

The Brent Magazine

Issue no.150

Winter 2016/2017

Free for people who live and work in Brent



This is the large print edition of
The Brent Magazine produced for
people with visual impairment.

If you have comments on how
it could be improved, or if you
would like a copy on audio tape
please contact **020 8937 1062**.



COSTCO WHOLESAL JOIN. SHOP. SAVE.

Sign up for membership with this advert and receive either a FREE Tower of Treats, or bottle of Prosecco!

Costco Wembley only. Valid 10/01/2017.

Costco Wholesale is a membership warehouse club, dedicated to bringing our members quality goods and services at the lowest possible prices.

We provide a wide selection of merchandise, plus the convenience of speciality departments and exclusive member services, all designed to make your shopping experience a pleasurable one.

We are confident in the quality and value of our products, and we stand behind them with our guarantee of satisfaction.

Trade Membership*

The annual membership fee for Standard Trade Membership is £22 ex VAT (£26.40 inc VAT).

Individual Membership*

The annual membership fee for Standard Individual Membership is £28 ex VAT (£33.60 inc VAT).

*Membership Criteria applies. Prices correct at July 2016. Accepted methods of payment: cash, debit card, cheque or American Express. Membership must be obtained before purchases can be made.

Costco Wembley

30 Second Way, Wembley, London HA9 0YJ

T: **0203 862 1800**

E: **marketing128@costco.co.uk**

www.costco.co.uk

In this issue

News	6	All the world's a stage	45
A round up of the latest news in Brent		Six new theatre venues launched	
It's TBM'S 150th edition	20	Landlord licensing	46
We look back through our archives		Should we extend private rental licensing?	
Dollis Hill award winners	22	Spotlight on mental health	48
Campbell Gordon Way love where they live		Blogger Keith Dube speaks his mind	
The future is fast	24	Could you foster?	55
Brent's high speed hub station		Meet the foster carer making a difference	
Pet project	26	Clean and green at Christmas	57
We pay a visit to the Mayhew Animal Home		Handy recycling tips for the holiday season	
On location in Brent	30	Your benefits are being cut	59
Behind the scenes of filming in Brent		Will the benefit cuts affect you?	
New year, new you	35	Find your home	61
Meet our inspirational Activweight residents		Find accommodation outside London	
Brent Outreach team	38	Arts and culture	62
Helping people sleeping rough in Brent		Theatre, opera, music and more	
Our day	40	What's on	68
What the council gets up to in 24 hours		Classes, fitness and opportunities near you	
It's Panto time	42	THE GLOVES ARE OFF	74
Beauty and the Beast comes to Kenton		Straight talking from boxer Ashley Theopane	
Just married	44		
Meet the council's Registrar			

The Brent Magazine

Issue 150

Winter 2016/2017

Large print edition

Published by the London Borough of Brent, Brent Civic Centre,
Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ

The London Borough of Brent does not accept responsibility for any goods or services offered by advertisers. Publication of an advertisement does not imply recommendation by the council of any goods or services advertised. Please use your local paper bank when disposing of this and other newspapers and magazines.

Brent magazine contacts

Editorial : tbm@brent.gov.uk

24 hour contact number: 020 8937 1234

Email: customer.services@brent.gov.uk

Advertising: advertising@brent.gov.uk

www.brent.gov.uk

Support local traders this winter

It's that time of year again: the weather has turned cold, we're wrapped up in scarves and gloves and wondering where the past year has gone.

In the past few weeks, our Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain communities have celebrated Diwali, our Jewish community is set to enjoy Hanukkah and our Christian community is looking forward to celebrating Christmas.

For all of us, regardless of faith, this is a time of year when we enjoy quality time with our families, friends and loved ones.

If, like me, you'll be venturing out to stock up on food and presents for the festive season – why not visit one of our fantastic local high streets? You can enjoy free weekend parking at eight of our local car parks, making it cheaper and easier to get those last minute supplies while supporting our local businesses.

There are lots of benefits to shopping locally. Not only can you find a really unique gift for someone special, or capture that authentic food or flavour, but it also

helps to protect and create local jobs for local people.

This is so important, especially in helping our young people find work. To help them into employment, we've recently launched our Brent Works apprenticeships service. As well as supporting the first step on the career ladder, the new service is offering jobs where young people can get practical experience while studying for a nationally recognised qualification.

These apprenticeships also help ensure that local businesses in Brent have the workforce they need, with the right skillset, right on their doorsteps. If you know someone who could benefit from our apprenticeship scheme, they can find out more on the Brent Council website at www.brent.gov.uk

From everyone at Brent Council, I'd like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Councillor Muhammed Butt
Leader of Brent Council

News Update

Sport and TV star Ade Adepitan visits Kingsbury

Paralympic star and TV presenter, Ade Adepitan, visited Kingsbury last month to spend time at Brent Council's short breaks centre in Grove Park.

Adepitan is an accomplished wheelchair basketball player and a member of team GB that won the bronze medal at the 2004 Summer Paralympics in Athens and the gold medal at the 2005 Paralympic World Cup in Manchester.

The centre, which is named after Adepitan, is for local children and young people aged 5-18, with profound and multiple learning difficulties, complex health needs, physical disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders.

Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell Murray, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, who accompanied Ade to the centre, said: "My visit to the centre reminded me why I became a councillor; to provide young people like those who use the centre with fantastic facilities to spend time and be given the tools to reach their full potential."

Have your say on council housing

12,000 council tenants and leaseholders are being invited to give their views on a proposal to bring the management of council housing in the borough back under direct council control.

Brent Council's Cabinet agreed to hold a 12-week consultation on the proposal to bring the service back in-house after considering the challenges presented by the government's housing reforms and concerns raised with the performance of Brent Housing Partnership, who currently manage the council's housing stock.

The results of the consultation will be considered by Cabinet who will make a final decision on future housing management service arrangements early next year. For more information, visit www.brent.gov.uk

Top comedian hosts 'Day of People with Disabilities'

Actress and comedian Francesca Martinez compered Brent Council's International Day of Disability at the beginning of December.

The theme of the day was 'Achieving Goals for the Future We Want' and aimed to increase understanding of the barriers facing people with disabilities and promote participation and inclusion.

Cap placed on more bookies, take-aways and loan centres

A new development blueprint, which aims to protect pubs and place a cap on betting shops and payday loan shops in town centres, has been agreed by Brent Council.

The development management plan also seeks to restrict new takeaways and shisha cafes from opening close to schools. Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing said: "This policy helps contribute to the council's health and well-being strategy, in particular to address childhood obesity and, in the case of shisha, the uptake of young people smoking."

Prince's moving tribute to war dead

The Duke of Cambridge was in Brent last month to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars and see how those lives were being remembered in the borough.

His Royal Highness, Prince William, visited Willesden New Cemetery to see the work of "Living Memory", a Commonwealth War Graves Commission project that aims to encourage communities to discover their local war graves and memorials, explore the stories behind the names of those who gave their lives in wartime and remember their sacrifice. Cllr Parvez Ahmed, Mayor of Brent, said: "It was an honour to welcome His Royal Highness to Brent and join with him in remembering those who gave their lives for this country in the First and Second World Wars. "Too often we all take for granted the sacrifice they made, which regardless of the passing of time, should never be forgotten."

Hands are not for hurting

A pledge committing to oppose violence against women and girls has been signed by Council members and the Chief Executive.

The event, aimed at tackling gang related domestic abuse in Brent, was held in November and was part of national White Ribbon Day activities.

White Ribbon Day is the annual campaign to urge men and boys to pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women. For more information, visit www.brent.gov.uk

Free parking for Christmas shoppers in 8 local car parks

Shoppers in Brent will be able to park for free on the weekends leading up to Christmas in eight car parks across Brent.

Car parks on Elm Road, Kingsbury Road, Preston Road, Salusbury Road, Lonsdale Avenue, Neasden Town Centre, St John's Road and Wendover Road will be open to motorists to park for free on 10-11 and 17-18 December. In addition, all council car parks will be free on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day, to manage demand and provide an alternative to on-street parking. www.brent.gov.uk/parking

It's time to talk about extremism

An expert panel featuring academics and community figures took part in a special question time event on the issue of tackling all forms of extremism.

Chaired by Hassan Mujtaba from the London Tigers youth development charity, the event was part of the Council's wider 'It's Time to Talk' campaign which aims to empower residents and community leaders to talk about difficult issues and work together with the authorities to tackle them. After the Q&A, workshops were held to drive community-led solutions to the issues raised.

For more information, visit www.brent.gov.uk/itstimetotalk

Young people take over the council... for a day

In late November, young people from six schools across Brent got the chance to take over the Council for the day. From regeneration and growth to schools effectiveness and gang crime, Brent's young people had their say on the big issues facing their generation.

Calais child refugees welcomed

Child refugees who had been living in the refugee camp in Calais, have been housed in Brent.

Eight children in total were reunited with their relatives in the borough or placed under the care of the council. Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell Murray, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "I am extremely proud that here in Brent we are continuing to play our part, providing support for those most in need.

"Our borough, which is the most culturally diverse in the country, has always welcomed people from across the world.

"Despite the ongoing cuts to local government funding, we hope that other local authorities will follow the example set in Brent."

Brent currently has around 150 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in its care, the fourth highest in London.

Cllr Mitchell Murray added: "If you are a resident who would like to offer your support to refugees, please get in touch with the council."

King of the MOBOS wins top gong

MOBO founder, Kanya King MBE who was born and raised in Brent was presented with the 'Media Pioneer' of the year award at this year's Women in Music Awards.

On receiving her award, King said: "I've dedicated my life to celebrating the excellence of others, so it's humbling to receive this award. To any young female, I would say, 'Don't strive to be a person of success, but a person of merit.'"

Street trader sniffed out

A rogue perfume street trader from Willesden has been 'sniffed out' and given a heavy fine by Brent's Magistrates Court. Paul Hunter, 59 was caught on 16 different occasions selling without a street trading licence.

The council's Trading Standards team smelled a rat when they discovered Mr Hunter had purchased goods from local shops, repackaged them as gifts and was selling them for £15. He was fined more than £2,300 and given a Criminal Behaviour Order banning him from unlawful street trading in Brent.

London Mayor quizzed in Wembley

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, was quizzed about a range of issues as he chose Brent for his first People's Question Time event in November.

Hundreds of residents from across London flocked to the Brent Civic Centre to hear the Mayor answer questions on a range of topics from transport, housing and hate crime to female genital mutilation, inward investment, Brexit and poor air quality.

Cllr Muhammed Butt, Brent Council Leader, said: "It was fantastic to welcome the Mayor of London to the Brent Civic Centre for his first People's Question Time and even better to have a packed hall full of residents asking challenging and thought provoking questions.

"Of course London has its challenges just like any other city but it is the greatest city on earth and we in Brent will play our part in working closely with the Mayor to deliver our shared priorities."

Dr Loan Shark from Kenton sentenced

A Kenton-based doctor has received a 10 month suspended prison sentence and been ordered to complete 120 hours of unpaid work after a court found him guilty of being a loan shark.

49-year-old Dr Arjan Damjibhai Savani, a Consultant at Central Middlesex and Northwick Park Hospitals in Harrow, pleaded guilty to two counts of illegal money lending.

"Often when people think of loan sharks, they think of big, burly local gangsters but they can be anybody, even people in respectable jobs," said Simon Legg, of Brent Trading Standards.

"This case shows that loan sharks are being brought to justice, so if you suspect someone of being a loan shark, call the Illegal Money Lending Team on 0300 555 2222."

