



Your independent community newspaper

# WALTHAM FOREST ECHO

Free  
Sep 2022, No. 90

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## When Waltham Forest fought off the far-right



Credit: Jess Hurd

By Victoria Munro

Ten years ago, thousands of Waltham Forest residents took to the streets to fight off a far-right group looking to intimidate the borough's Muslim population.

The English Defence League (EDL), led by Tommy Robinson, planned to march through Walthamstow and rally outside the town hall on 1st September, 2012.

However, a few hundred EDL supporters from around the country were met by a 4,500-strong counter-protest, organised by We Are Waltham Forest, which chased them out of the borough.

The *Echo* spoke to "life-long socialist and anti-racist" Roger Huddle, who was 66 at the time of the demonstration, about his memories of the day.

He said: "I worked with the Anti-Nazi League and Rock Against Racism [in the 70s] and we always believed that the best way to stop the far-right is to mobilise the largest number of people.

"We had no online presence ten years ago so we had to do it the old-fashioned way, we distributed around 20,000 leaflets.

"We had no idea what was going to happen – it could have been three men and a dog on the day – and we were completely opposed by the Labour council.

"But it was amazing the amount of people that came, particularly the amount of Asian people because it must have been very difficult for them due to the Islamophobia they faced.

"The younger people were furious that the EDL was coming to their borough and I also recognised some older people that I demonstrated alongside against the National Front in 1978."

Campaigners knew the EDL would take either Hoe Street or Forest Road

to the town hall and had scouts watching to report back about their movements. When the EDL chose Forest Road, the counter-rally marched down Hoe Street to Bell Corner, where they sat down to block them off.

Roger said: "The police kettled us but we didn't really mind because it was where we wanted to be. If they had stopped us getting anywhere near the EDL, then I think violence could have broken out because people were so incensed.

"If there were only a few of us maybe I would have been scared but, when you've got your community around you, you don't need to fear.

"The shops along Hoe Street were magnificent, they let the demonstrators use their toilets and one fabric shop brought out water and food, there was fantastic support."

The EDL march was rerouted through back streets but the counter-protestors had a "little stroke of luck" when police parted the barrier to let a woman with a wheelchair out, which allowed others to "break through the cordons" after her.

Roger said: "We went and occupied the town hall, which meant they couldn't get in to have their rally, and then we just waited them out.

"When they finally marched back down to Blackhorse Road, we had a victory march back up Hoe Street. All the shops were clapping, it's probably the proudest moment of my life.

"We went back to the town square, had a few speeches and then I went off and got truly drunk. It was a great day and that's why we're having the tenth anniversary: to celebrate our multiculturalism and our victory over the most horrendous people in our society."

We Are Waltham Forest have organised a week of events to celebrate the anniversary – find out more on their website: [wearewalthamforest.org](https://wearewalthamforest.org)



## NEWS



FELLOWSHIP IS LIFE

**SEP 2022**  
**No. 90**

Waltham Forest Echo is the borough's free community newspaper. We publish monthly and distribute 15,000 free copies of each issue

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## Council U-turns on brown bin collection pause

**P**lans to suspend brown bin collections for a month were cancelled in 24 hours after resident uproar.

On 10th August, Waltham Forest Council announced collections of food and garden waste would pause from 15th August until 11th September due to July's dry weather.

A council statement said the "driest July since 1885" meant "grass and garden plants have been growing more slowly", resulting in a drop in garden waste.

However, after furious residents pointed out their food waste would still accumulate over the month, the council decided to reverse its decision.

Deputy leader Cllr Clyde Loakes wrote: "We have lis-

tened to the concerns of residents over the last 24 hours and decided that we will not be temporarily suspending brown wheelie bin food and garden waste collections.

"We are grateful to everyone who takes the time and effort to put food waste into their brown wheelie bin and we do not want people to be inconvenienced in the summer heat.



"A combination of the extreme dry weather and the usual summer holiday season means the amount being collected from the brown wheelie bins is at a record low, with many bins being virtually or completely empty.

"This has come at a time of extra pressure on the service due to staff shortages brought about by the prolonged period of hot weather and an increase in Covid cases.

"Please only put bins out for collection when they contain items so they can be quickly and easily emptied, and be patient and bear with our hard-working bin crews as they carry out this physically demanding work in very hot weather."

## Programme for abused women returns

**A** free programme for women who have escaped abuse returns to the borough this month.

Finding Our Voice – funded through donations, Waltham Forest Council and the Emergence Foundation – is a 10-week programme for women trying to rebuild their confidence.

Drawing on her own experiences after escaping an abusive relationship,

Alison Manning, founder of Coaching for Women CIC, ran the first sessions for 20 women earlier this year.

Following an introductory in-person workshop, the women took part in weekly online sessions, aimed at increasing their confidence and allowing them to form a support network.

One woman who took part earlier this year said: "I felt supported and safe

within the group and my confidence grew with each week. In the past I have struggled to interact with people."

To take part, you must attend one of the in-person sessions from 10am to 4pm at R2R Wellbeing Centre in Lea Bridge Road on either the 10th or 18th September.

Email [alison@alisonmanningcoaching.com](mailto:alison@alisonmanningcoaching.com) with the date you would like to attend to register.

## Polio spreading in Waltham Forest

**C**hildren aged one to nine will be offered a booster dose of the polio vaccine spreading in the borough.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) first warned poliovirus had been found in east London's sewage in June, suggesting "spread between closely linked individuals".

However, further testing shows "transmission has gone beyond a close network of a few individuals" in Waltham Forest and seven other London boroughs.

Booster vaccines will be offered first to children

in these boroughs, followed by a "rapid roll-out" across London.

Dr Vanessa Saliba, UKHSA consultant epidemiologist, said: "For the majority of the population, who are fully vaccinated, the risk is low.

"Polio is a serious infection that can cause paralysis... It is vital parents ensure their children are fully vaccinated for their age."

The virus strains found are believed to have mutated from a weakened form of the virus used to vaccinate people overseas but not used in the UK since 2004.

## Leytonstone KFC shut after hygiene inspection

**L**eytonstone KFC was shut down by food hygiene inspectors after they found signs of a "rat infestation" and "very poor cleaning".

On 9th August, Waltham Forest Council's food safety team issued a hygiene emergency prohibition notice to the High Road, Leytonstone, branch of the fast-food giant.

KFC's spokesperson confirmed the restaurant will remain closed while its management "work closely" with the council to "make things right".

