

An NÚacht “The News”

“Go n-éiri an bóthar leat... (May the road rise up to meet you)”

Art comes to Clochar Court



We recently ran six, two-hour art classes at Clochar Court with celebrated London-Irish artist Bernard Canavan.

Bernard is an established artist dealing with Irish and emigrant life and exhibited across London and Ireland. The sessions, organised by housing officer Becky Cartmell, were a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

A stitch in time...

We want to make sure your homes are well maintained. To help us it is important that you let us know straight away if you need a repair done rather than leaving it to get worse before reporting it. For example, a small leak might become much worse and cause much more damage if left unreported.

So, do please call us on **0207 6251818** with your repair requests.

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News

Brent Dementia

Innisfree have joined two other Irish organisations, Irish in Britain and Ashford Place, to be part of a group helping to make the Borough of Brent become a dementia friendly place to live. Innisfree are supporting the Irish in Britain Cuimhne campaign (Cuimhne is the Irish word for memory) to help people who are experiencing memory loss to be able to live a fulfilling life.

If you are interested in becoming a dementia friend or champion, or you would like more information, why not visit at www.dementiafriends.org.uk

Association we hope to support helping local neighbourhoods become more aware of people living in the community who are managing dementia-related conditions.

Good neighbours

It is important that we all treat each other with respect and are good neighbours, regardless of race. In a recent letter, the Leader of Camden Council, Councillor Sarah Hayward, reinforcing that Camden is a place that embraces and celebrates diversity.

She said: "we are One Camden – a place for all."

Brent start

Brent Start offer some great courses including basic computing and back to work skills.

See <https://www.brent.gov.uk/events-and-whats-on-calendar> for more information

Movies and memories

Film London are holding a series of archive film screenings in London and Innisfree has planned several outdoor screenings at our properties in Brent. We have already piloted a successful event at Clochar Court.

These films feature local archive clippings and Film London are seeking donations from film makers who have old film, but are unable to show it. They will make a DVD copy of your work to take home.

As part of our work with Community Action on Dementia in Brent, we are seeking to work with a number of community organisations to help make the streets in Brent more dementia friendly. Working with the Lexi Cinema, Mapesbury Dell Park and NW2 Residents

Help us to support your community.

Mind Yourself works with Irish people in London. We are looking for volunteers! We need people to help run activities, get people to appointments and much more...

Call us on 020 7697 4753 for further information.

Mind Yourself
84 Mayton Street, London, N7 6QT
T: 020 7697 4753
E: info@mind-yourself.co.uk
www.mind-yourself.co.uk/get-involved



Home



Gas Safety Inspections

Keeping you safe

As your landlord, we are responsible for carrying out an annual gas safety check on all gas boilers and appliances in your home.

This includes homes with gas central heating plus those homes where there is just a gas supply for cooking. We use fully qualified and gas safe registered contractors – Liberty Gas - to do this work for us.

Sometimes we do have problems with residents not letting the contractors into their home and, in the worst cases, we may have to disconnect the gas supply because we cannot be sure it was safe. When the check has been done, our contractor will give you a copy of the safety certificate or send it to you in the post within 28 day of the check. The contractor will tell us if any work needs doing. If it is our responsibility, we will arrange for this work to be done. If it is your responsibility, we will let you know what work you need to arrange to have done.

The number you need to call if you have a problem with your gas hot water or heating is

0330 333 8390.

Are you covered?

We have teamed up with the National Housing Federation and are delighted to be able to offer MY HOME Contents Insurance to all our residents. My Home Contents Insurance offers affordable insurance to tenants on low incomes.

- Instant cover available over the telephone
- Affordable premiums with flexible payment options
- Excellent claims service with no excess

Call My Home on

0845 337 2463

(it may be cheaper to call **01628 586 189** from a mobile) or visit www.thistlemyhome.co.uk

Estate inspections

We operate a programme of Estate Inspections across our stock. Why not come along to the inspection in your area and have your say. Contact us for more information.

Belmont Street
27 September, 9.30am

Corcoran House
18 October

Airco Close
27 September, 11.00am

Sellons Avenue
18 October

Lir House
27 September 1.00pm

Ealing Road
14 October

Belsize Square
28 September 3.00pm

Brandon Place
October

Paul Daisley Court
14 September

Jeddo Mews
October

Unity Close
14 September

Ferndale Road
October

Smart meters

Between now and 2020 you will be offered a free smart meter by your energy supplier.

Smart meters are new gas and electricity meters that replace the traditional meters, including prepay key meters.

A smart meter sends automatic meter readings directly to the energy supplier. This means no more manual meter readings or estimates and more accurate bills. You will also get a portable smart meter display which shows exactly how much energy is being used and what it's costing you.

