



COMPANION



Inside:

Stories Poetry **Puzzles** Things to do **Hobbies**

ELFT.BEFRIENDINGSERVICE@NHS.NET

ELFT COMPANION

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Halfway through the year already?!! Whats next? Do you think you can answer the questions below?

Is there anything that went well for me this year?

What are some things that have made me happy this year?

What moments can I remember up until now?

Did I make any changes since the beginning of this year?.

ART



BY FIONA

Want to see yout artwork featured in the magazine? SEND IT IN!

Fiona spent 7 hours on this beautiful piece!



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FEATURED IN THIS MAGAZINE?





SEND IN YOUR WORK FOR IT TO BE SHOWN IN THE AUGUST EDITION!

SEND IT TO US AT: ELFT.BEFRIENDINGSERVICE@NHS.NET

HEALTH SUITE

Welcome to the Health Suite. Here is where you can find health and wellness tips/suggestions to improve your quality of life or even make you feel good.

While dealing with isolation or loneliness, we tend to forget that it's the small things that can help our mood or physical health.

This edition, I'll be focusing on **Socialising**. Having a focus on socialising with people, whether it be your friends or family - can help you feel less lonely, more connected or even happier.

WRITTEN BY ABDUL

Socialising



FOUR THINGS TO CONSIDER

Reduces Loneliness



(→) Increases Self-Esteem



→ Improves Mood



→ Reduces Stress





HMMM, SHOULD I GO OUT?

By Abdul

The answer to that question tends to be no right? I mean nobody gets it but when the thought of going to see family or friends is considered, it isn't the happy moments or thrill of seeing people that crosses our minds but its more the things that can go wrong. We get so caught up with the 'ifs' and 'buts' and it comes to a point where we just don't want to do anything or go out anymore. Socialising is an important part of life for everyone, but it can be especially beneficial for mental health. When you connect with others, it can help you feel less lonely, more connected, and happier.

Interacting with others allows us to showcase our strengths, receive positive feedback, and gain a sense of accomplishment. Socialising can provide opportunities for personal growth, as we learn from and inspire each other. By engaging in conversations, sharing ideas, and participating in group activities, we develop a stronger sense of self and build confidence in our abilities.

It allows us to step away from our worries, have fun, and recharge our mental batteries. Laughing, sharing stories, and engaging in enjoyable experiences with others releases endorphins, which are natural mood boosters.

Will you try to get out there?

POETRY

MIND HEALERS

Lone, dark, insane minds wander away.
It's all embedded in treatment and cure.
Save our troubled souls, mind healers, sail away!
Away we'll fly in sanity towards heaven.
Down beneath and up above, cracking, cracking.
Under the ground, the flesh and soul repaired.
Together we'll heal, shine and rise above madness.

Heaven or hell, the angry voices in the head become stable.

Even the gods appease sanity, away from insanity!

Indeed, there's treatment of the mind on earth.

Loneliness disappears, the psychic of the mind revealed.

En-suite it felt, working in partnership; the birth of Sanity, bravery, stability, hope, desire, happiness, and recovery.

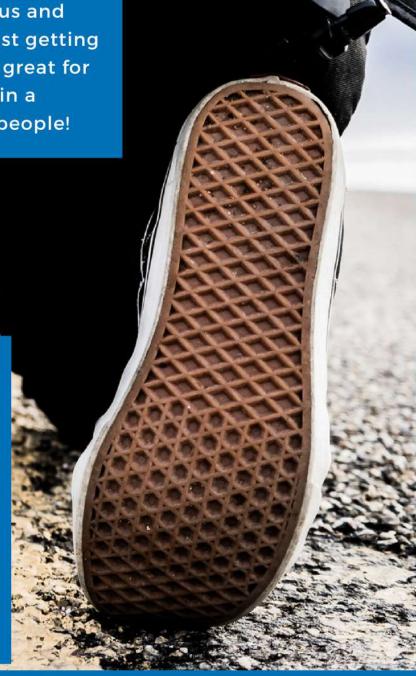
by Dele

GET WALKING

Walking is a free exercise which doesn't require special equipment or training.

The healthy benefits are obvious and there other advantages too. Just getting out and seeing people can be great for our wellbeing, you can even join a walking group and meet new people! Just 30 minutes walking every day can increase cardiovascular fitness, strengthen bones, reduce excess body fat, and boost muscle power and endurance.

