



Your independent community newspaper

WALTHAM FOREST ECHO

Free
June 2023, No. 99

Email WFEcho@socialspider.com
Facebook [/WalthamForestEcho](https://www.facebook.com/WalthamForestEcho)
Instagram [@walthamforestecho](https://www.instagram.com/walthamforestecho)
Tweet [@WFEcho](https://twitter.com/WFEcho)
Visit walthamforestecho.co.uk

Interview

The borough's biggest Hello Kitty enthusiast on her 27-year-old collection

► P. 3

News

Local woman took Met Police to court after creepy cop let off with warning

► P. 5

News

Sister of Chingford man who killed their mother speaks in his defence

► P. 6

Housing

Leyton developer blames fire safety for lack of affordable flats

► P. 11

Comment

We review Leyton's Peruvian-Japanese restaurant Bamboo Mat

► P. 13



On the day of King Charles III's coronation, eleven new pearly kings and queens ascended their thrones in Leytonstone – turn to p8 for more Credit: Ashleigh-Rose Harman

Affordable homes plan abandoned

by Victoria Munro

Plans to build more than 350 affordable homes in Walthamstow, backed by the Mayor of London, were quietly abandoned earlier this year.

Six years ago, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan announced the Greater London Authority (GLA) had purchased land in Walthamstow to be redeveloped into a 100% affordable

housing scheme.

The Webbs Industrial Estate site off Blackhorse Lane was once a glass lampshade and bulb factory and had stood empty for seven years, after plans to build a free school collapsed.

A partnership of two housing associations - Swan Housing and Catalyst - was granted planning permission to build 359 affordable flats in March 2021, although Swan Housing pulled out a little over a year later.

In February this year, the GLA made the "difficult decision" to "terminate the development agreement" with Catalyst.

A GLA spokesperson told the *Echo*: "Unfortunately due to the impacts of Covid, rising interest rates and inflation driving up building and financing costs, as well as new building requirements, the scheme is no longer viable in its current form."

"Catalyst and the GLA examined a number of options to

enable the scheme to go ahead. However, it was not possible to find a solution to overcome financial issues whilst staying within the terms of the original development agreement.

"The GLA remains committed to working with partners to deliver new homes for Londoners and is actively considering options to take the site forward."

Since planning permission was granted, both of the housing associations originally meant

to redevelop the site have merged with or been acquired by another housing association.

In February this year, Swan Housing became part of Sanctuary in a "rescue merger", over a year after the Regulator of Social Housing warned there had been a "material deterioration in Swan's financial position".

Catalyst completed a merger with Peabody in April this year,

Continued on Page-2

NEWS



FELLOWSHIP IS LIFE

JUNE 2023
No. 99

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

Publisher

David Floyd

Editor

Victoria Munro

Designer

Jonathan Duncan

Head of Advertising

Klaudia Kiss

Local Democracy Reporter

Josh Mellor

Contributors

Ashleigh-Rose Harman,
Natasha Morgan, Tom
Dixon, David O'Driscoll
and Andrzej Perkins

The member organisations of WFWellComm CIC are:

Community Transport Waltham Forest, Social Spider CIC, HEET.

WFWellComm CIC Board:

David Floyd, *Social Spider CIC*
Tom Ruxton, *HEET*
Helen Tredoux,
Community Transport WF

Contact

Call 020 8521 7956

Email WFEcho@socialspider.com

Post The Mill, 7-11 Coppermill Lane, Walthamstow E17 7HA

Advertising

Call 07732 000430

Email klaudia@socialspider.com

WFE is published by Social Spider Community News:

Visit socialspidercommunitynews.co.uk



Waltham Forest Echo is regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). For more information on the Echo's complaints policy and how to make a complaint visit: walthamforestecho.co.uk/complaints

Continued from Page-1

a month after the Housing Ombudsman issued a special report on its “repeated failures”, which it said could be “indicative of wider service failure” as a landlord.

The plans for the former industrial site, given the name “Blackhorse Yard”, would have seen flats built in blocks of up to 15 storeys, along with affordable workspaces, artist studios and retail spaces.

According to a GLA press release in 2017, the project marked the first time any Mayor of London had bought and sold land.

Speaking at the time, Khan said: “I’m working hard to identify more brownfield sites across London that we can use to build the thousands of genuinely affordable homes London so desperately needs.

“This site in Walthamstow shows the benefit of City Hall taking a greater role unlocking and bringing forward land for development – working closely with housing associations like Catalyst to deliver a scheme that is 100% affordable for Londoners struggling to buy a home.”



Advertisement

Town and Country Planning | London Borough of Waltham Forest

**SECTION 69 OF THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
DESIGNATION OF THE CHINGFORD STATION ROAD CONSERVATION AREA**

The London Borough of Waltham Forest hereby gives notice of its resolution on 20 April 2023, to designate a new Conservation Area, to be known as the Chingford Station Road Conservation Area.

The Conservation Area designation includes the following properties and their curtilage;

- i) Beresford Road: 1-79 (odds), 2-28 (evens);
- ii) Buxton Road: 1a-67 (odds), 2-40 (evens), Spicer Hall Nos. 1-3, Chingford United Reform Church, Sunday School, Stone Terrace Nos. 1-2;
- iii) Connaught Avenue: 1-85 (odds), 2-100 (evens);
- iv) Crescent Road: 1-21 (inclusive);
- v) Douglas Road: 1 (odds), 2-48 (evens);
- vi) Eglinton Road: 1-49 (odds), 2-34 (evens);
- vii) Farnley Road: 1a-11 (odds), 6a-24 (evens);
- viii) Forest Approach: Royal Epping Forest Golf Club (main building);
- ix) Forest Avenue: 1-11 (inclusive);
- x) Forest Side: 95 (Queen Elizabeth Public House), 97a (former Riding School);
- xi) Forest View: 2-41 (inclusive, including Masonic Hall, Grosvenor Heights, Montgomerie Court, The Vista, St Joseph's Court, Walsingham House, Ash Court, Doncel Court);
- xii) Frederica Road: 1-43 (odds), 2a-30 (evens);
- xiii) Gordon Road: 1-45 (odds), 2-54 (evens);
- xiv) Kimberley Road: 1-13 (odds);
- xv) Mornington Road: 1-51 (odds), 2-30 (evens), 36-94 (evens);
- xvi) Queens Grove Road: 2-24 (evens);
- xvii) Rale Lane;
- xviii) Rangers Road: Royal Forest Hotel, Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge
- xix) Butlers Retreat, Keeper's Lodge;
- xx) Station Road: The Village Arcade, 49-175 (odds), 4-180 (evens), The Crossways;
- xxi) The Drive: 1-49 (odds), 2-38 (evens);
- xxii) Victoria Road: 21-51 (odds), 2-14 (evens);
- xxiii) Willow Street: 1-31 (odds) (including Willow Apartments and 1B, 1C), 2-48 (evens) (including the Old Bakery).

The effect of the designation will be as follows:-

- (i) The demolition of certain buildings is brought within Conservation Area control and they may only be demolished with the consent of the Council. Demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area without planning permission is a criminal offence;
- (ii) Six weeks' notice must be given to the Council before works are carried out to any tree in the conservation area. The carrying out of certain works to any tree in the area without either the consent of the Council or the giving of six weeks' notice to the Council, is a criminal offence;
- (iii) In determining a planning application within a conservation area, the Council must pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the conservation area
- (iv) Permitted development rights under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 are more restricted than in other areas and planning permission may now be required for certain works previously classed as permitted development.
- (v) The Council is under a duty to prepare proposals to ensure the preservation or enhancement of the area
- (vi) Special publicity must be given to planning applications for development in the conservation area.

A map detailing the Conservation Area boundary can be viewed on the Council website (<https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/design-and-conservation/conservation-areas-and-listed-buildings>) or at Walthamstow Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, Walthamstow E17 4JF between normal office hours.

This designation came into effect on 20 April 2023.

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITOR

by Victoria Munro

I'm writing this on my last official day as editor of *Waltham Forest Echo*, a mantle I took up almost two years ago, and I will be gone by the time you read it. Though I'm excited for my new role, my departure comes at a slightly unfortunate time, as I'll miss the 100th issue next month.

In the nine years since its creation, the *Echo* has had four editors: David Floyd, James Cracknell, Elizabeth Atkin and myself. David and James still work for our parent company Social Spider, as publisher and editor of the sister paper in Enfield respectively, and I consider that retention rate a testament to how rewarding and rare it is to work for a publisher trying to produce news of genuine value. It would be impossible to find another local journalism job this good in London right now, which is why I'm headed to Sheffield.

