

COUNCIL NEWS



New town hall in Whitechapel now open for all to enjoy

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CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH



Our selfless residents receive their royal honours

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ACCELERATE EDUCATION



Tower Hamlets primary school is the best in country

SEE PAGE 19

ISSUE TWENTY-EIGHT // MARCH 2023



# OU REASTEND



## Royal welcome

King Charles visits Bangladeshi community in Brick Lane





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# OUR EAST END

NEWS FROM TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL AND YOUR COMMUNITY

## A message from the Mayor of Tower Hamlets



We've had a fantastic beginning to 2023 with an incredibly busy and historic start to the year.

Last month, we completed our move to the new town hall in Whitechapel, leaving behind Mulberry Place which had been our home for more than 30 years.

This move has been a decade in the making with so many years in the planning, design, building work and then finally the moving stages, and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in making the move happen.

We also had a very exciting visit from The King and Queen Consort when they visited the Bangladeshi community here in Tower Hamlets.

The sun shone gloriously as Their Majesties toured Altab Ali Park and Brick Lane.

Before that, we had the official launch of our University Bursary Scheme in January which will provide 400 eligible students with a £1,500 payment to support with costs such as accommodation, books and resources.

I was also privileged to visit the East London Central Synagogue ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day in January. It is so important that we remember the events of the past so we can help prevent them from being repeated. My thoughts remain with everyone affected by the Holocaust and more recent genocides.

The cost-of-living crisis has made it a difficult

start to 2023 for many people. We are continuing to offer financial support and guidance to those who need it and I encourage everyone to check our website at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving) to make sure you are getting all the help you are entitled to.

Looking forward, spring is now just around the corner and we will all be able to enjoy the fantastic events, places and parks in Tower Hamlets, with longer and brighter days and, hopefully, plenty of warm sunshine.

Lutfur Rahman

Mayor of Tower Hamlets

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# Enhancing our borough's history with new town hall

## INVESTING IN SERVICES

A historic Grade II listed former hospital building in the heart of London's East End has reopened as Tower Hamlets Council's new town hall.

The old Royal London Hospital Building in Whitechapel was built in the mid-eighteenth century, but closed in 2013 when the hospital moved into a new, modern building just next door.

Tower Hamlets Council bought the building for £9m and began a multi-million pound project to restore, renovate and extend the iconic building which will now continue its role of serving the local community.

As well as preserving the listed building, the move to Whitechapel Road provides local people with a permanent, and now more accessible, town hall building, while also saving the council £5m each year in rent for Mulberry Place, which was its Poplar-based town hall building for more than 30 years.

Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "With so many stories to tell, this is a building which has served local people for centuries and will now continue to do so as the town hall for Tower Hamlets."

"It's a town hall proven to stand the test of time and one we can all take great pride in."

The relocating of Tower Hamlets Town Hall follows the arrival of the Elizabeth Line to Whitechapel last year. The area is also set to benefit from the multi-million pound Whitechapel Road Improvement Programme and the creation of the new, state-of-the-art Whitechapel

Life Sciences Cluster, supporting 5,000 jobs.

The hospital buildings have been partly retained, including the listed neo-classical façade and clock overlooking Whitechapel Road.

Inside the building, the internal staircases of the hospital and many features of the old chapel have been preserved, while the ceiling lamps and wall-mounted instruments of the old operating theatre have been retained as features in the new chief executive's office.

The entire ground floor is dedicated for public use, with the new town hall boasting a new event and exhibition space, council chamber and a residents' hub so that those who need in-person support can talk to someone face-to-face.

It won't just be council staff working in the building, with staff from Tower Hamlets Homes and NHS clinical commissioning groups also moving in.

Tower Hamlets Council appointed Bouygues to work on designs by Allford Hall Monaghan Morris to renovate, restore and repurpose the old building, including removing significant amounts of asbestos. The work to create the new town hall also created 403 local jobs and 19 apprenticeships.

Moving Tower Hamlets Town Hall to Whitechapel means that the council has bid farewell to its Mulberry Place home. Mulberry will be handed back to the landlord following its closure to the public last month.



The entrance to the new town hall, above, and the public space, below



The new council chambers

“

**This is a building which has served local people for centuries and will now continue to do so**



# Dream come true for Farhana

Assistant project manager Farhana Khan wanted to be an architect since she was a child, but struggled to get into the industry until she started as an apprentice at the council.

She said: "I loved buildings from a young age and always wanted to challenge the norm.

"I didn't always feel supported by my teachers and extended family and when I expressed my ambitions to become an architect, they'd tell me that it would be hard work and too difficult for a young, Bengali woman."

She was forced to put her dreams on hold when at the age of 17, she faced difficult times due to changing personal circumstances that were beyond her control. She started working in retail, until a friend sent her details about apprenticeships available at the council. She applied and got the position in 2008.

She explained: "I hadn't let go of

my ambition to be an architect so I asked to do an apprenticeship with the planning department. I also worked as an apprentice in different departments and learnt so much.

"When the Mayor said he wanted to purchase the historic Royal London Hospital building to turn it into the new town hall, I was in the meeting taking minutes. I remember thinking what a brilliant idea it was.

"I've been completely obsessed with the project since then. When a vacancy came up seven months ago to work as assistant project manager on the project, I applied and got the job.

"I love it. It has been really hard work, but seeing everyone's smiling faces as they see the new town hall for the first time makes it all work it.

"And my six-year-old daughter now really wants to be an architect too which makes me feel so proud."



Farhana has always wanted to be an architect



Yasmin has a lot connections with the building like other residents

## Old and new

Charlie Carter started working at Tower Hamlets Council in 2017 as a graduate trainee before being appointed as project manager for the new town hall project in 2019. Alongside this, he has completed an MA in urban design and town planning which the council funded.

He said: "I am really pleased with how well the old mixes with the new in the new town hall. The building has a rich history and we have celebrated that. We have not attempted to hide every imperfection – we are letting it show its scars. The more you play

around with it and attempt to create a pristine building you lose the history which makes it so special.

"We uncovered centuries of history as we stripped the building, including scraps of newspaper from the 1890s in the historic clock face.

"Doing a full-time job with the MA course was intense but it was an amazing opportunity as I wouldn't have been able to fund the course otherwise.

"It has been a super demanding few years, but it is amazing to see all the staff and residents so happy with the new building."

## Legacy for all

Project director Yasmin Ali was born and raised in Tower Hamlets and understands the connection local people have with the building.

She says: "My father died in the Royal London Hospital when I was very young. That is one of my earliest memories of having a connection with the building. I also had my oldest child there, so I understand the important role it has played in the lives and deaths of people in the borough.

"It has been a privilege to be part of the team working on the project,

from the design to the construction. There have of course been a lot of complexities with the project, not least from refurbishing a grade II listed building, but also the complications of working through the pandemic. But it has been an amazing experience.

"Mulberry Place wasn't that accessible, but the new town hall is in one of the most accessible parts of London, let alone Tower Hamlets.

"It is not only a great investment for our staff and residents, but also a legacy for them."



Charlie completed an MA, which the council funded, while working on the project



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# New budget supports future growth for all our residents



1,000 new affordable houses will be built



£5.7m for free school meals for primary and secondary school children



£4.4m to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour



£1.1m for Education Maintenance Allowance and university bursaries

## INVESTING IN SERVICES

Supporting residents through the cost of living crisis, giving young people better life opportunities and investing in the future of areas including community safety, housing, leisure and climate change



**Our budget meets our commitment to invest in services and support our residents**

are at the heart of the council's new budget.

The new budget freezes the Tower Hamlets element of council tax, alongside a 2 per cent Adult Social Care precept to raise £2.5m towards services for older and vulnerable residents. A £2.5m package will help provide free homecare for qualifying residents from April 2024.

Tower Hamlets will also retain one of the most generous council tax reduction schemes in the country, with reductions of up to 100 per cent for the borough's low-income families.

Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "We are proud to have put together our budget which meets our commitment to invest in services and support our residents through this difficult time.

"Our 2023/24 budget is fully costed with significant investment

up front to get projects moving such as universal free school meals for primary and secondary schools and bringing services such as Tower Hamlets Homes and leisure centres back in house."

The budget plans and related key policies include:

- 1000 new affordable homes a year and improved fire safety and repairs
- £5.7m for universal free school meals for both primary and secondary school pupils
- £11.5m investment to transform youth services
- £1.1m to re-introduce Education Maintenance Allowances and University Bursaries
- £730k for children with special educational and additional needs (SEND)

- £2.5m to support free homecare for vulnerable adults
- £4.4m to tackle crime and ASB with new police officers and enforcement officers
- £800k for community language investment
- £7m for tackling climate change including electric waste vehicles, EV charging points and low carbon fuel
- Ongoing cost of living support with an extra £700k for the tackling poverty programme
- £275k to bring leisure services back under direct council control
- £1.25m ongoing support for the voluntary and community sector
- £1.1m for improved customer services at residents' hubs
- £487k for the full reopening of Idea Store Watney Market.



# Safety campaign launched after pest control causes fatal incident

## COUNCIL NEWS

After pest control products caused two fatal or life-changing incidents in the borough, Tower Hamlets Council has launched a campaign to warn residents about the dangers of professional pest control products.

One incident resulted in the death of an 11-year-old girl, and another left a woman with ongoing serious health issues and no savings after trying to clean up her home.

The council has reported that these incidents are believed to be caused by the use of professional pest control products by untrained residents. The gas from these products can be poisonous and can also lead to explosions and fires.

The campaign, Kill Pests Not People, aims to make sure residents avoid buying pest control products from online marketplaces with multiple sellers, where they can't be sure if the product is suitable for amateur use, and only purchase from reputable UK sellers.

Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "We are shocked by these incidents that have taken place and our thoughts are with

the impacted families. Our primary concern is our residents and ensuring that these incidents don't continue to happen in the borough.

"When people use pest control chemicals that are only meant for professional use or have been shipped in from outside of the UK, they can harm more than just pests."

The council is urging all residents who may have a pest problem to speak to a professional pest control service before trying to tackle the problem themselves.

The Tower Hamlets Council Pest Control Service is an affordable service that has experienced, trained officers and effective treatments and can give advice on how you can stop pests from coming back.

This is echoed by a Tower Hamlets resident who is still suffering headaches, nausea and other symptoms, six months after using an insecticide to treat bedbugs, which she bought on eBay from Spain.

Cllr Kabir Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding, added: "Residents need to be cautious when buying pest control chemicals, especially online.



The council has launched a campaign to highlight the dangers of buying pest control products online following the death of an 11-year-old girl

"Well-known online marketplaces may be reputable but the sellers that are on their platform may not be. If you do need to buy pest control products from an online marketplace you need to make sure that you

research the individual seller. Check that they are UK-based and that their products are not industrial-grade strength."

- Visit the council website for information on how to safely buy pest control products.

# Council donates abandoned bikes to help upskill Mile End residents



Cllr Maium Talukdar, left, handing one of the bikes to Nurull Islam, right, founder of the Mile End Community Project

Tower Hamlets Council has donated bikes and cycle parts to Mile End Community Project for use in its project to teach bike mechanic skills to residents.

The council recently launched a project to remove abandoned bikes from the borough's streets.

More than 19 bikes and three bike wheels have been removed as part of the project.

Instead of disposing of the bikes, the council contacted Mile End Community Project, which runs a scheme called On Yer Bike, designed to empower local people with bike mechanic skills and address some of the inequalities in cycling, to see if they could put them to good use.

The team now has an agreement to donate future usable bikes and cycle parts to the charity.

Cllr Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, said: "Not only is our bike removal project clearing up our streets of clutter, but by donating the usable cycles we are helping local people to learn and practice new skills."

Nurull Islam, Founder of Mile End Community Project, said: "This is a great example of what you can achieve when combining resources and collaborative working. On Yer Bike has been running since 2019 and has donated more than 90 bikes to a diverse range of people of all ages."

- Find out more about the project at [mileendcommunityproject.org/](http://mileendcommunityproject.org/)
- Report abandoned bikes to the council for removal at: [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/reportit)





Cost-of-living advice was given during a special school assembly, left, and the food collected by the school, right

# Students help others with food donation

Students at a Shadwell school collected food for the local food bank to help those struggling with the cost of living.

Jamiatul Ummah Boys' School held a special assembly for the students about the cost-of-living crisis in December.

The assembly covered what the

council is doing to tackle the cost-of-living crisis and what the school and, in particular, students and their families can do to help others during this challenging time.

After the assembly, the school decided to ask the students and their parents to help others by donating food to the council-run food banks.

They donated a huge collection of food, including dried and tinned products, which were collected by the food bank.

Food banks are a lifeline for residents who are struggling financially as it gives them free food.

There are a number of food banks

throughout the borough.

- You can find out more information about how to access food banks and where they are at [towerhamlets.gov.uk/Help-with-food.aspx](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/Help-with-food.aspx)
- The council has a number of cost-of-living initiatives: [towerhamlets.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

# More funding for food banks

## COST OF LIVING

An extra £190,000 is being invested by Tower Hamlets Council to provide essential supplies to food banks across the borough.

Since the cost-of-living crisis began, many people across the country have been relying on food banks to survive.

The money will go to the Food Hub based in Bethnal Green, which was originally established during the pandemic, and has distributed more than 1,800 tonnes of food - the equivalent of a week's food for more than 45,000 families.

The hub remains a key part of the food support network in the borough and supports more than 60 organisations as well as providing volunteering opportunities for residents who benefit from soft skills on the path to employment.

The funding from the council will be used to buy essential food items in bulk at wholesale prices.

Cllr Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and Cost of



The funding will be used to buy essential food in bulk at wholesale prices

Living, added: "While food banks should be unnecessary in one of the richest countries in the world, it is vital to continue to support food providers who are doing amazing

work to help our communities."

- For advice and support on managing debt, where you can get help with household bills, and much more, visit our Cost of

Living Help webpage.

- There is also access to an online benefits checker which residents can use to find out what help they are entitled to.





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# King visits Tower Hamlets

## CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

Crowds welcomed The King and The Queen Consort to Tower Hamlets as part of a visit to honour the borough's Bangladeshi community.

The visit started at Altab Ali Park in Whitechapel Road. The park is named after the 25-year-old man who was murdered in a racist attack in Adler Street in 1978.

There The King and The Queen Consort met with elders from the community who were involved in the anti-racism movement at the time.

They planted a tree to commemorate the 45th anniversary of Altab's death and visited the Shaheed Minar monument which commemorates the Bengali Language Movement.

Following the park visit, the

procession walked along Brick Lane starting at Banglatown Arch and the adjacent mural.

Both the arch, which was renovated last year, and the 'Mateer Tan/The Land is Calling' mural, which was painted by international artist Mohammed Ali MBE, pay tribute to 50 years of Bangladeshi independence which was celebrated in 2021.

Accompanied by a dance procession, they continued down the famous street, stopping to meet children from a number of local schools, local charities and businesses, and women of the BBPI Jamdani Network.

