

10 reasons to feel better about life...



No 1

Barnsbury Street to get long overdue improvements: Our plans to improve some of our oldest properties ended up in long grass when the pandemic struck. But now we'll be asking residents to tell us their priorities. See page 7

*** No 2**

Plaudits for Dickie Bull still rolling in

NEWSFLASH!! Former caretaker Dickie Bull has just won another, this time national, award from the Chartered Institute of Housing for his life-long service to Barnsbury HA. For the full story, see the next issue of Barnsbury News

*** No 3**

Cash help for career- changing education

Find out more about the bursary award scheme on page 7

*** No 4**

We're catching up with the repairs backlog

We're working through a backlog of repairs put on ice in lockdown. Emergency and urgent matters still go to the front of the queue. Read more on page 6

*** No 5**

Forum makes for a livelier lockdown

Islington Pensioners Forum has done its best to keep boredom at bay for shielding over-70s. Dot Gibson has the story on page 4

Turnover for * 6 to * 10!

Need to get in touch with us?

Emailing us

Emails sent to info@barnsbury.org are checked through the day by staff working from home and sent on to the colleague best able to deal with the matter.

✉ [info@barnsbury.org.uk](mailto:info@barnsbury.org)

Phoning us

Call between 9.30am-12 noon and 2-5.30pm and your call will be picked up by one of our staff. They will transfer your call or take a message if they cannot deal with the matter themselves.

☎ 020 7704 2324

SOLACE IN ISLINGTON DOMESTIC ABUSE: NEED HELP NOW?

CALL THE LONDON FREEPHONE
☎ 0808 802 5565

Reports of domestic abuse have risen by over 66% over lockdown. If you need help because of domestic abuse, contact **Solace in Islington** for free, confidential support. Solace helps men and women affected by domestic abuse.

Call ☎ 020 3795 5070 or email advocacy@solacewomensaid.org, Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm.

IF YOU ARE IN DANGER
NOW CALL THE POLICE
☎ 999

* No 6

Topsite is open again

See over on page 3

* No 7

Still one food bank

Covid-19 has been especially hard for food banks, and those of you who badly need their support. But one is still going. See page 7

* No 8

Cash help from us

Our new tenant hardship fund is there to help those of you hardest hit in the pocket by the pandemic. Find out more on page 7

* No 9

Barnsbury history

Revealed: lives of the scandalous locals of 19th century Barnsbury, who were buried in Clouesley Square. See pages 4 and 5

* No 10

Win a £20 voucher

Get all the answers right to the latest fiendish quiz by Janice and you could be one of three to win a £20 voucher to spend on Amazon. Or just try the sudoku.

Everyone's a winner with greener homes and estates

We haven't taken to the streets but we and our board, and we know a good number of you too, are deeply concerned about our planet's climate emergency

Making your homes more energy efficient is the smartest move we can make and everyone benefits. Above all, you'll spend less on heating because you'll need less gas and electricity to keep your home warm in winter.

Tackling fuel poverty

Right now, more than one in three of you struggle to keep your homes warm. And fewer than half of our homes meet the energy efficiency standard the government has set for 2030.

So this is what we're doing.

- * We've teamed up with a firm of specialists called Enhabit. They'll help us work out how best to improve your homes.
- * We will be applying for new government funding for home

insulation and other useful energy saving works.

- * Green Doctors can help you individually (see article below).
- * We're looking at things we can do on our estates, like plant more greenery to absorb carbon and fit LED lightbulbs to generate less of it.
- * And we're proposing insulation and window upgrades for those of you in our Georgian houses in Barnsbury Street.

We'll be talking to tenants on Barnsbury Street about the works over the coming weeks. If the upgrades we make there prove effective we should have a template that will also work for our other older properties. Watch this space.

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR THE WARMER HOMES DISCOUNT?

As signed-up members of the **Green Doctors** scheme, any of you can call Green Doctors for a **free consultation** to see how you can cut your gas and electricity bills and still keep your home warm.

For instance you may be eligible for the warmer homes discount. This could cut £140 from your annual electricity bill. The Green Doctors can help you apply for this government discount.

