

HEALTHIER LIVES



Can you say #IHadMyJab?

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COUNCIL NEWS



Get fit outdoors this summer

SEE PAGE 29

COMMUNITY NEWS



Enter our photo competition

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ISSUE TWENTY-ONE// JUNE 2021



OU REASTEND



Businesses bounce back

Shoppers return to our high streets – see pages 20-21

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OUR EAST END

NEWS FROM TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL AND YOUR COMMUNITY

As summer approaches and the Covid vaccine is being rolled out, we have reason to be upbeat. We must still be cautious as new variants remain of concern and not everyone has been fully vaccinated. Getting vaccinated as soon as you are asked and having regular tests is the best way to protect our community.

During the pandemic we've had to change the way we deliver services and refocus on helping those who are vulnerable – from assisting those shielding, to delivering emergency food aid and PPE, and setting up a vaccine hotline. We have gone the extra mile.

We are now able to resume some of the services you rely on but, in some cases, this will take time.

Over the summer we'll be running a summer activity programme for our young people. We've invested in new facilities in our parks and planted over 600 trees. Our council-funded police and our enforcement officers will be out and about to keep our streets safer.

As things return to some degree of normality, we'll support our businesses that have been hit hard by the lockdowns and continue to promote and enhance our local high streets. We'll also be continuing our WorkPath and Kickstart programmes to get people into training and work as we focus on ensuring our borough bounces back strongly from the pandemic.

We want to build on new ways of working. Our Every Child Online campaign to provide laptops to schools and students will help to both tackle the 'digital divide' and ensure our young people have the best start in life.



I'm very proud of the way our community has pulled together through this crisis. I intend that we'll not just do all we can to recover, but be stronger and better than before.

Stay safe.

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

John Biggs,
Mayor of Tower Hamlets

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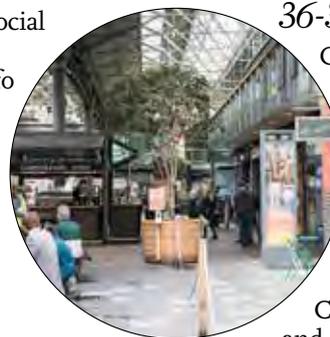
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Regular testing protects everyone – play your part

HEALTHIER LIVES

One simple action we can all take to continue to protect ourselves and others is getting regular Covid-19 tests. Testing finds cases of Covid-19 and stops further spread because people can self-isolate when they know they are positive.

As social restrictions ease, we are

Remember:

- If you have symptoms of Covid-19, take a test immediately
- If you do not have symptoms of Covid-19 take regular tests, ideally twice a week with at least three days between each test

all coming into contact with more people, so regular testing is even more important going forward. People can still catch Covid-19 and pass it onto others, even when vaccinated, so everyone needs to test.

Recently, a small number of variants of concern were identified in Tower Hamlets. These variants were first identified in Brazil and South Africa. While variants of concern are not more harmful, but they may be more easily spread or respond differently to vaccines. Testing helps us learn more about new variants, as well as reducing, or even stopping, their spread.

Everyone is encouraged to take regular Covid-19 tests – whether symptomatic or not. There are a wide range of testing options available in Tower Hamlets, including testing sites

Everyone should take rapid Covid-19 tests **twice a week.**



Small, portable and can be done from home



Fast results and safe



Can detect if someone might be carrying the virus

One in three people with Covid-19 show no symptoms.

and places people can pick up kits to test at home.

All information about testing and options is available online at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/gettested.

If you do not have internet access, you can contact our dedicated helpline on 020 7364 3030 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm).

Moving through the roadmap out of lockdown

As we continue to move through the government's lockdown roadmap, we are all enjoying the gradual lifting of social restrictions.

On 17 May we reached the next stage of the roadmap and can now do things like meet outdoors in groups of up to 30 people, meet indoors

as groups of six or two households and enjoy indoor hospitality such as restaurants and bars. As with each stage of the roadmap, every step must be taken safely and is reliant on low case numbers and monitoring of any variants of the virus.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower

Hamlets, said: "We continue to see light at the end of the tunnel, but everyone must remain cautious and continue to play their part in stopping the spread of Covid-19. This means regular testing and getting vaccinated when eligible, both of which can help protect individuals along with their

family, friends and our community."

With the next stage approaching no earlier than 21 June, everyone should keep up to date with Covid-19 advice and restrictions as advice can change quickly. For information visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Tower Hamlets has one of the lowest Covid-19 testing rates in London and we need your help to change it.

Please take up regular testing and keep Tower Hamlets safe.

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/gettested



**KEEP
TOWER
HAMLETS
SAFE**



TOWER HAMLETS



Covid champion gets creative to spread vaccine word

With over 400 members, our growing Covid-19 Champions programme is a fantastic community-led network where residents work with the council to help us spread messages around Covid, including current restrictions, testing and vaccines. Along with weekly meetings, the group also attend virtual coffee mornings to share ideas and help us keep our community safe.

Recently, one of our champions, Rachel, suggested a novel and innovative way to help encourage people to book their vaccine

appointment – using space on the advertising boards of the borough’s iconic Genesis cinema. The Covid-buster slogan, which takes inspiration from a famous blockbuster film, was the work of Rachel and her son David. It is just one example of how our fantastic champions work with us to suggest fresh, unique ideas that can really reach our residents out and about in Tower Hamlets.

So, who you gonna call if you’re eligible for the vaccine? 119!



Matt, manager at Genesis Cinema and Rachel, a Covid Champion

Join the thousands of residents already vaccinated

Over 125,000 residents in Tower Hamlets have now had their Covid-19 jab to protect themselves and others. In recent months the vaccine programme has continued to roll out with more and more people becoming eligible to get their jab.

In Tower Hamlets, our state of the art vaccine centre at the Art Pavilion in Mile End Park can vaccinate up to 1,000 residents each day. Alongside the centre at the Arts Pavilion, we also hold vaccine clinics at:

- Cable Street Surgery, 445 Cable Street, E1W 3D
- Granby Hall, Goldman Close, E2 6DT
- East London Mosque, 82-92 Whitechapel Road, E1 1JQ

Appointments at these clinics can be booked through the council’s helpline – 020 7364 3030 – Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

There are also clinics at other sites including pharmacies in the borough, which can be booked through the NHS system (www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or

by calling 119.

- Boots, 45 Bank Street, Jubilee Place, Canary Wharf, E14 5NY
- Lincoln Pharmacy, 124 St Paul’s Way, E3 4QA
- Lansbury Pharmacy, 85 Chrisp Street, E14 6GG
- Westfield Vaccination Centre, Montfichet Road, Olympic Park East, E20 1E

All information on vaccine clinics and eligibility is available at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vaccine.

Those currently eligible for the vaccine

- Everyone aged 30 and over
- The clinically extremely vulnerable aged 16 and over
- Adult care home residents
- Health and social care workers
- Anyone who is a main carer for someone at high risk from Covid-19

By getting vaccinated when eligible, you are playing your part in keeping Tower Hamlets safe.

* All information is correct at time of going to print.




If you are eligible, get the Covid-19 vaccine now.

Appointments are available at the Art Pavilion, Mile End Park.

6 minute walk Mile End underground



Eligible residents can find out more or book an appointment by calling our helpline 020 7364 3030

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus



Can you say #IHadMyJab?

HEALTHIER LIVES

Residents who have had their Covid-19 vaccine are being asked to help save more lives by sharing their story with others and saying, #IHadMyJab.

Studies have shown that the Covid-19 vaccines can reduce the risk of serious illness and deaths from the virus. Along with testing, mass vaccinations are one of the ways to avoid further lockdowns and social restrictions.

Some of those to receive their vaccinations have described it as an emotional experience, with feelings of happiness, relief and hope.

But there are those yet to be vaccinated who want to hear your story. Using #IHadMyJab, tell us when you had your first and second dose, your reason for getting vaccinated and how it feels.

As well as sharing the special moment with others, your story could help persuade those who are hesitant to book their vaccination, as local feedback from the council's Covid-19 champion network shows that word of mouth and personal stories make a big difference in encouraging others to have the vaccine. This is why the council and local NHS teamed up to create the #IHadMyJab campaign.

The campaign runs alongside other work the council and NHS has been doing to encourage vaccine take-up, including making vaccines more



accessible through roadshows and mobile vaccination centres at venues such as the East London Mosque, and in giving the facts about the vaccine to residents so they can make informed decisions based on expert advice.

The council also has a dedicated helpline to book vaccine appointments for residents or answer any questions. The team is trained to help with any queries residents may have and speaks eight community languages. Call

020 7364 3030.

Don't miss out. Protect yourself and your loved ones. Have the Covid-19 vaccine and share your story on social media using #IHadMyJab.



Anyone eligible can book their Covid-19 vaccine at Westfield vaccination centre

Montfichet Road, Olympic Park East , E20 1EJ – open 8am to 8pm 7 days a week.

To book at an NHS site, call 119 or book online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

More information on the Westfield centre and others including directions, is available www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vaccine





Tower Hamlets has ten outdoor gyms all around the borough with a range of equipment

Losing that lockdown weight

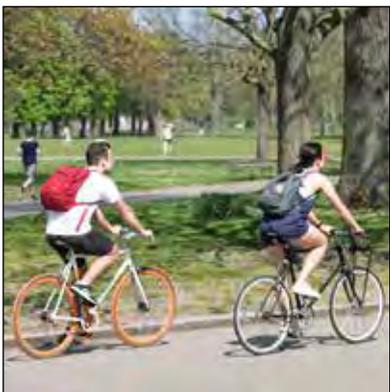
With changes to the normal routine and the regular commute, gyms closing and outdoor sports being cancelled, lockdown has affected us all in how we can regularly burn off those calories and stay trim.

And when you add into the mix how many have passed the time through the winter lockdown by watching TV, movies and indulging more than usual at home, it's no wonder so many of us have put on a few extra pounds over these past few months.

But help is at hand. For anyone looking to lose some lockdown weight or generally get fit and more active, the council offers a number of wellness programmes that can help you do just that, as well as help you achieve your goals of living a healthier lifestyle.

Slimming World

Slimming World offers a healthy eating plan that empowers members



Cycling in Victoria Park

to make healthier food choices, satisfy their appetites and lose weight – without calorie counting or obsessive weighing and measuring. You can take part in the activity programme where members find their own personal, enjoyable and sustainable ways of gradually increasing activity, working towards their goals. For more information, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/healthyweight

Change for Good

Change for Good is a tailored, evidence-based NHS 12-week weight loss plan. It covers nutritional and dietary content as well as benefits of exercise, culturally appropriate physical activities (at home or limited space), behaviour change tools and the best ways to set goals. Peer support is provided online and courses run at convenient times in Bengali and Somali as well. Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/healthyweight for more information.

Oviva Way to Wellness

For those classed as obese, the Oviva Way to Wellness is a free programme for people in Tower Hamlets. Participants receive 12 months of one-to-one support via a smartphone app that tracks your measurements, activity, mood, food and progress being made towards your goals. A coach is available for regular feedback to help you along your journey via phone or

video calls. For more information, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/healthyweight

Support local and eat out

Restaurants across Tower Hamlets have opened again and many of us have already headed back to our favourite eateries to catch up and share a meal with family and friends. There's help available for anyone who is planning a meal out but wants to choose healthy meal choices. Food for Health is an award scheme that recognises and rewards food businesses that are going the extra mile to serve healthy and nutritious food which is lower in salt, fat and sugar. So if you want to support local businesses and have a healthy meal out, see the full list of Food for Health restaurants at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/foodforhealth

Getting Active

With lockdown over, sports and recreation venues across the borough are getting back to business as usual – including Tower Hamlets' seven leisure centres, offering a wide range of facilities and activities perfect for individual workouts or organised sports.

To learn more about how you can get active in the borough, including free and women-only sessions, sporting venues and a directory of local sports clubs and organisations visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/sports

Outdoor gyms

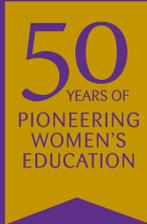
For a more informal workout, Tower Hamlets has 10 outdoor gyms all around the borough with a range of equipment for cardio, toning and strength workouts. The equipment includes dips stations, parallel bars, cross trainers, smart energy hand bikes, benches and sprint tracks. A perfect way to add some extra activity to a jog or leisurely walk.

Find your nearest outdoor gym

- Mile End Active Zone, Mile End Park (Wennington Green), Grove Road, E3
- Millwall Park, Manchester Road, E14
- Ropewalk Gardens, Golding Street, E1
- Shandy Park, Bale Road, E1
- Sir John McDougall Gardens, Westferry Road, E14
- Rounton Road Open Space, Rounton Road, E3
- Pollard Square, Pollard Row, E2
- Jolly's Green, Joshua Street, Poplar, E14
- Wapping Gardens, Tench Street, E1
- Weavers Fields, Viaduct Street, E2

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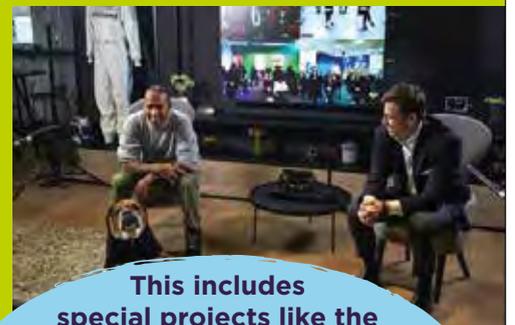


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This includes special projects like the **Mulberry STEM Academy** in partnership with **Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd.**

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Our House System

Our wonderful House system enhances our student's learning and experience as they journey with us. Students gain access to a wealth of cultural, sports, musical, entrepreneurial and social action activities, programmes and initiatives that are exemplary.

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- + An awareness of individual and collective responsibility

This includes special projects like the Mulberry STEM Academy in partnership with Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix Ltd.



For more information about our amazing school, follow the QR code or visit: www.mulberryacademyshoreditch.org/year-6-transition

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SME Energy Improvement Grants up to £10,000 available



Tower Hamlets Council is making grants available to support Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to make energy efficiency improvements to their premises.

Grants can be used to cover up to 50% of any improvements.

- If you are replacing a gas boiler with electric heating or installing a renewable energy technology, you can apply for up to £10,000
- Up to £5,000 available for other energy retrofit projects
- Gas boilers are not eligible for funding

Grants are only available to SMEs whose premises are in Tower Hamlets.

To apply and for further information please visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/energy or email THEnergy@towerhamlets.gov.uk



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From left to right: Cllr Eve McQuillan, Jane Abraham (Interim Head of Capital Delivery), Cllr Abdal Ullah, Mayor John Biggs, Cllr Rachel Blake and Cllr Denise Jones at the naming of Altab Ali House

New council homes unveiled as 'Altab Ali House'

HOUSING

A redevelopment of a former garage site in Wapping into 18 new council homes for rent has been officially named Altab Ali House.

It was in 1978 when 25-year-old Altab Ali was returning home from work at a garment factory in Brick Lane, when he was fatally stabbed in a park in Whitechapel.

He had only recently moved to London from Bangladesh and his brutal murder shocked local communities and united Tower Hamlets residents to take a stand against hatred and intolerance, marking a significant turning point in east London's race relations.

The 100% affordable new homes, which will bear

Altab's name, are part of a commitment to deliver 2,000 new council homes in Tower Hamlets. They will have a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms, with new landscaping at street level and will replicate the design of the historic wharf buildings in Wapping.

Cllr Sirajul Islam, Statutory Deputy Mayor for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities, said:

"Altab Ali's murder will never be forgotten and acts as a reminder to our diverse communities in Tower Hamlets to unite against all forms of hate and racism.

"This development will deliver much needed homes at social rents for people on our housing waiting list."

The construction of the new homes is due to be completed in February 2022.

Empty garages transformed into new council homes

Residents have moved into four new council homes at Mollis House, in Poplar, that were built on the site of 16 empty garages.

The homes have been created as part of Poplar HARCA's Hidden Homes scheme. The Housing and Regeneration Community Association scheme has so far transformed unused spaces into 17 new homes in Poplar, providing vital affordable homes in the borough.

Resident Lisa Bajada said: "I was on the housing list for 10 years, and within the last two years my housing needs increased because my son is autistic. I've now moved from a second-floor home within a block of flats to a ground floor flat with a garden at Mollis House.

"Mollis House has ticked all the boxes to accommodate my son's needs. He finds it very difficult to socialise so having a private garden means he is now able to have outdoor space where he can go on a trampoline which helps his muscles and sensory processing needs. He also now has his own bedroom, and we live closer to his school. This is my dream home, and I feel content seeing my son happy."



