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PARTNERS

gazette

Residents' Newsletter
Feb 2025
Issue 74

Partners Cinema Club is back!



Partners' residents and their family and friends are invited to our free cinema club:

WHEN:

Wednesday 19 March 2025.
Film starts at 1400. Take your seats from 1330.

WHERE:

Screen on the Green, 83 Upper Street, London, N1 0NP
The venue has two steps at the entrance and two steps between the foyer and entrance to the cinema. There is no wheelchair access.

WHAT:

Screening of Top Gun: Maverick, PG-13 rating, plus light refreshments

HOW:

Places are limited so register soon by contacting events@partnersislington.net or by calling Katrina Dalby on 0800 587 3595 or 020 7288 7733.

When registering, please tell us your name, your address and how many places you'd like.

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Dos and Don'ts – Ceiling Leaks

A leak can significantly increase the risk of a ceiling collapse, and it is important that you act quickly to reduce the likelihood of damage to you and your possessions.

If you suspect a leak from above, do not use the room below it until a repairs operative has repaired the leak and made the ceiling safe.

Look out for sagging ceilings, cracks or dripping water and if you spot any of these, contact our Repairs Team immediately on **0800 587 3595**. We will then arrange for one of our Repairs Team to visit within 24 hours.

If you have a leak, and there are flats below your property, please let your neighbours know to

take care and consider moving their possessions away from the leak until the repair is complete.

Please remember, contents insurance is your responsibility, and Partners will not cover the cost of replacing items damaged by a leak. Islington Council offers a low-cost insurance scheme run by Aviva which is available to Partners tenants and right-to-buy leaseholders.

Full details are available on their website **www.islington.gov.uk** or call the Tenants and Leaseholders Home Contents Insurance Scheme team to request an application form, on **020 7527 2000**.

How to use candles safely

Candles are one of the common causes of fires in the home. Read the London Fire brigade's guidance on how to use them safely...

Over 200 fires at home involved candles last year...

Though they create a warm glow, candles need handling with care.

Did you know that flameless LED candles are a much safer alternative to real candles or tea lights?

Benefits of flameless candles

Sometimes called LED, battery-operated, or electric candles - flameless candles have several advantages:

- You can leave them unattended
- You don't have to worry about pets or children knocking them over
- If you doze off while a flameless candle is on, it's not a problem
- You can use them outdoors
- You can buy flickering, rechargeable, coloured and waterproof versions

Don't want to switch?

If you want to continue to use wax candles, here's how you can use them safely...

How to use candles and incense safely

Never leave candles, incense sticks and oil burners unattended - this includes 'Diya lamps' often used for worship and religious festivals.

Make sure you put them out when you leave the room and especially before bed.

Keep them in heat-resistant holders placed on a stable surface.

Don't put them close to anything that can catch fire, such as curtains, papers, furniture, and clothes.

To avoid accidents keep candles and all naked flames (including matches and lighters) out of the reach of children and pets.



Tea lights get very hot and without proper holders can melt through plastic surfaces like a TV or bath.

Take extra care when you're celebrating

Diwali, Bonfire Night, Halloween and Christmas can see us light candles, dress up, and display lots of decorations - increasing the risk of fire. Make sure all your decorations are kept away from naked flames

If you're celebrating with fancy dress, always check that costumes are fire retardant in accordance to European standard EN71-2. Unfortunately, many children's costumes are classed as toys. This means they don't have to be made to the same safety standards as regular clothes and are a greater fire risk.

What to do if clothes catch fire?

If there's an accident with a candle and your clothes catch fire, don't run around. Try to remember 'stop, drop, roll' - which means:

Stop Don't run around, you'll make the flames worse.

Drop Lie down on the ground at once.

Roll It makes it harder for the flames to spread.

Breathe – It's about living

Breathe – It's about living, is a stop smoking service for smokers (12 years or older) who live, work, study or are registered with a GP in the borough. Breathe offers personalised, free and confidential advice tailored to the individual (up to 12 weeks), alongside stop smoking aids (nicotine replacement therapies or vapes). A mix of telephone/ video call and in-person appointments are offered depending on people's preferences and circumstances.

