

HEALTHIER LIVES



Roadmap out of lockdown

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30 minute walks near you

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ARTS & EVENTS



Bangladesh's 50th anniversary

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ISSUE TWENTY // MARCH 2021



OUR EAST END



One jab at a time

Tens of thousands take-up the vaccine – see page 6

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OUR EAST END

NEWS FROM TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL AND YOUR COMMUNITY

As spring approaches and the Covid-19 vaccination programme progresses, there is hope on the horizon.

The government's 'road map' offers a way to some sort of normality, but we know that we will have to keep an eye on the impact of the relaxation of the rules and respond to the evolving situation.

I know the last year has been really tough. Sadly, too many of us have lost loved ones and others have struggled in losing their jobs, being furloughed, through home-schooling, in having to shield or in not seeing friends and family as normal.

But we've seen our community rally round to support each other. Volunteers and dedicated council and public sector staff too have continued to keep services running and protect the most vulnerable.

We have just passed next year's budget and we will be focussed on how we can help the borough and hard-pressed residents to recover from the pandemic over the months ahead.

So while the council has had to make massive budget savings – over £200m, with more to come – due to the government's austerity programme and growing demand – we will continue our investment in a new Covid-19 Recovery Fund to kickstart our recovery and support those who have been most affected.

We will also deliver 2,000 council homes and thousands of new affordable homes, provide free primary school meals and funding for extra police to make our streets safer. We will also be offering low income families up to 100 per cent discount on their council tax, while maintaining our award-winning parks and Children's Centres, helping to tackle the climate emergency and we will be investing in our Voluntary Sector which will continue to play a key role in our recovery.

The council has been there to support our community through the pandemic and we intend to build on that record and be at the heart of our borough's recovery, particularly supporting those who have been adversely affected by the crisis.

Let's stay safe and stay strong as a community.

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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Roadmap out of Lockdown

HEALTHIER LIVES

A new four-step roadmap out of lockdown was announced by the Prime Minister on 22 February, which will see Covid-19 restrictions start to lift across England from 8 March.

There will be a minimum of five weeks between each step of easing restrictions, with decisions guided by data to avoid a surge in infections, hospitalisations and deaths.

This lifting of restrictions requires four tests on vaccines, infection rates and new coronavirus variants to be met at each stage.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "This announcement offers some light at the end of the tunnel, but it is crucial that we remain cautious and continue to play our part in stopping the spread of Covid-19.

"The roadmap depends on everyone doing their bit, so keep following the rules, get tested and get your vaccine when called.

"We are all weary after nearly a year of restrictions but we know from previous relaxations that rates can easily go back up and we all want to avoid another lockdown. By remaining vigilant and all playing our part, we can keep Tower Hamlets safe."



The roadmap depends on everyone doing their bit, so keep following the rules, get tested and get your vaccine when called.

Step 1: 8 March and 29 March



Schools and colleges reopen 8 March



Stay at home until 29 March



Organised outdoor sports from 29 March



Outdoor exercise with just one other person until 29 March

Step 2: No earlier than 12 April



Indoor leisure and gyms



All retail



Outdoor hospitality



Personal care premises



Children's activities

Step 3: No earlier than 17 May



Indoor entertainment and attractions



Rule of 6 or 2 households indoors



Organised adult indoor sport



International travel

Step 4: No earlier than 21 June



No legal limits on social contact



Nightclubs



Larger events



No legal limits on life events

HANDS, FACE, SPACE



Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitiser if soap and water is not available.



Wear a face covering when using public transport, in shops and in all other places where it is hard to maintain social distancing.



Keep a safe distance from people you do not live with (2 metres where possible).

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 INCLUDE:



A high temperature



A new continuous cough



A change or loss to your normal sense of smell or taste

Get tested to protect others

We all have a part to play in keeping on the path out of lockdown and Covid restrictions – in following the rules, taking the vaccine when offered and in getting tested.

Testing for people with symptoms

If you have any symptoms of Covid-19, call 119 or visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus to book your free test.

Testing for people without symptoms

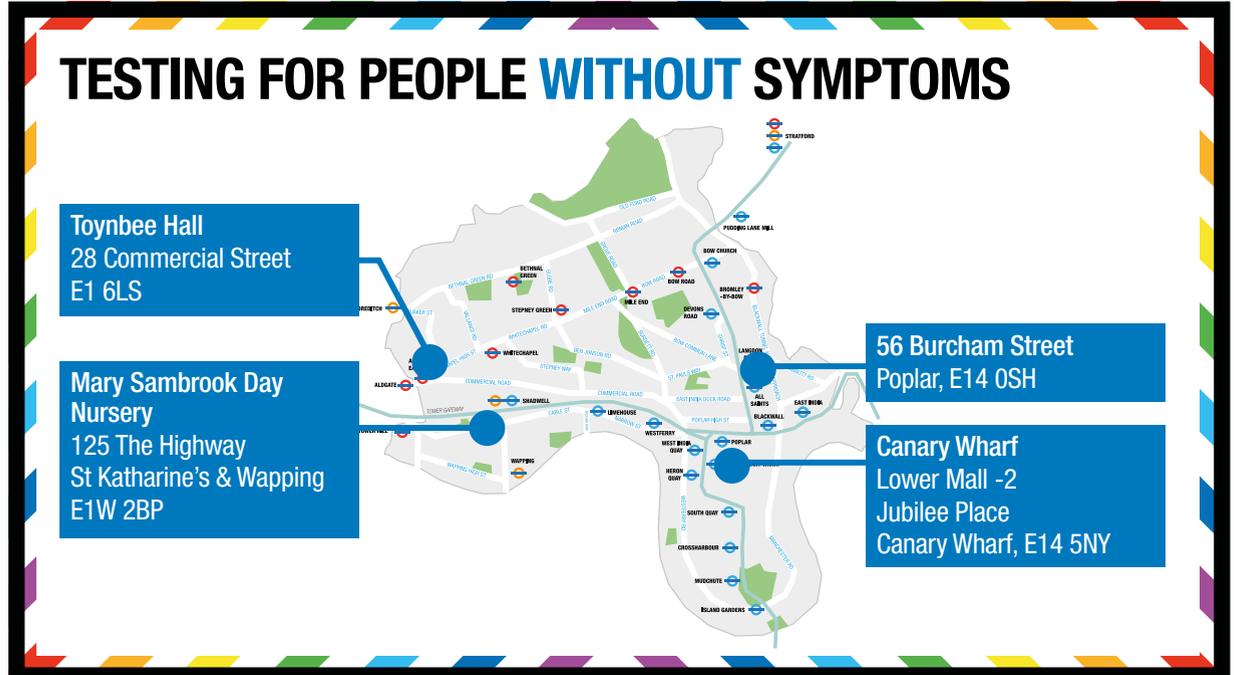
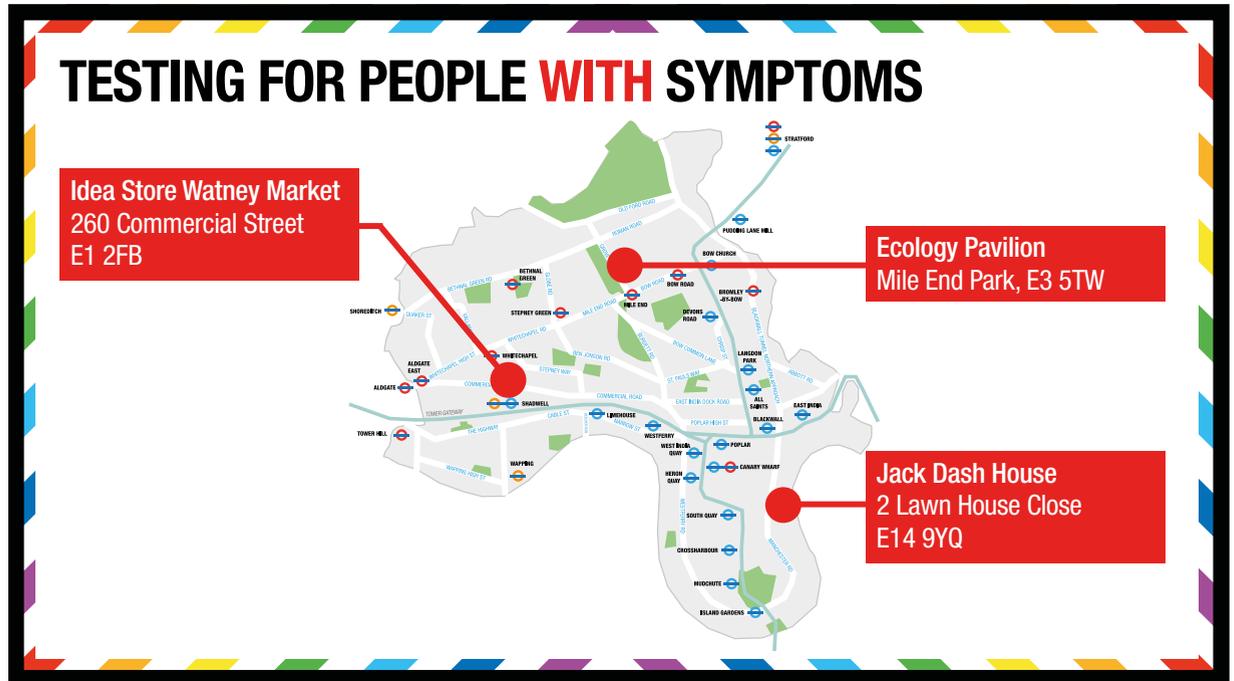
Anyone that cannot work from home, or anyone who lives with someone who cannot work from home, is eligible for free and regular rapid Covid-19 tests.

Do your bit and take these rapid tests twice a week, with at least three days between each test. Quick and regular testing helps to prevent the spread of the virus and helps to protect you and those you live with.

There are four 'walk-in' rapid test sites in the borough. For the latest information on testing, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/testing.

Stay at home and self-isolate

If you develop symptoms of Covid-19, stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If you have a positive test result but do not have symptoms, stay at home and self-isolate as soon as you receive the results. Your household needs to isolate too.



Information correct at time of going to print. For the latest information on test sites near you and opening times, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/testing

Where to go for help

Go online

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus for council information and support
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/homeresources for fun activities and ideas to stay active
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/selfisolation if you're self-isolating and need help or support
www.nhs.uk/coronavirus for the latest NHS information, advice and to book a test
www.111.nhs.uk/covid-19 to check your symptoms with the NHS
www.gov.uk/coronavirus to keep up to date with government guidance and support

To book a Covid-19 test call **119**

For medical help by phone call your GP or **111**

If urgent, call **999** (or go to your nearest A&E department)

For urgent help, advice and support from the council call: 020 7364 3030

Wixii caawimaad ah, talo iyo taageero:
 Lahadal **020 7364 3030**
 ama booqo

সাহায্য, পরামর্শ এবং সহায়তার জন্য কল করুন: **020 7364 3030** অথবা
 ভিজিট করুন

Other phonelines:

Concerns about children and young people
020 7364 5006

Adult safeguarding
020 7364 5005

Trading standards
020 7364 5008

Domestic abuse
0808 2000 247

Department for Education helpline
0800 046 8687

Council tax
020 7364 5002



Hundreds received the Covid-19 vaccination at community clinics held at the East London Mosque and Granby Hall

Beating covid one jab at a time

HEALTHIER LIVES

Ending lockdown and other Covid restrictions depends on getting as many people as possible vaccinated.

In Tower Hamlets, more than 40,000 people in the borough have already had their vaccine and the council has been working with local communities and GPs to get the facts about the vaccine out to residents and to increase the number of places where people can get it.

Hundreds attended an online vaccines webinar in February where questions were put to experts to answer, and a number of mobile clinics have already taken place, including at the East London Mosque and Granby Hall.

The facts: Your vaccine webinar questions answered

Who is eligible for a vaccine?

All adults will be offered the vaccine, but vulnerable groups are being offered first. The latest information on eligibility can be found online at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vaccine.

Is the vaccine safe?

The vaccines approved for use in the UK have met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set out by the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Any Covid vaccine that is approved must go through all the clinical trials and safety checks other licensed medicines go through. So far, millions of people have been given a Covid vaccine and reports of serious side effects have been very rare. No long-term complications

have been reported.

Does the vaccine contain any animal or egg products?

No. The vaccine does not contain any animal or egg products and it is kosher, halal and vegan friendly.

Do the vaccines contain government microchips?

No. The vaccines contain nothing but the medication to protect against Covid-19.

Is the vaccine safe to take during pregnancy and when breastfeeding?

There's no evidence the Covid-19 vaccine is unsafe if you're pregnant, but more evidence is needed before you can routinely be offered it. You may be able to have it if you're at high risk of getting Covid because of where you work or have certain health conditions.

You can have the Covid-19 vaccine if you're breastfeeding and you don't need to avoid pregnancy after vaccination. Speak to a healthcare professional if you have any questions.

Does the vaccine have any effect on fertility?

There is no evidence that any of the vaccines affect the fertility of women or men.

Which vaccine is better, Pfizer or AstraZeneca?

Both vaccines have been approved for use and provide effective protection against Covid-19 neither vaccine is preferred over the other. It's important to get both doses of the vaccine to get full protection.

Can I choose which vaccine to have?

You won't be offered a choice between the vaccines but both are equally effective.

I have had the vaccine. Do I still need to follow the rules?

There is a chance that people may still be able to pass Covid-19 onto others even after getting the vaccine. This means it remains important to follow measures such as social distancing, wearing a face covering when instructed and having good hand hygiene.

Does the vaccine prevent people from getting Covid-19 altogether?

The first dose of the vaccine should give you good protection, but you need to have both doses to give you longer lasting protection. There is a chance you might still get or spread Covid even if you've had the vaccine, so following Covid measures remains important.

Is the vaccine being offered to undocumented people in the UK?

Yes, but you must be registered with a GP to be offered the vaccine - the NHS is working to support people to do this. You do not need proof of ID, proof of address or proof of immigration status to register with a GP. www.eastlondonregistergp.nhs.uk/start.

When approximately will those over 70 receive their second dose of the vaccine?

All people who have received their first dose will be invited for their second dose up to 12 weeks after the date of their first dose.

When will unpaid carers be able to access the vaccine?

Unpaid carers are able to access the vaccine now. If you are an unpaid carer it is important to register your carer status with your GP as this is how you are identified and invited for an appointment.



A vaccine being prepared at a community vaccination clinic

Those currently eligible for the vaccine:

- Anyone aged 60 and over
- The clinically vulnerable
- People who live or work in care homes
- Health and social care workers
- People who are a main carer for someone at high risk from coronavirus



Mobile vaccination centres in our communities

To help make it as easy as possible for people to take the vaccine, local community groups have teamed up with Tower Hamlets Council to hold Covid-19 vaccination clinics.

The first of these took place in February at the East London Mosque, and was organised by GPs from healthcare provider AT Medics, the London Islamic Centre and the council.

Vaccinations were given to eligible residents who had pre-booked appointments through the council's new vaccination helpline, which takes queries from residents but also calls and books-in eligible residents who have not yet taken up the offer of vaccination.

Omar Din, Chief Executive Officer of AT Medics, said:

"As local GPs, we've been very close to the challenges of patient vaccination uptake in Tower Hamlets.

"We hope this initiative will encourage many more patients to come forward when invited."

The GP team is experienced in rapidly setting up effective vaccination services and employs bilingual staff in order to

meet the needs of communities in Tower Hamlets. Communities are also working together to give the facts about the vaccine to build trust and explain that it is safe and effective, there are no animal or egg products, that it is halal, kosher and vegan friendly, that the vaccine is the best form of protection from Covid-19 and our best chance to return to a normal way of life.

Dilowar Hussein Khan, Director at East London Mosque and London Muslim Centre, said:

"In consultation with Islamic scholars and medical professionals, we firmly believe that vaccination is the best way to combat the pandemic and return to our normal way of life.

"In Islam, preservation of life is of the utmost importance, so we want to do our part to reassure those who are hesitant about vaccination.

"We stand with the NHS, AT Medics and Tower Hamlets Council in this partnership to help our communities."

The successful clinic at the East London Mosque was followed by another community clinic at Granby Hall, which

has strong links with Tower Hamlets' Somali community. Both male and female vaccinators were on-site in order to meet any cultural needs of residents, and Bengali and Somali interpreters were available throughout the day. Work is also ongoing to set up further vaccine clinics in community and faith settings.

"Getting vaccinated is the most effective way people can protect themselves from Covid-19. We're working hard to make sure everyone who is eligible can access the vaccination and have any concerns or questions answered," Cllr Rachel Blake,

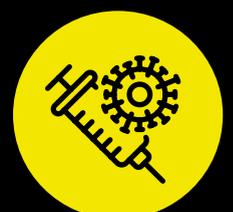
Deputy Mayor for Adults, Health & Wellbeing, said. "We know that for some people, being able to get vaccinated in a familiar setting like Granby Hall makes a big difference to their confidence, so we'll continue to work with our partners to identify appropriate venues that have strong links with our communities."