Willesden Temple lights up for Diwali

Diwali is the celebration of hope, love and light. Hindus all around the world take part in these beautiful festivities. At Willesden Temple, the local devotees have brought a bit of sparkle by sharing the festive season with the whole community

Living Wage goes up to £9.75

An increase in the London Living Wage has been welcomed in the borough, as the bid to get more employers to pay their staff the Living Wage continues.

The new London Living Wage of £9.75 per hour has been calculated as the minimum amount a person needs to earn to afford a basic standard of living in London. Cllr Roxanne Mashari, Brent Council's Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Growth, Employment and Skills, said: "Many Brent businesses have already gained their Living Wage accreditation, but there is more to do to ensure that a fair day's work equals a fair pay." Brent Council offers a business rates discount scheme for Living Wage employers. www.brent.gov.uk/livingwage

Fireworks go off with a bang

More than 18,000 people streamed into Wembley Park to take part in this year's spectacular fireworks celebration on November 6, despite the wintry weather.

The free, family friendly event – which was sponsored by Wembley Park this year – was buzzing with live street music, incredible performance artists, and an array of delicious food stalls.

Primary schools put their best foot forward

The Daily Mile, a simple, but popular well-being routine, has been introduced at seven of Brent's primary schools – and more are considering taking it up.

It involves pupils taking 15 minutes out of class to walk, jog or run a mile around their playgrounds, sports facilities or nearby areas, each day. Speaking about the initiative, Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, said: "As well as helping children's fitness, it also helps engagement and attainment in classes, boosting friendships and confidence – and it is also takes learning outside."

For more information visit www.brent.gov.uk/heartbeats

Game of clones

A man caught selling fake DVDs of popular TV series, including *Breaking Bad* and *Game Of Thrones*, was prosecuted by Brent Trading Standards.

Mr Gupta pleaded guilty to trademark and money laundering offences.

Strictly the best – Kenton teacher dances away with award

Strictly Come Dancing's Brendan Cole presented Kenton's very own Jashu Vekaria with the 2016 Teacher of the Year award at Uxendon Manor Primary School recently.

Brendan swapped the ballroom for the classroom when he surprised *Strictly* fan Jashu during class and even took the award winning teacher for a 'quick step'.

When Mrs Vekaria arrived at Uxendon Manor, the percentage of children who achieved Level 4+ in reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2 was 64%. Year on year this figure rose under her influence with it currently standing at 93%.

Mrs Vekaria was nominated for the award by Mr Jon Parry, Head teacher of the school. He said: "Jashu is an exceptional teacher who really does go the extra mile for our pupils. She's not afraid to tackle any task, from delivering fantastic results and giving our pupils one-on-one tailored help, to organising lunch time and after school clubs. I've even seen her hoovering the school at times!"

A pupil of Mrs Vekaria's, said: "I think I can do anything now because I am more confident than

I used to be. I love Maths because Mrs Vekaria makes it fun."

Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell Murray, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "We are very lucky to have Mrs Vekaria working at one of our local schools."

Star of *The Chase* launches tech bus at Wembley school

Brent based technology company 'Fresh' have come up with a way to take technology such as Virtual Reality and 3D printing to schools for free.

They officially launched The IDEAS Bus, an American style school bus filled with the latest technology, at Oakington Manor Primary School in Wembley with help from Shaun Wallace, star of popular TV show *The Chase*.

Fly tippers penalised

Lancaster Retail Ltd was found guilty of illegally dumping a large amount of waste in a service road at the rear of 73 Cricklewood Broadway and fined just under £2000.

Two other businesses received £400 fixed penalty notices for illegal rubbish dumping.

Council set to pay for extra beat police officers in Brent

More police officers could take to the streets of the borough after Brent Council's Cabinet gave their approval to a new funding initiative with the Metropolitan Police last month.

Under the agreement, Brent will contribute around £400,000 to help fund 12 extra police officers in the borough through the MetPatrol Plus scheme, who will then be deployed to tackle Brent's crime hotspots.

Cllr Tom Miller, Brent Council's Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, said:

"These 12 additional police officers will be a high profile deterrent to anyone involved in criminal or antisocial behaviour. Brent Council will continue to work hard with the police to ensure our community is a safe and welcoming place to live."

The scheme, which is subject to Full Council approval in February, will complement the introduction of new camera body suits worn by police officers. Brent is the second borough in London to introduce police-worn cameras.

Around 500 body worn video devices will be in use across all

front-line officers, which when activated will flash and beep. The footage from the body camera is automatically uploaded to secure servers once the device has been docked and flagged for use as evidence at court or other proceedings.

Cllr Miller added: "Research has shown that the use of body worn video cameras can help to prevent crime in diffusing difficult situations while also providing stronger evidence which can lead to more successful prosecutions in our fight against crime."

Hollywood legend Morgan Freeman visits Queen's Park mosque

Oscar winner Morgan Freeman visited the Al-Khoei Islamic Mosque in Queen's Park recently as part of his documentary series on different faiths called *The Story of God with Morgan Freeman*.

The actor spent three hours at the Chevening Road Mosque speaking to its members, and took part in the holy day Ashura Ceremony. The documentary will air on National Geographic in January.

Council budget – have your say...

Six years of budget cuts by central government has meant Brent Council has needed to find new ways to maintain services, with some very difficult decisions made along the way. Despite growing demand for local services from an increasing and ageing population, the funding that Brent receives from the government will be cut even further, with a proposed council tax rise of 3.99 per cent to help plug the gap and protect services.

"Imagine your household bills went up every year, but your salary kept being cut. You would have to make some tough choices and find new ways to make your money go further," says Cllr Muhammed Butt, Leader of Brent Council.

"We know how important our local services are to the people of Brent which is why, rather than cutting back on those vital services, the option of raising income through a small council tax increase to protect these services is being considered.

"The choice we face in Brent is this: will we pay a bit extra each month to keep our services available to those who need them, or will we let the Government cuts further limit the services we can provide?

Have your say by visiting www.brent.gov.uk/budget

Housing fraudster in Kensal Rise feels the heat after gas check

A man from Willesden has been found guilty of illegally sub-letting his Brent Housing Partnership flat by Brent Magistrates Court.

Mr Harry Lambert (38) was not present for a gas check and the illegal sub-tenant allowed a gas engineer into the one-bedroom council property in Chamberlayne Mansions, Kensal Rise.

The case was investigated and brought to court by Brent Council's Investigation Team who obtained evidence to show that Mr Lambert had been unlawfully subletting the property for the past three years.

Mr Lambert pleaded guilty to dishonestly sub-letting his council property under the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act 2013 and was sentenced to a 12 week curfew and fined £9,276.

Councillor Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "With council properties in such high demand, it is completely unacceptable that some individuals are trying to break the law for personal gain. The council property can now be offered back to local residents who genuinely need it."

The Good Ship sails on as it keeps late-night licence

A popular live music venue where Adele, Kate Nash and The XX all honed their acts, has kept its late-night licence, after review of the premises was called for by the police.

The licence for The Good Ship on Kilburn High Road was called-in for review by the police who raised concerns at the number of incidents occurring after 2am in and around the venue, as well as the security that the pub had in place.

Bar owner John McCooke told Brent Council's licencing committee that an earlier closing and last entry time on those days would make the business unviable, forcing the live-music venue on Kilburn High Road to close.

The Good Ship had reduced its closing time to 3am, which will remain, and agreed to take steps to ensure pub-goers are kept safe, including the introduction of better CCTV, ID scanners and new security team.

Brent Council's licencing committee also agreed with the pub that a last entry time of 1.30am was necessary to help the business survive.

Cllr Tom Miller, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, said: "This is a common-sense outcome that helps support our local business and the London night-time economy, whilst making sure that those enjoying nightlife in Kilburn are not put in harm's way."

Tackling social isolation near you

Social Isolation Brent Initiative (SIBI) was established to address isolation in the local community and with the arrival of winter, isolation can often get worse. If you or someone you know is at risk of feeling isolated or lonely, the SIBI project is here to help.

Mabel's* husband died two years ago and she has no children. After a few months on her own and a knee problem which restricts her mobility, depression set in. After contacting SIBI, Mabel (63) was told about Willesden Sports Centre which offers free swimming for over 60s. She now also attends IT classes, has made friends with other SIBI clients and is making excellent progress.

To find out more or to spare some time to volunteer with SIBI contact sibi@cvsbrent.org.uk

*name has been changed to protect identity

NEWS IN BRIEF

TFL set to alter popular 112 bus route

Transport for London (TfL) is proposing to make changes to a bus route used by over 2,000 people every day between Ealing Broadway and Brent Cross Shopping Centre. The changes would mean the 112 – running via Madeley Road – would see three new bus stops built there, but the service would no longer run in Hanger Lane, Uxbridge Road, The Mall and The Broadway. Find out more www.tfl.gov.uk

Crack down closes crack-house

A Stonebridge home being used for drug dealing has been closed down by Brent Council and the Police. A closure notice issued by Willesden Magistrates Court on 17 November ended anti-social behaviour and nuisance suffered by local residents in Mordaunt Road.

Thumbs up for environmental services

80% of residents are satisfied with the council's recycling and waste collection service, while 81% of residents are happy with their local park, and 71% of residents are happy with the overall street cleaning service, according to two recent surveys.

Junior parkrun comes to Queen's Park

Children aged from 4-14 can now take part in a **FREE** 2km timed run in Queen's Park every Sunday starting on 11 December. Register for a barcode at www.parkrun.org.uk/register

gsm in partnership
LONDON with Plymouth
University

Have Bold Dreams

Make them happen- GSM London is giving the Brent community the chance to get qualified for a high-earning career on their doorstep.

A unique strengths-based approach in a supportive environment is helping students from all backgrounds achieve a top university degree. Students are considered on their personal motivation to succeed rather than only academic qualifications. And by adopting a teaching approach which nurtures talent, GSM London has become known as the "you can do it" local higher education provider.

Students benefit from flexible study options at GSM London. They can graduate in as little as two years with the fast-track degrees, or study for a traditional three-year degree. There are options for those without A levels too: GSM London offer extended degrees which include an integrated Foundation Year designed to equip students with the skills and confidence to succeed in their studies.

Study locally

GSM London works with and for the local communities. The

majority of GSM London students prefer the comfort of local study when they enter a degree. So with campuses located in easily accessible areas, students are able to live at home while studying and save on rent costs as well as benefiting from support from their network of family and friends – a real must when undertaking a life-changing university degree. The Greenford Campus is easy to get to by public transport, so going to class is just a bus away from Brent stations.

Academically respected

All degrees at GSM London are awarded by Plymouth University, one of the UK's top modern universities. What's more, students don't have to break the bank to study for a quality university degree. At GSM London tuition fees are lower than most other universities and government funding is available through student loans which can cover tuition fees and living costs while studying.

Degrees with high earning potential

With a university degree on your CV, you can earn up to 43% more (according to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, 2016). And at GSM London, degrees prepare students for some of the highest-earning careers such as business management, oil and gas, economics and finance. It's the career-focused tutoring that makes it such a distinctive place to study.

Making degrees possible

If you didn't quite get your expected grades, are returning to learning, or haven't formally completed your education, there's no need to re-sit your exams or return to college education. You can benefit from the inclusive nature of GSM London and start directly onto a degree.

Their integrated Foundation Year equips students with the skills and knowledge needed to begin a university degree, making them academically ready and confident to begin their studies. The foundation year is part of the degree course itself, and is made up of taster modules that give you an insight into different subjects. GSM London also offer English refresher courses for those whose English is not their first language.