They added: "We'll

be reopening our doors once things are back up to the standard we and our fans expect.

"Operating responsibly is our number one priority and we have strict processes in place to ensure the quality and hygiene of all our restaurants."

The spokesperson did not respond when asked for further details of the "strict processes" in place.

A previous food safety inspection of the Leytonstone branch, in March 2021, saw it awarded a 'very good' rating.

## AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITOR

**T**his is a very special edition of the *Waltham Forest Echo* for me, as it marks a full calendar year since I first became editor!

Over the last twelve months, I and the rest of our team have brought you vital coverage you simply wouldn't find anywhere else. That includes an investigation into the growing number of residents being forced out of London [#79, p1], behind-the-scenes access to local election pandemonium

in both parties [#83, p1] and a detailed report on how a local care company failed to save one of its vulnerable residents from a tragic fire [#86, p1].

We've also made sure to highlight everything that makes the borough such a great place to live, such as our feature on the history of Waltham Forest's rave and pirate radio scene [#80, p10] or our interview with the borough's "illustrated priest" [#82, p3]. Whether you're a fan of local theatre or local football, a Chingford

resident or just over the border from Newham: the *Waltham Forest Echo* has something for you.

However, despite the support and praise we've received from the community, the *Echo* is still struggling to break even. Some months are better than others and, as you flip through the pages of this edition, you'll notice we've had an unusual amount of help this month from businesses and organisations who've chosen to advertise with us, for which I'm immensely grateful.

But, while ad revenue is vital, regular income from monthly memberships gives us additional security to stay afloat. Since I became editor, more than 40 residents and two companies have joined the growing crowd financially backing the *Echo* and their contribution is truly invaluable.

If you like what we do and have as little as £3 a month to spare, I'd urge you to join them. Find out more by visiting [walthamforestecho.co.uk/membership](http://walthamforestecho.co.uk/membership)



## NEWS

Ching Brook quickly overflowed **Credit** Sinead Morgan

## Summer storm floods borough second year running

by Victoria Munro & Josh Mellor,  
Local Democracy Reporter

A summer storm caused a flash flood in the borough for the second year running, flooding local schools and homes.

On 17th August, the government issued flood warnings for Ching Brook and the lower River Lee, both of which pass through the borough.

At least three local schools - St Mary's Primary School, Leytonstone School and Heathcote School - were flooded and many roads became impassable.

In July last year, a similar storm saw numerous homes across the borough filled with "knee-high" water and caused a power outage at Whipps Cross Hospital.

Walthamstow resident Andrew Kinnear told the *Echo* his kitchen "filled with sewage" after only

two hours of rain.

He said: "It's worse than last year. A neighbour was telling us she's lived in her house for 40 years and not had drains back-flowing like we've had these last two years. So what's changed?"

"The council claims everything is fine and the drains are clear, Thames Water say there's nothing they can do, and yet my kitchen is still covered in sewage."

Trevor Banks, 57, a black cab driver who was born in Waterhall Avenue, said: "During the 70s, the Ching would sometimes overflow but the furthest it came up was the garden, 10ft from the front door."

"I've lived in this area my whole life and never seen it do that, it was just flowing down the street. At six o'clock, it was like a river and by half nine it was all gone."

Earlier this year, after wide-

spread criticism, Waltham Forest Council published a report on last summer's flood, which concluded it was not made worse by poorly maintained drains.

Deputy leader Cllr Ahsan Khan told the *Echo* the council had "proactively taken steps" since last summer "to install urban drainage systems and rain gardens to alleviate the effects of extreme weather".

This includes a £250,000 investment in the drainage system in and around Brooke Road in Walthamstow - one of the worst-hit areas during last summer's flood.

He added: "We will continue to work to identify places where these measures may help protect residents."

"Council officers have worked closely with Thames Water colleagues following the severe weather and have visited over 40 areas affected by flooding."



Flooding in Walthamstow **Credit** Jennifer Damant



Flooding in Highams Park **Credit** Sophie Wilson

## Manager of beloved boozer pushed out after decade

by Victoria Munro

One of the borough's best boozers is being taken over by the largest pub company in the UK, pushing out the manager who transformed it over ten years.

The Bell in Forest Road, Walthamstow, was among nine local pubs listed among the nation's best by the Campaign for Real Ale last year and has won multiple awards.

The pub was transformed by manager Andy Potter, who took over the lease in 2012 from Stonegate Group.

However, his bid to renew the lease was rejected by Stonegate, which operates 4,800 pubs and is registered in the Cayman Islands, who will take back ownership on 19th September.

A staff member told the *Echo*: "They decided to take the pub back because it was profitable. Andy took it on and put it back

on the map.

"All the staff are keeping their jobs but Andy has decided he won't take on any other pub because he couldn't put this much effort into a new place, it took about five years for it to become profitable."

"He's hoping everything will be alright for us. He built this place for the community here and it's been really appreciated during this time."

Responding to the news on Twitter, Walthamstow MP Stella Creasy said she was "gutted" the pub was being turned over.

She added: "When you have a successful bar, a cynic would wonder why a [company] would change that."

When contacted for comment, a spokesperson for Stonegate Group said: "We would like to thank our pub partners for all their hard work and dedication over the years."

"There will be a period of closure while we invest in the pub and we aim to reopen as soon as possible."



The Bell pub in Walthamstow **Credit** Penny Dampier



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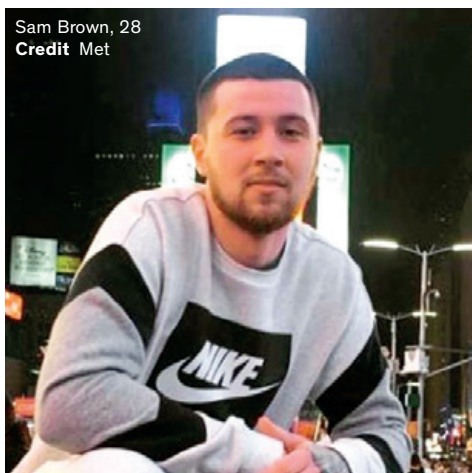
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## CRIME

# Man accused of Walthamstow park party shooting

Sam Brown, 28  
Credit Met

**A** 26-year-old from Mitcham is accused of murder after a shooting at a Walthamstow park party in July.

Sam Brown, 28, died from a bullet wound to the chest on 24th July, having arrived at hospital shortly after reports of gunshots in Cheney Row Park at around 12.30am.

