

Tenant Power! Newham signals a housing services revolution

AIDAN WHITE

A revolution in how tenants and residents have their say about housing and improving their neighbourhoods is on the way in Newham.

Council tenants living in some run-down estates in the Borough will benefit from a massive overhaul of housing services that is being launched in the coming weeks including money to strengthen tenant power through new tenants' and residents' associations.

Under new plans being finalised by the council:

- Five new town centre hubs will open to provide face-to-face meetings on housing services and problems. The first will open in Stratford High Street in November;
- Residents will get access to a £2 million fund to improve their estates;
- New tenants' associations will be set up and residents invited to take part in local area forums on housing in November.

This revolution in residents' engagement comes after almost a decade of poor communications, with many residents isolated and out-of-touch with housing issues following the closure of rent offices and tenants' associations in recent years.

"It's a very exciting time," said Laura Barker, Newham's Head of Resident Involvement. "We'll be getting back in touch with residents after ten years and we'll be doing something positive for all our residents."

In October, letters will be sent to all residents, setting out the plans for boosting the tenants' association



movement, the new housing services offices and also highlighting a Neighbourhood-Led Scheme Fund which will include an "estate-busters" programme to identify estates in need and to consult residents on actions to improve the area.

Neighbours will be invited to work together on projects and a site visit and six-week action programme will

follow, with local evaluation.

The council is asking residents to form new tenants' and residents' associations and will support existing groups. "We want to engage as many people as possible in this and we will provide funding opportunities including start-up grants and annual grants," said Laura.

The changes are welcomed by

Councillor Mohammed Shaban, a lead on housing services. "This is all about building our communities," he said. "The new housing hubs will help residents who need to see someone face to face about repairs or other issues."

They will be particularly useful for older residents and others who are frustrated by using online and virtual means of communications, he said. ●



Black History Month special See pages 7-10



Protesters unite to condemn council cuts
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Council axes Newham City Farm despite promise of new green space

NOAH ENAHORO

Despite resistance and opposition, Newham Council has voted to close Newham City Farm, one of London's oldest city farms.

Councillor James Asser, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Sustainable Transport, made the case for closing the farm at a meeting on 7 September.

He said it had not been 'delivering on the ideals and principles that saw it set up in the 1970s for some considerable time', and expressed regret that the running and maintenance of the farm had not been resolved sooner.

In November 2020, due to pandemic regulations, Newham City Farm was closed, and Newham's Animal Welfare Service commissioned the City of London Corporation's Animal Health and Welfare Services to carry out an independent inspection of the farm's facilities as well as the welfare of the animals.

It found a considerable number of failings in relation to how the farm was being operated that required immediate response from the Council. The report also identified issues relating to the condition of some of the animals, and the general standards of husbandry at the farm.

The Cabinet has assured Newham residents that the farm area will remain a 'publicly accessible green

space for use by the local community' and welcome any ideas and suggestions from residents. The regeneration of the area is to be included in the Beckton Parks Masterplan, an initiative looking to the future of Beckton's green spaces.

closure. At the same time, an online petition calling for the council to rethink its decision received over 5,500 signatures.

Marielle Fidele, a resident who lives opposite the farm, was one of those involved in the campaign.



However, not everyone is pleased.

On the same day that the Council decided to close the farm, peaceful demonstrators, organised by the 'Save Newham City Farm' campaign, met outside East Ham Town Hall to fight against the farm's proposed

closure. She said: "We welcome the opportunity to work with the council to deliver an alternative, the Beckton Parks Plan is regarded by the council as an opportunity to create something beautiful, but we already had that with the Farm. It does need

regeneration, but after years of lack of investment and attention that responsibility lies with the council."

She added: "Studies show the mental health benefits of being around animals, and being out in the fresh air, especially for children and those with special educational needs. A farm is one of the best places to do that.

An August 2020 report looking into London's 'leafiest' boroughs, found Tower Hamlets, Newham and Barking and Dagenham bottom with less than 13 per cent tree coverage.

Marielle added: "On paper the Beckton Parks Plan may look like a good idea, but it has not been made clear where the funding will come from."

Lisa Taylor, an academic in Early Childhood and Education Studies and Newham resident, believes the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of green spaces, especially for children.

"There is a substantial body of research indicating that inner-city children must engage with nature and animals during their development. The benefits include an improvement in mental health and well-being, supporting children with additional needs, play and memory therapy, and allows children to construct their view of nature and the world around them." ●

Protesters unite to condemn Council cuts

CATARINA JOELE AND
KAROLINA KRÓLICZEK

Dozens of protesters gathered at Stratford Town Hall on September 20 to express concerns over recent Council decisions and lack of action on other issues.

The demonstration outside the Council meeting covered a range of issues – closure of Stratford Circus, the axing of Newham City Farm and continuing anger over changes to the residents' parking fees and lack of action on fly-tipping.

One organiser, Mehmood Mirza from Newham Muslim Safety Forum, said: "Emission-based resident parking fees will be increased by 60 per cent by January 2022 which will put more pressure on working-class people. Also, we need investment in CCTV cameras to tackle fly-tipping. If the Council won't start listening to residents there will be protests every month."

Another protester, James Ivens, North and East London Branch Secretary at Equity, the trade union for performing arts practitioners, criticised the lack of response from the Council on the Stratford Circus eviction and its subsequent negotiations.

He said that closing the arts centre was not necessary as the youth hub in Stratford could have been set in a different venue or co-exist with the arts centre. Stratford Circus has now lost the support of Arts Council England and will close later this year and plans to distribute its left-over funding through a legacy programme.

Equity wants an assurance that whoever wins the bid to run professional shows alongside the youth service at Stratford Circus must agree to fund the basic jobs necessary for members to do that work – that includes technicians and front-of-house staff.

The controversy over the closure

of Newham City Farm (see above) also figured in the protests.

Meanwhile, Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz says illegally dumped waste costs Newham Council £3m per year and has been collected 12,835 times over the past three months. She said many residents have been working with the Council and Keep Britain Tidy to tackle the borough-wide blight over the past two years, reducing overall levels of fly-tipping in these hot spot areas by over 70 per cent.



"Residents can also report any illegally dumped waste on the Love Newham app. If residents see it they can take a picture and report it and our aim is to have it cleared within 24 hours," she said.

Newham Council has also invested in the launch of 40 on-street electric dual-socket fast chargers. Residents and local business owners are welcome to give feedback and suggest new locations on the Council's website. ●





Manor Park's Community Garden is a winner

Located one minute from Manor Park Railway Station is Manor Park's Community Garden which has just won new funding from the Council's Community Assemblies, voted for by local residents.

The organisers are working together to make it a peaceful green space for residents or those who work in the area to use for rest or retreat. It will also serve those who live locally and may not have a garden of their own.

It will also be a space for residents to get gardening skills and learn simple ways to green their streets, balconies, front gardens and flowerpots.

There are volunteering sessions most Saturdays

between 10am- 3pm. Some weeks there will be specific themes. The next two planned events are:

- **Saturday, 2 October: Designing the garden** – come along to vote on key aspects of how the garden and how the funding is spent
- **Saturday, 9 October. Community Dugnad Day** – come along to help maintain the beautiful planting beds around the garden.

Email: e12garden@gmail.com

Twitter: [@MPComGarden](https://twitter.com/MPComGarden)

Instagram: [@E12Garden](https://www.instagram.com/E12Garden)

Facebook: [Manor Park Community Garden](https://www.facebook.com/ManorParkCommunityGarden)

Poetry in Mind

Reflections on the poetic side of Newham life. This month we feature a poem by **Peter Landman**

THE MUSICAL PEACE

I see before me, virtually next to me
The creation of harmony.
I see and hear this creation rising
From the music making
Of the orchestra.
From the conductor's reincarnation
Into the music world
I feel reincarnation
From all his passionate expression.

