

How our poorest pensioners miss out on millions



©Edward R/Shutterstock

JEAN GRAY

Some of Newham's most vulnerable people are missing out on millions of pounds of state support – money that could make all the difference in the face of a looming cost of living crisis.

Local campaigners are calling on people over 66 to check whether they or their neighbours or family members are eligible for pension credit, a special benefit worth up to £3,300 a year for the poorest pensioners.

According to Age UK East London, an independent charity supporting older people and their carers, around 3,300 Newham pensioners could be missing

out on up to £11.1 million each year, based on government calculations applied locally by Age UK.

As the cost-of-living crisis deepens and winter approaches, the extra income from pension credit could be a lifeline for many older people who struggle to make ends meet.

With some of the highest rates of pensioner poverty in the country Newham is one of the places where the cost of living crisis will be felt sharply. It is crucial, they say, that older people get all of the support that they are entitled to.

Adam Pervoe, Service Manager at Age UK East London said: "We urge all pensioners in Newham to get in touch with us right away to make sure they

are receiving all the support that's out there."

The charity's Advice Team is ready to advise and help people understand the value of pension credit and other key benefits they may not be aware of.

Isolated older people who don't use the internet or those who may have language difficulties may be particularly at risk. People who may be eligible should contact the charity as soon as possible.

For further information contact:
info@ageukeastlondon.org.uk
www.ageuk.org.uk/eastlondon
 020 8981 7124

Turn to page 5



People's Projects

See pages 8-10



Time up for the monarchy?

See letter page 3



Calling out hate

See page 6

Support us!

To make a donation please scan this code with the PayPal app.





By local people, for local people

Our aim is to provide a voice for all of Newham's people. We are committed to helping you share your news, views and experiences with each other. We aim to be transparent, accountable and responsive to your needs.

We are a non-profit Community Interest Company (number 12790786). Our journalism is based on core values of accuracy, fairness, independence, humanity, accountability and transparency with a strong commitment to citizen journalism. More information is available on our website:

www.newhamvoices.co.uk

Newham Voices CIC Directors

Dean Armond, Neandra Etienne, Jean Gray, Catarina Joele, Shofa Miah, Rebekah Samuel, Winston Vaughan and Aidan White

Publisher

Aidan White 07946 291511

Editors

Catarina Joele and Jean Gray

Designer

Mary Schrider

Editorial Team

Mickey Ambrose, Andrew Baker, Sylvie Belbouab, Fawn Bess-Leith, Cecilia Cran, Phoenix Debola, Noah Enahoro, Neandra Etienne, Coco Garcia Acevedo, Wendy Jackson, Karolina Króliczek, Peter Landman, Shofa Miah, Phil Mellows, Zhenreenah Muhxinga, Julia Omari, Farzana Rahman, Rebekah Samuel, Daphne Stedman, Mir Tasin, Lorraine Tapper, Winston Vaughan and Beatrice White

Thank you to all of our supporters!

Complaints

If you have a complaint regarding the content of our newspaper or website contact the editor at editor@newhamvoices.co.uk Or by phone: 07946291511.

We will normally respond to your complaint with a final decision within 21 calendar days. If we uphold your complaint, we will tell you about our actions to remedy the situation. If you are not satisfied you can submit a formal complaint to IMPRESS, who will independently examine your complaint. *Newham Voices* agrees to be bound by the outcome of IMPRESS investigations.

For more information, go to www.newhamvoices.co.uk/complaints-policy

For general inquiries email us at: info@newhamvoices.co.uk



A month of celebrating our Black identities

Neandra Etienne finds a wealth of talent at Black History Month events across the Borough

Newham's Black History Month events launched with 'A Conversation with Ghetts', hosted by Newham residents Zak Addae-Kodua, Khalil, a social entrepreneur and founder of XCONVERSATION - an East London social enterprise podcast platform that focuses on where young people want to go, not where they have been - and Shanea Oldham a social activist, mentor and youth facilitator.

Zak explained to *Newham Voices* why he wanted to be involved in the launch event:

"Ghetts is a Newham legend and a Grime legend, so it's a great opportunity to pick his brain on certain issues and find out more about him. I felt like I could bring something authentic to the event as a Newham resident, who grew up in the Grime era."

UK Black Pride co-founder and Executive Director Lady Phyll was a guest at the Newham Poetry Group in

partnership with the Queer Newham event 'Intersecting Identities: Black and Queer' at Stratford library. People were encouraged to respond to the talk given by Lady Phyll through poetry, creative writing and illustration. I even felt encouraged to read out my first poem about love, which was well received.

Black Pound Day Youth Market in Stratford, co-produced by Pelisha Deeble, provided a platform for young Black entrepreneurs to sell their jewellery, stickers, fashion and baked goods.

Shoppers were entertained by performers and DJs playing music.

Opposite the market, Newham Deputy Mayor James Asser attended an event organised by De Shed in De Park at Stratford library.

Maryland School children's art exhibition celebrating Black History Month looks at how current significant individuals of colour are shaping the future. The exhibition runs until 8 December and is open to the public.

An event I attended that wasn't listed on the website was The Roy Hackett



Newham BHM Launch Event ©Neandra Etienne

Story, performed by seven students from St Bonaventure's Drama Club at the Stratford Youth Zone.

The play, inspired by his real life, was written by the students. Roy was one of the organisers of the Bristol Bus Boycott in the 1960s. Roy Hackett (19 Sept 1928 - 3 Aug 2022) ●

Lillian John-Baptiste: clarifications

Last month's story about the tragic death of Lillian John-Baptiste carried an interview with the East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT). This interview concerned actions being taken by the Trust in the light of criticism arising from the inquest into the death of Ms John-Baptiste.

We are informed that there was confusion over whether the interview was on the record given the role of Aidan White as a retiring Trust Governor. We acted on the assumption that, as with previous published interviews with ELFT staff, this was an interview for publication. However, the online version of the story has been amended to take account of the Trust's point of view.

In addition, Rycliff Road where Ms John-Baptiste lived is an E16 address but it is in North Woolwich, not Canning Town. Sorry about that.

Get writing! Join our FREE Writing for Publication training workshops



Have you always wanted to write but never had the opportunity? Would you like to become a community journalist with *Newham Voices*?

As part of our commitment to community journalism, *Newham Voices* is inviting you to join our FREE six-day comprehensive journalism course.

See your work published in *Newham Voices* and online, plus you will get the opportunity to join our growing editorial team.

Course Dates

4/5, 11/12 AND 18/19 NOVEMBER 2022

Courses are held on Zoom and face to face

For further details or to sign up, contact: training@newhamvoices.co.uk

Politics school founder is Young Councillor of the Year

NOAH ENAHORO

ANewham councillor has been given a national award for her achievements and contribution in her local area.

Mariam Dawood, a councillor for Manor Park and Deputy Cabinet member for Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, was presented with the 2022 Young Councillor of the Year Award in October.

The award recognises Mariam's determination in her role as a councillor as well as her passion and dedication in encouraging local young people to get involved in democratic processes. The judges were particularly impressed with her role in setting up the Manor Park Politics School, which gives local Newham children an insight into politics at the grassroots, local and national levels.

She said: "I feel incredibly fortunate to represent my lifelong home of Manor Park. I want to dedicate this award to residents who are a constant source of inspiration for me. I am very grateful to have their trust. This dedication extends to my family, especially my parents.

"Historically, younger people are less represented in politics, but it is important to hear our views," Mariam said. "I joined the Labour Party at 15 and was elected as a Councillor at 21, so I have almost always been the youngest person in any meeting room, and I wanted to change that. So when I was elected, I promised to encourage more young people to learn about politics and democracy, which led to the cre-



Mariam Dawood

When I was elected, I promised to encourage more young people to learn about politics and democracy, which led to the creation of Manor Park Politics School.

ation of Manor Park Politics School."

The 13th annual awards were held in conjunction with Churches, Charities

and Local Authorities, a think tank and membership body with more than 200 councils, and the Local

Government Information Unit (LGIU), a leading specialist fund manager for local authorities and charities. The awards celebrate and acknowledge the work being done by councillors across England and Wales.

"I would like to thank the LGIU for this award, I feel honoured to have their support. I would also like to thank Sir Stephen Timms MP for his guidance, Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz, GLA Member Unmesh Desai and all of my colleagues who have been so encouraging, especially my ward colleagues Cllr Salim Patel and Cllr Jennifer Bailey," Cllr Dawood added.

