

CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH



Majestic makeover
for museum

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YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES



Holiday haven for
children

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ARTS & EVENTS



All Points East -
win tickets!

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ISSUE SIXTEEN // MARCH 2020



OUR EAST END



Digging for buried treasure

Uncovering our medieval and Shakespearean past - see pages 34-35

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OUR EAST END

NEWS FROM TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL AND YOUR COMMUNITY

With spring approaching, we've got more exciting plans for the borough in 2020 – a place that continues to be somewhere people want to live and work.

However, I know that the borough also contains huge contrasts with great wealth next to poverty. The East End has always been a place where people come to better themselves and their families to this day.

As a council, we have an important role to play in enabling residents to do this. Our recent budget protects frontline services and delivers for residents, whether it's through providing new council homes or offering employment and training opportunities through WorkPath.

Our Tackling Poverty Fund continues to help those hit hardest by changes to benefits. We will also be launching a new child and pensioner poverty commission to explore how we can work with our partners to better support those living in the clutches of poverty.

Over the next year, we will also continue to focus on cleaning up our borough's air as we roll out our Liveable Streets programme together with our school and play streets.

But the future of our planet and the health of our residents demands more of us. Last year, we became one of the first councils in the country to declare a climate emergency. This year, we need to continue to make progress towards becoming a carbon-neutral council by 2025. We will also need to work with residents and businesses to see how we can, together, address this emergency.

We are already investing in the local environment – improving our streets and converting to low energy street lighting. We'll continue this focus to make Tower Hamlets an even better place to live.

As ever, you can get in touch with me by emailing mayor@towerhamlets.gov.uk or calling 020 7364 4000.

John Biggs,
Mayor of Tower Hamlets



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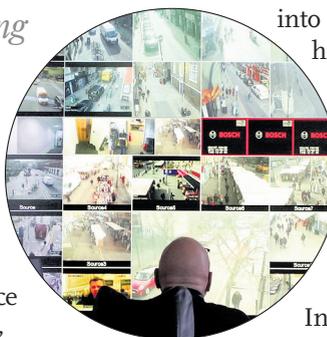
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A local student from Morpeth Secondary School sharing her design ideas for the new museum

Majestic museum makeover

CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

By **ANDY BATE**

THE V&A Museum of Childhood, a Tower Hamlets icon for nearly 150 years, is getting ready for a majestic makeover.

Transferred brick by brick from the V&A's original site in Cromwell Road, Kensington in 1872, the Bethnal Green site at Cambridge Heath Road was won after a competition organised by Parliament concluded that: "The good people of Bethnal Green made such a good case for their area," it was unarguable.

The museum originally housed a host of works of art and sculptures – including, at one point, the famous Wallace Collection. By the 1970s, the museum had become popular with families and refined its collection to focus

on childhood objects including a huge display of dolls' houses, educational toys and other items. The museum is now visited by around 400,000 people a year.

In 2018, the museum's focus changed once again to a learning environment.

Gina Koutsika, Creative and Skills Director at the museum, explained that now the mission is to: "Design the most joyful museum in the world and promote curiosity, compassion and self-belief in children in a world of constant change."

As a result, from 11 May 2020, the museum will close its doors for two years to undergo a radical £13 million refurbishment. Its collections, galleries, building and public activity programme will be transformed into a world-leading centre of creativity for children.

From objects displayed at a toddler's height, dressing up boxes next to couture fashion items to new spaces to 'make and create', the new museum

will be shaped entirely around the way children aged 0 - 14 explore, play and learn. Hollywood props and costumes, including the original superman costume, Frankenstein's Monster and Mary Poppins' magical umbrella, will be set within theatrical displays to inspire the screenwriters, authors and storytellers of tomorrow. Over 2,000 objects and acquisitions from around the world will be on show!

A 125-capacity performance space – The Stage – will form the new centerpiece for the museum's popular daily programme of family activities. The main hall will also be reimagined into 'The Town Square' to create a more inviting and social space at the heart of the museum. The square will feature the museum's iconic marble floor, originally built by female prisoners in the 19th century.

Gina explained: "We want to make a

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This is very often the first museum experience for a child. We want to create different ways of looking at the world to develop children's visual literacy and imagination.



The aims of the Museum of Childhood and Idea Stores align in many ways and we are both trying to reach as wide an audience and enhance learning as much as possible.

safe space for children with free access to our exhibitions. This is very often the first museum experience for a child. We want to create different ways of looking at the world to develop children's visual literacy and imagination. It will be lighter, brighter and more open. We love our community here in Tower Hamlets – most of our staff are residents and we want local people to feel that this really is their place."

Plans and design proposals by architects AOC have been influenced by schoolchildren, teachers, community groups and families from all over Tower Hamlets at over 40 workshops.

Three schools in particular – Globe Primary, Bangabandu Primary and Morpeth School (secondary) – took part in design sessions giving ideas about how the museum should look and make children feel. Ideas included redesigning activities that have been consistent favourites such as a street of dolls' houses, sandpits and rocking horses.

For those worried that two years is a long time to be without access to the V&A treasures, fear not! From July, the museum will open a temporary 'pop-up' home at the council's Whitechapel Idea Store. The pop-up will also visit schools in the borough and other sites across London and the south-east.

Sergio Dogliani, who manages the council's Idea Stores, said: "The project is about a real sharing of space and resources. The aims of the Museum of Childhood and Idea Stores align in many ways and we are both trying to reach as wide an audience and enhance learning as much as possible. The Idea Store and the museum will work collaboratively and share programmes for children, such as our daily storytelling and holiday activities. We'll also look at other ways of creative collaboration."

For information about activities, keep an eye out on www.ideastore.co.uk

RE-Invent Festival

Before doors close, a three-day RE-Invent Festival will take place Friday 8 - Sunday 10 May featuring live performances, a specially commissioned artist's installation and drop-in events.



Architectural rendering of the Imagine Gallery ©AOC



Architectural rendering of The Town Square ©AOC



Design session with Globe and Bangabandu Primary Schools ©V&A Museum



Students take a closer look at Frankenstein's Monster ©V&A Museum

Do you have an idea for a New Social Enterprise but need funding to set up?

The Investec Beyond Business Programme, at the Bromley by Bow Centre are offering start up funding for new or emerging Social Enterprises across Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Newham. Applicants and the Social Enterprise must be located in these boroughs.

What is the Investec Beyond Business Programme?

- Start-up funding,
- Strategic and business planning guidance, and
- Practical business support including training and mentoring.

Is my idea for a Social Enterprise eligible?

To be eligible for a start up grant of up to £20,000 your idea for a Social Enterprise must:

- Have a sound business proposition and the potential to be financially sustainable without reliance on grant funding
- Have a clear social purpose and outcomes
- Full eligibility criteria will be sent to all applicants.

Need an expression of interest form?

Please contact: Kim Hayman, Investec Beyond Business,
Bromley by Bow Centre, St Leonard's Street, E3 3BT
Telephone: 020 8709 9722 | Email: Kim.Hayman@bbbc.org.uk



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Police officers on duty



Our communities are built on a culture of friendship, loyalty and hard work. I can't think of a better place for the Met to find its future recruits.

Met turns to Tower Hamlets to find police officers of the future

JOBS AND ECONOMY

By **CHRIS HUMPHREYS**

THE Metropolitan Police wants 40 per cent of its new starters to be from black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds. It is a target that will be hard to meet without attracting applicants from London's most diverse communities. So the Met turned to the council to help recruit the next generation of police officers.

Mayor Biggs said: "We believe that London's police force should reflect the communities it protects. The Met has come a long way in recent years but it will be the first to admit it still needs to attract a broader range of recruits."

"Tower Hamlets has one of London's youngest populations and our diversity is one of our great strengths. Our communities are built on a culture of friendship, loyalty and hard work. I can't think of a better place for the Met to find its future recruits."

Tower Hamlets residents will go through the same assessment and

vetting process as all other applicants. But they will be supported through the process by the specialist team at WorkPath, the council's employment and training service.

WorkPath will be hosting a pre-application information day at its Upper Bank Street offices, giving potential recruits the opportunity to meet serving officers and find out more about what a career in policing involves.

Those who go on to submit an application will also be given the additional support they need ahead of their assessment and interview.

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth, said: "Police officers play an essential role in keeping our communities safe but I recognise that for some of our residents it may not be a path they had previously considered. I'd encourage them to make the most of this opportunity and to explore whether a career in policing could be right for them."

Further information about the opportunities available and how to register your interest can be found at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/policecareers

1,000 apprenticeship target reached

WE now have 1,000 new apprenticeship places available in the borough and surrounding areas – creating better career prospects for many.

In 2017, Mayor Biggs pledged that WorkPath – the council's employment and training service – would work with local businesses and training providers, as well as with the council's own HR department, to generate these opportunities.

Mayor Biggs said: "I'm delighted that we have hit our target, on schedule. We believe strongly in the value of apprenticeships, which is why we made this commitment to promote the benefits they offer for residents and businesses."

"We know that many employers want to provide opportunities to new and existing staff but in the past, they've found the apprenticeship system hard to navigate. By creating a dedicated team at WorkPath, we were able to reach out and guide them through the process, delivering opportunities for our residents in the process."

Apprenticeships are a cost-effective way to build a highly skilled workforce. With skills shortages being one of the

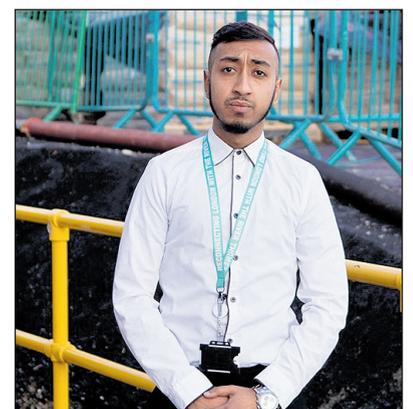


In reality, they can be tailored to people of any age and they're available at levels ranging from GCSE right up to postgraduate.

biggest issues facing the UK, they can play a vital role in allowing organisations to develop and empower their staff, creating committed and motivated teams with the ability to boost business and deliver results. They also provide valuable on the job training for people starting out on new career paths, as well as existing employees looking to develop in their roles.



Kelsey Tuffin, painting and decorating apprentice and Abdul Sadiq, accounts apprentice



Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth, said: "Setting up a dedicated team to go out and support employers has made all the difference. One of its most important achievements has been to bust some of the myths surrounding apprenticeships, opening doors for a more diverse range of candidates in the process."

"A common misconception is that apprenticeships are only suited to young people or for entry-level roles. In reality,

they can be tailored to people of any age and they're available at levels ranging from GCSE right up to postgraduate.

"We've made a great start with these 1,000 places. We'll continue to develop apprenticeship opportunities and to help realise the potential of the great talent that we have in Tower Hamlets."

To find out about apprenticeship opportunities, email apprenticeshipinfo@towerhamlets.gov.uk



A member of the CCTV team keeping a watchful eye

CCTV keeping streets safe

SAFER TOGETHER

By LUCY FORDHAM

Keeping our residents safe and preventing crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) is a key priority for the council. In our annual survey, residents told us crime and ASB is their number one concern, so it is one of ours.

One way we target people engaging in disorder includes partnership operations with the police, such as Operation Continuum, which takes drug dealers off the street, and tasking our enforcement

officers to patrol areas where residents have told us there are problems.

Another way is detecting and preventing street crime through our extensive CCTV network. The network is a vital tool for the council, police and community safety partners. We have a team of skilled surveillance operators on duty 24 hours a day, monitoring at least 350 street cameras. Many cameras are placed throughout the borough in areas we know crime is highest, so that we can be proactive and reactive in our approach.

The team constantly monitors cameras in hot spot and problem areas

and is skilled in analysing behavioural patterns. In many cases, CCTV staff can predict the actions of people causing crime and disorder, alerting police before an incident takes place.

They monitor the police radio system, listening out for emergency and urgent call locations. If cameras are nearby, then they will be looking at the incident within seconds, directing officers on the ground to the location of suspects. The team is also able to send live footage to the police control room as calls are being dispatched.

Along with keeping people who live, work and visit the borough safe,

the team regularly provides other operational support to police officers and the council's enforcement officers who are out on patrol dealing with violent situations and providing support to vulnerable people.

Recently, CCTV staff noticed a man outside Stepney Green station brandishing an axe. The team immediately notified local police who were then able to locate and arrest him, taking a dangerous individual and weapon off the streets.

This is just one of around 8,000 incidents that the CCTV team has dealt with over the past five years. Of these,



2,500 have led to proactive arrests as a result of providing intelligence the police could use to apprehend suspects. In many cases, it has been footage from our cameras that has provided the evidential material needed for court proceedings.

In November, the team was recognised at the Borough Commander's commendation ceremony after being nominated by police partners. They noted its exceptional dedication, commitment and professionalism. It was also nominated for an Outstanding Security Performance Award, an industry award that celebrates the best from across the security sector.

Councillor Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor for Community Safety and Equalities, said: "Community safety is a key priority for us and despite the squeeze on our budget we are protecting funding for this. Our CCTV team plays

a key role in preventing crime and we are investing £3 million to upgrade the current system. We will continue to work with our partners, including the police, to make our streets safer."

The borough's CCTV has other uses. It is used by the council's clean and green team to identify those committing environmental crime, such as flytipping. At least 30 incidents where businesses illegally dump waste are identified each month.

The cameras also help monitor large scale events, protests and borough emergencies.

Technology continues to improve detection and the council is looking to update the system to include high-definition cameras.

To keep up to date with community safety news, sign-up to our e-newsletter. Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup

“ Our CCTV team plays a key role in preventing crime and we are investing £3 million to upgrade the current system. We will continue to work with our partners, including the police, to make our streets safer. ”

Sign up

Keep up to date with news on community safety by signing up to our new e-newsletter. To sign up, simply visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup



New community hub in Bethnal Green

Introducing the Granby Community Hub in Bethnal Green, a new multi-purpose space for local residents and organisations, with a focus on the borough's Somali community.

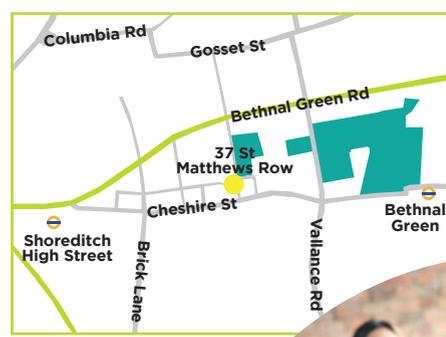
Run community events, host a social group or even hold birthday parties at the hub.

Spaces are available from £15 an hour from 9am to 11pm.



**37 St Matthew's Row
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**0207 510 5600
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www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/
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Your borough, your future

COUNCIL NEWS

THE council budget for 2020/21 has been set and prioritises the protection of the borough's most vulnerable residents while investing in community safety, housing and public health.

The budget proposals, formally adopted at a meeting of the full council on 19 February, were shaped by an extensive public consultation and include continued funding commitments for key services that residents and businesses have said they value and rely on.

Mayor Biggs said: "Councils across the country continue to face unprecedented financial challenges as a result of central government funding cuts. In Tower Hamlets, we've had to save £190 million since 2010 and in the next three years we expect to need to save a further £39m.

"Despite this, we have passed a budget that sets out an ambitious and positive plan for the next three years. We're putting our most vulnerable residents first and protecting frontline services while investing in new homes, better jobs and cleaner, greener, safer streets."

Council tax will increase by 1.99 per cent, with an additional two per cent increase which will be spent specifically on the delivery of adult social care. Tower Hamlets is still expected to have the seventh lowest council tax in the country.

Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector, said: "More than 2,000 residents and businesses gave us their views in our

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In Tower Hamlets, we've had to save £190 million since 2010 and in the next three years we expect to need to save a further £39 million.

consultation. They told us that children's services, education and protecting and supporting vulnerable children and adults were the things that mattered most. Those priorities are reflected in the choices we've made as part of this budget. Every pound we spend must contribute to a positive impact on the lives of our residents."

Consultation responses also showed strong support for the council's push to make services more efficient and to increase income generation to protect frontline services. The council will continue to extend the range of services people can access online while providing more targeted support for those who need it.

This year's budget will:

- Invest in Idea Stores, libraries, gyms, leisure centres and parks.
- Allocate an extra £7.2m for children's social care and special educational needs and disabilities and a further £12.4m for supporting vulnerable adults.
- Continue to fund additional police officers to keep our streets safe and tackle drug-related crime.
- Deliver new council homes and thousands more new affordable homes.
- Provide free school meals for all primary school pupils in the borough.
- Keep the streets clean with a new in-house waste service.
- Protect the poorest in our communities with a 100 per cent council tax discount and a range of programmes funded by our Tackling Poverty Fund.
- Support thousands more local people into work or training.
- Transform our neighbourhoods through our Liveable Streets programme to cut down on rat running, improve air quality and make our roads more pedestrian friendly.

For more information on how your council tax was spent, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/budget2020

Protecting our most vulnerable residents

Investing an extra £7.2m in children's social care



TOWER HAMLETS BUDGET 2020

Protecting our most vulnerable residents

Investing in our £6.6m Tackling Poverty Fund



TOWER HAMLETS BUDGET 2020

Protecting our most vulnerable residents

Investing a further £12.4 million for adult social care



TOWER HAMLETS BUDGET 2020



Mick McLoughlin of JB Riney, Roger Eke of Tarmac and Stephen Warway, Highways Asset Management Engineer

London's first 'recycled' road

CLEAN & GREEN

By **THOMAS BROWN**

TOWER Hamlets has become the first borough in London to get a 'recycled road' made partly from old tyres that would once have been destined for a landfill site.

The council has been working with Tarmac – the company behind the new technology that uses rubber crumb from the 40 million waste tyres produced every year mixed into asphalt – to treat Canrobert Street in Bethnal Green with the new road surface.

David Edgar, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said: "It's great to see innovative solutions to repurposing waste that could otherwise go to landfill or incineration.

"We were one of the first councils to declare a climate emergency and we're keen to explore all ideas that can reduce our impact on the environment. This product will provide a safe surface with less emissions and disruption during the laying process.

"We want residents and businesses to think about how they can reduce their carbon footprint so it's important we do our bit too."

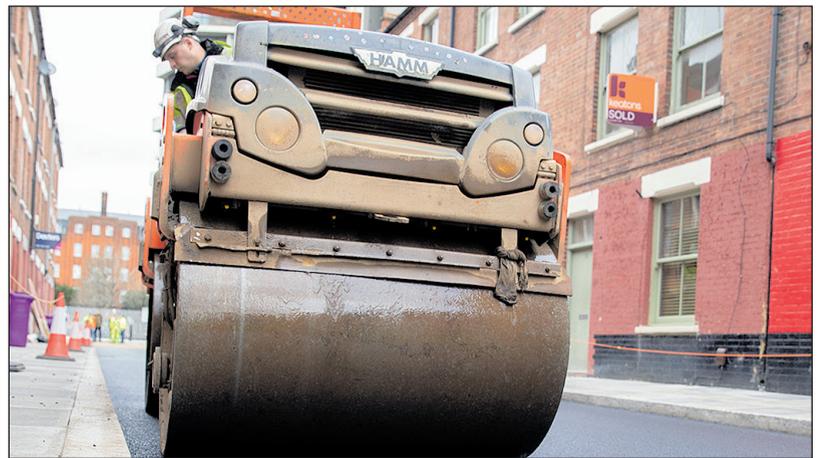
The introduction in Bethnal Green follows a successful trial on the M1 motorway. The surface is laid at a lower

temperature, which means roads can be re-opened quicker with up to 10 per cent less carbon dioxide emissions, improved site safety, reduced fumes and less risk of burns to workers.

The council has committed to working towards becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2025 and to moving to zero emission vehicles by 2028. The council is on track to cut its carbon emissions by 60 per cent this year with its ambitious School Streets and Liveable Streets programmes playing a key part. They aim to make walking, cycling and access to public transport easier and safer for all.



We were one of the first councils to declare a climate emergency and we're keen to explore all ideas that can reduce our impact on the environment.



A council contractor smoothing the rubber asphalt on Canrobert Street



Applying the finishing touches to the road

Don't be idle – pledge support for Breathe Clean

TOWER Hamlets has some of the worst air quality in London. We're London's third highest emitter of carbon dioxide and most of the borough's pollution is caused by transport. With a third of all car journeys in the borough less than 1.2 miles, the evidence is clear – more must be done to clean up our air.

The council's Breathe Clean campaign raises awareness of air pollution and what local actions can be taken to improve air quality and reduce exposure to toxic fumes. We've just launched the next phase of the campaign, focusing on idling vehicles.

Idling, leaving a car engine running when stationary, is almost always unnecessary and can generate up to twice as much pollution as a moving vehicle.

Residents tell us that idling happens across the borough and worryingly, most often outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, polluting the air our children breathe.

The council's environmental health team, alongside eager volunteers, are getting out and about across the borough, talking to parents outside schools to raise awareness of the harmful health effects of idling and to encourage behaviour change.

We will also be asking everyone who lives, works and visits the borough to sign up to our new anti-idling pledge. Air quality affects us all!

Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Planning, Tackling Poverty and Air Quality, said: "Poor air quality is one of the biggest public health challenges we

face. Some of those most affected are in our more deprived areas, so the council has an ambitious plan to get air quality within legal limits. Air quality is an issue that affects us all, and we now need everyone to come together and play their part in cleaning up our toxic air."

Eliminating idling is an easy and achievable way to instantly reduce harmful emissions. You don't need to be a driver to sign our pledge – help spread the word and make a real difference!

Sign the anti-idling pledge online at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/breatheclean and find out more about the campaign. To make a difference and volunteer at one of our anti-idling events, email breatheclean@towerhamlets.gov.uk

“
Poor air quality is one of the biggest public health challenges we face. Some of those most affected are in our more deprived areas so the council has an ambitious plan to get air quality within legal limits.

The poster features the 'breathe clean' logo at the top left, which consists of a stylized blue and green leaf-like shape next to the text 'breathe clean'. To the right is the Tower Hamlets logo, a white silhouette of a building on a blue background with the text 'TOWER HAMLETS' below it. The main headline in large red font reads: 'Idling vehicles poison our children's lungs'. Below this, in white text on a blue background, it says: 'Sign our pledge to switch off your engine and let's breathe cleaner air' followed by the website www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/breatheclean. The background image shows a group of children in red coats walking past a blurred car. At the bottom left, it says 'MAYOR OF TOWER HAMLETS'.

Big Clean Up 9: volunteers give parks a spruce up

THE council's latest Big Clean Up has swept through the borough with residents defying the wet late February and March weather to give parks and streets some extra love and attention.

The ninth edition of the litter picking campaign got underway in Mile End Park where the mayor led a band of eager residents in a public clean up. The week that followed saw mini 'eco-warriors' from Mayflower Primary School tackling litter in Langdon Park and residents on the Isle of Dogs coming together to clean up East Ferry Road.

70 bags of general rubbish and recyclable waste were collected throughout the week, with the total number of Big Clean Up events rising to 71 since the campaign began back in 2017. During that time, almost 750

volunteers have been involved.

Residents don't have to wait for a Big Clean Up to come around to take action in their community. The council's free Love Your Neighbourhood app can be used to share information about repairs that are needed, to report flytipping and to get abandoned vehicles cleared at the touch of a button. The app is available on Android and Apple devices. Alternatively, residents can report issues by visiting the online services webpage on the council's website www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

Dates are yet to be finalised for the next Big Clean Up, but the council is calling on residents (either groups or individuals), as well as businesses and schools, to register their interest. Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/bigcleanup



Volunteers cleaning up East Ferry Road



Ansu Badjie, Muhammad Islam, Peter Houghton and Ariya Dayanandan checking out the borough's latest air quality

The team tackling pollution

SPOTLIGHT POLLUTION TEAM

By **JESSICA ODUBAYO**

MEET the team that is working with residents and businesses to help tackle pollution and improve air quality in the borough.

The council's responsibility for implementing the borough's five-year air quality action plan sees officers in the team deal with issues ranging from contaminated land and water quality to idling and pollution caused by dust, smoke and even diesel fumes emitting from canal boats.

Recently nominated in the environmental services category of the prestigious Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards, the team say it is seeing gradual improvement in pollution levels in the borough.

Muhammed Islam, Team Leader, said: "With high pollution levels in London and in Tower Hamlets, air quality is a big issue. We are trying to address these concerns in the borough."

Peter Houghton, Environmental Health Officer, acts on reports of idling – where stationary vehicles are left with their engines running – and works alongside parking enforcement officers

to visit areas where concerns have been raised. He speaks to drivers and educates them about the environmental damage caused by idling and may issue a fine to those who do not switch their engines off when asked.

"We target idling hotspots such as outside schools, hospitals and businesses, put up signs and speak to drivers and ask them to switch their engines off, which they normally do. The response has been encouraging with most people happy to co-operate," Peter said.

Sarah Gray and Ansu Badjie, both officers in the team, carry out investigations into areas where they suspect that chemicals may have leaked onto industrial land. They also look into the illegal dumping of rubbish and follow-up complaints about diesel fumes coming from canal boats.

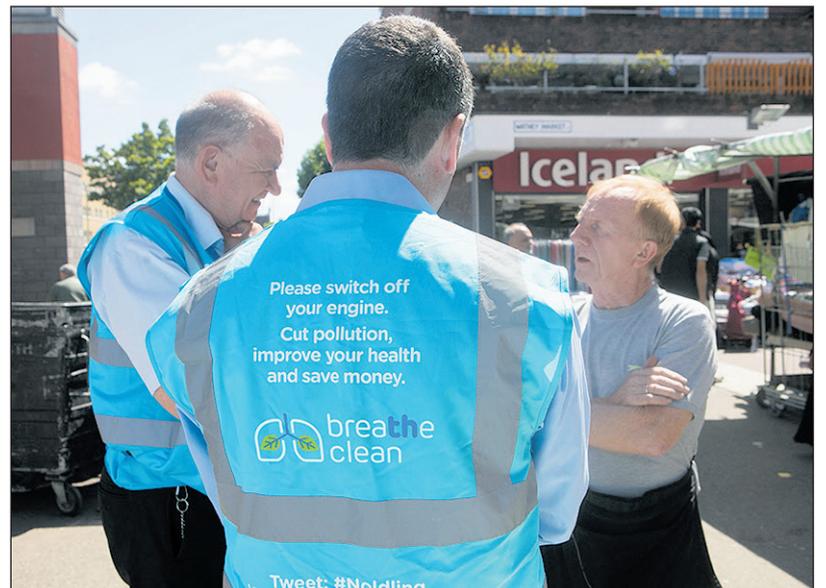
Ansu explained: "We speak to canal boat owners to advise them about proper vessel maintenance and the use of alternative fuels such as electric hook ups, which reduces the impact of air pollution. Our advice is usually well received."

Sarah added: "Where we find that land is contaminated, we remediate the site before it is used."

Air quality monitoring is a big part of



We cannot do this alone. Our air quality action plan requires the whole council, residents and businesses to consider our collective impact on the environment and act.



The team talking to residents about the Breathe Clean campaign

the team's work. Using small diffusion tubes, which they place in high pollution areas across the borough, the team gathers data and analyses it to get a picture of pollution levels in specific hot-spots.

Ariya Dayanandan, Air Quality Assistant, is working on a team project to temporarily close streets near schools. When this happens, air quality monitoring equipment is installed and results analysed.

"It's always interesting to see the impact this has on pollution levels," Ariya said.

Air Quality Officer, Chris Banks, commented: "We log our data and deliver an annual report to the Greater London Authority (GLA), which allows the government to identify and act on trends."

Team members attribute recent positive changes in behaviour to the work being carried out to raise awareness and inform residents and businesses about the benefits of taking action, no matter how small, to improve air quality in the borough. The council's Breathe Clean campaign supports this work.

"We process applications to the mayor's Air Quality Fund. More than 20 grants have been given out for schemes including: a residents' group initiative to build bikes; electric charging points; cargo bikes for businesses; and living screens, which are covered with evergreen plants and act as barriers to pollution, especially around schools," Muhammed said.

David Tolley, Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards, concluded: "The pollution team contributes to improving air quality and making positive health outcomes for

our residents. However, we cannot do this alone. Our air quality action plan requires the whole council, residents and businesses to consider our collective impact on the environment in the borough and act."

Read page 13 for information on the council's Breathe Clean campaign. Further information on air quality and the air quality action plan can be found on the council's website. To make a difference, sign the anti-idling pledge at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/breatheclean

- **Our children have up to 10% less lung capacity than the national average.**
- **A third of all car journeys in the borough are less than 1.2 miles.**
- **Tower Hamlets has some of the worst air pollution in London.**
- **We are the third highest emitter of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the capital.**
- **Pollution is linked to asthma, heart disease and dementia.**

Sign our pledge and let's Breathe Clean together.

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/breatheclean



breathe clean

TOWER HAMLETS

Pollution levels inside a car can be twice as much as those on the street

Toxic air does not discriminate. Leave your car at home.

MAYOR OF TOWER HAMLETS



The team and volunteers getting ready to advise parents and carers about air pollution and idling



Children taking part in the Tower Hamlets holiday childcare scheme held at St Mary & St Michael Catholic Primary School

Holiday haven for children

YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

By DAVID HARDING

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Ameirah was one of five excited children keen to share her experiences of the holiday club she was attending at St Mary & St Michael Catholic Primary School in February. Breakfast was being served as part of the Ofsted registered holiday childcare scheme operating in the borough for children aged three to 13. Ameirah was full of enthusiasm for what the day would bring. An aspiring archaeologist and keen baker, she said with a smile: "I learned to make banana cake here."

Seven-year-old Xavier has been going to the scheme for over two years now. "It has nice equipment," he said. Anya (9) and Leo (6) are brother and sister. Leo wants to work in a zoo: "I like all animals, like the ones on the farm." Anya interrupted her brother to say: "I've never held a tarantula. I'm too scared."

Seven-year-old Ivy is the fifth and final child around the breakfast table. All the children come together with ease. Another keen baker, Ivy, shared a bit about herself: "I like making cookies with my mum at home. We bake cakes for different events. I like cooking cupcakes." As the activities begin, talk around the table turns to the cookery class being the best part of the day. "Yes!" she shouts, "We've made quiches and fruit salad."

The children's energy and enthusiasm penetrated the tiny furniture and decorated walls of the primary school near Whitechapel. The brightly painted corridors reflected the mood of parents



Anouk, Sylvie with dad Anurag

and staff at the scheme.

Father of two, Anurag Jain, moved to London from Toronto, Canada 15 years ago. He fell in love with the borough after doing his PhD at Queen Mary University of London. Now, he's a secondary school teacher in Poplar and says he feels attached to the borough. "I like the mixture of cultures, the food and history, the buzz on the street."

He added: "What I like about the holiday childcare scheme is that my daughters are in school but having fun – it's not too scholarly. For me, personally, I find it amazingly convenient and I like that it's safe. It's great that my daughters get to meet new people."