The visit finished at the Brick Lane Mosque, where they learnt about the history of the building which has changed over the years from a church to a synagogue to the present -day mosque.

They met several community and business representatives, including the Brick Lane Funeral Service Director and the President of the East London Central Synagogue, to hear about the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and interfaith work.

The visit was organised by the British Bangladeshi Power and Inspiration (BBPI), working with Tower Hamlets Council and Tower Hamlets Police.

Ayesha Qureshi MBE JP, Founder of BBPI, said: "Brick Lane is more than just a street to the British Bangladeshi community.

"We are humbled beyond words that Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort have accepted our invitation to visit the community in our spiritual home of Brick Lane and, in so doing, are recognising the struggles our elders

faced in making Britain their home.

"As a community, we have suffered a disproportionate number of deaths during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We proposed Their Majesties visit as a way for our generation to pay tribute to those we have lost, and on whose shoulders we stand today."

Cllr Shafi Ahmed, Speaker of Tower Hamlets Council, said: "We are incredibly proud to welcome The King and The Queen Consort to our borough.

"We have seen today how much the Royal Family means to our residents, traders and schoolchildren.

"We believe Tower Hamlets offers the best of London in one borough with our mix of culture, communities, entrepreneurship and history.

"Our Bangladeshi community is an example of all of those elements with Brick Lane at the heart."



The King meeting Speaker Cllr Shafi Ahmed, Deputy Mayor Cllr Maium Talukdar, and Ayesha Qureshi, founder of BBPI



# ' Bangladeshi community



The King and The Queen Consort met members of the council, local business, schoolchildren and charities during their visit





# 12 cars impounded for showing stolen blue badges

## FIGHTING CRIME

More than 250 blue badges were checked during a day of targeted action in Tower Hamlets.

Blue badges allow those with a disability or health condition to park closer to their destination. However, sadly some people steal blue badges to sell on or use themselves, or they are sometimes used fraudulently.

The council's parking and mobility services and the fraud investigations unit, along with Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the Metropolitan Police, carried out a day of checking blue badges across the borough.

During the operation, 25 badges were classed as stolen, and, as a result, 12 cars were impounded.

One badge was being used despite the holder being shown as deceased, and another was past its

expiry date.

A further four badges were being used although they had been reported as lost. The council's fraud investigation service is investigating and will interview all those found to be misusing badges.

Cllr Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, said: "Blue badge misuse and theft is not a victimless crime.

"Illegally using a badge that isn't yours is denying a disabled parking space to one of the thousands of registered blue badge holders in Tower Hamlets who have a genuine need for them.

"We will continue to carry out blue badge inspections and those who are illegally using a blue badge will be investigated."

- To report someone incorrectly using a blue badge, email [parking.fraud@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:parking.fraud@towerhamlets.gov.uk)
- Apply for a blue badge on the council's website



One of the seized cars being removed by the council after 250 blue badges were checked during a day of action



Safer community officers giving crime prevention advice and hearing residents' concerns during a recent safety surgery and walkabout

## Safety days and walkabouts continuing

Hundreds of residents have received crime prevention advice, reported crimes, and provided important intelligence to our community safety team during our safety surgeries and walkabouts.

The initiatives were introduced in the summer and invite residents to talk to our safer communities

officers, Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers, police, and partner organisations about crime and keeping safe at our safety surgeries. We also invite residents to join our teams to walk around the local area to highlight any issues during our safety walkabouts.

Residents are welcome to discuss

any issues with council staff, police, or Cllr Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities.

Cllr Ahmed said: "We have held a number of sessions for residents and are continuing to carry out an ambitious timetable of events throughout this year. We will be going to each ward, giving all our

residents the chance to speak to the council and partners about any issues and to get crime prevention advice.

"We really want to hear from you so please do come along and talk to our teams."

- See the events at: [towerhamlets.gov.uk/SaferCommunityDays](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/SaferCommunityDays)



# Calls for government to bring in tighter restrictions for nitrous oxide use



Cllr Ohid Ahmed is calling for tighter restrictions for nitrous oxide

The fight against nitrous oxide is being taken to government by a Tower Hamlets Council cabinet member.

Nitrous oxide, commonly known as laughing gas or NOX, is a psychoactive substance which can have lasting health issues for those who inhale it, including B12 deficiency, paralysis and death.

The silver canisters it comes in are also an environmental nuisance as they are left discarded throughout the borough. NOX is often associated with anti-social behaviour.

Nitrous oxide is one of the most commonly used drugs among 16-24-year-olds in England, according to recent studies.

Cllr Ohid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, has been vocal about campaigning for stricter legislation since he took responsibility as cabinet member.

He wrote to Home Secretary Suella Braverman, calling on her to commit to a tough stance on NOX use.

Cllr Ahmed was pleased to see reports a month after his letter that the government is looking at banning the sale of NOX in England and Wales.

In the letter he wrote: “[NOX] is a particular risk to young people, and, locally, the paediatric team at the Royal London Hospital has identified 30 such cases over the last 12 months.

“When taken with increasing use of NOX amongst young people, the shifting understanding of these health harms should be a cause of concern and a call to action.

“Considering the prevalence of abuse of nitrous oxide, its impact on the wider community and potential health harm to young people, we would ask that you continue to press for the ACMD to conduct an updated assessment of the impacts of NOX and whether it should be controlled

under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

“It is the firm belief of Tower Hamlets Council that a stronger stance on NOX use will help to deter users and it is necessary to address the brazen sale and use of NOX that blights our streets.”

Tower Hamlets Council has joined forces with the local police to tackle the issue and has recently seized more than 1,000 NOX canisters from local shops in just two days.

The Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) regularly respond to complaints from residents about NOX and carry out seizures of NOX from people and vehicles.

The council has also introduced a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order, meaning people using it in public places can be fined.

However, the council, along with the Local Government Association, is calling for the government to take more action over the selling and use of NOX.

Cllr Ahmed added: “Tower Hamlets Council will continue to seize NOX, fine those selling or using it in Tower Hamlets, and petition the government to bring in tighter restrictions.”

# Hundreds pledge against gender-based violence during 16 days of activism

Hundreds of people took part in a series of activities and events marking 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

The council and its partners organised a packed timetable of webinars, awareness sessions and information events from 25 November, which is White Ribbon Day and the UN’s International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day.

White Ribbon Day encourages everyone, including men, to come together to help stop violence against women and girls. It includes signing a pledge to promise to never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women.

Tower Hamlets Council’s Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Hate Crime teams, plus the

Women’s Network and Male Allies, secured 213 pledge signatures - almost 50 more than last year.

Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: “One in three women were subjected to at least one form of sexual harassment in the UK in the last year. This is a shocking statistic and we are committed to making Tower Hamlets a safe place for everyone.

“We will continue to emphasise that this is not acceptable in our borough.”

Menara Ahmed, the senior VAWG, Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime Manager at Tower Hamlets Council, said: “We really hope these 16 days of activities have opened people’s eyes to the range of gender-based violence that happens around the world every day and what action we can all take to help stop it.”



The stall in the council’s old town hall promoting the 16 days of activism and encouraging men to sign the pledge



# Honours for those serving th

## CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

The achievements and services of extraordinary people from Tower Hamlets have been recognised in the New Year's Honours list 2023.

Those who received awards in Tower Hamlets were:

- Christine Joyce Lewis, former headteacher at Children's House Nursery School in Bow
- Designers Nipa Doshi and Jonathan Levien
- Justin David Elliott Byam Shaw, founder of The Felix Project, a charity which redistributes food, fighting food waste and hunger from a warehouse in Poplar
- William Michael Thornton, who

serves the community in the Docklands.

Christine, who was awarded an MBE for services to education, worked at Children's House for more than 15 years.

During this time, the school had three outstanding Ofsted inspections.

She said: "Children's House is really special.

"This award is for the whole school including the parents and staff who nominated me."

Charlotte Hill OBE, CEO of The Felix Project, said: "The Felix Project was started by Justin and Jane with the vision that no good food should go to waste and no Londoner should go hungry.

"Almost seven years later and the

charity's impact has grown so much thanks to their passion, hard work and dedication.

"The food we rescue has supported the work of so many amazing community organisations across this great capital city, but, crucially, this is also reducing our damaging impact on planet earth.

"This recognition is certainly well deserved. They are an inspiration to us all at Felix."

Alongside the New Year's Honours, the founder of a Tower Hamlet's-based care provided received a prestigious People's Honour at the House of Lords.

Mohamed Mire was just one of 29 people to be recognised with a British Citizen's Award.

He was recognised at the Palace of

Westminster in recognition of him founding Care Solution Bureau, a culturally sensitive domiciliary care provider in Tower Hamlets.

When Mohamed spotted a gap in the care market for Somali-focused support, he decided to set up his own.

He made a commitment to fully support the Somali community in Tower Hamlets and ensure that the many women in the care sector would no longer experience issues with their pay or a lack of regular work through setting up his care company.

He also provides free English training and job skills support to help the Somali community in Tower Hamlets, such as teaching health and safety.



Justin David Elliott Byam Shaw, founder of The Felix Project, a charity which redistributes food, and fights food waste and hunger from a warehouse, pictured above, in Poplar



# The Tower Hamlets community



Afia was joined by her husband Kamruz and sons Ria and Ijaz, to collect the honour at Windsor Castle

## Queen's Honour for fostering advocate

A Tower Hamlets foster carer who has fostered 27 children over 20 years has collected her award at Windsor Castle after being named in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Accompanied by her husband Kamruz and sons Ria and Ijaz, Afia Choudhury was awarded an OBE in recognition of her services to children.

Afia is Vice Chair of Tower Hamlets Foster Carers' Association (FCA), where she actively supports and mentors other carers and arranges numerous events for carers and children such as trips to the seaside, pantomimes and picnics.

She is also helping organise a residential activity trip this summer for the first time.

Her commitment to the FCA has been invaluable and her input into many decisions has tremendously improved the wellbeing of foster carers.

In addition, Afia sits on the Corporate Parenting Board for Tower Hamlets representing foster carers and actively contributing to better working relationships within the department.

The passionate fostering advocate is also an ambassador for Tower Hamlets and regularly supports

recruitment strategies, either standing in a busy supermarket giving out leaflets or answering questions at council information sessions. Not only is Afia well known in our local communities, she also speaks on more national levels and is instrumental in national campaigns.

Afia said: "King Charles pinned my medal on and chatted with me.

"He asked how long I've been fostering and how I find it. He said 'thank you so much for everything you've done'.

"I was so struck by it all that I forgot to curtsy.

"My scroll has the Queen's

name and signature on it but I congratulated King Charles on being King. I'm glad that fostering was recognised.

"I'm passionate about fostering because there is such a need for caring people to give a child a normal life.

"It is so rewarding. When I see the changes in the children I've fostered, words cannot describe it."

Fostering in Tower Hamlets is open to people of all backgrounds.

• **For more information, visit [www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk](http://www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk) or call 0207 364 1246 for further information.**



# 100 laptops delivered to pupils to help tackle the digital divide

## ACCELERATE EDUCATION

100 laptops have been donated to pupils to support Tower Hamlets' Connecting Communities project, a cross-sector partnership aimed at tackling the digital divide in the borough. Pupils at Stebon Primary School were the first to receive their laptops.

The laptops were donated by XMA, an IT solutions provider.

The eligible recipient families were identified by local schools who then requested the laptops through the Connecting Communities partnership.

The Connecting Communities partnership was formed in Spring 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic shone a spotlight on a digital divide and the effects of digital exclusion on low-income communities and vulnerable residents in Tower

Hamlets. The partnership includes Tower Hamlets Council, East End Community Foundation, social housing provider Poplar HARCA and education provider, the Letta Trust. Each partner contributed funding and time to get the project up and running.

The partnership project identifies digitally disadvantaged families to provide children with a laptop and the family with a good digital connection alongside support and training. Families who receive a device are connected to high-speed broadband, which is free for at least 12 months. They also receive a seven-step training programme to ensure they know how to use their device, to ensure online safety, to enable access to educational resources and their GP and to ensure they know how to manage their finances online.

A total of 358 digital devices have

been distributed to families through the scheme to date, and the laptops from XMA will be distributed over the next month.

With support from partners, the council aspires for every child in the borough to get both the kit and connectivity they need to access online learning.

Jeremy Iver, Headteacher at Stebon Primary School, said: "It's great to be working through Connecting Communities once again in our continued effort to make sure that no child is digitally disadvantaged."

"We're so grateful to XMA for this latest donation of laptops. With the training that comes with them, these machines really do make a huge difference to the families we serve."

Andrew Wright, Commercial Director at XMA, said: "XMA are delighted to have played a small part in supporting Tower Hamlets

Council in making technology accessible to a wider audience. We all have an important part to play in supporting people in any way we can."

Allan Anderson, Head of Grants at East End Community Foundation, said: "The Connecting Communities partnership to close the digital divide has a direct impact on children's education and their whole family's life chances."

"These generously donated laptops, together with a year's free internet access, means children can benefit from all the online educational resources they couldn't access otherwise. We know that teachers see a rapid growth in children's confidence."

"Parents and carers' stress levels are reduced, as it makes booking doctors' appointments, paying bills, accessing benefits and employment opportunities much easier."



The eligible recipient families were identified by local schools





Mayflower Primary School has been ranked the best primary school in the country by The Sunday Times

# Tower Hamlets primary school ranked as best in the country

Mayflower Primary School in Tower Hamlets has been ranked the best primary school in the country in The Sunday Times Parent Power League Tables 2023.

This follows their success of being named The Sunday Times Primary School of the Year in 2021, and featured in the top three in 2022.

Mayflower achieved the best Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) results amongst all 1,500 state and independent primary schools

surveyed by The Sunday Times across England.

The Sunday Times Parent Power survey analysed the top 250 primary schools across the independent and state sectors in England.

It ranked them by the aggregated average scaled scores achieved by children in reading, grammar and mathematics from SAT tests taken in 2019.

Three other Tower Hamlets primary schools were also ranked

in the top 100 primary schools in Greater London.

Dee Bleach, Headteacher at Mayflower Primary School, said: "We were delighted to hear the news. "Our success is due to how everyone works together at Mayflower.

"We really are a community school and my thanks goes to everyone who is part of our school community."

Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "Congratulations

to all the Tower Hamlets primary schools who have been recognised in The Sunday Times 2023 league tables.

"Tower Hamlets prioritises children's education and has excellent schools, with 96% being rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.

"These results are a credit to the education staff and pupils who work hard every day to achieve admirable outcomes."

## Students supported with university costs

The Mayor of Tower Hamlets has officially launched the new University Bursary Award at Queen Mary University.

This will support eligible students with living costs while they are at university.

Eligible students can apply for a £1,500 payment to support with costs associated with their undergraduate studies, including accommodation, books and resources.

The total funding of £600k will

support 400 students in the first year.