Can music be the food of international understanding?
A sensational Jewish musician with a distinguished Palestinian intellectual brought young Israeli and Arab musicians together into the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra.*

When the orchestra plays
I cannot distinguish who is Jew or who is Arab.
Well that's how it should always be...

I watch again and again their performance of Tchaikovsky's romantic violin concerto
What ecstatic and enthusiastic expression
Of pure intimate emotion.
Exaltation.

How I wish I could ask
You Israeli and Arab politicians
Why you can't create a spirit of harmony
Like these young musicians?

* Daniel Barenboim and Edward Said

Locked-in night owls go bats!

ROGER JONES, FRIENDS OF WEST HAM PARK

Ever wondered what happens in West Ham Park after the gates are shut for the evening? Well the nocturnal animals come out to play, and recently over 100 people enjoyed a fantastic flying display by the local bats that come into the park of an evening to feed.

The bats come to feed on small flying insects, which they find using echo location, rather like the way submarines see underwater. They emit sound waves when they are hunting which bounce off the flying insects, and the bat can then 'see' where they are to catch and eat them. The sound waves are too high pitched to be heard by human ears, but they can be picked



Photo: Serrah Galos/Unsplash

up by special receivers tuned to the sound wave frequencies emitted by bats. It is even possible to identify the different species of bat by the sound that they make.

The bats in West Ham Park are mostly pipistrelle bats. They are small,

with a wing span of 20cm. They come to the park about half an hour after sunset to feed, usually around the trees and 5 to 10m above the ground where most of the insects will be flying. They fly very quickly and can be difficult to see sometimes, but with the special receivers they can always be heard!

Each year the Friends of West Ham Park hold bat watching evenings in August and September where with permission from the park staff, guests are 'locked in' the park after closing time to see the bats flying, before being let out at one of the gates to go home. The bats are of course wild, so whether they come to the park that evening and how many of them come is not predictable but they do not usually let us down! ●



Photo: Javardh/Unsplash

Parks get boost in community projects vote

This month we focus on more of the winners in the recent ballot among Newham residents to select community projects and a share of the £800,000 provided by Newham Council as part of its local democracy programme. Here are some winners from East Ham, Beckton, Royal Docks, Canning Town and Custom House.

Central Park in **East Ham** was a focus for three winners, including a plan to renovate the toilets in the park cafe to include a Changing Places facility.

The Changing Places toilet will have a changing bed, hoist, a toilet and sink at an accessible height, and enough room for a wheelchair user and carer to manoeuvre. It will assist people with special needs and those without and will help to make East Ham's parks and open spaces more accessible. Funding will be for around £20,000.

Voters also backed a plan to combat anti-social behaviour in Central Park and will design a crime consultation to tackle the long term issues and to make the Park safer for everyone.

East Ham voters also supported plans for tiny libraries to be installed in the area.

A tiny library offers a safe place for books to be exchanged. People donate used books for children and adults to pick up for free. The project will hire a local carpenter to build and install libraries at three spots around Central Park.

Another park to get a makeover thanks to the ballot is Barking Road Recreation Ground which will see refurbishment and new play equip-

ment installed.

The small playground is worn out and unsafe for young children and a project to replace the damaged climbing frame, roundabout and swings was supported. There will also be new attractions – including a zip line and seesaw and the walkway and cycling path will be upgraded. Up to £20,000 will be allocated to these improvements.

Another green project to win support was the Cody Dock Community Forest Garden in **Canning Town**. The project aims to build a 70m long brick-lined Forest Garden along the

public footpath that runs through Newham's Lea River Park and Cody Dock. There will be fruit trees and wildflowers planted as well as heritage and ecology information and interpretation boards, seating and new street lighting.

Young people get a boost thanks to two more winning projects. The **Beckton** Community Projects succeeded with their proposal to set up a youth club.

Local people born and bred in Beckton formed the Community Projects to rebuild some community spirit and have opened a youth club as a free service for Newham youngsters from seven to 18. So far 32 children have registered. The project will build on the support from parents and local residents.

A **Royal Docks** Inclusive Community Hub project was chosen to provide food and centres, including two indoor and two outdoor cafes and free activities at St Mark's Church,

RDLAC (indoors Monday – Friday), at St John's Green and at Royal Victoria Gardens including weekends.

The hub will help local residents meet both indoors and outdoors, to engage with wellbeing, learning and social events and activities or simply to relax. Examples of planned activities include yoga, tai chi, pilates, gardening, computer sessions, coffee mornings, local walks and art classes – all washed down with free refreshments, drinks and healthy snacks for participants.

Custom House Bookshop CIC also won support for its inclusive bookshop that will open shortly. The bookshop aims to challenge the scarcity of books that reflect the diversity of Newham – for instance less than five per cent of children's books published in Britain feature a disabled or non white character. In partnership with libraries, schools and local stakeholders, the bookshop will have regular intergenerational storytelling sessions and aims to improve literacy in the community.

The Youth Café at the Garden Café Community Café project in Canning Town involves a partnership with Ascension Church, Royal Docks Academy and Shipman Youth Centre and was another vote-winner.

The café will be a safe and welcoming space dedicated for young people from Monday to Friday after school. Ascension Church will match funds to support one of the youth workers. The project will provide a hot evening meal for free for young people who may not receive this at home or do not have a safe space to be straight from school. The young people will have the opportunity to choose what they want to use the space for. ●



Youth Café



Royal Docks Inclusive Community Hub



Tiny libraries



Barking Road Recreation Ground



Cody Dock Community Forest Garden

Newham primary school in pupil mistreatment row

JEAN GRAY

A young, Black, single mother is demanding that a Newham primary school explain why she was not told when an accusation of mistreatment was made involving her six-year-old disabled son.

The mother, whose name has been withheld to protect the child, says the first she heard was when a whistleblowing teaching assistant (TA), told her he had made a complaint about another TA. The whistleblower claims he witnessed the child being encouraged to eat tissue paper during lunch. He has since left the primary school, but also wants to know what action has been taken.

The boy has multiple conditions including learning difficulties, obesity and pica, the desire by young children to eat substances not usually considered food,

such as paper. Recently he has been diagnosed with the rare chromosome 3 disorder that can cause such issues.

The whistleblower also highlighted instances between November 2020 and April 2021 where the boy was spoken to harshly and accused of being slow.

His mother took him out of the school when she found out about the incidents and has been home schooling him until another school can be found.

She said: "It all made sense when I found out because his behaviour changed at home, he became angry and didn't want to go to school whereas previously he had loved it. I want to know why I wasn't told what was going on because I do not want other parents to go through what we have gone through."

No one from the school had responded to *Newham Voices'* inquiries as we went

to press. But a letter to the mother said they could not share the outcome of their internal inquiries because of data protection.

In a statement to the Independent online newspaper which reported the case anonymously, the school said the allegations were investigated fully and that they "took appropriate action". This included following the statutory process of seeking external consultation with the Newham Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Service to provide independent oversight on the issues raised and included liaison with the police and children's social care.

They claimed there had been communication with the parent, but no details were offered. A statement from Newham Council in the *Independent* story echoed the school response. ●

Women's Institute breaking the mould



LORRAINE TAPPER

It's not all home-made jam and cakes for the women of Forest Gate Women's Institute.

This mould-breaking WI, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, has been an inspiration for women like Joanne Deane who, when a friend suggested she join three years ago, initially thought "absolutely no way". She felt she did not fit the stereotype for membership: she was single, not a Christian and didn't bake!

However, she was persuaded to go along as a guest

and was pleasantly surprised at what she experienced.

She changed her mind and was impressed with the different activities and their support of various charities. Joanne was relieved as a non-cook that she was not expected to bake! She joined.

