think they were making a mess, but now I see this as them being creative. I have realised this through ‘learning through play’ classes. Coming here has definitely made me a better parent.”

Steffan and Eugene come here with their mum Patience who says: “I used to be at home with the boys all the time, and that really didn't help them. Both boys had problems with their speech, and I think that was because we were indoors a lot of the time. But within weeks of coming here they started to make progress and they both talk really well now.”

Fartun Abdullahi brings four-year-old twins Abu and Mohamed, and they all have a great time. “I've met lots of other parents here and made loads of new friends. I'm taking the strengthening families course, and in fact when I've finished I'm going to train to give the course to the Somali community in the area.”

“I love the café here,” says Emma Ali, who brings her son Lee to Archway Children's Centre. “I can have a coffee and a chat to other mums and dads. And all the food they offer is home cooked and really healthy. They even offer baby food for people that bring their newborns in.”



 For information on children's centres and where to find your nearest one, call the Children's Information Service on 020 7527 5959 or go to www.islington.gov.uk/cis

Top teachers



Two Islington teachers won top awards for their work- including scooping the top accolade of best headteacher in London at the annual Teaching Awards.

Ann Dwulit, headteacher for the past five years at St Luke's Primary School, was named Headteacher of the Year in a Primary School in London.

Mrs Dwulit was nominated and rewarded for her superb achievement in turning around the fortunes of St Luke's Primary School, which is now one of the best in the country for the progress pupils make.

As Mrs Dwulit explains: “I'm delighted to have won this award, as much for the school as for me. St Luke's is such a happy, vibrant school. It's a pleasure to work here, and to keep seeing our pupils go from strength to strength.”

Physical Education teacher Paul Gilbert, of Highbury Grove School, won The Teaching Award for Enterprise in London — and was described as “the Richard Branson of the school world”.

In the wake of the tsunami in Asia, Mr Gilbert found the resources to build a link between Highbury Grove and a school in Banda Aceh in Indonesia.



Star studded reading

Islington children and their parents are enjoying choosing books and reading together - thanks to football.

This year, 30 Year 5 and 6 Islington primary school children took part in the Premier League Reading Stars programme, which teams Arsenal Football Club up with Islington Council's Library Service. The aim is to get kids to love reading as much as they love football - and it certainly seems to be working!

Pictured is Robert Dalmeida with mum Jackie, picking out books together in an Islington bookshop. Jackie says: “Since Robert started Reading Stars, I've read five books, which is unbelievable for me. I've never been confident reading, but this has given me a new lease of life.”

Robert agrees: “Now I can pick up books and am not afraid to read them. My reading has improved and I really enjoy it now.”

The National Literacy Trust gave the children £15 and their parents £5 to spend on books in Borders.



Education Week 2007

Islington schools and children centres threw open their doors to showcase the success of their pupils as part of the annual Islington education week.

The week celebrated the achievements of young people who have struggled with school like 16-year-old Rikki Jay Summerbell, who left school at 14. With the support of Islington Council and partner groups, she is back on track, and feels that her life is finally coming together. She attended an event to celebrate the achievement of other young people like her. She said: “I want to be a social worker for children with disabilities. I want to feel I've done something good, to make a difference. I needed my social work mentor's support to get through - I thought I'd just end up sitting on the sofa with my mum, but now I've got plans.”

Islington
Children's
Information Service

children families
young people children families young people

For information on all services for children, young people and families

Call
020 7527 5959

www.islington.gov.uk/cis
www.islington.gov.uk/childrensdirectory

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

CEA@Islington
020 7527 5800
www.islingtongschools.net
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	Ironmonger Row Baths 020 7253 4011
Cally Pool 020 7278 1890	Islington Tennis Centre 020 7700 1370
Finsbury Leisure Centre 020 7253 2346	Sobell Leisure Centre 020 7609 2166
Highbury Pool 020 7704 2312	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/council

COUNCIL MEETINGS

6 August 7.30pm, Location to be confirmed
North Area Planning Sub-Committee Meeting
6 August 7.30pm, Location to be confirmed
South Area Planning Sub-Committee Meeting
6 August 10am, Town Hall, Upper Street
Licensing Sub-Committee C Meeting
7 August 7.30pm, The Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road
East Area Planning Sub-Committee Meeting

7 August 7.30pm, Town Hall, Upper Street
West Area Planning Sub-Committee Meeting
22 August 10am, Town Hall, Upper Street
Licensing Sub-Committee D Meeting



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 subject to change. Please check the website before attending.

Read all about it!

The New York Times, Washington Post and Times of India are some of the newspapers now available online through our Newsbank subscription service.

Other UK broadsheets and tabloids are available, including the Financial Times. All papers have backfiles.



Newsbank is available in all Islington libraries and at <http://infoweb.newsbank.com/signin/LondonBoroughIslington>. Library members need to type in their barcode number.



August fixtures at the Emirates



12 August 12pm
Arsenal v Fulham

25 August 3pm
Arsenal v Manchester City

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

Web watch

Look back at IslingtonNow

You can re-read the first six issues of IslingtonNow by downloading them from the council website!

You can also download a large print version of this magazine, and complete our reader survey.



For further details go to www.islington.gov.uk/islingtonnow

Are you aged between 60-69?



DO YOUR BIT USE THE KIT

NHS Bowel Cancer Screening is coming

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

Screening helps prevent bowel cancer
Look out for your home testing kit
Freephone Helpline 0800 707 60 60
www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk



OUT AND ABOUT

15



Sports activities

SPORTS TRAINING COURSES

The Access to Sports Project is offering a range of coaching and sports leadership awards for young people aged 14 to 19. The courses are nationally recognised and will provide candidates with an introduction to the skills required to deliver sports and fitness sessions.

