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 ISLINGTON

Edition 8 Winter 2009

# eyesmagazine





# Introduction

## Winter 2009

by Cllr Terry Stacy, Leader of the Council

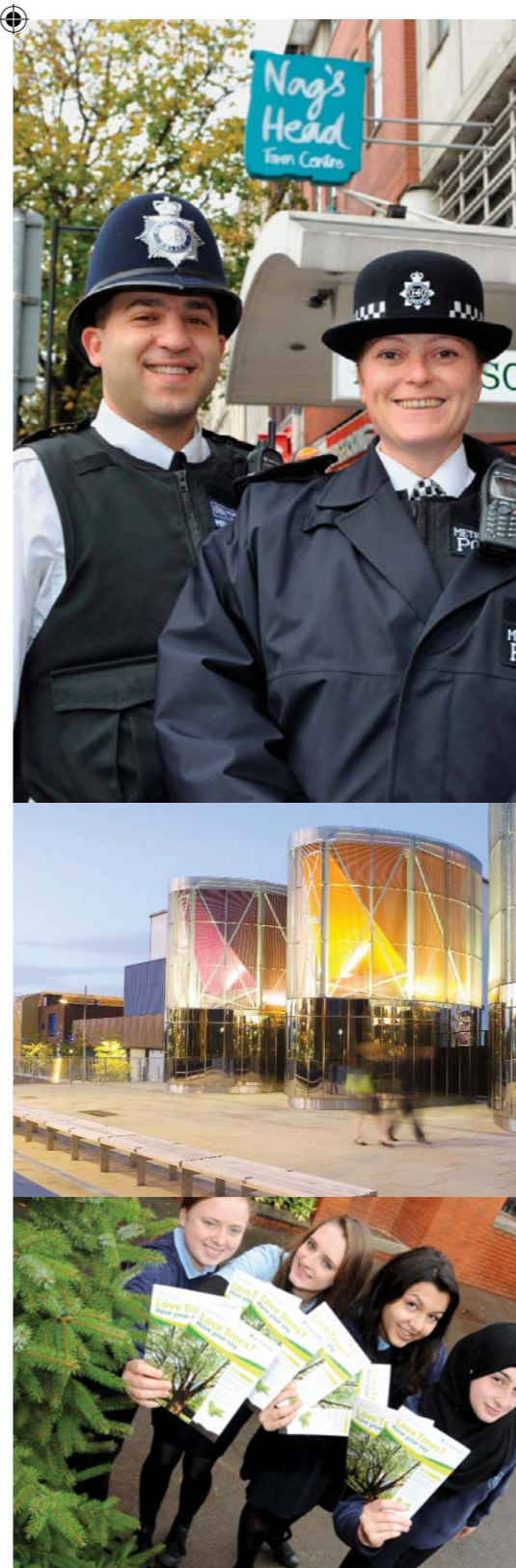
**We would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

This year's Christmas event is going to be especially for those members who have been actively involved this year and who have put an outstanding amount of work and support into the scheme. Many thanks and we hope you continue to support the scheme and get involved in the events and volunteers days. Invitations have already been sent, so we look forward to seeing you.

*Megane*

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For further information please contact **Megane Quashie** on **020 7527 2284** or email **meg.quashie@islington.gov.uk**



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# Eyes Diary 2009

## December

**Date/Time:** Sunday 20 December - **12.00pm–5pm**  
**Event:** **City Road Basin Plaza Christmas opening:** Help us celebrate the opening of the City Road Basin Plaza - the first new public space opened in London since 2007. The space which links City Road to the Regent's Canal will open in a blaze of Christmas glory and lights and promises to be a fun-filled family day out.  
**Where/Price:** **City Road Basin Plaza** EC1V 1JE (next to Macdonalds and Texaco filling station) / Free  
**Co-ordinator:** Charlie Rosier: on **T:020 7253 6512** or **E:crosier@groveworld.co.uk**

**Date/Time:** Monday 21 December - **2pm–5pm**  
**Event:** **Green Living Centre Christmas Party:** Green Santa will be dropping by with some great giveaways, fun activities and festive treats for all the family.  
**Where/Price:** **Green Living Centre** / Free  
**Co-ordinator:** **T:020 7527 4462 E:sustainabilitycentres@islington.gov.uk**

## January

**Date/Time:** Sunday 17 January - **9.30pm–4pm**  
**Event:** **Winter Tree Identification:** This one day course will look at how to identify trees without their leaves or flowers. It would be helpful if participants could bring a hand lens, though not essential.  
**Where/Price:** **Ecology Centre** / £30/ £15 concessions - booking essential  
**Co-ordinator:** **T:020 7527 4462 E:sustainabilitycentres@islington.gov.uk**