Following the pandemic and a bereavement, Joanne really appreciated the enormous support she got from three members. Most of her contacts and connections were all over the country and she was not able to see them during lockdown. The WI provided Joanne with local friendship groups which she had not had before.

Like most organisations in the last 18 months, Forest Gate WI meet via zoom. Nevertheless, the WI has flourished. It is an independent charity and is funded by a low cost annual membership subscription of £34 (Pandemic fee).

Wendy Levis is also a member of the WI and has become a committee member after three years.

Like Joanne, Wendy's friends lived out of London and she did not have any local connections. The WI seemed to be a good way to expand her network locally.

Each month, Forest Gate WI has different speakers as varied as a drag artist, a runner up on Master Chef and someone who spoke about their mental health.

One charity they support is the Magpie Project providing a "safe and fun place for mums and under-fives suffering in temporary or insecure accommodation." www.themagpieproject.org

The Forest Gate WI is actively seeking to increase diversity with younger women and people from different ethnic groups and they meet on the first Tuesday of every month from 7.15pm to 9.30pm.



Joanne Deane

LETTER

West Ham Park: it's there to serve us not the City of London

Some long term and lifelong residents believe the Corporation of London has viewed West Ham Park as serving the needs of its city garden squares and parks by providing cheap utility space for storing equipment, machinery, wood chip-pings, and greenhouses. Local people know that this is not the charitable purpose for which the Park was donated to us (see *Newham Voices* September 2021).

The park is held on trust for us, not for the benefit of the City.

The Corporation claims it is a brown-field site and therefore not protected from development. However, the park is not a brownfield site according to Newham Council who keep the

Register of such sites. Furthermore the park, including the greenhouse area, is a Grade 11 Listed Landscape and therefore protected. Brownfield sites are not going to be afforded the protection of Historic England and a Grade 11 Listing.

Quakers have a longstanding reputation for integrity and it is very sad that the generosity of the Gurney family in selling the land at a modest cost to benefit local people should be ignored.

Will Wanstead Flats open space now become Wanstead Flats, a housing estate, as a way of funding the upkeep of the rest of the space? And if not, why not? Is it because there is a pocket of affluent homeowners living very close to the Flats? House

prices can be lower on the south side of Romford Road.

The Corporation has published a statement about the Finsbury Circus Gardens project. "We are keen to respond to the increased demand for public green spaces following the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, we want to ensure Finsbury Circus Gardens fulfils this demand for local workers, visitors and residents".

The less prosperous workers, visitors and residents of Newham also require more public green spaces and ask the Corporation to acknowledge that we have the same needs.

Penelope Nixon

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Black history predates HMT Windrush

NOAH ENAHORO

Black History Month is a time to recognise the contribution to the community and achievements of those of African or Caribbean heritage, while challenging incorrect narratives.

It is part of a process not limited to a mere 31 days and is an opportunity to educate, challenge, discover histories that are deliberately omitted from mainstream history.

One mistaken impression, for example is the idea that the landing of the HMT Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks on June 22 1948 was the first notable arrival of Black people in the UK.

This isn't true and our analysis on Black British history starts well before then. While the Windrush Generation paved the way for others from across Britain's commonwealth countries to settle in Britain, the fact is that

Black people have been in Britain since the second and third centuries, first arriving with the Romans, well over a thousand years before the first English sailors reached the shores of Sub-Saharan Africa in the 16th century. These Afro-Romans are not the only Black people omitted from British mainstream history.

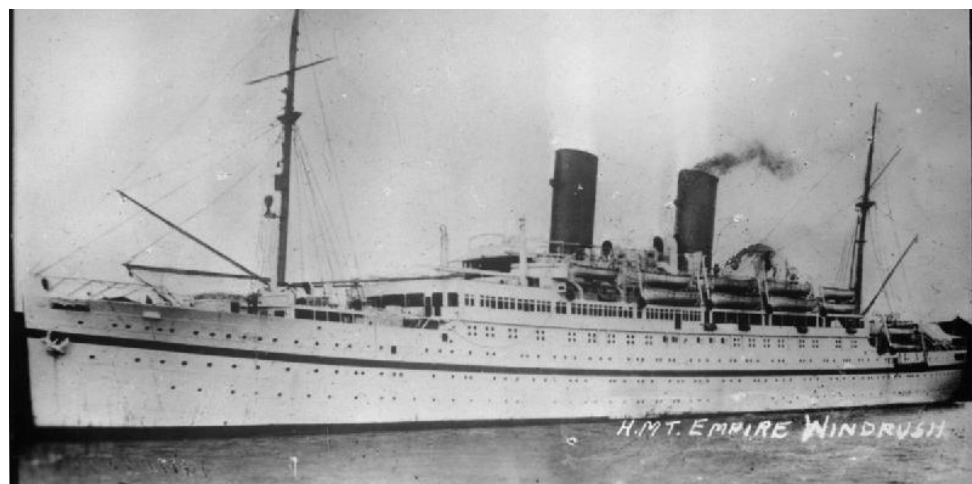
Skeletal remains of British people with African heritage have been found near York, one of Britain's most ancient settlements. and African and Caribbean men fought in the Napoleonic wars. Documents also reveal that there were black Tudors, Stuarts, Georgians, Victorians, and Edwardians.

Few people are aware of this rich heritage and it's important background for Newham where around 20 percent of the population is Black or mixed-race. Everyone should recognise that with antecedents who reached these shores with the

Romans, there may well be white residents with African ancestry.

Newham is not without modern problems – stop and search in polic-

vides fresh opportunities to educate people about history, and people who defied all odds to make their home in Britain. Black History can and should



ing, and employment discrimination against Black and ethnic minorities, for example – but this October pro-

be so much more than it is, and needs to take its place within the mainstream narrative of our history. ●

The 'edutainment' approach to celebrating African culture

JULIA OMARI

This September marked the 25th year anniversary of Iroko Theatre Company. Iroko was founded by Newham resident Alex Oma-Pius, a trained actor and director who studied at The National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts.

Alex, who has previously worked with the BBC and The Royal Shakespeare Company started Iroko Theatre Company in 1996 to spread awareness of, and appreciation for African culture, a reality that is still very much needed in 2021.

Based in Stratford, Iroko delivers classes, workshops and exhibitions across Newham, London and England as well as providing volunteering opportunities for young people and educational training for teachers and those wishing to pursue a career in the arts.

Iroko activities concentrate on uplifting their participants' health, knowledge and well-being, regardless of race, age or background through

the edutainment* of stories, drawing, drums, dance and singing. Halima, aged ten attended Iroko's Speaking Without Voices workshop and exhibition at Stratford library. She said of

the event "It was very enjoyable and I would definitely join in again."

Previous projects have included: The Magic of Rhythm, which supported homeless and vulnerably housed

people in Newham using creative arts; Our Shared Heritage project which focused on connecting cultures through stories, objects and artefacts; and their Forever Young project, which enhances the skills and wellbeing of older London residents using fun and gentle creative art activities.

This year Iroko Theatre Company have provided creative outlets for NHS staff, helping them to combat the stresses of having had to face so many additional challenges due to Covid. Iroko Theatre Company provides a number of free learning resources and information on their past, current and future projects on their website and social media accounts. ●

*edutainment – a mix of education fused with entertainment.



Photo courtesy Iroko Theatre Company

www.irokotheatre.org.uk

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

[IROKO staff](https://www.facebook.com/IROKOstaff)

[IROKO Theatre](https://www.facebook.com/IROKOTheatre)

[Irokotree1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIroko1)

[irokotheatre](https://www.instagram.com/irokotheatre)

Don't let stereotypes dictate We can make a world of difference

YOUTH VOICES OF NEWHAM

DANIEL HARRY

I'm an incoming law undergraduate at the University of Cambridge, and I was born and raised in Newham. I am also half Igbo and half Yoruba, two of the largest tribes in Nigeria. I have never hidden from the fact that I'm a Nigerian, and frequent trips back home to my motherland have helped to reinforce my black identity and provided me with the desire to help the Nigerian and Afro-Caribbean diaspora that settle here in the UK.

