

Queen of cakes: Barnsbury celebrates platinum jubilee

INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU'LL FIND ...



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Above: MP Emily Thornberry chats to tenants Anne, Joe and (also board member) Janice. Top: Serving up Jordan's glorious cake. More overleaf!

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Bumper turnout for Queen's Big Jubilee Lunch

'We had a lovely Big Jubilee Lunch at Morland Mews top site celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee,' writes Patrick Penny-Annang

'The children made their own crowns, played games and took part in a photo scavenger hunt. We all enjoyed the delicious red, white and blue cake baked for the occasion by young resident Jordan. Jordan also made brownies and he and Shirley cooked mouth-watering cupcakes (see below). Shirley's even had regal butterflies! A huge thank you to Jordan and Shirley.'



'The Big Lunch is held across the UK every year to bring together neighbours and community. Over 18 million took part in lunches over the Platinum Jubilee weekend. Our warmest thanks to Islington Council, MP Emily Thornberry and to Barnsbury councillors Rowena Champion and Jilani Chowdhury for popping by to join in the fun. And our thanks also to everyone who helped out or joined us on the day.'





REPAIRS SURVEY: HOW DID WE DO?

Were you happy with the last repair or maintenance job we organised for you? If we did some work for you recently we are keen to know what we did well and what you think we need to do differently. To complete our survey online scan the QR code with your smartphone to open a web link or visit <https://tinyurl.com/bharepairs>

If you would rather answer the survey on paper call ☎ 020 7704 2324 or email info@barnsbury.org and we'll send you a form.

Cost of living crisis: how can we get you and your community through tough times?

On page four you'll find details of a new **resident focus group** we are setting up. The group's brief will be to come up with ideas for boosting community spirit and wellbeing. Some of you have plenty of both but we know others feel left out. One reason is the growing number of you struggling with the rising cost of basics like food and power. So we're looking for tenants to come forward with solid ideas and practical solutions. In return we'll pay £30 for your taking part in the focus group meeting.

See page 4 for details. All focus group discussions will be overseen by take stock exchange



Board members' concerns over rising cost of basics dominate discussions

The **rising cost of living** came up time and again during talks at the May meeting of our board of management. Chief executive Susan French runs through the agenda

The meeting began with a look at complaints we've had from some of you over the past year. The board asked that 'lessons learned' from these be put to the next meeting.

Community focus

The board also discussed ways to get more of you actively involved in community efforts. Members want closer and better links with Barnsbury residents so this will come up again at the next meeting.

The board approved an ambitious new 'sustainability strategy' setting out how we will adapt and insulate

your homes. The aim is to cut overall carbon emissions but it will also lead to a big drop in the power needed to heat your homes.

Rising arrears

The board noted that rent arrears are rising. We explained recent staffing changes that we hope will lead to focused advice and support for struggling households and, in turn, fewer missed rent payments.

The board discussed our plans for improving all your homes as set out in our new asset management strategy. All properties can now

expect more frequent inspections and works on a regular cycle.

The cost of living crisis came up time and again during the meeting. Housing director Viv Astall told of the worries of tenants she'd met now struggling to pay heating and food bills on a dwindling income. Some were so anxious about the future she feared for their wellbeing.

Our board is aware of measures we already offer, like fuel vouchers and grants from our hardship fund. Our report to the next meeting will include ideas proposed by a new tenant focus group (see below).

ABOUT THE BOARD

Our board is made up of unpaid volunteers with knowledge and experience relevant to our work. Two members are Barnsbury HA tenants. The board meets six times a year to review our work and agree our policies and strategic direction.

TAKE STOCK EXCHANGE FOCUS GROUPS

Pulling together as a community - practical solutions and feel-good measures to get through hard times

Our board is rightly worried by the impact on your wellbeing of constant price hikes, hot on the heels of the pandemic. So we're calling for ideas from your brightest minds. How do we pull through this as a community and what can we do that will bring the biggest benefits?

In mid-July **take stock exchange** will run two meetings for a new focus group. All those who take part in the group will be paid £30.

Cost of living crisis

The group's focus is community and wellbeing. But we know the cost of living crisis is causing stress and affecting wellbeing so want to hear ideas and suggestions from your perspective as tenants.

