



Your independent community newspaper

WALTHAM FOREST ECHO

Free
Nov 2023, N° 104

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

News
Pub in free speech row after cancelling Corbyn film
► P. 3

News
School staff walk out over academy transfer plans
► P. 7

Comment
Food banks are vital but don't fix systemic poverty
► P. 8

Housing
Walthamstow Homebase site developer goes bust
► P. 9

Feature
Single mum's fight for better childcare provision
► P. 12



Fatboy Slim thrilled revellers at Walthamstow Trades Hall with a set that raised money for food bank Eat or Heat - turn to pg 13 for more Credit Neil Collins

Leyton residents demand action on rampant drug use

by Marco Marcelline

Waltham Forest Council and local police faced questions from frustrated residents about their response to open drug use and anti-social behaviour along High Road Leyton and the surrounding area.

At a community meeting at Leyton Great Hall on 18th October, a panel including Khevyn Limbajee, the cabinet member for community safety, Leyton

and Wanstead MP John Cryer, as well as local policing boss Lora John, heard from a crowd of around 80 concerned residents.

In recent months, residents living near High Road Leyton have complained about a surge in open drug use, aggressive begging, and anti-social behaviour.

The situation has led to more than 1,500 residents and business owners signing an open letter warning that Leyton is at a "crisis point" with there being a risk of a "vigilante situation" if the authorities fail to act.

A resident of Park Road, Leyton, told the panel that she had the windows to her house smashed by drug users and that she had never seen the area in such a bad way.

"We live in fear, after a certain time we can't come out [of our homes]. We don't know if drug dealers will be there. We are home-owners, we pay our mortgages. We've been woken up because of people shouting and screaming. I've lived here for 30 years, I've never seen it this bad. You've got beggars

along Leyton High Road harassing old people."

When asked what steps residents could take to protect their homes and prevent people from using drugs in their front gardens, the police suggested "trimming big hedges", investing in "security lights", and putting up "beware of the dog signs".

One resident highlighted the presence of human faeces in the area. "I see human faeces in St Mary's Road and it stays there for weeks. It's not an acceptable

condition for anybody. I've seen [faeces] outside nurseries. It's got exponentially worse in the last six months and I've not seen any cleaning services at all."

In response, the council's strategic director of neighbourhoods and the environment Debbie Porter said that "street cleaning services are out [on the street] all the time" but added that she would "take" the resident's cleanliness concerns "back to the office".

Continued on Page-2

NEWS

Councillors sign letter calling for Israel-Gaza ceasefire

Council deputy leader Ahsan Khan and Cllr Shabana Dhedi signed a letter which calls on Labour to push for an immediate ceasefire

by Josh Mellor,
Local Democracy Reporter

Two Waltham Forest Labour councillors have joined hundreds of their colleagues across the country in calling on their party's leader Keir Starmer to support a ceasefire in Gaza.

Waltham Forest deputy leader Ahsan Khan and Lea Bridge councillor Shabana Dhedi are part of a group of more than 250 Labour councillors demanding that their party calls for an "immediate ceasefire in Gaza to end the humanitarian disaster".

The move reflects growing tension in the party over leader Keir Starmer's response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza after he appeared to support Israel cutting off supplies to the Palestinian territory in retaliation for the 7th October Hamas attacks.

He later attempted to clarify this by arguing that he was only saying that Israel has a right to self-defence.

In a letter published by the Labour Muslim Councillors Network on 25th October, the group told Starmer that failing to push for a ceasefire means hundreds of Gazans "pay the price".



The letter reads: "Without an immediate ceasefire, UN agencies, NGOs and charities have made it clear that much needed aid will not reach pregnant women, children, critically ill patients and those others that will simply be left to die."

"As Labour councillors elected to serve our constituents, the message we have been hearing repeatedly over the past two weeks is

simple, people just want an end to the bloodshed and the loss of innocent life.

"No nation, no people or community should have to endure collective punishment and the same should be the case for the Palestinian people."

"We are also clear that hostages held captive must also be returned to their families safely."

Last week, MPs, peers and coun-

cillors were "strongly advised" not to attend any pro-Palestine marches, which frustrated Labour members who wanted to show solidarity to innocent civilians in Palestine.

A number of Labour councillors from across London boroughs such as Redbridge, Newham, Hackney and Harrow have all signed the letter while more than 20 councillors have resigned.

However, the Labour leader has resisted calling for a ceasefire and is instead pushing for a "humanitarian pause".

When approached for comment by the Local Democracy Reporting Service, Cllr Dhedi declined to comment and Cllr Khan did not respond.

Waltham Forest Labour said: "We urge the Government to do everything it can to put an end to the immediate violence in Israel and Gaza – to ensure that hostages are returned home safely, to restore humanitarian access to Gaza and to uphold international law."

"Waltham Forest has a proud history of standing together against hate and in times of crisis. All of our Labour councillors are focused on serving our community and working to ensure everyone feels safe and supported."

Continued from Page-1

Cllr Limbajee said the council was taking "the detrimental effect" of the surge in open drug use on residents "very seriously". He added: "We are working with partners to identify hotspot locations and perpetrators, improve the local environment to deter drug-dealing and taking, and support those struggling with addiction. To date there have been 39 related arrests carried out, four premises closure orders issued, and 38 warnings given for anti-social behaviour."

Supt John, who leads Waltham Forest's neighbourhood policing team, told residents that Leyton police would change

their scheduling of social media posts about routine patrols in the area amid complaints by residents that the posts were letting drug users know the police's whereabouts.

Police at the meeting told residents to keep reporting issues they witnessed, stating, "the more [reports that are received], the more information we have, and the more we can do to take action." Action that had been taken in recent weeks, the police said, included the charging of over 20 people and criminal behaviour orders being placed.

This prompted one resident to say that they had been regularly "fobbed off" by police operators when calling the emergency number 999 to report "people

smoking crack [cocaine] outside" their home. The resident explained that operators had told them to call the non-emergency 101 instead as the police were "taking too many calls" from their specific neighbourhood.

A representative from housing association London & Quadrant (L&Q) was also in attendance at the meeting. L&Q said it was working with the police on the issuing of closure orders, and was "restructuring" so that more of L&Q tenants and nearby residents "know us".

The council said it was collaborating with L&Q to "design crime out" of a planned redevelopment site near Leyton Station, and would "prioritise infrastruc-

ture that keeps people safe".

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the Senior Neighbourhoods Policing Team said the meeting gave them an "opportunity to inform residents of [their] short, medium and long term policing plan to address the ongoing concerns of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Leyton area along with some of the proactive and engagement work we have been doing over the past two weeks in Leyton."

"We have taken on board the suggestions from our residents and by working together with them and our partners, we will implement these suggestions in order to deliver more trust, less crime and higher standards to the Leyton community."



FELLOWSHIP IS LIFE

NOV 2023
N° 104

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
Marco Marcelline

Designer
Jonathan Duncan

Head of Advertising
Klaudia Kiss

Local Democracy Reporter
Josh Mellor

Contributors
Lindsay Collier,
Carlos Sanchez,
Emma Stanworth

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

NEWS

Pub in free speech row after dropping Jeremy Corbyn film event

Walthamstow Trades Hall cancelled screening of film that claims antisemitism in Corbyn's Labour was trumped up for political purposes

by Marco Marcelline

Pro-Palestine activists have slammed a Walthamstow pub's decision to not show a film which describes antisemitism claims made during Jeremy Corbyn's leadership of the Labour Party as part of a "conspiracy".

The Waltham Forest Palestine Solidarity Campaign (WFPSC), had planned to show *Oh Jeremy Corbyn - The Big Lie*, at Walthamstow Trades Hall on 17th October before the pub cancelled the booking less than two weeks before it was due to happen, citing "controversy".

The WFPSC said they reached out to Trades Hall to ask if the film was to be shown after seeing the event had been removed from the pub's website on 3rd October. In emails to the event organisers that were shared with the *Echo*, a representative from Trades Hall said: "We have received multiple complaints from members regarding their concerns for this film. We will not be sharing the content of these complaints, as they were made to the club directly, not to you. We are not asking for a response or conversation with you around whether these concerns are valid or who is right or wrong."

The film's producer Norman Thomas told the *Echo*: "It is disgraceful that people in the area are being denied the chance to see this important film. It really is a form of censorship."

"Any 'controversy' surrounding the film is ill-founded and has been deliberately provoked by malicious parties with the specific intention of deterring venues from screening the film."

Thomas added: "It is totally unfair and unjust that a screening of this important film which

has been of such interest to so many should be cancelled on account of the influence of the few and by people who haven't even seen the film. It is a total contradiction of the spirit of free speech and open debate on which a democracy relies."

A petition against the film screening's cancellation has been signed by over 1,100 people. The petition's organiser Rada Daniell wrote: "We understand that a number of venues around the country have faced vociferous calls to ban this film, by people who want to prevent discussion of what it has to say about the Labour Party's handling of antisemitism. We regard such pressure as an unacceptable threat to freedom of speech."