For details of your nearest local vaccine centre and eligibility, please call the council's vaccine helpline on 020 7364 3030 or visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vaccine.

"In consultation with Islamic scholars and medical professionals, we firmly believe that vaccination is the best way to combat the pandemic and return to our normal way of life."

Residents eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine can now book their appointment through the council's vaccine helpline.

020 7364 3030





Carol Bassi in her volunteer role at the Excel Centre

Meet Carol, vaccine volunteer and Covid-19 champion

HEALTHIER LIVES

Meet Carol Bassi, a Tower Hamlets resident from Stepney Green, who is playing a vital part in local work to help everyone get vaccinated.

Carol is a Barts Health NHS Trust volunteer and Covid-19 community champion, who has already received her jab. As a volunteer at the NHS mass vaccination centre at ExCel, she is one of many critical volunteers supporting the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

Being an information and support volunteer, Carol safely meets and greets people attending their vaccine appointment, supporting them with anything needed during the 'check-in' process, helping settle any anxieties people may have and generally being a local, warm, and friendly face.

After an induction, Carol was able to start helping out in January, working

alongside other like-minded volunteers from all walks of life. "Some of the team are still on furlough, out of work or have simply come forward to use their spare time to help the country at a time of need," said Carol on her role.

Carol added, "Anyone can volunteer, and help is still needed. If you have good social skills, are reliable and have a positive and enthusiastic attitude, you can support. For me, this is all about showing others we care and getting through tough times together."

Other duties include helping allocate wheelchairs to those who need them, taking them through the centre, giving directions around the ExCel and sanitising some shared areas after use.

"As people leave, I always thank them for coming along. I also let people know about the council's Covid-19 champion network, in case they want to help share reliable and much needed information on Covid-19 and the vaccine among their friends, family, neighbours and wider

community", said Carol.

As a Covid-19 champion, Carol helps spread the word about the importance of the vaccine. Sharing factual information about safety and effectiveness and supporting people to feel confident about protecting themselves and the wider community is a key part of being a Covid champion.

On having the vaccine, Carol said: "I had my vaccination as a front line worker

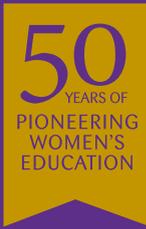
and I feel so fortunate to have received it. As a community Covid champion in Tower Hamlets, I encourage vaccine 'take up' to protect the vulnerable and help save lives. Sharing accurate information is so important and can help bring an end to this pandemic."

Anyone interested in volunteering like Carol can visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/covidchampions or www.vctth.org.uk.

“I had my vaccination as a front line worker and I feel so fortunate to have received it. As a community Covid champion in Tower Hamlets, I encourage vaccine ‘take up’ to protect the vulnerable and help save lives.

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Free boiler upgrades for home owners

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

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

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



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Register today!

www.solartogether.co.uk/tower-hamlets

MAYOR OF LONDON





Refuse collectors on shift. At one point, there were around 50 members of the team off sick with Covid-19 or forced to self-isolate, affecting services

Keeping Tower Hamlets clean through Covid-19

CLEAN & GREEN

While many of us adapted to home working over the past year, our refuse team were just one of many council services still out there serving our residents.

But keeping the show on the road was not without challenge or risk, with Covid striking down many in the waste and recycling team and many more being forced to self-isolate.

Madge Martin, operations manager at the Blackwall Yard, said: "We've had in place a policy to keep the crews working as safely as possible, with everyone tested twice a week, wearing PPE and face masks and practicing social distancing."

Sadly, despite all the measures, Covid hit the service and spread rapidly through the ranks.

Russell Nolan, who works in the waste and recycling team, said: "We have had a lot of Covid problems, and when one member of a team on a truck gets ill, the

other two crew have to self-isolate for ten days."

At the height of the crisis, around 50 members of the team were either sick with Covid or forced to self-isolate. Madge and three of her fellow managers were among those who fell ill. "It was so frustrating and a really frightening time," says Madge. "But we were trying our best to get the service out."

Russell said a lot of the crews were doing extended shifts to try to keep on top of the service. Agency staff were brought in to cover, but the new people did not know the routes, understand the technology on the vehicles and lacked the knowhow that comes from doing the job week in week out.

"When you go out on a route you have about 30 or 40 keys for the different bin chambers, and it's time consuming if you don't know which is which," says Russell.

The problem got worse when one of the two vehicles which empty the large underground waste sites on some estates was out of action. The other vehicle was



It was so frustrating and a really frightening time. But we were trying our best to get the service out.

worked double shifts.

Russell said many residents had been understanding: "Some of them have been fantastic, trying to help us stay safe on our routes."

Services have been getting back to normal as more regular staff return to work, clearing the backlog. Collections of bulky waste, which had been put on hold, have now been restored.



Madge Martin, Operations Manager

A test centre at the Blackwall Yard tests agency staff at the start of the day and they need to get the 'all clear' before they start work.

Madge paid tribute to the dedication of the team: "It has been challenging, but the loyalty of our staff to their job has been brilliant. We all want to keep Tower Hamlets clean and residents happy."



Frida Kahlo's exhibiton of 1982. Photo courtesy of Whitechapel Gallery



Jackson Pollack's 1958 exhibition. Photo courtesy of Whitechapel Gallery

Celebrating 120 years of the Whitechapel Gallery

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

CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

By **IWONA BLAZWICK**,
Director, Whitechapel Gallery

On 12 March 2021, The Whitechapel Gallery celebrates its 120th birthday.

Its very first show was presented in 1901 when Modern Pictures by Living Artists, Pre-Raphaelites and Old Masters attracted 260,000 visitors. Some say it was because it was the first time they'd seen electric lights, but founders Canon

Samuel Barnett and his wife, Dame Henrietta Barnett, knew that they were onto something big.

They believed in the power of art – not only to educate, but also to unite communities that spoke different languages, held different religious beliefs and hailed from different backgrounds. Fired by this idea they raised funds to construct a picture gallery.

Why pictures? Because in this poverty-stricken neighbourhood few could read or write. They settled on a

site right on Whitechapel High Street. Looking around at London's prestigious museums, Canon Barnett noticed that they all looked like classical temples, with steps leading up to an inner sanctum. He hired Britain's most progressive architect, Charles Harrison Townsend, and his first instructions were "no steps!". He wanted direct access from the street to the art.

The new Whitechapel Art Gallery brought the world to the East End, with exhibitions of Chinese art in 1901,

Japanese art in 1902, Indian art in 1903 and the 'Muhammadan Art and Life (in Turkey, Persia, Egypt, Morocco and India)' exhibition in 1908.

The gallery brought the great masters, that had normally hung in stately homes, to the people. It also showed local groups, like the Women's International Art Club. Founded to 'promote contacts between women artists of all nations,' the club exhibited at the Whitechapel Gallery from 1921 until 1966, and counted among its members Eileen Agar, Gillian



Installation view of Nalini Malani's *Can You Hear Me?* at Whitechapel Gallery. Photo: Luke Walker



Installation view from Michael Rakowitz's 2019 exhibition.
Photo: John Nguyen, PA Wire. Courtesy of Whitechapel Gallery

Ayres, Sonia Delauney, Elisabeth Frink, Gwen John and Lee Krasner.

The history of the Whitechapel Gallery is a history of firsts. It has premiered a roll call of modern masters including Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Barbara Hepworth, Frida Kahlo, David Hockney, Lucien Freud and Cindy Sherman. In recent years it can count Nan Goldin, Zarina Bhimji, Gillian Wearing, William Kentridge and Elmgreen and Dragset (who transformed the gallery into a swimming pool) as alumni.

Perhaps its most famous alumni debuted at the gallery in 1939. The Stepney Trade Union hired the gallery to show a young Spanish artist who wanted to raise consciousness about the Spanish Civil War. The artist was Pablo Picasso. He exhibited just one work – the greatest history painting of the 20th century, Guernica. At Picasso's request, East Enders contributed their boots, leaving them under the painting to be sent to the freedom fighters in Spain.

The gallery first worked with local



Whitechapel Gallery, c. 1900
© Tower Hamlets Archives



Whitechapel Gallery today.
Courtesy of Whitechapel Gallery

schools in Tower Hamlets in 1902, exhibiting students' paintings. It went on to pioneer arts education techniques now used in galleries across the world.

120 years has seen dramatic changes in the East End, but the Whitechapel Gallery's exhibitions, education programmes and spirit of innovation remain constant.

For more information about tickets and opening dates and times for the Whitechapel Gallery, visit www.whitechapelgallery.org/

Upcoming Events at the Whitechapel Gallery

EXHIBITION

Eileen Agar: Angel of Anarchy
Opens 19 May 2021
Galleries 1, 8 & 9, Ticketed

COLLECTION

Desde el Salón (From the Living Room): Sol Calero Explores the Hiscox Collection
Opens 19 May 2021
Gallery 7, Free

COMMISSION

Nalini Malani: Can You Hear Me?
23 September 2020 – 6 June 2021
Gallery 2, Free

ARCHIVE

Phantoms of Surrealism
Opens 19 May 2021
Gallery 4, Free

PROJECT

A Glittering City: Ayo Akingbade with Duchamp & Sons
Opens 19 May 2021
Galleries 5 & 6, Free

EXHIBITION

Artists' Film International
Ongoing online screenings





Elections staff in 2018. Returning Officer Will Tuckley, (second left) is responsible for the referendum counts in May

Make your mark in key polls on Thursday 6 May 2021

COUNCIL NEWS

The Mayor of London and Greater London Assembly elections will take place on Thursday 6 May 2021, after they were postponed last year because of Covid-19.

The elections will take place on the same day as a Governance Referendum on whether Tower Hamlets keeps its directly-elected mayor model, or changes to a leader and cabinet model.

In the Isle of Dogs, a referendum will also take place on the same day to ask eligible residents if they want the neighbourhood plan for the Isle of Dogs to be used in deciding planning applications for the area.

Voting takes place on Thursday 6 May 2021. For more information, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vote

The Mayor of London election

Voters will be asked to vote for their first and second preference of candidate for the Mayor of London. If no candidate gets more than 50 per cent of first choice votes, all but the two leading candidates are eliminated, with second preferences then counted until a winner is determined.

Greater London Assembly elections

There are two ballot papers for the Greater London Assembly elections. On one, voters will be asked to vote for their preferred assembly member for City and East constituency and, on the other, to vote for a party which will be used to allocate the 11 London-wide seats on the assembly, based on each party's share of the vote.

Tower Hamlets Governance Referendum

Voters will be asked to vote on the way in which Tower Hamlets Council should be run, either by a directly elected mayor, as it is now and has been since 2010, or by a leader and cabinet model, as it was before 2010. Changes to this system can only take place every ten years and the result of this referendum will be the format used for the local elections in 2022.

Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Planning Referendum

Neighbourhood planning is a community-led process which enables local people to directly shape and promote development in the area where they live or work. Voters in the Isle of Dogs will be asked if they want the Isle

of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan to be used to guide and decide future planning applications in the area.

Covid measures

Despite the recent fall in Covid-19 infection rates and the ongoing vaccination rollout, the safety of Tower Hamlets residents remains at the forefront of all preparations.

Polling stations will have familiar safety arrangements such as the provision and use of hand sanitiser, floor markings and face coverings which must be worn by voters and staff on duty on the day.

In addition to the preparations being undertaken for those attending the polling stations, voters in the borough who have been identified as being clinically extremely vulnerable and encouraged to shield have been contacted by the council's electoral registration officer to inform them of the absent voting options available, for example, applying for a postal vote or appointing a proxy.

Voting by post or proxy is available to all voters if your application is received before the deadlines for these elections and approved.

Safe and secure

In recent years Tower Hamlets has been recognised by government and the Electoral Commission as having some of the most robust and secure



City Hall – your vote will help decide who is in charge

arrangements for electors in the country, and we continue to work closely with the police to ensure allegations of fraud are dealt with promptly and thoroughly.

An innovative and secure web portal is in place which logs and passes all claims of electoral malpractice to the police. Other safety measures include a police officer at every polling station throughout polling hours, enhanced postal voting security checks and extensive training for elections staff.

For more local information on the May polls, including how the borough remains at the forefront of delivering fair and secure elections, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/elections

Complete the census to support our communities

Every ten years, a nationwide survey is carried out to get a snapshot of the total population.

Every household in Tower Hamlets will be called upon later this month to complete a unique survey – the census – that takes place only once every ten years.

Census Day 2021 falls on Sunday, 21 March and every household in Tower Hamlets needs to be ready to complete the survey, which is required under law.

It is important for the census to get as accurate data as is possible, as the results are then used to help decide where billions of pounds of public funding is spent on services like transport, education and health.

It is crucial for residents to complete the census, as it gives a voice to the community to guide where money should be spent to support residents.

The census helps the council to see if existing services are sufficient to meet need – for example, whether new schools need to be built or existing ones expanded. It also helps provide information about residents' health, their work and their household composition that will help us to rebuild the economy and improve living standards as the country recovers from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2020/21, prior to Covid-19, London boroughs received almost £13 billion in grants to fund local services. But for London's estimated population of just over 9 million, every undercounted person means up to £1,430 could be lost in funding – meaning that even undercounting a relatively small number of 10,000 people (0.1 per cent) could mean that £143 million is lost over the next 10 years.

So that these funds can be allocated in the most appropriate and effective way, it's crucial for our communities that the census is completed accurately and on time by every household in the borough.

It's not just councils that rely on accurate information from the census to help them to plan ahead. The police use census statistics to know where to concentrate their efforts to make neighbourhoods safer. Charities and voluntary organisations also use census data as evidence to get funding. It also helps businesses to understand their

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It's really important that every Tower Hamlets household completes the census.



A national Census campaign is now under way

customers and, for example, decide where to open new shops.

The census is also an important historical document which helps us to understand how Tower Hamlets has changed and continues to change, such as the fascinating history of immigration in the East End of London and the many communities that have settled in the area over the years.

A lot has changed since the first census was held in 1801, but 220 years on, for the first time, the census will be held mainly online, with households receiving a letter ahead of March 21 with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

Households that are unable to complete the census online will have access to a paper copy.

The Census 2021 website also includes details on the customer contact centre where people can call the team on 0800 141 2021, or get in touch by webchat, email or text message. Information and support is also available in translated languages including Bengali and Somali.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets said: "It's really important that every Tower Hamlets household completes the census as the information will help us to plan and provide services in the future.

"Everyone must be counted so we get our fair share of funding. We really don't want our community to miss out, so do your bit and fill it out."

Further information about the census is available at www.census.gov.uk.

Information and support is also available in translated languages including Bengali and Somali.

A dedicated council webpage also has details of local information and support.

Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/census2021.

The results of the 2021 census will update these facts about Tower Hamlets:

- Tower Hamlets has one of the fastest growing, youngest and most diverse populations in the UK
- Our population is expected to increase to 372,766 by 2030. This rate of growth is equivalent to 14 new residents per day
- In that time, the number of 65+ aged residents is expected to grow by 41 per cent
- Residents in the borough working full time earn more than the London average
- Over half of the jobs based in Tower Hamlets are in the financial, professional and technical sectors, while just one third of residents is employed in these sectors (34 per cent)
- The council has the 7th highest waiting list for housing nationally, with more than 18,000 households on the council's housing waiting list



June Hayward outside her new home

New homes change lives

HOUSING

Moving into their new home in one of the council's recently completed developments of affordable housing has changed the lives of June and Keith Hayward.

Keith suffers from Multiple Sclerosis and needs a hoist and a wheelchair to move around.

Joan said: "We used to live in a first floor flat and it was a nightmare getting him into his wheelchair, then into the lift and down to the street."

In November last year they moved into one of the ground floor flats that have been specially adapted for wheelchair users in Pyrus House, Limehouse.

"It makes a lot of difference and has taken so much weight off my mind," said Joan. "We have a hoist in the bedroom. If Keith has a GP appointment, I can put him into his wheelchair and just take him straight out the front door."

Pyrus House provides 33 mixed tenure affordable homes. The block overlooks the Regent's Canal and is the first of two blocks that will 'bookend' the Locksley Estate in Limehouse.

Tower Hamlets' commitment to creating new homes was rewarded recently when it received a £17.6m bonus from the government.

The money comes from the national New Homes Bonus scheme designed to encourage local authorities to increase the number of new homes.

Under the scheme, the government matches the revenue raised from council tax payments from new-build homes, conversions or empty properties being brought back into use for a period of six years.

For the second year running, Tower Hamlets was top of the list of councils in terms of revenue from new homes.

Cllr Danny Hassell, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "We are committed to providing more homes, and particularly affordable housing, in the borough. The New Homes Bonus recognises the dedication of teams from across the council in supporting housing delivery from initial planning through to occupation."