"I participated in community projects growing up in Manor Park, and during that time, I had the support of Cllr Salim Patel and my MP, Sir Stephen Timms. Their encouragement taught me the importance of mentorship, which is why, as part of the Politics School, we introduce students to young professionals from different fields who can guide and encourage them. I hope to continue to grow the Politics School and support more young people to learn and participate in politics."

Chief Executive of the LGIU, Jonathan Carr-West, said: "On such a momentous day - we are incredibly proud to unveil the winners of these 13th annual Cllr Awards. Doing this at a time of immense turmoil and as national politics continues to unravel, underlines the importance of what we've done - showcasing the vital work of councillors, making a real difference to the lives of local people." ●

HAVE YOUR SAY – LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@newhamvoices.co.uk

Time for a serious discussion about the end of monarchy

If *Newham Voices*' readers' opinions are like others in this nation, a quarter of readers want to see an end to the monarchy. To us it is an embarrassment that we are subjects of His Royal Britannic Majesty, and not Citizens - surely this infantilises us all?

So although the October edition of the paper was up to its usual high standards, was it really necessary to have so much royal fawning?

There is a great republican tradition in this part of London; when the king and queen in the 1940s visited

the East End during the Blitz they were booed and pelted with rotten fruit as their part of town - the posh West End - was bomb free, while the authorities kept the underground locked to prevent the 'proles' using it to escape death.

There has been a media blackout of any republican sentiment. As the commentator Polly Toynbee recently wrote: 'The result is an excruciating volume of vacuous verbiage filling interminable hours, with carefully picked, tearful vox pops misrepresenting a country not so united.'

(*Guardian*, 16 September).

This diminishes us all, the monarchists should welcome dissent and engage in a debate.

We must also surely be aware of the way that those who rule over us used the Queen's passing to attempt to distract us from the havoc they are causing: inflation, soaring energy bills, raw sewage being pumped into our waterways and locally the way they are sneaking the Silvertown Tunnel and the MSG stadium into Newham,

It is really no surprise that a cos-

seted, very rich lady lived until 96. What amazes me is that my mother - and I am sure many of yours - lived until her late 90s.

She endured grinding poverty as a child in Whitechapel in the 1920s, fought Oswald Mosely and British fascists in 1936 in Cable Street and went on against the odds to build a relatively successful life.

Ordinary people are the heroes, the ones we clapped during the lockdown and those who are now striking for a decent pay rise.

- Simon Shaw, Forest Gate

The power of poetry in hard times

BEATRICE WHITE

In a corner of Stratford Park sits a little white bungalow. It is the home of the Newham Poetry Group, a growing community of budding and established poets and poetry enthusiasts. The Poetry House hosts a community café, book swap, and creative writing workshops on Saturday afternoons, and the group also holds poetry sessions on Thursday evenings at Stratford library.

"There's no pretention or competitiveness, just a group of people who come together to express themselves, get creative, and be supportive of each other" says Emily, a regular attendee of the group's sessions.

Bristena, who recently released a volume of her own bilingual poetry (in English and Romanian), has been involved with the group for several years. She describes the group as a "very open and welcoming space, with people of all ages and backgrounds."

Hector is one of the group's youngest members. Now a creative media student, he first became involved in the group several years ago, when he was still a child. Speaking about how poetry

can be a source of support for Newham's youth he says "[being young] is a confusing time. I can't speak on behalf of every kid my age, but speaking from experience, things like poetry can serve as a vent, in a creative way."

Some of those who are involved with the group prefer to take a back seat and listen to others, while appreciating poetry and finding ways of making it relevant in their daily lives. Bisi, whose



Tunde ("T") Balogun at the festival

sister Tunde (known as "T") performed at the group's poetry festival in late September, likes to use elements of poetry in her work as a teacher. "It can be a tool, I use it with all ages... you can do a sensory poem, for example."

Achieving a space dedicated to poetry in the shape of the poetry house was the result of many years of effort by the group's members.

"Everything you see here has been done by the community. This space was abandoned and collapsing, so 6 or 7 of us went knocking on doors, saying to the council 'we want this space'," explains Sonia, the founder of the group. Due to their lack of experience, it took 5 tries for their funding application to be successful.

For her, its key mission is to reach out to marginalised communities – migrants, minorities, and the LGBTQ and disabled communities in particular – to be a place where they can be heard and tell their stories. Thanks to this ethos, the group's diversity reflects the diversity of Newham's residents, and many members are from the local area and live in the vicinity of the park.

A therapist by profession, Bristena is keenly aware of the capacity of poetry to be a comfort and a way of coming to terms with difficult realities and emotions, and the power that words can have. For her, poetry, particularly when shared with others can be "a way to stay resourced when terrible things are happening around us, to meet challenges and be resilient."

This was the case for Olimpia, who was sceptical about writing poetry at first but, becoming involved with the group at a time when "I was going through a lot in my personal life and at work – it was really cathartic, a way of releasing everything I had stored inside."

Calu also believes in the power of poetry to support people's mental health and wellbeing, especially in times of crisis such as during the pandemic or in the face of struggles to meet to the cost of living. "There is a lot of isolation," she says, "people need to know it's not just them." Coming together to share poetry is a way to "channel those things and raise awareness of people's day to day struggles... this is what people's lives are made of." ●

Advertisement

**SAT 19 NOV 2022 –
SAT 07 JAN 2023**

**STRATFORD
EAST**

CINDERELLA

Book and Lyrics by
Leo Butler

Music and Lyrics by
Robert Hyman

Directed by
Eva Sampson

Sponsorship and grants funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Newham London

telfordhomes
A Telford Group Company

2022 Official Pantomime Sponsor

VAT No. 233 3120 59
Charity No. 233801
Reg No. 556251

The table of love and loss: A special memorial

REBEKAH SAMUEL

At the end of October with reports of the latest murder of a woman in Stratford, the crisis of violence against women in Newham is to be highlighted at a special event next month.

The table of love and loss is a memorial event and vigil for female victims of crime, focussing on women in danger of abuse and murder. It will be held on **Sunday 4 December 2022, from 1:00pm - 4:00pm at East Ham Town Hall.**

The event is organised by Ayse Hussein, cousin of murder victim Mary-Jane Mustafa ("Jan"), who had been missing since May 2018, before her body was found in the freezer of a tiny Canning Town flat, in April 2019, alongside a second female victim, Henrietta Szucs a Hungarian national.

It is believed Jan, 38 at the time of death, had been in the freezer for at least one year, and Henrietta (34) for two. Both ladies had been murdered by Zahid Younis, a convicted sex offender who was jailed for life with a minimum term of 38 years, at Southwark

Crown Court in 2020.

Ayse said: "I wanted to do something focusing on crimes against females in memory of all victims. At the table of love and loss, memories and other information will be shared."

On display will be pictures of victims, their perpetrators, news articles, media pages, info on parliamentary changes, alongside other useful material. Various agencies and organisations will be present. This will include mental health services, the police, local charities, and the local authority.

"We hope to provide support for living victims of crime and families who have lost loved ones to crime, while raising awareness for potential 'would be' victims," she added.

Also in attendance will be the families of both victims and missing people. There will be a speaker who is a survivor of domestic abuse and a counsellor's tent on site to provide support for anyone needing it. We want people to come along, support and share their feelings of love and loss."

Pensioners and cost of living crisis

continued from page 1

Meanwhile, Newham Council 'warm havens' were going live in libraries on October 31, as *Newham Voices* went to press.

Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz said that havens in leisure centres, community buildings, NHS buildings and other suitable places across the Borough would follow.

Last month *Newham Voices* reported that the Council is also asking residents to come forward to act as Cost of Living Champions. They will get regular updates to share with friends, colleagues and families in their networks.

The Mayor said: "I am really worried that so many of our residents will be facing financial instability due to inflation, soaring energy bills, and housing costs."

People will also be able to access hot meals provided by the Newham Food Alliance, and financial help from the Council's Newham Money Emergency Support, the local welfare scheme.

www.newham.gov.uk/advice-support-benefits/newham-food-alliance

www.ournewhammoney.co.uk/affordable-loans/emergency-support



Henrietta Szucs (pictured left) was 34 years old when she was murdered. Mary-Jane ("Jan") Mustafa (pictured right) was 38 years old when she was murdered.

