



300,000 acts of solidarity



Photo courtesy
Carpenters and
Docklands Centre

Focus on the cost of living crisis

A new campaign called 'Help is Here' is targeting residents hit by rising prices, energy costs and soaring rents. Find out more.

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Best in Britain!

Newham to become a beacon for diversity

See page 5 ▶



By local people, for local people

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Congratulations Fawn!

Newham Voices writer becomes Queen's Nurse

Our own Fawn Bess-Leith, a *Newham Voices* health correspondent and a Specialist Health Visitor for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health at Newham Council has been awarded the prestigious title of Queen's Nurse.

She received the award from the community nursing charity The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) which presents the award to recognise commitment to high standards of patient care, learning and leadership.

Nurses who hold the title benefit from developmental workshops, bursaries, networking opportunities, and a shared professional identity.

The QNI Chief Executive Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, Chief Executive of the QNI said Queen's Nurses serve as leaders and role models in community nursing, delivering high quality health care across the country.

"The application and assessment process to become a Queen's Nurse is rigorous," she said, "We look forward to working with Fawn and all other new Queen's Nurses who have received the title this year."

Fawn said the award recognises the

skills, knowledge and expertise she has acquired through her education and her first-hand experiences over the past 24 years, as a nurse, midwife, family nurse and health visitor.

"The Queen's Nurse title gives voice

and credence to my work as a health visitor which is very important to me," she said. "The title enables me to showcase the compassion, care, courage, competence and commitment involved in my day-to-day work."



Fawn Bess-Leith is presented with her prestigious Queen's Nurse status by Dame Elizabeth Anionwu, vice-president of the Queen's Nursing Institute.

Action on homelessness

PETER LANDMAN

Private landlords cashing in on the high demand for homes, a spike in evictions and cost of living problems have created a new crisis for the homeless in Newham according to Councillor Shaban Mohammed, Newham's Cabinet Member for Housing.

He says the increase in the number of homeless people – applications from people without a roof over their heads rose to more than 500 in recent months – have been accompanied by a decrease

in the supply of temporary homes.

He told *Newham Voices* the main causes of the temporary accommodation crisis has been the impact of removing the ban on evictions during the Covid-19 pandemic and the scarcity of available space which has led to rent rises in a booming private market.

The Council's Homelessness Prevention and Advice Service is advising tenants of their rights by Law and negotiating with Landlords when a tenant has fallen into rent arrears, as well as exploring ways for peo-

ple to receive Discretionary Housing Payments to avoid losing their homes.

The council is also offering the option of council housing outside the Borough.

This support is resulting in a slow down in the numbers of homeless applications, says Councillor Mohammed.

The Council is also buying up new properties and on 9 March the council cabinet agreed to acquire 18 units at Oak Crescent and 22 units at Charlie Court, both in Canning Town, and a further 18 homes at Green Bank Lofts in Tower Hamlets.



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300,000 acts of solidarity as cost of living crisis bites

A new campaign called 'Help is Here' has been launched by Newham Council to help vulnerable residents know where to get the assistance they need to confront the cost of living crisis.

The Help is Here campaign is the latest phase in the collaboration between the Council, local partners and voluntary, community and faith organisations to support residents across Newham. It continues the work of the Anti-Poverty Alliance in Newham.

A key feature of the campaign is a new suite of information and resources to help increase awareness among residents, voluntary sector, local businesses and partners of all the help that is available in Newham to help people manage the increase in the cost of living.

The pressures caused by the increases have hit Newham residents extremely hard. Thousands are facing catastrophic financial instability due to inflation, soaring energy bills and housing costs. The demand for help is so high that over 300,000 instances of support have been provided so far according to the Council. This comes on the back of the existing pressures of day-to-day costs that Newham residents have faced for years and that were made worse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council's Help is Here booklet lists a range of help that is available to support people with finances, housing, energy bills, food, work, health and emotional wellbeing. This ranges from the Council's leading go-to financial



Yasmin, photo courtesy Carpenters and Docklands Centre

This is a place where I can come, feel safe, relax and not worry about anything for a while.

– Yasmin in Stratford

support service, Our Newham Money, to Bonny Downs Association which works with people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds to improve their

health and wellbeing and to access the support they need. An online map has been created showing where all this help is provided in person.

In addition, the Council has produced a new toolkit of promotional assets which its voluntary sector partners can use in their own work promoting their services.

Additional support came at the end of March when the Council announced that an extra £6million over the next year will come to Newham from the Department for Work and Pensions to support vulnerable residents through the Household Support Fund.

Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz said: "Tackling the cost of living crisis requires a comprehensive, Borough wide response. The Help is Here campaign has been designed to simplify where all the support exists. Our new all-in-one list and the online map show exactly where this is available in person at a wide range of locations."

Amanda Dubarry, Chief Executive of Your Place (formerly Caritas Anchor House) and a trustee of One Newham, said: "The Help is Here campaign is an excellent example of collaboration at a critical time when the services of the Council and the voluntary and community sector are needed most. It will



Lovely people who look after us and I am so grateful to have somewhere like this.

– Mo in Stratford

ensure that people who are in need of support – perhaps that they haven't had to seek it before – can find it easily before they reach a breaking point."

Ever since the Council's Cost of Living Crisis Response programme began in September 2022, its Cost of Living Champions have played a key part in helping residents know where support is available. The Help is Here campaign will be yet another useful resource for them to do this.

Anyone who lives or works in Newham can be a Cost of Living Champion. They will receive regular information about support and resources available. To sign up email costoflivingresponse@newham.gov.uk.

Any resident of Newham who is facing financial difficulty and needs help should visit www.newham.gov.uk/costoflivingresponse or call Our Newham Money on **020 8430 2041**.

As part of the cost of living crisis response, the council offered organisations grants of up to £500 to provide 'warm havens' across the Borough as featured on this page.



Gail and Bez at St Bartholomew's Warm Haven in East Ham, where they feel part of a family.



Graham, photo courtesy Carpenters and Docklands Centre

Great food and company and most of all it's great to have a hot shower.

– Graham

Taking the hate out of politics will boost efforts to promote equality

Political campaigning can be robust, but it must be respectful, says Councillor Jane Lofthouse, the Council lead on the Race Equality Alliance which aims to promote equality for all and take the heat and hate out of public affairs.



Eliminating hate speech and abusive communications in public discourse is essential if we believe in fostering constructive debate, promoting democratic values and the true realisation of equality.

