

CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH



World's oldest
grand music hall

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Win tickets to the
Orbit

SEE PAGE 33

HISTORY



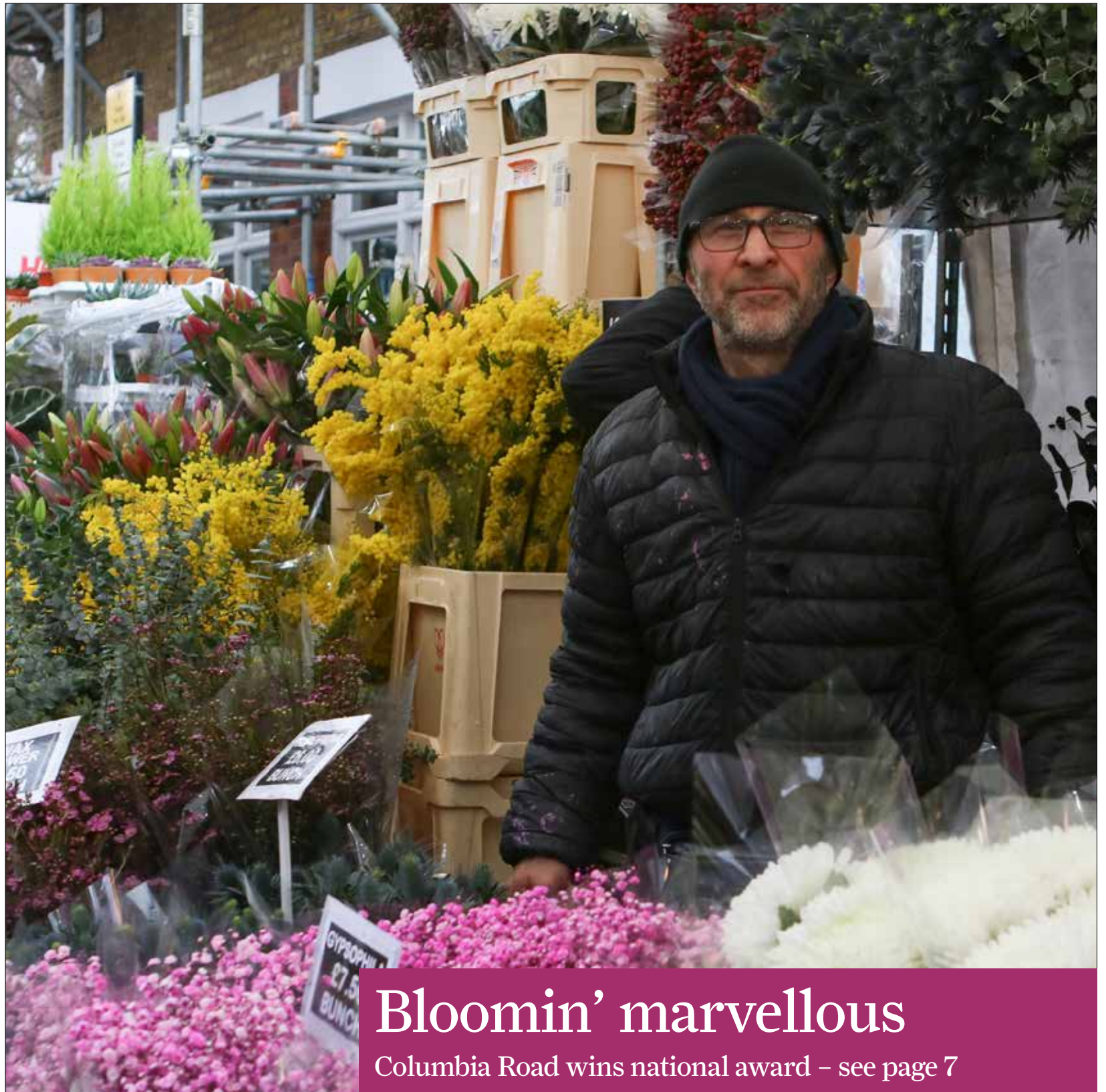
Jubilee
celebrations

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ISSUE TWENTY-FOUR // FEBRUARY 2022



OUR EAST END



Bloomin' marvellous

Columbia Road wins national award – see page 7

Mulberry

Wood Wharf Primary

COME AND
MEET US
Community
Consultation
Meetings



A brand new primary school Opening September 2022

We look forward to welcoming families to our brand new, fully inclusive primary school in the Isle of Dogs from September 2022.

Our vision for Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary is to create an outstanding, fully inclusive primary school that ensures the needs of all children are met and which makes a vibrant and meaningful contribution to residents in the surrounding area. Strong relationships with families, outstanding pastoral care and excellent, first class teaching will be at the heart of what we do.

If you have any questions about our new school, please contact:

 **Dr Stuart Mundy**
 020 7790 6327
 mulberrywoodwharf@mulberryschoolstrust.org

Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary
20 Brannan Street, London E14 9ZR
 www.mulberrywoodwharf.org

Come along to our
consultation meetings
so we can listen to your comments
and act on any feedback to ensure
that Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary
meets the needs of the community.

Scan the QR code below to visit
our website for further details.



Part of the
Mulberry
Schools Trust

 www.mulberryschoolstrust.org

OUR EAST END

NEWS FROM TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL AND YOUR COMMUNITY

I know how tough things are at the moment as the cost of living continues to increase. Rising food and energy bills, the recent Universal Credit cut and the forthcoming rise in National Insurance are putting household budgets under extreme pressure.

Many people are struggling, but it's important to know that there is help out there and we're doing what we can to offer support, both directly and by signposting to partners and advice services.

We recently published our latest council budget plans for the new financial year. This includes a great deal of support for residents who are struggling, as well as investment in frontline services and no increase to our portion of council tax (but a one per cent social care precept the government expects us to apply).

We're protecting universal free school meals so 19,000 children get a free meal, delivering an estimated saving of £450 per child for families.

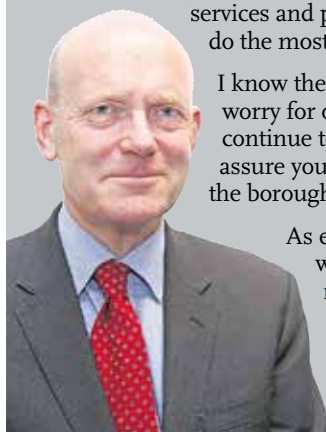
This protects our 100 per cent council tax reduction scheme – one of the few councils to do this – so the poorest households in the borough don't pay council tax.

Supporting residents during hardship is one of the most important things we do, through our Residents' Support Scheme and crisis grants, our food pantries and our Tackling Poverty Fund.

There's more money for our waste and recycling service, social care and carers, tackling violence against women and girls, and a fire safety team.

It invests in council-funded bobbies on the beat, as well as new council homes to help people off our housing waiting list and into good quality homes. We're also investing in our Idea Stores and libraries, and our beautiful parks.

As a council we've had to save over £200 million since 2010 due to cuts to our funding and increasing demand. This hasn't been easy, but we've worked hard to protect our frontline services and put our limited funding where it can do the most good.



I know the cost of living crisis is a major worry for our residents, but your council will continue to be by your side and I want to assure you that we're working hard to support the borough during these tough times.

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

John Biggs,
Mayor of Tower Hamlets

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Cllr Asma Islam was among the volunteers who joined the council's Big Clean Up around Middleton Green

Bethnal Green's Big Clean Up

CLEAN & GREEN

Tower Hamlets Council's latest Big Clean Up swept up in Bethnal Green earlier this month as residents and volunteers joined forces with the council's graffiti removal team around Middleton Green.

The volunteers were joined in collecting litter and tidying up the area by John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Cllr Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Planning and the

Environment.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said:

"Our Big Clean Up campaign is about building stronger community and having pride in our borough. We have some excellent open spaces in Tower Hamlets, but sometimes they need a bit of love and attention – and that's what we are doing here in Bethnal Green today."

There have been 14 Big Clean Up events since the campaign was launched back in 2017, collecting

thousands of tonnes of litter from Tower Hamlets' streets, parks and public spaces.

Middleton Green was an area suggested by residents as benefitting from having a Big Clean Up.

Cllr Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Planning and the Environment, said:

"We've got the jet washers out to clean the pavements around Middleton Green and, with the help of residents, are picking up rubbish and litter from the park.

"We're committed to making our borough a cleaner and greener place and one of the ways we do that is by encouraging people not to drop litter."

You don't have to wait for a Big Clean Up to take action in your community.

The council's free Love Your Neighbourhood app can be used to share information and report issues like fly-tipping.

For more information, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/bigcleanup

Extra investment in bin collections agreed by cabinet

Bin collection services in Tower Hamlets are set to benefit from an extra funding package worth more than £2 million, after the council's cabinet approved the extra spending as part of the 2022/23 budget earlier this month.

If approved at March's full council meeting, the £2.1 million funding package will provide additional resources for waste and recycling collections, enhanced night-time cleansing, more bins on streets and in parks, extra environmental enforcement and additional resources to help tackle fly-tipping

in hotspot areas.

Funding will also be allocated to improve the commercial waste service and introduce dedicated vehicles to manage our beautiful green spaces and parks.

Cllr Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, said:

"Our waste and environmental services are working hard but we know there have been issues, including isolation and sickness, vehicle breakdowns and national shortages of HGV drivers and we're sorry that services haven't been at the level we'd all expect.

"We all want to live in a borough that is clean and green and if approved at full council, this extra funding will help improve our waste and recycling services while also increasing our ability to respond quickly to reports of fly-tipping and graffiti.

"By taking these steps now, we are ensuring that our waste and recycling service is able to respond to the challenges of the future. Alongside this, we will be supporting residents and businesses to recycle more so that we can all do our bit to protect the planet."



By taking these steps now, we are ensuring that our waste and recycling service can respond to the challenges of the future.

£3,000 penalty for Brick Lane fly-tipper

A Brick Lane fly-tipper has been ordered to pay more than £3,000 by a magistrate, after being caught illegally dumping waste in the street.

Seoul Garden restaurant was ordered by Thames Magistrates' Court to pay a £1,000 fine and £2,132 in costs at a hearing earlier this month over the offence.

The court heard how council environmental services officers patrolling the area caught a restaurant worker red-handed, as two black sacks of waste were dumped in a local fly-tipping hotspot.

Council officers issued a £400 fixed penalty notice for the offence – the maximum amount allowed under law – which then went unpaid, resulting in the prosecution and the court's order to pay more than £3,000.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said:

"We all want people to get rid of their waste legally, but if people do fly-tip, we will always take the strongest action possible.

"Everyone has a part to play in keeping our borough clean and my thanks go to all our residents and businesses who do the right thing with their rubbish and those who



Fined: Seoul Garden restaurant was ordered by Thames Magistrates' Court to pay over £3,000

work hard to bring these offenders who blight our borough to justice."

Between December 2020 and December 2021, the council issued 431 fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping and investigated 7,046 fly-tipping incidents. £464,473 was spent by the council in clearing up fly-tipped waste in 2021.

Cllr Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, said:

"Fly-tipping not only creates an eyesore and a hazard on our streets

but there's also an impact on the public purse, with taxpayers' cash being spent on clearing up the mess rather than on other areas which matter to our residents.

"We're tough on enforcement and we've made it easier for people to report fly-tipping, but to prevent it in the first place we've also written to thousands of businesses and residents to remind them of what they need to do in getting rid of waste.

"Fly-tipping is a crime and our teams continue to work hard to target this problem in stepping up enforcement, increasing patrols in hotspot areas and we will never hesitate to prosecute offenders illegally dumping on our streets."

You can report fly-tipping through the Love Your Neighbourhood app or visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/flytipping



Join the Recycling Champions network

Help to increase recycling and reduce waste in the borough

Make a positive contribution to your neighbourhood and the environment while meeting new people and learning new things.

Visit: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/recyclingchampions

Contact: recycle@towerhamlets.gov.uk



BT opens new global headquarters in Tower Hamlets

JOBS AND ECONOMY

BT has opened its new global headquarters in Tower Hamlets as part of the firm's ongoing transformation programme which has seen it move from St Paul's after nearly 40 years.

The new building, named 'One Braham' after its Aldgate Braham Street address, boasts smart building technology, flexible workspaces, a ground floor community space and collaboration areas for its 3,500 staff who are based there.

"Our new HQ in London will bring our people together in an impressive and modern environment, transforming the way teams work," said Philip Jansen, BT Group Chief Executive. "We're really excited to be moving into One Braham. It represents a changing BT, one that is more agile, forward thinking and able to adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented by the acceleration of digital technologies."