It's not yet clear who will take over as the fifth editor of the *Echo* but I will be incredibly excited to see what they

do. Waltham Forest is, in my opinion, one of the most exciting areas to cover in London: home to both urban and quasi-rural neighbourhoods, populated by the starkly deprived and an increasing contingent of the wealthy. It is a borough that is undeniably gentrifying and the next few years will be crucial in determining its long-term future.

Walthamstow became a trendy place to live organically, drawing in residents in creative professions through a combination of cheap rents and good transport links. The rents are no longer so cheap but Waltham Forest Council, reliant on a growing number of people paying council tax to keep the town hall lights on, is determined to keep this trend going by turning Walthamstow into a “cultural quarter” and Blackhorse Lane into the new Hackney Wick.

To this end, the council has done its best to invest in anything attractive to the kind of people who might one day move into thousands of new flats. The stereotypical hipster

loves craft beer, therefore the council poured money into public realm improvements to support the Blackhorse Beer Mile. High-paying jobs are increasingly digital and remote, so the council is pitching the Grade II-listed Chestnuts House as a potential co-working space for creative industries. Having covered other London councils in my years as a local journalist, it is obvious to me that Waltham Forest is unusually innovative, introducing its first low-traffic neighbourhoods almost a decade before they became a national culture war, but innovation can cut both ways.

What it can mean, as demonstrated by my first ever front-page story as *Echo* editor [#79, p1], is finding new and exciting ways to be ruthless. Faced with the problem of finding residents in temporary housing somewhere they could afford to live, the council leapt at the new solution offered by Reloc8 UK, quickly becoming their biggest customer in London, even though that meant forcing people out of the borough and the city.

Furthermore, as the emphasis on the shiny and bold spreads artisanal products and sans-serif fonts across the borough, anything old-fashioned risks being edged out, regardless of its value. While Waltham Forest is often reduced to a tale of two halves - urban, modern and Labour in the south; rural, traditional and Conservative in the north - this picture is far too simplistic. If the local Conservative group was serious about protecting the borough's heritage and working-class communities, they would find more work for themselves south of the North Circular.

What Waltham Forest needs in its uncertain future is a way of scrutinising the rapid changes taking place across the borough and the effects they are having on real-life people. What it needs is a way to highlight problems as they appear, when progress moves too fast or not fast enough.

What it needs, basically, is a good local newspaper. Sign up today at walthamforestecho.co.uk/membership/

INTERVIEW

Waltham Forest’s biggest Hello Kitty fan



Amy in her bedroom with her largest Hello Kitty

by Victoria Munro

One of the most fateful meetings of Amy Allen’s life so far took place at a car boot sale when she was eleven years old, where the now 38-year-old first crossed paths with Hello Kitty.

“I thought she was a total babe,” she said, recalling the little stuffed toy that started her lifelong passion. “At the time, I collected Miffy [a cartoon rabbit] but she was much cuter.”

Amy’s collection of Hello Kitty merchandise fills her very large bedroom in a Walthamstow guardianship wall to wall, ranging from tiny badges and buttons to a stuffed toy that is easily the size of a small person. While she is sheepish about speculating on the total she has spent over the last 27 years, saying it would make her “depressed”, it must be in the thousands, especially given her habit of buying two of the items she likes: “one for the collection and one to use”.

“My mum, if she liked something, would often buy two or three of it and I kind of picked that habit up,” Amy said. As the child of two antiques dealers, she “grew up in a house that looked like the Adams Family home, full of dead stuff” and feels her parents “gave [her] a real appreciation for the past and history” that arguably sparked her interest in collecting.

Hello Kitty was created in 1974 for the Japanese company Sanrio and, though she is now the tourist ambassador for Japan, was at first simply a nameless cat, receiving her famous moniker a few years later. One of Amy’s oldest items is a suitcase from this transitional period with “I’m Kitty” written on it, which is so historically significant a London museum has expressed interest in borrowing it for an upcoming exhibition.

Funnily enough, it was also one of her cheaper purchases, costing her just £5 on Facebook marketplace from a woman in the “deepest, darkest depths of South East London”. She travelled two hours

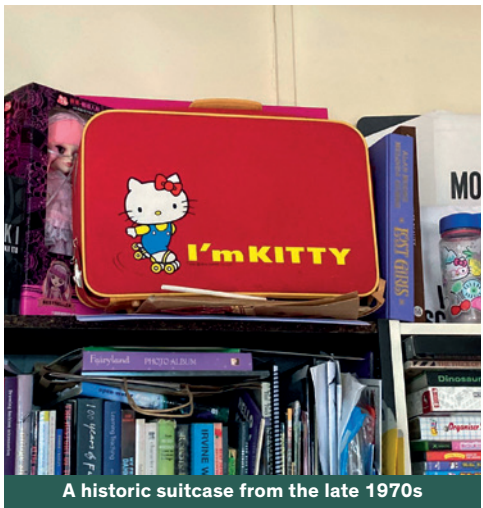
to pick it up but has spent far larger sums and travelled much further to add to her collection, including two trips to Japan, as she tends to shop “splurge by splurge”. Only last month, she travelled to Las Vegas to marry the other love of her life - in a Hello Kitty dress and shoes, naturally - and dropped close to £300 in the city’s Hello Kitty Cafe.

As a self-identified “purist”, she estimates her collection is around 99% authentic Sanrio merchandise, although she strongly prefers the more niche items, “anything that’s not the average lunch bag or pen”. Among her strangest finds are a vibrating Hello Kitty “back massager” - unused - and a tin of Hello Kitty-shaped spaghetti hoops, which she said she would find impossible to eat given they are shaped like her face. Sanrio also regularly loans Hello Kitty out for unusual brand crossovers, which is how she acquired a Jurassic Park cup depicting her dressed up as a T-rex.

Amy is faintly disapproving of Sanrio’s determination to wring as much money as possible out of their most iconic character, describing a collaboration with McDonald’s as an expression of “corporate greed”. That said, as a collector she admits she has a “complicated relationship” with rampant commercialism like this - she still went and bought all of the McDonald’s products after all - adding: “In Japan, they put her face on toilet roll and it’s like ‘oh my god’ but then, of course, I will buy it.”

For Amy, the appeal of Hello Kitty is as a source of comfort, a constant companion that has shepherded her through some of the most difficult periods of her life. “The designer said she created her with no mouth so you could project any emotion onto her and you really can,” she said, “she’s been there with me during the darkest times.

“Wherever I go, I try to take something with her on it, whether it’s just my glasses or my bag, and it means I always have a small reminder of the past and what it was like to be a young kid. Sometimes, it’s nice to forget about having to be a grown up and work and all the noise society puts on you for ten seconds.”



A historic suitcase from the late 1970s

Funnily enough, given her husband was once asked if he was in a child’s room when he conducted a Zoom job interview from her place, she is not that keen on children, describing herself as having a “love-hate relationship” with them. In terms of irony, however, this pales in comparison to her hatred of cats.

Amy - easily the biggest Hello Kitty collector in Waltham Forest, if not London - is not only “not a cat person at all”, she is also actively allergic. “I’m a big dog person,” she said, “I prefer an animal I can play with and take on walks.”

LICENSING ACT 2003
(Premises and Club Premises
Certificates) Regulations 2005

Notice is hereby given that I **Mr Ben Mohammed Rachid** have made an application under Section 17 Part 3 of the Licensing Act 2003 for a new Premises Licence for the Premises known as **La Falaise Boulangerie, 87 Station Road, Chingford London E4 7BU**. I intend to conduct on or from the premises the following licensable activities:

- **Supply of alcohol ON / OFF the premises:**
Sunday to Thursday from 11:00 to 23:00
Friday to Saturday from 11:00 to 00:00
- **Provision of Late Night Refreshment:**
Friday to Saturday from 23:00 to 00:00
- **Opening Hours:**
Sunday to Thursday from 09:00 to 23:00
Friday to Saturday from 09:00 to 00:00

Any interested party or responsible authority may make representations on this application in writing to the Licensing Section, 3 The Square, Leyton London E10 5NR, email: licensing@walthamforest.gov.uk, by not later than **9th June 2023**.

For full details and to view a copy of the application please contact the Licensing General Section.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction is unlimited.

Applicant Licensing Rep: NARTS, 53 Stoke Newington High Street, London N16 8EL

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Yan & Alexa Voyage Limited** has applied to the London Borough of Waltham Forest for the grant of a Premises Licence at **213 Forest Road, Walthamstow E17 6HE**.

- **Supply of alcohol consumed off the premises, hours premises is open to the public: 07:00–22:00 daily**

The Licensing register listing full details of the application is kept by the Licensing Service, Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, London E17 4JF.

The application may be viewed Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am–5pm (except Bank Holidays).