Taking the next step

GSM London's course advisors offer help in selecting the right course, how to apply for student finance, and providing the information needed to make an informed decision.

Amira Bawazir benefited from this unique support service: "I decided to come back to education and found my course advisor to be really helpful and supportive. She took me through the application process giving me clear information about the course, funding and what to expect from higher education."

For expert advice and to start a degree in the new year, call a GSM London course advisor on 020 3603 9228 today.



Visit gsmlondon.ac.uk

THE BIG LONDON ENERGY SWITCH



Want to save money on your gas and electricity bills?

Join thousands of Londoners who are signing up to get a better deal on their energy bills.

In previous auctions, up to 98% of those who registered were able to save; the average saving in the most recent auction was £231 per year.

For more information and to register, visit **www.brent.gov.uk/energyswitch** – registration is now open.

Unable to access the internet?
Call **0800 048 8439**



My community

The Brent Magazine 150

From our first issue in 1998 to now, this is our 150th edition!

From our first issue in 1998 to this one, we are extremely proud to call Brent home and hope you, our readers, continue to enjoy our unique mix of news, views, features, competitions, arts and culture and what's on.

We're continuing to grow and improve the only magazine dedicated to covering all things Brent.

Over the past 18 years, we've interviewed a host of famous people from GMTV's Mr Motivator and *One Foot in the Grave* star Richard Wilson to Olympic Gold medallist Audley Harrison, Boney M's Liz Mitchell and more recently Tottenham and England forward Harry Kane.

And it's not just the celebs that have kept you reading. 47 per cent of Brent residents said they get their news from The Brent Magazine. We're now reaching more than 300,000 residents and businesses in the borough with our print version while our digital edition gets more than 2,000 views every month.

We want to hear your ideas or stories so if you have a suggestion for something we could cover simply email us at: tbm@brent.gov.uk or for advertising enquiries email: advertising@brent.gov.uk

With more than 100,000 copies distributed quarterly to local households, libraries, leisure centres and businesses, The Brent Magazine is the go-to publication for Brent residents and reaches more than 320,000 local people.

Advertisement

Vitality

North London Half Marathon

THE GREATEST FINISH LINE IN THE WORLD

WEMBLEY STADIUM CONNECTED BY EE

12th MARCH 2017

SIGN UP TODAY

NORTHLONDONHALF.COM

All the latest news, views, offers and what's on in Brent

DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX FREE

www.brent.gov.uk/yourbrent

YourBrent



Cleaner and greener

It's bloomin' marvellous in award-winning Dollis Hill

Residents who love where they live in Dollis Hill are keeping Brent in bloom with a string of prestigious awards

Bernie Fitzpatrick and his 30 greenfingered neighbours (including 15 children from ages 3-15 years) have joined forces to improve the appearance of Campbell Gordon Way and are celebrating winning the top prize in the esteemed London in Bloom awards, for the third year in a row.

"We're all over the moon with the hat trick," said Bernie. "This is our fifth year in London in Bloom and we've improved from four stars in 2012 and 2013 to five stars in 2014, 2015 and again this year."

Explaining how it all started, Bernie said: "After the recession, my hours reduced at work and I found myself with extra time on my hands. I decided to take up gardening and plant some flowers outside my home. My garden got bigger and bigger and my neighbours started to take notice. I encouraged them to start planting and make their gardens nice too. If they bought the flowers I would help with the planting and show them what to do – and the rest is history."

As well as winning the five stars again this year, The Campbell Gordon Way residents' association also achieved gold in London in Bloom's new 'Our Community' award.

"One of the criteria for a 5-star 'our community' award is that you have to inspire, and we have," Bernie said. "We want to inspire other communities in Brent to do what we are doing. We aren't in competition with each other. You can have as many gold communities as possible. For example Kingston and Chelsea go home with 25 awards whereas we take home the only awards in Brent. I just want to say 'come on Brent!' take pride in where you live.

The community will get involved it just takes one person to be the driving force and get it up and running." "The community are starting to see what can be achieved and the Torah Temimah Jewish primary school has even asked me to help the kids work on gardening patches!"

The Campbell Gordon Way Residents' Association are one of only six communities in London to win the gold award in the 'Our Community' category of the London in Bloom awards.

The project has also done much more than just improve the area's appearance according to Bernard, who is also a Brent Community Champions Award recipient.

He said, "It's a very multicultural neighbourhood with people from all over the world living here, and before hardly anyone talked to each

other. But now it's a really great community and everyone is really getting along. We've even inspired overseas relatives of our neighbours to start their neighbourhood initiatives, in places as far-flung as Mumbai and Egypt."

The awards celebrate the efforts of local authorities, community groups and schools across London who work tirelessly to make their local area a safer, cleaner, greener and all-round better place to be.

FIVE EASY WAYS YOU CAN HELP MAKE BRENT CLEANER AND GREENER

1. Report illegally dumped rubbish on the Cleaner Brent smartphone app. Download the app at www.brent.gov.uk/cleanerbrent
2. Organise a community clean-up. Visit www.brent.gov.uk/cleanup or email recyclemore@brent.gov.uk to arrange or to take part in a clean-up in your area.
3. Recycle your waste. Find out more by downloading Recycleopedia, our smartphone app, or by visiting www.brent.gov.uk/recycling
4. Put your bins out on time. If you're unsure of your bin collection times, visit www.brent.gov.uk/recycling and enter your postcode into 'Find Your Collection Day'.
5. Report graffiti on the Cleaner Brent smartphone app.

You can find out more about the campaign at www.brent.gov.uk/lovewhereyoulive



Regeneration

The future is here ... and it's fast

Britain's first high speed hub station is coming to Old Oak and Park Royal

Over the next 20 years, the station is set to act as a catalyst to create more than 25,000 new homes and around 65,000 jobs.

A 3D model of the plans was on show at Brent Civic Centre during the autumn with residents and visitors flocking to see how the scheme is set to come alive.

The scale of transformation is huge which is why Brent Council and Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, and the Mayor of

London are focused on ensuring that the regeneration is aimed at improving the lives of local people in Brent, especially around Harlesden and Willesden.

Willesden Junction is set for stunning changes that will create a high tech, easy to access station.

The council's aim is to get the very best outcome for Willesden Junction and Harlesden High Street, with as much affordable housing in Old Oak and Park Royal as possible.

DID YOU KNOW?

As a borough, Brent is exceeding housebuilding targets: more than 5,000 new homes were built over the last five years, with 45 per cent affordable.

The council is now aiming for an even higher target, to build at least 15,000 over the next 10 years.

SEE THE 3D MODEL

Visit and view the model if you missed it.

Read more about the scheme on our website at

www.london.gov.uk/opdc



Leasing is a smart way to rent your property.

Network Homes has over 25 years experience in leasing. We are leasing properties for up to 5 years within a 50 mile radius of London between the M4 and M11 corridor.

We Will -

- Guarantee rent for full lease period even when property is empty
- 0% management fee or commission charged
- Rent payments monthly in advance from lease start date
- Property inspections every 6 weeks
- Full property management service – Free
- £500 incentive for leasing
- Guaranteed vacant possession at lease end.

We work with 15 London local authorities and manage over 1200 leased properties.

We work with 15 London local authorities and manage over 1200 leased properties.

Interested? Please contact us on:
0300 373 3000 or 020 8459 9214
landlords@Networkhomes.org.uk
www.networkhomes.org.uk

My community

Animal house

Our 'roving' reporter, Nick Skoric, visits the Mayhew Animal Home

Mocha was sold outside Kilburn train station to a young couple but when the poor Border Collie fell ill they were unable to afford the vet bills and the 11-week-old puppy ended up at the Mayhew Animal House in Kensal Green.

The animal charity has been saving the likes of cuddly Mocha for an astonishing 130 years in Trenmar Gardens and the tremendous job that they are doing there will make you think twice about gifting a puppy or kitten to a loved one for Christmas.

Zoe Edwards, the animal welfare manager, forms part of the team that has rehoused 70 dogs and 234 cats this year, which is just a fraction of the work they do for the welfare of animals.

"There is a constant flow of cats and dogs into the centre throughout the year. It is usually after six months when the puppies have lost their cute factor that they are brought in. A puppy is a 24/7 job and requires a lot of work, just like a child would," said the mother-of-one.

Pet foster carers needed

"Even if we had bigger facilities, the kennels and cat cabins would simply fill up. We need more foster carers to help us with the number of pets coming through the door. These carers are crucial and even more critical is the need for people to truly understand what it takes to have a pet."

Zoe has been making the 60-mile round trip to Kensal Green every day for the past nine years but it is her love for the work they are doing at the Mayhew which energises her.

"Chris Evans on BBC Radio 2 keeps me going in the morning on the way to work. Some people say I must be crazy but it is my love for the job which makes it all worthwhile. We get to the root of the welfare issue which is why we are different from many of the other animal homes around. I love the work that I am doing here and it would not be possible without

the great team that we have here," added the 40-year-old.

The Mayhew are always looking to find a good home for their cats and dogs as well as little Mocha.

For more information, visit www.themayhew.org

Advertisement

Put a classified ad in The Brent Magazine

Classified ads in The Brent Magazine start
at £83.33 + VAT

The next issue will be distributed in early March,
copy deadline 31 Jan 2017.

For more information please contact us at:

020 8937 4817

advertising@brent.gov.uk

YELLOW PAVILION

at Wembley park
delivered by Quintain

THE YELLOW PAVILION AT WEMBLEY PARK

Targeting people who live and/or work within a twenty-minute walk of Brent Civic Centre, the first Yellow Pavilion opened in a temporary building off Olympic Way in October 2015. The project then moved to its new space in Yellow Parking, just off Engineers Way, early in 2016. **Have you visited yet?**

Quintain set up Yellow Pavilion as a community project to test out ideas and activities for programmes, as well as to find ways of bringing the community in to help with the design and management of future spaces across Wembley Park.

If you'd like to get involved please email:
yellowpavilion@wembleypark.com

T. 0734 206 0976

Facebook/twitter/instagram
wembleypark #yellowpavilion

Highlights

YELLOW PAVILION'S 'COUCH TO 5K'

A local trainer delivered this free programme for twenty three local non-runners. After six weeks of training they were given free entry to Wembley Park's Color Run on 12 June. Twelve participants have since joined a regular 5k run.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Held on Sunday 13 November, the Yellow Pavilion's Black History month event was attended by ninety local people.

OPEN MIC

The year's second Open Mic was held on 26 October and attracted ninety attendees and fifteen spectacular acts.

RUN BY LOCAL PEOPLE

One of our biggest successes has been our group of nearly one hundred volunteers who suggest and lead regular activities and one-off events. So far these have included: keep fit, urban gardening and creative coffee mornings. If you have time to spare we'd love to hear from you.

NEW FOR 2017

2017 will see a development of the Yellow Pavilion's skills offering. London Designer Outlet's Retail Skills Academy will move in, joined by a new Construction Skills project.

The Yellow Pavilion has grown steadily month by month and delivered a strong programme this year.

WEMBLEY *Park*

Arts & culture

Lights, camera, action Spotlight on Brent

London is the third busiest city in the world for filming and Brent gets its fair share of the action

With Fountain Studios in Wembley being home to The X-Factor and dozens of prop stores and studios in the Park Royal industrial estate, there's probably a lot more filming in Brent than you think.

Earlier this year, the small screen adaptation of Zadie Smith's *NW* was filmed in locations around Brent and was recently screened on BBC2.