Four new council homes have been built at Mollis House

Tower Hamlets Council is committed to delivering 2,000 new council homes by 2022. These genuinely affordable homes will include properties big enough for families, and one in ten will be wheelchair accessible.

Find out more about our council house building programme at talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/newcouncilhomes

Pam Bhamra Chair of the Tower Hamlets Housing Forum

Tower Hamlets Housing Forum (THHF) is a partnership between local housing associations (also known as registered providers) and the council. We are strategic partners who work together to help the borough deliver its overall housing strategy and to drive value for money for residents across housing services.



Against a backdrop of post-Covid recovery, the fight against structural inequality, not to mention ongoing concerns over building safety, it feels like our role and partnership has never been more important.

Together we work hard to improve the lives of residents through our community development and engagement work, and we have a shared commitment to making our estates and neighbourhoods great places to live for everyone.

I was proud to represent Tower Hamlets Housing Forum recently on the Tower Hamlets Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission, which was led by Cllr Asma Begum and charged with tackling structural inequality and delivering tangible and practical solutions to improve the lives of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people in Tower Hamlets.

We recently published a statement supporting the report where all of the registered providers in the Tower Hamlets Housing Forum committed to publicly reporting our progress against the commission's wide-ranging recommendations. We're determined to play our part in building back better to deliver a truly inclusive and anti-racist borough.

Another key focus for us, collectively, is building safety. The work is complex and significant, but we are making progress. We are investing in our homes and tapping into funding from the government's Building Safety Fund to protect as many leaseholders as possible from the costs of cladding remediation work. We continue to press for support for leaseholders living in buildings below 18m, which aren't currently eligible for grant funding.

It's a privilege to serve a borough like Tower Hamlets, and one that we don't take for granted. We're committed to doing all we can to make sure that residents have the high quality, affordable housing they deserve.



Once a derelict picture house, the Genesis today is a thriving cultural hub and landmark building

The show must go on

CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

As the nation eases itself out of lockdown with cinemas opening to entertain the masses, a survey by the British Film Institute (BFI) has revealed that one third of all adults watched at least one film at the cinema during 2020, despite cinemas being closed for the majority of the year.

Londoners were highlighted as the biggest cinema-goers in 2020 and are itching to go back to picture houses. This is music to the ears of the owner of art-deco gem, the Genesis, on Mile End Road.

Tyrone Walker-Hebborn has been instrumental in transforming the once derelict picture house (the Paragon) into a thriving cultural hub and a landmark building in Tower Hamlets.

The Genesis was voted the best UK cinema in 2016 by Time Out and this year was voted number one in Time Out's 25 Best Cinemas in London and also voted one of Time Out's 50 Most Beautiful Cinemas in the World.

Walker-Hebborn, a former roofer, always had a passion for films but had got side-tracked with the family roofing business until he had the idea to transform his yard in Bromley-by-Bow into a cinema. He put forward his vision to the council, who poured cold water on his idea, but he wasn't ready to give up on his dream.

The enthusiastic 55-year-old found out that there was a run-down cinema on the Mile End Road – the old Paragon Theatre of Varieties which played host to Charlie Chaplin and Laurel and Hardy in its heyday.

“When I saw the site, I was blown away. It had so much potential and brought back memories of when I was kid and went to watch films in it. I had to bring it back into use,” he said.

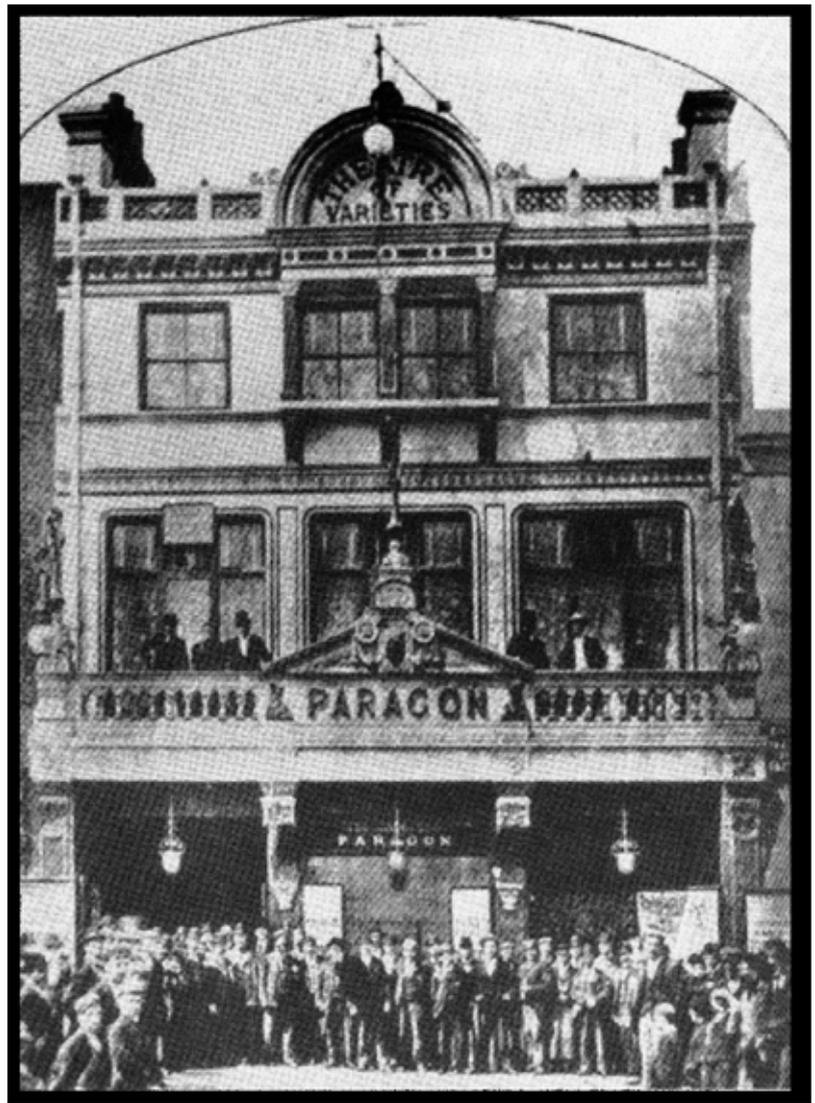
Walker-Hebborn finally got the keys to site in 1998 and set to work turning it into the plush, five-screen cinema, with a café, bar and gallery space, it is today.

During the renovations, when he showed his father around the site he was surprised to be told: “That’s where me and your mum use to sit.” It turned out his parents were regulars at the Paragon and their love of films had been passed down to him and his brother, who were named after 1930s films stars Tyrone Power and Spencer Tracy.

The Genesis was unveiled to the public in 1999 with a premiere attended by Queen of the East End, Barbara Windsor.



Tyrone Walker-Hebborn



The Paragon hosted Charlie Chaplin and Laurel and Hardy in its heyday



The Genesis recently celebrated its 21st birthday



The Genesis auditorium ready for its next audience

One of his most memorable moments running the cinema was bumping into Danny Boyle and his son and hearing about an exciting project the director was working on.

“He told me he was flying out to India to do a film that everyone had turned down. He told me the premise of the story and I thought it sounded like a load of rubbish. The film went on to win eight Oscars, and you may have heard of it – Slumdog Millionaire! Funnily enough we actually went on to become good friends and obviously he never listens to my possible film ideas!”

Another memorable night at the Genesis was a Lithuanian Comedy Night. “I was approached by a friend to host a premiere of a popular Lithuanian television show and three screens were hired out. I had no idea what to expect as this was completely new territory for me. On the night we had 600 people turn up queuing down the street and we ran out of Jack

Daniel’s by 9pm! I had to then run around the shops trying to restock our drinks. Despite the amount of alcohol consumed, the crowd was well behaved and the comedy night was a great success.”

Since being at the helm of the Genesis, Walker-Hebborn has seen a lot of change but cites London as the best city in the world and Tower Hamlets as the best part of London. “Tower Hamlets is unique. The richness of history, diversity, the camaraderie, and the friendliness of residents always amazes me.”

The Genesis celebrated its 21st birthday during lockdown and Walker-Hebborn has only one birthday wish which is to welcome back his regulars and bring escapism, joy and fun back into our evenings which has been overshadowed by lockdown and restrictions.

Happy belated birthday Genesis and here’s to another action-packed 21 years!



Residents cast their votes in Covid-secure polling stations; Will Tuckley, Tower Hamlets Council's Chief Executive, announces the results from the count

84,000 vote in May 2021 polls

COUNCIL NEWS

More than 84,000 Tower Hamlets residents had their say in the Mayor of London and Greater London Assembly elections, and two local referendums, which took place on Thursday 6 May.

Sadiq Khan was re-elected as London Mayor for another term and voters in the City and East constituency, which includes Tower Hamlets, re-elected Unmesh Desai as their London Assembly representative.

Tower Hamlets residents also voted to keep the role of a directly elected mayor for the borough in a governance referendum by 63,046 votes to 17,957.

There were 3,444 spoiled ballots.

The referendum result means that local elections taking place next year will take the same format as the elections held in 2018, with voters electing a mayor for Tower Hamlets and also who their borough ward local councillors will be.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "We've had the mayoral system in Tower Hamlets for over ten years now. After ten years it can be reviewed, and the voters have decided that this is the system we should continue with.

"Now this matter is resolved we can move forward with certainty about the governance system we will have in

place for the next decade."

In the Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Planning Referendum, voters chose to back the use of the Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan in determining future planning applications in the area by 7,874 votes to 1,264 votes, with 401 spoiled ballots.

Will Tuckley, Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Council, said:

"Organising several elections on the same day is an enormous task but adding in the complexities of adhering to Covid-19 safety measures has made it an even bigger challenge for my staff to undertake.

"Our priority has always been to deliver fair, transparent

and professional elections plus maintaining the safety of our voters and staff.

"I'm pleased to say that our elections team and other council officers, working with trained polling and other volunteer staff, have risen to that challenge.

"I would like to thank all those who have contributed their time and efforts and worked tirelessly to ensure that this important democratic role has been delivered successfully on behalf of our residents."

Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/elections for more information.

Nominations open for the borough's highest honour

Nominations are now open for residents to have their say on who should receive the highest honour possible in Tower Hamlets – the Freedom of the Borough.

The nominations will be considered by a cross-party panel chaired by the Speaker of the Council, Cllr

Mohammed Ahab Hossain. "I am very happy that there will once again be an opportunity for exceptional people and organisations in Tower Hamlets to be recognised for their achievements," Cllr Hossain said. "It is a rare honour to be awarded the Freedom of the Borough and I look forward to congratulating the next recipients later in the year."

Retired Commander John Ludgate (pictured), who served as the Deputy Lieutenant for Tower Hamlets for 22 years, was the last recipient of the honour in 2018.

The deadline for nominations is 31 July 2021. Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/freedomoftheborough



Commander John Ludgate receives the Freedom of the Borough in 2018

“

It is a rare honour to be awarded the Freedom of the Borough.



The Stand Up to Racism rally at Watney Market in May

Tower Hamlets pledges to become an anti-racist borough

Tower Hamlets Council has stepped up its commitment to make the borough an anti-racist place to live and work by asking high profile organisations in East London to pledge their support to make it a reality by 2025.

Mayor John Biggs was joined by representatives from Barts Health NHS Trust, East London Business Alliance, London Muslim Centre, the No Place for Hate forum and Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS) at the Town Hall to share ideas on how to achieve an anti-racist workplace.

Tuesday 25 May marked the one-year anniversary of the death of George

Floyd, who was killed by American police officer, Derek Chauvin. The incident triggered a worldwide protest against racism and police brutality.

His dying words, "I can't breathe," became a rallying cry in a wave of street demonstrations against his killing.

Mayor Biggs said: "The shocking killing of George Floyd at the hands of police in the United States has led to a worldwide movement for change. We must take action to ensure we're all playing our part to fight racism, tackle injustice and press for a fairer society. I'm delighted to be signing this on behalf of Tower Hamlets Council.

"We have made it our priority to be an anti-racist borough by 2025 and want as many of our partners to join us, lead by example and rid our community of racism."

Cllr Sirajul Islam, statutory deputy mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities, added: "The pledge is part of Tower Hamlets Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission, which was set up to take radical steps to dismantle long-standing structural racism.

"The commission started its work in September 2020 following the Black Lives Matter protests. We have

published our findings and now the real work begins in implementing what we have learnt."

Mayor Biggs also attended a Stand Up To Racism rally later that evening at Watney Market to honour George Floyd, and a minute's silence was held at the Cabinet meeting the following day.

For more details on the Tower Hamlets Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/raceinequalitiescommission



Zipcar UK's 'Living Car' installation on Brushfield Street beside Spitalfields Market

Did you see the 'Living Car'?

CLEAN & GREEN

Blooming with over 500 plants, flowers and herbs, the 'Living Car' installation was proudly displayed at Brushfield Street beside Spitalfields Market in May and visited by hundreds of residents and visitors to the borough.

The installation by Zipcar UK was created to inspire drivers to make greener choices and cut carbon emissions. The car share company

chose to partner with Tower Hamlets as the council is at the forefront of addressing climate change.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "This installation shows the importance of nature returning to the streets and demonstrates the positive impact less cars have on our environment."

The mayor declared a climate emergency in March 2019 and the council has committed to become a net zero carbon council by 2025 and

a net zero carbon borough by 2050 or sooner.

"This 'living car' was a fantastic temporary addition to Spitalfields, highlighting the importance of green and beautiful space in our cities and how the space on our roads could be put to different use," said Cllr Dan Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm.

The living car has lived on. After the installation was taken down, the plants and greenery were donated to the children of Manorfield Primary School in the local area.

Paul Jackson, Headteacher of Manorfield, said: "We were really excited to receive this donation of plants. The children loved planting them in the school grounds, brightening up the school site for everyone to enjoy. We also shared the leftover plants with our children and parents for them to plant at home to bring joy and colour across the local neighbourhood."

Find out more about what the council is doing to address the climate emergency at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/climateemergency



Cllr Dan Tomlinson with the installation

“
This 'living car' was a fantastic temporary addition to Spitalfields, highlighting the importance of green and beautiful space in our cities.

What Tower Hamlets has delivered so far



We've planted our 600th tree and are working towards our commitment of delivering 1,000 street trees



We have installed 99 electrical vehicle charging points across the borough



98% of our street lighting has been upgraded to LED

Traffic-free boost for parts of Brick Lane

Sections of Brick Lane will become traffic-free on certain evenings and all weekend as part of Tower Hamlets Council's Liveable Streets programme.

The changes will see the famous road closed to traffic on Thursdays and Fridays between 5.30-11pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 11am-11pm. Proposals to restrict traffic at these times to support Brick Lane businesses and make the road safer were supported by a majority of residents, visitors and Brick Lane businesses. The restrictions will be monitored by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras.

Further measures, as part of the Liveable Streets scheme, include a School Street, which restricts traffic at drop-off and pick-up times on Underwood Road, Buxton Street and Hunton Street. This will improve air quality and safety for children that attend these schools.

Deal Street will become one-way southbound between Underwood Road and Woodseer Street and ten new cycle hangers will be installed in the area.

The plans were approved by the council's Cabinet in May and follows a full consultation process with residents, businesses, key groups and emergency services, lasting 18 months. It is the latest Liveable Streets project that the council is rolling out to create a safer, cleaner and greener borough.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "Our Liveable Streets proposals will give a boost to Brick Lane by making it a safer, greener and cleaner place. Reducing traffic at peak times will help create a safer and much more enjoyable environment for everyone.

"The changes will help our local businesses bounce back from the effects of Covid-19 restrictions by being able to use more outdoor space and attracting more shoppers and visitors. We will, of course, monitor the impact and continue to work with those businesses and our residents so we can ensure this jewel in the crown of our borough thrives."

Find out more www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/liveablestreets



"Jewel in the crown of our borough" – Brick Lane



Principal Martin Blain and Year 6 teacher Jacqueline Ashie with schoolchildren outside Canary Wharf College Glenworth during 'No Cars Allowed Week'

Safer streets for schoolchildren on the Isle of Dogs

Two primary schools have teamed up to make streets safer on the Isle of Dogs. Canary Wharf College Glenworth and St. Luke's School worked together to support council plans to turn the road they share – Glenworth Avenue, E14 – into a School Street.

Glenworth Avenue is now car-free and the consultation about traffic restrictions at pick-up and drop-off times is underway. Canary Wharf College Glenworth marked the completion of the car-free area with a 'No Cars Allowed Week', during which 90 per cent of staff and pupils made car-free school journeys.

