



At the V&A, from left: Rose, Sonia & Colleen (see page 3)

## GETTING READY FOR SUMMER

On June 8 we'll be having our summer open day: a chance to find out what's happening locally – and tell people about what you or your organisation is doing.

Local councillors and community groups will be on hand, and there'll be a range of kid's activities, from a bouncy castle and face painting to penalty shoot-outs.

On June 21, there's our great Brickworks Get-Together: a tea dance open to all.

If you fancy getting in shape – mentally or physically, there's plenty to choose from. Yoga, Zumba, Saturday football, Indian classical dance or various Rehab to Life classes which give advice on health, diet and well-being in general.

And if you fancy booking Brickworks for a meeting or a party, get in touch. We recently played host to a literary and musical celebration of Europe; and a local philosophy group also meets here every month.

### Jan Alexis-Harrington

We're sorry to report the death of Jan Alexis-Harrington, a well-known face at our Weekenders lunches. Jan lived on Holly Estate, was an ex-Serviceman who had travelled widely and had a great love and knowledge of London. He'll be sadly missed.



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## HOMELESS IN ISLINGTON

### A better Islington

The Islington Hate Crime Forum, which attacks the causes – and supports the victims – of such crimes will be holding its next meeting on July 25 at Brickworks at 1– 3pm. Contact Colin Adams at Brickworks if you'd like to attend.

### Food news

'Food poverty' is a vogueish term for a harsh reality: large numbers of London children don't have enough to eat. If you are in a low-income family (on benefit or making less than £16,190 before tax), you may be interested in Lunch Bunch, which provides 5 to 19-year-olds with a daily meal throughout the holidays. Its summer programme has yet to be finalised, but for general information, google lunch bunch/Eventbrite.

Islington's foodbank opens on Saturday and Monday afternoons at Highbury Roundhouse Youth and Community Centre, 71 Ronalds Road, London N5 1XB (<https://islington.foodbank.org.uk/>; 07753 222 755).

We are part of a Food share project, where we have food donations on Mondays and Thursdays' depending on availability.

Homelessness – and rough sleeping – are concerns for many people who live locally. So what is being done about it – and what can we do individually?

At borough level, quite a lot. Islington Council has commissioned the St Mungo's charity to work with local rough-sleepers. Its outreach teams contact rough sleepers, offering help with accommodation and linking them up to medical, mental health and other services.

Islington has also received government funding to pay for outreach workers and two winter night shelters for rough sleepers. One of them, the Glasshouse Shelter, was open for three months earlier this year on Hornsey Road. The organisers, Housing Justice, converted a disused commercial building to give accommodation, food and support services to 15 homeless people. The scheme received strong local support: 200 volunteers helped with painting and refurbishment, while the Hornsey Road Traders' Association raised £3,500 for the project.

The council is also piloting Housing First, which takes a different approach: getting the homeless into self-contained accommodation as a first step, before working on the rest of their problems. 'There is a lot of goodwill and momentum among the support services in Islington,' says Sarah Turley, the council's Street Population Coordinator.

And it seems to be paying off. A street count last month found 15 people rough sleeping in Islington, down from 43 in November last year.

More locally, over the past two years outreach teams have successfully accommodated 35 people rough sleeping under the bridge on Stroud Green Road. Everyone is offered support – but not all accept it: they may have had a bad experience of hostels or support agencies, or face difficult mental health or addiction problems.

So how can the rest of us help?

- 'Talk to the person,' says Sarah. 'Being kind and interested can be invaluable.'
- Contact Streetlink (0300 500 0914 or [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk)) if you see a new rough-sleeper on the streets.
- Don't give money to beggars; donate to a homeless charity or buy a Big Issue.
- Encourage rough-sleepers to visit the council's housing options service at 222 Upper Street N1 1XR: drop-ins, Monday to Friday 9am-5pm (tel: 020 7527 6371). There's also the Manna Day Centre, St Stephens Church, N1 2DF, and the Margins project at the Union Chapel, N1 2UN.
- Consider volunteering with Street Kitchen or other groups.
- You could also go high-tech. Greater Change takes donations by smart phone, allowing the donor to see how the money has been spent: a new approach to an age-old problem ([www.greaterchange.co.uk](http://www.greaterchange.co.uk))

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

### Our Day Out

Brickworks' Over 50s like to keep busy. Normally, they have an outing a month: sometimes a brunch in Haringey, organised by the Jacksons Lane community centre; at other times they go further afield. Here they are enjoying a recent trip to the Victoria and Albert museum.