Any person wishing to make a representation in respect of the above activities may do so in writing to the Licensing Service, Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, London E17 4JF or by email: licensing@walthamforest.gov.uk

Representations must be received no later than **22nd June 2023**.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application. A person is liable to an unlimited fine on conviction should such a false statement be made.



Some of her most unusual collectibles: Zombie Kitty, an official Jurassic Park tie-in, an (unopened) “body massager” and Hello Kitty spaghetti

NEWS

Animal lovers set up pet food bank

by Victoria Munro

Local animal lovers have set up a pet food bank for Waltham Forest after seeing a rise in people abandoning their pets.

Shelagh Savage and Leigh Smith co-founded Waltham Forest Pet Food Bank at the start of this year and now hand out donations fortnightly from Tesco in Highams Park and Leytonstone.

Shelagh is already many residents' first port of call for animal-related issues as she volunteers to reunite missing pets with their owners through Facebook group Waltham Forest 4 Dogs.

After noticing a sharp spike in animals being abandoned, she and Leigh theorised it was due to the cost-of-living crisis making pet food a luxury some households



could not afford.

Shelagh told the *Echo*: "It became apparent to us at the end of last year that people were struggling to hold onto their pets with the cost-of-living crisis.

"More people than normal were asking us to rehome their pets and more animals were getting dumped, especially small furries like rabbits or guinea pigs but even things like snakes and ferrets.

"If money is in short supply and you have to choose between feeding your children or your animals then, speaking as a mother, there can be no contest; the animals will go out without."

The pair approached their local Tesco in Highams Park, who agreed to let them leave out a trolley to collect donations of pet food and accessories from local residents for distribution every fortnight.

The Highams Park pet food bank opened in January and the pair set up a second location at Tesco in Leytonstone in March so those in the south of the borough would not have to travel.

Between the two locations, Shelagh said they have 110 clients in total, who can each receive free food for up to two animals, meaning they are "potentially feeding 220 animals a fortnight".

She said: "We don't want to encourage people to go out and get more animals



Credit Waltham Forest Pet Food Bank

thinking the pet food bank will accommodate them, that's not the intention. It's supposed to be a top-up.

"We are very grateful to Tesco and the people of Waltham Forest, who have

continued to put donations in even though everybody is really struggling right now. I think it's a wonderful thing for the community to do for each other."

Find out more here: bit.ly/4363VQo

Residents beg council to clean flat where hoarder found dead

by Victoria Munro

A Walthamstow council flat where a woman was found dead under hoarded rubbish has still not been cleaned almost two months later.

Sharon, reportedly in her late 50s, was found dead on a housing estate just off Blackhorse Road on 2nd April, the morning after police kicked in her door to check on her welfare.

Since then neighbours say the flat, so full of rubbish her body was impossible to find at first, has remained untouched, filling the entire two-storey block with a foul stench, flies and rodents.

They told the *Echo* the smell is so bad that someone threw up in the corridor, while some neighbours have temporarily moved out.

On 17th May, Waltham Forest Council told the *Echo* it had been unable to clean the flat until it received the keys from Sharon's family but had now got them. At the time of writing, Sharon's neighbours said

the flat still had not been cleaned, although they have now seen at least some progress.

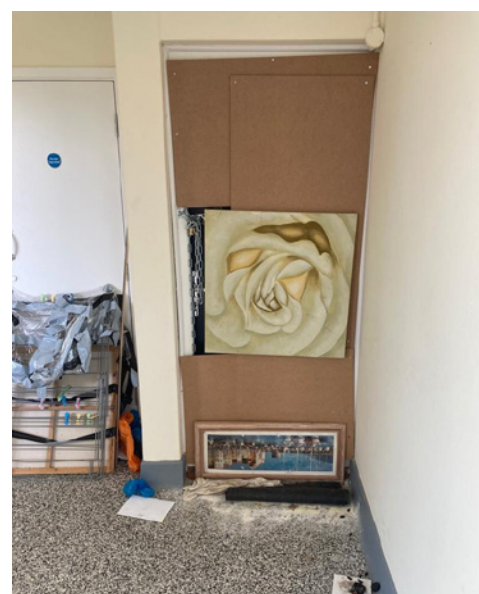
Pauline Di Silvestro said: "Sharon had a very bad hoarding problem so smell was already an issue but you can't just get used to the smell of a dead body. We are all very stressed out and being constantly dismissed and bounced around by the council, it's so frustrating."

Another 58-year-old resident, who asked not to be named, lives above the flat and says the smell comes up "through the drains, the doors, the windows and the pipes" and even "seeps underneath the bath".

She said: "It's the kind of smell that sticks, I can smell it on my clothes. Why are we being made to live like this? If they can't go in and clean it up, they could at least seal the door off."

"The postman can't even bear the stairs, he's been leaving the post and packages just inside the door [to the block]."

She added that she last saw Sharon the weekend before she was found dead and believes she was dead for maybe two days



The door to the flat has been inexpertly boarded up since Sharon's death

before she was found.

Neighbour Ruth Doyle, who is more than nine months pregnant, said she fears that the state of the flat is a "massive health and safety risk" to the rest of the block.

She said: "I keep asking if the council will reimburse people's service charges during this period and that point has never been addressed."

When contacted for comment, the council's cabinet member for housing Ahsan Khan told the *Echo*: "We were very saddened to hear that a person passed away in a council-owned property. I'd like to offer my sincerest condolences to their friends and family."

"We understand this can be a difficult and unsettling time for those living nearby and will always treat these situations with the appropriate sensitivity."

"Once we were notified of the welfare concerns of the occupant, we took prompt action. The police attended and sadly confirmed the resident had died. They have been carrying out their investigation which has just concluded, and we have now received the keys to the property back."

"We have worked closely with the tenant and their family and have instructed our contractors to thoroughly clean the flat as soon as possible."

NEWS

Walthamstow woman takes Met Police to court



Kristina O'Connor Credit Hodge Jones and Allen

A Walthamstow woman took the Metropolitan Police to court last month after a high-ranking officer who sexually harassed her received only a written warning.

Kristina O'Connor met former Detective Chief Inspector James Mason in 2011, when she reported being assaulted by a group of young men in Camden.

As she tried to provide details of the incident, James asked her

“deeply personal questions with a heavy sexual overtone” and later sent her multiple emails asking her out, at one point adding that rejecting him would be “frowned upon”.

Kristina’s complaint about his behaviour was finally considered by a police misconduct panel last year, which found he had committed eight counts of misconduct but only gave him a written warning. He has since resigned from the force.

Kristina won the right to challenge the Met’s decision not to impose a more serious sanction in the High Court with the help of law firm Hodge, Jones and Allen and the Good Law Project.

Tamara Walters, from the Good Law Project, said: “Women should never be subjected to sexual advances by police officers. We hope this case will ensure the Met follows full and proper disciplinary procedures when officers abuse their position and tackles the endemic misogyny that exists in the force.”

Nancy Collins, from Hodge, Jones and Allen, added: “It is important to recognise the bravery of our client in seeking to challenge the failures in the process to ensure greater accountability and enforced protection for victims of police-perpetrated harassment.”

The hearing at the High Court took place on 16th and 17th May and a judgement is expected later this year.

Borough boasts London’s first ‘carbon zero’ fire station

Walthamstow now boasts the first-ever “carbon zero” fire station in London.

The fire station in Forest Road now uses solar panels to power its energy efficient lighting and electric heat pump, removing the need for gas, and relies on back-up electricity from 100% renewable sources when there isn’t enough sun.

Last month, the London Fire Brigade welcomed London’s deputy mayor for environment and energy, Shirley Rodrigues, to tour the transformed station.

Thanks to £1.4million in funding from the government’s Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, the LFB plans to replicate its success in Walthamstow at five more London stations by the end of next year.

Paul Cook, LFB’s strategy manager for carbon reduction, said: “The project has not come without its challenges, but crucially,



Walthamstow Fire Station Credit LFB

it has proven that we can reduce the brigade’s dependency on gas.

“We see this as the first step in a long journey and we have another 102 fire stations to move this forward to, which we are planning for now.

“The trial at Walthamstow has enabled the brigade to develop a comprehensive carbon net zero strategy which, with the funding to replicate these changes across the estate, means we can become carbon net zero by 2030, helping London to become a cleaner and greener city.”

FREE SMALL PIZZA



OUR FIRST **50 CUSTOMERS** WHO BRING THIS AD WITH THEM TO OUR NEWLY REFURBISHED PIZZA HUT DELIVERY **CHINGFORD STORE** WILL RECEIVE A **FREE SMALL PIZZA**. Available from 25th May. We open at 11am.

WE ALSO HAVE 50% DISCOUNT ON ALL TAKEAWAY ORDERS.

PIZZAHUT.CO.UK



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE MOUTH WATERING DEALS!