Equality entails full inclusion and wide consultation, however, hate speech and abuse stifle true debate, silencing many and diverting discussion from analysis of important issues to a focus on personal antipathies.

Many people will be deterred by this and, as a result, alternative explanations and possible solutions become obscured. Discussion between equals is replaced by a 'them and us' confrontation, with 'them' being seen as 'other', as alien and outsiders.

This situation can only divide and fragment society, and ferment hatred. Respect, equality and democratic values are the sacrificial victims of abusive campaigning and hate speech.

The move must be towards understanding and respect, not away from

these, if we are to progress; it must be towards rational debate, not irrational hatred.

Public figures have the opportunity to influence debate within the community: the more strongly policies and principles are held, the more it is incumbent on us to hold to these, rather than to descend into personal abuse, disrespect and hate, which not only forfeit trust but also set a tone of aggression and division and forgo the necessary analysis of core elements of debate.

The move must be towards understanding and respect, not away from these, if we are to progress; it must be towards rational debate, not irrational hatred.

It's a challenge to respond to abuse with dignity and respect, however, if we do not, we slide down the road to futility.

Politicians of all persuasions need to retain our trust and respect and we all need to provide leadership in eliminating abusive communications at election time and in public life.

The campaign to embed values of equality and respect at all levels of the community is integral to Newham

Council's overall commitment to ending discrimination in any form.

This campaign is driven by programmes including 'Tackling Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality', the newly launched Commission on Multi-Ethnic and Inclusive Newham (See Page 7) and the Newham Race Equality Alliance.

The Alliance was set up in August 2021 to find practical solutions to help

address the systemic discrimination and disadvantages experienced by residents because of their race or ethnicity. Listening to and learning from local communities and organisations is intrinsic to this and those interested in active involvement are welcomed to find out more at: www.newham.gov.uk/council/get-involved-shaping-new-newham-race-equality-alliance



Remembering Father Marco G. Lopes

The death of Father Marco G. Lopes, Vicar of St Martin's Plaistow and leader of the Luso-Hispanic Mission in Newham earlier this year came as a shock to one of Newham's leading community support groups, the Renewal Project in East Ham, where he served as a trustee.

In a tribute to Marco the Renewal Project said Marco "was a visionary, and his tireless efforts towards making Newham a welcoming and safe place for all will never be forgotten."

Marco became Vicar of St Martin's last year having previously served as Curate at Holy Trinity East Ham. He also led the Luso-Hispanic Mission



serving Portuguese and Spanish Communities in Newham. Born in Portugal, in 1973, he moved to Britain in 2013 and becoming part of the church community at St Patrick's, Barking before being ordained as a Priest in 2020.

In his condolences to Marco's family Renewal Project Chief Executive Peter Laing said: I was shocked and saddened to hear about the sudden recent passing of Marco. Even in the relatively short time he had been a trustee his commitment to vulnerable and marginalised communities in Newham shone through. We are deeply saddened by his passing, are also so much the richer for having known him."

Discussion continues on plan for city farm

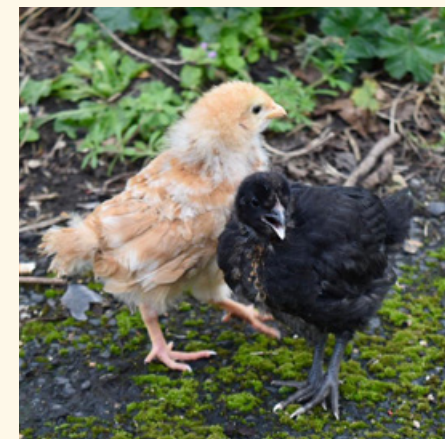
PETER LANDMAN

The row over setting up a new City Farm for Newham has cooled as campaigners and council officers discuss how to ensure that a site earmarked for the farm in the Beckton Parks masterplan is fit for purpose.

Anna Yusuf the Parks Project Manager has allocated a site in King George Avenue, a side road off Stansfield Road, and says that a tender process is to be launched to find a specialist outside organisation to operate the farm.

However, there is still some disagreement with Newham City Farm Campaign over the best site to use.

Discussions will continue and a working group has been set up to follow the farm project.



The best in Britain

Newham aims to become beacon for diversity



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AIDAN WHITE

With around 70 per cent of the population from ethnically diverse backgrounds and speaking more than 220 different languages and dialects Newham is one of the most diverse communities in Britain if not the world.

Now there are plans to make the Borough a “national beacon” for building a multi-ethnic and inclusive community.

A special Commission on Multi-ethnic and Inclusive Newham has been launched to make proposals on how principles of diversity, equality and inclusion can be reflected at every level of the Council and its work.

Council leaders say the commission will build on work over the past four years to tackle structural inequalities and the on-going work of community groups and the council to challenges all forms of hate and discrimination, including racism, faced by sections of the community.



Sunder Katwala

Newham’s Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz says “The fact that we have ‘the world in one borough’ is our opportunity for Newham to be the practical pioneer in achieving an inclusive sense of belonging.

“We can also become a national beacon for how best to champion diversity and inclusion to counter some of the danger and division that has emerged in our country in recent years.”

changed over the last decades.

In an article for *The Guardian* in 2021 Sunder Katwala wrote that British Future research has found that pride in being British is shared by more than three-quarters of British ethnic minorities.

“There are differences of tone and emphasis across generations and places but the story is definitely not one of white pride versus ethnic minority aversion,” he wrote.

“As a half-Asian child, with a father from Gujarat, western India, and a mother from Cork, west Ireland, I had identity questions to think through. I came to realise that with such parents, I could hardly be anything but British. My British story was of how migration, after empire, took an Indian doctor and Irish nurse to the same Surrey hospital.”

His links with Newham include a friendship with former Newham councillor Paul Sathianesan, who he



Rokhsana Fiaz

The new Commission will consist of up to eight commissioners and will make recommendations to the Council on best practices to be followed to deliver services that represent all sections of the community.

The Commission will identify the key inequalities that Newham faces and make suggestions on how to reduce these in a measurable way. It will also recommend changes to the way the council works.

The Commission will have an independent chair, Sunder Katwala, the Director of British Future, a research organisation focused on public attitudes to potentially divisive issues such as immigration, integration and national identity.

The challenge for Newham in recent years, like other diverse communities in Britain, has been to understand better the notion of identity in helping to forge social cohesion. This is a topic on which British Future has carried out important research, noting the idea of British identity has

says left Sri Lanka as a refugee with a single bag of possessions.

