

The Brickworks Newsletter



November 2022

Number 14

If you're worried about the rising cost of living – and who isn't? – Brickworks may be able to help. On Saturday October 29, we'll be hosting a Tollington Ward Community Event, offering help and advice on everything from finance to recycling. The event, which brings together advisers from organisations such as Shine and IMAX, runs from 1pm –4pm.

Heating and fuel poverty will be a particular worry as winter kicks in, so we're pleased to announce that Brickworks is one of Islington's 13 Warm Winter Places, where local residents can relax, socialise and enjoy hot food and drink. The drop-in is open daily, from 6pm to 9pm.

Islington has just announced a change to its funding of after-school childcare. Until now, families with an annual income of less than £30,999 paid a maximum of £5 per session. The threshold has now been raised to £34,999.

Want to play a bigger part in your local community? We need volunteers - and we're also working on a Friends of Hanley Crouch scheme, which will bring together local residents to share their skills, organise events and act as ambassadors to spread the word about Brickworks and what we do. If you're interested, please contact reception. Further details to be announced soon.

A few months ago, we set up a debt kiosk, an online service which puts users in touch with an adviser from the Citizens Advice Bureau. The service is still available, Mondays to Friday; phone reception (020 7263 1067) for an appointment.

A range of other services are available locally:

Money and debt

Debt Free London (helpline, webchat, WhatsApp, video chat): www.debtfree.london; 0800 808 5700

Islington Council (benefits and money advice): heretohelp@islington.gov.uk; www.islington.gov.uk/costofliving; 010 7527 8222

Citizens Advice Islington (benefits, debt, housing and more): admin@rcjadvice.org.uk; www.islingtoncab.org; 0300 330 1197 (advice); 020 3745 8921 (debt)

Islington People's Rights (welfare benefits and debt): info@ipradvice.org.uk; www.ipradvice.org.uk; 020 7561 3685

Islington Law Centre (benefits, debt, housing, immigration): info@islingtonlaw.org.uk; www.islingtonlaw.org.uk; 020 7288 7630

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Shine London: shine@islington.gov.uk; www.shine-london.org.uk; 0300 555 0195

Housing

Housing Aid – Islington Council: www.islington.gov.uk/advice/housing-advice; 020 7527 2000

Mental health

Islington Mind: min.wilkinson@islingtonmind.org.uk; www.islingtonmind.org.uk; 020 3301 9850

Disability

Disability Action in Islington: info@daii.org; www.daii.org; 020 7354 8925

Various

Age UK Islington (advice for 16 yrs. + on money, energy and debt): gethelp@ageukislington.org.uk; www.ageuk.org.uk/islington/; 020 7281 6018

Help on Your Doorstep (various matters): connect@helponyourdoorstep.com; www.helponyourdoorstep.com; 020 3931 6080

For more information, pick up Islington Council's leaflet 'Worrying about Money?' in reception or download it from www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/cash-first-leaflets

If you need to use a computer, come and use Brickworks'. We are also planning a series of workshops for people wanting to learn basic skills. In the meantime, anyone over-50 and baffled by the digital world should try the 50+ Digital Drop-in at Mildmay Community Centre, Woodville Road, N16 8NA, which opens on Wednesdays from 1 to 4pm.

Glenda Daniel's latest Tranquil Health and Wellbeing Workshop takes place on November 19 from 12pm-4pm. The programme includes music, dance, poetry and exercise. Admission is free.

The Islington in Bloom awards were set up to celebrate the borough's green spaces and the people who create and look after them. It's a pleasure to announce that Brickworks' rooftop garden has been awarded a silver medal – so congratulations to Fran, Michael, Emma and all those involved. Brian Heywood, who died earlier this year and put in an enormous amount of skill and energy into the garden, would have been delighted. And so are we.

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One sign of the community spirit that exists locally is the number of people who are dropping off donations to our food bank. Their generosity is much appreciated – and, with conditions getting worse, we need more of the same. So, if you have unwanted food within its sell-by date please bring it along. We are also working on a textiles bank, to distribute warm clothing throughout the winter and will let you know when this is ready.

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