To book a time to talk to Green Doctors in person or over the phone call ☎ 0300 365 5003 or ✉ greendoctorsLDN@groundwork.org.uk

Round-up of news from Morland Mews

Rubbish and recycling - waiting on approval from the council's planners

Morland Mews should soon be getting its first ever recycling bins.

We have applied to Islington Council's planners for permission to install new recycling and refuse facilities at the topsite.

The new bins and their location have already been agreed with residents and with the tenants and residents association.



It will also mean parents pushing prams and wheelchair users will no longer have to navigate their way around a pair of large bins that now partly block the footpath.

We aren't expecting the council to object to our request so hope to get work on the new bin area started well before Christmas.

Once the new bins are in place we will also install some other new recycling bins, putting them in a garage with specially-made doors in the centre of Morland Mews.

Lead role for residents in planning Morland Mews garage conversion works

We are looking to set up a steering committee made up of Morland Mews tenants to help us make sure the works to convert some of the garages into flats cause the least possible disruption to neighbouring tenants.

Resident steering committee

The committee will make sure all Morland Mews residents are consulted over when and how the works are done and any concerns over matters like noise and safety dealt with sensitively and fairly.

Your tenants and residents association will also have a say in how the works are planned and carried out.

We're hoping our contractors can start work next spring but if Covid-19 remains an active threat, and it is now looking likely, we may have to hold back to allow the works to be done safely.

NEWS OF THE MEWS

Newly 'covid-safe' playing courts open again for ball games on topsite

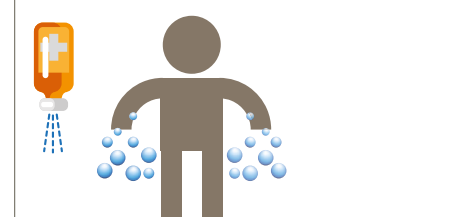


Scrubs: free sanitiser

Sporty youngsters are again using the playing court on the Morland Mews top site, but under strict instructions to follow our new Covid-19 safety protocols.

We are monitoring how carefully people are using the site and very much hope the current (mostly) good behaviour continues.

We have also put up posters around the playing court advising on sanitation, distancing and safe player numbers, along with new hand sanitiser dispensers.



History on your own doorstep!

Tales from the crypt: Cloudesley Square exhibition and talks

Learn about the often scandalous lives of **people buried between 1829 and 1854** in the crypt of **Holy Trinity Church** in **Cloudesley Square**, a stone's throw from our Cloudesley Road office.

London Diocesan Fund and Islington Museum have an **exhibition**, based on their research, to be open on **Saturdays** from **26 September** until **28 November, 11am to 2pm**, at the **Cloudesley Centre**.

The **Islington Society** will be hosting three online talks about the research, starting on **23 September**. Find out how to book a virtual seat on Zoom or get more information from IslingtonSociety@aol.com



Or sign up for the guided walking tour

Islington Guided Walks is offering weekly walking tours based on the research, starting and ending in Cloudesley Square, **Saturday afternoons**, until the end of October.

- * You must book ahead or you will be turned away
- * Maximum 12 to a group.
- * Follow social distancing, wear (your own) mask and use hand sanitiser.

To find out more go to islingtonguidedwalks.com

Fire safety measures to be enhanced at Highbury View

Works begin later this month at Highbury View to give residents at the sheltered scheme the strongest possible protection against fire.

A formal assessment last year identified some inconsistent standards and new measures we could take to improve fire safety for all residents.

Spanner in works

We planned to do the works needed earlier in the year but Covid-19 forced us to put them on ice. We now hope to start in late September.

Some flats will get new front doors and we'll be upgrading others to provide a vital safety buffer should a fire break out.

We'll make sure all flats have a carbon monoxide detector and will be offering residents pendant alarms as an 'add-on' to the pull-cord alarm call system.

We'll be installing a new 'mister' in the laundry. And we'll be doing fire drills a little more often, in part to see if anyone does (or might in the near future) need extra help to move to the designated safe spot in an emergency.

If you live at Highbury View you can expect a special newsletter soon, giving more detail on the planned works.