“He once told me of how much pride he took, as an elected councillor in the Newham, conducting citizenship ceremonies for the next generation of new Britons,” wrote Katwala.

He told *Newham Voices*: “As one of the most diverse places in London and indeed across the UK, Newham is an important location in which to think about the future of these issues of identity and belonging, and how to get it right.”

● At the end of March the Newham Mayor and Sir Stephens Timms MP for East Ham used a visit from a delegation of parliamentarians from Commonwealth countries to showcase the transformation of Newham following the 2012 Olympics and revitalisation of the Royal Docks. Mayor Fiaz told the visitors: “In Newham we are creating a borough like no other, unlocking the opportunities of our people, place, and partnerships to deliver lasting transformation for all.”

Community-funded murals bring a splash of spring colour to Stratford

Community space outside Stratford Town Hall is given a makeover after local residents voted for improvements

A series of four colourful murals are brightening up the community space outside Stratford Town Hall thanks to the votes of local residents who chose the mural project as part of Newham's community assembly programme.

The murals were unveiled by Councillor Charlene McLean, Cabinet member for Resident Engagement and Experience. She said: "The murals are a perfect example of community-led art and improving the community spirit in Newham."

"Local people from all backgrounds and abilities have come together to create these artworks. It's a fantastic example of how creativity unites us and makes our public spaces so special."

The murals were created and attached



Mural in Stratford

onto existing planters, after a bid from Stratford-based Deafroots Association, an organisation which works to ensure deaf and hard of hearing people enjoy the same opportunities and quality of life as other residents.

Deafroots commissioned Co-Creative Connection artist Rose Hill who worked with over a 100 people to create the murals.

Rose Hill said: "The installations embody the spirit of Newham's diverse

and united community – a true celebration of their creativity, togetherness, and diversity."

"Local people from all backgrounds and abilities have come together to create these artworks. It's a fantastic example of how creativity unites us and makes our public spaces so special."

A film developed by Co-Creative Connection, containing footage from the various workshops, the installation process and the final unveiling of the murals, was shown at the Community Assembly meeting in Stratford Library on 14 March.

Nelson Primary School hits a winning note

Nelson Primary School in East Ham has won a national award, taking the Outstanding School Music Department trophy at the recent Music and Drama Education Awards.

The judges were impressed by the number of musical opportunities available and by the different ways that children can get involved. They highlighted the progression routes available and said the department is an "outstanding example of committed individuals and supportive senior leadership working together to achieve both musical and wider outcomes"

"Being named the country's most outstanding school music department is a fantastic achievement," said Fiona Cullen, Head Teacher. "It recognises the commitment and passion of all our staff, but also reflects the enthusiasm, hard work and desire to learn, that we see every day in all our pupils. We are absolutely thrilled, and look forward to building on this success, helping our children achieve their musical ambitions in the months and years ahead."

"Success at this level can only be achieved with great partnerships. The school has worked closely with Newham Council's ground-breaking Music Enrichment Scheme for Schools and with Newham Music, the award-winning Music Education Hub for the borough."

Nelson Primary is one of 97 Newham schools receiving music activity funding through Newham Council's Enrichment School Music Grants which enable Newham's schools to design music activities for 25,000 Newham pupils from nursery to sixth form this academic year.



Left to right: Nat Dye (School's Music Leader), Aled Jones, Fiona Cullen (Head Teacher), Jo Cull (Deputy Head Teacher), Don Gilthorpe (President of the Music Teachers Association)

Council Notebook

PETER LANDMAN

It's only been a month or so since Newham Council agreed an extensive policy covering gender identity and rights of trans people but the issue was under the spotlight for the wrong reasons at a recent meeting when Green Party Councillor Danny Keeling, who identifies as non-binary, was disturbed by being misgendered and walked out.

Their action led to statements of apology from Councillor Winston Vaughan, the Council's Chair and the Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz.

The other main issues dealt with have been the final approval of the budget, which was approved, and a motion adopted from Councillor Steve Brayshaw against a plan on a stop to proposed extra weekend flights at London City Airport.

Meanwhile the main discussion at the last council meeting covered the quarterly performance in delivering a Fairer Newham, the Labour Party's Manifesto in the last local elections, including:

- **A Healthier and Ageing Well Newham** – details were given of a three-year action plan for support to Adults with Learning Difficulties.

- **Developing Neighbourhoods** – The Council has received £9m from the

Government Levelling Up Fund for improvements to Romford Road. This will be used to improve traffic junctions and built more dedicated cycle routes.

Six parks have now been granted Green Flag Status: Central Park, East Ham Nature Reserve, Forest Lane Park, Ghandi Chaplin Nature Reserve, Plashet Park, and Royal Victoria Gardens.

- **A Safer Newham** – The Council has produced a "Stay Safe App" to enable members of the public to report incidents quickly and anonymously.

- **Decent Homes for all residents** – The Government have approved the Council's Landlord Registration Scheme for another five years and the scheme has been extended to temporary accommodation.

- **Supporting Our Young People** – The Government have approved the Council's Landlord Registration Scheme for another five years and the scheme has been extended to temporary accommodation. The Cabinet agreed to house homeless people (please see separate article).

The Council is looking for foster carers to stop children in care from being placed in homes outside the Borough. Foster carers will not pay council tax.

£1.7million grant kick-starts sheltered homes renovation

The sheltered housing complex Hamara Ghara, built in Green Street, Upton Park 68 years ago, has received a £1.7 million boost as part of Newham council's plans to combat climate change.

Renovation of the complex, which provides warden service sheltered housing for residents aged over 50 and includes 120 units of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom self-contained flats, will be the first stage of the Borough-wide project to make all council housing green and energy-efficient.

Thanks to the £1.7m Social Housing Decarbonisation grant from the government there will be major renovation work that will include upgrade and decarbonisation of the heating and hot water system.

The aim will be to move to low-carbon heat and improve the energy per-



Hamara Ghara, Green Street. Image courtesy Newham Council

formance of the homes through a combination of increased energy efficiency and use of smart technologies.

"This project will be a great accomplishment for Newham," said Councillor Shaban Mohammed, Cabinet Member for Housing, "it will set a benchmark for all our retrofitting programmes on our existing housing stock. I am looking forward to how we bring new green innovations forward and setting standards on energy efficiency. Our aim is for this project to establish our internal delivery model for retrofit to achieve our ambitious local target of net-zero by 2045".