Sylvie, his four-year-old daughter, echoed the comments of her father: "I see my school friends," she smiled. "I also get to make new friends," and perhaps more importantly, "I like the LEGO." His six-year-old daughter, Anouk explained the difference between visiting the scheme and going to her regular school: "The difference is that I

get to play for the whole day! There's also more trips."

Tower Hamlets native, Tina Grundy, has been one of the scheme's playworkers since 2006. "It's brilliant for the kids," she said. "Even though a lot of different schemes are opening they're not as good as ours. They get so much interaction here instead of being stuck at home in front of a computer."

The next holiday childcare scheme takes place over Easter from Monday 6 April to Friday 17 April, with registration details and opening dates listed on the holiday childcare scheme website.

For information about the scheme visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs



Travelling safely in an adapted bus

Travel assistance consultation

WE are consulting on proposed changes to the council's policy on travel assistance for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

We want to promote greater independence for children and young people with SEND by working with them to meet their needs and those of their families. We have developed eight travel assistant proposals that we think will achieve this, which offer greater choice and flexibility.

We want to hear what you think about our proposals. The consultation closes on Wednesday 6 May. Visit talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/travelassistance

“
What I like about the holiday childcare scheme is that my daughters are in school but having fun – it's not too scholarly. For me, personally, I find it amazingly convenient and I like that it's safe.

Jamie cooks up a recipe for healthier families

RECENTLY, the council's parental engagement team met TV personality and chef Jamie Oliver when it visited his Ministry of Food HQ in north London. Members of the team, along with parent volunteers, were celebrating the completion of their extensive training that supports them to develop and deliver their own cooking programme under the council's healthy families programme.

The programme, which began in 2012, runs as an eight week course with taster sessions. It takes place in both primary and secondary schools around the borough for parents, either on their own or as a separate class for parents with their children.

Many parents report that after taking the course they were more likely to try the course recipes at home. Parents reported that there were significant changes in their child's attitude to new food, especially vegetables, where children were directly involved in the cooking (and eating) sessions.

Data from the Ministry of Food shows that those who attended a course increased their intake of fruit and vegetables by 35 per cent – or one portion a day – and the consumption of unhealthy snacks decreased by almost an equivalent 34 per cent. Participants also reported an increase in cooking confidence of at least 30 per cent, while cooking from scratch once a week rose by 25 per cent and consumption of takeaways and ready meals came down by 14 per cent.

Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Children's Schools and Young People, said: "We're delighted to partner with Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food. Cooking is an essential life skill and through our partnership, we're providing hands-on education to both parents and children about making healthier food choices,



Children cooking healthy meals during a Ministry of Food session at the council's holiday childcare scheme

while having fun and creating something together. I'm particularly encouraged by the feedback from children who have had classes at our holiday childcare scheme."

One parent who took part in the programme said: "The Ministry of Food has changed the life of my family – now we all cook and eat together. My children aren't just eating more vegetables but they're even growing their own."

For more delicious information visit www.jamiesministryoffood.com or email parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk

“Cooking is an essential life skill and through our partnership we're providing hands-on education to both parents and children about making healthier food choices, while having fun and creating something together.”



Jamie Oliver with members of the council's parental engagement team together with other participants



The council's community navigators (health and wellbeing advisors) getting ready to support residents at the Sugar Smart event

Residents get Sugar Smart

HEALTHIER LIVES

By HANNAH JOWETT

BOTH adults and children alike are consuming far too much sugar, which can lead to weight gain, painful tooth decay and lead to health conditions like type 2 diabetes.

Children currently consume around three times more sugar than the daily limit, while adults consume twice as much as they should.

Raising awareness of how too much sugar can be bad for your health is at the heart of Sustain's national Sugar Smart campaign.

The council organised its first ever Sugar Smart event in support of the campaign and to help residents feel armed to make smarter sugar choices. Mayor Biggs and Councillor Amina Ali joined partners, including Diabetes UK and Queen Mary University of London's (QMUL) dental team to talk to residents about all things sugar.

They got a whistle top tour of how to look after their teeth better and were also asked to guess how many sugar cubes were found in our favourite soft drinks. Participants left the event better equipped to make dietary changes to reduce their sugar intake.

Councillor Amina Ali, Cabinet



Mayor Biggs and Cllr Amina Ali with community navigators and partners

Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, said: "People are often shocked at the amount of sugar that's in everyday foods, which is why we want to do everything we can to make sure our residents are empowered to make healthy choices. Our Sugar Smart day was a fantastic opportunity for residents to hear from different organisations on the health implications of too much sugar."

The council's public health team has also been working with QMUL dental

students to deliver workshops to school children about sugar and dental health. The students showed videos about healthy living, including reading food labels and working out the sugar content in fizzy drinks and juices. So far, this has been delivered in 16 schools across the borough.

Dr Huda Yusuf, Senior Clinical Lecturer in Dental Public Health at QMUL, said: "Sugar Smart is such an important programme to help promote healthy weight and healthy mouths

among primary school children. This is the second year that our students have visited eight schools across the borough with great success, reaching over 2,700 children. We look forward to working with the council next year so we can help educate children in more schools about how to look after their health."

For more information about Sugar Smart visit www.sugarsmartuk.org



People are often shocked at the amount of sugar that's in everyday foods, which is why we want to do everything we can to make sure our residents are empowered to make healthy choices.

Creative bids wanted to tackle loneliness

A new funding opportunity is available for anyone in Tower Hamlets with a passion for bringing people together.

The council is hunting for new and creative ideas that could help people to connect with each other, enjoy each other's company and enhance their quality of life.

The funding available through the mayor's loneliness taskforce, will go towards projects that reduce the impact of loneliness and social isolation on local residents.

The first round of funding closed on 9 March but there are two more rounds of funding available. The second round of funding will close at 12 noon on Monday 22 June, while the third round will close at 12 noon on Monday 28 September.

Councillor Denise Jones, Chair of the Council's Taskforce on Loneliness, said: "Loneliness can affect anyone at any age and we want to make sure that Tower Hamlets is a borough where people can make and

maintain meaningful social interactions.

"Anyone in Tower Hamlets can apply for our new small grants and we encourage people to get creative in their applications. Examples could include music, singing, artwork, visits to exhibitions, organised trips, sports, swimming, cooking and eating together and befriending.

"We look forward to seeing how our residents would like to work together to increase social connections in their community."

Applicants can apply for small grants of £200 - £1,000 if they are informal groups of residents working together on a project. Established community groups or charitable associations with a yearly turnover of up to £250,000 can apply for grants between £1,000 - £5,000.

To find out how you can help and to apply for funding, visit www.eastendcf.org/tower-hamlets-grants and read 'theme 7'.

“ Loneliness can affect anyone at any age and we want to make sure that Tower Hamlets is a borough where people can make and maintain meaningful social interactions.



Christabel Shawcross, Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Adults Board



The Safeguarding Adults Board brings together agencies to prevent abuse of vulnerable adults over the age of 18. The people we support often have learning difficulties or mental health problems and many are older or frail, suffering from dementia. The majority are in receipt of health and social care support. In most cases, individuals receive high standards of care but abuse happens in any setting and occurs in many different forms.

Examples of abuse people fall victim to range from physical, financial, domestic, sexual and psychological, to modern slavery, human trafficking, hate crime, discrimination and online scams. It can also include self-neglect. Abuse can take place in a person's home, in a care facility or other setting, including public places or online.

As a statutory partnership, the board brings together the council, the NHS, police, Care Quality Commission and the voluntary sector. Collectively, we are in a unique position to promote awareness of abuse, inform people on how to report abuse and communicate how abuse can be prevented in the first place.

Our annual report (2018 - 19) showed an increase in safeguarding concerns reported to the council - 1,102 in total, of which 662 resulted in enquiries. Most of these cases involved older people being abused in their own homes.

Despite an increase in reports, we suspect many cases still go unreported. Certain groups have a lower than expected rate of referral, such as black and minority ethnic groups. It is important we raise awareness of abuse among these communities.

If you think you know someone who may be being abused, whether in their own home, care home or another setting, it is vital that concerns are reported. Call the adult social care team on 020 7364 5005. If you think a crime has been committed or you think there is an emergency situation, you should call 999. For non-emergencies call 101.

For further information on safeguarding visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/safeguarding or email the board lbthsab@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Work starts on nine new council housing developments

HOUSING

By **CHRIS HUMPHREYS**

WORK will get underway on nine new council housing developments in Tower Hamlets this month, providing much needed homes for individuals and families on the housing register.

The schemes will deliver 173 properties of varying sizes, keeping the council on track to achieve our ambitious target of having 2,000 new council homes in delivery by 2022.

Mayor Biggs said: “Like the rest of London, Tower Hamlets is in the midst of a housing crisis. The market has left ordinary people behind – rents are too high and sale prices are out of reach of many of our residents.

“In times like this, good quality council housing is needed more than ever. We’re proud to be delivering on our commitment to build more council homes. These nine schemes will make a genuine difference to the households most in need in our borough.”

Tower Hamlets is home to almost 17,000 businesses and 278,000 jobs but the average cost of renting a flat is now more than the average household income. The borough’s population is expected to grow by 50,000 in the next ten years. That is less time than it would take for a family joining the housing register today to bid successfully for a four bedroom home.

In response, the council is building more council homes, while working with developers to ensure that private sector housing projects include properties that are genuinely affordable. Former council properties that were previously purchased under the right to buy scheme are being bought back to be used as temporary accommodation.

Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Planning, Air Quality and Tackling Poverty said: “It is really exciting to see so many of our council housing schemes getting underway this month.



Identifying sites and developing high quality proposals takes time but now that work is beginning, we are even closer to seeing families moving into secure homes.

“These properties will be let at social and living rents so they are genuinely affordable for our residents. Despite the limited support from central government to tackle the housing crisis, as a council we are being innovative and delivering for residents on our housing waiting list.”



1. Barnsley Street
53 homes



2. Hanbury Street
7 homes



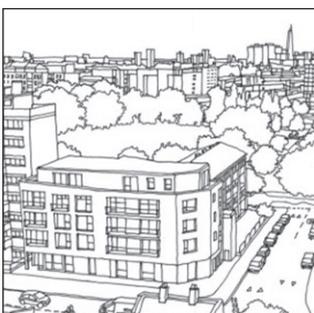
3. Sidney Street
5 homes



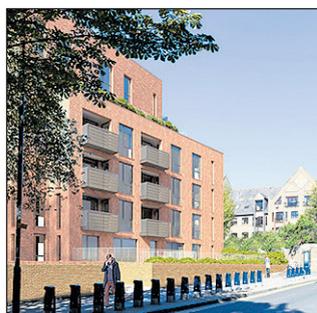
4. Locksley D
17 homes



5. Keats House
11 homes



6. Strahan Road
9 homes



7. Lowder House
18 homes



8. St Pauls Way
23 homes



9. Mellish Street
30 homes



An artist's impression of the Locksley A development

Car park transforming into 33 new council homes

WORK on 33 new council homes in Tower Hamlets is nearing its conclusion. Mayor John Biggs and Councillor Rachel Blake joined construction company Bouygues UK on Thursday 5 March to celebrate the completion of work on the exterior of the Locksley A site on Rhodeswell Road.

Locksley A is one of three new build council housing developments that Bouygues UK are building within the borough, providing a total of 77 new homes for local people, including families, on the housing register.

Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Planning, said: "It was a pleasure to return to the Locksley A site to mark this significant stage in the project. What was once a disused car park has been transformed into a high-quality development with homes suitable for families and disabled residents, as well as providing a new outside space and play area.

"With the exterior of the building

now complete, it's not long before we'll be welcoming residents to their new homes. This is another step towards meeting our ambitious target of having 2,000 new council homes in delivery by 2022."

Locksley A will provide 16 new three bedroom homes for families, with 10 two bedroom homes and seven properties with one bedroom. Three of the flats are wheelchair accessible and have been adapted to accommodate residents with disabilities.

All flats on the upper floors will have balconies while those on the ground floor will have private terraces. There will also be 397sqm of dedicated play space for children.

All remaining work at Locksley A is expected to be completed by May. Bouygues UK's other two sites in the borough - Jubilee Street and Baroness Road - are expected to be completed by the end of April and July respectively.



Chris Stevens (Bouygues UK) with Mayor Biggs and Cllr Rachel Blake

“What was once a disused car park has been transformed into a high-quality development

Help us share the benefits of development

RESIDENTS have the chance to make sure new developments benefit our communities.

As one of the fastest growing boroughs in the capital, Tower Hamlets has seen a significant amount of development in recent years. More of the same is

expected in the coming years.

While growth is inevitable, there are steps that can be taken to ensure that it is delivered sensitively, taking account of population increases and providing benefits including parks, health centres, affordable work spaces and housing.

One of the ways that is achieved is by including obligations for developers as part of planning permissions. These can include everything from affordable housing and open space to employment, training and affordable workspace.

The council is updating its guidance

on planning obligations and is giving you the chance to get involved. You can find out more and have your say online at talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/SPD

The consultation will close on Friday 24 April.

15 hours free early learning

ready to play
and learn
at two

Development for children

- Learn through play
- Make new friends
- Build confidence

Opportunities for parents

- Gain free time
- Get into education or training
- Go back to work

To find out more call 020 7364 6495 or contact your
nearest Children's Centre.

To apply visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/earlylearning



Up to 30 hours FREE childcare for working parents

Apply for the code now
for an April start

Visit: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Available
for 3 & 4
year olds

For more information, please visit
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/earlylearning

HMRC helpline 0300 123 4097



Free boiler upgrades for home owners

Tower Hamlets Council has re-launched its award winning Boiler Replacement Programme, a free scheme to replace old, inefficient gas boilers, faulty radiators and upgrade heating controls.

In addition to any boiler replacements, residents may also be eligible for free draught proofing and insulation.

Either you or a family member must be on at least one qualifying benefit and own the property that you live in.



0800 508 8364
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/energy

Need help and advice?

The Financial Health Centre offers a range of free, confidential and independent services to residents of Tower Hamlets, including support on the following:

- Debt
- Welfare Benefits
- Universal Credit
- Employment
- Housing
- Money Management
- Training & Job Search
- Disability Matters

Financial Health Centre
 Raynham House
 Massingham Street, London E1 4EB
 Open 9.30-4.30pm Monday – Friday
 www.thh.org.uk/fhc



Contact us to find out more 0207 364 2200 fhc@thh.org.uk



THHRIVE

with our new employment programme at the Financial Health Centre

Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) and ELBA are working in partnership to help THH residents find employment in areas such as:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Administration | Reception | Catering | Cleaning |
| Hospitality | Security | Concierge | And more... |

SIGN UP TODAY

Employability training and workshops for you to develop key skills and overcome any barriers into work are also on offer.

If you are a THH resident contact Ian Walker at employment@elba-1.org.uk or call **0207 068 6995 / 07415 105 278**





Trinity Hospital in the shadow of the impressive Greenwich Power Station

Taking the Dogs for a walk

Graham Barker discovers a garden suburb, Victorian shipyard and spectacular views of Greenwich. Photos by **Kois Miah**.

WALK ISLE OF DOGS

AS you explore the southernmost tip of the Isle of Dogs on this walk, there are panoramic views across the Thames towards Deptford and Greenwich. The industrial past comes to life with a forge, shipyard, railway viaduct and ropewalk. There are splashes of greenery too at Island Gardens and Millwall Park.