Principal Martin Blain was proud of the efforts his school made and enjoyed his own "incredibly pleasant" cycle to work along the Grand Union Canal, adding, "It was great to enjoy a celebration breakfast treat on the newly pedestrianised Glenworth Avenue."

The changes make the street "a better place for people" said Year 3 pupil Imose, a member of the school's environmental council. "Instead of making our streets busy with cars, it is safer for children to see where they are going more clearly."

The initiative forms part of the council's School Streets programme, which is aimed at supporting students to walk or cycle safely to and from their school each day.

The council is committed to delivering 50 School Streets by 2022 which will improve road safety for communities across Tower Hamlets, as well as encouraging active travel and reducing pollution.



Children and parents arrive at school along the newly pedestrianised Glenworth Avenue



Instead of making our streets busy with cars, it is safer for children to see where they are going more clearly.

New rules to tackle laughing gas-fuelled anti-social behaviour

SAFER TOGETHER

Following overwhelming support from residents during consultation, new regulations across Tower Hamlets have been put in place to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) linked to using nitrous oxide.

The new legal powers are part of a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), making it an offence to use nitrous oxide and engage in ASB. Enforcement officers will be on patrol around problem hotspots, where they will engage with anyone in breach of the rules, explain the PSPO and encourage offenders to stop engaging in ASB.



From left to right: Resident Jonathan Moberly, Cllr Sirajul Islam and Mayor John Biggs at an ASB hotspot



I'm glad that the council is listening to our concerns and hope the new PSPO will be effective in reducing the problem.

Where enforcement is necessary, officers will be able to issue a £100 fine or decide to prosecute those continuing to flout the rules, in court, for up to £1,000.

Misuse of nitrous oxide is linked to ASB like littering, noise nuisance and vandalism, which can have a huge impact on residents' quality of life and feelings of safety. It is also a health concern and has other associated harms.

Jonathan Moberly, a member of the Weavers Ward Safer Neighbourhoods Panel and the Weavers Community

Action Group said: "I'm pleased to hear about the new nitrous oxide-focussed PSPO for the borough. I'm one of many residents who have been affected by ASB and litter issues related to nitrous oxide users, particularly around night-time economy areas like Shoreditch. Through the council's consultation, Weavers residents reported over 1,000 canisters across 40 incidents. I'm glad that the council is listening to our concerns and hope the new PSPO will be effective in reducing the problem."

Jonathan is one of thousands of

people who took part in the council's consultation, where 98 per cent were in favour of introducing a PSPO.

Cllr Sirajul Islam, Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities, said: "In our residents' survey anti-social behaviour is one of residents' top concerns and so we have listened and taken action by consulting and then introducing this PSPO. As a council Tower Hamlets will not tolerate anti-social behaviour and we will continue to work with partners and residents to take action against perpetrators."

Mums urge Londoners to call with info on knife crime

Calling with information on knife crime might feel difficult, but it could save someone's life. That's the powerful message behind Hard Calls Save Lives, a new campaign encouraging people to share any knife crime information with Crimestoppers.

Lillian Serunkuma tragically lost her son to knife crime and is one of five mothers now backing the campaign. She said: "It can be hard to make the call to say someone is involved in knife crime, especially if it's someone you know or love. But it's so much harder if you don't."

Tackling serious violence remains a high priority for the council, which takes a public health approach to prevent violence through support and intervention.

The council supports the local Police Violence Suppression Unit through initiatives like community weapon sweeps and is implementing a partnership Violence Reduction Plan. It also funds the Royal London Hospital Project, offering support to young victims, and a dedicated Exploitation Team, which safeguards vulnerable residents at risk of being groomed into gangs.

Despite knife crime reducing by 25 per cent in 2020/21 compared to the previous year, there were still 510 knife crime offences in Tower Hamlets in 2020.

Detective Chief Superintendent Marcus Barnett, in charge of policing in Tower Hamlets and Hackney, said: "Knife crime is a tragedy that affects so many people, not least victims'



families. This powerful campaign highlights how grave this loss really is. We want to stop people experiencing this and protect young people in our community. But we need your support. You can phone Crimestoppers, at any time, with information, anonymously. Even a small piece of information

could be vital for officers working on an investigation and could help save a life."

Anyone who has any information on knife crime can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report online: www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Sign up

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

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SCAN ME





Elena Belecciu, team leader at Sazzy and Fran

Businesses bounce back

JOBS AND ECONOMY

After more than a year of restrictions on how we live our lives, the sight of shoppers and diners returning to our high streets has been welcomed by many.

For businesses like Sazzy and Fran café, which has been operating in Tower Hamlets for the past four years, Covid has brought both challenges

and opportunities.

“Our main thing is really good coffee and we use a local roastery with two different espressos and a filter coffee, so there are three different coffees to choose from and all our food is vegan,” says Sarah Harrison, owner of Sazzy and Fran.

“We’ve got all-day breakfast going, lunch options and lots of home-baked goods and we also do delivery, so we have everything going.”

Lockdown restrictions meant that like other businesses, Sazzy and Fran’s had to close and then adapt their business.

“We shut down last April but then looked at it and said we had to reopen up for takeaway,” Sarah says.

“Our takings were less than usual during lockdown, so we ended up launching a new product which is a vegan salmon alternative which we are rolling out in health food stores.

“We had to diversify the business and it’s been going really well – we’re in five local stores and getting repeat orders from them. I’m also sending out samples to bigger health food stores, so we managed to weather the past year in trying out this new idea.”

With restrictions easing, customers are now allowed back into the café to sit down for something to eat and drink.

“We’ve only just opened up in the



“I used to work in the city as a surveyor and hated every day. Now I’m my own boss and love every day I work, meeting amazing people and reaping what I sow.”

Philip Amery,
Go Commando,
Brick Lane Market



“My mission is to bring a sweet smile to people’s lives.”

Terezia Palkova,
Bogar,
Truman and Brick Lane
Markets



“We’re ready and super excited about welcoming you back. It’s so good to see your happy faces eating our classic Chicken Katsu Wraps again!”

Irene Chewcal Hoshi,
Katsu Wraps,
Victoria Park and Toynbee
Street

Pivot Project business wins award



The Boardies team celebrate its award win

Local swimwear manufacturer Boardies has won a Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade.

The local company was one of 50 small businesses in Tower Hamlets to receive support through the council's Pivot Project – a pioneering programme that helped firms survive and adapt to the challenges of Covid-19.

Nick Crook, Founder of Boardies, said: "The Tower Hamlets Pivot Project allowed us to work with a local digital agency in Spitalfields and tap into their expertise, so Boardies could navigate around challenges relating to lockdown."

With the advice and support of the programme, Nick and his team were able to increase their online sales to customers around the world including the USA, Canada, Australia, Asia and the Middle East.

Nick added: "Winning the Queen's Award for Enterprise is a great honour and we are proud to continue the legacy of East End clothing businesses."

Give your career a Kickstart

Are you aged 16-24 on Universal Credit and looking for employment? The Kickstart Scheme could be an option for you.

The scheme provides an exciting opportunity for young people to gain valuable experience and job training through paid work placements to help them develop skills for their future.

Each Kickstart placement has been funded by the government, who will pay national minimum wage directly to employers based on a 25 hour per week placement. Some employers may choose to pay above this. Placements are for all skills and experience levels.

Tower Hamlets Council has been working closely with employers in the borough in sectors like law, construction, creative arts, digital media, hospitality and catering, and fitness, to provide the best possible opportunities for applicants.

Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/kickstart, email kickstart@towerhamlets.gov.uk, or talk to your Universal Credit work coach.

past few weeks and it's been going really well, we have all our staff back and it's all looking up.

"We're so small and local that our everyday local customers is how we survive. We really missed them and it's so nice we can invite them to sit down again and enjoy their coffee and food."

Elena Belecchiu, team leader at Sazzy and Fran, said: "To everyone, I say welcome back. We know it's still early

days after a year of lockdowns and people will adjust their habits back again.

"We're really happy to have people back here as soon as they feel comfortable. It's all very much needed too, we all need to get out and see other people again after this past year!"

Since the start of the pandemic, the council has worked to protect local businesses across the borough and has provided more than £144m

in grant funding and over £103m in business rates relief.

The council has also carried out a consultation on the future development of ten street markets in Tower Hamlets, receiving more than 500 responses.

With a proud history and tradition, our borough boasts the best street markets in London. Have you met these six traders?



We've only just opened up in the past few weeks and it's been going really well.



"I'm excited to be back on Brick Lane on Sundays! See you all there!"

Giuliano Crispini,
Pigling Street,
Brick Lane Market



"Life is burrito-ful. I am glad to be back at Sclater Street Monday to Friday. Hope to see you there!"

Shathil Islam, whose street food stall, Grillz on Wheelz, is back in business



"Flowers make you feel better when you're blue and happier on special occasions; they play an essential part of my life and always will. Our market is one of its kind in the UK and I'm so happy to be back."

Ross Rospo, Columbia Road Flower Market trader



Spitalfields Market is open for business again

Spitalfields Re-awakens

Shops, restaurants and bars are coming back to life as the lockdown eases. On this walk **Graham Barker** welcomes the re-opening around Brick Lane and Spitalfields. Photos by **Kois Miah**.

WALK SPITALFIELDS

As the lockdown continues to ease – step by step – the shops, restaurants, markets and pubs in Spitalfields are waking up once again. Dining at home and shopping online is all well and good, but maybe you feel ready now to head out for a meal with friends or to browse at interesting shops and market stalls? Local businesses are sure to appreciate the support. On this route you'll take a gentle stroll around Brick Lane, Spitalfields Market and historic side streets in between. The options for eating and shopping are plentiful – so

Start:	Finish:	Distance:	Allow:
Aldgate East tube	Liverpool Street station	1.5 Miles	60 minutes plus shopping/eating



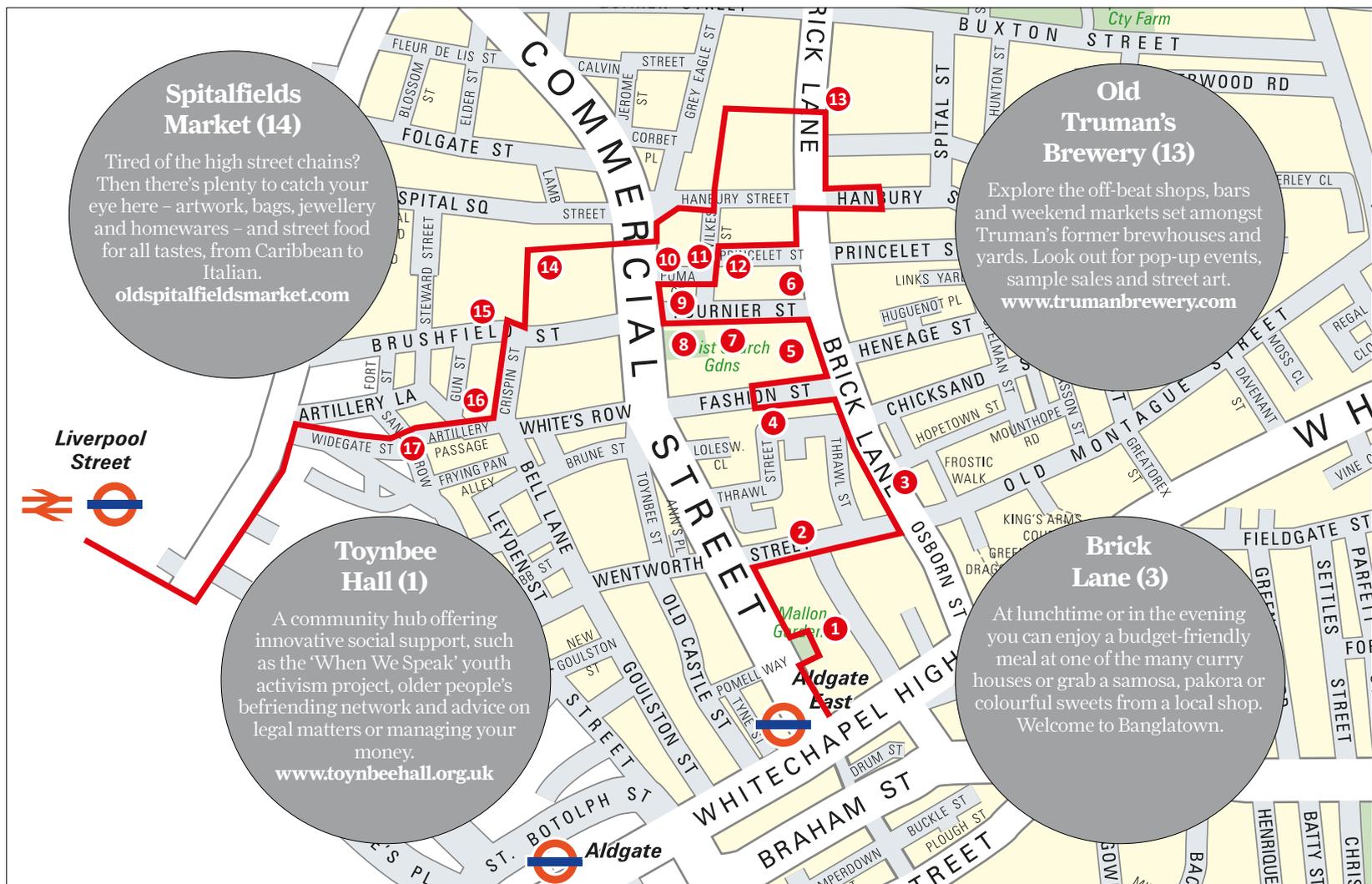
(1) Toynbee Hall clusters around a courtyard



Marija Tiurina's witty lockdown mural



(3) Sweets and savouries on Brick Lane



Spitalfields Market (14)

Tired of the high street chains? Then there's plenty to catch your eye here – artwork, bags, jewellery and homewares – and street food for all tastes, from Caribbean to Italian.

oldspitalfieldsmarket.com

Old Truman's Brewery (13)

Explore the off-beat shops, bars and weekend markets set amongst Truman's former brewhouses and yards. Look out for pop-up events, sample sales and street art.

www.trumanbrewery.com

Toynbee Hall (1)

A community hub offering innovative social support, such as the 'When We Speak' youth activism project, older people's befriending network and advice on legal matters or managing your money.

www.toynbeehall.org.uk

Brick Lane (3)

At lunchtime or in the evening you can enjoy a budget-friendly meal at one of the many curry houses or grab a samosa, pakora or colourful sweets from a local shop. Welcome to Banglatown.

allow time – and en route you'll also encounter landmarks that echo the area's history.

As you exit Aldgate East tube station, cross the road and continue along the eastern pavement of Commercial Street, past Canon Barnett Primary School. Soon you can escape the thunderous traffic by nipping through an archway, taking you into the courtyard of Toynbee Hall (1). Opened in 1884, Toynbee Hall was initiated by local curate Samuel Barnett and his wife Henrietta as a volunteer 'settlement' designed to provide practical support in an impoverished neighbourhood. It has been a catalyst for social reform ever since. Recently refurbished, with a new community wing added, it offers debt and legal

advice as well as social activities for local residents.

Around the corner is The Culpeper pub – originally The Princess Alice, it was re-named after the 17th century Spitalfields herbalist, Nicholas Culpeper. A roof-top garden provides herbs and vegetables to add a home-grown touch to cocktails and bar meals.

Along Wentworth Street look out for a giant red-brick arch (2). As the inscription announces, in 1886 the Four Per Cent Industrial Dwellings Company – spearheaded by Lord Rothschild – built tenement blocks here offering 'commodious and healthy' flats at modest rents. It was a vast improvement on the notorious Flower & Dean slum that preceded it.

Opposite, on Gunthorpe Street, artist Marija Tiurina has created a witty mural inspired by a lockdown list. And further on you pass Providence Row at the Dellow Centre for homeless and vulnerable people. Later in the walk you'll see Providence Row's previous hostel – a reminder that rough sleeping has long been an issue hereabouts.

Head left up Brick Lane (3), the name of which recalls the brick and tile making that took place locally from the 15th century. These days a decorative metal archway, bilingual street signs and a parade of curry houses signal it's the heart of Banglatown. Architecturally it's a hotchpotch and buildings have been adapted through the years – such as the former Mayfair cinema, which became an Indian

restaurant before being converted into a sushi take-away and travel agency.

