

37/16

NEWS

The newsletter from
Angel Business
Improvement District



Says angel.london Chief Exec Christine Lovett: "We have an open door policy and regularly meet businesses for a temperature check on how we're doing – that's how we know we're doing things that you want, making improvements for your business, your employees and customers and putting money directly back into your pocket."

"It's easy to take things for granted, but everything like Christmas lights, beautiful summer flowers, and the free recycling services won't be here unless we are."

It's our election time too!

We can't quite believe it but it's almost five years since businesses appointed us for our second term as the Angel's business improvement district. And in October this year we shall be asking you to vote us in again so we can continue bringing benefits to your business and long-term improvements to the Angel.

We are proud of what we've achieved in the last five years

- saving our businesses a total of £7,000 every month on recycling
- countdown crossings
- our dedicated angel.london Police Team awarded Outstanding Police Team of the Year in Islington for making the most arrests
- setting up London's first community security zone, creating a business community which drives the area's emergency planning
- establishing a popular PubWatch group - used by Met Police as the model for London – making the Angel a safe place to go out
- Christmas lights
- summer flowers

We hope you will vote YES so we can carry on the good work. We will be in touch with more details about how to vote, and when.

We've gone in to the office furnishing business

We're delighted lots of Angel office workers will have turned up to work and found new desks, chairs and cabinets over the past few weeks, all courtesy of the Business Design Centre. The exhibition centre recently donated excellent quality but unwanted items to our furniture swapshop and we've distributed them free around the Angel to our businesses and charities.

At least seven angel.london members have taken delivery of the new furniture, including **CoffeeWorks Project, Almeida Theatre, The King's Head Theatre, Oxfam Bookshop, Tiger** and **Moxons** fish shop.

"It's great to keep things local. It saves us money on purchasing costs and other businesses don't have to pay to take their unwanted items away," says **CoffeeWorks** manager Ben Alessandri, who is pictured receiving desks, chairs and cabinets from our recycling boys Ash and Rhys (above, left).

And Robert from **Moxons** (pictured, below left) is pleased we're doing all we can for sustainability: "I was so excited to receive six matching chairs, in excellent condition, which has saved me a fortune and gone a tiny way towards saving the planet."

If you've got any good quality office furniture, IT or catering equipment that you no longer want, tell us and we'll see if we can find a new home for it locally, to minimise landfill and transport costs.



And there's more... Don't forget that our SIX FREE recycling services are exclusive to all angel.london members. Offices – this means you too. Sign up and you will soon see the benefits.

If you shred all your confidential paper, and put it out with your cardboard, plastic bottles AND coffee grounds you might be surprised how much we can save you.





The Lexington

Eyes and ears of the Angel

A shoplifter has been jailed for 12 weeks for stealing in local shops after one of our sharp-eyed angel.london Police Team spotted and arrested her. She had been shoplifting in Boots and Jigsaw, among others, and pleaded guilty to the offences.

AND we're pleased to report that our police team have now charged a 38-year-old woman with 18 offences including 11 bag thefts from local pubs after a manager at the **Steam Passage** recognised someone from their CCTV, followed them, and called the team who arrested her.

If you spot a thief, call the police team immediately, or check if they're on your CCTV. They may already be known to the team and your evidence could be the link they need to arrest them.

Local pub goes the extra mile

A motorcyclist says he owes his life to quick-thinking customers of one of our BID pubs who rushed to his aid after an accident left a van crushing his chest.

Thirty-eight-year-old Daniel Brennan was riding across Pentonville Road when his bike skidded and he fell under the van near the junction with Penton Street. Horrified drinkers at the **Lexington** reacted immediately and gathered round to lift the van off him. His spine and pelvis were fractured and almost every other bone shattered and he spent weeks in a coma – but against the odds he survived.

"There's no question – fifteen heroes from that pub saved my life," says painter and decorator Daniel who, after six months recovering, has only recently gone back to work.

"I would have died if they hadn't helped. I can't thank people from the Lexington enough. I was drifting in and out of consciousness but was awake enough to know I was in a BAD situation. The van was crushing my chest – it was like trying to inflate my lungs with a straw."