Police found around 100 people at a party in the park, which a resident who passed it earlier that day said was “innocent-looking” and had several children attending and a hired bouncy castle.

Kyle Kemp was one of four men

arrested in connection with the crime – all of whom were later released pending further enquiries – and appeared at the Old Bailey on 8th August.

He was remanded into policy custody until 24th October, when he is due to make his plea.

Sam arrived at hospital with a man in his 30s, who was suffering from stab wounds, and the court heard that the shooting was in “retaliation” for a stabbing at the party shortly after midnight.

The court also heard that another suspect is believed to have fled the country to the Caribbean.

## Another young man shot dead in Walthamstow

**A** young man was shot to death in Walthamstow last month, the borough’s third killing in three weeks.

Police were called to Forest Rise shortly before 9.30pm on Saturday, 13th August, after reports of gunshots.

The victim, 25-year-old Kacey Boothe, was driven to hospital by loved ones but tragically died there from his injuries.

So far there have been no arrests.

In a statement to the press, Detective Chief Inspector Laurence Smith said the police currently believe it was a “targeted attack” but are “keeping an open mind to all possibilities”.

He said: “We understand there was a

party going on at a nearby community centre at the time of the shooting. It is possible attendees may have seen what happened and we need them to speak to us.”

Local Chief Superintendent Simon Crick added: “I am deeply saddened and appalled another young man has lost his life on our streets. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.”

He added that extra officers would be deployed to “key locations” around the borough “to provide high visibility reassurance”.

If you have any information that could help the investigation please call police on 101 and give reference 7405/14Aug. To remain anonymous, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Kacey Boothe, 25  
Credit Met

## Teen girls report rape and assault near Highams Park Lake

**A** man from Barnet is accused of raping and sexually assaulting two teenage girls near a lake in Chingford.

Forensics were seen investigating around Highams Park Lake on 8th August after the two girls contacted the police shortly before 9.30pm the previous day.

They reported being attacked in the surrounding park at some point between 4.30pm and 8.45pm that Sunday.

Nayden Nastov, a 38-year-old from Moss Hall Grove in Finchley, Barnet, was arrested two days later and appeared at Thames Magistrates’ Court charged

The police cordon at the lake  
Credit Penny Dampier

with the crime.

His case was moved to Snaresbrook Crown Court and, on 11th August, his bail application was rejected by the court.

He is now in custody and will make his plea at the same court early this month. Both girls are being supported by specialist officers.

Responding to reports of the incident in the *Echo*, local MP Sir Iain Duncan Smith wrote: “As a community, we must ensure we have an environment in which women and girls are safe and feel safe to pursue their lives, free from fear and harassment.”

Ghulam Sadiq, 18  
Credit Met

## Leytonstone teen stabbed to death ‘in broad daylight on busy road’

**A**n 18-year-old boy was stabbed to death “in broad daylight” in High Road, Leytonstone, last month.

Ghulam Sadiq was stabbed in the back at around 2.15pm on 6th August with what police believe was a “zombie knife” and died shortly afterwards in the street.

A local business owner in the High Road told the *Evening Standard* he was “a kind and gentle person”, adding that he was “heartbroken that such a beautiful soul has lost his life at such a young age”.

Three days later, a 17-year-old boy was arrested in Walsall, near Birmingham, on suspicion of carrying out the attack.

Detective Chief Inspector Linda Bradley, from the Met’s Specialist Crime Command, said: “Our heartfelt thoughts are with Ghulam’s family as they come to terms with this terrible tragedy, which no family should have to endure.

“I know this [incident] will shock and appal the local community and I want to assure them we will do all we can to identify and bring to justice those responsible.”

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# NEWS



## 'Flagship' scheme in hot water after road mix-up

The council's "flagship regeneration scheme" is in hot water for the second time due to a mix-up over road ownership.

The £190million "Coronation Square" in Leyton, which promises to deliver 750 new homes, was awarded planning permission in April 2020.

Just over a year later, Waltham Forest Council leaders had to give developer Taylor Wimpey a £6.9million discount on the land after "unforeseen costs" threatened to "significantly" delay construction.

Now, the scheme has once again run into trouble after the council discovered late last year that a road it believed was a public highway was actually privately owned by waste company Bywaters.

According to a report prepared for a private meeting of council leaders, Taylor Wimpey warned this hiccup could cause "fire, servicing, refuse and access issues" to one of the five planned flat blocks.

Both the council and Taylor Wimpey have been in negotiations with Bywaters to gain access to the road since March but "these negotiations have, to date, been unsuccessful".

The council may therefore need to use a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), a legal way of forcing landowners to sell - or in this case provide access rights - where not doing so obstructs a project benefiting the "greater public good".

While the report states officers will "continue to engage" with Bywaters in the hope of avoiding the costly and complex process, council leaders agreed on 24th August to authorise a CPO "as a last resort".

The report adds: "Without the land, there would be a loss of economic, social and environmental public benefits, including the loss of housing units."

"Taylor Wimpey started construction on site in May 2021 and works are progressing at pace. The first residential units are due to be complete and occupied by the end of 2022."

## Government agrees next chunk of funding for new Whipps

Work rebuilding Whipps Cross Hospital can finally resume after the government agreed the next chunk of funding.

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, MP Steve Barclay, announced on 19th August that he had approved "up to £28million" for "a new multi-storey car park" and road works "to unlock access to the site".

In March 2019, the total cost of rebuilding the hospital was estimated to be £500m but exactly how much money Whipps will receive is still unknown.