A variety of factors have driven me to succeed, and continue to drive me today, from wanting to repay the investment that my parents had made in me by moving to London (from Nigeria) in 1999, to wanting to improve my life chances. However, one of my most important factors is the desire to be different.

I do understand that this is more easily said than done: we are all influenced by the environment (meaning our communities, friends, family and media) in one way or another.

But when the environment that you have been brought up in threatens to limit your ability to grow and become successful by any means (regardless of what you deem to be success), then it is imperative that you seize control and use your differences to achieve the end result that YOU want, not necessarily the end result that stereotypes dictate.

I remember a statistic from one of my AS Sociology lessons about Black Britons being nine times more likely to be jailed than their white counterparts.

I had just started thinking about university and the possibility of applying to Oxbridge, and was pondering on the fact that I, as a young black male from London, was more likely to end up on the wrong side of the law than in a university like Cambridge studying the law.

This made me more determined than ever to take a different path in life and steer clear from the dark underbelly of England's capital in order to secure a stable, fulfilling and rewarding future for myself and my family.

In my case, applying to study law meant that I had to spend significantly more time indoors and locked up in my bedroom revising for multiple entry examinations (such as the Cambridge Law Test and Law

National Aptitude Test) over the past 18 months, despite others around me soaking in their first bit of clubbing and eating out that they had had in over a year, given the initial lifting

life, I had been graced with university offers and high aptitude scores.

The University of Cambridge welcomed a record 137 UK-based Black undergraduate students as part of

undergraduates as Black Britons, as of July 2021.

Of all apprenticeship starts in 2019/20, some 13.3 per cent were black or ethnic minority according to the Department of Education. These figures are evidence of a new wave of young and black individuals who aspire to break down stereotypes, but they are still not reflective of the vast amount of potential that exists within these diverse communities.

Young people can be part of the change that shatters diversity and inclusion statistics in the top firms, companies, and universities. Not everybody aspires to go to university, enter the music industry or become a professional footballer, and that is perfectly fine, but there is a new wave of change with people who use their talents to dismantle the racial constraints that plague ethnic communities today.

The question is: what can other black or ethnic minority youngsters or others take from this? We are all products of our environment, but we don't have to become victims of it. ●



Daniel Harry with his family

of the COVID-19 restrictions in the summer and autumn of 2020.

Through this, I had forged my own path that was different from the others and learnt about the art of sacrifice: in sacrificing much of my social

their 2020 intake – around 5 per cent. It is projected that the figure will rise this year. In addition the Russell Group of high profile research universities currently have less than approximately 4 per cent of their

Newham's Black football players through the years exhibition

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Part of Black History Month 2021 will be a special football exhibition to celebrate the life of Canning Town football player Jack Leslie as well as John 'Charlo' Charles, Walter Tull and some of the other Black footballers who have a connection to Newham.

However, this exhibition, which I have launched thanks to a grant from Newham Council, will also celebrate Jack Leslie after Black History month. Jack will also be remembered in a Newham Heritage plaque, to be displayed at the exhibition before being installed near his home in Canning Town.

The Jack Leslie Campaign, Jack Leslie's family, Clapton CFC, the family of Walter Tull, the authors of the book Football's Black Pioneers (Bill Hern and David Gleave), Phil Vasili, the main exponent of Walter's story for more than 20 years and biographer of the main reference book Walter Tull, 1888-1918, Footballer, Officer (London League Publications, 2018, 2nd edition) and

Mickey Ambrose (Co-Chair) of FA Equality Now, former Chelsea professional footballer and Ambassador for HRH Prince William will all make a contribution to the exhibition. John 'Charlo' Charles' son Mitch Charles is also involved.

During the exhibition there will be events to discuss the lives of all of these players who helped put Newham on the footballing map.

**Newham Black History Month 2021
Free Football Exhibition**

6 - 29 October

Canning Gallery, 11 Brunel St, London E16 1EB

www.canninggallery.art

Opening hours are Monday - Friday by appointment (email curator@canninggallery.art) and Saturdays - Open Day 12pm - 3pm



Artwork by James Curno

NewVic celebrates first year of promoting hidden history

NOAH ENAHORO

October 2021 marks 34 years since Black History Month was first celebrated in the UK. It also marks the first anniversary of Newham Sixth Form College's African Studies Centre.

Hailed as the 'first of its kind' by contemporaries, the centre set out to equip teachers with the skills and knowledge to teach students about the history of Africa, without doing so through the lens of European colonialism.

Newham Voices spoke with the two founders of the centre Alan Kunna and Carina Ancell, both History lecturers at the college, about the progress the centre has made and its achievements.

"By collaborating with leading academics and their work, we have been able to broaden the interest in African history, as well as bring it to a wider audience," Alan Kunna said. "Their expertise, coupled with the fact that all our lectures are recorded and put online, meant we have seen the popularity of the content, proving our point that there is a desire among the public to find out more about histories that do not appear on the school syllabus or in traditional textbooks."

One of the latest lectures, now

available on YouTube, saw Newham resident Asif Shakoor talk about his search for more information about his grandfather, after learning that he had been but one of the many black and Asian seamen in World War Two.

Joined with Dr Georgie Wemyss, a Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences at the University of East London, the two revealed the hidden story of the seamen whose stories, like Asif's grand-



father, were neglected by the standard histories of the period. The lecture has been viewed almost 600 times.

"Initiatives like the African Studies Centre are very important", Dr Wemyss says. "Black History and the many complex histories of the Global South, including histories of European colonisation and exploitation, need to be central to the teaching and learning of history in Britain for everyone."

"NewVic is a key educational and community institution in Newham

and therefore having the centre there is important. The use of online lectures and seminars is a great way of ensuring that histories get shared and discussed widely."

In May, the college was short-listed for the Sixth Form Colleges' Association Annual Awards for curriculum innovation being selected as one of the top 3 providers in the category, and co-founder Carina Ancell was one of the 102 Pearson National Teaching Silver awardees across the country in June 2021, winning the award for 'Further Education Lecturer of the Year'.

The success of the centre further reinforces the need for its existence, Carina believes.

"We have already accomplished so much of what we set out to do in the first year, however, we have so much more we want to do," stated Carina.

"We have a variety of themes coming up, from the relationship between West African Kingdoms and the Atlantic and European worlds to the representations of the British Empire and its influence on contemporary Britain. We are looking forward to the future of the centre". ●

For more information about the African Studies Centre go to www.newvic.ac.uk/african-studies-centre.

Agewell drama focus on Black History Month

ZHENREENAH MUHXINGA

Friday 29th October 2021
Zoom Id- 879-8858-1045
Passcode: 967009

Agewell is a group of nine (60+) people who meet regularly on a Friday afternoon, who have a love for drama. Agewell is an amateur drama group, and has been going strong for nearly eight years. We are a non-profit group, self-funded.

The group has performed at various venues, including Stratford Circus Theatre, Hibiscus Community Centre, Barking Road Community Centre, Colegrave School, School 21 (via zoom), Oasis Caribbean Centre and Hibiscus older people's home, Romford Road. We produce at least three shows a year and are delighted to announce our 2021 October Black History Month production "400 YEARS"

Most of all we aim to inspire audiences with our creativity and passion.

Agewell Drama Group, Newham African Caribbean Resource Centre, 627 Barking Road, London E13 9EZ

Mobile: 07950 123 540

Email: authbabs@yahoo.co.uk

Until further notice, we meet on Zoom

Plantains: A taste of the Caribbean

JULIA OMARI

First get your plantain! Available from good local greengrocers.

