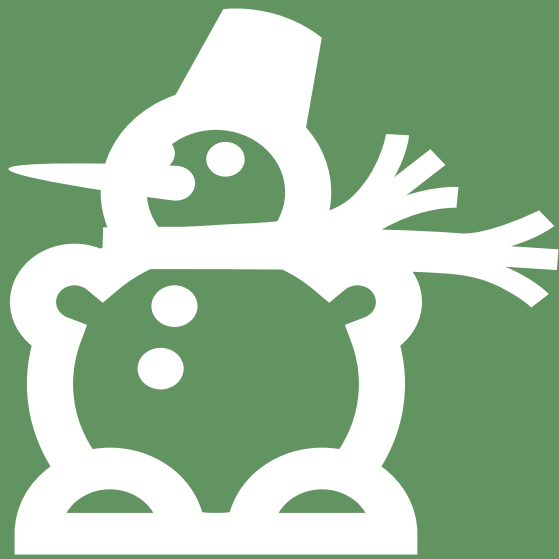


# Barnsbury *news*



Free \* Quarterly \* In-house news & events \* Winter 2021 \* Issue N° 10



Merry  
Christmas

FROM ALL OF US  
AT BARNSBURY HA



Drop in for advice on your tenancy, problems with rent, bills or debts, benefits and more

- \* WORRIED ABOUT RENT, BILLS OR OTHER DEBTS?
- \* WANT TO TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR TENANCY?
- \* WOULD SOME ADVICE ON BENEFITS HELP YOU?

Asif and Priscilla from our housing management team are holding drop-in advice sessions at **60 Morland Mews** once a month offering advice and support with tenancy or income concerns. **No need to book a slot - just pop along! We're here to help.**

**Note the date:**  
Thursday 27 January

**Remember the time:**  
Between 10.30am and 12.30pm

If you have any questions call ☎ 020 7704 2324 or email asif@barnsbury.org or priscilla@barnsbury.org

## NEW YEAR LAUNCH FOR HOME VISITS

Our management team will in the new year begin regular visits to your homes to ask how we can help in these challenging times.

### Problem solving

Paying your power bills may now be a struggle or you might be wondering how best to keep your home warm and damp free.

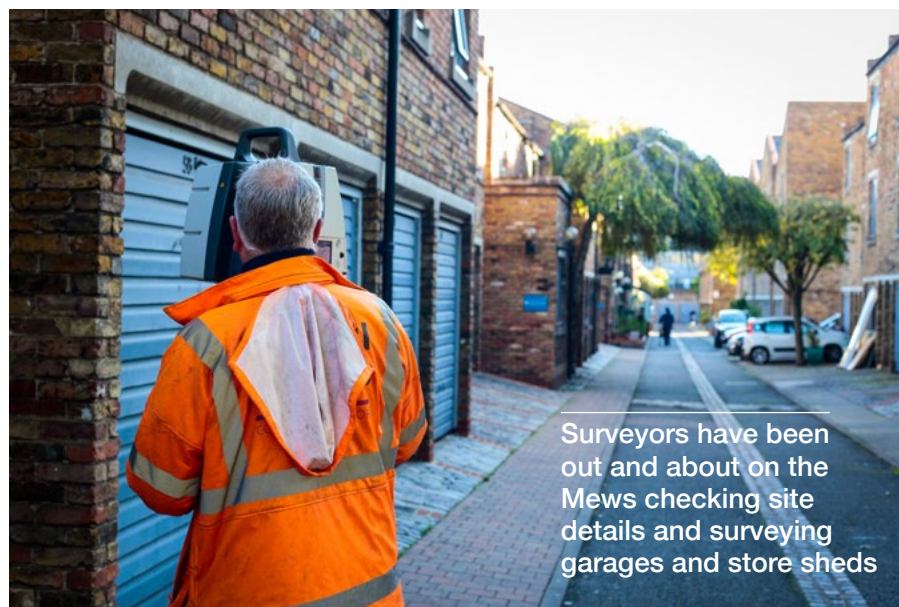
You may have questions about your neighbourhood or estate, if you live on one. You might want adaptations to your home to make it easier for you to cope.

We are here to help, no matter how big or small the problem.



## Progress on plans for new homes at Morland Mews

Our plans for the Morland Mews garages are gradually stepping up and the **garages steering group** will in the new year be invited to inspect and comment on design plans for the flats and new community room



Surveyors have been out and about on the Mews checking site details and surveying garages and store sheds

The plans are being drawn up by Lynton Good Architects, helped by engineers, surveyors and more.