As you leave Mudchute DLR station, pause to take in the view across Millwall Park (1). Shaped like a triangle, the park has a viaduct running along one side. From 1871

CONTINUED on page 25

Start:	Finish:	Distance:	Allow:
Mudchute DLR station	Mudchute DLR station	2.2 Miles	75 minutes



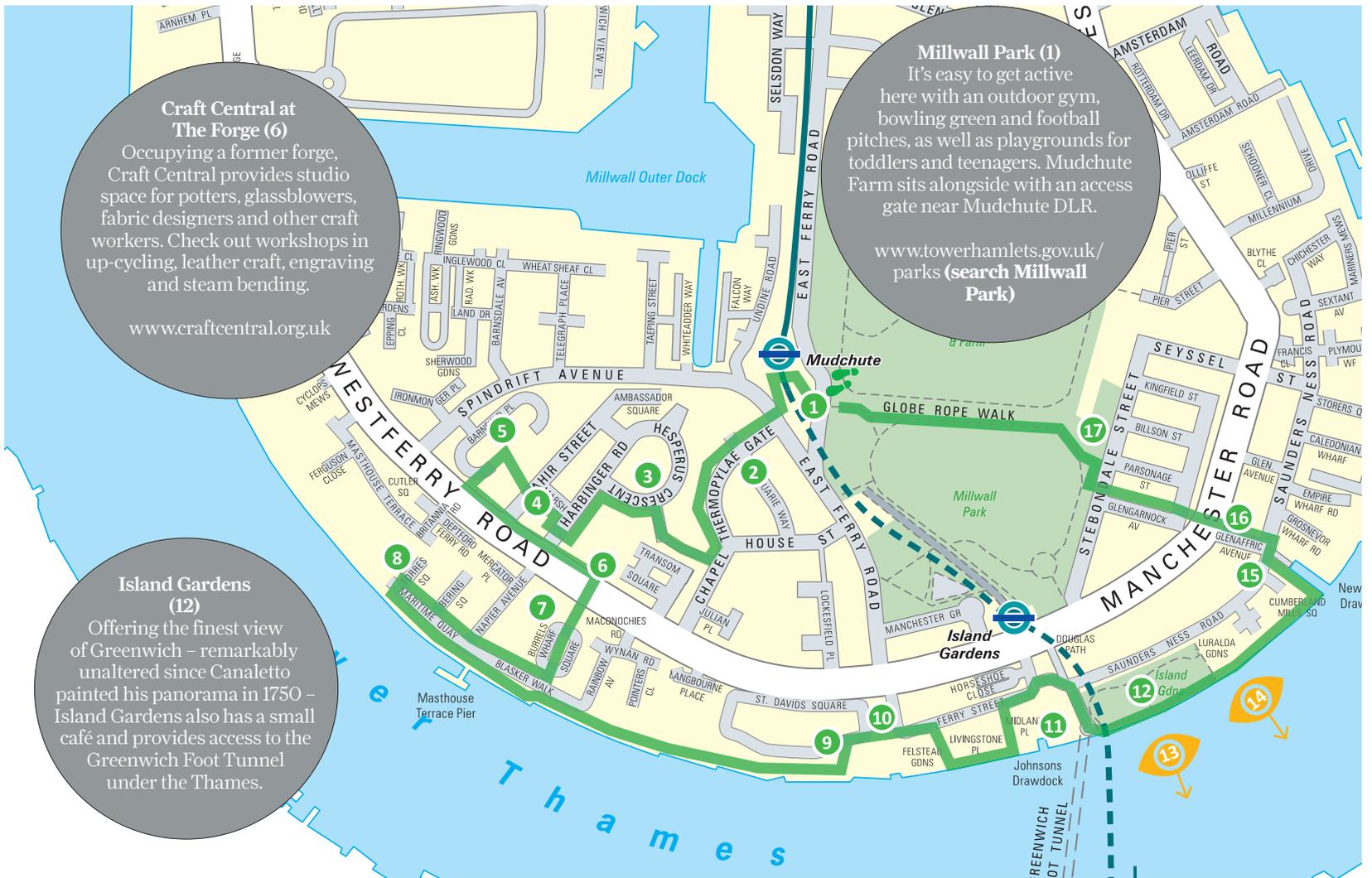
(1) A viaduct flanks Millwall Park



(4) Harbinger Primary School



(7) The entrance to Burrell's Wharf



Craft Central at The Forge (6)
Occupying a former forge, Craft Central provides studio space for potters, glassblowers, fabric designers and other craft workers. Check out workshops in up-cycling, leather craft, engraving and steam bending.
www.craftcentral.org.uk

Millwall Park (1)
It's easy to get active here with an outdoor gym, bowling green and football pitches, as well as playgrounds for toddlers and teenagers. Mudchute Farm sits alongside with an access gate near Mudchute DLR.
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parks (search Millwall Park)

Island Gardens (12)
Offering the finest view of Greenwich – remarkably unaltered since Canaletto painted his panorama in 1750 – Island Gardens also has a small café and provides access to the Greenwich Foot Tunnel under the Thames.

to 1926, this carried the Millwall branch of the London and Blackwall Railway, known affectionately as the 'Penny Puffer'.

The viaduct was given a second lease of life in 1987 when the newly opened DLR ran its trains through to a high-level terminus at Island Gardens. When the DLR was extended under the river to Lewisham in 1999, the line had to be moved underground.

You'll visit Millwall Park later, so for now set off in the opposite direction, stepping down to the Chapel House Estate (2). This neighbourhood was designed primarily as 'Homes fit for Heroes' – providing decent accommodation for soldiers who had served in the First World War – together with housing for workers at Millwall Lead Works.

As you stroll along Thermopylae Gate, the village atmosphere is unlike anywhere else in the borough. The design approach was inspired by the garden suburb movement with traditional cottage style architecture set around curving streets. Each house had its own bathroom – unusual for social housing at the time – and gardens were planted with free fruit trees.

Slope with the footpath beside No 29 Thermopylae Gate. You emerge into Hesperus Crescent (3). Built in 1929 - 30 to the designs of Harley Heckford, the Poplar borough engineer, the houses here feature several motifs common to garden suburbs – rendered facades, tightly-tiled window arches and cul-de-sacs sprouting off the main crescent.

Just beyond the terrace of artisans'

cottages, head along Marsh Street, behind Harbinger Primary School (4). Opened in 1873 in the wake of the 1870 Education Act, which made elementary schooling compulsory, the school buildings were remodelled in 1908 to accommodate 1,000 children aged three to 13. A decorative ceramic wall plaque indicates this was originally called British Street School.

Ahead, nip into the courtyard of Westferry Estate (5). Developed by the London County Council in the early 1930s to replace slum housing, the eight blocks are named after merchant navy training ships, with communal gardens tucked in between.

Cross Westferry Road and soon you're facing The Forge (6). A large iron plate cast with 'CJM & Co. 1860' highlights this

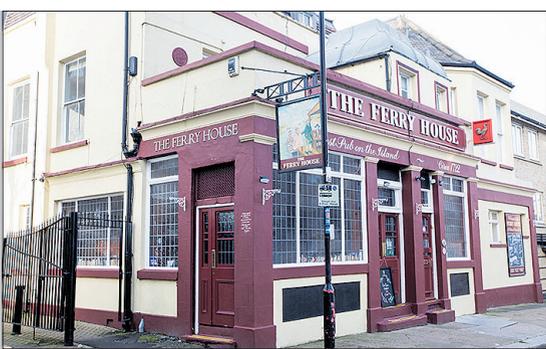
was once the 'smithy' of shipbuilders C J Mare & Co. Later, it was used by Joseph Westwood & Co to fabricate railway bridges, many of which were shipped across the British Empire, like giant flat-packs. These days, The Forge is home to Craft Central, a charity providing studio space for craft workers.

At Burrell's Wharf (7), peer up to see shipbuilder John Scott Russell's name inscribed into the fascia of his former offices, before heading through the gate. As the blue plaque over the gateway recounts, it was here that the world's largest steamship was built – Isambard Kingdom Brunel's SS Great Eastern.

Affectionately known as 'The Great Babe', it was designed to carry 4,000 passengers around the world without refuelling. The Plate House was used to



Payne's Paper Wharf



(10) The Ferry House pub



(11) Poplar, Blackwall and District Rowing Club



Cottages in the Chapel House Estate

manufacture large iron panels, which were fixed with over three million rivets to create a double-hull structure. This was a hive of industry, with furnace smoke belching out of the octagonal chimney.

From the courtyard, featuring a huge ship's anchor, head out to the riverside. The main route goes left but you might like to briefly detour to see The Great Eastern launch ramp (8). In 1858, the sideways launch of such a huge ship proved difficult – it took three months to nudge her into the Thames using increasingly stronger winches and hydraulic rams.

Enjoy the far-reaching views across the Thames as you make your way round towards Greenwich. Look out for six white arches of the former Payne's Paper Wharf – built as a workshop making ships' boilers – and further on, the mouth of Deptford Creek, spanned by a slender footbridge.

Just before Kinkoa restaurant, nip into St David's Square (9). From 1905, this site was used for making ships' propellers, with Millwall Lead Works opposite. These days, it's a quiet enclave with fountains spouting in the central pool.

Next, The Ferry House (10) declares itself 'the oldest pub on the Island', dating back to 1722. The ferry service itself operated from the 14th century, carrying passengers and goods across to Greenwich.

Further along Ferry Street, Livingstone Place is worth a closer look – an early 1980s development that steps down from townhouses to bungalows to optimise residents' river views.

Back on Ferry Street, you'll see the boathouse of Poplar, Blackwall and District Rowing Club (11). Founded in 1854 by Thames watermen and lightermen, it's one of the oldest rowing clubs in the country.

Around the corner, Island Gardens (12) offers one of the finest views in London. Standing centre stage is the Royal Naval College (13), designed by Sir Christopher Wren as a home for retired sailors and later adapted into a maritime training school. These days, the University of Greenwich occupies many of the buildings.

The Queen's House stands behind and perched in the park is the Royal Observatory, home to Greenwich Mean Time.

Closer to hand, the glass-domed



Views from the Thames Path towards the Cutty Sark in Greenwich

rotunda covers the entrance to Greenwich Foot Tunnel. Instigated by local politician Will Crooks, it replaced the expensive and often unreliable ferry service. Opened in 1902, it runs for 390m, terminating close to the Cutty Sark.

Behind the dome, there's a view towards a cluster of angular white houses, commissioned by Dr Michael Barraclough in 1975 as an innovative social housing project.

Greenwich Power Station (14) was built to power London's trams and nestling in its shadow, Trinity Hospital – in white, with a clock tower – served as almshouses, managed by the Mercers' Company.

Further on, try to spot the Optic Cloak – a structure clad in grey triangles – that marks the low-carbon energy centre supplying 15,000 new homes on Greenwich Peninsula.

At the inlet, there's a glimpse of old Cubitt Town, developed from the 1840s by William Cubitt with ship repair yards, wharves and housing for local workers.

The Great Eastern (15), previously the Waterman's Arms, dates from 1853. It was owned in the 1960s by television broadcaster and biographer, Daniel

Farson. The music hall atmosphere, and visits from celebrities such as Judy Garland and Shirley Bassey, made it a popular destination.

William Cubitt built Christ Church (16) at his own expense, completed in 1854 and topped with a prominent spire. As well as offering spiritual welfare, it hosts a community choir and a 'parish pantry' food bank to those in need.

Across Manchester Road, continue between the shops to Millwall Park. Young people will enjoy the spider's-web, zip wire and other play equipment, while the Isle of Dogs Children's Centre (17) provides parenting workshops and advice.

From here, the broad pathway follows the site of Globe Ropeworks' 350m long shed in which ropes were manufactured out of hemp, manila and later nylon. There's a photo on the information panel out on East Ferry Road, as well as a team shot of Millwall Football Club, which played here until 1910. And so, you arrive back at Mudchute DLR station, the end of your walk.



(12) The entrance to Greenwich Foot Tunnel



(13) Inside Greenwich Foot Tunnel



(17) Art work at the Isle of Dogs Children's Centre



Hank Zipzer

Award Winning

ANNA FIORENTINI THEATRE & FILM SCHOOL

CONFIDENCE BOOSTING | FUN & INSPIRING



EastEnders



Swallows & Amazons



Class Dismissed



For 19 years the Anna Fiorentini Theatre & Film School has been delivering exceptional performing arts training to 4-18-year-olds across London. Its agency has secured countless leading roles on TV, Film and the West End stage.

However, the School achieves so much more than nurturing performing talent; it is committed to instilling confidence, self-esteem and life skills in its students.

Former student Zoe Sadler, who recently obtained a First Degree from Bristol University says "I suffered from extreme social anxiety as a child;

the Fiorentini School gave me a voice and a sense of self-belief."

Students follow a weekly time-table of drama, film, dance and singing, all taught by leading industry professionals including casting directors, producers and TV/Film directors. In addition, the school also offers:

• Professional work via the agency Students have had leading roles in EastEnders, Hank Zipzer, The Revolving World of Stanley Brown, the feature films Song for Marion and Swallows and Amazons and West End productions The Lion King, Matilda and The Bodyguard to name but a few.

• The Performance Troupe which has performed at many community and corporate venues including St Mary's Hospital, Emirates Stadium and the Olympic Torch Relay.

• Shows and Competitions at prestigious venues including the Hackney Empire, the Shaw Theatre and the Greenwich Theatre.

Easter and Summer Schools also available! Produce a show in a week including West End to Broadway, Superheroes Assemble and Rock Kids!

• Fiorentini Foundation offering bursaries and subsidised places, making their services available to all.

Join Now and be part of our 20th Anniversary Celebrations

4-18 years

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020 7682 1403 | hello@annafiorentini.com | www.annafiorentini.com

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ALL profits go to the Fiorentini Foundation supporting less privileged children via the performing arts.

www.stageandthecity.com

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THE PAVILIONS

exhibition and event space

MILE END PARK

A place to visit

Visit the Art and Ecology Pavilions to discover a programme of free exhibitions, performances and events throughout the year.

Makers markets, arts activities and ecology workshops and more. For details, please go to www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts



Shape Arts

A place to hire

The pavilions are cutting-edge contemporary spaces which offer flexible and bespoke hire packages.

Make your exhibition, corporate event or celebration into something extraordinary.



The Pavilions
Mile End Park
Clinton Road E3 4QY

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TowerHamletsEvents

Email: pavilionbookings@towerhamlets.gov.uk



TOWER HAMLETS

In the Neighbourhood returns to Vicky Park



In the Neighbourhood fun and music

London's top festival, All Points East, returns to the borough's award winning Victoria Park for 2020, with In The Neighbourhood – four days of amazing free festivities – sandwiched in between two weekends of stellar music.

In The Neighbourhood will again host a variety of vibrant free activities spanning arts, culture and theatre. This will include an outdoor cinema, live music from local artists, workshops for the kids, circus performances and the Tower Hamlets dance tent. This is all alongside an unbeatable street food market and pop-up bars.

Taking place during school half-term holidays, In The Neighbourhood will be back on Monday 28 May - Thursday 28 May 2020 with full programming to be announced soon.

Visit www.allpointseastfestival.com/nbhd

Free festivities and street parties

Once again, the council is inviting residents to join in free festivities to celebrate St George's Day, as well as encouraging applications for free street parties to mark three other special days.

St George's Day

Older residents can have a party at the annual over 50s St George's Day tea dance on Thursday 23 April, 2pm - 4.30pm at the Art Pavilion in Mile End Park.

The popular event will feature live music from The Sunshine Kings who will help the afternoon go with a swing by playing classic tunes from across the decades. Dance leader Tony Lane will be on hand to encourage residents to get on the dance floor and trip the light fantastic.

