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WALTHAM FOREST ECHO

Free
Dec 2024, N° 117

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Footballer Harry Kane poses with his statue at the Peter May Sports Centre in Walthamstow. The council-commissioned statue, which was initially earmarked for Chingford before languishing in storage for years, has received backlash from residents who have said it was a 'waste' of public money – but Kane says he hopes it will be 'inspiring' Credit Penny Dampier Read the full story on Page 3 ►

Walthamstow family face 'unrelenting' terror from gangs in estate

A mother says her teenage children have been attacked by gang members who "operate freely" on the estate

by Marco Marcelline

A Walthamstow mother has said a Christian housing association has failed to protect her two children from "unrelenting" antisocial behaviour that has left her family "living in fear".

Moira*, who lives in a local property managed by the Christian Action Housing Association, says that despite repeated pleas to the housing association and local authorities, the situation has deteriorated, leaving them in a "constant state of fear".

Speaking to the *Echo*, Moira said that incidents within their housing block have escalated to "alarming levels" in the past year, adding that her teenage son was forcibly held by gang members who she said operate freely within the building.

Meanwhile, her 13-year-old daughter faced a "horrifying" encounter when fireworks were aimed at her in the communal areas.

Moira said the building's bike shed, once regularly used by residents, has become a "hotspot for illegal activities", while frequent criminal damage has left glass panels scattered throughout the building, which has become a trap

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Continued on page 6 ►

Primary school head resigns amid plummeting pupil roll

by Marco Marcelline

The headteacher of a Walthamstow primary school with a dwindling pupil roll has suddenly resigned amid mounting concern over leadership and workplace culture at the school.

No reason for Edinburgh Primary School head Faye Rider's

resignation was given in a letter to parents on Friday 22nd November.

But in the five years that Rider has been headteacher, the school roll has fallen by a dramatic 54% – 521 children were enrolled in 2017/18, while just 239 were enrolled in 2023/24.

The *Echo* has spoken to former teachers who have described the school as having

a "toxic" and "autocratic" environment under Rider's tenure, while parents have said their special needs children were inadequately supported at Edinburgh.

In a letter announcing Rider's resignation, governor Ronke Olubobokun said: "Please join me in thanking Ms Rider for all her hard work and commitment to the school in the five

years that she has been here, including a fantastic Ofsted inspection in March 2024. We wish Ms Rider all the best for the future."

The school received a "good" Ofsted inspection in March with inspectors complimenting the "broad curriculum" and "high expectations" for pupils.

NEWS



FELLOWSHIP IS LIFE

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Rough sleeping in London hits record high

by Noah Vickers,
Local Democracy Reporter

Rough sleeping in London has reached a new record high in the first few months of the Labour government.

A total of 4,780 people were recorded as street homeless in the capital between July and September this year, a rise of 18% compared with the same period last year.

The new data, published by London's Combined Homelessness and Information Network (Chain), found that of that number, almost half – 2,343 – were sleeping rough for the first time. However, many of those people – a total of 1,796 – spent only one night sleeping rough.

It comes after mayor Sadiq Khan hosted an emergency summit on the topic at City Hall in October, at which he announced a £4.8m investment to provide advice and support to previous rough sleepers, in the hope of keeping them off the streets.

Khan promised in his election manifesto earlier this year to “set London on a course to end rough sleeping by 2030”.

City Hall has warned that “the scale of the challenge and the



legacy of years of underinvestment from the previous government” means that the situation this winter could “get worse before it gets better”

Just under half of those sleeping rough in London (49.4%) were UK nationals. The second most common nationality was Romanians, making up 8.1% of the total, followed by Polish people, who comprised 5.2%.

Meanwhile, Glass Door Homeless Charity opened its own emergency winter night shelters last month.

The shelters, which will stay open until April, are the largest network of their kind in London, with the charity saying they will provide a safe place for up to 105 people to sleep each night during the coldest months of the year.

Waltham Forest spends £20m on temporary accommodation

by Sebastian Mann,
Local Democracy Reporter

Waltham Forest Council has spent more than £20million housing people in temporary accommodation since 2021.

The local authority has a legal duty to house at-risk residents but is struggling amid what it calls a “severe housing crisis”.

The data, obtained by Personal Injury Claims UK, also showed that an increasing number of households were being housed by Waltham Forest.

That volume has risen from 999 in 2021 to 1,148 in 2023. It dipped slightly to 878 in 2022, in line with a drop in spending.

Councillor Ahsan Khan, the

cabinet member for housing, said the “grim reality” was that there were not enough available homes in London.

As a result, residents are being put up in hotels or bed-and-breakfast-style accommodation. In some cases, residents have been rehoused outside London.

Housing is one of the biggest financial strains on the council, and has cost the authority a total of £20,822,867 over the past three years.

In 2021, Waltham Forest spent £6.49m on temporary accommodation. That dipped to £4.48m the following year, but rose to a new high of £9.85m in 2023.

Waltham Forest leader Grace Williams told a Westminster housing committee last week:

“London is at the centre of a housing crisis. At the moment, it is London facing the brunt of temporary accommodation pressures.

“No borough wants to place people outside its own borough.”

She added: “We’re at the situation now where we simply can’t sustain housing within our boroughs.”

Cllr Williams said around 75% of London councils’ housing budgets were being spent on temporary accommodation and housing at-risk residents.

Though Cllr Williams said London councils have a “good track record” on building new homes, cost remained an obstacle. She said increasing costs of construction and planning “were making it really difficult”.

Park pavilion to turn into community hub

by Sebastian Mann,
Local Democracy Reporter

Plans to convert a disused sports pavilion in Chingford have been approved by Waltham Forest Council.

The pavilion and derelict toilet block at War Memorial Park in Chingford Mount Road will be converted into a café and ‘community hub’.

The park is owned by Waltham Forest Council and comprises sports pitches, bowling greens and a car park.

The sports pavilion is currently not being used and the council says a new café will complement and enhance the park, serving as a “focal point”.

In a report, put before the planning committee last month, a council officer wrote: “The proposed scheme aims to retain the community-focused nature of the buildings while offering upgraded facilities, namely a modern public toilet amenity and a café, which is anticipated to benefit the users of the tennis courts and the bowling green nearby.”

They added: “The nature of the development is to provide refreshments and drinks to park users and additional community space, managed by an independent operator.

“In light of this, the proposal is considered unlikely to deflect from the park’s primary functions or result in any significant changes to the park’s inherent character.”

The café will be open between 7am and 8pm, matching the opening hours of the park.

Letters about the plans were sent to 288 residents in the surrounding area in September, but planning officers said they did not receive a single response.