Method:

- Preheat oil in a large frying pan
- Remove the plantains skin and slice into thin pieces
- Place plantain in hot oil and cook until brown and tender, then turn over and cook the opposite side to the same degree
- Remove from pan and place on paper towel to drain excess oil
- Plate, eat and enjoy

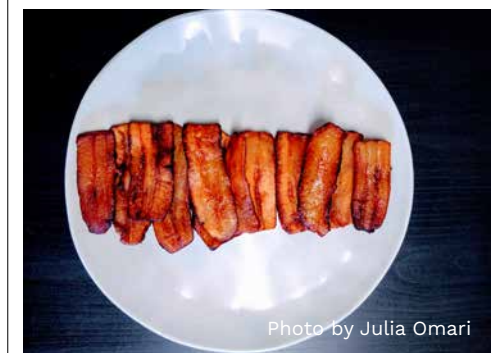


Photo by Julia Omari

Remembering Broadwater Farm and a Caribbean pioneer of diversity

ZHENREENAH MUHXINGA

Remembering the Broadwater Farm riots and their impact will be the theme of this year's Lucel Tate lecture at the Hibiscus Elders Community Centre in Stratford on October 29.

Hibiscus Community Centre opened in 1994 in response to the lack of social and leisure facilities for older African and Caribbean people living in Newham. It is home of Hibiscus Caribbean Elderly Association (HCEA) a charity which leased the building from the council. Over the last 25 years it has delivered a full range of services reflective of Caribbean culture.

Founded in 2018, The Lucel Tate lecture seeks to contribute to the discourse on issues shaping the black experience of contemporary Britain. This year's lecture considers the impact of the 1985 Tottenham riots at Broadwater Farm council estate.

Slight in stature, quiet and unassuming, Lucy Tate was a significant person in her community. A retired maternity sister, she worked in Forest Gate all her life.

First Chair of the Association, her contribution to

the development of black community in Newham saw the establishment of Hibiscus Community Centre and Hibiscus Sheltered Housing Project. Both continue to deliver services today.

Her lasting legacy however was her influence in helping to shift public policy in social care and housing away from the one size fits all to diversity in the provision of these services. The Association's annual lecture in her name not only pays tribute to her memory but also seeks to build on her legacy.



During the pandemic face to face services were suspended. However some services: day centre exercise classes and members' monthly social gathering are now delivered online via Zoom. The suspension of business activities has hit the group's finances. Donations are an important part of much needed income, so financial support in favour of funding raising projects would be gratefully received.

Clifford Hedley, Hibiscus Elders Community Centre, Buckingham Road, Stratford E15 1SW
admin@hibiscuscea.online

Where black women mean business

Black businesses play a critical role in the make-up of the British economy and the fabric of our society, according to the Black Business guide 2020-21, and with the spending power of Britain's Black community worth an estimated £300bn, it is an important area of activity.

Lorraine Tapper talks to three local entrepreneurs.



Rena Kydd Williams

R Consultancy, Owner Rena Kydd Williams

Her business idea came about because she had eczema and natural remedies were not offered in the UK. Typically, Rena would be prescribed steroids, which would create a dependency, with extraordinarily little advice on healthy options.

As a child she was taken to Grenada, her parents' birthplace in the Caribbean. There she had access to various homemade remedies administered by her Grandmother. She would use sea salt, sulphur and cocoa butter on Rena which made a major difference compared to the steroid medication she received in the UK.

Rena identified a gap in the UK market but was not able to tap into it until she was made redundant from her job as a university lecturer. She used her redundancy payment to undertake a business course. With her website set up, she went back to Grenada and invested in a lot of cocoa butter products and brought them back to the UK.

Rena promotes her products via various social media platforms, like Facebook and Instagram.

To meet her potential customers in person, she also attends markets and large trade shows. Rena also takes advantage of small bespoke markets in various locations. WhatsApp is also an effective method to market her business.

www.rconsultancy.org

Chenari Catering, Owner Amanda Edwards

Amanda Edwards is a mum of two who founded a Caribbean catering business in July 2018 as a leap of faith after being made redundant from her job in housing in 2016. She took the opportunity to regroup, spend time with her children and develop her business skills so she could start her catering business.

She accessed business support and a mentor from the New Enterprise Business Mentoring Programme via the Job Centre. The scheme offered support for unemployed people who wanted to start their own business.

Amanda was very clear that she wanted to run a professional business, rather than be a hobbyist.

Her mentor supported her to develop her business plan and to create a cash-flow/survival budget. This grounding helped her with her fledgling business which she launched before completing the mentoring support.

Chenari Catering offers a professional local catering service, with bespoke catering and takeaway. Amanda specialises in Caribbean food with a deli twist. For example, in addition to the typical Caribbean menu, she also offers baguettes with Caribbean inspired fillings.

In May 2019, Amanda was given the opportunity to open a Pop-Up Kitchen in the Silver Building, Silvertown, after initially providing food for a festival at the same venue in the month prior.

Typical customers were workers on industrial sites surrounding the venue. Her food was extremely popular, increasing the footfall for the events business where the kitchen was located.



Amanda Edwards

Amanda had a pleasant experience working in the Pop Up in Silvertown but she noticed as she became more popular the event company loaning the space began to make overtures declaring they were the face of her business.

Unfortunately, Amanda believes this is typically what happens to black businesses that are small without the financial means to expand. They become easy pickings for larger businesses with bigger balances. Amanda preferred to stay small if it meant she would retain ownership of her business.

Since the pandemic, she promotes her business on Black Pound Day which happens once a month on the first Saturday. People order via a free monthly subscription on her website. They can pre-order via Instagram or WhatsApp. The food is collected or delivered. This has enabled her to bring her business back to life after lockdown.

Black Pound Day has made it easier for people who want to support black businesses by buying their goods and services.

Amanda loves living in Newham because of the diversity with a strong African-Caribbean presence and it is easy to buy Caribbean food, which is crucial for her business.

www.chenaricatering.co.uk

Scale Your Sales, Owner Janice B Gordon

Janice has been self employed for over 25 years and during that time has had several different businesses. Her current enterprise, registered 12 years ago, is The Problem Solver trading as Scale Your Sales.

Her expertise includes Visiting Fellow of Cranfield School of Management, training, international speaker and author (Business Evolution, Creating Growth in a Rapidly Changing World).

Janice used to trade under the registered name The Problem Solver until a mentor advised her that having "problem" as part of her business name could be considered negative.

Despite the pandemic, Janice has had a busy year. She recently had a home office built at the back of her garden which has made working more effective.

She is a customer growth expert otherwise known as a customer champion. She helps her clients to improve on the customer experience to increase sales, using training and consultancy as the medium to effect change.

Traditionally, sales were focused on the salesperson rather than the customer. Based on her experiences in different environments, Janice



Janice B Gordon

turns that on its head.

She trains sales teams to provide the customer with what they want which then motivates them to buy.

Janice has won recognition including:

- Top 50 Global Thought Leader and Influencer in Customer Experience 2020;
- 150 women b2b and thought leaders to follow in 2021;
- LinkedIn 15 Sales innovator to follow.

She has been disappointed with the support offered to businesses in Newham. *Newham Voices* contacted the Council but they had not responded by the time of publication.

www.scaleyoursales.co.uk

To find out about more black businesses in Newham, from food, beauty, mechanics, and education, go to the black business directory on Instagram.

Fact File Black Business

- More than 10,000 black-owned businesses represented 4 per cent of all London businesses;
- Twenty-five per cent of black business owners were women (compared to 21 per cent for White and 17 per cent of Asian business owners);
- Black-owned businesses were underrepresented. Black-owned businesses comprised 4 per cent of all businesses but 12 per cent of London's population was black;
- Most black-owned businesses are small (61 per cent have one to four employees, compared to 49 per cent for white-owned firms and 47 per cent for London as a whole);
- Black-owned businesses in London had a total turnover of £4.5bn.
- Black-owned businesses provide around 70,000 jobs (3 per cent of total London employee jobs).