Lutfur Rahman, the Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "This financial support will help give young people the confidence and encouragement to continue their studies amid the cost-of-living crisis.

"Education is very close to my heart and supporting lifelong learning is a priority for my administration.

"It is vital that young people are supported to reach their full

potential and given the tools and opportunities to become the future leaders of the next generation."

The scheme is part of a £1.1m investment to support young people in further education.

It follows the official launch of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), a £400 payment to eligible students to support them with their studies for the 2022/23 academic year.

A funding package of £500k was

announced for the first year of EMA which will support 1,250 students.

Payments for both schemes will be issued directly to the young people.

Applications for the 2022/23 academic year have closed.

- Applications for the 2023/24 academic year will open in Summer 2023.
- They should be submitted on the EMA and University Bursary schemes web page.



# Council one of first to pilot government's Family Hubs

## ACCELERATE EDUCATION

Tower Hamlets Council is one of the first 75 local authorities to pilot the government's Family Hubs model.

Family Hubs, a government initiative, provide a single point of access to a range of different services for families both online and in person.

Services are delivered for children from birth until they reach the age of 19, or 25 for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The pilot has kick-started in Stepney, Wapping, Whitechapel, Limehouse and Shadwell. It involves the following Children and Family Centres:

- John Smith Children and Family Centre, E1 2EN
- Ocean Children and Family Centre, E1 0ND

- Ocean Children and Family Centre (Shadwell site), E1 0AF
- Wapping and Bigland Children and Family Centre, E1 2JP

The council's new Early Help Strategy, launched in January 2023, will be delivered through the Family Hubs model. During the pilot the council will also look at co-locating services and delivering from partner organisation locations.

Following the pilot's completion in May, a full Family Hubs network will be rolled out by March 2024.

Cllr Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning, said: "The Family Hubs pilot is a really exciting scheme that will improve accessibility to services for families in the borough. I am grateful to our staff and our partners for continually working to support our families and children."



The hubs will deliver services for children from birth to 19



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**MAYOR OF LONDON**

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The London Business Hub has teamed up with the boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham, and Barking and Dagenham to deliver a new scheme for small businesses.

It helps connect business owners to support from experts that's free and readily available. It's all led by a dedicated team of Wayfinders who will guide you through the process.

The London Business Hub Wayfinder can help with all aspects of running a business.

In partnership with:



The London Business Hub Wayfinder is also available to businesses based in Southwark, Lambeth and Wandsworth.

[businesshub.london/wayfinder](https://businesshub.london/wayfinder)





A ceremony was held as part of the nation-wide In Bloom scheme with awards handed out to our green-fingered residents

# Awards recognise those who make the borough greener

## CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

Gardening groups, individuals and organisations were recognised for their dedication to making Tower Hamlets a greener borough at the Tower Hamlets in Bloom Awards 2022.

The council runs the annual horticultural competition, part of the nation-wide In Bloom scheme, to encourage more people to become green-fingered and to develop a

greater appreciation and respect for the natural environment.

Cllrs Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets; Iqbal Hossain, Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation; and Shafi Ahmed, Speaker of the Council, were among those who presented certificates and awards to the winners.

Kenneth Greenway received a special recognition award for his role in managing Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. The park provides

a place for ecological education, as well as a home to various species unique to our country.

Other prize winners included Helen Kenney of Ropemaker's Fields, Friends of Meath Gardens, and Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, who were presented with awards of excellence for community engagement and participation.

Lutfun Hussain collected the lifetime achievement award. She has worked for more than two decades to promote ethnic diversity,

cultural exchange, inclusion, organic horticulture, and healthy living in our society.

Applications for this year's Tower Hamlets in Bloom competition are now open.

Entries close on 7 April 2023 and judging will take place in June and July when gardens, balconies and window boxes will be in full bloom.

• **To apply, fill out the Tower Hamlets in Bloom 2023 application form at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parks](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parks)**

## Improving our parks and green spaces for all

A number of improvements to our parks have recently taken place.

Two drinking fountains have been restored for everyone to use for free. Historic drinking fountains can be found across the capital, especially in the East End.

They were installed in the Victorian era by philanthropists to

provide clean drinking water to the poor.

There has been growing public awareness of the impact of single-use plastics on the environment, with more and more people using reusable bottles and needing places to fill them.

One of the restored fountains

is in Altab Ali Park, on the wall of the former St. Mary Matfelon churchyard.

The second is the Leonard Montefiore fountain, in Stepney Green, close to the park and clock tower.

A mix of bulbs have also been planned to increase the biodiversity of

our parks in Swedenborg Gardens, Shadwell, and Ion Square Gardens, Bethnal Green.

About 80,000 bulbs including snowdrops, narcissus, alliums, crocus, muscari, anemone and botanical tulips were planted in each park. They will bloom from early spring and through summer.



# Free market parking for all

## BUSINESS AND JOBS

New parking rules which will help boost the local economy and make it easier to get around the borough have now come into effect.

Tower Hamlets Council is introducing one-hour free parking at its nine markets to encourage more people to use this important local economy.

There will be a total of 248 existing parking bays within approximately 100 metres of a market, which will offer the one-hour free parking.

Residents can book their slot by phoning 020 3046 0010 or by downloading the RingGo app on their phone.

Residents can then choose to extend their stay by paying for parking if they wish.

Alongside this, the council is also changing resident parking in the borough.

Instead of having a number of small parking zones, those with resident parking permits will be able to park in one of four larger areas for free. For example, if you live in zone B, you will be able to park in all of zone B.

This will make it easier for people to find a space to park in the borough.

You will not need to reapply for a parking permit as the update will be made automatically.

The map opposite, and on our website, shows the four new zones.



There are also changes to resident parking with new larger zones, above

## Sustainability focus for first business event



Small business owners were encouraged to look at their company's sustainability at a free business event.

It is the first in a series of four that the council is delivering which aim to support the growth and resilience of local small to medium enterprises (SMEs).

Hosted by Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Jobs Skills and Growth, and Tower Hamlets Council's Growth and Economic Development Team, the event, titled Being a Good Business is Good Business, focused on sustainable business practices and how these can help SMEs to secure more business contracts.

A host of professional speakers delivered sessions throughout the morning. Sophie Medd, Head of External Engagement and Business Development at Heart of The City, an independent charity which helps SMEs kickstart their sustainable business journey, took the audience through why joining the race to net zero emissions is critical for SMEs and how it's not as expensive, complicated or as time consuming as it may appear.

Cllr Abu Chowdhury said: "It was a pleasure to welcome so many SMEs from the borough to an event that was focused on their future growth. Now, more than ever before, it is important to have the discussion about sustainability, not just because of the environmental impact, increased energy prices and the cost-of-living crisis, but also because, as a business, your awareness and actions can impact your ability to access opportunities."



Cllr Abu Chowdhury with a host of professional speakers delivered sessions throughout the morning



# Events to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week

All things apprenticeships were celebrated at Tower Hamlets during National Apprenticeship Week.

This year's theme was 'Skills for Life' which aimed to show how apprenticeships can help individuals gain the skills and knowledge they need for a rewarding career.

Tower Hamlets Council organised a number of events, including a multi-brand event hosted by the council in partnership with Pathway CTM at the London Design and Engineering University Technical College.

The event, which was open to Year 9 to 13 students and parents/careers, offered young people an opportunity to learn more about apprenticeships and the opportunities available,

hear from a panel of top employers, network with industry professionals and take part in a Q&A session.

Our Careers and Social Mobility team also hosted the second Careers Live which provided students across Tower Hamlets with all they need to know about career options in the creative industry.

Students were able to speak directly to employers and hear from guest speaker Samantha Hornsby, Co-Founder of ERIC, a free career education app, on how the subjects taught in the curriculum will help to prepare them for a career in the sector.

Cllr Abu Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Growth, said: "I'm extremely proud that, with

our brilliant partners, we're able to deliver events and opportunities like these."

The council also celebrated the launch of eight internal apprenticeships for residents with special educational needs and disabilities.

The apprentices will hold a number of roles across varying departments including the Parks Service and the Adults Commissioning Team.

This work will complement the Local Supported Employment (LSE) initiative.

It was announced in August 2022 that the council's Supported Employment Team was successful in its application for LSE grant funding and support, and the initiative has

recently launched in the borough.

It is a £7.6 million government initiative from the Department of Work and Pensions that will help more than 2,000 adults across 24 local authorities with learning disabilities and autism into work.

The initiative means the team will be able to support 60 residents with learning disabilities, autism, or both to get employment and provide the help they need to stay employed.

- If you are interested in becoming an apprentice, or are thinking of hiring apprentices, register on WorkPath at <https://bit.ly/3RXzas9>
- Find out more about the next Careers Live events here: <https://bit.ly/3YahSty>

## Meet some of our apprentices in Tower Hamlets

### Good support for apprenticeship



Tanni Begum is a Tax Technician Apprentice at Swiss Re.

She said: "I always wanted to work in the corporate world and I always knew I wanted to do an apprenticeship after college, because the idea of gaining a qualification while working towards my career was always my aim.

"The support I received from WorkPath was brilliant as it boosted my confidence and kept me motivated."

### Salah says to follow your heart



Salah Ahmed is Communications Apprentice at the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

He said: "I had a friend who used WorkPath to help him secure a job in Canary Wharf so I decided to join WorkPath too. After finishing my apprenticeship, I hope to get a permanent job role here and do a higher-level qualification.

"I would advise other young people to follow your heart, don't listen to the voice in your head telling you that you can't do it."

### Sector could definitely be for you



Samad Ahmed is a Level Two Facilities and Maintenance apprentice at Unite Students.

He said: "As I get more experience, I'd also like to embark on a IOSH and NEBOSH course, which are health and safety focused.

"One piece of advice I would give to young people is that if you want to get into this industry and you enjoy working with hand and power tools, doing manual jobs and learning about health and safety regulations, then this sector is definitely for you."

### Taif is learning lots of new things



Taif is an IT Risk and Governance apprentice at Tower Hamlets Council.

He said: "I came across this apprenticeship opportunity through WorkPath and thought it would be the right one for me. WorkPath has supported me in applying for this role and getting it.

"I'm learning lots of new and exciting things.

"I wanted to get into an IT apprenticeship because I've always enjoyed my IT classes during school."





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Tower Hamlets Council has a system of governance in which the elected mayor, **Lutfur Rahman** (Aspire, right), has personal responsibility and executive powers. Mayor Rahman is responsible for determining and delivering a wide range of policies and priorities. He is advised by his cabinet of councillors and by council officers.



**\* The members of the Cabinet are:**

**Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor) - Cllr Maium Talukdar**

- Resources and the Cost of Living - Cllr Saied Ahmed**
- Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding - Cllr Kabir Ahmed**
- Safer Communities - Cllr Ohid Ahmed**
- Environment and the Climate Emergency - Cllr Kabir Hussain**
- Health, Wellbeing and Social Care - Cllr Gulam Kibria Choudhury**
- Jobs, Skills and Growth - Cllr Abu Talha Choudhury**
- Equalities and Social Inclusion - Cllr Suluk Ahmed**
- Culture and Recreation - Cllr Iqbal Hossain**

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Top and below: a community clear up event has kick-started a programme of work to tidy up our streets and stop people littering

# Taking on street litter and grime

## CLEAN AND GREEN

A new team will focus on making the streets of Tower Hamlets cleaner and greener.

Acting as liaison between the community and the council, the environmental coordinators will be out on the streets talking and listening to residents and recommending improvements.

They will also work to keep litter and dumped waste off the streets, as well as hosting clean-ups and educational events.

This is part of the council's year-long programme to address the issue of street waste, including improving our refuse areas and working with the community to highlight the litter issue.

The programme follows a trial

event that took place on Saturday 8 October where volunteers, including local businesses, organisations and residents, got together to deep clean Bethnal Green.

The volunteers, which included members of the local litter-picking group, WaSh Wombles, and Bethnal Green McDonald's, cleared approximately 25 bags of street litter at the event.

There was also an event on Saturday 3 December in Middleton Green Park dedicated to tidying Old Bethnal Green Road.

Cllr Kabir Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency, said: "We know some of our streets are too dirty and that is why the Mayor of Tower Hamlets has declared a waste emergency.

"Tower Hamlets is our home

– we want everyone to be proud to live here and to enjoy a clean environment."

Paul Kellaway, WaSh Wombles, said: "As a volunteer litter-picker, it's fantastic to see the council getting out on the streets to speak to residents.

"While the council has the job of cleaning up the streets, we need to recognise that businesses, residents and visitors have a role to play in changing our behaviours to reduce the amount of rubbish being left on the street in the first place."

If you are interested in getting a local litter picking group started you can find the WaSh Wombles on social media as @washwombles or visit <https://linktr.ee/WaShWombles>.

Tower Hamlets Council is keen to support community action groups like the WaSh Wombles. Email

[teamec@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:teamec@towerhamlets.gov.uk) for more information.

- Residents can get more information about disposing of their rubbish at: [towerhamlets.gov.uk/wastecollections](https://towerhamlets.gov.uk/wastecollections)
- Businesses must use a commercial waste service: [towerhamlets.gov.uk/commercialwaste](https://towerhamlets.gov.uk/commercialwaste)



**It's fantastic to see the council getting out on the streets to speak to residents**





# New electric bin lorry is driving down our emissions

One waste and recycling collection route in Tower Hamlets is now 70 per cent greener due to the introduction of our first fully electric bin lorry.

As part of the council's commitment to the climate emergency, we are providing a £4million investment to replace some of our existing fleet of diesel and petrol cars, vans and scooters over the next three years.

There is an additional investment of £900,000 to provide charging infrastructure across the borough for council vehicles which will deliver fast-charging and increase the efficiency of our vehicles.

As well as the important environmental impact of cutting emissions, the electric vehicle is approximately twice as cheap to run compared to the old diesel vehicle,

meaning it is more efficient and cost-effective.

The vehicle is charged overnight and can run on full charge for two days.

Cllr Kabir Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency, said: "The introduction of this new electric bin lorry is the first step to a greener fleet that delivers for residents in

keeping the borough clean, while protecting the quality of our air and natural environment.

"We look forward to welcoming another electric vehicle this year, along with investments for other vehicles in the fleet and the electric charging infrastructure necessary to sustain these changes."

• Find out more about waste collections on the council website.

## Rethink recycling and help save our planet

**Let's keep waste out of it!**

Plastic film, food, clothes and textiles don't go in your recycling bin.

**No nappies!**

**Tower Hamlets rethink it!**

Make sure you know what can and can't go in your recycling bin and help the planet and your local community

Recycling benefits the planet, the people in our communities and the place we call home. That's why we're on a mission to reduce waste, reuse and repurpose items we no longer need, and recycle right.

We have launched our Rethink

It campaign to make it easier to understand what can and can't be recycled.

Delivered alongside this newspaper is a leaflet as part of the campaign that you can display on your fridge or close to your bin that

explains what can and can't go in recycling.