**Date/Time:** Sunday 31 January - **2pm–3.30pm**  
**Event:** **Big Garden Bird Watch!:** Family event. Make a bird cake and nut string for winter feeding and a bird box to get ready for spring. Also advice on any birds you've seen in your garden for the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch this weekend.  
**Where/Price:** **Ecology Centre** / Free (booking essential)  
**Co-ordinator:** **T:020 7527 4462 E:sustainabilitycentres@islington.gov.uk**

**Date/Time:** Thursday 28 January / Thursday 25 February / Thursday 25 March - **5pm–7pm**  
**Event:** **Energy Dr:** Come and see the Energy Dr for fantastic free advice on how to save energy and money at home. Get tips on how to making your heating system run more efficiently, find out about grants for insulation and renewable energy and pick up a free energy saving light bulb to get you started.  
**Where/Price:** Green Living Centre/ Free  
**Co-ordinator:** **T:020 7527 4462 E:sustainabilitycentres@islington.gov.uk**

## February

**Date/Time:** Sunday 7 February, (and the first Sunday of each month) - **12pm–3.30pm**  
**Event:** **Green fair and Organic Café:** The Organic Café is run by students with learning disabilities from City and Islington College. Enjoy delicious vegetarian food, peruse the stalls for green goods and take a walk around the beautiful Gillespie Park.  
**Where/Price:** **Ecology Centre** / Free  
**Co-ordinator:** **T:020 7527 4462 E:sustainabilitycentres@islington.gov.uk**

**Date/Time:** Sunday 14 February - **2pm–4pm**  
**Event:** **The Mosses of Gillespie Park:** Help Join the Ranger for a short walk looking at the mosses of Gillespie Park. Although the site is small you will be surprised at the variety of these small plants that can be found.  
**Where/Price:** **Ecology Centre** / Free  
**Co-ordinator:** **T: 020 7527 4462 E:sustainabilitycentres@islington.gov.uk**

**Date/Time:** Thursday 25 February - **4pm–6pm**  
**Event:** **Fairtrade fortnight coffee tasting:** There's a huge range of fair-trade coffee on the market now, from Colombia, Ethiopia, Peru, Guatemala and Rwanda to name but a few. What they all have in common is a fair price for the producers – so come along, slurp some delicious coffees and pledge to ditch the unfair coffee from now on.  
**Where/Price:** **Green Living Centre** / Free  
**Co-ordinator:** **T: 20 7527 4462 E:sustainabilitycentres@islington.gov.uk**

## March

**Date/Time:** Sunday 28 March - **2pm–4pm**  
**Event:** **Earth Hour:** Help Join hundreds of millions of people in over 4,000 cities who are switching off on March 28 for Earth Hour. Find out how you can sign up, meet an energy expert, get free advice on saving energy and money, and receive a free poster for your home or business that shows your commitment to reducing climate change.  
**Where/Price:** **Green Living Centre** / Free  
**Co-ordinator:** **T: 020 7527 4462 E:sustainabilitycentres@islington.gov.uk**

**Date/Time:** Sunday 7 March - **2pm–4pm**  
**Event:** **Signs of Spring in Gillespie Park:** Join the ranger on a seasonal stroll to look for blooming buds, trees, wild flowers and birdsong  
**Where/Price:** **Ecology Centre** / Free  
**Co-ordinator:** **T: 20 7527 4462 E:sustainabilitycentres@islington.gov.uk**

# News and Updates

## Islington's waste reduction success confirmed!

Data released by DEFRA has shown that Islington Council achieved the tenth largest reduction in household waste of any waste collecting Local Authority in England and the second highest in London last year.

Islington Council has already received two prestigious awards this year for its work to reduce household waste. These statistics confirm the success of the council's waste minimisation programme.

In 2008/9, residents in Islington managed to reduce their waste by 8.37% compared to the year before. Islington Council ran a range of communication campaigns, had a 'Green Team' knocking on doors

talking to residents about how to recycle more and waste less, held Give and Take Days and took part in a range of other fun initiatives aimed at raising awareness of waste and recycling.

Don't forget to continue to do your bit and reduce, reuse and recycle! ■

## Road safety in Islington

Islington Council is committed to improving the safety of your roads and in the past eight years has introduced a number of 20mph zones in the borough and succeeded in halving the number of road traffic casualties as a result.



Over the last few months we have been asking residents across the borough whether they support the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on all side roads in the borough.

A total of 46,265 consultation

documents were sent out across the borough, and nearly 11,000 households responded (a response rate of 24%).