It can also reduce your risk of developing conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis and some cancers.



Google these local walking group for more information:

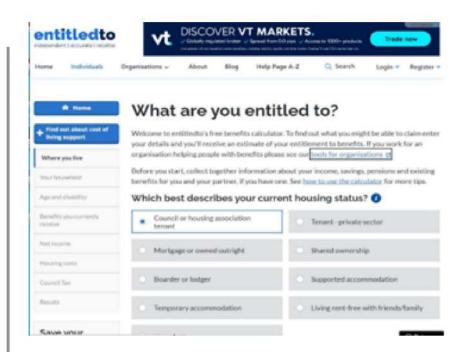
East London:

- London Strollers
- Metropolitan Walkers
- Capital Walkers

Luton and Beds:

- The Bogtrotters
- · Walking in Bedfordshire.
- Leighton Buzzard Ramblers

CLAIMING BENEFITS



Before going ahead and claiming benefits, it's a good idea to find out what you might be entitled to when claiming. Entitledto and Turn2us are great, simple to use tools for giving you an idea of what you could receive, based on your own individual circumstances

UNIVERSAL CREDIT

UC is a single benefit run by the DWP which combines benefits for in and out of work support, housing, families and childcare costs, with additional payments for people who have disabilities or caring responsibilities.

It is gradually replacing many existing benefits.





You'll need to claim UC online and then usually have a face-to-face interview. You can go to your local Jobcentre to claim online if you don't have internet access at home.

It takes around 5 weeks to get your first payment.

UC is paid once a month, usually into your bank or
building society account.

It is worked out each month, during assessment periods. You should get this payment 7 days after each assessment period ends.

CLAIMING BENEFITS



Personal Independence Payment can help with extra living costs, for people under pension age, with a long-term physical or mental health condition or disability.

PIP eligibility isn't based on your
National Insurance contributions and
it isn't means-tested, so how much
you earn or how much you have in
savings doesn't make a difference.
How much PIP you could get
depends on the difficulties you
encounter doing certain things, like
preparing meals, dressing and
undressing, or getting around.
PIP is made up of a daily living
component and a mobility
component. You might be able to
claim one or both components.





If you're awarded the higher rate mobility part of PIP, with at least 12 months left, you're eligible to apply for the Motability Scheme.

To make a claim, you need call the Department for Work and Pensions. They'll ask you for some basic information and then send you a claim form.

You can also write to 'Personal Independence Payment New Claims', to be sent a claim form but this is a much lengthier process.

ASK US ANYTHING

WHATS ON YOUR MIND?

Send in any questions for the Befriending Service to answer and we'll do our best to have a response in the next edition!

Keep your eyes open - you never know if your question makes it to the mag!

How can I manage stress and anxiety in my daily life?

Stress and anxiety can be managed through various techniques such as practicing relaxation exercises (e.g., deep breathing, meditation), engaging in regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, seeking support from loved ones, and considering therapy or counseling if needed.

What are some self-care strategies for promoting mental well-being?

Self-care plays a crucial role in maintaining mental well-being. It involves activities that help you relax, recharge, and nurture yourself.

Examples include prioritising adequate sleep, engaging in hobbies or activities you enjoy, practicing mindfulness or journaling, setting healthy boundaries, and seeking professional help when necessary.

"WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK IN THE MIRROR?"



How can I support a friend or family member who is experiencing depression?

Supporting someone with depression requires empathy and understanding. Encourage them to seek professional help, listen without judgment, and offer your support. Stay connected, engage in activities together, and let them know they're not alone. Remember, you're not expected to be their therapist, but your support and presence can make a significant difference.

What are some healthy coping mechanisms for dealing with emotional challenges?

Healthy coping mechanisms can include talking to a trusted friend or therapist, practicing relaxation techniques, engaging in physical exercise, journaling, pursuing creative outlets, seeking support groups, and finding ways to express emotions constructively. It's important to find coping strategies that work best for you and prioritize self-care during difficult times.



Here are a few things that Pride means to so many individuals:

- Acceptance: Pride is a time for celebrating who we are, without judgment or fear. It is a time to be surrounded by people who love and support me, no matter what.
- Community: Pride is a time to connect with others and see one another. It is a time to celebrate diversity and to learn from experiences.