Just paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, tin cans, and plastic containers go in your recycling bin.

Remember, only clean items, so give bottles and containers a good

rinse.

Plastic film, food, clothes and textiles don't go in your recycling bin and need to be disposed of in other ways.

• For more, visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/letsrethinkit](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/letsrethinkit)



# Housing management services will be brought in-house soon

## HOMES FOR THE FUTURE

Housing services currently managed by Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) are set to be transferred to Tower Hamlets Council.

A timetable for the transition will be developed over the coming months, in discussion with Tower Hamlets Council, THH, staff and stakeholders, with the aim of

completing the move by the end of this year.

Tenants and leaseholders do not need to do anything and will continue to access their services in the same way. The change does not affect tenancy and leasehold agreements.

The decision, subject to a five-day call-in period, was agreed at a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 22 February.

THH was set up in 2008 to allow the borough to qualify for the government's Decent Homes fund, which ended in 2017.

Aims of bringing services back in-house include: to help join-up housing and other council services to make it easier for residents to get what they need; to give residents a strong voice into the council to help improve standards; to ensure the council is closer to critical issues

such as fire and building safety; and to provide services for the best value.

More than 86 per cent of council tenants and leaseholders who took part in a consultation, agreed that housing management services should be brought back in house.

• **More information and the consultation summary report are available to read at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/talkhousing](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/talkhousing)**

## Get mould under control this spring

With a cold winter and increased heating costs, you might have had issues with mould in your home this winter.

Mould is caused by condensation and can lead to coughing, wheezing and watering eyes.

Long term exposure to mould may lead to serious respiratory problems for people with underlying health conditions, young children and the elderly.

Cllr Kabir Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding, said: "We are cracking down on private and social landlords who are not doing enough to prevent mould developing in their properties for their tenants.

"This includes inspections, with or without a complaint from tenants, before granting or renewing their licence.

"We want all homes in Tower Hamlets to be free from damp and mould."

Aside from mould caused by structural problems, there are some things all residents can do to help prevent condensation and mould where they live, and now is a great time to have a spring clean and clear any mouldy surfaces to prevent the mould from getting worse.

- **Find out more [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/dampandmould](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/dampandmould)**

**Mould, which is caused by condensation, can cause health issues but there are ways you can clean it and prevent it from returning**

### Tips to reduce condensation

- Dry your windows and window sills every morning
- Ventilate your home by opening windows about 5cm to 10cm for about half an hour every day
- If possible, heat your home to at least 18C
- Allow space for air to circulate around furniture including behind wardrobes
- Don't dry laundry on radiators. Instead place it in the bathroom with the door closed and windows open.

### How to clean mould

- Wipe down walls and window frames with a mould and mildew cleaner or fungicidal spray, available in supermarkets. Always follow the instructions exactly
- Do not try to remove the mould patch by dusting it as this can disturb and spread mould spores into the air
- After cleaning, you can redecorate using a good quality anti-mould or fungicidal paint to help prevent regrowth
- If wallpapering, use a paste containing a fungicide to prevent further mould growth





# Events celebrate LGBT+ History Month



There were information, film screenings, HIV and STI testing, creative activities and much more

A special event was held to celebrate LGBT+ History Month.

The month, in February, is an annual observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and

related civil rights movements.

Tower Hamlets Council and Tower Hamlets LGBT+ Community Forum held LGBT+ History Month 2023 FEST at Positive East to celebrate the month.

The Hate Crime Team promoted hate crime partnership support services for victims of hate crime, our No Place for Hate campaign, and violence against women and girls services. Other activities included

film screenings, HIV and STI testing, creative activities, stalls and workshops.

• To find out more about reporting hate crimes, visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/)



Residents in just four areas of the country thought that their borough was improving, a survey has found

## Tower Hamlets is one of few boroughs which is 'improving'

### CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

Tower Hamlets is one of just four areas in the country which residents think is improving, a recent survey has shown.

Data company YouGov asked people living in the areas that have been targeted by the government's Levelling Up funding whether they thought their area had improved, stayed the same, or declined, since the funding.

Residents in only four places in the

country responded that their town was better – and one of those was Tower Hamlets, where 34 per cent of residents said they thought the borough had improved.

A total of 51 per cent of Tower Hamlets residents also said that the borough was somewhere to move to, not move away from.

Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "It is fantastic to see that our residents are already feeling the positive impact of the hard work we are doing to make Tower Hamlets the best place to live, work, and visit.

"We have invested the government's Levelling Up funding carefully to ensure it reaches as many residents as possible.

"However, we know there is still a long way to go, and this is only the beginning.

"We have an ambitious programme to improve the crime rate, education, housing, sustainability, culture and businesses in the borough to ensure all of our residents are supported to reach their full potential."

Tower Hamlets Council has invested the £9.3m from the

government's Levelling Up funding to support the delivery of the Whitechapel Road Improvement Programme (WRIP).

This will see street improvements such as better pavements, and more signage and seating, as well as upgrades to market stalls and essential repairs to properties along the high street.

The other three boroughs which residents thought had improved were Hackney (38 per cent) and Islington and Southwark (both 36 per cent).



# Don't forget your ID next time you vote in person

## COUNCIL NEWS

New government legislation means that from 4 May 2023, all voters will need to show photo ID when voting in person at polls.

This includes parliament

by-elections, local elections in England and, from October 2023, general elections.

Accepted photo ID includes a photocard driving licence, a passport issued by the UK, EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or a Commonwealth country, a Defence

Identity card, and a PASS card. You can see a full list on the government website below.

Those who do not have the legally prescribed photographic ID can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate as proof of their ID.

There are no polls being held

in Tower Hamlets on 4 May, but please take the time to find out what you need to know and make sure you are prepared for the next elections.

- You can find out more at [www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need](http://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need)

## Events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day

A series of events were held to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in Tower Hamlets.

Residents were invited to come together to challenge hatred and prejudice through remembering the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust under Nazi persecution, and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial

Day 2023 was Ordinary People, as it is ordinary people who can make, and did make, a difference during the holocaust.

Tower Hamlets Council worked with a number of partner organisations to deliver a programme of events and activities including film screenings, an interfaith memorial event and a walk.

Sufia Alam, Head of Programmes and Maryam Centre, London

Muslim Centre and interim Chair of Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum, said: "Let us ordinary people come together to remember the millions of ordinary people who were murdered in the Holocaust and challenge hatred and prejudice wherever we see it."

"Ordinary people suffered and died because they belonged to a particular group and we ordinary people still grieve for this tragedy."

"We ordinary people can be extraordinary and put a stop to the hatred that divides and causes us harm."

"The Islamic faith teaches us that taking a life is like killing all of humanity."

"Together we can stamp hatred out from our society, standing shoulder to shoulder as one humanity and pray for peace in this world."



A film screening, interfaith memorial event and a walk were just some of the ways the victims of the Holocaust were remembered in the borough

## Interim chief executive appointed

A new interim chief executive has been appointed at Tower Hamlets Council.

Steve Halsey will return to the council after Will Tuckley, who was the Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Council for the last seven and a half years, left the council by

mutual agreement at the beginning of March.

Steve worked at Tower Hamlets over five decades from the 1980s onwards.

Will is London's longest serving borough Chief Executive, having joined London Borough of Bexley in

2008 and London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 2015.

Will said: "It has been a privilege to serve the people of Tower Hamlets and work alongside many outstanding staff, members and partners."

"I am proud of what we have

achieved in Tower Hamlets."

Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "I would like to thank Will for his seven years of service to the council and to the residents of Tower Hamlets."

"I wish him every success in his future endeavours."





The Tower Hamlets Food for Health Awards celebrate businesses which are making changes to the food they serve to help people make healthier choices

# Awards celebrate businesses offering healthier options

## HEALTHY LIVES

Eateries, including chicken shops and takeaways, which are helping people make healthier choices are being celebrated.

The Tower Hamlets Food for Health Awards recognises those cafes, restaurants, takeaways, staff canteens and market traders that have made changes to the way they cook and serve food to provide healthy alternatives.

Created in 2010, the council started working with local businesses to ensure their health and safety standards were up to scratch, alongside suggesting subtle, healthier changes such as using thicker chips, offering salads or incorporating vegetarian options.

James and Karen Patterson from Maureen's Pie and Mash Shop in Crisp Street Market contacted their supplier about getting a healthier alternative for their pies and offering a vegetarian option.

James said: "Years ago, you wouldn't have dreamed of doing a veggie pie but it does work!"

Selima and her husband, from Mile End Original Fried Chicken, benefitted from free food hygiene training and a nutritional course by taking part in the award programme.

She said: "We started making small changes such as offering grilled food, cutting down portion sizes and introducing salads."

Chloe, from the Breakhouse Café, said: "I decided to sign up to the

Food for Health Awards because, as a small, young business, it's always good to have support from the council.

"The changes we made were things like not having the salt out, rearranging the shelves, making sure we had sugar-free options and having water in a visible place."

Businesses receive free food safety and hygiene training when they sign up.

• Sign up at [towerhamlets.gov.uk/foodforhealth](https://towerhamlets.gov.uk/foodforhealth)



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# OPEN EVENING

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# Our history through your eyes: Dennis remembers growing up in Stepney Green

## CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

Think of the East End of London, and you might think of its history, culture, opportunity and community, which is best told through its residents. Dennis Reece, 91, recalls his memories of growing up in Stepney Green.

"We used to stand outside the train station and watch the aerial dog fights between British and German planes going on over the city," Dennis remembers.

He was just eight when the Second World War broke out, but he still vividly remembers living during the 1940s in Stepney Green.

"My father didn't want to separate the family, so we weren't evacuated and we lived in our house throughout the war," Dennis continues.

"When there was an air raid, most people used to use the underground stations to take shelter, but we were fortunate to have an Anderson shelter, which was a metal structure you put about five or six feet underground, in our garden.

"The shelter was quite cramped, but we used to fit me, my parents, my brother and my sister in there. We were lucky that dad ran an electric cable to the shelter so we had a dim lightbulb and heating.

"I used to spend most of my time collecting shrapnel from the streets after air raids. We used to watch the dog fights going on over the city as it was only a mile away. I remember my father shouting with glee, "that was one of them! We got one down", but I said to my dad, "sorry, it was actually a Spitfire"."

Sometimes the fighting got too close to home for Dennis and his family.

He said: "We had a garage next door to us which had an incendiary device dropped on it. We had to wait at the end of the road while the fire service put it out.

"I remember that was the most distressing time of my life. I was only 12."

Dennis says his family was very lucky their house wasn't destroyed during the Blitz as he remembers playing in the rubble of many houses near to his which were bombed.

Dennis, who worked at the Tate and Lyle sugar refinery after leaving school, grew up in Alderney Road,



Dennis with his family outside their Stepney Green home, top, and with his wife, Mary, bottom

Stepney Green, and affectionately remembers his house and family.

He said: "The house was two storeys with an attic and a cellar. We lived downstairs and there were two rooms - a front room and a bedroom. We had one cold water tap in the scullery - what you would now call a kitchen. That was all you had by way of water and it had to be boiled before it could be used.

"We had one toilet outside shared between us and the people upstairs.

"That house now is probably worth more than a million pounds."

Dennis recollects the coal delivery which would be emptied into the cellar and it was his and his siblings' job to sort the coal into piles for his family and for the other family which lived upstairs.

He also recalls buying eels from the markets near his house. The live eels would be chopped up and the bits would still be wiggling in the bag as they were taken home.

His family life was a happy one and he remembers vividly the parties his parents would arrange. His father, a gifted pianist, would play all night while the family would have a 'knees-up mother brown'.

Dennis adds: "To this day I am so sorry I never bothered to ask my father how he learnt to play the piano as he couldn't read a note of music. But he could play it."

Music was an important part of his family's life and Dennis has fond memories of listening to traditional jazz music in the Number 1 Jazz Club with his brother and sister, and later

with his now wife, Mary.

He also remembers Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953 and sitting with Mary on the pavement in Cockspur Street for two days and a night waiting for the coronation.

He explained: "While we were waiting for the coronation procession, we had students next to us who sang and played the guitar. It was like the queue to see Queen Elizabeth II lying in state - you made friends with those near you."