These are the most recent statistics for London from the Mayor's 2001 report.

Biker girl gets her wish

SHAMAYAM HOGAN (AGED 11)

Book Title: *A thief in the village*
by James Berry

The author James Berry was born and grew up in Jamaica. He was born on the 28th September 1924 and later published the book *Anansi the spider*. He had five siblings and is a poet who emigrated and settled in England in 1948 as part of the Windrush generation. He won the National Poetry Society's Annual prize for *Fantasy of an African Boy* and in 1987 *A Thief in the Village* was the Grand Prix winner of the Smarties Prize.

The first story in *A Thief in the Village: The Wheels and Brake Boys* is a lovely story about a girl who always watched the boys riding their bikes and whenever she went up to them, they would ride off – even her own cousin did.

The girl thought if she had a bike the boys wouldn't treat her that way. Her mum and nana didn't think she



Shamayam Hogan

should have a bike, they thought that bikes are for boys.

Her family is tight on money so she thought that if she sold her dad's helmet to the fire brigade then she would have enough money to buy a bike and ride with the wheels and brake boys. What actually happened was that the fire brigade took her

home and spoke to her mother about what the girl was trying to do.

They took the girl and the mother in the car and showed her a bike that belonged to his nephew, that she could have for a small amount of money. The girl was delighted and she took the bike and rode with the boys.

I liked this book because it has brown characters and that it's written with an accent in parts. I also like that the girl gets to ride with the boys in the end...

I liked this book because it has brown characters and that it's written with an accent in parts. I also like that the girl gets to ride with the boys in the end and that she was taught how to ride a bike because I love to ride my bike. ●

Good reads in Newham

The Newham Bookshop in Barking Road tells us these are the top sellers this month:

- **And Away...**
By Bob Mortimer
- **Island of Missing Trees**
By Elif Shafak
- **Beautiful World Where Are You?**
By Sally Rooney
- **All the Names Given**
By Raymond Antrobus
- **Peanut Jones and the Illustrated City**
By Rob Biddulph
- **Amari and the Night Brothers**
By BB Alston
- **The Rapping Princess**
By Hannah Lee (author) and Allen Fatimaharan (illustrator)

Compiled by David Ceen

Wall-to-wall inspiration of art

JULIA OMARI

Upon completing an accelerated program with Rosetta Arts, artist Ada Jusic set her sights on brightening up Newham, one mural at a time.

Ada, an illustrator/ animator, created Fresh Paint as a way to be more engaged in her community and allow young people to express their concerns on the current state of climate change by having them design and

paint their own environmental ideas on walls for all to enjoy and learn from.

After successfully securing funding from Newham Council and The Arts Council, Fresh Paint were able to offer courses to young people completely free, with all equipment provided as well as refreshments and a travel bursary if needed.

To date Fresh Paint have completed three murals, with the latest one located inside the new Youth Zone

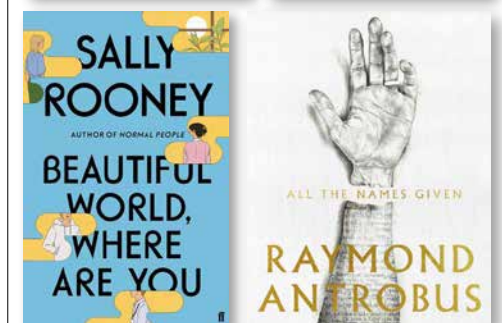
home in Stratford Circus. One young participant said: "The project was a great idea and I'm really happy I was able to take part because I've started painting and I really enjoy it!"

To find out more, follow them on Instagram or Twitter. You can also meet the artist Ada Jusic during the Newham Unlocked Festival on the 10th October 2021. You will also be able to view some behind the scenes photography of the completed mural projects. ●



Photo ©Ada Jusic

The project was a great idea and I'm really happy I was able to take part because I've started painting and I really enjoy it!



19 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER 2021
12-5PM (SUNDAYS ONLY)

Newham Unlocked Festival
Memorial Community Church
395 Barking Road, E13 8EE
freshpaintnewham@gmail.com

Corrections

Eagle-eyed readers will have noticed that the current actor playing Dr Who is of course Jodie Whittaker, not Jodie Foster as we reported in our feature on actor Jo Martin last month. Also apologies to both Andrea Thompson and Alexis Wilson over the picture mix-up on the London half marathon sport story – the picture was of Andrea, not Alexis as we said.



newhambooks.co.uk
[@NewhamBookshop](https://www.instagram.com/NewhamBookshop)



SOMETHING'S BREWING



Some things will never be the same after lockdown and that may be no bad thing for the pub enthusiast as **Phil Mellows** discovers

As a judge for the Great British Pub Awards, I was privileged to spend some time at the end of August travelling the country and seeing some of the best the pub trade has to offer.

After 18 months of lockdowns and regulations it seemed to me that while some things have changed forever, underneath it all, thankfully, the essence of the pub remains.

It's great that we can order at the bar again. It's an important part of the informal social mingling that makes a visit to the pub. But it's likely table service and ordering by app will continue at many places because there are people who like the convenience.

Customers have, in general, come to expect higher standards of service and, after being able to experiment when buying online, a wider range of drinks, too.

The thing that most stood out on my visits, though, was the transformation of outdoor areas.

When indoor drinking and dining weren't possible under the rules, good pubs that weren't entirely landlocked expanded and developed outdoor areas, in some cases converting car parks into beer gardens and adding comfortable seating, al fresco bars, marquees and weather-proof television screens.

Sadly, it's true, too many pubs have not had the space and resources to be able to adapt, but those that have bounced out of the Covid crisis in a surprisingly healthy state.

Forest Gate's Holly Tree was reopened by new owner Remarkable Pubs a few months before lockdown with a landscaped garden circled by a miniature railway – an indulgence of Remarkable MD and train enthusiast Robert Thomas that proved a stroke of genius when business resumed.

"Because they were looking for somewhere with a garden, a lot of people discovered the pub for the first time," said Holly Tree manager Laura Field.

"We were crazily busy. We have a 600 capacity indoors and out, and we're full every Saturday and Sunday. We not only kept all our staff, we had

Because they were looking for somewhere with a garden, a lot of people discovered the pub for the first time

to double the size of the teams to provide table service.

"The railway draws a lot of people because it's different and fun. We had three gents come down from Carlisle to see it the other day!"

And beer gardens are no longer just for summer. The Holly Tree has introduced extra awnings and heaters, and it's looking forward to welcoming families outdoors this Christmas with festively-themed train rides and a Santa's grotto.



October is time to bring the outside in. **Cecilia Cran** is potting her hyacinths indoors.

What to grow:

With our very late flurry of sunshine at the end of September, as I write I am still enjoying the last of my cosmos, sweet peas and dahlias. I hope you are too!

As the hours of daylight lessen and the weather gets a little colder and wetter, I'm thinking about how to maintain colour and interest in my garden and home. It's perhaps not as simple as it was over the spring and summer, but the challenge and having to think and plan creatively is all part of the fun.

This month, I'm bringing some of the outside in and potting up hyacinth bulbs indoors. I've chosen the prepared carnegie hyacinth – perfect for growing in pots. I love their scent and the clusters of dense white flowers that grow on each stem. When planted indoors in early Autumn, you can expect flowers from mid-December. They can also be planted outdoors, where they'll flower from March onwards.



Photo courtesy Celia Cran

How to grow:

To get started, choose whether you will be planting them in a pot or the ground. For the purposes of this, I'll refer to pot planting.