Covid-19 house arrest: no relief for over-70s

We over 70s have been in Covid-19 lockdown for over six months now, writes **Dot Gibson**. It seems it will last into the foreseeable future until scientists produce a vaccine, and there is enough to go round!

Lockdown closed the Islington older people's clubs that gave us exercise, dance, bingo, films, knitting, art, outings, lunch and coffee mornings. But most of all, a friendly chat and a laugh.

The days blur

The knock-on effects of this include isolation, loneliness and disorientation. When does one week end and another begin with no active parameters?

One much missed regular for older people has been Islington Pensioners Forum. For over 30 years this vital campaigning organisation has been run by elected officers and a committee, meeting monthly in the town hall, posting out a monthly newsletter to every member, lunch on Wednesdays, and an annual garden party at Highbury View.

Just before the lockdown we had started a film club, taken on an events organiser, and 30 members had signed up to attend the Pensioners Parliament in Southport in June.

All this is now on hold.

During lockdown we produced and sent out three newsletters, campaigned against means-testing for the over-75s' free TV licence and held free on-line (Zoom) classes to help older people keep in touch with family and friends using smart phones.

We also have a new booklet from the National Pensioners Convention: **A New Settlement for Care Services: Moving Forward from the Pandemic** (£2 + p&p 75p).

For a copy phone Dot Gibson on 020 7226 7226 or email ipf@islingtonpensionersforum.org



www.islingtonpensionersforum.org

Late summer glow at Thornhill Gardens

The gardening team, plants and bugs are all flourishing at Thornhill Gardens, writes volunteer gardener **Janice** from Barnsbury Street



Physic Garden. The circular bed on the lower lawn, which never quite worked before, now has some, large New Zealand flax around a new olive tree.

It's a strong focal point and the architectural form enhances the lower lawn.

Our garden

Hello all. The garden team has grown and so too have our achievements. Some are visible and flourishing, others are work in progress. We even have underground works where our valliant volunteers have put in a discreet water system.

One of our biggest successes has to be the cordoned-off lawn, now referred to as The Patch by a group of local young mums. They meet here regularly with their delighted young, who love playing barefoot (or crawl) on the succulent, poo-free grass.

We have been gifted several status plants from the Chelsea

community is also flourishing. Visitors regularly stop to chat and are generally very complimentary. Some have even joined our gardening team.

Our efforts have also inspired visitors from other local gardens. A group has begun in Lonsdale Square and another is mooted in Gibson Square. Imitation is the greatest form of flattery.

Remember, the last Sunday in the month is gardening time, from 10am to 2pm. Please come to garden, to chill, or look for our two new bug hotels. All welcome.

Resident panel acts on tenants survey: you said, we did

The resident panel had its first meeting since lockdown in August, online of course. It discussed matters like:

- * adapting our services to meet all your needs once Covid-19 is under control
- * hardship funds to help those of you in the greatest need
- * our standard for a BHA home, and what you can expect from our services.

To find out more, read the minutes of the meeting on our website or in the office window at 60 Morland Mews.

Free TV licence if you're over 75: don't miss the deadline

If you are over 75 and getting **pension credit** the deadline is rapidly coming up if you want to apply for a **free TV licence**.

You only need to get one penny of pension credit to qualify for the licence.

Pension credit also means **free dental treatment** and help with **council tax, heating bills** and **housing costs**.

To get help to apply for pension credit call Age UK Islington on 020 7281 6018.

What's happening about...

This year's summer fun day cancelled

At this time of year we're normally looking forward to our September fun day. But after talking to the tenants and residents association, we've agreed it would be wiser to give it a miss this year. We don't want to fall foul of government guidelines on social gatherings and certainly don't want to put any of you at risk. We hope this time next year we'll be in a much happier place and planning a bumper celebration.

Dumped furniture

In a clear breach of your tenancy rules, unwanted furniture and other large items have recently been dumped on several estates.

This is quite unnecessary. If you need to get rid of something large and cannot get it to the dump, please call Islington Council to ask them to pick it up. Please also leave a sign attached making it clear the item is to be collected.

Rather than dump unwanted furniture, like this left on Morland Mews last year, why not try myfreecycle.org?