Nip left briefly into Fashion Street. A former shopping arcade (4) dominates one side. Entrepreneur Abraham Davis built 63 shops here in 1905, spiced with Moorish architecture. But he misjudged the popularity of open-air markets and the venture failed. Fittingly, given the street name, part of it is now a fashion college.

Back on Brick Lane, there are further rag trade connections, as lamp-posts are decorated with scissors, buttons and threads. Pause outside Christ Church Primary School (5) – built in 1873, incorporating its predecessor depicted on the stone wall plaque – or linger at the colourful window displays of sweet and savoury snacks.



(8) Christ Church towers above weavers' attics



(9) Pubs can now serve inside and out



(11) Norton Folgate Almshouses in Puma Court



Street artist Stik's hand-holding couple stand out on Princelet Street

Brick Lane Jamme Masjid (6) encapsulates the flux of Spitalfields' residents over the centuries. Built in 1743 as a Huguenot chapel for French Protestants, it later served as a Methodist chapel and synagogue, before being converted in 1976 into the mosque. The silver minaret lights up with a cycle of colours, and the sundial inscription reads 'Umbra Sumus' or 'We are Shadows'.

From 1685, Huguenots settled in this area and their silk-weaving skills transformed Spitalfields into a flourishing commercial centre. As you stroll along Fournier Street (7) you'll see that many of these 1720s houses retain their weavers' attics, designed with windows that let in maximum daylight to illuminate intricate work. Savour the house details, including the ornate porches, fire insurance wall plates and bobbins hanging from brackets.

Christ Church (8) towers high above the rooftops, its white spire visible from afar. It was designed in a Baroque style by Nicholas Hawksmoor and completed in 1729 as one of the so-called Queen Anne Churches funded by a special coal tax. If it's open when you pass, peek inside to appreciate what an imposing space it is.

Opposite, The Ten Bells (9) – like most pubs – is now open to customers drinking a pint inside, as well as out. The pub's name recalls the historic rivalry between Christ Church and St Bride's on Fleet Street, each trying to out-ring one another by progressively adding more bells. Ghostly signwriting on the fascia records that this was once

a Truman's pub – you'll see the old brewery shortly.

Just before nipping into Puma Court, look out for the People's Plaque (10) commemorating Nicholas Culpeper 1616-1654, and inscribed 'Physician, herbalist, astrologer and writer, lived and worked in a house on this site 1640-1654'. His books included a Directory for Midwives and The English Physician, also known as Culpeper's Herbal, which is still in print today.

Inset into the flagstones of Puma Court (11), the iron disk is one of the Spitalfields Roundels designed by Keith Bowler to depict local connections. A whip and top, marbles, and a hoop, conjure up images of youngsters playing here.

Alongside, almshouses nestle around a small courtyard – an 1860 inscription in stone records that they were built 'For poor inhabitants of the Liberty of Norton Folgate, in place of those built in 1728, lately taken down for the new street.'

As you walk down Princelet Street, you'll spot a couple more plaques (12) to two remarkable women – silk designer Anna Maria Garthwaite at No 2, and Miriam Moses at No 17. As well as being Stepney's first female mayor, Moses co-founded the Brady Girls' Club.

Out on Brick Lane you might smell fragrant wafts from the feast of curry houses – diners can once again eat inside these restaurants. Or if you're a keen home cook, then pop inside Taj Stores – established in 1936 and still run by the founding family – which offers an extensive range of fresh



An authentic refugee boat inspired this sculpture on Brushfield Street

produce, spices, pastes and pickles.

Street art abounds – plastering every square inch, it seems – and you might like to divert eastwards along Hanbury Street to see a few examples, including street artist Roa's giant crane and Ant Carver's reflection on loss, embodied as a woman surrounded by a golden skull, dice, roses and candles.

Continue towards the former Truman's Brewery (13). For over 300 years Truman's brewed porter, stout and other beers for thirsty Londoners here. These days, the old brewhouses and yards host weekend markets, sample sales, jazz sessions and pop-up events. Follow Dray Walk – past street food wagons – and you'll emerge back into Hanbury Street.

Turn right towards Commercial Street. A salt and vinegar tang might draw you into Poppie's Fish and Chips. Owner Pat 'Pop' Newland started out as a lad in 1952 helping in a Roman Road chippie.

Cross over into Spitalfields Market (14). As you weave your way through, there are many tempting street food options – take your pick from crispy falafel, Caribbean jerk chicken, New York-style burgers, wood-fired pizza, dumplings or bao buns.

Market stalls extend across two halls, offering all manner of affordable goodies – from handbags to homewares, hats to hand-made soap – and on Thursdays there's a vintage vibe. Specialist shops skirt around the edge of the market square.

As you head out onto Brushfield Street, watch out for baby elephants. 'Our Herd of Hope', (15) created by artists Gillie and Marc, comprises

21 life-size orphaned elephants, cast in bronze. They're labelled with individual stories, designed to raise awareness of poaching, natural disasters and other threats to their survival in East Africa. Another sculpture, by Kalliopi Lemos, shows seven people in an authentic refugee boat.

Stroll along Crispin Street, past ghost signs for nut roaster Percy Dalton and Donovan Brothers' 'noted house for paper bags'. Student halls occupy the former Providence Row Night Refuge and Convent of Mercy (16). Built in 1868, the refuge offered shelter for 300 women and children and 50 men.

Around the corner, Artillery Passage (17) is an atmospheric enclave tightly-packed with boutiques and eating places – including Mediterranean flavours at Ottolenghi and Enoteca Super Tuscan, designer fashion at Precious and artisan perfumes at Angela Flanders.

The name Artillery Passage – as well as nearby Fort Street, Gun Street and the King's Stores – alludes to the artillery ground here in the time of Henry VIII, used by 'The Fraternity or Guild of Artillery of Longbows, Crossbows and Handguns'.

As you continue into Widegate Street, peer up to four ceramic sculptures created by Philip Lindsey Clark in 1926 to depict the stages of bread-making above the former Nordheim Model Bakery. You'll then emerge onto Bishopsgate, close to Liverpool Street station, the end of your walk.



Retro-style fish and chips on Hanbury Street



(14) Colourful displays in Spitalfields Market



(15) 21 bronze elephants form Our Herd of Hope



Free fun and yoga sessions at In the Neighbourhood. Photo by Rory James

Revelling at the return of In the Neighbourhood and All Points East

Much loved festival All Points East is set to return to the borough's award-winning Victoria Park from Friday 27 to Monday 30 August, offering stellar music and entertainment for festival goers and revellers.

Along with the main festival, the hugely popular and free community event, In The Neighbourhood, hosted in partnership with the council, is also set to return from 31 August to 2 September, offering another vibrant programme of activities featuring local artists and organisations.

Previous In the Neighbourhood activities have seen something for everyone, including eco-friendly creative workshops, free yoga sessions, street food, open air movie nights, themed drag shows and film panels.

Community benefits such as supporting culture, business and employment in the borough, working with residents to reduce any negative impacts of the festivals, and generating much needed income for public services, remain a key part of the festival

During last year's lockdown, the council and festival organisers hosted Online Hub, a 10-day programme filled with exclusive gigs, archive shows, cocktail and cooking classes, yoga sessions, a live discussion on the impact of Covid-19 in Tower Hamlets, museum workshops, artist playlists and more which celebrated, and shone a spotlight on, local partners and businesses.

The hub also promoted fundraising activities for foodbanks in the borough, worked with students at the East London Arts & Music School (ELAM) in Bromley-by-Bow on lockdown recording sessions,

and hosted a virtual Bandstand Lockdown Special with top artists performing.

All Points East continues to work with local charity the Tower Project to give volunteer opportunities to young people with learning disabilities and autism on-site at the festival, as well as providing education and performance opportunities to students of ELAM. Committing to 100% renewable energy, working towards eliminating single-use plastic from all serve ware and programming upcycling workshops for children during In The Neighbourhood are further examples of the commitment to the local community and the park.

For up-to-date information, including ticket competitions and draws, sign up to the council's newsletter at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup



Fun activities for everyone at In the Neighbourhood. Photo by Rory James



A performative walking tour will take in popular sites that have shaped local Bengali heritage

Walking tour, film festival and more to celebrate Bangladesh at 50

Tower Hamlets Council is continuing its series of celebratory events marking the 50th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh.

After launching this significant anniversary with a fantastic programme of talks, exhibitions, music and extensive online resources, provided through Insights 71, we are now looking further ahead:

On Sunday 4 July from 11am to 1pm, community organisation Toynbee Hall, working with Swadhinata Trust and Tower Hamlets Local Library and Archives, will host a performative walking tour, visiting sites including Altab Ali Park, Janamot and Kobi Nazrul Centre. Join Bengali storyteller Shamim Azad and local musician Paul Burgess as they transport us back in time to platform the experiences of local Bengali communities in the 1970s. Participants are encouraged to dress in green and red.

On Sunday 4 July from 2-5pm, Toynbee Hall will host a celebration with music and stories presented by local people.

Attendance at both events is free but must be booked in advance at www.toynbeehall.org

Plans are underway for a mini film festival in September. Feature films and award-winning documentaries linked to the war for independence are under consideration, along with short films produced by local organisations.

Supported by a National Lottery grant from Arts Council England, an exciting installation project titled My Home, My Bari 1971 will also be part of celebrations. We look forward to working with Tower Hamlets artist Rahemur Rahman later in the year on the project.

Events marking Bangladesh at 50 will run until December 2021. Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Bangladesh50 for further information.

Want to get involved in Black History Month 2021?

Are you or your organisation planning, or hoping, to organise an event for Black History Month in October 2021? If so, Tower Hamlets Council may be able to facilitate your event plans. Individuals and groups are invited to submit details of any confirmed programmed activity by mid-August so the council can help publicise your event. Email blackhistorymoth@towerhamlets.gov.uk with any queries, ideas or proposals or if you would like to join an interest group.

Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth to see last year's programme or www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts for updates as plans for 2021 unfold.

Exhibitions

Wishful Thinking

Wish you were here? Throughout lockdown, we've all been dreaming about escapes and this exhibition is all about travel. Be transported, by engaging artworks in postcard-sized formats, to locations far and wide, both real and ideal. It looks at scenes from abroad or closer to home, and a change of scenery through landscapes, seascapes, or cityscapes. Works have been created by Art 4u2, a local group of artists led by tutor Virginia Hawke.

8 June - 2 July

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

Visitors will need to comply with Covid-safe requirements.

Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts



Venice by Virginia Hawke

Havering Hoard: A Bronze Age Mystery

A free major exhibition which explores the largest Bronze Age hoard ever discovered in London with all 453 tools, weapons and other objects unearthed and on display to the public for the very first time.

Until 22 August 2021

Museum of London Docklands, 1 Warehouse, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL.

Visitors are required to book a free ticket online, in advance, for a time slot of their choosing.

Visit www.museumoflondon.org.uk

The Krios of Sierra Leone

The unique and largely untold history, heritage and culture of the Krio people of Sierra Leone is explored by highlighting the architecture, language, lifestyle and traditions of the Krio community. From its origins in transatlantic slavery through to the involvement of prominent abolitionists, the story of the Krio ties into the wider themes of the museum's London, Sugar & Slavery gallery

where the display is located.

Until 4 July 2021

Museum of London Docklands, 1 Warehouse, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL.

Visitors are required to book a free ticket online, in advance, for a time slot of their choosing.

Visit www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Nalini Malani: Can You Hear Me?

Embodying the role of the artist as social activist, Nalini Malani gives voice to the marginalised through visual stories in the form of multi-layered, immersive installations, exploring themes of violence, feminism, politics, racial tensions and social inequality.

Until 5 September 2021

Whitechapel Gallery, 77-82

Whitechapel High Street, E1 7QX.

Visit www.whitechapelgallery.org

Collection Display

Significant works of art by Joan Miró, Annie Leibovitz, Sarah Morris, John Baldessari and more are on public display for the first time in the second of two artist-curated displays drawn from the Hiscox Collection.

Until 15 August 2021

Whitechapel Gallery, 77-82

Whitechapel High Street, E1 7QX.

Visit www.whitechapelgallery.org

Courses

Assertiveness Training, E-Learning

Idea Store Learning's five-week online course will provide tips and advice on how to present yourself confidently.

Learn through enjoyable interactive exercises on how to boldly express your opinions and share your feelings.

Wednesdays, 6-7.30pm,

starting 9 June

Visit www.ideastore.co.uk

Introduction to Public Speaking

Learn how to build vocal strength and stamina through intensive vocal exercises and explorations. You will learn how to use your voice at volume and how to maintain good vocal health.

Mondays, 6-8pm,

starting 7 June for five weeks

Idea Store Whitechapel, 321

Whitechapel Road E1.

Visit www.ideastore.co.uk

Live music sessions for young musicians

London's pioneering world music and jazz youth ensemble returns for a series of live sessions. In a completely new departure, this year's Grand Union Youth Orchestra (GUYO)

programme is encouraging its young members to call the shots themselves, as they reunite in person for their first sessions out of lockdown.

Sessions are free for young musicians aged 12-26, including newcomers and those who play non-European instruments, to explore major musical cultures worldwide.

Sunday June 13, 10am-1.30pm

exploring music for Refugee Week

Sunday July 11, 10am-1.30pm

commemorating Windrush Day

July 26-29 annual residential

Summer School 2021, Oundle (tbc)

To take part email:

josh@grandunion.org.uk

Visit www.grandunion.org.uk/guyo.php

Theatre

Space Theatre on the Isle of Dogs' biggest season to date marks the recent return of audiences inside theatres, whilst continuing to serve new online audiences. Performances include:

Refuge

Three women from different worlds find themselves living in a women's refuge where, to become the authors of their own futures, they must first let go of their pasts.

22-26 June - both in the venue and livestreamed on YouTube

Under Heaven's Eyes

Did George Floyd's killing mark a turning point for real change or yet another false dawn? A 60-minute solo-play.

17-18 August - livestreamed on Zoom

Toothache

Toothache follows the life of a pair of sixteen-year-old twins. One twin identifies as queer, whilst the other is struggling under the pressure of toxic masculinity.

7-11 September - both in the venue and livestreamed on YouTube

The Space is located at 269 Westferry Road, E14 3RS.

Visit www.space.org.uk

Take Off Your Cornflakes

Tom loves a laugh! But it's no joke when he can't even remember where he's parked the car. Fortunately, his loving wife Trish comes to the rescue... again! Mark Lockyer's moving adaptation of this absurdly normal story poignantly asks us how do we keep dancing when the music between us starts to fade?

July 6, 7, 8, 9, 7.30-9pm

Price: £10/£15 pay what you decide

St Margaret's House, 21 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, E2 9PL.

www.stmargarethouse.org.uk



Performers for Finding Percy Erebus

Finding Percy Erebus

Travelling through a magical world, Percy's best friend confronts dancing tricksters, thieving pirates, outsmarts mind-boggling riddlers and rhyming doctors. Journeying from her bedroom to the bottom of the ocean, she attempts the impossible: 'Finding Percy Erebus'.

July 24, 12-1pm

Price: £8/£10/£12 pay what you decide.

St Margaret's House, 21 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, E2 9PL.

Visit www.stmargarethouse.org.uk

Activities for young children

The popular Mudlarks children's gallery has been refurbished and a new toddler area has been created to welcome the Museum of Docklands' youngest visitors. Features include new interactive elements that introduce the stories of the docks in hands-on and stimulating ways.

Ongoing

Museum of London Docklands No 1 Warehouse, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL.

Free timed entry to Mudlarks must be pre-booked.

Visit www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Music festival

Spitalfields Music has announced the line-up for its 2021 festival. It will bring together acclaimed artists, composers and performers working across different genres, traditions and styles exploring the extensive range and resilience of classical music. World premieres and new music will be performed alongside classic repertoire and cross-artform collaborations in iconic East London locations, from Christ Church, Spitalfields to the George Tavern in Stepney.

1-11 July.

Various East London locations.

Visit www.spitalfieldsmusic.co.uk

Delivery of laptops marks online learning milestone

COUNCIL NEWS

A delivery of laptops gifted to students in Tower Hamlets marked the landmark moment of 110,000 #BridgeTheDivide devices distributed by LGfL – the National Grid for Learning, making them the second largest distributor of devices to schools in the UK behind the Department for Education.

Closer to home, the moment marked the transformation of potential for students from Blue Gate Fields Infants' School, whose lives have been changed forever by better access to their online learning.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "We're working to get every child online in the borough as I know what a difference having access to a laptop or tablet has for our young people. We've been busy distributing devices and lobbying the government, and we are also fundraising and working with partners to get the 'kit and connectivity' pupils need to learn. It's vital that we get every child online

and end the digital disadvantage in education."