Clr Motin Uz-Zaman, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Work, Economic Growth and Faith, said: "Tower Hamlets is and always has been a place of opportunity for people and we warmly welcome BT, whose move here from St Paul's follows a trend which is seeing the City moving east after the successes of Canary Wharf, the Olympics and the imminent arrival of Crossrail."

"The move also means more local job opportunities, and the work of our excellent educational institutions, skills training and work placement programmes, not only help our residents stand out in the jobs market, but also companies like BT who come here need look no further when recruiting."



Tower Hamlets is a place of opportunity and we welcome BT, whose move here follows a trend which is seeing the City moving east.



One Braham: The new building takes its name from its Aldgate Braham Street address



BT's new HQ boasts smart building technology, flexible workspaces, a ground floor community space and collaboration areas for its 3,500 staff

Columbia Road Flower Market crowned 'Best Small Speciality Market' in the UK

Columbia Road Flower Market has been named as the 'Best Small Speciality Market' in the UK at the 2022 Great British Market Awards.

The weekly Sunday market, which first started 153 years ago, was noted by judges as "a destination market with a wow factor for visitors, customers and tourists travelling from far and wide."

They praised Columbia Road as "one of its city's iconic street markets" and added "it is without doubt a standout and specialist

market which is revered by its community and visitors."

Columbia Road trader Ross Rospo (pictured on front cover), has been selling flowers for 30 years, having started out at the age of 14 with his dad. Ross said that the award win was a surprise, but he welcomed the recognition from the judges.

"The best thing about Columbia Road Flower Market is the close community," said Ross. "Everyone knows each other, the traders and the customers.

"Business was up and down during the pandemic but we're bouncing back really well and we're very grateful for the support by the customers and the council."

The award-winning Flower Market is open every Sunday from 8am-2pm, on Columbia Road, E2 7RG.

“The best thing about Columbia Road Flower Market is the close community. Everyone knows each other, the traders and the customers.”



Award judges said that Columbia Road is "without doubt a standout and specialist market which is revered by its community and visitors"

Green light for new café and restaurant in old toilets

Disused public toilets in Spitalfields are set to be transformed into a café and restaurant after receiving planning permission for the work was granted.

Under the plans, the old toilets on Leyden Street, near the famous Petticoat Lane Market, will be turned into a new ground level café and basement restaurant, while a new public toilet at ground level will also be proved for visitors, market traders and customers.

The project to renovate the council-owned underground toilets, which date back to 1901, is the latest part of the Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme which aims to support local businesses and traders by driving footfall to the Petticoat Lane area.

Works will be funded using

developer levies known as Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy payments, and through support from the High Street Heritage Action Zone scheme, which is run by Historic England.

Working with Historic England, the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) and Neil Tomlinson Architects, the design protects key heritage features of the Victorian toilet, including the original Victorian external railing, handrails and tiling.

Cllr Kahar Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm, said: "The Middlesex Street Regeneration project is investing heavily in the area to drive footfall to the market and high street businesses. We hope this new addition to the street will brighten up

the area and I look forward to seeing a new, clean, modern space that will and become a place of interest."

Tower Hamlets Council is now

in the process of appointing a contractor to carry out the renovation work, which is scheduled to begin in spring 2022.



An artist's impression of the new street level café



500 new homes will be provided in the new tower (artist's impression pictured centre) which has been praised for its design

New residential tower for Isle of Dogs approved

HOUSING

Plans to build a new 56-storey building on the Isle of Dogs which will accommodate hundreds of new homes have been given the go ahead at a council planning committee meeting on February 16.

Under the plans, Ensign House – a 1980s office block on Admiral's Way – will be demolished and replaced with a new 230-metre-high building, making it the second tallest

residential tower in the country, after the nearby Landmark Pinnacle, which stands at 233 metres.

500 new homes will be provided by the new building which will overlook South Dock with a mix of flats including 72 three and four-bedroom flats suitable for families and 208 two-bedroom flats.

Under the approved plans, 35 per cent of the new homes will be affordable, with 44 homes available at Tower Hamlets Living Rent,

a further 44 homes at London Affordable Rent and 43 homes available as shared ownership or at intermediate rent. 10 per cent of the new homes will also be suitable for wheelchair users.

The plans were amended through the planning process to include a new pocket park on Marsh Wall, which will be open to everyone.

Cllr Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning said: "We know and understand that many

residents have concerns about the height and density of housing on the Isle of Dogs, and we're committed to working with residents to make sure that new buildings have been designed to a high standard, make good use of the space available, and crucially that they are matched with important infrastructure. It's also really important that we deliver new much-needed affordable homes, and we welcome the new homes that will be provided here."

Report finds 2,000 homes target to be passed

A target to deliver more than 2,000 new homes in Tower Hamlets will be passed, figures in the latest annual housing report show.

The annual delivery report for housing and homes, which was presented to a February cabinet meeting, sets out how over the past 18 months the council has delivered on 827 new homes – a combination of new-build and purchases – which are completed and occupied by residents.

224 new-build homes are currently under construction and planning permission and finance has been secured for a further 184 new-build homes, which now just await the appointment of a contractor.

Work has also started on the next phase of building council homes, with funding agreed for 451 new

homes, planning permission secured for 42 new homes, and a further 318 new homes are in the pipeline going through the early finance and planning permission stages.

In total, the report shows that 2,046 additional homes for Tower Hamlets have been delivered or are currently being built by the council.

The report also noted the council's efforts in assisting residents to find affordable housing options through the Intermediate Housing Register, which is helping people on low to average incomes, the private renters' charter which has allowed the council to take more action against rogue landlords through licensing and enforcement, and the successful securing of £32 million in grant funding from the Mayor of London's

Affordable Housing Programme to fund an extra 194 new homes for social rent in the borough.

Cllr Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Housing, said:

"All of us need a place to live, but finding somewhere suitable in Tower Hamlets has been getting harder for a lot of people, as the nationwide housing crisis continues to bite hardest in London with property in short supply and prices and rents going up.

"It is an issue we have prioritised and so it really satisfying to see these figures and look back on what we have managed to achieve over the last 18 months, outdoing our original housing pledge, which is in addition to thousands more affordable homes being delivered by housing partners in the borough.

"We know there is always more to do, but we will continue to do all we can to ensure our residents have somewhere suitable to live."

“All of us need a place to live, but finding somewhere suitable has been getting harder for a lot of people, as the nationwide housing crisis continues to bite.”

Tower Hamlets tops table for government New Homes Bonus

Tower Hamlets will receive a £16.3 million bonus from the government for the delivery of new homes in the borough, including much needed new affordable homes for residents.

The New Homes Bonus, which is a grant paid by central government to councils in response to new homes being delivered, aims to encourage housing growth across the country.

The grant allocation means that for the third year running, Tower Hamlets has received the biggest bonus in the country, which will be invested back into services that matter most to residents as part of the council's budget setting for 2022/23.

Cllr Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Housing, said:

"We continue to work closely with housing

partners and associations to deliver the best possible service for our residents.

"This is in addition to delivering on our commitment of 2,000 council homes across the borough.

"I am delighted at the progress we have made so far and this extra funding will allow us to take further steps to assist residents."

Tower Hamlets was followed by Manchester which received the second biggest bonus of £9.9 million, with Leeds third (£9 million) and Newham fourth (£7.8 million).

The bonus announcement follows earlier news of an Affordable Housing Report from the GLA, which found Tower Hamlets delivered 4,306 affordable home completions in the period between 2016-21, which is the highest in London.



Poplar HARCA completed the Jolles House scheme in 2021 which provided 70 new homes



Mayor John Biggs with Shobi Khan, CEO of Canary Wharf Group, visiting new homes in the borough

Susmita Sen, Chief Executive, Tower Hamlets Homes

Like all organisations, THH (Tower Hamlets Homes) has had to make big changes to adapt to the pandemic and I am proud of our staff who continued to provide excellent services through this period.



Like you, I am very glad the pandemic seems to be coming to a close and that services are all almost back to normal, but despite the challenges, we have remained focused on delivering for our residents.

During the lockdowns our staff made 2,500 calls to vulnerable residents to enable them to receive the support they needed.

Rent and service charge collection has remained strong, high satisfaction with caretaking services has been maintained and refurbishment of homes has continued apace.

We've also been focused on tackling ASB in partnership with the council, our estate police teams and Parkguard which has brought us great results, helped by THH's delivery of youth programmes on estates to divert young people to constructive behaviours that further reduces ASB.

Our 27 community food gardens too are great places to grow fruit and vegetables but also improve community cohesion and well-being. And there are more planned in the pipeline!

Our efforts continue to be recognised nationally. Building on success in 2019 when we were awarded National Landlord of the Year and the Diversity Pioneer Award, our Caretakers won Frontline Team of the year and last year THH was recognised for our role in supporting diverse communities.

We look forward to the future including moving into the new Town Hall in 2023 with our council colleagues, improving customer access to services through increasing online options along with a continued focus on maximising productivity, continued commitment to resident engagement and community investment and enhancing our approach to safeguarding and vulnerability.

Free boiler upgrades for home owners

Tower Hamlets Council is running its award winning Boiler Replacement Programme, a free scheme to replace old and inefficient gas boilers.

If you have a boiler changed through the Programme, you may also be eligible for replacing faulty radiators, old heating controls, draught proofing and insulation.

To qualify you must be in receipt of a qualifying benefit and live in a property you own or with a family member who owns and also lives at the property. The existing boiler will also need to be checked for eligibility.



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The proposed budget includes more money for waste and recycling services, protection for free school meals and continued investment in areas including community safety and parks

Council budget for 2022/23 set to be agreed

COUNCIL NEWS

Tower Hamlets is set to retain one of the lowest council tax rates in London and invest in services which are helping to tackle the cost-of-living crisis – if budget plans are approved at a full council meeting on 2 March.

Councillors will be asked to approve the plans which include a zero per cent increase on the Tower Hamlets element of council tax and a one per cent rise in the Adult Social Care precept to support older and vulnerable residents.

The budget proposals follow an extensive consultation with residents and the feedback received has been used to inform income and spending plans.

In the consultation, community safety, children’s services, street

cleaning and waste, public health and housing were highlighted as the services most valued by residents.

The proposed budget includes more money for waste and recycling services, social care, special educational needs, community safety, tackling violence against women and girls, supporting carers, getting more people online, and a new fire safety team.

Council-funded police officers would also continue under the plans, with money also being allocated to improve CCTV to help keep our community safe.

There would also be investment in new high-quality council homes, Idea Stores, libraries, parks, and major new investment in leisure services.

Universal free school meals are also protected in the budget plans, ensuring 19,000 primary school

children get a free meal, equivalent to £450 per child each year, and there is planned extra support for struggling households through crisis grants schemes.

Councillors will also be asked to support the continuation of the 100 per cent council tax reduction scheme – which few councils now offer – meaning that the poorest households in the borough won’t pay council tax at all.

Cllr Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector, said:

“As well as the lasting impact of the pandemic, many more households are struggling with the big price rises in food and energy bills, the loss of benefits such as Universal Credit, and they are concerned about the coming rises in National Insurance.

“Our budget proposals seek to address these concerns. We’re

doing all we can to help families through these difficult times and we continue to invest in the services that our residents depend on.”

“

We’re doing all we can to help families through these difficult times and we continue to invest in the services that our residents depend on.



#DogsAtPollingStations has become a popular part of election day on social media

Tower Hamlets elections

COUNCIL NEWS

Your key questions answered

Residents will be called to the polls this spring to have their say on who will represent them on Tower Hamlets Council for the next four years and who their directly elected mayor will be.

All 45 council seats across 20 borough wards in Tower Hamlets will be up for election, as is the position of Mayor of Tower Hamlets, with all elected terms set to last until May 2026.

Here we set out to answer some of the key questions around the elections taking place in May.

When is polling day?

Polling day is Thursday 5 May 2022.

What does the Mayor of Tower Hamlets do?

Tower Hamlets has a system of governance in which the elected mayor has executive powers and personal responsibility for determining and delivering a wide range of policies and priorities.

What do councillors do?

Councillors represent their residents on Tower Hamlets Council, respond to queries and they may also take up other roles, including the cabinet and sitting on various committees.

How can I vote in the elections?

Registered voters will be able to vote in person at their designated local polling station between 7am and 10pm on Thursday 5 May

2022. There are also options to apply to vote by post or by proxy. For more information, and the statutory deadlines involved, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vote.

How do I apply to register to vote?

You can apply to register to vote by visiting www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. The deadline to apply to register for the election is Thursday 14 April 2022.



How is the Mayor of Tower Hamlets elected?