Pride Month has just passed but is a time to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and all that has been accomplished. It is also a time to reflect on the challenges that are still faced and to continue pursuing equality.

 Hope: Pride is a time to feel hopeful about the future. It is a time to remember that the world has come a long way, but there is still more work to be done. It is a time to believe that everyone can contribute to creating a world where everyone is accepted and treated equally.



Wildlife Lanide July

While you might hear fewer bird calls, July is when insects are most abundant, others are raising newborns, and meadows are in full swing. It is a month filled with so much actionso why not get outside and see for yourself!

Busy insects

July is a great time to witness the diversity of British insects. Watch out for summer butterflies and moths, hungry beetles, swarms of flying ants, and dancing dragonflies and damselflies. Why not visit your local green space, sit near some flowers and record what you see?



Common Pipistrelle, Pipistrellus pipistrellus.

Meadows

National meadows day is celebrated on the 1st
July each year. In summer, wildflower
meadows transform from green to a burst of
colours. They support insects, birds and
mammals by providing nectar and shelter.



Chalkhill Blue, Polyommatus coridon.

Bats

Bats are most active on warm summer evenings. They give birth in June, will be busy catching insects this time of year. They tend to roost in old buildings such as churches with surrounding green spaces. Park up and watch them emerge as the sun sets!



Common spotted orchid, Dactylorhiza fuchsii.

Wildlife Lanide July

Why not visit your local meadow to see nature in full swing? Read below to find your closest meadow:

Dunstable Downs

Did you know Dunstable Downs is part of the wider Chiltern Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty? You can witness the chalk grassland habitat, which is now very rare and fragmented, and is of international conservation importance.

Visit: Whipsnade Road, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 2GY.

London Fields Wildflower Meadow

This beautiful meadow is Hackney's largest ever wildflower meadow. It supports local pollinators, birds and people, by giving us a wild space to unwind in amongst the busy city. With restaurants and cafes nearby, why not make an afternoon of it?

Visit: 26 London Fields East Side, London E8 3SA.

Mowsbury Hillfort and Putnoe Wood

In early summer the meadow is full of wildflowers, butterflies and other pollinators. Inside the hillfort you'll find medieval fishponds, orchards and earthworks. Look out for birds of prey overhead, including red kite.

Visit: Ravensden, Bedford MK418AN.



Why not submit your wildlife photos to be featured in next months article?

THINGS TO DO

LUTON & BEDS -

STRAWBERRY PICKING

Now that summer is truly upon us farms around Bedfordshire have begun offering their pick your own strawberry activities! What's great about this activity is that it gets you outside, it's a fun day out for both adults and children and you get to take home a yummy selection of strawberries at the end of the day too!

Grove Farm, which has been running for 40 years, is a big safe space in the fresh country environment that has Pick Your Own events for several months of the year. The farm also allows you to bring along your own packaging, which is a great way for you to reuse any containers you have lying around the house and save on waste! Plus, if you bring a heavy box, they will weigh it before you start so that the weight is taken off the final amount for your strawberries.





Want to make it even more fun? Why not turn it into a competition for your kids? Who can find the biggest strawberry...the oddest shaped strawberry...the reddest strawberry? That's bound to get the little ones excitedly running around to search among the sea of strawberries and present you their chosen ones!

Fun tip! The best time to pick strawberries is a warm afternoon where it's believed that the fruit is at its most flavorsome!

Remember! Wear suitable shoes for walking around the fields!



When?: Monday-Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm Sunday 9:00am-12:00pm

Address:
Grove Farm PYO
Great Gap
Ivinghoe
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 9DZ

Admission: No entry free, just pay for what you pick! £6/ kg

TIME TO GET SPORTY!

In honour of all the sportig events that have or are still taking place throughout the summer period, we thought it would be good to raise awareness about where you can go to find a range of different activities that individuals of any age can take part in.

Interested in getting involved with new activities or sports?

It can seem a bit daunting when trying to find a place but there's plenty to choose from with a bit of effort.

BETTER which is a charitable social enterprise, which has multiple locations across the UK including London, Luton & Bedfordshire alongside other areas. You can see if your local branch are holding any specific events for the community to take part in OR join a Sports Club which comes under their Healthy Communities category. You'd be able to meet new people, get active, potentially find something you like and so much more!

So what are you waiting for?

