

COST OF LIVING



Stay well this winter
with warm hubs and
advice for all

SEE PAGE 7 8

CRIME



New Drugs Squad
supporting addicts and
preventing crime

SEE PAGE 12

COST OF LIVING



Meals on Wheels
delivering food with a
smile

SEE PAGE 9

ISSUE THIRTY-NINE // DECEMBER 2025



OUR EAST END



Vicky Park is the People's Choice

Accolade puts park in the top ten in the country



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The famous street was transformed to celebrate the release of the second Wicked film

Wicked's spell turns Brick Lane golden

**LOVE
TOWER
HAMLETS**

Brick Lane - one of London's most iconic streets - was transformed into Yellow Brick Lane to celebrate the theatrical release of the second film in the Wicked franchise.

The Wicked films, based on the musical, follow Elphaba and Glinda, two unlikely friends at university whose bond and personal journeys reshape their destinies and reveal the untold stories behind the witches of Oz. The Yellow Brick Road is an iconic part of the much-loved film.

During the transformation, residents and tourists could enjoy Wicked-themed street furniture including the lampposts and famous Brick Lane arch, as well as art installations. The road sign was given a makeover to 'Yellow Brick Lane' in English and Bengali with images of the characters from the film. There were also posters and stickers for everyone to enjoy.

And, thankfully, the fun wasn't



just for 'one short day' as it took place for most of November.

Visitors were also encouraged to enjoy a "wicked" curry from one of the famous restaurants along Brick Lane. The stunt was organised by Universal Pictures, Bangla Town Business Association and the council's Love Tower Hamlets campaign.

Cllr Shafi Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency, said: "We are

always supportive of innovative and fun ways to promote our fantastic borough.

"Turning Brick Lane yellow created a real buzz around the area and saw a boost in the number of visitors.

"We hope everyone enjoyed Brick Lane's new look and what this iconic street has to offer - both as the Yellow Brick Lane and as the curry capital of London."

A message from your Mayor

I hope you're keeping warm and well this winter. Please do make use of the help on offer, including our warm hubs at Idea Stores and libraries across the borough.



Our Just Say Hello campaign is there for anyone feeling lonely, and this edition of Our East End details more support available.

We've launched Meals on Wheels for vulnerable residents to deliver hot meals directly to people's homes with a smiling face, while also supporting thousands of residents with their heating bills.

These are just some of the groundbreaking investments we've introduced to support people with cost-of-living pressures, from free homecare to universal free school meals and school uniform grants and much more.

We've also become the first council in the country to create our own specialist Drugs Squad to help those struggling with addiction to get the support they need and prevent associated crimes from blighting our borough.

I'm particularly proud that we're building thousands of affordable homes, with our Local Plan setting a new standard for tackling London's housing crisis.

With JP Morgan announcing plans to open their HQ in Canary Wharf, we're bringing billions of pounds in investment into our borough and thousands of jobs.

We successfully opposed the closure of Bethnal Green police station front counters so you can still report crime in person.

In further good news, our beautiful green spaces won gold in the Britain in Bloom awards.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy holiday season,

Lutfur Rahman
Executive Mayor

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TikTok

Cooking up good times



Cranbrook Community Food Garden members took their dedication to sustainable, home-grown produce to a new level when they released their very own cookbook in September.

Titled “The Cranbrook Community Cookbook”, the book features a collection of recipes from local residents and celebrates the bounty of the garden and the growth of community spirit.

The garden has been a hub of activity for well over a decade, helping in turn to cultivate the community cooking club where residents gathered to create the recipes, and write and illustrate the book together.

Chair Lizzy Mace said: “Our garden is a place where we not only grow food, but we grow community. This cookbook is an extension of that.

“It’s a celebration of the people, the stories and, of course, the food that we grow in our little corner of Bethnal Green.”

The cookbook features more than 60 recipes that range from simple, quick meals to more elaborate dishes designed to showcase the wide variety of food grown in the garden.

From fresh salads and hearty soups to savoury pakoras and chutneys, the recipes highlight seasonal produce like tomatoes, carrots, kale and herbs. Written in English and Bengali, the recipes reflect the local area’s rich and tasty diversity.

Proceeds from the cookbook will



The cookbook features more than 60 recipes from quick meals to elaborate dishes

be ploughed back into the garden, ensuring that it continues to grow and thrive for years to come.

“We’re thrilled to be able to share this with the community,” added Laura Buckley, Head Gardener and Co-founder. “It’s more than just a cookbook. It’s a reflection of everything we’ve built here over the last 16 years.”

• **For more information, visit www.cranbrook.garden**

We have one free copy of From Seed To Plate to give away

Simply email your answer to this question to communications@towerhamlets.gov.uk with with your name and address and 'From Seed to Plate' in the subject line.

Zucchini is:

- An Italian centre forward from the 1980s
- An accordion manufacturer
- Another name for a courgette

Tower Hamlets leading the way with community cohesion

A survey has revealed that 91 per cent of people in Tower Hamlets think that people from different backgrounds get on well together - one of the best in the country and up from 87 per cent two years ago.

The results were revealed in the recent Annual Residents Survey, which the council carries out annually to see how residents find key services.

Sufia Alam, chair of the Tower Hamlets No Place for Hate Forum

and Inter-faith forum, and Rev James Olanipekun, said: “Tower Hamlets is a unique, vibrant and diverse place.

“Our community cohesion is one of our greatest strengths and we will always stand united against any forms of hate.

“I am proud of all of our residents in Tower Hamlets and how we stand as an example to other places of how a diverse community can thrive with mutual respect and understanding.”





The council is showcasing local shops on its social media to encourage people to shop local

Support your local shops

**LOVE
TOWER
HAMLETS**

Local, independent shops are what make our communities vibrant, so this festive season, make sure you support your high street shops.

From books to gifts, clothes to handbags, the markets and shops in Tower Hamlets offer a range of goods which support local families.

Traders in Tower Hamlets shared

why you should shop local as part of the council's social media campaign to encourage more people to use independent shops rather than chains or online.

Jane, from Harry Brand, said: "We love Columbia Road - it's a really great community of people and a great community of very diverse shops.

"You can find really different things here that you can't find in other parts of London, and you

can't find in bigger department stores either.

"So, we're really delighted to take part in the Tower Hamlets campaign, because anything that promotes "shop local, shop independent" is really doing us a huge favour.

"I think both for consumers, customers, and shopkeepers - it's part of the economy, and it's how we keep going."

Juliette, owner of Milagros added: "East London, particularly Tower

Hamlets, is known for lots of independent businesses and I think that's the kind of great reason why people come and visit East London from outside of the borough.

"But it's really good if local people can shop locally - and that we can also offer them a discount.

"I think that's a great kind of synergy of the area."

• You can see videos of more local shops on the council's social media channels.

New headquarters a big boost

The council is thrilled that JPMorganChase has decided to build its headquarters in Canary Wharf, creating 7,800 jobs across construction and local industries and contributing £9.9bn over six years to the local economy.

The council has been showcasing the borough to JP MorganChase in an effort to secure the major investment, as well as writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer

RT Hon Rachel Reeves, along with Secretary of States RT Hon Steve Reed MP and RT Hon Heidi Alexander MP.

Career pathways for young people is one of the reasons the council welcomes JPMorganChase's decision and it will work with them to ensure residents can take advantage of those opportunities and have career pathways in the sector.

Steve Halsey, Chief Executive of London Borough of Tower Hamlets, said: "This is a major coup for Tower Hamlets and UK PLC. While we have some of the most ambitious housing targets in the country for our residents, we also look outwards to secure international investment into our borough and in turn London and the UK as a whole.

"Our message is clear. Tower Hamlets is open for business and

our new Local Plan supports investment and development in what is already one of the most popular places to live, visit and work in the country."

JPMorganChase plans are subject to a continuing positive business environment in the UK and the receipt of the necessary approvals and agreements at a national and local level including planning permission.



Highlights for the judges included visiting Rocky Park in Bethnal Green

Green spaces scoop gold at Britain in Bloom awards

CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

Tower Hamlets has won gold at the Britain in Bloom UK Finals for the first time.

Tower Hamlets was one of 44 finalists and the only London borough shortlisted.

The Gold Award in the Small City & City category follows a visit by Britain in Bloom judges this summer.

Judges were taken to various places around the borough, including gardens, nature reserves, a city farm, housing estates, community growing schemes, Victoria Park and the Canary Wharf estate.

A highlight of the tour was the visit to Rocky Park in Bethnal Green. Judges met urban growers and learnt about the thriving community allotment which has seen a previously under-used space transformed into a thriving urban garden, offering people in the area the chance to connect with nature and learn about sustainable growing practices.

This is the first time Tower Hamlets has achieved Gold status in Britain in Bloom.

Council teams, including parks, worked in partnership with dozens of community groups to achieve the Gold award on behalf Tower Hamlets residents.

Bloom judges Brendan Mowforth

and Andrew Jackson specifically mentioned Rocky Park Urban Growers and Bethnal Green Ecology Garden & Nature Reserve for their role in providing access to nature, opportunities for growing, health and well-being, and education and social activities.

They said: "It shows how areas can be transformed imaginatively into much valued and loved community facilities for the benefit of the local residents and urban wildlife."

"It was a pleasure to meet so many dedicated and committed council staff and community volunteers and workers as part of the judging tour."

"They are all a credit to the borough and excellent ambassadors for Tower Hamlets."

Parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets also received accolades in this year's London in Bloom Awards.

They were recognised for their commitment, passion, and enthusiasm for making Tower Hamlets a greener and more pleasant place to live, work and visit.

Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and Canary Wharf were amongst those recognised at the awards which aim to highlight and celebrate the joy gardening brings to London.

Tower Hamlets sites won eight gold awards including Best Heritage Park, Best Large Park, Best City, and Best Large Conservation area.

Vicky Park is the people's choice

Victoria Park, affectionately known as Vicky Park, has been named by Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award team as one of its "People's Choice" parks in the UK, following a national vote by members of the public.



The outcome of this year's vote means that Victoria Park has retained the People's Choice title for a 13th consecutive year. The park is also the only park in London in the top 10 this year.

The special recognition comes after the site achieved the prestigious Green Flag Award quality mark, which recognises and accredits high quality and well managed green spaces, earlier this year.

Recent enhancements include the extensive restoration of the Old English Garden, a much-loved feature that now offers a tranquil escape with stunning seasonal displays.

The park's historical landmarks continue to captivate visitors, from the Burdett Coutts Memorial Fountain and the elegant Chinese Pagoda to the original London Bridge alcoves, which add a unique sense of history to every visit.

Vicky Park is also home to three beautiful lakes, providing habitats for wildlife and peaceful spots for relaxation.

These features, combined with the council's commitment to sustainability and community engagement, ensure the park remains a treasured destination for all.

Councillor Kamrul Hussain, Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation, said: "Parks and green spaces are havens of welcome, leisure and solace for all. Victoria Park, the largest in our borough, draws over nine million visitors each year to enjoy community events, live music, and sport."

"Thanks to the dedication of our staff and volunteers, it's a place we're proud to call ours."

"My thanks to everyone who voted and helped secure this prestigious award."

£5.3m funding for cost of living help

More than £5m from the government's Household Support Fund (HSF) is being used to help residents facing financial hardship.

Tower Hamlets Council is investing £5.3m to support residents struggling with essentials such as food, fuel and household items, and builds on the council's

ongoing efforts to protect the most vulnerable in the borough.

The funding follows the government's extension of the HSF until March 2026 and will be delivered through a range of targeted schemes.

Key support measures include:

- £800,000 for the Resident

Support Scheme: direct crisis grants for all residents to apply for

- £885,000 for the Food Hub: supplying a range of produce to 80 food banks, including £435,000 from the council's own budget

- £100,000 for Warm Hubs: heated community spaces this winter,

with warm packs including socks, gloves, hats and blankets.

- £80,000 for Community Cupboards: providing essential toiletries, nappies and household items.

- More than 20,000 households will receive direct cash vouchers.

Warm Hubs ensure no-one is left in the cold this winter



Warm hubs are at Idea Stores and libraries and offer hot drinks, snacks and support for residents

COST OF LIVING

Warm hubs across Tower Hamlets have welcomed thousands of residents this winter, offering a safe space to stay warm, socialise and reduce energy bills during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Warm hubs, based at the council's Idea Stores and libraries, opened in November and will continue until March. Last year, more than 20,000 people used the hubs.

They provide free hot drinks and snacks, helping residents avoid the difficult choice between heating

and eating.

Visitors also use the hubs to connect with others and access advice services for long-term support.

Last year, 64 volunteers supported the work of the hubs.

In addition to the hubs, the council has distributed hundreds of free energy packs containing hats, socks, gloves and other essentials to help residents stay warm at home.

Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, said: "No one should ever have to choose between heating their home and feeding their family.

"Our warm hubs have helped thousands of residents during this cold season.

"We're determined to do everything we can to cushion our residents from the worst effects of the cost-of-living crisis, putting health, dignity and wellbeing first."

Cllr Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and Cost of Living, added: "Our warm hubs are open to everyone, and you can access advice and support on a range of issues.

"I also want to remind residents aged over 66 to check if they're eligible for Pension Credit.

"It can boost your income and unlock additional benefits like help with housing costs, Council Tax and heating bills.

"Please don't miss out on the support that's available to you."

The council's Cost of Living Help webpage provides information on managing debt, help with household bills, school uniforms, childcare costs, finding a job and much more.

- For more help and advice from the council, you can visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving

Stay well this winter with top tips

As temperatures drop and daylight hours shorten, winter can take a toll on our physical and mental wellbeing.

To help you stay well this season, here are some essential tips:

Keep warm

Maintain a warm environment by heating your home to at least 18°C in rooms you use regularly. Layering clothes is more effective than wearing one thick item and warm accessories like hats and gloves help retain body heat. If

heating is a challenge, consider visiting local warm spaces like our local warm hubs: towerhamlets.gov.uk/warmhubs

Get vaccinated

Vaccinations are a key defence against winter illnesses. Flu vaccines are free for those aged 65+, pregnant women, social care workers and those with long-term conditions. Covid jabs are free for adults over the age of 75, living in care home or those who have a compromised immune

system. Find out more and book: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-and-booking-services/>

Be medicine ready

Ensure you have enough prescription medication to last through holidays and check expiry dates. Stock up on over-the-counter remedies for common winter ailments like colds and sore throats.

Stay active and eat well

Movement boosts circulation and mood. Even light activity helps, so find something you enjoy. A balanced

diet supports immunity and energy levels so have regular hot meals and drinks and continue eating five fruits and vegetables a day.

Stay connected

Keep in touch with friends, family, and neighbours. LinkAge Plus has a range of free and low cost activities for those aged over 50.

• For more tips and information, visit: towerhamlets.gov.uk/keepwellinwinter



Isolation affects around one in 10 in those aged 50+ - but help is at hand in Tower Hamlets

Don't be lonely this winter: Just Say Hello

HEALTH

A campaign is aiming to inspire regular connection through local activities for those aged 50+.

The Just Say Hello campaign is launching this winter for its third year in a row in response to the growing crisis of loneliness.

This year's focus is on those over the age of 50 as social isolation affects around 50,000 people in this age group.

The council has teamed up with five voluntary sector organisations

that work with residents aged over 50: Age UK East, Toynbee Hall, St Hilda's, Sundial at Peabody, and Neighbours in Poplar to encourage more socially isolated and vulnerable residents to join social activities.