ANNOUNCEMENT ON PUBLIC NOTICES

NEWHAM VOICES

IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY
AND WE ARE AVAILABLE
FOR PUBLISHING

PUBLIC NOTICES TO DISCUSS PUBLISHING NOTICES SUCH AS

ALCOHOL LICENCES, PREMISES LICENCES,
COMMERCIAL LICENCES

OR

ANY OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC NOTICES

CALL

07711057096

EMAIL

MAIA@SOCIALSPIDER.COM

Note: Our next issue goes to print on 24 November 2022

Stay connected with Newham Voices

Sign up to our monthly newsletter
and receive regular news and information



It's easy to sign up

Just use the link: bit.ly/NVnewsletter
Or simply scan the QR Code

Follow us on social media for timely updates:



@newhamvoices



Strategy launched to call out hate crime



Newham has launched a hate crime strategy including a new 24-hour telephone and online service that allows anyone to report hate crime without directly contacting the police.

Hate Crime is a criminal offence which is defined as action motivated by hostility or prejudice based on race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity.

Cllr Carleene Lee-Phakoe, Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety, said: "There is no place for Hate in Newham. This new three-year strategy sets out our commitment to supporting victims of hate crime and holding perpetrators to account."

The launch coincided with National Hate Crime Awareness Week in October which aimed to encourage police, councils, key partners and communities affected by hate crime to work together.

Tackling Hate Crime is a key priority for the Council and its Community Safety Partnership and the delivery of the Hate Crime Strategy will focus actions on prevention, education, support and holding perpetrators to account.

Launched alongside the strategy is the new reporting service delivered in partnership with Stop Hate UK. People who experience or witness hate crime can report it without directly contacting the police. This can be anonymous if the person chooses. In addition to receiving reports of crime, Hate UK can offer independent support and advice, and help victims access the expertise they need.

The reporting service can be contacted on **0800 138 1625** or at www.stophateuk.org/report-hate-crime

Posthumous England cap for Canning Town footballer Jack

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Jack Leslie's family joined The Jack Leslie Campaign, representatives from West Ham United and Barking FC at the unveiling of the new Jack Leslie statue in October.

During his playing career Canning Town boy Jack played for Barking Town and Plymouth Argyle FC. After retiring he became a member of the Hammers' backroom staff, working as the Club's boot-boy for over 15 years.

Matt Tiller and Greg Foxsmith, two Argyle fans, started The Jack Leslie Campaign in the summer of 2020 to raise money for the statue in Plymouth.

Along with a committee of volunteers, Plymouth Argyle Football Club and Jack Leslie's three granddaughters, Lyn, Gill, and Lesley, they worked together to bring the statue project to life.

The Campaign launched a crowd-funded appeal and reached its £100,000 target in six weeks. They commissioned Andy Edwards, a renowned artist to make it.

The statue stands atop a granite plinth inscribed with information about Jack, the surrounding landscaping commemorates the key sponsors of the project.

Campaign co-founders, Greg Foxsmith and Matt Tiller, said: "Telling Jack's story in Plymouth and across the UK has been inspiring to us and



Jack Leslie statue. Photo ©Matthew Ellacott Photography

those who have heard it. To have the support of so many is incredible."

During his time playing for Plymouth Argyle in 1925 Jack was selected to play for England in a game against Ireland, but his name was removed from the team sheet when officials discovered his Black heritage.

Greg Foxsmith and Matt Tiller wanted the statue and plinth to celebrate Jack's life and achievements but also tell the story of that injustice in 1925. He died in 1988.

Jack's granddaughters unveiled the statue.

During the unveiling ceremony, which included a poem read by Big Scoop, it was announced that the FA have awarded Jack a posthumous honorary cap.

Jack Leslie is also remembered in Canning Town, with new flats being named in his honour, and a Newham Heritage Blue plaque outside his old home.

www.jackleslie.co.uk

A time of autumnal bounty!

LUCIA RIOS STEELE

As a Forest School practitioner, I love nothing more than getting children outside to become immersed in the natural world. October was the perfect time to get out as a family and explore all that our East London green spaces have to offer.

One of nature's most extraordinary events have come to fruition! Many

trees that were in blossom back in the spring are now setting seed.

This is the perfect time to brush-up on your tree identification skills. The mighty oaks are dropping acorns. The London planes are adorned with dangling seedballs. Horse chestnuts' spiky, green shells swell and crack revealing the most precious treasure for young and old - conkers! Sycamores and field

maples sway, their dried 'keys' rustle in the wind before wheeling to the ground.

Don't just walk past, go on, pick-up a handful of spinners, throw them up and revel in nature's engineering as they helicopter down.

Going out on a nature walk presents the perfect opportunity for children to collect, ask questions and share thoughts and feelings. My top tips: engage your senses - listen, touch, smell. Keep twine or string in your coat pocket to make a journey stick by using it to wrap the things that you find on your walk. This never fails to bring joy and wonder!

But remember, the first rule of Forest School is: no pick, no lick! So, please only collect items that have fallen to the ground.



Lucia Rios Steele is a primary school teacher, Forest School practitioner and Friend of West Ham Park

Support for vulnerable young people at a life-changing moment

AIDAN WHITE

Newham has opened a special hub to support young people as they leave council care and launch themselves into the adult world.

The Cove, a dedicated communal meeting and work space for youngsters leaving care is now open in East Ham.

It will provide activities that will develop their work skills, give them access to employment workshops and targeted support on a range of issues from financial well-being and financial literacy to sexual health and parenting and baby classes.

Support will be available through the council's leaving care team which relocated to The Cove last month. There will also be personal advisers and a Care Leavers' Forum will hold monthly meetings at the Cove.

Opening the hub Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz said: "The Cove is a great example of the pioneering work we are



doing in Newham to help and support our care leavers, work which was recently reflected in our 'Good' Ofsted rating."

This rating is a substantial and significant improvement on an Ofsted verdict from March 2019, with the council moving up two grades from 'inadequate' for its provision of children's services.

Councillor Sarah Ruiz, Cabinet Member for Children's Services said: "Leaving care can be tough and we want to ensure our most vulnerable young people have access to the same opportunities as everyone else in the Borough."

Also present at the opening was Mark Riddell, himself a care leaver, from the Department of Education, who said: "The Cove is a fantastic resource. It is in the heart of Newham and accessible, a place to meet and get multi-disciplinary support and a place to call their own." ●

Advertorial

NewVic students and staff celebrate Colleges Week 2022

NewVic joins the national campaign with the Association of Colleges to celebrate students, staff and skills.

NewVic is a key supporter of the #LoveOurColleges campaign launched by the Association of Colleges (AoC) in partnership with UCU, Unison, NEU, GMB, ASCL, TUC and NUS, which is in its fifth year.

The #LoveOurColleges campaign has gone from strength to strength since 2018 and continues to celebrate the work that colleges do and their impact on the country.

NewVic has been sharing their thoughts on why they love the college throughout the weeklong campaign. This has been shared all week on their social media channels. There were some great blogs, vlogs and an event handing out NewVic fans as staff and students shared why they were 'fans' of NewVic.

Mandeep Gill, Principal and CEO at NewVic, said:



"Our aim is to ensure that all our students, regardless of age, background and circumstances are properly equipped with the skills and qualifications they need to achieve their ambitions in work and in life and that they enjoy being part of a successful and diverse student community here at NewVic."



Future fans can find out more about what makes NewVic special at their Open Day on Saturday 12 November, 10am - 1pm, register here: www.newvic.ac.uk/open-days

The people's projects

The winners in Newham's community assembly ballots with £800,000 to spend

Newham's eight neighbourhoods with £100,000 to spend on their community have chosen 75 winning projects for 2022. Newham Voices is publishing this month the winners covering Stratford and West Ham, East Ham, Forest Gate and Plaistow. They were selected after ballots by Newham's Community Assemblies. We also open a discussion (Page 10) on how the Community Assembly project can be improved. The aim is to convert good ideas for improving neighbourhoods into practical projects. See the Newham Co-Create Platform for more information. newhamco-create.co.uk/en/folders/assemblies

Next month we feature the winners from Manor Park, Green Street, Custom House and Canning Town, Beckton and Royal Docks.