No external bodies, such as Sports England or Thames Water, objected to the scheme either.



The pavilion at Memorial Park before (left) and after (right) Credit Erect Architects

NEWS

Walthamstow Toy Library seeks out past members ahead of 50th birthday



Credit Penny Dampier

The Walthamstow Toy Library is looking to track down past members, collect stories, pictures and memorabilia ahead of its 50th birthday celebration next year.

The charity, which was set up in 1975 by health visitors in Walthamstow, runs play sessions, toy loaning, and other support services for babies, young children, and their parents and carers. This includes services for maternal mental health, breastfeeding and healthy eating.

Now, ahead of its 50th anniversary, director Helen Crockford is looking to speak to parents who sent their children to play groups run by the toy library. Also sought are people who played there as children, with a particular interest in those who benefited from its services back in the 1970s and 1980s.

The toy library is also keen to hear from past members, committee, donors and



New parents have been able to borrow toys from the library since 1975. Credit Laura Martinez Photography

especially former staff and volunteers. All 'alumni' are being encouraged to get in touch with Helen by email and share their memories, photographs and mementos of the toy library.

Please contact helen@walthamstowtoylibrary.org with your memories, photographs and mementos, to find out more:

Visit walthamstowtoylibrary.org

Harry Kane statue finally unveiled in striker's childhood football club

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony at the Peter May Sports Centre, Kane said he hoped it would inspire young players to "follow in my footsteps"

by Marco Marcelline

Footballer Harry Kane's statue was finally unveiled at his childhood football club in Walthamstow, five years after it was first commissioned by Waltham Forest Council.

Speaking at the statue unveiling ceremony on Monday 18th November at the Peter May Sports Centre, Kane, 31, said he hoped it would inspire young players to "follow in my footsteps".

The all-time leading goalscorer for England grew up in Waltham Forest and played for Ridgeway Rovers as a young child.

The £7,200 statue shows the striker sporting an England kit and holding a football on his knee.

A brand new mural behind the statue depicts highlights from the seasoned footballer's career, including his debut England goal against Lithuania back in 2015.

Asked if he was happy with the statue and its location, the footballer told the *Echo*: "The Peter May Centre was where I played my first football for Ridgeway Rovers and also where I played my school football with Chingford Foundation School so I have a lot of good



Kane with Chingford councillors Emma Best (left) and Roy Berg (right) Credit Penny Dampier

memories here. To be honest I don't think there's a better place than having it here."

He added: "A lot of boys and girls still play here. This statue is something for them to look at and hopefully it'll inspire them to be leading their country out [on the pitch] one day."

The statue has languished in storage for years because Conservative councillors Emma Best and Roy Berg could not find a home for it. In 2019 and 2020, the Endlebury ward councillors were allocated

£7,200 from Waltham Forest Council's 'community ward funding' pot for the statue.

It later emerged that Transport for London (TfL) slapped down plans to put the statue in Chingford Station because of concerns that it would distract train drivers.

It would have been placed behind the buffer stops at the end of the platforms, but TfL said drivers would be distracted by people posing for photographs on or next to it, or hanging items such as scarfs on it.

Chingford's Ridgeway Park was also

considered as a spot to place the statue but this was ultimately shelved too.

Speaking to the *Echo* following the statue unveiling, Cllr Best alleged that the council had failed to uphold an initial agreement to place the statue in Ridgeway Park. She added: "However, thanks to volunteers and the community, we've been able to create something really special that improves upon the original proposal and will inspire generations for years to come."

Council leader Grace Williams previously criticised Cllr Best and Cllr Berg's decision to spend community ward funding on the statue, stating they had "no plan for where it would go".

When photos of the statue leaked in March, there was a largely negative reaction on social media, with commentators declaring it was "nothing like him".

Others commented that it appeared to be made of chocolate, with one X user pondering if Dairy Milk bars were used for the sculpture.

But what does Kane think of the much maligned statue? He gave the *Echo* a markedly more positive review, telling us: "I'm really impressed with it to be honest."

NEWS



Blackhorse Lane beer hall Big Penny Social gets in the festive spirit. The popular drinking venue is selling Christmas trees throughout December, find out more at bigpennysocial.co.uk Credit Big Penny Social

Calvin Bailey: 'Keep cops in Leyton to fight drug crime'

The MP has said he wants fewer officers being taken out of the borough to police major events in central London on weekends

by Marco Marcelline

Leyton and Wanstead MP Calvin Bailey has said he wants fewer police officers being taken out of the borough to police major events in the city, amid persistent drug crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Leyton.

Waltham Forest recorded some of the highest ASB rates in London last year, with 891 reported incidents in October alone.

The MP made the comments last month while on a joint tour of Leyton Custody Centre and the High Road with the government minister for policing Dame Diana Johnson.

Speaking to the *Echo* in Leyton's Coronation Gardens on 18th November, Bailey said: "I'm trying to help the police make the case that fewer of their resources should be pulled out when there are events in the city."

Speaking previously in parliament, Bailey told of Leyton and Leytonstone residents who felt like drug users had "taken over"



Calvin Bailey (left) and Dame Diana Johnson (centre) with local police officers in Leyton last month

their neighbourhoods, leaving them scared to go out at night.

Long-time Avenue Road Estate residents previously told the *Echo* that they would see Class A drug users shooting up on staircases, and defecating within the estate.

A police officer attending the November event said a lack of resources hampered the Met's ability to deal with ASB and drug issues effectively, despite efforts

to be as present as possible on the ground.

He said: "It's definitely frustrating. The local community will report things and see us take action against it but the following day they may not see us again... obviously our resources are quite stretched. It knocks [residents'] confidence a bit; it's like one step forward, two back."

Superintendent Dan Card has been keen to stress the work that

local police had been doing to counter crime since last year.

He said: "The team have worked really hard with the local community and when we compare July to September 2023 to the same three months this year, we're seeing a 70% reduction in ASB and drug crime.

"In October there were 18 arrests in regards to Class A drug use in Leyton, but it's a lot more nuanced than seeing a yellow jacket. For example, you might not see a copper on the street but actually that's because they're doing a closure order on a local drug spot or because they're dealing with another issue somewhere else."

Card added that the Met was "working really hard" to minimise abstractions from outer London boroughs to events in the city centre.

The government has also pledged to introduce Respect Orders that will give police and local authorities the power to ban persistent offenders from town centres and high streets.

Blind students open Highams Park café

Joseph Clarke School, a special school for students aged three to 19 with vision impairments and additional needs, has opened the doors of its brand-new training café.