If you're interested in finding a local BETTER leisure centre near you, you can use follow this link: https://www.better.org.uk/healthy-communities/sports-clubs

which will let you put in your postcode and show you the closest branch alongside their offerings.





ESS NOL

INGREDIENTS

-400 G STRAWBERRIES,
HULLED AND
QUARTERE 5 MERINGUE
NESTS, BROKEN INTO
PIECES:

-284ML POT DOUBLE
CREAM, LIGHTLY
WHIPPED OR LIGHT
WHIPPING CREAM

STEP 1

-CRUSH HALF OF THE
STRAWBERRIES TO A
ROUGH PULP WITH THE
BACK OF A FORK OR IN A
FOOD PROCESSOR. TIP
THE MERINGUE INTO A
LARGE BOWL AND STIR IN
THE CREAM.



STEP 2

-ADD THE STRAWBERRY PULP
AND STRAWBERRY QUARTERS
AND GENTLY FOLD EVERYTHING
TOGETHER SO YOU HAVE RIPPLES
OF PINK THROUGH THE WHITE.
-REDUCE AMOUNTS FOR
PORTIONS AS THIS SERVES 4

YOU COULD TRY SPREADING THE
MIXTURE OVER A PLAIN CAKE FOR
A HEAVIER DESERT



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES





"Joy is not in things; it is in us." — Richard Wagner

"We don't make
mistakes, just happy
little accidents." —
Bob Ross

"Misery might love company, but so does joy. And joy throws much better parties." —
Billy Ivey



"It's not about being happy all the time, or being sure of all your choices. It's about knowing that life is precious, even when it's tough." — Topher Kearby

THINGS TO DO

LONDON

SUMMER OF WELLBEING FESTIVALS



The summer of wellbeing is back again, bringing a whole range of fun festivals and days out centered around catering for your mental health.

There will be eight festivals throughout the summer period with three happening during July. Each festival will include bouncy castles, music, face painting, food stalls and a whole lot more! If you want to get involved in some group stretching, drawing workshops or learn a new skill, watch a group of local dancers do a performance or bring along a blanket and have a picnic, then the summer of wellbeing festivals is the place for you!



Brought to you by local organizations and groups, these totally inclusive, events are accessible and include activities for the whole family to enjoy. They will also have a range of local services there dedicated to focusing on health and wellbeing, offering you the chance to connect and talk with no judgement and gain any help or support you may need. These services will also be there to offer advice on things such as ways to stay fit and active, how to cook healthy meals and tips to deal with anxiety and low mood. It is also a great opportunity to meet other people who may share your interests and hobbies!

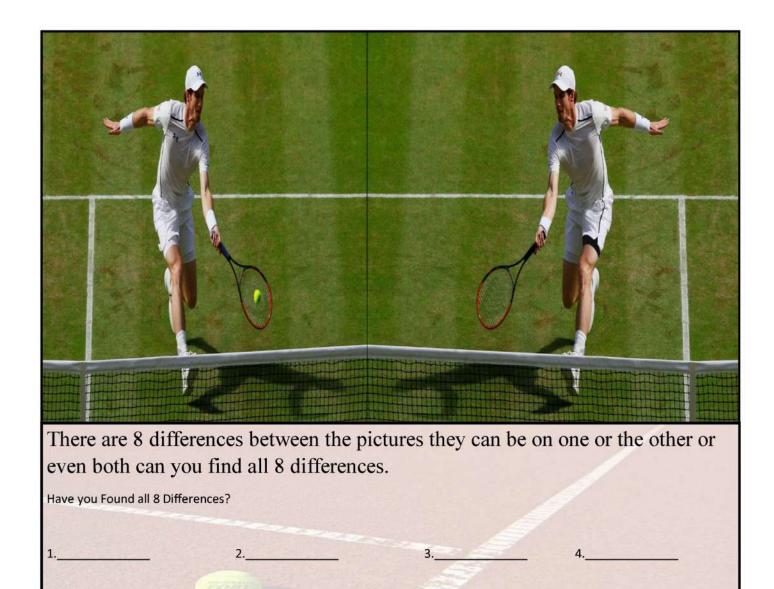
If you are looking for a fun day out in the sun that is also free to visit, why not check out one of the locations this July throughout Tower Hamlets?