Access to online learning was an essential requirement during lockdown for many who could not continue to learn in a classroom. Following the return of face-to-face learning for every child and young person in March, it remains vital that learners can get online, to ensure opportunity and access are spread equally and every child is able to realise their potential.

Catherine Jones, Headteacher, Blue Gate Fields Infants' School, said: "We're thrilled to have received these laptops from Every Child Online and Bridge the Divide, which will have a genuine and life-changing impact on our students, opening up new avenues of learning and a whole range of education opportunities that they would otherwise not have had access to."

Isa, aged seven, from Blue Gate Fields Infants' School, said: "I can learn a lot on my laptop. I can type, read and learn and I don't need to share with my little sister anymore."



Children from Blue Gate Fields Infants' School receive their laptops

“ I can learn a lot on my laptop. I can type, read and learn and I don't need to share with my little sister anymore. ”

Return of arts and cultural businesses welcomed

The return of arts and cultural businesses across Tower Hamlets has been welcomed at the reopening of Bethnal Green's Rich Mix cinema.

"Tower Hamlets has some of the best arts and cultural organisations in London, and they've had a particularly hard time not being able to reopen their doors until now," John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said.

"Throughout the pandemic, we've done all we can to support our businesses with advice, information, signposting, and funding. We've provided more than £144m in grant funding, over £103m in business rates relief and will continue to support local businesses as they rebuild and bounce back after the crisis.

"It's a pleasure to be at the reopening of Rich Mix and I welcome their cautious approach to reopening

safely, and wish them all the best."

Judith Kilvington, Rich Mix CEO, said: "On behalf of the whole Rich Mix team, we'd like to thank Mayor John Biggs for visiting us as we reopen our doors after what has been a tumultuous year for us all.

"We're taking steps to open up cautiously, prioritising the safety of our team and visitors, with the vision that we will get back to being that hub of culture and creativity once more.

"I know those visiting us in these first few weeks will have even more of a Rich Mix welcome than usual – your support means a huge amount."

To find out more about services offered to businesses, including coronavirus support, advice and information, go to www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/business



Judith Kilvington, CEO of Rich Mix

£90,000 cultural grant for Wentworth Street

Historic England has awarded a £90,000 grant to create and deliver community-led cultural activities on Wentworth Street (Petticoat Lane), over the next three years.

As part of this programme, a community decision-making group made up of local stallholders,

businesses, creatives and residents will collectively design, curate and deliver a vibrant cultural programme of art experiences – helping to increase awareness of Petticoat Lane and its market, boosting footfall and supporting thousands of people to discover and make use of this space.

The grant is the latest investment in the neighbourhood, following shopfront improvements and refurbishments and conversion of the Leyden Street Toilet, led by Tower Hamlets Council, which also has been supported by grant funding from the High Streets Heritage Action Zone

Scheme.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "This area has an incredible history, and together with our local partners, residents, and businesses, we'll work to ensure this investment benefits our local community."



>LL POINTS E>ST

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- IN COLLABORATION WITH TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL -

VICTORIA PARK • LONDON E3 • 31 AUG > 02 SEPT 2021



OUTDOOR
CINEMA



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SPORTS &
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TOWER
HAMLETS DANCE



ARTS &
CULTURE



KIDS
ACTIVITIES



AMERICAN EXPRESS

AEG PRESENTS



TimeOut

Hackney Gazette

Advertiser



Fit for purpose: A visitor gets to grips with new outdoor gym equipment in Weavers Fields

New playgrounds and sports facilities for a great time outdoors this summer

COUNCIL NEWS

Exciting new features have been added to parks and open spaces in the borough, offering visitors an opportunity to enjoy new play, recreational and fitness opportunities as we approach brighter summer days.

Rejuvenated as part of the council's £10m parks capital programme, new on the landscape are inclusive children's playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment, park benches, multi-use games areas, flower beds and vegetation, new signage, sports facilities and much more.

Weavers Fields in Bethnal Green has a new children's playground with equipment that is suitable for toddlers and children,

including youngsters with limited mobility.

The park has also been fitted with an outdoor gym with equipment for cardio, strengthening and conditioning exercises. Visitors will also see new and refurbished benches and lamp-posts, colourful flower beds, and new bins.

Margaret Cox, chair of the Friends of Weavers Fields, said: "Many people in the local community were involved in consultations about the new facilities and everyone is so pleased with the park's new look. Kids love the new playground and you should see it after school, it's always buzzing – there's so much choice for children of all age ranges. It's amazing.

"The gym equipment is also making a difference. We're so glad that the

council listened and has come up with what people wanted."

A refurbished adventure playground, for children aged eight and over, is due to open at Weavers Fields this summer.

Wennington Green in Mile End has seen over £84k of improvements with outdoor gym equipment and a multi-use games area. Wapping Gardens also boasts a new outdoor gym.

Multi-games areas for sports and play have been refurbished with new surfaces and line markings and are now open to the public at Mile End Park, Ravenscroft Park, Bethnal Green, Whitehorse Road Park in Stepney, and Middleton Green in Bethnal Green.

Other exciting developments coming up later this year include a new children's playground at Millwall



The gym equipment is also making a difference. We're so glad that the council listened and has come up with what people wanted.

Park and improvements to Mudchute Park and Farm on the Isle of Dogs.

For further information and updates visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parks



Inclusive playgrounds for children of all ages are some of the exciting developments in the borough's parks



Mark this spot: New surface and markings at the multi-use game area in Mile End Park

Plans underway to mark Poplar Rates Rebellion and Will Crooks anniversaries

COMMUNITY NEWS

Plans are underway to mark two important Poplar community milestones with a series of events this summer.

This year is the centenary of the famous Poplar Rates Rebellion which took place in 1921, following a decision by the then Poplar Council, to vote against the unfair level of rates being levied by the government on the area.

The rebellion resulted in 32 Poplar councillors spending six weeks in prison, including Mayor of Poplar George Lansbury's daughter-in-law Minnie Lansbury who, due to her imprisonment, developed pneumonia and died aged 32.

To mark the centenary of this famous uprising, the council is restoring the mural on Hale Street which tells its story.

Originally painted in 1990 and repainted in 2007, the mural is now



The council will restore the mural on Hale Street, which tells the story of the Poplar Rates Rebellion



Will grew up vowing to improve the lot of those who were forced to spend time in the workhouse.

in need of further work to give this important pictorial document a new lease of life. The peeling and faded images of old will be replaced by vibrant and robust coats of paint, along with work to preserve and maintain the brick wall underneath.

The council is also planning to install a heritage interpretation panel in Poplar Recreation Ground this summer, to tell the story of and mark the centenary of the revolt.

Poplar residents are also planning to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Will Crooks, who died on 5 June 1921. From his poverty-stricken

youth, much of which was spent in the Poplar Workhouse, Will Crooks became the first Labour mayor in London and the first Labour MP in East London.

Organised by South Poplar and Limehouse Action for Secure Housing (SPLASH) and Sister Christine Frost MBE, chair of community organisation Neighbours in Poplar, planned events include a history display in St Matthias Community Centre, Poplar High Street, from 28 June to 2 July; parties on the Will Crooks Estate, Poplar on 3-4 July; and a football tournament on 4 July.

Sister Christine said: "Will grew

up vowing to improve the lot of those who were forced to spend time in the workhouse. When, later in life he was elected councillor in the area, he began to use his influence to improve the situation for those who were unemployed. Unlike all previous MPs, Will came to the role without any family inheritance, which was very unusual in those days.

We are really keen to share our important Poplar history with our local community."

For further information contact 020 7987 0257 or visit www.neighboursinpoplar.com

Bench tribute to 'bright and beautiful' man

The life of a much-loved Isle of Dogs resident has been remembered with a dedicated bench at a cherished spot in Sir John McDougal Gardens, overlooking the River Thames.

The late Zaoui Berezzag suffered life-changing injuries in the Docklands bombing 25 years ago.

"Dad was working as a cleaner at a nearby bank when the blast went off, said Rajaa, Zaoui's daughter. "He sustained a brain injury and went through years of medical treatment.

"I took on a lot of my parents' care and when my mum passed away in 2016 – she trusted me to look after dad."

Zaoui also had a heart attack and shortly after lost one of his legs, but, Rajaa says, he was always a fighter, no matter what was happening in his life. "He was always laughing and kept

pushing at life."

Spending time outdoors gave Rajaa and her dad opportunities to enjoy the fresh air, scenery and activities such as playing chess and cards while they enjoyed each other's company.

Now, as lockdown eases, Rajaa has a permanent memory of her father with the installation of a fluorescent blue memorial bench on the cherished spot where they spent time together, with a plaque carrying the words: "In memory of Zaoui Berezzag my father, a survivor and a fighter until the end. Gone but never forgotten."

"Every time I go there, I remember dad," says Rajaa. "I sit and think and laugh and remember the good times. My dad was bright and beautiful and brightened people's days.

"The bench stands out, just like he did.



Rajaa seated on the memorial bench in Sir John McDougal Gardens

"I want to thank the council for everyone to keep that good energy to making it possible and I encourage get us through the tough times."

It's competition time! #myeastend

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**WIN FREE
CINEMA TICKETS**
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Have you ever caught a picture on your camera or smartphone that perfectly captures what makes Tower Hamlets the best of London in one borough?

If so, your photo is about to put you in with chance of winning a night out at the cinema.

Whether it's a sunrise over your neighbourhood, an Attenborough-inspired nature shot or your favourite urban scene in the borough – your picture could win you a prize courtesy of Genesis cinema.

It could be a shot of our skyline, our parks, our markets, our murals – or maybe you'd like to tell us about your favourite shop, restaurant or café – if it's in Tower Hamlets, we want to see it all!

All you need to do is share your best photos via Twitter or Instagram using #myeastend and tell us why

you love the photo for your chance to win.

As well as scooping a pair of tickets, winning photos will be featured in the next edition of Our East End, via social media and our weekly e-newsletter.

The closing date for entries is 8 August 2021. For more information and terms and conditions, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/myeastend

Photo: Mural of Sylvia Pankhurst on the side of the Lord Morpeth pub on Old Ford Road in Bow. Sylvia founded the East London Federation of Suffragettes (ELFS) and was instrumental in helping women get the vote. Thanks to the Lord Morpeth pub for the photo.



The Health Tree project takes a holistic approach to wellbeing

The Health Tree

Community organisation St Margaret's House in Bethnal Green has launched a new wellbeing project.

Inspired by the branches and roots of a tree, the Health Tree project offers a holistic approach to health that recognises that to grow tall, we also have to build strong roots.

The project has received funding from Arts Council England's Thriving Communities fund, and now plans to make wellbeing activities and treatments affordable and accessible to

people in Tower Hamlets.

The scheme is offering a range of classes from yoga, to t'ai chi and HIIT to pilates, as well as treatments such as acupuncture and massage.

The project is working closely with social prescribing networks as part of a new national approach, recognising that health incorporates social, mental, emotional and physical wellbeing.

For further information visit www.stmargarethouse.org.uk/health-tree-about.

Mayor continues to lobby on fire safety for residents

The Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs, has written again to the government to call for swifter action on cladding and more support for

Tower Hamlets, following a fire at a privately-owned block of flats.

The fire, which started in the morning of Friday 7 May, severely damaged four flats in the 19-storey New Providence Wharf, which is partly clad in ACM. It is the responsibility of the building developer, Ballymore, to remove the cladding.

Firefighters worked hard to bring the blaze under control and no-one was killed. But the incident served as a warning for faster action to remove dangerous cladding and for more financial support for the council to allow it to monitor remediation work and take enforcement action when necessary.

Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs, said: "The fire at New Providence Wharf has shocked our community and our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected.



Firefighters at New Providence Wharf. Photo: The Red Cross

“
The fact that four years after the Grenfell disaster there is still flammable cladding on so many high-rise buildings is scandalous.

“The fact that four years after the Grenfell disaster there is still flammable cladding on so many high-rise buildings is scandalous. The government just hasn't gone fast enough to force developers and building owners to take action.”

The council has identified 38 private

sector buildings in the borough with ACM cladding. The coverage of ACM varies from building to building and the majority of blocks are in the process of removing it.

Find out more about fire safety at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/cladding



Data Green with her twin daughters, Jada-Janine and Julie-Jasmine, who are getting ready to start secondary school in September

‘Heads up’ on starting a new school this September

YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Starting a new school is an important moment both for children and their parents.

It offers all sorts of new opportunities but it also can cause anxiety and confusion, which is why the Transition Support Team at Tower Hamlets is here to support families navigating these changes and any challenges along the way. “Parents only have a few weeks to apply for schools, and there’s a lot of factors to consider,” says Bernadette Ogazi,

Senior Transition Support Officer. As well as making sure parents have all the information they need, the team helps children prepare for every aspect of moving schools, from new academic challenges to staying safe online.

For Data Green, whose twin girls are starting Year 7 in September, this support has been invaluable: “I have an older child who’s been through this before, but everything being online now was a challenge for me.” Following advice from the transition team, she added: “I had a better idea of what the options and possibilities were.”

Every child is unique but with the right support, families know what to expect and how to manage it. “It’s about giving parents a heads-up,” says Bernadette. “We help them embrace change and see it as an active transition, rather than something to worry about.”

Find out more about how the Transition Support Team can help your family by emailing transitions@towerhamlets.gov.uk or calling 020 7364 1533 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

Local science teacher tackling vaccine hesitancy goes global

Ed Stubbs, a science teacher from Morpeth Secondary School in Bethnal Green, has been leading the charge lately against vaccine hesitancy around the world from his little corner of Tower Hamlets.

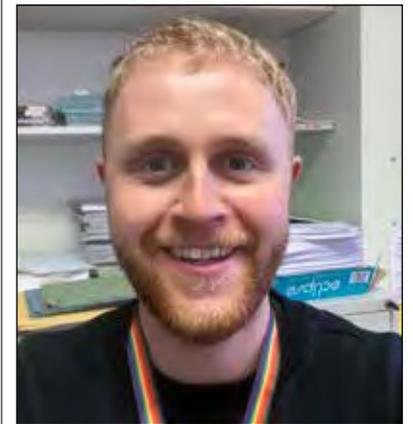
After hearing from his students that they were worried about the safety of vaccines, he developed a lesson plan to tackle misinformation. This has since been sent to 450,000 teachers in the UK and has now been used as far away as Brazil, China, Russia and the United States.

Working with experts from Queen Mary University London, his resources were then picked up and published by the Stephen Hawking Foundation under the banner of a new ‘vaccine initiative’.

Mr Stubbs, says: “I’m not telling people to get vaccinated, just that vaccines are safe, and that the benefits of being vaccinated greatly outweigh the risk of having a life-threatening disease. I’ve talked to experts and gone to the source of the science. Vaccines are incredibly simple, and safe.”

“I want people to understand that because a disease is less threatening, it does not mean that you don’t need to be vaccinated. It is because of people getting vaccinated that a disease becomes less dangerous.”

“I feel strongly that teachers are on the frontline of the public health debate in this country,” he concludes.



Ed Stubbs, science teacher at Morpeth Secondary School



I feel strongly that teachers are on the frontline of the public health debate in this country.

All good things must come to an end

BY JAAMI BARRY, OUTGOING YOUNG MAYOR OF TOWER HAMLETS

There have been so many great moments during my time as young mayor, despite the arrival of Covid-19. I’ve made some special memories and been inspired by every person I have met.

Without a doubt, being young mayor has been great for me. It’s an opportunity that any young person should take, with both hands, no matter what their background is. You have something to offer and a lot to learn.

You will improve your public speaking, leadership, project management and so much more, whilst being exposed to countless new and interesting situations.

Personally, I don’t think there are particular ‘skills’ that you need to qualify. You have the potential – just



Outgoing Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Jaami Barry, speaks at Young People’s Question Time in March 2020

bring the passion and stay true to yourself.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. For me, this means my focus now turns to higher education. I plan to stay involved, where I can, at youth projects and through supporting our community

whenever possible.

Thank you for your support, and good luck to the 2021 young mayor candidates.

Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/youngmayor to learn more – apply to be a candidate before Friday 16 July.



Social workers in schools. From left to right: Temitope Thompson, Shevon Corbett, Sabina Yesmin and Claire Bell

Social workers in schools

A pilot is underway in Tower Hamlets, alongside 20 other local authorities in England, to place social workers in schools (SWIS) who will work with teachers to better identify and support young people who may be at risk.

Tower Hamlets has eight secondary schools taking part in the pilot, with each having a dedicated social worker on site five days a week.

