



Calling all residents

We would love to hear from you to talk about the community you live in, to hear what you like about your area, and what you would like to improve. Hanley Crouch Community Association at Brickworks Community Centre is supporting people to create the changes they want to see locally. We believe that people know what is most important in their local area, and we will help communities come together and drive the positive changes they want to see.

We will enable social action: this is about people coming together to help improve their lives and solve the problems that are important in their communities. If you would like to find out more information or to get involved, please get in touch.

Contact: 020 7263 1067; admin@hanleycrouch.org.uk

Pamela Aristokle, Voluntary and Community Sector Development Officer



Boxercise at Holiday Play Scheme 2018

Inside this issue

Universal Credit	2
In the Neighbourhood: David Charie..	2-4
Lonely in London.....	3
What's On	4
Green Fingers.....	5
Staying Fit.....	5
Regular Activities..	6

Universal Credit: latest news

Fun Day

February saw a big get together at the Brickworks Fun Day: an event with something for everyone – from Chinese dancing and a bouncy castle to the chance to meet local councillors and fire fighters.



Chinese New Year



Gunnersaurus



Painting of hands in the community

Universal Credit, which rolls six benefits into a single monthly payment, was introduced last summer to widespread protest.

The National Audit Office, a neutral body, has been highly critical. Labour has called for it to be scrapped. So has Islington Council.

People on benefits in Islington, where 70 people a day are being moved to the new system, will be all too familiar with its faults: difficulties with enrolling, delays in getting payments, problems with paying the rent and the growing use of food banks.

For Islington councillor Andy Hull, the message is clear: 'People are indebted, destitute and desperate as a result of Universal Credit.'

Citizens Advice has been working with some of the worst affected – and on April 1, it will be launching a new service, Help to Claim. This will give advice via telephone and web-chat; drop-ins at Job centres – the nearest ones being Finsbury Park and Barnsbury; and, in some cases, personal consultations.

Jeanette Daly Mathias, director of Citizens Advice Islington, says that people without computer skills – the 'digitally excluded' – are badly affected. But they are not the only ones. 'One in six people are going to need help with this. And we'll be helping the most vulnerable by providing face-to-face appointments.'

In the Neighbourhood: David Charie

David Charie, 70, has been the chair of the Tollington Ward Panel for the past four years. The panel brings together local residents and police to talk about crime and related issues in the neighbourhood.

Before that, he worked for Volvo Penta, the marine and industrial engineering company, for '39 years and 364 days' in their Watford sales office. Their clients included Sunseeker, which supplies luxury boats for the James Bond films.

Crime figures

'Knife crime is a major worry,' David says, 'but there's not too much of it in Tollington. Then you've got all-encompassing anti-social behaviour: drug dealing, drunkenness, loud music, cars roaring up and down. It's always been there, but we feel more exposed to it now. It's difficult to stereotype people, but quite a lot of the problems are to do with youngsters up the age of 25: at our age you don't tend to come out of the pub and get into fights.'

'Police resources are very stretched, which is a problem, but I wouldn't say there was a general feeling of threat in the area. Muggings are relatively few and far between and the police have had some success with moped crime.'

'Local residents can help by joining Neighbourhood Watch, which gives the police eyes in the community.'

Lonely in London

Loneliness can be a killer – even in a crowded place like Islington. One answer to it lies with people who are willing to pitch in, visit elderly neighbours, people with health problems, maybe someone left on their own after bereavement or a family upheaval.

The Brickworks café offers a friendly (and low-cost) meeting place for people in the area. And we are currently working on a befriending project, which could be launched later this spring.

Other organisations that can help:

Contact the Elderly (0800 716543), runs monthly socials for over-75s living alone in north London.

The Friendship Network (020 7561 5264) runs a befriending service for isolated people in Islington and offers basic computer training.

Age UK Islington (0207 281 6018) has details of services that help elderly people live independently.

Life in Stroud Green

'My father was a caretaker with Islington Council; we lived in Haden Court, now part of the Six Acres estate. Wadcote Street, on which Haden Court was built, was notorious and known locally as Campbell Bunk. Everyone had a criminal conviction. We were at the top end, between Lennox and Biggerstaffe Roads; the houses further down were derelict: I remember some older kids going into one of the houses and pushing over the chimney stack.'

He went to school at Tollington Park, now IMAS, where girls' and boys' subjects were kept separate: 'The girls had a mock flat, where they'd practise bed-making and domestic science. One of the boys asked if he could do cookery, but got short shrift.'

He remembers the first person from Tollington to go to university – the announcement made by a beaming headmaster, Mr Wherry, at assembly.