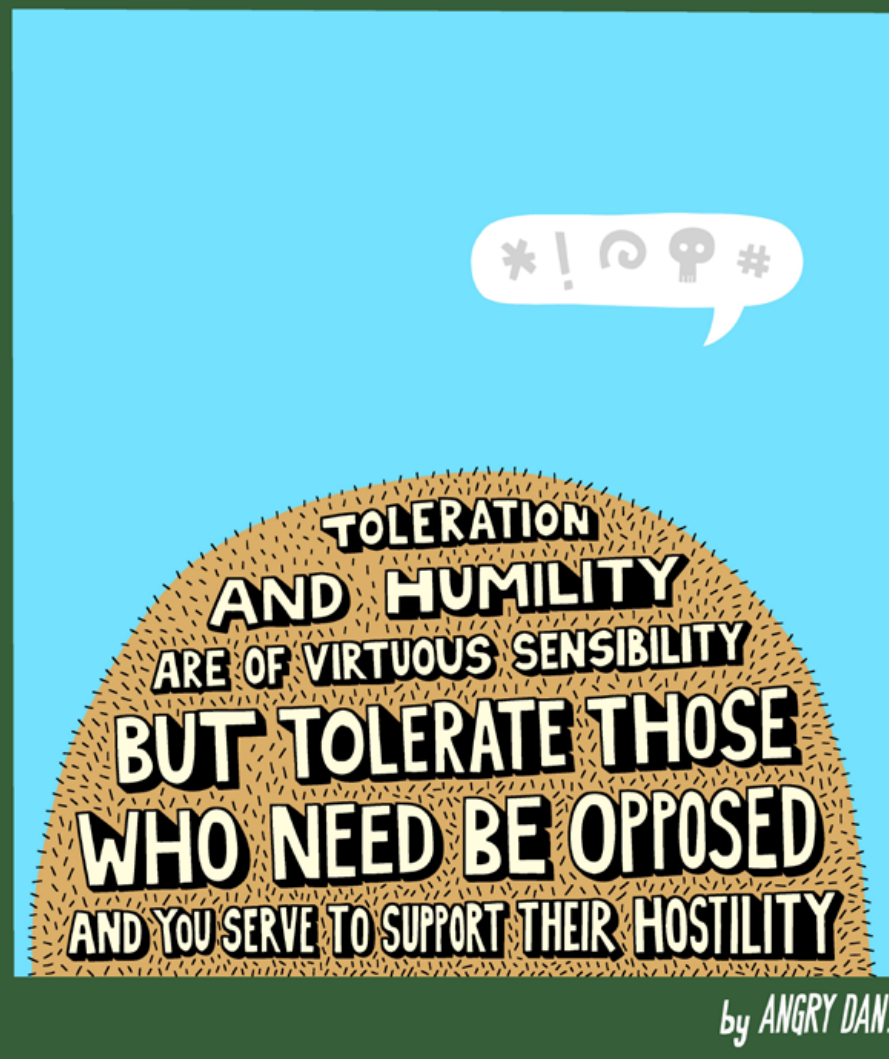
Late last year, Whipps bosses said the "extremely frustrating" delay deciding their budget was stopping the project moving ahead.

Responding to the news, a spokesperson for Whipps said it was "another exciting step closer" to completing the hospital.

Work will now start on building a 500-space, six-storey car park to replace parking currently dotted around the site.

The NHS intends to reduce the total number of parking spaces from 1,211 to 887, building both this and another smaller car park once the hospital is complete.

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# WILLIAM MORRIS DESIGN LINE

17–24 SEPTEMBER 2022  
WWW.WMDESIGNLINE.COM

## A COMMUNITY FOCUSED DESIGN ROUTE THROUGH THE STREETS OF WALTHAMSTOW, FROM WOOD STREET TO BLACKHORSE LANE

Inspired by Morris's statement "art made by the people for the people" the Design Line shines a light on the richness of Walthamstow's past and present creative community and encourages visitors to discover, learn and interact with an eclectic mix of design and creative activity. The themes of identity and community power underpin the route and weave together a creative journey and design narrative from Wood Street to Blackhorse Lane via Forest Road.

The majority of the events and activities are free, many of them family friendly, and there's plenty of opportunity for people to explore their own creative outlet, whether it be drawing, designing, making, spraying or fixing.

The William Morris Design Line is a district of the London Design Festival. To find out more visit [www.londondesignfestival.com](http://www.londondesignfestival.com)

## THE LOCATIONS



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# WHAT’S ON

## 1. BLACKHORSE WORKSHOP

17th September, 14:00 – 19:00 | 1-2 Sutherland Road Path, E17 6BX  
Blackhorse Workshop is celebrating 8 years of inspiring and supporting making in the community. Presented by our resident designers and makers join us for a day of activity, music, food and drink as you explore the creative heritage and identity of Blackhorse Lane. [///lace.bench.deeper](#)

## 2. EXALE BREWERY

During brewery opening hours | Unit 2C uplands business park, London E17 5QJ  
To mark Exale Brewery’s ongoing sponsorship of Walthamstow FC their venue will be adorned with Walthamstow FC scarves created by local designer Matt Curtis - <https://matt-curtis.co.uk>. [///name.always.names](#)

## 3. YONDER

17 - 24 September, Yonder opening hours | 4-6a Hookers Road, E17 6DP  
**Return To Love.** An exploration of how love forms our identity. Inspired by a love of people, places and activity, the featured artist, Ellie Bassford, will be bringing together organic and geometric shapes, combined with typography to remind the viewer of what they love and the path returning to it.  
**Design Line Closing Party.** Come to the Yonder Street Party from midday on the 24th September, featuring music and street games, along with food and drink by local makers. [///urban.happen.us](#)

## 4. CREATIVE WORKS

17-24 September | 7 Blackhorse Ln, London E17 6DS  
Creative Works is a business community and learning hub in the heart of E17’s Regeneration Zone. The doors to Creative Works will be open to all with a showcase of some of its members works that take visitors on a journey around design, photography and immersive art connections. This will all be linked to a digital collaboration with KluApp - <https://kluapp.com/>. [///manage.rival.books](#)

## 5. SWITCHBOARD STUDIOS

All week | Unit 50, Uplands Business Park, Uplands Entrance B, Blackhorse Ln, E17 5QJ  
Switchboard Studios is part of the Blackhorse Lane historic trail. Take a peek inside the studio which is one of the key workshop spaces in the area. [///island.loved.closer](#)

## 6. ARMSTRONG AUDIO

17, 19, 20-24 September | 32a Blackhorse Ln, London E17 6HJ  
Armstrong Audio will be displaying artwork all week! It highlights their 40+ years in the neighbourhood and how the community has changed over that time. [///pages.humble.love](#)

## 7. WALTHAMSTOW TOOL LIBRARY

17 September | 2a Priory Ct, London E17 5LS  
Walthamstow Tool Library is turning two years old! Come discover all that goes on down at 2a Priory Court and join in various activities including Lino block printing, making natural remedies, apple pressing and workshops by the Gleaners Cafe. If you have apples, bring them to be pressed! If you’d like to customise an item of clothing or fabric bring them along for a lino print makeover! 2pm – 5pm. [///town.loved.expand](#)