NW actress Phoebe Fox said: "Filming in Kilburn brought an authenticity to the shoot – it's really vibrant and bustling, and we had quite a lot of audience interaction. There was a moment where I was chasing a character down the street yelling "Thief!" and the number of people that tried to run down the street with me yelling "What's she taken!" I was like "No! She's an actress, it's OK!"

NW joins a long list of productions that were filmed in Brent and the council's flagship building Brent Civic Centre has played host to many of these. In 2014, the Hulk and Iron Man 'smashed up' Brent

Civic Centre's foyer in *The Avengers: Age of Ultron* and Sky One filmed the entire series of hospital drama 'Critical' in the building too.

Filming not only helps to raise the profile of Brent to a wider audience but generates much needed money to the local economy. The makers of *NW*, Mammoth Screen who worked with Brent Council's Film Office estimate that the production brought in nearly £250,000, as not only council locations were used, residents' homes and local schools were too.

Brent Council also encourages producers to offer opportunities to local budding filmmakers to work on set and give them much needed work experience. Smith Dowell, aka Spesh from Kilburn, is a shining example of this. Spesh worked on the *NW* shoot back in June when they filmed at South Kilburn Housing Estate. Mature student, Spesh (37) from Kilburn said: "I was delighted when South Kilburn Studios got in touch to offer me a

work experience placement on *NW*. On my first day I was given the opportunity to work as a camera assistant within a Bafta award winning crew. I learnt a lot of the technical aspects of camera work from first-hand experience, including changing and charging batteries, and from talking to the crew members. On my last day I met Zadie Smith, it was a great experience."

Did you know?

ITV'S MR SELFRIDGE WAS FILMED IN BRENT.

The set of the 1908 Selfridges store was built and filmed in Neasden Studios, which is an old carpet warehouse in Willesden.

Advertisement

UP TO £500 PAID FOR YOUR SCRAP CAR

MOT failure • Damaged • Non Runners • Insurance Write offs

Quality used spares available off the shelf for most vehicles at bargain prices

Contact our driver on **07979 350 352** or **020 8205 2100**

or email elv@met4parts.com

Our yard – Colindeep Lane, Hendon, NE9 6HD

Recycling the past – Saving the Future

www.met4parts.com

Licensed by the Environment Agency – Certificates of destruction issued.

TRICYCLE CINEMA

SPRING 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

EVENT CINEMA TICKETS: £15 / £13 CONC.

RSC LIVE: THE TEMPEST (12A)

Wednesday 11 January, 7pm

The Royal Shakespeare Company has partnered with Intel for this groundbreaking production starring Simon Russell Beale as Prospero.

NT LIVE: AMADEUS (12A)

Thursday 2 February, 7pm

Lucian Msamati stars in an acclaimed revival of Peter Shaffer's Olivier and Tony Award-winning play about music, power and jealousy.

NT LIVE: SAINT JOAN (12A)

Thursday 16 February, 7pm

Josie Rourke directs Gemma Arterton as Joan of Arc, in Bernard Shaw's classic play broadcast live from the Donmar Warehouse.

NT LIVE: HEDDA GABLER (12A)

Thursday 9 March, 7pm

Tony Award-winning director Ivo van Hove returns to NT Live screens with a modern production of Ibsen's masterpiece starring Ruth Wilson.

BOX OFFICE 020 7328 1000

WWW.TRICYCLE.CO.UK



Admission to St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School

**THE EXECUTIVE HEADMISTRESS, MRS TITUS
INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR:**

RECEPTION CLASS 2017

Applications are invited for admission to Reception Class in St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, Goodson Road, London NW10 9LS for children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013. Please be aware that in addition to the supplementary application form for the school you must also apply to Brent either online via the Brent Website or by completing a Brent 'Common Application Form' (CAF). Please contact the school for an application pack.

Closing date for both forms is 15 January 2017.

NURSERY CLASS SEPT 2017

Applications are also invited for our Nursery Class for children born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014.

The closing date is 15 January 2017.

Call: 020 8965 5651

Email: admin@stjo.brent.sch.uk

www.stjosephsrc.co.uk



St Joseph's is an 'Outstanding' school where our expectations for our children are limitless.

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School plays a vital role in developing educational excellence within the Diocese of Westminster.

Admission to St Mary's Catholic Primary School

(In Federation with St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, judged Outstanding By Ofsted)

RECEPTION 2017

Applications are invited for admission to Reception Class at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Canterbury Road, Kilburn NW6 5ST for children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013. Please be aware that in addition to the supplementary application form for the school you must also apply to Brent either online via the Brent Website or by completing a Brent 'Common Application Form' (CAF). Please contact the school for an application pack.

Closing date for both forms is 15 January 2017.

NURSERY CLASS JAN 2017

Applications are also invited for Nursery Class children born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013.

The closing date is 15 January 2017.

Email: admin@marycps.brent.sch.uk

www.marycps.brent.sch.uk

Call: 020 7624 1830

'The leadership and management in promoting the Catholic life of the school are judged to be outstanding.'
Westminster Diocese Inspection



There are a small number of places in other year groups. Please visit the school to collect an application form.

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Mark 10:13-16

Your health

The Fab 5 take on diabetes



Diabetes is a growing problem across the country and particularly in Brent where a range of factors from a poor diet to lack of exercise and even genetics can all lead to people being diagnosed with diabetes

New Year New You! If you're worried about your weight and diet and want to make a change, there's no better time than in the New Year. Like our Activweight advocates, you too can make a change to your health and wellbeing by being that little bit more active and making changes to your diet.

Just 30 minutes of activity a day is proven to have massive benefits to your health and the good news is there are hundreds of places and ways to get active in Brent. The council is also encouraging people to really think about how much sugar they are consuming.

The health statistics of the borough suggest that hundreds of us are consuming more sugar than we should.

As part of the Slash Sugar campaign, the council is encouraging residents to pledge not to eat any refined sugar on a Tuesday. This includes cakes, biscuits,

sugary cereals, chocolate bars. Fruit is allowed!

The campaign is focused on one day of the week – Tuesday – so that colleagues and friends can do it together and you can support each other through it.

Tweet us @Brent_Council with what alternatives you are eating to sugar or how you are finding it. Use the hashtag #SugarFreeTuesday

Mina

"Not only have I lost 2 stone and significantly reduced my blood glucose levels, but I've made real friends who support me. If you're worried about diabetes speak to your GP, help is available.

Joan

"The continuous support from our dietitian Julia and the friends I've made within the group is amazing. We have our own Whatsapp group so support is only a text away."

Durga

“Being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes can be frightening, but the programme helped me understand diabetes and food better. I’ve changed my eating habits and now look at food labels. Regular exercise has improved my mood and I have more energy.”

Tock

“The programme has prevented me from having to start insulin as I am afraid of needles. I now know how to control my blood glucose levels through diet and regular exercise and have had some support from the diabetes specialist team regarding my medication. It is possible to change your life and live well with diabetes.

Michael

“Type 2 diabetes is entirely manageable by making dietary and lifestyle changes. I have lost over two and a half stone. I come from an engineering background and think in an analytical way so I enjoyed learning about food labels, calories and portion control and thanks to Fiona the diabetes specialist nurse, I now have a better understanding of my blood results. Diet is one thing but it has to be coupled with regular exercise.”

FREE ACTIVITIES:

- Brent Healthy Walks
www.walkingforhealth.org.uk
 - 13 Outdoor Gyms at a park near you
 - Park Run at Gladstone Park every Saturday at 9.30am
www.parkrun.org.uk
 - Get fit for Free with Our Parks
www.ourparks.org.uk
 - Over 50s Zumba Gold starting in February at Kingsbury Library
- For a whole host of activities log onto our activity finder at www.brent.gov.uk/heartbeats

Approximately 25,000 Brent residents have Type 2 Diabetes. If you think you have diabetes, it is important to speak to your GP. If you have Type 2 Diabetes and would like more information about the Activweight programme ask your GP or email healthyliving@brent.gov.uk



Attention all landlords
Properties wanted

let and managed by SBHA

Since 1968 Shepherds Bush Housing Association has been a trusted part of the local community, now managing more than 5,000 homes. For 25 years, we’ve been managing, maintaining and guaranteeing rents for landlords.

We are looking for properties in all areas on **GUARANTEED** or **MARKET** rent. Cash incentives offered.

GUARANTEED RENT SCHEME

We can take on ‘hard to let’ or large properties including HMOs

- Advance monthly rent even if your property is empty
- No management fee or commission – we pay what we quote
- Flexible three or five year leasing option
- Grants funding advice
- No void works if the property becomes empty within lease (exceptions apply)

MARKET RENT SCHEME

- Yearly contracts
- Free rent guarantee
- Tenant referencing for your chosen tenant
- Free photo inventory
- 24/7 repairs service and furniture supply
- Rent Collection

Contact us to discuss your options and to arrange a no obligation visit

Landlords hotline:
020 8996 4271
psateam.sbha@sbhg.co.uk
www.sbhg.co.uk/landlords

SHEPHERDS BUSH HOUSING GROUP

The home of guaranteed rents

Hitting the wall

There's a sharp increase in the number of people sleeping rough, so Brent Council has commissioned St Mungo's to deliver an outreach service to work with the street homeless

Anyone can become homeless, and sleeping rough can be dangerous and can damage your health.

To support these members of our community, St Mungo's has been commissioned by Brent Council to deliver a street outreach service called Brent Outreach.

The longer someone sleeps rough, the greater the risk that they will become trapped on the streets and become vulnerable to being a victim of crime, developing drug or alcohol problems, or developing health problems. The number of people sleeping rough has risen dramatically across the capital with 55 rough sleepers recorded in Brent alone last year – up from just three in 2010.

Not all people sleeping rough are aware that advice and support is available to them. If you are concerned about someone sleeping rough in Brent, you can help. Download the StreetLink.org.uk app or contact them at www.StreetLink.org.uk and provide details about where you saw them sleeping. StreetLink volunteers then

pass those details on to the St Mungo's Outreach staff in Brent who follow up, find the person and help support them off the streets and into housing, health or other services.

Life on the streets: Alex's story

Alex* (47) has been sleeping rough since 2006. Before that he was living in private rented accommodation but due to his alcohol dependence, he got himself into arrears and was evicted from his flat. His friends and family tried to help by letting him stay with them some nights but he slept on the streets mostly. In January 2015, Alex was provided with temporary accommodation but everything collapsed when his mother passed away and he started to drink heavily and returned to the streets.

When Brent Outreach first met Alex, he was sleeping rough with two heavy drinkers who were recognised as the focus of anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhood when intoxicated.

He changed his sleeping site because he did not want to be associated with this negative behaviour and he wanted to be left in peace.

Alex was referred to START Plus, an assessment and referral team to supported accommodation, but when his referral was accepted, he was no longer sleeping rough in the same place. After a few months, Brent Outreach managed to track Alex down again and built up a good relationship. He agreed to be referred to the assessment bed for 31 days and the team worked closely with him to identify the best solutions for him.

Alex got the support he needed to claim benefits, engage with the local alcohol support service and GP for a health check-up; and worked with him to help manage his money more effectively.

Alex was referred to supported accommodation and is currently sharing with three other residents. He is happy and working towards his recovery.

*Name has been changed to protect the person's identity

Download the Street Links app . Available on the App store/google play

Advertisement

BRENT HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE MEMORIAL DAY

HOW CAN LIFE GO ON?