Stratford and West Ham

The Channelsea: caring for our blue green future

This trio of interlinked projects supports the community's care of and engagement in the green blue spaces around the Channelsea river, and at the Long Wall Path Ecology Garden. A workshop series at the garden will build the volunteer network. It will also design and build a welcome archway for the garden, including an engagement workshop for the design process. The project also involves purchase of a new green solar charged propulsion system for safety boats.

Chobham Manor Community Facility

This project will be delivered from the newly built community centre based in Chobham Manor. The aim is to provide free further education to young members of the community, by partnering with teachers and professionals who will encourage innovation and creativity. This will be a fully functional work space providing the right training and support to young people in West Ham.

What's The Point - Schools Knife Crime Prevention

Stratford is in the top three areas for high rates of knife crime in the Borough. This schools project - 'What's The Point?' - is a proven, Home Office backed knife prevention project aiming to change the culture around carrying knives, to have a 'teachable moment' through meeting members of the community whose lives have been impacted by knife violence (including ex-gang members) and sharing stories. They will learn emergency first aid skills, build empathy and understand the consequences of a decision to carry. The project ran successfully in six schools in Canning Town/Custom House last year.

Collaborative Community Mural

Co-Creative Connection will deliver this mural project in two phases: workshops and the creation of murals. The nine free workshops will be led by a professional artist and educator and will give up to 47 local residents an opportunity to attend exciting and fun-filled creative and mindful workshops. The murals will be displayed on the planters outside the Old Town Hall.



Stratford Skate Hub - Queen Elizabeth, Olympic Park

Skate Gals and Pals will create a semi-permanent skating facility at the Olympic Park, on the Stratford and West Ham side. The aim is to give more physical activity options to Newham residents and facilitate a space for local skaters, for people of all generations and genders in Newham, at no or low-cost. Group skate lessons and one-to-one skate lessons will be provided.

Community Wardrobe (Stratford and East Ham Salvation Army)

Clothing Poverty is a huge issue in Newham. There is currently a Baby Bank but no capacity to meet every request for clothes for children over the age of five, or adults. This project will help change that by delivering support in both East Ham and Stratford. The community wardrobe will provide dignity and choice when accessing clothing.

Plaistow

Revamp Beaumont Road Green: Orchard, Flowers and Benches

The large forgotten green in Beaumont Road, on the top of Tunmarsh Lane, is very neglected, infested with pigeons and is a hot spot for fly tipping. It will now get some new features: benches inside the park, a covered seating area, some planters built by, and cared for by, the Tunmarsh students, as well as an urban orchard with mature pear, apple and plum trees.

Plaistow Eco Hub (First Avenue Urban Wilderness Regeneration)

This will be a model for a self-sustaining community in the future. This project is part of a big network of green corridors - a series of green spaces along the Greenway encouraging wildlife and people to co-exist. Unlocking the potential of the site can be a catalyst for the regeneration of other sites along the Greenway.

Wild Green E13 Community Garden: New Features

This project updates the existing community garden with new features and activities for everyone in the local

community, including plans for a full-size mural on 114 Haig Road East, which has a side facing the orchard, co-funded by the housing association. A larger composter will be installed and there will be features for children including a mud kitchen and willow tents as well as arts and crafts workshops for children led by local artists.

Little Free Pantry

Following on from the idea of the tiny library that was installed last year in Plaistow, the little free pantry will be set in a different location, providing some free pantry goods to the local community: 'take what you need, leave what you can'. People can't always access food banks to leave a food parcel, sometimes they can only afford an extra tin of something.



New City Green teen play: football goals, basketball hoop and log feature

New City Green has lots of potential, but the play equipment is old and neglected and older children and teenagers haven't got much to do. This is one of the most used parks per square metre in Newham yet very underfunded. This new project will replace the feature log by the New City entrance and upgrade the play equipment for young people who need better experiences to recover from the pandemic.

Social Alleyways

Planters and murals will be added to alleys between Plaistow Park Rd/Glasgow Rd, Dundee Rd/Perth Rd and Perth Rd/Cave Rd. Alleyways allow residents to avoid walking along polluted main roads and are regularly used by children for play but fly tipping and anti-social behaviour limits their use. This project will make them more appealing and will discourage antisocial behaviour.

Bridges Community Memorial Garden

This project reclaims an unused and unsightly local space (between Memorial Church and the Swift Centre on Barking Road) to co-create a Memo-



Channelsea River

ts 2022

Focus on Stratford, West Ham, Plaistow, Forest Gate and East Ham

rial Garden with homeless and vulnerably housed people who form the service-user community at Bridges Homeless Support (Newham).

Safer Streets - Plaistow Neighbourhood Watch

There will be training and community engagement events to help develop a proactive neighbourhood watch scheme in Plaistow. Equipment like UV markers, alarms, two-way radios will be distributed and people trained to be able to engage with the local safer neighbourhoods teams, and report crime.

Plaistow Park Water Fountain and Benches

This project aims to bring back life to Plaistow park with water fountains repaired and with installation and renovation of benches.



Plaistow play equipment

Plaistow Play Equipment Improvements (Swings)

Swings have been missing for months in the Plaistow Park playground and some bits of the climbing frame have been broken for years. That's going to change as this project will put the playground equipment in working order.

Forest Gate and Maryland Shine a Light

This project will improve the community spaces in The Gate Library on Woodgrange Road which are increasingly used for exhibitions, classes, workshops and events. Three spaces currently have a picture hanging system. The project will install a lighting system to complement the hanging system and provide adjustable lighting for exhibitions, with additional picture frames and exhibition equipment.



Bridges Memorial Garden

Dance for Wellbeing: linking arts and healthcare services

The Dance for Wellbeing project will deliver two dance/movement and wellbeing courses for adults over 60 in Forest Gate, using a local public space. Through the development of community networks and linking to Newham social prescribing/link workers, the project will set up dance for over 60s and dance for health and wellbeing – a seated to standing session for adults with movement issues.

A Play Area and Green Oasis in the Town Centre

This will turn the southwest section of the churchyard into a play area and a welcoming, restful space for the general public. This will be achieved by clearing the space and resurfacing the ground.

Ashok's Vision - Youth led Nature and Biodiversity project

Ashok's Vision, the Newham based youth mental wellbeing charity, delivers a weekly stall at Woodgrange Market. This new project will be a collaboration between Forest Gate Community Garden, Woodcraft Folk, The Gate Library, Aston Mansfield and Magpie Park, and with a connection with *Newham Voices*! The project will



Ashok's Vision

include outdoor weekly learning and planting space at Woodgrange Market place as well as indoor learning workshops relating to biodiversity, nature, cleanliness and the environment.

Food bank initiative

The Food bank initiative is run by a charity called Newham Community Recycling, aka WOMBLES, that has been based in Newham for more than 20 years. Since the pandemic they have been delivering free food to local food banks and the needy. This project will provide urgently needed support to supplement the funding provided by volunteers, for example to pay for fuel, insurance, transport and other running costs.



Let's Repair

This will be a space in Forest Gate where skilled people repair and/or repurpose items such as electrical appliances or clothing. They volunteer their time and expertise to help repair any item from anyone in the community, and pass on their skills. This project will take place in Forest Gate with multiple locations.

Clean, green E15: Making Maryland a place to grow

This project led by Maryland Community Group is for a community 'grow and share' project, accessible to all, located at Henniker Point on Leytonstone High Road. It's a prominent area of the high street which is currently notorious

for fly-tipping and waste. The project includes plans to establish a series of planters with all-edible planting and to upgrade existing planting areas and promote small-space gardening.

Safer Pavements, Greener Pavements

This project will install planters on pavements that we know are often used by cars for idling or parking – which limits ease of use by buggies, wheelchair users and generally all pedestrians – causing damage to the pavements and adding more pollution. The planters will encourage biodiversity, and give a greener and brighter look to the neighbourhood.



Forest Gate and Maryland Environmental and Sustainability Network

Get In Touch With Nature

This Nature and Biodiversity Outreach Scheme for Children recognises that many children in Forest Gate and Maryland do not have the opportunity to access and experience nature in a meaningful and fun way. This program will provide free outdoor activities, resources and training, targeting children and their families.

Forest Gate and Maryland Environmental and Sustainability Network

The project will provide coordination and support to individual Forest Gate and Maryland residents as well as local groups that are actively running environmental or sustainability projects. This project will ensure better coordination and networking to make sure that efforts are not duplicated, funds go further, and groups and activists can learn from each other to make a better impact. The network will host Forest Gate's first Sustainability Fair to show our local community what we can achieve together.