## 8. PRIORY COURT

23-25 September | Vermont House, 2 Eastleigh Road, Priory Court, London, E17 5NY  
Outdoor projection of the Future You film, a collaborative documentary between residents of Priory Court and the Digital Story Company. The 10 minute short will be projected on to the side of the 6 storey tower block Vermont House and run on loop over three nights from 7pm - 10.00pm. [///slowly.zoom.dock](#)

## 9. WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY

20-22 September | Lloyd Park, Forest Rd, London E17 4PP  
A curator-led tour of some of Morris’s most famous designs, exploring how his innovative design shaped 20th century trends and continues to inspire today. Free, no need to book, just turn up. Limited availability each day. Tours start at midday. [///dream.bits.healthier](#)

## 10. SALVATION ARMY

All week | 434 Forest Rd, London E17 4PY  
Check out the Sally Army shop window takeover by Walthamstow & District Photography Society. Featuring an exhibition of local photographers’ work that responds to the theme of Identity and Community Power. <https://wdps.org>.  
**Mini Food Banks Workshop - The Fixatorium.** Join local artist Sean Rodrigo for a special workshop where you can learn about the making of his 3-D printed and plywood Mini foodbanks which have been popping up all over E17 and collected over 4000 items of food for local charities. [///fairly.casual.swan](#)

**OUR POWER IS... (11. WYNWOOD ART DISTRICT | 12. LOCUS OF WALTHAMSTOW | 26. COVE 17 | 27. STUDIO 69)**  
All week

Wynwood Art District will be hosting an exhibition across eight local shops. Each shop will house a mural which displays the venue’s interpretation of community power. This will be done through each venue selecting a chosen word with visitors encouraged to add their contributions on an ‘Our Power Is...’ plaque. [///cloth.extend.rating](#)

## 13. FELLOWSHIP SQUARE

17 and 24 September | Forest Road London E17 4JF  
Two days of free creative activities taking place in Walthamstow’s new state of the art public space, from 12.00 - 4.00pm. Featuring sensory art, craft, upcycling, street art workshops, urban dance, skate culture and circus skills, the events encourage people to stretch their imagination and explore their creativity. [///maker.unique.model](#)

## 14. WILLIAM MORRIS BAR

18th September | 807-811 Forest Road E17 4JD  
Between 3pm & 5pm the William Morris Bar will be hosting “Drink & Draw a Drag Queen”. Followed by a Q&A with Paul Stone (aka Victoria Sponge) who wrote and directed *For Queen & Country*. All of this topped off with cabaret at 8pm! [///direct.penny.train](#)

## 15. GEORGIAN VILLAGE

17 and 24 September | 100 Wood Street, Walthamstow, E17 3HX  
Georgian Village will be hosting two afternoon tea: “Sip and Draw” days in the Back In Time Room. You can book anytime from 11:00-18:00. [www.georgianvillage.co.uk](http://www.georgianvillage.co.uk). [///poetic.books.added](#)

## 16. WOOD STREET STUDIO: THE LACY NOOK

17, 18, 22-24 September | 1 Barrett Rd, London E17 3FU  
The Lacy Nook is situated in Wood Street Studios and is a restaurant and creative space which will be exhibiting local design throughout the week! Additionally they will be hosting some arts and crafts and providing refreshments. [///sofa.brick.forms](#)

## 17. BARRETT ROAD COMMUNITY GARDEN

20 - 23 September | 1 Barrett Rd, London E17 3FU  
Wood Street Walls is hosting community workshops for all ages in Barrett Road Community Garden. 6 workshops are on offer including; collage making, cyanotype printing, painting and mark making. Book on Eventbrite. [///sofa.brick.forms](#)

## 18. WOOD STREET STUDIOS

All week | 1 Barrett Rd, London E17 3FU  
Join one of six guided street art tours taking place throughout the week. Each unique tour features a minimum of 10 works of art from Wood Street Walls with tour guides explaining the story behind each one. Also available is a free online version using the app Smartify. Book on Eventbrite. [///sofa.brick.forms](#)

## 19. ARTE E PASTA

17, 18, 20-23 September | 93 Shernhall St, London E17 9HS  
Annie Bowers, Ella Brett, Tony Clarkson, Sian Laūra and Anna Robinette form part of the Scattered Collective, a group of creatives linked by their multidisciplinary approach and community-based projects. They have come together to make a real-world debut collaboration as part of the London Design Festival, creating site-specific works reflecting each of their practices. [///many.light.pound](#)

## 20. THE DUKE E17

18 September | 112 Wood Street, Walthamstow E17 3HX  
The Duke E17 will be hosting a Kids Arts and Crafts Event in the day time on Sunday 18th September. [///song.tulip.deck](#)

## 21. ISOKON PLUS

24 September | Unit 2B (Rear Section), Uplands B Business Park, Blackhorse Ln, E17 5QJ  
The Isokon Workshop opens its doors for one day only. Come and explore and experience the artist at work in the Walthamstow workshop. See how their iconic furniture is produced and hand crafted, featuring design classics by Marcel Breuer and Egon Riss alongside modern pieces by Barber & Osgerby and Jasper Morrison. Workshop tours booked through Eventbrite. [///along.splash.worth](#)

## 22. THE W STORE

All week | 47 Orford Rd, (the old Frankison corner store), E17 9NJ  
The W Store in Walthamstow Village will be hosting local E17 designer makers Granite + Smoke’s new collection of wall hangings, blankets and cushions in their windows for the duration of the Design Festival. [///games.audio.input](#)

## 23. THE BLACK HORSE

1 Wickford way E17 6ZH  
The newly opened bar “The Black Horse” will be exhibiting Wood Street Walls murals and prints. Street artist Irony has installed a stunning mural of a horse which you can see during the opening hours of the bar. [///belong.woods.accent](#)

## 24. THE WILLOW TREE

4 Wickford Way E17 6ZH  
The Willow Tree will be collaborating with Artsnug to exhibit some fantastic artwork. Come along for a coffee and a sneak peek at their exhibition. [///wounds.merit.toys](#)

## 25. BIG CREATIVE ACADEMY

24 September | 38 Clifton Ave, London E17 6HL  
Open Day at BCE! Take a behind the scenes look at London’s largest Creative College. With guided tours of the 2021 built campus alongside exhibitions of students’ work. It’s a must visit for curious locals and prospective students alike! [///pool.games.defend](#)

## 28. THE GENERAL STORE E17

All week | 51 Wood Street, E17 3JX  
A collection of prints and original artworks from inspired artwork from the streets of Walthamstow, culminating with a new mural unveiled on Brothers Fish Bar by World Illustration Series winner HATCH. [///called.forms.tonic](#)

## BLACKHORSE LANE HISTORIC TRAIL

Creative Works, Yonder, Blackhorse Workshop and Switchboard are teaming up to celebrate the theme of identity. A trail and a historic story will help you discover the hidden gems of the Blackhorse Lane district past and present. Start the trail at Creative Works, 7 Blackhorse Lane.



## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

Althea in the 1970s  
Credit Bill Patterson



## Last chance to see landmark retrospective

*William Morris Gallery's principal curator Rowan Bain on Althea McNish: Colour is Mine*

**"E**verything I did, I tropicalised," said Althea McNish, the subject of a free exhibition at Walthamstow's William Morris Gallery.

*Colour is Mine*, which closes on 11th September, is a landmark retrospective of the first textile designer of Caribbean heritage to gain international recognition and one of Britain's most influential and innovative designers. Her painterly designs took natural botanical forms to the edge of abstraction, using a riotous colour palette that overturned the staid rules of British post-war interior design.

Born in Port of Spain in Trinidad, McNish showed artistic promise from a young age and was active in the local scene. In 1950, at the age of 26, she emigrated with her parents to the UK, settling first in Stoke Newington and later in Tottenham. She studied commercial graphics at The London School of Printing and Graphic Arts and, in 1954, won a scholarship to the Royal College of Art, where she studied textile design.

McNish's big break came just two days after graduating, when she attended a meeting with Arthur Stewart Liberty, chairman of the Liberty department store in Regent Street. Liberty recognised

post-war Britain's readiness for more vibrant, colourful fabrics and McNish proved the perfect person to deliver, creating more than 40 patterns for the store. In celebration of this achievement, Liberty Fabrics have collaborated with the William Morris Gallery and this spring relaunched a capsule collection of McNish's original fabrics.

McNish's hugely successful career spanned more than forty years and saw her work for Dior and Balenciaga, as well as Heals, John Lewis and Hull Traders. Her technical mastery of the production process gave her the freedom to create ever more technically complex prints. "Whenever print-



Golden Harvest design Credit The McNish Family Trust

ers told me it couldn't be done, I would show them how to do it," she said, "Before long, the impossible became possible." A period teaching in higher education followed, including at Walthamstow School of Art (now part of Waltham Forest College).

In the late 1960s, McNish became a member of the Caribbean Arts Movement (CAM) in London, alongside other notable artists like the writer John La Rose, sculptor Ronald Moody and painter Aubrey Williams. CAM members forged what they considered a new and unprecedented Caribbean aesthetic across the arts. They wanted members to become acquainted with each other's work and promote Caribbean art to a wider audience through literature, a journal and exhibitions.

Given McNish's significance in the history of British design, it is perhaps surprising that this exhibition is the first ever retrospective of her career, following her death in 2020 at the age of 95. Highlights include items from McNish's recently uncovered personal archive – much of which has never been seen before – alongside her most celebrated textiles and wallpapers.

**Visit Althea McNish: Colour is Mine at William Morris Gallery from 10am–5pm, Tuesday to Sunday**

## South Asian music festival returns after huge debut

by Victoria Munro

**A**n electronic music festival that exclusively features South Asian artists is returning to Walthamstow after a hugely successful debut last year.

Dialled In festival is taking place at Uplands Business Park on 10th September, with a lineup of more than 30 DJs and performers across five stages.

The event last year was attended by more than 1,000 people and will be even bigger this year, with the festival taking over even more of the industrial space in Blackhorse Lane.

Co-founder Provhat Rahman said he and other promoters platforming South Asian music were approached to create the event by Waltham Forest Council, who provided links to local spaces and some of the funding.

He told the *Echo*: "A year before the festival, I do not think any of us would have thought it was a possibility but, around the start of 2021, the way South Asian artists were creating collectively really took off and that caught the attention of the council. They came in at the perfect time.

"It's just a case of people catching on, the talent has been there but, for whatever reason, it's never been given the platform it deserves.

"We don't want [Dialled In] to seem like it's trying to homogenise the South Asian community - even using that phrase is a tricky one because it's so vast and diverse and there's so much nuance.

"Ultimately, what we are trying to do is let people celebrate who they are individually in a collective way. It's not the identity that's collective but the celebration."

DJs he is especially excited about this year include Cousins, Bobby Friction, Panjabi Hit Squad and Nino Brown, who is travelling all the way from Toronto to perform.

Among the live acts, "one of the more special bookings" is Lokkhi Terra, a band who reimagine Bangladeshi folk tunes in Afro-beat and Cuban rumba styles.

Provhat added: "Last year was really great. A lot of people, including ourselves, were experiencing that kind of space for the first time.

"We didn't realise on the day because we were all so busy making sure things were working but the day after, looking through Twitter and Instagram, we could see it clearly resonated with a lot of people on a scale we hadn't expected."

Dialled In will take place on 10th September from 12pm to 10pm. Find out more and buy tickets here: [bit.ly/ 3dkMNBc](https://bit.ly/3dkMNBc)



The first festival last year Credit Kunal Lodhia



# COVID RECOVERY

In May, we reported that tens of thousands of pounds had poured into the borough to help it bounce back from the Covid pandemic. The money was provided by the Greater London Authority's (GLA) London Recovery Board, co-chaired by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan. We spoke to the organisations that received this support to find out how they put it to good use. This coverage was supported by Civic Futures and will continue in our October edition with local views on what's needed next.

## Making Chingford child-friendly

**B**y far the biggest chunk of money was used to find out how to make Chingford Mount a better place for children.

Waltham Forest Council already had plans to revamp the area to realise its “full potential... as a lively and attractive town centre”, including the suggested pedestrianisation of Albert Crescent.

Meanwhile, the GLA wanted to see London become a more child-friendly city and approached the council to see if Chingford Mount could be a pilot for a new way of designing public space.

The £50,000 in funding was used to work with the three schools closest to the town centre – Lime Academy Larkswood, Chingford Foundation School and South Chingford Foundation School – to create designs for the area.

An officer from the council's regeneration team told the *Echo*: “We've never included young people in designing like this before and the idea was that this could be an example for other town centres.