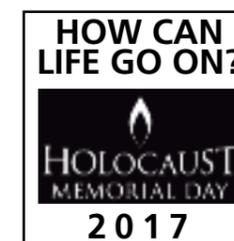
We need to ask what we can do to help nations and individuals affected by genocide come to terms with the past and try to rebuild the future. Please join us for an evening of reflection with speakers and communities who have been affected by the Holocaust and other Genocides around the world including Bosnia, Cambodia, Darfur and Rwanda. The programme will also include music performances, memorial prayers and refreshments.

Thursday 26 January 2017 7-8.30pm

Conference Hall, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FJ

This event is free to attend. Booking or registration is not required in advance.

For more details please visit www.brent.gov.uk/hmd



My council

#OurDay 2015

#OurDay is an annual tweetathon to give you a look into the work of local government on a typical day in November. It gives you an insight into all the services that you get for the tax you pay.

@BrentCulture

Learning about transport safety as part of the Brent Junior Citizenship Scheme #OurDay

@Brent_Council

Thanks to our Parks services taking care of the leaves in one of our award winning Parks @VeoliaUK #OurDay

@Brent_Council

One of the many bulb planting activities carried out with local schools, Parks services and Veolia #lovewhereyoulive #OurDay

@Brent_Council

Brent Start's pottery students are getting into the festive spirit by making Christmas tree decorations #OurDay

@Brent_Council

Great news - The Ade Adepitan Short Break Centre was judged 'Outstanding' for the second year running #OurDay

@Brent_Council

We start off with an early morning timed waste collection & removing flytips to keep the streets clean @EllieSouthwood #OurDay

@Brent_Council

Our friendly Customer Service Advisors are here to answer your calls Mon-Fri 9am until 5pm #OurDay @BrentCustServ

@Brent_Council

@MPSBrent Constable Carne and Harris speak to school children about youth crime – "don't carry knives, save lives" #brentsafertransport

@Brent_Council

Our Rehab & Reablement team helping residents to regain their independence #OurDay

Natalie Ruth Corney

@welshnat007

This is the start of my day. Might be early for some, but many local gov colleagues have already been working for hours #OurDay

@Brent_Council

Our crews are still out at night clearing dumped waste from Brent's streets #OurDay

@Brent_Council

Local democracy & national football ongoing side by side here in Wembley. #OurDay

@Brent_Council

It's a tough time for families when a loved one passes on. Big thanks to our Mortuary team who work hard and remain professional #OurDay

@Brent_Council

Scaling new heights, with a dramatically different view @wembleystadium for @carolyndowns8 our CE on #OurDay @officialFA

@Brent_Council

We just married Anastasia and Ihor. Congratulations to the newleyweds! #BrentCivicCentre #OurDay

@Brent_Council

Welcome to one of our newest #Brent residents baby Neevah who has just been registered #OurDay

@Brent_Council

Our pest control team are on hand to get rid of any uninvited houseguests 24 hours a day! Who you gonna call... #OurDay

@Brent Culture

Getting kids interested in books at a young age with our under 5's story and rhyme events! #OurDay @Brent_Council

@Brent_Council

Today our senior leaders have taken some time out to hear views directly from our employees, many who are also #Brent residents #OurDay

@Brent_Council

Well done to Yasir who has just received his Certificate from the successful completion of his work placement in HR #OurDay

@Brent_Council

Brent Start running a hairdressing course out the community at St Raphael's estate. Fantastic styling skills developing! #OurDay

Follow us on Twitter
@Brent_Council
or sign up
to receive e-news at
**www.brent.gov.uk/
yourbrent**

It's Beauty and the Beast – oh yes it is!

From flying witches to real ponies on stage, Brent's renowned amateur dramatic society have done it all, and the Chameleons are not slowing down in their old age with their eagerly anticipated rendition of the classic Beauty and the Beast

On its 50th anniversary, the thespians of north-west London have more surprises for all the family as writers Robert Spolander and Stuart Everett work their magic once again on this year's pantomime.

Robert, who was born and raised in Wembley Park, joined the society as a 12 year old and it was there that he first met Stuart. They both took part in the children's chorus which still selects its members from the local community, as was the case for *Beauty and the Beast*.

The writing duo had their script selected by the Chameleons' committee as all members can pen a play to put forward.

"We bounce off each other so it is good fun sitting down and writing with Stuart as there is a lot of banter and we can gauge how effective the script will be. At Chameleons, we are all about

creating traditional family pantos with larger than life characters and that quirky element to keep the audience on their toes," said Robert.

"Everyone at Chameleons is a volunteer, from the backstage crew to the actors. It is like one big family. It plays a huge part in my life and it is a chance to forget about all your worries and detach yourself from the 9 to 5. We love what we do and hope to continue producing plays and pantos that audiences can enjoy."

It really is a family affair at the Chameleons as Robert remembers his own parents getting involved when he first joined the society as they rolled up their sleeves and helped with raffles and seating guests.

The 41- year-old is more than aware of what it takes to put together a show as he is the

production manager for *Beauty and the Beast* and rehearsals are already underway.

"It can be rather frantic at times with many balls in the air but once the curtain goes up on the opening night, I take a breath and realise that it was all worth it after all the sweat and tears that go into a production," added Robert.

Chameleons were formed in 1966 by Joan Mundy and Jim Snell and were originally known as the Neasden Methodist Church Drama Society. They performed their first pantomime in 1971 and continue to produce one every year as well as two plays.

They called the old Brent town hall home for over 30 years before it was closed in 2011 and performed in front of audiences of up to 2,000 people. It was there that they graced the stage with real life ponies for *Cinderella*.

"We all love what we are doing here and hope to continue to produce productions that the people enjoy. I remember the look on the kids' faces when we had the Wicked Witch fly onto the stage for *The Wizard of Oz* back at the old Brent town hall. It is those types of moments which stay with the youngsters when they leave the theatre and gets their imagination rolling," explained Robert.

Chameleons will be performing *Beauty and the Beast* from 5 -8 January at Claremont High School, Kenton. For ticket information visit www.thechameleons.co.uk or call 020 8123 6443.

My council

“I’ve married 5,000 people”

After nearly 30 years working in Brent’s Register Office, Mark Rimmer has heard his fair share of “I do’s”

As a registrar, I do several weddings each week, which over three decades means that I’ve married more than 5,000 people,” says Mark. “So much has changed since the late 1980’s when I joined. In the time I have been here we have seen the arrival of civil partnerships, same-sex weddings, citizenship ceremonies and marriages at venues other than the register office or place of worship.”

After twenty-nine years at Brent, this December will see Mark conduct his last wedding as he begins retired life.

“It will be strange. I will miss the team but I will also miss meeting Brent residents every day.

“Looking back over my time here, Brent’s hosting of the first citizenship ceremony in the UK which was attended by Prince Charles was definitely a highlight, as was picking up an OBE for running a registration service that was an example for other councils to follow. And of course, it was through work that I met my wife Alison who is also a registrar, quite well known for marrying Paul McCartney. To Nancy Shevell I might add!

“There’ll be no winding down between now and then though, Brent is very popular for weddings and so we’ll be busy. We offer an impressive, state-of-the-art modern venue that can cater for wedding ceremonies and receptions large and small.

“I’ve loved being a registrar at Brent. People come to you at life-changing moments, be it registering the birth of a child or the death of a loved one, getting married or becoming a British citizen. These are life-changing events and you are there with them, sharing these important moments. It has truly been a privilege to serve the residents of this borough.”

To find out more about tying the knot in Brent visit:

www.brent.gov.uk

1,000

Brent’s Civic Centre’s Grand Hall can cater for weddings for 1,000 people

50,000

Fifty thousand Brent residents have become British citizens at ceremonies that Mark has officiated at

Arts and culture

A dramatic move

The Tricycle Theatre is launching six new venues for young people across Brent

There was an early Christmas present for the young residents of Brent when the Tricycle Theatre gifted six new theatre companies to the borough, which are all free to attend. Kilburn’s Tricycle Theatre have launched the venues in Neasden, South Kilburn, Stonebridge, Wembley Park, Harlesden and Kilburn where the participants will be put through a gruelling 20 session programme in preparation for the six plays they will perform next year.

Artistic director Indhu Rubasingham, who has been at the helm of the distinguished group since 2012, wants to give the younger members of society the chance to have a voice via the stage.

“Today more than ever it is vital for us to give young people a voice and a platform to be heard. The work our young companies produce will tell us what matters to them, what’s on their mind and how they view the world today. We want to make a commitment to work with young people from across Brent, engage with people in their community and to form lasting relationships,” said Rubasingham.

With the support of funding secured from Brent Council, The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, John Lyons and Arts Council England, the Tricycle Theatre was able to provide the sessions free of charge, which includes a group for all ages.

Rubasingham recently won the GG2 Media & Creative Arts Award which recognises the UK’s most influential and high achieving Asian professionals. Since taking over the theatre, which was a former foresters’ hall in Kilburn High Road, the artistic director has put on the award-winning *Handbagged*, which won an Olivier award in 2014 portraying Margaret Thatcher’s meetings with the Queen, and *Red Velvet*, about the first big black Shakespearean actor Ira Aldridge.

For more information visit www.tricycle.co.uk

Your chance to HAVE YOUR SAY on licensing for private rental properties

Brent has one of the largest number of privately rented homes in London

At the start of 2015 Brent Council introduced a selective licensing scheme for all private rental properties in Harlesden, Willesden Green and Wembley Central, and all Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). The council is now proposing to introduce selective licensing of privately rented accommodation in other areas of the borough and is running a consultation to get the views of as many people as possible.

Why it's so important

There is evidence that poorly-managed privately rented properties are having a negative impact on some neighbourhoods.

Anti-social behaviour, nuisance neighbours and accumulations of rubbish can be linked to the failure of private landlords to effectively manage their properties and tenancies. Poor housing and levels of deprivation and crime are also features of the private rented sector on the back of the huge demand for housing in the borough.

Most of the private rented sector in Brent offers good accommodation and is well run. Unfortunately some private rented accommodation is badly managed with poor quality accommodation, which can sometimes even be unsafe. The council's licensing scheme has been successful in helping tackle the problem of rogue landlords.

How to give us your views

The council is now consulting about extending Brent's selective licensing scheme and is keen to hear from as many people as possible, including landlords, tenants and neighbours of rented properties.

For more information visit www.brent.gov.uk/landlordlicensing

The consultation ends on Friday 16 December 2016.

Around 35% of properties in Brent are rented privately

SHOULD ALL PRIVATE LANDLORDS IN BRENT BE LICENSED?

Have your say at www.brent.gov.uk/landlordlicensing

PREFER TO POST US YOUR WRITTEN VIEWS?

Get in touch by ringing, writing or emailing us and we'll send you a paper copy of the questionnaire and a freepost envelope to send it back to us.

Private Sector Licensing, Private Housing Services

5th Floor Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FJ

Email: prslicensing@brent.gov.uk

Phone: 020 8937 2384



BRENT DESIGN

CONTACT BRENT DESIGN FOR CREATIVE AND FAST WORK AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

middleton.mann@brent.gov.uk

020 8937 6167

Advertising
Leaflets
Posters
Brochures
Business cards
Animation
Web graphics
Logos
Gifs
Annual Reports
Signage
Banners
Websites
Printing

Your health

Being black, going crazy

Black men in the UK are facing a mental health crisis. A new BBC series examines why

If you are a black man in Britain, you are 17 times more likely to be diagnosed with a serious mental health condition and six times more likely than a white man to be an inpatient in a mental health unit.

These statistics are truly shocking, but what's more, these problems are often suffered in silence.