Daniell added: "The event planned by WFPSC offered us

"If you have an argument please make it, but banning things doesn't advance your cause in any way. If people feel confident in their argument they don't need to censor things."

Diana told the *Echo* that the cancellation meant the WFPSC did not have enough time to find an alternative venue to screen the film. She added: "We hope to find another venue that would be happy [to have us]."

The cancelled event was due to feature a post-film panel discussion including Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi, a left-wing activist who was expelled from the Labour Party in December 2022 for speaking at talks organised by groups proscribed by the party. The groups included Labour Against the Witchhunt, and Resist.



Jeremy Corbyn speaking at a final rally of his leadership campaign on September 11, 2015
Credit 'Oh Jeremy Corbyn... The Big Lie'

the chance to discuss the film with a panel of speakers including two respected Jewish activists. Cancellation denies us the opportunity to hold the kind of constructive, respectful debate that has occurred at dozens of screenings across the UK over recent months."

Diana Nielsen, a WFPSC organiser, criticised the cancellation as running in contrast to the principle of free speech. She said: "I wanted to see the film in an environment where there was discussion and debate but now I haven't got that chance and other people haven't got that chance."

"As far as I'm concerned the best thing to do is to come and argue their case as to why they don't like the film. Instead they make anonymous complaints that were not transmitted to us and somehow it deprives the local population of their right to see a film."

The Big Lie is narrated by comedian Alexei Sayle, and features contributions from film director Ken Loach, former Momentum vice-chair Jackie Walker, and trade unionist and former Corbyn adviser Andrew Murray.

The Big Lie was due to be screened at Glastonbury Festival in June this year but was pulled after complaints made by Jewish organisations including the Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA).

It had originally been billed to show inside the festival's cinema tent but was pulled after organisers stated a screening of the film was "not appropriate". Outraged supporters of the film retaliated by unofficially screening the film in the festival's Shangri-La section.

The prominent left-wing Jewish commentator Rachel Shabi has described *The Big Lie* as making

"central an argument based on antisemitic conspiracy layered upon conspiracy". In an op-ed for the *i* newspaper, she wrote that the film portrays Jewish groups within Labour and in Britain as "de facto pro-Israel fronts" who "nefariously exerted outsized power" in "orchestrating the demise" of Corbyn's leadership.

When contacted the CAA commended Trades Hall's decision to cancel the screening but did not disclose whether it sent letters of complaint to the pub. A spokesperson for the group said: "Propaganda from antisemitism-deniers has no place being shown at Walthamstow Trades Hall, and we commend the venue on making the right decision. We have written to numerous venues across the country to alert them as to the true nature of this insidious film, and we are pleased to see that many are taking note."

The spokesperson added that the screening's cancellation had "little to do with free speech" and that the film "alienates Jewish patrons and those who stand against racism" by actively painting a picture of a "nefarious campaign being orchestrated against someone who allowed antisemitism to run rampant."

Claire O'Shea, president of the Trades Hall told the *Echo* that the film screening was cancelled due to a "gap in information" at the time of the booking.

Claire said: "We were contacted by some of our members who raised concerns that there was controversy around the film."

The *Echo* asked how many members complained but we did not receive a response.

Waltham Forest Labour told the *Echo* it was "pleased that the Trades Hall made the decision to not show *The Big Lie* film." A spokesperson said: "According to the Jewish Labour Movement and Community Security Trust, the film promotes antisemitic tropes and conspiracy theories and therefore would not be appropriate to be shown."

"Waltham Forest Council has declared that there is no space for hate in our borough and urges everyone to commit to making our borough a safe and welcoming place for all."

Advertisement

ELECTRICIAN

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

07544 800166

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

City Fruit and Veg Ltd

Muhammad Malik trading as City Fruit and Veg Ltd of 28a Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, England, SL1 3PO is applying for a licence to use New Spitalfield Market Leyton E10 5SQ as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

LICENSING ACT 2003 Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **La Papy Limited** has applied on this day **11th October 2023** to the London Borough Of Waltham Forest for the grant of a Premises Licence to permit:

- The retail sale of alcohol on premises: Sunday to Thursday from 10:00 until 22:30; Friday to Saturday from 10:00 until 23:30
- For the premises known as: **La Papy** situated at: 459 High Road Leyton London E10 5EL

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: Premise Licensing, Place Directorate, London Borough of Waltham Forest, Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JF or by email: licensing@walthamforest.gov.uk.

To be received no later than 8th November 2023 stating the grounds for making said representation. The register and a record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website www.walthamforest.gov.uk or by appointment at the Council's offices during office hours.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is unlimited.

**We offer
licence
advertising
for local
businesses**



Email licences@socialspider.com

Call 07732 000 430

NEWS

Former Waltham Forest councillor wins MP bid

Alistair Strathern, who was a councillor for Higham Hill, overturned a massive Tory majority to replace Nadine Dorries as MP for Mid-Bedfordshire



Alistair Strathern
Credit East of England Labour

by Marco Marcelline

A former Waltham Forest councillor has won a sweeping parliamentary by-election victory in Mid-Bedfordshire.

Alistair Strathern, who was a councillor for Higham Hill until his resignation in September, overturned a majority of 24,664 to become the new MP for

Mid-Bedfordshire. Strathern was sworn in as MP on 23rd October.

The by-election came after former culture secretary Nadine Dorries resigned from the seat which she had held since 2005.

In addition to being a councillor Strathern had held council cabinet positions including the brief for children and young people and fifteen-minute neighbourhoods.

In his victory speech, Strathern, who

grew up in the constituency, said: "Tonight, residents across Mid Bedfordshire have made history. After decades of being taken for granted, being underrepresented, they made a decision it was time for a change. Nowhere is off limits for this Labour party and tonight's result proves it."

He added that Labour's win in the Tory safe seat was only possible because the party had "changed" under Keir Starmer's leadership.

Strathern won 13,872 votes while Conservative candidate Festus Akinbusoye won 12,680. Third placed Liberal Democrats candidate Emma Holland-Lindsay won 9,420 votes.

The Labour electoral win comes the same night as another victory for the Starmer-led party in the Tamworth by-election.

On X (formerly Twitter), Strathern said: "From the bottom of our hearts - thank you. I will not let you down."

Meanwhile, Labour Party leader Keir Starmer heralded the by-election results as showing that "voters across Mid Bedfordshire, Tamworth and Britain overwhelmingly want change".

He added: "Labour will deliver for working people, with a proper plan to rebuild our country. Labour will give Britain its future back."

In addition to his work as a Waltham

Forest cabinet member, Strathern's LinkedIn profile lists a full-time role as "climate lead" at the Bank of England. In July, he told the Local Democracy Reporting Service that he had taken unpaid leave from the role in order to "free up time" for his by-election campaign efforts.

Strathern was selected as the Labour candidate in June, more than two months before Dorries tendered her formal resignation and a by-election was triggered. Until announcing his resignation from the council in September, Strathern continued to receive his total yearly allowance of £39,304 for his positions as a ward councillor and cabinet member.

At the time he came under criticism for continuing to receive the money after moving from the borough to Shefford, in Mid-Bedfordshire to fight his campaign.

Emma Best, Waltham Forest Conservative group leader, said: "If he truly has moved to Bedfordshire he should do the right thing and allow a councillor rooted in the borough to take on this work which includes a massive project of summer engagement with our residents..."

"Unless 15-minute neighbourhoods include air travel he certainly isn't living this work out on the ground."

A by-election for Strathern's vacant Higham Hill seat was held on 26th October.

Local Labour party members not allowed to pick Higham Hill candidate

Local branch members did not get a say in choosing Shumon Ali-Rahman to stand

by Josh Mellor, Local Democracy Reporter

Labour's candidate in the Higham Hill by-election was selected by senior officials rather than local party members.

Labour Party members wishing to be a councillor usually go through a selection process that involves being interviewed by a local campaign committee before a final vote by local party members.

However, days after former ward councillor Alistair Strathern resigned, London Labour's executive committee said it would interview and select its preferred candidate.

A Walthamstow Labour Party member accused London Labour of having "muscle in" on the selection process without explanation.

When approached by the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS), a spokesperson for London Labour declined to comment or explain under what rule it had taken over the selections.

The LDRS understands that Shumon Ali-Rahman was selected by the London Labour panel from a total of five applicants.

Another applicant Labour sources have named was former councillor for Higham Hill, Hather Ali, who Labour blocked from standing again in the 2022 local elections.

Labour members who spoke to the LDRS on condition of anonymity said taking over local democratic processes in their party is an "ongoing issue" both locally and nationally.

They suggested that controlling the selection process is part of a struggle between



Shumon Ali-Rahman
Credit Waltham Forest Labour Party

right and left-leaning members of the party, although London Labour's exact motivation remains unclear in this case.

A dramatic example of senior officials controlling the party's selection process occurred recently when 19 sitting councillors in Leicester – the majority from black,

Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds – were deselected by Labour's national committee in March this year.