Located opposite the school on Vincent Road in Highams Park, the training café has been named in honour of the creator of Braille, Louis Braille. The purpose-built facility is designed to give students valuable work experience whilst providing members of the public with food and drink.

The grand opening of the café saw blind entrepreneur and former *MasterChef* contestant Amar Latif cut the ribbon and reveal a commemorative plaque.

The café, staffed by the school's students, is now open to the local community offering a wide range of food and drink.

Council slashes sugar in school ketchup

Waltham Forest Council has become the first school caterer in London to drastically cut salt and sugar content in ketchup it serves.

The caterer produces around 15,000 school meals a day to almost 50 schools across Leyton, Leytonstone, Walthamstow and Chingford.

The council says the shift to using Real Good Ketchup removes the "equivalent of a sugar cube" from every plate at mealtimes.

Waltham Forest Catering says its food offer has "proven extremely popular" with children. Their dishes include spiced chickpea and sweet potato pilaf, smoky vegetable and bean jambalaya and jackfruit pasta bake.

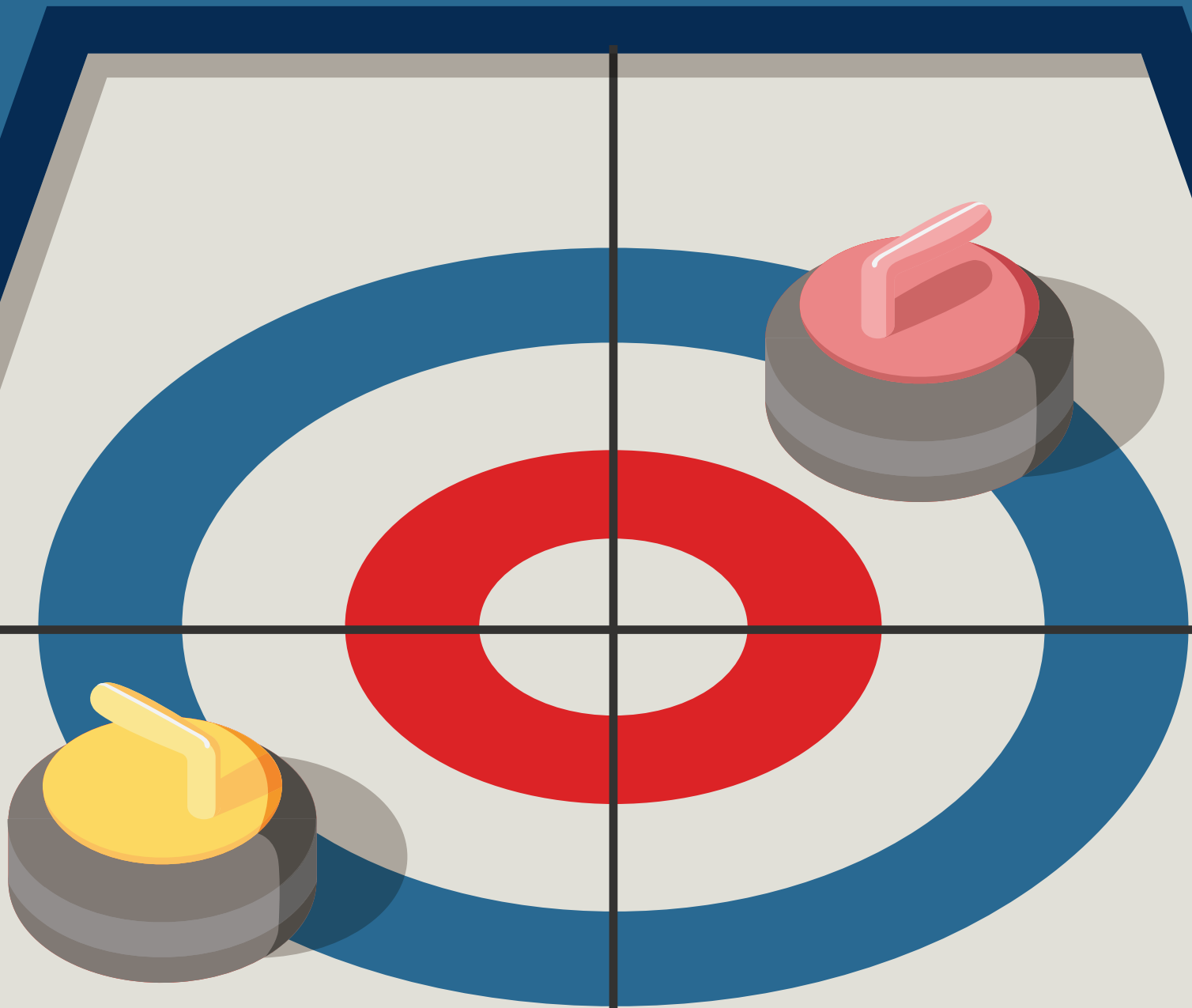
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NEWS

Continued from Page 1

However, the local authority school's plummeting pupil roll has caused alarm among parents and teachers who worry if it can stay open.

In a May 2023 letter to parents announcing that several year groups would be merged from September, Rider reasoned that the "fall in the birth rate" was why "many classes were 70% full or less".

Waltham Forest Council says Edinburgh is sited in one of the areas "most affected" by a fall in demand in primary school places.

In her letter Rider had added that the school now had "three classes with under 20 pupils", while there were just 37 pupils in year one.

Rider had signed the letter off stating that she would not be able to engage in one-to-one conversations with parents on the merger decision, instead inviting them to information sessions.

According to the Office for National Statistics, Waltham Forest's birth rate dropped 3% from 2014-2019, with 4,618 in 2014 compared to 4,482 in 2019. Children born in 2019 either started primary school in September 2023 or in the current academic year.

The *Echo* understands that tens of parents removed their children from the school during Rider's tenure, citing dissatisfaction with the school's management. Many of the children have special education needs (Send).

One parent, Izabela Ucincka, told the *Echo* that she moved her daughter from the school because it had failed to assign her dyslexia-friendly work for an entire academic year despite knowing she had the condition.

She said: "The school [successfully] screened her for dyslexia, but after one year of them knowing she had dyslexia, I found out from the school nurse that she should be given special homework that would help her. No-one had told us anything before that."

Izabela also highlighted the high turnover of staff at the school as an issue, saying Edinburgh had "lost lots of lovely teachers since [Rider] has been there".



Julietta Delissandri opted to take her children out of the school in 2020 after her eldest, who is autistic, told her that her "bully" had been assigned as her "play buddy" during playground breaks.

She stated that the school environment had changed within "weeks" of Rider joining, with the atmosphere becoming "tight and stressful".