We also want to be sure the focus group reflects the wider make-up of all of our tenants so some of you may have to go on a waiting list for

now but there may be room for all.

Confidentiality is vital. Only focus group members and **take stock exchange's** team will hear what is said at the meetings. This is to make sure you all feel able to be frank and honest about your views.

We have set up two meetings so if you cannot make one we hope you will be able to make the other.

Meeting one: 12 July 1 - 2pm

Meeting two: 14 July, 6 - 7pm

Both meetings will be at our office in Cloudesley House and refreshments will be provided.

BARNSBURY HA HARDSHIP FUND

I can't pay this month's bills! My cooker has broken

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

We may be able to help you with a one-off grant for food, energy bills, children's clothes, or vital household goods like basic furniture or white goods, or digital devices so you can use online services.

020 7704 2324 *
info@barnsbury.org



Payment for your time and effort. If you are accepted for the focus group we will make a payment of £30 for attending the meeting.

If you would like to be considered for the new focus group, email Patrick at patrick@barnsbury.org/ or call 07926 130 067.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Free swimming lessons



Free lessons over the summer holidays for children aged 4 to 16*, families and people over 60 at Archway Leisure Centre, Cally Pool, Highbury Leisure Centre and Ironmonger Row Baths.

www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/islington/news/dive-in-to-free-swimming-lessons

* under 3s if with an adult

Islington Active Spaces: free health and wellbeing activities for everyone



Active Spaces are offering a mix of activities at local venues with other people or some you can do online from your own home. See below for a sample. Go to their website for details of more fun ways to get fit.

Women's fitness

At King Square multi-use games area, King Square Estate, next to 169 Central Street, EC1V 8BS. Suitable for all ages, shapes, sizes and fitness levels.

Dance by Fitness for All

At Williamson Street Community Centre, 76 Parkhurst Road, N7 0FF. On Tuesdays, 12 - 1pm.

Balance and movement class

At Durham Road Community Rooms, 94 Durham Road, N7 7DT. On Tuesdays, 1 - 2pm. You must call Sam to book or call for more details on 07981 142 376.

Find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/islactivespaces>

ARSENAL FOOTBALL COACHING SESSIONS



Girls and boys signed up for free football coaching sessions with Arsenal over the June half term. 'It was a pleasure having Arsenal in our community,' reports Patrick. 'Their coaches kept the kids entertained and active at both coaching sessions. All who took part got a gift from Arsenal afterwards. It made their day!'



THE NEXT FOOTBALL COACHING SESSIONS WILL BE HELD DURING OCTOBER HALF-TERM, AGAIN AT THE LOFTING ROAD PITCH.

HIGHBURY VIEW TRA AND BARNSBURY HA

YOU ARE INVITED TO Highbury View Annual Garden Party

9 July, from 1pm to 4pm

finger food buffet * live jazz band * raffle * drinks

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WELCOME

RSVP to Patrick by 6 July
patrick@barnsbury.org 07926 130 067

89 RONALDS ROAD, LONDON N5 1XQ

Feeling the pinch

Rising costs drive changing priorities

Staffing changes bring in more expertise in finance and welfare matters

A warm welcome to new rent and financial inclusion officer Paul Alderson who brings to our housing team his expert knowledge of the welfare and benefits system.

Better call Paul

Times are especially hard now but please don't forget that paying your rent keeps the roof over your head. If you are having trouble paying the rent or other bills, call Paul. He can give expert advice and is in charge of our tenant support fund. Please don't turn to loan sharks. We will do all we can to help.

After two years, we've also said goodbye to Priscilla Adjei-Asante. We wish Priscilla the very best in her career progression.

Switch to universal credit may come as a shock

Four years ago the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) started moving some Islington residents off benefits like housing benefit and onto universal credit (or UC).

The DWP puts anyone making a new welfare claim onto UC and wants anyone getting what it calls 'legacy benefits' to shift over to it. Most find UC a bit of a shock and there is a five-week wait before the DWP makes any payment at all.

You can only apply for universal credit online. We strongly recommend you use one of these helper websites to take you through the process step by step:

- * <https://uc-helper.co.uk/barnsburyhousing>
- * <https://www.hyde-housing.co.uk/corporate/our-social-purpose/hyde-foundation/hydes-universal-credit-support-tool/>

If you've been told you are being moved to universal credit or you are having to apply for it for the first time, please tell us. We can give you help and advice. We also have our own leaflet explaining, as best we can, how universal credit works.