Irresponsible dog owners leaving foul mess behind

Some dog owners are not cleaning up after their pets. There have been several cases of dog fouling in our parks and estates.

This is especially awful for people who are sight-impaired, use a wheelchair or push a pram. And it can pose a serious health risk, especially for small children.

Under our rules dogs are not allowed on the Morland Mews top site. You also need our written permission to keep a pet. If we give permission you must always clear up after your pet.

If the culprits are visiting someone in your home, a reminder that you are responsible for how they behave while on our property.

Offices still closed to public while Covid-19 threat lingers

Staff who normally work in our offices are still working at home due to the ongoing risk of catching Covid-19.

All staff working online

All our phone and computer systems have been adapted so you can still get in touch with us, by phone or email.

Call handling

If your call is picked up by one of our staff who cannot help with your query, they will make sure the colleague best able to help takes it up or calls you back.

Support if wanted

We are also continuing our support for those of you who want it, either organising it ourselves or directing you to the best match locally for your needs.

Tackling repairs backlog

We're getting more repairs done, working our way through the backlog to make up for lost time. The most urgent repairs will always go first in the queue.

We are very grateful to you all for being so patient. If you do need a repair, please log it as usual and we will get the work done as soon as we can.

Extra bait going down to deal with rise in reports of pests and vermin on estates

From your reports we're aware that in the last few months there have been a lot more rats and other nasty pests causing problems on our estates.

Extra dose of bait

We have put down bait in drains and bin areas. We do this every year as a matter of course but have also asked pest control to visit Morland Mews to look at more specific problem areas.

Rats, mice, cockroaches and foxes are all having to look a lot harder for food with so many

restaurants and cafés closed or throwing out much less waste.

We're putting down a lot more bait but will need your help for our efforts to be truly effective. So please be very careful to properly wrap and seal your rubbish and food waste.

If you need help or advice about dealing with rats, mice or other unwelcome creatures visit the council's website at islington.gov.uk or contact us on 020 7704 2324.

Barnsbury Street improvements

Barnsbury Street has some of our prettiest houses but the last tenants survey found those of you living in these houses least satisfied with them internally.

Naturally we want to do better for you and had meant to start consulting residents on priority

improvements earlier this year. That will now happen.

In October you'll get a survey asking what improvements you think are needed to your home and why. We can then draw up an action plan. In the meantime our apologies for the delayed start.

Tenants on board

Tenants Janice Walsh and Chris Bell look set to be officially appointed the **resident board members** at our AGM on 24 September. A summary of what is said at the meeting will be posted on our website and in the window of 60 Morland Mews.

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

Basic food and hygiene: one food bank still going

The pandemic has led to a sharp rise in the number of food banks forced to close. But one local food bank is still operating. The **Pillion Trust Food Bank**, run from the Ringcross Centre on Lough Road, is just a short walk from all of your homes.

The Pillion Trust stocks food and hygiene products for anyone who needs them. It is open from Monday to Friday, 12 noon to 4pm.

- * You can call in twice a week, but not on successive days, to pick up any food or hygiene items you need.
- * You are not limited to one parcel or pre-packed bag.
- * You do not have to be referred by another organisation. All they ask is that the first time you visit the food bank you bring something to prove you live in Islington.

If are in a position to spare anything, the Pillion Trust always needs donations. To find out more go to <http://pilliontrust.info/> or visit their food bank at the Ringcross Centre at 60 Lough Rd, London N7 8RH.

Bursary award scheme to help pay for your education or training

Our bursary award scheme can help you with the cost of learning new skills that could help you to find well paid and rewarding work.

The bursary can be used to cover the cost of school, college or university fees, books needed for courses, for other learning materials, and educational trips.

Anyone who lives in one of our homes can apply for a bursary award. There are two conditions:

your rent must be paid up to date and you must not have a track record of antisocial behaviour.

Tenant hardship fund if the pandemic has left you struggling with costs

We have a new fund to help those of you hit hardest financially by the pandemic. The fund can help pay for fuel bills, replacement white goods (like a fridge or cooker) or essential bits of furniture. To find out if you qualify or to apply for a grant payment, contact Felicity.