Locally, before the May 2022 elections three sitting Waltham Forest councillors were blocked from standing – Liaquat Ali MBE, his son Umar Ali and their relative Hather Ali.

In 2021, Liaquat was narrowly defeated in an internal Labour group leadership election which reportedly saw him win 21 votes against leader Grace Williams' 23 votes.

Cllr Williams has declined to comment on the selection process.

The Higham Hill by-election result was announced shortly after the Echo went to print.

If you have information linked to this story, contact josh@socialspider.com. Your anonymity will be protected

Advertisement



CHRISTMAS TREE MARKET

SAT 25 NOV – SUN 17 DEC

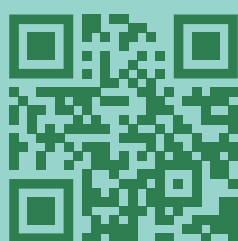
**10% OF PROFITS
TO CHARITY**

**SUSTAINABLE
NORDMANN FIRS**

**FREE MULLED WINE
WITH EVERY ORDER**

**ONLINE PRE-ORDERS
OPEN NOW!**

**FIND
OUT
MORE**



BIGPENNYSOCIAL.CO.UK



NEWS

Tributes paid to man who died at Leyton Orient match

Former stadium announcer Derek Reynolds died from a medical emergency as Orient played a home match against Lincoln City on 3rd October

by Marco Marcelline

A man who died after suffering a medical emergency during a Leyton Orient match last month has been named as life-long supporter and former stadium announcer Derek Reynolds.

In a statement on its website, Leyton Orient FC said it was “devastated to confirm that supporter Derek Reynolds has passed away.”

The 74-year-old was a life-long supporter of the club and lived in Osbourne Road, a stone’s throw away from the home stadium. In the 1990s he worked as an announcer on the club’s tannoy system.

The London Ambulance Service arrived at the East Stand of the Breyer Group Stadium at 10.32pm on 3rd October, four minutes after receiving reports of a medical emergency. Despite efforts to resuscitate him, he was pronounced dead at the scene. Leyton Orient FC had been playing against Lincoln City.

The Brisbane Road football club played a tribute to Derek at the home game against Reading FC on 7th October. His family were invited to the game as guests of the club.

The English Football League (EFL) has confirmed the abandoned match will be replayed, saying that a new date for the game will be announced by Leyton Orient and Lincoln City in “due course”. On X (formerly



Derek Reynolds Credit Leyton Orient FC

Twitter) Matt Reynolds, Derek’s son, has described the plans as “devastating” and “disrespectful”.

Matt said: “We have all been through enough. The EFL have let themselves down and misjudged this entirely. As a reminder your officials wanted the game to continue whilst my Dad was having CPR. Have some dignity.”

Leyton Orient FC said: “Despite the best efforts of Derek’s fellow supporters and medical professionals from the club’s on-site paramedics and doctors, Lincoln City and the London Ambulance Service, he sadly lost his life.

“We would, once again, like to thank Derek’s fellow supporters for the way in which they conducted themselves on [the] night and acted to try and help the situation.”

During the home game against Reading FC, a book of condolences was made available for supporters to sign in the East Stand, where Derek had been watching the game before suffering a

suspected heart attack. The book of condolence was then made available for fans in the West Stand reception.

During the medical emergency, 20 fans ran onto the pitch and sat in the penalty area in a bid to force a halt to the match, which game officials had wanted to keep going.

According to fans on social media, game officials, including the referee, had wanted to restart the League One game while medics were on the scene treating Derek.

One X user described the response from English Football League (EFL) officials at the match as “shameful” and “disgusting” for “making the response team run around the pitch and then trying to force the restart”.

A spokesperson from the EFL told the *Echo* that “the health and safety of everybody attending matches at EFL clubs’ stadiums is of paramount importance, so fans can be reassured that all clubs have a match-day medical plan with dedicated crowd medical teams in stadia, ready to assist at any point during the match.”

The EFL said it could not comment when asked if it was investigating social media reports that stewards removed two fans from the ground for jumping on the pitch to inform the linesman and referee about the medical emergency.

Leyton Orient did not respond to a request for comment about the response of stewards.

Waltham Forest residents arrested at climate protest

The protestors were charged for ‘blocking the highway’ at a demonstration outside an oil and gas conference in central London

by Marco Marcelline

Two Waltham Forest residents have been charged for causing public disruption at a climate protest in central London on 17th October.

Harry Holmes and Rodrick Cobley were charged with obstructing the highway and have both been bailed to appear at Westminster Magistrates Court on 17th November.

Holmes and Cobley are among 26 protestors to have been charged after the police imposed conditions on the protest. Prominent climate campaigner Greta Thunberg is also among those charged. She is due to appear on bail at Westminster Magistrates’ Court on 15th November.

The demonstration, organised by Fossil Free London, saw activists enter the InterContinental Hotel on Park Lane in order to disrupt the Oil & Money conference. The event was a gathering of over 500 senior leaders and executives from the global petrol and gas industry.

In videos posted on X (formerly known as Twitter), activists can be seen being dragged through the hotel by security while shouting “Stop Rosebank”, a planned Scottish oil rig in the North Sea. Outside the hotel, activists holding Fossil Free London placards protested as attendees walked into the event.

At the protest climate campaigner Greta Thunberg said the world was “drowning” in fossil fuels, and that oil and gas companies had “actively delayed, destructed, and

denied the causes of the climate crisis and spread doubts about their own engagement in it.”

In a statement the Metropolitan Police said protestors were “asked to move from the road onto the pavement” which would have allowed them to “continue with their demonstration without breaching conditions.” Arrests were subsequently made when protestors did not move.

Fossil Free London organiser Pascal Hartig said: “This past year we have lived through a crisis of inequality, where our energy bills have spiralled out of control to fund the record-breaking profits of the fossil fuel industry. The government is asking for more of the same by approving the Rosebank oil field for fossil fuel giant Equinor. It is a carbon bomb and they want the UK public to fund it through tax breaks and subsidies. We cannot afford more fossil fuels like Rosebank.”

The news comes as the Attorney General has confirmed that a Walthamstow pensioner will be prosecuted for contempt of court for holding up a sign outside a trial on Insulate Britain supporters.

The move means Trudi Warner, 68, could face up to two years in prison or a fine.

Trudi held up a sign outside a climate trial at Inner London Crown Court in March that stated: “Jurors: you have an absolute right to acquit a defendant according to your conscience.”

Sign up to the Echo's weekly newsletter



Sign up:
bit.ly/44uC3oP



NEWS

School staff strike over academy plans

The multi-day action is the second this year over plans to transfer Connaught School for Girls to an academy trust

by Marco Marcelline

Staff at Connaught School for Girls in Leytonstone have gone on strike against plans by the leadership team to transfer the school to Star Academies, a mixed multi-academy trust.

The strike, organised by the National Education Union (NEU), began on Wednesday 11th October, and ran on 12th, 13th, 17th, 18th, 19th October. More strike action is planned for the 31st October and 1st, and 2nd of November. It marks the second multi-day strike by NEU staff at the school this year over the academy transfer plans.

NEU members have said the transfer plan would lead to potential job losses, detrimental pay, and increased workload. In NEU campaign material shared online, the planned takeover was said to likely cause “exam factory conditions for students, increased stress, and a top down, restricted and prescriptive curriculum.”

The material also alleges that the school is proposing to move from five to six lessons a day.

Waltham Forest NEU co-district secretary Pablo Phillips told the



Striking staff outside Connaught School for Girls Credit NEU

Echo that the transfer plan would “increase [staff] workload” and that the best settlement would be for Star Academies to “walk away” from the school.

“Star Academies can find a different school to run. [Connaught School for Girls] needs investment in education coming from the government which doesn’t drive up workload and that provides a high quality education and not a narrow version of a narrow curriculum.”

“Continuously asking schools to increase workload for staff is not a good way to run an education system in the modern world.

“What needs to be prioritised is the social and educational development of the child; data driven, factory-like working conditions do not benefit students.”

Blackburn-based Star Academies, which describes itself as “one of the country’s leading education providers”, currently runs 37 schools around the country, including Eden School for Girls in Walthamstow. The academy trust runs a mix of Muslim faith based schools and non-faith schools and academies.

Staff at Connaught School for Girls have so far won two concessions as a result of the strike

action. The first concession is that there would be no compulsory redundancies under a transfer to Star Academies, while the second is that teaching and learning responsibility (TLR) payments will be made permanent. TLR payments are made to teachers when schools ask them to take on extra responsibilities beyond what they are required to do.

A representative from Connaught School for Girls said: “The school is disappointed the union has decided to take further strike action, following the disruption earlier this year. Nevertheless, we will continue to work with the unions to try to reach a negotiated settlement.

“Our focus remains on supporting our students to achieve the best possible outcomes and minimising any further disruption to their learning. There has been overwhelming community support for the school to join Star Academies and we’re excited at the benefits it would bring to our school community.”

Connaught School for Girls said it is awaiting a decision from Star Academies on whether it wishes to proceed with the transfer.

Star Academies did not respond to requests for comment.