In the past year, 750 new residents aged over 50 signed up to become members and now benefit from free or low cost social and wellbeing activities.

Loneliness can be a serious health risk.

It's linked to a 29 per cent increase in coronary heart disease,

a 32 per cent rise in stroke risk, and a 25 per cent higher chance of developing dementia.

Mental health is also affected, with elevated rates of depression and anxiety.

The council formed the Connection Coalition in 2017, made up of 300 partners, to enable a strategic approach to tackle this issue.

As a result of this partnership, the council has trained more than 40 warm hub volunteers on how to signpost residents to social and wellbeing activities across the borough.

Over the past two years, the council reached more than 2,000 residents by funding community-led events and tailored programmes to support adults with learning difficulties who are socially isolated and young people with SEND.

Also, 80 staff members have been trained across services to enable them to spot someone who is lonely and refer them for further support.

• You can find out about local activities by visiting toynbeehall.org.uk/linkage-plus/



A staff member delivering the meals to residents

Meals on Wheels targeting loneliness and food poverty

COST OF LIVING

Tower Hamlets Council has launched a new Meals on Wheels service, delivering hot meals to elderly and vulnerable residents across the borough.

The initiative is part of a £3m



Knowing that I will be getting a hot, tasty meal delivered to me every day does put a smile on my face

investment aimed at enhancing adult social care and tackling the cost-of-living crisis.

Tower Hamlets has the highest proportion of pensioners in England claiming Pension Credit at 42 per cent.

The Meals on Wheels service will provide nutritious meals directly to residents' homes, helping to combat food insecurity and social isolation while promoting dignity and independence for those most in need.

The service is expected to benefit hundreds of residents and forms part of a broader package of support that includes free home care, school uniform grants and energy relief for low-income households.

Service user Cornelia McCarthy, 63, who is benefiting from the service, said: "I am very grateful for the council for introducing the

Meals on Wheels service as I know many councils are unable to fund schemes like this.

"For those of us who are older or living alone, services like this aren't just helpful but essential.

"It's not just about food, it's about feeling cared for and connected.

"I have lived in Tower Hamlets for more than 40 years and the sense of community here is unique.

"It does make a difference having someone check in on you and making sure you are ok."

John Easby, 94, who receives daily meals, has found the service invaluable.

He said: "I don't have much family left and knowing that I will be getting a hot, tasty meal delivered to me every day does put a smile on my face. I have really enjoyed the meals so far and can't thank the staff enough."

Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, said: "We are proud to reintroduce Meals on Wheels as part of our commitment to ensuring that no one in Tower Hamlets is left behind.

"From free school meals to winter fuel payments and now hot meals for our elderly, we are setting a new standard in community-focused governance."

Cllr Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living, added: "The Meals on Wheels service is part of our strategy to support residents through every stage of life.

"We urge other councils to follow our lead in putting people first."

• **For more information or to refer someone to the Meals on Wheels service, you can email mealsonwheels@towerhamlets.gov.uk**

Don't let rent arrears ruin your festive season

Did you know that if you owe as little as two months' rent, it can take up to 6 months to clear your debt?

Christmas can come with additional expenses. This may lead to people having concerns around managing their bills.

If you're struggling to pay the rent this Christmas, please pick up the phone and talk to the council.

The council's specialist team can

talk you through your rent account and payment options – just get in touch.

The council has staff who can support you with debts or to claim benefits that you may be entitled to.

You can speak to one of the team, in confidence, on 020 7364 5015 Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5pm (option 3 and option 3 again) or email Rents@towerhamlets.gov.uk.

If you are having problems paying your rent, the council can:

- Discuss arrears repayment options to help you get back on track
- Help you set up a Direct Debit to support you to make regular rent payments
- Check that you are getting the right welfare benefits
- Make a referral to our specialist

debt advisor.

If you are a council tenant and leaseholder, register for the MyHome Customer Portal.

Sign up is quick and easy and you can check your rent balance, make a payment and report a repair 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

• Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/MyHome for more information and to sign up.



The 82 affordable homes in Bromley-by-Bow include autism-friendly houses

New homes transforming lives

HOMES FOR THE FUTURE

A new development is already transforming lives by delivering autism-friendly living.

Thanks to a partnership between housing provider Poplar HARCA, Tower Hamlets Council, nationwide placemaker Muse, and design and build contractor McAleer & Rushe, 82 affordable houses have been built in Stroudley Walk, Bromley-by-Bow.

The borough has seen a significant rise in housing applications from

families with autistic children, many of whom require larger, safer, more suitable homes that are in critically short supply.

The Stroudley Walk development offers 10 new accessible homes for local families.

Poplar HARCA is among the first Tower Hamlets-based housing providers actively applying the council's autism-friendly design principles to create more inclusive and supportive homes.

The council has been using these design principles in its own home building programme for a number

of years.

Kamal Hussain, who will soon move into one of the autism-friendly homes with his family, said: "We have been waiting for a long time to get a house on medical grounds, and now we have it."

"Four bedrooms upstairs, a living room and a kitchen downstairs. The garden is beautiful."

"Our children, my wife, all our family are happy."

The autism-friendly homes include features such as sensory-friendly fittings, enclosed staircases and secure kitchens, all designed

to reduce supervision needs and increase safety.

Danielle Bishop, Head of Housing for Poplar HARCA, said: "The new accessible homes at Stroudley Walk are sanctuaries: calm, safe, spaces that support independence and wellbeing."

The wider Stroudley Walk regeneration will deliver 274 new homes of which 33 will be for shared ownership.

"The remainder of the new homes, three new shops, new green spaces and a community hub, are expected to complete in spring."



The development includes an open-air children's play area, garden space, cinema room and bowling alley

Council redefining what modern living looks like

HEALTH

Indoor play areas, TV rooms, a cinema and even a bowling alley are redefining what modern living looks like in social rent and affordable homes in Tower Hamlets.

With space to build in short supply and more than 29,000 residents on the council's Housing Register, there has never been a greater need for innovative design and planning to help address the housing crisis.

Lutfur Rahman, Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, and Cllr Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets, visited a recently completed building project on the Isle of Dogs that demonstrates what can be achieved through partnership working.

Thames Quay, delivered by Chalegrove Properties Limited (CPL) and Poplar HARCA, provides 40 homes for affordable rent and 31 homes for shared ownership.

Half of the affordable rented homes are family sized with three

bedrooms or more.

Residents benefit from a large range of communal amenities, including an open-air children's play area, garden space with seating, a cinema room and even a bowling alley.

These shared spaces are free for residents to use and can be booked in advance.

Rami Atallah, of CPL, said: "Our goal was to create high-quality homes that enhance the lives of residents and contribute positively to the wider community."

"Developments like this show how thoughtful design and collaboration can help meet local housing needs while building places people are proud to call home."

Paul Dooley, Chief Development Officer at Poplar HARCA, added: "This is the power of collaboration - when developers and important local stakeholders like the council work hand in hand, we create inclusive homes that respond to the needs of the people who live in them."

New dedicated housing WhatsApp channel

A new WhatsApp channel dedicated to tenants and leaseholders will make it easier for you to stay up to date with what's happening in your homes and neighbourhoods.

After consultation with residents through surveys and focus groups, residents told the council they wanted more dedicated news about housing and that WhatsApp was their preferred channel.

The channel is part of the council's Your Voice, Our Action campaign and supports the work

it is doing to better communicate with tenants and leaseholders.

If you sign up, you will get quick updates every couple of weeks – no spam, just useful information like:

- News about your estate
- Local housing events and activities
- Safety alerts and helpful reminders
- Need-to-know housing information
- Ways to have your say

Cllr Kabir Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding, said: "We're keen to communicate more effectively with our tenants and leaseholders and that means giving them the information and news they want in the way that they want it."

"The benefits of joining the WhatsApp channel are that it's secure and private, no-one can see who has joined and your number stays hidden. There are no group chats, it's just useful messages straight to your

phone."

- It's simple to join: scan the below QR code using your phone's camera and click on 'join':



Events to kick hate out of borough



Events included a football match, peace walk and community conversations

Tower Hamlets Council engaged with around 9,000 people during events and community engagement to mark National Hate Crime Awareness Week (11-18 October).

This year's national theme focused on disability hate crime, shining a light on the unique challenges faced by disabled people and the importance of inclusive support.

In partnership with local organisations, residents and professionals, Tower Hamlets Council delivered 37 events across the borough, including community conversations, a peace walk and a community football match, which saw teams 'kick hate crime' out of Tower Hamlets.

The council's ongoing No Place for Hate pledge campaign continues to gather support. The pledges represent a growing network of individuals and organisations committed to standing against hate in all its forms.

Thanks to the No Place for Hate Forum, Inter-faith Forum, Metropolitan Police, Elop, 17-24-30 Charity, Apasen, Queen Mary University London, No Place for Hate Champions, Community Safety Team, Young Tower Hamlets, Family Hubs, Stay Safe East, Parks Facilities, Culture and Sports Department, Real Disability Organisation, local businesses and the London Muslim Centre.

Tackling drug misuse and crime with specialist squad

FIGHT CRIME

Tower Hamlets Council is the first in the country to create its own specialist Drugs Squad designed to tackle substance misuse and associated anti-social behaviour.

The launch follows an earlier successful pilot, which demonstrated the positive impact of the dedicated team in addressing persistent issues related to drug crime and anti-social behaviour.

By combining referrals and support with targeted enforcement, the team is able to respond effectively to individuals involved in drug-related offences and ASB.

In the two month pilot, the squad achieved a £50,000 drugs seizure, clearance of an area used for drug-taking and offered support to vulnerable residents caught up in illegal drugs.

The seven-officer team, believed to be the first council team of its kind in the UK which is solely dedicated to tackling this issue, combines enforcement with tailored support for vulnerable people with the aim of tackling substance misuse and related anti-social behaviour.

Working closely with police, the council's CCTV and enforcement teams, the Specialist Substance Misuse Investigations Team (SSMIT) and other local services, the squad is using a new model



The Drugs Squad aims to support vulnerable people and tackle substance misuse and the associated ASB

of community safety, one that targets the borough's most prolific offenders while offering pathways to support.

The new approach focuses on individuals, not just locations, using a list of 50 high-impact offenders whose behaviour is monitored and addressed through escalating interventions.

Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Integrated Enforcement, said: "We are officially

launching the Drugs Squad after a pilot saw the Squad have a significant impact and delivering swift results.

"We're proud to be leading the way with this innovative model.

"It's about listening to our communities, acting on what they tell us, exploring new and effective ways of working and making our streets safer for everyone."

The Drugs Squad was officially launched on 18 November with an event at Poplar Recreation Ground, with Executive Mayor

Lutfur Rahman, Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, members of the Drugs Squad and wider Integrated Enforcement Service from Tower Hamlets Council, as well as the Metropolitan Police and those offering referral services.

The Drugs Squad is part of an £8 million investment into community safety. Tower Hamlets Council has already invested more than £4million in enforcement resources since 2022, with another £4million to be invested by 2026.

£4m investment into CCTV

A total of £3.7m is being invested into upgrading the CCTV infrastructure across 26 estate blocks in the borough by Tower Hamlets Council.

Anti-social behaviour is one of the top concerns for Tower Hamlets residents, as highlighted in the latest residents' survey.

Tower Hamlets Council has already invested more than £4m in community safety since 2022, and these improvements are part of an additional £4m to be invested by 2026.

The improvements include:

- Installation of 100 new cameras targeting ASB and fly-tipping hotspots
- Repairs and replacements at existing sites
- Enhanced coverage at the Town Hall, London Square and leisure centres
- Expansion of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition network.

All cameras will feed into the council's upgraded state-of-the-art CCTV control room.

This will enable faster response times and support crime prevention efforts in partnership with the Metropolitan Police.

So far, work has been completed at eight blocks with 112 cameras repaired or newly installed.

A further 352 cameras are scheduled for inspection and upgrade.



Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury with one of the new cameras

Detective Superintendent Oliver Richter, Lead for Tower Hamlets Neighbourhood Policing, said: "We welcome this significant investment in CCTV infrastructure across

Tower Hamlets.

"Enhanced coverage and upgraded technology will greatly support our efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour, improve response times and keep

communities safe.

"Working in partnership with the council, we're committed to making Tower Hamlets a safer place for all."

New anti-social behaviour phone line



THEOs will be able to respond to live incidents

A new dedicated phone line allows residents to report anti-social behaviour and get an immediate response.

The 24/7 phone line is designed to provide faster responses and gather better information to tackle issues more effectively.

Currently, there is no immediate response service for ASB reports. The new phone line, launched on Monday 3 November, allows Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) to respond to live incidents in the following categories:

- Open substance misuse including alcohol, drugs, and nitrous oxide (NOX)
- Rough sleeping or encampments which cause alarm, nuisance, or distress. Please note that rough sleeping alone is not considered

ASB

- Disturbances caused in or around stationary vehicles
- Related to the sex industry
- Groups loitering and causing nuisance like shouting, arguing, swearing or playing loud music
- Noise nuisance complaints.

How to report

Council tenants can report live incidents by calling 020 7364 2332.

If appropriate, THEOs will be dispatched to respond.

For incidents that have already occurred, residents should continue to use the online reporting form or the 'Find it & Fix It' app.

To report a crime, please call 101, or 999 in an emergency.

Council intervention sees police counter stay

The council has been successful in persuading the Metropolitan Police to reverse its decision to close the front counter at Bethnal Green Police Station.

The Police announced the decision in August to cut the number of front counters across London from 37 to 20.

Bethnal Green Police Station is the only remaining police station with a front counter in Tower Hamlets.

Had it gone ahead, residents and victims of crime would have faced travelling to neighbouring boroughs to report crime face to face.

Lutfur Rahman, Executive Mayor, and Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Integrated Enforcement, lobbied the Metropolitan Police by meeting with the Borough Commander, Assistant Commissioner Matt Twist and proposed a motion at the council's Full Council meeting in November urging the police to reconsider its decision.

Due to this, the Metropolitan Police reversed its decision on Bethnal Green Police Station front counter. It will now remain open for 12 hours on weekdays and 10 hours

on weekend days.

Lutfur Rahman, Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "It was simply not fair to the people of Tower Hamlets to close the only remaining front police counter in our borough.

"That's why I personally wrote to the Commissioner, and we consistently raised this issue with all levels of the police over several months to get this decision reversed. I am delighted that we have achieved this for our residents and local businesses."

Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Integrated Enforcement, said: "We are really pleased that our efforts to reverse the decision have been successful.

"If you are a victim of crime, many people would prefer to speak to a police officer face to face rather than having to report it through a website.

"It was simply unacceptable for Tower Hamlets residents to have to travel to other boroughs to report crime where they live. We are glad that the police listened to our concerns."



Do something amazing this year by becoming a foster carer



Local children need loving and supportive foster carers now.

People of all different backgrounds can foster. Tower Hamlets Council offers carers lots of support including fantastic training opportunities and generous financial support.



Call: 020 8496 3437
www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk

Tackling violence against women

Stalls, a screening of a domestic abuse film and a photo exhibition are just some of the ways Tower Hamlets Council marked 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and White Ribbon Day.

The two awareness events aim to end violence against women.

Tower Hamlets has the second highest number of domestic abuse offences in London (4,335), and the second highest rate per population.