96 CHINGFORD MOUNT RD, LONDON E4 9AA

T&Cs apply. Only available at: Pizza Hut Chingford.



NEWS

Beverley and Mitchell Denahy (courtesy of family)



Daughter of Chingford woman killed by son speaks out in his defence

by Victoria Munro

The daughter of a Chingford woman killed by her mentally ill son has spoken out in her brother's defence, explaining he "loved her dearly".

Beverley Denahy, 61, died in her Waverley Avenue home on 22nd January 2020 after she was attacked by her 27-year-old son Mitchell.

Mitchell was arrested at the scene and put on trial for murder twice, against the wishes of some of his surviving relatives, according to his sister, who told the *Echo* they "had to fight to be heard" by police.

However, in both cases, the jury was unable to reach a decision and, earlier this year, he was instead convicted of manslaughter due to his diminished responsibility. He is being held in a secure mental health unit and is due to be sentenced in July.

Mitchell's sister Natasha Morgan told the *Echo* he has since received "the help he needed" from the NHS and that it is a tragedy her mother "is not here to see the progress he has made".

She said: "She desperately wanted this for him. She wanted her Mitchell back, as we all did. He was the apple of my mother's eye and loved her dearly. Nobody feels the deep

wounding consequences of his actions as much as he does himself.

"For almost two years, all of us, including my mother, tried repeatedly to help Mitchell with his deteriorating mental health. We knew something was seriously wrong but did not know the severity of it or how to get effective help for him.

"My family has been completely devastated and our lives shattered by what has happened; we have essentially lost two family members. I believe it could have been any one of us that lost our lives and I wish we could have done more to help him when he needed it most."

What made the pain even worse, she added, was what she sees as "serious failings" from the Metropolitan Police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Natasha added: "The police continued to ignore our attempts to contribute relevant information about his background and history and we were shut out with no explanation. I believe this had severe consequences – not only for us but for Mitchell as well. He deteriorated further when they sent him to prison instead of a psychiatric hospital for assessment.

"The prosecution continued to pursue a murder charge in spite of everything they were made aware of about Mitchell's deteriorating

mental health throughout the two years before my mother's death.

"I believe the case was severely mishandled and we were not listened to. I have lost faith in the police, the CPS and the system itself. I believe they lack the ability or willingness to carry out true justice."

Police also failed to mention Mitchell's mental illness in a press release about his conviction earlier this year, which Natasha said "allowed many ignorant people to throw abuse at my family through social media".

She said: "I would appreciate it if people would refrain from making assumptions when they do not know the full story. It has been three years of hell and the public's reaction[...] has been shocking.

"I ask people to please give my family the dignity and respect we deserve, both as victims and as bereaved family members. I ask that you respect my mother's memory and the deep love she had for her son.

"Mental illness is very serious and there should be much more awareness and help made available. I just hope nobody else ever has to go through what my family has had to experience."

The Metropolitan Police and the CPS were contacted for comment but did not respond.

Teen, 16, stabbed to death outside Walthamstow school

A 16-year-old boy was stabbed to death outside his school in Walthamstow last month.

Renell Charles, from Leytonstone, was attacked at around 4pm on Friday, 5th May, outside Kelmscott School in Markhouse Road.

Despite the best efforts of paramedics and London's Air Ambulance, he died from his injuries, which included a stab wound to the chest, half an hour later.

A few days later, another 16-year-old boy handed himself in to a police station in East London and has since been charged with murder.

In a statement to parents and guardians on the Kelmscott School website, headteacher Sam Jones wrote: "This is the darkest of days for the student's family and the Kelmscott community more broadly.

"I know we will come together as a community and support one another through this. I know your children may be very upset by this news and you'll be there to support them. Students will also be able to talk to staff in school and counsellors."

Walthamstow MP Stella Creasy spoke in Parliament the following week, urging prime minister Rishi Sunak to "make the epidemic of youth crime" a "national priority".

Describing Renell as a boy with "brilliant potential", she said: "His family are heartbroken, children are terrified to go to school, their parents are frightened to let



Renell Charles (courtesy of Met Police)

them and the teachers are at their wit's end.

"Will the prime minister meet with me and representatives from my local community to talk about how we can get the mental health and mentoring support these young people need, so that every young person in our country has the future they deserve?"

Rishi Sunak did not respond to the request for a meeting but said the government will "always look to do more to make sure the streets are safe for young people".

He said: "I am pleased that knife crime has fallen almost 10% and serious youth violence has fallen by 24% in the last few years. That's because we are giving the police the powers they need."

Renell's family set up a fundraiser to help support the costs of his funeral, which has raised more than £7,000 at the time of writing and can be found here: www.gofundme.com/f/nepzn5-renzs-world

Anyone with information or footage who has not yet spoken with police should call the major incident room directly on 020 8345 3715.

To remain 100% anonymous call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit Crimestoppers-uk.org.

Advertisement

THE OLD STATION YARD CAFE



Have you tried our catering service? We have something for every occasion...

Tel 07757 742305

Email oldstationyardcafe@gmail.com

Address 186 Wood St,
Walthamstow E17 3NA

Website oldstationyardcafe.co.uk

Advertisement

Pocket Living

Osier Way E10
Waltham Forest

Think you can't afford your first home? Maybe you can...

Own 100% of your home for 20% less
at Osier Way E10, Leyton.

One-bed homes from £276,000

Two-bed homes from £400,000

 Wheelchair accessible homes available



pocket

Register now for a My Pocket account
at pocketliving.com



Show
homes
now
open!

PHOTOGRAPHY



A Cockney coronation



All images Credit Ashleigh-Rose Harman



PHOTOGRAPHY

On the same day that Charles III was crowned King, a Cockney coronation took place in Leytonstone, celebrating eleven new pearly kings and queens.

The pearlies are a working-class tradition in London that dates back to the late 1800s. Kings and queens wear suits decorated with mother-of-pearl buttons and appear at events to raise money for charity. Much like the UK's other royal family, titles are usually inherited.

As explained to the *Echo* by the new King of Royal Kensington and Chelsea, Jack James, the original pearly king was a streetsweeper named Henry Croft, who began collecting pearl buttons that had fallen into the street to decorate his clothes.

When passers-by started asking him for photos, he decided to offer them in exchange for a donation to the orphanage where he grew up, eventually inspiring others to raise money for charity with their own suits.

Henry went on to found the Original Pearly Kings and Queens Association, crowning a king and queen for every borough of London. The association is one of a handful of organisations that continue the tradition to this day and has its current headquarters at Leytonstone Social Club.

Sharon Crowe, manager of Leytonstone Social Club and the Pearly Queen of Homerton, said pearlies make and constantly repair their own suits, which is "an ongoing process".

She said: "Jack's suit must be over a couple of stone with his hat and some are even heavier. Alfie [Pearly King of Hackney] has a 'smother', which means there's no material showing, so his must weigh a tonne."

While incredibly common in Henry Croft's day, mother-of-pearl buttons are now "hard to come by", meaning new pearlies must ask people to donate buttons or reuse buttons from the suits of pearlies that have passed away.

Despite all the work involved in maintaining their suits and attending an average of two or three events a month, Pearly Kings and Queens donate every penny they are given, without taking anything to cover expenses like travel or staying overnight.

Unsurprisingly, this means some families who hold titles choose "not to wear their buttons" due to the time and labour involved. While they can pass them back to the association to give to someone else, many choose to hold onto them for a future generation.

The new kings and queens crowned on 6th May were:

Shannon Crowe, *Pearly Queen of Haggerston*

Connor Crowe, *Pearly King of Wembley*

Alfie Watts, *Pearly King of Hackney*

Amy Rowe, *Pearly Queen Tower Hill*

Jack James, *Pearly King of Royal Kensington and Chelsea*

Ashleigh Rose Harmen, *Pearly Queen of Royal Kensington and Chelsea*

Wendy Loftus, *Pearly Queen of The Borough*

Cheryl Day, *Pearly Queen of Brent*

Linda Murphy, *Pearly Queen of Shoreditch*

Keith Crowe, *Pearly King of Homerton*

Caroline Bircham, *Pearly Queen of Stoke Newington*



HEALTH



Hundreds of breast cancer surgeries outsourced to private hospital

by Josh Mellor,
Local Democracy Reporter

The NHS trust that runs Whipps Cross has defended outsourcing hundreds of breast cancer surgeries to a private provider.

Last month, health campaigners criticised Barts Health NHS Trust for outsourcing nearly half of the 745 operations needed by its patients last year to “trading charity” Nuffield Health.

Nuffield Health carried out the operations in a renovated wing of St Bartholomew’s Hospital in Smithfield, owned by Barts Health, for which it recently signed a 30-year lease.