Cops sound alarm over new synthetic opioid

A batch of heroin that was seized by local police officers was found to contain toxic synthetic opioids.

Metropolitan Police officers in the The North East Borough Command Unit, which includes Waltham Forest, confirmed the presence of nitazenes in the seized heroin batch on 19th September.

According to the Department for Health and Social Care, nitazenes are believed to be 100 times more potent than morphine. In its statement on the finding, the Metropolitan Police said that the toxicity of the synthetic opioid is thought to be “similar to, or more than fentanyl.”

The public has been asked to call for an ambulance immediately if they spot anyone displaying symptoms of nitazene consumption. The symptoms include narrowed pupils, drowsiness, dizziness, difficulties breathing, low blood pressure or decreased heart rate, cold and clammy skin, vomiting, and lips and fingernails that are blue or grey in colour.

In July, nitazenes were subject to a national patient safety alert after an “elevated” number of overdoses, some leading to death, were recorded among mainly heroin users over spring and summer.

The NHS has said that multiple doses of overdose-reversal drug naloxone are needed to treat someone who has overdosed on nitazene, potentially more than on fentanyl, a drug that has led to widespread addiction in the United States.

Nitazenes were originally developed as a new painkiller by a Swiss company called Ciba Pharmaceuticals in the 1950s.

They are banned in the UK under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

‘First ever’ citizens assembly on police powers will sit next year

by Marco Marcelline

A citizens’ assembly scrutinising police officers in Waltham Forest will be held in the Spring.

Waltham Forest Council has said the Citizens Assembly will be the first one to scrutinise the police in the country.

The goal of the assembly will be to hear local people’s views on how policing can better reflect Baroness Casey’s report on the Metropolitan Police. The March report found the police to be “institutionally racist, sexist, homophobic”.

The council says the assembly makeup will aim to reflect the population of Waltham Forest in terms

of age, gender, ethnicity, whether or not they have a disability, and where in the borough they live.

Two independent organisations, Involve, and The Sortition Foundation are assisting with the design and delivery of the assembly which will be made up of 40 residents, all paid for their time.

The move comes as Waltham Forest has the lowest trust in the Metropolitan Police out of any London borough.

Speaking about the plan, Khevy Limbajee, Waltham Forest’s cabinet member for community safety, said: “We know...that locally trust and confidence in our local police is low, and that is what this assembly will seek to address.

“We want a police service that works for all our communities, and we know that many of the police want that as well.

“One of the most striking things to come out of the [Baroness] Casey report was that there were lots of officers who knew things weren’t right and wanted change.

“We hope this assembly will help give them the right tools to achieve that. We believe this could be a model for how community policing can be conducted in future.”

Recommendations from the assembly will be compiled into a report by the independent organisation and then sent to the police.

According to the council, assembly members will be chosen

through a ‘civic lottery’ process where residents at addresses in Waltham Forest will be randomly selected from the Royal Mail’s postcode database. Letters will go out to these randomly selected residents in November.

Waltham Forest’s chief superintendent Simon Crick has promised to publish a full response to the assembly’s recommendations.

It’s unclear if the assembly will have the opportunity to sit at a later date to scrutinise the police’s delivery of accepted recommendations. The council did not respond when contacted for comment.

You can submit your experiences and views on how neighbourhood policing can be improved here:
Visit walthamforest.research.net/r/wfsafety

HOUSING



An illustration of the planned block viewed from Sewardstone Road, looking north Credit Sewardstone Holdings Limited

Eight-storey Chingford housing block approved

The project has drawn criticism as only nine flats out of 40 will be affordable

by Josh Mellor,
Local Democracy Reporter

Plans for an eight-storey block of flats in Chingford have been approved despite concerns about the amount of affordable housing.

Developers Kishorkumar Popat and Santukbai Patel applied to build 40 flats in a block between three and eight storeys tall on the corner of Sewardstone Road and Kings Head Hill.

According to terms agreed with Waltham Forest's planning department about 27% of the development will be classed as "affordable" by habitable room – a total of nine flats.

Planning officer Kelvin Bathie said an analysis of the development's finances, known as a financial viability assessment, showed that hitting the council's 50% affordable target was "clearly not going to be affordable".

According to the assessment, which included a 20% profit on the market rent flats and 15% profit on the ground floor commercial

units, the development would have a "deficit" of £215,000 with the agreed level of affordable housing.

Bathie said the development's finances had been "rigorously tested" and showed "signs of stress" even with this amount of affordable housing, which will include six social rent flats and three shared-ownership.

He added that during construction the council will review the scheme's costs to see whether profit estimates have changed.

Committee member Marie Pye said she remained "concerned" about the affordable housing share and encouraged council planning officers to be "robust" when they review developers' finances.

Committee chair Jenny Gray agreed, but added that council staff "do try their very, very best".

She said: "I'm on that all the time I assure you, to get as much affordable housing as possible, however, if viability says it has to be 22.5% [by home in the development], which it is in this case, and we refuse it, it is going to be allowed on appeal – because this

has happened before.

"And we might not get any affordable housing, and in the present climate without anything being built and construction coming to a halt nationwide, it is very important that we do pursue affordable housing – but we can't be unrealistic with what we're demanding because there is a desperate need for affordable housing."

The committee's four Labour members voted in favour of the plans.

Conservative committee member Emma Best, who was substituting for regular member and fellow Conservative John Moss, did not vote or participate in the decision due to her public campaigning against the scheme.

Other terms agreed with the developer include a £25,000 contribution towards a consultation on introducing a controlled parking zone on nearby Drysdale Road and Mansfield Hill.

Cllr Pye dismissed concerns about the size of the block, raised by local councillor Mitchell Goldie, as "not a big issue".

Council shelves house buying plan

400 homes would have been bought and rented to people living in temporary accommodation

by Josh Mellor, Local Democracy Reporter

Waltham Forest Council has shelved a scheme to buy hundreds of houses for people stuck in temporary accommodation due to "high interest rates".

The move comes after the council had hoped to build on the success of a "More Homes" joint venture set up with housing giant Mears Group in 2018 to buy 400 properties and rent them to residents living in temporary housing.

The second joint venture, approved by the council in 2022, planned to buy 400 more homes in South East England.

However, according to an update on the joint venture published in October, none of the 400 homes in the second joint venture scheme have been bought because the plan is no longer "financially viable".

The report says that in September 2022, the same month the second joint venture was approved by cabinet, the cost of borrowing "increased significantly".

This meant that rent paid by the tenants in the homes, fixed at local housing allowance rates, was no longer enough to cover the cost of repaying the loan the council and Mears' planned to buy the homes with.

The report added: "Mears will continue to monitor the financial markets to try to secure a favourable bond when available, but it is unlikely the second [joint venture] can be operationalised in the near future."

Since it was set up in 2018, the first joint venture with Mears has provided 330 assured shorthold tenancies to Waltham Forest residents previously living in

temporary accommodation.

It is unclear whether these homes are in Waltham Forest, other London boroughs or parts of South East England.

The update says market conditions and the pandemic slowed down the speed of purchases and cut the total by 70.

However, the council's estimated savings from the joint venture – funded by an £88.5million bond issued by BAE Systems Pension Fund – increased from £290,000 in 2020/21 to £816,000 in 2022/23.

According to the most recently published statistics, the council supported about 900 households with temporary housing as of April this year.

The council has a duty to offer residents temporary housing if they are at risk of homelessness, for example if they can no longer afford private rents or have a breakdown in relations with their family.



Housing people at risk of homelessness in temporary accommodation is forecast to cost the council £10.7m in 2022/23, about £2m more than the previous year.

The rising costs of private rents and lack of social housing in the borough means this cost is unlikely to fall by the end of the financial year.

HOUSING

Tools downed at old Homebase site as developer goes bust

The future of the 583 home 'Patchworks' development on Forest Road in Walthamstow is in question after Island Homes filed for administration

by Marco Marcelline

Tools have been downed at the 'Patchworks' development on Fulbourne Road in Walthamstow after the developer behind it, Inland Homes, fell into administration last month.

The development was given the green light by the council in March 2021. Inland Homes had planned to build 583 flats in eight blocks on what used to be the site of DIY store Homebase. The blocks range from four to 18 storeys tall, with the development being earmarked for completion on March 2025.

Waltham Forest Council describes the development as "including affordable housing, new commercial and community space, and attractive, welcoming gardens and play areas."

Alongside the housing, the development promises "environmental improvements along Forest Road" including "80 new trees".

The Homebase building was demolished in summer 2021. Two years on, two blocks have been erected.

Responding to a resident on the Facebook community page Walthamstow Life, council leader Grace Williams said the council was "disappointed when Inland Homes filed to appoint administrators. Cllr Williams said that the council was "working proactively with the administrators, Inland Homes and other contractors to ensure a delivery plan is agreed and swiftly put into place."

She added that the administrators [FRP Advisory] are "ensuring that the site is safe and secure during this period of

paused activity."