The mayor is elected using a 'single transferable vote' system, where residents are asked to select their



The council is supporting the Electoral Commission campaign



Police maintain a presence at all polling stations and at the count venue



Election agents for the candidates observe the count process

first and second choice candidate preferences for who they want to be Mayor of Tower Hamlets.

If, after counting all of the first choice votes, a candidate has secured more than 50 per cent of the votes cast, that candidate is elected mayor.

If no candidate gets more than 50 per cent of the first choice votes, the two candidates with the most first choice votes remain in the contest and the other candidates drop out. The second choice votes on the ballot papers of the candidates who dropped out of the contest are then counted. Where there are votes for the two remaining candidates, they are added to the first choice votes that they already had.

Of the two remaining candidates, the one with the most valid first and second choice votes is elected.

How are the councillors elected?

Councillors are elected using a first-past-the-post system where you will be asked to put an 'X' in a box on the ballot paper next to the candidate of your choice (or candidates if you have more than one councillor representing your ward). The candidate(s) who receive the most votes are duly elected.

Has my ward changed?

There have been no changes to ward boundaries since 2018 or the number of councillors in each ward, but residents in St Peter's Ward and Bethnal Green ward will see new names of Bethnal Green West Ward and Bethnal Green East Ward respectively.

When are the candidates for the elections announced?

The publication of Statement of Persons Nominated takes place no later than 4pm, Wednesday 6 April 2022.

Am I allowed to bring my dog to a polling station?

Yes, dogs are welcome to accompany their owners to vote but must be kept under control at all times.

Will the elections be Covid-safe?

The elections will be carried out in line with any government Covid-19 guidance in place come polling day.

For further information, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vote

What measures are in place to ensure the election runs fairly and smoothly?

Electoral malpractice is taken extremely seriously in Tower Hamlets. As well as the standard checks and controls in place at elections, the Returning Officer for Tower Hamlets has taken extra steps to ensure the elections are free, fair and transparent.

- The Returning Officer works closely with the council, the Electoral Commission and the Metropolitan Police's Special Enquiries Team to ensure that the planning and the running of the election is to the highest standard.
- Tower Hamlets has a dedicated webportal where residents can report concerns they have of suspected electoral malpractice. Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vote. All information reported is taken extremely seriously and, after an initial assessment, may be passed onto the police for a formal investigation to take place.
- Candidates are provided with additional guidance and briefings to ensure that they, their agents and those working on their campaigns are aware of their responsibilities.
- The Returning Officer and the council work closely with the Electoral Commission to share their message to voters that 'Your Vote is Yours Alone.'
- The Metropolitan Police will have a presence at every polling place across the borough on polling day and at the count.
- Polling places will have an exclusion zone directly outside in which no campaigning can take place.
- Signage will be translated to ensure that voters are aware of the election rules relating to the secrecy of the vote in the polling stations.
- Voting booths are also equipped with privacy barriers to assist with the secrecy of the ballot.
- Staff are trained to ensure no undue pressure or influence is placed on any voter when casting their vote.
- Between polling day and the beginning of the verification and the count, the secured ballot boxes are constantly monitored and kept under constant CCTV surveillance.
- Admission to the election counts at the East Wintergarden, Canary Wharf will be subject to strict security measures on entry, which includes a named ticket with the attendee's full address and their photograph, which will be checked on arrival at the venue.

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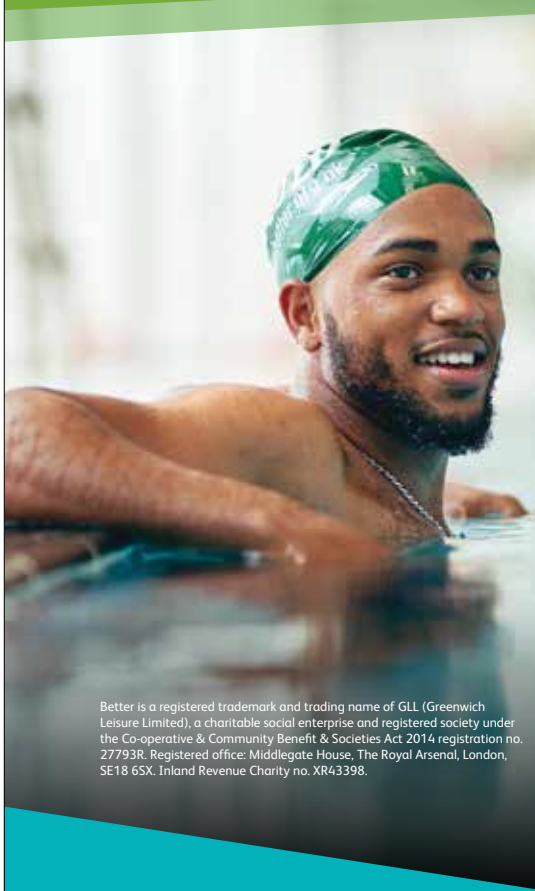
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BETTER



Tower Hamlets is home to Wilton's Music Hall, the oldest surviving grand music hall in the world

Taking centre stage

In each edition we focus on people and places that make Tower Hamlets so special

CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

Tucked away just below Cable Street in Shadwell is Graces Alley, where hidden behind what appears to be just a charming row of elegant eighteenth-century terraced houses, you'll find a rare gem – Wilton's Music Hall.

"A music hall traditionally would have been a working-class entertainment venue" says Michael Eppy, General Manager at Wilton's. "There were a lot of dock workers that were working down on the Thames and living in the area, and the music hall would have been a

place of variety, stand up, sketches and theatre for them.

"It was built by a man called John Wilton who bought number one Graces Alley, which was an alehouse, before he then bought up the five houses along the street. The music hall was built behind those houses in 1859, which today makes Wilton's the oldest surviving grand music hall in the world.

"It's a place with a history of its own. It's been used as a Methodist mission, a warehouse and in the Battle of Cable Street in 1936, it was used as a refuge area."

Wilton's survived the blitz and regional post-war regeneration

plans for the area, but by the time it had reopened as a music hall and theatre in the late twentieth century, the now Grade-II listed building was in need of extensive repair.

"The building was very much at risk and there was a big fundraising campaign to save it" says Michael. "They used a policy of 'conservative repair' during the work which retained anything genuinely historic and made sure the building was safe.

"Where there's been a leak in the past which stained one of the walls, you'll still see it there. The flooring, the exposed brickwork and plasterwork are all original, as are

the original paper mache mouldings on the balconies and the barley-twist columns. You can even see in some parts how the Victorian builders used old track from the original Docklands railway as structural supports."

Completed in 2015, Wilton's won the 2016 RIBA London Conservation Award for the way in which the original character of the building had been preserved during the work.

"If you've never been to Wilton's before you almost feel like you've gone through a time warp," says Michael. "There's an amazing sense of calmness and stillness as you



Michael Eppy, General Manager, says that the music hall has kept its character and has all the things a modern arts space needs

“If you’ve never been to Wilton’s before you feel like you’ve gone through a time warp... a real mix of glamour yet worn around the edges, which makes it all the more intriguing.”

walk in. “The musical hall has kept its character and has all the things a modern arts space needs. We have a great soundsystem, lighting and comfortable seating for visitors. It’s a real mix of glamour yet worn around the edges, which makes it all the more intriguing.” The nineteenth-century music hall has also been a popular filming location with music videos for Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Annie Lennox, Kate Bush and the 2021 video for ‘Heartbreak Anthem’ by Galantis, David Guetta and Little Mix all being shot there. Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law shot scenes for ‘Sherlock Holmes’ at Wilton’s

and it was also a filming location for ‘The Krays,’ ‘The Danish Girl’ and ‘Muppets Most Wanted.’ “Wilton’s is still drawing the stars to the East End after all this time,” says Michael. “It’s definitely a historic venue but it is very much a live and exciting place with a really broad programme covering both traditional and contemporary theatre and music. “Coming up we have traditional and modern takes on Shakespearean plays and music with Opera Della Luna, the Hackney Colliery Band, Liza Pulman from Fascinating Aida and we’ll also have Tom Carradine back with his popular cockney sing-along show.

“We’re always pleased to see our regulars, but many who come in are discovering us for the first time, having just come in for a show or to have something to eat or drink in our bar. It’s just a fantastic place to come and enjoy the arts and experience some real East End history, with a great range of drinks and food on offer as well.” Visit www.wiltons.org.uk and www.towerhamlets.is for more information.



Living with Covid-19 while staying safe

HEALTHIER LIVES

The government recently announced that 'Plan B' measures were to be lifted in England and across London. Some of the changes include:

- People are no longer required to wear face coverings in any setting. It is still recommended that face coverings are used as a precautionary measure in crowded and indoor spaces and when in contact with people you do not normally meet.
- Face coverings continue to be mandatory on all Transport for London services and some shops may still require customers to wear face coverings.
- People are no longer being asked to work from home if they can.
- Staff and pupils in secondary schools and colleges are not required to wear a face covering in classrooms.

Self-isolation

Advice around self-isolation remains in place, although the government may change this in time as part of plans to live with Covid-19 and our continued journey out of the pandemic.

- The need to isolate after a positive Covid-19 test and the requirement

to take lateral flow tests when travelling internationally remain in place.

- If you experience symptoms of Covid-19 you should isolate immediately and take a test.

All the latest information can be found online: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/testing

Safe behaviours

Everyone should continue to follow safe behaviours to protect themselves and others. These include:

- Getting vaccinated and getting your vital booster dose: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vaccine
- 16 and 17-year-olds are also now eligible for the booster jab and can book online or turn up at walk-in clinics
- Wearing a face covering as a precautionary measure in crowded and indoor spaces
- Letting fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is still safer
- Getting tested and self-isolating if required: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/testing

Are you a young resident?

The council has been working with health partners throughout the pandemic to support vaccination in specific communities and with



The government is encouraging people to get their booster jab

target groups.

As part of our work to support young residents, we have developed a new information site (developed with young people for young people). Along with providing the latest Covid-19 and vaccine information, the site includes videos with young people talking about their experience

of vaccination and their motivations for getting vaccinated.

If you're aged 18-29 and are looking for information on Covid-19 and vaccination visit our new site and hear directly from your peers: <https://towerhamlets.everythingcovid.info>

Second Covid-19 vaccine for 12 to 17-year-olds

The second phase of the Covid-19 vaccine rollout for 12 to 17-year-olds is now underway.

Families with children aged 12 to 17 will soon be invited to attend vaccination clinics at their school for their first, second or booster Covid-19 vaccination.

You will receive information from your school that will explain the following four steps to vaccination:

1. Dates and times that you can attend the school for a vaccine
2. Parent/carer will need to complete an online consent form providing permission for their child to be vaccinated
3. A paper version of the consent form can be made available for those

who are unable to access the internet. You will also receive an information sheet that clearly explains the Covid-19 vaccination for children and young people aged 12 to 17.

If you and your child miss the vaccination date at your school, you can book your vaccination at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination

Visit <https://towerhamlets.everythingcovid.info> or call the Tower Hamlets vaccination helpline on 020 7364 3030 for help and support locally.

Get support to choose healthier snacks

With a Netmums survey finding that six in ten parents give their children more sugary or fatty snacks than before the pandemic, the NHS has just launched its new NHS Food Scanner app to help families eat better.

Families can now scan product barcodes from their shopping and the app will suggest healthier alternatives to help them make easy swaps whilst shopping.

The free app uses a 'Good Choice' badge to help signpost people to healthier food and drinks in line with government guidance.

Search for 'NHS Food Scanner' on the App Store or Google Play.



The NHS Food Scanner app is free to download



The council vaccine bus team out at Devons Estate

Council bus still out vaccinating

With vaccination remaining critical in protecting people from the severe effects of Covid-19, the council continues to operate its vaccination bus to support residents in grabbing their jab.

The bus, which can offer first, second or booster jabs, moves around Tower Hamlets, including to locations chosen specifically to help vaccinate hard to reach communities and areas of the borough where data shows there is low vaccine uptake.

Providing easy, appointment-free on-the-spot vaccinations from the bus is just one of the ways the council is supporting residents to get their vaccination. Staffed with specialist teams, the bus provides an opportunity for members of the public to engage, ask questions and get information and reassurance about vaccination and wider Covid-19 advice.

Some of the locations the bus

visits help reach communities including black Caribbean residents, the Somali community, students and young people and particularly vulnerable groups such as the homeless.

While locations have been chosen for their ability to reach specific communities, the vaccine bus is open to anyone and has been vaccinating many members of the public 'passing by' since it has been out and about.

Over 209,000 residents in Tower Hamlets have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and over 127,000 have had their vital booster dose.