Initial findings show that where social workers are in schools, there have been less referrals made to social care, in part due to the ability of a SWIS to provide support sooner and through a less formal route.

As well as supporting young people at school, SWIS talk to parents about any problems they may be having

with their child's behaviour and other issues like money, mental health and more.

Without going through a school, the path many young people take to talk to a social worker for the first time can begin with a knock on their door. The advantage of a SWIS is that they are more accessible to young people and their families, which gives everyone involved more opportunities to develop good relationships.

By building better relationships and offering support sooner, the pilot project challenges the preconception that many have of social workers – that they are people to worry about, rather than work with.

Our social workers say that they are

enjoying this new way of working, which is helping to develop a shared understanding of the support that's available, how to access it and the importance of social work.

Sabina Yesmin, Team Manager, Social Workers in Schools project, says: "We got off to a slow start due to the lockdowns, but now everyone is back in school, social workers are reporting better engagement with young people and staff.

"By working in the same place we're able to share the same challenges and solve problems together. We're all learning so much from each other, this pilot is really valuable."



By working in the same place we're able to share the same challenges and solve problems together. We're all learning so much from each other, this pilot is really valuable.

Grime star Dizzee Rascal joins local youngsters for creative workshop

A Zoom call might not seem the most likely place to meet a global superstar, but that's exactly what happened for a lucky group of Year 8 pupils, when multi-award-winning grime artist and Tower Hamlets native, Dizzee Rascal, dropped in on their online creative workshop. Dizzee told the young participants about his experiences growing up on the Lincoln Estate in Bow and gave them feedback

on creative projects they had been working on.

"It's been amazing to see all the effort that everyone's put in," the rapper told the aspiring young creatives. "To see what you've been up to is amazing, you've all got really bright futures," he added.

The workshop was the last in a series organised for young people living and studying in the E3 postcode

area by the charity AccessHE. The workshops explored themes of identity and futures through different forms of creative expression, including comic drawing, digital storytelling and Islamic art. Organiser Beth Hayden said: "To witness the creativity, curiosity and commitment of young people over four weeks, despite all the disruption to their learning over the last year, was truly incredible."



Dizzee joining a group of young people for a creative workshop

Are the 'huge rewards' of fostering for you?

Whatever your age, ethnicity or personal circumstances, fostering could be for you. It doesn't matter if you are a local homeowner, tenant, or on housing benefit, as long as you provide stability and safety to a child, then you could become a foster carer.

Children need foster care for lots of different

reasons. For some, their parents may be seriously ill or having relationship problems, whereas for others, they may have suffered neglect or even abuse.

That's where local foster carers make a real difference to the lives of our vulnerable children. They provide the care and stability they need, when they need it most.

Foster carers are paid for the work they do and placements with families can vary from just a weekend to a few months or longer, depending on the circumstances.

If you want to help local vulnerable children and consider fostering, visit www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk

Veronica Graham

Veronica is a grandparent and single carer who combines fostering with her own business selling soft furnishings. She has been fostering teenagers since 2007 and has helped countless young people in securing jobs, college courses and university placements.



"I care about young people and like to help them. I like the challenge and it's so rewarding to see a young person start to achieve great things. Fostering is hard work and challenging but the rewards are fantastic. It's really lovely when a grown-up foster child comes back to visit you or buys you a gift."

Suzanna and Ed Dix

Suzanna and Ed have now been fostering for four years and care for children aged 0 to 13, including those with complex health needs.



"We wanted to foster because we consider it a privilege to make a positive difference in a child's life. We wanted to give children an opportunity to belong in a family where they are safe and loved, and we hope that this makes a difference for them in the relationships they will form throughout their lives. We really enjoy getting to know other carers and their foster children. It really feels like we are one big family."

Mina Khanam

Mina is a single carer who lives with her adult son who helps support her fostering. She has fostered 81 children aged between five and 18.



"It is so lovely when my foster children come back to visit. My adult son, who lives at home, helps and many teenage boys see him like a big brother. I really value the support of my supervising social worker. She always stays calm and helps keep me focused. She does not judge me and helps me think about what I could do better next time. I would say to anyone thinking of fostering, just go and do it. If you don't give it a try, you'll never know the huge rewards."

Do something amazing this year by becoming a foster carer

Local children need loving and supportive foster carers now.

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

Call: 020 7364 1246
www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk





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Stepney Green Maths, Computing and Science College is a school for girls and boys.

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Address: Ben Jonson Road, Stepney Green, London, E1 4SD
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www.bonner.towerhamlets.sch.uk



Raacista khariiddada ka bixitaanka xayiraadda

HARMONY
BENGLALI & SOMALI NEWS

Moving through the roadmap out of lockdown – page 4

Intaan sii wadno inaan ka sii gudubno khariiddada xayiraadaha dowladda, waxaan dhamaanteen ku raaxaysaneynaa in si tartiib ah loo qaado xayiraadaha bulshada.

17-kii Meey waxaan ka gudubnay marxaladda xigta ee Roadmap-ka oo hadda waxaan sameyn karnaa waxyaabaha qaar sida inaan banaanka kula kulano koox ilaa 30 qof ka kooban, inaan goobaha gudaha ah kula kulano koox ilaa lix qofood ama labo qoys ka kooban iyo inaan ku raax-

aysano martigelinta goobaha gudaha ah sida maqaayadaha iyo baararka.

John Biggs, Duqa Magaalada ee Tower Hamlets, ayaa yiri: “Waxaan sii wadnaa inaan aragno iftiinka dhamaadka tuneelka ka ifaya, laakiin qof walba waa inuu taxaddar muujiyaa oo uu sii wadaa inuu doorkiisa ka qaato joojinta faafitaanka Covid-19. Taasi macnaheedu waxa weeye in la sameeyo baaritaan joogto ah iyo is tallaalidda markii loo qalmo qaadashada tallaaliga, labaduba waxay gacan ka geysan karaan ilaalinta shakhsiyaadka iyo qoyskooda, asxaabtooda iyo bulshadeenna.”

Iyadoo marxaladda xigta ay soo dhowaaneyso ugu dambeyn 21-ka Juun, qof walba waa inuu la socdaa talobixinta iyo xaddidaadda Covid-19 maadaama talobixintu si dhakhso ah isu beddeli karto www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Magacaabis ayaa raadinayaa jagooyinka ugu sarreeya ee degmada

Nominations sought for the borough's highest honour – page 14

Magacaabista hadda way u furan tahay dadka deegaanka ah si ay ra'yigooda uga dhiibtaan cidda mudan in la siiyo jagooyinka ugu sarreeya ee laga heli karo Tower Hamlets - Freedom of the Borough.

Magacaabista waxaa tixgelin doona guddi ka kooban guddi-hoosaadyo oo uu guddoominayo Afhayeenka Golaha, Cllr Mohammed Ahab Hossain. “Aad ayaan ugu faraxsanahay in markale ay

fursad u noqon doonto dadka khaaska ah iyo ururada ka jira Tower Hamlets in lagu aqoonsado guulaha ay gaareen,” ayuu yiri Cllr Hossain. “Waa sharaf dhif ah in la i siiyo Xorriyadda degmada, waxaan rajaynayaa inaan u hambalyeeyo dadka soo socda ee sannadka dambe ku guuleysan doona.” Wixii macluumaad dheeri ah booqo www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/freedomoftheborough

84,000 ayaa ka codeeyey codbixintii Meey 6 2021

Over 84,000 vote in May elections and referendums - page 14

In ka badan 84,000 oo dadka degan xaa-fadda Tower Hamlets ah ayaa codkooda ka dhiibtay doorashada Duqa Magaalada London iyo Golaha Shacabka ee London iyo laba afti oo deegaanka ah kuwaas oo dhacay Khamiis 6-dii Meey 2021.

Sadiq Khan waxaa mar labaad loo doortay Duqa Magaalada London xilli doorasheed kale iyo codbixiyayaasha ku nool Magaalada iyo Deegaan Doorashada Bariga, oo ay ku jiraan Tower Hamlets, waxay dib u doorteen Unmesh Desai inuu noqdo wakiilkooda Golaha London.

Dadka degan Tower Hamlets ayaa sidoo kale codeeyay si ay u sii wadaan doorka Duqa magaalada ee sida tooska ah loogu doortay aftida maamulka iyadoo

ay dhiibteen 63,046 codad ilaa 17,957. Waxaa jiray 3,444 waraaqaha codbixinta ah oo xumaaday.

Natiijada aftida waxay ka dhigan tahay in doorashooyinka deegaanka ee dhacaya sanadka soo socda ay u dhici doonaan qaab la mid ah doorashadii la qabtay sannadkii 2018, iyadoo codbixiyayaashu ay dooran doonaan Duqa degmada Tower Hamlets iyo sidoo kale dadka noqon doona xildhibaanada xaafaddooda degmo.

Aftida Qorshaynta Xaafadaha Isle, Codbixiyayaashu waxay doorteen inay taageeraan isticmaalka Qorshaha Xaafadaha Isle si loo go'aamiyo codsiyada qorshaynta mustaqbalka ee aagga 7,874 cod ilaa 1,264 cod, oo leh 401 waraaqo cod bixineed oo xumaaday.

Booqo www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/elections si aad u hesho dheeraad ah.

টেস্টিং প্রত্যেককে রাখে সুরক্ষিত

Testing protects everyone, play your part – page 4

আমাদের নিজেদের এবং অন্যদের সুরক্ষিত রাখতে একটি সাধারণ পদক্ষেপই যথেষ্ট, আর তা হচ্ছে নিয়মিত কোভিড-১৯ টেস্টিং। টেস্টিং বা পরীক্ষা কোভিড-১৯ এ আক্রান্তকে চিহ্নিত করতে এবং ভাইরাস ছড়িয়ে পড়া রুখতে সাহায্য করে। কারণ টেস্ট করার ফলে একজন যখন জানতে পারেন যে তিনি কোভিড পজিটিভ, তখন সাথে সাথে নিভৃতবাস বা লেফ-আইসোলেশনে থাকবেন।

সামাজিকভাবে মেলামেশার ওপর বিধিনিষেধগুলো শিথিল হওয়ার প্রেক্ষিতে আমরা সকলেই বেশি সংযতক মানুষের সংস্পর্শে আসছি। তাই, নিয়মিত টেস্টিং করাটা এখন আরো বেশি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। টিকা নেওয়া সত্ত্বেও লোকজন কোভিড-১৯ এ আক্রান্ত হতে পারেন এবং অন্যদেরকেও সংক্রমিত করতে পারেন। এজন্যই, সকলেরই উচিত নিয়মিত পরীক্ষা করা।

সম্প্রতি ‘ভ্যারিয়েন্ট অব কনসার্ন’ অর্থাৎ ভাইরাসের উদ্বেগজনক ধরণগুলোর কিছু সংখ্যক কেস টাওয়ার হামলেটসে শনাক্ত হয়েছে। এই ধরনগুলো প্রথম ধরা পড়ে ব্রাজিল ও সাউথ আফ্রিকায়। ‘উদ্বেগজনক ধরনগুলো’ মারাত্মক ক্ষতিকর না হলেও এগুলো অতি সহজেই ছড়িয়ে পড়তে অথবা টিকাগুলোর ক্ষেত্রে ভিন্ন প্রতিক্রিয়া দেখাতে পারে। তাই নতুন ভ্যারিয়েন্ট সম্পর্কে আরো বেশি জানার



পাশাপাশি সংক্রমণ ছড়িয়ে পড়া কমাতে বা রুখতে নিয়মিত পরীক্ষাকরণ আমাদের সহায়তা করে থাকে।

উপসর্গ থাকুক বা না থাকুক, প্রত্যেককে নিয়মিত কোভিড-১৯ টেস্ট করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। টাওয়ার হামলেটসে টেস্টিংয়ের অনেক সুযোগ ও উপায় রয়েছে। যেমন রয়েছে টেস্টিং সাইটসমূহ, তেমনি নির্ধারিত স্থান সমূহে গিয়ে লোকজন ঘরে বসে টেস্ট করার কিট সংগ্রহ করতে পারেন। টেস্টিং সম্পর্কিত যাবতীয় তথ্য পাবেন www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/gettested - এই ওয়েবসাইটে। যদি আপনার ইন্টারনেট সুবিধা না থাকে, তাহলে আপনি আমাদের হেল্পলাইন ০২০ ৭৩৬৪ ৩০৩০ নাথারে (সোমবার থেকে শুক্রবার, সকাল ৯টা থেকে বিকাল ৫টা পর্যন্ত) ফোন করতে পারেন।

মনে রাখবেন

- যদি আপনার মধ্যে কোভিড-১৯ এর কোন উপসর্গ থাকে, তাহলে সাথে সাথে টেস্ট করুন
- কোভিড-১৯ এর সিস্টেমস না থাকলেও নিয়মিত টেস্ট, অর্থাৎ সপ্তাহে দু'বার পরীক্ষা (একবার টেস্টের কমপক্ষে তিন দিন পর পরবর্তী টেস্ট) করুন।

মে'র নির্বাচন ও গণভোটসমূহে অংশ নেন ৮০ হাজার বাসিন্দা



84,000 vote in 6 May 2021 polls - page 14

টাওয়ার হামলেটসের ৮৪ হাজারেরও বেশি বাসিন্দা গত ৬ই মে অনুষ্ঠিত মেয়র অব লন্ডন এবং গ্রেটার লন্ডন এসেম্বলি নির্বাচন এবং স্থানীয় দু'টি গণভোটে তাদের সিদ্ধান্ত জানিয়েছেন। লন্ডনের মেয়র হিসেবে সাদিক খান দ্বিতীয় মেয়াদের জন্য আবার নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন এবং গ্রেটার লন্ডন এসেম্বলির (জিএলএ) সিটি এন্ড ইস্ট আসনের (যার মধ্যে রয়েছে টাওয়ার হামলেটস বারা) প্রতিনিধি হিসেবে পুনর্নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন উম্মোশ দেশাই।

বাসিন্দারা বারার পরিচালনা পদ্ধতির ওপর অনুষ্ঠিত গণভোটে সরাসরি নির্বাচিত মেয়র পদ্ধতি বহাল রাখার পক্ষে রায় দিয়েছেন। মেয়রাল পদ্ধতির পক্ষে ভোট দিয়েছেন ৬৩ হাজার ২৯ জন এবং অন্য প্রস্তাবের পক্ষে ভোট পড়ে ১৭,৯৫১টি। ব্যালট পেপার বাতিল হয়েছে ৩,৪৪৪টি।

গণভোটের এই ফলাফলের অর্থ হলো আগামী ২০২২ সালের স্থানীয় নির্বাচন ২০১৮ সালের মতোই একই ফরমেটে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে, যেখানে ভোটাররা সরাসরি মেয়র নির্বাচিত করার পাশাপাশি বেছে নেবেন তাদের ওয়ার্ডের কাউন্সিলরদের।

একই সাথে আইল ডগস এলাকার নেইবারহুড প্র্যানিংয়ের ওপর আরেকটি গণভোটও অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। ভবিষ্যত প্র্যানিং এপ্লিকেশনের ব্যাপারে সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়ার ক্ষেত্রে আইল অব ডগস নেইবারহুড প্র্যান ব্যবহারের পক্ষে ভোট দিয়েছেন ৭,৮৭৪ জন। বিপক্ষে ভোট পড়েছে ১,২৬৪টি।

কাউন্সিলের চীফ এক্সিকিউটিভ উইল টাকলি বলেন, একই দিনে একই সাথে অনেকগুলো নির্বাচন আয়োজন করা অনেক বিশাল একটা কাজ, তার উপর কোভিড-১৯ সুরক্ষামূলক ব্যবস্থাদি অনুসরণের জটিলতা আমার কর্মীদের এই চ্যালেঞ্জকে এবার আরো বড় করে তুলে। সব সময়ের মতোই আমাদের অগ্রাধিকার হচ্ছে একটি সুষ্ঠু, স্বচ্ছ ও পেশাদার নির্বাচন অনুষ্ঠান করা এবং একই সাথে আমাদের ভোটার ও স্টাফদের নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করা।

তিনি বলেন, আমি এটা গর্বের সাথে বলতে চাই যে, আমাদের ইলেকশন টিম এবং কাউন্সিলের অন্যান্য অফিসারবৃন্দ প্রশিক্ষিত পোলিং এবং স্বেচ্ছাসেবী কর্মীদের সাথে মিলে বিরাট এই চ্যালেঞ্জকে সাফল্যের সাথে মোকাবিলা করেছেন। তিনি আরো বলেন, আমাদের বারার বাসিন্দাদের পক্ষে অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ গণভোক্তিক ভূমিকাটি সাফল্যের সাথে আয়োজনে যারা তাদের সময় ও শ্রম দিয়েছেন, আমি তাদেরকে ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি।