Helpful advice on debt

If you have already fallen into debt and need help contact charity StepChange for free, expert advice. ☎0900 138 111 www.stepchange.org

Life & Progress:

free tenant support & wellbeing service



Life & Progress can give you free confidential help with problems, from isolation, grieving or depression to being a parent, caring for an older relative, coping with disability, legal or financial matters and more.

Call freephone ☎0330 094 8845 or go to www.tsws-assist.co.uk
Username: **barnsburytenant**
Password: **support**.

Free, expert confidential help anytime, seven days a week

Savings and loans - Credit Union offers a vital buffer

If you claim universal credit you will need a bank account. The Credit Union has budget accounts to suit most situations. If you need to borrow to cover an unexpected bill, you'll find they offer much better deals than other lenders.

A reminder that we and the Credit Union will each add a tenner to any new Credit Union account* opened by a Barnsbury HA tenant.

Find out more at barnsbury.org: <https://tinyurl.com/yc428fer>

Join online: www.credit-union.coop/ info@credit-union.coop or call ☎020 7561 1786

*one account per household!



Dead pigeons and other wild animals: report these to Islington council

We have had a few dead pigeons reported to us in recent weeks. Any dead animal should be reported to the council who will have it safely taken away. We cannot do this for health and safety reasons.

To contact Islington Council please call ☎020 7527 2000 or email contact@islington.gov.uk

HOME FIRE SAFETY

Keeping shared parts of your building clear of anything you own

Getting out of a building fast after a fire starts saves lives. Even that nice pot plant on the landing or a child's scooter can turn into an obstacle. On walkabouts we find far too many of you leaving things you own, and even rubbish or recycling left in shared areas. Our estates services team see this all the time.

We have a legal right to take away and dispose of anything we find in shared areas. Please don't risk it.

Please report any items left in shared spaces in your building by email info@barnsbury.org or call us on ☎020 7704 2324.



Home fire safety visits

If you are worried about fire risks in your home, or that of someone you care about, ask the London Fire Brigade for a home fire safety visit.

LFB will visit you, or a person whose welfare you're worried about, to assess fire risks and give sensible advice. This includes checking fire detection systems and advising what to do should a fire break out.

Visits can be at any time that suits you. Call ☎0800 028 4428 or text/SMS 44786 002 1319 or go to www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/book-a-home-fire-safety-visit/

Smoke detectors

Please do check your smoke, heat and carbon monoxide detectors once a month by pressing the test button. Do not take the head off your smoke detector if it starts bleeping. If any detector has a fault ring us on ☎020 7704 2324 so we can send someone out to put it right. If the smoke detector head is faulty we will replace it. You do not have to pay for this service.

Reporting hate crime

We have agreed a new policy on hate crime to try to tackle cruel or thoughtless behaviour harmful to vulnerable people. Homes and communities director Viv Astall explains

Hate crime is a criminal offence. Along with 'hate incidents' it is motivated by prejudice – violent or offensive behaviour driven by what the offender thinks is a person's:

- * race (which includes asylum seekers and migrants)
- * religion
- * sexual orientation (either lesbian, gay or bisexual)
- * disability, or
- * transgender status (transsexual, transgender, a cross-dresser or holds a gender recognition certificate).

These crimes should be reported to the police. We have tools the police don't have for attacks that are not 'criminal' but are a 'hate incident'. Both hate crimes and incidents are those the victim, or anyone else, believes motivated by prejudice. That's all you need to report it, whether or not there is evidence.

You can also report hate crime at www.report-it.org.uk Or call Crimestoppers anonymously on ☎0800 555 111 Find out more at stophateuk.org

Finding a new home is in your hands with home-swapping scheme 'mutual exchange'

If your home is too small, too big or not where you want to live, your best chance of getting a home that better suits you is swapping home (and tenancy) with another tenant.

HomeSwapper

This is known as 'mutual exchange'. It is up to you to find your 'home-swapper' and you will need our written permission to swap homes. We can advise you but suggest you start with the biggest UK service, www.homeswapper.co.uk

If you'd like to swap with another Barnsbury HA tenant, we can run a small 'Homeswapper'-style advert

Hate crimes and incidents can be:

- * threatening behaviour
- * assault
- * robbery
- * inciting another person to commit a hate crime
- * harassment
- * verbal abuse.