“We picked Chingford Mount because

it's a location where we expect a lot of development in the next ten to 15 years and because there have been anti-social behaviour issues there. We also found out a surprising number of the young people prefer to go Stratford Westfield rather than their own local high street.

“The council is focusing on making Albert Crescent a hub for street markets and events and we have promised their plans will be used as part of that.

“The key things for them were Wi-Fi, a place to sit, phone charging points and features they can play with. They came up with an interesting design that's like a porch swing.”

The council collected children's stories about visiting Chingford Mount, which will be turned into tiles in the pavement so that they “can see themselves in Chingford Mount and feel like it belongs to them as well.”

However, before these plans can be realised, the council will need to secure an estimated £250,000 in funding and would consult the entire community on their final designs.



A proposed new look for Albert Crescent Credit: WF Council

## ‘Improving the vibe’ in Highams Park

**A**nother £20,000 was given to a Highams Park community group to help further establish its town centre.

Highams Park lies between Walthamstow and Chingford and shares characteristics of both areas. In 2017, a group of volunteers founded the Highams Park Community Interest Company to take a more active part in shaping the future of their neighbourhood.

Chair Gordon Turpin said the funding from the GLA had been used in a variety of ways, including improving the area's dedicated website and progressing plans for the local station.

He told the *Echo*: “The Highams Park portal is now quite a fancy little website and we're very proud of it. If somebody posts on Facebook, it's gone in five minutes so it's better to have a more static site and it's also much more accessible for older people.

“Every business gets a free listing and there are new businesses arriving all the time – there's hardly any empty shops

at the moment – so we have to keep it continuously updated.

“It's all about awareness and improving the vibe in Highams Park. We're trying to stop people shopping online by showing them there's stuff on their doorstep.”

The funding was also used to rent disused rooms in Highams Park Station, which will be turned into “affordable meeting rooms” for the community.

Gordon added: “It's nice to finally have a presence in the town centre because there's really no civic buildings here apart from the library. We will hopefully be finished with refurbishment [this month].

“We're also looking at improving the station car park. There's a strip of derelict land where we could put some bespoke prefabricated retail units, keeping one for community pop-ups and renting the others to regular businesses.

“The money allowed us to hire an architect and we're now talking to Transport for London and the council's regeneration team.”

## Breaking bread with troubled teens



Young people making the podcast series Credit: MVP Media

**A** grant of £9,000 was used to fund the “personal and social development” of some of the borough's most at-risk young people.

MVP Media, based in Walthamstow's CRATE, is a “youth-driven” organisation that helps teenagers from disadvantaged backgrounds see a brighter future for themselves.

Founder Joanna Vasanth used the money to create the “Break Bread and Build” podcast series, where teenagers talked about social issues over a free meal and got a response from experts.

Tamiya Ferguson, a 16-year-old from Chingford, said she “would not be the person [she is] today” without the project.

She told the *Echo*: “When I joined, I was in a really bad place in school and at home. I was getting in trouble a lot and I'd already been through a lot of schools.

“I was a certain way because I was bored. I wasn't going to go home and entertain myself with algebra but talking about deeper topics, where I could then go away and ask myself questions, gave me something to do.

“You can fill youth clubs with amazing

facilities but, once the kids leave, they've not got those facilities at home. Young people have to catch up after missing years of in-person communication and all you really need for that is a room and some tables.

“Previously, I didn't have anywhere I could ask questions that I might be scared to ask at school or ask my parents. The internet can give you very extreme answers and I didn't have siblings I could get advice from. In a way, this group allowed me to have siblings and even another family.

“A lot of people came from broken homes so it meant a lot to just be allowed to talk and have a meal together. We also got so many amazing guest speakers who have offered me great opportunities.”

Following their success last year, MVP Media won another grant of £1,500 from the GLA in January to continue their work.

Tamiya added: “I can finally see a bright future for my life when before I was spiralling out of control. A lot of the people I used to associate with didn't finish school and are struggling but my life now is peaceful, I'm going to college and I'm succeeding at work.”

## A job centre for creative work

**M**oney from the GLA was also used to create a job centre specifically for creative industries at an arts college in Walthamstow.

Big Creative Academy in Clifton Avenue is a free sixth form college that boasts singer Emeli Sandé as a patron and opened a new £21million building last year.

The new job centre – open to the general public both young and old – is part of a “creative careers cluster” linking the academy and 11 other local schools.

The academy's careers director Victoria Spence told the *Echo*: “The centre has been open since last January and we really want it to become a community asset.

“Right now it's an advice and guidance centre more than anything else but we're hoping to involve local businesses and hopefully make some magic happen matching people up.

“We also have an Instagram that collates

all the arts opportunities each week, which makes it a lot easier for young people.”

In addition to funding a part-time staff member to run the centre, the money was used to develop a programme with Leyton Sixth Form to ensure arts departments across the cluster were teaching in a way that would best help students find jobs once they left education.

Victoria added: “The creative arts are becoming much more digital and also much more intersected. For example, a lot of dance students are going into motion capture work.

“There might be dance students assuming they will graduate and be a dancer when there's all sorts of other things they could do. We want to make sure we're teaching the right things so they can get the jobs of the future.”

Find out more on their website here [cafeworks.co.uk](http://cafeworks.co.uk) or Instagram @ [cafeworks.bce](https://www.instagram.com/cafeworks.bce)



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## FEATURES

## Local drivers dodge fines with little-known law

by Josh Mellor, Local Democracy Reporter

**D**rivers caught out by the borough's most profitable traffic camera are escaping fines thanks to a total stranger wielding a little-known London law.

Ivan Murray-Smith, a 35-year-old from Norfolk, volunteers to help drivers to appeal fines because he feels local councils issue them in a way that is "not proportionate or in the public interest".

So far this year, he has helped three drivers escape £130 fines for straying into the end of the 24-hour bus lane in Whipps Cross Road, near the Green Man interchange in Leytonstone.

The camera trained on this bus lane earned Waltham Forest Council almost £3million from 2019 to 2021, thanks to more than 55,000 fines.



Ivan Murray-Smith

However, according to the London Local Authorities Act 1996, the camera must be "ministerially approved" by the Home Office for the fines to be valid – something council officers have so far failed to demonstrate in court.

Ivan said: "In the late 90s and early 2000s there were two companies which got three [models of] cameras approved but, for whatever reason, no one bothered doing that any more.

"For the past 20-odd years, [councils have] been enforcing these penalties and the only reason they got away with it is that no one questioned it."