Barts Health plans to continue using Nuffield Health to reduce the waiting time for breast cancer surgeries until it has fundraised for and built a dedicated centre for the disease at St Bartholomew’s.

A spokesperson for the NHS trust told the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS) that Nuffield is only one of the “independent sector providers” it is

using to reduce its wait lists.

They added: “Nuffield carried out breast cancer operations for us on 340 patients last year, using NHS surgeons, and the remainder of the treatment journey for those patients – from diagnosis to recovery – was at our NHS facilities.

“Over the same period St Bartholomew’s Hospital did 405 breast cancer operations and we treated more than 2,000 other patients for breast cancer at our hospitals.”

At a protest outside St Bartholomew’s last month, Rosamund Mykura from Newham Save Our NHS accused Barts Health of being “in cahoots” with Nuffield Health.

She compared Nuffield Health to a “parasite” on an NHS site and questioned why its chief executive officer Steve Gray was paid £1.2m in 2021.

A spokesperson for Nuffield Health said: “Our hospital is independent from St Bartholomew’s Hospital, which is

part of Barts Health NHS Trust.

“In line with our purpose to build a healthier nation and support the healthcare of people within our local communities, we are responding to the request from St Bartholomew’s Hospital to support some of their NHS patients who need breast care.”

Barts Health has five hospitals in East London but now performs all breast cancer surgeries at St Bartholomew’s.

The trust’s interim director of strategy Mark Turner previously defended the “subcontracted arrangement”, arguing that private patients will not be able to “jump the queue” for surgery.

The Nuffield Health site, which opened in May last year, has 55 beds, seven intensive care beds, four “advanced operating theatres” and 28 consultation rooms.

It is part of the charity’s “health and wellbeing campus” in the area, giving patients access to private GPs, mental wellbeing services and a gym in the Barbican Centre.

Huge fine for McDonald’s after woman found mouse dropping in meal

by Josh Mellor,
Local Democracy Reporter

Fast-food giant McDonald’s was fined nearly half-a-million pounds last month after a woman found a mouse dropping in a cheeseburger wrapper from its Leytonstone branch.

Lisa Honeycomb bought the burger from the drive-through at McDonald’s Leytonstone on 7th October 2021 and found the dropping halfway through eating it.

She complained to Waltham Forest Council, who inspected the following week and found an ongoing mice infestation, including a “decomposing” mouse on a mop head.

The food hygiene inspectors ordered the 24-hour branch to close on 15th October, citing an “imminent risk to health” and, last month, a judge at Thames Magistrates’ Court ordered McDonald’s to pay £475,000 for violating food hygiene laws, as well as £22,000 to cover the council’s legal costs.

District Judge Susan Holdham said: “When customers go to McDonald’s, they expect and have the right to expect

the highest standards in food hygiene. This is not some backstreet burger or kebab bar – children go to McDonald’s as a treat.

“The premises was dirty, this was built-up grease and dirt caused by non-existent or ineffective cleaning over long periods of time.”

However, she described the infestation as “a failing on a local level” and noted that McDonald’s otherwise has a “good” food safety record. Despite directly managing about 166 restaurants in the United Kingdom, the company only has one previous conviction for a hygiene issue in 2012.

Following the hearing, a spokesperson for McDonald’s said the company apologises “unreservedly” for the incident and any upset caused.

They added: “We are committed to the highest standards of health, safety, quality and hygiene. In this instance, we fell short of the standards we set ourselves across all our restaurants.

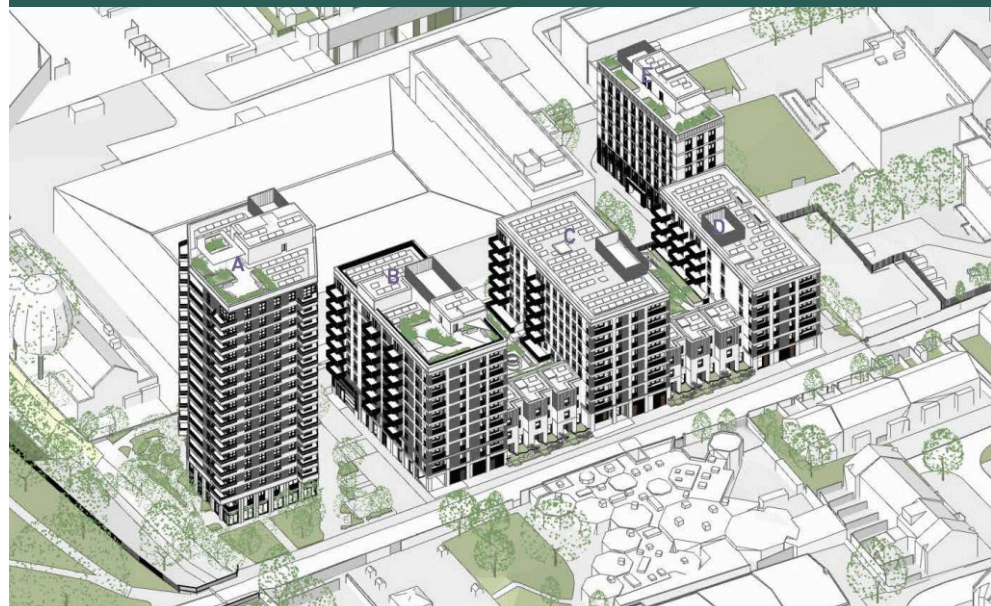
“Following the incident, a full review of policy and procedures was undertaken at both a local and national level to ensure an issue of this nature does not occur again.”



A nauseating photo from the council’s inspection **Credit** WF Council

HOUSING

Plans for huge flat blocks near Leyton Jubilee Park **Credit** Aitch Group



Developer in Leyton blames fire safety for lack of affordable flats

by Josh Mellor,
Local Democracy Reporter

A developer building more than 200 flats next to Leyton Jubilee Park has blamed extra fire safety measures for its failure to meet the borough's target for affordable homes.

Last month, Waltham Forest Council's planning committee approved plans for 213 new flats in blocks of up to 17 storeys in Marsh Lane, which will replace a factory formerly occupied by bakers Percy Ingle, despite the fact that only a fifth of the flats will be affordable.

The council sets a target of 50% affordable housing for large developments but, at the meeting on 2nd May, developer Aitch Group said it could not afford to meet this goal because the scheme is facing a "sizable deficit".

This is due, councillors heard, to the last-minute cost of adding extra staircases in the taller buildings to improve fire safety. Under new rules being proposed by the government in response to the Grenfell Tower disaster, second staircases could soon become a requirement in new residential buildings over 30m.

Speaking for Aitch Group, Phoebe Jones said that, despite the need for extra stairs "reducing viability", her employer was "still including" 20% affordable housing. A total of 32 flats in the scheme will be affordable and, of these, 23 will be let at low-cost London Affordable Rent and the rest will be sold under the shared ownership scheme.

Planning documents submitted to the council show Aitch Group expects to make an estimated profit of £14million on the project, around 13.7% of the approximately £63m cost of construction.

Council planning officer Pedro Rizo said the council had looked at "different scenarios" to make up for the loss of space from the extra stairwells, including increasing the height of buildings or reducing industrial floorspace. However, the planning team – which advised the committee to approve the scheme – decided that cutting affordable housing would be the "best way forward".

The project will instead go through "open book" financial reviews by the council during construction and once the scheme is complete, which will assess whether more affordable housing can be included last-minute or if cash payments should be made to the council by the developer to fund building them elsewhere.

Councillors also heard objections from three of the scheme's future neighbours, who raised concerns about how the towers would overlook Leyton Jubilee Park just next door.

However, planning officer Pedro claimed the park would not see any overshadowing and that new open spaces around the development would be "an improvement" for the neighbourhood.

In his report on the scheme, he wrote: "The slender design approach would provide a greater sense of space between the tall building element and its immediate surroundings and would also serve as a landmark 'marker entrance' to the Leyton Jubilee Park."

Committee chair Jenny Gray said the scheme was "really impressive" but added that she was "so disappointed" by the lack of affordable housing. The four Labour committee members voted in favour of the scheme while Conservative member John Moss voted against.

New owner wants to knock down Village houses

The new owner of two Walthamstow Village homes sold by the council wants to knock them down and build a block of flats.

In April last year, Waltham Forest Council leaders made an "urgent decision" to approve selling two semi-detached homes in Orford Road, opposite The Village Pub.

The buildings have been empty since 2014 and are in poor repair, meaning a previous plan to hand them over to council-owned developer Sixty Bricks was abandoned for cost reasons.

It was necessary to urgently approve the sale because it was discovered the buildings had been sold months prior without approval due to an "administrative oversight".

On a Walthamstow Village Facebook page, local Labour councillor Miriam Mirwiche reassured residents that she and her fellow ward councillors would object to the plans for a block of eight flats, submitted by new owner Ali Ucur.

