



NEWS

The newsletter from Angel Business Improvement District



Pictured (above) with Hak Huseyin from Islington Chamber of Commerce (second from left), and Cllr Asima Shaikh (second from right), are Angel's business champions Stacey Thomas (left) from the Lexington pub, Chair of Chapel Market traders David Twydell (centre), and Susan Cropper (right) from Loop knitting shop in Camden Passage.

New recycling

Our new recycling service is a month old and we hope everyone is familiar with the evening times. Our recycling boys are going out every day checking if anyone has mistakenly put their stuff out and reminding them if not - but they will shortly be starting their new roles as ambassadors. So - just to remind you - put your recycling out with your business waste 6-7pm every day. Please **MAKE SURE** you use our branded angel.london bags and stickers so it will definitely be collected.

angel.london businesses do the borough proud

Three angel.london businesses represented all of Islington by taking our 12,600-strong petition to the Treasury demanding the government stops the business rate rises.

Susan Cropper from **Loop knitting**, Stacey Thomas from the **Lexington pub** and Chair of **Chapel Market traders** David Twydell took action after we launched the petition only three weeks ago with **Islington Chamber of Commerce** and **Islington Council**.

Many local shops, restaurants and bars face business rate rises of 45% - the third highest in London - after the government reassessed property values on which the system is based.

We fear it will send many of our smaller businesses to the wall. They will be worst affected - yet in many cases, it's their uniqueness and originality that attract people here.

We fear it could kill bustling high streets like Angel, Archway and Holloway at a time when more people are feeling isolated, and smaller businesses particularly are struggling with the uncertainty over Brexit and competition from online shops and retail parks.

"High streets are the lifeblood of our communities. They are real places where people gather, eat, drink, socialise and escape isolation. They are also places where fledgling businesses cut their teeth and grow. These small businesses are the biggest employers of local people," says angel.london CEO Christine Lovett.

"The Government's huge business rate rises could be the final straw for our smaller independents who will close."

Please keep signing and circulating our online petition at www.angel.london



Our next networking event

How could Brexit affect your business? How will it affect employment legislation? What effect will it have on current Health & safety requirements? How easy will it be to recruit EU workers?

We are pleased to invite you to join other angel.london businesses and find out at 6pm on March 21 just a short walk away at City University.

Our Angel branch of **Santander** have put together this event featuring guest speakers dedicated to helping all local businesses negotiate their way through changing legislation over the next couple of years.

Come and hear the talks, meet similar businesses, share ideas and discuss any key issues you think are impacting our area - all over canapés and drinks.

It will be at City University, Building B, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB (see map).

The evening opens at 5.45pm for a prompt 6pm start and will conclude at 8pm. Please RSVP to christine@angel.london or call 020 72884377.



SIGN ONLINE!

Please sign our online petition asking the government to freeze business rates. We don't want them to spell the end of our lively and lovely streets. Seeing two To Let signs out of our window is two too many!

Sign NOW at www.angel.london

Looking out for the neighbours

One of our independent retailers has witnessed enough shoplifting to be primed and ready every time someone shouts 'Stop thief!'

While recently in the office above his vintage shop he heard shouting across the road and saw two shoplifters being chased out of a women's boutique. A shop assistant, a passer-by, the retailer and his son - all enraged by the thieves carrying armfuls of clothes - chased them and dodged traffic until they caught one on Essex Road - and literally sat on him until police arrived.

The property was returned and 46-year-old Darren Sanderson has been charged. "It probably wasn't wise but I couldn't sit idly by and let them get away with it," says the shop owner.

"The community spirit here is admirable and it's great the way our retailers stick their necks out for each other," says angel.london CEO Christine Lovett. "But we don't recommend taking the law into your own hands. Our Angel Police Team are just a call away and usually nearby anyway."

*IT IS important that we do act when we see something suspicious - as the UK's most senior counter terrorism officer, Met Police Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley, reminds us today. He says information from the public has played a significant role in recent successes countering terrorism and urges us to check what to look out for at www.gov.uk/ACT, or call police on 0800 789321.

After the flood....

You will all have noticed that three months after the burst water main on Upper Street many of our favourite businesses still aren't open. There is still a lot to do but we are hoping that by the end of April, normal service in and around Camden Passage will be resumed...

We've been working with our angel.london members and also antiques traders in Pierrepont Arcade devastated by the burst water main to expedite negotiations with Thames Water for insurance payments and compensation so they can get essential services back on and get open.

Thames Water have reassured us that despite three bursts in 20 years in that area, that section of the main has been replaced - and it won't happen again. They have been using the latest sonar technology to identify any other issues, and will be re-lining the whole pipe this year from Islington Green to Angel junction this summer.

Further meetings

March 22 - business and residents reporting concerns to Islington Councillors regarding claims and compensation 6pm Islington Town Hall

March 29 - Thames Water reporting back to businesses and residents on how the repair work is progressing 6pm **BDC**.



New Angel Police Team
Sergeant Neil Fraser

Meet our new sergeant

We are delighted to introduce Neil Fraser, the new sergeant of our Angel Police Team.

Neil, 37, is no stranger to the borough. In the force for 17 years, he has worked in Islington for three years on response policing, neighbourhood policing and investigations.