Tower Hamlets Council is committed to supporting survivors of gender-based abuse every day of the year. It works closely with partners to provide:

- Specialist services for survivors of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and coercive control
- Culturally-sensitive support for those affected by honour-based abuse and female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Community outreach and education to challenge harmful attitudes and promote safety
- Training for professionals to identify and respond to abuse effectively.

During the 16 Days of Activism, Tower Hamlets Council hosted a range of events to raise awareness

and support survivors. Highlights included a fair connecting residents with local support services and community organisations, a photo exhibition featuring the resilience of women affected by violence, a screening of BBC's *Murdered by My Boyfriend*, based on the true story of Ashley, a young woman murdered by her controlling partner, and 40 other activities.

Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Integrated Enforcement, said: "Violence against women and girls is everybody's business and collectively we all have a part to play in working

towards a borough where nobody - regardless of ethnicity, gender, class, religion, or sexual orientation - feels unsafe on the street or at home."

If you or someone you know is impacted by domestic abuse and needs advice or support, please contact Solace on 020 3795 5064. If you would like to know more about events or training, email Domestic.Violence@towerhamlets.gov.uk.

- **Residents, especially men, can sign the pledge against gender-related violence at whiteribbon.org.uk/promise**



White Ribbon Day and 16 Days of Activism aim to stop violence against women

Report damp and mould

HOUSING

With the winter months upon us, Tower Hamlets Council has made it easier for tenants to report damp and mould in their homes.

When calling to report, the first option on the phone line is now damp and mould meaning it is quicker and simpler for tenants.

Awaab's Law is a new law which came into effect on 27 October.

It now requires social housing landlords to urgently investigate and fix serious hazards like damp

and mould within strict timeframes.

The council and other social housing providers in the borough must now:

- Investigate a damp and mould report within 10 working days
- Provide tenants with a report within three days
- Start repairs within five days of findings.

Damp and mould is common in homes during the colder months. Mould can be damaging to your health, especially if you have asthma or a health condition.

It can spread quickly, so it is

important to take early action to prevent it becoming serious.

There are things you can do to help prevent mould in your home, including:

- Reducing moisture in the air: like using extractor fans, drying clothes outside if possible or in a room with the door shut and the window open, and cooking with lids on pans
- Ventilating your home: opening windows to let fresh air in
- Keeping your home a steady temperature: try to keep it between

18-21 degrees.

It is not always possible or easy to follow this advice, and if the mould keeps coming back, residents are advised to always report it to their landlord.

You can get information and advice about how to manage damp and mould in your home and how to report issues at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/healthyhome

If you are a council tenant, report damp and mould by calling 020 7364 5015 (option 1)

Education Awards highlight hard work of young people

ACCELERATE EDUCATION

A total of 248 students from across the borough were celebrated at the Tower Hamlets Education Awards.

The event, which was held on Saturday 27 September at Mile End Stadium, acknowledged the dedication, talent and resilience of pupils in Tower Hamlets.

The ceremony brought together students, families, schools and community leaders to honour young people who had been nominated by their school for their achievements both in and beyond the classroom.

Students receiving an Education Award were presented with a certificate by the Executive Mayor

of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, and gifted with a £50 voucher.

Rochelle Lewis-Geary, Deputy Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets and co-host of this year's Education Awards, said: "Tower Hamlets is proud to celebrate the achievements of our young people in academics, creativity, leadership and positive action."

"As Deputy Young Mayor, I'm honoured to represent a generation ready to lead change, bring fresh ideas and help make our borough an even better place to live and learn."

Each local authority-maintained, independent and special school or college in the borough was invited to nominate up to ten learners,

with nominations open to those preparing to sit their GCSEs, A-levels or equivalent qualifications.

Students were thrilled to receive their awards. Harry Watson, from Bow School, said: "I'm really excited to be here. I was nominated for my hard work towards my A-levels, where I achieved three A*s."

"I'm off to Cambridge University to study medicine. I'm feeling a bit nervous but looking forward to getting started. It will definitely be a challenge, but it's always been a dream of mine to go to Cambridge."

Hasin Abdul, also from Bow School, said: "I feel proud that I've been recognised by the council for my school achievements."

"I'm off to UCL to study history

and politics of the Americas. I'm feeling really positive about starting the next step in my education, and I'm excited for what's to come."

Nominations reflected a broad set of criteria, capturing the many ways young people contribute to their school and wider community.

The awards highlight not only academic excellence, but also personal development, leadership and collaboration, and creative and social contribution.

Alongside the award presentation, there were speeches, performances, a video and interactive activities, with young people taking centre stage in the event's planning and delivery.



Huge investment for brighter futures

The Education Awards are part of wider support and investment into the educational journeys of children and young people.

Tower Hamlets Council has invested £13.7m in its youth service, Young Tower Hamlets,

which provides more than 100 free activities across youth centres and community settings.

It was also the first local authority in the country to introduce universal free school meals for all primary and secondary school pupils, saving

families an average of £550 per child, per year.

Since the scheme began in September 2023, around two million extra free meals have been provided to secondary pupils.

This year, the council has also

introduced School Clothing Grants, where families with a household income of up to £50,350 can claim £50 per child entering primary school at Reception Year, and £150 per child entering secondary school at Year 7.



The annual event thanked foster and kinship carers from across the borough

Celebrating the unsung heroes of our community

COUNCIL NEWS

Nearly 100 foster and kinship carers were celebrated at Tower Hamlets Council's annual carers celebration event on Friday 10 October, held during National Kinship Care Week.

The evening, held at Tower Hamlets Town Hall, brought together carers and staff from across the borough to recognise the extraordinary dedication carers have to children and young people in care.

Hosted by the council, the event featured a sit-down dinner, and disco and dance performances, offering a heartfelt thank you to those who provide loving, safe and stable homes to some of the borough's most vulnerable children.

Carers who have supported children over many years were presented with awards in recognition for their long service, with some foster carers dedicating more than 20 years to fostering.

This year's event also shone a spotlight on kinship carers - family members and close friends who step in to care for children when their parents are unable to. Their vital role was recognised alongside foster

carers, with a guest address from Jahnine Davis, the Department for Education's National Kinship Care Ambassador, whose role involves advocating for kinship carers and improving kinship care services and supporting standards in England.

Cllr Maium Talukdar Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning, said: "Our foster and kinship carers are the unsung heroes of our community."

"They open their hearts and homes to children who need them most, offering not just a roof over their heads, but stability, love and a sense of belonging."

"This event is a small way for us to say thank you for the life-changing work they do every day."

The evening was also an opportunity for carers to share their experiences, connect with peers, and reflect on the impact they've made over the past year and beyond.

Tower Hamlets Council remains committed to supporting its fostering and kinship care community and is always looking for more people to join its network of carers.

• To find out more visit www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk



Want to become a foster carer?

You can be:

- Single, married, divorced or living together
- In a same sex relationship
- Identifying as any gender
- From any ethnic or religious background
- A homeowner or living in rented accommodation
- Employed or in receipt of benefits
- Already a parent
- Living with disabilities.

You must:

- Have a spare bedroom (babies aged between 0-2 can share your bedroom)
- Live in reasonable traveling distance to Tower Hamlets
- Be aged over 21 and be a British citizen or have permanent leave to remain
- Have some experience of caring for, or working with, children or young people
- Be able to show your relationship is stable and you are both equally committed to fostering
- Not be pregnant
- Have no convictions for offences against children.

New children's library launches



Young children who attended a story time session were among the first visitors to celebrate the creation of a new children's library at Idea Store Canary Wharf.

Tower Hamlets Council and Canary Wharf Group are working in partnership to invest £1.4m to improve the facilities at the Idea Store, including a new children's library, and new heating, lighting and flooring.

As part of the launch, Cllr Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning, and Cllr Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources, joined in a story time session.

£1.4m is being invested into improving the facilities at Idea Store Canary Wharf



The students received laptops, broadband access and a training programme

New laptops tackling digital divide

ACCELERATE EDUCATION

212 more Year 7 pupils across four Tower Hamlets schools have received digital support as part of the ongoing Connecting Communities programme.

Connecting Communities is a partnership project between the East End Community Foundation, Tower Hamlets Council, the Letta Trust and Poplar HARCA and aims

to identify students and families in need of support.

The secondary school pilot, which launched in November 2024, builds on the success of the initiative in primary schools, with a total of 1,227 devices delivered to families in Tower Hamlets since the scheme started in 2020.

These devices are gifted to pupils and their families to ensure every student has access to the digital tools they need for learning, and

to develop the essential digital skills needed for their education and future careers.

In November, pupils at Swanlea, Central Foundation for Girls, Oaklands and Langdon Park schools received brand new laptops, broadband access and a comprehensive seven-step IT training programme.

East End Community Foundation Head of Grants and Community Engagement, Allan Anderson,

said: "Digital exclusion remains a significant barrier for many families across the East End.

"Through the Connecting Communities partnership, we're working with schools to ensure those who need support most have the devices, connectivity, and skills to participate fully in their education. It's fantastic to see the programme expand into secondary schools, helping even more young people to reach their potential."

Young Mayor elections start

This year, Tower Hamlets received the highest number of Young Mayor applicants ever.

A total of 92 ambitious young people aged 13 to 17 put themselves forward to be in with the chance of becoming the next Young Mayor.

The Young Mayor programme provides young people with the opportunity to represent the voices of young people in Tower Hamlets at a local, regional and national level. As representatives of young people, they work closely with the council to ensure that youth voices remain at the centre of decision making.

Cllr Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth, and Lifelong Learning, said: "I'm delighted to see so many young people involved in this process. This year we've received more than double the number of applications from the previous election. All of them should be proud of themselves for

taking the bold step to apply.

"I'm looking forward to seeing who the final 15 candidates will be and hearing their manifestos and plans for Tower Hamlets.

"I have no doubt that our next Young Mayor will be a brilliant young person who embodies the voice of young people in Tower Hamlets.

"Each Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets leaves behind a legacy. Our soon to be former-Young Mayor Fetuma Hassan has done brilliantly in her role and is now making strides in her academic studies at Harvard University studying Governance."

The final 15 candidates have now been chosen. Follow their campaigns and meet the final 15 candidates by following @youngtowerhamlets on Instagram and TikTok

You can also follow the process by visiting www.youngtowerhamlets.org.uk/get-involved/young-mayor-of-tower-hamlets



Some of the Young Mayor hopefuls

Events and activities for Youth Work Week



A number of events were organised

Young Tower Hamlets celebrated Youth Work Week with a vibrant programme of events, speeches, performances and workshops across local youth centres and beyond.

This year's theme, 'Building Brighter Futures: through safe places, trusted support, and opportunities to thrive', celebrated the vital role youth work plays in supporting and empowering young people. The week concluded with two celebration events held

at Haileybury Youth Centre and Limehouse Youth Centre.

During the week, Deputy Young Mayors Khadija Dirir and Iffat Bhuiyan represented Tower Hamlets at the UK Youth Parliament, speaking passionately in the House of Common on the importance of environmental reform. Meanwhile, singer-songwriter Bianca Santos performed her original song 'Last Night' at the London Youth Awards.

Girls' football team and youth space

Young Tower Hamlets has launched its first ever under-11's Girls' District Football Team.

The team was formed through collaborating and partnering with local schools, community coaches, and the council's youth service Young Tower Hamlets.

This initiative ensures that girls in Tower Hamlets have access to structured, high quality football facilities from a young age.

Girls' football coach, Rayhan said: "It's been an absolute pleasure coaching the girls over the last few months. When we first put together the district team, we didn't know

how much engagement we'd get but it's been overwhelming to see so many young girls have a true passion for the game."

Visit youngtowerhamlets.org.uk/get-involved/girls-district-football-team

Separately, Young Tower Hamlets will be launching its first ever girls-only youth centre in December.

Located next to St Pauls Way Secondary School, it will offer girls aged 11-19 (up to 25 with SEND) a library, social space, fitness classes and more.

Follow @youngtowerhamlets for more updates.



The club will give girls access to high quality football facilities

Leisure upgrades get the kick off

INVEST IN SERVICES

Almost £500,000 has been invested to refurbish and upgrade the football pitches at Mile End - part of the council's wider programme to enhance leisure facilities for residents across the borough.

The £432,716 refurbishment includes a new and improved sub-base for older pitches, installation of shock pads across all pitches for safer play, brand-new, high-quality artificial turf, stronger fencing, new kickboards, upgraded security systems and brand-new goalposts.

The newly refurbished pitches are now open for bookings, managed by PlayFootball and available through their website.

To mark the reopening, Executive Mayor Lutfur Rahman and Cllr Mohammed Kamrul Hussain, Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation, officially unveiled the new pitches alongside local community groups.

The Mile End pitches investment is part of a wider programme of



Executive Mayor Lutfur Rahman and cllr Mohammed Kamrul Hussain at the launch

improvements to leisure facilities across the borough.

Current and upcoming projects include:

- A major boiler system upgrade at John Orwell Sports Centre to improve heating and hot water
- A similar boiler replacement scheduled for York Hall

- Revamping of the multi-courts at Mile End with new fencing and resurfacing
- Planned improvements to health suites at Mile End and Whitechapel later this year.

Cllr Mohammed Kamrul Hussain, Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation, said: "These projects

ensure our residents have access to modern, safe and inclusive facilities that will serve the community for many years to come."

To book a football pitch at Mile End, visit the PlayFootball website, where you can check availability, pricing and choose from a range of pitch options.

Satisfaction rates high with leisure service



Competition winner Shazmin Begum, second from right

Almost three-quarters of residents (72 per cent) are satisfied or very satisfied with the borough's new leisure service, Be Well, a survey to mark one year of the service has found.

A total of 2,842 people responded to the survey, which entered them into a prize draw to win the first-ever Be Well membership card, granting one year of free membership and five day passes to Be Well The Spa. This was won by Shazmin Begum.

Be Well is continuing to invest in the borough's leisure infrastructure and to listen to direct feedback from residents. Planned improvements include:

- Reconfiguring and enhancing the women-only gyms at Poplar Bath and York Hall
- Upgrading the health suites at Whitechapel and Mile End Leisure Centres
- Major updates at Mile End Leisure Centre
- New water inflatables.

Be Well was created to provide inclusive, community-led leisure services. Visit be-well.org.uk

New female-focused Saturday market

A new market focused on female crafters, artists and makers is still open for two Saturdays - perfect for last minute Christmas gifts.

Organised by The East End Trades Guild (EETG), an alliance of nearly 400 small, independent businesses across London's East End, the market will take place every Saturday from 10am to 4pm outside E. Pellicci's Café on Bethnal Green Road until 20 December.

This launch marks a vibrant return of local creativity to the heart of Bethnal Green, providing fully subsidised pitches to local women on one of London's most historic high streets.

By bringing attention and footfall to the area, the Bethnal Green Market will help the Guild grow, paving the way for more stalls, more opportunities, and a more vibrant street life.

Their Crowdfunder remains open for backers who want to help the

market continue and support local independent artists and makers to stay in the East End.

Stallholders sell a range of different items, including Arabella from Fine Art and Fancy Things.

She said: "We'll be selling my miniatures - all my food and peg dolls, which are historical characters or things we find funny. I'm making a little Pellicci's fried breakfast in a saucepan!"

Kim Whitehead, of Bethnal Queens said: "Because I'm an older woman, I think others my age will feel comfortable coming to the stall.