NHS
Central and
North West London
NHS Foundation Trust



IT'S
ABOUT
LIVING.

Your **free** and **confidential** stop smoking service

We're here to help you. We understand that different types of support work for different people. **Your support, your way.**



Web

Visit our website for information and advice



Talk

Call or email a stop smoking advisor



Meet

Arrange to meet an advisor by phone or web



Call 020 3633 2609

www.breathestopsmoking.org // info@breathestopsmoking.org

Stop Smoking Service



Camden



ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

You said, we did



You said	We did
Why can't I find the forms you need me to fill in on your website?	'Permission to keep a dog', 'Application to add a family member to your tenancy', 'Permission to add a joint tenant' and 'Taking in a lodger' forms are now available on our website: www.partnersislington.net . If there's more you want to see on the website, please tell us.

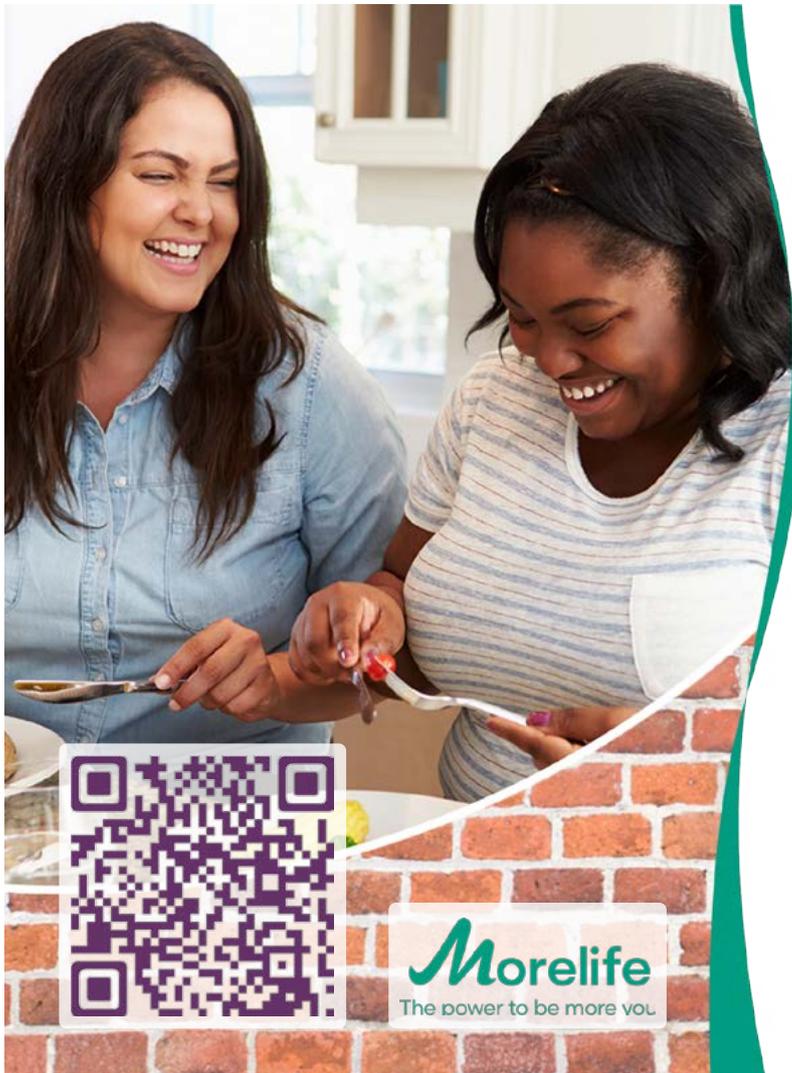
Morelife Weight Management Service

Morelife, provides a free 12-week programme to help patients understand their relationship with food and manage their weight.

Programmes are available online or at local community centres across Islington. With

different times and locations, you can find a programme that suits you.

To sign up, simply complete a short online form: <https://www.more-life.co.uk/camden-and-islington/> or call **0333 2221333**



Join our **FREE*** 12-week weight management programmes.