61% of households across the borough responded to say they WOULD support the introduction of a 20mph speed limit, 36% said they WOULDN'T and only 3% had no view on the matter.

Results from all areas of Islington have been approved at the area committees and work is now progressing on the statutory legal consultation regarding Traffic Regulation Orders to be able to place signs on the affected roads across the borough.

If all orders are approved then the council are aiming to implement the scheme in early 2010.

For a full breakdown of the results from the consultation and more information you can visit [www.islington.gov.uk/20mph](http://www.islington.gov.uk/20mph) ■

## New Public Space in London

This December one of Islington's hidden gems – City Road Basin

will open to the public for the first time in its 100 year history. It will be the first new public space in London to open since 2007.

The City Road Basin is a former industrial site, which fell into decline in the 50s and 60s. The site remained undeveloped, unattractive and inaccessible to the public for many years.

Earlier this year Eyes magazine reported the progress of a the multi-million pound project to create public access to the waterway – one of the largest open stretches of water in North London, complete with a newly landscaped public park facing onto the canal.

Now you could be among the first to enjoy the public space at a special Christmas launch on the 20 December. Full details have yet to be released but expect Christmas carols, Christmas markets and a big Christmas tree light turn-on.. It promises to be a fun-filled family day out.

More details about the opening can be found on page four of the magazine. ■

## Christmas and New Year Refuse and Recycling Collections



### Revised collection day

Monday 21st December  
 Tuesday 22nd December  
 Wednesday 23rd December  
 Thursday 24th December  
 Friday 25th December  
 Saturday 26th December  
 Sunday 27th December

Monday 28th December  
 Tuesday 29th December  
 Wednesday 30th December  
 Thursday 31st December  
 Friday 1st January  
 Saturday 2nd January

Monday 4th January  
 Tuesday 5th January  
 Wednesday 6th January  
 Thursday 7th January  
 Friday 8th January

### Normal collection day

Normal  
 Normal  
 Normal  
 Normal  
 Off  
 Off  
 Friday 25th December

Normal  
 Normal  
 Normal  
 Normal  
 Off  
 Friday 1st January

Normal  
 Normal  
 Normal  
 Normal  
 Normal

### Re Parks and Open Spaces

#### Opening and closing over Christmas and New Year

24th Dec – Not locked in the evening	30th Dec – Opened and locked as normal
25th Dec – Open all day	31st Dec – Not locked in the evening
26th Dec – Open all day	1st Jan – Open all day
27th Dec – Locked in the evening	2nd Jan – Locked in the evening
28th Dec – Opened and locked as normal	3rd Jan – Opened and locked as normal
29th Dec – Opened and locked as normal	

# Features

## Lunch with the Leader

Thank you for telling us about what matters to you!

Several Eyes members recently attended a Q&A session with the Leader of the Council, Terry Stacy and below is a snippet of some of the queries you raised and answers that were given.

We will be holding similar lunch time sessions with the leader next year so look out for your invitation. These sessions are an ideal platform for you to put your thoughts forward and meet the leader in a more personal setting.

### Facts

Compost

#### Compost helps your garden by:

- Helping to retain water
- Maintain pH balance
- Adding nutrients

### Free holiday events for families

Islington's

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

# Islington in Bloom 2010

## we want your views!

**Islington in Bloom is over for another year, and we were delighted to receive so many entries – 50% up on the year before. And the overall standard was excellent. This was a major contribution towards Islington's brilliant results in both London and Britain in Bloom.**

We made some changes to Islington in Bloom this year. Every entrant received a graded certificate, with feedback from the judges to help them to do even better. This means that our green-fingered residents can compete each year against their own personal best.

**'We also encouraged people to take care of the area of soil around their street trees'**

and neighbours were able to get together to enter as "Best Street or Part of a Street".

If you entered Islington in Bloom yourself, or have done in previous years, we will be writing to you individually to ask for your opinions and suggestions.

But even if you didn't, we would welcome your views on Islington in Bloom. Do you like the changes we made? Is there anything else we can do to let more people know about Bloom? How can we encourage even more residents, schools and businesses to take part in making our borough a brighter and greener place for everybody? For example, do you ever stop to admire someone's front garden, or window boxes? Do you have green-fingered neighbours? We would like you to tell us about them! ■



Contact Sue Whitehead, Islington's In Bloom Officer on:  
E. [sue.whitehead@islington.gov.uk](mailto:sue.whitehead@islington.gov.uk)  
T. 020 7527 1787 / 07826 904240  
Greenspace, Public Realm Division,  
Islington Council, 222 Upper Street,  
London, N1 1YA

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## Love Trees? Now it's time to have your say

**The council looks after 40,000 trees on Islington's streets, in parks and on council owned land – did you know that there are more street trees than lamp columns in the borough?**

But trees in Islington are forever facing threats, be from diseases, pressures of urban development or climate change.