"I've been to shops where you get funny looks for trying on something 'too young'. Bethnal Green Market hasn't had that for years, and I'm so excited. I'll see old friends, meet new ones, and give other women a bit of inspiration."

• To support the fundraising, visit crowdfunder.co.uk/p/eetg-market-for-bethnal-green-road



A Crowdfunder hopes to keep the market open

Campaign to tackle waste truck fires

COUNCIL NEWS

Tower Hamlets Council has launched a new safety campaign calling for urgent action to tackle the rise in fires caused by discarded batteries, warning that the problem is putting waste crews at risk and disrupting bin collections across the borough.

Dispose Safe aims to address the growing national problem of lithium-ion batteries igniting inside waste trucks and recycling facilities.

In Tower Hamlets alone, there were 22 fires linked to lithium-ion batteries, eight of which happened in our waste collection vehicles.

At the heart of the campaign is a short, animated film explaining how lithium batteries cause fires when crushed inside waste trucks and how residents can dispose of them safely. The animation is available to all local authorities and waste partners across the UK to help raise public awareness and promote consistent battery-safety messages.

London Fire Brigade Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Prevention & Protection, Richard Field, said: "Lithium-ion battery fires are a major risk and we are attending fires regularly involving waste in bin lorries, including

in Tower Hamlets. We've also attended significant fires at waste disposal sites across the capital, which we suspect are caused by lithium-ion batteries.

"These fires can be very time consuming for our firefighters and often require a high level of resources to extinguish. We've also seen the detrimental environmental and societal impact these fires can have on local communities.

"We urge people to check with the retailer or your local authority's website for the safest way to dispose of lithium-ion batteries in your area and reduce the risk of fires occurring."

Executive Mayor Lutfur Rahman said: "Every time a battery is thrown into the bin, it risks exploding when crushed inside a waste truck. That puts our frontline crews in danger, damages expensive vehicles and causes serious delays to residents' collections.

"We are calling on residents, councils and the Government to take this issue seriously. Through our Dispose Safe campaign, we are showing that prevention is simple: do not bin it, recycle it safely. Together, we can stop these fires before they start."

Cllr Shafi Ahmed, Cabinet



A recent fire in one of the waste trucks

Member for Environment and Climate Emergency, said: "These fires are frightening, unpredictable and completely avoidable. They not only threaten the safety of our staff but also lead to missed collections and major service delays for residents when trucks are damaged or taken out of service."

The Dispose Safe campaign follows the success of Tower Hamlets' previous Charge Safe initiative, run in partnership with the London Fire Brigade's #ChargeSafe campaign, which raised awareness of safe e-bike and e-scooter charging. That campaign was widely praised for

improving public awareness and has since been adopted by other councils.

Residents are urged to:

Never put batteries, vapes or electricals in household bins or recycling sacks.

Use battery recycling bins in supermarkets and electrical retailers.

Take larger batteries, such as e-bike or e-scooter packs, to Northumberland Wharf Recycling Centre. If a battery is swollen, leaking or overheating, store it outside in a plastic container until it can be recycled safely.

Struggling to tackle mould?

Don't ignore it

Report mould to your landlord, they can help



Get advice at

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/healthyhome



**BREAK THE MOULD
IN YOUR HOME**



Funding and support for start-ups



There are four projects to support entrepreneurs and small businesses

Four new projects have been launched as part of a £400,000 initiative to help residents set up their own business and support small businesses to take them to the next level.

Think Start Up2 is a fast-track programme if you have a business idea but aren't sure where to start. You will receive practical hands-on advice, and expert guidance to help test, validate and grow your idea.

Supported Access to Finance 2 supports aspiring entrepreneurs who require financial backing with a chance to apply for a £2,500 kick-start grant. Through this project you will attend training, develop a business plan and register a new business on Companies House or register as self-employed.

Women Mean Business 2 supports

the growth of existing female led Tower Hamlets businesses. It focuses on businesses that are already established (with a minimum of 18 months trading) and need support and guidance to grow their enterprise.

Support for Startups encourages the growth and survival of early-stage startup businesses. It includes a programme of mentorship, technical assistance, workshops and networking opportunities to help founders build strong, scalable businesses. Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/openforbusiness. The projects are funded through the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which aims to build local pride in communities and increase life chances across the UK.



One of the businesses includes Ong Lai Kopitiam, a traditional Malaysian coffee shop, with cllr Musthak Ahmed

10 new independent businesses

JOBS AND SKILLS

Ten local and independent businesses have been able to establish themselves in new affordable-rent units, thanks to the council's Business Growth Team and Canary Wharf Group.

Businesses were able to pitch to use the units at 8 Harbord Square, Wood Wharf, on the Canary Wharf Estate, with support given throughout the process and selections based upon long-

term economic viability, detailed business plans and the provision of amenities for the sustainable growth of the expanding Wood Wharf community.

Each business has also been chosen based on the strong, unique offering they can bring.

Brands currently open or opening soon include Awe London, Wayne Hairdresser Salon, The Flower Club, Pawsome Pet Grooming, Cafe Seek, Ong Lai Kopitiam and Supershakes.

Staff at Ong Lai Kopitiam have a

passion to share the rich flavours of Malaysian cuisine. It started with Eat Lah, their popular street food stall.

They always had a desire to establish a permanent "kopitiam"; a traditional Malaysian coffee shop. Customers at Ong Lai Kopitiam can enjoy Malaysian classics with a modern twist such as kolo mee and nasi kerabu, as well as snacks such as roti boy and karipap.

For Bow-raised Kamden Monplaisir, having always been fascinated by the unique nature of the Canary Wharf area, the opportunity

to expand her beauty brand Awe London to Wood Wharf has been a dream come true.

Awe London specialises in creative nails and other beauty treatments.

Cllr Musthak Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Enterprise, Skills and Growth, said: "It was a pleasure to visit a number of these new businesses to see how they are establishing themselves in their new Wood Wharf community, and I wish them every success for the future."

Honouring Remembrance Day



A two minute silence was held on Armistice Day at the Town Hall

Commemoration events were held across the borough on Remembrance Sunday 9 November and on Remembrance Day 11 November to honour the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women involved in the two world wars and later conflicts.

The Union flag was raised at the Town Hall in Whitechapel and the Town Hall was lit in red, white and blue marking Armistice Day.

Armistice Day was marked with a short commemoration at the Town Hall, Whitechapel, including a two-minute silence and wreath laying, attended by: Deputy Mayor, Cllr Maium Talukdar, Speaker

of Council, Cllr Suluk Ahmed, Cllr Peter Golds, Armed Forces Champion, Leslie Morgan OBE, Deputy Lieutenant, John Ludgate, former Deputy Lieutenant and Freeman of the Borough, Cllr Marc Francis, Cllr Kabir Ahmed, Steve Halsey, Chief Executive, and HMS President Sub Lt Lewis Riste and Sub Lt Charlie Holness

Other events took place at Bethnal Green Gardens, The Merchant Navy Memorial, Tower Hill, The War Memorial, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Christ Church, Isle of Dogs, St. Anne's, Limehouse, St. George's in the East, St Luke's, Millwall, Memorial Gardens, Millwall and St Dunstan's Stepney.



Proud Sponsors of the Tower Hamlets Mayor's Cup 2025

We'd like to celebrate the players, volunteers, and organisers who make the Mayor's Cup such an inspiring and inclusive day for Tower Hamlets.

Guildmore is proud to support this festival of football, standing alongside the community in celebrating teamwork, participation, and healthy lifestyles.

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www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/reep



Hundreds take part in two exciting tournaments

The winners of the Mayor's cricket and football cups and were crowned recently after two exciting tournaments.

For the cricket, sixteen adult teams and 12 junior and youth teams took part in the tournament across the first weekend of September.

Sixty-three exciting matches, played at Victoria Park, saw London Sportif, Wanstead Ladies, WH Eagles and Tigers lift trophies in the men's, women's, under 17s' and under 11s' categories.

For the football, a total of 966 players took part, with teams across 10 age categories.

Vallance won the under 8s, under 10s and under 16s. Victoria Park won the under 9s and under 13s, Mindest the under 11s and Shadwell Central Tigers the under 12s. Frontline took the under 14s' trophy, and One Goal the under 15s.

Royal Regents took the open age women and London Sportif the open age men.



Football and cricket tournaments took place recently

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Bowled over by new cricket pitch

COUNCIL NEWS

A new grass cricket pitch has been unveiled in Victoria Park, marking a new chapter in creating a safe, inclusive and community-friendly environment for cricket in Tower Hamlets.

England international cricketer Maia Bouchier played as part of a six over match to celebrate the launch which also featured major announcements on the vision for developing the outfield and cricket square over the next three years.

Plans include creating safer spaces for women and girls; innovative ground designs and landscaping; and opportunities for local teams to participate in the game at the highest level of league cricket.

Lutfur Rahman, Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, and Cllr Kamrul Hussain, Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation, were joined at the launch event by representatives from Tower Hamlets Cricket Club (THCC) and Md. Shahidul Alam, CEO Capital Kids Cricket (CKC), who are working alongside the council to ensure that community voices remain central in the ongoing

development of the cricket square.

Additionally, as part of the council commitment to promoting equal opportunities for girls and women in sport, female coaches will be present at all training sessions, Sundays will remain a day for women and girls' cricket, and next year will see the introduction of the Maia Bouncer London Cricket League which will be held in Victoria Park.

Cllr Kamrul Hussain said: "This new pitch at Victoria Park reflects Tower Hamlets Council's commitment to community wellbeing, and sport for all. We're proud to support a project that empowers women and girls, young people, and community inclusion."

Maia Bouchier, England international cricketer and CKC Patron, said: "It's wonderful to see years of local campaigning lead to something so positive. Victoria Park is now a place where everyone can enjoy cricket together in a safe and welcoming environment. This ground can serve as a model for others to follow - showing how open park spaces can be safe, inclusive and inspiring for everyone, especially women and girls."

Angus Fraser, former England



Sunday will remain a day for women and girls' cricket

international and Managing Director of Middlesex Cricket in the Community, said: "Middlesex Cricket has always been proud to work alongside Tower Hamlets Council, Capital Kids Cricket and our community partners to make the game accessible to all. We will

continue to support these efforts and help develop opportunities for players across the borough.

"It's fantastic that Tower Hamlets now has a true home ground - a place where local players can grow, compete and aspire to play at higher levels."

Festival celebrates all forms of kindness



Khadija Halim Rahman

A Season of Bangla Drama, the borough's unique theatre festival, returned in November with the theme of 'kindness'.

The festival, which showcases new productions, featured performances that examined kindness from different perspectives, including kindness seen through the eyes of migrants; the kindness of caring for our own wellbeing; and how kindness and empathy can have a positive impact in our communities.

The festival programme also presented comedy, conversation, music and songs in a mixture of Bangla, Sylheti and English.

Now in its 22nd year, A Season of Bangla Drama also hosted its annual fringe programme of events including art workshops, exhibitions, talks and walks.

The month-long festival opened at the Brady Arts Centre in Whitechapel with An Anthology of Kindness - short stories which explored humanity, empathy, and resilience, revealing how kindness shapes our connections in profound ways.

As part of the festival, Khadija Halim Rahman's exhibition titled

Looking Through a Prism was on show at the Brady Centre.

The show was a collection of paintings, sketches, video installations and fashion pieces, each telling a different stage about the artist's life. Some were sombre reflections, some interpreted happy childhood memories, others paid tribute to significant people in her life.

Speaking on opening night, Khadija gave an insight into some of the artwork on display. She explained: "One piece is an Ode to Autumn, dedicated to my mother who I recently lost. It reminds me of devastation, and when the leaves fall, it is also about preservation."

"Another small painting speaks about my current life and the people behind me, and another piece is of my childhood and people who we've lost over a period of time. The work is part of a quest to find out what matters in life, how much we need, and who we see. Peer through the looking glass and ask yourself these questions."



More than 50 residents took part in an intensive leadership course

New leaders of tomorrow break down barriers to bring change

COUNCIL NEWS

Graduates poised to be the new leaders of tomorrow were praised for their vision and commitment to creating a fairer borough at a celebration event.

More than 50 residents took part in an intensive leadership course this year, run by Tower Hamlets Council, aimed at increasing the number of Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic people in community leadership roles.

The council hosted a graduation event at the Town Hall on 28

October to celebrate participants' achievements.

National award-winning organisation Olmec delivered the Community Leaders of Tomorrow training as part of the council's I Can Be... campaign aimed at reducing racial inequalities.

Many of the graduates spoke about their positive experience during the course and how they have succeeded in gaining board and community roles.

Graduate Usha Kong, who is a coach, inspirational speaker and social enterprise leader, said: "Before I joined Black on Board, I

questioned whether spaces for true representation really existed, and whether they were genuinely open to people like me.

"Black on Board has reinforced my belief in the power of lived experience leadership, and as I always say, real change begins when belief turns into action.

"This programme equips us with the knowledge, credibility and pathways to step into boardrooms at every level, not questioning whether we belong, but knowing that we do."

Cllr Bodrul Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Equalities and Social Inclusion,

met with graduates and awarded certificates at the event.

He said: "I am incredibly proud of the residents who have completed the I Can Be... Community leadership programme.

"Their commitment and courage to step into leadership roles is inspiring.

"This initiative is a vital step in ensuring our community leadership reflects the rich diversity of Tower Hamlets.

"We are building a borough where everyone has the opportunity to lead and make a difference."

Postal vote application deadline

Following a change in the law, if an elector wishes to vote by post they can only do so now for a period of three years and then a new postal vote application must be made.

The Tower Hamlets Council electoral services team has been

contacting electors to inform them that their postal vote will expire on 31 January 2026, and a new application is required.

This can be done now rather than wait until 31 January 2026 and is very important if you want

to continue to vote by post at the Executive Mayor and Local Council elections to be held on Thursday 7 May 2026 and beyond.

Applications can be made online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote and paper applications are available

from the Tower Hamlets electoral services team. Further information at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vote and please contact the electoral services team if you have any questions at vote@towerhamlets.gov.uk or 020 7364 0872.

Christmas and New Year (2025-2026)

Waste collection schedule

Over the bank holiday period there will be changes to your normal rubbish, recycling, food and garden waste collection arrangements.



Scheduled collection date	Service status	Revised collection day
Monday 22nd December	Full Service	
Tuesday 23rd December	Full Service	
Wednesday 24th December	Full Service	
Thursday 25th December	No Service	Thursday collections on Saturday 27th December
Friday 26th December	No Service	Friday Collections on Sunday 28th December
Saturday 27th December	Thursday 25th December work	
Sunday 28th December	Friday 26th December work	
Monday 29th December	Full Service	
Tuesday 30th December	Full Service	
Wednesday 31st December	Full Service	
Thursday 1st January	No Service	
Friday 2nd January	Thursday 1st January work	Thursday Collections on Friday 2nd January
Saturday 3rd January	Friday 2nd January work	Friday Collection Saturday 3rd January
Sunday 4th January	Full Service	

Nominations open for Civic Awards

The Tower Hamlets Civic Awards are the borough's opportunity to say a very special thank you to the local unsung heroes who live, work or study in the borough.

The Civic Awards 2026 nominations are open to honour those who dedicate their time and efforts to improve the lives of people across Tower Hamlets.

Nominations close on Wednesday 31 December 2025. The winners will be chosen by a cross-party panel, chaired by the Speaker of the Council, cllr Suluk Ahmed and

include representatives from the community.