Admission is free but booking is essential and will open from Monday 6 April. Light refreshments will be provided. To book a place call 020 7364 7900 (9.30am - 4.30pm) or email festivalsandevents@towerhamlets.gov.uk

The council, in partnership with the V&A Museum of Childhood, has also organised a free day of music and dance for families to celebrate St George on Sunday 19 April from 11.30am - 4.30pm.

Come and stomp your feet with the dynamic and anarchic Cut-a-Shine Ceilidh and Barn Dance Group, get dizzy in a maypole dancing workshop or get hands-on and create your own dragons and art inspired by celebrations from across the world.

No booking is necessary, just turn up at the museum on Cambridge Heath Road, Bethnal Green on the day. For more details visit www.vam.ac.uk/moc



St George's Day celebrations, past and present

Street parties

Apply now for your street party to celebrate:

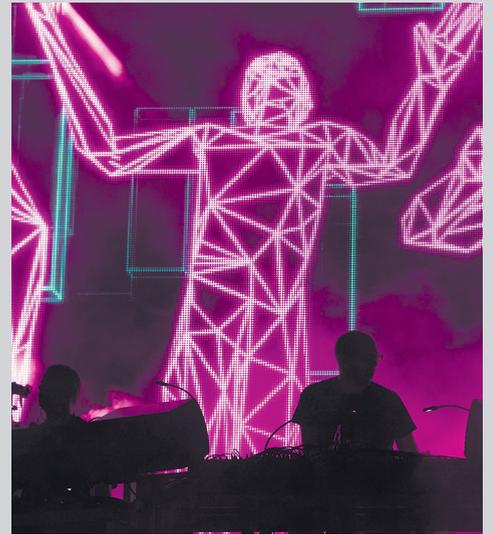
- VE Day 75 on 8, 9 or 10 May: deadline 26 March
- The Big Lunch on 6 or 7 June: deadline 23 April
- The Great Get Together on 19, 20 or 21 June 2020: deadline 7 May.

Applicants will need to seek landowners' permission if the party is not taking place on council land.

For further visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts

Win tickets

A bumper bonanza of tickets are available to win across two fabulous events.



Night time action at All Points East

All Points East

There are four pairs of VIP tickets up for grabs for residents to party at All Points East across the festival dates (22 - 31 May). For your chance to win, answer the following question.

Which park does All Points East take place in?

To win tickets, submit your answer by visiting www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/win by 12 May.



London Lions' player goes on the attack

London Lions basketball

We are offering a chance to win five pairs of tickets and four family tickets to see the London Lions professional basketball team play any home league match this season at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Simply answer this question.

Which London Lions' player was in last year's Love Island series?

1. Brandon Peel
2. Ovie Soko
3. Justin Robinson

To win tickets, submit your answer by visiting www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/win by 26 March.



Performers at the Mela

Mela countdown

The countdown has begun to this year's Boishakhi Mela that will be back in Weavers Fields on Sunday 28 June.

The free festival is hosted by the council and is one of the highlights of the borough's cultural calendar. It offers all residents and visitors an opportunity to enjoy some of the best local, national and international Bengali arts, music and culture. This includes a colourful carnival style parade, a main

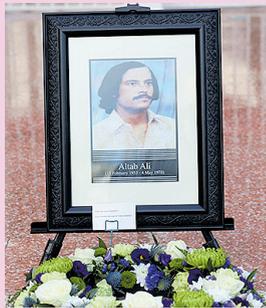
stage programme, an extensive arts and family area and the Mela market place.

Last year's event attracted more than 40,000 visitors from Tower Hamlets and beyond.

Opportunities to trade will be open from 6 April 2020. Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mela to find out more and to apply for a stall, as well as for details of the full line-up in due course.

Remembering Altab Ali Day

Residents, community leaders and the council will come together at a ceremonial event in Altab Ali Park, Whitechapel on Monday 4 May to mark Altab Ali Day.



Wreath laying at Altab Ali Park

The event will feature wreath laying, poetry readings and speeches. There will also be a photographic 'Images of Resistance' exhibition at the Kobi Nazrul Centre – a record of the strength of feeling across east London that was triggered by Ali's death.

Altab Ali's senseless and racially motivated murder in 1978 helped to develop a strong and widespread anti-racism movement. This engaged both the Bengali and wider communities to take a public stand against racial intolerance, which was prevalent in certain areas of London at the time.

For details visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts

Calling artists and creatives!

Did you know that the council has a fortnightly newsletter for local artists and arts professionals? Sign up at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup for the latest arts news and information on jobs, professional development, funding, grants, workshops and activities.

You can also find current jobs, funding and opportunities at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts as well as directories of local artists, organisations and venues.

Want to promote your arts or cultural event in Tower Hamlets? Log on to our arts and events 'what's on' listings at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts and submit your event information.

Or, if you are looking for a venue for your event, contact the council's arts, parks and events team, which manages the stunning Ecology Pavilion in Mile End Park; Brady Arts & Community Centre in Whitechapel and the Kobi Nazrul Centre just off Brick Lane. For further information, email artsandevents@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Want to get involved in Black History Month 2020?

The council is aiming to facilitate another bustling Black History Month programme this October and offers support in numerous ways to those who would like to take part.

If you have an idea but need a venue, publicity or other support, the council will be happy to help wherever possible.

Email blackhistorymonth@towerhamlets.gov.uk with any queries, suggestions or to join our mailing

Interested in A Season of Bangla?

Local performers and groups are being given an opportunity to take part in A Season of Bangla Drama 2020, the fantastic annual festival of theatre delivered by the council.

A Season of Bangla Drama is now in its eighteenth year and continues in partnership with the drama department at Queen Mary, University of London. The festival will be hitting the borough's stages in November 2020 and welcomes expressions of interest from local and national artists and playwrights.

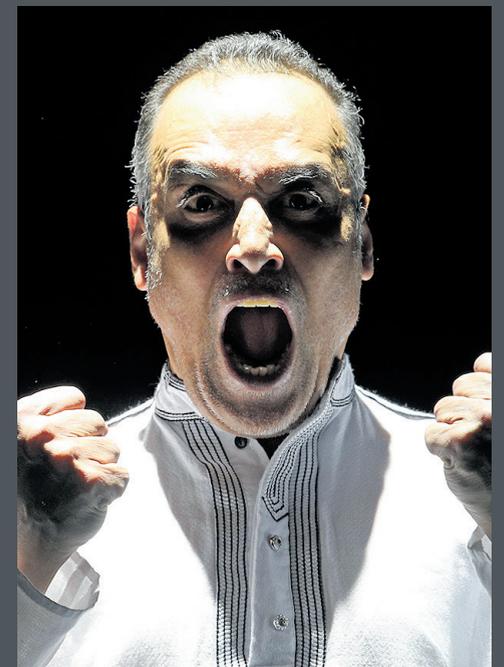
In 2020, the year of the UK's departure from the European Union, festival organisers are keen to explore notions of unity. Plays should share the experiences of belonging to contemporary Britain, ask searching and topical questions and explore issues from varying viewpoints or perspectives.

A Season of Bangla Drama can facilitate local groups to immerse themselves in theatre production at all levels and provides a platform for new writing as well as retelling old favourites to both established and emerging audiences from all communities.

Syeda Tasmia Tahia, from Amra Theatre Group, said: "A Season of Bangla Drama provides a platform for experimentation, for creative flourish and for intergenerational celebration of the experiences of the community."

Mukul Ahmed, from Mukul & Ghetto Tigers, added: "The festival is the only platform for Bengali drama, allowing new and old talents to showcase and promote their work to a wider audience and benefit from community building with artists, participants and venues."

If you would like to take part in 2020, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts to complete an online expression of interest form. These can be submitted until 9am, Tuesday 12 May.



Passionate performer

Exhibitions

2020 Vision

Celebrating women artists, activists, writers and performers with a diverse programme of events and exhibitions, including International Women's Week celebrations by local groups across the borough with the theme of 2020 Vision, looking at the courageous and creative women of the past to inspire us now and into the future, and how we can make a difference using our power and influence.

Until 31 March

Co-ordinated by Alternative Arts. For full programme details, visit www.alternativearts.co.uk or email info@alternativearts.co.uk



We Stand Together photograph

We Stand Together – Women photographing women

A group show of photographs depicting the lives of women living and working in the area. Curated by Sarah Ainslie, the show brings together a collection of women photographers from the borough to reflect on the themes of Women's History Month.

Until 28 March

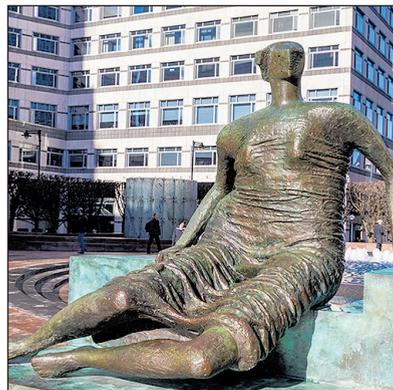
Brady Arts Centre, 192 - 196 Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU
For exhibition updates visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts

The Bethnal Green tube disaster: women's perspectives

This exhibition focuses for the first time on the perspectives of the women and girls involved in the disaster, including survivor Babs Clark. It has been curated by the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust for Tower Hamlets Women's History Month.

Until Saturday 4 April

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives, 277 Bancroft Road, Mile End E1 4DQ



Old Flo sculpture

Old Flo

Winners and runners up of the Old Flo primary school art competition will be displayed in Canary Wharf, showcasing the work of Tower Hamlets students. The competition celebrates Canary Wharf hosting Henry Moore's historic sculpture Draped Seated Woman, affectionately known as 'Old Flo'.

Until Tues 5 May

Community Gallery, Canada Place Mall, Canary Wharf

Ecofeminism Festival

A mixed-media show featuring drawing, painting, photography, printmaking and more to explore climate change and ecology.

26 March - 5 April (12 noon - 7pm)

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

The Brady Club – An East End Community

An exhibition of photographs from the Metropolitan University archive, which shows the history of the building in its earlier guises. The Brady Boys' Club, established in



The Brady Club in the 1960s

Brady Street, Whitechapel, was one of the first Jewish boys' clubs in Great Britain. The Brady Girls' Club, was located in Hanbury Street E1 and in 1960 the club became mixed. The boys joined the girls in Hanbury Street.

Weds 1 - 28 April

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

Feeding the Hamlets

For centuries the East End's landscape, as well as its social and economic history, has been influenced by the growing, trading or manufacturing of food. Archives, photographs and maps are among the unique items drawn from Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives selected to illustrate some of the fascinating and lesser known tales from the history of food production in the East End – from sugar refining to cow keeping and vegetable growing.

Thurs 2 April - Sat 5 September

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, 277 Bancroft Road, Mile End E1 4DQ.



Artwork from In search of (im)possibilities

In search of (im)possibilities

This exhibition aims to bring a different perspective on the medium of fabric, thread and mixed media, dispelling the common myths surrounding textiles and opening minds to the variety of possibilities. There will be a series of free workshops and activities including: puppet making; stitching a landscape; composing a seascape; latch hooking; drawing animals with wire creating a button bracelet; and a family workshop using tissue paper and photographic paper.

Weds 13 - 24 May

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

For further details visit

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts

Bold Brushwork of Bangladesh

Singing, fishing, dancing, flora and fauna and the six seasons of Bangladesh are all represented in these traditional 'poths' or banners. Vibrant and intricate, the banners now come into their own in an exhibition format, away from the bustle of the Boishakhi Mela and A Season of Bangla Drama festivals that they have been central to.

Mon 4 - Weds 27 May.

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

Theatre

Aristophanes' Plutos

Thiasos Theatre Company presents a play about delivering what everyone is after – wealth. This laughter-led take on classical Greek theatre is full of songs, dances, feasts and anarchy.

Tues 7 - Sat 11 April

The Space, 269 Westferry Road E14 3RS

Courses

Introduction to 5-element Shiatsu massage

Shiatsu is a physical therapy designed to promote relaxation and healing. On this five week course you will learn about the principles of Shiatsu massage and how to apply basic techniques safely.

Sat 25 April - Sat 23 May (1.45pm - 4.15pm)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU
Enrol for £53, concession £16 at your local Idea Store or call 020 7364 5665. Course code C2482.

Introduction to life coaching

Would you like to support and encourage others to reach their full potential and achieve their personal goals? Then this introductory course is for you. Learn communication methods and discover coaching tools to enable confident goal setting and the creation of a personal development plan.

Mons 1 - 29 June (6pm - 8pm)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU
Enrol for £43, concession £12 at your local Idea Store or by calling 020 7364 5665. Course code C2648

Talks

In search of the matriarch of Russia Lane

Author Kate Thompson will join resident Sarah Richards to discuss the richness, power and complexity of the life of a Bethnal Green matriarch.

Thurs 19 March (6pm - 7.30pm)
Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives, 277 Bancroft Road, Mile End E1 4DQ

Booking required. Email localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Designing the Bethnal Green tube disaster memorial

Local architect, Harry Paticas MBE, will share his perspective as the architect and designer of the Bethnal Green tube memorial, to which he devoted many years of work in collaboration with the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust, survivors and descendants of those who died.

Thurs 26 March (6pm - 7.30pm)
Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives, 277 Bancroft Road, Mile End E1 4DQ

Booking required. Email localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Getting creative with Easter eggs

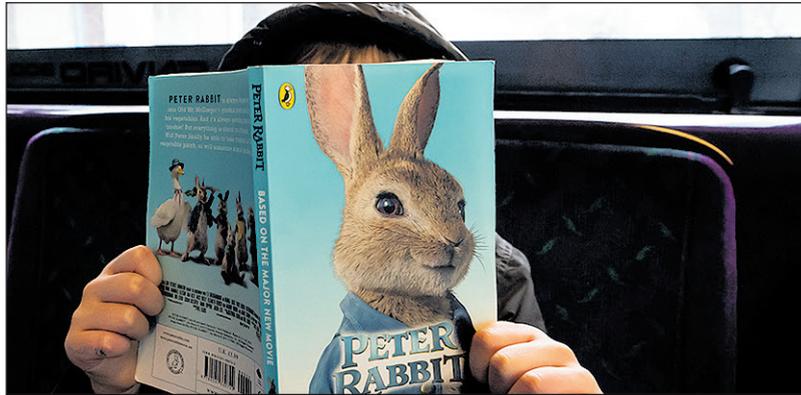
Easter holiday family fun

Easter art club

Celebrate Easter in style – come along to our regular Sunday art club and design your own Easter hats and Easter eggs.

Sun 29 March and 5 April (2.15pm - 3.15pm)

Idea Store Canary Wharf, Churchill Place E14 5RB



Peter Rabbit story time

Learn to draw

Have a go at learning to draw characters from your favourite books in the family reading group.

Sat 4 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU

Beatrix Potter art club

(Age 6 and over)

Looking at how Beatrix Potter used illustrations to tell her stories.

Sun 5 April (2.15pm - 3pm)

Idea Store Bow, 1 Gladstone Place, Roman Road E3 5ES

Fingerprint Easter basket art club

Get your basket looking egg-cellent for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Sun 5 April (2.15 - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU

Picnic story time

(Under 5s)

Join us after our usual story time session for the opportunity to interact and make friends with other parents.

Mon 6 April (10.30am - 11.15am)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU

Spring has sprung

(Age 5 and over)

Create your own pop-up card.

Mon 6 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Canary Wharf, Churchill Place E14 5RB

Make an Easter basket

(Age 6 and over)

Collecting Easter eggs has to be the most egg-citing part of Easter morning. Seeing what that big bunny left is great fun – but what to collect them in? Come along and get creating.