Zimbabwe-born, London-based writer and presenter, Keith Dube set out to uncover just why the black community is facing such a crisis in the BBC 3 documentary *Being Black, Going Crazy* with scenes filmed at Park Royal Centre for Mental Health in Harlesden.

Keith Dube had depression himself and says the environment he grew up in intensified his illness.

"When I moved to London at 18, I got into a few things that I shouldn't have been getting into, which led to my struggles with mental health. If you showed weakness you'd get eaten alive," he says. "I think men in general grow up being told that you have to be tough, that to show emotion is a sign of weakness."

"When I saw the diagnosis stats, I thought it was outright racism. But, as I went on, I discovered a lot of black people report their issues a whole lot later. If you or I go through mental health issues at the same age, but you report your issues at 12 years old and I wait until I'm 28 to report mine, our problems are at different stages — mine will be a lot further gone, because you've started dealing with yours earlier.

"It's not even that we have worse mental health issues, it's because of the taboo in the community. Most people don't talk about it. Their issues fester, and that's how it leads to problems such as sectioning."

Dube adds that the feeling of shame is particularly pronounced in immigrant communities where people struggle with a sense of failure and of letting their families down. "Lots of us grow up with parents who just got on with things. They came over to the UK, worked crazy long hours and didn't complain, so to say 'I feel this way and I don't know why' just feels wrong."

If you, or someone you know, has been affected by mental health issues, there are many people who can help:

- Book an appointment to see your GP – they will be able to refer you to the most appropriate form of help.
- Ask your GP to refer you to the "talking therapy" service run by Brent IAPT. There are group or single therapy sessions available.
- Speak with someone at Brent MIND – www.brentmind.org.uk

Being Black, Going Crazy? is available to watch on the BBC iPlayer at www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer

Advertisement

What is Private Fostering

Have you, or someone you know made an arrangement to look after someone else's child for more than a month?

If so, you could be fostering privately!

Brent Council has a responsibility to ensure that all children in Brent are being cared for properly and that carers are supported.

If you know of, or are caring for a child who is being privately fostered please let us know.

Call 020 8937 2749

www.brent.gov.uk/privatefostering



**foster
Brent**

Class Teacher

Salary: Main Scale Required for January 2017

The Governors wish to appoint an enthusiastic teacher to work across the federation.

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School is an outstanding school (Ofsted 2013). This outstanding school is one of the top performing primary schools in London and offers an excellent working environment. The school is currently in a soft federation with St Mary's Catholic Primary School. The Executive Head Teacher of both schools is Dawn Titus.

What is a 'soft federation'?

A soft federation is an interim measure where two schools work closely together to ensure rapid and sustained progress in all areas of the school. St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School has expertise in improving standards, raising attainment and progress for all pupils, improving quality of teaching and learning and ensuring a learning environment that reflects a happy and cohesive place for learning.

We believe that every student deserves an outstanding learning experience. In order to achieve this we ensure that every teacher receives high quality professional development and feedback on their teaching so that they can be an excellent teacher.

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School

WE OFFER YOU

- the opportunity to join a highly professional, dedicated and supportive team
- a strong Catholic ethos
- enthusiastic staff, committed to raising standards
- fantastic children
- an excellent CPD programme and a strong commitment to your professional development and career management

YOU WILL

- be a committed practitioner who is able to make a positive contribution towards the extra-curricular activities on offer at the school
- have the ability to raise standards and fully adhere to the professional teaching standards
- be highly motivated and committed to excellence with high expectations of both yourself and pupils
- inspire and motivate children to learn and achieve
- hold a CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies) or be willing to study to obtain this

Application forms can be downloaded directly from the Catholic Education Service website

**[www.catholiceducation.org.uk/
employment-documents/application-forms](http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/employment-documents/application-forms)**

Please send your completed forms to

admin@stjo.brent.sch.uk

NQTs and secondary trained teachers are welcome to apply

No recruitment agencies – direct applicants ONLY

Closing date: Open until position filled

Interview date to be arranged

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School

Teacher Training Posts

School Direct (Salaried) route

Salary: Unqualified Teacher Pay

Scale–UQ2

Required for September 2017 (or sooner – to be agreed)

1 Year Fixed Term Contract

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School works in partnership with St Mary's University in Twickenham to provide School Direct teacher training opportunities.

During 2017-18, St Joseph's will be the lead school in partnership with other local Catholic primary schools. We will have 5 primary teacher training posts available and these will be on the School Direct (Salaried) route leading to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

St Joseph's is an 'Outstanding' school (Ofsted 2013) and recently entered a Federation partnership with St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Kilburn to lead them from 'Special Measures' to 'Good' (Ofsted 2016) in an eight month period.

Trainee teachers will benefit from the high quality CPD and training package which is available to all staff across the Federation.

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School

WE OFFER YOU

- the opportunity to join a highly professional, dedicated and supportive team
- a strong Catholic ethos
- enthusiastic staff, committed to raising standards
- fantastic children
- an excellent CPD programme and a strong commitment to your professional development and career management

Applications are invited from graduates, or those graduating this year, with a minimum 2:1 degree in a subject relevant to primary education.

Please visit the School Direct section of our school website for further information on the application process -

www.stjosephsrc.co.uk/school/schooldirect

Closing date: Open until position filled

020 8965 5651

www.stjosephsrc.co.uk

admin@stjo.brent.sch.uk



St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Learn new skills, meet new people. Be there.

A lot of people need us. That's why our volunteers are always around to give anyone who is struggling to cope the space and time to talk

Find out about joining Samaritans

Come along to one of our information sessions

1 Leopold Road, Harlesden, London NW10 9LN

- Wednesday 28 September 2016 7.30-8.30pm
- Wednesday 26 October 2016 7.30-8.30pm

Get in touch to find out more

SAMARITANS
BRENT

☎ 020 8961 7633* ✉ admin@brentsams.org

www.samaritans.org/brent

★Local charges apply.

A charity registered in England and Wales no. 252048(Brent).

My community

Thinking of fostering in Brent 2017?

There are many children and young people in Brent who need the stability and support of a family home to thrive and succeed

Debbie Krieger knows very well the impact a good foster care home can have on a child in need.

Debbie first discovered fostering 10 years ago when she was a nominated carer for a close friend.

A nominated carer is someone who provides emotional and practical support to approved foster carers. Her experience helped her begin her own journey as an approved foster carer in Brent.

"When I was a nominated carer for my friend, I enjoyed looking after the children so much that it made me realise that it was something I could do myself. At the time, my son was young so I decided to wait until he was bit older (he just turned 11 years old last month), when I had more time on my hands.

I chose to foster for Brent because I wanted to be a baby carer and they were looking for baby carers at the time. I was approved in 2015 and haven't looked back since.

Fostering has given me the chance to help children who've had a difficult start in life and it gives me great joy knowing that I've helped make a difference to a child's life.

Looking after children has always been a part of my life. Whether it's caring for my friend's baby or my brother's child, I have always been around children and fostering is no different. It's about helping children, whatever their age, and giving them the childhood and family life they deserve.

I really enjoy fostering and would encourage anyone who has a bit of spare time on their hands and a big heart to think about it. It is such a rewarding experience, giving something of yourself to help a child in need have the best start to life."

If you would like more information please contact our Fostering Team on 020 8937 4538 or email fostering@brent.gov.uk

INFORMATION EVENINGS

Brent organises regular fostering information events at Brent Civic Centre, Wembley every month:

- Thursday 12 January 2017, 5.45pm
- Thursday 2 February 2017, 5.45pm

More information is available at www.brent.gov.uk/fostering

Advertisement

MAQAM CENTRE

SWIMMING, SAUNA, FITNESS, CAFE
OPENING SOON

WRENTHAM AVENUE
WWW.MAQAMCENTRE.COM

Waste collection times this Christmas

Stay clean and green during the Christmas holidays by following these top tips...

JINGLE ALL THE WAY... TO YOUR RECYCLING BIN

Do you know which bin to use to recycle your Christmas bits and bobs? Our Recyclepedia search tool will make it easy for you. So don't get caught up in a tangle of fairy lights, find out which bin to use when all of your baubles are broken and presents are unwrapped by visiting www.brent.gov.uk/recyclepedia

CHANGES TO YOUR GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

From December to February your garden waste collection will take place once a month. Visit www.brent.gov.uk/recycling for more information.

GET 2017 OFF TO A GREEN START!

You don't need to wait until March to sign up for next year's garden waste service. From Tuesday 3 January you can sign up to receive the 2017/18 service which starts in April 2017. Visit www.brent.gov.uk/gardenwaste to find out more.

For all other service changes and holiday opening hours, visit www.brent.gov.uk

COLLECTION DAY CHANGES OVER CHRISTMAS WEEK

- If your bin is due to be collected on Monday 26 December it will now be collected on Tuesday 27 December
- If your bin is due to be collected on Friday 30 December it will now be collected on Saturday 31 December

Remember, you can also go online and use the 'Find Your Collection Day' search bar at www.brent.gov.uk/recycling if you're unsure.

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY REAL CHRISTMAS TREE?

If you are signed up to our garden waste service, you can cut your tree into pieces and place these in your green bin. You can also take it to the Refuse and Recycling Centre, Abbey Road NW10 7TJ, but keep in mind that this will be closed on December 25, 26 and 27 and also on January 1.

You will also be able to take your Christmas tree to a drop off point in a local park or green space in January. Please visit www.brent.gov.uk/recycling for exact locations and dates.

Sudbury

Neighbourhood Centre
Day Care and Friendship

Spend the day with us

Day Care from £35.00 a day – huge discounts available!

We have a fantastic range of services including :-

- Specialist day care
- Lunch
- Transport to and from the Centre on our own minibuses
- Activity and social groups
- Tai Chi exercise classes
- Art classes
- Computer classes
- Movement to Music classes
- Music Therapy
- Chiropodist services
- Hairdressing salon
- Outings, events and day trips to the seaside
- Assisted bathing service
- Health and wellbeing advice and support
- Information and advice service

Come and see us! To book a visit to see what we do, please call 020 8908 1220 or email office@sudburyneighbourhoodcentre.co.uk

Location

Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre
809 Harrow Road
Wembley
HA0 2LP
(located behind Sudbury Methodist Church)

Transport

Free car parking is available at the Centre
Trains: Sudbury & Harrow Road (Chiltern Railways)
Sudbury Town (Piccadilly Line)
Buses: 18, 92, 182, 204, 245, 487, H17, N18

My money

Benefit cuts – are you ready?

Are you affected by the recent government cuts, or anxious about paying your bills or keeping up with the rent?

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

Couples and families of working age who are on Housing Benefit could previously receive up to £500 per week in total benefits from the government, and a single person with no dependents, up to £350. This is known as the Overall Benefit Cap. From November, the benefit cap in London was reduced to £442.31 per week for couples and families and £296.35 for single people. This is a reduction of more than £50 a week – a significant amount for many households.

If you currently receive more than this new amount, your housing benefit will be reduced to bring your total benefits into line with the new cap level.

WHEN WILL I BE TOLD IF I AM AFFECTED?

Brent Council and Job Centre Plus have been notifying people of the government's changes over the past six months.. If you are affected, you

will either have been notified of the precise reduction in your Housing Benefit already or will be before the end of January 2017.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Don't wait any longer! If you are affected, take action now and consider some of these options:

Find work

If you are working on a low wage and with high housing costs, you may still be entitled to some Housing Benefit and help with your Council Tax. If you need help in developing your skills or in getting yourself job ready, the council might help.

Apply for working tax credit

If you're entitled to working tax credit, your benefit won't be capped. To qualify, you will need to work at least 16 hours per week if you are a single parent; 24 hours per week between you if you are a couple – with one of you working at least 16 hours per week; or 30 hours per week if you are a single person.