• Find out more and nominate at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/civicawards



The plaque was unveiled for Ayub Ali Master, inset

People's Plaque for Bengali pioneer unveiled

COUNCIL NEWS

A commemorative plaque honouring Ayub Ali Master, a pioneering figure in British Bengali history, has been unveiled on Christian Street, near the site where he and Shah Abdul Majid Qureshi ran the Indian Seamen's Welfare League office in 1943.

Ayub Ali Master played a vital role in supporting South Asian seamen and migrants in East London during the early 20th century. His work laid the foundations for community organising and welfare support that benefited generations of British Bengalis.

Born in 1900 in Sylhet, Ayub Ali Master settled in East London in the 1920s and opened the Shah Jalal restaurant on Commercial Street which served as a hub for the Asian community.

His home at 13 Sandys Row became a safe haven for lascars - Bengali sailors escaping harsh conditions and contractual restrictions.

Ayub Ali provided shelter, food and practical assistance, helping them register with authorities and access essential services.

In 1943, he co-founded the Indian Seamen's Welfare League on Christian Street to formalise this support.

The unveiling was managed by Tower Hamlets Council as part of its historic People's Plaques Scheme, launched in 2013 to commemorate people, places and events of local significance.

Through the scheme, residents were invited to nominate candidates for a Tower Hamlets People's Plaque. Ayub Ali Master received the highest number of valid votes.

A total of eight plaques have

been installed across the borough so far through the initiative, including those for Tasadduq Ahmed, Marge Hewson, Nicolas Culpeper, Tommy Flowers, Sowabullah Munshi and Clara Grant.

The unveiling was attended by 40 people, including Master Ayub Ali's granddaughter, Parul Husain, Cllr Kamrul Hussain, Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation, and community representatives, including members of the Swadhinata Trust.

Parul Husain said: "Our family are immensely proud and excited about this historic event. Our grandfather was an early Bangladeshi pioneer.

"He arrived in London in 1919. He aided so many people in the Bangladeshi community when they first arrived in the UK, as he was fluent in English and Bengali.

"He also worked tirelessly for social justice via the Indian Seaman's

Welfare League during the 1940s."

Julie Begum, Chair of the Swadhinata Trust, said: "The Swadhinata Trust was formed in 2000 to promote British Bengali history and culture, ensuring it is recognised as an essential part of British history and, by extension, our contemporary world.

"As we mark our 25th anniversary, we are proud to support the unveiling of the plaque for Ayub Ali Master in Tower Hamlets.

"The Bengali community has long campaigned for recognition of Ayub Ali Master's contributions, both to London and internationally.

"He provided invaluable support to local people in need, long before the establishment of the British welfare state."

The Swadhinata Trust has recently launched free Bengali heritage walks where people can learn more about the work of Ayub Ali Master.

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Women Mean Business 2 supports the growth of existing female led Tower Hamlets businesses.

Support for Startups encourages the growth and survival of early-stage startup businesses.



Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/openforbusiness for details.



From sticky to sleek: cleaning up gum from our streets

CLEAN AND GREEN

The streets of Brick Lane are looking distinctly less sticky after the council used a £27,000 grant to tackle the issue of discarded chewing gum on the roads and pavements.

The council used the funding from organisation Behaviour Change to set up a Chewing Gum Taskforce which carried out a specialist cleaning trial for three weeks during October, focusing on chewing gum removal along Brick Lane.

As chewing gum is so sticky, it required specialist equipment to get rid of it which the council didn't own.

The Chewing Gum Taskforce trial was a success and has made a noticeable difference to the look and feel of the area.

Brick Lane is one of our borough's most popular destinations, known for its international food stalls, vintage shops, historic landmarks and vibrant night-time economy. With millions of visitors each year, keeping the area clean is a top priority.

While recent monitoring by Keep Britain Tidy showed improvements in general litter and detritus levels in the borough, chewing gum remained a persistent issue.

In response to concerns from residents and local businesses, the council worked with the Bangla Town Working Group to schedule regular street washing.

The money will also be used to create a public awareness campaign to discourage littering and leaving gum.

The council is now looking at how it can fund the taskforce to tackle more areas of the borough.



The Chewing Gum Taskforce tackled the sticky issue in Brick Lane

£1.2m to fund more EV chargers

Tower Hamlets Council has secured £1.2m from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund in partnership with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, paving the way for hundreds of new charging points

across the borough.

The funding will deliver more than 300 new fast chargers (7-22kw) in Tower Hamlets over the next two years, with installations starting in early 2026.

The project also includes the

introduction of accessible rapid chargers.

The announcement builds on the borough's record-breaking rollout of 2,000 new electric vehicle charging points through a partnership with Ubitricity earlier this year.

That scheme, one of the fastest rollouts of public charging points in the UK, moved Tower Hamlets from 19th to 3rd in London for the number of public chargers available, with more than 2,370 now in operation.

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Admire Tom's cityscapes

HISTORY

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives will soon be hosting a small exhibition of local artist Tom Lyddon's artworks. These were recently deposited for permanent preservation in the council's archive collections. The vibrant display showcases a variety of mixed-media cityscapes depicting the borough of Tower Hamlets.

Tom Lyddon was born in 1942 in Buckinghamshire. The family moved to Essex around 1947, then to Blackwall. He has lived in Poplar's Teviot Estate since 1976.

In the 1950s, Tom attended St Bernard's Catholic Boys School on Damian Street, Stepney, where art was his favourite subject. After leaving school he worked for Crown Wallpaper in Bow as a hand engraver, and then at Herbert Morris Brown and Lennox, a chain and lifting gear manufacturers in Millwall, as a lorry driver taking goods across the South East. He loved the freedom of travelling and eventually passed the Knowledge to become a black cab driver. He held his green badge from 1976 until retiring in 2012.

But in later life, Tom returned to art, as he reflects: "In the late 1980s, I began to be serious about learning to paint. I found that the artist John Copnall gave painting lessons locally in the artists' colony in the former Spratts dog biscuit factory." And so began Tom's journey in exploring his urban surroundings through paint, pastels, charcoal and linocuts.

His work was exhibited at the Southbank as part of the Greater London Council's 'Paintings for London', and in recent times at the Yurt Café in Limehouse. In retirement, Tom has regularly attended the art classes provided by Idea Store Learning at the Shadwell Centre, where he made a strong impression on staff and students alike.

An event celebrating the exhibition will be held in January 2026. Please visit the website for more details.

1 December 2025 – 27 March 2026

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

First floor

277 Bancroft Road, London E1 4DQ

Nearest tubes: Stepney Green and Mile End

www.ideastore.co.uk/local-history



Tom Lyddon will be exhibiting at the Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archive

Month long film exhibition

For the first time in the Film London Jarman Award's eighteen-year history, Whitechapel Gallery is hosting a month-long exhibition of films by all six shortlisted artists.

Featuring work by Arwa Aburawa and Turab Shah, Karimah Ashadu, Onyeka Igwe, Hope Strickland, Morgan Quaintance and George Finlay Ramsay, the exhibition will offer audiences the chance to explore an extraordinary range of boundary-pushing moving image work.

On until 14 December, the exhibition represents the culmination of a nationwide tour of the shortlisted artists' work.

The Film London Jarman Award is presented by Film London through the support of Arts Council England in association with Whitechapel Gallery.

The award recognises and supports artists working with moving image and celebrates

the spirit of experimentation, imagination and innovation in the work of UK-based artist filmmakers. The Award is inspired by visionary filmmaker Derek Jarman.

On Thursday 11 December, from 6.30pm to 8pm, Whitechapel Gallery will hold an evening event celebrating the work of the winner of this year's Film London Jarman Award.

Entry to the exhibition is free.

Visit whitechapelgallery.org for further information.

Support Women's History Month

A diverse programme of exhibitions and events will take place across East London to mark Women's History Month.

The programme will celebrate the work of women artists, activists, writers, performers, community groups and organisations.

If you are planning a relevant exhibition, performance, event or workshop during March 2026, there is an opportunity to include your activities in the Women's History Month programme which will be widely promoted. Participation is free.

The programme will also include events celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March 2026 and International Women's Week 2 - 8 March 2026.

The deadline for submission is 12 January 2026.

For more information contact Maggie Pinhorn at info@alternativearts.co.uk or 07852 372362, or visit www.alternativearts.org.uk

Separately, the council's arts and events team will be hosting its third annual exhibition to celebrate the talent and creativity of women in Tower Hamlets for Women's History Month.

The exhibition will be on show at The Brady Arts Centre in Whitechapel throughout March.

This is an open call for artwork from women of all ages who live, work or study in Tower Hamlets.

You don't need to be a professional artist or designer-maker or to have exhibited before.

If you enjoy drawing, painting, printmaking, working with textiles, photography or any other medium,



Credit: Takaiya McGhie

we want to hear from you.

You must live, work or study in Tower Hamlets, and your submitted work must be ready to display.

The deadline for online submission is 5pm on Friday 16 January 2026.

For more information visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts

News in brief

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year as an important reminder of how we can learn from the Holocaust and more recent genocides for a better future.

A series of events will take place in the borough from 25 to 28 January.

The theme for HMD in 2026, 'Bridging Generations', is a call to action. It is a reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors - it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us.

This theme encourages us all to engage actively with the past. By doing so, we build a bridge between memory and action, between history and hope for the future.

For further information visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/HMD

Festive Winter Adventure

Santa, singing, a 'sleigh-off' and stalls are some of the exciting activities coming to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park this December, as part of a brand-new festive programme called Winter Adventure.

From 6pm every evening, a different park venue opens its doors and unlocks a special, free activity for visitors to experience. Expect a mix of music, food, art, performance and sport.

All activities are free to enter.

Visit www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/whats-on/winter-adventure

Festive hunt on the Docklands Light Railway

Search for 10 snowflakes at 10 stations between 15 December and 2 January to win a special prize.

The hunt is organised by The Docklands Light Railway and participating stations include Tower Gateway, West India Quay, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens and Mudchute.

Claim your prize from the information centre at London City Airport or Tower Gateway.

Participate for free by downloading the Actionbound app. Full terms and conditions are available within the app.

Events

Urban Makers Christmas Market

This festive market returns for the 10th year, featuring an array of sustainable and ethical products crafted by talented designers. Urban Makers will welcome 50 different designers each day, showcasing a variety of unique and handcrafted items, including Christmas gifts and decorations, homewares, jewellery, art, candles, clothing, accessories and more.

Urban Makers Feast will also be on hand with a selection of festive food and drink.

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 December (11am-5pm daily)

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

Free entry

urbanmakers.co.uk/christmas-market-mile-end-ecology-pavilion/



Urban Makers

East End History Club for families

Parents or carers of children under the age of five are invited to join monthly 'stay and play' sessions. Bring your little one, meet other parents over a cuppa and browse some local history materials selected in advance by engagement and learning officers from the archive. Drop in - no booking required.

6 February and 6 March (10-11.30am)

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

Exhibitions

Save The Children

Artist Baish Kabir's new paper painting artworks will be exhibited as part of a solo art exhibition. The art form Paper Painting is the result of nearly three decades of research and creation. These artworks are created on paper using paper on paper powerful synthetic resin adhesive, and other materials—designed to ensure durability and quality.

Baish Kadir has previously exhibited in Bangladesh, India and here in London. This is his 16th solo exhibition.

5 December to 31 January (Monday – Friday 9am – 7pm; Saturday 10am – 4pm)

Closed from 25 December to 5 January

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



Save the Children

THAT Network Annual Art Exhibition

This annual exhibition showcases the creativity of students across schools and colleges in Tower Hamlets. Work ranges from key stage 2 up to A level from a variety of disciplines such as drawing, textiles, graphic communication, photography, ceramics, mixed media and painting.

Free

3 to 12 February (11am – 6pm daily, closing 3pm on the last day)

The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY
www.thatnetworklondon.wordpress.com



THAT network

LGBTQ+ History Month Exhibition

An exhibition celebrating London's LGBTQ+ Community. Co-curated by Atalanta Kernick, artist, librarian and activist.

6 February to 28 February (Monday-Friday 9am-7pm; Saturday 10am-4pm)

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

Tom Lyddon's East End cityscapes

A small exhibition of local artist Tom Lyddon's artworks which he recently deposited with Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives. A selection of mixed-

media works which depict a vibrant variety of cityscapes across Tower Hamlets are on display.

Until 27 March

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

Gabriel Chaile

The 2026 Whitechapel Gallery annual commission is by the Argentinian and Lisbon-based artist Gabriel Chaile (b. 1985, San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina). The commission marks Chaile's first major London institutional solo show following his shortlisting for the Fourth Plinth (2024) and an earlier presentation at Studio Voltaire (2023).

Community and collaboration are central to his work, which draws on pre-Hispanic traditions and often centres around food as a unifying element – one that fosters new meanings and connections with ancestral rituals and collective modes of gathering. For his commission at Whitechapel Gallery, the artist will draw on the historical and cultural identity of the East End.

Free

1 April – 13 September
Whitechapel Gallery, 77-82 Whitechapel High St, E1 7QX
whitechapelgallery.org

By Appointment Only: Romani art, culture & heritage

This new display showcases works by British Romani artists Corrina Eastwood, Dan Turner and Turner prize-winner Delaine Le Bas, exploring identity, heritage and Romani visual activism. Co-curated with artist Corrina Eastwood, 'By Appointment Only' highlights the Romani communities' contribution to British society, challenging stereotypes, and offering an invitation to foster better understanding and connection.

Free

Until 31 January 2027 (10am – 5pm daily, closed 24, 25 & 26 Dec)
London Museum Docklands, No. 1 Warehouse, West India Quay, E14 4AL



Romani art

Classes

Explore: Spring Art and Design Programme 2026

These free programmes, run by A Team Arts Education, are for young people aged 11-19 who are interested in art and design, as well those who are curious and wanting to explore new ideas, processes and techniques. All programmes are free for young people who live, work or study in Tower Hamlets. Advance registration is required. Contact ateamartseducation@gmail.com or 07956 377537

Creative Studio: 17 January to 21 March (Saturdays, 11am-3.30pm)

Craft Skill induction: 17 to 20 February (Half Term, 11am-5pm)

Portfolio Development for young people in years 12 and 13 wanting to prepare for Foundation and BA Level studies: 23 January to 27 February (Fridays, 4-6.30pm)

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



A Team Arts Education

Art4U2 Art classes

Mixed media art workshops where you will be using oil painting, printmaking, collage, watercolours, pastels and acrylics. Do your own thing or join in with techniques demonstrated.

Students will have the opportunity to exhibit their work in local cafes and galleries.