The retrofit of Hamara Ghar is part of the first phase of the Council's wider ambition to improve housing, market facilities and the surrounding area in Green Street and Upton Park.

Secrets of the past come to life thanks to £250,000 grant

The Newham-based Eastside Community Heritage has been awarded a £250,000 grant to put online its ground-breaking Hidden History Archive – a treasure trove of oral histories, photos, videos and memorabilia, provided by Londoners over the past 100 years.

Thanks to the funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the ECH project *Secrets shared: Unlocking hidden history* will also provide training to a range of communities and schools on how to search the archives, and use innovative tools to select contents to create their own displays.

As part of the project ECH has re-established their successful, accredited training centre which will enable trainees to gain qualifications to

secure jobs in the heritage and cultural sector.

The project will also train volunteers in oral history research, as well as a range of associated cataloguing and digital skills including sound editing. A series of planned workshops will allow community groups and teachers to learn how to use the archive.

The aim is to enable people from different heritage backgrounds to feel represented and the contributions from their community acknowledged and valued and will enable local people to be able to relate and connect to their local history.

ECH holds over 4,000 oral histories, and around 40,000 photographs and video material, all preserved for public benefit within its Hidden-History

archive. This archive also includes multiple collections covering people from diverse communities such as Bengali, Muslim and Jewish communities.

Judith Garfield MBE, Executive Director of Eastside Community Heritage said: "We are thrilled to have received this support and are confident the project will transform how people perceive and use digital archives, as well as how they connect to the local history of their area".

For the National Lottery, Stuart McLeod, Director England - London & South, "We are delighted to support Eastside Community Heritage in recording the hidden stories of the people of London. This period covers many historic moments for the capital, from the blitz to the Olympics."



Bethany Williams art

Artworks raising funds for Magpie Project

The Newham-based charity the Magpie Project, which supports women and children at risk through poverty and homelessness, is getting a boost thanks to an artworks sale which launched in March.

The sale is the final phase of a three-year project involving Magpie and Coal Drops Yard, Kings Cross, which was the venue for the first public art commission of artist Bethany Williams.

The artwork series launched on 16 March and exhibits can be bought exclusively on bethany-williams.com and all the money raised will go to the Bethany Williams Benevolent Fund, a special fund that will provide small emergency grants to those in need.



Images via Eastside Community Heritage Facebook

Embrace the difference: Newham promotes awareness of autism

SHEILA NURSIMHULU

Autism Awareness Week is an annual event that takes place around the world, aimed at raising awareness and understanding of autism spectrum disorders. In Newham, this week of activities at the end of March into April is particularly

important, as the Borough has a high rate of people with autism.

During Autism Week a range of free events across the Borough help promote understanding and acceptance of those with autism. These include talks and workshops, fundraising events, sensory-friendly activities for those with autism, and opportunities for

people to meet and connect with others in the community who are affected by autism.

One important goal is to highlight the challenges faced by people with autism and their families and to promote greater inclusion and understanding in the wider community. This includes raising awareness of the many strengths and talents of people with autism and celebrating their contributions to society.

In Newham, there is a multidisciplinary Autism Steering Group which includes: autistic people, their families and carers, representatives from NHS, Newham Job Centre Plus, providers in education and social care. The group runs on an invite-only basis and you can join by contacting Mellissa McAuliffe by email: Melissa.mcauliffe@newham.gov.uk or telephone: **020 3373 3067**

There is also an Autism Support Group for people with autism, their families and carers. Meetings are organised by Newham's Co-Production Team. The group,

which is linked to the Newham Autism Steering group, the Co-Production Forum and other Co-Production networks in Newham, aims to support each other with the issues faced by people with Autism.

The Community Neighbourhoods teams help run Friendship Club for adults who have learning disabilities or autism. More information on this is available from: CN.BecktonRoyalDocks@newham.gov.uk

The Newham Autism Alert Card is an ID card for people to show to anyone including professionals for help or support to access mainstream services. For more information or to order a card, please email: commissioning.assistant@newham.gov.uk or call Sandra Herman on **020 3373 9788**

For young people with Autism, there is a section on the council website.

Other support services and training can be accessed through the organisation Autismlinks and a broad range of information can also be accessed on the National Autistic Society website www.autism.org.uk



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Note: Our next issue goes to print on 27 April 2023

£35,000 of illegal tobacco seized as dogs sniff out Newham rogue traders

A team of specialist dogs with a nose for illegal goods have been used in a series of sting operations across Newham.

Around 45,000 illegal and dangerous cigarettes were found by Newham Council's Trading Standards officers which teamed up with specialist detection dogs from the "Wagtails" agency for a series of raids on suspect shops across the Borough.

The illegal tobacco worth £35,000 was uncovered as well as 4kg of hand-rolling tobacco, and other non-compliant or illicit products.

Over the course of the weekend, a total of 15 businesses were visited, with seven found to have illicit and non-compliant products.

The majority of the tobacco was suspected to have been smuggled into the country. A proportion was believed to be counterfeits of popular brands, which are likely to contain harmful substances.

The crackdown was part of Operation CeCe, a national campaign which focuses on joint working between National Trading Standards and government tax department, HM Revenue and Customs.

The investigations are ongoing. Anyone who is prosecuted and convicted of being involved in selling or supplying illegal tobacco can face penalties including up to 10 years in prison and an unlimited fine.

The crackdown on illegal tobacco sales is not just a tax-evasion issue

says Councillor Carleene Lee-Phakoe, Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety.

"These products, which are illegal and unregulated, can have a serious detrimental effect on the health of

those who use them," she said. "Far from being a victimless crime, illegal tobacco trading provides affordable access for children and young people, makes it harder for people to give up as the product is cheaper, and affects the

trade of legitimate retailers."

She says people with information about the sale of illegal tobacco in Newham, please report it via Citizens Advice Consumer Advice line on **0808 223 1133**.

"These products, which are illegal and unregulated, can have a serious detrimental effect on the health of those who use them".



Green and sustainable: all the fun of the Fair on May Day

LIA REES

Everyone is invited to the Green Fair on May Day, on behalf of Sustainable Newham – the network behind it. The Fair is a free, welcoming festival run "by the people, for the people", rather like *Newham Voices*.

It's a celebration of the many groups and grassroots projects making local life better. A wonderfully diverse array of creative, caring people, linked by an interest in making things "green" or "fair" so the "Green Fair" was born.