Community

Allotments

Innisfree have now rented four (and a half!) allotment plots in North London.

We have two plots in Sudbury. This is very close to Wembley Plaza (10 minutes by bus) and Sudbury Croft (at the back of the cul-de-sac), so we're encouraging you to get your hands dirty and grow some veggies!

We also rent two (and a half) plots at the independently run Old Kenton Lane Allotment Society (OKLAS). Viv Williamson offers Saturday morning master classes to grow on these plots. This allotment is very close to Airco Close and Westfield Close schemes in Colindale.

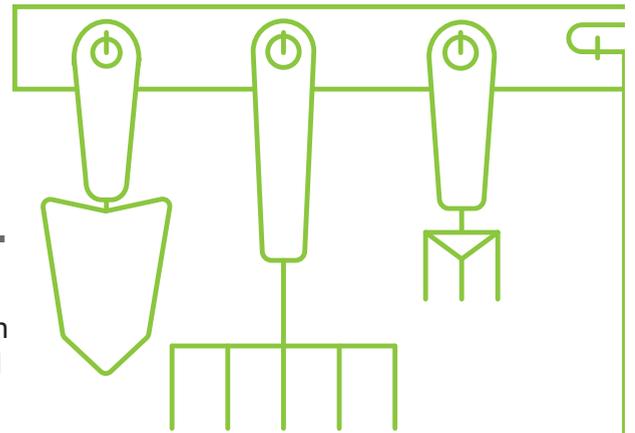
We held a Sow and Grow session on 27 April. There was lots to do – painting flower pots, sowing seeds, playing outdoor

bingo and plenty of information on growing kitchen window-sill herbs and plants.

Tenants and neighbours at Airco Close were treated to free seeds, plants and watering spouts at the end of April as part of our Sow and Grow campaign to help families get growing at home.

Chris Young from the Royal Horticultural Society and Vivien Williamson from Old Kenton Lane Allotment Society attended and met more than 20 families at Airco Close.

Children and parents planted basil, tomato plants and took away seeds to grow at home on their kitchen window sills.



Chris Young said 'this is a great initiative to help families get their hands dirty and see how things grow at home'.

Viv Williamson was delighted and took the opportunity to promote the allotment society, which is only a 15 minute walk from Airco Close. 'We already have ten people or families signed up for the growing classes this Saturday afternoon. I'm delighted! This will benefit everyone!'



Community

Healthy Memories



“Great event to celebrate two brilliant projects, it was wonderful to partner and be involved”

“Great initiative! Nice to hear about other projects around health and wellbeing happening in the community.”

“Fantastic evening, well done Innisfree, looking forward to trying the recipes and watching the film.”

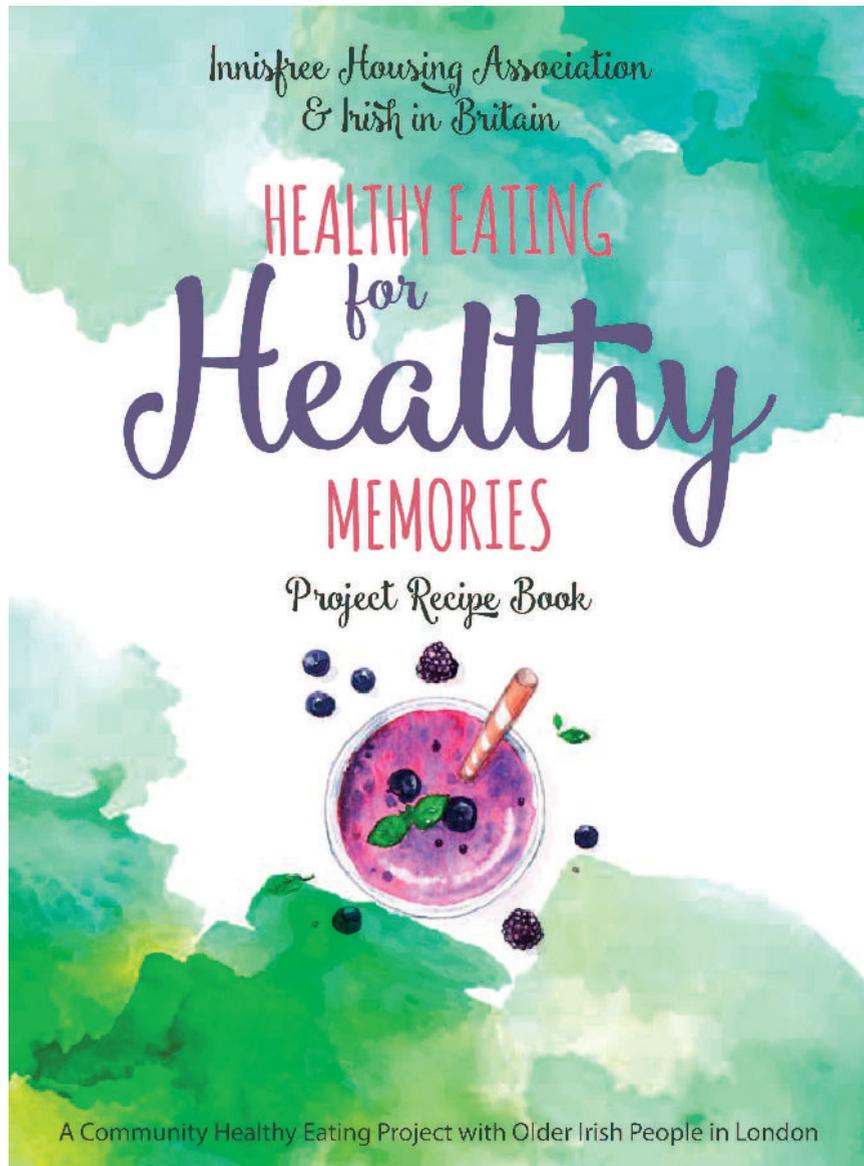
“Fantastic to hear how different communities are coming together in the garden and at the dinner table”