Classes cost £8 (cash) and you can drop-in or sign-up in advance by email at ginnyhawke5@hotmail.co.uk

7 January to 25 March (Every Wednesday in January and March, 1.30 – 3.30pm).

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



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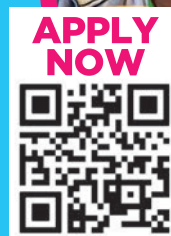
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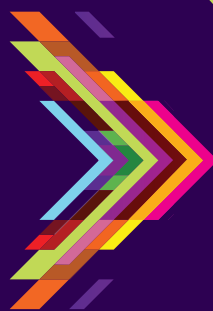
📍 Mulberry Academy Shoreditch . Gosset Street . London E2 6NW
☎ 020 7920 7900 ✉ info@mulberryacademyshoreditch.org
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THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2026

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Ofsted, March 2025

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IVE, 5 INDEPENDENT

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



The members of the Cabinet are:

Cllr Maium Talukdar, Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning
Cllr Saied Ahmed, Resources and the Cost of Living
Cllr Kabir Ahmed, Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding
Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, Safer Communities
Cllr Shafi Ahmed, Environment and the Climate Emergency
Cllr Sabina Akhtar, Health, Wellbeing and Social Care
Cllr Musthak Ahmed, Jobs, Enterprise, Skills and Growth
Cllr Bodrul Choudhury, Customer Services, Equalities and Social Inclusion
Cllr Kamrul Hussain, Culture and Recreation

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টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কমিউনিটি সংহতির উজ্জ্বল দৃষ্টান্ত

৯১% বাসিন্দা বলছেন তারা একে অপরের সঙ্গে মিলেমিশে থাকেন

91% say Tower Hamlets is a community cohesion 'beacon'-page 4

যুক্তরাজ্যের সবচেয়ে ঘনবসতিপূর্ণ এলাকা টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস আবারও প্রমাণ করলো - বৈচিত্র্যের মাঝেও সংহতি সম্ভব। বাসিন্দাদের ওপর পরিচালিত স্বাধীন ও নিরপেক্ষ বার্ষিক জরিপে দেখা গেছে, ৯১ শতাংশ বাসিন্দা বিশ্বাস করেন যে বিভিন্ন পটভূমির মানুষ এখানে একে অপরের সঙ্গে ভালোভাবে মিলেমিশে থাকেন। গত দুই বছরে এই হার বেড়েছে ৪ শতাংশ - ২০২৩ সালে ছিল ৮৭ শতাংশ, যা এখন ৯১ শতাংশে পৌঁছেছে।

জরিপটি পরিচালনা করেছে স্বাধীন গবেষণা সংস্থা এমইএল রিসার্চ, যেখানে এক হাজারের বেশি বাসিন্দার মতামত নেওয়া হয়েছে। ফলাফল অনুযায়ী, টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস শুধু কমিউনিটি সংহতিতেই নয়, পরিষেবা ও প্রশাসনিক কার্যক্রমেও জাতীয় গড়ের চেয়ে এগিয়ে। বাসিন্দাদের সন্তুষ্টি ও বিশ্বাসের ক্ষেত্রে উল্লেখযোগ্য অগ্রগতি দেখা গেছে। ৮৩ শতাংশ বাসিন্দা এলাকাটিকে বসবাসের জন্য সম্ভ্রামজনক বলে মনে করেন, যা জাতীয় গড় ৭৪ শতাংশের তুলনায় অনেক বেশি। কাউন্সিলের প্রতি আস্থা রাখেন ৬৯ শতাংশ বাসিন্দা, যেখানে জাতীয় গড় মাত্র ৫০ শতাংশ। একইভাবে, ৬৯ শতাংশ বাসিন্দা সন্তুষ্ট কাউন্সিলের কার্যক্রমে, ৬৫

শতাংশ মনে করেন কাউন্সিল তাদের উদ্দেশ্যের প্রতি সাড়া দেয় এবং তাদের ভালোভাবে তথ্য দেয়। ৫৪ শতাংশ বাসিন্দা মনে করেন কাউন্সিল অর্থের যথাযথ মূল্য প্রদান করে, যা জাতীয় গড়ের তুলনায় উল্লেখযোগ্যভাবে বেশি।

কাউন্সিল সার্ভিস বা পরিষেবার ব্যাপারে সন্তুষ্টির ক্ষেত্রেও ইতিবাচক চিত্র দেখা গেছে। বর্জ্য সংগ্রহে সন্তুষ্টি ৭৭ শতাংশ, পার্ক ও সবুজ এলাকা ৮৫ শতাংশ, খেলাধুলা ও বিনোদনে ৭৬ শতাংশ, লাইব্রেরি ও আইডিয়া স্টোর ৮৩ শতাংশ এবং রিসাইকল বা পুনর্ব্যবহারে ৭৮ শতাংশ। চিলড্রেন সার্ভিসের ক্ষেত্রে নার্সারি, প্রাইমারি ও সেকেন্ডারি শিক্ষায় সন্তুষ্টির হার ৮০ থেকে ৮৪ শতাংশের মধ্যে। তবে উন্নতির সুযোগ রয়েছে কাউন্সিল হাউজিং ও যুব পরিষেবার, যেখানে সন্তুষ্টির হার ৫০ শতাংশ। এজন্য কাউন্সিল ১৪০ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড বিনিয়োগ করছে আবাসন উন্নয়নে এবং ১৩.৭ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড যুব পরিষেবা। এর মধ্যে 'ইয়াং টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস' নামে নতুন ইয়ুথ সার্ভিস চালু হয়েছে, যার আওতায় গত ১৮ মাসে অনেকগুলো ইয়ুথ সেন্টার খোলা হয়েছে।

নির্বাহী মেয়র লুৎফুর রহমান

বলেন, “আমরা বিশ্বাস করি আমাদের বাসিন্দারা আমাদের কাজের সেরা বিচারক। এজন্যই আমরা প্রতি বছর স্বাধীন বাসিন্দা জরিপ পরিচালনা করি। দেশের সবচেয়ে বৈচিত্র্যময় এই বরোতে আমাদের বাসিন্দারা বসবাস করতে পছন্দ করেন এবং একে অপরের সঙ্গে মিলেমিশে থাকেন - এটি আমার জন্য খুবই আনন্দের।”

মেয়র বলেন, “কিছু মানুষ বাইরে থেকে বিভাজন সৃষ্টির চেষ্টা করেছে, কিন্তু বাস্তবতা হলো আমরা কমিউনিটি সংহতির এক উজ্জ্বল দৃষ্টান্ত - যেখানে ৯১ শতাংশ মানুষ বলছেন তারা একে অপরের সঙ্গে ভালোভাবে মিশে থাকেন। আমাদের সার্ভিসগুলির ক্ষেত্রে এটি সেরা ফলাফলগুলোর একটি, যা আমাদের অতীতের বিনিয়োগের প্রভাবের প্রমাণ বহন করে। আমি গর্বিত যে কাউন্সিলের প্রতি আস্থা ও সন্তুষ্টির হার জাতীয় গড়ের চেয়ে অনেক বেশি। তবে এই জরিপ আমাদের এটাও জানাচ্ছে যে, কিছু ক্ষেত্রে আরও কাজ করার সুযোগ রয়েছে এবং আমরা সেই উন্নতির জন্য কাজ করছি।”

জরিপে দেখা গেছে, অপরাধ ও অসামাজিক আচরণ বাসিন্দাদের প্রধান উদ্বেগ। এর পরেই রয়েছে জীবনযাত্রার ব্যয়, কাউন্সিল ট্যাক্স, বাড়ির দাম, সাশ্রয়ী আবাসনের

অভাব এবং স্বাস্থ্যসেবার মান। এসব মোকাবিলায় কাউন্সিল ৮ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড বিনিয়োগ করেছে অপরাধ দমনে এবং চালু করেছে দেশের প্রথম বিশেষায়িত ড্রাগ স্কোয়াড। জীবনযাত্রার ব্যয় মোকাবিলায় কাউন্সিলের পদক্ষেপগুলোর মধ্যে রয়েছে ৩ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড বাজেট স্কুল ইউনিফর্ম অনুদান, যা ২১,০০০ শিক্ষার্থীকে সহায়তা করবে। এছাড়াও চালু হয়েছে বয়স্ক ও অসহায় বাসিন্দাদের ঘরে গরম খাবার পৌঁছে দিতে নতুন 'মিলস্ অন হুইলস্' সার্ভিস এবং বিনামূল্যে হোমকেয়ার পরিষেবা।

আবাসন সংকট মোকাবিলায় কাউন্সিলের নতুন পরিকল্পনায় ৫২,০০০ নতুন বাড়ি নির্মাণের লক্ষ্য রয়েছে, যার মধ্যে ৪০ থেকে ৫০ শতাংশ হবে সাশ্রয়ী আবাসন। এছাড়া সাম্প্রতিক বাজেটে আরও যেসব বিনিয়োগ অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয়েছে, তার মধ্যে রয়েছে সব প্রাথমিক ও মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষার্থীর জন্য বিনামূল্যে স্কুল মিল, এডুকেশন মেইনটেনেন্স এলাউন্স পুনঃপ্রবর্তন, বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বৃত্তি স্কিম, ৩ দশমিক ১ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড এনার্জি সাপোর্ট ফান্ড, কমিউনিটি সেফটিংর জন্য ৮ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড এবং বর্জ্য ও পুনর্ব্যবহার উন্নয়নে প্রতি বছর ৫ মিলিয়ন পাউন্ড।

বাসিন্দাদের নিরাপত্তায় বড় পদক্ষেপ
২৪ ঘণ্টার জন্য চালু হলো
এএসবি রিপোর্টিং হটলাইন

New ASB phone line – page 13

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল বাসিন্দাদের নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে নতুন ২৪/৭ লাইভ এএসবি হটলাইন চালু করেছে। এখন থেকে বাসিন্দারা যেকোনো সময় সমাজ-বিরোধী আচরণ (এএসবি) সম্পর্কে রিপোর্ট করতে পারবেন, এবং প্রয়োজনে কাউন্সিলের থিওস (এনফোর্সমেন্ট

রিপোর্ট করতে? কাউন্সিলের রিপোর্টিং ফর্ম বা 'Find it and Fix it' অ্যাপ ব্যবহার করুন।

জরুরি অবস্থায় ৯৯৯, জরুরি নয় কিন্তু পুলিশ দরকার হলে ১০১ নাম্বারে কল দিন।

কেবিনেট মেম্বর ফর সেইফার কমিউনিটিজ, কাউন্সিলর আবু

সমাজ-বিরোধী আচরণজনিত কার্যকলাপ সম্পর্কে রিপোর্ট করার জন্য নতুন ২৪/৭ ইলিডেন্ট লাইন চালু করা হয়েছে।

আপনি কি কাউন্সিলের ভাড়াটে? আপনি যদি সমাজ-বিরোধী কার্যকলাপের কোন ঘটনার প্রত্যক্ষদর্শী হন, তাহলে এখনই কল করুন: 020 7364 2332

এটা কি আপনাকে খতম করেছে? দেবের ঘটনা বর্তমানে লাইভ বা চলমান নয়, সেগুলোর জন্য আমাদের অনলাইন রিপোর্টিং ফর্ম ব্যবহার করুন। ফর্ম ব্যবহার করুন।

জরুরি পরিস্থিতিতে সবসময় ৯৯৯ নম্বরে কল করুন।

অফিসার) তাৎক্ষণিক পদক্ষেপ নেন।

রিপোর্টিংযোগ্য এএসবি ঘটনাঃ

- প্রকাশ্যে মাদক/অ্যালকোহল বা নাইট্রাস অক্সাইড ব্যবহার
- রাফ প্রিন্সি
- যানবাহন সংক্রান্ত বিরক্তি
- যৌন সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যকলাপ
- দলবদ্ধ হৈচৈ, চিংকার-চৈতামেচি, অশালীন ভাষা বা উচ্চ শব্দে গান
- শব্দজনিত বিরক্তি

লাইভ ঘটনা অর্থাৎ যখন কোন ঘটনা ঘটেছে, তখন ফোন করুন: ০২০ ৭৩৬৪ ২৩৩২

ইতিমধ্যে ঘটেছে এমন ঘটনা

তালহা চৌধুরী বলেন, “এএসবি বাসিন্দাদের জন্য সবচেয়ে বড় উদ্বেগের বিষয়। পূর্বে আমরা শুধুমাত্র অনলাইন রিপোর্টিং সরঞ্জাম ব্যবহার করতাম। এখন আমরা নতুন ২৪/৭ ফোনলাইন চালু করেছি, যেখানে কল দিয়ে বাসিন্দারা সরাসরি আমাদের কন্ট্রোল রুমে রিপোর্ট করতে পারবেন, যাতে দ্রুত ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া যায়।”

নতুন এএসবি লাইভ লাইন লিখে রাখুনঃ ০২০ ৭৩৬৪ ২৩৩২। মনে রাখবেন আপনার রিপোর্ট সত্যিকারের পরিবর্তন আনতে পারে।

ক্যানারি ওয়ার্ফে মেগা টাওয়ার নির্মাণ করছে জেপি মরগ্যান

আমাদের বরোর দীর্ঘমেয়াদী সমৃদ্ধির জন্য এটি বিশাল সুসংবাদঃ মেয়র লুৎফুর

New headquarters a big boost - page 5

‘গ্লোবাল ব্যাংকিং জায়ান্ট’ হিসেবে পরিচিত আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান জেপি মরগ্যানচেজ লন্ডনের পূর্ব প্রান্তে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের ক্যানারি ওয়ার্ফে তিন মিলিয়ন বর্গফুটের আত্মপ্রদর্শনিক সদরদপ্তর নির্মাণের সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে। এটি কাউন্সিলের দীর্ঘদিনের প্রচেষ্টা, দূরদৃষ্টিসম্পন্ন নেতৃত্ব ও দক্ষ কৌশলেরই ফল বলে বিবেচিত হচ্ছে।

এই ঘোষণাকে স্বাগত জানিয়ে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের এক্সিকিউটিভ মেয়র লুৎফুর রহমান বলেন, “জেপি মরগ্যানের মত শক্তিশালী বহুজাতিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের সদরদপ্তর স্থাপন নিঃসন্দেহে আমাদের বরোর জন্য অসাধারণ একটি অর্জন।”

মেয়র লুৎফুর রহমান তার প্রতিক্রিয়ায় আরও বলেন, “আমি ক্যানারি ওয়ার্ফের সাফল্যে গর্বিত। এই বিনিয়োগ আমাদের বাসিন্দাদের জন্য কর্মসংস্থান ও ব্যবসায়িক সম্ভাবনার দ্বার উন্মুক্ত করবে।”

তিনি ২০১০ সালের অভিজ্ঞতা স্মরণ করে বলেন, “আমি যখন মেয়র ছিলাম, তখনও আমরা এই স্থানেই জেপি মরগ্যানের হেডকোয়ার্টার আনার জন্য কাজ করেছিলাম, যদিও সেসময় তা বাস্তবায়িত হয়নি। এবার তাদের

অগ্রহের কথা শুনে আমরা সর্বোচ্চ প্রচেষ্টা করেছি এবং আজ আমরা তার সফল ফলাফল দেখছি।” নতুন সদরদপ্তর তরুণ প্রজন্মের জন্য বিশাল সম্ভাবনার দ্বার উন্মোচন করবে। নির্মাণপূর্বে কর্মসংস্থান হবে ৭,৮০০ জনের। ভবন সম্পূর্ণ হলে সেখানে কাজ করবেন ১২,০০০ কর্মী।

নির্মাণ ব্যয়সহ সমগ্র প্রকল্পটি আগামী ছয় বছরে স্থানীয় অর্থনীতিতে ৯.৯ বিলিয়ন পাউন্ড অবদান রাখবে, যা বরোর অর্থনৈতিক গতি আরও বেগবান করবে।