He believes the "overwhelming likelihood" is that none of the cameras in use in London today are authorised by the Home Office.

Explaining why he volunteers to help strangers, he added: "Councils are supposed to disregard money [when enforcing traffic laws] but, when you look at the appeals and money raised, there's certainly some doubts about that – particularly Waltham Forest.

"I'm someone who believes in the rule of law and yes, people shouldn't drive in bus lanes, but if local authorities want to enforce those lanes they should follow the rules properly.

"There's a legitimate purpose in enforcing regulations but I think there's a definite distinction between the way the police... tend to do it in the pursuit of justice [and how councils do it].

"The police would be unlikely to take any action against someone clipping the end of the bus lane because it would not be proportionate or in the public interest."

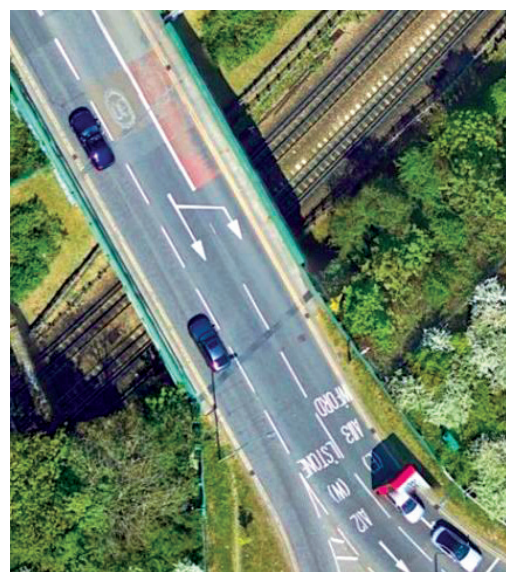
When asked to comment, deputy leader Cllr

Clyde Loakes insisted all the borough's enforcement cameras, including the bus lane camera outside Whipps Cross, "are compliant with the current legislation and certified for use".

He added: "Where we believe Traffic Adjudicators have ruled incorrectly we have the right to appeal those rulings. We regularly review how we enforce traffic regulations to ensure that we are compliant with the law.

"The camera is clearly signposted and drivers should be aware that infringing a bus lane is prohibited in London. Income generated from fines can only be used to improve our highways.

"The simplest way to avoid traffic fines remains to avoid breaking the regulations that exist to keep all road users safe."



The bus lane in Whipps Cross Road Credit Google Earth

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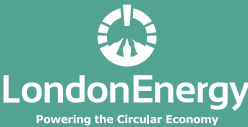
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## SPORT

Credit: Touch Tight Media



## Your local lionesses

### *London Seaward FC on the start of their new season*

If the Lionesses' victory in the Euros got you excited about women's football, you'll be pleased to hear Walthamstow has its own player-owned Women's National League team: London Seaward FC.

Last year, we finished in the top half of the league, beating the likes of Norwich City and Cambridge United, and now we're gunning for promotion, which should make for some exciting matches at Wadham Lodge, the home we share with local favourites Walthamstow FC.

With our gruellingly warm pre-season done and dusted, which included a training camp at Warwick University, the team is looking strong. A huge amount of talent has been brought into the club, including striker Samantha Lanza, who played in the Venezuelan national team before heading to university in the states.

However, being a high-level independent women's football team, without the recognisable name of a well-known men's club to fall back on, is certainly not without its challenges. We frequently find ourselves struggling to access pitches and have faced challenges around our kit.

If Walthamstow had as many 3G pitches as it does night-time police helicopters, we'd never struggle for training options but, as things stand now, affordable bookings are like gold dust in London. Fees can sometimes be as much as £180 per hour

and, with around 50 players over two teams, that adds up to £720 a week just for the right to train. That is, of course, if you can even get a pitch at all.

It can also be hugely difficult to find kits in our colours, designed to fit our bodies, without paying through the nose for custom-made gear because suppliers still don't have a wide range for women. Last year, we were lucky enough to have Pro:Direct Soccer donate a brilliant Adidas kit and playing in it was a joy. As one of our players said, for the first time it felt like HER shirt, not one borrowed from her brother.

Despite the barriers we face, our season started off strong on 21st August with a 2-1 win against newly promoted Wymondham but the real test is our first home game of the season on 1st September against last year's title challenger Hashtag United. We've launched a new mascot programme this season, inviting local girls down to our home games to meet the players and get excited about a possible future in women's football.

So if you're excited about the prospect of watching more women's football, come watch us play! Our season tickets are only £35 (£20 concession), and you can also pay on the gate. If you can't come but still want to support women's football in Walthamstow, you can also sign up to our Patreon.

Find out more on our website [londonseawardfc.com](http://londonseawardfc.com)

## Out but not down

### *David O'Driscoll on Stow FC's rude awakening from their FA Cup dreams*

The FA Cup haunts the dreams of most football fans, league and non-league supporters alike. Indeed one of the truly great novels about football, JL Carr's *How Steeple Sinderby Wanderers Won the F.A. Cup*, is an account of a fictional village team somehow making it to – and winning – the final at Wembley.

Sadly, Stow supporters will not be taking the Metropolitan line to Wembley next May. The team was knocked out in the first qualifying round, losing 2-1 to their local rivals Buckhurst Hill. It was a hard-fought game, with Stow on top for the majority of the match and with a wonderful goal from star performer Connor Scully.

However, though our shot at the cup is on hold for another year, the management team was far from downcast, focusing instead on the new Southern League season ahead. Co-manager Terry Spillane told me: "We are under no illusions as to how tough it will be, it's a level up obviously from the Essex Senior League, but I believe we are ready."

"We've kept a large amount of the squad from last season, which we felt was important, but just as importantly we've also added some youth and new experienced players."

"We're really looking forward to seeing and hearing the Stow fans in full voice. As usual, they will play an important role for the team

Walthamstow FC at their away win against Welwyn Garden City  
Credit: Andrzej Perkins



this season, and I know the players new and old can't wait to play in front of them."

The new campaign got off to a flying start with a fine opening away win against Welwyn Garden City, who finished fifth in the league the previous year. The games will be coming thick and fast for Stow now that the season has started; unlike in the professional leagues, there will be no break for the boys when the World Cup starts in November in Qatar. If that festival of football is not living up to expectations and local football fans are missing the match day experience, I am sure you will be welcome down at the Wadham Lodge.

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## You've got your GCSE results, but what next?



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