She wrote: "As local councillors, we are strongly minded to oppose the application as it looks to be unsuitable."

"We will be writing to the planning department, asking officers to refer the application to the planning committee if



The houses in Orford Road **Credit** VG ARCA Designs they are minded to approve. By referring to the planning committee, the consultation period will be extended, allowing residents to make comments over a longer period."

The houses are located in the Walthamstow Village Conservation Area, which limits the kind of building work that can be done on the site.

However, a document submitted to the council in support of the plan states Waltham Forest should "recognise[...] that local character evolves over time and will need to change in appropriate locations to accommodate additional housing provision".

Advertisement



Community Outreach Worker

St James Street Big Local is a lottery-funded, volunteer-led community programme based in the St James Street area of Walthamstow, working on projects to make it a better place to live for many years to come.

To help us achieve this, we are looking for an experienced Community Outreach Worker; someone with the skills and experience to engage the community in a range of activities and programmes and build up the community leadership and activism in the St James Street area of Walthamstow.

As part of a team of friendly people passionate about improving the local area, you will be a confident self-starter with experience in successful engagement with a range of local community groups and working with volunteers, happy to multi-task, and appreciative of our local community.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone with strong connections to the area who wants to make a real difference and play a vital role within a small and influential organisation. We particularly encourage people from historically under-represented backgrounds to apply.

To apply, please download the Job Description from <http://www.stjamesbiglocal.co.uk/> and send a CV with a cover letter stating how you meet each of the criteria in the Person Specification to outreach@stjamesstreetbiglocal.co.uk.

The deadline is **Thursday 15 June 2023 at Midday**. Interviews for those shortlisted will take place on Saturday 24th June 2023

ARTS & CULTURE

Shakespeare in the parks

An outdoor Shakespeare company founded by two Walthamstow actors has ambitions to spread across London and further afield.

The East London Shakespeare Festival was created by Ursula Early and Rosie Ward in 2020 and, after a somewhat shaky start due to lockdown, has toured a different Shakespeare play around the borough's green spaces each summer.

Following the success of their adaptations of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Twelfth Night*, the company is staging *Romeo & Juliet* from mid-June to mid-August, performing across Waltham Forest and neighbouring boroughs.

Speaking to the *Echo* last month, Ursula said the "whole point of the company" is to bring Shakespeare to people's doorsteps, while also adding an element of "modern East London culture" to his plays.

She said: "Our ethos is all about accessibility; it's a bit of a buzzword but it's really what we are trying to do. We use contemporary music and really fun dance numbers so, even if someone has English as a second language, there will be something for them to enjoy visually."

Rosie added: "Growing up, outdoor Shakespeare was one of the reasons I wanted to become an actor so I want to break down the perception of his work as



Last year's Twelfth Night at Fellowship Square Credit Tom Dixon

boring or inaccessible and inspire young people to enjoy it and get involved."

One way the company does this is by offering local people over the age of eleven the chance to sign up for the "community cast", performing minor roles alongside the professional actors at select performances.

Romeo & Juliet is the company's first tragedy so far and, as with previous plays, they have not changed the original text, other than abridging it.

Rosie said: "It's interesting because people often ask if we've changed the language and we never do. However, we really encourage our actors, who are often from East London, to use their nor-

mal speaking voices."

The co-founders met over a decade ago, performing outdoor Shakespeare in Cambridge, and reconnected by chance in Walthamstow when Ursula joined Rosie's baby and toddler class.

Ursula said: "I had considered doing outdoor Shakespeare because we've never had it [performed professionally] in Waltham Forest, despite having so many lovely green spaces. Rosie approached me and asked if I had any thoughts and we decided to do it together."

"We both really enjoyed doing it as actors, there's just something so magical about it because so many of Shake-

speare's plays are so connected to the earth and the environment."

Performing outdoors also means they are able to cater for all audiences as their shows are physically accessible and a "really relaxed" environment, where those with young children can easily leave to feed or change them.

Ursula said: "It's not like a normal theatre environment, people have picnics, and it attracts audience members of all ages, from less than a year old to ninety-something."

"It's not just about coming to a show, it's about taking part in something. The gates open an hour before the play starts and all of the actors greet people in character."

This year marked East London Shakespeare Festival's first foray into Redbridge, after making their Hackney debut last year, and the pair said they are keen to expand across London and further if possible.

Ursula said: "Eventually, we would like to have a slightly smaller company that could do national tours, because there's some lovely castles and outdoor venues in the UK."

Rosie added that they also hope to set up a company specifically for young actors, which could offer "really high quality training" for 14 to 25-year-olds.

Find out more and book tickets here: elsf.uk

In partnership with:



Countryside
Partnerships

The College of
Haringey, Enfield
and North East London



part of
Capital City
College Group



**YOU
HAVE
IT IN
YOU**



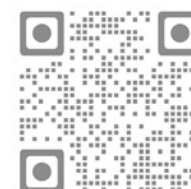
Enfield Construction Skills Academy

Get into the construction industry!

- Electrical Installation
- Decorating
- Painting
- Bricklaying
- Plumbing
- Carpentry

FIND OUT MORE

capitalccg.ac.uk/skills-academies/enfield
020 8442 3055 | courseinfo@conel.ac.uk



COMMENT

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Bamboo Mat in Leyton

by Victoria Munro

When they first opened, restaurant Bamboo Mat sent someone all the way to Croydon at the crack of dawn each day to buy fresh fish. Cooking Peruvian-Japanese, or “Nikkei”, cuisine relies on having the highest-quality seafood possible and, at the time, the suppliers working with London’s other Nikkei restaurants wouldn’t deign to do business outside of Zone 1. A little over a year later, and after Bamboo Mat has proven successful enough to open a second location in Stratford, at least one is willing to make an exception.

Chef Denis Gobjila and business partner Victor Rosca both did their time working at extravagant Nikkei restaurants in central London, the kind that also boast locations in Qatar and Dubai, before deciding to bring the cuisine to High Road, Leyton. It’s a move that

allows them to charge far less eye-watering prices - a plate of chicken teriyaki that costs £11 at Bamboo Mat would set you back £17.75 at Chotto Matte in Soho - although this is still definitely a “special occasions” restaurant for most people. Last month, the *Echo* was treated to a meal for two worth £83, plus drinks, in their restaurant just opposite Leyton Midland Station.

The meal started on a high with the starters, hamachi tiradito and sea bass ceviche, both classic Peruvian dishes. The tiradito, possibly the highlight of the whole night, used a lovely, fresh yellowtail and the perfect balance of citrus and soy. Those used to a more simplistic ceviche might find the inclusion of mango in Bamboo Mat’s version surprising but it was just as delicate and refreshing.

After these dainty but delicious starters, it was nice to receive decently-sized portions of the aforementioned chicken teriyaki and the lamb chops. The lamb in

particular was tender and cooked in a salt crust, with a gorgeous acidic sauce. This was followed by salmon aburi nigiri, meaning the sushi was seared with a blowtorch at the table, and spicy tuna maki. Eating this last dish, where the spicy sauce never overpowered the bluefin’s flavour, it’s easy to understand why they were prepared to travel to South London in the early morning for the right ingredients, as the fish is the star of the show every time.

Bamboo Mat only offers one dessert, a passion fruit and raspberry cheesecake that I likely would have given a miss if ordering for myself, which would have been a terrible mistake. Like most of the night’s dishes, it was the perfect balance of sweet and zesty and a sublime end to the meal. During the meal, I also enjoyed a classic Peruvian cocktail, the pisco sour, although for non-drinkers there was also a nice non-alcoholic option, something of a rarity, in the form of a raspberry mojito.

All in all, Bamboo Mat has a strong claim to being the best up-market restaurant in Waltham Forest, in a somewhat unlikely setting. On the evening the *Echo* visited, the waiter had to unlock the door every time a customer wanted to come inside; it was broken after a recent attempted break-in.

Visit Bamboo Mat at 625 Leyton High Street or find out more on their website: bamboo-mat.co.uk

LETTERS

Dear WFE

RECENTLY, I SAW AN ADVERT for a yoga event in Fellowship Square, organised by Walthamstow yoga studio East of Eden 17. I am wholly supportive of any organisation using public shared spaces to improve mental, physical and spiritual health. There is a significant body of research demonstrating the benefits to personal wellbeing that can be gained from the Hindu practice of yoga and indeed many other faith’s practices of prayer and meditation.

However, my question to Waltham Forest Council is very simple. Having allowed East of Eden 17 to organise this event in Fellowship Square, would it

afford the same opportunity to spiritual groups that can demonstrate their practice is inclusive and positive for health and wellbeing? Especially groups whose members are most under-represented and marginalised by the borough’s existing programme of wellbeing events.