Start by choosing your pot, it is important that you select one that is both wide and deep enough, as the bulbs will need to be planted at a depth of 10cm and should be spaced no less than 10cm apart. Start by filling your pot with some grit – this will provide good drainage and help prevent the risk of bulbs rotting off. Then add in your peat free compost and decide on the formation you want to put your bulbs in. For maximum impact and scent, I've selected a big pot and will plant three bulbs together. Bulbs must be planted

with the pointed tip facing upwards towards the sky, at the right depth and spacing – see above. Once the bulbs have been planted, gently press down on the top of soil to ensure the bulbs will be making contact with the soil and then water well. Bulbs like full sunlight, so find them a spot where they'll get maximum daylight and sunshine. Give the bulbs a little water every couple of days, but be careful not to over-water as this may cause the bulbs and their roots to rot.

Green escape: Abbey Gardens

Each month I explore a green space in our borough and each month I am astonished that such interesting, innovative and vibrant communities exist on our very doorstep. At each spot I have visited, I have been met with such a warm welcome and this month's green escape is no different.

The Abbey Gardens site contains the remains of a 12th-century Cistercian abbey where it is believed that monks once ran a kitchen garden. In 2006 a group of local residents formed Friends of Abbey Gardens, initially with the aim of rescuing the derelict site from vandalism and neglect. Their vision grew and the plan was made to turn Abbey Gardens into an open-access park and harvest garden with 30 long raised beds.

The Friends of Abbey Gardens are very clear in their mission stating that they 'want to ensure that the space continues to be used and managed by local people as an open-access site and harvest garden which improves the local environment, helps to build a stronger community, gives people an understanding of locally grown food and serves as a venue for cultural events.' And they have certainly achieved and managed to stay true to this. Abbey Gardens is located at the end of Bakers Row, Stratford, E15.

To find out more, visit: <http://www.abbeygardens.org/>



Photos via Abbey Gardens Facebook page

Residents' Power: First of three ballots on Newham regeneration

The first of three major housing regeneration plans in Newham is going to a vote of local residents at the end of October.

The Council's offer to Carpenters Estate residents in Stratford is being sent to around 700 voters covering tenants, homeowners, and people in temporary accommodation as well as people who have left the estate, but are eligible to return.

Residents will be able to cast their vote during November.

The Carpenters Estate is a 28-acre site next to Stratford Station and the Olympic Park, with 710 existing homes, including three tower blocks, which are largely empty.

The future of the estate has been debated for almost

20 years and over the last three years the council has developed a £700 million restoration and regeneration programme to be carried out over the next 15 years.



ing support from the Greater London Authority.

The ballots are organised by an independent organisation Voters on the Carpenters Estate have been warned that the masterplan for regeneration of the area will not proceed in the event of a No vote.

Redevelopment of the estate has been the subject of a number of controversial planning proposals over the past 20 years. ●

Further information is available from the Council's regeneration team on regeneration@newham.gov.uk or by telephone 07971950420. At Carpenters the community liaison officer is Saudat Adinani on 07389 821819.

Surprise party for Ivy, 90

Canning Town resident Ivy Wilkins knew that her 90th birthday was an important milestone, but she had no idea what was in store at the council owned block of flats on Hermit Road when the day came.

Unknown to Ivy the staff in the management office had organised a surprise party with guests including the director of housing, two police community support officers for the ward, the senior housing manager, the housing support officer, the chair and coordinator of the TMO board, her nephews, Terri and Peter – her only surviving family – and Newham Council Chair Winston Vaughan.

Ivy was born in 1931 on Pitt Street off Rathbone Market, the youngest of 13 children and she has survived them all. She has lived in Canning Town all of her life except for a short period as a child during the Second World War.

Her first job was with Tate and Lyle at the age of 14, where she stayed for eight years. She went on to work for a cosmetic factory where she stayed for many years.

Recalling her experience of the war years, she said soldiers were barracked across the road from her home before going off to battle. She also recalled that the Co-op nearby was used as air raid shelters. ●



Photo by Hannah Busing/Unsplash

World Mental Health and Homelessness Day

FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER 2021 FROM 10:30-4:30PM

Highway Church Hall, 88a Romford Road, Stratford E15 4EH

Newham Council and the Newham Community Groups present a day of awareness-raising, discussions and activities to promote good mental health and wellbeing. The session includes what mental health means for specific groups, and the challenges and experiences in light of Covid-19, while also acknowledging the losses we have experienced, heard and read about, including social issues. The challenge: how can we, as individuals, exercise good mental health and wellbeing?

- Register now: [worldmentalhealthdayandhomelessnessday2021.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)
- For more information contact: Co-Productionteam@newham.gov.uk

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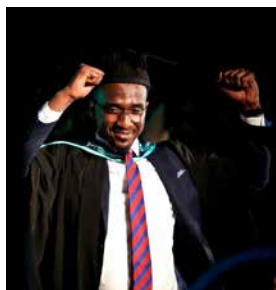
Waltham Forest Echo – Borough of Waltham Forest
Haringey Community Press – Borough of Haringey
Enfield Dispatch – Borough of Enfield
Barnet Post – Borough of Barnet
EC1 Echo – Clerkenwell and surrounding areas (EC1 postcode in the City)

Call Klaudia 07732 000 430
Email klaudia@socialspider.com or advertising@newhamvoices.org.uk

UEL's 7,000 graduates take a bow

The University of East London hosted 17 ceremonies over seven days from 9-17 September, involving more than 7,000 graduates from the last two years. The ceremonies were held at the Royal Docks, neighbouring the university's own campus.

The University also recognised individuals with honorary doctorates. BBC presenter and former international footballer Alex Scott; former director of West Ham's famous youth academy Tony Carr and elite BMX cyclist Bethany Shriever, represented the sporting contingent.



Also receiving doctorates were African dance pioneer Mercy Nabirye; conservationist and civil engineer Anusha Shah; and director of community affairs at Canary Wharf Group Zakir Khan.

And, reflecting the trials and triumphs of Covid, chief nurse for Barts Health NHS Trust Caroline Alexander, and Jason Strelitz, director of public health at Newham Borough Council, were also recognised in a milestone year which saw the university's first nursing graduates accepting their degrees.

...with a special honour for golden girl Bethany



Bethany Shriever, the first British person to win an Olympic gold medal in BMX bicycle motocross at the Tokyo Olympics has been honoured by the University of East London, writes **Neandra Etienne**.

Bethany, who also won a gold medal in August at the 2021 BMX World Championships in the Netherlands, became the youngest-ever recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Sport from the University of East London in recognition of her achievements. on September 14. Now Bethany from Leytonstone hopes to inspire more girls and women to get involved in BMX.

Newham has its very own BMX Track in Gooseley Playing Fields Park in East Ham. Bonny Downs Association together with their charity partners The Renewal Programme offers BMX Coaching through their Empower Youth Newham project for young people aged 9-19 at the BMX Track.

BMX Coaching is currently suspended due to coach injury. Check the website for details and updates. bonnydowns.org/youth



Talking of news...

It's back to the studio for Newham's Talking Newspaper volunteers. **Zhenreenah Muhxinga** reports.

For more than 40 years a dedicated group of volunteers have been providing a much needed service to the blind and visually impaired residents of Newham. In 1978 Harry Reeve and his wife began recording articles from the local press onto cassette tapes for distribution by post. A simple idea, but a successful one, and it soon outgrew the space in their front room. The range of equipment needed left little room for the essential volunteers to read the articles. After much campaigning and fund-raising, a disused council-house was made available in 1982, at a peppercorn rent, providing an office and recording studio.

Fast forward to 2021, and the Association has moved three times, now using a school classroom in East Ham. The newspaper is still weekly, still free, although tapes have given way to CDs, online editions, and even Alexa! The essential premise hasn't changed, to be the Voice of Newham for visually impaired residents, friendly voices reading local news, events, and stories.

