

Archway • Holloway • Barnsbury • Canonbury • Highbury • Finsbury Park • Angel • Clerkenwell • City

## Station ticket office closures anger pensioners

PENSIONERS say they will be among the worst hit by plans to shut ticket offices at over-ground rail stations, writes *Helen Chapman*. The warning came in response to Transport for London proposals affecting Canonbury and Caledonian Road and Barnsbury stations.

Dot Gibson, who chairs Islington Pensioners' Forum, said: "We oppose the closure of ticket offices. It leaves vulnerable people without anyone to help them."

"If you are an older person coming from outside London then you have to buy tickets on

transport, but there will be no staff to help. It's all part of cuts in services which affect people's quality of life, and the people who work there too."

Arriva, which works with TfL to provide overground services, says closing ticket offices will "improve the way

stations are managed". In all, 51 ticket offices across London face closure.

Islington environment chief Councillor Claudia Webbe has told the consumer organisation London TravelWatch: "I am

■ Turn to page 4

## Search for answers over son's death after collapse at leisure centre

# GRIEVING MUM'S PLEA: JUST TELL US WHAT HAPPENED

by EMILY FINCH

A *TRIBUNE* investigation has found that a 15-year-old boy, who later died, was not taken to hospital by ambulance despite convulsing on the floor for three minutes at a council-owned leisure centre.

Parents of Brian Mpunga, a star pupil at St Aloysius' RC College in Archway, have desperately tried to find out what happened to their son at the Sobell Centre, in Holloway, but have faced a brick wall from the council and centre managers Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL).

Brian collapsed while doing exercises at a coach-led session at the indoor basketball court at the centre in Hornsey Road on December 10 last year. His father was called to collect him, but Brian died 11 days later at Great Ormond Street Hospital after suffering a large aneurysm resulting in a brain bleed.

He had initially been treated at University College London Hospital, where he was taken by his father. Medical records held there – obtained by his family and the *Tribune* – reveal he lost consciousness for two to three minutes on the court.

The notes, written by the UCLH doctor who spoke to Brian's coach by phone, describe the teenager's "arms and legs shaking" after he fell to one side at the court. They say it "took him



St Aloysius' pupil Brian Mpunga lost consciousness for two to three minutes

■ Turn to page 2

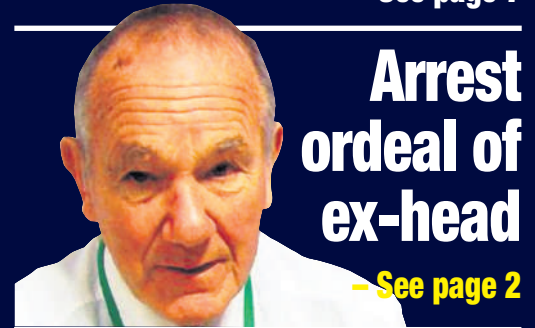
## COPS 'STABBED'



PHOTO: @999LONDON

## 4 officers hurt after being called to fight

– See page 7



## Arrest ordeal of ex-head

– See page 2

## Search for stories of war heroes

– See page 4



**ariston**  
property

Sales • Lettings  
Property Management

**LANDLORDS' PROPERTIES  
URGENTLY REQUIRED**

**Professional & Corporate Tenants**

Full management service. Guaranteed rents.\*\*  
Call today for a free valuation of your property

528/530 Hornsey Road, N19 3QN  
Tel: 020 7272 9988

email: [info@aristonproperty.co.uk](mailto:info@aristonproperty.co.uk)  
[www.aristonproperty.co.uk](http://www.aristonproperty.co.uk)



\*\*terms & conditions apply

LETTERS 12-13 ● A-Z OF SERVICES 15 ● JOBS 16 ● SPORT 18-20 ● ARTS & FEATURES – SEE REVIEW

Average Certified Distribution: 16,762 – 29 December 2008 to 29 June 2009. Publisher's statement – door to door deliveries 6,256. TOTAL CIRCULATION, 23,018

Islington Tribune, 40 Camden Road, NW1 9DR. Tel: 020 7419 9000 | News: [editorial@islingtontribune.com](mailto:editorial@islingtontribune.com) | Advertising: [advert@islingtontribune.com](mailto:advert@islingtontribune.com)



Arrested by fraud probe detectives, he has now been told he is no longer under investigation

# Ex-head: 'I had done nothing wrong'



Tom Mannion: 'Last nine months have been shocking'

A FORMER headteacher has been exonerated after he was arrested as part of a fraud investigation at an Archway school.

Tom Mannion, 74, was locked in a police cell for three hours after officers arrested him at St Aloysius' RC College, in Hornsey Lane, in January before releasing him under investigation.

But after nine months during which he was suspended from a role he held for 14 years, Mr Mannion has been told by police no further action will be taken against him.

by SAMANTHA BOOTH

He told the *Tribune*: "The last nine months have been shocking. It meant my retirement was brought forward a couple of months, which I understand, but it doesn't alter the fact that I'm extremely disappointed by the way my career ended after many, many years of teaching."

Police are continuing to investigate the alleged fraud, believed to centre on missing MacBook computers bought through the school's accounts.

Mr Mannion was

awarded an OBE in 2015 and credited with helping to improve pupil standards at the boys' school.