The *Echo* additionally understands that therapists from Place2Be, a popular one-to-one counselling and play therapy service for the school's Send and vulnerable children, had stopped coming by 2020.

Piers Maitland, who was deputy head teacher at Edinburgh between 2011 and 2020, said that the sole year he worked under Rider was the "darkest moment" of his 27-year long career in education.

He said: "Her mode of operation was quite simply to divide and conquer, and anyone who stood up to that was quickly suspended."

Alleging that Rider had put him and other teachers who she clashed with on suspension for spurious reasons,

shared to bring about awareness and prevent a tragedy from happening."

The mother has also involved the police in her attempts to address the rising crime. However, without firm action from the housing association, she said the "cycle of crime continues unchecked", adding that it was "endangering" her family and other residents.

She continued: "This should serve as a wake-up call, underscoring the importance of tenant safety and the responsibility of housing associations to protect the communities they serve."

Christian Action Housing Association was contacted for comment.

*Names have been changed

that her departure was "long overdue".

Prior to joining Edinburgh, Rider had led a Kent primary school for less than six months.

In the 2010s, Rider also held senior positions in several Waltham Forest schools, including at St Saviour's CofE and St Mary's. She moved on from her senior position at St Mary's in December

2017, with the reason for her departure being the long commute and a decision to take up a headship at a school "much closer to home".

A council spokesperson said: "Waltham Forest expanded its primary schools to respond to increased demand for places in the 2010s. The demand peaked in 2016/17 before starting to fall, in line with other areas of London. The council has helped the school to reduce the number of places offered in line with the changing needs of the community."

Edinburgh reduced the maximum number of students it admits into each year group from 90 to 60 in September 2023. This amounts to a maximum pupil roll of 420. The latest available figures from March 2024 show the school had 239 pupils, though it is understood to have since fallen below 200.

Stating that the council had not received any formal reports of bullying or victimisation from teachers, the spokesperson continued: "[We] received the resignation a few weeks ago. In line with best practice, parents were informed within a few weeks of the end of the current term. We wish Faye Rider all the best for her future, and thank her for her efforts and hard work at Edinburgh Primary School."

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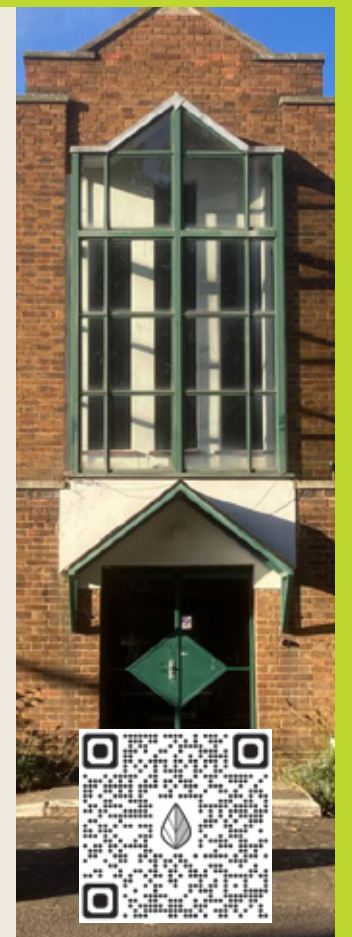
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Greenleaf Road Baptist Church

www.greenleafroadbaptistchurch.com



Continued from Page 1

house for drug misuse and distribution.

Moira added that she has made numerous appeals to Christian Action Housing Association about the conditions, yet "little" has changed.

She said: "Christian Action is falling short of its duty to ensure tenant safety, despite overwhelming evidence. I've documented hundreds of emails and photographs to substantiate the worsening situation, but my calls for action have seemingly gone unheard."

"We are living in a state of fear," she continued, "and it's affecting my health. I believe our story needs to be



NOW OPEN

Dalton Lodge Care Home: Redefining Enhanced Dementia Care in Walthamstow

Dementia is a complex and progressive condition that affects individuals in unique ways. For those living with more advanced stages of dementia, including conditions like Lewy Body or Frontal Lobe Dementia, the need for specialised, enhanced care becomes critical. At Dalton Lodge Care Home, now open in Walthamstow, we are committed to offering state-of-the-art enhanced dementia care that prioritises comfort, dignity, and individual needs.

Creating a Calming and Accessible Environment

A key feature of enhanced dementia care at Dalton Lodge is the creation of purpose-built spaces designed for those with advanced dementia. These environments are smaller and more intimate, evoking a homely atmosphere that helps residents feel safe and at ease. The design of our spaces is intentional, using soothing colours, avoiding harsh patterns, and incorporating natural elements like plants to provide a tranquil setting.

Visual cues, such as familiar pictures and nostalgic objects, are thoughtfully placed to help residents navigate the home with confidence and comfort. Our aim is to reduce confusion, allowing residents to feel more in control of their environment. Dalton Lodge ensures that these spaces remain peaceful by minimising loud noises and sudden

disturbances, creating a calm atmosphere essential for wellbeing.

Person-Centred Care and Engagement

At Dalton Lodge, we believe that care goes beyond physical needs. Enhanced dementia care means delivering personalised, compassionate support that focuses on each resident's emotional and mental health. Our team is highly trained in recognising triggers of distress and de-escalating challenging behaviours with empathy.

Meaningful activities play a crucial role in our approach. We incorporate daily tasks that evoke a sense of purpose—whether it's setting the table, folding laundry, or tending to the garden. These activities are not only comforting but also help reduce anxiety and confusion by anchoring residents in familiar routines. Our specialised team is always on hand to offer reassurance during moments



of distress, ensuring a positive experience for each resident.

Spaces for Quiet Reflection and Relaxation

For those moments when residents need time to themselves, Dalton Lodge offers a variety of relaxation zones, from cosy lounges to peaceful balconies. These spaces allow individuals to unwind and manage any stress in a quiet, safe environment. Designed to feel homely, they help reduce overstimulation and encourage a sense of calm and wellbeing.

High Staffing Ratios and Specialist Training

One of the most significant aspects of enhanced dementia care at Dalton Lodge is our commitment to maintaining a high staff-to-resident ratio. This ensures that each resident receives personalised attention and support, with staff able to spend time understanding their unique needs. Our staff undergo specialist training to provide the highest standard of care, recognising subtle signs of distress and offering timely interventions.

Our care is grounded in our Rose Model of Dementia Care, which puts the person at the heart of everything we do. This model ensures that residents are treated with dignity, respect, and a genuine understanding of their needs.