Tues 7 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Bow, 1 Gladstone Place, Roman Road E3 5ES

Animal magic

(Age 5 and over)

Make your own animal mask. What will yours be? A tiger an elephant, a chimpanzee? Let your imagination run wild.

Weds 8 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Canary Wharf, Churchill Place E14 5RB

Chess club

(Age 7 and over)

Join the Chess in Schools and Communities chess club, choose your colour and see who will be the ultimate king or queen.

Weds 8 April (5pm - 6pm)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU

Create an Easter hat

(Ages 6 and over)

Make your own Easter hat.

Thurs 9 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Bow, 1 Gladstone Place, Roman Road E3 5ES

Easter egg hunt

Solve the clues to win the big Easter egg hunt!

Sat 10 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU

Easter egg number colouring

Countdown to Easter with an art club activity only a short hop away.

Sun 11 April (10.30am - 11.15am)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU

Finger puppets

Get inspired by our books on animals and create your own mini finger paper puppet show.

Mon 13 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU

Scavenger hunt

(Age 6 and over)

Play detective and solve the clues to win the scavenger hunt!

Tues 14 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Bow, 1 Gladstone Place, Roman Road E3 5ES

Paper flowers

(Ages 5 and over)

Celebrate spring by making paper flowers and let your garden grow.

Weds 15 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Canary Wharf, Churchill Place E14 5RB

Badge making

What patterns will you make to create your own special Easter badge?

Weds 15 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU

Board games

(Age 6 and over)

Play chess, cards and scrabble.

Thurs 16 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Bow, 1 Gladstone Place, Roman Road E3 5ES

Special story time: Peter Rabbit

Hop on in to join our story time and make your own little bunny ears.

Thurs 16 April (10.30am - 11.15am)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU

Family reading group: Egg-tastic

Take your egg decorating to the next level with your unique design.

Sat 18 April (2.30pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU

Judith Kerr art club

(Age 6 and over)

Look at how Judith Kerr used illustrations to tell her stories.

Sun 19 April (2.15pm - 3pm)

Idea Store Bow, 1 Gladstone Place, Roman Road E3 5ES

Bunny ears crown art club

Get ready to make a hippity hoppity Easter crown.

Sun 19 April (2.15pm - 3.30pm)

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road E1 1BU

VICTORIA PARK, LONDON E3 — MAY & JUNE 2020

>LL POINTS E>ST

SAT 23 MAY

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ROLLING BLACKOUTS C.F. > SIR WAS > CRUMB

KELLY LEE OWENS > HOLY F > TOPS > JESSY LANZA

FAYE WEBSTER

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NENEH CHERRY

SEVDALIZA

FATOUMATA DIAWARA

TNGHT > GAIKA

SKINNY PELEMBE

HOTEL LUX

MAD PROFESSOR

DUBS 'MEZZANINE' LIVE
+ SPECIAL GUEST
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FRI 29 MAY

UK FESTIVAL EXCLUSIVE

KRAFTWERK 3D

IGGY POP

JOHNNY MARR > THE ORB > CHROMATICS

ANNA CALVI > KIM GORDON > GRANDMASTER FLASH

JEHNNY BETH > JOHN MAUS

SAT 30 MAY

THE KOOKS > THE WOMBATS

TOM WALKER > JAKE BUGG

GANG OF YOUTHS > GABRIELLE APLIN > THE LATHUMS

BLOXX > LAUREN HIBBERD

+ MANY MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED ACROSS THE TWO WEEKENDS



AMERICAN EXPRESS



Firestone

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Gazette

Advertiser



Visitors enjoying lunch at Oxford House's café



Oxford House chapel

Oxford House transformation

COMMUNITY NEWS

By **JESSICA ODUBAYO**

OXFORD House, the community, arts and heritage centre that has been at the heart of Bethnal Green since 1884, has been transformed with a new café, improved public access and the restoration of its Victorian chapel.

Oxford House was established as the first 'settlement house' where students and graduates from Keble College, Oxford, undertook a period of residential volunteering to learn first-hand about the realities of urban poverty.

These volunteers were either graduates or worked locally and lived upstairs in Oxford House, which was like a mini Oxford college in the heart of Bethnal Green.

Volunteers provided practical support to alleviate or remove the impact of poverty to the local community by creating projects such as youth clubs,

legal services, labour exchanges and adult education classes.

Still based in the beautiful Grade II listed building that overlooks Derbyshire Street, Pocket Park and Weavers Fields, Oxford House's programme and activities have constantly evolved to reflect the local community.

The centre reopened last summer after a major refurbishment project. It has a 120-seat theatre, gallery, dance studio, meeting spaces, chapel and roof terrace with amazing views stretching across London.

The venue hosts a dynamic cultural programme for children and adults, including children's activities, gigs, dance, film screenings and performances. One example is Buggy Boogie, which features music and storytelling sessions for children aged under four and their parents. For avid thespians, Young & Talented, an award-winning drama school for young people, meets weekly.



Oxford House's Grade II exterior



Unpaid carer at Sonali Gardens

Hurry! You have until 26 March to see 'Reflect', a photographic exhibition at Oxford House that celebrates the unique spaces and places where unpaid carers in Tower Hamlets go to pause.

Community champions recognised at sixth annual awards



Cllr Victoria Obaze presenting community champions with their awards

CANARY Wharf Group has announced the winners of its sixth annual Community Champions Awards, which recognise and celebrate the incredible voluntary work of individuals who have been true inspirations to their local community.

Hosted by Canary Wharf Group's community affairs team at Level39, the event celebrated nine champions for their outstanding contributions. These ranged from: leadership of local youth clubs; a project seeking to develop a film school for people under-represented in the industry; Friends of Island History, an organisation working to preserve the heritage of the Isle of Dogs; other community organisations, including the 5th Tower Hamlets Scouts and St Matthias Trust, which have supported local residents groups over many years.

Councillor Victoria Obaze, Speaker of Tower Hamlets, presented the awards to winners Walter Berwick, Peter Steel, Peter Ellis, Debbie Levett, Gouri Choudhury, Helen Kenney, Mustak Ali, Joyce Lee and Mohammed Abdus Salam.

Winners were each presented with a framed certificate signed by Sir George Iacobescu CBE, Canary Wharf Group's Executive Chairman, along with £250 to donate to a community organisation of their choice.



Volunteers and MOLA archaeologist Nina Olofsson (bottom far right) at Stepney City Farm community dig

Farm finds trace of medieval past

COMMUNITY NEWS

By **THOMAS BROWN**

STEPNEY City Farm celebrates its 40th anniversary this year after archaeologists completed excavation works for the remains of a late medieval and Tudor-moated manor house uncovered on its land.

In 2010, the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) was given the opportunity to excavate the remains after Crossrail works revealed the hidden treasure. Crossrail kindly funded the investigations and a community dig.

The remains of a brick-built house were discovered, with a wide inner moat and a smaller outer ditch, as well as a gatehouse leading to a courtyard and buildings ranged around it.

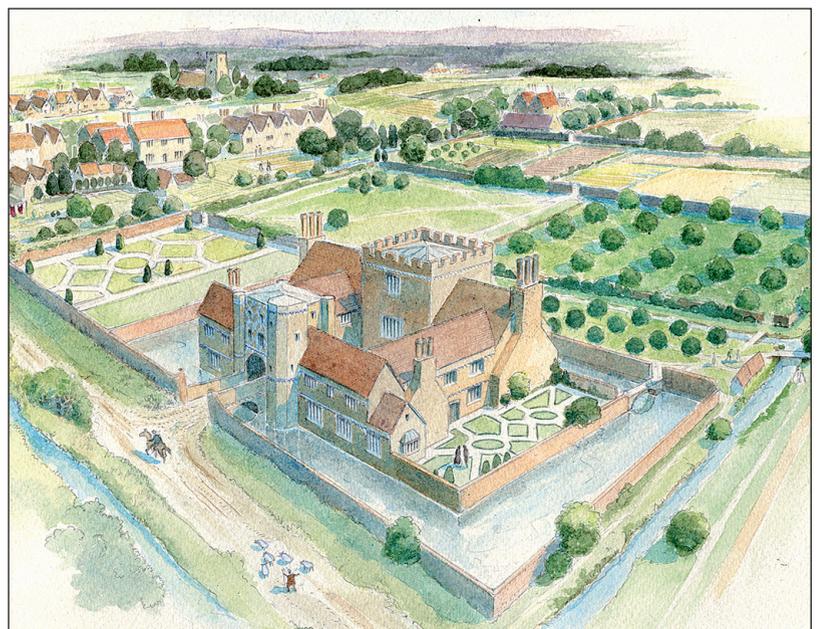
Originally, it was built by a wealthy merchant, John Fenne, in 1466 and was

known as 'John Fenne's Great Place'. For a time, it housed Lord Thomas Darcy, later executed for rebelling against Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.

It was then bought by Henry Somerset, 1st Marquis of Worcester, around 1600. He filled in the moat to improve access to the gardens and orchards and this action helped to preserve the historical remains of plants and seeds.

Archaeologists have now handed the site back to the farm, which will use information from the excavations to create a herb garden and pond along part of the previous moat, reflecting the site's history. These will be living memorials not only to its archaeological significance but also the people who lived and worked there.

Entry to the farm is free with a farmer's market on Saturdays. For more details, visit www.stepneycityfarm.org



The site of Stepney City Farm back in medieval times

Exciting discoveries of East End industries

THE excavation of a Whitechapel site to explore the remains of a Shakespearean-era playhouse, has led to other unexpected discoveries, including new evidence of clay pipe manufacturing in the East End in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Archaeologists from the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) are excavating the former Boar's Head Playhouse in Middlesex Street, ahead of construction of new student accommodation on the site.

Along with the remains of the Boar's Head Playhouse, archaeologists have discovered a kiln dating back to the 18th century that was used for clay pipe making, alongside clay pipes dating from 1680 - 1710.

This fascinating find reveals the long tradition of pipe making on the site and highlights the area's history as a centre for manufacturing in the 17th century.

A MOLA spokesperson said: "Toxic and often smelly industries like horn working and clay pipe making were based in the East End of London so prevailing winds from the west would blow any unpleasant smoke or fumes from manufacture away from the City, a more affluent area of London."

The kiln found by archaeologists is remarkably complete. It is rectangular in shape, which is common for kilns in London of the time. When the kiln went out of use, it was backfilled. When archaeologists removed the backfill, they uncovered a lot of kiln furniture. This revealed an intricate flue system and a muffle (a circular chamber in which the pipes are fired).

During the excavation, clay pipes that failed in the kiln, known as 'wasters', were also found. The team even made an exciting discovery of the white clay used for making the pipes, which was still soft and squishy to the touch some 250 years later. Many of the pipes found were marked with the letters 'W.W'. From these initials, MOLA hopes to work out who made the clay pipes.

For other news on exciting archaeological discoveries go online www.mola.org.uk



Toxic and often smelly industries like horn working and clay pipe making were based in the East End of London.



A MOLA archaeologist holds tobacco pipes found by an 18th century pipe kiln at the Boar's Head Playhouse site



Archaeologists record an 18th century clay tobacco pipe kiln built against 16th century walls associated with the Boar's Head Playhouse

Liveable Streets

COUNCIL NEWS

BETHNAL Green and Wapping will be the first areas to receive investment as part of the council's multi-million pound Liveable Streets programme.

After months of public engagement, changes to make walking, cycling and access to public transport will be introduced this year.

Safer crossings, improved lighting and CCTV all feature as well as traffic restrictions to enhance safety on residential streets by removing rat-running vehicles.

Mayor Biggs said: "Our Liveable Streets proposals will make Bethnal Green and Wapping safer, greener and cleaner places to live, work and visit. I'd like to thank residents, schools and traders for all their input – they have

played a key role in shaping these final designs."

Continuous pavements and more dropped kerbs will make it easier to move around using prams, pushchairs, buggies and wheelchairs. More greenery will be planted to help improve air quality and make public spaces more attractive and welcoming.

Proposals in Barkantine, Bow, Brick Lane, Old Ford Road and Shadwell are set to be brought forward later this year after research and consultation with residents, businesses and visitors on what could make their streets cleaner, greener and safer.

The programme will cover 17 areas in Tower Hamlets – more than 60 per cent of the borough.

For more information on the programme, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/liveablestreets



An artist's impression of proposals in Arnold Circus

“ Our proposals will make Bethnal Green and Wapping safer, greener and cleaner places to live, work and visit.



Flytipping is a growing problem in Tower Hamlets

Zero tolerance for flytipping

BUSINESSES in the habit of dumping illegal waste in Tower Hamlets face heavy fines after the council gave the green light to new flytipping penalties.

The council has increased the fixed penalty notice (FPN) for flytipping to £400 from £80 with no early payment discount. The maximum fine for flytipping in the UK is £50,000 or a five-year prison sentence.

Flytipping is a growing problem in Tower Hamlets, with the council spending more than £690,000 a year on the removal and disposal of illegally dumped waste. The number of reported incidents of flytipping has increased from 4,555 in 2015/16 to 9,228 in 2018/19.

Mayor Biggs said: "We will be taking a zero tolerance approach with those who illegally dump waste because they think they can get away with it. Whether it's a business or an individual, it is unacceptable behaviour.

"Flytipped waste is a blight on our borough and it is ultimately residents who have to pay the price of the costly collection of dumped rubbish on our streets. Although the focus will be on businesses as the worst offenders, we also want to encourage residents to take responsibility for their waste."

Some businesses in the borough had previously been issued with multiple £80 FPNs yet continued to flytip because it was cheaper to pay the fine than to organise the lawful disposal of their waste. This higher FPN will be used to target those repeat offenders, as well as other businesses.

Money received from the fines will be spent on waste management, street cleansing and enforcement.

Residents can report flytipping through the Love Your Neighbourhood app or by visiting www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/flytipping

Council to plant more than 5,000 trees in two years

THE council is on track to plant more than 2,200 trees this year, taking the total number of trees delivered in the past two years to more than 5,000.

A total of 2,217 trees is scheduled to be planted across the borough by the end of the current planting season which runs from October to April. This includes 690 large, instant impact trees and 1,517 smaller young trees (whips).

A minimum of 700 street trees will be planted over the next two planting seasons, including 350 in Bethnal Green and Wapping in 2020/21 and a further 350 in Stepney Green and the Isle of Dogs in 2021/22.

The latest planting push is focused on Bow and Poplar where 350 trees will be planted along 100 different streets.

The estimated cost of the project currently stands at £1.32 million. To help, the council has successfully applied for £316,779 from the Mayor of London's Urban Tree Challenge Fund, which will pay for the purchase, planting and maintenance of 557 trees.

The capital's trees are estimated to provide at least £133m of benefits to Londoners every year. They help to improve air quality by removing 2,241 tonnes of pollution annually, including harmful PM10 particulates and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) roadside emissions.

Trees also create a vital habitat for London's wildlife, while reducing the flood risk and helping to tackle climate change through absorbing and storing carbon.