Our allotment story and a cookbook launched on 14 June, we held special event at the Museum of Brent at Willesden Library to launch an exhibition telling our allotment story.

We also launched a Healthy Eating for Healthy Minds cookbook on the same evening. This cookbook features the recipes used to make simple, healthy meals for

one at home. Research has found many people living alone do not prepare complete meals for themselves. This book offers help and encourages people to share a meal with friends too.

You can see a copy of the cookbook on our website at www.innisfree.org.uk



Basic Bank Accounts

Nine major banks and building societies launched new fee-free basic bank accounts for 2016, bringing an end to high charges and limited access to cash machines for those excluded from the mainstream banking system.

Barclays, Co-operative Bank, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group, Nationwide Building Society, NatWest, RBS, Santander and TSB all launched new deals on 1 January 2016. These basic bank accounts accept benefit payments and allow you to pay by direct-debit. You will be eligible regardless of your credit history.



Brent Mutual Credit Union

Innisfree has teamed up with Brent Mutual Credit Union to offer services to all of our tenants, whichever Borough they live in.

We think that if tenants have access to good financial services, then it's more likely we'll get our rent payments in on time.

As well as the chance to access loans from the Credit Union, membership can include getting a pre-paid Visa card, which means:

- No credit checks
- You can only spend the amount on the card, you can't run up debt
- The card is contactless, so can be used on buses, Tube and Overground
- Comes with a phone app, so you can easily keep a check on your balance
- You can set up regular payments



Paying the easy way

How do you pay your rent? If the answer is not direct debit, then now is the time to change.

Direct debit is the easiest way to pay. Money is taken directly from your bank account without you having to lift a finger. To sign up for direct debit contact us on 0207 625 1818.

Other ways to pay your rent: Pay your rent at any outlet that displays the Allpay sign. This includes shops, garages and post offices. Or you can pay your rent by cheque or debit card at our offices.

Contacts and useful information

For out-of-hours repairs regarding gas fired heating, and hot water please call our dedicated heating contractor Liberty on **0330 333 8390**.

For all other emergency repairs call our dedicated out of hours call handling provider Pinnacle on **0800 678 3313**.

Thames Water **0800 316 9800** - UK Power Networks **0800 316 3105**

If you have a suspected gas leak or your carbon monoxide detector is activated you should contact National grid on **0800 111 999** immediately

Irish events

A tea dance on 28 September at the London Irish Centre from 1pm. £4 entrance fee.

It is Black History month and the London Irish Centre is hosting an exhibition, opening at 7pm on 5 October. Entrance free.

The Irish Music and Dance in London week starts on 30 October with performances at venues across Camden. For more information, visit www.returntocamden.org

Is your dog micro-chipped?

From 6 April 2016, all dogs in England will be legally required to be micro-chipped and their details registered on one of the authorised databases, such as Petlog. Police and local authority employees will have microchip reader scanners so that they can check dogs. If a dog is found without a chip, the owner will have a short time to get them chipped. If they don't, they will be liable to a £500 fine.



Innisfree

Who to contact

If your call is about: repairs, rents and benefits, tenancy issues, community issues, moving home or new service issues then call our Customer Service Assistants, Mary and Ellen on **020 7625 1818**. who will help point you in the right direction if they cannot answer your question themselves.

www.innisfree.org.uk

Innisfree Housing Association,
190 Iverson Road, London NW6 2HL

Tel: 020 7625 1818

Fax: **020 7328 9943**

Email: info@innisfree.org.uk