Some of David's friends started their life at Holloway Engineering at the Nags Head, making TVs. 'A place of last resort,' he says. It does have one claim to fame, though: Millie Small worked there in the 1960s – and left when her record 'My Boy Lollipop' got to Number 1.

'Apparently, there was a framed letter in the canteen saying "I won't be coming back".'

David started work at Antique and Export Packers on Brewery Road, one of his jobs being to pack Henry Moore sculptures for transport. Finsbury Park was good for entertainment. David remembers seeing top American acts, such as the Ronettes and the Crystals, at the Astoria Cinema (later the Rainbow and now the UK Church of God); and in 1963 went along to one of the Beatles' Christmas shows; the screaming left his ears ringing for days.

Changes and pastimes

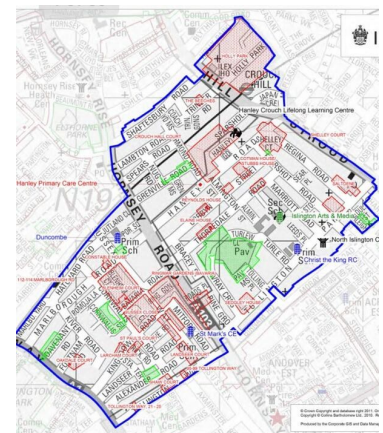
'There's been a lot of gentrification. Fifty years ago, bus drivers and dustmen lived here. Now everyone's in IT and the media.

'I remember one incident, from the early 70s, when a man appeared in the middle of Corbyn Street with a hand grenade, threatening to pull the pin out.

'The area's more cohesive today. Our street has an annual street party; everyone's involved. We keep an eye on each other's places.'

David works as a volunteer with Friends of Parkland Walk and the Conservation Volunteers (TCV): recently you might have come across him clearing mud and wood from the pond in Queens Wood. His wife, Christine, works for the Mary Feilding Guild, the retirement home where the author Diana Athill lived. The intellectual level sounds high: the residents are known to play Scrabble in Latin.

His favourite café is the Hamlet on Hornsey Road and he drinks in the Shaftesbury nearby. 'I've become an unpaid roadie for our neighbour's mid-life crisis band,



the Guantanamo Bay Social Club, who often play there.'

Running is another of David's interests. He used to jog around Wray Crescent, which wasn't much of a challenge – until one day a friendly local suggested that if he wanted a more interesting run, he should try Parkland Walk.

The advice carried a certain amount of weight: the friendly local was Jeremy Corbyn MP.

For more details about Tollington Ward policing, or to report anti-social behaviour, contact Tollingtonward-ni@met.police.uk or ring 0207 421 0559. Contact Brickworks for details of the next panel meeting.

What's on at Brickworks

St Patrick's Day & Easter

Brickworks is celebrating St Patrick's Day in style this year. A Tea Dance on March 16, organised by Glenda Daniel, features Irish dancing and folk music, a talk about St Patrick, poetry and comedy. There will also be a demonstration of Indian classical dance from Showmi Das and a soca dance to round the event off. Tickets for the event, which runs from 1pm – 4pm, cost £3, which includes a raffle ticket.

As well as appearing at the Tea Dance, Showmi is also running weekly Indian dance workshops for the 50+plus age group. These take place at Brickworks every Thursday, from 12 noon to 1pm. In June, the class will take part in a dance festival at Sadler's Wells.

Easter weekend falls on April 20 and 21st this year. For a list of activities, including walks and fairs, try the Angel Central website: <https://angelcentral.co.uk/easter-in-islington/>.

There will also be an Easter Egg quest at Kenwood House, from April 19-22: £1 per child.

Islington will be running its Easter Lunch Bunch scheme, which offers free lunches and fun activities to children aged 6-12 from low income families. For more details, email- lunch.bunch@islington.gov.uk



Valentine's Tea Dance 2018

Brickworks and Me



Robin, 34, looks after his son, Milo, full time — his wife works in the fashion business in central London. Brickworks is part of his weekly routine: 'We've been coming to the Stay and Play sessions for about 18 months now [Milo is almost two].

'He's surrounded by friendly faces, people he sees regularly — Bev, Maxine and Jean — which is great.

'Milo is very active and he has the freedom to roam around freely.

'He loves the outside space and uses the bikes, scooters and cars. Give him a car and he'll be happy for hours.

Brickworks is a friendly place: we've made friends at Stay and Play and meet up with them and do other things.'

Our Stay & Play is on Tuesday—Thursday 10am—12pm.