More information on tree planting in Tower Hamlets is available on the council's website www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/trees

- **2,826 trees were planted in 2018/19 – 276 large, instant impact trees and 2,550 whips.**
- **Trees planted include Winter Flowering Cherry, Chinese Privet, Norway Maple.**



Cllr Asma Begum and David Allen (charity worker) planting a sapling



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নতুন অর্থ বছরের বাজেট পাশ

Your borough, your future – page 11

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল তার ২০২০/২১ অর্থ বছরের বাজেট অনুমোদন করেছে। এই বাজেটে বারার সবচেয়ে অসহায় বা অসুরক্ষিত বাসিন্দাদের প্রয়োজনীয় সুরক্ষা নিশ্চিত করার পাশাপাশি কমিউনিটির নিরাপত্তা, আবাসন ও গণস্বাস্থ্য খাতকে সবচেয়ে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হয়েছে।

১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি অনুষ্ঠিত কাউন্সিলের পূর্ণাঙ্গ সভায় প্রস্তাবিত বাজেট আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে অনুমোদন লাভ করে। বাজেট নিয়ে জনসাধারণের সাথে সুসম্মিত আলোচনা থেকে পাওয়া ফিডব্যাক এবং বাসিন্দা ও ব্যবসায়ী সম্প্রদায় যে সকল সার্ভিসের ওপর নির্ভরশীল, গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সেই সকল সেবাখাতগুলোতে অর্থায়ন অব্যাহত রাখার অঙ্গিকারের প্রতিক্রিয়া ঘটেছে পাশ হওয়া নতুন বাজেটে।

এ প্রসঙ্গে মেয়র জন বিগস বলেন, কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের অব্যাহত তহবিল কর্তনের ফলে সারা দেশের কাউন্সিলগুলো নজিরবিহীন আর্থিক চ্যালেঞ্জের মুখোমুখি হচ্ছে প্রতি নিয়ত। টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে, ২০১০ সাল থেকে এ পর্যন্ত

আমাদেরকে ১৯০ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড শায়্য করতে হয়েছে এবং আগামী তিন বছরে আরো ৩৯ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড শায়্য করতে হবে বলে আমরা ধারণা করছি।

মেয়র আরো বলেন, এতদসত্ত্বেও আমরা আগামী তিন বছরের জন্য উচ্চাভিলাষি এবং ইতিবাচক পরিকল্পনাসমূহ সুনির্দিষ্ট করে একটি বাজেট পাশ করেছি। এই বাজেটে আমাদের বারার সবচেয়ে ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ বা অসহায় বাসিন্দাদের প্রথম স্থানে রেখে ফ্রন্টলাইন সার্ভিসগুলোকে সুরক্ষিত করার পাশাপাশি আমরা নতুন বাড়ি ঘর নির্মাণ, উন্নত কর্মসংস্থান এবং পরিচ্ছন্ন, সবুজ ও নিরাপদ রাস্তাসমূহ নিশ্চিত করতে প্রয়োজনীয় বিনিয়োগ করেছি।

উল্লেখ্য, কাউন্সিল ট্যাক্স বা কর হার এ বছর ১.৯৯ পার সেন্ট বৃদ্ধি পাবে। এছাড়া প্রাপ্তবয়স্কদের জন্য প্রদত্ত সোশ্যাল কেয়ার সার্ভিস পরিচালনার জন্য আরো ২ শতাংশ বাড়বে। এরপর টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস আশা করে এবারো দেশের সপ্তম সর্বনিম্ন কাউন্সিল ট্যাক্স বরা থাকবে এটি।

কেবিনেট মেম্বর ফর রিসোর্সেস এন্ড দ্যা ভলান্টিরি সেক্টর, কাউন্সিলর ক্যানডিডা রোনাল্ড বলেন, প্রায় ২ সহস্রাধিক বাসিন্দা ও ব্যবসায়ী সম্প্রদায়ের লোকজন আমাদের কনসালটেশনগুলোতে অংশ নিয়ে তাদের অভিমত তুলে ধরেন। তারা আমাদেরকে এটাই বলা হয়েছে যে, চিলড্রেনস সার্ভিস, শিক্ষা এবং অসহায় শিশু ও প্রাপ্তবয়স্কদের সুরক্ষা ও সহায়তা প্রদান আমাদের বাসিন্দাদের কাছে সবচেয়ে বেশি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। তাদের এই অগ্রাধিকারসমূহকে বাজেটে আমরা সন্নিবেশিত করেছি। প্রতিটি ব্যয়িত অর্থ যেন আমাদের বাসিন্দাদের জীবন মান উন্নয়নে ইতিবাচক ভূমিকা রাখে।

কনসালটেশনে অংশ গ্রহণকারীরা কাউন্সিলের সার্ভিসগুলোকে অধিকতর কার্যকর করা এবং ফ্রন্টলাইন সার্ভিসগুলোর সুরক্ষার স্বার্থে আয় বৃদ্ধির প্রক্রিয়া আরো বাড়তে কাউন্সিলের প্রচেষ্টার প্রতি শক্ত সমর্থন জানান। বিভিন্ন ধরনের সার্ভিসকে অনলাইনে সহজলভ্য করতে কাউন্সিল তার উদ্যোগ অব্যাহত রাখবে।



Police officers on duty

পুলিশে এথনিক কমিউনিটি থেকে ৪০ ভাগ নিয়োগের টার্গেট

Met turns to Tower Hamlets to find police officers of the future – page 7

নতুন প্রজন্মের পুলিশ অফিসার নিয়োগ দিতে মেট্রোপলিটান পুলিশ ও টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল ঘনিষ্ঠভাবে কাজ করছে।

মেট পুলিশ তাদের নতুন নিয়োগের ৪০ শতাংশ কৃষ্ণাঙ্গ, এশিয় অথবা সংখ্যালঘু নৃতাত্ত্বিক সম্প্রদায় থেকে নিয়োগ করতে চাচ্ছে। লন্ডনের সবচেয়ে বৈচিত্র্যময় কাউন্সিলটি সমূহ যেখানে রয়েছে, সেখান থেকে যদি আবেদনকারীদের আকৃষ্ট করা না যায়, তাহলে পুলিশের এই নিয়োগ লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অর্জন অনেক কঠিন হবে।

এ প্রসঙ্গে মেয়র জন বিগস বলেন, আমরা বিশ্বাস করি যে, লন্ডনের পুলিশ ফোর্স যাদের সুরক্ষায় নিয়োজিত, সেই কমিউনিটিগুলোর যথার্থ প্রতিক্রিয়া পুলিশ ফোর্সে থাকা উচিত। এব্যাপারে মেট পুলিশ সাম্প্রতিক বছরগুলোতে অনেক এগিয়ে এসেছে, তবে তারা হবে প্রথম নিয়োগদাতা যারা এটা স্বীকার করে যে তাদের নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম আরো বিস্তৃত পরিসরে হওয়ার প্রয়োজনীয়তা রয়েছে।

মেয়র বলেন, লন্ডনের মধ্যে সবচেয়ে বেশি তরুণ জনগোষ্ঠি রয়েছে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের এবং সবচেয়ে বৈচিত্র্যময় নৃতাত্ত্বিক পরিচয়ের কমিউনিটি হচ্ছে আমাদের মূল শক্তি। বন্ধুত্ব, বিশ্বস্ততা ও পরিশ্রমী – এই সংস্কৃতির ওপর ভিত্তি করে গড়ে ওঠেছে আমাদের কমিউনিটি। মেট পুলিশ তাদের ভবিষ্যত অফিসার নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে এমন আদর্শ জনপদ আর কোথাও পাবে বলে আমি মনে করিনা।

সকল আবেদনকারীর মতোই টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের আবেদনকারী বাসিন্দাদেরকেও সমান মূল্যায়ন ও ভোটিং বা পরীক্ষার মধ্য দিয়ে যেতে হবে। তবে কাউন্সিলের কর্মসংস্থান সহায়ক বিভাগ ওয়ার্কপাথ এ ব্যাপারে বারার আবেদনকারীদের সব ধরনের সহযোগিতা প্রদান করবে।

ওয়ার্কপাথ এর পক্ষ থেকে এর আপার ব্যাংক স্ট্রিটে অবস্থিত অফিসে আয়োজন করা হবে গ্রি-এপ্রিকেশন ইনফরমেশন ডে, যেখানে সম্ভাব্য আবেদনকারীরা পুলিশ ফোর্সে কী ধরনের কেরিয়ার

গড়ে যাবে, সেসম্পর্কে যাবতীয় তথ্য পাবেন।

এ প্রসঙ্গে কাউন্সিলের ওয়ার্ক এন্ড ইকোনোমিক গ্রোথ বিষয়ক কেবিনেট মেম্বর, কাউন্সিলর মতিন উজ-জামান বলেন, আমাদের কমিউনিটির সার্বিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে পুলিশ অফিসাররা অপরিহার্য ভূমিকা পালন করে থাকেন।

কাউন্সিলর মতিন আরো বলেন, এরপরও এটা আমি স্বীকার করি যে, আমাদের অনেক বাসিন্দাই ক্যারিয়ার হিসেবে এটাকে বিবেচনা করার সুযোগ পাননি। আমি তাদেরকে এই সুযোগের সর্বোচ্চ ব্যবহার করতে এবং পুলিশ ফোর্সে কী ধরনের ক্যারিয়ার গড়ে তোলা যায়, তা খুঁজে বের করতে অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি।

কিন্তুবে নিজেদের নাম নিবন্ধন করতে হবে এবং পুলিশ ফোর্সে ক্যারিয়ার সম্পর্কিত যাবতীয় তথ্য জানতে হলে www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/policecareers – এই ওয়েবসাইট ভিজিট করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো হয়েছে।



‘নো প্লেস ফর হেইট’ এওয়ার্ড পেলো কুইন মেরি ইউনিভার্সিটি

QMUL win NPFH award – page 46

ঘৃণাজনিত অপরাধ মোকাবেলায় টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের প্রচারবিভাগ ‘নো প্লেস ফর হেইট’ অঙ্গিকারে কুইন মেরি ইউনিভার্সিটি অব লন্ডন (কিউএমইউএল) এর শতাধিক শিক্ষক শিক্ষার্থী স্বাক্ষর করেছেন। জাতীয় ঘৃণাজনিত

অপরাধ সম্পর্কিত সচেতনতা সত্ত্বেও এত বিপুল সংখ্যক লোক অঙ্গিকারে স্বাক্ষর করায় মেয়র জন বিগস তাদের হাতে ট্রফি তুলে দেন।

২০১৭ সালে এই ক্যাম্পেইন শুরু হওয়ার পর থেকেই কুইন মেরি অভ্যন্তর গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সমর্থক হিসেবে নিজেদের প্রতিষ্ঠিত করেছে। ইউনিভার্সিটির বিভিন্ন ইভেন্টে ঘৃণা জনিত অপরাধ সম্পর্কিত প্রচারবিভাগ পরিচালনা করে চলতি শিক্ষাবর্ষে তারা ৪৪০ জনের স্বাক্ষর গ্রহণ করে অনন্য এক রেকর্ড সৃষ্টি করেছে।

ভ্রমণ সহায়তা সংক্রান্ত কনসালটেশন চলছে Travel assistance consultation open – page 16

বিশেষ শিক্ষাগত প্রয়োজন রয়েছে এবং প্রতিবন্ধী যারা অর্থাৎ সংক্ষেপে যারা সেভ বা এসইএনডি, তাদের চলাফেরায় ভ্রমণ সহায়তা সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে কাউন্সিলের নীতিমালায় প্রস্তাবিত পরিবর্তনগুলো নিয়ে কনসালটেশন বা পরামর্শ কার্যক্রম শুরু হয়েছে।

যেসকল শিশু এবং তরুণ বয়সীরা এসইএনডিভুক্ত, তাদের সাথে কাজ করার মাধ্যমে তাদের



ও তাদের পরিবারের প্রয়োজনীয়তা মেটানোর মাধ্যমে আমরা তাদের বৃহত্তর স্বাধীনতার বিষয়টিকে নিশ্চিত করতে চাই। ভ্রমণ সংক্রান্ত ৮টি সহায়তামূলক প্রস্তাবনা আমরা তৈরী করেছি, যা তাদের জন্য অধিক পছন্দ ও সহজলভ্যতার সুযোগ এনে দেবে। এই প্রস্তাবনাগুলো সম্পর্কে আপনার অভিমত আমরা জানতে আগ্রহী। এই কনসালটেশন শেষ হবে ৬ মে বুধবার।

দুই বছরে ৫ হাজার গাছের চারা রোপন Planting 5,000 trees – page 36

কাউন্সিল চলতি বছরে ২ হাজার ২০০টিরও বেশি বৃক্ষ রোপনের লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অর্জন করেছে। সব মিলিয়ে গত দুই বছরে ৫ হাজারেরও বেশি গাছের চারা রোপন করেছে কাউন্সিল।

অক্টোবর থেকে এপ্রিল – গাছের চারা রোপনের এই মৌসুমে বারার বিভিন্ন এলাকায় ২ হাজার ২১৭টি বৃক্ষ ও চারা রোপনের লক্ষ্য নির্ধারণ করেছিলো। এর মধ্যে রয়েছে ৬৯০ টি বড় আকারের গাছ এবং ১ হাজার ৫১৭টি ছোট আকারের গাছের চারা।

আগামী দুই রোপন মওসুমে কমপক্ষে ৭০০ গাছ লাগানো হবে। এর মধ্যে ২০২০/২১ সালে বেথনাল গ্রীণ ও ওয়াপিংয়ে লাগানো হবে ৩৫০টি গাছ এবং ২০২১/২২ সালে বাকি ৩৫০টি গাছ লাগানো হবে স্টেপনি ও আইল অব ডগস এলাকায়। এবারের বৃক্ষ রোপন



মওসুমে বো এবং পপলার এলাকায় ৩৫০টি গাছ লাগানোর পাশাপাশি বিভিন্ন রাস্তার পাশে ১০০টি বৃক্ষ রোপন করা হচ্ছে।

এই বৃক্ষ রোপন প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন ব্যয় বর্তমানে ১ দশমিক ৩২ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড। সপ্তাহ কয়েক আগে কাউন্সিল মেয়র অব লন্ডন এর আরবান ট্রি চ্যালেঞ্জ ফান্ড থেকে ৩১৬,৭৭৯ পাউন্ডের তহবিল পেয়েছে, যা দিয়ে ৫৫৭টিরও বেশি বৃক্ষ ক্রয়, রোপন ও পরিচর্যা করা হবে।

উল্লেখ্য, লন্ডনের গাছগুলো লন্ডনবাসিন্দাদের জন্য প্রতি বছর কমপক্ষে ১৩৩ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ডের সুফল বয়ে আনে বলে অনুমান করা হয়।



As the pent-up tension of years was released, London went wild as a national holiday was declared upon victory in Europe

Victory in the streets

HISTORY

By **JOHN RENNIE**

IT was the day for which East Enders had hoped and prayed during six long years of war – and they could hardly believe had come. On the evening of 7 May 1945, the BBC announced that the war in Europe had been won and that the following day would be a national holiday. But Londoners couldn't wait – and within hours the capital would erupt into an impromptu street party. The pubs were packed, social barriers were forgotten (as was traditional British reserve) and new friends (and lovers) were made.

That's the movie version anyway. In truth, VE (Victory in Europe) Day was a little more nuanced and (for some) rather sadder than that. Not everyone was home yet of course. Most servicemen were still stationed a long way from home – many East End kids would have to wait months to see their fathers again. Some, of course, wouldn't be coming back at

all, making the peace bittersweet for the loved ones they had left behind. And of course there was still the war in the Far East to be won.

But for now, the defeat of the Nazis – anticipated for two years or more – was finally here. Having declared a national holiday for the next day, Winston Churchill swiftly gained confirmation from the Ministry of Food that there was enough beer in London to lubricate what was expected to be the party to end all parties. Meanwhile, the Board of Trade announced that red, white and blue bunting and flags could be bought off the ration. And then it was time for East Enders to party. Every street would have trestle tables set up, and East End mums would do their best to scrape together party food from the thin offerings in the shops.