In addition to the bus, there are currently more clinics than ever before offering vaccination, including health centres, pharmacies and community spaces. All support the 'evergreen' offer, meaning there are vaccines waiting for people at any time they choose to come forward



Cllr Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing (second from right), visits the council vaccine bus engagement team

– whether first, second or booster. Many sites offer walk-in options or an appointment service.

Details of the vaccine bus locations

can be found on the council website, alongside all other clinics offering jabs in Tower Hamlets:

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vaccine

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Cyclamen bring a splash of colour to the Queen Mary University campus

Spring around Mile End

Graham Barker enjoys spring flowers and social history on this loop around Mile End's green spaces and heritage landmarks.

Photos by **Kois Miah**.

WALK MILE END

With spring in the air and flowers starting to bloom, it's a good time to head out on this loop around Mile End. As you leave Mile End station, it can be hectic – with cars whizzing by and commuters coming and going – but, rest assured, within minutes you'll be in a more peaceful setting.

From the station, turn left towards the green bridge (1). With its broad yellow underbelly and greenery on top, the bridge – designed by local architect,

| Start:
| Mile End tube
| station

| Finish:
| Mile End tube
| station

| Distance:
| 2.7 miles

| Allow:
| 90 minutes



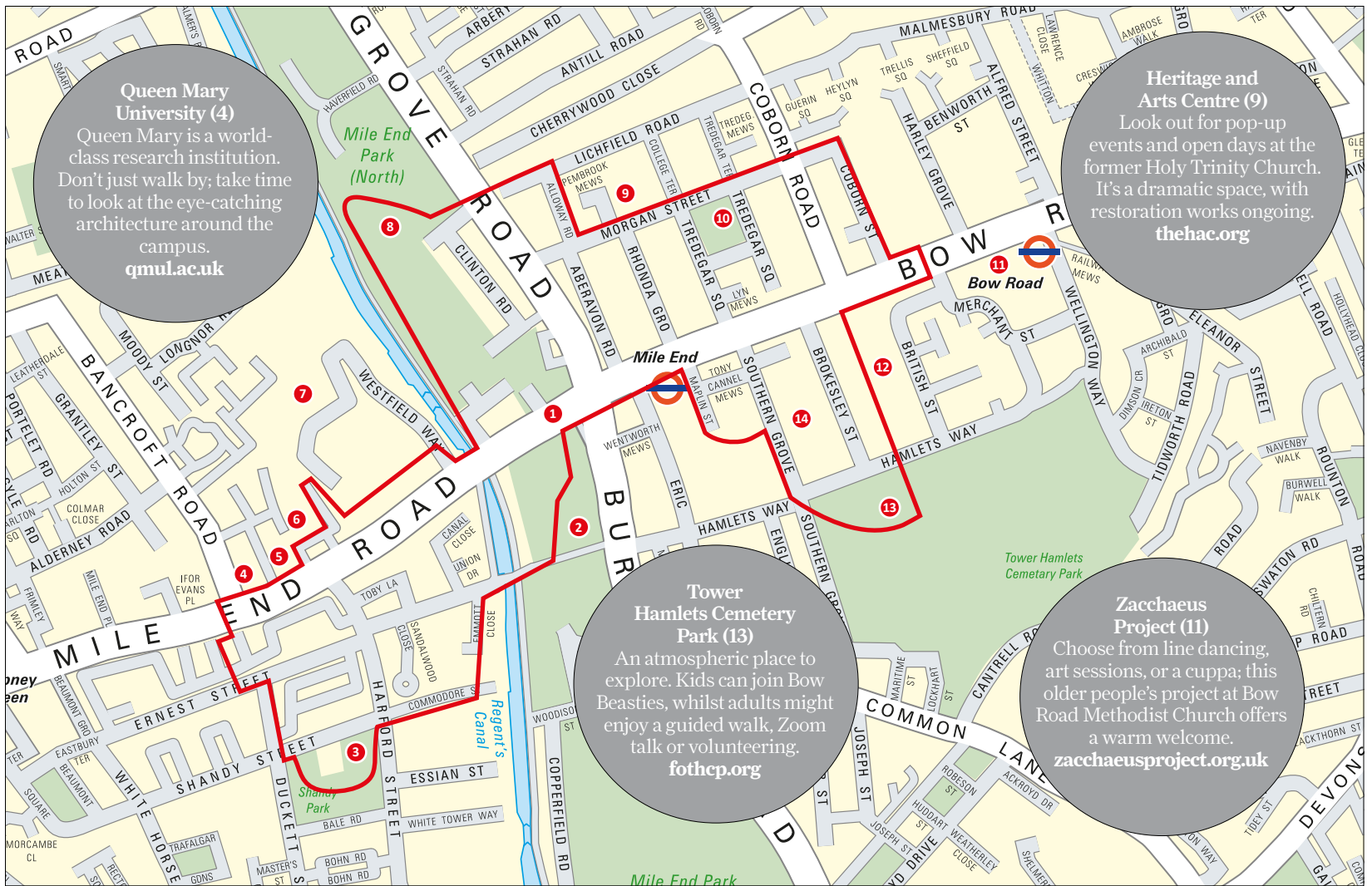
(1) The green bridge designed by Piers Gough



(3) Get fit for less at Shandy Park's outdoor gym



(6) The Queen's Building dates from 1887



Piers Gough – was opened in 1999 to provide a safe park link, spanning the traffic.

Step up beside the green glazed bricks. The concept for Mile End Park (2) was inspired by the 1940s Abercrombie Plan though it took decades to realise, as industrial land and bomb sites were gradually acquired and merged. Now extending to some 80 acres, the park is shaped into themed spaces – including arts, ecology and play zones – with the Regent’s Canal running alongside.

Step down through the terraced gardens, planted with a sensory mix of fragrant flowering shrubs, textured evergreens and ornamental

grasses. Beside the water pool, there are views back towards Guardian Angels Roman Catholic Church, built in 1903; its fiery-red brickwork and copper spire form a distinctive part of the skyline here.

Arch over the canal bridge into Solebay Street and take the estate road, first left, past the Emmott Close club room where older residents join together in social activities. Beyond Harry Roberts Nursery – named after a respected Stepney GP – wander through Shandy Park (3), flanked by blossoming cherry trees.

This was originally the East London Cemetery, opened in 1837. It was a pet project of local landowner and

philanthropist, Barber Beaumont, who we’ll encounter again shortly. It was soon eclipsed by the much larger Tower Hamlets Cemetery and re-landscaped into a public garden in 1885. A row of headstones is the only clue to its former use.

St Faith’s Church once stood beside the park – only the church hall remains – and Stepney Shahjalal Mosque is currently being built to the south. Hereabouts, the Ocean Estate has been transformed over recent years; as part of a £200 million regeneration scheme, blocks have been refurbished or replaced, creating over 800 new homes.

Head up Duckett Street and cut

through to Mile End Road. As you go, you might spot that the block names follow a nautical ‘ocean’ theme, embracing seas, ports and explorers.

There are views across to the Queen Mary University campus (4), starting with the mathematical sciences building, clad with lemon and grey tessellating diamonds.

Cross and follow the engineering block, which spans Bancroft Road, before pausing outside the People’s Palace (5). Built in 1936 – after its Victorian predecessor burnt down – the facade incorporates Eric Gill’s stone reliefs depicting drama, music, fellowship, dancing and sport.



(7) Jewish gravestones at the Novo Cemetery



(8) Mile End’s Art Pavilion lawns and lake



Coborn Street inspired a star’s stage name

In the foyer, a colossal stone epitaph extols the accomplishments of Barber Beaumont – as portrait painter, insurance pioneer, soldier and philanthropist – whose Philosophical Institution in Beaumont Square helped inspire the People’s Palace.

The Queen’s Building (6), the campus centrepiece, was built in 1887 to provide reading rooms, a gymnasium and winter gardens for local residents’ education and entertainment. From these beginnings, Queen Mary – now part of the University of London – has evolved into a world-class research institution.

Around in Library Square, often busy with students and academics, look out for the tiny ‘Elephant in the Room’ sculpture by Chierol Lai, intended to raise awareness about mental health. Above it, Wendy Taylor’s Knowledge sculpture mirrors the sunlight.

Clement Attlee – local MP and later Prime Minister – stands behind the library and nearby there’s a plaque to prize-fighter, Daniel Mendoza who was buried in the Novo Cemetery (7). The view soon opens out across this remarkable burial ground, created in 1733 primarily for Spanish and Portuguese Sephardic Jews.

Leave the campus and re-enter Mile End Park along Whitman Road. Mile End Lock cottage has been adapted into the Graduates’ Centre with an angular extension. And further along, architects Fielden Clegg Bradley used verdigris copper and steel cladding on the student halls to add colourful flashes.

An info-panel explains that you’re standing in the footprint of the New Globe Tavern pleasure gardens where visitors were entertained with musical concerts, hot air balloon ascents and firework displays.

If you’re feeling energetic, climb the mound to take in the views. Otherwise, continue across the lawns facing the Art Pavilion (8) – used for exhibitions and community events

– which arcs gracefully around the lake. At the far end, exit the park onto Grove Road.

In Lichfield Road, look out for the ‘stay home’ lockdown mural at No. 94, before heading down Alloway Road. You’re now in the Tredegar Estate, developed by Sir Charles Morgan of Tredegar from the 1820s. As you progress along Morgan Street, you’ll glimpse cottage terraces and grander villas in the side streets.

Holy Trinity Church (9) was built in the 1830s as a proprietary chapel – funded by Edmund Dickenson, a solicitor who later went bankrupt. After closing in the late 1960s, the church was revived by the Epainos Ministries. It’s currently being re-imagined as a Heritage and Arts Centre. Look out for pop-up events for a chance to peek inside.

Next door, the former school – originally Coopers’ and later Central Foundation – has been converted into flats, and a hexagonal Penfold pillar box stands at the corner.

The impressive houses in Tredegar Square (10) were built with professionals and middle-class merchants in mind. But not all residents were respectable; in the 1870s, No. 40 was home to brush-maker Henry Wainwright, who killed his mistress. He was later caught red-handed moving her corpse, and was hanged for murder.

The Morgan Arms, with fine terracotta detailing, stands on the next corner. Coborn Road marks the boundary between the Morgan and Coborn estates; land east of here was developed in the 1830s in order to bolster funds of the Coborn School, endowed a century earlier by the wealthy brewer, Prisca Coborn.

Beyond Malmesbury Primary School, blue plaques note that music hall star Charles Coborn – famous for ‘Two Lovely Black Eyes’ – took his stage name from this street, and that Dr Barnardo lodged at No 30 whilst training at the London Hospital.

Out on Bow Road – by the Central Foundation Girls’ School – cross



(13) WWI international soldiers’ mural at the cemetery lodge

to Bow Methodist Church (11). It’s home to the Zacchaeus Project, offering social activities and welfare advice for older people.

After the blue hoarding, head into St Clement’s (12). Opened in 1849 as the City of London Union Workhouse, it later became an infirmary and, from the 1930s, a mental health hospital. It’s in the final stages of redevelopment as a Community Land Trust providing affordable housing, with rents and re-sale prices pegged. Architecturally, it’s a successful mix of old and new.

Exit through the rear gateway and continue into Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (13). Today’s walk route provides just a taster, though you could easily spend a few hours exploring here.

This 27-acre cemetery was opened in 1841, one of London’s ‘Magnificent Seven’ burial grounds. Gravestones stand in serried ranks and more ramshackle clusters. In all, over 350,000 East Enders are buried here, many with maritime connections, such as ropemakers, ship builders and sea captains.

These days it’s managed as a nature reserve. Listen out for woodpeckers and squawking parakeets. Throughout spring, daffodils, crocuses and wood anemones will be followed by grape hyacinths and bluebells.

Head towards the tall monument,

towering like a Gothic church spire commemorating shipbuilder, Joseph Westwood. Alongside, and in contrast to Westwood’s monument, a pair of hands give flight to a swift; it commemorates over 500 children in Dr Barnardo’s care, as well as three of his own children, who were buried here.

Ahead, the path opens into a triangular lawn – once the site of the Anglican chapel – where you curve back beside some rather splendid monuments. Among those buried hereabouts are Limehouse publican Charlie Brown, ‘Farthing Bundle Lady of Bow’ Clara Grant, and John ‘Old White Hat’ Willis, owner of the Cutty Sark tea clipper.

Beyond the Soanes Centre – often lively with chattering school groups – you emerge into Southern Grove. Next to Beatrice Tate School, the former Whitechapel Union Workhouse (14) is being redeveloped into housing. Long before the welfare state, the workhouse was a last resort for those in need: “A little gruel morning and night, meat twice a week; that is the food of the grown-up people, seasoned with hard work and prison discipline,” wrote journalist Margaret Harkness in 1889.