কাউন্সিল দীর্ঘদিন ধরে জেপি মরগ্যানকে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের সম্ভাবনা ও সুযোগগুলো তুলে ধরে আশুস্ত করে আসছিল। বরোর পক্ষে কাউন্সিল চিঠি লিখেছে চ্যান্সেলর অফ দ্য এক্সচেঞ্জ র‍্যাচেল রিডস, সেক্রেটারি অফ স্টেট স্টিভ রিড এমপি, এবং হাইডি আলেকজান্ডার এমপি-কে, যাতে বিনিয়োগটি সফলভাবে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে আসে।

২৭ নভেম্বর আনুষ্ঠানিক ঘোষণার মধ্য দিয়ে সেই অসাধারণ প্রচেষ্টার সাফল্য নিশ্চিত হলো, যা ইতোমধ্যেই আন্তর্জাতিক মিডিয়ায় গুরুত্ব অর্জন করেছে।

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের নতুন



লোকাল প্ল্যানে উচ্চ ভবন নির্মাণে বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দেওয়া হয়েছে। যুক্তরাজ্যের দ্রুততম বৃদ্ধি ও সর্বোচ্চ জনঘনত্বের বরো হিসেবে এখানে উঁচুর দিকে নির্মাণের মাধ্যমে অধিক আবাসন, অফিস স্পেস ও ব্যবসায়িক সুযোগ তৈরির পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। এই কৌশল জেপি মরগ্যানের দীর্ঘমেয়াদি দৃষ্টিভঙ্গির সঙ্গে সুন্দরভাবে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ।

কাউন্সিল আশুস্ত দিয়েছে, জেপি মরগ্যানের সঙ্গে নিবিড়ভাবে কাজ করে তারা নিশ্চিত করবে যাতে বরোর বাসিন্দারা এই সুযোগগুলোর সর্বোচ্চ সুফল পায় এবং আন্তর্জাতিক আর্থিক খাতে টেকসই ক্যারিয়ার গড়ে তুলতে পারে।

ক্যানারি ওয়ার্ফ গ্রুপের সঙ্গে অংশীদারিত্বে প্রস্তাবিত পরিকল্পনায় রয়েছে-নতুন সবুজ পাবলিক পার্ক, ক্যানারি ওয়ার্ফ

ডকের পুনর্গঠন, উন্মুক্ত নদীপার সংযোগ, আধুনিক, প্রযুক্তিনির্ভর, কর্মীবান্ধব ভবন, বিশ্বমানের ট্রেডিং ফ্লোর, রুফটপ, টেরেস, ওয়েলনেস জোন, নার্সিং রুম, রেস্টুরেন্ট-ক্যাফে ও পর্যাপ্ত সাইকেল পার্কিং।

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের প্রধান নির্বাহী স্টিভ হালসি বলেন, “এটি বরো ও দেশের জন্য একটি বড় বিজয়। আমাদের বার্তা স্পষ্ট - টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস বিনিয়োগ ও উন্নয়নের জন্য উন্মুক্ত।”

জেপি মরগ্যানের হেডকোয়ার্টার নির্মাণ এখন জাতীয় ও স্থানীয় পর্যায়ের প্রয়োজনীয় অনুমোদনের অপেক্ষায়। তবে একটি বিষয় স্পষ্ট, এই বিশাল প্রকল্প টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের উন্নয়ন, কর্মসংস্থান, আন্তর্জাতিক মর্যাদা ও আর্থিক সমৃদ্ধিতে এক নতুন অধ্যায়ের সূচনা করবে।

এই শীতে একা বোধ করবেন না “শুধু হ্যালো বলুন”

Don't be lonely this winter: Just Say Hello – p 8

তৃতীয় বছরের মতো এবারও টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল তার শীতকালীন প্রচারণা “Just Say Hello” শুরু করেছে। এই বছরটির ফোকাস হচ্ছে ৫০ বা তদোর্ধ বয়সীদের উপর, যাদের মধ্যে প্রায় ৫০,০০০ জন সামাজিক বিচ্ছিন্নতার সম্মুখীন।

সামাজিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্ন এবং দুর্বল বাসিন্দাদের সামাজিক কার্যক্রমে অংশগ্রহণে উৎসাহিত করতে কাউন্সিল পাঁচটি স্বেচ্ছাসেবী স্পষ্ট, এই বিশাল প্রকল্প টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের উন্নয়ন, কর্মসংস্থান, আন্তর্জাতিক মর্যাদা ও আর্থিক সমৃদ্ধিতে এক নতুন অধ্যায়ের সূচনা করবে।

বছরে, ৭৫০ জন নতুন পঞ্চাশোর্ধ বয়সী বাসিন্দা সদস্য হয়েছেন এবং তারা বিনামূল্যে বা কম খরচে সামাজিক ও সুস্থতা কার্যক্রমের সুবিধা ভোগ করছেন।

উল্লেখ্য, একাকীত্ব গুরুতর স্বাস্থ্যঝুঁকির কারণ হতে পারে। এটি ২৯% হার্ট রোগ, ৩২% স্ট্রোক এবং ২৫% ডিমেনশিয়ার ঝুঁকি বৃদ্ধি করতে পারে। একাকীত্ব মানসিক স্বাস্থ্যকেও প্রভাবিত করে, যার ফলে বিষণ্ণতা ও উদ্বেগের মাত্রা বৃদ্ধি পায়।

কাউন্সিল ২০১৭ সালে কান্টে কোয়ালিশন গঠন করে, যার মাধ্যমে একত্রে কাজ করে এই সমস্যা মোকাবিলা করা হয়। ফলস্বরূপ, ওয়ার্ম হাবের ৪০ জন স্বেচ্ছাসেবককে প্রশিক্ষণ দেওয়া হয়েছে, যাতে তারা বাসিন্দাদের সামাজিক ও সুস্থতা কার্যক্রমের জন্য উপযুক্ত পরামর্শ দিতে পারে।

টায়ার হামলেটস সিভিক অ্যাওয়ার্ডস ২০২৬-এর জন্য মনোনয়ন পাঠান

Nominations open for Civic Awards – p 29

টায়ার হামলেটস সিভিক অ্যাওয়ার্ডস হলো আমাদের এলাকার সেই বিশেষ সুযোগ যেখানে আমরা স্থানীয় আনসাং হিরোজ, অর্থাৎ যারা প্রচারের আলোয় না থেকে নিরবে আমাদের কমিউনিটিকে উন্নত করতে নিরলসভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছেন, তাদের প্রতি আমরা কৃতজ্ঞতা প্রকাশ করতে পারি।

২০২৬ সালের সিভিক অ্যাওয়ার্ডস-এর জন্য মনোনয়ন এখন উন্মুক্ত, তাই আপনার কাছে যোগ্যদের নাম জমা দিন। এই পুরস্কার তাদের সম্মান জানাবে যারা নিজেদের সময় ও শ্রম উৎসর্গ করে টায়ার হামলেটসের মানুষের জীবনকে সুন্দর ও সমৃদ্ধ করতে কাজ করছেন। মনোনয়ন জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ বুধবার, ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫।

কাউন্সিলের স্পিকার, কাউন্সিলর সুলক আহমেদের সভাপতিত্বে একটি সর্ব দলীয় প্যানেল বিজয়ীদের বাছাই করবে। এই প্যানেলে কমিউনিটির প্রতিনিধিরাও থাকবেন।

আরও জানতে এবং মনোনয়ন জমা দিতে ভিজিট করুনঃ www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/civicawards

আইয়ুব আলী মাস্টারকে সম্মান জানিয়ে ক্রিশ্চিয়ান স্ট্রিটে স্মারক ফলক উন্মোচন

People's Plaque for Bengali pioneer unveiled – page 29



Cllr Kamrul Hussain unveils the memorial plaque with Ayub Ali Master's great-granddaughter Parul Hussain and community members.

টায়ার হামলেটস কাউন্সিল ব্রিটিশ বাঙালি ইতিহাসের পথিকৃৎ আইয়ুব আলী মাস্টারকে সম্মান জানিয়ে ৩ নভেম্বর ক্রিশ্চিয়ান স্ট্রিটে স্মারক ফলক উন্মোচন করেছে। ফলকটি সেই স্থানের কাছে স্থাপন করা হয়েছে, যেখানে তিনি ১৯৪৩ সালে শাহ আব্দুল মজিদ কোরেশির সঙ্গে ইন্ডিয়ান সিমেন্ট ওয়েলফেয়ার লিগ-এর অফিস চালাতেন।

১৮৮০ সালে সিলেটে জন্ম নেওয়া আইয়ুব আলী মাস্টার ১৯২০-এর দশকে পূর্ব লন্ডনে দক্ষিণ এশীয় নাবিক ও অভিবাসীদের সহায়তা করেছিলেন। কমাশিয়াল স্ট্রিটে তার চালানো শাহ জালাল রোম্ফরেট এবং ১৩ স্যান্ডিস রো-তে অবস্থিত তার বাসা বাঙালি নাবিকদের জন্য নিরাপদ আশ্রয়

ও সহায়তার কেন্দ্র ছিল। ১৯৪৩ সালে তিনি ইন্ডিয়ান সিমেন্ট ওয়েলফেয়ার লিগ প্রতিষ্ঠা করে এই সহায়তাকে আনুষ্ঠানিক রূপ দেন।

ফলক স্থাপন কর্মসূচি টায়ার হামলেটসের “পিপলস্ প্ল্যাকস্ স্কিম”-এর অংশ। এই প্রকল্পে স্থানীয় গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যক্তি, স্থান ও ঘটনা স্মরণে ফলক স্থাপন করা হয়। আইয়ুব আলী মাস্টার সর্বোচ্চ ভোট পেয়ে নির্বাচিত হন। আগের ফলকগুলোর মধ্যে রয়েছেন তাসাদ্দুক আহমেদ, মার্জ হিউসন, নিকোলাস কালপেপার, টমি ফ্লাওয়ার্স, সওয়াবুল্লাহ মুনিশ ও কুরা গ্রান্ট।

উন্মোচন অনুষ্ঠানে উপস্থিত ছিলেন তার প্রপৌত্রী পারুল হুসেইন, কেবিনেট মেম্বর ফর কালচার কাউন্সিলর কামরুল



হোসেইন, স্বাধীনতা ট্রাস্টের সদস্য ও স্থানীয় কমিউনিটির প্রতিনিধিরা। পারুল হুসেইন বলেন, “দাদু প্রথম বাঙালি অভিবাসীদের একজন পথিকৃৎ ছিলেন, যিনি ইংরেজি ও বাংলায় দক্ষতা ব্যবহার করে অনেককে সহায়তা করেছিলেন।” ফলকটি সরাসরি দেখতে চাইলে ক্রিশ্চিয়ান স্ট্রিট, ড্রেওয়েজ হাউজের পাশে, লন্ডন ই-১ ১ আরটি-এ যেতে হবে।

বাড়িতে ছত্রাক প্রতিরোধে যা করতে হবে Report damp and mould – page 15

টায়ার হামলেটস কাউন্সিল শীতকালে ঘরে চিতিপড়া বা ছত্রাক (মৌন্ড) প্রতিরোধে নতুন ক্যাম্পেইন “ব্রেক দ্যা মৌন্ড” শুরু করেছে। অর্দ্রতা



ভিডিওটি দেখতে উপরুর
ছত্র কোড স্ক্যান করুন।

বাড়লে ছোট আকারের ছত্রাক দ্রুত ছড়িয়ে পড়ে, যা স্বাস্থ্যের ঝুঁকি, বিশেষত অ্যাজমা বা শ্বাসকষ্টজনিত সমস্যার সৃষ্টি করতে পারে।

কাউন্সিল বাসিন্দাদের অর্দ্রতা কমাতে ও ঘরের ভিতর বায়ু

চলাচল নিশ্চিত করতে পরামর্শ দিচ্ছে। এসব পরামর্শের মধ্যে রয়েছেঃ কাপড় শুকানোর সময় জানালা খোলা রাখা, রান্নার সময় ঢাকনা ব্যবহার করা, এবং প্রতিদিন জানালায় জমে থাকা পানি মুছে ফেলা। ঘরের তাপমাত্রা ১৮-২১ ডিগ্রী সেলসিয়াসে রাখা ছত্রাক প্রতিরোধে সহায়ক।

চিতিপড়া ভাব (ছত্রাক) দেখা দিলে দ্রুত পরিষ্কার করতে হবে- জানালা খোলা রেখে দরজা বন্ধ রাখা, গ্লাভস ও মাস্ক ব্যবহার, এবং বাজারে পাওয়া মৌন্ড রিমুভার ব্যবহার করা উচিত। ব্লিচ বা ভ্যাকুয়াম ক্লিনার ব্যবহার এড়াতে বলা হয়েছে, কারণ এতে ছত্রাক ছড়িয়ে যেতে পারে।

ভাড়াটিয়ারা সমস্যা নিয়ন্ত্রণে না এলে ল্যান্ডলর্ড বা বাড়িওয়ালার/এজেন্সির সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করবেন।

‘ডিসপোজ সেইফ’- ব্যাটারি ফেলুন নিরাপদে

Tower Hamlets launches 'Dispose Safe' – p21

লিথিয়াম-আয়ন ব্যাটারির কারণে বর্জ্য ট্রাক ও রিসাইক্লিং সাইটে আগুনের ঝুঁকি কমানোর জন্য জনসচেতনতা বাড়াতে নতুন “ডিসপোজ সেইফ” ক্যাম্পেইন

সংখ্যা বছরে ১,২০০-এর বেশি। ক্যাম্পেইনের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অংশ হচ্ছে একটি অ্যানিমেটেড ভিডিও, যেখানে দেখানো হয়েছে কিভাবে ব্যাটারি থেকে আগুন ধরতে পারে এবং কিভাবে তা নিরাপদে ডিসপোজ করতে হয়। বাসিন্দাদের জন্য নির্দেশনাঃ

- ব্যাটারি বা ইলেকট্রনিক জিনিস কখনো গৃহস্থালি বর্জ্য বা রিসাইক্লিং ব্যাগে ফেলবেন না।
 - ছোট ব্যাটারি সুপারমার্কেট বা দোকানে থাকা রিসাইক্লিং বিনে দিন।
 - বড় ব্যাটারি (ই-বাইক, ই-স্কুটার) রিসাইক্লিং সেন্টারে নিন।
 - ফুলে যাওয়া বা গরম ব্যাটারি বাইরে প্রাস্টিক পাত্রে রাখুন।
- ব্যাটারি থেকে শুরু হওয়া আগুন নিভাতে সময় ও খরচ বেশি এবং বর্জ্য সংগ্রহ বিঘ্নিত হয়। কাউন্সিল বরোর সব বাসিন্দা, ও ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে কাউন্সিলের এই ক্যাম্পেইনকে সমর্থনের আহ্বান জানিয়েছে। বিস্তারিত তথ্য জানতে ভিজিট করুনঃ www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/dispose-safe



এনিমেশন ভিডিওটি দেখতে
QR-এর ছত্র কোড স্ক্যান করুন।

চালু করেছে টায়ার হামলেটস কাউন্সিল। গৃহস্থালি বর্জ্যের সঙ্গে ব্যাটারি ফেললে তা আবার ট্রাকের ভেতরে ক্রাশ বা চাপা পড়ে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটতে পারে, যা কর্মীদের জন্য যেমন বিপজ্জনক, তেমনি এর ফলে বর্জ্য সংগ্রহ কার্যক্রম ব্যাহত হয়। গত বছরে আমাদের এই বরোয় ২৩টি আগুনের ঘটনা ঘটেছে, যার ৯টিই ঘটে বর্জ্য ট্রাকে। জাতীয়ভাবে এ ধরনের আগুনের