Wayfinding wall murals

The proposal will continue a wayfinding trail to Eric Road playground and sports court and The UP Garden, to encourage exercise and socialisation. These facilities are in good condition but underused, due to lack of awareness and a perception that the surrounding multi-storey blocks are unsafe to walk through. Last year, a wayfinding street art trail was created and has been well

received. Now the plan is to continue the trail from Little Diamonds right to the playground and sports court.

Trees in the High Street

This project will create green spaces in the concrete parts of the high street. Trees will be set up in planters above the ground in Woodgrange High Street, and local residents and shop keepers will get involved in maintaining them. Last year there was a similar project in Upton Lane.

East Ham

Generation East London

This project is for self-defence classes (see <https://www.mmarap.co.uk>) for deaf and hearing women, empowering discipline, self-esteem, confidence and team-building skills. There will be deaf awareness training for local organisations and community centres within East Ham, and British Sign Language Storytelling with Trovers Orr, author of *Daniel and The Rubbish Monster*, who will educate children on how to keep the environment clean. The project will be delivered in East Ham Library and local community centres. British Sign Language Interpreters will be present to ensure all projects are accessible to deaf and hearing people.

Williams Green Community Project

This project will help volunteers develop skill sets and will involve trades people skilled in construction, wood work, glazing, soft furnishing and plumbing who aim to give back to the community. This will allow youth engagement. There will be a space to be used for classrooms, after-school clubs, dance, singing, IT, cookery, and health promotion initiatives among other activities, and a community garden.



Cog Cycling – Newham

Cog Cycling – Newham

This project will create a sustainable cycle club. The funding will be used to buy bikes/helmets and coaching costs to run BMX/Balance and SEND sessions each week for one year. It will target young people to 18 with sessions for young people with special educational needs.

Waste Not Workshops

The 'Waste Not Workshops' project will be conducted by three local artists who will each run a course of six free workshops over six months at Red Door Studios. This will culminate in a free exhibition for residents to observe the results which will include a sculpture made solely from litter from local parks.

Voices through the Wind

This project involves five weeks of a creative writing course (excluding performance) aimed at children between the ages of eight and 13. The course will focus on confidence-building, public speaking and storytelling, and will enable the young attendees to let their voices be heard, while being able to address what a safer neighbourhood would look like to them.

Connect in Nature - Women's Empowerment Circles

This project addresses the use of parks and open spaces, making use of local space and bringing women together to create safe spaces. There will be discussion on environmental issues especially around food/drink/use of plastic/recycling and use of community facilities and public spaces. It contributes to improving health and wellbeing and incorporates a range of wellness activities. The project is open to all women, with weekly sessions in Plashet and Central Parks. During winter, monthly discussion sessions will make use of local cafes.

WILLOW - a collaborative theatre project in Central Park

This outdoor theatre project will take place in Central Park East Ham. A series of public workshops led by Newham-based artists will generate material for a performance in the park, bringing together art, music and community. The performance and the workshops will be open to all ages, inclusive and free of charge. There will be food shared as part of the experience.



WILLOW

Folkstone Road Allotment Accessible Community Garden

This project will transform a currently unused allotment plot into an inclusive communal garden with 11 raised planting beds, a communal greenhouse, compost, and storage area, water tank and drinking water point. There will also be a covered pergola with picnic benches. The area will have an accessible path all around the beds which is level and step free.

Brampton community garden

This project will build on the budding community garden at Brampton Park, which is in need of support to become an established green space and community hub. This garden will become a focal point for sharing knowledge about plants and gardening and for learning about eco-friendly growing practices. The community gardening team will liaise with the council and Brampton Primary School, which should lead to the involvement of schoolchildren from nursery to year six.

Meeli's Social Club

This project offers parents with young adults aged 16 years and over who have special needs or mental health or any other disability, four hours of a safe club to give friendship, social skills and creative activities on a weekly basis in East Ham Library. The project aims to give parents a rest and their young adults the chance to have fun, learn new skills and have a regular place to meet.

Community events and Information

This project is for four annual community events at East Ham library and at Central Park, where all residents will be able to access free information and inclusive activities. The events will include stalls with representatives from local adult education centres/community centres offering enrolment, social prescribers offering health advice, the police, LGBT support groups, foodbank information, information on where to access immigration support and benefits, and other community support groups.



Community Events and Information

Skatepark facilities for Young people in E6

The project will create skatepark facilities to give young people a safe and dedicated area to meet up and share their passion for skateboarding, preferably within E6. Most play areas locally are suitable for under eights and there is little or no provision for teenagers.

Can we do better?

Peter Landman reviews the community assembly process based on his time as a member of the East Ham working group

As a longstanding member of the East Ham Working Group, I've had a distinctive mix of positive and negative experiences.

On the plus side there has been great personal support from staff, and the Co-Create platform has been a joy to use and our assembly initiated a great range of projects.

But on the other hand I must say I've found layers of unnecessary work mainly in prioritising projects and the working group scoring and shortlisting exercise.

To begin with I maintain there was an unnecessary step asking applicants wanting to join the working group to fill in an application form. I felt this gave the signal "you have to prove you are good enough".

In looking through individual projects to do our scoring, we had to assess how they fitted in with the priorities, rather than assessing them on merit.

Somehow I feel we achieved very little.

On shortlisting, we only "knocked out" three applications out of 15. I guess they would have been "knocked out" in the final voting anyway. (No disrespect intended.)

Before that, I felt there was a really good public presentation session but with only five minutes for each presentation.

I suggest holding two sessions next time, possibly one from residents and one from representatives of the voluntary sector. This could release more time for individual presentations and questions.

I see that only members of the working group have been invited to be involved in the implementation of voted for projects. Why can't any-

one who took part in the voting be invited?

For the future I would suggest:

1. Do away with priority headings
2. Do not reappoint working groups.
3. Consider adding " why you should vote for my project " on to the application form.

I was not allowed to vote for projects to go for funding, as a member of the working group. But I hazard a guess, it was a tall order with the number of applications and the amount of detail. "Why you should vote for my project" could provide an easy handle.

Finally, and perhaps this is far-fetched but could community assembly staff consider two separate funding allocations: one for projects from individuals and one from the organisations in the voluntary sector, with two separate voting processes? This could mean fewer applications to be considered at one go.

Islamophobia Awareness: A celebration of diversity

NEANDRA ETIENNE

The *Many Faces of Our Soul Photography Exhibition*, featuring portraits of young Muslims in Newham by Sylvie Belbouab, will launch Islamophobia Awareness Month for November in the Gate library.

This event will also include a discussion panel *Creating Futures Free of Islamophobia* facilitated by local writer and poet Hodan Yusuf. The panel will discuss the impact of Islamophobia and structural violence, and focus on positive work being done to counter these problems.

The events, which will be in collaboration with various community groups and local artists, includes:

- *Tending to the Earth: Herbal Healing and Stewardship Workshop* – an introduction to Islamic traditions of tending to the Earth through herbal medicine;
- Poetry writing workshops with Fahima Hersi – a series of three writing workshops with Newham based poet and co-producer of Poetry and Shaah;
- Fahima Hersi, *Centring Our Stories Zine Workshop* – a zine making workshop by local visual artist and arts editor of Khidr Collective, Alaa Alsaraji; and
- *Centring Ourselves in Our Built Environment* – participants will be invited to respond to prompts through drawing and writing.

To close Islamophobia Awareness Month there will be an evening filled with songs from local Nasheed band Pearls of Islam and storytelling from Khayaal Theatre, a multi-award-winning theatre and drama education company.

Pearls of Islam consists of Sakinah Lenoir and Rabiah Mali, a British duo with African Caribbean heritage. Their music is heavily rooted in traditional

Islamic poetry (Qasaid) and contemporary sounds.

This programme is part of Newham Unlocked, the Council's cultural festival of events and activities which highlight the rich and diverse mix of creativity in the Borough.



Instagram, Facebook and Twitter:

@NewhamLondon
#NewhamLondon
@NewhamUnlocked
#NewhamUnlocked
#NewhamIAM2022
#IAM2022

To find out more contact events@newham.gov.uk or visit www.newhamiam.org



Drag Race UK star recreates EastEnders Queen Vic bust

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Just May, a contestant on series four of RuPaul's Drag Race UK, used to work in a shop at the Stratford Mall doing recruitment.