There's entertainment, inspiration, sustainable crafts, fun for all ages, and plenty of plants. Young people lead the way in the Youth Zone (with Newham



Woodcraft). A "Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle" marquee has workshops and skillshares from the likes of Newham Cyclists and the Women's Institute.

There will be discussions with artists, musicians, schools and youth groups, gardeners, wildlife experts, heritage crafters, mutual aid groups, radical history and folklore enthusiasts: it's exciting to see how much they have to share.

The Green Fair will link up with other local events: some groups will be there in person, others via displays and handouts. Come and learn about the great work of Maryland Events Group, Community Road Centre, the Forest Gate Festival, our lively LGBT+ scene (Spring Is Queer, Forest Gayte Pride),

all the gardens and parks we can find – and many more.

Sustainable Newham was born in the Forest Gate and Maryland Community Assembly, but all suitable projects in Newham are welcome. We're calling for volunteers to make Newham's first Green Fair a success – and then bring it to every neighbourhood in the Borough.

As a member of the Forest Gate Festival committee, I am proud to offer my artwork and connections to this vital celebration. May Day, Forest Lane Park: join us! A better world is possible.

Green Fair (and Sustainable Newham): 1 May, 11am-4pm, Forest Lane Park, E15
www.sustainablenewham.org

The Box Rocket lands in Stratford

NEANDRA ETIENNE

The Box Rocket is a new interactive exhibition created by Discover Children's Story Centre with award-winning illustrator, author and character designer Dapo Adeola, and author Tolá Okogwu.

The exhibition features the character Rocket and her cat Luna from Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola's award-winning and best-selling picture books *Look Up!* and *Clean Up!*, published by Puffin.

Visitors will travel on an adventure in a homemade rocket ship, arriving on a planet where they must complete an important story-mission.

Karla Barnacle-Best, CEO of Discover, said: "Both Dapo and Tolá have visited Discover for hugely popular events in the past, and it's great to be working with them on bringing this new space-themed world to life."

"We can't wait to open up the (box) rocket ship and take our family and school visitors on an intergalactic adventure."

Look Up! was awarded the Waterstones Children's Book Prize in 2020. Dapo was named illustrator of the year at

the British Book Awards in 2022.

Dapo Adeola said: "I'm super stoked to be working with the amazing talent that is Tolá Okogwu and the awesome Discover team to bring you this exhi-



Dapo Adeola

biton of epic proportions!!

"I absolutely love the work the Discover team do when it comes to enriching children's enjoyment of the books we make, so it's a total honour to have my work be the source of the next immersive experience they're putting on."

"Not only am I excited to have the worlds within the books I've worked on brought to 3Dimensional life, but I can't wait to see the reactions of new and old readers when they get to journey through the world we're bringing you."

"It's gonna be absolutely spectacular."

The Box Rocket will open to the public at the start of the Easter Holidays, on Saturday 1 April and will run until 2024. It is suitable for children aged up to eight and their families.

For more information and to book tickets please visit: discover.org.uk

@dapsdraws

@DapsDraws

@DapsDraws

A selection of Dapo's books are available to buy from Newham Bookshop: www.newhambooks.co.uk

A special visitor joins for World Book Day celebrations

ANASTASIA BOREHAM

Deputy Head Teacher, Maryland Primary School

Dapo Adeola, a well-known award-winning author and illustrator, joined Maryland Primary School for a fun storytelling session and a special assembly on Friday 3 March.

Dapo is the illustrator and author of books such as *Look Up!* and *We're going to find a monster*. The Book Trust sent a copy to all five year olds in England.

He read his award winning book *Look Up!* to the infant and nursery pupils and then held a 'draw a-long' where he taught the children to draw one of his famous characters.

He then held a special assembly with the junior children where he had an extended Q&A session on being a writer and an illustrator. They found out that he was born in Newham and his favourite subject was English.



Dapo, headteacher Lorna Jackson and pupil dressed as Rocket

He was very happy that the Children were able to get their books signed and that they were extremely happy with the day.

Dapo was impressed that a number of children had come dressed as the main character, Rocket, featured in *Look Up!*.

● Another author dropping in to talk to children for a Book Day session was the critically-acclaimed author of *Ghostcloud*, Michael Mann who visited Chobham Academy to talk to years seven and eight students about how he became a writer.

He also visited Stratford library where he talked about his books and signed autographs.

Bird's Eye View

By E7 Blackbird



Lia Rees reviews what's happening in Forest Gate

Spring is in the air – and in our marketplace too. An amazing crew of crochet crafters have been working on the yarn sculpture, *Dancing Spring* – a community creation led by artist Hazel Goldman and inspired by local nature and wildlife.

The revitalised *Dancing Spring* will be unveiled in Woodgrange Market this April; they're busy putting it together as I write this. A remarkable collective achievement.

It does look like Forest Gate is going up in the world: a monthly vintage market, and a new community podcast. The market is **Go East Vintage**, a touring event with regular stops in Leyton, Hackney and Walthamstow. After a successful popup event at the Cranmer Road railway arches, they've decided to return on a monthly basis. (Next date: April 30)

The community podcast is **Forest Radio**, launching this month as a companion to the existing Forest Mag. We're excited about this, as The Forest has brought much-needed attention to many local events and independent artists.

But there's a sting in the tail: **Tracks Bar**, who brought us the Forest, are in trouble. Rent rises and pandemic debt have hit them hard, and they're making a last-ditch call for help.

It's inspiring to see how much support they've had. Since they announced their crowdfunder, people have rallied round: we've seen music and yoga fundraising events, "Save Tracks Bar" posters, even some badges floating around. They're planning to build a permanent market space at the Arches, which will benefit local makers, small business and community life. E7 Blackbird says: support our "Arch Angels" and they'll continue to support us.

Over at **Number 8 Emporium**, an exciting art exhibition has opened: *Party's Over* by Sabela Mahlangu. Born in South Africa, he now lives in Forest Gate, so we can count him as "local talent" – and definitely one to watch. Party's not over: pop in and see these bold, vibrant artworks before April 18.

Celebrations and coronations: **Forest Gate Community Garden** is "Welcoming Spring" on 8 April (12-2pm). Our "other" community garden, the UP Garden, will host

Coronation fun on 8 May. Don't mix them up, and do come to both!