যাবতীয় তথ্য জানতে চাইলে ভিজিট করুন - www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/elections

বর্ণবাদ-বিরোধী বারার অঙ্গিকার টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের

Tower Hamlets pledges to become an anti-racist borough – page 15

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের বর্ণবাদ বিরোধী অঙ্গিকারে সমর্থন জানানোর মাধ্যমে ২০২৫ সালের মধ্যে এই বারাকে কাজ ও বসবাসের জন্য বর্ণবাদ-বিরোধী জনপদ হিসেবে গড়ে তুলতে পূর্ব লন্ডনের হাই প্রোফাইল অর্থাৎ শীর্ষস্থানীয় সংস্থাসূলের প্রতি আহ্বান জানানো হয়েছে।

মেয়র জন বিগস সম্প্রতি টাউন হলে আয়োজিত এক সভায় কীভাবে একটি এন্টি-রেসিস্ট ওয়ার্কশপে অর্থাৎ বর্ণবাদ-বিরোধী কর্মক্ষেত্র অর্জন করা যায়, সেসম্পর্কিত আইডিয়া বা ধারণাসমূহ শীর্ষস্থানীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান ও সংস্থার প্রতিনিধিদের সাথে শেয়ার করেন। আমেরিকান পুলিশ অফিসার ডেরেক চুভানের হাতে নির্মমভাবে নিহত জর্জ ফ্লয়েডের মৃত্যুর প্রথম বর্ষপূর্তি স্মরণে ২৫ মে এই সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। জর্জ ফ্লয়েডের মর্মান্তিক মৃত্যুর ঘটনা বর্ণবাদ ও পুলিশী বর্বরতার বিরুদ্ধে সারা বিশ্বে প্রতিবাদের সূত্রপাত করেছিল। মৃত্যুর আগে তার ক্রমাগত আকৃতি 'আমি

নিঃশ্বাস নিতে পারছি না' বিশ্বব্যাপি প্রতিবাদ আন্দোলনের মূল শ্লোগানে পরিণত হয়েছিলো।

মেয়র বিগস বলেন, মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে পুলিশের হাতে জর্জ ফ্লয়েডের হত্যাকাণ্ড পরিবর্তনের জন্য বিশ্বব্যাপি আন্দোলনের সূচনা করেছিলো। বর্ণবাদের বিরুদ্ধে লড়াই, অন্যায় মোকাবেলা এবং ন্যায়ভিত্তিক সমাজ প্রতিষ্ঠায় চাপ সৃষ্টিতে আমাদের সবার ভূমিকা পালন নিশ্চিত করতে অবশ্যই আমাদের পদক্ষেপ নিতে হবে। টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের পক্ষ থেকে এই অঙ্গিকারে স্বাক্ষর করতে পেরে আমি আনন্দিত।

স্ট্যাটুটরি ডেপুটি মেয়র এবং কেবিনেট মেম্বার ফর কমিউনিটি সেফটি, ফেইথ এন্ড ইকুয়ালিটিজ, কাউন্সিলর সিরাজুল ইসলাম বলেন, টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস ব্ল্যাক, এশিয়ান এন্ড মাইনোরিটি এথনিক ইনইকুয়ালিটিজ কমিশন এর একটি দিক হচ্ছে এই অঙ্গিকার। দীর্ঘদিন ধরে বিরাজিত প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক

বর্ণবাদ নির্মূল করার জন্য কার্যকর পদক্ষেপ নিতেই এই কমিশন গঠন করা হয়েছে।

তিনি বলেন, ব্ল্যাক লাইভস ম্যাটার আন্দোলনের ফলে গত বছরের সেপ্টেম্বরে এই কমিশন তার কাজ শুরু করে। আমরা আমাদের অনুসন্ধানগুলোর প্রতিবেদন প্রকাশ করেছি। এ থেকে আমরা যা শিখেছি, তা-ই বাস্তবায়নের কাজ এখন শুরু হয়েছে।

এ ব্যাপারে যাবতীয় তথ্য জানতে ভিজিট করুন: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/raceinequalitiescommission

২৫ মে টাউন হলে অনুষ্ঠিত সভা শেষে এদিন সন্ধ্যায় ওয়াটনি মার্কেট এলাকায় জর্জ ফ্লয়েড স্মরণে অনুষ্ঠিত বর্ণবাদ বিরোধী এক র্যালিতে মেয়র জন বিগস অংশ নেন। পরদিন কেবিনেট মিটিংয়েও জর্জ ফ্লয়েড স্মরণে এক মিনিট নিরবতা পালন করা হয়।

‘দ্যা ফ্রিডম অব দ্যা বারার’র জন্য

নমিনেশন আহ্বান Nominations sought for the borough’s highest honour – page 14

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস বারার সর্বোচ্চ সম্মান ‘দ্যা ফ্রিডম অব দ্যা বারার’ কার পাওয়া উচিত, সেসম্পর্কে বাসিন্দাদের কাছ থেকে নমিনেশন বা নামের প্রস্তাব চাওয়া হয়েছে।

কাউন্সিলের স্পিকার কাউন্সিলর মোহাম্মদ আহবাব হোসেইনকে চেয়ার করে গঠিত একটি সর্বদলীয় কমিটি মনোনয়নগুলো পর্যালোচনা করে নাম চূড়ান্ত করবেন। এ প্রসঙ্গে স্পিকার আহবাব হোসেইন বলেন, আমি খুবই আনন্দিত যে ব্যতিক্রমী ব্যক্তি ও সংগঠনগুলো তাদের কৃতিত্বের জন্য স্বীকৃতি পাওয়ার সুযোগ আবাহিত আসলো।

তিনি বলেন, ‘ফ্রিডম অব দ্যা বারার’ সম্মান প্রদান একটি বিরল সম্মানের বিষয় এবং বছরের শেষ নাগাদ এই সম্মান লাভকারীদের অভিনন্দন জানানোর জন্য আমি অধীর আগ্রহে অপেক্ষা করছি।

গত ২২ বছর ধরে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের ডেপুটি লেফটেন্যান্ট হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালনকারী অবসরপ্রাপ্ত কমান্ডার জন লুডগেট হচ্ছেন সর্বশেষ ব্যক্তি যিনি ২০১৮ সালে দ্যা ফ্রিডম অব দ্যা বারার সম্মান লাভ করেন। এ ব্যাপারে আরো তথ্য জানতে ভিজিট করুন: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/freedomoftheborough

লকডাউন থেকে বের

হয়ে আসার রোডম্যাপ Moving through the roadmap out of lockdown – page 4

সরকারের লকডাউন রোডম্যাপ অনুযায়ী আমরা ক্রমাগত সামনের দিকে এগুচ্ছি এবং সামাজিক বিধিনিষেধগুলোর ক্রমাগতর ওঠে যাওয়ায় আমরা উপভোগ করছি। ১৭ মে রোডম্যাপের পরবর্তী ধাপে আমরা পা রাখি, যার ফলে এখন আমরা অনেক কিছু যেমন সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ জনের সাথে ঘরের বাইরের পরিবেশে দেখা করা, দুই পরিবার কিংবা সর্বোচ্চ ৬ জনের সাথে ঘরের ভেতরে মেলােশা করার এবং রেস্টুরেন্ট কিংবা বার এর মতো হসপিটালিটি সেস্টরে ভেতরে বসে খাবার পানীয় গ্রহণ ও আড্ডা দিতে পারছি। রোডম্যাপের প্রতিটি পর্যায়ে, যেমন ভাইরাসের যেকোন ধরন ও সংখ্যার ওপর পর্যবেক্ষণ সাপেক্ষে প্রতিটি পদক্ষেপ অবশ্যই নিরাপদে নেওয়া উচিত।

মেয়র জন বিগস বলেন, কোভিড-১৯ এর প্রাদুর্ভাব রূপে আমাদের প্রত্যেককে অবশ্যই সতর্ক থাকতে হবে এবং আমাদের নিজেদের দায়িত্ব পালন করে যেতে হবে। এর অর্থ হলো নিয়মিত টেস্ট করা এবং যখনই টিকা পাওয়ার সময় আসবে, সাথে সাথে তা গ্রহণ করা। এই দু’টি কাজ নিজেকে এবং নিজের পরিবার, বন্ধু-স্বজন ও আমাদের কমিউনিটিকে সুরক্ষিত রাখবে।

কোভিড-১৯ সংক্রান্ত পরামর্শ ও নির্দেশনা যেহেতু দ্রুতই পরিবর্তন হয়ে থাকে, তাই সর্বশেষ পরামর্শ ও বিধিনিষেধ সম্পর্কে অবহিত হতে ভিজিট করুন: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus

যানমুক্ত ব্রিক লেন Traffic free boost for Brick Lane – page 17

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের লিডেবল স্ট্রিটস প্রোগ্রামের অংশ হিসেবে ব্রিক লেন নির্দিষ্ট সন্ধ্যাগুলোতে এবং সাপ্তাহিক ছুটির দিনে যানবাহন মুক্ত থাকবে। মে মাসে অনুমোদন পাওয়া এই স্কিমের আওতায় বৃহস্পতি ও শুক্রবার বিকাল ৫.৩০টা থেকে রাত ১১টা পর্যন্ত এবং শনি ও রবিবার সকাল ১১টা থেকে রাত ১১টা পর্যন্ত বারার বিখ্যাত রাস্তা ব্রিক লেনে যান চলাচল বন্ধ থাকবে।

লাইডেবল স্ট্রিটস স্কিমের আওতায় আরো যেসকল পদক্ষেপ নেয়া হয়েছে, তারমধ্যে রয়েছে স্কুল স্ট্রিটস, যা আন্ডারউড রোড, বাক্সটন স্ট্রিট ও হাটন স্ট্রিটে ড্রপ অফ ও পিক আপ টাইমে যান চলাচলের ওপর নিয়ন্ত্রণ আরোপ করা। আন্ডারউড রোড এবং উডসের স্ট্রিটের মধ্যবর্তী ডিল স্ট্রিটে যান চলাচল দক্ষিণ দিকে একমুখি হবে এবং এই এলাকায় ১০টি নতুন সাইকেল হ্যাঙ্গার স্থাপন করা হবে। স্থানীয় বাসিন্দা, ব্যবসায়ী, মূল গ্রুপসমূহ এবং জরুরী সেবা প্রদানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সাথে ১৮ মাস ব্যাপি পূর্ণাঙ্গ পরামর্শ করার পর এই স্কিমটি অনুমোদন লাভ করে। নিরাপদ, পরিচ্ছন্ন এবং সবুজ বারার গড়ে তুলতে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে যে ১৭টি লাইডেবল স্ট্রিটস স্কিম বাস্তবায়ন করা হচ্ছে, এটি হচ্ছে তারই একটি।

মে মাসেই অনুমোদন পাওয়া ওভ ফোর্ড ওয়েস্ট লাইডেবল স্ট্রিটের কাজও শুরু হবে শিগগিরই। স্থানীয় আবাসিক এলাকা র রাস্তাগুলোতে যানবাহনের চাপ ও গতি নিয়ন্ত্রণ, রাস্তাগুলোকে আরো নিরাপদ করা, বাতাসের মান বাড়ানো, শব্দ দূষণ কমানো এবং স্বাস্থ্যকর পরিবেশ নিশ্চিত করা এই স্কিমের লক্ষ্য। এই কনসালটেশনে মোট ৬৮৬টি মতামত পাওয়া গেছে, যার অধিকাংশই প্রস্তাবগুলোকে ‘সহায়ক’ বা ‘খুবই সহায়ক’ বলে সমর্থন করেছে।

বাসিন্দাদের পক্ষ থেকে যে সুপারিশগুলো করা হয়েছে, তার মধ্যে রয়েছে নর্থ প্রোব টাউন স্কোয়ার এবং ক্রিকটস ট্রাজে সিগনাল ক্রসিং, ভিক্টোরিয়া পার্ক স্কোয়ার এবং ওভ ফোর্ড রোডে অতিরিক্ত সাইকেল পার্কিং সুবিধা।



Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs with Cllr Eve McQuillan, Jane Abraham (Interim Head of Capital Delivery), Cllr Abdal Ullah, Cllr Rachel Blake and Cllr Denise Jones unveil Altab Ali House

ওয়াপিংয়ে নির্মাণাধীন আবাসিক ভবনের নামকরণ করা হলো ‘আলতাব আলী হাউজ’ New council homes named Altab Ali House - page 11

১৯৭৮ সালে বর্ণবাদীদের হাতে নৃশংসভাবে নিহত বাঙালি তরুণ আলতাব আলীর নামে এবার টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের একটি নির্মাণাধীন আবাসিক ভবনের নামকরণ করা হয়েছে। ২০০০ নতুন কাউন্সিল হোম নির্মাণের প্রতিশ্রুতির অংশ হিসেবে ওয়াপিংয়ে নির্মাণাধীন একটি ভবনের ‘আলতাব আলী হাউজ’ নামকরণ ২৬ মে বুধবার আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে উন্মোচন করেন টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের মেয়র জন বিগস। এই ভবন হয়ে উঠবে তরুণ প্রজন্মকে অন্যায়, অসাম্য ও ত্যাগের ইতিহাস সম্পর্কে জানার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ প্রতীক।

১৯৭৮ সালে হোয়াইটচ্যাপল পার্কের (বর্তমান আলতাব আলী পার্ক) কাছে বর্ণবাদীদের উপর্যুপরি ছুরিকাঘাতে নির্মমভাবে প্রাণ হারান উন্নত জীবনের আশায় বাংলাদেশ থেকে এদেশে আসা তরুণ আলতাব আলী। তাঁর এই হত্যাকাণ্ড সেদিন বাংলাদেশী কমিউনিটি সহ পূর্ব লন্ডনের বৃহত্তর কমিউনিটিকে জাতিগত অসহিষ্ণুতার বিরুদ্ধে একাবদ্ধভাবে রুখে দাঁড়াতে অনুপ্রাণিত করেছিলো।

৭৮ সালে বর্ণবাদের বিরুদ্ধে মানুষের সেই উত্থানের ৪০ বছর পর, গত বছর পুলিশের হাতে নির্মমভাবে নিহত জর্জ ফ্লয়েডের নির্মম মৃত্যুর ঘটনায় সারা বিশ্বজুড়ে শুরু হওয়া ব্ল্যাক লাইভস মেটার আন্দোলনের বর্ষপূর্তির দিনে এভাবেই স্মরণ করা হলো আলতাব আলীকে। আলতাব আলী থেকে জর্জ ফ্লয়েড হত্যাকাণ্ডের পর মানুষের আন্দোলন - সকল প্রকার ঘৃণা ও অসহিষ্ণুতার বিরুদ্ধে আমাদের কমিউনিটিসমূহের একাবদ্ধ হয়ে রুখে দাঁড়ানোর গুরুত্ব ৪০ বছর পরও একি রয়েছে।

বুধবার ২৬ মে ওয়াপিং এ নির্মাণাধীন একটি ভবনের নাম ‘আলতাব আলী হাউজ’ নামকরণ ফলক আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে স্থাপনের পর এক প্রতিক্রিয়ায় মেয়র জন বিগস বলেন, আলতাব আলীর নামে কাউন্সিল বিস্তারিত নামকরণের ফলে তাঁর নাম বেঁচে থাকবে। সকল প্রকার ঘৃণা ও অসহিষ্ণুতার বিরুদ্ধে আমরা অব্যাহতভাবে রুখে দাঁড়াবো এবং চল্লিশ বছরেরও বেশি সময় আগের এই নৃশংস হত্যাকাণ্ডের ইতিহাস সম্পর্কে আমাদের তরুণ প্রজন্মকে জানিয়ে যাবে।

আলতাব আলী হাউজ নামফলক উন্মোচনকালে মেয়র জন বিগস এর সাথে ছিলেন স্ট্যাটুটরি ডেপুটি মেয়র ফর কমিউনিটি সেফটি, ফেইথ এন্ড ইকুয়ালিটিজ কাউন্সিলর সিরাজুল ইসলাম এবং আরো ছিলেন কেবিনেট মেম্বার ফর প্ল্যানিং এন্ড সোশ্যাল ইনক্লুসন কাউন্সিলর ইভ ম্যাকুইলান, কাউন্সিলর আদাল উল্লাহ এবং কাউন্সিলর ডেনিস জোনস উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

ডেপুটি মেয়র কাউন্সিলর সিরাজুল ইসলাম বলেন, টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের মধ্যে আলতাব আলীর হত্যাকাণ্ড কখনোই ভুলে যাওয়ার নয় এবং সকল প্রকার ঘৃণা ও বর্ণবাদের বিরুদ্ধে বারার সকল কমিউনিটির একাবদ্ধ অবস্থানে অনুস্মারক হিসেবে কাজ করবে। তিনি বলেন, আমাদের হাউজিং লিস্টে থাকা লোকজনকে সামাজিক ভাড়াঘর পাওয়াটা নিশ্চিত করতে এই উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প সাহায্য করবে।



(Clockwise from left) The actions of the women workers changed trades unionism and advanced the cause of workers' rights; A sculpture on the wall of the buildings picks out the company's initials and its famous ark logo and 'security' motto; A plaque on the Bow Quarter remembers Annie Besant, who became an unintentional leader of the workers' fight; Down Bow Road; A wall plaque points to where the fountain once stood; After the company beat Robert Lowe, it cheekily pinched his Latin epigram for itself - and had it carved on the wall of the Fairfield works

It starts with a spark

When politician Robert Lowe proposed a halfpenny tax on a box of matches 150 years ago, he inadvertently sparked a huge political protest that would change history

HISTORY

By **JOHN RENNIE**

It probably seemed a clever way to raise money for the Exchequer. After all, who could complain about a halfpenny duty on a box of matches? And in the British cities, towns and villages of 1871 - with every home and factory fuelled by coal, houses lit by candles, and with most adults smokers - boxes of matches sold in the many millions each year. This was the tax that would keep on giving.