The Future of Dementia Care at Dalton Lodge

Dalton Lodge Care Home in Walthamstow represents the future of dementia care, offering innovative, person-centred solutions for those living with advanced dementia. Our specialised spaces and highly trained staff reflect our deep commitment to improving the quality of life for our residents. Operated by B&M Care, a family-run business with over 50 years of experience in delivering high-quality care, Dalton Lodge is backed by a legacy of trust and excellence.

Whether you're seeking care for a loved one or exploring your options, Dalton Lodge is here to provide the compassionate, high-quality care you deserve. Get in touch with our friendly team today to learn more about how we can support you and your family.



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NEWS

Prohibited items found on mental health ward after patient's suicide

Alice Figueiredo, 22, died by suicide while she was an in-patient at Goodmayes Hospital on 7th July 2015

by Sebastian Mann,
Local Democracy Reporter

Prohibited items were found on an NHS mental health ward after a patient died and some incidents were not fully reported, a jury was told.

Alice Figueiredo, 22, died by suicide while she was an in-patient at Goodmayes Hospital on 7th July 2015.

Benjamin Aninakwa, who managed the Hepworth ward at the time, denies charges of gross negligence manslaughter.

North East London Foundation NHS Trust (NELFT), which oversees healthcare in Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest, denies corporate manslaughter.

Speaking from the witness box at the Old Bailey on 20th November, healthcare support worker Violet Storey said she found a bin liner on the ward "a few days" after Alice died.

Alice had used them to self-harm on

18 separate occasions, the court was previously told.

It was Aninakwa's decision to remove the items from the ward, Violet said, but "nothing happened".

She added she had shown it to members of staff and to Aninakwa, who agreed they weren't allowed on the ward.

At the time of Alice's death, there had been a plastic bag in the toilets of the communal bin. Though Violet said the toilets were sometimes open, Aisha Khan KC, defending Aninakwa, said they were locked unless a patient requested to use them. Patients also had access to en-suite bathrooms.

Alice had attempted to harm herself a total of 39 times between February and July, but the jury was told that not every incident was logged on a dedicated database.

The NHS uses a system called Datix to report specific incidents involving patients. It also uses software called Rio for daily logs on how patients have been feeling and acting.



Alice Figueiredo
Credit: Provided by family

The jury was shown some of Alice's Rio records from March and April that described self-harm attempts, during today's hearing.

Violet said she would have "expected" there to be corresponding Datix reports, but none had been inputted. She said some "should have been".

Alice had been close with Violet and would request she be the one to supervise her.

The healthcare support worker said the pair had a "good rapport," and she had been the one to find Alice unresponsive

on 7th July, when she died.

During her five-month stay, Alice was placed on high-level observations. One of them involved a nurse never being out of arm's reach, while the tier below required Alice to constantly be in eyesight.

The jury heard that she had been "frustrated" by being kept under observation and was "looking forward" to being treated at Newmarket House, a clinic for eating disorders in Norwich.

Benjamin Aninakwa, who managed her ward, denies charges of gross negligence manslaughter

Shortly before her death, Alice had been given permission to go home for the night and had attended a Fleetwood Mac concert with her boyfriend.

She had also been placed on 'general observation,' which Violet said made the 22-year-old feel "great".

Being on general observation and taking leave were "the lead up" to being discharged, she added.

The trial continues.

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NEWS

Protest outside MP office over genocide comments



Tens of people protested outside the Leyton and Wanstead constituency Labour Party office in Leytonstone on Friday 22nd November Credit Rada Daniell

by Marco Marcelline

A Leytonstone woman with family in Lebanon organised a protest outside Leyton and Wanstead MP Calvin Bailey's constituency office after he "denied genocide" was taking place in Gaza.

Miriam, who declined to share her last name, said she was told by the MP during one of his surgeries that the use of the term 'genocide' was "offensive to certain communities who had experienced genocide".

The 33-year-old mother, who has family and friends living in Lebanese villages that have been bombed by Israel, said the experience left her feeling "frustrated" and "angry".

In May, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that South Africa had a right to bring its case of genocide against Israel and that Palestinians had "plausible rights to protection from genocide". It is yet to rule that the events unfolding in Gaza, where over 43,000 Palestinians have been killed since the 7th October Hamas attacks last year, constitute a genocide. Leading human rights organisations and United Nations experts have used the terminology for months, however.

In October, Foreign Secretary David Lammy claimed usage of the term "undermines the seriousness" of the crime, prompting outrage from pro-Palestine activists and left-wingers in his party.

A spokesperson for Waltham Forest for a Free Palestine crit-

icised Bailey's alleged remarks, stating: "He is expressing the highly offensive argument promoted by the Labour Party leadership, suggesting a hierarchy of slaughter based on numbers of people killed with a numerical qualification to be considered genocide, an opinion at odds with that of the world's leading court."

Speaking to the *Echo*, Bailey responded to Miriam's claims by saying he supported the ICJ's hearings into a "plausible" case of genocide, and would back them if they ruled Israel was guilty of perpetuating one.

He also said he was a "friend" of Palestine, having met with the Palestinian Ambassador Husam Zumlot "many times". Bailey added: "I meet with the Palestine Solidarity Campaign on every possible occasion."



Miriam at a Palestine protest Credit Sumsphotographs (IG: sumsphotographs)

Walthamstow community centre launches crowdfunder to fix roof

The Mill Community Centre in Walthamstow is running a prize draw to help fund much needed roof repairs.

The Coppermill Lane venue is inviting residents, supporters, and friends to donate towards its £1,000 target.

The Mill allows the local community to socialise, participate in creative projects and exhibitions, and engage in low-cost or free activities for all ages.

It is also home to a popular community living room, free children's play area, and honesty library.

However, staff at the community centre say an ongoing and worsening leak has made costly

repairs necessary.

Although work has recently been carried out to make this unnoticeable so that The Mill remains open, staff say it is only a temporary solution with the £1,000 target going towards a long term fix that will protect the building for "many more years to come".

Participants in the '#RaiseTheRoof' prize draw can win generous



The Mill on Coppermill Lane

prizes from local businesses, including a £100 cash prize from Stow Brothers, a £100 tab at The Col-lab, jeans from Blackhorse Lane Ateliers, a £50 voucher for Perky Blenders, and much more.

"We are deeply grateful to our local businesses and everyone who has come together to support this effort," said Richard Bennett, chair of trustees at The Mill. "This fundraiser is about more than a roof – it's about the strength of our community and the importance of preserving spaces that bring us together."

The prize draw is running until 18th December.

To donate and enter the prize draw visit: crowdfunder.co.uk/p/raisetherooft-prize-draw

Barts Health Trust confirm new chief medical officer

Barts Health NHS Trust has confirmed its new group chief medical officer (CMO).