Following a review of the council's tree service by councillors earlier this year, we are working towards strengthening our commitment to maintaining and expanding our urban forest. As part of this we have improved the council's draft Tree Policy – which aims to protect and care for trees as much as possible.

The council are now in the process of asking residents and people who work in the borough what they think of the council's priorities within the policy which include:

- increasing the area covered by trees
- not removing trees unless there are sound reasons to do so
- planting a variety of different species

We want to know what you think. You can view the policy and comment on line by visiting [www.islington.gov.uk/trees](http://www.islington.gov.uk/trees) or request a copy to be sent to you by emailing [tree.service@islington.gov.uk](mailto:tree.service@islington.gov.uk) or calling 020 7527 2000. The consultation finishes on 24 January 2010. ■



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# Greener Islington

Help us keep our green spaces in top condition!

**Greenspace would like to offer residents the opportunity to be trained on how to monitor our parks, open spaces and Homes for Islington green spaces.**

Greenspace would like to offer residents the opportunity to be trained on how to monitor our parks, open spaces and Homes for Islington green spaces.

The purpose of the training was to give residents the knowledge and skills required to monitor the condition of parks and open spaces and HFI green spaces based on the ground maintenance specification and how to report their findings using a simple online system. The monitoring includes site security, litter, leaves, sports areas, graffiti and horticultural elements.

This information is used to help us measure the quality of the grounds maintenance service we are providing and to identify areas of improvement.

For more information on monitoring our parks and open spaces, please contact Sarah Warland on [sarah.warland@islington.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.warland@islington.gov.uk) or call **020 7527 4968** or Martin Kalaher on [martin.kalaher@islington.gov.uk](mailto:martin.kalaher@islington.gov.uk) or call **020 7527 7224**. ■

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## Highways works in Islington – your questions answered.

### Who is digging up my road?

A common misconception is that all works on the street are carried out by the council. In reality, over half are carried out by utility companies providing water, electric, gas or telecommunications to Islington's residents and businesses. There are over 40 utility companies currently operating in Islington. We do not have the power to stop these works taking place, but utility companies do have to tell us when and where works will be. We also inspect the area afterwards to make sure repairs are to standard.

### Can a road be dug up immediately after it has been resurfaced?

Nobody is allowed to dig up a newly resurfaced road/pavement unless it is an emergency, a new connection is required, or large scale remedial works need to be carried out. We monitor frequency, type, and standard of work. We also monitor noise levels and timings. If issues arise we instruct the company responsible to put it right.

### Whose work site is it?

All companies should have a sign informing road users of site ownership. If you are unable to identify a particular worksite call us on 020 7527 2000 and ask for Streetworks, who will be able to advise you further. ■

# Safer Islington



## More Police on our streets

Islington's streets are getting safer and crime is falling. Over the last four years, domestic burglaries have fallen by 20% and robberies by 9%. We think this is a great achievement, but we know there's more we can do and these figures are just the start. You've told us you want us to invest in safer streets, so we're doing just that.

Thanks to an injection of cash, we have an extra seven police officers hitting the streets in the New Year, as well as four new officers with a focus on community safety.

The money has been awarded to us for exceeding set targets, such as

making significant improvements to our parks and green spaces, top-notch school results in maths and English, helping people into work, increasing the income of older people and tackling domestic violence. We want this money, which is expected to be around £6m, to benefit the whole community, so we're spending it on a range of projects across the borough.

## Safer Streets

The new police team will be made up of one sergeant and six constables, and will provide extra cover at weekends and evenings, focusing on problem areas in all parts of the borough such as housing estates and green spaces.

Four other officers will focus on community safety, supporting victims and witnesses, and promoting the community payback scheme where perpetrators make good the damage they've caused.

The north of the borough is already reaping the benefits of extra policing with the North Islington Problem



Solving Team which has had a big impact on crime in the area. In particular, they've helped to stamp out the problem of illegal traders at the Nag's Head.