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Is self-build right for you?

The next stage of the Affordable Self-Build Programme in Tower Hamlets has begun with the launch of two council owned sites being marketed on the GLA Small Sites Portal.

Self-build housing is where individuals or groups of individuals directly organise the design and construction of their own homes.

A community led group or individual self-builder would be actively involved in acquiring land, getting planning permission, designing, building and managing their own home(s).

The developer may help to find a plot, manage the construction and arrange the finance for your new home. This is more of a hands-off approach, but homes can be tailored to meet individual requirements with different levels of customisation.

Community-led housing is where people and communities play a leading role in addressing their

own housing needs. It has many overlaps with group self-build and custom-build, but also considers the long-term ownership or management, and where any benefits (such as affordability) are legally protected.

After consultation, the council approved the marketing of the two sites as part of the scheme. Neighbouring residents were included in the consultation programme.

The two schemes are at Christian Street, E1 and Lark Row, E2.

You can find out more about self-build and about bidding on these sites at: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/selfbuild

Interested self-builders and community led groups have until 16 April 2021 to put in a bid.

To find out more about self-build in Tower Hamlets email self-build@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Design and build your own home in Lark Row, E2, one of the two approved sites in Tower Hamlets as part of the self-build scheme

£200,000 returned to private renters

Private tenants are being helped to reclaim rent from landlords who break the rules.

More than £200,000 has been reclaimed for tenants under the council's Rent Repayment Order (RRO) project, which holds landlords to account if they fail to obtain the correct property licence before taking on tenants.

It also covers other offences like using or threatening violence to secure entry into premises, illegal eviction, harassment or failing to comply with an improvement notice or prohibition order.

A RRO requires repayment of rent paid in respect of a tenancy, by a landlord or agent who has committed an offence. It is not necessary that the landlord/agent has been convicted, but in order to grant a RRO, a tribunal must be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that one of these offences has occurred.

The largest amount secured under a RRO for one individual is £9,000.

One grateful resident wrote to the council after their RRO case was taken up by Environmental Health and Trading Standards: "Thanks so much for all the work you've done on this. This has really been a lifeline and a just restitution from the landlord. It wasn't a pleasant experience dealing with him and it's great to be able to draw a line under all of this."

Cllr Eve McQuillan, Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion, said:

"All tenants deserve safe and secure homes. Where



Where landlords fail in their responsibilities to tenants, we will use our powers, including RROs, to stand up for residents and make sure they are safe from exploitation and unsafe flats.

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Private tenants who believe their landlords are not complying with regulations can email environmental.health@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Marcus Barnett, Detective Chief Superintendent and Borough Commander for Tower Hamlets



Covid has been a dominant factor for all of us over the last year.

From a policing perspective I think my officers have done a magnificent job. Many challenges have been overcome, not least working through new legislation to keep you safe and protect the NHS.

By and large there have been good levels of compliance in the borough and for that I thank everybody who has played their part. This continues to be a very difficult time and I fully appreciate the impact of the virus on you all. However, we must continue to follow the rules and remain alert to the dangers.

Despite Covid, my officers have continued to police the community 24/7. We've seen reductions in crime, especially street-based violence-related offences and burglary. Linked to street violence, my teams have focused heavily on drug enforcement. As part of 'Operation Continuum', working closely with our community partners, we have arrested dozens of serious offenders supplying large quantities of drugs across the borough.

In the coming year, we will continue in our focus and determination to address violence, drugs, and antisocial behaviour (ASB), which I know is still a source of much concern. I am confident that we will see great improvements in ASB hotspot locations and will address individual offenders. Your quality of life is important to me. Other priorities for my team and I include burglary, hate crime, domestic abuse and sexual offences.

You will be glad to know that in the last year we've seen significant numbers of new officers joining the team. This is a result of investment in increasing officer numbers and I expect to see more new recruits this year! This will help us improve our service to you.

Alongside our crime priorities this year, I have also been clear that we will continue to work hard with our partners - faith groups, businesses, the council and every part of the community. We want to strengthen relationships, get closer to the community, listen and learn from mistakes, explain more about what we do and ensure we have your trust and confidence.

We police by consent, we police to serve and protect and we police because we really care about our residents.



Out in full force: police tackle Covid-19 breaches



Local police on patrol in Mile End Park

Rulebreakers handed £55,000 in Covid fines

SAFER TOGETHER

Nearly £55,000 of fines have been issued to people flouting rules since the national lockdown has been in place, after a series of action days organised by Tower Hamlets Council, neighbouring Hackney Council and local police.

A team of additional officers has been on patrol specifically to target Covid-19 breaches, enforcing where necessary and issuing fines to those who were wilfully

and dangerously breaking the rules put in place to keep Tower Hamlets safe.

Breaches include non-essential businesses operating illegally and people gathering in large groups. On Friday 15 January, officers were called to a house party in Brick Lane following reports from neighbours of loud music. After gaining entry, more than 40 people were found inside the property, which had been hired using AirBnB. The party was immediately shut down, fines issued and a closure order issued to the owner of the property, preventing it being

made available for rent for the next three months.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "The Covid-19 measures have been put in place to save lives and protect the NHS. The vast majority of residents in our borough are taking the situation seriously, so it's only right that we take appropriate action against those flouting the rules and putting people's lives at risk. We will continue to work with local police to enforce the Covid-19 lockdown so we can keep Tower Hamlets safe."

Dawn raids to crack down on drug dealers

Fourteen people were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to supply Class A drugs as part of police raids on 21 addresses across the borough.

The raids were the latest activity in Operation Continuum, a borough-wide crackdown on drug dealers operating in Tower Hamlets which has in the past year, resulted in 143 arrests, 259 charges for drug-related offences, seizure of Class A and Class B drugs, and over £323,000 in cash.

In response to resident concerns around drug dealing and making our neighbourhoods safer, Operation Continuum raids have been taking place throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, with the latest intelligence-led operation taking place in Whitechapel at the beginning of March.

Cllr Sirajul Islam, Deputy Mayor for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities, said: "We know that our residents are concerned about crime, which has continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, especially drug dealing and drug taking. This is why we work with police partners to disrupt local drug markets.

"Our community safety operations help to make Tower Hamlets a safer borough and will continue to target those intent on breaking the law."

If you have any information about drug dealing, call the police on 101 or report it online by visiting www.met.police.uk.

If you don't want to report a crime to the police, you can do so anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or by visiting <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

Since March 2020 – a period which marked the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic – the operation has seen:

- 103 search warrants executed
- 145 arrests for drug-related offences
- 123 persons charged, bringing the total number of charges to 259
- 12 people sentenced to a total of 22.75 years between them, with the remainder awaiting sentence, plea, or trial
- Approximately 1,600 officers have been involved in the operation from March 2020 – March 2021

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

Help us with our plans to improve private renting in Southwark

Southwark Council want to transform private rented homes, to ensure all residents have access to safe, secure and good quality accommodation.

It's important that our plans for new licensing schemes work for everyone. If you own, rent or manage property in Southwark, we want to hear from you.

Complete the online survey and share your views at:
www.southwark.gov.uk/propertylicensing2021

To request a paper copy of the survey, email:
propertylicensing@southwark.gov.uk

Or telephone **020 7525 5140**



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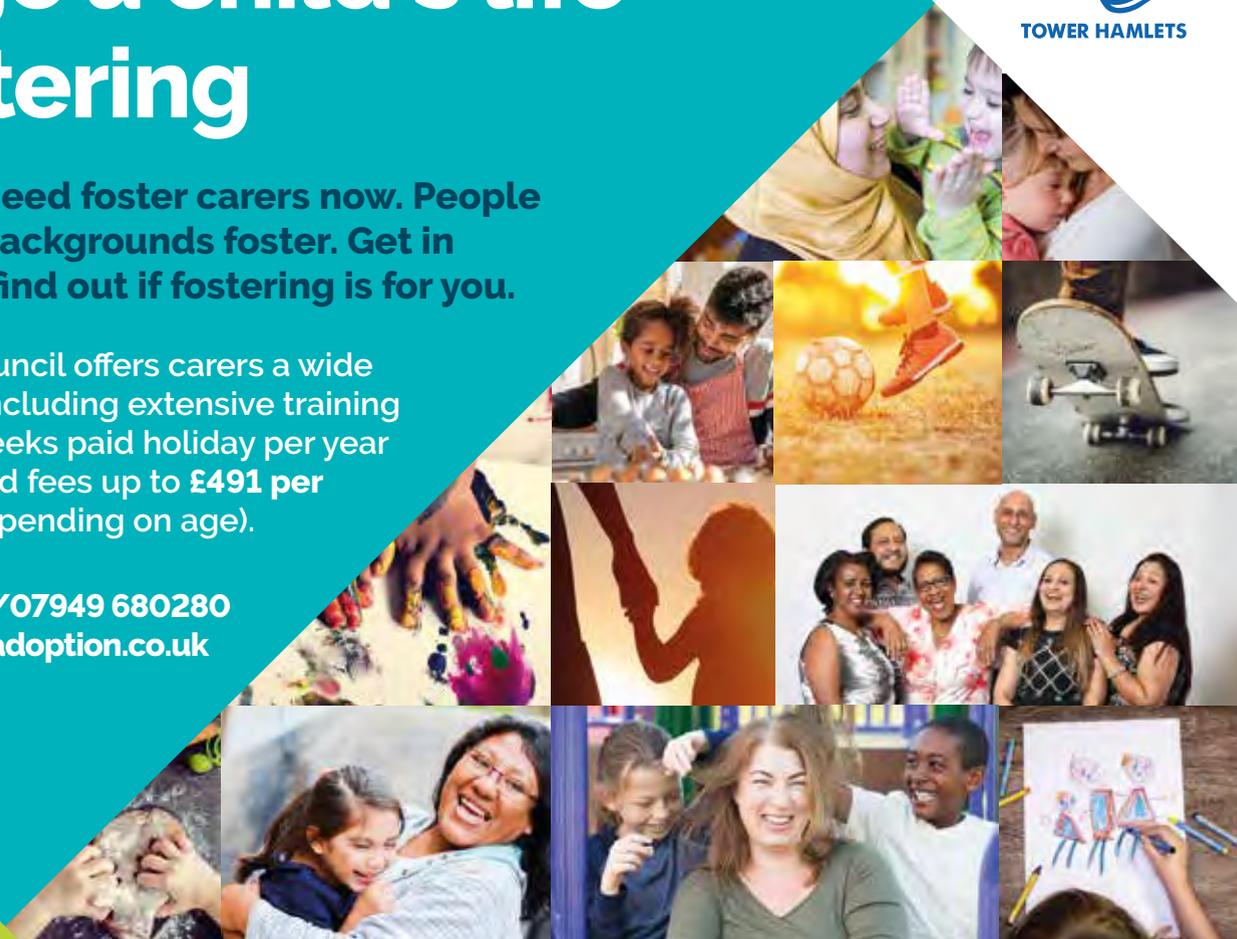
Change a child's life by fostering

Local children need foster carers now. People of all different backgrounds foster. Get in touch now and find out if fostering is for you.

Tower Hamlets Council offers carers a wide range of support including extensive training opportunities, 2 weeks paid holiday per year and allowances and fees up to **£491 per week** (per child depending on age).

Call **07535 684063/07949 680280**
www.fosteringandadoption.co.uk

We can start the fostering process virtually to ensure your safety



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SCAN ME



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Striding Out, Close to Home

Graham Barker offers ideas for walking locally during lockdown. Take your pick from these half-hour strolls around eight East End neighbourhoods. Wherever you live, there's always something new to see. Photos by **Kois Miah** and **Mike Askew**.

Bethnal Green

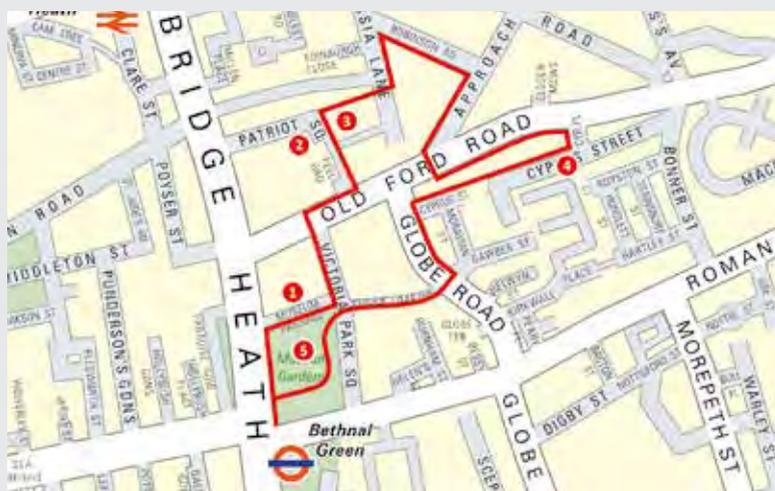


Shrubs and plane trees in Museum Gardens

Discover some peaceful green spaces in Bethnal Green. On this walk you'll take a peek at Approach Community Gardens, stroll past the children's natural play space on Cyprus Street, nip along Sugar Loaf Walk and wander past ornamental flowerbeds in Museum Gardens.

Along the way:

- (1) Peer up to the mosaics alongside the V&A Museum of Childhood
- (2) Meet the Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green outside the old town hall
- (3) Peek through to the grow-your-own gardens in Russia Lane
- (4) Pause for a moment at the war memorial on Cyprus Street
- (5) Enjoy the palms and colourful flowerbeds of Museum Gardens



Museum of Childhood mosaics



Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green

Bromley-by-Bow



Bromley-by-Bow Centre is dotted with sculptures

Take a closer look at some local landmarks in Bromley-by-Bow. On this route you'll wander through two peaceful gardens, weave beside sculptures and mosaics, and pass by St Mary's Church, Bromley-by-Bow Centre, Kingsley Hall and the Drapers' Almshouses.

Along the way:

- (1) Meet W E Gladstone, four times Prime Minister, by Bow Church
- (2) Curve around the gardens and playful sculptures in Bob's Park
- (3) Spot where Gandhi stayed during his UK visit in 1931
- (4) Look out for the 1706 inscription above Drapers' Almshouses
- (5) Take a break in the peaceful memorial garden within Grove Hall Park



Drapers' Almshouses



A Bengali welcome to Bob's Park

Canary Wharf



Bridging across to the West India Dock warehouses

Enjoy the contrast of old and new around Canary Wharf. As you walk you'll witness two centuries of international trade - from the Georgian warehouses once busy with West Indian rum and sugar, to the high-rise offices for global finance firms.

Along the way:

- (1) Look skyward to the landscape of sleek, soaring office blocks
- (2) Meet 'Old Flo' and other sculptures around Cabot Square
- (3) See the 1802 warehouses, built when the West India Docks opened
- (4) Amble around the exotic Crossrail Place Roof Garden
- (5) Wind through Jubilee Park, bedside cascading waterfalls



One Canada Square Tower



Crossrail Place Roof Garden

Limehouse



Barges and houseboats moored in Limehouse Basin

Navigate through maritime history in Limehouse. You'll stride beside the mighty Thames, curve over Limekiln Dock, wander by old Narrow Street warehouses and enjoy the peaceful scene across Limehouse Basin - once the gateway for coal to reach the country's canal network.

Along the way:

- (1) Wander beside the houseboats moored in Limehouse Basin
- (2) Peer across the basin to the Victorian viaduct and accumulator tower
- (3) Walk along the tree-lined avenue of Ropemaker's Fields
- (4) Survey the views across the Thames, to the City and Rotherhithe
- (5) Stroll beside Thames-side warehouses and wharves on Narrow Street



Herring gull sculpture



Limekiln Dock warehouses

Mudchute



Grazing sheep at Mudchute Farm

Make the most of the open spaces in Mudchute. As you walk you'll take in far-reaching views across Millwall Dock, meet some friendly farm animals at Mudchute Farm and stride through Millwall Park, with the high-rise towers of Canary Wharf shimmering in the distance.

Along the way:

- (1) Take in the extensive views across Millwall Dock
- (2) Stride past grazing sheep across the open fields of Mudchute Farm
- (3) Look out for geese, llamas, pygmy goats and Tamworth pigs
- (4) Admire the Victorian railway viaduct spanning Millwall Park
- (5) Spot the cottage-style houses in Thermopylae Gate, built for First World War soldiers



Beside Millwall Dock



Millwall Park viaduct

Poplar



The former St Matthias Old Church across Poplar Park

Look out for signs of social history in Poplar. On this route you'll encounter decorative brickwork at the former Board of Works, a beautiful angel in Poplar Park, as well as Chrisp Street market square – first opened as part of the 1951 Festival of Britain, and surrounded by jazzy murals.