And so, to finish your walk, follow the ‘yellow brick road’ opposite and soon you’re back at Mile End tube station.



(12) Old and new, side by side at St Clement’s



(13) A touching memorial to Barnardo children



(14) The former Whitechapel Workhouse

Celebrating Women's History Month

Women's groups and community organisations, contemporary women artists, activists, writers, and performers will present a diverse programme of events and exhibitions in galleries, venues, libraries and institutions across east London as part of Women's History Month this March.

Co-ordinated by community organisation Alternative Arts and supported by Tower Hamlets Council, highlights include a celebration by Mohila Ongon Association, with live music, drama, dance, a confidence building workshop, Zumba session, children's art activities, face painting and games.

Whitechapel Gallery is running a zine making event for young people, and Roman Road Trust are inviting thoughts and insights on the history of Women in Bow for the Bow Heritage Trail.

Half Moon Theatre will stage a play celebrating the life of Josephine Baker, the little girl from Missouri who became a 20th century icon.

The council's sport development team will host a week of sports and wellbeing activities including



Four Corners: Photographing Protest

pilates, self defence sessions, football, massage and more.

Exhibitions include the Women's History Month Photo Show at Brady Arts Centre, She at the Yurt Café, East End Prints in Brick Lane, Photographing Protest at Four Corners, #Break the Bias from Trapped in Zone One; and three exhibitions at Whitechapel Gallery – A Century of The Artist Studio, Simone Fattal and the Travel Bureau.

Festivals include Arab Women Artists Now at Rich Mix in

Bethnal Green, showcasing music, performance, spoken word, film, and talks by artists from across the globe.

Also, visit Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives' unique resources on the history of the East End including information and images of the East London Federation of Suffragettes and many other local courageous women.

Visit www.alternativearts.org.uk for the full programme and booking details.

Tracey Emin announced as Whitechapel Gallery Art Icon for 2022

Renowned contemporary artist Tracey Emin will be the ninth artist to receive the prestigious annual Art Icon award, Whitechapel Gallery has announced.

The award will be presented at a gala celebration hosted by gallery director, Iwona Blazwick OBE, on Monday 22 March.



Tracey Emin, *The Ship*, 2019, Acrylic on canvas, 152.5 x 182.2 x 3.7 cm. © Tracey Emin

Iwona said: "Our nominating committee was unanimous in wishing to pay tribute to Tracey Emin. Over the past four decades, her work across painting, sculpture, installation, film and photography has both challenged and transformed conceptions of art, gender, health and autonomy; now, as one of the most renowned artists of our time, Emin's impact can be seen globally – from contributing to the development of east London and Margate as centres for creativity, to her impact as a Professor at the Royal Academy and efforts further afield with the Tracey Emin Library in Uganda. Her pioneering portrayals of love, loss, happiness and hope will resonate with artists and audiences for years to come."

Frank and intimate, but universal in its relevance, Tracey Emin's practice

draws on the fundamental themes of desire and grief, unravelling the constructs of 'woman' and 'self' through painting, drawing, film, photography, sewn appliqué, sculpture and neon.

In 1998 she produced 'My Bed' which is considered by some her most iconic work. A representation of her own bed after a particularly troubled period, it offers an unflinching glimpse into a state of emotional flux through its unedited, real-life accumulation of objects. Her work from this period also includes the photographic series, Naked Photos – Life Model Goes Mad (1996), which is to be displayed in A Century of the Artist's Studio: 1920-2020, opening on 24 February at Whitechapel Gallery.

Submissions open for A Season of Bangla Drama 2022

This November will see another great festival of theatre across Tower Hamlets when the council will once again be delivering A Season of Bangla Drama.

The unique month-long festival has been running annually since 2003 and, more recently, in collaboration with the Drama Department at Queen Mary University of London. It provides a fantastic opportunity to showcase new writing as well as re-telling old favourites to both established and emerging audiences from all communities.

The council is keen to see a range of different perspectives on contemporary British Bengali life and welcomes expressions of interest in taking part in the festival.

Playwrights can be based locally or nationally but content should be relevant to an East London audience. In recognition of 2022 being the 70th anniversary of Martyrs' Day, new writing in 2022 should be on the themes of self-determination and freedom of speech.

Download an expression of interest form at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/seasonbangladrama and submit by 9am on Monday 25 April.

Altab Ali Day remembrance event

An event will be held on Monday 4 May to mark the official and permanent recognition of Altab Ali Day by Tower Hamlets Council.

In 1978, Altab Ali's senseless and racially motivated murder helped to develop a strong and widespread anti-racism movement, engaging both the Bengali and wider communities to take a public stand against the racial intolerance which was prevalent in certain areas of London at the time. For further details, and to watch the poignant animated film Altab Ali and the Battle of Brick Lane, go to www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/altabali

Exhibitions

Diverse voices

This exhibition of photographs by Kois Miah is the culmination of a UCL health research project. Participants were invited to creatively express themselves and tell their own stories of health, illness, inequality or barriers to participation in research, through their images.

Until 26 February (Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 10am-4pm)

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

Self Conscious

Mixed media works from a group of emerging artists denied a degree show due to Covid-19 and based around the theme of consciousness.

2-6 March

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

Visit www.uelfineart.com



Bow Food Bank volunteer Alison Neville. Photo by Sarah Ainslie

Women's History Month Photo Show

Images by women photographers, selected from the Women's History Month Photo Open which was held online in 2021. The collection covers a range of themes with portraits, lively demonstrations, women at work, home and play, in performances and celebrations, and exploring their identity and history.

4-31 March

(Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 10am-4pm)

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

Reflect - Reconnect - Renew

This celebration of local students' artwork created during the pandemic offers visitors the opportunity to capture memories and thoughts as part of a live collaborative art piece.

22-31 March

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

26 // Our EastEnd FEBRUARY 2022 //

Untold

International exhibiting group PRISM use textiles to offer a rich and dynamic interpretation of the title 'Untold' with storytelling, histories and contemporary comment.

6-18 April

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

Visit www.prismtextiles.co.uk

Explosion of Words

An imaginary library of modern poetry in translation, extends as an ocean of text over 24 metres of the Nunnery Gallery's walls, celebrating the power of language. It is the culmination of Swiss artist Hannes Schüpbach's response to the oeuvre of east London-based poet and language activist Stephen Watts, whose work encompasses extensive research on poetry and the co-translation of poetry from many languages.

Until 17 April

(Tue-Sun, 10am-4pm)

Nunnery Gallery, 181 Bow Road E3 2SJ

Visit bowarts.org/nunnery

The Vanished East End

This exhibition explores the huge social and economic changes in the area, including the now-vanished industrial landscape and the deregulation of the financial markets. Photographers' distinctive and personal approaches to capturing the area consist of: Down the Lane by Tom Hunter, taken in the 1980s, when he had a stall at Brick Lane Market and photographed passers-by; East End by Diane Bush; London Docklands by Mike Seaborne, showcasing social and economic changes through the 1970s and 1980s, which were defined by a vanished post-industrial landscape; The Broadgate Development by Brian Griffin, commenting on economic shifts in the 1980s when local borough borders were re-drawn as the City spread with the de-regulation of the financial markets; Street Portraits by Syd Shelton - an ongoing 45-year conversation with people of the East



Distinctive and personal approaches to socio-economic changes

End. A selection of photographs is also exhibited from London Metropolitan University's East End Archive by the world-renowned photographer Don McCullin and actor Steven Berkoff.

7-28 April (Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 10am-4pm)

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

Trellis

Showcase of new artwork created in collaborations between artist, east London communities and UCL researchers. Accompanying programme of workshops and events.

29 April-8 May

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

Visit www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/projects/trellis-public-art

Paintings of London Life

Inspired by the idea that artists see shapes, colours and contrasts, rather than things, Kay Kanté paints London street scenes, capturing moments of ordinary life and activity with joy and exuberance. One of her paintings, Stop/Go Whitechapel, was selected for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in 2021. That painting was a springboard for a new collection, which is being released for this exhibition.

4-28 May (Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 10am-4pm)

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

Jubilant Jubilee

Diverse work which hails from classes run by local art tutor Virginia Hawke, and has been created in response to the wider theme of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Participants have been exploring historic UK events throughout recent decades with associated feasts, fanfare, celebration and commemoration to make connections through the years.

1-28 June (Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 10am-4pm)



Feasts, fanfare, celebration and commemoration through the years

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

Spring Market

Urban Makers

An array of designer-makers will sell jewellery, ceramics, original art, clothing, accessories, homeware, fabulous kids' items and gifts aplenty. There will be snacks and meals, as well as kids' activities; a great excuse to visit.

14 and 15 May

Mile End Ecology Pavilion, Mile End Park, Grove Road, Bow, E3 5TW.

Visit www.urbanmakers.co.uk

Theatre

Soldier Tales

An international showcase of five new, short plays written by those most deeply affected by the trauma of military service - the veterans themselves and their families.

27 February (+Live Stream)

The Space, 269, Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs E14 3RS

Visit www.space.org.uk

My Car Plays Tapes

A new storytelling show about minimum wage jobs, getting older and being reunited with your old cassette collection, from the creator of cult fringe show John Peel's Shed.

1-5 March (Live Stream 3 March)

The Space, 269, Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs E14 3RS

Visit www.space.org.uk

Emmeline: The Suffragette Movement

A story of the courage and sacrifice of the Suffragettes and their undying determination that made history. A story to inspire the continued fight for human emancipation.

8-12 March

The Space, 269, Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs E14 3RS

Visit www.space.org.uk

The Dalton Sisters

Three burlesque dancers need a fourth member to join their group. What happened to the last one? The perils of social imprisonment, sisterhood and the sweet joy of burlesque.

10-14 May (Live Stream 11 May)

The Space, 269, Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs E14 3RS

Visit www.space.org.uk

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Help is at hand: The new 'Covid Recovery Service' is funded by a £100,000 grant from the Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund

New 'Covid Recovery Service' launched

MAYOR'S COVID RECOVERY FUND

Residents needing help on social welfare, finance, employment, immigration and housing issues are set to benefit from a new advice service.

The new 'Covid Recovery Service' is funded by a £100,000 grant from the Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund and will be delivered through Citizens Advice East End.

National studies show the Covid-19 pandemic has driven over 700,000 people in the UK into poverty. Figures from Citizens Advice show that 3.2 million households are facing financial crises as they struggle to afford

essentials including rent, heating and food.

Telephone queries to Citizens Advice East End on welfare advice issues have tripled, with callers getting in touch with queries around benefits, Universal Credit, debt, housing and employment.

Cllr Mufeedah Bustin, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, said:

"The end of furlough, rises in energy bills, benefit cuts and cost of living increases has created a perfect storm for vulnerable families already struggling with their budgets.

"Many residents are now feeling overwhelmed with the pressures they face which is why the Covid Recovery Service is needed to provide essential advice on anything

from housing and employment opportunities right through to legal advice and budgeting."

Citizens Advice East End's CEO, Yasmin Alam said:

"People's problems have become much more complex and require comprehensive casework for immediate and long-term positive outcomes.

"The service will be using a hybrid model to incorporate both face-to-face and digital delivery, to efficiently support residents."

Call 020 3855 4472 to speak to a Citizens Advice adviser in Tower Hamlets. Calls to this number will cost the same as calls to a landline number.

“

The end of furlough, rises in energy bills, benefit cuts and cost of living increases has created a perfect storm for vulnerable families already struggling.

Funding boost for domestic abuse support

A charity working with domestic violence victims in Tower Hamlets has been given a funding grant to help with the rise of cases linked to the pandemic.

Solace Women's Aid has been handed £155,000 from the Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund to fund three additional domestic violence case workers specialising in mental health and working with the Somali community.

The funding, allocated from the £3m fund supporting projects

helping with the economic, health and social recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in Tower Hamlets, will ensure all service users have an up-to-date risk assessment and individual support plan.

Solace Women's Aid is a charity which provides practical and emotional help to domestic violence victims to help them build safe and strong lives free from abuse and violence.

During the pandemic, charities reported a sharp increase in demand

for services, with some victims feeling at greater risk of harm or deciding to report abuse for the first time. National charity Refuge reported a 61 per cent increase in calls to their helpline.

Cllr Sirajul Islam, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, added:

"We welcome the extra support from the Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund as lockdown has put victims at higher risk of domestic abuse.

"Domestic abuse has a significant

impact on emotional, physical, social and financial wellbeing, as well as affecting other relationships. Having additional caseworkers will mean we can help to protect and support more residents."

If you are suffering from domestic abuse, please contact Tower Hamlets Solace Advocacy and Support Service on 020 3795 5054 or 999 in emergencies.