The volunteers have kept the newspaper going throughout the pandemic, recording over the internet from their own homes when they couldn't meet in person. But are now planning to get back into the studio.

If you are a visually impaired person and would like to receive a weekly CD, or you would like to join the reading team, please email newhamtalking-newspaper@gmail.com.

Fight for peace – it's fun

JULIA OMARI

This August Newham Council held several community events days with the aim of giving residents the opportunity to interact with Newham Housing Services, as well as being entertained with activities, games, arts and crafts, recycling information, a free lunch and meeting different organisations from the local area.

Fight For Peace Academy attended each fun day to share a taster session and to raise awareness of the opportunities they offer Newham youth aged 7-25, including free boxing and martial arts classes.



Photo by Julia Omari

The organisation originated in Brazil but now has a presence in 17 countries and have been active in Newham for the past 12 years, with a new home built in 2018/19.

They work with young people – male and female – using fitness, education courses, employment support, personal development etc to guide young people towards reaching their full potential, the focus being on achieving peace within self, other relationships and the wider community.

Fight For Peace's results continue to be consistent and positive, having won a number of Awards around the globe, including the Youth Justice Award, Children and Young People Now in 2020.

After participating in a boxing class at the Stratford fun day, Halima 10, joined the Fight For Peace Twilight fitness class, held every Mon/Weds/Friday, 4pm-5pm for children 7-14 years. She commented "Twilights is fun as we play games. I look forward to coming back next week."

Head over to the academy any evening Monday to Friday at 6p.m. to become a member. You will also find them on social media. ●

Football's greatest hitman: Greaves, a legend of the "funny old game"



Mickey Ambrose remembers a goal-scoring machine and a night of drama at the London Stadium.

We have lost a true legend, the greatest EVER goal scoring machine in history. Jimmy Greaves scored 44 goals in his 57 games for England, and had a prolific goal scoring career in club football for Chelsea, Milan, Tottenham Hotspur, and of course for his home team West Ham United.

Jimmy played in two World Cups, the first in Chile in 1962 and the second in 1966. At the time I was only five years, the 'milk boy' in Poplar with Pat the milkman who paid me 'half a crown' (13 pence) delivering red and gold tops around Oban House and the factories on the Isle of Dogs.

A centre-forward of outstanding natural talent, Jimmy was one of the greatest attackers of all time. Jimmy still holds the record for most goals

in the English top-flight with 357, an AMAZING record.

It's not fair, I know we all have to go sometime but we all don't want that to happen do we? Jimmy I met only once when I was choreographing/directing the football scenes for an ITV six-part series of Mike Bassett: Manager. He



Photo courtesy Jimmy Greaves Foundation

had me in stitches when the cameras were not rolling just like he had all of us rolling up with laughter when he appeared on the that iconic ITV show Saint and Greavsie that ran from 1985 to 1992 with his mate Ian St John, another forward who passed earlier this year on 1 March 2021.

The series and strike legend were so popular they became part of English culture with Greavsie's catchphrase "It's a funny old game" noted all over the country. But Saint and Greavsie was a must-watch for every football fan, hugely entertaining and sometimes blooming hilarious.

On 19 September 2021 as West Ham United entertain Manchester United at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Stadium with the return of Cristiano Ronaldo, another prolific goal-scoring machine.

Jesse Lingard who enjoyed a successful spell on loan in East London last season came off the bench to curl a superb, solo goal into the top corner in the final minutes of the game which gave United all three points.

Said Benrahma's deflected opener had given West Ham the lead. Ronald-



Mickey Ambrose (abover) is former Charlton and Chelsea player

do's fourth goal of the season levelled things up and laid the foundation for late drama.

West Ham were awarded a spot-kick deep into stoppage-time taken by Captain Mark Noble, who was brought on specifically to take the penalty. But the West Ham captain's first touch from the spot drew an inspired save from United keeper David de Gea. But redemption was not long delayed. Noble was in the Hammers team two days later that dumped United out of the Carabao Cup. As our Jimmy would say 'it's a funny old game' God Rest In Peace. ●

SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Neandra Etienne

Clapton CFC player Dean Bouho wore an Edwardian football kit when he played the part of Walter Tull for Tony Robinson's History of Britain – Edwardians documentary which was shown on Channel 5.

There will be a Walter Tull talk event at the Canning Gallery in Canning Town during Newham's Black Football Players through the Years exhibition, in Partnership with Newham Black History Month in October.

[youtube.com/watch?v=6c5zQ8Ck2jc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6c5zQ8Ck2jc)



Deano playing the part of Walter Tull, photo courtesy of Clapton CFC

Clapton CFC Women's Development Team made a successful winning start to their 2021/2022 season.

New players have joined the team, managed by Brian Bramble, while others have stepped up from the beginners XI. They are scheduled to play 3 games in October, 2, 16 & 30. All matches home or away, take place at Clapham Common Northside.

claptoncfc.co.uk

Newham and Essex Beagles High Jump Champion Jonathan Broom-Edwards is now the Paralympics High Jump champion. Well done for winning the Gold medal.

newhamandessexbeagles.co.uk

Forest Crusaders WFC began the new season with a winning start. The team which included 11 debuts beat Alexandra Palace Women 5-0.

Upton Park Ladies football team have welcomed Stuart Webb as their new Assistant Manager.

Michael Hanson-Morris has been announced as Head Coach of the **East London Phoenix**, a professional Women's Wheelchair Basketball team. The team are the University of East London's first sporting franchise.

britishwheelchairbasketball.co.uk

The **West Ham United Foundation** logo will appear on the Hammers' UEFA Europa League kit.

The logo is featured on the back of the Hammers home and away kit, underneath the players' shirt numbers. The appearance of the logo helps to highlight the Club and Foundation's work in supporting local charities, good causes and social support programmes.

whufc.com/club-foundation

Bonny Downs Community Association in East Ham offer a variety of sport and keep fit activities for the elderly including, Chair-based exercise, Darts and Tai Chi both in person and via zoom.

The Well Community Centre, 49 Vicarage Lane, London E6 6DQ
bonnydowns.org/whats-on/

Well done to the Year 11 **St Bons Football Team** who won their National Cup game against Kesgrave High School from Ipswich in Suffolk.

The team won 4-0. PE Teacher Jon Robinson said, "It was a great performance from the lads. They all played really well."

Best of luck to **The Renewal Programme team** who are taking part in the 10k London Legal Walk

through Central London on Monday 18 October. They are raising money to provide frontline free legal advice services to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Newham.

renewalprogramme.org.uk

313 Fitness have added a new girls' Boxing coach to their team. Deayndra 'Dee' Allen is an experienced boxer and coach who has boxed internationally in Italy, Sweden, Netherlands, Jersey and Denmark. She first started boxing at the age of 16. Dee has been awarded the Haringey Box Cup twice and the best female boxer at the Box Cup in 2019.

Dee's boxing classes for girls 7-14 year are on Sundays at 3pm. Sign up online to join. 313fitness.co.uk

Former University of East London student **Lawrence Okolie** nicknamed 'Sauce' successfully retained his WBO cruiserweight title after he knocked out Dilan Prasovic in the third round. The fight took place on 25 Sept at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium.

On 26 September *Newham Voices* Journalist **Noah Enahoro** completed the Hackney Half-Marathon in 2 hours and 35 minutes, a personal best time. Noah helped raise £500 for Worldwide Cancer Research. worldwidecancerresearch.org

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- Council funding

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We **receive support** from

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We offer online and print advertising, but we need more take up to sustain our work. We also accept donations and subscriptions.



WE ARE DEPEDENT ON A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS

Our hardworking team of volunteers give their personal time each month to bring local news and information to you.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING NEWHAM

... and to independent journalism. Our newspaper and website continue to be enjoyed and our readership continues to grow.

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