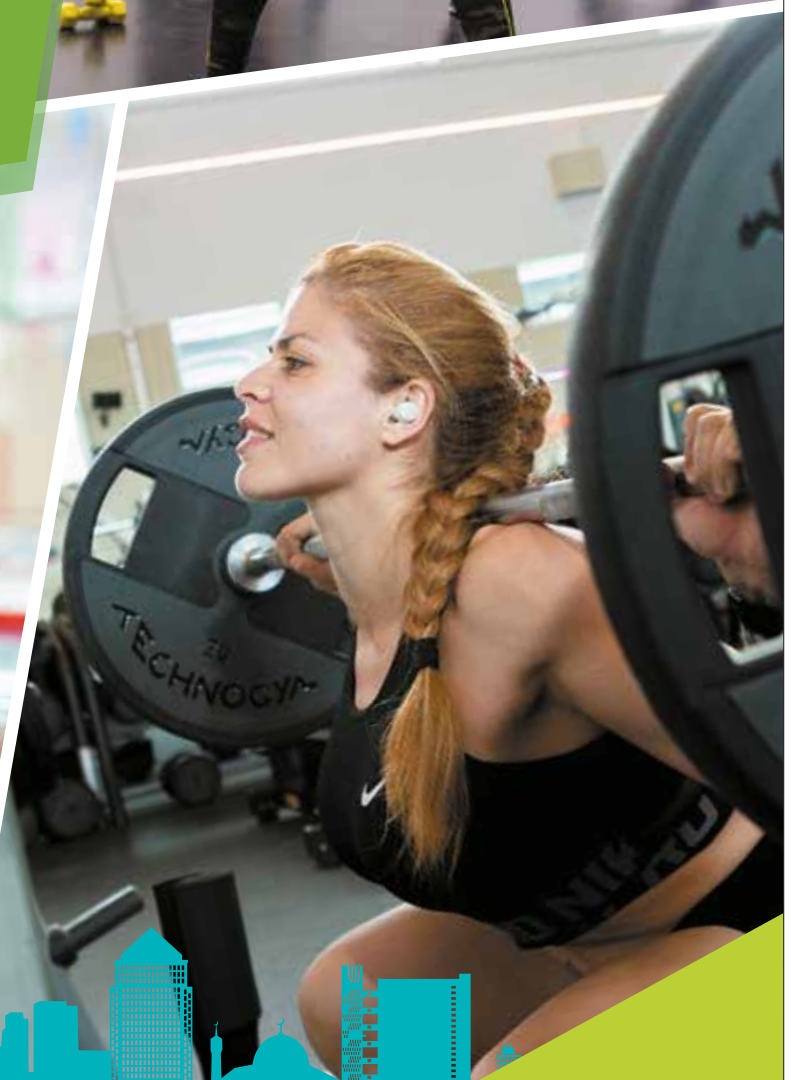
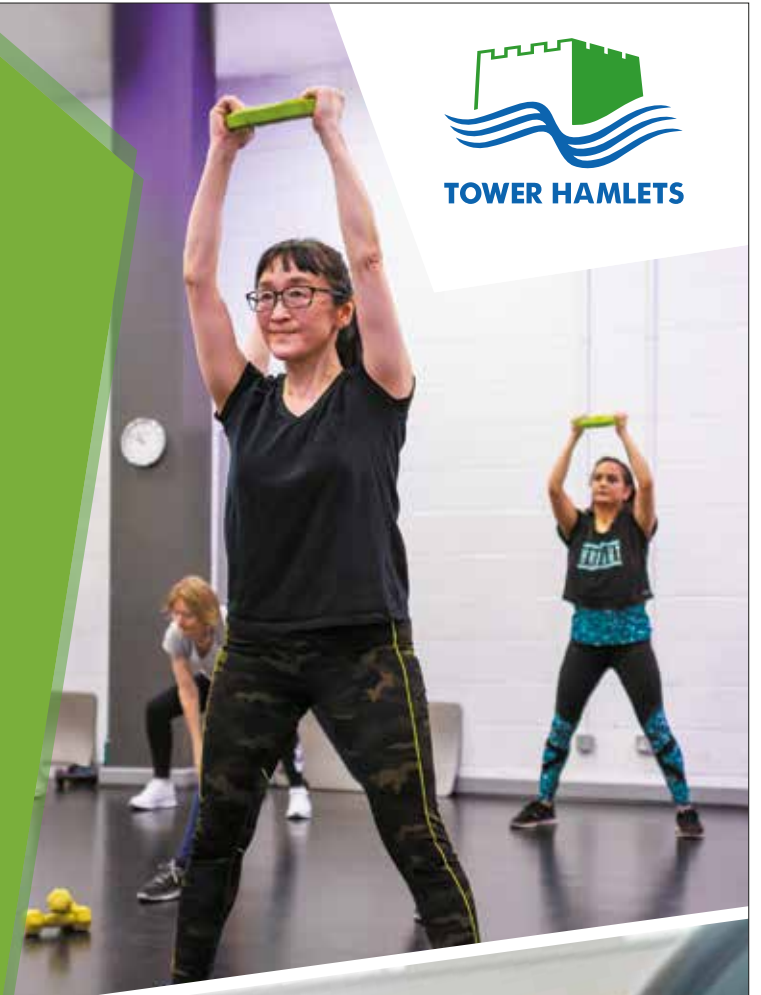
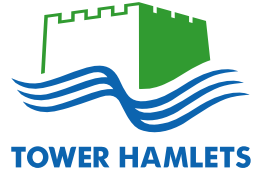
**• Have you or your family got memories you would like to share to feature in a future edition of Our East End? We would love to hear from you. Please email [communications@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:communications@towerhamlets.gov.uk) with some information and a contact name and number.**



# START YOUR JOURNEY TO A HEALTHIER YOU

Whether you're taking your first steps on your fitness journey or looking to stay in shape, you'll find everything you need at your local Better leisure centre in Tower Hamlets.

Join the movement at [better.org.uk/tower-hamlets](https://better.org.uk/tower-hamlets)



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# Start Something Amazing

## Make a difference with £20k business funding

Get 20k funding and expert business support to launch your East London based business. Investec Beyond Business is on the search for social entrepreneurs with the potential to make real, lasting and incredible changes in our community.

You may have recently set up your business or have a great idea for one, provided it has a clear social purpose we want to hear from you.

For more details of the programme visit [bbbc.org.uk/services/enterprise-support/](http://bbbc.org.uk/services/enterprise-support/) or contact Kim Hayman [kim.hayman@bbbc.org.uk](mailto:kim.hayman@bbbc.org.uk)

"Beyond the incredible start-up support, the IBB programme has created a truly exceptional network and opened up new avenues for collaboration over the years."  
Eve Wagg, Well Grounded (pictured)

To apply, return an **Expression of Interest form** by **15th May 2023**.



## Find Out More



# Do something amazing by becoming a foster carer

**Local children need loving and supportive foster carers now.**

People of all different backgrounds can foster. Tower Hamlets Council offers carers lots of support including fantastic training opportunities and financial support of up to **£850 per week** (per child depending on age).

Call: 020 7364 1246  
[www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk](http://www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk)





# Meet Sylvia Pankhurst: Bow's battling belle

## HISTORY

Wednesday 8 March marks International Women's Day: an opportunity to reflect on the fight for women to get equal rights.

You may have heard of the mid-19th century and early 20th century suffragist and suffragette movements in the UK which saw women – and some men – fight for women's rights to vote. But did you

“

**These women were true trailblazers of their generation.**

know that more than 100 years ago, Bow was the centre of part of the campaign?

Sylvia Pankhurst, the eldest daughter of Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) founder Emmeline Pankhurst, moved from Manchester to London in 1903 to pursue a scholarship with the Royal College of Art.

Rachel Kolsky, author of *Women's London* and a popular tour guide in the area, explains: "Sylvia concentrated her early efforts for women's rights in what is now the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

"In October 1912, she opened the WSPU's East London branch at 198 Bow Road. This was the headquarters where plans were made, campaign material created and schemes initiated – all aiming to get women the vote.

"The building has since been demolished and replaced by a 1930s block of flats.

"In addition, seeing the plight of working women and mothers in the neighbourhood, she also established a crèche, cost-price restaurant and model toy factory, all of which are commemorated by Bow Heritage Trail plaques.

"Bromley-by-Bow Public Hall on Bow Road, built in 1878, was the site of several meetings where Sylvia spoke and where, escaping capture by police, she and supporters would hide awaiting rescue. Today the building is used as a registry office."

Sylvia wasn't above using violence to get her cause noticed. In February 1913, while talking outside Selby's Funeral Parlour in Bow but failing to get the attention she wanted, she threw a brick through their window. Supporters also threw bricks through windows and all were arrested and sentenced to hard labour.

The corner of 321 Roman Road was Sylvia's second headquarters and this, in turn, was replaced by a

third base at 400 Old Ford Road next to the Lord Morpeth pub. Opened in 1914 on her 32nd birthday, this was also Sylvia's home, the Women's Hall, site of the cost price restaurant and information bureau.

It closed in 1924 when Sylvia relocated to Essex and has since been demolished, but a mural unveiled in 2018 depicts Sylvia in characteristic poses.

Rachel explains: "It is partly thanks to the work of Sylvia, and others across the country, that women were given partial voting rights in a new government act in 1918, only gaining the same rights as men in 1928.

"These women were true trailblazers of their generation."

Sylvia moved to Ethiopia in 1956 through her friendship with Haile Selassie, where she died. Her grave is in Addis Ababa.

Find out more about Sylvia and Rachel Kolsky at [golondontours.com](http://golondontours.com)

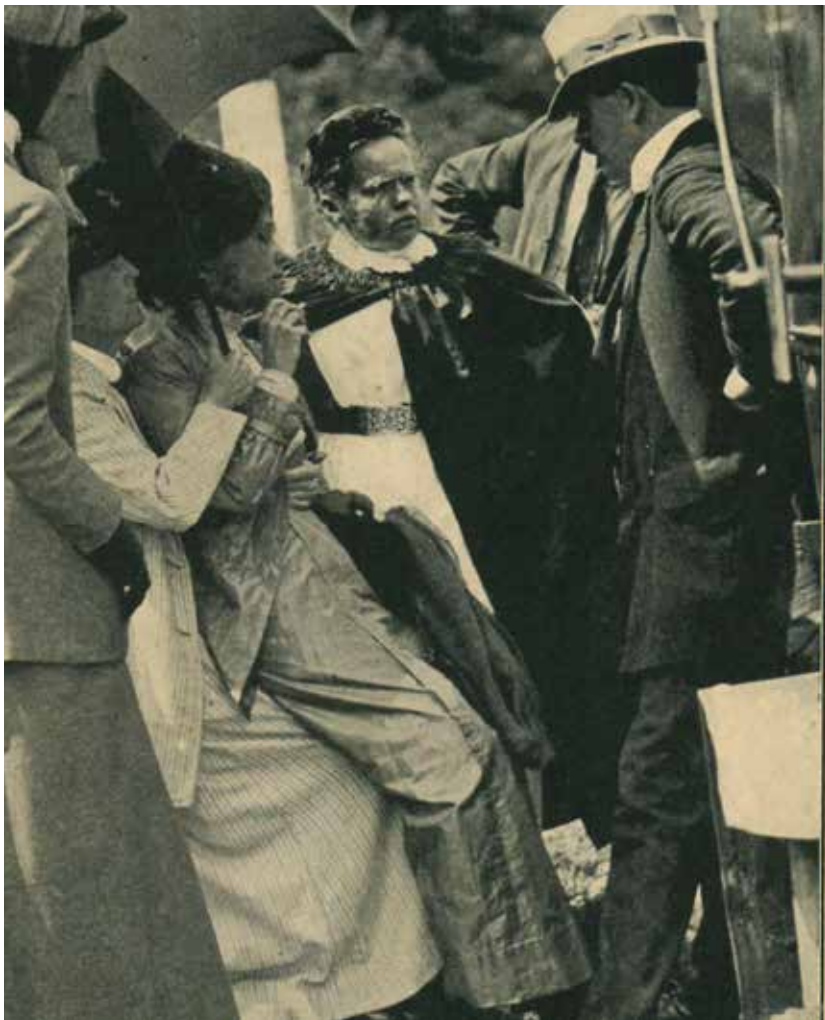


The mural on the side of the Lord Morpeth pub, next door to where Sylvia used to live. Copyright Rachel Kolsky





Sylvia Pankhurst, left, was a "trailblazer" of her generation, and, right, appearing with two other suffragettes in the dock in 1908



Sylvia being arrested in May 1913, left, and, right, being arrested again in 1914.



# Women's history

Contemporary women artists, activists, writers, performers, women's groups and organisations will present a diverse programme of events and exhibitions celebrating women in galleries, libraries, institutions and other venues across East London.

Highlights include Women and Sport, a photography exhibition at the Brady Arts Centre in Whitechapel, with contemporary works by women photographers and historic images.

All you Need is Love, a concert with Sarah Jane Morris and the Sollis String Quartet performing songs by the Beatles, will take place at St Mathias Church, Poplar, on 24 March.

Visit Oxford House in Bethnal Green for Women of Bethnal Green at Work, an exhibition by photographer Sarah Ainslie.

Action, Gesture, Paint - Women Artists and Global Abstraction 1940-70 features 150 artworks from 80 international artists, exhibiting at the Whitechapel Gallery. Raven Row Gallery in Spitalfields will host People



**Bethnal Green weightlifting club, from the Women and Sport exhibition at Brady Arts Centre**

Make Television, an exhibition featuring early BBC 'Open Door' programmes including 'East End

Channel One' and Chiswick Women's Aid.

• Visit [www.alternativearts.org.uk](http://www.alternativearts.org.uk)

## The Creativist



**Peter Gibson**

A mixed media event celebrating the artistic life and legacy of the 'Creativist' Peter Gibson opens in Tower Hamlets this April.

Peter Gibson passed away in 2021 leaving a legacy of art, music, film and photography.

As front man for the UK Blues Band 'Brett Marvin and the Thunderbolts', Peter toured with Eric Clapton's 'Derek and the Dominos' and made two classic film documentaries of Blues legend John Mayall.

This retrospective exhibition and launch of a new biography bring together for the first time the extraordinary range of his work and influence.

Visual artwork in this exhibition includes more than 20 unique hand embroidered denim jackets.

• **The free exhibition is open daily from 7 to 13 April at The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY. There will be an additional programme of events and screenings which are ticketed. For further details and to book tickets, visit [www.peterjdgibson.com](http://www.peterjdgibson.com)**

## Quicksand



**The exhibition includes print work and a film**

A solo exhibition comprising new artworks and archival material has opened across two locations: Nunnery Gallery in Bow and Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives, Mile End.

living in fear of quicksand, by Maria Amidu, alludes to an ever-present sense of danger. It includes print work, a film, sound work, a text-based installation and a bespoke paint colour.

The print work traces the artist's early childhood living in Sleaford House on the Lincoln Estate within walking distance of the Nunnery Gallery, growing up in state care in Bexhill-on-Sea, and experiences in her adult life.

At Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives, the focus is on the architectural and social history of the Lincoln Estate and the artist's brief place within it.

• **The exhibition runs until 21 May 2023. Admission is free.**

• **Visit <https://bowarts.org/nunnery> or <https://www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history>**

## Writers sought for Bangla festival

The council is looking for new writing on the theme of love for A Season of Bangla Drama's 20th year.

Plays that embrace the positive qualities of care, compassion, generosity and understanding are being sought.

Playwrights can be based locally or nationally but content should be relevant to an East London audience and must be new writing.

• Visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/seasonbangladrama](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/seasonbangladrama)

## All Points East business fair

This August, Luno presents All Points East will return to Victoria Park and the team is inviting businesses, suppliers and performers from the local area to take part in the annual local business fair.

Taking place on Wednesday 22 March 2023 from 5pm to 8pm, the fair is a great opportunity to find out how you and your business can get involved in this summer's All Points East. Visit [www.apefe.st/2023fair](http://www.apefe.st/2023fair) for more information and to book your free place.

## St George's Day tea dance

The St George's Day tea dance is back at The Ecology Pavilion in Mile End Park at the end of April.

Residents over the age of over 50 are invited to don their dancing shoes for a free afternoon of live music and song to celebrate St George's Day. Light refreshments will be served.

• Visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts)

## Fashion and textiles project

Interested in a career in fashion and textiles and other creative pathways?

Young people aged 14 to 18 who live, work or study in Tower Hamlets can join a new, free, four-day project with Alexander McQueen design team from 11 to 14 April.

Explore stitching, textiles application, garment construction, and research. Spaces are limited. You must register in advance and attend the induction session on 1 April. Email [ateamartseducation@gmail.com](mailto:ateamartseducation@gmail.com) or call Sarbjit Natt on 0795 6377537.



## Women's History Month

### Mothers and Daughters and Sons Workshop

A workshop exploring the themes of heritage and what we value and gain from our mothers. Focusing on different textiles techniques such as printing. For children age 11-19 and mothers. Pre-registration is recommended. Email [ateamartseducation@gmail.com](mailto:ateamartseducation@gmail.com) or call Sarbjit Natt on 07956 377537.

Deadline: 6 March.

**11 March, 11am-4pm**

Brady Arts Centre, 192-196

Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU

### Mohila International Women's Day Event

This workshop includes printing sustainable bags and handmade brooches from recycled garments. All work can be taken away. The workshop is open to women and girls aged 11 years and over. Pre-registration is recommended. Email [ateamartseducation@gmail.com](mailto:ateamartseducation@gmail.com) or call Sarbjit Natt on 07956 377537. Drop-ins welcome.