### Team effort

We met the full group for the first time in November and for the next stage will again be consulting your garages steering group.

Our surveyors have already been out and about on Morland Mews surveying garages and store sheds. They expect to complete this work and their detailed site investigations over December.

Those of you affected by the plans will be offered **new garages** in the new year. You will all get a helping hand from us with your move.

As reported earlier this year, we are doing our best to offer garages close to you home, with priority given to **older and disabled tenants**.

In spring the works will go out to tender and we will likely appoint the main contractor by early summer.

### The contract will set very clear standards for work hours, noise and dust control, courtesy to residents and health and safety.

We know the garage works are sensitive and many of you have concerns. The lead contractor for the project will plan, carry out and monitor all works to keep disruption and disturbance to an absolute minimum.

All of you affected by the works will get clear, timely and to the point information and support as needed. And, as agreed with the steering group, any problems or queries should be dealt with promptly and politely by a named person on the contractor team.



*It's behind you!*

## QUICK RUN ON THE XMAS PANTO TICKETS

*Jack and the Beanstalk* made for a cheerfully noisy end to a quiet 2021 in early December. All the cut-price panto tickets we had secured for the Hackney Empire show were snapped up in no time.

Communications and engagement manager Patrick also popped along. 'It was my first pantomime and a great performance. It was lovely to see so many of you laughing and enjoying yourselves.'

## Making history: take stock exchange weaves all your stories together

Gathering together personal memories of your lives in the Barnsbury community has kept **take stock exchange** busy over October and November

An earlier plan to hold workshops for smaller groups of Barnsbury HA tenants has been replaced by personal phone calls - a sensible response made necessary by the ongoing threat of Covid.

### Community hopes

Some strong themes are emerging from these telephone conversations. They include your expectations of a good community, Barnsbury HA's

changing identity and its impact on those of you living in our homes, and what makes a healthy home.

### Hear what you said

You will soon be able to listen to the responses and comments made by those of you who have taken part. They will be posted on our website in the new year as a podcast.

We will also publish a summary in our spring newsletter next year.

## GET VACCINATED TO MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS SAFER FOR ALL OF US

A huge leap in Covid infections came hot on the heels of last Christmas after too many of us threw caution to the wind.

With yet another new variant now on the loose we all have a public duty to do all we can to protect those at high risk of severe illness or death.

It is also flu season again. Just like Covid you can be infected but have no symptoms and could pass it on to others, and they could end up very ill.

See below to find out where to get your jab in Islington.

The Covid and flu vaccines are saving lives and helping prevent serious illness and death



<https://www.islington.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-vaccinations>

## COVID SAFE: BACK TO HOME WORKING

With Covid rates again rising, and a highly infectious new variant spreading, staff who would normally work from our offices are again working from home. This will continue until the government advises that it is safe to return to working in shared spaces. Your cleaning and caretaking services will continue but with enhanced safety measures.





## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

# Kumba, from Gissing Walk



### Hi Kumba, how long have you lived in Barnsbury?

Thirty years! I was born and brought up in Stepney. My name originates from Gambia (known as the smiling coast of Africa), which is where my parents are from.

### You work for our National Health Service. What do you like best about it?

I have had various roles. The one I enjoyed most was meetings with anyone involved in getting feedback from patients about their experiences of NHS services.

The meetings are about listening to patients and improving their care, be

it in general practice, maternity services or in mental health care.

We also discuss NHS care for employees. The NHS encourages networks for staff such as faith, disability, health and wellbeing.

I continue to applaud my colleagues especially for these past months of the pandemic where staff at all levels have worked around the clock to save lives.

### What is your proudest accomplishment?

While in the patient safety team I implemented a new starter pack for people joining the team. It was so successful it was adopted by teams throughout England NHS offices.

### Tell us something your neighbours don't know about you.

I love writing poetry.

### What is the one thing you would most like to see happen in our community?

We must all continue doing what we have to do to keep everyone safe.

### Time is a healer

Time stood still when you left us  
You were above the sky, rushing  
to reach us

I felt my soul leave me when I  
knew you were no longer with me

I could not hear the sympathy,  
I could not see the person  
At that moment all I could  
hear was your voice

I cry sometimes, but the voice  
in my ear tells me to wipe away  
the tears

### Time is a healer

All I could imagine, you beside  
me with your contagious smile  
makes me smile

I laugh and I remember how you  
made me laugh with your jokes  
that are memorable

I know you are always with me  
because I remember all the bad  
and good times about us

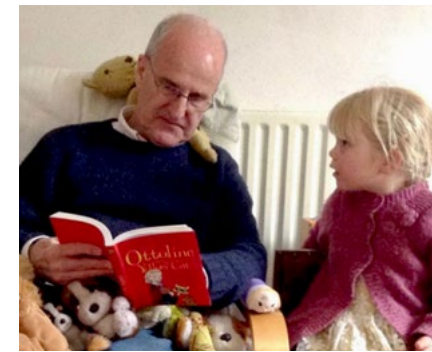
That warmth you used to make  
me feel comforts me as I know  
you are in a good place  
As each year goes by you  
continue to be forever in  
our hearts.