There were special visitors too. The royal family had won many friends (and won over many sceptics) by their visits to the East End during the war. The East End, of course, had suffered far more than its share of air raids. But

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth had ignored advice to bolt for safety to the United States for the duration and elected to stay in Buckingham Palace for as long as it took. The royals had

their own near miss and had seen the palace damaged by Luftwaffe bombs. The Queen admitted she was actually relieved, saying: "It makes me feel I can look the East End in the face." And



Churchill had been the symbol of bulldog defiance against the Nazi threat

the day after VE Day, the pair arrived in Whitechapel to visit Hughes Mansions to meet survivors of the last V2 rocket attack, which had destroyed the housing block in Vallance Road just weeks before.

So the parties went on and on. VE Day was a misnomer, it was more like VE Week. Pubs didn't seem to shut and a feature of the celebrations were bonfires, seemingly at every street corner. One East Ender remarked that he thought people would have had enough fires during the Blitz. These, though, were fires of freedom and with no air raid precaution wardens to warn people to put that light out, people piled on the fuel. Poignantly, there was plenty of tinder to burn, from the wrecked houses that would scar the East End for years to come. Tidying up could wait though, the resourceful East Enders used what they could for the party.

There were official celebrations too. On Sunday 14 May, a victory parade, led by Royal Navy ratings, mustered at Tower Hill then marched through the devastated streets of Stepney, along Royal Mint Street, Leman Street and the Mile End Road, before finishing with a flourish at the People's Palace in Whitechapel. The soldiers of the Army Middlesex Regiment marched alongside, their band providing stirring music for the marchers. The men of the Stepney Warden Service were there too, who, as the East London Advertiser remarked: "In these very streets had laboured

against every attack from the air." There were fire crews from Whitechapel and Shadwell firestations. They had fought in the East End's own front line, desperately battling to save not just homes but to keep the docks and factories running. Alongside, were women from the Red Cross and Women's Voluntary Service.

And the children got a celebration of their own, with the Mile End Odeon holding a cinema party for 300 kiddies from Bethnal Green showing Walt Disney cartoons. The Empire cinema in Green Street, meanwhile, threw open its doors, giving the children a freebie of a Dick Barton film.

On and on the celebration went, with more street parties planned for the following Saturday, 19 May. And the celebrations got bigger and better. Victoria Park marked the end of the Blackout in style. No more extinguished street lamps and heavily shrouded windows, now the whole park was floodlit, with 9,000 East Enders dancing on the grass.

In the West End, the party continued too, with Princess Elizabeth (our current Queen) and her sister Princess Margaret mingling unnoticed with the crowds and joining in the cries of "We want the King!"

But meanwhile, as Winston Churchill had cautioned in the hours after the victory was clinched, there was still a war to be won. At 3pm on 8 May, he made a national radio broadcast (TV, still in

its infancy at the beginning of the war, had been shut down for the duration). He said: "We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead." He knew that Japan still had to be defeated. That victory would come at a terrible price. On 6 and 9 August, the United States would drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A week later, Emperor Hirohito would concede defeat – VJ Day had come.

And back in those heady days of May, the celebrations would always be touched with sadness. King George VI also gave a radio address. He praised the endurance of his subjects, spoke of those who were still far away and those who would never return.

There were many who felt they could not celebrate. While some 50,000 people were massing, drinking and partying in Piccadilly, there were those who found the celebrations painful. They had lost spouses, parents and children, friends and lovers. They had seen their homes destroyed. And, once the euphoria evaporated, London realised it had a hell of a job on its hands to rebuild. Clothes rationing would stay in force until 1949, food rationing until 1954. Many East Enders were living in prefabs – temporary accommodation supposedly but which ended up being permanent as the homes for returning heroes stubbornly failed to appear.

If Churchill thought he'd be

rewarded, he was in for a huge shock. In the July 1945 General Election he was unceremoniously voted out, with Labour's Clement Attlee taking his place. Britain may have won the war but it certainly didn't seem to be winning the peace. The country was bust and the 1950s and onward would see steady economic and industrial decline, as well as the unravelling of the British Empire. For those East Enders who had battled on the home front and on the battlefields of the world, life wasn't going to get better in a hurry. But for a few days at least, East Enders could celebrate the end of war and party like there was no tomorrow.

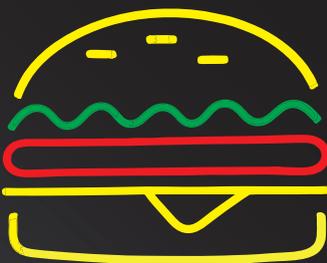
We would like to hear from surviving veterans and those who contributed to Victory in Europe 75 years ago. To share your memories email communications@towerhamlets.gov.uk or write to us at the Town Hall, Mulberry Place, Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG.



A mixture of Nazi devastation followed by VE Day celebrations across the East End and London

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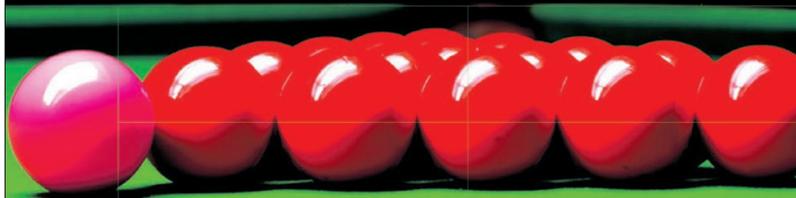
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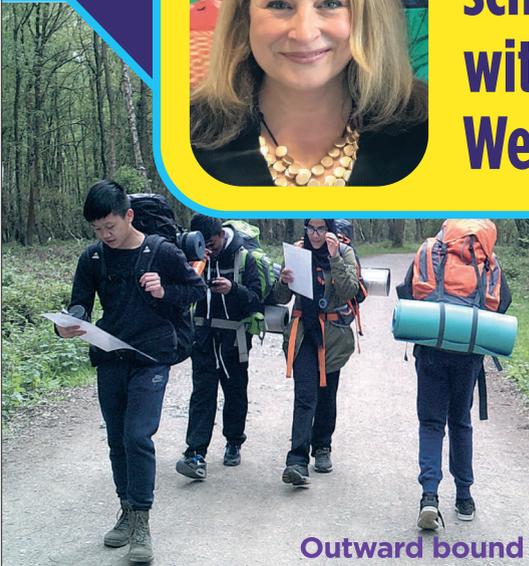


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@ayasmiah3

GENERAL DEMOCRAT IN TOWER HAMLETS

Tower Hamlets Council has a system of governance in which the elected mayor, **John Biggs** (right), has personal responsibility and executive powers. Mayor Biggs 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:

Cllr Sirajul Islam Deputy Mayor for Housing (Statutory Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Rachel Blake Deputy Mayor for Planning, Air Quality and Tackling Poverty
Cllr Asma Begum Deputy Mayor for Community Safety and Equalities
Cllr Amina Ali Adults, Health & Wellbeing

Cllr David Edgar Environment
Cllr Danny Hassell Children, Schools and Young People
Cllr Candida Ronald Resources and the Voluntary Sector
Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman Work and Economic Growth
Cllr Sabina Akhtar Culture, Arts & Brexit

BROMLEY SOUTH



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Email: danny.hassell@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@dannyhassell



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CANARY WHARF



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@Andrewwood17

* Independent Member of the Conservative Group

ISLAND GARDENS



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University gets top score for No Place for Hate pledges

QUEEN Mary University of London (QMUL) has signed up more than 100 people to the council's No Place for Hate pledge during National Hate Crime Awareness Week.

QMUL has been a key supporter of the campaign since 2017, generating 440 sign-ups this academic year alone through promoting the pledge at university events. Last year, the council ran a competition during the awareness week to encourage local organisations and individuals to increase sign-ups to the No Place for Hate pledge.

The pledge encourages action from people who witness hate crime and promotes speaking out against all forms of prejudice and discrimination. So far, over 4,500 individuals and 162 separate organisations have signed up.

Mayor Biggs presented QMUL with a celebratory trophy in recognition of its efforts and dedication to the No Place for Hate campaign.

Sarah Cowsls, Director of Student and Academic Services at QMUL, said: "We are honoured to receive this trophy for a campaign we feel so strongly about. Queen Mary is committed to the provision of equality of opportunity for all and we recognise the role everyone has to play in tackling hate and discrimination and promoting community safety."

The pledges are just one part of the wider No Place for Hate campaign, which provides training to the community to help tackle hate crime, supports victims, raises awareness of the impact of discrimination and aids the prosecution of perpetrators. To date, 138 hate crime



Benedicta Dikeocha from the council's hate crime team with the university's Sarah Cowsls

champions have been trained in Tower Hamlets.

Pledging is quick, easy and free to do. Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/npfh

- Hate crimes can be reported by calling the police non-emergency 101 number.
- In an emergency, always dial 999.
- Anonymous reports of hate can be made to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.
- Victims can call 020 8555 8254 for support.
- To pledge against hate crime visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/npfh

“ Queen Mary is committed to the provision of equality of opportunity for all and we recognise the role everyone has to play in tackling hate and discrimination and promoting community safety. ”



MEETINGS

Licensing committee

Thursday 19 March
6.30pm

Overview and scrutiny committee

Monday 23 March
6.30pm

Health and wellbeing board

Tuesday 24 March
5pm

Cabinet

Wednesday 25 March
5.30pm

Licensing sub-committee

Tuesday 31 March
6.30pm

Audit committee

Thursday 2 April
6.30pm

Children and education scrutiny sub-committee

Tuesday 7 April
6.30pm

Licensing sub-committee

Tuesday 14 April
6.30pm

Development committee

Thursday 16 April
6.30pm

Grants scrutiny sub-committee

Monday 20 April
6.30pm

Grants determination sub-committee

Wednesday 22 April
5.30pm

Overview and scrutiny committee

Monday 27 April
6.30pm

Licensing sub-committee

Tuesday 28 April
6.30pm

Cabinet

Wednesday 29 April
5.30pm

Standards advisory committee

Thursday 30 April
6pm

Licensing sub-committee

Tuesday 5 May
6.30pm

General purposes committee

Tuesday 5 May
6.30pm

Council

Wednesday 13 May
6.30pm

Meetings take place at the Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, E14, unless otherwise stated. Dates and times may change. Agendas are available online. For more information on meetings visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/meetings

It's that time again - make sure you're ready to vote!

In May, London will elect its mayor and the assembly members who represent residents at City Hall. It's a good time to make sure you don't miss out on the chance to have your say in this and future elections. Find out more - visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/elections



[/towerhamletscouncil](https://www.facebook.com/towerhamletscouncil)



[@towerhamletsnow](https://twitter.com/@towerhamletsnow)



www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup

USEFUL INFORMATION SERVICES AND CONTACTS

Council

Town Hall

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

Housing

Repairs

0800 376 1637 ext 1

Housing advice

020 7364 3558

Homeless service

020 7364 7474

Out of hours

020 7364 4079

Choice-based lettings

020 7364 2826

Homeseekers

www.thhs.org.uk

Tower Hamlets Homes

020 7364 5015

Report it

Non-emergency crimes

101 Textphone

18001 101

Domestic Violence Team

0800 279 5434

Haven Whitechapel

(sexual assault referral centre)

020 3299 6900 /

020 3299 1599

Karma Nirvana (honour-based abuse helpline)

0800 5999 247

National LGBT domestic abuse helpline (Galop)

0800 999 5428 /

0300 999 5428

Black Women's Health and Family Support

020 8980 3503

Rights of Women

020 7251 6577

Victim Support Tower Hamlets

0808 168 9291 /

0808 168 9111

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline

0800 800 5000

Childline

0800 1111

Shelter

0808 800 4444

Respect (for perpetrators)

0808 802 4040

Men's Advice Helpline

0808 8010 327

Samaritans

116 123

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

020 7364 7474

Anti-fraud (housing and tenancy related fraud)

0800 528 0294

Idea Stores

Bow

Gladstone Place, E3.

Canary Wharf

Churchill Place, E14.

Chrip Street

Vesey Path, E14.

Whitechapel

321 Whitechapel Road, E1.

Watney Market

Commercial Road, E1.

Opening times:

Mon to Thurs, 9am - 9pm

Fri, 9am - 6pm;

Sat, 9am - 5pm.

Sundays - Bow and

Chrip Street 10am - 4pm;

Whitechapel 11am - 5pm;

Canary Wharf,

12 noon - 6pm.

0333 370 4700

Libraries

Bethnal Green

Cambridge Heath Road, E2.

020 7364 3493

Cubitt Town

Strattondale Street, E14.

020 7987 3152

Both open:

Mon, Tues, Weds

and Fri, 10am - 6pm; Thurs,

10am - 8pm; Sat, 9am - 5pm.

Local History Library and Archives

277 Bancroft Road, E1.

020 7364 1290

or email local

history@towerhamlets.

gov.uk

Open Tues, 10am - 5pm;

Weds, 9am - 5pm; Thurs,

9am - 8pm; Sat (1st and 3rd

of the month), 9am - 5pm.

Careers

Young WorkPath/Tower Hamlets Careers Service

40-42 Watney Market, E1.

020 7364 1401

youngworkpath@

towerhamlets.gov.uk

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

Debt

Toynbee Hall Advice Service

28 Commercial Street, E1.

020 7392 2953

advice@toynbeehall.org.uk

www.toynbeehall.org.uk

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

Health & wellbeing

Healthline

020 7364 5016

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

East London Parkinson's Support Group

hello@parkinsons.org.uk

0808 800 0303

Alzheimer's Society

Robinson Centre, Mile End

Hospital, Bancroft Road, E1.

020 8121 5626

Tower Hamlets Advocacy Real

020 7001 2170

hello@real.org.uk

Free home fire safety advice

08000 284428

LinkAge Plus

Toynbee Hall, Commercial

Street, E1.

020 7392 2914

Stop Smoking services

www.quitrightth.org

020 7882 8230

Healthwatch Tower Hamlets

Mile End Hospital, Bancroft

Road, E1.

0800 145 5343

info@healthwathtower

hamlets.co.uk

www.healthwathtower

hamlets.co.uk

BYM Bangladesh Youth Movement Women's Centre of Excellence

Whitechapel Centre, Units 1

& 2, Myrdle Street, E1.

020 7377 8668

www.bym.org.uk

Advice

Account 3 (welfare and debt advice)

3 Birkbeck Street, E2.

020 7739 7720

www.account3.org.uk

Bangladesh Youth Movement

21-23 Henriques St, E1.

020 7488 1831/2

admin@bym.org.uk

www.bym.org.uk

Bromley by Bow Centre

St Leonard's Street, E3.

020 8709 9700

Citizens Advice Bureau

32 Greatorex Street, E1.

020 7247 1050

towerhamlets@eastendcab.

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

Age UK East London for over 50's, their families and carers

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

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

St George's Leisure Centre

221 The Highway,

Wapping E1.

020 7709 9714

Poplar Baths

170 East India Dock Road,

E14. 020 3795 0599

Tiller Leisure Centre

Tiller Road, Isle of Dogs,

E14. 020 7987 5211

Whitechapel Sports Centre

55 Durward Street,

Whitechapel, E1.

020 7247 7538

York Hall Leisure Centre

5-15 Old Ford Road, E2.

020 8980 2243

Parent & child

Family Information Service

30 Greatorex Street, E1.

fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk

020 7364 6495

Tower Hamlets National Childbirth Trust

0300 330 0700

www.nct.org.uk

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get Tower Hamlets
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straight into your
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Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup

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236 ROMAN ROAD, LONDON, E2 0RY
EMAIL: INFO@HAMLETTS.COM

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*Subject to Terms and Conditions