It may also cover damage to property, name calling, attacks or violence, graffiti and arson.

No one should live in fear of harassment so BHA encourages victims and witnesses to report any incident, no matter how small.

If you are worried for your safety it is an emergency. Call the police on 999. Call 101 if it is not.

After you speak to the police, please report it and the incident report number to us. We can then work with the police.

in BHA News for you. Email Patrick for details at patrick@barnsbury.org or call him on ☎07926 130 067.

Your rights and exceptions

You have the right to swap your Barnsbury HA home with any other council or housing association tenant anywhere in the UK - even another Barnsbury HA tenant.

We can refuse permission if:

- * your BHA home is too big or small for the person who wants to swap their home for yours
- * you have broken your tenancy agreement. This includes owing us rent and/or service charges.

DO WE HAVE UP-TO-DATE CONTACT DETAILS FOR YOU?

Our repairs team tell us there have been a few times recently when they have had some trouble contacting one of you about a repair appointment. Each time the problem was an out of date phone number.

While annoying, being unable to call you in an emergency would have been very worrying.

Any of our staff might need to contact you at some point so please let us know if you have a new phone number - landline and/or mobile. An email address would also be very helpful.

All information we keep on you is stored very very safely and is not shared outside Barnsbury HA.

Peace of mind: help and advice to help you cope with everyday woes

As our tenant you can get free help and advice from **Life & Progress** on a huge range of matters from mental health and finances to law and family problems, including caring for a relative.

Call them on freephone ☎ 0330 094 8845 or go to www.tsws-assist.co.uk
Username: barnsburytenant
Password: support.
See also the advert for **Life & Progress**, page 6.

Local service

As an Islington resident you can also get help for yourself, a neighbour or a relative from local service **Help on your Doorstep**.

Its Connect team can give support by phone, email or, if you book ahead, face-to-face
Call Help on your Doorstep on ☎ 020 3931 6080 or email connect@helponyourdoorstep.com.

Volunteers wanted to help run swapshop for unwanted furniture

We are planning to turn the garage now used for bulky rubbish into a swapshop for good quality furniture.

Recycle, repurpose

The plan is to store here any furniture you no longer want if it is still in good nick or you think someone else could upcycle it.

Likewise, if you need any furniture you could drop by to see if anything in the swapshop takes your fancy.

Estates staff have their hands full with their normal duties. We're sure you, like us, don't want them called away from their work so we're calling for volunteers to help out in the swapshop.

Contact Patrick if you're interested in helping out or want to know more.



SAVE THE DATE
FUNDAY IS BACK!: 3 SEPTEMBER

coffee morning



IN THE Highbury View Bungalow
EVERY TUESDAY, STARTING 11AM

CALLING ALL NEWS HOUNDS!

Do you have any **ideas or suggestions** for future articles in *Barnsbury News*?

Do you know of a local **community project or event** other Barnsbury HA tenants should know about?

Would you like to **write** an article for *Barnsbury News*?

If your answer to any of these questions is **YES**, please get in touch with engagement and comms manager Patrick by email at patrick@barnsbury.org or call Patrick on ☎ 07926 130 067.

New automatic exit barrier to be installed at Morland Mews

Contractor: Delta Security

Installation dates: Monday 18 Tuesday
Tuesday 19 July 2022, starting 8am

The traffic control plates at the exit of Morland Mews have failed so we will shortly be installing a new automatic barrier.

Ease and security

This will make leaving and entering the mews easier for vehicles and will improve estate security.

The new barrier will raise automatically when a vehicle approaches to leave the mews.

There will be some noise and minor disruption during the works. And while you will still be able to drive out there may be a short delay. If you can please avoid the work areas and take sensible precautions.

If you have any questions about the work please call us ☎ 020 7704 2324 or info@barnsbury.org

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? GET HELP NOW

SOLACE IN ISLINGTON

☎ 0808 802 5565

IF YOU ARE IN DANGER
NOW CALL THE POLICE

☎ 999

Solace in Islington offers free, confidential support for women and men, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

☎ 020 3795 5070

advocacy@solacewomensaid.org,

NATIONAL DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE ☎ 0808 2000 247