When/ Where:
1) Thursday 6th
July
Chrisp St, E14
173 East India
Dock Road
Poplar, E14 6AQ
Time: 3:00pm6:00pm

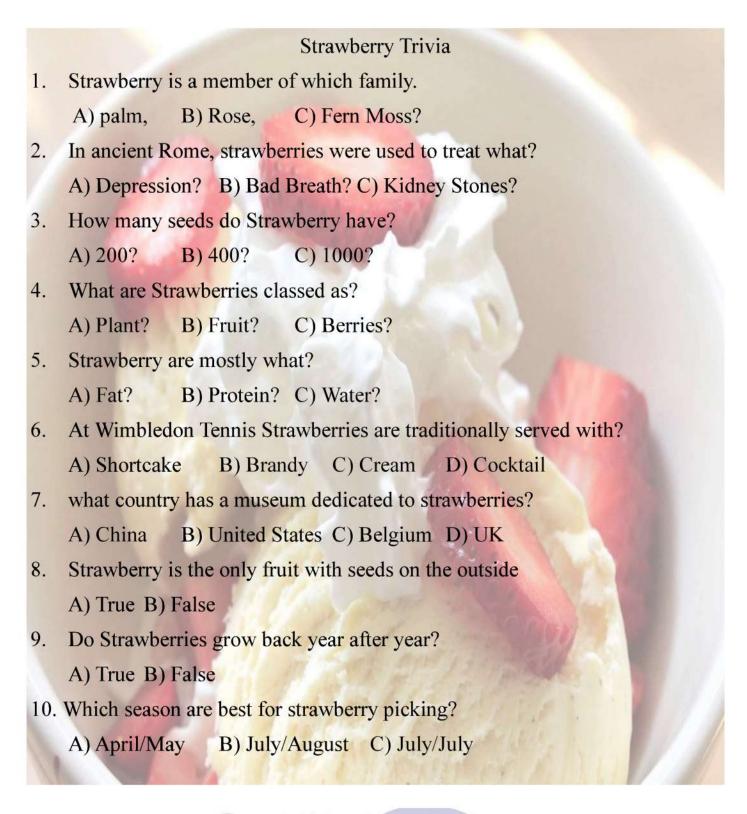
When/Where:
2) Saturday 8th
July
Our Teviot, E14
Teviot Centre
1 Wyvis Street,
E14 6QD
Time: 12:00pm4:00pm

When/Where:
3) Saturday 22nd
July
British Estate, E3
Bernie Cameron
Community
Centre
32 Merchant
Street, E3 4LX
Time: 12:00pm4:00pm

REMEMBER! All
events are free to
visit but bring along
some money if you're
interested in
purchasing any food!



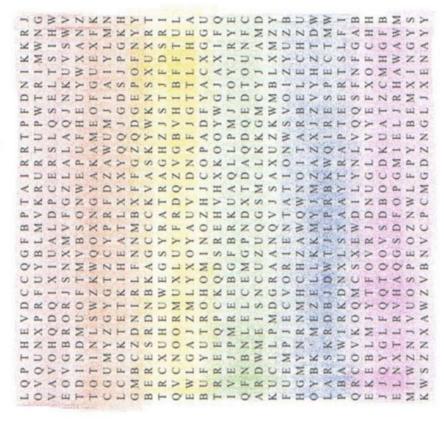
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+		+		+		+		math equation Remember that
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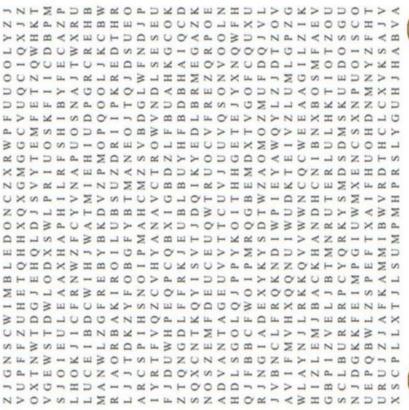
can you make sense out of this racket