Along the way:

- (1) Take a closer look at All Saints' Church, with its towering steeple
- (2) Pass the former Poplar Board of Works and St Matthias Old Church
- (3) Snake through Poplar Park with its touching WWI angel memorial
- (4) Stock up on fruit and veg at the stalls in the covered market precinct
- (5) Meet shipbuilder Richard Green and his dog by Poplar Baths



Poplar Park Memorial



A Chrisp Street Market mural

Spitalfields

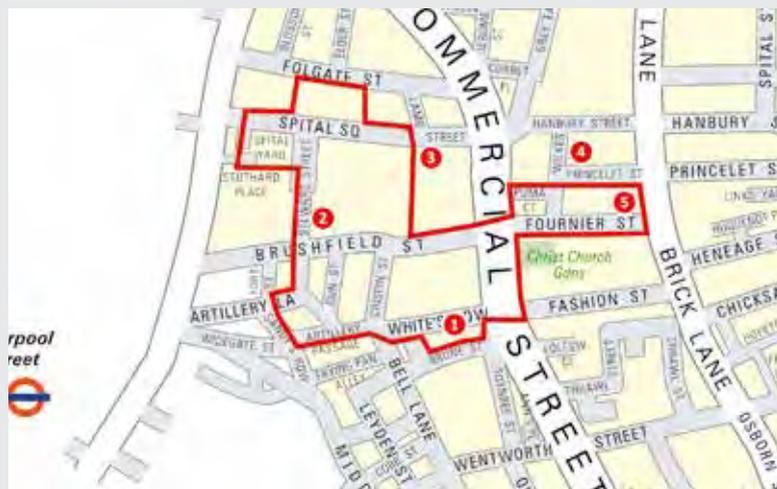


Bronze elephants around Spitalfields Market

Weave your way through the alleys of Spitalfields. You'll follow in the footsteps of many immigrants that have settled here – French Huguenots, Eastern European Jews and, most recently, the Bengali community – and discover sculptures dotted around the streets and market.

Along the way:

- (1) Look out for the old Jewish soup kitchen in Brune Street
- (2) Meet a herd of 21 elephants roaming around Spitalfields Market
- (3) Grab a coffee or take-away snack from a local outlet
- (4) Wander by Georgian silk weavers' houses with their attic windows
- (5) Peer up to the Umbra Sumus (We are shadow) sundial at Brick Lane Mosque



Crispin Street paper bag shop



Sundial at Brick Lane Mosque

Wapping



Children inset into the facade of St John's former parish school

Retrace the footsteps of former dockers in Wapping. On this route you'll wander along cobbled lanes, pass the imposing Georgian terraces at Wapping Pierhead, skirt beside Hermitage Basin and follow sections of the old dock wall.

Along the way:

- (1) Investigate Wapping Old Stairs beside the Town of Ramsgate
- (2) Spot the dove in Hermitage Riverside Memorial Gardens
- (3) Follow Wapping Wood Canal opposite the London Dock wall
- (4) Snake through Wapping Gardens, past the Turk's Head
- (5) Look up to the blue-uniformed boy and girl inset into the old parish school



Wapping Old Stairs



Dove sculpture



Take steps to lift your spirits in lockdown

A brisk walk is an easy way to give an all-round boost to your body and mind. Walking not only reduces your risk of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure and diabetes, but it can also help you de-stress and lift your mood.

“Walk and be happy, walk and be healthy. The best way to lengthen out our days is to walk steadily and with a purpose.” Charles Dickens

Celebrate Women's History Month

Contemporary women artists, activists, writers, performers, women's groups, community organisations and institutions will present a diverse programme of events and exhibitions online to mark Women's History Month throughout March.

Tower Hamlets Council, along with community organisation Alternative Arts, is supporting a specially focused International Women's week in the borough, bringing women's groups and community organisations together to run a programme of events and activities until 12 March, following this year's theme, 'Women: Identity, Crisis, Future'.

Highlights include a special feature titled Women at Work – A New Town Hall for Tower Hamlets, about all the women transforming the old Royal London Hospital building in Whitechapel into a 21st Century town hall for Tower Hamlets.

On Friday 12 March, the Women's Inclusive Team will host an event to highlight and celebrate the unity and amazing work of local women who mobilised everyone to support, care and provide for one another as a response to Covid-19. Participants will share stories, memories and facilitate discussion. The team will also show its 'Wall of Remembrance' dedicated to local female heroes and leaders.

For full programme listings and joining information please go to www.alternativearts.org.uk



Black Women's Power: Women's Inclusive Team



International Women's Week 2021 – Women at Work: Women members of Bouygues UK's onsite team, Tower Hamlets Town Hall project. Photo © Alex Sarginson

Wellbeing day

On International Women's Day on Monday 8 March, the council's sports development team will host a day of free, online wellbeing sessions which include tai chi, mindfulness, basketball fitness and more, all led by fully-qualified instructors. Visit the events page on the council website www.towerhamlets.gov.uk for full listings and joining instructions.

Exhibition

View Women's History Month Photo-Open, an exhibition by women photographers celebrating women's lives with portraits, documentary images of women at work, home and play, in demonstrations, performances, sport and celebrations. The exhibition may be seen online at www.alternativearts.org.uk/events/womenshistorymonthphoto-open



Black Hmong Tribeswoman: Part of the Women's History Month 2021 Photo-Open exhibition. Photo © Gweniver Exton

Online creative masterclasses for young people

An organisation which works with young people to co-design spaces they want to see in their local community is offering young budding cultural producers, aged 14-25 years and living across East London, a free series of online masterclasses.

Beyond The Box has teamed up with cultural institutions including BBC, London College of Fashion, V&A Museum, Museum of London, The Royal Institute of British Architects and others to bring this exciting new online series to young people.

At the end of the masterclass series, Beyond the Box will support a team of young cultural producers from across East London to help create a 10-day festival that will take place at the People's Pavilion at Here East in the Olympic Park, due to open in August 2021.

The young curators and producers will put their new skills into action, scheduling, booking and curating the cultural programme, liaising with creative institutions, managing budgets, project plans, marketing the events and creatively documenting the journey.

Masterclasses will start on March 9 and run each Tuesday evening for 10 weeks.

Find out more about the full programme at www.beyondtheboxconsultants.com/the-peoples-pavilion

Our exciting arts and cultural scene in Tower Hamlets – find out what's on(online)

Throughout lockdown, there's been an amazing amount of activity behind the scenes – and behind the screens – as arts and community organisations from across the borough continue to programme a fantastic array of free and family-friendly events to take part in at home, or in your own time. From virtual tea dances and Chinese New Year demonstrations, to online exhibitions, arts workshops, screenings, guided walks and more, you can keep on top of what's on by signing up to the council's monthly Arts and Events Highlights newsletters. Simply go to www.towerhamlets.gov.uk and click the 'sign up' tab at the top of the page!



The Pavilion at night

We are really missing exhibitions at the Art Pavilion in Mile End Park. We've had some fantastic displays to showcase work by new and emerging artists including installations, textiles, mixed media and film. We look forward to announcing a new season of shows soon and you can find out what's on by following our new Instagram account [@thepavilionmileend](https://www.instagram.com/thepavilionmileend)

Talks, exhibitions and public art to celebrate Bangladesh's 50th anniversary

ARTS & EVENTS WHAT'S ON

An amazing season of free activities for people of all backgrounds to enjoy begins this March as Tower Hamlets Council joins in celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh.

Giving residents and the wider public a chance to enjoy some of the best local, national, and international Bengali history, arts, and culture, Bangladesh 50 Years will feature talks, exhibitions, performances, story-telling, public art work and other activities.

Between March and May, Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives will present a programme of free online events exploring the connections between the War of Independence in 1971 and the local community here in the East End.

Bangladesh 50 Years is a strand of Citizen UK, a partnership project led by the National Portrait Gallery in collaboration with local archives, supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Starting the programme on Thursday 25 March from 6-7.30pm, Professor Nayanika Mookherjee will host a talk sharing her research on public memories of sexual violence during the 1971 War of Independence.

Women living in the UK made valuable contributions to the Bangladesh War of Independence, but their stories are seldom explored. On Sunday 28 March from 2-4pm, join Dr. Romena Toki of Central London Youth Development in conversation with Shefali Haque who will be looking at the critical, political, financial and moral support organised by women.

'Joi Bangla! in London – or how to fight a war from 5,000 miles' away is the subject of a talk on Wednesday 31 March, at 6pm, by historian Sarah Glynn who will explore the ways in which Bengalis living in Tower Hamlets supported the independence struggle, and set the events of 1971 in the historical context of community activism in the East End.

Ujjal Das is a journalist-turned-curator with a specific interest in the role of expatriate Bengalis in the Bangladesh



Recognise Bangladesh rally in Trafalgar Square, 1971. Courtesy of The Ethnic Minorities Original History and Research Centre (EMOHARC)

War of Independence. Over the last ten years he has collected many rare records including photographs, posters, leaflets, and press cuttings from Bangla and English newspapers. Join us on Saturday 3 April for an illustrated talk exploring his collection, which also includes the first postal stamp issued by the new nation of Bangladesh.

Storytelling is a powerful tool in Bangladeshi culture, often used to explore family histories, connecting loved ones to glimpses of past experiences which are sometimes traumatic. In a two-day workshop on 15 and 16 May, participants will be supported to use storytelling as a form of therapy, in which the tree becomes a metaphor for a person's life.

On Wednesday 19 May, join photographers Kois Miah and Phil Maxwell alongside Magda Keaney, senior curator of photographs at the National

Portrait Gallery, for 'Whose image is it anyway?' – a discussion about the ethics of ownership, focussing specifically on photographs of the East End's Bangladeshi community from the 1970s to the present day.

The last twenty years have seen a surge of interest in British Bengali history and the establishment of Bengali community archives. On Thursday 20 May, Julie Begum and Ansar Ahmed Ullah of the Swadhinata Trust in conversation with Howard Doble from London Metropolitan Archives, will explore the challenges in researching as well as capturing these histories, the importance of collecting them and reflections for the future.

To see the Local History and Archives programme, and to sign up to events, visit www.ideastore.co.uk.



Brick Lane 1983, taken by Phil Maxwell, who will discuss the ownership of photos of the East End's Bangladeshi community

For further information about Bangladesh 50 Years, and other events coming up later this year visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk.

Help us document one of the most unforgettable years in history

As we approach the anniversary of the start of the first lockdown in England, Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives is continuing to

capture a lasting collective memory of our community response to the pandemic, created by those living and working in the borough today. It is our responsibility to not only preserve historic records from the past, but also to collect and preserve today's history. Have you been getting creative with your children in lockdown? Or maybe you've been keeping a record of how you're feeling? Please share your lockdown diaries, journals, photographs, video

and sound recordings, poetry, prose, signs – or anything you like with our archive – so we can document this unusual time in our lives. We want to hear from all members of the Tower Hamlets community. From younger people to those who are older, business owners and their employees, teachers, doctors, nurses, shop workers, carers, students, retirees and everyone in between. Visit talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus-collection to take part.





The removal of the statue of slave trader Robert Milligan

Have your say on slave trader's statue

COUNCIL NEWS

A consultation has launched on the future of a statue of eighteenth century slave trade owner Robert Milligan.

The statue was removed from West India Quay in June last year.

The Canal and River Trust, which owns the statue, is now seeking views on what happens to the statue and what will

take its place.

The consultation will also ask respondents how we should talk about the area's historical relationship to slavery, including how to tell the story about the removal of Robert Milligan's statue, itself.

Have your say before Friday 23 April 2021 by visiting talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/robertmilligan

Inequalities Commission's findings to be announced

The Tower Hamlets Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Inequalities Commission is set to announce its key findings and recommendations following months of intensive investigation, public hearings, consultations and engagement events across the borough.

The killing of George Floyd and the subsequent Black Lives Matter protests, including those that took part in Tower Hamlets, brought the issue of racism and ongoing inequalities to major prominence.

This was further highlighted by alarming reports that showed the disproportionately negative impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. Proactive action by the council and local partners to remove the statue of slave owner Robert Milligan from West India Dock was welcomed, although there was a deeper sense that more needed to be done.

Last summer, Mayor John Biggs appointed Deputy Mayor, Cllr Asma Begum, to lead a comprehensive review of the inequalities faced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents. The commission was officially launched last September with a special focus on education, health inequalities, employment and community leadership.

Commissioners heard from a wide range of expert witness, as well as the lived experiences of many more through meetings or surveys. Those who engaged with the commission described how the

opportunity for them to reach their full potential has been made more difficult because of their ethnic background. This was regularly backed up by expert witnesses. There were also examples of good practice in breaking down barriers and how real improvements could be made. Commission Chair Cllr Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor, said: "It has been an honour to lead the commission and hear first-hand the passionate voices of local people calling for greater equality and change."

"For all the welcome progress and achievements in recent years, the fact remains that the speed of change in breaking down structural racism remains too slow. We need to harness the passion of the protests and work together to deliver the kind of tangible and measurable steps that leads to real and positive change for everyone in Tower Hamlets, no matter what their background."

The commission is due to launch its key findings at a special virtual event taking place at 4.00pm on Thursday 18 March. Look out for more details on the commission's webpage www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/raceinequalitiescommission and the council's social media channels.

Parks and playground improvements coming your way

New playgrounds, improved pitches and resurfaced BMX tracks and tennis courts are some of the exciting developments underway across the borough.

They are part of the council's £10 million capital investment programme to improve over 60 of the borough's parks and open spaces.

Last year, tennis courts at Wapping Gardens and Ropemaker's Fields were resurfaced. Similar work is due to take place at Bethnal Green Gardens and Poplar Recreation Ground over the next two years.

Resurfacing work to Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) at Wapping Gardens, Whitehorse Road, Urban Adventure Base in Mile End Park and Middleton

Green, and at the BMX track in Mile End Park, has been completed, and a new outdoor gym has been installed in Shadwell Basin in partnership with St. Paul's Shadwell.

Following the unveiling of new playground equipment – designed using ideas from children, residents and professionals – at Bartlett Park in Poplar and Meath Gardens in Bethnal Green, improvement works are planned for playgrounds at Glamis Road, Weavers Fields, Shandy Park, Ravenscroft Park and Whitehorse Road.

Visit the council's parks and open spaces page at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parks for regular updates.



New equipment at Bartlett Park playground was designed using ideas from local children

A budget set in challenging times

The council is due to set its budget and council tax rates at a full council meeting on March 4, just after Our East End goes to print. This year, ongoing financial pressures including responding to Covid-19, means that despite saving £200m since 2010, the council now has to save a further £30m by 2024.

The major impact of Covid-19 has highlighted the importance and value of public services. However, while the government said that local councils should do "whatever it takes" to support their communities, they have not fully covered the reduced income and increased costs councils are facing.

Despite the government budget cuts, increases in demand from vulnerable residents and a rising population, the council has continued to invest in key frontline services and anti-poverty measures, including funding for free school meals and one of the most generous council tax reduction schemes in the country.

The council remains committed to adapting its services with a continuing focus on making them more efficient. Following the confirmation of the budget, residents will shortly receive their council tax bills for the year ahead alongside access to further details on the final budget settlement.



Pink Beni Yutaka, pale pink Somei Yoshino and white Tai Haku cherry trees (left) with more in bloom in Vicky Park in 2020 (right)

Look out for cherry tree blossom

COUNCIL NEWS

Sixty-one cherry trees will be blossoming in Victoria Park, Ropemaker's Fields in Poplar and Wapping Rose Gardens, following a planting session by the council's biodiversity team.

The planting initiative is part of the nationwide Sakura Cherry Tree Project, formally launched in 2019, which aims to plant over 6,500 trees across UK parks, gardens and schools to celebrate Japan's relationship with the UK.

All of the trees planted are of Japanese origin. Two of the varieties are single-

flowered and the other is a semi-double that still produces pollen and nectar, unlike fully double-flowered varieties. It is hoped that the plants will be a prolific nectar source for bees in the spring.

The council had hoped to carry out a community tree planting event in 2020, however, due to the coronavirus

pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, planting was delayed.

The trees have been fitted with watering bags and now residents can get involved by helping to fill the bags up as often as possible between May and October.

Volunteering for the love of our parks

Since the beginning of the first lockdown, Bethnal Green resident, Isabelle Von Maltzan, has donned her hi-vis jacket twice a week to volunteer at Victoria Park and Mile End Park.

Isabelle, who started volunteering after she was furloughed from work, joins staff and other volunteers to carry out tasks such as gardening, planting, tending the landscape and litter picking.

"I love spending time in the borough's parks and have found volunteering a useful way to get out and enjoy the open spaces," she said.

Isabelle observes that people use the parks in different ways – be it for walking, cycling, taking the children to the playground or to watch and appreciate the natural surroundings.