Speak to your landlord

You may be able to renegotiate your rent; your landlord may accept a lower amount if they are satisfied that you will pay regularly and not default on payment.

Find more affordable accommodation

If you are unable to negotiate a more affordable rent with your landlord, you may need to move to cheaper accommodation. It is always better to plan ahead and look into a move now, rather than later. Budgeting If you need help with budgeting or debt advice, Citizens' Advice Brent (CAB) may be able to help you. You can arrange an appointment with CAB via Brent Customer Services.

Access other benefits

You will be exempt from the cap if you are in receipt of any of these benefits:

- Attendance Allowance;
- Disability Living Allowance;
- Personal Independence Payment;
- The support component of Employment and Support Allowance;
- Industrial Injuries Benefit and equivalent payments as part of a War Disablement Pension or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme;
- War Widow or War Widower's Pension;
- Carer's Allowance
- Guardian's Allowance

WHAT BENEFITS COUNT TOWARDS THE CAP?

- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Job Seeker's Allowance
- Employment and Support Allowance (except where it is paid with the support component)
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Maternity Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Widowed Parent's and Widowed Mother's Allowance
- Widow's Pension
- Bereavement Allowance

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Please visit our website at www.brent.gov.uk/benefitchanges for access to the benefit cap toolkit, benefit calculator and further information.

Housing

Find your own home

Are you worried about being made homeless?
Let us help before it's too late!

London is in the middle of a housing crisis. Despite Brent being one of the top London boroughs for building social and affordable housing, supply just simply cannot keep up with demand.

Historically, councils could help someone who was homeless by providing them with a council flat; this is no longer the case. Increasingly, councils are having to offer people accommodation in the private rented sector.

There isn't a lot of affordable accommodation in London so Brent Council has introduced 'Find Your Home' – a scheme which gives Brent residents the opportunity to find their own affordable accommodation in an area of their choice, outside London or anywhere across the UK.

If you qualify for the scheme, the council will:

- Give you the chance to find your own affordable accommodation in an area of your choice, anywhere in the UK and assist you along the way
- Pay one month's deposit and one month's rent directly to the estate agent or landlord.

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE HOMELESS

Visit www.brent.gov.uk/findyourhome for more information.

Arts & Culture

>> Theatre >> Music >> Dance >> Comedy >> Exhibitions
>> Cinema >> Talks >> Tours

ART

CREATE SPACE

The gallery at The Library Willesden Green is pleased to present a group exhibition featuring artists from Create Space London studios. This colourful, vibrant exhibition showcases the diversity of artists/ makers working in Brent. An assorted group of 13 artist members came together to create an eclectic mix of work in a variety of forms. Open 6-17 December, Monday-Friday 9am-8pm, Saturday-Sunday 10am-5pm. The Library at Willesden Green. Free.

URBAN ART!

Street art and graffiti workshop for young people aged 10-16. Monday 13 February, 2.30-4pm. The Library at Willesden Green.

CINEMA

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Friday 23 and Saturday 24 December. The Lexi Cinema, Chamberlayne Road. There's a host of seasonal films out there, but none with the tear duct stimulating power as this one. The Lexi theatre invite you to journey back to Bedford Falls to see what the world would be like without kind-hearted George Bailey. Tissues on the house.
www.thelexicinema.co.uk

EVENTS

BRENT MUSIC SERVICE WINTER CONCERT

An evening of seasonal song from Brent's youth choir. Thursday 13 December, 6.30pm. The Library at Willesden Green.

AGATHA CHRISTIE: QUEEN OF CRIME

An illuminating talk on the world's bestselling author. Thursday 15 December, 6.30-7.45pm. Kilburn Library. Free.

BABY DISCO: WINTER PARTY

Baby Disco returns in December with a wintery theme so bring your little ones in their finest festive dress for themed music and play. Tuesday 20 December, 11am-12noon. The Library at Willesden Green.

HERITAGE WITH A BEVERAGE

Join us for a cup of tea and a biscuit to find out what the Brent Heritage team has been up to; let us know what you would like to see in your local Museum and Archives and find out how you can get involved in creating exhibitions about your local area. Tuesday 24 January, 10.30am-11.30am. Thursday 23 March, 6.30-7.30pm. The Library at Willesden Green. Free.

PLAY STREETS

Could this be your street? It's easy to apply for your road to be closed to through traffic – but open for play, tea and chats over the front fence – for a few hours each month. Even better, the charity London Play is now offering Brent residents some funding to buy chalks, skipping ropes or other games and toys to use on the street. They'll also give you all the help you need to make it a success. Happy streets, guaranteed! To find out more visit www.londonplay.org.uk

CAN YOU HANDLE IT?

Get hands on with local history! A unique chance to get up close and personal with some of the gems in your local Museum and Archives. Join us for a drop-in object handling session. Wednesday 1 and Saturday 4 February, Wednesday 1 and Saturday 4 March, 2-3pm. The Library at Willesden Green. Free.

UPSWING PRESENTS: BETWEEN THE STACKS

Try a new art form and experience the library environment in a different way. Between the Stacks uses contemporary circus performance and play activities which explore stories based on night time, fantasy and journeys. For children and their families. Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 February, 11am and 2pm on each day. The Library at Willesden Green.

BRENT LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES CULTURE FORUM DAY

Get an update and progress report on forthcoming services, events and activities. Meet the Culture and Community Library teams. Enjoy some drop in workshops for all ages plus stories and fun for children. Saturday 18 February, 12noon-4pm. Wembley Library.

**FAMILY CRAFT WORKSHOP:
CREATE A COLOURFUL COLLAGE**

Contribute to a colourful street scene collage, by making houses, people and streets to go on display in the "We Are The Lions" the story of the Grunwick strike 1976 -1978 exhibition. Wednesday 15 February, 2.30- 4pm. The Library at Willesden Green. Free. All ages.

**GREEN FINGERS: GARDENING
WORKSHOPS**

Delivered by the Willesden Town Team. Wednesday 15 February : Planting for Winter Colour.

Wednesday 15 March: The Japanese Garden (with guest Speaker Helen Brown). 11.30am-12.30pm. The Library at Willesden Green.

**FAMILY CRAFT WORKSHOP:
HINDU GOD GANESHA**

Create your own picture of Ganesha, the Hindu god of learning, to go on display in our Celebrating Ganesha exhibition opening this Spring. Friday 17 February, 2.30-4pm. The Library at Willesden Green. Free. All ages.

EXHIBITIONS

FOUND

FOUND is a living art installation celebrating the beauty of Brent. FOUND explores why Brent is and always has been loved by so many, and how our relationship to Brent as 'home' changes as the city around us develops and grows away from the one we hold in our memories. A partnership project with Tricycle Theatre's Young Producers. On until Tuesday 31 January. Monday-Friday, 9am-8pm. Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm. The Library at Willesden Green.

**WE ARE THE LIONS:
THE STORY OF THE GRUNWICK
STRIKE 1976-78**

Led by Asian women the Grunwick strike challenged stereotypes, changed the face of trade unions and inspired others to stand up against injustice. Visit this moving exhibition to find out more. On until Sunday 26 March. Monday-Friday, 9am-8pm. Saturday and Sunday, 10am-5pm. The Library at Willesden Green. (See feature article above for more information}.

TALKS

**SOCIAL CARE IN KINGSBURY...
200 YEARS AGO**

What was life like for the poor in the early 1800's? Join Philip Grant, from Wembley History Society, for a look at what care provision was like in Kingsbury two hundred years ago. You might be surprised! Wednesday 27 March, 11am-12noon Kingsbury Library.

THEATRE

**"WE FAINTED ALTERNATELY ON
THE SOFA": JANE AUSTEN IN THE
MAKING**

A one-woman performance of Jane Austen's early work by Karin Fernald. A fun performance capturing the humour of the teenage Jane. Thursday 2 March, 6.30-7.30pm, The Library at Willesden Green.

STADIUM EVENTS

EFL CUP FINAL

26 February 2017

**NORTH LONDON HALF
MARATHON**

12 March 2017

ENGLAND V LITHUANIA

26 March 2017

SARACENS V HARLEQUINS

8 April 2017

EMIRATES FA CUP SEMI-FINAL

22 and 23 April 2017

SSE WOMEN'S FA CUP FINAL

13 May 2017

THE STONE ROSES

17 June 2017

JEFF LYNNE'S ELO

24 June 2017

ADELE

29 June and 1 July 2017

VENUES

Ace Café

Ace Corner, North Circular Road,
London NW10 7UD

Lexi Cinema

194B Chamberlayne Rd,
London NW10 3JU

020 3011 5523

www.thelexicinema.co.uk

SSE Arena

Arena Square, Engineers Way,
London HA9 0AA

020 8782 5566

www.ssearena.co.uk

Willesden Green Library

95 High Road, Willesden,
London NW10 2SF. 020 8937 3400

Tricycle Theatre

269 Kilburn High Rd,

London NW6 7JR

020 7328 1000

www.tricycle.co.uk

Wembley Stadium

Wembley, London, HA9 0WS

0844 980 8001

www.wembleystadium.com

Willesden Sports Centre

Donnington Road,

London NW10 3QX

020 8955 1120

www.1life.co.uk/

london-borough-of-brent/willesden-sports-centre/home

Arts and culture

We are the lions

Muneera and Sukina talk to *The Brent Magazine* about their performance and their message

An exhibition about the historic Grunwick strike is now open at the Library at Willesden Green.

We are the lions is an exhibition commemorating the 40th anniversary of the start of a two year strike at the Grunwick photograph processing factory in Dollis Hill. Workers went on strike in protest against poor working conditions which included compulsory overtime and a requirement to ask permission to go to the toilet. They demanded improved terms and the right to join a trade union. The strikers were predominantly female Asian workers, dubbed by the media as the 'strikers in saris', and were led by the formidable Jayaben Desai.

As the strike went on many other workers showed solidarity with the Grunwick strikers. At the height of the strike 20,000 people came to protest in Dollis Hill in a single day on 11 July 1977. There were often violent clashes with police and the strike became big news across the world.

It was the first time traditionally white male trade unions such as the National Union of Mine Workers had shown real solidarity with non-

white female workers, who in the past had been seen as a threat to jobs and pay rather than fellow workers. The strike was ultimately unsuccessful but achieved big improvements in the status of non-white workers within the trade union movement and helped

Actress Meera Syal spoke at the exhibition on the example given by the strikers that Asian women can be strong to challenge the widely accepted cliché that Asian women were meek and passive.

Cllr Tom Miller, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, said: "We are immensely proud to be hosting this excellent exhibition at in the Library at Willesden Green. Our dedicated team have worked closely with Grunwick 40 to make sure that we do justice to our local history, and to pass on its lessons to the next generation."

The exhibition seeks to celebrate the determination shown by the strikers and runs until the end of March 2017.

The Library at Willesden Green, 95 High Road, NW10 2SF
Open 9am-8pm weekdays,
10am-5pm weekends Entry is free

Advertisement

ENGLISH

MATHS

SCIENCE

LEAD TUITION ACADEMY

Your child may be entitled to free tuition!