Kumba has dedicated this lovely poem to her late godmother but says it is for anyone who has lost a loved one.

# Remembering loved ones: a tribute to those who sadly passed away this last year

## Mike Robinson

8 May 1944 to 26 December 2020



Happy memories: Mike reading a bedtime story to his god daughter

From the late 1970s until December 2020 Mike lived at Morland Mews.

Mike was always cheerfully willing to offer a helping hand to neighbours, especially dear Mary Gaffney who lived next door and who also sadly died last year.

Multi-talented, Mike worked as an artist, an architect, a graphic designer and a terrific model maker and website builder. He excelled in every field. An avid reader, his small flat in Lofting Road overflowed with books on every conceivable subject.

Always interested and caring of the wellbeing of the community, he will be well remembered.



Edward Bates

2 August 1939  
to 28 October  
2021

Edward lived with his wife Ann at Morland Mews for over 20 years. He loved his home deeply and the neighbours around him.

He is sadly missed by wife Ann, children Carol, Linda and Stephen, son-in-laws David and Noel, grandchildren Tony and Olivia and great grandchildren Alfie and Sonny.

The family are very grateful for the love and condolences they have since received from neighbours on the Mews.

## Stephen Langton

20 June 1936 to 26 June 2021

“ A long life, well lived and well loved  
Undeniably unique  
Always happy, always laughing  
Our memories of you will last a lifetime  
Forever in our hearts  
Simply the best.



Thank you to everyone who shared beautiful words in memory of their loved one. Look after yourself and others around you and stay safe.

We are hoping to return next year to events and activities like the September Fun day, Arsenal football training – and more – to connect with other residents.

## SERVICES OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

### EMERGENCY REPAIRS

If a serious problem in your home needs repairing as an emergency while our office is closed please look for advice on our website at [www.barnsbury.org](http://www.barnsbury.org). Or call our out-of-hours emergency service, run by Islington & Shoreditch HA, on ☎ 0300 131 7300.

See also page 7 for what to do if you smell gas, the power goes in your house or neighbourhood or your pipes freeze or burst.

### NEIGHBOUR PROBLEMS

If antisocial behaviour becomes a serious problem over Christmas please call Islington Council's antisocial behaviour team. They are working as normal over the break apart from Christmas Day. ☎ 020 7527 7272 or online at [www.islington.gov.uk/community-safety/anti-social-behaviour](http://www.islington.gov.uk/community-safety/anti-social-behaviour).

If you witness criminal behaviour call the police on ☎ 101. If it is a serious situation call ☎ 999.

## BARNSBURY HA: CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

We will be closed for the Christmas break from 5.30pm on Thursday 23 December until 9.30am on Tuesday 4 January.



### XMAS TREE RECYCLING

Please don't dump trees in the bins, around our estates or on a pavement. Real trees will be recycled by the council but please first take off all the decorations.

From Saturday 2 to Sunday 17 January the council will pick up Christmas trees left next to the pavement if you live in a street property or any taken to:

- \* Barnard Park off Charlotte Terrace, N1
- \* Paradise Park, N7, entrance at Lough / MacKenzie Road
- \* Highbury Crescent, N5, near the playground entrance.



### RUBBISH AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

There will be no collections on Saturdays or Sundays over Christmas and New Year or on Monday 3 January. All other weekday collections will be as normal.



### STAYING SAFE USING CANDLES

Candles caused more than 200 fires in London alone last year. For advice on using candles safely this Christmas see [www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/candles/](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/candles/)

### STAYING WARM

Shine is a free new fuel poverty and energy advice service for Londoners on a low income or vulnerable because of your health or age. See if you qualify at <https://shine-london.org.uk>

Or, you might qualify for help from the government, such as:

- \* a winter fuel payment of £100-300 to help pay for heating [www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment](http://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment)
- \* the warm home discount, which could cut £140 off your electricity bills this winter [www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme)



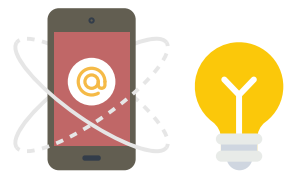
## NEW SERVICE LAUNCHED

# Barnsbury HA launches new same-day emergency payment for food or your power bill

A steep rise in **gas and electricity prices** is piling on the woes for household budgets. **Food bills** are also going up. And after the £20 cut in weekly universal credit payments, we know many of you are struggling

- \* You do not need to be claiming or eligible for benefits.
- \* You may be working full-time or part-time or not working.
- \* You could be retired or unable to work due to poor health.