There'll be music from the Dog Jammers at the second event – the local band/collective who were a huge hit at last year's Forest Gate Festival. Named after their birthplace, the **Old Spotted Dog** pub, the Jammers have Friday night music sessions in local pubs and are probably the hardest-working band in Forest Gate.

Last but not least: Newham's first **Green Fair** is coming to Forest Lane Park this May Day. (1 May, 11am-4pm, Forest Lane Park, E15). Such an exciting event, it deserved its own feature article (See page 9). Music, nature, community spirit, environmental purpose and family fun – absolutely everybody should be there. E7 Blackbird can't wait.

Get more information at goeast-vintage.co.uk. Next date: 30 April, Cranmer Road railway arches, outside Tracks Bar.

- The Forest: theforestmag.com
- Tracks Bar: trackse7.com
- Number 8 Emporium 8 Sebert Road, E7, Facebook: [Number8ForestGate](https://www.facebook.com/Number8ForestGate)
- Forest Gate Community Garden: fgcommunitygarden.org
- The UP Garden: theupgarden.org
- Clapton CFC and Old Spotted Dog Ground: claptoncfc.co.uk
- Sustainable Newham (Green Fair): sustainablenewham.org

Making commuters aware of Stratford Station's tragic past

In our regular series on local memorials, **Julia Omari** discovers a reminder of one of the country's most devastating train crashes

Stratford station was opened on 20 June 1839 by owners Eastern Counties Railway, with one platform. The station, which is often called Stratford London to separate it from Stratford International and Stratford-upon-Avon, has seen huge growth over the last 184 years and is now home to 19 platforms used by the Central Line, Dockland Light Railway, Overground, the new Elizabeth Line and more.

The station, which is currently owned by Network Rail, has moved far beyond its humble beginnings. According to the Office Of Rail and Road it is now Britain's fifth busiest station and holds the top spot for the busiest station outside of Zone 1.

At such a busy station, health and safety is paramount, however many of the station's commuters are unaware of the tragic train crash that happened just 70 years ago.

On 8 April 1953 at 18:56 a Central line eastbound train collided at a speed of 20 mph with a stationary Hainault train in the tunnel between Stratford and Leyton. Both trains carried between 400 to 500 people, mostly city workers returning home. The crash resulted in nine instant deaths including one child, plus three



more who died later in hospital of their injuries.

The driver, who had to have one leg amputated, plus four more passengers, were detained in hospital due to the severity of their injuries. Another 41 passengers suffered lesser injuries and/or shock. The most damage was done to those in the front two carriages of the Epping eastbound train.

The Minister of Transport launched an inquiry which found the crash to be caused by driver error, as a result of the damaged signal A491. West Ham Fire Brigade attended the scene working alongside medical staff from

Whipps Cross Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital, St. John Ambulance Brigade, The Metropolitan Police, and local volunteers. The crash was Britain's worst loss of life on the railway until the 1975 Moorgate crash. A 1953 news report on the crash was recorded by British Pathe and is now available on YouTube.

A previous collision had occurred on the same stretch of track in 1946, when a goods train went into the back of a passenger train, resulting in the loss of one life and a number of injuries.

At such a busy station, health and safety is paramount, however many of the station's commuters are unaware of the tragic train crash that happened just 70 years ago.

On 8 April 2016, 63 years later, John Turner, a historian, and West Ham MP Lyn Brown were both at Stratford Station to meet with a representative of London Underground and relatives of those who perished in the crash for the unveiling of the plaque that would remember those lives lost. The plaque is located near the Central line on the upper floor. ●



Etiquette during Ramadan

Sheila Nursimhulu suggests some ways of to connect with people during the months-long fast

We are now in the period of Ramadan, a holy month in the Islamic calendar, during which Muslims around the world observe a month-long fast. The fast involves abstaining from food, drink, and other physical needs from dawn until sunset and is a time of spiritual reflection, self-discipline, and purification.

This is a period of goodwill and reflection for people fasting for Ramadan, who exchange greetings such as "Ramadan Mubarak" or "Ramadan Kareem": These are traditional greetings that mean "Blessed Ramadan" and "Generous Ramadan", respectively. They are used to express good wishes and blessings for the month.

There are some courtesies that are useful to observe: being respectful and considerate is especially helpful. If you know someone who is fasting, be mindful of their dietary restrictions and try to avoid eating or drinking in front of them. Fasting can also be a challenging experience, both physically and mentally. If you know someone who is fasting, offer your assistance by helping with chores or errands.

By showing your support and understanding, you can help those fasting feel valued and appreciated. This helps to contribute to a sense of community and connection, which are integral parts of the Ramadan experience.

My Newham Julia Omari talks to local designer Hafza Yusuf

How long have you been connected to Newham?

I've been connected to Newham for a very long time; I grew up in this area. I studied in Plaistow and went to NewVic Sixth Form College where I studied art and design. I now have a textile design studio in the Royal Albert Wharf, where I design and make art. I've had my studio with Bow Arts for nearly four years now.



Hafza Yusuf

What's your favourite Newham moment?

My favourite moment was when I first opened my art studio in Newham; it was a huge milestone. The best part was connecting with many residents and the diverse communities of Newham through my art workshops.

Most inspirational Newham person?

Growing up, my teachers inspired me to follow my passion for art.

Favourite place to eat in Newham?

I have a few favourites, and it's hard to decide. I love exploring and discovering new places to eat each time. Newham is full of fantastic food from many different cultures.

Favourite Newham outdoor space?

My favourite outdoor space is the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford. Ever since the Olympics, I have enjoyed going there for walks.

However, I make sure to go when there are no matches on.

How would you spend a free day in Newham?

I'll probably be at my studio designing; I love creating art in my spare time. I don't see it as work.

You recently held an exhibition of your work, tell us about it.

Yes, I held my first solo exhibition at the Art in the Docks gallery space, and it was a great experience showcasing my design and celebrating Somali culture through textiles. I had a chance to connect with so many people, and it was beautiful seeing the community come together to celebrate my work.

Finish the sentence, Newham is...

A community

www.hafzastudio.com

Coronation events

Are you planning an event to celebrate King Charles III's coronation over the weekend of 6 May? If so, *Newham Voices* would like to hear about it. Please contact our chief reporter Neandra Etienne at neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk



Looking forward to a cheaper pint? Think again says Phil Mellows



If you've been foolish enough to read the newspapers (this one excepted), you might think cheap pints are on the way. Following the Chancellor's Budget speech last month, the *Daily Mirror* reported that "draught beer in pubs will be 11p cheaper than booze in supermarkets". I'm very sorry to tell you this is not true.