Lexington manager Chris Smith said it was lucky they had a sell out band on that night who had just finished a set, and people were heading outside for a cigarette. One of his managers was on the scene immediately directing people to get the van off Daniel.

Says sergeant of angel.london Police Team Chris Walsh: "Regulars from the Lexington went the extra mile. They really are heroes because their quick-thinking and fearlessness saved a man's life. They should be very proud of themselves."

Daniel is hoping to visit the Lexington soon and buy everyone a drink. "He won't be buying us one. If he is well enough to come in here, we shall definitely be treating him," says Chris Smith.

Take note!

Top marks to licensed premises in our PubWatch group who recently headed off thieves trying to sting everyone with fake £20 notes.

By circulating pictures of the two men trying to pass off forgeries around the WhatsApp group which links them all, they made sure each bar refused to accept them.

Thumbs up to **Slim Jim's**, the **York**, the **Wenlock** and **Bellanger** - it just goes to show how strong our community is when everyone works together.

If anyone has good quality photos of the two men, we are asking that you post them up on Angel Crime Fighters for all to see.

These businesses like what we do so much they have paid to be voluntary members of the BID and receive our services, even though they're just outside the area. We hope you like what we do enough to vote YES in October.

Top to bottom
Meat People
in Essex Road
Wild Swans
in Upper Street
Le Sacre Coeur
in Theberton Street





A-board enforcement

Once so unpopular, A-boards have now become a feature of our lives, often displaying clever images and hilarious slogans – but there's a but...

We're warning you that Transport for London will soon be adopting a zero tolerance approach to the boards along Upper Street.

Starting at Angel junction they will be visiting all businesses on Upper Street who are using the boards advising them to take them away. This will begin shortly, and be followed up by enforcement and fines. It also applies to all boards in adjacent streets. You have been warned.

Review your screens

CCTV is one of the most important sources of forensic evidence used by angel.london Police Team to keep our streets safe. This year alone they have convicted more than 40 bag thieves, pickpockets and shoplifters by identifying them from CCTV images. They could catch a lot more.

We're appealing to every business to review their CCTV because so many potentially significant images of crimes committed here are discarded because they're poor quality – which means the criminals are free to do it again.

It could be poor quality equipment, low memory or simply that your camera needs re-positioning.

So we've organised an expert from our police team to visit your premises offering advice on cameras, equipment and locations. Putting criminals behind bars not only means a safer Angel but fewer losses from your business or your customers – it's worth it!

Estate agent Paul Siani of **Garfields** understands the value of CCTV for the Angel: "I just wanted to let you know how grateful I am for your perseverance in being able to extend the CCTV coverage of Upper Street up to and including the junction of Gaskin Street.

"Clearly it will be a major benefit to businesses and people alike to know that they now have added security, especially so as the system to be installed is the latest high-tech version which will enable the monitoring of this section of Upper Street to be far more effective.

"You have done a fantastic job in coordinating both the council and British Telecom, and organising the funding for this to go ahead."

A hard act to follow....

The trouble with doing your absolute best is that it's almost impossible to top.

After the fantastic response from our pubs to last year's VE Day celebrations when they cooked a three-course feast for war veterans, we're asking all our businesses to help make this year's Armed Forces Day even better.

As part of the nation's thank you to the Armed Forces and also to mark HRH the Queen's 90th Birthday we're organising a family fun event on Islington Green on Saturday June 25 from 11am-4pm to bring the community together.

There will be entertainment and music all day, but we're also looking for businesses to serve coffee and cakes, donate raffle prizes, and give fresh flowers to lay on the war memorial for the official ceremony of thanks at 11am.

Not only will you receive publicity for your donations but the gratitude of people who have already given so much. Get in touch and tell us what you can offer email christine@angel.london or call 020 7288 4377.

Again – thanks from **Islington Veterans Association** to **The Radicals & Victuallers, Brewhouse & Kitchen, Slim Jim's** and **The Old Red Lion** for last year's lunch.



Grow your business

Grab the limelight for your business by entering this year's Islington in Bloom competition and win £100 of garden centre vouchers as well as huge publicity.

Run by Islington gardeners and Islington Council the annual competition includes categories for the sprucest business or most decorated pub. Prizes are

1st prize £100 Camden Garden Centre voucher (CGC)

2nd prize £75 CGC voucher

3rd prize £50 CGC voucher

Winners will be invited to the annual awards ceremony at the town hall in the autumn and will be featured in the local press, plus IslingtonLife magazine distributed to every home in the borough.