The bright idea came from

Chancellor Robert Lowe, a man with a high regard for his own abilities, eloquence and wit. Speaking to the House of Commons in April 1870, he described his job, saying: 'The Chancellor of the Exchequer is a man whose duties make him more or less of a taxing machine. He is entrusted with a certain amount of misery, which it is his duty to distribute as fairly as he can.'

So, a year later in his April 1871 budget, Lowe came up with his match tax. And in his speech the Oxford Classics graduate suggested the epigram 'ex luce lucellum' (the Latin translating as 'out of light, a little

profit').

All very clever. The problem was that nobody thought that Lowe was distributing the misery fairly. For a start, the halfpenny duty was on top of the existing halfpenny retail price for a box of matches. Lowe was proposing a 100% price hike. Secondly, it was a regressive tax.

Matches were a necessity - everyone had to buy them, so it took a disproportionate chunk of the wages of the poor.

And in the East End of London there was another concern. This is where matches were made. There were thousands of piece-workers

(mostly women and children) making and packing them at home, spending up to 16 hours a day cutting wood into stalks, then dipping them into a noxious phosphorous bath, drying them, then boxing them ready for sale. At the other end of the industry was the Bryant and May works in Fairfield Road, Bow, the biggest factory in London, employing thousands of workers and exporting matches all over Britain.

The factory owners, Quakers William Bryant and Francis May, were scared that the tax would hit trade. The workers were terrified that their jobs would disappear. Even Queen Victoria

“

The proposed tax on matches has produced the greatest excitement amongst the poor members of the trade in the east end of London, and yesterday afternoon a large meeting was held in Victoria Park to protest against the measure.

got involved, sending a letter to the Times berating her Government and complaining about the unfair duty. Every tax has winners and losers, but Lowe had achieved the remarkable – uniting absolutely everybody in opposition to his idea.

For now at least, both management and workers had a common enemy, and the company encouraged its women to protest.

In the days that followed Lowe’s Budget speech, posters appeared on walls across London, reading: ‘The cruel match tax, which means ruin to the poor in the East-end. Fathers, mothers, sisters, and brothers, one and all meet in large numbers on Sunday afternoon in Victoria Park, to protest against this unjust tax before it becomes law.’ Meanwhile, Bryant and May’s directors ran their own determined and coordinated campaign, complementing its

workers’ protests with its own letters to The Times and the London papers.

The Victoria Park rally was just the start of it. The next day, anywhere up to 10,000 people headed to Parliament to present a petition. The police tried to hold the crowd (mainly women) back, using often brutal violence, but the numbers were too great. Officers made a stand at Charing Cross, but many of the marchers simply ducked down side streets and emerged on Whitehall. MPs, arriving at the House, were horrified to find some of the women had even broken into Parliament itself.

MPs arriving for debates were cheered or booed, depending on their politics. Conservative opposition leader Benjamin Disraeli was cheered for backing the protest, and Liberal Prime Minister, William Gladstone, had to listen to chants of ‘Get rid of Bobby’. Hapless ‘Bobby’ meanwhile had to eschew the 200-yard stroll from Downing Street to Parliament, sneak out of the rear entrance and head off to St James’s Park Underground station, take the tube two minutes to Westminster, and scuttle through the subway to the House.

The Evening Standard further stoked things that day, reporting: ‘The proposed tax on matches has produced the greatest excitement amongst the poor members of the trade in the east end of London, and yesterday afternoon a large meeting was held in Victoria Park to protest against the measure.’ The Standard suggested that the duty would mean ‘starvation to thousands, driving the trade from the east end of London, filling the unions, increased taxation, and paralysing a large amount of British industry.’ Note the paper’s appeal to its readers’ fears of increased union membership, which to many would have meant a terrifying leftist challenge to the existing order.

The day after that, Tuesday, April 25, the government backed down and dropped the Match Tax. It was a

remarkable win, and, in October 1872, a testimonial fountain was erected in Bow Road, in front of the grand new Bow railway station.

But the uneasy alliance between bosses and workers was not to last. By 1880, Bryant & May began exporting its goods. In 1884 it became a public company and a very profitable one judging by the dividends paid on its shares – 22.5 per cent in 1886, 20 per cent the year after. Again, the Quaker principles seemed to be in short supply. As the directors and shareholders raked it in, where was the equality when the workers were being paid just a penny to produce a gross of matchboxes, while paying for the glue from their own pockets? Where was the stewardship when children under 14 were paid four shillings (20p) a week, when fines were levied for having an untidy workbench, talking, or having dirty feet (many workers didn’t wear shoes as they couldn’t afford them)? The list of penalties went on.

Strikes in 1881, 1885 and 1886 all failed. That changed when journalist Annie Besant published an article about conditions in the factory in her weekly paper *The Link* on 23 June, 1888. The company handled it badly and tried to force the workers to sign a paper saying it wasn’t true. They refused, a worker was sacked and 1,400 women walked out.

Management offered to reinstate the fired woman but the fuse had been lit, and the strikers upped their list of demands. A shocked Besant then received a deputation of workers from the factory.

The management initially held firm, but, as in the match tax fight, the end was swift. The eloquent Besant spoke at a number of public meetings, and Liberal MP Charles Bradlaugh raised the workers’ plight in Parliament. Meanwhile, the British public were shocked by the conditions under which the matchmakers were working. It was all too much for William Bryant, a leading member



B&M created distinctive artwork for their matchboxes, to mark them out from inferior competitors

of the Liberal Party who became increasingly nervous about the negative publicity. The company caved. Among other improvements, the punitive fines were scrapped and the workers were now allowed to take their meals in a separate room, away from the poisonous phosphorous.

But the strike had an impact far beyond the matchmakers of Bow. It was one of the first examples of the ‘new unionism’, the first time that unskilled and semi-skilled workers had organised to take on the owners, aggressively if they had to. It would be quickly followed by the London Dock Strike the following year.

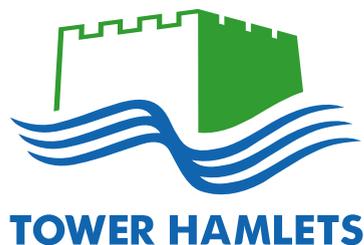
As for the grand gothic fountain in front of Bow Station, it, like the station, is long gone, summarily removed in 1953. A hundred yards or so to the east, a plaque on the wall of the former Poplar Town Hall marks the spot (well nearly), celebrating ‘the part played by Bryant & May and their work people in securing the abandonment of the proposed match tax.’ It’s that unusual thing – a memorial to a memorial.



The derelict match factory is now an apartment block, renovated in the 1980s and called the Bow Quarter



The Metropolitan Police tried to stop the marchers, at times with brute force



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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 Sirajul Islam** Deputy Mayor for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities (Statutory Deputy Mayor)
- Cllr Rachel Blake** Deputy Mayor for Adults, Health & Wellbeing
- Cllr Asma Begum** Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth Services and Education
- Cllr Danny Hassell** Housing
- Cllr Sabina Akhtar** Culture, Arts & Brexit
- Cllr Asma Islam** Environment and Public Realm (job share)

- Cllr Dan Tomlinson** Environment and Public Realm (job share)
- Cllr Mufeedah Bustin** Planning and Social Inclusion (job share)
- Cllr Eve McQuillan** Planning and Social Inclusion (job share)
- Cllr Candida Ronald** Resources and the Voluntary Sector
- Cllr Motin Uz-Zaman** Work and Economic Growth

BROMLEY SOUTH



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Welcome to our parks and open spaces

Visitors to parks and open spaces in the borough are being offered a bright welcome, thanks to the installation of new signs and information panels as part of the council's £10 million parks capital programme, which aims to give residents enhanced opportunities to enjoy and value the borough's open spaces.

44 new welcome signs are being installed across 15 of the borough's parks, as well as nine new welcome signs at playground entrances.

New orientation signs, with new

council branding, have been installed in Weavers Field, Bethnal Green. On the Isle of Dogs, the council is working with Friends of the Island History Trust to install new heritage interpretation panels at sites of historic interest across the island.

The new panels include stories of Cubitt Town, Saunders Ness, the Mudchute Ack Ack guns, the Call On, the building and launch of the Great Easter, the Greenwich ferry, the Blitz and much more and will replace those installed by the London Docklands

Development Corporation in the 1980s, which have become dilapidated and unreadable.

Images to accompany the text have been sourced from the Island History Trust and Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives collections, as well as from the collections of the Museum of London, Royal Museums Greenwich, The Imperial War Museum and the Institute of Civil Engineers.



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

Meetings

Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Tuesday 8 June, 6.30pm

Strategic Development Committee

Wednesday 9 June, 6pm

Children & Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Monday 14 June, 6.30pm

Licensing Sub-Committee

Tuesday 15 June, 5.30pm

Development Committee

Thursday 17 June, 6pm

Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Tuesday 22 June, 6.30pm

Grants Determination Sub-Committee

Wednesday 23 June, 5.30pm

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 28 June, 6.30pm

Tower Hamlets Health & Wellbeing Board

Tuesday 29 June, 5pm

Licensing Sub-Committee

Tuesday 29 June, 5.30pm

Cabinet

Wednesday 30 June, 5.30pm

Standards Advisory Committee

Thursday 1 July, 6pm

Licensing Sub-Committee

Tuesday 13 July, 6.30pm

Strategic Development Committee

Wednesday 14 July, 6pm

Council

Wednesday 21 July, 7pm

Development Committee

Thursday 22 July, 6pm

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 26 July, 6.30pm

Cabinet

Wednesday 28 July, 5.30pm

Audit Committee

Thursday 29 July, 6.30pm

Development Committee

Thursday 12 August, 6pm

Licensing Sub-Committee

Tuesday 17 August, 6.30pm

Strategic Development Committee

Wednesday 18 August, 6pm

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

Council

Town Hall

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

Covid-19 advice and support:

020 7364 3030

Housing

Repairs

0800 376 1637 ext 1

Housing advice

020 7364 3558

Homeless service

020 7364 7474

Out of hours

020 7364 4079

Choice-based lettings

020 7364 2826

Homeseekers

www.thhs.org.uk

Tower Hamlets Homes

020 7364 5015

Report it

Non-emergency crimes

101 Textphone

18001 101

Domestic Violence Team

0800 279 5434

Haven Whitechapel (sexual assault referral centre)

020 3299 6900 /

020 3299 1599

Karma Nirvana (honour- based abuse helpline)

0800 5999 247

National LGBT domestic abuse helpline (Galop)

0800 999 5428 /

0300 999 5428

Black Women's Health and Family Support

020 8980 3503

Rights of Women

020 7251 6577

Victim Support Tower Hamlets

0808 168 9291 /

0808 168 9111

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline

0800 800 5000

Childline

0800 1111

Shelter

0808 800 4444

Respect (for perpetrators)

0808 802 4040

Men's Advice Helpline

0808 8010 327

Samaritans

116 123

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

020 7364 7474

Anti-fraud (housing and tenancy related fraud)

0800 528 0294

Idea Stores 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 or www.towerhamlets.gov.uk for the latest information on opening, in keeping with government coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

Careers

Young WorkPath/Tower Hamlets Careers Service

40-42 Watney Market, E1.

020 7364 1401

youngworkpath@

towerhamlets.gov.uk

Adult education services

Shadwell Centre,

455 The Highway, E1.

020 7364 5665

WorkPath

Employment and

Skills Centre,

55 Upper Bank Street, E14.

020 7364 3727

workpath@towerhamlets.
gov.uk

Debt

Toynbee Hall Advice Service

28 Commercial Street, E1.

020 7392 2953

advice@toynbeehall.org.uk

www.toynbeehall.org.uk

Fair Money Advice

18 Ashwin Street, E8.

020 3475 8811

www.fairfinance.org.uk

Island Advice Centre

Island House, Roserton

Street Isle of Dogs, E14.

020 7987 9379

www.island-advice.org.uk

Health & wellbeing

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.

Health hotline

020 7364 5016

Reset

Tower Hamlets Drug and
Alcohol Service

183 Whitechapel Road, E1.

020 3889 9510

reset.towerhamlets@

cgl.org.uk

Safe East (under-19s)

compass.towerhamlets

yphws@nhs.net

020 3954 0091

East London Parkinson's Support Group

hello@parkinsons.org.uk

0808 800 0303

Alzheimer's Society

Robinson Centre, Mile End

Hospital, Bancroft Road, E1.

020 8121 5626

Tower Hamlets Advocacy Real

020 7001 2170

hello@real.org.uk

Free home fire safety advice

08000 284428

LinkAge Plus

Toynbee Hall, Commercial

Street, E1.

020 7392 2913

Stop Smoking services

www.quitrightth.org

020 7882 8230

Healthwatch Tower Hamlets

Mile End Hospital, Bancroft

Road, E1.

0800 145 5343

info@healthwatchtower

hamlets.co.uk

www.healthwatchtower

hamlets.co.uk

BYM Bangladesh Youth Movement Women's Centre of Excellence

Whitechapel Centre, Units 1

& 2, Myrdle Street, E1.

020 7377 8668

www.bym.org.uk

Advice

Account 3 (welfare and debt advice)

3 Birkbeck Street, E2.

020 7739 7720

www.account3.org.uk

Bromley by Bow Centre

St Leonard's Street, E3.

020 8709 9700

Citizens Advice Bureau

32 Greatorex Street, E1.

020 7247 1050

towerhamlets@eastendcab.

org.uk

www.eastendcab.org.uk

Island Advice Centre

Island House, Roserton

Street, Isle of Dogs, E14.

020 7987 9379

www.island-advice.org.uk

Legal Advice Centre

University House,

104 Roman Road, E2.

020 8980 4205

[www.legaladvicecentre.](http://www.legaladvicecentre.london)

london

Limehouse Project

789 Commercial Road, Unit

2, St Anne Street, E14.

020 7538 0075

[www.limehouseproject.](http://www.limehouseproject.org.uk)

org.uk

Praxis (New Residents) Immigration, benefits and general advice

Pott Street, E2.

General Helpline:

020 7729 7985

Immigration advice:

020 7749 7608

www.praxis.org.uk

Tower Hamlets

Community Advice Network

thcan@island-advice.org.uk

www.thcan.org.uk

Tower Hamlets Law Centre

Unit 1, St Anne's Street, E14.

020 7538 4909

www.thlc.co.uk

Age UK East London

82 Russia Lane, E2.

Caxton Hall, Caxton Grove,

E3.

Royal London Hospital 14F

Wards.

info@ageukeastlondon.

org.uk

[www.ageuk.org.uk/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/eastlondon)

eastlondon

020 8981 7124

Leisure centres

John Orwell Sports Centre

Tench Street, Wapping, E1.

020 7488 9421

Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium

190 Burdett Road, E3.

020 8709 4420

Poplar Baths

170 East India Dock Road,

E14. 020 3795 0599

St George's Leisure Centre

221 The Highway, Wapping

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

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