At Morelife we're passionate about supporting individuals to lead a healthier life. Everyone is treated as an individual with their own journey, their own goals and their own success.

Sign Up Today!

Our programmes are available online and at local community centres across Camden and Islington.

Scan the QR code or check out our website at: more-life.co.uk/camden-islington

You can also call us on: 0333 222 1333

*eligibility criteria apply



Preparation is Key: Painting and Decorating a Room on a Budget

Huge thanks to Jessica, a local resident painter, decorator & restorer, who wanted to share the benefit of her experience. If you have any questions about decorating a room, please email Jessica via Katrina.dalby@partnersisington.net

Transforming a room can be incredibly rewarding, but preparation is everything! Follow these simple steps to ensure your project is affordable, effective, and safe.

Step 1: Plan the Job and the Team

- **Who's doing the job?**

Think about who will be painting. Are they fit and confident to climb a ladder and handle tools safely? If possible, involve two people – one to paint and the other to assist by handing tools or keeping an eye on things.

Step 2: Assess and Prepare the Room

- **Does the room really need painting?**

Sometimes a deep clean is all that's needed! Use sugar soap or a degreaser to clean the walls. This can remove grime and bring surfaces back to life without a lick of paint.

- **Where to find sugar soap & a degreaser:**

available at most pound stretchers or decorators' centres.

- **What you need:**

A bucket (or washing-up bowl), sponge, and rubber gloves to protect your skin.

- **Health and safety:**

Always wear rubber gloves when handling cleaning solutions and read the instructions on the label never mix products.

Step 3: Choose the Right Paint and Colour

- **Lighting matters:**

Consider where the light comes in.

- For dark rooms, use lighter colours to brighten the space.
- For bright rooms, light colours can give a fresh look, or you could experiment with darker feature walls.
- Pick a colour you love, a colour that makes you feel warm, alive, calm or happy:
- Visit decorators' shops to collect free colour cards and explore options.
- Think about your furniture. For example, if you have a burgundy sofa, a yellow feature wall may clash, while a soft pink or cream could complement it beautifully.

- **On a budget?**

- Look for water-based matt emulsion as it's less expensive and easy to apply to the walls.
- Take measurements of the room (in feet) and bring a photo of the space to your local decorating centre. Staff can help you calculate how much paint you'll need.
- FREE paint options: Consider recycled paint from local paint giveaway centres. It's eco-friendly and cost-effective. Check out the links and phone numbers below for more information.



Step 4: Prepare the Walls for Painting

- Clean the walls:
- If there is visible dirt, hand marks or general wear and tear, use sugar soap or your degreaser to remove, let the walls dry.
- Sanding the walls:
- Lightly sand all walls to smooth the surface and help the paint adhere. Use 120-grit sandpaper to avoid scratches, one or two sheets goes a long way!
- Wear a dust mask, cover furniture with sheets and keep windows open for ventilation.

By following these steps, you'll set yourself up for success and save money along the way.

Preparation is key to achieving a professional finish, even on a budget!

Keep an eye out for part two of this article in the next edition of Partners Gazette, where we'll discuss the best painting techniques and tools to use.

Helpful Links and Resources:

- Free local paint recycling centres:
<https://communityrepaint.org.uk/need-paint/find-your-nearest-scheme/>
Opening times Monday-Sunday: 9am-4pm – no need to call, just turn up and see what's available.
- For advice, visit your local B&Q or decorators' shop like Brewers in Islington.
- Affordable sugar soap and decorating supplies try local Poundstretcher's and Bargain Buy's stores.



Partners Open Forum



We continue to meet via Zoom with some in person meetings, in agreement with the attendees. Always check our website www.partnersislington.net for up-to-date information about the meetings and details of which Partners teams will be represented. A member of Islington Council's Clienting Team, who monitor Partners' performance also usually attends.

Thanks to everyone who attended our January meeting where we discussed decorating on a budget, dog fouling and parking.

Here are the dates and teams attending our 2025 meetings. If you have questions about the Open Forum, please contact Katrina.Dalby@partnersislington.net or call **020 7288 7733**.