On a visit to 2C Fulbourne Road on 5th October the *Echo* noted that there were no workers on site; two security guards were the only manned presence. Security told the *Echo* that the construction site



had been empty for over five days but would not comment any further.

FRP Advisory has assumed administrative responsibilities for Inland Homes.

In a statement to the London stock mar-

ket at the time of going into administration the troubled developer said: "Inland has reviewed options to continue its policy of seeking to complete existing construction projects at the same time as undertaking a comprehensive programme of disposals of its land assets.

"Taking into account the current circumstances and including the group structure and the current cash resources available to it, Inland has concluded that the appointment of administrators is in the best interests of all stakeholders.

In a statement on the company's finances in January 2022, Simon Barnett, said that the company had won two build-to-rent contracts at the Patchworks site. Simple Life London, one of these build-to-rent operators, continues to have a dedicated website that advertises 355 apartments to rent at Patchworks. The *Echo* contacted Simple Life London for comment but we did not receive a response in time for publication.

Barnett resigned as chairman of Inland Homes on 1st March 2023, along with the group's other non-executive directors. At the time, the company said the resignations were in light of "related party issues".

A trading statement, also released in March, revealed that the company forecast a loss of £91million. A month later, the company failed to produce accounts for September 2022. The last accounts filed by the company were for finances up to 30th September 2021.

"It remains unclear when and if work will resume on the site"

According to Companies House, founder of Island Homes Nishith Malde resigned as director on 4th September this year.

Shares in Inland Homes were cancelled on 4th October. The last documented share price in the company is listed as being 44.57 pence. This marks a twelve-month change of -74%.

At the time of the development being approved in March 2021, concern was raised by opposition Conservative councillor Alan Siggers that housing in the surrounding area would receive less sunlight because of the development.

As the *Echo* previously reported, one block, which is earmarked for market-rent flats, would see less than two-thirds of its windows receive sufficient sunlight according to standards set by the Building Research Establishment (BRE).

It remains unclear when and if work will resume on the site. Inland Homes did not respond to requests for comment.

Council to buy homes for refugees

by Josh Mellor, Local Democracy Reporter

Waltham Forest Council will buy eleven former council homes and 117 new-build flats that it will rent out to refugees.

The council says it will use £15million in government funding for refugee housing and borrow a further £38m to purchase two housing blocks on Osier Road, Leyton.

The government is also giving the council £2.4m to buy eleven "street properties" to rent to refugees.

The eleven properties will all be former council homes which were sold through the right-to-buy scheme.

The two Leyton housing blocks to be purchased by the council are known as Alba House and Salix House. Developer Pocket Living completed the blocks on 16th October.

117 flats in Alba House will be exclusively offered to Afghan and Ukrainian

refugees, while 80-flat Salix House will be sold via shared ownership.

According to a report on the decision, which is due to be approved on 2nd November, Pocket Living was "only prepared" to sell the council Alba House if it also bought Salix House.

Waltham Forest Council estimates it will need to provide long-term housing for about 100 households of the 471 Afghan and Ukrainian households it supports.

The Home Office currently houses 150

children and 260 adults in contingency hotels in the borough, supported by refugee and resettlement officers employed by the council.

Part of Alba House will be funded by a £15.4m grant from the government's £650m Refugee Housing Programme Fund, £126m of which is being distributed by City Hall.

Both Alba and Salix House will be owned by the council via its Housing Revenue Account, which is ring-fenced for housing.

LETTERS

Poorly planned development

Dear WFE

I HAVE SEEN YOUR ONLINE report regarding the proposed development in Sewardstone Road and Kings Head Hill. I live in Mansfield Hill which is a stone's throw from this proposed development. The original plan had shops below the flats, however these seem to be gone from the updated plan. I believe there was

to be a large Co-op. The company that is to build this monster is called Sewardstone Holdings Ltd and the owners of the company are also directors of many other companies. The planned development does not include any car parking space. I presume that the new residents would have cars so where will they park them?

Lindsay Collier
Chingford

Traffic chaos

Dear WFE

MYSELF AND OTHER residents who live on the southern stretch of Shernhall Street are very concerned at the level of traffic that constantly builds up. The traffic is loud, polluting, and dangerous to our health. Trucks and buses are sitting idle. There is a growing amount of road rage and aggression; people are frequently blaring their horns. Several accidents have occurred recently. This traffic began with the low traffic neighbourhood road closures around the area which

essentially made Shernhall Street the only route out of the area. Vehicle pollution shortens lives. When contacting the council, we feel we aren't being listened to. We don't feel we are treated with the same level of importance as those in the Walthamstow Village. We urge residents to contact their councillors by email about this as those of us who do not live in the Village are not being heard. This pollution is killing us. The council must listen.

Carlos Sanchez
Walthamstow

Send us your letters

Email wfecho@socialspider.com by Monday 20th November

LICENSING ACT 2003
Notice of Application for
a New Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Mr Ali Kurt** has applied to the London Borough of Waltham Forest Council for a new premises licence for **96 Station Road, Chingford, London E4 7BA** to permit:

- 1) The performance of live & recorded music and the provision of late night refreshment from 23.00 to 00.00 (midnight) Sunday to Thursday & from 23.00 to 01.00 the following day Friday & Saturday;
- 2) The sale of alcohol for consumption on & off the premises from 11.00 to 00.00 (midnight) daily Sunday to Thursday & from 11.00 to 01.00 the following day Friday & Saturday.

The address of the Licensing Authority where the register is kept and the application may be inspected during normal business hours is the Licensing Service, London Borough of Waltham Forest, Resident Services, 3 The Square, Leyton, London, E10 5NR or on the Council's website: www.walthamforest.gov.uk Any representations by any other person or a responsible authority must be received in writing by the Licensing Authority by **21st November 2023** stating the nature and grounds for making such representation.

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction for this offence is an unlimited fine.

GT Licensing Consultants
Tel 07810 826778
Email gtlicensingconsultants@googlemail.com

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application for the Grant
of a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Jon Walter Clifford** has applied to the London Borough of Waltham Forest for the grant of a Premises Licence at **Dreamhouse Records, 177 Francis Road, London E10 6NQ**. The nature of the application is as follows:

- To permit:
- Films, recorded music and live music
 - The sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises
 - Days and times 08:00-23:00, Monday-Sunday

The Licensing register listing full details of the application is kept by the Licensing Section, Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, Walthamstow, 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 Section, London Borough of Waltham Forest, Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF or via email: Licensing@walthamforest.gov.uk

Representations must be received no later than **22nd November 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.

COMMENT

Emma Stanworth volunteering at the Rukhsana Khan Foundation food bank during the pandemic Credit Rukhsana Khan Foundation



Food banks are vital but they can't fix poverty

By local food bank volunteer Emma Stanworth

It's no secret that as gentrification changes the face of our borough, there are whole communities of people who are being left behind. In the heart of Walthamstow, the Rukhsana Khan Foundation (RKF) is one of many poverty alleviation charities working tirelessly every week to help put food on the table for those who can't afford it. As a volunteer for them, I've had the privilege of hearing from our clients firsthand about the impact the charity has had on themselves and their families over the years. We currently provide food for over 130 families every Saturday morning, as well as 20 people on Thursdays with a free home cooked meal at supper club. The charity has also provided free school meals for local kids during the pandemic, and hand delivered ready meals to women at refuge centres and to those with mobility issues. In the four years I've been volunteering, the thing I am most struck by is the scale of the need. Each week visitors tell us that they have no food left in the house. Whilst we are generously supplied through a number of incredible charities and partners including The Felix Project and Waltham Forest Council, this is sadly not enough to meet the needs of those going without right now. Demand for our services has catapulted since the pandemic. The latest government figures show that 18.4% of children in Waltham Forest live in absolute low-income

families and almost one in five Waltham Forest residents survive below the living wage. The rising tide of inflation, soaring childcare fees and London rental prices has left too many in Waltham Forest struggling to make ends meet. Despite the success of the borough and the new houses and businesses springing up, many of these are just too unaffordable. A broken social care system from decades of underfunding means those with long-term illnesses and mental health needs don't have the support they need to cope. The complex and disjointed benefits system means many of our clients can't access the benefits that are supposed to be there for them. At RKF we know the reality; food banks aren't just an emergency stop gap for when people 'fall on hard times'. These are not one-off crises but systemic issues. Food alone is not the solution and food banks don't lift people out of poverty; our clients will need our help for years to come. Food insecurity is not an isolated issue but rather a symptom of larger societal problems. We need minimum wage reforms, fairer labour practices, and job training initiatives to help individuals secure well-paying, stable employment. If refugees and domestic violence survivors are dependent on food banks, we know we are failing them as a society. Community engagement and support are also vital in the

fight against food insecurity. As winter draws in, the need for community spaces that are free, warm and safe is only going to increase. Local organisations, businesses, and individuals in Walthamstow can contribute to this effort by hosting food drives, supporting community gardens, and mentoring those in need to improve their financial literacy and job prospects. Walthamstow is a vibrant, creative wonderful community and no-one should be priced out. We also need to address the issue of food waste. In the UK, millions of tons of edible food is wasted each year, while food banks work tirelessly to source food for those in need. At RKF we currently collect leftover food from incredible local partners at Tesco, Lidl and Sainsbury's shops nearby – this food would go in the bin if we didn't. But our ability to collect this surplus food is entirely dependent on the generosity of volunteer drivers. Food banks are a sign of communities caring for those who are struggling and who the government is failing – but they are not a long-term solution. We really need your donations now more than ever, but we also need to come together and demand better of our government, so that food banks aren't the primary source of nutrition for thousands of families across Britain. Get involved with volunteering or donating at the Rukhsana Khan Foundation by visiting: rukhsanakhanfoundation.org

NEWS



A £1.17million insurance award payout will finance the replacement of the subsiding cricket pavilion at Rolls Park Sports Ground

by Marco Marcelline

Waltham Forest Council will use a £1.17million insurance award payout to tear down and replace a sinking cricket pavilion in Highams Park.