Other reputable organs were also confused, not helped by Jeremy Hunt who, like Chancellors before him, wanted to make it sound like he was giving us something. The price of beer has always been a sensitive subject, politically.

What's really happening? In August alcohol duties will rise by the rate of inflation. Which is quite a lot. But the government is also introducing draught relief which means most (but not all) beers from the tap are going to be taxed at a lower rate. At best this might mean your pint won't go up. But don't hold me to that.

It's brewers who directly benefit from the relief. They may choose to pass it on to pubs, who may choose to pass it on to their customers. In practice, past duty cuts have somehow never made it as far as the drinker at the bar. Long experience suggests the price of a pint never ever goes down.

What's more, the cost of brewing beer is soaring like everything else. As

prices of ingredients and energy have risen over the past year, the average pint has already gone up 12p, and inflation isn't done yet.

But if we value our pubs as social drinking places then having a lower duty rate for draught is a good principle in itself and opens the way to closing the gap with supermarket prices in future.

...if we value our pubs as social drinking places then having a lower duty rate for draught is a good principle in itself and opens the way to closing the gap with supermarket prices in future.

August will also see duty bands revised to encourage production of weaker beers, below 3.5 percent abv. This is much better than the previous 2.8 percent threshold at which it's difficult to make something decent. I'm looking forward to seeing a wider choice of interesting lighter brews on the bar. And they may even be a bit cheaper. But perhaps not.

Advertisement

LOST PASSPORT

My passport has been lost in the Croydon area. Name on the passport is **NAWDAR SIRWAN M. RADHA** Passport number: **A10147092** If anybody finds this passport please return to: Iraqi Embassy or contact me on: **07454623991**

West Ham Park through the seasons

NICKY BROWN, FRIENDS OF WEST HAM PARK

The new growing year kicks off in March, which can be bitterly cold but also have some warmer days, and the mix of higher temperature and more daylight triggers all the plants and trees in West Ham Park to burst into life.

We are seeing early flowers such as snowdrops and crocus, and hopefully flowers on the Magnolia, which flower before the leaves appear!

April is frequently showery but bright green leaves are popping out on most of the trees by now, and we should see some beautiful blossom as May approaches.

June is definitely warmer and everything is looking green and the borders in the Ornamental Garden are looking fabulous, and will keep looking colourful for the next few months – providing plenty of tasty treats for the bees.

Hopefully the weather this sum-

mer will be a little less extreme than last year, as the whole park really suffered in the prolonged heatwave, with the grass turning brown and dry, and lots of the trees losing their leaves early.

We would expect the leaves to change colour and give us some fantastic colourful displays through September before dropping them in October and November, with most leaves down by Bonfire Night, which is why we don't run Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile before then!

As the days get shorter and colder into winter the deciduous trees go almost into hibernation as they slow everything down to protect themselves from the freezing weather and prepare for re-awakening in spring.

Evergreen trees such as the Cedars and Pine trees in the park also slow their metabolism and go dormant but as their leaves are much smaller they don't need to shed them.

And then it all starts again in spring.



A sycamore tree in West Ham Park through the seasons – clockwise spring, summer, winter, autumn. Image courtesy Nicky Brown

Royal Docks in the loop

Newham's Royal Docks is one of the key steps in plans for a new limited-stop express bus service – the "Superloop" – which the Mayor of London hopes will provide rapid connections between outer London town centres.

The Superloop, announced at the end of March, is part of a £6 million Greater London Authority investment in creating an orbital

express bus service around the capital. The first services will start in North

Finchley and in the second phase a Walthamstow – Royal Docks link will be added, providing a fast link between the two urban centres. The route plans will be rolled out in detail in the coming months as part of extensive consultation with local people.



Pop-up aims to be the biggest market place for Black-owned businesses

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Musician and Black Pound Day founder Swiss first opened the doors to the pop-up store in Westfield Stratford City on Saturday 4 February.

Swiss established Black Pound Day to address the economic inequalities and imbalances that affect Black businesses and entrepreneurs in the UK and global diasporic communities.

Black Pound Day takes place on the first Saturday of every month, to support the growth of the UK Black economy. Consumers are encouraged to seek out and spend with Black-owned businesses locally and online. Black Pound Day has helped to establish new black businesses and increase the revenue for several businesses.

The opening at Westfield Stratford City was a huge success with lots of customers eager to see inside the pop-up store, which featured over 60 UK black-owned businesses.

Swiss happily served customers, including myself, at the till. It was a positive feeling to see so many people support the pop-up store.

DJs played music and entertained the customers while they shopped for lifestyle goods such as stationery, home accessories, clothing, books, toys, jewellery, beauty, food and cooking ingredients.



Swiss, Founder & CEO Black Pound Day ©Neandra Etienne

Swiss posted on his social media: “the store was ram, road block, shut down for practically the whole day. no exaggeration, the whole day. I truly underestimated the turn out. I have soooo much to say but need to gather my thoughts first, big up all my fellow DJs that came and made the launch a movie!!!!”

The Black Pound Day Store in Westfield Stratford City is open for a limited period. Their Westfield London

store is open permanently.

Black Pound Day was launched on the 27 June 2020. A directory of all their black-owned businesses can be found on their website.

Black Pound Day is not affiliated to the Black Lives Matter movement. However, it is a positive action community powered response helping to address some of the economic issues faced by Black businesses.

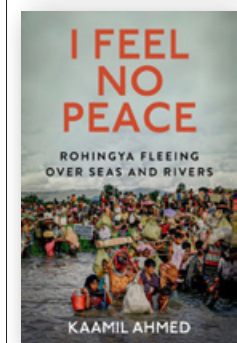
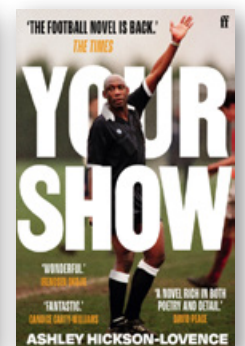
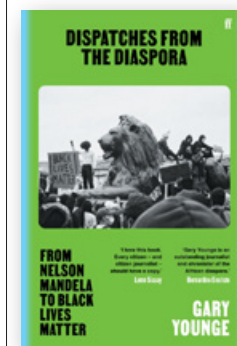
www.blackpoundday.uk



Good reads in Newham

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

- **Dispatches from the Diaspora** (signed copies available)
By Gary Younge
- **Lovece: Your Show**
By Ashley Hickson
- **I Feel No Peace** (signed copies available, Newham-born local author)
By Kaamil Ahmed
- **Adventuremice: Otter Chaos**
By Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre
- **The Pet Potato**
By Josh Lacey and Momoke Abe
- **Wild Song**
By Candy Gourlay



David Bowie's archive on the way

NEANDRA ETIENNE

David Bowie's archive will be made available to the public for the first time through the creation of, The David Bowie Centre for the Study of Performing Arts at V&A East Storehouse, in Stratford's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The purchase and creation of the Centre has been made possible thanks to the David Bowie Estate, a generous donation of £10m from the Blavatnik Family Foundation and Warner Music Group.