20 March 2025 - Partners Repairs and Home Ownership Teams

15 May 2025 - Partners Head of Asset Management - Insurance/Health and Safety/ Fire Safety/Subsidence

17 July 2025 - Partners Works Team - Kitchen replacement program

18 September 2025 - Partners Gas Team

20 November 2025 - Partners Housing Team



London Capital Credit Union
the savings & loans co-operative

New Year New Start

Joining the Credit Union is an important step to a better financial future. Membership is free, makes it easier to save, and provides access to low-cost loans if needed. If you are looking to start an ethical savings account for 2025 or looking to clear your existing debts then do get in touch.

The credit union is a not-for-profit savings and loans co-operative that encourages people to save as an alternative to borrowing, but also provides low-cost loans at times of need. It's free to join & have savings deducted direct from your pay.

Join Now

Find out more



Download the App
 

www.credit-union.coop | 020 7561 1786 | info@credit-union.coop

Keeping You Safe

The internal communal areas (stairs and landings etc) of your building should be kept clear of personal belongings.

This is to ensure that there are no obstacles which would prevent a quick exit if there was an emergency and to reduce the risk of a fire starting and spreading in the communal areas.

Partners' Communal Area Risk Assessment Officer, John Canham regularly checks the internal communal areas to ensure that they are clear and safe. If he finds items stored in them, we write to all residents in the building asking them to remove the items, otherwise we will dispose of them. Following this, our Housing Officers check whether the items have been removed and if not, will add stickers to them informing residents that they will be removed. We then arrange for the area to be cleared and any stickered items which remain will be disposed of. We do not store items we remove, so if you don't want your possessions disposed of, please do not leave them in the communal areas.

If you have a bike you'd like to store, check out the Council's bike hanger scheme: www.islington.gov.uk/roads/cycling/cycleparking.

If you are concerned about items being stored in your communal area or have any questions about the policy, please contact us on **0800 587 3595** or enquiries@partnersislington.net



Islington Council - Report a street cleaning problem



Islington Council are responsible for street cleaning. You can help keep streets clean by reporting dog fouling, fly tipping, fly posting, graffiti, street littering and full litter bins.

You can report issues online using the Love Clean Streets website or app, which the Council have recently updated so you can use it to report lots more.

- **Download the Love Clean Streets app to your phone.** From Google Play or the Apple store.
- **Log into your My Islington account.** If you don't have an account and want to track

your reports and access more services like council tax, register now.

- **Report anonymously through the Love Clean Streets website.** You won't be able to track your report if you choose this option.
- Alternatively, you can call the Council on **020 7527 2000.**

If you see a problem in your street, you can simply take a picture, provide some basic details, and the Council will sort it for you. You'll even be able to track their progress and will be notified as soon as they have resolved the issue.