The pavilion at Rolls Sports Ground on Hickman Avenue, has suffered from damage caused by subsidence for years. Through sucking up moisture in the soil, nearby trees had made the soil beneath the building's foundation unstable, causing it to sink into the ground.

The payout, totalling £1.175m, will finance works towards the delivery of an entirely new cricket pavilion before 2025; a preliminary timetable produced by the council says work will start on the site in June 2024, before being completed in December 2024.

In a cabinet report approved on 11th October, the council's director of neighbourhoods Jarlath Griffin said the "complex nature of the subsidence and damage to the building" has meant it has taken "four years" to arrive at a position where the council can reconstruct the pavilion.

Plans for the redeveloped pavilion include a new club room, the introduction of disabled access toilets and changing facilities for men and women, and the allocation of use of the building for community activities such as "Mothers and Toddlers" meetings, yoga activities and Weight Watchers events.

The council will additionally collaborate with the Football Foundation to increase the number of football pitches next to the pavilion.

Further funding for the reconstruction project is likely to come from the Football Foundation who are said to have

committed "in principle" £190,000 to increase the size of the pavilion to meet up-to-date Sports England guidance.

The cricket pavilion is currently leased to West Essex Football and Cricket Club on a 20-year lease with seven years remaining.

West Essex Football and Cricket Club was contacted for comment.

Griffin stated that council's capital delivery team will be overseeing the project's delivery. The council's joint-venture company Evolve Norse Limited will carry out the design and contract supervision work, while Sports England will consult with the council on ensuring their changing room guidance is embedded in the pavilion's reconstruction.

In a nod to sustainability, Griffin said ecological interventions including the "creation of species-rich grassland habitats with a bio-diverse green roof, bird boxes catering for house sparrow and starling, and bat boxes" have been "recommended and considered" for the new sports pavilion. The council says it also plans to use air source heat pumps in the redeveloped pavilion in order to reduce energy bills.

The reconstructed pavilion is set to have a life-span of at least 25 years.

The move comes as Highams Park and Chingford are set to receive £8million from the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund for their public spaces.

The money is set to go towards two "child-friendly" structures in Albert Crescent, Chingford Mount, in addition to improved crossings at the junction, new trees, seating areas, lighting and granite kerbs.

Improvements for Highams Park include a £1.15m project to "repurpose" Highams Park Station car park that will see four shipping containers used as "community space eco pods".

Police officer dismissed for failing drugs test

A Waltham Forest cop was dismissed after being found with cannabis in his system.

PC Shoaib Akram, who was attached to the North East Basic Command Unit, was found to have breached police standards and committed "gross misconduct" at a hearing on 18th September.

The hearing heard how PC Akram was required to provide a urine sample on 8th March for a drugs test following suspicions that he was using barred substances.

In a statement the Metropolitan Police said: "The



forensic examination of that sample confirmed the presence of cannabis in an amount that suggested misuse of those products and not as an indication of legitimate medicinal use, in direct contradiction of the Met's substance misuse policy."

As a result of the decision,

PC Akram will not be able to serve as a police officer or in "related roles" in future, the Met said.

Chief superintendent Simon Crick, who leads policing in Waltham Forest said: "The behaviour of this former officer was disappointing. I am pleased that the appropriate action was taken quickly when it became evident that he was using prohibited substances.

"Our communities deserve the best of its police officers and that kind of behaviour has no place at all in the Met."

Advertisement

DO YOU LIVE WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES?

Register for Diabetes UK's Living With Diabetes Day

- Tuesday 14 November 2023
- 9.30am to 4.10pm
- Free event with lunch provided
- Limited spaces so registration required

To find out more and register, scan the QR code or visit:
eu.eventscloud.com/lwdd2023

DiABETES UK
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.



ADVERTISE WITH US

Placing adverts with your local community newspaper supports us to deliver more high-quality local journalism in the borough! Get a quote:



Email klaudia@socialspider.com

Call 07732 000430



FEATURE

A single mum's fight for better childcare

by Marco Marcelline

A Walthamstow single mother is calling on the council and government to increase childcare provisions for single parents.

A mother to three young boys, Ruth Talbot founded the activist group, Single Parent Rights in 2020 after seeing that single parents were not being treated equally by the strict coronavirus restrictions imposed during the first lockdown.

"I remember walking through the park and seeing people I knew who were in couples walking with other people [outside their household] but I couldn't do that because the kids counted as your plus one."

After hearing that Dominic Cummings, the former Number Ten adviser, had driven from London to Durham for childcare purposes during the height of the pandemic, Ruth decided to pen a letter explaining how hard life had been for single parents.

"I cycled to Dominic Cummings' house with the letter not really knowing whether it'd be read or not."

The letter led to an email from Dominic's wife Mary Wakefield before Boris Johnson eventually announced 'support bubbles' that effectively allowed single parents to share childcare with another household.



Ruth Talbot with her youngest son
Credit Ruth Talbot

Her fight for improved rights for single parents did not stop there. Together with other single parents around the country, Ruth has been fighting the government's attempts to make changes to Universal Credit (UC) rules which will require parents of three-year-olds to work 30

hours a week or face cuts to benefits. A petition by the Single Parents Campaign had received 23,244 signatures when it closed on 24th October.

Before 2008, out of work parents weren't required to take up paid employment until their youngest child turned 16. The age limit was gradually lowered by successive governments from 15, to eleven, nine and then to six. By 2012, this had been reduced to age four. In 2017 parents of three year olds claiming UC were required to work for at least 16 hours or face cuts.

Now that cut comes into effect if the parents work less than 30 hours a week. 34% of UC claimants are single parents compared with 13% of coupled parents.

It's a policy that has been slammed by other single parents in the borough. School worker Emma Salmon, who is a mum to three children aged twelve, six and almost two, has said she is "shocked and worried" about the impact the change could have on her family.

"I'm worried I won't be able to increase my hours where I work. My daughter is due to start there at nursery in January and then if I can't get extra hours I'll have to find another job and then that would mean finding a new nursery place too." Emma adds: "If I had to work 30 hours a week I think my mental health would be shot to pieces."

Meanwhile, the lack of affordable childcare and nursery places in the borough meant Ruth was forced to take unpaid leave from work. To return to her charity job she had to accept a nursery place for her 18 month old son in Hackney as her local nursery told her there was a 33 month waiting list for a place there.

According to the latest data from the council, 14 out of 20 wards in the borough do not have sufficient childcare options for zero – two-year-olds. Overall, there is a shortfall of almost 400 childcare places for under two-year-olds in the borough.

Ruth wonders if she was "pipped at the post" by a couple who were "less time poor"; securing a nursery place can be helped by consistent phone calls that single parents often do not have the capacity for. As a solution to high childcare costs, she suggests that the council "work with providers to encourage them to think creatively about fee structures, such as using graduated fees based on household incomes."

Since speaking with the *Echo*, Ruth has been offered a spot at a Walthamstow nursery for her youngest starting from May. When he starts, it would mark two years and five months since she first applied for a local nursery place.

You can find out more about Single Parent Rights on their website: singleparentrights.org

Advertisement

A THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD EAST PRODUCTION

SAT 18 NOV 2023 - SAT 06 JAN 2024

STRATFORD EAST

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Book and lyrics by **ANNA JORDAN**
Music and lyrics by **ROBERT HYMAN**
Directed by **DENZEL WESTLEY-SANDERSON**

WALTHAMSTOW
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Newham London

VAT No. 233 3120 59 Charity No. 233801 Reg No. 556258

ARTS & CULTURE



Fatboy Slim’s surprise Walthamstow set

The famous DJ was an unexpected guest headliner at a charity club night held at the Trades Hall

Fatboy Slim thrilled revellers at Walthamstow Trades Hall with a set that raised money for local food bank Eat or Heat. The famous DJ was a surprise headliner at the charity club night Stow-Ho House on 28th September. The line-up also included esteemed music producer James Ford, one half of electronic duo Simian Mobile Disco who has produced for famous bands like The Arctic Monkeys, Blur, Foals, Depeche Mode and Florence and the Machine. Stow-Ho House is the brainchild of neighbours Juliet Cromwell and Sam Potts who met while queuing to pick up their kids at nursery. They decided

to create a party that they could walk to and that finished at a reasonable time. Both Juliet and Sam work in the music industry. They tell the *Echo* that they will use their contacts in the business “to put on exciting lineups” for Stow-Ho House and raise as much money for worthy local causes as possible in the future. Sam said: “We were both huge fans of Norman [Fatboy Slim] since as long as we can remember – he has been such an enduring force in British music for so long it was a dream to have him perform at the Trades Hall. To also have our musical hero James Ford play on the same lineup just made it one of those pinch yourself moments.” The night raised £5,000 for food bank charity Eat or Heat. Fat Boy Slim contributed to the total by signing posters and auctioning off a limited edition print. Stow-Ho House plans to bring some other big names to Walthamstow in 2024.