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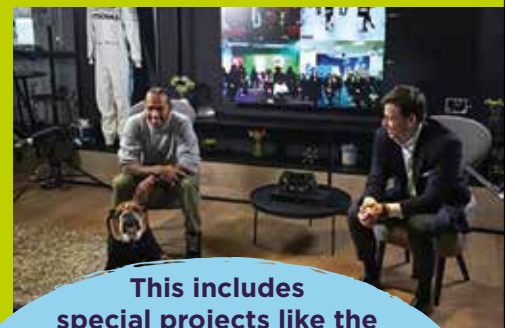
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Bobbies on the beat: Council-funded police officers have focussed on residents' concerns around drug use, drug dealing and general antisocial behaviour

Council-funded police on the beat

SAFER TOGETHER

Council-funded police officers, have undertaken 9,478 hours of uniformed patrols since the start of April 2021.

The police officers, also known as the Partnership Task Force (PTF), form part of the council's Neighbourhood Enforcement and Treatment service (NET), which was rolled out across the whole borough last April.

The PTF has focused on a range of issues in support of the council over the years, responding to residents' concerns on drug use, drug dealing and general antisocial behaviour.

Since April 2021, the officers have issued nearly 200 antisocial behaviour warnings, 376 stop and searches and 53 detections for possession of drugs or possession with intent to supply.

The NET responds to residents' concerns at neighbourhood antisocial behaviour and crime hotspots, with police patrols focussed on responding to drug and violence reports.

The council-funded officers work closely with the council's CCTV team, targeting known vehicles used in drug dealing.

From October to December 2021, 23 vehicles that were mostly linked to drug supply were seized by the

PTF officers.

Cllr Sirajul Islam, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, said: "Police forces have faced huge financial challenges from government funding cuts over the years, making it increasingly difficult for our colleagues in the Met to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour.

"We continue to provide council-funded police officers in Tower Hamlets so we can work together to keep our borough safe."

To report crime, visit www.met.police.uk. To report antisocial behaviour, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/asb



We have continued to prioritise funding the Partnership Task Force in Tower Hamlets so we can work together to keep our borough safe.

£3.1 million CCTV upgrade

New CCTV cameras are now being installed as part of the council's ongoing CCTV Transformation Programme, a £3.1million investment from the council which will see every camera upgraded with digital technology.

The CCTV upgrade will be ongoing throughout the year, with new cameras already installed on the Isle of Dogs, Tower Hill, Arnold Circus and Town Centre.

Alongside the police, the council has an important role to play in tackling crime and ASB. CCTV is one of the ways the council helps with the prevention, detection and reduction of crime in Tower Hamlets.

Recently, the council's CCTV assisted the police with a chase of three people on bikes with a machete. CCTV footage helped police officers to arrest the individuals, who were believed to be responsible for a high number of armed robberies in Tower Hamlets.

In December, the CCTV team also helped with the arrest of a suspect charged with grievous bodily harm after they were able to trace where he lived using playback footage.

The upgraded cameras will provide better visibility and will allow the council's CCTV team to support the police to tackle crime more effectively, helping to keep residents and visitors safe in Tower Hamlets.



CCTV upgrade now underway across the borough

1,100 nitrous oxide canisters seized in raid

More than 1,100 nitrous oxide canisters and 291.4kg of nitrous oxide cylinders were seized as part of a two-day operation against shops in Tower Hamlets knowingly selling illicit products.

The operation saw the council's Trading Standards team, Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and a detection dog target premises believed to be illegally selling the psychoactive substance

for recreational use.

Officers also seized 8,690 counterfeit cigarettes and 3,330 grams of counterfeit/illicit hand rolling tobacco from eight premises, including a fried chicken shop.

To find out more about and report littering and antisocial behaviour associated with nitrous oxide use, please visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/nolaughingmatter



Officers tackle illegal sales of psychoactive substance nitrous oxide

Sign up

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

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Ten years since London 2012

COMMUNITY NEWS

It's been ten years since the unforgettable summer of 2012 when the Olympic and Paralympic Games came to the East End.

A decade on, the team behind the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has been looking back on the legacy that has been achieved by the games coming to London and what more there is still to come.

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in numbers

- Eight permanent venues – London Stadium, Copper Box Arena, London Aquatics Centre,

Lee Valley VeloPark, Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, Here East, East Village (former athletes' village), ArcelorMittal Orbit

- 14,000 temporary seats re-used at new venues and grassroots clubs
- 40 million visits to the park since it re-opened in 2014
- 26 permanent artworks in the park
- 100+ major sporting and cultural events held in the park since 2012
- Two Major League Baseball matches – first in Europe (2019)
- 59 per cent local visitors from four local boroughs and 83 per cent residents in wider east London
- 1,000 local children learn to swim at the London Aquatics Centre

each week

Still to come

- The new East Bank development, which is one of the world's largest and most ambitious culture and education districts will bring an additional 1.5million visitors to the park and create more than 2,500 jobs.
- Next September, two new buildings will be completed which will become the new UCL East campus.

Coming up this summer

- 27 May: ABBA Voyage at Pudding Mill Lane

- 24 June: Hella Mega Tour – Green Day, Fall Out Boy and Weezer at London Stadium
- 25 and 26 June: Red Hot Chili Peppers at London Stadium
- 30 June and 2 July: Foo Fighters at London Stadium
- 3-9 November: Wheelchair Rugby League World Cup at Copper Box Arena

Find out more

To find out more about the legacy of the London 2012 Olympics and to follow the celebrations this summer, visit 10yearson.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk or search #PassTheBaton on social media.



2022 marks ten years since the Olympic Games came to London with the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park leaving a lasting legacy

Win! Tickets to ride the ArcelorMittal Orbit

We're giving a family of four the chance to experience the ArcelorMittal Orbit at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park! This is your chance to win four tickets to experience the UK's tallest public art sculpture and the world's longest and tallest tunnel slide, featuring 12 thrilling twists and turns, with both light and dark sections to keep you guessing. With speeds of up to 15mph as you fly round this striking art sculpture.

The ArcelorMittal Orbit is also one of the UK's most exciting viewing towers, offering breathtaking views over Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Journey 80 metres up into the clouds and admire London's famous skyline from both indoor and outdoor viewing platforms. Enter for your chance to win by doing the following:

Follow ArcelorMittal Orbit on Twitter @AMOrbit and share your favourite London 2012 memory using both hashtags #OrbitOEE #PassTheBaton

Entries must be completed by 23 May and winners will be notified via direct message on Twitter before 30 May.



‘Eco playground’ opens in UK first

YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

A new playground made entirely out of recycled, sustainable and low-carbon materials has officially opened in Mile End.

The new eco playground at Mile End Ecology Park is the first of its kind installed in the UK by play equipment experts Kompan and features accessible equipment made from recycled food packaging waste.

The £25,000 project to install the new eco playground is the latest instalment of the council’s £10 million investment to improve over 60 parks and open spaces across the borough.

Cllr Sabina Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Sport, said:

“The Ecology Park is a place where our environment is rightly celebrated and so it makes complete sense to choose play equipment for this area made from recycled materials and with a reduced carbon footprint.”



Young members of the school council at Olga Primary School, Bow, pictured with Cllr Akhtar, were some of the first visitors to the eco playground

Coming soon

- Furze Green – In partnership with Trees For Cities, council officers have planted trees and a variety of perennial plants in an area that was previously a long dry area of barren land. Work to install pathway lighting is due to start in March.

- Millwall Park – Improvement to the caged sports pitch off Stebondale Street together with changing rooms refurbishment, is due to be completed in spring.
- Ravenscroft Park – Work on a new, fully inclusive playground with separate junior and toddler areas

is due to begin this March.

- Victoria Park, Stepney Green and Meath Gardens – Three new outdoor gyms costing £170k in total, with a mixture of cardio and calisthenics equipment on each site. All sites will have intelligent equipment meaning gym users

can build their own workout. Some equipment will be suitable for use from a seated position, for those with limited mobility.

For more information on parks in Tower Hamlets, please visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parks

Tiller Leisure Centre reopens after £500,000 refurb

Thousands of people have visited the new look Tiller Leisure Centre on the Isle of Dogs since it reopened in January, following a half a million pounds upgrade.

The popular local leisure centre closed in March 2020 as Covid-19 lockdown restrictions were announced and remained closed due to social distancing

requirements, which allowed time for the improvements to be made.

The £500,000 investment from Tower Hamlets Council and GLL, who operate the borough’s leisure centres, has seen upgrades to the swimming pool, gym and exercise studio and low-energy lighting added to extend the life of the centre and make it more sustainable.

Cllr Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services, Education and Equalities, said:

“It’s great to have Tiller open once again and to see new members joining up to take advantage of the 25-metre five-lane swimming pool and the new and improved facilities it has to offer.”

“In particular, it is great to see school children back in their local pool for swimming lessons again, which as well as giving them access



Local school children learning to swim at Tiller

to a sport to enjoy and help keep them fit and healthy, also teaches them skills which one day might save their lives.”

The new look leisure centre has created 20 job opportunities for

local people with free training on offer for lifeguard and swimming teacher roles.

Visit www.better.org.uk/jobs to explore the latest local GLL job opportunities.



It’s great to have Tiller open once again and to see new members joining up.

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Long to reign over us

As Her Majesty the Queen celebrates the first ever Platinum Jubilee, we look at the huge changes over 70 years of East End life... and what's remained the same

HISTORY

By **JOHN RENNIE**

No monarch has reigned as long as the Queen, and few of us can remember life before she took the throne in 1952.

Tower Hamlets was a very different place 70 years ago. It was an area yet to emerge from the devastation of the war, with bomb damage, rationing and many still living in slums without bathrooms or indoor toilets. It was a time of steam trains and pea-souper fogs in an era before the internet, colour TV or motorways. Before Rock 'n' Roll, effective birth control or the legalisation of homosexuality. A time when it was legal to be paid less for the same job if you were black or a woman, and you wouldn't have got an interview anyway. But things were changing.

The bombing of the East End had accelerated the demolition of the slums and the creation of new towns circling London. Those who remained in Tower Hamlets were moved to new estates and tower blocks, with plumbed-in baths and toilets, at long last.

By the late 1950s, Britain was starting to look and sound very different. The car was king, with Britain's first motorways symbolically speeding passage around the nation. Teenagers were rejecting the music and conformity of their parents and London emerged as a multicultural city with large scale immigration to help ease labour shortages in factories, on building sites, in our hospitals and on the buses and Tube.

The 1960s saw West Ham United's

Bobby Moore captain England to World Cup success at Wembley and East End crime become a new wing of showbusiness as the Kray twins gained celebrity status. The death penalty was abolished in 1965 and homosexuality and abortion were legalised before the decade was out.

Decimal currency was introduced in 1971, and the UK joined the Common Market (EU) in 1972, but in other ways, we seemed to be going backwards. The rise of containerisation in shipping meant that the smaller, historic docks of east London would close after losing business to the likes of Tilbury and Harwich, that could handle the new and larger ships.

But the 1980s saw radical change once again. There were the stirrings of a new Docklands, with a development corporation set up to find ways to bring the wasteland back to life. News International moved to Wapping in 1986. Billingsgate Market also moved in, and the new DLR brought transport to an area that had long been cut off.

Come the 1990s and the new Docklands would be the target of a devastating IRA bomb at South Quay in 1996. But Docklands grew, shifting the axis of London business eastwards, and in 1999 the Jubilee Line, which was named as part of celebrations for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, was extended eastwards with Canary Wharf becoming a new stop on the line.

Into the 21st century and the Queen celebrated a Golden Jubilee in 2002. Tower Bridge was lit up in gold and Brian May from the band Queen guitar soloed 'God Save the Queen' from the roof of Buckingham Palace as part of the celebrations.



Platinum Jubilee: It's been 70 years since the Queen ascended the throne

Ten years later, the new Olympic Park – which was built for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games – was renamed the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee. And as the celebrations for her Platinum Jubilee in 2022 began here in Tower Hamlets with a 62-gun salute at the Tower of London to mark her accession, we can ponder how so much has changed since the 25-year-old Princess Elizabeth became Queen, while much remains the same.

As the creators of BBC's *Eastenders* discovered when they were researching their new 'soap' back in 1985, there is an enduring spirit peculiar to the area: 'A real East End spirit... a sense of territory and community summed up as "hurt one of us and you hurt us all".'

And as Elizabeth celebrates 70 years on a throne she never expected to inherit, while that enduring spirit will no doubt remain, we can only dream of what changes the next seven decades will bring.