Love Love Love





Oh What A Racket





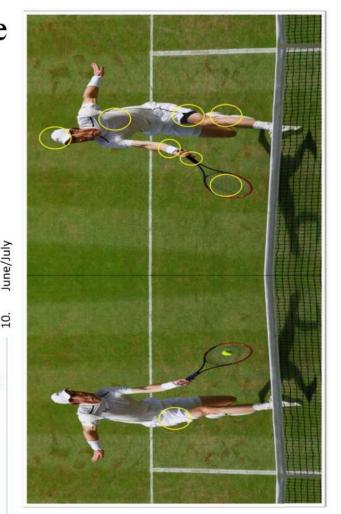
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book	ADVANTAGE	LINEJUDGE	RETURN
	SLICE	SINGLES	LINE
	DROPSHOT	ACE	RACKET
	SERVE	WIMBLEDON	UMPIRE



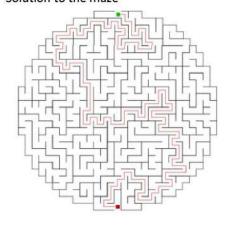
BACKHAND	BALL	COURT	DEUCE		
TRANSGENDER'S	ACCEPTANCE	GENDER	LGBTQ	COMMUNITY	
FLAMBOYANCY	HUMANRIGHTS	RAINBOW	WHISTLES	EMBRACE	
FLAG	ORIENTATION	IDENTITY	CELEBRATION	LOVE	
COMINGOUT	DRAGQUEEN	EQUALITY	STREETPARTY	RESPECT	

Solutions Page

			5	olu	tion	is P	age
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	+i	5.	A	. P.	6.	∞ σ	. F
How To Play	Fill in the missing numbers between	1–16. Each number is	only used once. Each row is a math	equation Each column is a	math equation Remember that	multiplication and division are per-	addition and sub- traction. Enjoy
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1		1		+		×	54
14	1	7	ì	2	+	1	1
+		+		r		1	
6	1	3	+	11	+	15	29
+		í		+		1	
2	+	8	1	10	+	12	15



Solution to the maze



Odd One Out

Nougat: because it is the only sweet in the list that sones not contain an E.

Oh What A Racket

Solution

Solution

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S C W I M B L E D O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	LOVE	ADVANTAGE	SLICE	DROPSHOT	SERVE
	BACKHAND	GAMESETMATCH	BALL	COURT	DEUCE
1 K K R J 1 M W N G 1 S I H W W X A N Z U E X F K 1 Y L M N 1 P G K H 2 P G K H 3 P G K H 4 P T U L 1 J A M D 1 J A M D 1 J A M D 1 X M Z Y 2 Y U Z B 6 C H Z U 1 X M Z Y 2 Y U Z B 6 C T M W 7 J J A M D 1 X M Z Y 7 J G A B 8 C T M W 8 C T M W 1 N G G A B 1 N G Y S 8 E 8 N A Y Y 8 C 8 C T M W 1 N G F B 8 N A Y Y 8 C 8 C T M W 1 N G F B 8 N A Y Y 8 C 8 C T M W 1 N G F B 8 C T M W 8 C T	TRANSGENDER'S	GENDER	LGBTQ	COMMUNITY	
TA 1 R R T P F D N K R U R T U P W T R R U R T U P W T R R U R T U P W T R N W W E P U F H E U Y Y A K A M E O F G G D G E P C A W U M J I A C A C A C A C A C A C A C A C A C A	FLAMBOYANCY	RAINBOW	WHISTLES	EMBRACE	

ORIENTATION

FLAG

COMINGOUT DRAGQUEEN EQUALITY CELEBRATION

STREETPARTY

RESPECT

LOVE

IDENTITY



USEFUL CONTACTS

NHS SUPPORT

NHS WWW.NHS.UK

ELFT WWW.ELFT.NHS.UK

Befriending Service ELFT.BEFRIENDINGSERVICE@NHS.NET

People Participation ELFT.PEOPLEPARTICIPATION@NHS.NET

MENTAL HEATH CRISIS LINES

 Newham
 0207 771 5888

 Tower Hamlets
 0207 771 5807

 Hackney
 0208 432 8020

 Luton
 01582 556971

 Bedford and Mid-Bedfordshire
 01234 315691

SUPPORT FOR ADDICTION

Path 2 Recovery 0333 332 4019
Talk To Frank WWW.TALKTOFRANK.COM
Alcoholics Anonymous WWW.ALCOHOLICS-ANONYMOUS.ORG.UK
Cocaine Anonymous COCAINEANONYMOUS.ORG.UK
GamCare WWW.GAMCARE.ORG.UK