**Sunday 12 March, 1-4pm**

Brady Arts Centre, 192-196

Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU

## Film Festival

### Cutting East Film Festival

Curated by a talented local group of 16-21-year-olds, the free festival includes films, spoken word, Q&A, and exhibitions for all the family to enjoy.

**10-11 March**

Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End Road, E1 4UJ

Visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts).

## Exhibitions

### Tracks in Time: Exploring space,

### place and identity

A celebration of the creativity and innovative practices in Tower Hamlets schools. This exhibition will showcase artwork produced by students during the academic year 2022-2023.

**Until 10 March**

**11am-6pm daily, free entry**

The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY

### Warped

PRISM Textiles, a group of international textile artists, returns to the Art Pavilion for a third year with its latest exhibition WARPED. More than 50 artists present their interpretation of the word 'warped'.

**20 April-1 May**

**11am-6pm daily**

**Free Entry**

The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY

### Altab Ali – Forty-Five Years On

In May 1978 Altab Ali's senseless and racially motivated murder helped to mobilise a strong and widespread anti-racism movement. Forty-five years later, an exhibition will be on display to pay homage to Altab Ali's legacy. Visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/altabali](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/altabali)

**1-31 May**

Brady Arts Centre, 192-196

Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU

### Nazia Andaleeb Preema

Preema's work explores issues of women's representation that fuses traditional and digital techniques.

**1-30 April**



Nazia Andaleeb Preema

Brady Arts Centre, 192-196  
Hanbury Street, Whitechapel  
E1 5HU

## Spring markets and

## fairs

### Pre Ramadan Market

Noor Aromas is bringing a pre-Ramadan Market to The Ecology Pavilion. Family-friendly small businesses will be showcasing a range of products. Free entry, plenty of stalls and activities for children. The market is inclusive and open to all.

**Sunday 19 March**

**12 noon-5.30pm**

The Ecology Pavilion, Mile End Park, Grove Road, E3 5TW

### The Vintage Furniture Flea



Vintage furniture and homewares

The Flea features top vintage traders, all offering furniture and homewares without costing the earth.

**Sunday 14 May**

**10:30am-4pm**

The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY

**Earlybird entry £4**

**(10:30am-11:30am) General entry £3, Kids under 16 free**

Your ticket also gains you access to Judy's Vintage Market in the Ecology Pavilion on the same day!

For more information visit [www.judysvintagefair.com/furniture-flea/](http://www.judysvintagefair.com/furniture-flea/)

### Judy's East London Vintage Market

Come and join a host of vintage and indie traders where sustainability is at their very core. Early bird entry £4 (10:30am-11:30am).

**Sunday 14 May**

**10:30am-4pm**

**General entry £3, Kids go free.**

Your ticket also gains you access to The Vintage Furniture Flea in the Art Pavilion on the same day! The Ecology Pavilion, Mile End Park, Grove Road, E3 5TW

### Urban Makers Spring Market

Fifty different designers will be

selling everything from homeware, jewellery and art, to candles, toys, clothing and accessories. All sustainable and ethical. There will also be a range of workshops and Urban Makers Feast will be back with a great selection of food and drink.

**Free entry.**

**3-5 June**

The Ecology Pavilion, Mile End Park, Grove Road, E3 5TW

## Job Expo

### Let's Work 2023

Let's Work is a unique Job Expo supporting young people aged 14-25 with special educational needs or a disability (SEND) from Tower Hamlets to connect with employers from a wide range of industries.

**4 May**

**Free entry**

**9.30am-3pm**

The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY

To sign up to attend the expo contact [events@letswork.org.uk](mailto:events@letswork.org.uk), call 0208 980 3500 or visit [www.towerproject.org.uk](http://www.towerproject.org.uk)

## Theatre

### Morveren

In this mysterious hidden coastal village, where women make the rules, Keren must decide: career or community?

**28 March-1 April**

The Space, 269 Westferry Road, E14 3RS

For more information visit [www.space.org.uk](http://www.space.org.uk)

### The Wedding Speech

A dramatic comedy about codependency and toxic parenting.

**18-20 April**

The Space, 269 Westferry Road, E14 3RS

Visit [www.space.org.uk](http://www.space.org.uk)

### New Moon Monologues

New Moon Monologues features an array of new writing from both emerging and established playwrights and actors.

**15-17 June**

The Space, 269 Westferry Road, E14 3RS

Visit [www.space.org.uk](http://www.space.org.uk)



# বাসিন্দাদের জন্য ভবিষ্যত প্রবৃদ্ধি নিশ্চিত করবে নতুন বাজেট

HARMONY  
BENGALI NEWS

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের নতুন এবং উন্নত গণখাতে প্রয়োজনীয় বিনিয়োগ এবং জীবনযাত্রার ব্যয় বৃদ্ধির চলমান সংকটের ক্ষতিকর প্রভাব থেকে বাসিন্দাদের রক্ষা করা, তরুণদের উন্নত জীবনের সুযোগ দেওয়া এবং কমিউনিটির সার্বিক নিরাপত্তা, বাড়ি-ঘর, লেজার সার্ভিস ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন সহ ভবিষ্যত বিনিয়োগে সহায়তাকারী ক্ষেত্রগুলোতে বিনিয়োগের বিভিন্ন উচ্চাভিলাষি পরিকল্পনা সহ নতুন অর্থবছরের জন্য প্রস্তাবিত বাজেট কাউন্সিলের পূর্ণাঙ্গ মিটিংয়ে পাশ হয়েছে।

১ মার্চ বুধবার হোয়াইটচ্যাপেলে নতুন টাউন হলের চেম্বারে প্রথমবারের মতো অনুষ্ঠিত বিশেষ পূর্ণাঙ্গ কাউন্সিল সভায় ২০২৩/২৪ অর্থবছরের জন্য প্রস্তাবিত কাউন্সিলের নতুন বাজেট অনুমোদন পায়।

নতুন বাজেটে পরবর্তী অর্থবছরের জন্য কাউন্সিল ট্যাক্সে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের অংশ ফ্রিজ বা স্থগিত করার পাশাপাশি বয়স্ক ও দুর্বল বাসিন্দাদের জন্য প্রদত্ত সেবাখাতের তহবিল ২.৫ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ডে উন্নীত করতে অ্যাডাল্ট সোশ্যাল কেয়ার থ্রেসহোল্ড ২% নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে। উল্লেখ্য, ২০২৪ সালের এপ্রিল মাস থেকে বিনামূল্যে হোম কেয়ার প্রদানের জন্য ২.৫ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ডের এই তহবিল থেকে বারার অনেক বয়স্ক এবং দুর্বল বাসিন্দা অতিরিক্ত আর্থিক সহায়তা পাবেন।

দেশের সবচেয়ে উদার কাউন্সিল ট্যাক্স হ্রাসকারী স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষ হিসেবে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল তার ট্যাক্স রিডাকশন স্কিম অব্যাহত রাখবে। এই স্কিমের আওতায় বারার নিম্ন-আয়ের পরিবারগুলির জন্য ১০০ শতাংশ পর্যন্ত কর হ্রাস পাওয়ার সুযোগ রয়েছে।

## New budget supports future growth for all our residents – Page 7

নতুন বাজেট সম্পর্কে নির্বাহী মেয়র লুৎফুর রহমান বলেছেন, “আমরা আমাদের প্রথম বাজেট পেশ করতে পেরে গর্বিত। এই বাজেট কাউন্সিলের সার্ভিসগুলোতে বিনিয়োগ করার এবং চলমান কঠিন সময়ে আমাদের বাসিন্দাদের সহায়তা করার প্রতিশ্রুতি পূরণ করে। আমরা কাউন্সিল ট্যাক্স বাড়িছি না এবং লন্ডনের সবচেয়ে কম হারের কাউন্সিল ট্যাক্স রয়েছে এমন হাতে গোনা কয়েকটি বারার মধ্যে অন্যতম একটি হওয়ার ধারা আমরা অব্যাহত রেখেছি।”

মেয়র বলেন, “আমাদের ২০২৩/২৪ অর্থবছরের বাজেটে অত্যাবশ্যকীয় খাতগুলোতেই ব্যয় করা হয়েছে। যেমন, প্রাইমারি এবং সেকেন্ডারি স্কুলের জন্য সার্বজনীন ফ্রি স্কুলের খাবার এবং টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস হোমস ও লেজার সেন্টার পরিচালনার মত সার্ভিসগুলোকে সরাসরি কাউন্সিলের অধীনে ফিরিয়ে আনার মত প্রকল্পগুলোতে বিনিয়োগ করা হয়েছে।”

বাজেট পরিকল্পনা এবং সম্পর্কিত মূল নীতিগুলির মধ্যে রয়েছেঃ

- বছরে ১০০০ নতুন শাস্ত্রী বাড়ার জন্য ঘর নির্মাণ এবং উন্নত অগ্নিনিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা এবং মেরামত/রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ
- প্রাথমিক এবং মাধ্যমিক উভয় স্কুলের শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য বিনামূল্যে খাবার সরবরাহ খাতে ৫.৭ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড
- ইয়ুথ সার্ভিসগুলোকে রূপান্তর করতে ১১.৫ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড বিনিয়োগ
- এডুকেশন মেইনটেনেন্স এলাউন্স (ইএমএ) এবং ইউনিভার্সিটি বার্সারি পুনরায় চালু করতে ১.১ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড

- বিশেষ শিক্ষাগত এবং অতিরিক্ত চাহিদায়ুক্ত শিশুদের (এসইএনডি বা সেন্ড) জন্য ৭৩০ হাজার পাউন্ড
- দুর্বল প্রাপ্তবয়স্কদের জন্য বিনামূল্যে হোম কেয়ার সার্ভিস প্রদানে ২.৫ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড
- অপরাধ ও সমাজবিরোধী আচরণজনিত কার্যকলাপ মোকাবেলায় নতুন পুলিশ অফিসার এবং এনফোর্সমেন্ট অফিসার নিয়োগ করতে ৪.৪ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড বরাদ্দ
- কমিউনিটি লেঙ্গুয়েজ খাতে ৮০০ হাজার পাউন্ড বিনিয়োগ
- বৈদ্যুতিক বর্জ্য যানবাহন, ইভি চার্জিং পয়েন্ট এবং কম কার্বন জ্বালানী সহ জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মোকাবেলা খাতে ৭ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড
- জীবনযাত্রার ব্যয় সহায়তার চলমান কর্মসূচির পাশাপাশি দারিদ্র্য মোকাবেলা কর্মসূচির জন্য অতিরিক্ত ৭০০ হাজার পাউন্ড
- লেজার সার্ভিসগুলো পরিচালনা সরাসরি কাউন্সিলের নিয়ন্ত্রণে ফিরিয়ে আনতে ২৭৫ হাজার পাউন্ড বিনিয়োগ
- ভলান্টিয়ার এবং কমিউনিটি সেক্টরের জন্য চলমান সহায়তা খাতে ১.২৫ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড বরাদ্দ
- রেসিডেন্টস হাবগুলিতে উন্নত গ্রাহক সেবা নিশ্চিত করতে ১.১ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড বরাদ্দ
- ওয়াটসন মার্কেট আইডিয়া স্টোর পুনরায় সম্পূর্ণ রূপে খোলার জন্য ৪৮৭ হাজার পাউন্ড বিনিয়োগ



## মার্কেট এলাকায় ১ ঘণ্টা ফ্রি পার্কিং সুবিধা চালু

Free market parking for all -Page 22

কাউন্সিলের নতুন পার্কিং বিধিসমূহ স্থানীয় অর্থনীতিকে চাঙ্গা করতে সাহায্য করবে এবং বারার সর্বত্র চলাফেরা সহজ করে তুলবে। জনসাধারণ যাতে স্থানীয় অর্থনীতিতে ভূমিকা রাখতে পারেন অর্থাৎ স্থানীয় মার্কেটগুলোতে কেনাকাটায় উদ্বুদ্ধ হন, সেজন্য কাউন্সিল বারার মার্কেট এলাকায় এক ঘণ্টা ফ্রি পার্কিং চালু করেছে। এর পাশাপাশি, কাউন্সিল বারাতে রেসিডেন্সিয়াল বা আবাসিক পার্কিংয়ের ক্ষেত্রেও পরিবর্তন এনেছে। অনেকগুলো ছোট ছোট পার্কিং জোন এর পরিবর্তে, যাদের রেসিডেন্টস পার্কিং পারমিট রয়েছে তারা এখন থেকে চারটি বড় পার্কিং জোনের একটিতে বিনামূল্যে পার্ক করতে পারবেন।

# উচ্চশিক্ষায় সহায়তা দিতে পুণরায় চালু হলো ইউনিভার্সিটি বার্সারি স্কিম



## Students supported with university costs – page 19

বারার তরুণদের উচ্চ শিক্ষা লাভে সহায়তা করার জন্য মেয়রের ইউনিভার্সিটি বার্সারি এওয়ার্ড নামের আর্থিক প্রণোদনা কর্মসূচি আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে চালু করেছে কাউন্সিল।

৩০ জানুয়ারী সোমবার, পূর্ব লন্ডনের মাইল এন্ড রোডে অবস্থিত কুইন মেরি ইউনিভার্সিটিতে আয়োজিত এক অনুষ্ঠানে বারার নির্বাহী মেয়র লুৎফুর রহমান আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে মেয়র'স ইউনিভার্সিটি বার্সারি স্কিমটি চালু করেন। কুইন মেরি ইউনিভার্সিটির সার্বিক ব্যবস্থাপনায় আয়োজিত অনুষ্ঠানে ইউনিভার্সিটির প্রেসিডেন্ট এন্ড প্রিন্সিপাল প্রফেসর কলিন বেইলি, টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের কর্পোরেট ডিরেক্টর ফর চিলড্রেন সার্ভিসেস জেমস টমাস সহ কাউন্সিলের শীর্ষস্থানীয় কর্মকর্তাবৃন্দ, বিশিষ্ট শিক্ষাবিদ ও শিক্ষা গবেষকগণ ও শিক্ষার্থীরা উপস্থিত ছিলেন। অনুষ্ঠানটি পরিচালনা