There are a plethora of similarities between a yoga class and Islamic prayer. Both practices are based in belief systems, inclusive to all that respect the rules of the space and use mats, structured poses and the uses of verses as a means of centring the self and promoting meditative and reflective health.

Dr Ruqiyabi Awan,
Highams Park resident

Dear WFE

IN RESPONSE TO FRANCES Chalkwright’s letter in April’s issue [#97, p12], I do not think Mornington Hall is not entitled to funding from Endlebury ward but do feel other Chingford wards should also contribute to the costs.

Between 2014 and 2022, Endlebury ward has spent more than £9,300 of its ward funding on the Chingford War Memorial, £7,200 on a sculpture of a famous athlete that has yet to be unveiled, £5,864 on Mornington Hall, £3,505 on the Sea Cadets and £2,000 on information boards by North Chingford Library.

The upkeep and repair of the war memorial is undertaken by the council so nothing should come out of Endlebury’s funds

and there is, in my opinion, no justification for spending money on a sculpture to honour a wealthy athlete when it could and should have been spent elsewhere. Other wards should have also contributed to the last three items listed above, as well as others.

I suggest it would be more straightforward and correct if residents were given the opportunity to vote on how the money should be spent. This was the system used previously, when community ward meetings were held four times a year. Now it’s seemingly a case of councillors making a decision and only having resident ward meetings when being pushed to do so.

Trevor Calver,
Chingford resident

Dear WFE

LIBRARIES ARE A VALUABLE cornerstone in the functioning of local communities. They offer books (obviously!) for both adults and children but they also provide much more than that, such as access to computers, details of community activities and advice on council tax benefit or other council services. For some, they can also be a helpful place to visit if one is feeling isolated.

This means the reopening of Leyton Library after five months is a splendid story but it is disturbing to see that its opening hours are being reduced from

63 hours a week to just 40. The council has offered no explanation for this change and does not seem to have consulted local residents or ward councillors. This will mean that the local community, already seriously inconvenienced by the closure, will have reduced access to computers and less time with valuable sources of help and information.

It would be interesting to know if Waltham Forest Council plans any similar reductions in opening hours at libraries elsewhere in the borough.

Robert Lisowski,
Leyton resident

ELECTRICIAN

- NICEIC Certificates
- 24/7 Fault Repairs
- Fire Alarm
- WiFi & Wired Internet Cabling
- Telephone Repair & Installation
- CCTV & Ring Door Bells

07544 800166

Licences For Special Treatment Public Notice

Notice is given that **EZZRA Laser Hair Removal** has applied to the London Borough of Waltham Forest for a special treatment Licence for; **Light Treatments**, Licence for the premises **Sach Hair and Beauty, 71 Station Road, Chingford E4 7BU** Anyone wishing to oppose the application must give notice in writing to the Licence s Management at Borough of Waltham Forest, Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17 4JF within 21 days of publication. Specifying the grounds of opposition. Pearsons objecting to the grant of a licence must be prepared to attend in person before a committee of the council.

AROUND THE BOROUGH

LEYTONSTONE

Nursery slammed as 'inadequate' by Ofsted

A nursery in Leytonstone has been deemed "inadequate" by Ofsted after an inspection last month.

Ofsted claimed children at Kids R Us nursery in the High Road are "not protected from dangers" and "receive a weak curriculum in an environment that is disorganised and unclear".

However, director John Tuerena insisted the inspection on 4th April, conducted over four hours while the manager was on holiday, is "definitely not a true representation" of the nursery.

Prior to the current inadequate rating, the nursery was repeatedly rated "good" for over a decade.

Ofsted inspector Anne-Marie Giffits-Walker wrote: "The provider has not made the premises safe and staff do not supervise children effectively as they play and learn. For instance, children play on a faulty trampoline and hazardous cleaning materials



Kids R Us nursery in the High Road Credit Google Streetview

are in easy reach of children.

"Staff do not have the skills and knowledge to teach children the importance of respecting each other. The manager does not ensure that all children receive high-quality, stimulating learning experiences."

However, she praised the way the nursery supports children with special needs, noting it "makes timely referrals to relevant services" and spends funding on "resources for the sensory room".

When contacted by the *Echo* for comment, nursery director John said many issues mentioned in the report "do not reflect the setting at all".

He added: "On the day, she judged on what she observed but it was a four hour period when staff were stressed due to somebody judging them."

"We have had a follow-up monitoring visit and everything [requested by Ofsted] has been met so I'm looking forward to the next inspection."

CHINGFORD

New conservation area approved

Station Road in Chingford in 1915
Credit Chingford Historical Society



A new conservation area has been created in North Chingford, centred around Station Road, to "protect, enhance and celebrate the heritage of the area".

The new conservation area covers "largely Victorian and Edwardian" homes on either side of the railway line and extends to include local landmarks like Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge,

Royal Forest Hotel and Butlers Retreat.

Anyone hoping to build or alter buildings inside the area must now prove they are making a "positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness" to get planning permission.

Announcing the new area earlier this year, deputy council leader Ahsan Khan said: "North Chingford more than holds its

own as an iconic Waltham Forest neighbourhood for its rich heritage and storied history.

"I'm pleased that Station Road is being given its due as an area worthy of protection so that its charm can be enhanced and celebrated for decades to come."

A report for council leaders explained the area will protect the neighbourhood's "tangible" royal associations, "variety of eclectic architectural styles" and its "history as an inland tourist destination in the late 19th and early 20th centuries".

The report adds: "Conservation area designation does not prevent new development, but ensures any such development is of exemplary design and responsive to its context. [It] may also bring potential opportunities for external funding."

There are 14 other conservation areas across the borough, including neighbouring Chingford Green, Walthamstow Village and Bakers Arms in Leyton.

WALTHAMSTOW

Post Office moving... next door

The Post Office in Hoe Street is moving this month, although only to the building next door.

The Post Office at 242-244 Hoe Street will close at 3.30pm on Sunday, 11th June, and reopen in 240 Hoe Street at 1pm on Thursday, 22nd June.

Post Office explained the lease for its current home is expiring and reassured residents the new branch will still have a staffed retail counter, in addition to three automatic screens.

In the period between the old branch closing and the new one opening, customers are advised to use nearby branches in Forest Road or High Street, Walthamstow.



Walthamstow Post Office
Credit Google Streetview

Jason Collins, from Post Office, said the company is "delighted to be safeguarding" its offer in Walthamstow "as we know how important a Post Office is to a community."

The relocated Walthamstow Post Office will have the same opening hours as the current branch.

Customers can give their views until 27th June by viso and entering the branch code 204002.

LEYTON

New ice centre finally open this month



Plans for the new centre submitted in 2020 Credit LVRPA

A date has finally been set for the grand opening of the new and expanded Lee Valley Ice Centre.

The centre in Lea Bridge Road, which was granted planning permission in October 2020, will open its doors to the public on Saturday, 17th June.

The ice centre is owned and run by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA), who argued the rebuild was necessary because the old centre was too small and worn out after decades of use.

Environmental campaigners, however, have long opposed the expansion, which has meant encroaching further on the surrounding protected green space.

While the previous centre

was used by an average of 279,000 people a year by the time it closed for redevelopment, the LVRPA and Waltham Forest Council hope the new centre will attract over half-a-million people a year, boosting the local economy by £1.5million annually.

Two years ago, council leaders agreed to give the project a £1million grant – split over five years – to prevent it from stalling, as LVRPA was "struggling to cover the peak debt during the construction phase".

In return for the financial assistance, LVRPA will provide a ten-year programme of community benefits through the centre, aimed at preventing crime and boosting health and wellbeing.

SPORT

A disappointing end to Stow's season

by David O'Driscoll

Being a fan of any football team necessarily involves dealing with disappointment when your club loses but, to my mind, the fans of some teams can seem ill-equipped to weather this challenge. There is sometimes an outpouring of anger, rage and hatred at the stadium and, even more so, online. This means it was a refreshing change to see the gracious way Walthamstow fans dealt with a disappointing end to the season.

Walthamstow FC's shot at promotion ended on 26th April, when the team lost 3-1 in the play-off semi-final to Didcot Town, who went on to win the final and advance to the next league. It was undeniably disappointing after the extraordinary run the team had had in their journey to the play-offs. Speaking after the game, manager Nicky Ironton suggested the loss may have been partly due to the number of injured players, arguing the players "gave their all [but] just ran out of legs".

"We just had so many injuries at the end: five played injured against Didcot and five were not available due to injury," he said, arguing the team were disadvantaged by

Walthamstow FC fans cheer on the team Credit Andrzej Perkins



seven postponed games, which meant playing catch-up in March and April. "We had three games in March and nine in April. That put us miles behind the other teams and it caught up with us, otherwise we would have definitely won the playoffs."