Apart from saying "hi" when you see volunteers at work, Isabelle urges visitors to be considerate of other park users by using litter bins or taking rubbish home, complying with safety rules and picking up dog mess and disposing of it in the correct way.

"Litter is one of the biggest issues we face. Visitors can help keep our parks beautiful this spring and summer and make our job easier by throwing their rubbish in the bins, or, if the bins are full, by taking the rubbish home."



I love spending time in the borough's parks and have found volunteering a useful way to get out and enjoy the open spaces.



Isabelle (far right) with parks volunteers, Hannah, Vicky and Sean

Lending a helping hand

COMMUNITY NEWS

It's been almost a year since the Covid pandemic changed all of our lives, presenting new challenges and shining a spotlight on existing ones.

Voluntary and community organisations such as Neighbours in Poplar (NIP) adapted quickly to ensure those who were isolated and needed support and supplies were still being looked after.

Sister Christine Frost from NIP explained how they adopted a 'four point response' to the pandemic from March last year.

She said: "When our volunteers met last year we agreed we would set up a 'telly buddy' system to link isolated residents with a telephone befriender. Then we would do shopping for shielding and isolated people, we would collect and deliver medication and we would cook and deliver dinners to those who needed this support.

"We had no idea when we started that a year later our volunteers would have stuck with us and still be involved in each of these four actions.

"Thousands of phone calls have been made and friendships established over the phone, hundreds of folk had shopping or bags of groceries delivered to their door, mostly free of charge thanks to NIP's generous donors, Fairshare and The Felix Project. Bikeworks helped with the collection and delivery of medications, and they now cover the borough with this very valuable service."

Sister Frost and her team delivered the first meals to 24 addresses in March, but numbers quickly grew to 160 deliveries, twice a week.

"In total, so far our volunteers have

delivered 13,000 meals to addresses all over the borough – all free of charge!" Sister Frost said.

"All of this is only possible because of our volunteer 'deliveroo angels,' our devoted vegetable peelers, our cooks and cake bakers. They do so much more than cook and deliver meals – they alerted emergency services when no answer was coming from very frail clients, made appointments for vaccinations and made enquiries regarding housing and repair needs and much more.

"We have to use this period to find better ways of caring long-term for the frail and vulnerable, the disabled and those whose mental health has been so adversely affected by the lockdowns.

"Covid has not caused problems in the roll out of our services but has exposed the weaknesses and short comings still needed in community care."

To get involved or donate visit: www.neighboursinpoplar.com.

“
We had no idea when we started that a year later our volunteers would have stuck with us and still be involved in each of the above four actions.



Volunteers have delivered 13,000 meals to addresses all over the borough – all free of charge



Neighbours in Poplar has helped support vulnerable people throughout the pandemic

Tower Hamlets remembers the 25th anniversary of the Docklands bomb

People in Tower Hamlets took part in remembrance activities to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Docklands terrorist bombing.

On Friday 9 February 1996 at 7.01pm IRA terrorists detonated a lorry bomb at Marsh Wall, adjacent to South Quay Docklands Light Railway (DLR) station.

The incident resulted in the death of Inam Bashir and John Jeffries who had been working in their newspaper kiosk nearby. The force of the explosion, which obliterated the area, also left many people severely injured.

Members of the Docklands Victims Association (DVA), set up in the wake of the bombing, organised a virtual remembrance service on Sunday 7 February, while DVA President Jonathan Ganesh and relatives of those affected by the disaster gathered at South Quay

Station. White doves were released to honour all victims of terrorism.

Jonathan, a survivor of the terrorist attack, said his dear friends Inam and John were well loved within the community.

"We have never forgotten them. I know that they would be happy that, even during these difficult and challenging times due to Covid-19, we still have somehow come together to remember."

At 7.01pm on Tuesday 9 February, people in Tower Hamlets and staff on board DLR trains observed a one-minute silence.

John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, community leaders and other survivors attended a socially-distanced commemoration at South Quay DLR station, where a plaque has been installed in memory of the victims of the atrocity.



Jonathan Ganesh (right), DVA president at a gathering to remember Inam, John and all victims of terrorism

Community art brings hope through the lockdown

Throughout the lockdown and over the year, Joy Stanton has spent her time creating artwork with inspiring messages to post on the railings of Trinity Green, adjacent to Mile End Road and the intersection with Cambridge Heath Road, near her home.

Joy, who has lived in Tower Hamlets for more than 20 years, said: “The first few weeks of the first lockdown were extraordinary for us all; everyday life was transformed. There was terrible suffering and crippling fear but also an almost desperate need for hope and community expressed in the rainbows that burst out in windows throughout the land, and indeed the world. That was my first inspiration, to be part of this heartfelt explosion of colour and support for those suffering and for the NHS,”

Joy spoke about some of her art work and the reaction of local people:

Hope

An illuminated sign made out of old lights and a rusty iron reinforcement grid, shone out every night from the top of the chapel steps. Joy’s neighbour Waange Mohamud, posted a photograph with the caption: “Where there is a light, there is hope, there is life.”

Rainbow

Made from scarves from Bangladesh, Indian saris, African batik prints and a tie-dye silk shawl from Joy’s firstborn’s honeymoon in Mauritius, a bright yellow bedcover scattered with rabbits.

Reset

With the lockdown came fresh clean air, birdsong and burgeoning wildlife coming back into towns and cities – ambulant pigeons and foxes in Whitechapel. People reflected on the importance of nature, re-considered how we live and re-evaluated what



Hope is one of Joy’s many inspiring messages made using ‘waste’ material

‘really’ matters. Under the rainbow, Joy mounted a banner around ideas of ‘reset’ encouraging people to think differently, to be prepared to leave behind negative aspects of the past and to work together for a ‘new normal’ that would be kinder, greener, fairer – better.

Hope and hearts

Created from folded strips of dark red flowered curtain material woven into a cross-hatched design that seemed to complement the 17th century backdrop of the almshouses.

The woven design has been replaced with old CDs bound onto the railing with material strips from the original rainbow.

BLM

The killing of George Floyd led to a worldwide upsurge in support for and understanding of the Black Lives Matter movement. Following discussion with

the other residents, Joy made a banner which was displayed on the railings.

The banner has been vandalised at least 10 times. Police have taken these attacks seriously and have visited the green to record the acts of hate crime.

Joy concluded:

“People often say how cheered they are by the positive messages and lively designs, how they look forward to passing to see if there is anything new. They often ask if I’m an artist to which I reply that we all are. I explain that everything is made of “waste” materials, there is no expense involved.

“I often bring the conversation round to the widespread positivity of people’s reactions and we regularly share our enjoyment of living in such a vibrant and diverse community.”



I often bring the conversation round to the widespread positivity of people’s reactions and we regularly share our enjoyment of living in such a vibrant and diverse community.

Resident views result in all libraries in Tower Hamlets staying open

Tower Hamlets Council has listened to its residents and has worked hard to keep all of its libraries and Idea Stores open, despite the tough financial climate faced by all local authorities across the country.

Whilst many councils have been forced to close libraries to balance their books, Tower Hamlets has listened to its residents and put forward a series of new recommendations which will allow all five Idea Stores and two libraries to remain open.

Members voted unanimously for the revised recommendations at a 3 March cabinet meeting which included keeping Cubitt Town Library, Bethnal Green Library and Idea Store Watney

Market open five days a week, including a Saturday and a late night at the two libraries.

More than 800 residents took part in a two-month consultation which asked them to have their say on proposed changes with the backdrop of the library service having to make £1.6million of savings. It currently costs the council £4.4million a year to run the library service.

The results of the consultation showed that people felt strongly that instead of closure, some hours should be maintained at Cubitt Town Library and that the proposed changes to opening hours at Idea Store Watney Market and Bethnal Green Library should be

increased.

Cllr Sabina Akhtar, Tower Hamlets Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit, said: “I attended the focus groups during the consultation and was genuinely moved by how much our residents valued our library service especially the service on offer at Cubitt Town Library and Bethnal Green Library.

“Our Idea Stores are really well used and much-loved community hubs and we want to make sure we maximise all the resources we have available by offering a revised model that works for all residents.”



Cubitt Town Library will remain open



Year 5 pupil Zainab (front) and friends from Lansbury Lawrence Primary School in Poplar. Photo © Rehan Jamil

Every Child Online aims to end ‘digital disadvantage’ in Tower Hamlets

YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Every Child Online has launched in Tower Hamlets with the hope of ending digital disadvantage.

A coalition of the council, broadband provider Community Fibre and Tower Hamlets Education Partnership is calling for support to ensure every school-aged child has a digital device and an internet connection to access their online learning.

The target is to raise £1 million to make an immediate impact where it’s needed most before starting the long-term work of ensuring every school child in the borough has both the kit and the connectivity to level up the digital divide.

Mayor of Tower Hamlets, John Biggs said: “Every day of learning lost is a barrier to success for local children. I’m pleased to launch Every Child Online, which is putting opportunity back into

those households that are digitally disadvantaged. Getting children online and in control of their learning is an essential step towards helping them to realise their potential.”

Tower Hamlets Council has pledged £50,000 to the total already. In addition, it has coordinated the sourcing, prioritisation and distribution of over 9,000 laptops from the Department for Education, with a further 250 laptops donated by the council directly.

Educators fear that unless the problem is addressed quickly, the gulf between those who have access to learning from home and those who do not will widen and lead to huge differences in attainment and opportunity with life-long consequences for those who find themselves on the wrong side of this digital divide.

Visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/everychildonline to learn more.



Year 4 pupil Sayef, from Lansbury Lawrence Primary School. Photo © Rehan Jamil

“Getting children online and in control of their learning is an essential step towards helping them to realise their potential.”

Full reopening of schools in Tower Hamlets from 8 March

All primary, secondary and college students will go back to face-to-face learning at school/college from Monday 8 March, the start of the government’s Covid-19 recovery roadmap.

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Education has been prioritised due to the positive impact that classroom learning has on a young person’s learning and wellbeing.

Our schools are Covid-safe places and

measures to control the spread of the virus remain in place.

Secondary school and college students will be required to undertake Covid-19 tests when they return. Primary school

students will not need to do this.

Speak to your school directly if you have questions and visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/backtoschool for the latest advice and information.

Holiday Childcare Scheme awarded Millie's Mark

The Tower Hamlets Holiday Childcare Scheme has been awarded Millie's Mark – a national recognition that demonstrates commitment 'above and beyond' the minimum requirement for children's first aid – making it the first holiday childcare scheme in the country to have been recognised in this way.

Cllr Asma Begum, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services and Education in Tower Hamlets, said: "We are thrilled to be awarded a Millie's Mark. This achievement sends a strong signal to our parents that we are serious about their children's safety when they are in our care."

The award takes its name from Millie Thompson, who tragically choked to death at her nursery in 2012.

Millie's parents have since campaigned for all staff who work in early years settings to have paediatric first aid training, over and above the

statutory requirement for just one member of staff to be trained.

Millie's parents, Dan and Joanne Thompson, said "As Millie's parents, we're delighted to see the first holiday club in the UK with an early years get a Millie's Mark. We're happy to see it moving into new areas of childcare and would encourage all childcare venues to follow their example and aim for the award."

Millie's Mark recognises that every member of staff has been trained in paediatric first aid.

It also displays a determination to keep vital life-saving skills at the forefront of employees' minds so that they can respond in the best way possible to emergencies at work.



Children from the holiday childcare scheme pose with their pictures of Millie the giraffe, to celebrate the award



We are thrilled to be awarded a Millie's Mark. This achievement sends a strong signal to our parents that we are serious about their children's safety when they are in our care.



A young artist performs at Rich Mix
Photo © Paloma Gomez

Kick start a creative career with Rich Mix

If your child is aged 16 to 18 and not in employment, education or training, Rich Mix are offering a free nine-month creative programme to support journey's into creative careers. There is a multitude of careers within the creative industries – everything that you see on stage, on screen, at an exhibition, or hear on the radio is the combined effort of several working parts and roles. But how do you start a creative career? What skills do you need to enter some of these creative roles?

This is where local arts centre Rich Mix can help.

Rich Mix New Creatives is a programme which supports young adults aged 16-18, who are not in education, employment, or training, start their journey into a creative career.

This free, nine-month programme, offers a multitude of support, including one-to-one coaching, workshops and paid work experience. There is even an opportunity to gain a Bronze Arts Award qualification.

If you are interested in taking part in Rich Mix New Creatives (starting in April) email Natasha Clark, Programme Manager: natasha.clark@richmix.org.uk

Visit: <https://richmix.org.uk/projects/new-creatives/>

To find out more or register for an upcoming online taster session, visit: <https://richmix.org.uk/events/breaking-into-the-creative-industries-new-creatives-taster/>

Free mental health support for ages 11 to 25

Young people aged 11 to 25 who live in Tower Hamlets, go to school, or are registered to a GP, in the borough can now access Kooth, the online mental health community that's free, friendly, safe and anonymous.

By joining Kooth young people will have access to an online message-based service where they can speak to a fully-qualified councillor for up to one hour at a time.

The service is available seven days a week, all year, from 12 noon to 10pm on Monday to Friday and 6pm to 10pm on

Saturday and Sunday. It is completely anonymous, with no commitment necessary.

Other reasons to join include a magazine packed full of articles, advice, experiences and tips from young people themselves plus a wellbeing activities hub, discussion forum and the option to keep track of emotions via a daily journal.

Visit kooth.com to learn more and sign up and www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/advice-support for more resources.

Let's Talk Tower Hamlets

Have your say at talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/projects

COUNCIL NEWS

We value and appreciate feedback from our residents. Your thoughts help shape our proposals, projects, and priorities, and to improve our borough. We're consulting on a range of initiatives over the coming months.

Caxton Grove – respond by 14 March 2021

We would like to gather your views on the development of a new building to the north of Caxton Grove. The development will consist of a new community facility on the ground floor and 24 residential flats above, which will include a mix of affordable rent properties and properties for market sale. An area of public space to the south of this new development will be upgraded with new landscaping, including a dedicated child's play-space alongside a new ball court area.

Queen Mary University Mile End Campus – respond by 17 March 2021

We are working in partnership with architectural studio Haworth Tompkins to develop a new masterplan for the Queen Mary University campus in Mile End. The masterplan will inform the development of the campus and ensure that proposals are aligned to the interests of the local community and stakeholders. It will also take into consideration the area surrounding the campus, including Mile End Hospital, Regent's Canal and Mile End Park.

New primary school in Wood Wharf district – respond by 19 March 2021

We have a legal duty to ensure there are enough school places for all local children. We have been working alongside developers to identify the educational needs of a new housing development in the Wood Wharf district of Canary Wharf and identified the need to create a new primary school in the area. This new school will meet



Call for input and ideas as a new planning document for tall buildings is pulled together

the schooling requirements of families moving into the new housing and should not adversely affect pupil numbers at other local schools.

Reuse, recycling and waste supplementary planning document – respond by 22 March 2021

We are preparing guidance for developers on how waste management should be addressed in proposals for new residential and mixed-use housing development. The guidance will cover the entire borough and aims to re-examine and improve the way in which waste is produced and managed. We have drafted the supplementary planning document and we now want residents to read the document and provide feedback.

Tall buildings supplementary planning document – respond throughout March 2021

We are developing documentation to guide and influence the design and planning of tall buildings across the

borough. We are seeking input and ideas from residents via a survey as we develop this important planning policy project. We are also hosting virtual workshops for areas across the borough which are open to residents, landowners, developers and other interested parties throughout March 2021.

Leaside area action plan – respond throughout March 2021.

We are developing an area action plan to set out a strategy for growth and regeneration in the Leaside area from now until 2031. This plan will set out a vision for how the area will change, the policies the council will implement to help achieve the vision, the reasons for choosing these policies and the delivery plan for implementing the vision. A draft document will be made available for public consultation in spring 2021, at which point we will begin consulting with members of the public and stakeholders.

South Poplar masterplan – respond throughout March 2021

The masterplan is a joint project involving the local community, the council, Transport for London and the Mayor of London. Its aim is to sustainably manage the significant growth being experienced in south Poplar and to ensure it benefits existing as well as new communities. We are currently in the process of preparing the draft document for public consultation. The document will be available to download and read in March 2021, at which point we will be formally consulting with the public and stakeholders.

Licensed premises: Bethnal Green and Brick Lane – respond by 22 April 2021

We are consulting on the future of the Cumulative Impact Policy, which looks at limiting the number of alcohol, late night refreshment and entertainment licences within specific areas of Brick Lane and Bethnal Green. This consultation is required by law. The objective of the policy is to reduce crime, disorder, and public nuisance in areas with a high saturation of licensed premises.

Robert Milligan statue consultation – respond by 23 April 2021

On 9 June 2020, Tower Hamlets, landowners and the Canal & Rivers Trust permanently removed the statue of eighteenth-century slave owner Robert Milligan from London Docklands. Following its removal, we're inviting your views on what you believe should now happen to the statue and the plinth, and how we should talk about the area's historical relationship with slavery, including how to tell the story about the removal of Robert Milligan's statue itself.