But she didn't actually get much work done. She told *Newham Voices*: "I'd spend as much time as possible not working, be that walking around the mall or hiding in an office."

Just May was inspired to become a Drag Queen because of her love of nostalgia. She loves pop history, especially very British things from when she was a child.

She applied to RuPaul's Drag Race UK because she saw it as an excuse to push herself. She has been a full time Drag Queen for seven years and was part time for at least three years before that.

When RuPaul announced the first Drag Race photo shoot during the episode, a tribute to the Spice Girls, the camera focused on Just May who was already dressed as Ginger Spice because she is a Geri Halliwell impersonator. The Drag Queens had to recreate the Spice Girls' iconic entrance on taxis to the London 2012 Olympics.

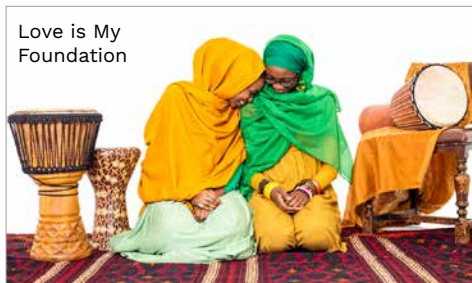
Just May said: "It was an iconic moment for the Spice Girls, and one I'd never recreated in my many years, so the chance to do that was amazing! I just wanna ride all cabs that way now!"

During the catwalk runway segment the Drag Queens had to create a look in honour of the BBC's 100 year anniversary and Just May picked the Queen Victoria bust from the Queen Vic pub in EastEnders because she's a huge fan of the show.

"I would never do icons such as June Brown, or Barbara Windsor justice, so why not pick an inanimate object!"

Next up is her first single, 'Just Like Geri' and a weekly review show 'May I Just Say' as well as many more gigs and shows.

www.justmaydoes.com



Love is My Foundation

My Newham

Julia Omari meets local artist Hazel Goldman

How long have you been connected to Newham?

I was born here in 1955, living in my grandmother's house. In 2012, my mother Doreen and I created the Grove Guest House E7, continuing our love of hosting, community and great conversations.

What's your favourite Newham moment?

Taking my mum to the Olympics in 2012 – 'I am staying alive for that!' she said, hearing the announcement in 2005. We had an amazing time. She even got to hold the 1948 London Olympics torch.

Most inspirational Newham person?

I met Barbara Wheeler in early 1970 – she was teaching art at East Ham

Boys School. She encouraged me to get involved with Visual System's first Free Form Fun Festival on the Keir Hardie Estate; showing arts could be a transformative part of everyday life. I didn't know anyone involved in the arts before this – then I went on to study at Chelsea Art School, working with the pioneering charity Free Form Arts Trust for over 30 years.

Favourite place to eat in Newham?

Hard to choose – Aromas Nepalese Restaurant and Fiore Truck.

Favourite Newham outdoor space?

My front garden where I make community landmarks. Friends, neighbours and passing people join in. It also has a topiary hedge that I planted with my dad when I was five years old.

How would you spend a free day in Newham?

Dr Who Museum – yes it's bigger on the inside – wander down Green Street buying sparkling glorious fabrics, head to Woodgrange Market for a chat in Emporium 8 and a coffee in Giovannas where I will sit crocheting our latest landmark.

You currently have an exhibition in Stratford Library. Can you tell us about it.

The exhibition centres on objects from my family's barber shop and



Stratford Library exhibition

hairdresser in Vicarage Lane E15, established in the 1910s. I spent my early years in the salon, a great hub of women, sharing support and tips on how to survive in hard times. Raucous laughter raised spirits when lives were hard.

Following heavy bombing in World War II, our shop was the only building left standing. As children we had great times playing on this bomb-site.

The exhibition also tells my grandparents' story. Grandpa Shmula Peprzhik arrived in England in 1913 fleeing the Tsar's Cossacks who were burning our villages. He was given an anglicised name – becoming Harry Goldman. When he married my grandmother Lily, an East Ender, in 1924, she lost her British citizenship under the Aliens Act. This explained a childhood mystery – why we didn't ever go abroad for holidays. My 'cockney' grandmother was not sure if she would be allowed back to England!

Photos courtesy Julia Omari



Hazel Goldman



Phil Mellows finds an oasis of calm in the busy Westfield Centre – and you can even bring your own sandwiches

Tap East is an oasis of calm amid the shopping frenzy of Stratford Westfield, an oasis topped up with good beer, which is exactly what you need for calm.

Suddenly, though, Chris Slack, the manager, jumps up and runs out, flapping his arms wildly. Pigeon! It's a pigeon! Forming a pincer movement with the Westfield security man, in a few moments they have the invading bird out the door and relaxation resumes.

Pub managers are known for having to be multi-skilled, but pigeon-wrangling is a new one.

Chris is used to it. He has worked at this bar and brewery since it was opened in preparation for the Olympic hordes by the people behind The Rake in Borough Market, a tiny emporium of great beer for many years.

On 7 November Tap East will be celebrating its 11th birthday with the launch of a special beer made in the microbrewery behind the bar. A strong red autumn ale is promised, a collaborative effort between brewers past and present.

Chris got the job thanks to his sister, Jessica Boak, one half of the Boak & Bailey beer blog, and co-author of a couple of the best books in the field, Brew Britannia and 20th Century Pub. At the beginning he just needed the week. But it gave him a passion for beer, and he rose to become manager last year.

The current brewer is Terry Kinsella, who certainly seems versatile when it comes to styles. There's a distinctly autumnal feel to the cask beers now on the pumps. Alongside the bit-

ter, there's a low-gravity mild and an intriguing brown ale. Chris cleans the beer lines every time a barrel is changed – always the mark of a pub that cares about quality.

Falling sales of cask have, however, forced Tap East to reduce the range and focus more on craft keg, "the safe option". Best-seller is its session IPA and there's also its Autumnal Amber on tap plus a pair of lagers from Pillars Brewery in Walthamstow and a New England IPA from Leyton's Neckstamper.

On 7 November Tap East will be celebrating its 11th birthday with the launch of a special beer made in the microbrewery behind the bar.

At various times you can also expect to find local beers from the likes of East London Brewery, Hammerton and Redemption while Mad Squirrel and Park Brewery provide options from further afield, and Timmermans a sour cherry beer all the way from Belgium. And there are more Belgians, bottled, in the fridge.

If you want food, there's no shortage of choice in Westfield, and you're welcome to bring it into the bar.

Chris is hoping more locals will discover Tap East, and if you're new to the delights of modern beer you'll find it a comfortable, non-intimidating, place to experiment. ●



Chris Slack



As the seasons change, Cecilia Cran is already looking forward to a burst of colour come springtime

We've waved goodbye to the long, hot summer days and now welcome in the beautiful bright blue skies and crisper mornings, which mark autumn.

I do love this time of year, as a gardener, it's when I like to take stock and do some routine maintenance – clear leaves and garden debris and identify which plants may be susceptible to frost to ensure I have them protected with horticultural fleece. But most of all I like to spend time mapping out my spring and summer garden, thinking what worked well and looking back through some of the seeds I saved that can be used again.

This month I will be planting a mix of colourful tulip bulbs. Planting them in late October and November means you'll have flowers starting from mid-March and also that you lessen the risk of 'tulip fire', a disease that can ruin tulip flowers and leaves, making the plant look like it has been scorched by flames.



How to grow:

To get started, choose whether you will be planting in a pot or direct to the ground. Both work well. For the purposes of this, I'll refer to planting in the ground, but the same rules apply.

Choose the spot where you want them to grow. It is important that you select an area big enough, the general rule for tulip bulb planting is that you must plant at least twice the bulb's width apart and at a depth of three times the bulb's height.

Tulips must be planted in well-drained soil, otherwise the bulbs rot, and they need sunshine, working best if they are sheltered from the harsher elements we get at this time of year.

Once you have chosen your planting spot and dug the area, add some grit to the soil – this will provide good drainage. I have noticed the soil in the

Borough tends to be of a more clay consistency, so adding a little sand or grit will enhance growing conditions. Also consider adding in some organic matter and mixing in some peat-free compost too, as this will make the soil really fertile and give the bulbs all the nutrients they need to produce strong roots and beautiful blooms.