You can keep up to date with Stow Ho House by following their Instagram: @stowhohouse Credit Neil Collins

You can keep up to date with Stow Ho House by following their Instagram: @stowhohouse

LISTINGS

ANNIVERSARY

Chingford Train Line 150th
Sunday 19th November, 11am–4pm
Chingford Station Community Hub
E4 6AL

Join us at the Chingford Station Community Hub to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Liverpool Street line coming to Chingford. This historical occasion will be opened by the mayor of Waltham Forest Cllr Roy Berg. The event will include an exhibition in the Chingford Station Community Hub and will include wall displays, model trains including a stream train, station platform tours, films, children’s activities, memorabilia, and refreshments. A visit to this historic station offers an opportunity to learn about its rich past, including the trains and the people who operated the line over the last 150 years.
Free
Find out more: chingfordhistory.org.uk

CAREERS

Future Film Focus: Digital Skills
Wednesday 29th November,
2pm–5pm
Waltham Forest College,
707 Forest Rd E17 4JB

This careers event will feature national skills agencies, large-scale employers, training agencies, and mentor networks for young people interested in post-production and digital skills needed for roles in editing, special effects, visual effects, animation, virtual reality, 3D design, gaming and others.
For more information please email FutureFilmFocus@gmail.com

REPAIRS

Repair club at The Mill
Tuesday 14th November, 6.30pm–9pm
The Mill Community Centre E17 7HA

Do you like fixing electrical stuff? Do you think you might like fixing electrical stuff? Come along and fix it with us. Bring your own tools or use ours. You can just turn up for the repair club without notice.
If you would like further information, please email forestfixers@outlook.com

MARKET

Leytonstone Farmers Market
Sundays, 10–2pm
Buxton School, Cann Hall Road
E11 3NN

Leytonstone farmers market is right next door to the great play park and skate park on Cann Hall Road, near Jubilee Pond and Wanstead Flats. We’re here in the lovely grounds of Buxton School come rain or shine with an array of seasonal, local, homemade foods including seasonal fruit and vegetables, free range meat, poultry and eggs, breads, cakes, cheese, dairy and much more. We’re really sorry but the school does not allow dogs on site.
Find out more: lfm.org.uk/markets/leytonstone-farmers-market

GIG

Holly and the Reivers
Sunday 19th November,
7.30pm–10.30pm
Ye Olde Rose and Crown Theatre
Pub, 53 Hoe St E17 4SA

Bertie Armstrong, Merle Harbron and Holly Clarke are polished, technically sound and their tight vocal harmonies sour through tales of wilderness, Spanish kings and American foreign policy. The Reivers, from the Anglo-Scottish border, combine the traditional styles of old time banjo, Scottish fiddle and the ballad singing tradition. They choose their songs well but sing them even better. They gel their sets well with storytelling and anecdotes and above all they’re an entertaining band.
Tickets £8 (unwaged) £10 (general admission)
Visit wegottickets.com/event/587011

WORKSHOP

Opportunity to learn about Vertical Polycultures
Application deadline:
Thursday 30th November

Explore an exciting project that intertwines our neighbourhood, sustainability, and nature. Vertical Polycultures is an experience and a workshop to reimagine urban spaces combining regenerative design and community engagement. Through this project, we’re on a mission to cultivate flourishing green spaces that nurture our city and draw people closer to the environment. This project is open to all, regardless of your background. We welcome participants of all skill levels, from beginners to experienced gardeners and crafters. Your enthusiasm and willingness to learn are what matter most.
Free
Apply here: verticalpolycultures.org/get-involved
Email: verticalpolycultures@gmail.com

Submit your low-cost listing
Email wfecho@socialspider.com by Monday 20th November

THE OLD STATION YARD CAFE

Saturdays
8am - 10am
Sundays
9.30am - 11am

Special Offer!
10% off

10% off all Set Breakfasts, Eggs Benedict, Eggs Florentine...

...and pancakes!

186 Wood Street, E17 3NA
www.oldstationyardcafe.co.uk
oldstationyardcafe@gmail.com
07757 742305

AROUND THE BOROUGH

LEA BRIDGE

Lee Valley Ice Centre awarded for biodiversity efforts

The newly reconstructed Lee Valley Ice Centre has received a special 'London In Bloom Gold Award' for its efforts to increase biodiversity through "innovative" methods.

The Lea Bridge venue was honoured with a special award for 'Best Biodiversity and Environmental Innovation'.

The London in Bloom Awards recognise environmental improvement efforts by parks and green-spaces across the capital.

Seven other sites across Lee Valley Regional Park, including two others in Waltham Forest: Walthamstow Marshes, and the WaterWorks Centre Nature Reserve also received a London

in Bloom Gold Award.

Lee Valley Regional Park stretches 26 miles along the River Lee from Ware in Hertfordshire to East India Dock Basin on the River Thames.

According to Lee Valley Regional Park, the Ice Centre aspires to become "the most sustainable ice venue in the UK by incorporating inventive architectural elements". £1.5million has been put into landscaping, planting, and environmental enhancements at the Ice Centre.

These efforts include the utilisation of solar panels, gabion baskets equipped with bird and bat boxes, green roofs, insect accommodations and shelters for hedgehogs. 10,000 square meters of new native wildflower meadows and 181 native trees were also planted during the reconstruction of the venue.



The newly reconstructed Lee Valley Ice Centre Credit Steve Bainbridge

LEYTONSTONE

Developer pulls out of council estate redevelopment project

by Josh Mellor,
Local Democracy Reporter

A housing developer has backed out of a major project to redevelop a Leytonstone council estate.

Bellway Homes and Waltham Forest Council planned to knock down the 1960s-built Avenue Road Estate and build almost double the number of flats.

But in early August, Bellway Homes announced it would close its London partnerships division in response to a slowdown in the property market.

The developer has now confirmed that it has "terminate[d]" its partnership with Waltham Forest Council to rebuild the estate as it is "no longer viable".

Residents of the estate voted overwhelmingly in favour of rebuilding the estate in 2021 and planning for 617 new flats was approved in January this year.

Both Bellway and the council were approached for comment about the future of the estate following the August announcement, but the council did not respond until late last week.

A spokesperson for Bellway Homes said: "In response to current market conditions which have caused a slowdown in the sales market and a reduced output for house building, last month we announced proposals to close our London Partnerships Division.

"As a result, we have notified Waltham Forest Town Council (sic) of our intention to terminate our partnership agreement for

regenerations plans for Avenue Road, due to the scheme no longer being viable in its current form.

"Ongoing communications between Bellway and the council continues as we help them move forward with its plans."

Ahsan Khan, deputy leader and cabinet member for housing and regeneration, said: "The council has received notification from Bellway that it is unable to proceed with the regeneration of Avenue Road estate.

"We would like to give assurances to all residents that we are fully committed to the regeneration of Avenue Road and that we are now assessing alternative routes to deliver the scheme.

"We will continue to work to deliver the regeneration of Avenue Road Estate in line with the outcome of the resident ballot."

LEYTONSTONE

Former nurse celebrates 100th birthday



Margaret Delves at her birthday celebrations Credit BUPA

A former nurse from Leytonstone celebrated her 100th birthday on the 16th of September with a bash and a performance from one of her favourite singers.

Margaret Delves began her 100th birthday celebration at the Quaker Meeting House in Leytonstone where she enjoyed drinks and an evening of socialising with close friends. Celebrations continued at her Woodford Green care home where she enjoyed live entertainment from singer

Debbie Watt, who performed Margaret's favourite songs, along with drinks and snacks and a slice of birthday cake.

Margaret was born on the 16th of September 1923 in Beckton, East Ham where she grew up with her mother and father. Margaret trained as a district nurse at Beechcroft Nurses home in Leytonstone, and then went on to work at the Royal London Annexe in Brentwood as a qualified midwife. Outside of work she enjoyed the outdoors, exercising and spending time with her group of friends.

When asked about her milestone birthday, Margaret commented: "I had a lovely time celebrating my 100th birthday with my friends. My advice for a long and happy life is to have plenty of fresh air, exercise regularly and always have support from friends."

WALTHAMSTOW

New bagel shop opens on St James Street

A takeaway bagel shop has opened up on St James Street.