করেন হেড অব মেয়র অফিস, এয়ামি জ্যাকসন। মেয়রের ইউনিভার্সিটি বার্সারি এওয়ার্ড পাওয়ার যোগ্য বিবেচিত শিক্ষার্থীদের বিশেষ এই আর্থিক প্রণোদনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে অধ্যয়নে ব্যয় নির্বাহের ক্ষেত্রে কিছুটা সহায়তা করবে। যোগ্য শিক্ষার্থীরা আবাসন, বই এবং আনুষঙ্গিক সংস্থান বা রিসোর্সেস সহ তাদের স্নাতক অধ্যয়নের সাথে সম্পর্কিত খাতে ব্যয় করার জন্য এককালীন ১,৫০০ পাউন্ড অনুদান চেয়ে আবেদন করতে পারেন। এই খাতে বরাদ্দকৃত ৬ লাখ পাউন্ডের তহবিল দিয়ে প্রথম বছরে প্রায় ৪০০ শিক্ষার্থীকে সহায়তা দেয়া হবে। এই তহবিল হচ্ছে বারার তরুণদেরকে আরও বেশি জীবনমুখি সুযোগ পেতে সহায়তা করার জন্য মেয়র লুৎফুর রহমানের দেয়া প্রতিশ্রুতির অংশ। জীবনযাত্রার ব্যয় বৃদ্ধির ফলে পারিবারিক বাজেটের ওপর অভ্যুতপূর্ণ চাপ সৃষ্টির চলমান কঠিন সময়ে এই

সহায়তাগুলি বিশেষভাবে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। এ প্রসঙ্গে মেয়র লুৎফুর রহমান বলেন, “আমি আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বার্সারি স্কিম চালু করতে পেরে আনন্দিত। এই স্কিম তরুণদের উচ্চতর শিক্ষা গ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে আর্থিক চ্যালেঞ্জগুলি হ্রাস করতে সহায়তা করবে। এই আর্থিক সহায়তা যুবকদের জীবনধারণের সংকটের মধ্যেও পড়াশোনা চালিয়ে যেতে আত্মবিশ্বাস ও উৎসাহ যোগাবে।” তিনি বলেন, “শিক্ষা আমার হৃদয়ের খুব কাছাকাছি এবং জীবনমুখি শিক্ষাকে সহায়তা করা আমার প্রশাসনের জন্য একটি অন্যতম অগ্রাধিকার। তরুণদেরকে তাদের পূর্ণ সম্ভাবনায় পৌঁছানোর জন্য এবং পরবর্তী প্রজন্মকে নেতৃত্ব দেয়ার মত যোগ্য হওয়ার উপযোগী সরঞ্জাম এবং সুযোগগুলি প্রদান করা খুবই জরুরী।” এডুকেশন এন্ড লাইফলং লার্নিং বিষয়ক কেবিনেট মেম্বর, কাউন্সিলর মাইয়ুম তালুকদার বলেন, “প্রতিটি তরুণ তাদের আর্থিক পরিস্থিতি নির্বিশেষে সর্বোত্তম শিক্ষার সুযোগ পাওয়ার দাবিদার। টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের তরুণদের সাহায্য করার জন্য কাউন্সিলের প্রতিশ্রুতির বাস্তব প্রতিফলন হচ্ছে মেয়রের ইউনিভার্সিটি বার্সারি স্কিম। আর এটি এমন সময়ে নেয়া হয়েছে, যখন অনেক পরিবার আর্থিক সংকটের সাথে লড়াই করে চলেছে।” শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে বারার ছাত্রছাত্রীরা যাতে সামনের দিকে এগিয়ে যেতে পারে, সেজন্য তাদেরকে যতটুকু সম্ভব সহায়তা করার জন্য ১ দশমিক ১ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ডের যে তহবিল গঠন করা হয়েছে, তারই একটি অংশ হচ্ছে এই ইউনিভার্সিটি বার্সারি স্কিম। এর আগে মেয়রের এডুকেশন মেটেনেন্যান্স এলাউন্স বা ইএমএ'র আওতায় ২০২২/২৩ শিক্ষাবর্ষের জন্য যোগ্য শিক্ষার্থীদের ৪০০ পাউন্ড করে আর্থিক অনুদান প্রদান কার্যক্রম শুরু করা হয়।

## অর্থ সাশ্রয়ের টিপস পাবেন কাউন্সিলের ওয়েবসাইটে Money saving tips

ক্রমাগত বাড়তে থাকা বিল পরিশোধ করতে গিয়ে বিভিন্ন খাতে খরচ কমানোর কথা যখন বিবেচনা করেন, তখন তা কোথা থেকে শুরু করবেন, সেটা নির্ধারণ করা অনেকটাই কঠিন হয়ে পড়ে। জীবনযাত্রার ব্যয়ের সংকট বলতে বোঝায় আমাদের বারার এবং এর বাইরেও অনেককে তাদের আয়ের বেশির ভাগ অংশই ব্যয় করতে হয় জীবনযাপনের পেছনে। বর্তমান আর্থিক পরিস্থিতি মোকাবেলা করার জন্য লোকজন যেভাবে ব্যয় করতে বাধ্য হচ্ছে তার একটা সমাধান বের করতে হবে। অর্থ সাশ্রয়ের টিপস এবং খাবার দাবারের ব্যয় কীভাবে কমানো যায় তার পরামর্শ সহ কীভাবে আপনার আয়ের সর্বোত্তম ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করতে পারেন সে সম্পর্কে নানা পরামর্শ রয়েছে কাউন্সিলের ওয়েবসাইটে ([www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/advice\\_and\\_benefits/cost-of-living/Cost-of-living.aspx](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/advice_and_benefits/cost-of-living/Cost-of-living.aspx)).





# বাংলাদেশী কমিউনিটির সাথে দেখা করতে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে এলেন কিং চার্লস

King visits Tower Hamlets' Bangladeshi community – Page 12

বারার বাংলাদেশী কমিউনিটির প্রতি সম্মান জানাতে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস পরিদর্শনে এলে কিং চার্লস এবং দ্যা কুইন কনসোর্টকে স্বাগত জানান বিপুল সংখ্যক মানুষ। ৮ ফেব্রুয়ারী এই রাজকীয় পরিদর্শন শুরু হয় হোয়াইটচ্যাপেল রোডের আলতাব আলী পার্ক থেকে। ১৯৭৮ সালে অ্যাডলার স্ট্রিটে বর্ণবাদী হামলায় নিহত ২৫ বছর বয়সী বাংলাদেশী যুবক আলতাব আলীর নামে পার্কটির নামকরণ করা হয়েছে। সেখানে রাজা তৃতীয় চার্লস এবং কুইন কনসোর্ট সত্তরের দশকে বর্ণবাদ বিরোধী আন্দোলনের জড়িত কমিউনিটি ব্যক্তিত্বদের সাথে দেখা করেন এবং আলতাব আলীর মৃত্যুর ৪৫ তম বার্ষিকী স্মরণে পার্কে একটি গাছ রোপণ করেন।

আলতাব আলী পার্কে রাজা ও কুইন কনসোর্টকে স্বাগত জানান কাউন্সিলের স্পীকার কাউন্সিলর শাফিক

আহমেদ। পার্ক পরিদর্শন শেষে রাজা ও রাণী যান ব্রিক লেনে। সেখানে তিনি বাংলাটাউন গেট ও পার্শ্ববর্তী দেয়ালে চিত্রিত ম্যুরালটি দেখেন এবং ব্রিক লেন পরিদর্শন করেন। উল্লেখ্য, ২০২১ সালে বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতার ৫০ বছর পূর্তি উদযাপন উপলক্ষে কাউন্সিলের উদ্যোগে বাংলাটাউন গেটটি গত বছর সংস্কার করা হয় এবং এর পাশের দেয়ালে আন্তর্জাতিক খ্যাতিসম্পন্ন শিল্পী মোহাম্মদ আলী এমবিই রং তুলির সাহায্যে 'মাটির টান/দ্য ল্যান্ড ইজ কলিং' শীর্ষক ম্যুরালটি ফুটিয়ে তুলেন।

ব্রিক লেন পরিদর্শনের সময় নাচ ও বাদ্যের তালে রাজাকে স্বাগত জানান বাংলাদেশী শিল্পীরা। স্থানীয় স্কুলের শিক্ষার্থী, স্থানীয় দাতব্য সংস্থা ও ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠান এবং বিবিপিআই জামদানি নেটওয়ার্কের সাথে জড়িত মহিলাদের সাথে দেখা করেন রাজা ও



রাণী।

রাজা ও রাণী রাস্তার দুই পাশের লোকজনের সাথে হাত মিলাতে মিলাতে যান ব্রিক লেন মসজিদে, যেখানে তারা ঐতিহাসিক এই বিল্ডিংয়ের ইতিহাস সম্পর্কে অবহিত হন। বর্তমানের এই মসজিদটি এক

সময় ছিলো চার্চ, তারপর এটি সিনাগগ হিসেবেও ব্যবহৃত হয়। ব্রিটিশ বাংলাদেশি পাওয়ার অ্যান্ড ইন্সপিরেশন (বিবিপিআই) টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল এবং টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস পুলিশের সাথে মিলে এই সফরের আয়োজন করে।

## ভোট দিতে ফটো আইডি লাগবে

Get ready for the new voter ID laws – Page 30

৪ মে ২০২৩ থেকে পার্লামেন্টের উপনির্বাচন, ইংল্যান্ডের স্থানীয় নির্বাচন এবং ২০২৩ সালের অক্টোবর থেকে সকল সাধারণ নির্বাচনে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে পোলিং স্টেশনে গিয়ে ভোট দেওয়ার সময় ভোটারদেরকে ফটো আইডি দেখাতে হবে বলে সরকার নতুন একটি আইন করেছে।

যাদের কাছে আইনত নির্ধারিত ফটোগ্রাফিক আইডি নেই তারা তাদের আইডির প্রমাণ হিসেবে বিনামূল্যে ভোটার অথরিটি সার্টিফিকেটের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারেন। আগামী ৪ মে ২০২৩-এ টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে কোনও নির্বাচন অনুষ্ঠিত হচ্ছে না, তবে এ ব্যাপারে আপনার যা জানা দরকার তা [www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need-](http://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need-) এই ওয়েবসাইটে গিয়ে জেনে নিন।

# হোয়াইটচ্যাপেলে নতুন টাউন হলঃ বারার ইতিহাসে এক অনন্য সংযোজন

Enhancing our borough's history with new town hall – Page 4



পূর্ব লন্ডনের কেন্দ্রস্থলে অবস্থিত ঐতিহাসিক গ্রেড টু হিসেবে তালিকাভুক্ত স্থাপনা প্রাক্তন রয়্যাল লন্ডন হাসপিটাল ভবনটি টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের নতুন টাউন হল হিসেবে যাত্রা শুরু করেছে। হোয়াইটচ্যাপেলের অষ্টাদশ শতাব্দীর মাঝামাঝি সময়ে নির্মিত হয়েছিলো পুরনো রয়্যাল লন্ডন হাসপিটাল। ২০১৩ সালে এরই পাশে নির্মিত সর্বাধুনিক হাসপাতাল ভবনে এটি স্থানান্তরিত হওয়ার

পূর্ব থেকে গ্রেড টু তালিকাভুক্ত ঐতিহাসিক ভবনটি বন্ধ হয়ে যায়। টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল তার নিজস্ব টাউন হল নির্মাণের জন্য পুরাতন হাসপাতাল ভবনটি ৯ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ডে ক্রয় করে এবং আইকনিক বিল্ডিং পুনরুদ্ধার, সংস্কার ও সম্প্রসারণ করার জন্য বহু মিলিয়ন পাউন্ডের একটি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প গ্রহণ করে, যার কাজ এরই মধ্যে শেষ হয়েছে। নতুন টাউন হল

এখন স্থানীয় জনসাধারণকে সেবা দিতে সম্পূর্ণরূপে প্রস্তুত। টাউন হল হোয়াইটচ্যাপেল রোডের এই ঐতিহাসিক ভবনে স্থানান্তরের ফলে শুধু যে বিল্ডিংটির ঐতিহাসিক স্থাপত্যশৈলীই সংরক্ষিত হলো, তা নয়, স্থানীয় জনসাধারণ এখন আগের চেয়ে অনেক সহজেই টাউন হলের সুবিধা লাভ করতে সক্ষম হবেন। এছাড়া গত ৩০ বছর ধরে পপলারে অবস্থিত

মালবারি প্লেসে টাউন হল বিল্ডিং ভাড়া বাবদ প্রতি বছর যে ৫ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড দিতে হতো, তা এখন সাশ্রয় হবে। হোয়াইটচ্যাপেলে গত বছর এলিজাবেথ লাইন চালুর ধারাবাহিকতায় এবার টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের টাউন হল এখানে স্থানান্তরিত হলো। মাল্টি-মিলিয়ন পাউন্ডের হোয়াইটচ্যাপেল রোড ইমপ্রুভমেন্ট প্রোগ্রাম এবং নতুন অভ্যুত্থানিক লাইফ সায়েন্সেস ক্লাস্টার নির্মাণের সুফল পাবে পুরো এলাকাটি এবং এই উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পগুলো নতুন করে ৫০০০ কর্মসংস্থানে ভূমিকা রাখবে। পুরনো হাসপাতাল ভবনটির সম্মুখভাগের নিও-ক্লাসিক্যাল স্থাপত্যশৈলী এবং ঘড়িটিকে আগের জৌলুসে ফিরিয়ে আনা সহ পুরো বিল্ডিংটিকে সংস্কার করা হয়েছে। ভবনটির অভ্যন্তরীণ সিঁড়ি এবং পুরনো চ্যাপেলের অনেক স্থাপত্য বৈশিষ্ট্য সংরক্ষণ করার পাশাপাশি পুরনো অপারেটিং থিয়েটারের সিলিং ল্যাম্প এবং দেয়ালে

মাউন্ট করা যন্ত্রগুলিকে প্রধান নির্বাহীর নতুন অফিসের নান্দনিক বৈশিষ্ট্য হিসেবে ধরে রাখা হয়েছে। নতুন টাউন হলের সম্পূর্ণ গ্রাউন্ড ফ্লোরটি জনসাধারণের ব্যবহারের জন্য নির্ধারিত করে রাখা হয়েছে। এখানে থাকবে ইভেন্ট আয়োজন ও প্রদর্শনীর সুবিধা, কাউন্সিল প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী কারো সাথে সরাসরি দেখা করতে ও কথা বলতে পারবেন। এটি শুধুমাত্র কাউন্সিল স্টাফদের কর্মস্থল হবে না, টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস হোমস্ এবং এনএইচএস ক্লিনিক্যাল কমিশনিং গ্রুপগুলোর স্টাফরাও এখানে চলে আসবেন। পুরনো বিল্ডিংকে পুনরুদ্ধার, সংস্কার, আধুনিকায়ন করে নতুন ধরনের ব্যবহার উপযোগী করার ডিজাইনটি করেন আলফ্রেড হল মোনগান এবং পুরো প্রকল্পটি বাস্তবায়ন করতে বিল্ডিং নির্মাণ কোম্পানী রুইগসকে।