**If you are in trouble and cannot pay for food or power to your home we will find a way to help.** We've launched a new same day emergency support scheme. If you qualify you could by the end of the day have some peace of mind.



### FOOD VOUCHERS

You could have sent to your phone e-vouchers to pay for food from Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrisons or Asda (you choose which one).

### GAS OR ELECTRIC POWER

If your power is cut off, or will be shortly, we could pay your energy supplier direct. If you are on a pay-as-you-go meter we can top it up using your long top-up number.

**Both these options are one-off payments and not a loan.**

But first we will need to assess your case. For that we will need details of your finances and income, including your essential spending and any debts you're paying off.

### Anyone can apply

Please don't think you won't qualify because on paper your income looks healthy. We will look at the big picture, including your wellbeing.

### Application form

You will have to fill in an application form so we can assess your case quickly. If you qualify you could have your power supply sorted and/or e-vouchers for food sent to your phone before we close for the day.

### One-off payment

We will not normally take a second application from anyone for at least another 12 months.

### Other ways we can help

If for any reason you do not qualify for this emergency payment there are other ways you can get help. We will tell you what we think is best suited to your case and will get you in touch with someone who will help.

### Help from your energy supplier

A lot of energy suppliers also have their own hardship funds. Again, we can help you find out if your supplier has one of these funds and we can help you apply to them for help.

To apply for our scheme email [info@barnsbury.org](mailto:info@barnsbury.org) or call 020 7704 2234. You could also come along to one of our monthly drop-in sessions. See page 2 for more on these.

## NEW TO THE TEAM

ESTATE SERVICES OFFICER

# MARIUS



### How long have you worked for Barnsbury HA?

I started on the first day of September this year.

### What does your job involve?

I am responsible for maintaining and improving the environment around our homes and the wider neighbourhood to make sure these places are tidy, look good, and feel safe and secure.

### What do you like most about your job?

I really enjoy dealing with tenants and being able to help address their concerns. I've worked in customer services for more than 13 years and very much like delivering essential services for the Barnsbury community. I am happy that I am contributing and making a difference to the lives of our residents and wellbeing of our community.

### What keeps you happy outside work hours?

I love travelling. I am very excited when I discover new places, learn about new cultures and go exploring. I would like to travel back to my country as I haven't seen my family for more than a year.

### COMING UP: MEET PAUL

New income officer Paul Alderson can help any of you having trouble keeping up with your rent. We'll introduce Paul to you properly in the spring issue of *Barnsbury News*.

## Life-saving fire safety rules being ignored in too many of our homes

Staff out cleaning and tidying shared parts of your homes have come across alarming evidence of **fire safety rules** being ignored

In the last issue of *Barnsbury News* we explained yet again why leaving your things in shared areas is a such serious fire safety risk if a fire was to break out in the building.

These photos, taken just weeks ago, show the only way of escaping the buildings littered with flammable goods and trip hazards.



### Rules protect you

Please do not leave anything on landings, stairs or under-stair areas. That includes rubbish and recycling.

Where we find any personal items in shared parts of building we will take them away for the safety of everyone in your building.

If we have to clear away items you have left in a shared area of the building you live in you may get a bill from us for the cost of disposing of them. Please take everything you own into your flat - bikes and buggies included.

## TIDY NEIGHBOURHOODS: TOP 10 PEEVES!

### Rubbish offenders

A small but persistent number of tenants are dumping rubbish next to full bins instead of taking them to the nearest empty bin. This doesn't take a huge effort and does keep rats and other unwelcome visitors at bay.

### Sloppy recycling

Spencer and Marius are wasting time that could be better spent sorting out careless recycling. It appears worst at Lofting Road and in Pugin Court where bins left for junk mail and other leaflets are also being used for rubbish.



Estates staff are finding bins put out for recycling junk mail being used for general rubbish

- 1 Recycling bins are overflowing because boxes and cartons are not flattened before going in the bin.
- 2 Some tenants are putting recycling in black sacks instead of the clear bags. The council won't take them.
- 3 General rubbish is being mixed in with items that should be recycled. Paper bags and cardboard boxes that have held food cannot be recycled, nor can handwipes.