Get Digging

Sunnyside Community Gardens, Hazellville Road, N19, celebrated its 40th birthday last year, holds a monthly social on the first Sunday of every month (11am-2pm) and welcomes volunteers on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. 0207 272 3522; or sunnysidecommunitygardencentre@gmail.com.**

The Octopus Community Plant Nursery in Tufnell Park welcomes gardeners and volunteers to community sessions, mainly on Wednesdays and Thursdays. For further details: **020 7263 7095** or **franie@octopuscommunities.org.uk.**

Friends of the Parkland Walk encourages volunteers to take part in regular conservation days. www.parkland-walk.org.uk

Hidden away in Finsbury Park, Edible Landscapes London brings volunteers together to learn about edible plants, care for them and give them away to local food growing projects in schools and colleges. [@ForestGardenELL](http://ediblelandscapeslondon.org.uk)

Green fingers

Gardening is a good way of staying physically and mentally fit. And with spring round the corner, now is the time to get digging. Hilary Taylor, of Octopus Community's We Can Grow project, is organising Friday sessions at Brickworks roof garden. The aim is to provide horticultural therapy with the accent on exercise and growing herbs and vegetables. The fortnightly sessions should start this month or next. If you're interested, please give your name to Caroline at Brickworks.



Staying fit

Brickworks offers a range of keep-fit activities, from zumba to boxercise and table tennis. And what better way to start the week than with a Monday-morning Awareness through Movement session, run by Caroline Thompson? Caroline is a qualified practitioner of the Feldenkrai Method, which aims to improve posture, reduce stiffness, increase co-ordination and vitality and improve breathing and thinking.

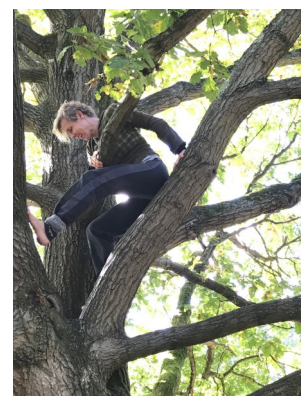
The sessions should be particularly useful for anyone suffering from back, shoulder or neck pain; recovering from an injury; feeling disoriented after childbirth or suffering from general stiffness and wear and tear.

The method clearly works for Caroline: she is a keen tree climber and spends a lot of her spare time hanging out in the branches on Hampstead Heath.

Awareness through Movement, **Mondays 9.30-10.30am. £10; £7 concs.**

Brickworks also has plans to launch a sessions of chair exercises, designed mainly for older people who have mobility problems – and for others who spend their time at desks or in front of screens.

Caxton House, St John's Way, offers a further range of activities, from archery to short-mat bowls, indoor cricket, pilates and 'Flying Families Aerial Workshops'. More details **020 7263 3151; www.caxtonhouse.org**



Going back in time

Elephants aren't usually too much of a problem in Stroud Green. But in September 1893, one called Jim escaped from his keeper, who worked locally, and went on the rampage through Finsbury Park, wrenching up railings and damaging the bandstand and chairs.

As policemen and a large crowd ran after him, the elephant charged out of the main gates into Blackstock Road, through Clissold Park, Newington Green and Dalston Lane, before coming to a halt in a field near Bruce Grove.

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Regular activities and upcoming events

Fitness Activities

- Hatha Yoga: Wednesdays, 11am - 12pm
- Boxercise: Thursdays, 6.30pm - 7:30pm
- Zumba Gold: Fridays, 11:30am - 12:30pm
- Wiggle Beats: Thursdays, 11:30am - 12pm

Over 50s

- Lunch Group: Fridays, 1pm - 2:30pm
- Indoor Bowls: Fridays, 1:30pm - 2:30pm
- Arts & Crafts: Mondays, 11am - 1pm

Children's Services

- Stay & Play: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 10am – 12pm
- After School Club & Holiday Play Scheme 3pm– 6pm

Health & Wellbeing

- Tranquil Health & Wellbeing Workshops: once a month

Other services

- Blythwood Community Nursery: Mondays to Fridays, 8am-6pm. Day-care for children aged 18 months to four years. 020 7263 5070; info@blythwoodcommunitynursery.co.uk
- Palace for All: Mondays to Thursdays, 12.30pm-6pm. Drop-in, play and therapies for children with special needs. 020 7561 1689; www.palaceforall.org.uk
- Special People: working with adults and children with special needs. 020 7686 0253; www.specialpeople.org.uk

Brickworks Newsletter: please send us your contributions, ideas and suggestions. The deadline for the next issue is May 10. Email chrisxhowe@gmail.com.