## রাসায়নিক পণ্য ব্যবহারে জনগণকে সচেতন করতে প্রচারাভিযান শুরু



## Safety campaign launched after pest control causes fatal incident – Page 8

বারায় দুটি মারাত্মক এবং জীবন পরিবর্তনকারী দুর্ঘটনা সংঘটিত হওয়ার পর কীটপতঙ্গ নিয়ন্ত্রণ (পেস্টস্ কন্ট্রোল) পণ্যের বিপদ সম্পর্কে বাসিন্দাদের সতর্ক ও সচেতন করার জন্য কাউন্সিলের উদ্যোগে 'কিল পেস্টস্ নট পিপল' শিরোনামে একটি ক্যাম্পেইন বা প্রচারণা শুরু করা হয়েছে। এ ধরনের রাসায়নিক পণ্য ব্যবহারের কারণে সংঘটিত দুর্ঘটনায় একটি ১১ বছর বয়সী মেয়ের মৃত্যু হয়। অন্য ঘটনায়, একজন মহিলা গুরুতর স্বাস্থ্য সমস্যায় আক্রান্ত হন এবং তিনি নিজে নিজে ঘরের পোকামাকড় পরিষ্কার করার চেষ্টা করতে গিয়ে আর্থিকভাবেও ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয়েছেন। এই ঘটনাগুলি অপ্রশিক্ষিত বাসিন্দাদের কর্তৃক পেশাদারদের জন্য নির্ধারিত কীটপতঙ্গ নিয়ন্ত্রণ পণ্য ব্যবহারের কারণে ঘটেছিল। এই সকল পণ্য থেকে নিগরিত গ্যাস বিষাক্ত হতে পারে এবং বিস্ফোরণ ও আগুনের কারণ হতে পারে। এই প্রচারাভিযানের মূল লক্ষ্য হচ্ছে, পেস্টস্ কন্ট্রোল সামগ্রী অনলাইন থেকে না কিনতে বাসিন্দাদের উৎসাহিত করা। এই সকল পণ্য অপেশাদার ব্যবহারকারীদের জন্য উপযোগী কি-না, সেটা অনেক সময় নিশ্চিত হওয়া যায় না। সুপরিচিত অনলাইন মার্কেটপ্লেসগুলো স্বনামধন্য হলেও তাদের প্রাটিকরণে থাকা অনেক বিক্রয়কর্তা বিশ্বাসযোগ্য না-ও হতে পারে। তাই শুধুমাত্র যুক্তরাজ্যের সুনামধন্য ও বিশ্বস্ত বিক্রয়কর্তাদের কাছ থেকে বাসিন্দারা যেন এ ধরনের পণ্য ক্রয় করেন, সে ব্যাপারে তাদেরকে সচেতন করা হচ্ছে।



# King oo booqday bulshada Bangladesh

**HARMONY**  
SOMALI NEWS

Dad badan ayaa ku soo dhaweeyay Boqorka iyo Consort-ka Boqorada Tower Hamlets taasoo qayb ka ah booqasho lagu maamuusayo bulshada Bangladeshi ee xaafadda.

Booqashadu waxay ka bilaabatay Altab Ali Park ee Waddada Whitechapel. Beerta ayaa loogu magacdaray ninkii 25-jirka ahaa ee lagu dilay weerar cunsuri ah oo ka dhacay Waddada Adler 1978-kii.

Halkaasi oo ay Boqorka iyo Boqorada ay kula kulmeen odayaal ka tirsan beesha oo ku hawlanaa ka hortagga cunsuriyadda.

Boqorka iyo Boqorada Consort ayaa beeray geed ay ku xusayaan sanad guuradii 45-aad ee ka soo wareegtay geeridii Altab waxayna booqdeen taallada Shahiid Minar oo lagu xusayo Dhaqdhaqaaqa Luuqadda Bengali.

Beerta ka dib, socodku wuxuu ku socday Brick Lane oo ka bilaabmay Banglatown Arch iyo muraayada ku dhow.

Iyaga oo ay wehelinayaan qoob ka ciyaar, waxa ay sii socdeen jidka caanka ah iyaga oo joogsanaya si ay ula kulmaan carruur ka kala socotay tiro dugsiyo ah oo



deegaanka ah, hay'ado samafal oo maxalli ah iyo ganacsiyo, iyo haweenka Shabakadda BBPI Jamdani.

Booqashada ayaa kusoo idlaatay Masjidka Laynka Biriq, halkaas oo ay ku bardeen taariikhda dhismahan oo sanado badan iska bedelay Kaniisad

una guurtay Masjidka hadda jira.

Waxay la kulmeen dhowr wakiil oo bulshada iyo ganacsatada ah, oo ay ku jiraan Agaasimaha Adeegga Aaska Brick Lane iyo Madaxweynaha Bariga London Central Synagogue, si ay u maqlaan wax ku saabsan saameynta xun ee masiibada Covid-

19 iyo shaqada diimaha dhexdooda.

Booqashada waxaa soo qaban qaabiyay Hay'adda British Bangladesh Power and Inspiration (BBPI) oo la shaqeysa Golaha Tower Hamlets iyo Booliska Tower Hamlets.

## Ku hagaajinta taariikhda degmadayada hoolka magaalada ee cusub



Fasalka II ee taariikhiga ah ee ku taxan dhismihii hore ee cisbitaalka ee ku yaal badhtamaha Bariga London ayaa dib loo furay sidii Golaha Deegaanka ee cusub ee Tower Hamlets.

Dhismaha hore ee Isbitaalka Royal London ee Whitechapel waxa la dhisay badhtamihii qarnigii siddeed iyo tobnaad, laakiin waxa

la xidhay 2013 markii cisbitaalku u guuray dhismo cusub oo casri ah oo jaar ah.

Golaha Tower Hamlets waxay ku iibsadeen dhismihii hore ee cusbitaalka £9m waxayna bilaabeen mashruuc ay ku baxayso malaayiin gini oo dib loogu soo celinayo, dib-u-habayn ku samaynayo laguna kordhinayo dhismihii caanka

ahaa kaas oo hadda sii wadi doona kaalintiisa u adeegida bulshada deegaanka.

Sidoo kale ilaalinta dhismaha liiska ku jira, u dhaqaaqida Waddada Whitechapel waxay siisaa dadka maxalliga ah dhisme joogto ah, oo hadda aad loo heli karo, dhismaha hoolka magaalada, iyadoo sidoo kale badbaadinaysa golaha £5m sannad kasta kirada Mulberry Place oo ahayd magaaladeeda Poplar-ka ah. Dhismaha hoolka in ka badan 30 sano.

Lutfur Rahman, Duqa Degmada Tower Hamlets, ayaa yiri: "Sheekooyin badan oo laga sheekayn karo, kani waa dhisme u adeegayey dadka deegaanka qarniyo badan oo hadda uu sii wadi doono sidii uu u samayn lahaa hoolka degmada ee Tower Hamlets.

"Waa hoolka magaalada oo la caddeeyey inuu u taagan yahay imtixaanka waqtiga waana mid aan

dhammaanteen ku faani karno."

Dib u dejinta Tower Hamlets Town Hall waxay daba socotaa imaatinka khadka Elizabeth ee Whitechapel sanadkii hore.

Gudaha dhismaha, jaranjarooyinka gudaha ee isbitaalka iyo waxyaabo badan oo ka mid ah kaniisaddii hore ayaa la ilaaliyay, halka nalalka saqafka iyo qalabka gidaarka lagu dhejiyay ee masraxa hore ee qaliinka lagu sii hayo sida muuqaalada xafiiska cusub ee madaxa fulinta.

Dabaqa hoose oo dhan ayaa ah mid loogu talagalay isticmaalka dadweynaha, iyadoo hoolka cusub ee magaalada uu ku faani karo munaasabad cusub iyo goob bandhig, qolka golaha deegaanka iyo xarun dadka deggan si dadka u baahan taageero shaqsi ah ay ula hadlaan qof fool ka fool ah.



## USEFUL INFORMATION SERVICES AND CONTACTS

### Advice

#### Account 3 (welfare and debt advice)

3 Birkbeck Street, E2.  
020 7739 7720  
www.account3.org.uk

#### Age UK East London

82 Russia Lane, E2.  
Caxton Hall, Caxton  
Grove, E3.  
Royal London Hospital  
14F Wards.  
info@ageukeastlondon.  
org.uk  
www.ageuk.org.uk/  
eastlondon  
020 8981 7124

#### Bromley by Bow Centre

St Leonard's Street, E3.  
020 8709 9700

#### Carers Centre Tower Hamlets

21 Brayford Square, E1  
OSG  
enquiries@ccth.org.uk  
www.ccth.org.uk  
020 7790 1765

#### Citizens Advice Bureau

32 Greatorex Street, E1.  
020 7247 1050  
towerhamlets@eastend-  
cab.org.uk  
www.eastendcab.org.uk

#### Island Advice Centre

Island House, Roserton  
Street, Isle of Dogs, E14.  
020 7987 9379  
www.island-advice.org.uk

#### Legal Advice Centre

University House,  
104 Roman Road, E2.  
020 8980 4205  
www.legaladvicecentre.  
london

#### Limehouse Project

789 Commercial Road,  
Unit 2, St Anne Street, E14.  
020 7538 0075  
www.limehouseproject.  
org.uk

#### Praxis (New Residents) Immigration, benefits and general advice

Pott Street, E2.  
General Helpline:  
020 7729 7985  
Immigration advice:  
020 7749 7608  
www.praxis.org.uk

#### Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network

thcan@island-advice.org.  
uk  
www.thcan.org.uk

#### Tower Hamlets Law Centre

Unit 1, St Anne's Street,  
E14. 020 7538 4909  
www.thlc.co.uk

### Careers

#### Adult education services

Shadwell Centre,  
455 The Highway, E1.  
020 7364 5665

#### WorkPath

Employment and Skills  
Centre, 55 Upper Bank  
Street, E14. 020 7364 3727  
workpath@towerhamlets.  
gov.uk

#### Young WorkPath/Tower Hamlets Careers Service

40-42 Watney Market, E1.  
020 7364 1401  
youngworkpath@  
towerhamlets.gov.uk

### Council

#### Town Hall

Mulberry Place,  
5 Clove Crescent, E14 2BG.  
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk  
General enquiries  
020 7364 5000

### Debt

#### Fair Money Advice

18 Ashwin Street, E8.  
020 3475 8811  
www.fairfinance.org.uk

#### Island Advice Centre

Island House, Roserton  
Street Isle of Dogs, E14.  
020 7987 9379  
www.island-advice.org.uk

#### Toynbee Hall Advice Service

28 Commercial Street, E1.  
020 7392 2953  
advice@toynbeehall.org.  
uk  
www.toynbeehall.org.uk

### Health & wellbeing

#### Alzheimer's Society

Robinson Centre, Mile  
End Hospital, Bancroft  
Road, E1.  
020 8121 5626

#### BYM Bangladesh Youth Movement Women's Centre of Excellence

Whitechapel Centre, Units  
1 & 2, Myrdle Street, E1.  
020 7377 8668  
www.bym.org.uk

#### Covid vaccine helpline

Tower Hamlets Council  
has launched a Covid-19  
vaccine helpline, on  
020 7464 3030, to support  
residents who are eligible  
for vaccination to book  
their appointment.

#### East London Parkinson's Support Group

hello@parkinsons.org.uk  
0808 800 0303

#### Free home fire safety advice

08000 284428

#### Health hotline

020 7364 5016

#### Healthwatch Tower Hamlets

Mile End Hospital, Ban-  
croft Road, E1.  
0800 145 5343  
info@healthwatchtower  
hamlets.co.uk  
www.healthwatchtower  
hamlets.co.uk

#### LinkAge Plus

Toynbee Hall, Commercial  
Street, E1.  
020 7392 2913

#### Reset

Tower Hamlets Drug and  
Alcohol Service  
183 Whitechapel Road, E1.  
020 3889 9510  
reset.towerhamlets@  
cgl.org.uk

#### Safe East (under-19s)

compass.towerhamlets  
yphws@nhs.net  
020 3954 0091

#### Stop Smoking services

www.quitrightth.org  
020 7882 8230

#### Tower Hamlets

Advocacy Real  
020 7001 2170  
hello@real.org.uk

### Housing

#### Choice-based lettings

020 7364 2826

#### Homeless service

020 7364 7474  
Out of hours  
020 7364 4079

#### Homeseekers

www.thhs.org.uk

#### Housing advice

020 7364 3558

#### Repairs

0800 376 1637 ext 1

#### Tower Hamlets Homes

020 7364 5015

### Idea Stores and libraries

#### Bow

Gladstone Place, E3.

#### Canary Wharf

Churchill Place, E14.

#### Chrisp Street

Vesey Path, E14.

#### Whitechapel

321 Whitechapel Road, E1.

#### Local History Library and Archives

277 Bancroft Road, E1  
localhistory@  
towerhamlets.gov.uk  
Visit www.ideastore.  
co.uk/home

### Leisure centres

#### John Orwell Sports Centre

Tench Street, Wapping, E1.  
020 7488 9421

#### Mile End Park Leisure

Centre and Stadium  
190 Burdett Road, E3.  
020 8709 4420

#### Poplar Baths

170 East India Dock Road,  
E14. 020 3795 0599

#### St George's Leisure Centre

221 The Highway, Wap-  
ping E1. 020 7709 9714

#### Tiller Leisure Centre

Tiller Road, Isle of Dogs  
E14. 020 7987 5211

#### Whitechapel Sports Centre

55 Durward Street, E1.  
020 7247 7538

#### York Hall Leisure Centre

5-15 Old Ford Road, E2.  
020 8980 2243

For the latest information  
and updates, including  
details of opening hours or  
temporary closures, visit  
[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
or [www.better.org.uk](http://www.better.org.uk)

### Parent & child

#### Family Information Service

30 Greatorex Street, E1.  
fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk  
020 7364 6495

#### Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

If a child is at risk of harm:  
020 7364 5006 (option  
3, open Mon to Fri, 9am -  
5pm)  
020 7364 4079 (out of  
hours emergency duty  
team)

#### Tower Hamlets National Childbirth Trust

0300 330 0700  
www.nct.org.uk

### Report it

#### Anti-fraud (housing and tenancy related fraud)

0800 528 0294

#### Black Women's Health and Family Support

020 8980 3503

#### Childline

0800 1111

#### Domestic Violence Team

0800 279 5434

#### Environmental

#### Protection (Noise) Team

020 7364 5000

#### Haven Whitechapel (sexual assault referral centre)

020 3299 6900 /  
020 3299 1599

#### Karma Nirvana (honour-based abuse helpline)

0800 5999 247

#### Men's Advice Helpline

0808 8010 327

#### National LGBT domestic abuse helpline (Galop)

0800 999 5428 /  
0300 999 5428

#### Non-emergency crimes 101 Textphone

18001 101

#### NSPCC Child Protection Helpline

0800 800 5000

#### Respect (for perpetrators)

0808 802 4040

#### Rights of Women

020 7251 6577

#### Samaritans

116 123

#### Shelter

0808 800 4444

#### Tower Hamlets Mediation Service (free service for council tenants and leaseholders)

020 7364 7474

#### Victim Support Tower Hamlets

0808 168 9291 /  
0808 168 9111

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