The Mayor of Stepney with the Queen at Trinity Almshouses, 1962



The Queen at All Saints Church, Poplar, 2017



CLr Mohammed Ahab Hossain, Speaker of Tower Hamlets Council (centre) being presented with an English oak tree sapling by Leslie Morgan OBE, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Tower Hamlets (left) and Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE (right) (Photo © Brian Russell) (Right) Children gardening in the Superbloom meadow

Jubilee jubilation in the East End

COMMUNITY NEWS

Landmarks, neighbourhoods, community halls and parks across Tower Hamlets are set to come alive this spring as part of celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Tower of London held a 62-gun salute earlier this month to

mark the Queen's accession, and is set to welcome the Superbloom project which will see its historic moat permanently transformed into a flower-filled landscape.

A UK-wide Plant a Tree for the Jubilee project is also in full swing, with an English oak tree sapling presented to the Speaker of the

Council, which has now been planted in Mile End Park.

Community organisations are also being supported by the Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund to hold celebratory events and street parties over the special four-day bank holiday weekend, between Thursday 2 June and Sunday 5 June 2022, to

mark the Queen's milestone.

Residents and community groups have until 15 April to apply to the council, social housing or private landlords for permission for road closures to hold street parties. To find out how you can join in the Big Jubilee Lunch weekend, visit www.thebigjubileelunch.com

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Kobcinta maalgelinta taageerada xadgudubka qoyska

Funding boost for domestic abuse support – page 28

HARMONY BENGALI & SOMALI NEWS

Kobcinta maalgelinta taageerada xadgudubka qoyska Hay'ad samafal oo la shaqaynaysa dhibanayaasha rabshadaha qoyska ee Tower Hamlets ayaa la siiyay deeq lacageed si ay uga caawiso kor u kaca kiisaska la xidhiidha masiibada.

Solace Women's Aid ayaa lagu wareejiyay £155,000 oo ka timid Sanduuqa Soo-kabashada Covid-ka ee Duqa Magaalada si loogu maalgeliyo seddex kale oo kiis shaqale guri oo ku takhasusay caafimaadka dhimirka iyo la shaqeynta bulshada Soomaaliyeed.

Maalgelinta, oo laga soo qoondeeyay sanduuqa £3m oo lagu taageerayo mashaariicda ka caawinaya dhaqaalaha, caafimaadka iyo ka soo kabashada bulshada saamaynta faafitaanka Covid-19 ee Tower Hamlets, waxay hubin doontaa dhammaan isticmaaleyaasha adeegga inay helaan qiimaynta khatarta ah ee casriga ah iyo taageerada shakhsi ahaaneed qorshe.

Solace Women's Aid waa hay'ad samafal oo siisa caawimo la taaban karo iyo mid shucuureed dhibanayaasha rabshadaha qoyska si ay uga caawiso inay dhistaan nolol badbaado leh oo adag oo ka madax banaan xadgudub iyo rabshad.

Intii lagu jiray cudurka faafa,

hay'adaha samafalku waxay soo sheegeen koror xooggan oo baahida adeegyada ah, iyadoo dhibbanayaasha qaarkood ay dareemayaan khatar weyn oo waxyeello ah ama ay go'aansadeen inay soo sheegaan xadgudubka markii ugu horreysay. Hay'adda Samafalka Qaranka ee Qaxoontiga ayaa sheegtay in boqolkiiba 61 ay kordheen wicitaannada la soo waco khadka ee dhanka caawintooda.

Cllr Sirajul Islam, Xubin ka tirsan Golaha Wasiirada ee Badbaadada Bulshada ayaa ku daray:

“Waxaan soo dhaweyneynaa taageerada dheeriga ah ee ka imaaneysa Sanduuqa Soo kabashada Covid-ka ee Duqa Magaalada maadaama xannibaadda qaranku ay dhibbanayaasha gelisay halis sare oo xadgudub guri.

“Xadgudubka qoyska waxa uu saamayn wayn ku leeyahay wanaaga niyadeed, jidheed, bulsho iyo dhaqaale, sida sido kale saamaynta xiriirada kale.

“In aan haysano shaqaale kiis oo dheeri ah waxay la macno tahay inaan karno Ilaalinta iyo taageeridda deganeyaal badan.”

Haddii aad ka cabanayso xadgudubka guriga, fadlan kala xidhiidh Tower Hamlets Solace Advocacy and Support Service 020 3795 5054 ama 999 xaaladaha degdega ah.



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আপনার প্রশ্নগুলোর উত্তর

Tower Hamlets elections : Your key questions answered – page 12

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলে আগামী চার বছর কে তাদের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করবেন এবং কে হবেন তাদের সরাসরি ভোটে নির্বাচিত মেয়র, সে বিষয়ে মতামত জানতে এই বসন্তে বারার বাসিন্দাদের ভোট দেয়ার জন্য আহ্বান জানানো হবে।

বারার ২০টি ওয়ার্ডের ৪৫ অর্থাৎ সকল কাউন্সিল আসনে এবং মেয়র অব টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস পদে নির্বাচন অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। সকল নির্বাচিতের মেয়াদ হবে মে ২০২৬ সাল পর্যন্ত।

আগামী মে মাসে অনুষ্ঠিত নির্বাচনকে ঘিরে কিছু গুরুত্বপূর্ণ প্রশ্নের উত্তর আমরা এখানে তুলে ধরলাম-

ভোটের দিন কখনঃ

ভোটের দিন হচ্ছে বৃহস্পতিবার ৫ মে, ২০২২।

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের মেয়র কী করেন?

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের একটি শাসন ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে, যেখানে নির্বাচিত মেয়রের রয়েছে নির্বাহী ক্ষমতা এবং বিস্তৃত নীতি ও অগ্রাধিকার নির্ধারণ ও বাস্তবায়নের জন্য ব্যক্তিগত দায়িত্ব।

কাউন্সিলররা কী করেন?

কাউন্সিলররা টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলে তাদের বাসিন্দাদের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করেন। এনকোয়ারি (অনুসন্ধান) বা প্রশ্নের উত্তর দেন এবং তারা কেবিনেট ও বিভিন্ন কমিটিতে বসা সহ অন্যান্য ভূমিকাও নিতে পারেন।

আমি কিভাবে নির্বাচনে ভোট দিতে পারি?

নিবন্ধিত ভোটাররা বৃহস্পতিবার ৫ মে ২০২২ সকাল ৭ থেকে রাত ১০টার মধ্যে তাদের মনোনীত স্থানীয় ভোটকেন্দ্রে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে হাজির হয়ে ভোট দিতে পারবেন। পোস্ট (ডাক মারফত) বা প্রক্সির (অন্যকে দিয়ে) মাধ্যমেও

ভোট দেওয়ার জন্য আবেদন করার বিকল্প সুযোগ রয়েছে। এ ব্যাপারে সকল তথ্য এবং সংবিধিবদ্ধ সময়সীমা সম্পর্কে জানতে ভিজিট করুনঃ www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vote

ভোটের জন্য নিবন্ধন করতে আমি কীভাবে আবেদন করবো?

আপনি www.gov.uk/register-to-vote ওয়েবসাইটে গিয়ে নিবন্ধন করার জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন। নির্বাচনের জন্য নিবন্ধন করার জন্য আবেদন করার শেষ তারিখ বৃহস্পতিবার ১৪ এপ্রিল ২০২২।

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের মেয়র কিভাবে নির্বাচিত হন?

মেয়র একটি 'একক হস্তান্তরযোগ্য ভোট' সিস্টেম ব্যবহার করে নির্বাচিত হন, যারা টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের মেয়র হতে চান, এমন প্রার্থীদের মধ্য থেকে প্রথম পছন্দ ও দ্বিতীয় পছন্দের প্রার্থীদের নির্বাচন করতে বাসিন্দাদের বলা হয়।

প্রথম পছন্দের সব ভোট গণনার পর যদি কোন প্রার্থী ৫০ শতাংশের বেশি ভোট পান, তাহলে সেই প্রার্থী মেয়র নির্বাচিত হন।

যদি কোন প্রার্থী প্রথম পছন্দের ভোটের ৫০ শতাংশের বেশি না পায়, তাহলে যে দুই জন প্রার্থী সবচেয়ে বেশি প্রথম পছন্দের ভোট পাবেন, তারা থেকে যাবেন প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতায় এবং অন্য প্রার্থীরা বাদ পড়বেন। প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা থেকে বাদ পড়ে যাওয়া প্রার্থীদের ব্যালট পেপারে দ্বিতীয় পছন্দের ভোটগুলি গণনা করা হয়। যেখানে প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতায় টিকে থাকা দুই প্রার্থীর ভোট রয়েছে, তা তাদের আগেই পাওয়া প্রথম পছন্দের ভোটের সাথে যোগ হয়। বাকি দুই প্রার্থীর মধ্যে সবচেয়ে বেশি বৈধ প্রথম ও দ্বিতীয় পছন্দের ভোট যিনি পাবেন, তিনি নির্বাচিত হন।

solace

YOUR
VOTE
IS

YOURS
ALONE

নির্বাচন স্বচ্ছ ও সুষ্ঠুভাবে সম্পন্ন করতে কী কী ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হয়েছে?

**What measures are in place to
ensure the election runs fairly
and smoothly? – page 13**

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে নির্বাচনী অনিয়মকে অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বের সাথে বিবেচনা করা হয়। নির্বাচনের ক্ষেত্রে স্ট্যান্ডার্ড চেক অর্থাৎ প্রমিত যাচাই-বাচাই ও যাবতীয় নিয়ন্ত্রণমূলক ব্যবস্থাদি কার্যকর করার পাশাপাশি টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের রিটার্নিং অফিসার নির্বাচন অবাধ, সুষ্ঠু ও স্বচ্ছতা নিশ্চিত করতে অতিরিক্ত পদক্ষেপ নিয়েছেন।

- নির্বাচনের পরিকল্পনা ও পরিচালনায় সর্বোচ্চ মান নিশ্চিত করতে রিটার্নিং অফিসার কাউন্সিল, নির্বাচন কমিশন এবং মেট্রোপলিটান পুলিশের বিশেষ তদন্ত দলের সাথে ঘনিষ্ঠভাবে কাজ করেন।
- টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের একটি সুনির্দিষ্ট ওয়েবপোর্টাল আছে, যেখানে লোকেরা সন্দেহজনক নির্বাচনী অনিয়মের বিষয়ে তাদের উদ্বেগ জানাতে পারেন। ডিজিট করুন: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vote। এই ওয়েবপোর্টালে রিপোর্ট করা সকল তথ্য অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বের সাথে নেওয়া হয় এবং প্রাথমিক মূল্যায়নের পর আনুষ্ঠানিক তদন্তের জন্য পুলিশের কাছে পাঠানো হতে পারে।
- প্রার্থীরা ও তাদের এজেন্ট এবং যারা তাদের পক্ষে প্রচারাভিযানে কাজ করেন তারা যেন তাদের দায়িত্ব সম্পর্কে সচেতন থাকেন, সেজন্য প্রার্থীদেরকে অতিরিক্ত দিক-নির্দেশনা ও ব্রিফিং দেওয়া হয়।
- ‘আপনার ভোট শুধুই আপনার’ এই বার্তাটি সকল ভোটারকে অবহিত করতে রিটার্নিং অফিসার এবং কাউন্সিল নির্বাচন কমিশনের সাথে অত্যন্ত ঘনিষ্ঠভাবে কাজ করে।
- ভোট গ্রহণের দিন এবং গণনার সময় মেট্রোপলিটান পুলিশ বারার প্রতিটি ভোট কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত থাকবে।
- ভোটের স্থানগুলো হবে সরাসরি বাইরের থেকে এক্সক্লুজন্স অর্থাৎ বর্জনীয় এলাকা, যেখানে কোনরূপ প্রচারণা চালানো যাবে না।
- ভোটাররা যাতে ভোটকেন্দ্রে ভোটারের গোপনীয়তা সম্পর্কিত নির্বাচনী নিয়ম কানুন সম্পর্কে সচেতন হন, তা নিশ্চিত করার জন্য সাইনগুলো অনুবাদ করা হবে।
- ব্যালটের গোপনীয়তা নিশ্চিত করতে ভোটদানের বৃথগুলোতে প্রাইভেসি ব্যারিয়ার দিয়ে আলাদা করা হবে।
- ভোট দেওয়ার সময় কোনও ভোটারের ওপর কোন অযাচিত চাপ বা প্রভাব না পড়ে তা নিশ্চিত করার জন্য কর্মীদের প্রশিক্ষণ দেওয়া হয়।
- ভোটের দিন এবং যাচাইকরণ ও গণনা শুরু করার মধ্যকার সময় সুরক্ষিত ব্যালট ব্যাগগুলি ক্রমাগত মনিটরিং এবং সিসিটিভির নজরদারিতে রাখা হয়।
- ক্যানারি ওয়ার্ল্ড-এর ইস্ট উইস্টার গার্ডেনে নির্বাচনী গণনার হলে প্রবেশের ক্ষেত্রে কঠোর নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা কার্যকর থাকবে। এর মধ্যে রয়েছে প্রত্যেক উপস্থিতির নাম ও পূর্ণ ঠিকানায়ুক্ত টিকেট, এবং তাদের ছবি সংযুক্ত থাকবে, যা ভেন্যুতে পৌঁছানোর পর চেক করা হবে।

কাউন্সিলররা কিভাবে নির্বাচিত হন?