AGES 4 - 18

FREE CONSULTATION

Open 7 days a week

Courses offered at Key Stage 1, 2, 3,4 & A level

7 +, 11+ and 13+ exam preparation

Talented, educated and experienced team

020 8123 9482

0800 228 9482

www.leadtuition.com

484 Neasden Lane North Neasden NW10 0DG

Centres in : Willesden Green, West Hampstead, Neasden & Edgware

Your guide to what's on in Brent during

Winter 2016/2017

To get your event listed for free on this page, email tbm@brent.gov.uk with 'What's On' in the subject box. In no more than 50 words, tell us what your event is, where and when it takes place and if there is a cost or not. Please also include a picture or your event if you have one (maximum file size 1Mb).

CHILDREN

FESTIVE FAIRIES AND SPARKLING STARS

Festive craft event for under 5s, make a Christmas tree wand! Free for Brent Library users. Kilburn Library, Monday 12 December, 10.30-11.30am. Ealing Road Library, Tuesday 13 December, 11.15-11.45am. The Library at Willesden Green, Wednesday 14 December, 10-10.30am. Kingsbury Library, Wednesday 14 December, 2.15-3pm. Harlesden Library Plus, Thursday 15 December, 10.30-11am. Wembley Library, Friday 16 December, 10.30-11.30am.

QUEEN'S PARK JUNIOR PARKRUN

Is a 2k run for juniors only (4-14 year olds). Starts 11 December. Runs every Sunday at 9am. Queen's Park, Kilburn, London, NW6 6SG. FREE www.parkrun.org.uk/queensparklondon-juniors/

CODE GREEN: SCRATCH COMPUTING CLUB

Coding club for children 8-11. The Library at Willesden Green. Wednesdays 11 and 25 January, 22 February, 8 and 22 March. 4-5pm. Reserve your place at the library as space is limited.

MAKE A CROWN OF BOOKS AND HEARTS OR LOVE BUG BOOK MARKS

Celebrate Valentine's Day with this fun craft activity for children aged 5-11. Free for Brent Library users. Harlesden Library Plus, Kingsbury Library-Tuesday 14 February. Ealing Road Library, Kilburn Library-Wednesday 15 February. The Library at Willesden Green, Wembley Library-Thursday 16 February. 2.30-3.30pm.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST – A FAMILY PANTO

Beauty and the Beast? A pantomime? Oh you'd better believe it! In-house writers bring you their own vibrant take on a fairy tale told to so many generations before ours. 5, 7, 8 January. Claremont High School, Claremont Avenue, Kenton, HA3 0UH. www.thechameleons.co.uk/site/tickets

MUSIC

JAILHOUSE ROCK

Saturday 14 January. 9pm- 2am. Elvis "Jailhouse Rock" Birthday Party Night with Paul Ansell's No.9, plus DJ Bill Guntrip. Ace Café. Entry £10. Sorry no under 18s.

RHYTHM N' CRUISE

Saturday 28 January. 7-11pm. Rhythm n' Cruise Rockin' Record Hop with DJ Jimmy Guntrip. Ace Café. Free.

OVER 50'S

ZUMBA GOLD-ZUMBA IN A CHAIR!

A chair based class exercise for people with mobility issues. Get active and have fun with this new class! Free. Kingsbury Library. Wednesdays from 1 February. 11am-12noon.

HOP-IT! HELPING OLDER PEOPLE WITH IT

hOp-IT! gives FREE guidance and advice on how to use your computer. On Mondays, 9am, Elders Voice, 181 Mortimer Road, London, NW10 5TN. Please note that this event does not run on the following date: 26 December.

WEPT SEWING CLASSES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Sewing classes for senior citizens, dressmaking, pattern cutting, nursery cot set, bag making, cushions/ soft furnishings and other craft pieces of your choice classes in Brent for all abilities. Runs until 27 April 2017, on Thursdays, 11am to 3pm, The Works, Ujima House, 388 High Road, Wembley, HA9 6AR. For more information telephone Vanessa on 07906 432 493.

COMMUNITY

HARVEST 9/TERIANNE MAGLOIRE

The aim of Harvest is to support individuals and families by providing meals and packed lunches. People that attend the event will be able to access informal information that may be able to support additional needs.

Comber Close, NW2 7EG.

Wednesday 21 December. Free.

CRICKLEWOOD DEMENTIA CAFE

The dementia café is run by the charity Ashford Place and if you are affected by memory loss, dementia or forgetfulness you are free to drop-in. On Tuesdays, 2-4pm, Ashford Place, 60 Ashford Road, Cricklewood, London, NW2 6TU.

For more information contact danny.maher@ashfordplace.org.uk

COUNSELLING SESSIONS

Counselling is the practice of offering professional psychological help and providing insight into behaviour and feelings.

Runs until 7 February 2017, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, 10am to 6pm. Email khaleda@womensconsortium.org.uk or therapywc@gmail.com

SPORTS

BHANGRABLAZE FITNESS CLASS

BhangraBlaze is an amazing fun calorie blazing workout which uses basic but powerful moves of the bhangra style of dance. Suitable for all ages and levels of fitness.

Wednesdays in December. 7pm-8pm. Oakington Manor Primary School, Oakington Manor Drive, Wembley, HA9 6NF.

CHALKHILL BMX SESSIONS

Runs until 10 July 2017, on Saturdays, 1-3pm, Chalkhill BMX track, Chalkhill Open Space Playing Field, Barnhill Road, HA9 9BU. Equipment available: bikes, helmets, gloves on first come first serve basis. All ages and abilities welcome.

ZUMBA FITNESS WITH ALISON

Zumba Fitness is a fun-filled, dance-based exercise class which is guaranteed to get you moving and burn calories. Runs until 10 July 2017, on Tuesdays, 7-8pm, St Mark's Kensal Rise (Church Hall), Bathurst Gardens, London, NW10 5HX.

FLY GIRLS AND WOMEN'S RUNNING COMMUNITY

A women's wellbeing Wembley Stadium walk/run for beginners to improve their health and fitness. All ages are welcome from over 14 years to senior citizens. Runs until 28 May 2017, on Sundays, 9-10am. Meeting point outside Brent Civic Centre for the Wembley Stadium run.

VENUES

BRENT ARCHIVES

George Furness House
2-12 Grange Road
Willesden NW10 2QY
020 8937 3541
archives@brent.gov.uk

THE DRUM

Brent Civic Centre
Engineers Way
Wembley HA9 0FJ
020 8937 4340

TRICYCLE THEATRE CINEMA AND GALLERY

269 Kilburn High Road
London NW6
Theatre Box Office
020 7328 1000
Cinema 020 7328 1900
Disabled access to auditorium and cafe, induction loop in auditorium
Minicom 020 7625 5105

YELLOW PAVILLION

Olympic Way, HA9 0XJ

LIBRARIES

EALING ROAD LIBRARY

Coronet Parade, Ealing Road
Wembley HA0 4BA
020 8937 3560
ealingroadlibrary@brent.gov.uk

HARLESDEN LIBRARY PLUS

Craven Park Road
Harlesden, NW10 8SE
020 8937 3570
harlesdenlibrary@brent.gov.uk

KILBURN LIBRARY

42 Salusbury Road
Kilburn NW6 6NN
020 8937 3530
kilburnlibrary@brent.gov.uk

KINGSBURY LIBRARY PLUS

522-524 Kingsbury Road
Kingsbury NW9 9HE
020 8937 3520
kingsburylibrary@brent.gov.uk

WEMBLEY LIBRARY

Brent Civic Centre
Engineers Way
Wembley HA9 0FJ
020 8937 3500
wembleylibrary@brent.gov.uk

THE LIBRARY AT WILLESDEN GREEN

95 High Road, Willesden, NW10 2SF
020 8937 3400
willesdengreenlibrary@brent.gov.uk

Classified ads

THE GYM GROUP WEMBLEY

- NO CONTRACT
- OPEN 24 HOURS
- FREE CLASSES
- FREE WIFI

Use promotional code: 'Brent' and pay no joining fee until 1 January saving you £20!

www.thegymgroup.com/join-now/?presel=wembley

BRENT PEST CONTROL

Any type of pest within your premises could lose you valuable income, cause damage to stock and have a detrimental effect on your professional reputation and business. Contact us now.

020 8937 5252 www.brent.gov.uk/pestcontrol

EVENT SPACE HIRE

Whether you're looking to host a small, intimate wedding or a grand celebration, with a spectacular view of the iconic Wembley Stadium, The Drum at Wembley offers many stunning options which are all licensed for civil ceremonies. Contact us now.

020 8937 4817 advertising@brent.gov.uk

Boost your business!

Advertise in *The Brent Magazine*

Distributed quarterly to 100,000 households, libraries, leisure centres and community centres across the borough, The Brent Magazine is the go-to publication for news, information and special features

You could reach **328,800** people in the area, and over **115,000** businesses

Display advertising prices start from £275 +vat

Classified advertising prices start from £83.33 +vat



If you would like to advertise in *The Brent Magazine*, please call 020 8937 4817 or email advertising@brent.gov.uk

APPRENTICE MECHANICS WANTED

Bored with College or Sixth Form?
Jump Start your Career with an Apprenticeship

APPLY TODAY

Text GTA to 07710 024230
Email recruitment@nlggta.co.uk
Apply at www.nlggta.co.uk

GTA northlondongarages

Sport

Boxing clever

Kilburn boxer Theophane is targeting glory with hard work and dedication

Kilburn's own prize fighter Ashley Theophane is aiming for his 40th professional victory in the ring next year.

The 36-year-old will lace up his gloves as he continues his quest for a world title in Las Vegas.

It was his childhood dream to train and fight in the States and now he is living it with one of the biggest names in boxing – Floyd Mayweather – in his corner. It all started on the streets of Kilburn where Theophane grew up.

"I enjoyed it during my teenage years but there was a lot of poverty and crime around. It is nice to see that the council is investing in the borough. I used to enjoy eating at the restaurants around Queens Park and Kensal Rise, there is a wide selection from Italian, Caribbean and Indian just like the community itself," said the former British super lightweight champion.

In his last outing, Theophane was denied the chance of clinching his first world title when he lost out to Adrien Broner with a ninth round stoppage in April.

One of the greats?

But he has dusted himself down since then and only three other active British fighters have more wins on their record which reflects how close Theophane is to becoming one of the boxing greats.

"It's taken hard work and dedication. There have been ups and downs but it's been a fantastic ride. My career proves that with hard work you can achieve your goals. I've achieved what I wanted to as a kid. Boxing the world's best. I'm living my childhood dream," said the Kilburn boxer.

"Floyd has described me as a friend and family. I've got a close relationships with world champion Badou Jack and former world champion Ishe Smith. Everyone wants everyone to do well, so it's a great environment to be around.

"My advice to anyone, regardless of the sport or career you choose to enter, is surround yourself with positive people and search for a mentor. Being successful is a mind-set so if you are positive in the most negative situations you will find the

light at the end of the tunnel. With team work anything is possible."

Theophane has found a boxing family that believes in him and if all goes to plan he will be retiring at 40 with a world title to his name.

Follow your local champion on Twitter @AshleyTheophane

Advertisement

Girls on the move

Help us to get women and girls in Brent to be more active?

Funding available!

We're looking for organisations with innovative ideas, a good track record and experience in organising and running physical activity programmes for inactive women and girls.

We can help with funding to make your ideas come alive!

The grant is between £500-£2500.

For further information email healthyliving@brent.gov.uk and add 'Girls on the move' to the subject line.



Closing date 17 February 2017.

www.brent.gov.uk/activenewyou

"My children have grown up and left so now I've room to support someone else."

Could you support a vulnerable person to live independently in your home?

Call Brent Shared Lives
020 8937 4159

*You could
be paid up to
£22,000 per
year for
each room*

www.brent.gov.uk/sharedlives
brentshared.lives@brent.gov.uk