To apply for the bursary award or for our tenant hardship fund please go to our website or get in touch with housing manager Felicity. felicity@barnsbury.org | 020 7704 2324 | www.barnsbury.org

NEW: Moving out? Find out how to get one-week rent free

Are you about to give up your tenancy? Or planning to move to another of our homes?

After anyone moves out of a BHA flat we send contractors in to do any repairs needed and make it clean enough for the next resident.

We can do this much more quickly if the tenant moving out leaves the flat clean, empty and in good repair.

One good turn deserves another so we're offering a week rent-free if you leave your flat in perfect order. Contact Felicity for details. felicity@barnsbury.org ☎ 020 7704 2324

Tell us at least four weeks before you end your tenancy

A rule of your tenancy is that you must give us notice four weeks before you end a tenancy with BHA.

You will still have to pay us rent for those four weeks, even if you move out earlier. And we do bill anyone who leaves without paying.

See above for how to cut your rent bill by one week.

ABOUT BARNSBURY *News*

Editor: Dean McGlynn

To contact us or contribute write to 16b Cloudesley Street, N1 OHU, email info@barnsbury.org or call ☎ 020 7704 2324. We have limited space so may edit contributions. We will not print anything cruel, libellous or defamatory.

Your contributions welcome

If you or a group of you would like to write an opinion piece or share good news (or bad!) or just ask what others think, send it in. We'd also love your photos or pictures. Please send them to Dean formatted as large jpg files.

* JULY ISSUE SUDOKU

8	4	2	7	5	1	3	6	9
9	7	1	3	4	6	5	2	8
5	6	3	9	2	8	4	1	7
7	9	5	1	3	2	8	4	6
2	3	4	8	6	7	9	5	1
1	8	6	5	9	4	7	3	2
4	2	9	6	7	3	1	8	5
6	1	7	4	8	5	2	9	3
3	5	8	2	1	9	6	7	4

JANICE'S FAMILY QUIZ



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR ISLINGTON?

Email your answers to dean@barnsbury.org with your name and address. All replies will go into a hat and we'll send an Amazon voucher worth £20 to the first three pulled out that answer every question right.

1. Who turned again in 1370 and became Lord Mayor of London?
2. Which London football club is said to be the oldest, set up in 1886 and famous worldwide but started in the Royal Oak pub in Woolwich?
3. In 1944, a flying bomb changed the face of a very well known junction. It changed again recently. What's its name?
4. Who was born in Offord Road, had a No 1 record (written by Mick Jagger), owned *Reckless Records* in Upper Street, then *Out of Time*, an antiques shop in Canonbury Lane?
5. Which of BHA's best known 'streets' is named after a novelist and socialist who wrote about degradation caused by poverty? First name George, surname?
6. Which Islington area has been home to Italians since the Middle Ages? It's still known as Little Italy and Our Lady of Carmel is annually paraded round the streets on All Saints Day in July.
7. Which successful Barnsbury pub was originally a dairy and tea house? It's been named after the initial owner.
8. Which weekly newspaper promises to be 'Open to all. Coerced by none'?
9. 'Cut throat Lane', home to the workhouse and near the building where births and deaths were registered, was very close to BHA's heartland. Which street?
10. A quote from writer Joe Orton, an Islington resident infamous in his day, became the name of a pub in Liverpool Road opposite his home. What's the pub called?

SUDOKU

9			2	5			3	
2		4	8	1	3			
		3				5		
	9	7		8				
		2				8		
				9		7	6	
		8				4		
			6	4	5	3		8
	1			2	8			7

To solve the puzzle, each 3x by 3x box and each column going across and down must have all the numbers 1 to 9, with no number used twice. The sum total of each box = 45.

Answers to this sudoku will be given in the next issue of Barnsbury News.

Are you grieving, isolated or lonely?

This year has been hard. Many of you have been isolated, unwell and some are grieving.

Support is available. **We Are Islington** is run by the council with local charities. If it cannot help you it will direct you to an agency it thinks suitable.

If you are 50 or older, **Age UK** may also offer you support.

We Are Islington
☎ 020 7527 8222

Age UK Islington
☎ 020 7281 6018

COURTESY OF OPENSky.CA/SUDOKU