The miniscule shop has an extensive takeaway-only menu that includes classic Brick Lane style salt beef and cheese and tomato bagels, and smoked salmon and cream cheese bagels.

The price of a salt beef bagel is £5.75, while an egg mayo bagel is £4. Those with a sweet tooth can also opt for a nutella stuffed bagel or a blueberry cream cheese bagel for £3.

Owner Sophie Chapman, who is a trained aesthetician, told the *Echo* that she was thrilled to open her first food business in Walthamstow. Sophie said: "We've had a lot of customers come in through the doors already and people have told us they're happy to

find a bagel shop as there aren't all that many in the area."

Sophie added: "Our menu is going to be shaped by our customers; we'll be taking suggestions on what they want to see us offer."

The shop is open 10am-4pm everyday. You can find it at 21 St James Street, E17 7PJ.



NEWS

Waltham Forest Tory leader slams own party for 'transphobic rhetoric'

Local Conservative lead Emma Best said she was 'devastated' at statements made by top Tories during the Conservative Party conference

by Noah Vickers, Local Democracy Reporter

The leader of the Waltham Forest Conservatives has criticised her party for a “crescendo” of “transphobic rhetoric” at their recent conference.

Cllr Emma Best, who is also deputy leader of the City Hall Conservatives, said she was “devastated” by recent comments made from positions of “seniority”.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was accused by Labour’s Angela Eagle of giving “the green light” for transgender people to be attacked, after he said in his conference speech: “We shouldn’t get bullied into believing that people can be any sex they want to be. They can’t, a man is a man and a woman is a woman. That’s just common sense.”

The previous day, Home Secretary Suella Braverman claimed that “gender

Cllr Emma Best
Credit Chingford & Wood
Green Conservatives



ideology” is a “poison” in Britain. When Best’s City Hall colleague Andrew Boff objected to those remarks, saying there is “no such thing as gender ideology”, he was removed from Braverman’s speech by security.

Speaking at a Mayor’s Question Time

session on 12th October, Best said: “Like many, I’ve been devastated this party conference season to see on show the growing transphobic rhetoric in all parties within this assembly.

“I clearly acknowledge, with sadness, [that] the crescendo of that lies with my own party, due to the seniority with which those comments come.”

She said that she wanted to give mayor Sadiq Khan “a rare and genuine thank you for your steadfast support in this issue”, and asked how he can better work to support London’s transgender community.

Khan said he was “incredibly proud” of Boff for his comments during Braverman’s speech, saying he recognised “how difficult it must have been”.

The mayor said in response to Best: “There are teenagers watching this [meeting] who are trans.

“When I tell you that one out of four

of them try and kill themselves, we’ve got to be sensitive about the language we use – that’s why Andrew did what he did, because we meet Londoners who are from these communities.”

He added: “We’re doing what we can from City Hall to support these communities. We work with specialist groups, because you’ve got to be specialist in this area [...] to support them.

“Gender dysphoria is a recognised issue which we need to confront and address and part of that is providing ally-ship, which I want to carry on doing.”

Thanking the mayor, Best called for “action, not just words”.

Several senior Conservatives have expressed support for Sunak and Braverman’s remarks. Transport secretary Mark Harper said that Sunak’s comments were “a fairly straightforward statement of the obvious”.

Council removes dead pollution eating moss walls

Initially described as ‘permanent’ installations when they were unveiled, the council removed the Leytonstone ‘CityTrees’ last month

by Marco Marcelline

Two urban greening installations covered in dead moss were removed by the council in October.

The large moss-filled towers, called ‘CityTrees’, were both located in Leytonstone; one sat directly outside Leytonstone Station next to the A12, while the other was found at the intersection of Leytonstone High Road, Cann Hall Road and Crownfield Road.

The CityTrees were designed by German startup Green City Solutions. The installations contained a water tank, an automatic irrigation system and plant sensors that were powered using solar panels and batteries.

In official council documents the moss-walled infrastructure is described as having the ability to remove as much pollution as 275 trees. At their unveiling in early 2020 the council described them as “permanent” structures.

According to Green City Solutions, the installations have been under the complete control of Waltham Forest Council since

they were rolled out in January 2020. Green City Solutions added that it is not in “direct communication” with the council about the trees.

The council first said it would remove the four-metre-tall and three-metre-wide installations on 6th September.

At the time, council climate lead Clyde Loakes said that Waltham Forest was “exploring alternative options to resolve the ongoing irrigation and planting maintenance challenges we have experienced. This may lead to identifying alternative plant species to fill out the City Trees.”

It remains unclear what the “irrigation and planting maintenance challenges” were or if “alternative plant species” have been identified; the council did not respond to requests for comment.

The *Echo* repeatedly asked Waltham Forest Council how much the CityTrees cost them to install, maintain and remove, but has not received a response.

The CityTrees have been installed in other UK locations, including Westminster in London, and in Glasgow.

Glasgow was the first UK city to have the German-designed moss towers



The dead ‘CityTree’ at the intersection of Leytonstone High Road and Crownfield Road before it was removed on 5th October Credit LDPS

installed back in June 2017.

In a press release issued by Glasgow City Council, each CityTree was said to have cost “approximately £20,000”.

It’s unclear if the CityTrees in Westminster and Glasgow are still standing. Both Westminster and Glasgow City councils were contacted for comment.

Outside the UK, CityTrees have been installed in Berlin, Germany and in Cork, Ireland.

Cork City Council was forced to defend its decision to spend over €404,000 of public money on five CityTrees in 2021. Their installation was so controversial that local residents took to pelting the units with fast food and pinning posters to them that said the money could have been spent on providing free school

meals for school children in need.

Green City Solutions told the *Echo* that they “hope” to “get in contact with the council soon”. In a September statement, Cllr Loakes said the council “was in correspondence with both the manufacturer and supplier” of the urban greening installations.

HELP US GROW THE ECHO

Waltham Forest Echo is published by Social Spider Community News, a not-for-profit social enterprise. Our mission is to hold authority to account and provide a platform for the community. But because we have no shareholders or wealthy backers we rely on local people and organisations to support our journalism. The number of supporters making monthly contributions has nearly doubled in a year — helping us to break even and look at how we can grow as a publication.



WITH CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM ECHO READERS WE AIM TO:
Produce more local journalism | Expand the size of the paper | Distribute to more locations

In October, 299 supporters contributed 30% of our monthly costs. While the paper remains free to read in print and online, every penny of income is reinvested in our local journalism. Can you support us with £5 per month to help us do more?
Find out more at: walthamforestecho.co.uk/support-us

OUR CURRENT SUPPORTERS

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, Saradadevi Hull-Jurkovic, Claire Weiss, 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, Sarah McCulloch, Amy Rixon, Holly Wilkins, Steve Roffey, Ruth Goldsmith, Kate Bohdanowicz, Kizzy Gardiner, Louis Wallinger, Peter Brennan, Anne McKenna, Clare Thomas, Tom Thompson, Barbara Korner, Lucy Birchenough, Sam Brewster, Carolyn Difalco, Jonathan Weymer, Maura Wilding, Steven Scorer, Paul Dart, Allyiah Walcott, Philip Hall, Debra Antwi, Amer Saad, Eduardo Regalado, Andrew Johns, Robert Bell, Claudia Hillaire, 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, John Hugill, Victoria Crabb, Richard Hughes, Michael Campbell, Bryony Forde, Matthew Rodriguez, Dara Maguire, 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 Hocht, Jennifer Crampton, James Mayne, Rob Plant, Ciaran O'Connor, Peter Baker, Tanja Nielsen, Darren Lawrence, Emily Emmott, Roger Huddle, Dan Browne, Sophie Harper, Adrian Stannard, Lily Nelson, Sonia Fletcher, Terence Button-Sands, Ellie Dawes, Derrick Hibbett, Justina Forristal, David Cato, Anne Strudwick, Mark Brown, 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, Niklas Friedberg, Angie Tillyer, Helen Porter, Sybil Ritten, Rob Skipwith, James Baines, Graham Norman, Alex Maws, Rosio Cafarelli, John Gilbert, Roy Sutton, Matt Button, Karen Ruddock, 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, Hewing 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, 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, David O'Driscoll, Andrew Cole, Paul Gasson, Tom Belger, Alistair Martin, 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, Laurence Palfreyman, Kenneth Driscoll, WILLMA (WILMA TEAM), Abigail Dyer, Tiffany-Louise Bird, Roland Rance, Rob Watson, Michael Wiseman, Christopher Brody, Sarah Campbell, George Harris, Matthew Wyatt, Stephen Beckett, Chloe Mead, Janet Trench, 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, Fatima Ifikhar, Nicholas McGrath, Tigerlily Clarke, Sam Humphries, Fatemah Abidi, Linda Williamson, Amanda Connolly, Constance O'Connor, Mathieu de Kruijff, Alis Templeton, ros kane, Linda Bean, James Riley, Thomas Rodliffe, Carole Sturdy, James Coen, Philip Wray