ড্রাগ স্কোয়াড মাদকাসক্ত ও অপরাধ মোকাবিলায় বিশেষ দল



Tackling drug misuse and crime with specialist squad – page 12

টায়ার হামলেটস কাউন্সিল দেশের প্রথম প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে একটি বিশেষ “ড্রাগ স্কোয়াড” গঠন করেছে, যা মাদকাসক্তি ও সংশ্লিষ্ট অসামাজিক আচরণ মোকাবিলা করবে।

এর আগে একটি সফল পাইলট প্রকল্প প্রমাণ করেছে যে, এই বিশেষ দল লক্ষ্যভিত্তিক ব্যবস্থা ও সহযোগিতার মাধ্যমে

মাদকসংক্রান্ত সমস্যা সমাধানে কার্যকর। দুই মাসের পাইলট প্রজেক্ট চলাকালীন, স্কোয়াড ৫০,০০০ পাউন্ডের ড্রাগ জব্দ করেছে, একটি মাদক গ্রহণকারী এলাকা পরিষ্কার করেছে এবং দুর্বল বাসিন্দাদের সহায়তা প্রদান করেছে।

এই ৭ সদস্য বিশিষ্ট দল প্রথমবারের মতো এমন মডেল

ব্যবহার করেছে, যা শুধু স্থান নয় - সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তির উপর মনোযোগ দেয়। ৫০ জন শীর্ষস্থানীয় অপরাধীর তালিকা তৈরি করে তাদের আচরণ পর্যবেক্ষণ ও সমাধান করা হচ্ছে।

এক্সিকিউটিভ মেয়র লুইস রহমান বলেন, “আমি গর্বিত যে আমরা দেশের প্রথম কাউন্সিল হিসেবে এই বিশেষ দল তৈরি করেছি। এটি অন্য কাউন্সিলের জন্য উদাহরণ তৈরি করবে।”

ওয়ার্ম হাব শীতকালে সবার জন্য নিরাপদ স্থান Warm Hubs ensure no-one is left in the cold this winter – p7

টায়ার হামলেটস জুড়ে ওয়ার্ম হাবগুলো এই শীতকালে হাজার হাজার বাসিন্দাকে স্বাগত জানাচ্ছে। এগুলোতে মানুষ ঘরে শীত উপেক্ষা করে নিরাপদভাবে সময় কাটাতে, সামাজিক যোগাযোগ বজায় রাখতে এবং গ্যাস-বিদ্যুত বিল কমাতে পারেন। কাউন্সিলের আইডিয়া স্টোর এবং লাইব্রেরিতে অবস্থিত হাবগুলো নভেম্বর মাসে খোলা হয়েছে এবং মার্চ পর্যন্ত চলবে। এখানে বিনামূল্যে গরম চা ও স্ন্যাক্স সরবরাহ করা হয়, যাতে বাসিন্দাদের “হিটিং কিংবা খাওয়া” এই কঠিন সিদ্ধান্ত নিতে না হয়।

ভিজিটররা হাবগুলোতে সামাজিক যোগাযোগ বজায় রাখার পাশাপাশি দীর্ঘমেয়াদি সহায়তার জন্য পরামর্শও গ্রহণ করতে পারেন। কাউন্সিলের Cost of Living Help ওয়েবপেজে দায়-দেনার ব্যবস্থাপনা, বাড়ির বিল, স্কুল ইউনিফর্ম, শিশুপালন খরচ, চাকরি খোঁজা এবং আরও অনেক বিষয়ের তথ্য পাওয়া যায়।

Meals on Wheels oo lagula dagaallamayo kalinimada iyo cunto-yarida

**HARMONY
SOMALI NEWS**

Maamulka Degmada Tower Hamlets ayaa bilaabay adeegga cusub ee Meals on Wheels, oo cunto kulul guriga ugu geeya dadka waayeelka ah iyo kuwa nugul ee ku nool degmada.

Shaqadan waxay qeyb ka tahay maalgelin dhan £3 milyan oo lagu xoojinayo adeegyada daryeelka dadka waaweyn iyo lagula tacaalayo sicir-bararka nolosha.

Tower Hamlets waxay leedahay boqolleyda ugu badan ee dad waayeel ah ee England ee hela Pension Credit (42 per cent).

Adeegga Meals on Wheels wuxuu dadka u keenayaa cuntooyin nafaqo leh oo si toos ah loogu geynayo guryahooda, taas oo ka caawineysa la-dagaallanka cunto-yarida iyo kalinimada bulshada, isla markaana kor u qaadaysa karaamada iyo madax-bannaanida dadka u baahan.

Adeeggan ayaa la filayaa inuu ka

faa'iideeyo boqolaal qof, wuxuuna qeyb ka yahay barnaamij taageero oo ballaaran oo ay ku jiraan daryeel guriga bilaash ah, deeqaha dharka iskuulka, iyo kaalmooyinka tamarta ee qoysaska dakhligoodu hooseeyo.

Erayada dadka ka faa'iideystay, Cornelia McCarthy, 63 jir, ayaa tiri: "Aad baan ugu mahadcelinayaa maamulka degmada soo bandhigay adeegga Meals on Wheels, maadaama aan ogahay in degmooyin badan aysan awoodin inay maalgelin karaan adeegyo sidan oo kale ah.

"Annaga oo ah dadka waayeelka ah ama keligood nool, adeegyada sidan oo kale ah ma aha oo kaliya kuwo waxtar leh balse waa kuwo lama huraan ah. Waxay ka badan tahay oo keliya in la helo cunto, waa in aad dareento daryeel iyo in lagugu xiray dadka kale.

"Waxaan Tower Hamlets ku noolaa in ka badan 40 sano, waxaana halkan ka jira dareen bulsho oo gaar u ah oo aan meel kale laga helin.



Warm Hubs ayaa xaqiijinaya inaan qofna qabowga lagu daynin jiilaalkan

Warm hubs-ka ku yaal Tower Hamlets ayaa xilli jiilaalkan soo dhaweeyay kumannaan qof oo deggen, iyadoo bixiya meel ammaan ah oo lagu diirimaado, la isku dhexgalo, laguna yareeyo biilasha korontada inta lagu jiro dhibaataada sii socota ee qiimaha nolosha.

Warm hubs-ku waxa ay ku yaallaan Idea Stores iyo maktabadaha degmada, waxaana la furay bishii Nofembar, iyaga oo sii

shaqayn doona ilaa Maarso.

Waxay dadka siinayaan cabitaanno kulul iyo cunto fudud oo bilaash ah, taasoo ka caawinaysa inay ka fogaadaan go'aanka adag ee u dhexeeya kululaynta guriga iyo cunto helista.

Booqdayaashu waxa kale oo ay xarumaha ku isticmaalaan inay dadka kale la xiriiri oo ay helaan adeegyo talo-bixin ah oo taageero waarta siinaya.

Sanadkii hore, 64 mutadawiciin ayaa ka qeyb qaatay hawsha hubs-ka.

Marka lagu daro xarumahaas, goluhu wuxuu qaybiyey boqolaal baakado kaalmeyn diirimaad (energy packs) oo bilaash ah kuwaas oo ka kooban koofiyado, sharabaado, galoofyo, iyo agab kale oo lagama maarmaan ah si ay dadka deegaanka ugu caawiyaan inay guryahooda ku diirnaadaan.

Bogga internetka ee Cost of Living Help ee golaha wuxuu bixiyaa macluumaad ku saabsan maamulka deynta, kaalmooyinka biilasha guriga, dareeska iskuulka, kharashaadka daryeelka carruurta, shaqo helista, iyo waxyaabo kale oo badan.

Wixii caawimo iyo talo dheeraad ah, booqo bogga internetka ee golaha degmada www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving

Warbixinta huurka iyo caaryada oo lagu fududeeyay kiraystayaasha degmada

Iyadoo bilaha jiilaalka la joogo, Golaha Tower Hamlets wuxuu fududeeyay habka ay dadka kiro ku degan u soo sheegi karaan huurka iyo caaryada ku dhaca guryahooda.

Marka la soo waco si arrintan loo warbixiyo, ikhtiyaarka ugu horreeya ee khadka telefoonka hadda waa huur iyo caaryo, taas oo ka dhigaysa mid degdeg ah oo fudud in dadka kiraystayaasha ahi ku gudbiyaan cabashadooda.

Awaab's Law waa sharci cusub oo dhaqan galay 27 Oktoobar. Waxa uu hadda waajib ka dhigaa in milkiilayaasha guryaha bulshada ay si degdeg ah u baaraan oo u saxaan khataraha halista ah sida huurka

iyo caaryada, iyadoo raacaya waqtiyo go'an.

Golaha degmada iyo bixiyeyaasha kale ee guryaha bulshada ee degmada waa inay hadda:

- Baaraan warbixin ku saabsan huurka ama caaryada 10 maalmood oo shaqo gudahood
- Siiyaan kiraystaha warbixin 3 maalmood gudahood
- Bilaabaan dayactirka 5 maalmood kadib marka la ogaado dhibaataada

Huurka iyo caaryadu waa kuwo si weyn ugu badan guryaha xilliyada qabowga Caaryadu waxay waxyeello u geysan kartaa caafimaadkaaga, gaar ahaan haddii aad qabto neef (asthma) ama xaalad caafimaad oo kale. Waxay si degdeg ah u faafi

kartaa, sidaas darteed waa muhiim in talaabo hore loo qaado si looga hortago inay noqoto mid halis ah.

Waxaa jira saddex arrimood oo aad sameyn karto si aad uga hortagto caaryada gurigaaga:

- Yareynta huurka hawada ku jira – sida isticmaalka extractor fans, dharka bannaanka lagu qalajiyo (haddii ay suurtagal tahay) ama qol albaabkiisu xiran yahay iyo daaqad furan, iyo kariyaha oo daboolka saaran.
- Hawo-siinta guriga – fur daaqadaha si hawada cusub u soo gasho.
- Heerkulka guriga oo joogto ah – isku day inaad ku hayso inta u dhexeysa 18-21 darajo.

Mar walba ma fududa ama ma suurtoobto in talooyinkan la raaco, waxaana loo digayaa dadka deegaanka in haddii caaryadu soo noqnoqoto ay mar kasta u soo sheegaan milkiilaha guriga.

Waxaad ka heli kartaa macluumaad iyo talo ku saabsan sida loo maareeyo huurka iyo caaryada gurigaaga, iyo sida loo soo sheego dhibaatooyinka adigoo booqanaya www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/healthyhome

Haddii aad tahay kirayste degmada, huurka iyo caaryada ku soo sheeg adigoo wacaya 020 7364 5015 (ikhtiyaarka 1)

USEFUL INFORMATION SERVICES AND CONTACTS

Advice

Account 3 (welfare and debt advice)

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

Age UK East London

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

Bromley by Bow Centre

St Leonard's Street, E3.
020 8709 9700

Carers Centre Tower Hamlets

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

Citizens Advice Bureau

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

Island Advice Centre

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

Legal Advice Centre

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

Limehouse Project

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

Praxis (New Residents) Immigration, benefits and general advice

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

Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network

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

Tower Hamlets Law Centre

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

Careers

Adult education services

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

WorkPath

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

Young WorkPath/Tower Hamlets Careers Service

Employment and Skills
Centre, 55 Upper Bank
Street, E14.
youngworkpath@
towerhamlets.gov.uk

Council

Town Hall

160 Whitechapel Road,
London, E1 1BJ.
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk
General enquiries
020 7364 5000

Debt

Fair Money Advice

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

Island Advice Centre

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

Toynbee Hall Advice Service

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

Health & wellbeing

Alzheimer's Society

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

BYM Bangladesh Youth Movement Women's Centre of Excellence

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

East London Parkinson's Support Group

hello@parkinsons.org.uk
0808 800 0303

Free home fire safety advice

08000 284428

Health hotline

020 7364 5016

Healthwatch Tower Hamlets

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

LinkAge Plus

Toynbee Hall, Commercial
Street, E1.
020 7392 2913

Reset

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

Safe East (under-19s)

compass.towerhamlets
yphws@nhs.net
020 3954 0091

Stop Smoking services

www.quitrightth.org
020 7882 8230

Tower Hamlets Advocacy Real

020 7001 2170
hello@real.org.uk

Housing

Choice-based lettings and housing advice

Phone: 020 7364 7474
Homelessness services
Phone: 020 7364 7474
Out of hours: 020 7364
4079

Homeseekers

www.thhs.org.uk

Housing services, including repairs

Phone: 020 7364 5015
Freephone: 0800 376 1637

Idea Stores and libraries

Bow

Gladstone Place, E3.

Canary Wharf

Churchill Place, E14.

Chrisp Street

Vesey Path, E14.

Whitechapel

321 Whitechapel Road, E1.

Local History Library and Archives

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

Leisure centres

John Orwell Sports Centre

Tench Street, Wapping, E1.
0207 364 5100

Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium

190 Burdett Road, E3.
0207 364 5100

Poplar Baths

170 East India Dock Road,
0207 364 5100

Tiller Leisure Centre

Tiller Road, Isle of Dogs
E14. 0207 364 5100

Whitechapel Sports Centre

55 Durward Street, E1.
0207 364 5100

York Hall Leisure Centre

5-15 Old Ford Road, E2.
0207 364 5100

For the latest information
and updates, including
details of opening hours or
temporary closures, visit
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk
or be-well.org.uk

Parent & child

Family Information Service

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

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

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

Tower Hamlets National Childbirth Trust

0300 330 0700
www.nct.org.uk

Report it

Anti-fraud (housing and tenancy related fraud)

0800 528 0294

Childline

0800 1111

Domestic Violence Team

0800 279 5434

Environmental Protection (Noise) Team

020 7364 5000

Haven Whitechapel (sexual assault referral centre)

020 3299 6900 /
020 3299 1599

Karma Nirvana (honour- based abuse helpline)

0800 5999 247

Men's Advice Helpline

0808 8010 327

National LGBT domestic abuse helpline (Galop)

0800 999 5428 /
0300 999 5428

Non-emergency crimes 101 Textphone

18001 101

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline

0800 800 5000

Respect (for perpetrators)

0808 802 4040

Rights of Women

020 7251 6577

Samaritans

116 123

Shelter

0808 800 4444

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

020 7364 7474

Victim Support Tower Hamlets

0808 168 9291 /
0808 168 9111

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get Tower Hamlets
news, take part in
competitions and
receive local offers
straight into your
inbox!

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Applicant Eligibility:

- Earn below the maximum household income of £90,000 for the individual property at the date of application.
- Must have been a resident or employed within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for at least 12 months.
- Does not currently own and has never owned a property.
- When purchasing, you pay a capped sum for a 1 or 2 bedroom apartment. You will enter into a deed of covenant with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for the remaining share, which will set out the conditions of resale and percentage discount applied.

GET IN TOUCH

Marketing Suite
Regent's View, Emma Street,
Bethnal Green, E2 9AP

Opening hours
Open Monday to Saturday - 10am-6pm
Sundays and Bank Holidays - 10am-4pm

Call
+44(0)20 3834 0914



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