Huge response to nitrous oxide survey

951 people responded to a consultation run by the council on proposals to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle the issue of antisocial behaviour linked to the recreational use of nitrous oxide.

This psychoactive substance - also known as 'laughing gas' - is a significant concern for residents, businesses, and visitors to the borough, with its use by groups of people considered intimidating and a noise nuisance.

The small metal canisters that contain the gas are also often left on the floor as litter.

A PSPO can be put in place to deal

with a particular nuisance in a particular area that is having a detrimental effect on the quality of life for those in the local community. It can prohibit certain things or require specific things to be done.

97 per cent of the respondents live in Tower Hamlets and the council is currently reviewing all 951 responses, before a final decision will be made by the mayor and cabinet.

We will publicise this on Let's Talk Tower Hamlets - the council's online consultation and engagement platform, the council website, and on council social media channels.



Nitrous oxide canisters thrown on the floor after use

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Rugta caafimaadka kumeel gaadhka ah ee Granby Hall oo bixinaysa tallaalkada Covid-19

Granby Hall temporary clinic provides Covid-19 vaccines – see page 7

HARMONY BENGALI & SOMALI NEWS

Rug caafimaad oo lagu bixiyo tallaalka kumeel gaadhka ah ah ayaa laga furay Granby Hall oo ka tirsan Golaha Deegaanka ee Tower Hamlets oo ah dalabkii ugu dambeeyay ee lagu taageerayo dad badan intii suurtagal ah si ay u helaan tallaalka Covid-19.

Wadar ahaan 62 qof oo uqalma ayaa talaalkooda lagu siiyey goobta bulshada, taas oo xiriir adag laleh bulshada soomaaliyeed ee xaafada.

Goobtu waxay ahayd rugtii labaad ee tallaalka bixiso ee kumeel gaadhka ah ee laga furay Tower Hamlets oo ku taal goob caan ah oo bulshada dhexdeeda ah, ka dib markii si guul leh xarun caafimaad loogu furey Masjidka Bariga London.

Goluhu wuxuu la shaqeyey hawl-galayaasha oo ay ka mid yihiin Kooxda Ka Qayb-galka Haweenka, Naadiga Waayeelada Soomaaliyeed iyo Xarunta Waxbarashada iyo Dhaqanka ee Ashaadabibi si loo qorsheeyo loona maamulo rugta caafimaad.

John Biggs, Duqa Magaalada ee Tower



Hamlets, ayaa yiri:

“Waxaan ognahay in dadka qaarkii, inay awoodaan inay isku talaalaan meel caan ah sida Granby Hall ay wax weyn ka badaleyso kalsoonidooda, sidaa darteed waxaan sii wadi doonaan inaan la shaqeyno hawl-wadayaasha si loo ogaado goobaha ku habboon ee xiriirka adag la leh bulshadeena”

CLr Rachel Blake, Ku-xigeenka Duqa Magaalada iyo xubin ka tirsan golaha Waayeelka, Caafimaadka iyo Badqabka ayaa yiri:

“Waxaan rajeyneynaa in dadaallada noocan oo kale ah ay dhiirrigalin doonaan in dad badan ay u imaadaan tallaalkooda markii la casuumo.”

কোভিড-১৯ সংক্রান্ত সর্বশেষ সরকারি পরামর্শ Latest Covid-19 government advice – page 4

যখন এই প্রকাশনাটি আপনার হাতে পৌঁছাবে, তখনও আমরা সবাই থাকবো জাতীয় লকডাউনের মধ্যে। তাই, আমাদের প্রত্যেককে অবশ্যই ঘরের মধ্যে অবস্থান অব্যাহত রাখতে হবে, এনএইচএসকে সুরক্ষিত রাখতে এবং জীবন বাঁচাতে ভূমিকা পালন করতে হবে। যদিও সংক্রমণের হার এখন কমতির দিকে, তারপরও প্রত্যেকের অবশ্যই বিধিগুলো যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। কোভিড-১৯ ভ্যাকসিন বা টিকাদান কার্যক্রম শুরু হওয়ার প্রেক্ষিতে বিধিবিধানগুলো মেনে চলা অন্যান্য যেকোন সময়ের চেয়ে এখন আরো বেশি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ।

কোভিড-১৯ সম্পর্কিত পরামর্শগুলো দ্রুত পরিবর্তন হতে পারে, তাই সর্বশেষ তথ্য ও পরামর্শ সম্পর্কে অবহিত থাকতে ভিজিট করুন: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/coronavirus

কোভিড-১৯ টেস্টিং

করোনাভাইরাসের সংক্রমণ ছড়িয়ে পড়া থামাতে টেস্টিং বা পরীক্ষা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সাহায্য করে থাকে। এখন ভ্যাকসিন কার্যক্রম শুরু হওয়ায় এই টেস্টিং আরো বেশি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ।



যাদের উপসর্গ রয়েছে তাদের জন্য টেস্টিং

যদি আপনার মধ্যে কোভিড-১৯ এর কোন উপসর্গ থাকে, তাহলে www.nhs.uk/coronavirus এই ওয়েবসাইটে গিয়ে অথবা ১১৯ নাম্বারে কল করে ফ্রি এপয়েন্টমেন্ট বুক করতে পারবেন। উপসর্গধারীদের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট টেস্টিং সাইটগুলো সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত তথ্য রয়েছে পৃষ্ঠা ৭ এ। অনলাইন কিংবা ফোন কলের মাধ্যমে এই সাইটগুলোতে এপয়েন্টমেন্ট বুক করা যাবে।

যাদের উপসর্গ নেই, তাদের জন্য টেস্টিং

যে কেউ, বিশেষ করে যারা কী ওয়ার্কার অর্থাৎ জনগুরুত্বপূর্ণ কাজের সাথে যারা জড়িত, যাদের পক্ষে ঘরে থেকে কাজ করা সম্ভব নয় অথবা যারা এই গ্রুপগুলোর অন্তর্ভুক্ত লোকদের সাথে বসবাস করে থাকেন, তারাও বিনামূল্যে এবং নিয়মিত র‍্যাপিড কোভিড-১৯ টেস্ট করানোর সুযোগ গ্রহণ করতে পারেন। আমরা সপ্তাহে দুই বার অর্থাৎ দুই টেস্টের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে ৩ দিনের ব্যবধান রেখে র‍্যাপিড টেস্ট (দ্রুত পরীক্ষা) করানোর জন্য পরামর্শ দিচ্ছি। দ্রুত এবং নিয়মিত টেস্টিং আপনাকে এবং আপনার সাথে যারা বাস করেন, তাদেরকে সুরক্ষিত রাখতে সাহায্য করবে।

বারায় ৫টি র‍্যাপিড টেস্ট সাইট বা কেন্দ্র রয়েছে। সবগুলোই ওয়াক-ইন সেন্টার, তবে www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/testing - এই ওয়েবসাইটে গিয়ে এপয়েন্টমেন্ট বুক করা যাবে। উপসর্গহীনদের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট টেস্টিং সাইটগুলো সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত তথ্য রয়েছে পৃষ্ঠা ৭ এ।

যেকোন পরীক্ষায় যদি কারো ফল পজিটিভ বা ইতিবাচক হয়, তাহলে তাকে টেস্ট পজিটিভ হওয়ার দিন থেকে ১০ দিন পর্যন্ত আইসোলেন্ট বা বিচ্ছিন্ন অবস্থায় থাকতে হবে। পরিবারের সকলকেও অর্থাৎ যারা সংস্পর্শে এসেছিলেন, তাদেরকেও ১০ দিনের জন্য আইসোলেন্টে থাকতে হবে। যাদের টেস্ট রেজাল্ট পজিটিভ হবে, তাদের সংস্পর্শে যারা এসেছেন, এনএইচএস টেস্ট এন্ড ট্রেইস এর পক্ষ থেকে তাদেরকে চিহ্নিত করে আইসোলেন্টে থাকার জন্য বলা হবে। কোভিড-১৯ এর প্রাদুর্ভাব বা সংক্রমণ ছড়িয়ে পড়া রূপে এটি সাহায্য করে।

Doorashooyinka iyo aftida 6 Meey 2021

Elections and referendum 6 May 2021 – page 14

Duqa Magaalada London iyo doorashooyinka Golaha London ayaa dhici doonta Khamiista 6 Meey 2021, kadib markii dib loo dhigay sanadkii hore sababo la xiriira cudur safmareenka ah awgiis.

Doorashooyinku waxay dhici doonaan isla maalinta aftida loo qaaday in Tower Hamlets ay sii haysan doonto qaabka Duqa magaalada ee sida tooska ah loo

soo doorto, ama isbedel lagu sameeyo qaabka doorashada ee Hoggaamiye iyo Golaha Wasiirrada.

Isle of Dogs gudaheeda, afti ayaa sidoo kale ka dhici doonta isla maalintaas si loo waydiiyo dadka deegaanka ah haddii ay doonayaan qorsheaha xaafadda ee Isle of Dogs in loo isticmaalo go'aaminta codsiyada qorshaynta aagga.

Dhammaan codbixinta waxay dhici doonaan Khamiista 6-da Meey 2021. Wixii macluumaad dheeraad ah, booqo www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vote

Istaag oo halagu tiriyo

The census is coming – page 15

Axadda 21 Maarso waa Maalinta Tirakoobka 2021 qoys kasta oo deggan xaafadda Tower Hamlets wuxuu u baahan yahay inuu diyaar u ahaado inuu kaqeyb qaato xog-uruurinta gaarka ah ee tobankii sanaba mar la sameeyo.

Tirakoobku waa shuruud sharciyeed waxayna sawir muhiim ah ka bixisaa qaranka waxayna gacan ka geysataa qorsheynta iyo maalgelinta adeegyada bulshada. Natiijooyinka tirakoobka waxay gacan ka geysanayaan go'aaminta halka balaayinta bowndhis oo lacagta dadweynaha lagu isticmaalayo adeegyada sida gaadiidka, waxbarashada iyo caafimaadka - iskuxirka cusub ee gaadiidka, iskuulada iyo xarumaha caafimaadka.

Wixii macluumaad dheeraad ah, booqo www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/census2021



হাত
নিয়মিত হাত
ধৌত করুন

মুখ
মুখে মাস্ক বা
আচ্ছাদন পরুন

দূরত্ব
নিরাপদ দূরত্ব
বজায় রাখুন

নিজেকে এবং অন্যদের রক্ষা করুন

কোভিড-১৯ মোকাবেলায় সাধারণ নিয়মগুলো মেনে চলুন

Remember the basics to help tackle Covid-19

লকডাউন পরিস্থিতি থেকে বের হয়ে আসতে ঘোষিত রোডম্যাপের পর্যায়গুলো আমরা ধাপে ধাপে পার হবো। তবে এটা কোনভাবেই ভুলে গেলে চলবে না যে কোভিড-১৯ এখনো রয়েছে এবং সংক্রমণ ছড়াচ্ছে। তাই অনুগ্রহ করে নিচের সাধারণ নিয়মগুলো মেনে চলার কথা ভুলে যাবেন নাঃ

“হাত-মুখ-ব্যবধান” এই তিনটি বিষয় মেনে চলুন

- নিয়মিত হাত ধুয়ে নিতে ভুলবেন না
- যখন দোকানে যাবেন, গণপরিবহণে আরোহণ করবেন এবং অন্যকোন আবদ্ধ স্থানগুলোতে মুখ ঢেকে রাখুন অর্থাৎ মাস্ক পরুন।
- আপনার পরিবারের বাইরের অর্থাৎ আপনার সাথে

বাস করেন না - এম লোকজন থেকে নিরাপদ দূরত্ব বজায় রাখুন (সম্ভাব্য ক্ষেত্রে দুই মিটার দূরত্ব)

- যদি আপনার মধ্যে কোভিড-১৯ এর কোন উপসর্গ দেখা দেয়, তাহলে বিনামূল্যে টেস্ট বুক করুন এবং টেস্টের রেজাল্ট না পাওয়া পর্যন্ত ঘরের মধ্যে অবস্থান করুন।

- যখন আপনার সময় আসবে, অর্থাৎ যখন ভ্যাকসিনের অফার পাবেন, তখন ভ্যাকসিন বা টিকা নিন।

নিজেদেরকে, নিজের পরিবারের সদস্যদের এবং বন্ধু-বান্ধব ও বৃহত্তর কমিউনিটিকে নিরাপদ রাখতে আমাদের প্রত্যেককেই নিজ নিজ দায়িত্ব পালন করে যাওয়া উচিত।

কাভিড-১৯ ভ্যাকসিন লাভের যোগ্য হলে, তা এখনই নিন

If you're eligible, get your Covid-19 vaccine – Page 6

সারাদেশের মতো টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসেও এখন চলছে কোভিড-১৯ এর ভ্যাকসিন বা টিকাদান কার্যক্রম এবং নিজেদেরকে সুরক্ষিত রাখতে এই প্রতিবেদন লেখা পর্যন্ত বারায় ৪০ হাজারেরও বেশি লোক ভ্যাকসিন নিয়েছেন। সবচেয়ে বেশি ঝুঁকির মধ্যে থাকা লোকজনকে অগ্রাধিকার দিয়ে পর্যায়ক্রমে এই ভ্যাকসিন প্রোগ্রাম অর্থাৎ টিকাদান কার্যক্রম বাস্তবায়ন করা হচ্ছে।

টিকা লাভের অগ্রাধিকারপ্রাপ্ত তালিকার মধ্যে থাকা লোকজনের সাথে এনএইচএস বা জিপি সার্জারি থেকে সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করা হচ্ছে। টিকাদান কার্যক্রম যত জোরদার হচ্ছে, অগ্রাধিকারপ্রাপ্ত তালিকায়ও দ্রুত পরিবর্তন হচ্ছে। টিকা পাওয়ার যোগ্যতা সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত তথ্য জানতে হলে ভিজিট করুন: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vaccine.

কোভিড-১৯ ভ্যাকসিনগুলো নিরাপদ এবং কার্যকর, যা করোনাভাইরাসের বিরুদ্ধে সর্বোত্তম সুরক্ষা দিয়ে থাকে। অনুমোদিত ভ্যাকসিনগুলোর একটিতেও কোন প্রাণীর বা ডিম জাতীয় উপাদান

নেই এবং সবগুলোই কোশের, হালাল এবং ভেগান-বান্ধব। কোভিড-১৯ এর বিরুদ্ধে সুরক্ষা দিতে ভ্যাকসিনগুলো নিছকই ওষুধ ছাড়া আর কিছু নয়।

বর্তমানে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস বারায় বর্তমানে তিনটি ভ্যাকসিন সেন্টার রয়েছে এবং কমিউনিটি ও ধর্মীয় স্থাপনায় আরো কয়েকটি ভ্যাকসিন ক্লিনিক খোলার প্রক্রিয়া চলমান রয়েছে।

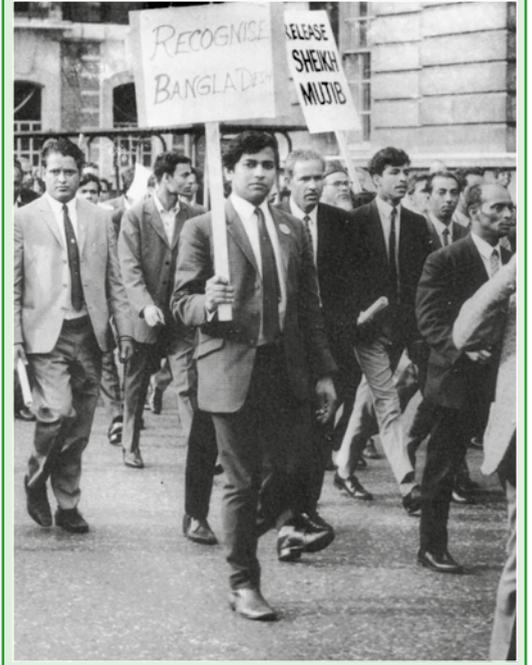
আপনার নিকটস্থ ভ্যাকসিন সেন্টার, ভ্যাকসিন সংক্রান্ত বিকল্পগুলো অথবা এলিজিবিটি বা ভ্যাকসিন পাওয়ার যোগ্যতা সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত তথ্য জানতে হলে কাউন্সিলের ভ্যাকসিন হেল্পলাইন ০২০ ৭৩৬৪ ৩০৩০ এ কল করুন।

যদিও ভ্যাকসিন করোনাভাইরাসের মারাত্মক প্রভাবগুলোর বিরুদ্ধে সেরা সুরক্ষা প্রদান করে, তারপরও এটি এই গ্যারান্টি দেয় না যে, এটি নেয়ার পরও লোকজন ভাইরাসে আক্রান্ত হবেন না। তাই, যারা টিকা নিয়েছেন, তাদের ক্ষেত্রেও বিধিগুলো যথাযথভাবে মেনে চলা অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। টিকা দেয়া হয়েছে ভেবে কোভিড-