BASKETBALL LEVEL 1 ages 16-19

When and where: 5 August, 10am - 5pm, Islington Arts and Media School

LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATE IN COACHING

FOOTBALL ages 16-19

When and where: Saturdays 11, 18 and 25 August, 9am - 5pm, Market Road and Sobell Leisure Centre

FOOTBALL JUNIOR SPORTS LEADERSHIP COURSE ages 14-16

When and where: 6 - 10 August, 10am - 5pm, Finsbury Park

CRICKET LEVEL 1 UKCC ages 16-19

When and where: 6, 7 and 10 August, 10am-5pm, Islington Arts and Media School

For further details please call 020 7686 8812, email access2sports@aquaterra.org or go to www.aquaterra.org

FREE
This year's
Summer
University is jam
packed full of great
activities for 10-
19 year olds.

water polo, snorkelling, lifesaving and synchronised swimming. If you can swim one length you can join in the fun.

Monday to Friday throughout August, 9am-12noon

For more information visit

www.aquaterra.org or call Ironmonger Row Baths, on 020 7253 4011 or Cally Pool on 020 7278 1890

ARSENAL POSITIVE FUTURES COACHING

Arsenal coaches are providing free sessions for young people this summer!

When and where: 6, 13 and 20 August, Paradise Park, Sheringham Road N7. Ages 10-13, 5.30-7.30pm and ages 13-16, 7-8.30pm

For more information call Noel Headon on 020 7527 3515 or email noel.headon@islington.gov.uk

FREE CHILDREN'S HAT MAKING WORKSHOP

Thursday 9 August

2pm to 4 pm

Protect yourself from the summer sun with your own fabulous hat. Using buttons, beads, cloth and jewellery revamp a hat into a creative masterpiece.

Suitable for young people aged 5+ and their carers. Booking essential

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

FREE VISIT TO ECO-PARK COMPOST CENTRE

7 September 2007

9.30am to 2pm

Come on a tour of the Eco-Park Compost Centre at Edmonton to find out how your food and green waste is recycled. Lunch and transport is provided. Booking essential

Meet at the i-recycle centre, 1 Cottage Rd, London N7 8TP at 9.30am.

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



SUPERSWIM

Visiting the pool this summer has just got more exciting with SuperSwim at Ironmonger Row Baths and Cally Pool! SuperSwim sessions give 8-15 year olds the chance to try a range of supervised sports and games including



Get arty!

CRAFTY CAPERS

Come and create your own 3D wildlife scene. For ages 7 and over.

When and where: 23 August 2.30pm, Archway Library.

Call 020 7527 7820 for more details.

Ages: 7 and over

SEED ANIMALS

Grow your own seed creature and track how it grows with your very own diary. Suitable for all ages.

When and where: 9 August, 2-4pm, Central Library. Call 020 7527 6900.

GO WILD IN THE GARDEN!

Be part of the garden gang with face-painting and fun outdoor activities. Junior gardeners can help the garden grow. Suitable for 6-12 year olds.

When and where: 8 August, 2.30-4pm, John Barnes Library. Call 020 7527 7900.

MAKE A KITE

All materials will be provided to help you make your very own kites. Suitable for under 10s. It's free and there's no need to book!

When and where: Paradise Park Playground, Sheringham Road, N7, 8 August 1-3pm



For loads of great summer activities for kids of all ages, look out for our heatwave magazine, available in schools, libraries and leisure centres, or go to www.islington.gov.uk/heatwave

Back to nature Festivals

GIANT BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES

Look for butterflies and dragonflies in the sky and make giant ones to take home with you. Suitable for under 10s. It's free and there's no need to book!

When and where: Elthorne Park Playground N19, 29 August 11am-1pm

WOODLAND SHELTER MAKING

The little woodland at Foxham Gardens provides shelter for all kinds of creatures - and today you can help build a woodland shelter for kids too! It's free and you don't need to book.

When and where: Foxham Gardens N19, 23 August 2-4pm

BE A BUG BRAIN

The afternoon will start with a picnic and stories followed by lots of fun free events and activities. Suitable for all ages. It's free and you don't need to book.

When and where: Bunhill Fields EC1, 7 August 12noon-2pm

NEWINGTON GREEN SUMMER FESTIVAL

With live music, crafts, entertainers, clowns, a bouncy castle and children's activities this is a day not to be missed. Delicious food too!

When and where: Newington Green N5, 18 August 12noon-5pm

Art

DADABHAI NAOROJI: INDIA'S GIFT TO ISLINGTON

To celebrate 60 years of India's independence, the Islington Local History Centre is hosting a display of photographs of late 19th century Bombay, which were given to the people of Finsbury (now part of Islington) after the election of Dadabhai Naoroji as local MP in 1892. He was the first Asian to be elected to the UK Parliament.

Islington Local History Centre, Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street Until 30 September

For more information call 020 7527 7988 or email local.history@islington.gov.uk

The organisers of events can change their arrangements at any time. Please check with the venue before you go out of your way.

If you want to see your event listed here, email us at events@islington.gov.uk

We can't guarantee that all events will be published

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?

CHECK OUT
heatwave
THE ESSENTIAL
SUMMER GUIDE
FOR ISLINGTON'S
YOUNG PEOPLE

www.islington.gov.uk/heatwave