Professor Sanjiv Sharma, currently deputy chief executive and CMO at Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH), will start the role in March.

He replaces professor Alistair Chesser who is stepping down in March to take up a clinical role at Newham Hospital.

A chief medical officer is a licensed doctor who is responsible for overseeing daily clinical operations and ensuring it is of a high quality.

According to Barts, Prof Sharma is a paediatric intensive care consultant and he "intends to continue some clinical practice" while CMO, like Prof Chesser before him.

Shane DeGaris, group chief executive, said: "This is a crucial role at a crucial time for the NHS, and the fierce competition for the post reflects not only the high-standing with which our group of hospitals is regarded, but also the legacy that Alistair leaves behind after steering our medical leadership for the last nine years.

"Sanjiv comes from a world-



Sanjiv Sharma Credit Barts Health NHS Trust

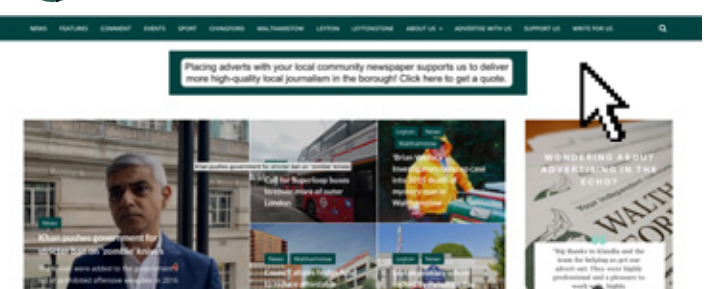
leading hospital with a strong track record in leading clinical research, education, and innovation. He was an outstanding candidate whose personal and professional values fit closely with our own ethos in East London, and we look forward to working with him."

Prof Sharma said: "I am really excited about the opportunity to join Barts Health. You are a centre of excellence and scale, where the demands of serving a large and diverse population require not only strong clinical leadership but also a commitment to driving better health outcomes for excluded and diverse communities."

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MORE WAYS TO MOVE IN WALTHAM FOREST

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Book an activity at your local centre, or start your membership online.

better.org.uk/waltham-forest



FOOD

A festive feast

Leytonstone based chef Despina Siahuli shares how to make a perfect roasted lamb shoulder

Back in 2015, I spent two inspiring weeks on a stage at St. John Restaurant in Farringdon. I was captivated by their cooking methods, particularly the abundant use of extra virgin olive oil and wine when preparing meat.

One day, while roasting three whole pigs stuffed with bread, the head chef casually asked me to fetch spices from the larder, saying, "So, how do we feel today?"

That phrase sparked a philosophy I admired – cooking that is guided by mood, intuition, and emotion as recipes that evolve with personality and feeling are truly magical.

As Christmas is around the corner, I wanted to cook a special Sunday roast – festive, warming, and full of flavour. Roasted lamb shoulder is a personal favourite. I asked my butcher to cut the 2kg shoulder into smaller chops for quicker cooking and easier serving. We chatted about British lamb, which I love for its flavour and quality, preferring it over Greek lamb.

My butcher noted its high price, explaining that much of it is exported to France due to its exceptional standard.



Credit Despina Siahuli

Recipe

No measuring, only eyeballing!

1. To prepare, brown the lamb chops in a large pan and arrange them in two roasting trays. Add two teaspoons of sweet paprika, two teaspoons of red pepper flakes (chilli flakes work too), six finely chopped large garlic cloves, a few sprigs of fresh thyme, a generous drizzle of olive oil, and a good splash of red wine.
2. Season with salt and massage the mixture into the chops and surround them with roughly 2kg of potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks.
3. Cover the trays with two layers of baking paper. Start cooking at 230°C/gas mark 8 for 20 minutes, then reduce the temperature to 180°C/gas mark 6. After 90 minutes, the chops should be tender. Uncover the trays, turn on the grill, and baste the meat and potatoes with their rich juices until they are beautifully caramelised.
4. For a whole lamb shoulder, allow two to three hours to ensure tenderness. Once done, rest the meat for ten to 15 minutes before serving with a squeeze of lemon and wilted spinach dressed simply with lemon juice and extra virgin olive oil.

Most of Despina's ingredients came from The Continental Food Exchange in Leytonstone

To find more of Despina's recipes, visit despinasiahuli.substack.com

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Luna Loves Christmas
Interactive storytelling for ages 2-7
Joseph Coelho & Fiona Lumbers

Discover Children's Story Centre

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Keep disabled centre open

Dear WFE

I WAS OUTRAGED TO read in your pages that the Markhouse Centre is facing closure.

To close and demolish the special needs day centre would be inhumane and cruel, showing zero recognition of users/relatives' views. If the reason is to clear space to build new flats or houses, (and there are about 1,500 long-term empty properties in the borough) this is ignoring the undisputed needs and wishes of Markhouse Centre users and prioritising more privileged people, inconsistent with the principles one might expect from a Labour council.

The view of the council leadership that buildings are not needed is not

convincing in the least. Markhouse Centre is a building which is also 'person-centred'. The council does not make clear what it means by this "personalised" approach.

I believe that closing the centre would be an unnecessary and retrograde step which would very sadly put Waltham Forest Council to shame.

Ros Kane, *Leytonstone*

Winter loneliness

Dear WFE

AS WE HEAD FURTHER into the colder months and are layering up our winter woollies, I would like to share with readers the support that's available through Royal Voluntary Service (RVS).

We've found through

research that at this time of year, unfortunately, feelings of isolation and loneliness can increase, which can impact our health and wellbeing.

If anyone is feeling this way, I would like to signpost them to the RVS' telephone support services, which match volunteers who are available for a friendly chat, with people across the country who are looking to make new connections, share a story or a joke, and ease feelings of loneliness and isolation.

I'd like to encourage readers to download the Stay Safe, Warm and Well guide and find out more at the RVS website. Physical copies of the guide can also be requested by calling 0800 731 9197, a small posting charge will apply.

Sam Ward OBE, *Deputy Chief Executive of Royal Voluntary Service*

FESTIVE LISTINGS

FESTIVE MARKET

Appetite: Flavours of Lea Bridge
Saturday, 7th December, 12pm–4pm
Lea Bridge Library,
Lea Bridge Road E10 7HU

We are excited to announce the launch of Appetite: Flavours of Lea Bridge, a vibrant publicity campaign and local event to celebrate the diverse and unique food offerings of Lea Bridge Road and Markhouse Corner.

We're delighted to invite you to be part of this new initiative, which is designed to shine a light on the amazing businesses and the hidden gems in the area and to attract more customers to your business.