১৯ নিয়ে কম চিন্তিত বা উদ্বিগ্ন হওয়ার কোন সুযোগ নেই। আমরা এখনো মহামারীর মধ্যে রয়েছি এবং যারা টিকা নিয়েছেন তারাও ভাইরাসের সংক্রমণ ছড়াতে পারেন। টিকা দেয়ার পরও নিয়মিত কোভিড টেস্ট করা খুবই গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। টিকা গ্রহণকারী লোকজনের যদি কোন উপসর্গ দেখা দেয় অথবা তারা যদি কী ওয়ার্কার গ্রুপের মধ্যে থাকেন, তাহলে র‍্যাপিড টেস্টিং করানো উচিত। পরীক্ষার ফল যদি পজিটিভ হয়, তাদেরকেও আইসোলেন্টে থাকতে হবে। অন্যরা যাতে সংক্রমিত না হন, বিশেষ করে যাদেরকে এখনো টিকা দেয়া হয়নি, তাদেরকে সুরক্ষিত রাখার স্বার্থেই এই আইসোলেশনে থাকা আবশ্যিক।

নিজেদের এবং কমিউনিটিকে নিরাপদ রাখতে প্রত্যেককেই নিজ নিজ দায়িত্ব পালন করে যেতে হবে। স্বাভাবিক জীবন যাত্রায় ফিরে যেতে ভ্যাকসিন আমাদের সাহায্য করবে। তাই আপনি যখনই ভ্যাকসিন লাভের যোগ্য হবেন বা অফার পাবেন, সাথে সাথে তা গ্রহণ করুন এবং টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসকে নিরাপদ রাখুন।

ভ্যাকসিন সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্য, এটি লাভের যোগ্যতা ইত্যাদি সকল তথ্য পেতে কাউন্সিলের ওয়েবসাইট www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vaccine ভিজিট করুন।



১৯৭১ সালে বাংলাদেশকে স্বীকৃতি দিতে লন্ডনে অনুষ্ঠিত মিছিলের দৃশ্য। ছবিটি EMOHARC (The Ethnic Minorities Original History and Research Centre) এর সৌজন্যে প্রাপ্ত।

বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতার ৫০তম বার্ষিকী উদযাপনে নানা আয়োজন

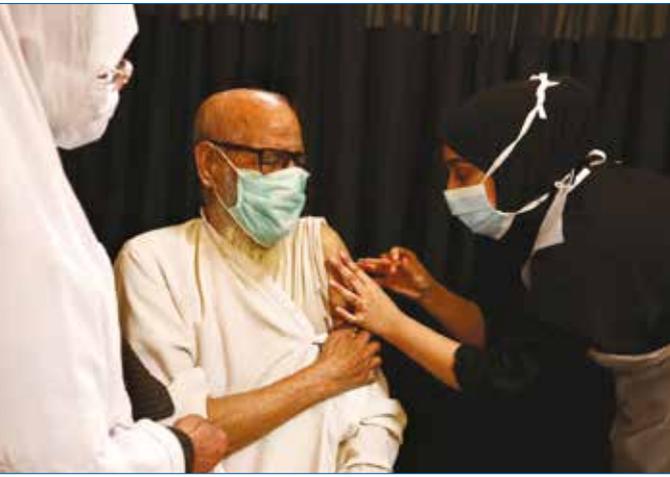
Celebrate Bangladesh's 50th anniversary – page 26

বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতার পঞ্চাশতম বার্ষিকী অর্থাৎ সুবর্ণ জয়ন্তী উদযাপনের উৎসবে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলও অংশ নিচ্ছে। এ উপলক্ষে মার্চ থেকে ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত বারায় অনুষ্ঠিত হবে বিভিন্ন ধরনের অনুষ্ঠান, যা সব বয়সী ও সব সংস্কৃতি-কৃষ্টির মানুষেরা উপভোগ করতে পারবেন।

কাউন্সিলের উৎসব কর্মসূচির মধ্যে থাকবে স্থানীয়, জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক পর্যায়ে বাঙালি কমিউনিটির ইতিহাস, শিল্পকলা ও সংস্কৃতি উপস্থাপন এবং থাকবে বাংলাদেশ এট ফিফটি অর্থাৎ 'পঞ্চাশে বাংলাদেশ' শীর্ষক আয়োজনে থাকবে আলোচনা, প্রদর্শনী, গল্প-বলা, শিল্পকর্ম ও অন্যান্য ক্রিয়াকলাপ।

মার্চ থেকে মে - এই তিন মাস টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস লকাল হিস্ট্রি লাইব্রেরীর উদ্যোগে ১৯৭১ সালের মুক্তিযুদ্ধ এবং ইস্ট এন্ডের স্থানীয় কমিউনিটির মধ্যকার যুগসূত্র অর্থাৎ বাংলাদেশের মুক্তির যুদ্ধে তখনকার প্রবাসী কমিউনিটির সংযোগ ও সম্পৃক্ততাকে অনলাইন প্রোজেক্টেশনের মাধ্যমে তুলে ধরা হবে। ২৫ মার্চ সন্ধ্যা ৬টায় আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে এই কর্মসূচি শুরু হবে। এতে ১৯৭১ সালে মুক্তিযুদ্ধের সময় যৌন সহিংসতা নিয়ে নিজের গবেষণা তুলে ধরবেন প্রফেসর নরমিকা মুখার্জী।

'বাংলাদেশ এট ফিফটি' উৎসব সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত জানতে হলে ভিজিট করুন: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk



Covid-19 vaccination clinic opens at East London Mosque to build trust

টিকা পাওয়ার যোগ্য লোকদের টিকা নিতে উৎসাহিত করার চলমান প্রচেষ্টার অংশ হিসেবে ইস্ট লন্ডন মসজিদে খোলা হয়েছে কোভিড-১৯ ভ্যাকসিনেশন ক্লিনিক। হোয়াটচ্যাপল হেলথ সেন্টার, ইস্ট লন্ডন মস্ক এবং টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের মধ্যকার পার্টনারশীপ 'এট মেডিক্স' এই ক্লিনিক পরিচালনা করছে। অগ্রাধিকারপ্রাপ্ত গ্রুপের অন্তর্ভুক্ত এবং কাউন্সিলের নতুন ভ্যাকসিন হেল্পলাইনের মাধ্যমে যারা আগাম এপয়েন্টমেন্ট বুক করেছেন, তাদেরকে ইস্ট লন্ডন মসজিদে স্থাপিত এই ক্লিনিকে করোনার টিকা দেয়া হচ্ছে। হেল্পলাইনে কল করে বাসিন্দারা তাদের নিজের ভাষায় বিভিন্ন প্রশ্নের জবাব পাচ্ছেন এবং হেল্পলাইনে কর্মরতরা অগ্রাধিকার গ্রুপে থাকা লোকজনকে টিকার জন্য এপয়েন্টমেন্ট বুক করতে উৎসাহিত করছেন।

টিকাকেন্দ্রে যেতে- আসতে প্রবীণদের জন্য পরিবহন সুবিধা

Age UK is offering Vaccination support for older people

কোভিড-১৯ ভ্যাকসিন নিতে সেন্টারে যাওয়া- আসার ক্ষেত্রে বারায় যেসকল প্রবীণ বাসিন্দার পরিবহন সহযোগিতা দরকার, তাদেরকে এই সহযোগিতা দিচ্ছে এইজ ইউকে নামের সংস্থা। যারা এই পরিবহন সুবিধা পাওয়ার উপযুক্ত বিবেচিত হবেন, এইজ ইউকের কর্মীরা তাদেরকে উবার ক্যাবে করে টিকাকেন্দ্রে নিয়ে যাবেন। আপনি যখন টিকা নিবেন তখন তারা অপেক্ষা করবেন এবং টিকা দেয়া শেষ হলে আবার আপনাকে তারানিরাপদে বাসায় পৌঁছে দেবেন।

প্রবীণদের মধ্যে কারা এই সেবা পাওয়ার যোগ্য, তার একটি ক্রাইটেরিয়া বা মানদণ্ড অনলাইনে (thevs.org.uk/news/age-uk-vaccination-and-transport-support) রয়েছে। উল্লেখিত ক্রাইটেরিয়া অনুযায়ী যারা এই সার্ভিস পাওয়ার যোগ্য হবেন, তারা বিনামূল্যে এই সেবাটি পাবেন। এই সার্ভিস ব্যবহার করতে আগ্রহীরা ০৭৭৫৪ ৭৫১ ০৭৯ অথবা ০২০ ৮৯৮১ ৭১২৪ নাম্বারে কল করুন। তবে, অনুগ্রহ করে আগেভাগেই আপনার ভ্যাকসিন এপয়েন্টমেন্ট বুক করুন।

মেয়র অব লন্ডন এবং গ্রেটার লন্ডন এসেম্বলি নির্বাচন ও গণভোট ৬ মে

6 May 2021 elections and referendums – page 14

মহামারীর কারণে গত বছর স্থগিত হওয়া মেয়র অব লন্ডন এবং গ্রেটার লন্ডন এসেম্বলির নির্বাচন আগামী ৬ মে ২০২১ অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। একই দিন টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে সরাসরি নির্বাচিত মেয়র মডেল থাকবে কি-না, কিংবা লিডার ও কেবিনেট মডেলে পরিবর্তন হবে, সেটা নিয়ে গণভোট অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

জনগণনা ২০২১ঃ

গণনায় নিজেকে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করুন

The census is coming – page 15

২১ মার্চ রোববার হচ্ছে সেনসাস ডে ২০২১ অর্থাৎ জনশুমারি দিবস। প্রতি দশ বছর অন্তর অন্তর অনুষ্ঠিত অনন্য এই জন-গণনা বা জরিপে অন্তর্ভুক্ত হতে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের প্রতিটি পরিবারকেই প্রস্তুত থাকা দরকার। এই জন-গণনায় অংশ নেয়া অর্থাৎ প্রতিটি পরিবারের ঠিকানায় পাঠানো সেনসাস ফরম পূরণ করে ফেরত পাঠানোর ব্যাপারে আইনগত বাধ্যবাধকতা রয়েছে। এই জরিপ থেকে পুরো

এদিকে আইল অব ডগস এলাকার প্র্যানিং এপ্রিকেশন সম্পর্কে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে ব্যবহারের জন্য স্থানীয় বাসিন্দারা নেইবারহুড প্র্যান চান কি-না, সে সম্পর্কেও তাদের মতামত জানতে পৃথক একটি গণভোট একই দিন আইল অব ডগসে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। সকল গণভোট ও নির্বাচনের ভোট গ্রহণ হবে ৬ই মে ২০২১ বৃহস্পতিবার।

বিস্তারিত তথ্য জানতে ভিজিট করুন: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/vote

বিধি লঙ্ঘনকারী ল্যান্ডলর্ডদের কাছ থেকে ২ লাখ পাউন্ড পুনরুদ্ধার

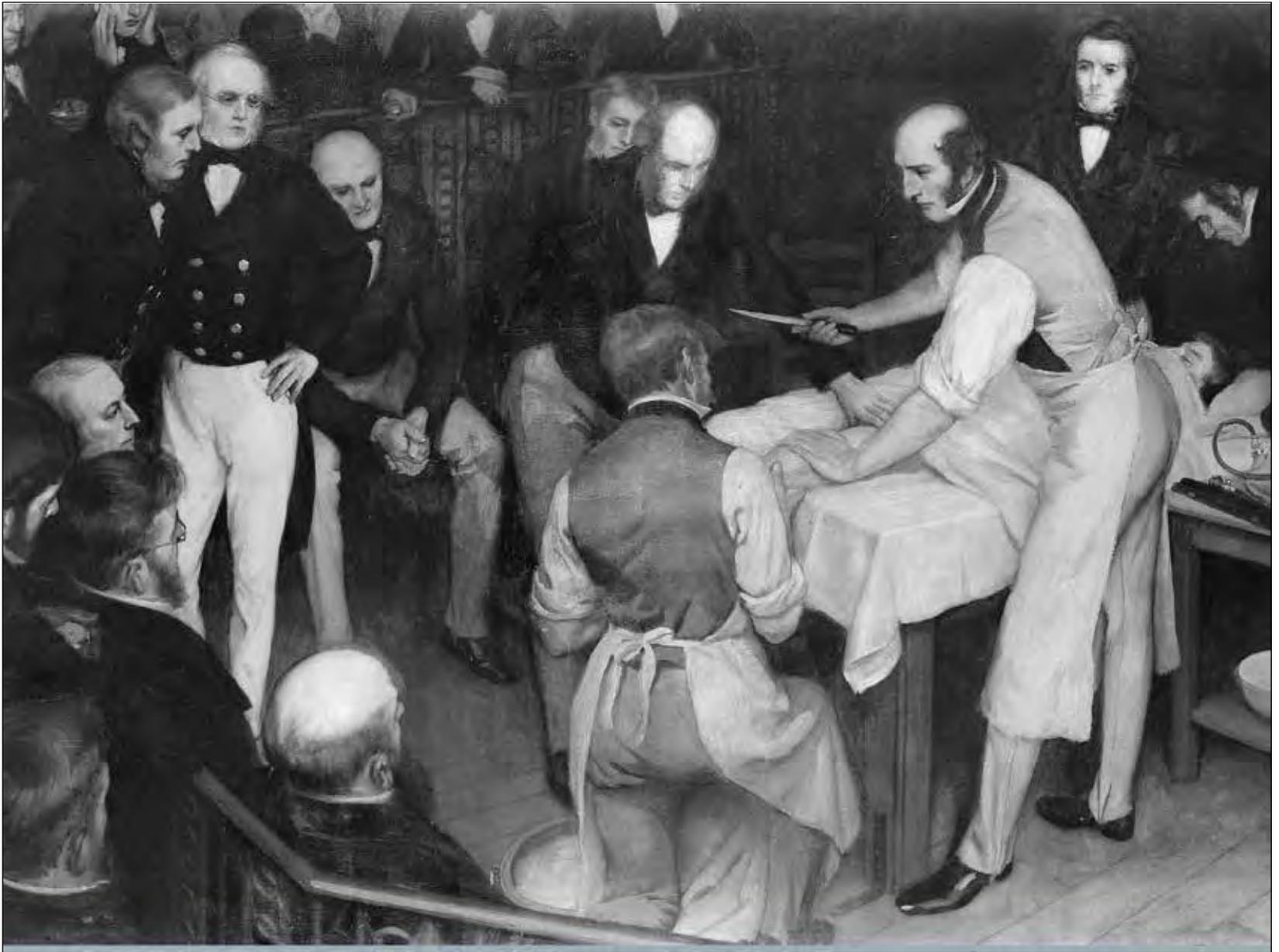
£200,000 returned to private renters – page 17

বেসকল বাড়ির মালিক বিধি লঙ্ঘন করেছেন, তাদের কাছ থেকে ভাড়া হিসেবে প্রদানকৃত অর্থ ফেরত পেতে প্রাইভেট ভাড়াটিয়াদেরকে সাহায্য করার জন্য টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল একটি উদ্ভাবনী প্রকল্প চালু করেছে।

রিপেমেট অর্ডার (পিআরও) এর আওতায় এ পর্যন্ত ২ লাখ পাউন্ডেরও বেশি অর্থ ভাড়াটিয়া বা টেনেন্টদের জন্য পুনরুদ্ধার করা হয়েছে, যা ভাড়াটে নেওয়ার আগে সঠিক প্রোপার্টি লাইসেন্স লাভে ব্যর্থতার জন্য ল্যান্ডলর্ডদের জবাবদিহির আওতায় রাখতে বাধ্য করে থাকে। এছাড়া বিধি ভঙ্গ, যেমন প্রোপার্টিতে নিরাপদ প্রবেশাধিকার রুখতে ভাড়াটিয়ার সাথে সহিংস ব্যবহার বা হুমকি দেয়া, অবৈধভাবে উচ্ছেদ অথবা হয়রানি বা উদ্ভ্রান্তি করার নোটিশ অনুযায়ী কাজ না করা কিংবা নিষেধাজ্ঞা আদেশ মেনে চলতে ব্যর্থ হওয়ার ক্ষেত্রেও এই পিআরও ব্যবহার করা হয়ে থাকে।

২০১৯ সালে পিআরও স্কীম চালু করার পর থেকে এ পর্যন্ত ৬৭ জন ভাড়াটিয়ার অনুকূলে সর্বমোট ২০১,৯৬৫ পাউন্ড ভাড়ার অর্থ ফেরত আনা সম্ভব হয়েছে।

যদি কোন বাড়ির মালিক বা এজেন্ট অপরাধমূলক কাজ করে থাকেন, তাহলে ভাড়ার চুক্তির আওতায় পরিশোধকৃত অর্থ পুনরুদ্ধার বা ফেরত নিতে এই রেন্ট রিপেমেট অর্ডার (পিআরও) প্রয়োগ করা হয়। এজন্য ল্যান্ডলর্ড বা তার এজেন্টকে দোষী সাব্যস্ত হওয়ার দরকার নেই, তবে পিআরও জারি করতে হলে যুক্তিসঙ্গত সন্দেহ ব্যতিরেকে ট্রাইবুনালকে এই মর্মে সন্তুষ্ট হতে হবে যে অপরাধগুলোর যে কোন একটি ঘটেছে।



19th century surgery was an often gruesome, haphazard and life-threatening affair. The training the London offered would help to raise standards

New Life for ‘the London’

HISTORY

By **JOHN RENNIE**

Set back from Whitechapel Road, the Royal London Hospital sparkles in the early spring sunshine. A stack of rising blue cubes, eventually reaching 17 storeys, it dwarfs the gently decaying pile in front of it. The previous London Hospital building, facing onto Whitechapel High Street, is a much more modest affair, a symmetrical Georgian structure in brick.