Back row: Caroline, Gloria, Amin, Sonia. Front: Colleen, Hannah, Glenda, Rose



"Members enjoying the Tranquil Health & Wellbeing tea dance in March".

Young Creatives at Camden Roundhouse offers aspiring musicians, poets and producers between the ages of 11 and 25 the chance to hone their skills at regular drop-ins. The sessions cover DJing, production, music journalism, playing in a band, Somali narratives and much more; prices start at £2 a session. Further information on <https://www.roundhouse.org.uk/young-creatives/list?>

Platform on Hornsey Road offers drop-in activities, including music, drama, film, games and Afrobeat dance classes. Contact 0207 527 4468

Saturday football sessions, with coaches, for 7 to 16-year-olds with special educational needs or disabilities. Contact: Karen Greene (07785 224888 or [greener106@btinternet.com](mailto:greener106@btinternet.com))

Fencing for Beginners at Lift (White Lion Street). The centre also has music, table tennis, debates, projects and talks (020 7527 7030; [lift@isledon.co.uk](mailto:lift@isledon.co.uk))

Beekeeping in E2: Buzzin' Mondays offer bee-keeping classes to young Islingtonians. St Mary's Secret Garden, 50 Pearson Street, E2 8EL (0207 739 2965).

Scouts : a chance for boys and girls to learn new skills from caving and climbing to archery, potholing, water activities and camping. The 112-year-old organisation is moving away from its traditionally middle-class image and is growing rapidly: over the past five years it has set up 1,280 new packs, mostly in inner cities. Islington has seven groups; Haringey, nine; and there are also North London sea and air scouts. The local headquarters is at 319 Holloway Road. Further information at <https://scouts.org.uk/get-involved/>; 0345 300 1818 or 020 8433 7100

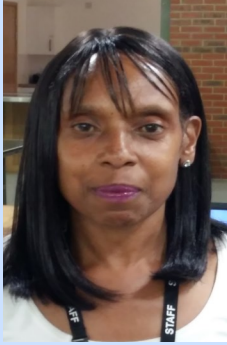
Copenhagen Youth Project: music, art and sport for 7 to 24-year-olds. (0207 278 7400).

North London has a number of festivals over the next month:

Stroud Green Festival: mostly classical music, runs until June 23; Crouch End Festival (June 7-16) includes music, art, a showing of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' in Stationers Park, a jam session at Weston Park Bakery and much more; Highgate Festival includes painting and live music in Pond Square and a George Michael singalong at the Angel. Full programmes online.

The Sky Garden, 150 metres up, gives a 380 degree view of London. Free but booking essential: <https://skygarden.london/>

Join a choir: the excellent Stapleton Singers meet at Mind in Haringey, 73 Stapleton Hall Road. [stapletonsingers1@gmail.com](mailto:stapletonsingers1@gmail.com).



## MY BRICKWORKS

Beverley McIntosh runs Brickworks' Stay and Play for the under-fives.

**Aims:** 'We provide an opportunity for kids to play and learn, and for the parents to get together and share experiences.

'We receive information from Bright Start that offer workshops in the following: health, sleep, oral health or breastfeeding.'

**Lessons for life:**

'Learning to interact with others is vital. Healthy eating is also important. The kids learn about diet and get a certificate at the end.'

**Playtime:** Boys don't always want to do messy play—most of the time they prefer to be outside. The girls are being every bit as noisy - but they are more likely to sing.'

**Best part of the job:** 'I love engaging with the parents and seeing the children having fun. Also being able to help if the parents where needed.'

## Regular activities and upcoming events:

### Fitness Activities

- Hatha Yoga: Wednesdays, 11am - 12pm
- Boxercise: Thursdays, 6.30pm - 7:30pm
- Zumba Gold: Fridays, 12am - 1pm
- Wiggle Beats: Thursdays, 11:30am - 12pm
- Boot Camp: Contact Jazz 07752 385 307

### 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 (July)

### 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
- From Rehab to Life: For more details contact Vander Peter on 07960976920

**Brickworks Newsletter: please send us your contributions, ideas and suggestions. The deadline for the next issue is the end of August. Email [chrisxhowe@gmail.com](mailto:chrisxhowe@gmail.com).**