However, he remained philosophical despite the sting of falling at the penultimate hurdle, adding: "It's all experience for the boys." Next season, he is keen to keep the current team together, potentially with one or two additions, and is relishing the opportunity to have another shot at promotion. "I am confident the club is moving in the right direction," he told me, so much so that he has signed a two-year deal to stay with the club. It's news that has delighted club chairman Andy Perkins, who said he can now "enjoy [his] summer".

The new season will start at the beginning of August, with the Stow playing in Isthmian Division One North after a restructuring of the various leagues, done to minimise the amount of travelling required. For the Rabble, however, it looks like it could entail trips even further afield, with games in Basildon, Thurrock, Stowmarket, Lowestoft and Ipswich. However, Walthamstow FC will still have a few more local games against its old rivals, Redbridge and Enfield. I am sure Stow fans can approach the next season with confidence and the hope of an even better result next time.

Advertisement

The Tool House is a community workshop space open for use as an affordable and accessible workshop, with equipment for DIY, woodworking and 3D printing, and events such as open classes with electronics, a repair cafe and much more.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



IN COLLABORATION WITH

The Fixatorium

INTRODUCING...

E17'S NEW AFFORDABLE AND
ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP



Launching 10-4pm on
Sunday 4 June, then,
open to the public every
Thursday & Sunday



SCAN HERE
FOR MORE
DETAILS

FIND THE TOOL HOUSE AT:
Walthamstow Pumphouse Museum
10 South Access Road, E17 8AX

www.thetool.house

📱 @toolhousee17



WE NEED YOUR HELP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP SUPPORT US TO PRODUCE MORE HIGH-QUALITY LOCAL JOURNALISM IN WALTHAM FOREST

- We have NO shareholders
- We have NO wealthy backers
- We are run by a small but dedicated team as part of a not-for-profit community interest company
- We hold authority to account, expose scandals, highlight inequality, promote good causes, and provide a platform for local people
- Every penny of income from the Echo helps us deliver more journalism in Waltham Forest
- The paper costs nearly £6,000 per month to produce and distribute, but monthly income is under £5,000 currently
- We currently have 296 supporters who contribute around 25% of our income, but we need more!

Can you help us? Our membership scheme has many different options depending on your ability to contribute. Rewards include having a copy of the paper posted to you every month. Local businesses and charities can also sign up and access discounts on advertising.

Find out more at: walthamforestecho.co.uk/membership

OUR CURRENT MEMBERS

Darrel Hunneybell, David Hamilton, Chris Lemin, David Gardiner, Jean Duggleby, Michael Grimshaw, Dexter Coles, Roland Karthaus, Graham Millington, Renetta Neal, Graham Larkbey, Paul Schneider, Deri Jones, Scott Davies, Madeleine Munday, Ian Cadogan, Lee Mitchell, Pat Stannard, Paul Scaife, Irena Souroup, Jon Dalladay, David McDade, Community Counts UK, Saradadevii Hull-Jurkovic, Claire Weiss, (Alfred) George Clarke, Ben Marlow, Creative Works, Carmen Trachenko, Transition Leytonstone, Clem Cowton, Linda Ridgers-Waite, Stephanie Waterman, Hugh Grant Peterkin, Alke Schmidt, Keith Segal, Daniel Stanley, Sarah Jones, Bob Sullivan, Jo Pinney, Andrew Diamond, Julian Richards, James Wragg, Doreen Harding, Miranda Grell, Jawed Akhtar, Jean Anderson, Katherine Green, Shona Mackintosh, Laonikos Psimikakis, Joanna Moncrieff, Steve Cushion, Namir Shabibi, Andrew Boyd, Florent Lassalle, The Digital Story Company, Lora Parkes, Tiffany-Louise Bird, Sarah McCulloch, Amy Rixon, Helen MacIntyre, Holly Wilkins, Steve Roffey, Ruth Goldsmith, Kate Bohdanowicz, Kizzy Gardiner, Louis Wallinger, Peter Brennan, Paul Perkins and Lesley Perkins, Anne McKenna, Clare Thomas, Tom Thompson, Barbara Korner, Tamsin Green, Lucy Birchenough, Sam Brewster, Carolyn Difalco, Jonathan Weymer, Miriam Ceribelli, Maura Wilding, Steven Scorer, Paul Dart, Allyiah Walcott, Philip Hall, Debra Antwi, Amer Saad, Eduardo Regalado, Andrew Johns, Robert Bell, Claudia Hillaire, Sylvia Sullivan, Mike Lanchin, Ben Holt, Martin Goodsell, Jo Fletcher, Darren Kneller, Salaheddin AbuEin, George T Goodchild, William Slater, Adam Shone, Jill Hasler, Paul Clements, Alexandra Martinelli, Thomas Ableman, Matt Bennett, Wendy Wood, Gary Anderson, Jamie Smyth, John Hugill, Victoria Crabb, Richard Hughes, Michael Campbell, Bryony Forde, Matthew Rodriguez, Dara Maguire, Carole Sturdy, Alex Wilson, Richard Campbell, Ben Plant, Rossalyn Warren, Saskia Rombach, Gail Courtney, Ruth Kosminsky, Ryan de Ste Croix, Chris Radley, Louisa Ackermann, John Field, Ollie Daw, Justin Tilley, Carl Antbring, Felicity Hall, Tristan Moyle, Mary Seabrook, Joyce Quarrie, Simon Cook, Flora Fyfe-Graham, Elaine Hootor, Jennifer Crampton, James Mayne, Rob Plant, Ciaran O'Connor, Peter Baker, Tanja Nielsen, Darren Lawrence, Emily Emmott, Roger Huddle, Dan Browne, Sophy Harper, Adrian Stannard, Lily Nelson, Sonia Fletcher, Terence Button-Sands, Ellie Dawes, Derrick Hibbett, Justina Forristal, David Cato, Anne Strudwick, Mark Brown, Philip Wray, Nick Dovey, Christina Carè, Jon Parker-Dean, Sophie & John deGraft-Johnson, Rhod Morgan, Steve Bloomfield, Abigail Ross, Ruth Parmessur, Albert Carter-Phillips, Mary Burnett, Simon Thompson, Alistair Scott, Niklas Friedberg, Angie Tillyer, Helen Porter, Sybil Ritten, Rob Skipwith, James Baines, Graham Norman, Alex Maws, Sharon Matthews, Rosio Cafarelli, John Gilbert, Roy Sutton, Matt Button, Karen Ruddock, Fatemah Abidi, Alistair Scott, Jane Tilson, Liam Jones, Sarah Jones, Hilda Varley, Emily Parsonage, Elisa Williams, Monica Westin, Lisa Lisker, Jason Halverson, Alex Lee, Lloyd Purnell, Katherine Stokes, Catherine Tildesley Mears, Richard Thompson, Megan Cupid and Ed Torpey, Jonny Davies, Carolyn Axtell, pam williams, Esther Neslen, Cranston Watts, Rachael Castell, Heving Wittare, Martin Riches, Daniel Garay, Roland Zell, David Boote, Manuel Arroyo-Kalin, Deborah Nash, Steve Lambert, Helen Weighell, Ines Nastali, Lydia Noon, Mark and Laura McCormack, Alis Templeton, Mary Logan, Claire Lee Shepherd, Thomas Greenhill, Marisa Takom, Annie Constable, Tom Penn, Mette Isaksen, Tony Lawlor, Joseph Clift, Akhtarul Haque, Jane McCormick, Jon Seymour Jr., Scott Rodgers, Linda Green, Claire Hambleton, Clive Power, Amy Keegan, Lesley Finlayson, Lewis Robinson, Matthew Wyatt, David O'Driscoll, Andrew Cole, Paul Gasson, Tom Belger, Irena Chudzio, Angela Shek, John Leeming, Mike Bartlett, Fiona Johnson, Delroy Peters, Anoushka Huntington-Bowles, Natasha McFadzean, Louise Krzan, Daniel Bowman, Diana Wellings, Richard Bagley, Robert Gay, Michael Parker, Caramel Quin, david mcdade, Aisha Doherty, Laurence Palfreyman, Kenneth Driscoll, WILMA (WILMA TEAM), Abigail Dyer, Tiffany-Louise Bird, Roland Rance, Rob Watson, Michael Wiseman, Christopher Brody, Sarah Campbell, Albert Carter Phillips, Sarah Fairbairn, Abigail Woodman, Fred Harrison, Peter O'Kane, Tony Lobo, Tiffany-Louise Bird, Andrew Prescott, Louise Sheppey, Nicholas Smith, Carla Grande, Ros Kane, Linda Bean, James Riley