কাউন্সিলররা ‘ফাস্ট-পাস্ট-দ্যা-পোস্ট’ সিস্টেম ব্যবহার করে নির্বাচিত হন, যেখানে আপনাকে ব্যালট পেপারের একটি বক্সে আপনার পছন্দের প্রার্থীর পাশে একটি ‘X’ দিতে বলা হবে (অথবা প্রার্থীগনকে, যদি আপনার ওয়ার্ডের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করতে একাধিক কাউন্সিলর থাকেন)। সবচেয়ে বেশি ভোট পাওয়া প্রার্থী(গণ) যথাযথভাবে নির্বাচিত হন।

আমার ওয়ার্ড কী পরিবর্তন হয়েছে?

২০১৮ সাল থেকে ওয়ার্ডের সীমানা বা প্রতিটি ওয়ার্ডের কাউন্সিলর সংখ্যার কোন পরিবর্তন হয়নি, তবে সেন্ট পিটার্স ওয়ার্ড এবং বেথনাল গ্রিন ওয়ার্ডের বাসিন্দারা যথাক্রমে বেথনাল গ্রীন ওয়েস্ট ওয়ার্ড এবং বেথনাল গ্রিন ইস্ট ওয়ার্ড হিসেবে নতুন নাম দেখতে পাবেন।

কবে নির্বাচনের প্রার্থী ঘোষণা করা হবে?

মনোনীত ব্যক্তিদের বিবৃতি ৬ এপ্রিল ২০২২ বুধবার বিকাল ৪টা পর প্রকাশ হতে পারে।

আমি কী আমার কুকুরকে ভোট কেন্দ্রে আনতে পারি?

হ্যাঁ, কুকুররা তাদের মালিকদের সাথে ভোটকেন্দ্রে আসতে পারে, তবে সবসময়েই নিয়ন্ত্রণে রাখতে হবে।

নির্বাচন কী কোভিড-নিরাপদ হবে?

ভোটের দিন আসার সময় যে কোন সরকারি কোভিড-১৯

নির্দেশিকা অনুযায়ী নির্বাচন পরিচালনা করা হবে। আরও তথ্যের জন্য, www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vote দেখুন।

HARMONY
BENGALI & SOMALI NEWS



বাংলাদেশের বিজয় দিবসে লাল-সবুজ রংয়ের আলোয় উদ্ভাসিত হয় বারার ল্যান্ডমার্কগুলো

Landmarks turn red and green for Victory Day – page 42

বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতার ৫০ বছর পূর্তি উদযাপনে কাউন্সিলের বছরব্যাপি কর্মসূচির অংশ হিসেবে সুবর্ণজয়ন্তীর বিজয় দিবসের দিন বারার ঐতিহাসিক স্থাপনা অর্থাৎ আইকনিক ল্যান্ডমার্কগুলো লাল-সবুজ আলোয় উদ্ভাসিত করা হয়েছিলো।

বো এলাকায় অবস্থিত ব্রুমলি পাবলিক হল ও টাওয়ার ব্রীজসহ বিভিন্ন স্থাপনা বাংলাদেশের জাতীয় পতাকার রং লাল ও সবুজ আলোয় উদ্ভাসিত হওয়ার মধ্য দিয়ে কাউন্সিলের বাংলাদেশ এট ফিফটি কর্মসূচির সমাপ্তি ঘটে। কাউন্সিলের স্পীকার কাউন্সিলর মোহাম্মদ আহবাব হোসেন বলেছেন, “এটি এমন একটি বছরের সমাপ্তি যেখানে শুধুমাত্র স্বাধীনতাই উদযাপিত হয়নি, টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে স্থানীয় বাংলাদেশী কমিউনিটির অবদানও উদযাপিত হয়েছিলো।

যত্রতত্র বর্জ্য ফেলায়

৩ হাজার পাউন্ড অর্থদন্ড

£3,000 penalty for fly-tipper – page 5

রাষ্ট্রায় অবৈধভাবে আবর্জনা ফেলার অপরাধে ব্রিক লেনের একজন ফ্লাই-টিপারকে জরিমানা সহ ৩ হাজার পাউন্ড পরিশোধের নির্দেশ দিয়েছেন আদালত।

ফেব্রুয়ারি মাসের শুরু দিকে এই অপরাধের জন্য টেমস ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট কোর্টে শুনানি শেষে ব্রিক লেনের সিউল গার্ডেন রেস্টুরেন্টকে ১ হাজার পাউন্ড জরিমানা এবং মামলার খরচ বাবদ আরো ২,১৩২ পাউন্ড প্রদানের নির্দেশ দেন বিচারক।

আদালত শুনেছেন কীভাবে কাউন্সিলের এনভায়রনমেন্টাল সার্ভিসের অফিসাররা টহল দেয়ার সময় এলাকার ফ্লাই-টিপিং হটস্পটে একজন রেস্টুরেন্ট কর্মীকে দু’টি কালো ব্যাগ ভর্তি বর্জ্য ফেলার সময় হাতেনাতে ধরেছিলেন।

এই অপরাধের জন্য কাউন্সিল অফিসাররা ৪০০ পাউন্ডের ফিক্সড প্যানাল্টি নোটিশ জারি করেন, যা হচ্ছে আইনের অধীনে সর্বাধিক পরিমাণ, যা পরবর্তীতে আনপেইড বা অপরিশোধিত থাকে। এর ফলস্বরূপ বিষয়টি আদালতে গড়ায় এবং ৩০০০ পাউন্ড পরিশোধের জন্য আদালত নির্দেশ দেন।

উল্লেখ্য, ২০২১ সালে বারার যত্রতত্র ফেলা ময়লা আবর্জনা সরাতে কাউন্সিলকে ৪ লাখ ৬৪ হাজার ৪৭৩ পাউন্ড ব্যয় করতে হয়েছিলো।

আপনি লাইভ ইওর নেইবারহুড অ্যাপের মাধ্যমে অথবা www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/flytipping এ গিয়ে ফ্লাই-টিপিং সম্পর্কে সহজেই রিপোর্ট করতে পারেন।





KNOW YOUR COUNCIL

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



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

Cllr Asma Begum Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services, Education and Equalities (Statutory Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Rachel Blake Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Work, Economic Growth and Faith
Cllr Sirajul Islam Cabinet Member for Community Safety
Cllr Danny Hassell Cabinet Member for Housing
Cllr Candida Ronald Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector

Cllr Sabina Akhtar Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Sports
Cllr Asma Islam Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning
Cllr Mufeedah Bustin Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion (job share post as part of Social Inclusion and Public Realm portfolio)
Cllr Kahar Chowdhury Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm (job share post as part of Social Inclusion and Public Realm portfolio)

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Landmarks turn red and green for Victory Day

Landmarks across Tower Hamlets were lit up in red and green to mark the golden anniversary of 'Victory Day' in the Bangladesh Liberation War.

The lighting up of the landmarks in the colours of Bangladesh's national flag came at the end of a year-long council programme called Bangladesh@50, which celebrated 50 years of Bangladeshi independence.

Cllr Mohammed Ahabab Hossain, Speaker of the Council, said: "It's a fitting end to a year where not only independence was celebrated, but the contribution to Tower Hamlets of the local Bangladeshi community was celebrated too."



Landmarks including Bromley Public Hall in Bow and Tower Bridge were lit up to mark Victory Day on 16 December 2021

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For rates and upcoming publication dates please email communications@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Meetings

Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Monday 21 February, 6.30pm

Licensing Sub-Committee
Tuesday 22 February, 6.30pm

Children & Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Monday 28 February, 6.30pm

Council
Wednesday 2 March, 7pm

Development Committee
Thursday 3 March, 6.30pm

Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Monday 7 March, 6.30pm

Licensing Sub-Committee
Tuesday 8 March, 6.30pm

Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Tuesday 8 March, 6.30pm

Cabinet
Wednesday 9 March, 5.30pm

Grants Determination Sub-Committee
Wednesday 9 March, at the rise of Cabinet

Council
Thursday 10 March, 7pm

Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Tuesday 15 March, 6.30pm

Licensing Committee
Tuesday 15 March, 6.30pm

General Purposes Committee
Tuesday 22 March, 6.30pm

Licensing Sub-Committee
Tuesday 22 March, 6.30pm

Audit Committee
Thursday 24 March, 6.30pm

Strategic Development Committee
Wednesday 30 March, 6.30pm

Meetings take place at the Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, E14, unless otherwise stated. Dates and times may change. Agendas are available online.

For more information on meetings visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/meetings

USEFUL INFORMATION SERVICES AND CONTACTS

Advice

Account 3 (welfare and debt advice)

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

Age UK East London

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

Bromley by Bow Centre

St Leonard's Street, E3.
020 8709 9700

Carers Centre Tower Hamlets

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

Citizens Advice Bureau

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

Island Advice Centre

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

Legal Advice Centre

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

Limehouse Project

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

Praxis (New Residents) Immigration, benefits and general advice

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

Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network

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

Tower Hamlets Law Centre

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

Careers

Adult education services

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

WorkPath

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

Young WorkPath/Tower Hamlets Careers Service

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

Council

Town Hall

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

Debt

Fair Money Advice

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

Island Advice Centre

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

Toynbee Hall Advice Service

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

Health & wellbeing

Alzheimer's Society

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

BYM Bangladesh Youth Movement Women's Centre of Excellence

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

Covid vaccine helpline

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

East London Parkinson's Support Group

hello@parkinsons.org.uk
0808 800 0303

Free home fire safety advice

08000 284428

Health hotline

020 7364 5016

Healthwatch Tower Hamlets

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

LinkAge Plus

Toynbee Hall, Commercial
Street, E1.
020 7392 2913

Reset

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

Safe East (under-19s)

compass.towerhamlets
yphws@nhs.net
020 3954 0091

Stop Smoking services

www.quitrightth.org
020 7882 8230

Tower Hamlets Advocacy Real

020 7001 2170
hello@real.org.uk

Housing

Choice-based lettings

020 7364 2826

Homeless service

020 7364 7474
Out of hours
020 7364 4079

Homeseekers

www.thhs.org.uk

Housing advice

020 7364 3558

Repairs

0800 376 1637 ext 1

Tower Hamlets Homes

020 7364 5015

Idea Stores and libraries

Bow

Gladstone Place, E3.

Canary Wharf

Churchill Place, E14.

Chrisp Street

Vesey Path, E14.

Whitechapel

321 Whitechapel Road, E1.

Local History Library and Archives

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

Leisure centres

John Orwell Sports Centre

Tench Street, Wapping, E1.
020 7488 9421

Mile End Park Leisure

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

Poplar Baths

170 East India Dock Road,
E14. 020 3795 0599

St George's Leisure Centre

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

Tiller Leisure Centre

Tiller Road, Isle of Dogs
E14. 020 7987 5211

Whitechapel Sports Centre

55 Durward Street, E1.
020 7247 7538

York Hall Leisure Centre

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

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

Parent & child

Family Information Service

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

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

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

Tower Hamlets National Childbirth Trust

0300 330 0700
www.nct.org.uk

Report it

Anti-fraud (housing and tenancy related fraud)

0800 528 0294

Black Women's Health and Family Support

020 8980 3503

Childline

0800 1111

Domestic Violence Team

0800 279 5434

Environmental

Protection (Noise) Team

020 7364 5000

Haven Whitechapel (sexual assault referral centre)

020 3299 6900 /
020 3299 1599

Karma Nirvana (honour-based abuse helpline)

0800 5999 247

Men's Advice Helpline

0808 8010 327

National LGBT domestic abuse helpline (Galop)

0800 999 5428 /
0300 999 5428

Non-emergency crimes 101 Textphone

18001 101

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline

0800 800 5000

Respect (for perpetrators)

0808 802 4040

Rights of Women

020 7251 6577

Samaritans

116 123

Shelter

0808 800 4444

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

020 7364 7474

Victim Support Tower Hamlets

0808 168 9291 /
0808 168 9111

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