With the necessary move from an 18th century hospital to one fit for the 21st century, there were fears that the old London, its buildings dating from 1757, would fall into increasing ruin.

Those fears were allayed in 2015, when Tower Hamlets Council bought the buildings and announced its decision to use them as a new headquarters and town hall. After years out on the fringes of the borough in Poplar, the council would be coming back to its heart, and to a Whitechapel itself revitalised with the new Crossrail service.

And it matters, because these are buildings with an extraordinary history. To start discovering that story, it's worth paying a visit to one of London's hidden gems, the London Hospital Museum, tucked in the crypt of a 19th century church in the old hospital grounds.

The little wood-clad room tells the story of medicine in London from the pioneering early days of the hospital in the 18th and 19th centuries, through to the birth of the NHS and the early days of forensic medicine. Along the way, you'll discover the stories of the Elephant Man, Jack the Ripper, murderers Crippen and Christie, and heroic nurse Edith Cavell.

The history of effective and universal health care is a relatively short one in Britain of course – the NHS is barely 70 years old. Only a couple of generations back, a visit to the doctor (and the costs incurred) was something to be avoided unless absolutely essential. It meant the poorer you were, the more likely you were to die young, or in childbirth, or see your children fail to thrive.

But as long as there has been medicine, there have been those who sought to extend it to those without



The Elephant Man: The museum hosts a replica of Joseph Merrick's skeleton. The real thing is for medical students only

One of the capital's most historic buildings, the Grade 2 listed old Royal London Hospital building is set to begin a new chapter in 2022 as the new town hall for Tower Hamlets.

money and most at risk. And if you lived in what would later become the East End of London in the early 18th century, you were more at risk than most. Squalid housing, poor nutrition and the diseases that go alongside killed increasing numbers as Whitechapel and Aldgate became more industrial and more crowded. The doctors of the day, practising a pre-antiseptic medicine barely advanced from the years of Galen and Hippocrates, certainly killed as many as they cured as they stumbled along. But many were determined to at least extend medical care beyond the rich, to the people who really needed it.

By the 1730s there were five voluntary hospitals in London – Barts, St Thomas', St George's, Westminster and Guy's. But east of the City, in the former market gardens of Middlesex, there wasn't a single one. This area would increasingly become the industrial engine of London and, therefore, the British Empire. Growing up between the City and the docks, and populated by thousands flooding in from all across England and Ireland, this was where London's wealth was generated as increasing numbers deserted the land in search of better paid work in the new docks and factories.

Better paid it certainly was, but it was dirty and dangerous too.

On September 23, 1740, seven men met in the Feathers Tavern in Cheapside, in the City of London, to put things to rights. The seven benefactors elected to construct the 'intended new infirmary' and just six weeks later the London Infirmary opened in a house on Featherstone Street, Moorfields, close to the present-day eye hospital.

Providing free treatment meant that it was an instant success, of course, and it quickly became apparent that its workforce of one surgeon, one physician and one apothecary could not meet demand. The funding was provided by wellwishers, who pledged an annual donation, and soon their number was growing. With funds at their back, in May 1741, the guardians of the hospital moved their infirmary east, to Prescott Street, by the Tower of London.

It was an even poorer area, so property was cheap and the need of the local people even greater. In 1742, the hospital's surgeon, John Harrison, persuaded the Duke of Richmond to become the president of the new infirmary. "Get the upper classes on side", the trustees thought, and more names and money would follow. But the infirmary, now named the London Hospital, was struggling for funds. Just two years after opening, Prescott Street was proving too cramped and too dirty to operate as a hospital and a move was proposed to Whitechapel Mount.

In those days, the area east of Aldgate was still relatively undeveloped, open country in contrast to the slums north of Whitechapel Road. So the site was cheap, but it was a decade-long struggle before the new London Hospital opened in 1757. That September, the first purpose-built premises opened, with 300 beds and operating theatres where doctors and students alike could observe surgery at work.

Teaching would become a big part of



Early days: The London would move to a bigger site on Whitechapel Mount, and became a lifesaver to East Enders

the London. Doctors had always trained of course, but usually at the side of an older physician. But in 1785, the hospital would institute the first medical school in England connected with a hospital. To watch the efficacy (or otherwise) of operations was considered a crucial part of a student's learning. The force behind the new school was William Blizard, the London's chief surgeon, who had studied under two of the greats of early modern medicine, Sir Percivall Pott (member of the Worshipful Company of Barbers, one of the first orthopedic surgeons and one of the first men to identify carcinogens as a cause of cancer) and the great Scottish surgeon and pioneer of anatomy John Hunter.

By Victorian times, the London was an East End institution, and in those pre-NHS days a lifesaver for the poor of east London. But its worldwide fame rests more than anything else on the shoulders of Joseph Merrick, admitted to the hospital in 1886 to see out the last few years of his life. 'The Elephant Man', who found fame once again with his portrayal by John Hurt in the 1980 film, had been 'discovered' by the hospital's surgeon



The new hospital: But the move to a 21st century building left the old London empty and in danger

Sir Frederick Treves in a penny gaff freakshow opposite the London. Treves arranged for the incurable Merrick to live permanently in the hospital.

Head into the museum and you'll see a replica of Joseph's skeleton – the real skeleton is at the hospital but only for the viewing of students. There is also a replica of the infamous 'From Hell' letter penned by somebody claiming to be Jack the Ripper. Most poignantly, there is a display on the life of Edith Cavell, the former London Hospital nurse arrested and executed by the Germans during World War I, charged with aiding Allied soldiers.

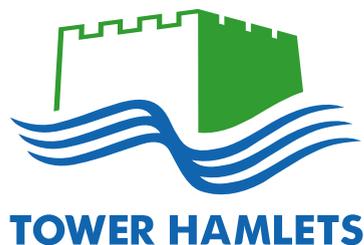
In 1990, the hospital simply known as 'the London' to locals got a little more grand, with the Queen visiting on the 250th anniversary and adding 'Royal' to its name. And in 2005, work began to transform the venerable institution into a hospital fitted for the 21st century. The seven wise men would have approved. So, once lockdown is over, and we're all on the move once more, take a trip south of Whitechapel Road to Newark Street to see how it all started.



Edith Cavell: The London Hospital nurse was captured and executed by the Germans in World War I



Jack the Ripper: His true identity was never discovered, but the museum has a letter purporting to be from the killer



KNOW YOUR COUNCIL

BETHNAL GREEN



Mohammed Ahab Hossain (LAB)

Tel: 07988 641407
Email: mohammed.hossain@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Sirajul Islam* (LAB)

Tel: 07931 708308
Email: sirajul.islam@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@CLrSirajIslam



Eve Josephine McQuillan* (LAB)

Tel: 07594 828420
Email: eve.mcquillan@towerhamlets.gov.uk

BLACKWALL & CUBITT TOWN



Ehtasham Haque (LAB)

Tel: 07943 999681
Email: ehtasham.haque@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@ehtashamulhaque



Mohammed Iqbal Morshed Pappu (LAB)

Tel: 07775 689621
Email: mohammed.pappu@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Candida Ronald* (LAB)

Tel: 07949 164104
Email: candida.ronald@towerhamlets.gov.uk

BOW EAST



Amina Ali (LAB)

Tel: 020 7987 3014
Email: amina.ali@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@AminaAliLabour



Rachel Blake* (LAB)

Tel: 020 7364 1378
Email: rachel.blake@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@RNBlake



Marc Francis (LAB)

Tel: 07973 815 272
Email: marc.francis@towerhamlets.gov.uk

BOW WEST



Asma Begum* (LAB)

Tel: 07946 292712
Email: asmak.begum@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@cllrasmabegum



Val Whitehead (LAB)

Tel: 07879 616155
Email: val.whitehead@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@valjwhitehead

BROMLEY NORTH



Zenith Rahman (LAB)

Tel: 07961 865923
Email: zenith.rahman@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Dan Tomlinson* (LAB)

Tel: 07501 461113
Email: dan.tomlinson@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@Dan_Bromley_N

MILE END



David Edgar (LAB)

Tel: 07958314 844
Email: david.edgar@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Asma Islam* (LAB)

Tel: 07538 325176
Email: asma.islam@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@THLP_ASMA



Puru Miah (LAB)

Tel: 07846 890823
Email: puru.miah@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@th_puru

POPLAR



Sufia Alam (LAB)

Tel: 07506 473136
Email: sufia.alam@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@SufiaAlam1

SHADWELL



Rabina Khan (LIB DEM)

Tel: 07944 790383
Email: rabina.khan@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@RabinaKhan



Mohammad Harun Miah (ASPIRE)

Tel: 07949 051295
Email: harunmiahcldr@outlook.com

SPITALFIELDS & BANGLATOWN



Shad Uddin Chowdhury (LAB)

Tel: 07737 337148
Email: shad.chowdhury@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@shadchowdhury2



Leema Omar Qureshi (LAB)

Tel: 07916 305953
Email: leema.qureshi@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@leemaqureshi

ST DUNSTAN'S



Dipa Das (LAB)

Tel: 07488 299131
Email: dipa.das@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@DipaDas01



Ayas Miah (LAB)

Tel: 07961 566066
Email: ayas.miah@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@ayasmiah3

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



Danny Hassell* (LAB)

Tel: 07807 732795
Email: danny.hassell@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@dannyhassell



Helal Uddin (LAB)

Tel: 07939 998625
Email: helal.uddin@towerhamlets.gov.uk

CANARY WHARF



Kyrsten Perry (LAB)

Tel: 07977 049094
Email: kyrsten.perry@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Andrew Wood (IND)*

Tel: 07710 486873
Email: cllrandrewwood@gmail.com
@Andrewwood17

* Independent Member of the Conservative Group

ISLAND GARDENS



Mufeedah Bustin* (LAB)

Tel: 07759 905377
Email: mufeedah.bustin@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@MufeedahB



Peter Golds (CON)

Tel: 020 7364 4830
Email: councillorpetergoldsg@gmail.com
@going4goldsg

LANSBURY



Rajib Ahmed (LAB)

Tel: 07958 740097
Email: rajib.ahmed@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Kahar Chowdhury (LAB)

Tel: 07732 686208
Email: kahar.chowdhury@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@KaharChowdhury



Bex White (LAB)

Tel: 07434 989611
Email: bex.white@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@BexWhiteTH

LIMEHOUSE



James Robert Venables King (LAB)

Tel: 07736 371160
Email: james.king@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@jrvking

ST KATHARINE'S & WAPPING



Denise Jones (LAB)

Tel: 07494 494482
Email: denise.jones@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Abdal Ullah (LAB)

Tel: 07956 124264
Email: abdal.ullah@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@Abdalullah

ST PETER'S



Kevin Joseph Brady (LAB)

Tel: 07943 159386
Email: kevin.brady@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@Kevin_J_Brady



Tarik Ahmed Khan (LAB)

Tel: 07950 414218
Email: tarik.khan@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@Tarikahmedkhan



Gabriela Salva Macallan (LAB)

Tel: 07528 807599
Email: gabriela.salva-macallan@towerhamlets.gov.uk

STEPNEY GREEN



Sabina Akhtar (LAB)*

Tel: 07961 792965
Email: sabina.akhtar@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Motin Uz-Zaman* (LAB)

Tel: 07961 390709
Email: motin.uz-zaman@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@MotinZ

WEAVERS



Abdul Chunu Mukit MBE (LAB)

Tel: 07985 124248
Email: cllr.abdulc.mukit@towerhamlets.gov.uk



John Pierce (LAB)

Tel: 07772 710080
Email: john.pierce@towerhamlets.gov.uk

WHITECHAPEL



Faroque Mahfuz Ahmed (LAB)

Tel: 07956 972328
Email: faroque.ahmed@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Shah Suhel Ameen (LAB)

Tel: 07930 364985
Email: shah.ameen@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@shahsuhelameen



Victoria Ngozi Obaze (LAB)

Tel: 07405 661609
Email: victoria.obaze@towerhamlets.gov.uk
@victoria_obaze

Council observes Martyrs' Day

The United Nations International Mother Language Day, aimed at promoting awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and promoting multilingualism, was observed throughout the world on Sunday 21 February.

Otherwise known as Martyrs' Day, the date was chosen in recognition of the killing of four students in Bangladesh on 21 February 1952, during a campaign to officially use their mother language, Bengali.

It has been a public holiday in Bangladesh since 1953. The Shaheed Minar (Martyr Monument) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which commemorates those students, has a replica in Altab Ali

Park in Whitechapel, which is typically the focus for public commemoration in Tower Hamlets.

Due to Covid-19, the annual public gathering at Altab Ali Park to mark Martyrs' Day in Tower Hamlets was cancelled.

To honour the martyrs, Mayor John Biggs; Speaker of the Council, Councillor Mohammed Ahab Hossain; and Councillor Sabina Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit, took part in a socially-distanced commemoration at the Town Hall.



Mayor John Biggs; Speaker of the Council, Cllr Mohammed Ahab Hossain; and Cllr Sabina Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit, took part in a socially-distanced commemoration at the Town Hall

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

Meetings

All meetings will be virtual. Dates and times may change. Agendas will be available online. For further information visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/meetings

- Council**
Wednesday 10 March, 7pm
- Development Committee**
Thursday 11 March, 6pm
- Licensing Sub-Committee**
Tuesday 16 March, 5.30pm

- Council**
Wednesday 17 March, 7pm
- Licensing Committee**
Thursday 18 March, 5.30pm
- Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
Monday 22 March, 6.30pm
- Strategic Development Committee**
Tuesday 23 March, 6pm
- Cabinet**
Wednesday 24 March, 5.30pm
- Licensing Sub-Committee**
Tuesday 30 March, 5.30pm

- Children & Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee**
Tuesday 6 April, 5.30pm
- Audit Committee**
Wednesday 7 April, 5.30pm
- Development Committee**
Thursday 8 April, 6pm
- Licensing Sub-Committee**
Tuesday 13 April, 5pm
- Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee**
Thursday 15 April, 6.30pm
- Strategic Development Committee**
Tuesday 20 April, 6pm

- Grants Determination Sub-Committee**
Wednesday 21 April, 5.30pm
- Standards Advisory Committee**
Thursday 22 April, 6pm
- Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
Monday 26 April, 6.30pm
- Licensing Sub-Committee**
Tuesday 27 April, 5.30pm
- Cabinet**
Wednesday 28 April, 5.30pm
- Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee**
Thursday 29 April, 6.30pm

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.

london

Limehouse Project

789 Commercial Road, Unit

2, St Anne Street, E14.

020 7538 0075

www.limehouseproject.

org.uk

Praxis (New Residents) Immigration, benefits and general advice

Pott Street, E2.

General Helpline:

020 7729 7985

Immigration advice:

020 7749 7608

www.praxis.org.uk

Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network

thcan@island-advice.org.

uk

www.thcan.org.uk

Tower Hamlets Law Centre

Unit 1, St Anne's Street,

E14. 020 7538 4909

www.thlc.co.uk

Age UK East London

82 Russia Lane, E2.

Caxton Hall, Caxton Grove,

E3.

Royal London Hospital 14F

Wards.

info@ageukeastlondon.

org.uk

www.ageuk.org.uk/

eastlondon

020 8981 7124

Leisure centres

John Orwell Sports Centre

Tench Street, Wapping, E1.

020 7488 9421

Mile End Park Leisure Centre and Stadium

190 Burdett Road, E3.

020 8709 4420

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

All leisure centres are currently temporarily closed in keeping with government coronavirus lockdown restrictions. For the latest information and updates, 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

Check before you visit

Due to the pandemic, some services remain closed or may be operating with reduced hours or by appointment only.

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