"My priority for the Angel is to significantly reduce crime and thus fear of crime, and create a safer environment in which to live and do business," says Neil

He's already notched up a number of successes with the team busy catching and charging shoplifters, returning stolen property, and moving on beggars.

If you have any security concerns and would like Neil to visit and discuss them, please call the Angel Police Team hotline.

Neil replaces Chris Walsh who retired in January.



Breathe easier

We're asking that all your van and delivery drivers switch off their engines when parked because we're...cough, cough...backing London's Vehicle Idling Action campaign. Idling can have a big impact on air quality and, as we've got the busy A1 charging through our BID area, we think that's pollution enough.

Carpeted!

Angel Police Team identified and caught a shoplifter who stole a rug worth £456 from a shop in Camden Passage in February. Albert Holloway was sentenced to 20 weeks in prison, suspended, and the shop has been reimbursed.

We've secured cash to open doors for pensioners' project

We're always looking for ways to support our charities, particularly those who improve the lives of older people, and we're delighted to report that we've secured £7,900 to make it easier for people to get in to the Claremont Project in White Lion Street – literally!

The once-automatic doors at the popular centre are broken and heavy, and pose a significant barrier to older people not strong enough to open them by hand. Users raised £1,000 of the £12,000 needed to replace them, so we asked Islington Council for help.

Says Claremont CEO Lucien-Paul Stanfield: "Accessibility is key for us. The doors are a barrier for existing building users and anyone coming in for the first time. Thank you angel.london for your help - this grant is a boon to the community, especially to older and more frail members, for whom Claremont is tremendously important."

It's all part of our commitment to making the Angel London's most age-friendly town centre says Christine Lovett, CEO of angel.london: "We think it's important that businesses and organisations support local charities. Claremont is a lifeline, working hard to bring cheer and good company into pensioners' lives and we're delighted to secure this contribution."

Claremont is Islington's main centre for older people, receiving over 30,000 visits a year from 8,000 local residents. Activities range from psychotherapy and community arts, to disco dancing, ballet and creative writing. Over 80% of its members live alone.

Islington Council's executive member for economic development, Cllr Asima Shaikh, said: "The Claremont Project plays a key part in our borough's efforts to tackle social isolation among our older population and boost health and wellbeing. We were more than happy to help contribute to ensure that older Islingtonians can access their services easily."

Can your business offer a warm welcome to older people? Offers on food and drink, haircuts, or host events? Contact us on 020 7288 4377



Preying on pensioners

As part of our age-friendly Angel initiative, our police team have been working with banks to stop thieves stealing from older people at cashpoints.

Last month a number of pensioners were deliberately distracted, then had their cards stolen and large amounts of cash quickly withdrawn elsewhere.

Angel Police Team are now staking out Angel's cashpoints regularly, making all people our banks aware of what's happening and how to spot those people most vulnerable to distraction thefts. They have also gathered CCTV footage of all the incidents which they are now circulating in order to identify the thieves.

What's your plan?

Serious disruption can finish small businesses at a swipe. 99% of London's businesses are small and medium-sized and surveys show more than 73% don't have an emergency plan.

The whole point about the unexpected is, well...you never expect it. Yet, as we've seen recently with the burst water main at Angel, the unexpected does need to be prepared for. As part of our Angel Community Security Zone, we try to encourage businesses to plan for emergency situations of all kinds.

We recommend everyone does this 10-minute business continuity check on the Mayor of London's website to see exactly how ready you are....
www.london.gov.uk/about-us/organisations-we-work/london-prepared/preparing-your-business



A hearty welcome to all our new businesses!!

We extended the boundaries of angel.london when you re-elected us in October and from April the business improvement district will extend north along Upper Street to The Vineyard pub and Islington Town Hall (pictured) west down Pentonville Road to Penton Street east behind St Mary's Church to include the Little Angel Theatre north along Essex Road to Gaskin Street and Packington Street

We will be welcoming over a hundred new businesses as members and shall feature many of them in our newsletter over the coming months so you all know who's new in.

All new members should check our website www.angel.london to see what services we offer and how we can help your business.



Marco's offer to make mum feel special

Marco Pierre White's Steakhouse Bar and Grill are offering a Mother's Day treat to fellow angel.london members.

Celebrate your mum in style over a three-course lunch or dinner for only £35 – and toast her with a free glass of prosecco.

The offer is only available on Sunday March 26. MPW is at the DoubleTree by Hilton London-Islington, 60 Pentonville Road, N1 9LA

To book, call 020 7282 5300.

Bagging a lost bag

Such is our angel.london community that everyone's looking out for each other. angel.london may not be street-facing but even in our office high above Islington High Street we're doing our bit – this time, reuniting a stolen bag with a desperate owner. We heard that a bag had been stolen in the Elk in the Woods, and the next day a bag was found in the loo at the Winchester pub. So we put two and two together...the owner was delighted to have her bag back and we also have footage of the thief.

Don't forget to log on to our Angel Crime Fighters website to find details of recent incidents and footage of suspects. If you haven't been signed up yet, contact the Angel Police Team hotline.



Let's make a flowerful impact

No pressure, but we've just entered this summer's London in Bloom competition and would like to make a big flowery statement for the judges when they tour the Angel in July. So – we're asking you to start thinking now what you could do to green your business or pretty-up the area around it. As well as our usual floral displays, we've heard a great favourite with them is flowers or herb displays on tables outside cafes and restaurants....

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