Find more details or enter at www.islington.gov.uk/inbloom, call 020 7527 2838 or email inbloom@islington.gov.uk

Meet the top cop

What would you ask the Met Police Commissioner if you met him? Well, now's your chance because Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe will be coming to Islington Town Hall to share his vision for London and listen to your thoughts and ideas. It's Thursday May 26 at 6.30pm – don't miss it.

We've had so many people visit our new website www.angel.london so we're going to start promoting your events to our new audience. We'll be adding a What's on Angel page shortly featuring gigs, plays, book-readings, older people's events, dance, talks ANYTHING that you're doing at Angel which might interest others – so please tell us what you're doing and we'll tell everyone else!

Email jackie@angel.london



The Boy may be adrift, but the play's bang on

Theatre review/Almeida

I always leave the Almeida stunned. World-class acting, an ingenious plot, a thoughtful reworking of a seasoned play, and a technically brilliant show-stealing set are no less than you expect from our international local theatre.

Frankie Fox makes his professional stage debut in the Almeida's *Boy*
Photo: Kwame Lestrade

However, Sacha Wares' production of Leo Butler's unassumingly-named *Boy*, a day in the life of an ordinary kid helplessly drifting through the streets of London, was one of the most powerful plays I've experienced. Powerful in the way that it charges all your senses and you emerge thinking you'll never be the same again, never see or hear in the same way again.

Nothing much happens to 17-year-old Liam that day. Well, nothing that we would consider extraordinary - yet he's someone without the tools most people take for granted. He's inarticulate, uneducated, naive, without family support, socially isolated, has no tube fare, no phone credit, no direction and no point. He's lost. He's disjointed. He's at the mercy of everyone. He's today's teenager.

Miriam Buether's Yo-Sushi-style conveyor belt set perfectly evokes the fast uncaring depersonalized city grinding through its daily business against Gareth Fry's hauntingly monotonous city soundtrack.

Frankie Fox makes a forceful professional stage debut as troublingly helpless Liam. And there is irony too in laying no blame for the plight of today's lost generation, nor offering any answers, *Boy* is left hanging there, all the more discomfiting....JA

Until May 28 www.almeida.co.uk



Pictured (left to right) are Regional Director Brad Whitehead, manager Dan Harding, and Nat West Local CEO Jonathan Brewer.

New NatWest

We're pleased to see the new far-more-customer-friendly **NatWest Bank** open a shop front on Upper Street. We're also pleased to discover the human face of that branch too - manager Dan Harding's dad Steve was manager there in 2003, and Dan's mum, brothers and sisters, aunt and cousins have all worked for NatWest. AND they're helping our favourite puppet theatre Little Angel theatre to raise money for a new creative learning centre offering education and training projects for people of all ages in the art industry.

They've got great taste in colour too...

KIDS



New double-sized Boots
35-37 Islington High Street
www.boots.com



Galley
seasonally inspired dishes from land and sea, cooking styles and flavours from North Africa, Asia, South America and Europe 105-106 Upper Street
www.galleylondon.co.uk



Fig Tree
traditional and modern Mediterranean from Spanish tapas, to Italian pasta and pizzas, to Greek moussaka and salads 35 Upper Street
www.thefigtreelondon.co.uk



Thyme & Lemon
authentic Basque, Catalan and Iberian classic tapas with a unique and innovative twist 139 Upper Street
www.thymeandlemon.co.uk



FrHappy
Portuguese sandwiches with a secret sauce - and tapas too 330 Upper Street
www.frhappy.com



Casa Manolo
a corner of Spain in the heart of London, particularly for jamon lovers. Offers clams, cod, chicken stew and fine wines, plus courses in cutting Iberian ham expertly, and wine tasting 43 Upper Street
www.casa-manolo.co.uk

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Small things - pallets from **Kipferl**, chairs from **Property Inventories Ltd**, office furniture clearance from the **BDC**, shop fittings clearance from **James Freeman**, flood-damaged clothes recycled from Jigsaw and props and effects rehomed from **Into Film**.