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Wiltshire Farm Foods
taking care of mealtimes



On top form

A woman who has lived through two World Wars and 21 prime ministers has celebrated her 104th birthday. Edith Mears, of The Chantry in The Ridgeway, Chingford, reached the milestone on Wednesday. She is thought to be the second oldest woman in the borough, a few weeks behind Grace Chandler from Leytonstone, whose 104th birthday was on April 5. Ms Mears, a retired Bank of England secretary, said the secret to a long life was a "good, healthy diet and the odd sherry on special occasions." She was given flowers and gifts by friends who gathered at the care home. The mother-of-one also saw a surprise vocal performance by Show Boat, a group of ex-West End entertainers. Part-time home manager Maggie Rickard said Ms Mears, a resident of eight years, was on "top form". She added: "Edith is a wonderful, sociable lady. She still has a very good sense of humour."

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Children missing from care had left country

Zoie O'Brien

Two children missing from care in the borough ran away to try to avoid deportation, the council has revealed.

A request under freedom of information law showed last week that five children were missing after being placed in the care of local authorities.

The council has now said two of the children were in the country illegally and have disappeared.

A further two children are thought to have moved abroad with a parent and one has moved to another part of the country.

A spokeswoman said the council was a "corporate" parent for the child who remains in the UK, meaning staff should provide as high a standard of

care as they would for their own children.

She added: "While we cannot reveal confidential information which may jeopardise the outcome of the case, we can confirm that this young person has voluntarily moved to another part of the country and our work with partners on this case is ongoing."

She added: "Two of the other children have moved abroad with a parent who is a foreign national, and the other two young people are asylum seekers with no leave to remain in the UK who have chosen to abscond to avoid deportation."

Waltham Forest, along with Newham, had the highest number of children missing from care, although 10 boroughs failed

to provide figures.

The London Assembly Liberal Democrats Group called the figures a "scandal" after a the documents showed boroughs across London had lost children from their care.

Liberal Democrat councillor Bob Sullivan has called for a full investigation into the "distressing" findings, adding: "However difficult the circumstances, what parent would lose track of their children like this?"

"Where was the timely call to the community to help find these children before it was too late?"

Waltham Forest council has refused to provide the *Guardian* with any further information or pictures of the children for a missing persons appeal.

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Diabetes group wants help collecting funds

A charity is looking for enthusiastic volunteers from the borough to support a collection weekend at two supermarkets.

Diabetes UK will hold the "big collection" weekend at Tesco stores in High Road in Leyton and Gainsborough Road in Leytonstone on June 13, 14 and 15.

This year the charity is hoping to recruit 4,800 volunteers from across the UK after successfully raising more than £380,000 with a similar campaign last

year.

Volunteers can select morning or afternoon sessions running from 9am until 6pm on June 13 and 14, and 10am until 4pm on June 15.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Caroline Townsend on 020 7424 1116 or email BigCollection@diabetes.org.uk.

The north London-based charity cares for people with diabetes, as well as raising awareness of the condition and campaigning on issues surrounding it.

Look back on year at revived library

Performance poetry and dance will mark a library's first year as a volunteer-run operation.

Harrow Green Library in Leytonstone was closed in 2011, despite a lengthy campaign by supporters.

A group of volunteers reopened the library in the Epicentre in West Street, Leytonstone, last May, after the council converted its former building on the corner of High Road and Cathall Road into a temporary gym and the job hunting service

Worknet.

It proved so popular that its opening hours were doubled shortly after its launch and it is still run by the community.

Performance poet and comedian John Hegley and Leytonstone dancer Theo Oloyade, who appeared on the TV show *Got to Dance*, are expected to perform as part of the free event on May 9.

Refreshments and tours of the building will be on offer at the event, which will run from 5.30pm to 8.30pm.