Bulbs must be planted with the pointed tip facing upwards towards the sky. Once the bulbs have been planted, gently press down on the top of the soil to ensure the bulbs will be making contact with the soil and then water.

Green escape: Gandhi Chaplin Memorial Garden

I'd heard about a meeting between renowned civil rights activist and revolutionary, Mahatma Gandhi and inimitable silent film actor and director, Charlie Chaplin, but I wasn't sure if this was fact or east end folklore. It turns out to be fact (See *Newham Voices* October 2022)! Ninety years ago, in 1932, Gandhi and Chaplin met at a property on Beckton Road in Canning Town.

To mark the meeting, a commemorative garden was created. Opened in 2015, the garden was built on a vacant plot of land and offers a friendly little bit of greenery for the Borough. It's a small, well-kept area, a painted mural signposts the space and there are two pretty mosaics, representing each man, which bookend the entrance and exit. There are some free standing flower beds, next to a wall with hanging baskets mounted onto it, all maintained by the local Ravenscroft Primary School – it's lovely that the local kids have an opportunity to be a part of the garden.

The area suffers from being right next to the main road, the A13. However, there are some trees that look to have been strategically planted, that once fully grown will act as a nice natural barrier to the noise and pollution.

A fun one to drop by and see, the history is unbelievable, but it's not one to stay and picnic at, there are other parks in the vicinity that offer a more tranquil setting. ●



Photos courtesy Cecilia Cran

A house to remember

In our regular series on local monuments, **Julia Omari** finds a tribute to a house that stood within what is now West Ham Park for 300 years

West Ham Park opened for public use on 20 July 1874 after the land was purchased by the City of London Corporation from the Gurney family in 1872.

At 77 acres the private land is Newham's largest open space, boasting a football pitch, cricket nets, tennis courts, bandstand, ponds, newly refurbished playground and an ornamental garden as well as an interesting pile of stone that holds a lot of history.

Documents for the land, then part of the Upton House Estate, date back to 1566. An area much smaller than today's park was inherited by William Rooke and called Rooke Hall by the locals. The Smythe family purchased the property and land in 1666 then ownership passed to Admiral John

Elliot in 1752 and the house reverted to its original name Upton House.

The house underwent a final name change to Ham House in 1762 after



Photo courtesy Julia Omari

physician John Fothergill moved in. He had a deep interest in plants and purchased more land extending his property to 80 acres and he spent the next 18 years adorning his garden with rare plants from around the world, some of which can still be found in the park today. In its heyday it was dubbed The Kew Gardens of the East

James Shepherd brought Ham House in 1787 with the home passing to his son-in-law Samuel Gurney, husband to his daughter Elizabeth Gurney nee Shepherd. The couple and their children lived happily in Ham House from 1812 until Elizabeth's death in 1855.

After standing in the grounds for over 300 years Ham House was demolished in 1872, two years before the area became a park.

Ham House was also the birthplace of Joseph Lister, the antiseptic surgery pioneer who was surgeon to Queen Victoria who gave him the title Lord. The same Lord Lister also holds the honour of having the mouthwash Listerine named after him.

When you next visit the Ornamental Gardens pause to look at the stone monument which is made from the original Ham House rubble and the The Ham House Stone Monument inscription reads: *This fountain is erected on the site of Ham House, for many years the residence of Samuel and Elizabeth Gurney and their family, 1876.*

Newham's influence on Grime culture

NEANDRA ETIENNE

The Museum of London's display *Grime Stories: from the corner to the mainstream*, honours the music, people and places central to the Grime scene and its roots in East London.

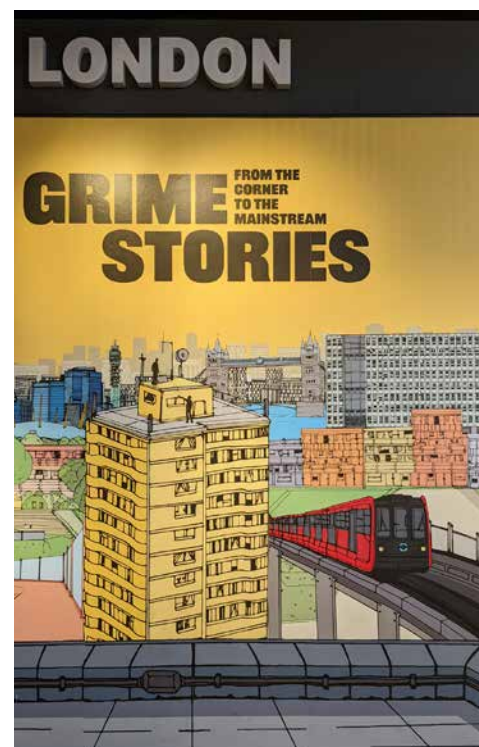


Image from Grime Stories exhibition. ©Neandra Etienne

Author Dr Joy White from Newham, who took part in Kano's Newham Talks series in 2020 and has a PhD in grime music and entrepreneurship told *Newham Voices*:

"Grime sounds like where it is from: the street corners and council estates of inner-city East London. A symbiotic relationship between music, place and community means that it is unlikely that Grime could have come out of a leafy suburb."

Co-curated by one of Grime's early documentarians, Roony 'Risky' Keefe, the display features personal artifacts from the MCs and producers who developed Grime's unique sound.

Grime flourished through a network of record shops, youth clubs and pirate radio stations.

Deja Vu FM pirate radio station is now the site of Copper Box Arena, Olympic Park E20. The song *Class of Deja* (feat. D Double E and Ghetts) is featured in local rapper Kano's 2019 album *Hoodies All Summer*.

During an interview with Roony,

which took place in his cab during a tour of East London, Dr Joy discussed why Newham in particular was instrumental in the history of Grime music. The interview is featured on a screen as part of the display.

Dr Joy said: "Newham is one of the most multicultural boroughs in the UK, its existence tells a particular story about what it means to be Black and British. Grime, as a contemporary Black British musical genre, allows us to tell that story, boldly and imaginatively."

"Newham is a young borough with an average age of 30. It is also very multicultural, over 60 percent of the population in Newham claim a Black or ethnic minority background. The multicultural nature of the area reminds us of the movement and migration that is part of Britain's colonial past.

"Like many inner-city areas, Newham contains a complex network of people who draw on diverse cultural and historical backgrounds. This confluence of people and place created an environment from which Grime music could emerge and flourish."

Grime Stories: from the corner to the mainstream, Museum of London. Until 4 December - free entry

www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Anchor House is now Your Place

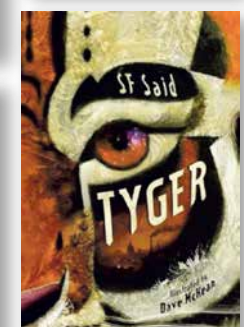
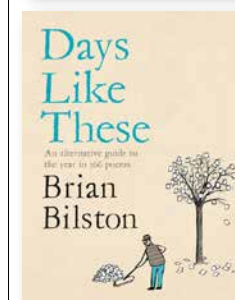
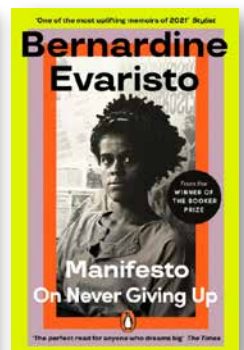
Caritas Anchor House has changed. It's now called Your Place. It's a new name but it remains a leader in the campaign against homelessness.



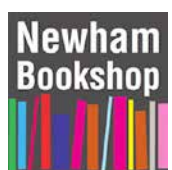
Good reads in Newham

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

- **The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida** (Winner, Booker Prize 2022) By Shehan Karunatilaka
- **Days Like These: An alternative guide to the year in 366 poems** By Brian Bilston
- **Manifesto: On Never Giving Up** By Bernardine Evaristo
- **Creeping Beauty: Fairy Tales Gone Bad** (Illustrated by Freya Hartas) By Joseph Coelho
- **Tyger** (illustrated by Dave McKean) By S F Said
- **Well Done, Mummy Penguin** By Chris Haughton



Compiled by David Ceen,
Newham Bookshop
newhambooks.co.uk
@NewhamBookshop



SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Neandra Etienne

Newham London and Active Newham are working in partnership to lead **Newham Rambles**, a monthly opportunity for a longer walk around the Borough and through neighboring boroughs.