Council Leader Terry Stacy said: "We want everyone in the borough to feel safe on the streets and in their own homes, and safety is a priority for the council and our residents. Having extra police on the beat is one of the best ways to tackle crime, so this new police team will make a big difference to all of us. The new community safety team will also help us in our efforts to work with victims and rehabilitate offenders." ■

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# Get involved

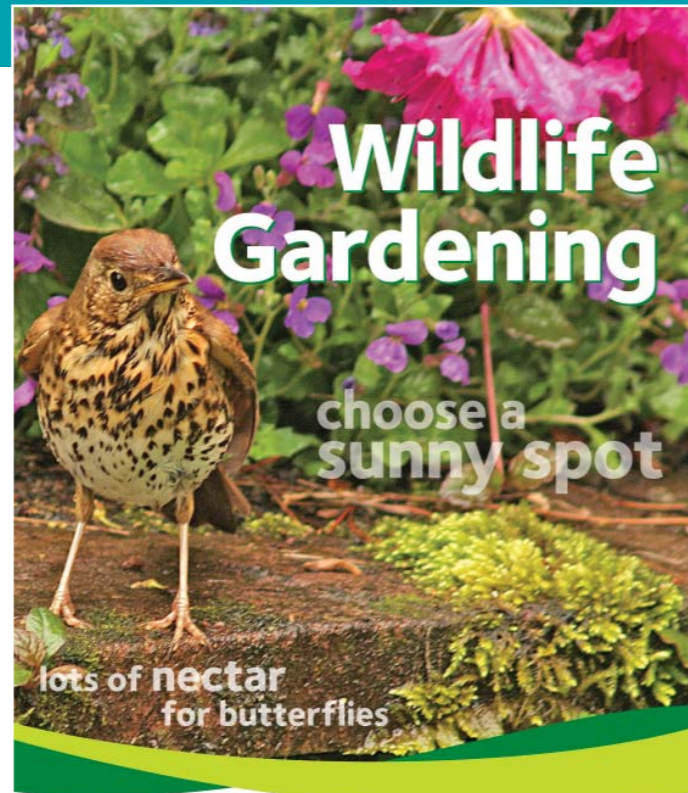
Make friends, save money and the planet – in one go!

**Would you like to be more environmentally friendly at home and save money – but need help to get started? Then you can join one of our new Ecoteams.**

EcoTeams are groups of six to eight people who meet monthly to agree, carry out and measure practical, sustainable actions at home. You discuss a different topic each time e.g. recycling, shopping, energy use, water efficiency and travel; you measure your results – and get a report at the end showing how much carbon and money you've saved. Team leaders are trained and supported throughout the project which runs for six months.

The scheme has run successfully in other London boroughs. Mathew D'Souza, who is leading his second team in Haringey, says: 'having a structured programme is a great help and you don't have to know a lot about the environment to take part.' He adds that, 'meetings are very informal and a good way to socialise.'

To find out more please call  
**0207 527 8328/ 07826 904 912**  
or email [jenny.daly@islington.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.daly@islington.gov.uk)



[www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk)



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## Tips and advice



### Recycle your Christmas tree

**If you live in a street property you can simply leave your Christmas tree at the edge of your property along with your normal green waste from Monday 4 January.**

If you live on an estate you can contact your Area Housing Office for more information.

There will also be four parks where you can take your Christmas trees between 2-17 January, these are:

- Kings Square
- Rosemary Gardens
- Elthorne Park
- Barnard Park

And remember the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre, Hornsey Street also accepts green waste and Christmas trees all year round. ■

### Energy Display meters available to all this Christmas

**Libraries across Islington will now be able to loan out energy display meters to Islington residents.**

An energy display meter allows you to see exactly how much electricity you are using at home and could save you about £50 in fuel bills.

For extra help on how to save energy please ring the green living centre on **0800 953 1221** or email [greenliving@islington.gov.uk](mailto:greenliving@islington.gov.uk) ■

### Energy Doctor will take your temperature

**Islington families can get a free green energy check-up for their homes, with a visit from one of two trained "Energy Doctors" who can help you reduce bills and CO2 emissions.**

Two The experts help to install simple energy saving gadgets such as draught excluders, modern low energy light bulbs and reflective radiator panels as well as give advice on how to stay energy efficient once new measures have been installed.

For details of more Energy Doctor Surgeries free phone

**0800 953 1221** ■

### Winter warmth tips for OAPs this winter

**Hundreds of pensioners in Islington dread winter because they can't afford rising fuel prices and many face a dilemma of whether to heat or eat.**

But help is at hand in the form of Islington Council's Winter Warmth scheme which includes information on how to cut your energy bills and how to stay healthy, active and safe.

Teaming up with experts at the Energy Savings Trust, NHS Islington, Age Concern and others, the council has developed a range of freebies, practical advice and support to help older people on fixed incomes get through the winter months.

For more information you can visit the Green Living Centre or call **0800 953 1221** for more information.

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