Free entry
Email events@artillery.org.uk

WINTER FAYRE

OrganicLea's Mid-Winter Fair
Sunday 8th December, 12pm–4pm
Hawkwood Nursery,
115 Hawkwood Cres E4 7UH

Browse our fully stocked farmstall, enjoy a seasonal and freshly prepared lunch and indulge in some baked goods. Expect warming refreshments, think hot chocolate, mulled apple juice, and our Hawkwood beer brews.

Participate in a wreath-making workshop (advance booking required) and celebrate our past year with us with a round-up of 2024 at OrganicLea.

Free entry
Visit organiclea.org.uk

NYE PARTY

Big Penny Does 1988
Tuesday 31st December, 7pm–2am
Big Penny Social,
1 Priestley Way E17 6AL

After the sell-out success of our 1993 party last New Year's Eve, Big Penny Social returns with a brand new year of incredible music, outrageous outfits and nostalgic joy. Huge NYE party across the whole building with a headline DJ set from Soul II Soul legend Jazzie B as well as an incredible Whitney Houston tribute with six-piece live band performing a full set of Whitney classics and a second set of 80s bangers.

Tickets from £22
Visit bigpennysocial.co.uk/whats-on/new-years-eve-2024

COMEDY

Sophie Duker
Friday 13th December,
8pm–10.30pm
The Birds, 692 High Road,
Leytonstone E11 3AA

Sophie Duker is a comedian and writer whose favourite things include breaking hearts, taking names and telling jokes with the confidence of a cis straight middle-class white man. Her Edinburgh Fringe Show, Venus, saw her nominated for the Best Newcomer award and gain critical acclaim, catapulting her to a sold-out two week run at the Soho Theatre.

Tickets £15, 18+ only
Visit good-ship-comedy-club.designmynight.com

XMAS CONCERT

Grand Christmas Choral Concert
Saturday 14th December, 7.30pm
Chingford Parish Church,
The Green E4 7EN

Popular seasonal choral and orchestral music with the Choirs of Chingford Parish Church and Chingford Sinfonia, directed by Michael Emerson.

Tickets from £22
Call 020 8529 6092
Visit parishofchingford.org.uk/music

SUPPER CLUB

Chalo 'Allo x Arch Deli – Supperclub 03
Wednesday 11th December,
7pm–9.30pm
Arch Deli & Bar, 211 Grove Green
Road, Leytonstone E11 4AJ

Following the success of our initial sold out events, please join us for another slap-up meal at the third Chalo 'Allo x Arch Deli Supperclub! We've come together to give you the best of the East End. Home-cooked, vegetarian, family and fusion recipes.

Our menu is a combination of our South Asian heritage and travels around South America, so expect some bold flavours! Arch Deli will be serving up the most delicious natural wines and craft beers London has to offer, whilst you dig into Chalo 'Allo's family-style feast.

For tickets search 'Chalo 'Allo x Arch Deli' on Eventbrite

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Hops House E17



A stunning and spacious two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment, in an impressive, contemporary development in the vibrant St James Street area of Walthamstow.

This well-appointed apartment offers generous proportions throughout. Both double bedrooms are well-sized and filled with natural light; the master bedroom features a stylish ensuite bathroom. The open-plan kitchen and lounge area is expansive, flowing seamlessly onto a private balcony.

AROUND THE BOROUGH

LEYTON

Leyton Orient noise 'overwhelming' for residents

by Sebastian Mann,
Local Democracy Reporter

Leyton Orient Football Club faced a licensing hearing after more than 20 residents complained about loud music coming from the ground.

Two of its neighbours have requested that Waltham Forest Council review its licence and a hearing took place on Tuesday 26th November.

The outcome was not published before the *Echo* went to print.

They said residents are being "kept awake" and "cannot enjoy peaceful evenings," due to the "very loud" music and cheering.

The Brisbane Road ground, which has been home to the League One team since 1937, is currently licensed to play music until 1.30am.

According to documents submitted to the council, residents have been contacting the stadium



Brisbane Road Stadium Credit Wikicommons

since 2021 asking for windows to be kept closed and the music to be turned down.

The club held 38 events in 2022. Between January and August this year, it held 67 events – equating to around eight a month.

Jonathan and Mette Barker, who requested the review, told the council: "We accept, and always have, that we live by a football stadium and therefore will have noise related to that – Orient games and pitch upkeep such as regular

lawn-mowing.

"However, since 2021, we have endured overwhelming noise pollution as the club has significantly increased noisy activities in several areas."

They added: "During the four months at the end of the season [January through April], the noise is so extreme it makes our homes almost unbearable to live in."

The neighbours have requested that the club's licence for regulated entertainment is revoked, or a string of conditions are implemented.

They include reducing the hours to 9pm on weekdays and 10pm on weekends, and limiting the number of events where music is played to just one a month.

A Leyton Orient spokesperson said: "The club are cooperating fully with the investigation and will present its own evidence at the hearing. We will not be commenting any further at this time."

SOUTH CHINGFORD

Funding won to turn empty café into community hub



The founding members of the Walthamstow Stadium TRA Credit TRA

Walthamstow Stadium residents have won funding to turn an empty onsite café into a community hub.

Stadium Place Tenants & Residents Association (TRA) won £12,500 from the CHIP Community Chest Fund and London & Quadrant's (L&Q) Walthamstow Stadium Community Sports Trust for the hub at the former dog stadium.

Activities for residents in 2024 and 2025 will include new equipment for an already running weekly youth space, Zumba, boxing and table tennis coaching, as well as health and wellbeing community days.

The association is led by a committee of resident volunteers from all tenancies across the estate, which is managed by housing association L&Q.

Formed in 2018, Stadium Place TRA organises regular events to bring the community together, from Easter fun days to an annual Eid Party.

With support from Waltham Forest Council, the TRA has also partnered with knife crime charity Project Zero to start a new youth hub.

This runs every Wednesday in term time, offering a safe space and activities for 10–18-year-olds. The new funding will ensure the youth space can function for at least another year, alongside new activities for all ages.

TRA chair Sarah Chaney said: "This funding will help offer something positive for us as a community, as well as supporting the surrounding area.

"South Chingford suffers from a lack of social amenities and services for young people, and we're proud as a residents' group to be playing our part to improve facilities in the local area."

WALTHAMSTOW



Tributes paid to 'charitable' retired nurse killed in bus incident

by Marco Marcelline

A 74-year-old woman who was fatally struck by a bus at Walthamstow Bus Station in December last year was a retired nurse who had been active in charity work for decades.