Saturday 5 November, 10am-2pm, Stratford Olympic Ramble

[@AN_sport_team](#)

Clapton CFC men's first team goalkeeper/women's team assistant coach Jack Francis took part in the London Marathon on Sunday 2 October.

Jack raised over £2000 for UNICEF.

www.claptoncfc.co.uk



Jack Francis

The Prince and Princess of Wales, William and Catherine attended the ten-year anniversary celebration for the sports charity **Coach Core** at the Copper Box Arena, Olympic Park Stratford.

Prince William was taught boxing techniques from England Boxing apprentices and he also had a go at shooting some football penalties. Catherine played bowls.

The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales started the Coach Core programme in 2012, in the wake of the London riots and to contribute to the legacy of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

www.coachcore.org.uk



Prince William at Coach Core anniversary event



Park Run

Park Run is a free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. You can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you how you want to participate.

You need to register once before you first come along. You must bring a scannable copy of your barcode.

There are 2 locations in Newham – Beckton District Park South and Victoria Dock, Siemens Brothers Way

Every week they grab a post park run coffee in the pavilion – you are welcome to come and join them every Saturday at 9am.

www.parkrun.org.uk

Plymouth Argyle FC players attended the unveiling of the new Jack Leslie statue at their home ground Friday 7 October. (see page 6)

The Club has named the Boardroom in honour of Canning Town footballer Jack Leslie.

www.jackleslie.co.uk



Plymouth Argyle FC Chairman Simon Hallett

Forever Young is an adult social club that offers Table Tennis and Pool sessions for over 50s looking to socialise.

Wednesdays, 11am-1pm Term Time – Beckton Globe Youth Zone, 1, Kingsford Way, E6, 020 3373 0853

[@NewhamLibraries](#)

Ambition Aspire Achieve is running a free Boxing Club for Ages 8-15 every Saturday 12.30-2.30pm

Terence Brown ARC, Hermit Road Park, Bethell Ave, E16 4JT

www.theaaazone.com

London Lions captain Shanice Beckford-Norton appeared in an episode of Blue Peter (7 October). Shanice played a game of 3x3 Basketball, a variation of Basketball, with some young people and Blue Peter presenter Mwaka Mudenda.

www.thelondonlions.com

Toia Infote from East Ham started Judo only a year ago and has now completed in four judo competitions.

Toia competed in the Rod Lane Kyu Grade competition in Kidderminster in October and won a Gold medal by winning four fights!

A1 Judo Club are super proud of Toia and how far she has come!

www.a1judo.com



Toia Infote

From 1 November, all swimmers who take part in open water swimming must wear brightly coloured headwear (such as a swim hat, woollen hat, head band) and a tow float to swim at **Open Water** venues.

Their Newham venue is located at the Royal Docks.

www.loveopenwater.co.uk

Congratulations to **Irons Supporting Foodbanks** for their win at the Civic and Community Engagement Award at the Newham Business Awards 2022.

Irons Supporting Foodbanks began collecting on behalf of Newham food bank at West Ham United FC home games at the London Stadium at the end of December 2019.

Their donation point is on Stratford Walk, opposite the Park Information



Irons Supporting Foodbanks via Facebook

Centre, on the route from Westfield to the Stadium.

www.ironsoodbanks.co.uk

Forest Crusaders WFC debuted their new 22-23 home kit at their round 2 BBC Essex Women's Cup game, against Collier Row Ladies.

The kit, designed by Manager Jason Murray, includes a star to represent their first piece of Silverware.

They won the game 7-1 with Rikki Hunt named as the Player of the Match

Their Girl's Football Quad sessions take place Wednesday nights at Newham Leisure Centre.

This session is designed to provide girls aged 12-14 with fun and flexible opportunities to play football.

[@forestcrusaderswfc](#)

*All events/activities are subject to change. Please check websites/social media for updates.



Forest Crusaders WFC

Rugby for all protest at ELRC

When East London Rugby Club return to the pitch this season there will be players no longer allowed to join them, just for being themselves because of a ban on Trans Women in the sport. The ban and a requirement for Trans men to register and undergo risk assessments is unfair, unwarranted and wrong, said the club.

As an individual or team this season, the club are asking people to show their support for Trans-players by supporting the lacing up for all campaign.

You can buy Trans identity laces through their partners at Stonewall, lace up for games and share on social media using #LaceUpForAll and tagging England rugby, IGR and Stonewall.

The club encourages people to support those who love the game but can no longer join them on the pitch.



#LaceUpForAll
#RugbyForAllAgain
www.eastlondonrfc.com

Politicians wouldn't make it in the Premier League



Mickey Ambrose found it hard to concentrate on the Premier League while another “Premiership” hung in the balance

The month of October will go down in history and not only because West Ham are now starting to put some results and good performances together with wins against Bournemouth, Wolves and Fulham, a draw against Southampton and a narrow defeat against Liverpool.

Allardyce, colloquially referred to as Big Sam, was the England manager, though he left the role by mutual consent after just 67 days following allegations of malpractice. Since then, the former Bolton, Newcastle and Blackburn manager has enjoyed stints at Crystal Palace, Everton and West

colleagues and the British public you've got no chance which is why a 'General Election' should be held. So now the big question is, how long will Rishi last...?

What I don't understand and maybe our readers can explain to me - what qualifications do you need to be the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for example, basically to run the finances of the country.

To be a Premier League Manager you need an FA Level 5 (UEFA Pro) qualification.

Why did Liz Truss appoint two of her colleagues with no financial expertise or real knowledge (or maybe I missed it) of how the economy or world mar-



Mickey Ambrose

sions which result in losses then you will get sacked. Footballers don't get sacked if they miss a penalty or chance in a game do they?

Is it time for a General Election? If so then the people of this country should have the right to democratically elect a new Prime Minister who then forms a government/cabinet - instead of the relay baton being passed around the Conservative Cabinet table and being dropped by May, Johnson, Truss.

But, hey, the baton has now been picked up by Jeremy Hunt our new Chancellor of the Exchequer who previously served in the Cabinet as Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport from 2010 to 2012, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care from 2012 to 2018, and Foreign Secretary from 2018 to 2019. But he has no financial expertise or experience so how does he sit down with the Bank of England to explain the government's policies? Am I missing something here please can anyone enlighten me or shed any light on why you employ people who don't match the Job Description!!!

You couldn't make it up could you? Yet the British public just have to accept it unless everyone downs tools and we have a national strike on our hands because some in the Tory party, and I mean the ones who are not putting Britain first but their own personal gain first, just don't care..God Help Us All.

In the next edition, back to football I promise, because the FIFA World Cup will have started and we have high hopes for our national team., but can they emulate our fantastic women's team? Another case of wait and see - Come on England!

Finally, can I say a big thank you to all the readers of *Newham Voices* who complimented me in person on my royal tribute article on Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, “A Constant Through Our Lives”, in last month's edition. Special thanks go to those who stopped me in the Old Stratford Shopping Mall and told me I got the tone right.

Mickey Ambrose is a former Chelsea and Charlton player who lives in Stratford



Liz Truss on the pitch: but politicians aren't in the same league as Premier League managers.

Image licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.0 Generic License from the official photostream of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

But in another race for a Premiership title, the top spot went to Liz Truss whose departure after 45 days in office makes her the shortest serving PM in UK history. She even beat Sam Allardyce.

Liz Truss's resignation kickstarted a contest to find the next Tory leader and Prime Minister, and according to the *Evening Standard*, the public were leading calls for it to be none other than Sam Allardyce.

Brom, and has even taken command of a few more England games.

Well at least Steve Gerrard, sacked by Aston Villa because of a poor run of results, can take some comfort that he lasted longer than Truss even though results were not going his way. When you lose the 'dressing room' meaning losing the support of the players and fans as a manager you have no chance. Liz Truss not only lost the “dressing room” that is members of her Cabinet,

kets work - as Chancellor of the Exchequer?

It's like asking me to change a light bulb, although I am not a qualified electrician but I will have a go and this is what seems to be happening in government at the moment if you get my drift - people just having a go but not really understanding that the decisions they make have serious and dire consequences for us all. In football if you as Manager make bad deci-

Your support helps bring an independent voice to Newham

We are all *Newham Voices*, let's work together.



37,500
estimated readership

12,500
free copies reach readers
in Newham each month

Contact us about advertising

Email klaudia@socialspider.com or call 07732 000430