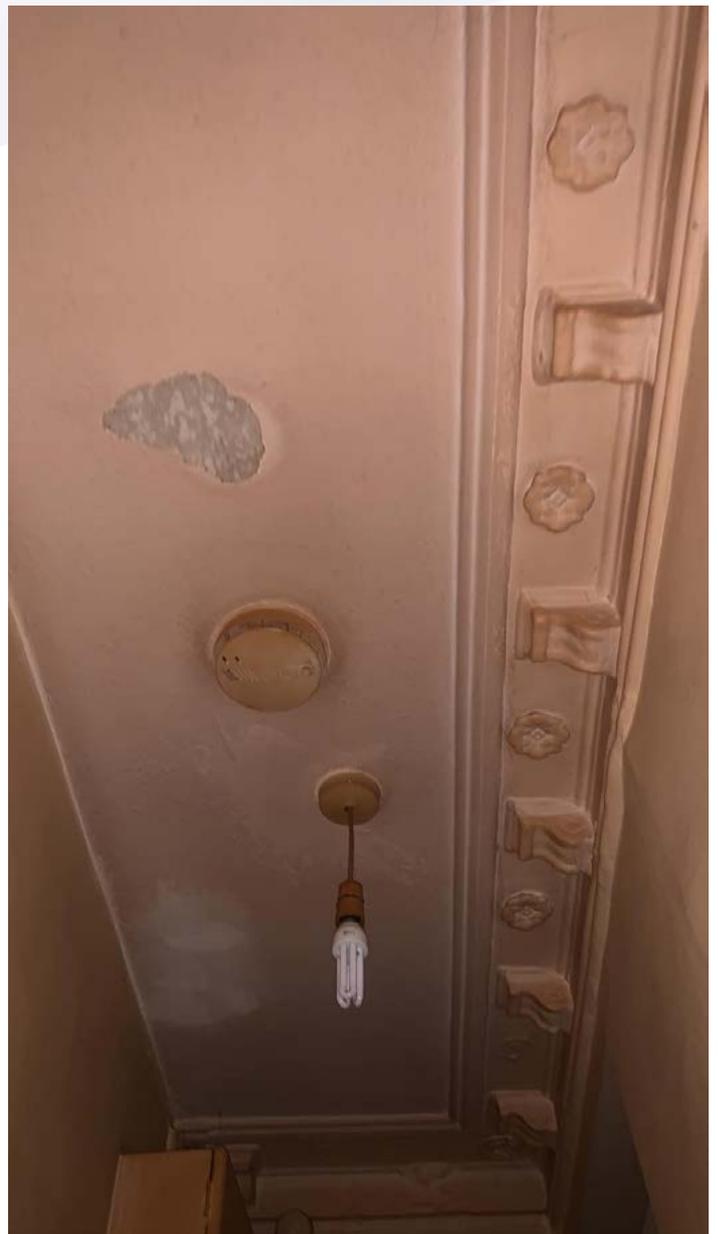


Smoking in your home

Smoking indoors can result in significant staining to your home. Your tenancy conditions state that you must keep your home in good decorative order so you may want to keep on top of any smoke staining by using this cleaning solution:

Make a cleaning solution with one gallon of hot water, three tablespoons of dish soap, and a half cup of baking soda. Wearing gloves, use a cloth to scrub the walls with this solution. Work in small sections and dry each area of the wall with a dry cloth right afterward to prevent the drywall from becoming saturated.

Regularly tackling smoke staining will help stop your home having stains like this:



Kitchen Leaflet – Volunteer Needed

We are designing a resident kitchen replacement information and we're looking for a resident who has already had their kitchen replaced to feature 'their story' in the leaflet.

This will involve some photos of you and before and after photos of your kitchen and a few sentences and tips about your experience of the process.

You won't need to write anything, that will all be done by us. You'll just need to spend about an hour with us talking about your experience. We can do this over the phone or in person, whichever is best for you.

If you're interested in finding out more or would like to volunteer, please contact Katrina Dalby on **020 7288 7733** or **Katrina.dalby@partnersislington.net**.



Tech Help

If you'd like help with understanding the internet, getting online or using phones, tablets or laptops please contact Katrina Dalby on **020 7288 7733** who will put you in touch with support services in the borough.

When we call you, we will always give you our name and say we're calling from Partners.

If you are concerned that a caller who says they're from Partners isn't from Partners, please end the call and call us back on **0800 587 3595** or **020 7288 8310** so we can investigate.



Please treat Partners staff with respect. When you call, we must ask you for information to make sure that we understand your query and can transfer you to the right team. **Please be patient, we want to help. Staff will end a call if a resident continues to be rude or offensive.**

How to contact us

You can contact any of our teams by email at enquiries@partnersislington.net or by phone on 0800 587 3595 or 020 7288 8310

You can also reach us through our website at www.partnersislington.net/contact-us

If you want to contact us by post, our postal address is 4-6 Colebrooke Place, N1 8HZ and our Freepost address is Partners for improvement in Islington, FREEPOST NATE 1235, London N1 8BR.

Where to find us

Our Main reception is at 4-6 Colebrooke Place, N1 8HZ and is open between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday (closed Bank Holidays)



PARTNERS



Tell us what you think! We want to know...

Partners wants to receive your comments, complaints and compliments. You can tell us what you think about our services or your experience of our services in a number of ways:

- Correspondence • Letter
- Over the telephone
- E-mail • In person • Website