Transport for London (TfL) revealed her name for the first time in a letter to residents this week stating that the bus station would be shut for six weeks in response to safety recommendations made following Grace Mecaley's death on 15th December 2023.

The *Echo* can additionally reveal that Grace had taken up several positions in local civil society groups including the Waltham Forest Race Equality Council (WFREC), where she was an executive member from the 1980s until her death.

In the mid 2000s, she became the charity's first Black woman chair. She additionally used to run her own charity called the Waltham Forest Cameroonian and Friends Association.

Tasneem Sarwar Ali, a current WFREC trustee who worked with Grace from 2000, told the *Echo*: "Grace was very warm, and family oriented.

"She was very charitable and would often send computers and lots of useful resources back to family and friends in her native Cameroon."

Tasneem continued: "WFREC will always remember Grace for her long standing contributions to the community, and for the charity work she did for many decades. We very much miss her calm and friendly presence and her dedication to helping others."

Through her WFREC role, Grace became a trustee at the Walthamstow and Chingford Almshouse, a social housing charity providing self-contained accommodation for elderly people.

She held the trustee role from 2014 until she stepped down at the end of a four-year term in 2018.

A pre-inquest review hearing into her death took place on 7th October, while a full inquest will not begin at Walthamstow Coroner's Court until 14th April 2025.

The *Echo* understands the delay is due to the Metropolitan Police still investigating the incident. The bus station is closed until 8th December while safety works take place in response to Grace's death.

SPORT

Walthamstow FC unveil 'blackout' kit



Credit Matt Joy

Walthamstow Football Club have released a "blackout" update to their well-received 2023/24 kit collaboration with the William Morris Gallery.

Working with Pinter, Wood Street Walls, and Admiral, Walthamstow FC once again

uses the iconic Yare pattern by John Henry Dearle, adapted into a bold, sublimated all-black gradient aesthetic.

Described by the club as a "masterclass in subtle design", the new blackout round neck shirt is on sale for £64.99.

The shirt features the William

Morris Gallery logo on the front and on the lower left, as well as the No Space for Hate, Admiral and Walthamstow FC logos on the left shoulder, left breast and right breast respectively.

The idea for the initial collaboration was devised by Wood Street Walls, an art collective

based on Barrett Road, Walthamstow, who picked out the 'Yare' pattern by textile and stained-glass designer John Henry Dearle from William Morris Gallery's museum archives.

Full access to the gallery's archive was given, allowing the design team to explore the full collection of textiles and wallpaper to choose the pattern which was digitally re-drawn and colour matched to be sublimated onto the clothing, taking over a hundred hours of research and design.

The kit won a leading global design award earlier this year.

You can buy the kit here:
woodstreetwalls.myshopify.com



Credit Matt Joy

New leisure centre opens in Leyton

One of the largest sports halls opened in Leyton's Coronation Square last month.

The Score Centre, located next to Leyton Orient FC, contains five basketball courts which can also be used for netball, volleyball, handball and futsal, with bleacher seating for hundreds of spectators on the show court.

There are also two studios for pilates, yoga, zumba and more – plus two community rooms halls available for hire and associated offices.

There are plans to add a cafe to the facility next year.

The leisure centre is part of the Coronation Square development, which, when finished, will consist of 750 homes, a health centre, an outdoor public square, shops, and a nursery. 311 homes have been built so far.

Louise Mitchell, cabinet member for adults and health, said: "I am delighted to see the New Score Centre is now open and residents are already benefiting from world-class facilities right on their doorstep. We are determined to make sure that local people are given every opportunity to succeed and make the very most of their life chances in Waltham Forest."

You can find the New Score Centre at 2 Coronation Square E10 5UN

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LICENSING ACT 2003 Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence

Notice of application for the grant of a Premises Licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003

Notice is hereby given that **Kyriacos Kyriacou** has applied to the London Borough of Waltham Forest for the grant of a Premises Licence at **Kyri Catering LTD, 170 Station Road, London, E4 6AN**. The nature of the application is as follows:

- To permit the sale of alcohol / regulated entertainment / late night refreshments Monday from 5pm–11pm; Tuesday to Thursday from 5pm–11pm; Friday 5pm till 2am; Saturday 5pm–2am and Sunday 1pm–11pm.

The Licensing register listing full details of the application is kept by the Licensing Service, Waltham Forest Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, London E17 4JF. The application may be viewed Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am–5pm (except Bank Holidays).

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

Representations must be received no later than **15th December 2024**.

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.

FREEHOLD INTEREST

The freeholder of **74 Wallwood Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 1AL**, namely **Sohan Singh Deol and Surbjit Kaur Deol**, cannot be found. The leaseholder of Flat 74B, which is situated in the said building, intends to acquire a new lease of her flat pursuant to Section 50 of the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993. If anyone has any information on the whereabouts of Sohan Singh Deol and Surbjit Kaur Deol (previously of 74 Wallwood Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 1AL) please contact James Compton of Comptons Solicitors LLP of 90-92 Parkway, London, NW1 7AN (telephone number 020 7482 9513) failing which court proceedings will be issued to acquire a new lease in the absence of Sohan Singh Deol and Surbjit Kaur Deol.

Licences for Special Treatment Public Notice

NOTICE IS GIVEN that **Eva Estrada Kockova** has applied to the London Borough of Waltham Forest for a Special Treatment Licence for:

- Microblading/semi-permanent tattooing
- Tattoo lightening with saline solution
- Plasma fibroblast
- Licence for the premises: **Mainyard studios FF1 Brow Boutique LDN, 679–691 High Road, Leyton E10 6RA**

Anyone wishing to oppose the application must give notice in writing to the Licensing Officer, Licensing Services, Public Control Waltham Forest Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF

WITHIN 28 DAYS OF PUBLICATION specifying the grounds of opposition.

Persons objecting to the grant of a licence must be prepared to attend in person before a Committee of the Council.

LICENSING ACT 2003 Application for the Variation of a Premises Licence

Notice of application for the grant of a Premises Licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003

Notice is hereby given that **THE LOG CABIN** has applied to the London Borough of Waltham Forest for the variation of an existing Premises Licence at: **The Log Cabin, Whipps Cross Road, Leytonstone, E11 1NP**. The nature of the application is as follows:

- To permit sale of alcohol ON and OFF premises, Monday–Sunday, 07:00–23:00

The Licensing register listing full details of the application is kept by the Licensing Service, Waltham Forest Town Hall, Fellowship Square, Forest Road, London E17 4JF. The application may be viewed Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am–5pm (except Bank Holidays).

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

Representations must be received no later than **21th December 2024**.

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.

KEEP THE ECHO IN PRINT

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.



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