SUPPORT FOR BEREAVEMENT

Cruse WWW.CRUSE.ORG.UK
Bereavement Partnership NATIONALBEREAVEMENTPARTNERSHIP.ORG
The Good Grief Trust WWW.THEGOODGRIEFTRUST.ORG
At A Loss WWW.ATALOSS.ORG

SUPPORT FOR CARERS

Carers UK WWW.CARERSUK.ORG
Family Action WWW.FAMILY-ACTION.ORG.UK

SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247

For men experiencing domestic abuse 0808 801 0327

Refuge WWW.REFUGE.ORG.UK



USEFUL CONTACTS

SUPPORT FOR FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

The UK Government WWW.GOV.UK/OPTIONS-FOR-PAYING-OFF-YOUR-DEBTS

Step Change WWW.STEPCHANGE.ORG

Citizens Advice WWW.CITIZENSADVICE.ORG.UK

National Debtline WWW.NATIONALDEBTLINE.ORG

SUPPORT FOR HOUSING PROBLEMS

Your local council WWW.GOV.UK/FIND-LOCAL-COUNCIL

Citizens Advice WWW.CITIZENSADVICE.ORG.UK

Crisis WWW.CRISIS.ORG.UK/GET-HELP

Shelter ENGLAND.SHELTER.ORG.UK

StreetLink WWW.HOMELESS.ORG.UK

SUPPORT FOR LONG TERM CONDITIONS

EXTRA SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Hub of Hope

MIND

WWW.MIND.ORG.UK

Samaritans

TELEPHONE: 116 123

Young Minds

YOUNGMINDS.ORG.UK

LGBT+ Helpline

SWITCHBOARD.LGBT

SUPPORT FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE

EXTRA SUPPORT FOR SUICIDALTHOUGHTS

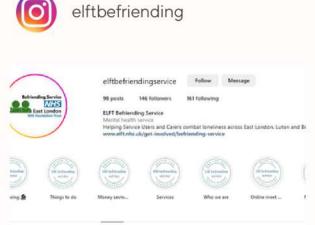
Papyrus WWW.PAPYRUS-UK.ORG

R;pple Suicide Prevention WWW.RIPPLESUICIDEPREVENTION.COM

Shout GIVEUSASHOUT.ORG

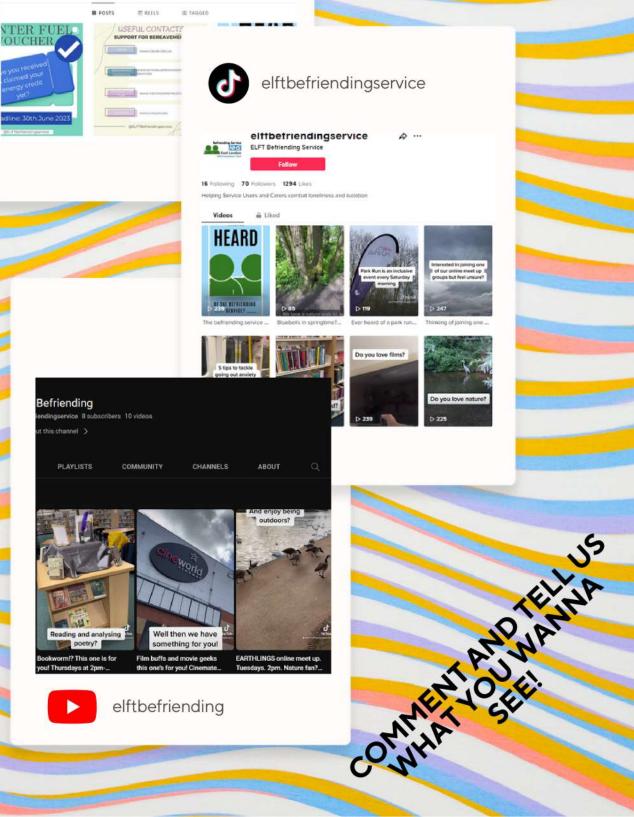
Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide UKSOBS.ORG

Campaign Against Living Miserably WWW.THECALMZONE.NET



DO YOU HAVE SPOTIFY? FIND AND SCAN THE QR CODE IN THIS EDITION AND SEE WHERE IT TAKES YOU!

hint: It'll be near the beginning





elftbefriending

Would

Well then we have