### Discount for bulky items

Staff are still finding bulky items dumped on Morland Mews. We are now reporting it to Islington Council. If you need help getting rid of bulky items, please call the council on 020 7527 2000 or go to [www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk). There is a charge but there is a 50% discount if you get council tax support, housing benefit or universal credit.

You might even find someone wants your 'rubbish' and will take it away for free. Try [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) or [www.lovejunk.com/bulky-waste-collection/](http://www.lovejunk.com/bulky-waste-collection/)

## Emergency services over Christmas

### GAS: SUSPECT A LEAK?

Turn off the supply at the gas meter. Open your doors and windows. Do not smoke. Don't use naked flames. Don't turn electric switches on or off. Call the gas emergency service freephone as quickly as you can on 0800 111 999.



### ELECTRICITY: TOTAL LOSS OF POWER TO YOUR HOME

If all the power goes in your home (only) check that the main switch on your circuitboard hasn't turned off. It may do this if a faulty appliance or faulty lights were switched on. If that does not solve it, call us on 0300 131 7300.

If the power goes off across your neighbourhood, call the UK Power Network on freephone 0800 31 63 105 or 105.

### BURST OR FROZEN PIPES

If you have a burst pipe:

- \* turn off the water stopcock
- \* switch off the electricity supply on your circuitboard
- \* switch off your hot water and central heating systems.

If you have a frozen pipe:

- \* turn off the water stopcock
- \* turn on all your taps and leave them turned on
- \* fill the bath with all the water you can get from taps still running so you can use the water for washing hands and flushing the toilet.

If the pipe is burst or frozen call our emergency service quickly on 0300 131 7300.



# & ACTIVITIES EVENTS



## FREE 'COOK AT HOME' COURSE and FREE INGREDIENTS

Bags of Taste has a free two-week 'cook at home' course throughout December for Islington residents. Best of all is the free bag of ingredients for seven meals (three recipes) delivered to your own door. Eat healthier in the new year, save money and learn some new dishes. Bags of Taste provides support, mentoring and encouragement. The courses are flexible so you cook at a time that suits you. To book your place text Justin on ☎ 07986 042 458 or email him at ✉ [islington@bagsoftaste.org](mailto:islington@bagsoftaste.org) <https://bagsoftaste.org/courses>

## COFFEE MORNINGS AT Highbury

Highbury View's coffee morning, hosted by its residents, has been back in business since September. **Coffee and treats are served every Tuesday morning between 11am and 1pm. Everyone is welcome.**

Barnsbury HA staff (okay, we mean Patrick) can often be found sampling the tasty delights and chatting to residents. Why not come along yourself to enjoy a coffee, a sweet treat and great conversation.

## WILD AND GREEN NATURE GARDENING

Even in winter you can learn useful gardening skills. The **Wild & Green nature gardening project** is for young people aged 18 to 25 with special educational needs and adults with learning disabilities. It takes place on Tuesdays 1-3pm, every second Thursday at 11am to 1pm and Saturdays monthly from 11.30am to 2.30pm. Wild & Green is at Market Road Gardens N7 9PL. For details contact [franie@octopuscommunities.org.uk](mailto:franie@octopuscommunities.org.uk)

## Christmas activities at Cally Park

Caledonian Park is getting into the Christmas spirit with two free events for locals.

✳ If you're into crafts there's a workshop where you can **make a Christmas wreath on 23 December from 11am to 1pm**. You'll need to sign up - and turn up. Materials supplied free from local parks and nature spots. Why not check it out at <https://callypark.london/events/page/2/>

✳ For under-5s who like stories and helping to tell them, **A Winter Wonderland At Cally Park** at 10am on 20 December could be just the ticket. Click on the link to book your 'seats'. Under 5s Storytelling: A Winter Wonderland at Cally Park!



## DOMESTIC ABUSE: GET HELP NOW

**SOLACE IN ISLINGTON**  
CALL FREEPHONE

☎ 0808 802 5565

IF YOU ARE IN DANGER  
NOW CALL THE POLICE

☎ 999

Solace in Islington offers free, confidential support for women and men. ☎ 020 3795 5070  
✉ [advocacy@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:advocacy@solacewomensaid.org), Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE**

☎ 0808 2000 247

## HAVE YOUR SAY WITH THE BARNSBURY FORUM

Would you like to help plan and write *Barnsbury News*? How about taking part in **surveys**? Or maybe you could you read **our policy guides** to check they are clear and helpful. **Email us at [info@barnsbury.org](mailto:info@barnsbury.org) or call ☎ 020 7704 2324.**