He is now having a "long, hard think" about whether he will take any further action over how his case was handled.

"We should've worked together to find out precisely what had happened and that would have saved some time in my opinion," he said.

In September, he met Islington CID, who told him he was no longer under investigation.

"That was a real relief, but I knew I was com-

pletely and utterly innocent. Nevertheless, it is a relief that it is kind of over in that sense," he said. "I quite literally had done nothing wrong."

He added: "What's been good is meeting ex-pupils. They tell me to keep my chin up, that it'll be all right in the end."

"It's been very difficult, as you can imagine, travelling and seeing youngsters going to school saying: 'There's so and so who has been arrested for fraud'."

He is now requesting the Diocese of Westminster, which has overall

control of the Roman Catholic school, informs parents and his former colleagues of the outcome.

"I'm still a bit numb to be honest," he said.

"I've been travelling, decorating, trying to fill my time, but it's really quite difficult to have worked for many years for the Westminster Diocese and for it to end in this way."

The diocese and the Met Police declined to comment yesterday (Thursday) as the matter is still under investigation.

# Parents warn: Tomorrow it can happen to another child

■ from page 1

a while to 'come back'" and that he was made to wait 30 minutes before his father arrived. By then he was conscious but suffering from a "terrible" headache while he also had trouble talking, staying awake and walking, according to his family.

GLL has said this week that it believes "staff response was prompt and appropriate", but would not confirm or deny if an ambulance was called by the centre.

Other teenagers who were with Brian at the time of his collapse confirm he was

unconscious on the floor.

One 16-year-old boy told the *Tribune*: "He collapsed onto the floor and had some sort of seizure. He was unconscious and then woke up. He was shaking for around two minutes."

The teenager described how coaches tried to talk to Brian while two staff members from the centre "tried to help". It is not known if the coaches were full-time GLL employees or freelancers.

"Everyone continued playing [basketball] after Brian left. We thought he was going to be okay. He posted later on SnapChat that his head hurt but he didn't really reply after

that," he said.

Brian's mother, Carlotta Jose, of Highbury Quadrant, has demanded to know what safeguarding measures were in place on the day Brian collapsed and whether more could have been done to prevent his death.

She said: "No one from GLL has called us or written to us to explain. They are treating us like we are just a joke. Look what happened to us. Tomorrow, it can happen to another child."

"We just want them to explain to us exactly what happened. We want to see the report into what happened on the

day Brian collapsed."

Brian suffered a subarachnoid haemorrhage, a type of stroke, which is rare in children and can be fatal, but has a better outcome if diagnosed quickly through a CT scan.

His family believe he may have received a CT scan earlier if he had arrived at the hospital by ambulance and not as a walk-in patient.

His medical notes show Brian had to wait around six hours before he was given a CT scan, where a bleed was detected and an urgent referral to a neurosurgical ward was made.

As previously reported in the *Tribune*, GLL promised an "internal report" into Brian's death two months ago but has yet to contact Ms Jose. A representative of GLL would not confirm this week if Brian's family would be given access to the report.

A GLL spokesman said: "Brian's death was tragic and we again extend our deepest sympathies to his family through this very difficult time. Having made a thorough review of the circumstances – including taking statements from those present – we believe the



Parents Carlotta and Jeff with a photograph of son Brian

staff response was prompt and appropriate."

Islington Council's executive member for health and wellbeing Councillor Janet Burgess said: "The death of Brian Mpunga was a tragedy, and our heartfelt thoughts are with his family and friends."

"We are meeting with GLL to discuss further the circumstances of this tragic incident."

**We need healthy men and women aged 40-70 years old to help us understand the effects of berries on blood pressure.**

The study will involve 5 short morning visits to King's College London to collect blood samples, take body measurements, complete food diaries, collect urine and stool samples. You will be provided with capsules containing Aronia berry extracts to take daily for 3 months. You will receive information about your health and £150 for your time and inconvenience.

**Info: [abpstudy@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:abpstudy@kcl.ac.uk) or FB page "ABP Study". REC ref: RESCM-17/18-5283.**

**Camden and Islington**  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Annual Members' Meeting

**Thursday 18 October 2018, 5:45pm - 7:30pm**  
**The Francis Crick Institute (NW1 1AT)**

Hear what we achieved in 2017/18 and our exciting future plans, plus:

**"The mental health benefits from gardening"**

Guest speakers: **Dr Michael Dixon**, NHS England's National Clinical Lead for Social Prescription and **Matt Keightley**, Garden Designer

Pic by Nick Guttridge

Doors open at **5:10pm** for refreshments and an exhibition of our services

Everyone welcome. Please RSVP at: [communications@candi.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@candi.nhs.uk)

**News on Twitter**  
**@islingtontrib**

## Zuzu

### Belly Dancing Dinner Party

**Every Friday from 7pm**  
Reservations recommended

3 course set menu with wine available  
Free birthday cake for parties over 8 people

**367 Holloway Road, London, N7 0RN**  
020 7609 9416

[info@zuzurestaurant.co.uk](mailto:info@zuzurestaurant.co.uk) [www.zuzurestaurant.co.uk](http://www.zuzurestaurant.co.uk)