The archive spans six decades and includes items from his early career in the 1960s to his death in 2016.

When the news was announced Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz OBE told her Twitter followers: “Opening in 2025, the David Bowie Centre for the Study of Performing Arts coming to V&A East in Newham.” She said there would be 80,000 items reflecting 60 years of one of the world's most iconic artists for the public to enjoy.

Visitors will have access to handwritten lyrics, letters, sheet music, original

costumes, fashion, photography, and film, music videos, set designs, Bowie's own instruments, album artwork and awards. It also includes intimate writings, thought processes and unrealised projects, the majority of which have never been seen in public before.

Dr Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A, said: “Our new collections centre, V&A East Storehouse, is the ideal place to put Bowie's work in dialogue with the V&A's collection spanning 5,000 years of art, design, and performance.”

“Through David's archive, visitors will learn about his creative processes as a musical innovator, cultural icon, and advocate for self-expression and reinvention.”

A spokesperson from the David Bowie Estate, said:

“The David Bowie Centre for the Study of Performing Arts – and the behind the scenes access that V&A East Storehouse offers – will mean David's work can be shared with the public in ways that haven't been possible before, and we're so pleased to be working closely with the V&A to continue to commemorate David's enduring cultural influence.”



Above: Quilted two-piece suit, 1972 Designed by Freddie Burretti for the Ziggy Stardust tour The David Bowie Archive; Inset: David Bowie as Ziggy Stardust via www.davidbowie.com

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



SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Neandra Etienne

Players from **East London Phoenix Professional Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team** met some fans and provided them with coaching, as part of a 'taster session' before their match against Loughborough Lightning.

East London Phoenix Head Coach Ade Orogbemi and players Amy Conroy, Curran Brown and Freya Levy spent an hour chatting with the fans, signing autographs and giving them some coaching tips, with one lucky fan being given Amy's training top.

East London Phoenix lost 53-62 to Loughborough Lightning later that afternoon. They next play at the SportsDock on Sunday 2 April against the Worcester Wolves at 3pm.

Before tip-off they will be running another FREE taster session for all ages to take part in

@eastldnphoenix
@EastLDNPhoenix



East London Phoenix

An **Active Newham Easter Bunny Family Fun Run** will take place in Central Park, suitable for all ages and abilities. Everyone gets a medal and there's a prize for the best costume! Adults £4 (age 16+) Children run for free Sunday 2 April, 9.30am - 11.30am, run begins at 10am, meeting point is near the café [eventbrite.co.uk/e/easter-bunny-family-fun-run-tickets-542778453967](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/easter-bunny-family-fun-run-tickets-542778453967)

Active Newham and **Newham Council** are working together to provide free sports park activities, including Cricket, Rowing and Taekwondo for children and young people during the Easter break.

Monday 3 April - Thursday 6 April
Tuesday 11 April - Friday 14 April

[eventbrite.com/cc/newham-east-er-childrens-park-activity-1890829](https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/newham-east-er-childrens-park-activity-1890829)

Essex County FA and **Active Newham** are partnering for a Ramadan football league event at Newham Leisure Centre

Spaces will be made available for prayers inside the Leisure Centre
Thursday 6 April, 8pm-10pm

@activeNewham



SCK boxing coach Athena Bashar

SCK Fitness Team CIC and **Diesel Gym London** Ramadan night Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Boxing sessions will be taking place at Diesel Gym London

Female only Thursday evening free Boxing sessions are run by a professional female coach

10:30pm to 11:30pm (The time of the class may change. If you are registered to attend you will be notified of any changes)

Diesel Gym London, 1012 Dockside Road, E16 2QT

@sckfitnessteam
www.dieselmym.co.uk

A Newham team will be taking part in the **London Mini Marathon** the day before the 2023 TCS London Marathon. (Saturday 22 April)

Active Newham held mini Marathon trails in March for children in school years 7-12 who live or attend school in Newham.

www.tcs londonmarathon.com

Richard Rule is running the London Marathon to fundraise for Bonny Downs

"This year the charity celebrates its 25th anniversary and its work supporting the local community and transforming Newham has never been more important. All contributions will help the BDCA carry on its essential work."

London Marathon, Sunday 23 April
[localgiving.org/fundraising/Running-the-London-Marathon-for-BDCA/](https://www.localgiving.org/fundraising/Running-the-London-Marathon-for-BDCA/)
www.bonnydowns.org

Clapton CFC have reached the final of the London and South East Regional Women's Football League

The final is against Ashford United at Maidstone United's Gallagher Stadium on Sunday 23 April with kick off at 2.30pm

www.claptoncfc.co.uk



Clapton CFC, ©Nick Davidson

Athletic Newham FC player **Akinyinka Omole** was called up for international duty for Nigeria U23s

www.athleticnewhamfc.co.uk

Garden volunteer **Derek James** is running the **London Marathon** for the 10th time for Richard House Hospice

Derek has been volunteering at Richard House for 15 years

Derek's first London Marathon was in 2013, for his 70th Birthday and this year Derek will be running the London Marathon the week after his 80th Birthday!

London Marathon, Sunday 23 April
[justgiving.com/fundraising/derekrh](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/derekrh)
www.richardhouse.org.uk

David Sparks started **COG Cycling** because he wanted to create a local cycle club aimed primarily at young people who can't afford or never get opportunities to join a cycle club

Since starting the club David has upgraded his qualifications to become a British Cycling level 2 BMX coach and qualified cycle mechanic

COG Cycling won the Access Sport Inclusive Club of the Year award for 2022

COG Newham, funded entirely by the Community Assembly grant for 12 months, includes SEND only, Beginners, and Intermediate BMX sessions. £2

Saturdays, Gooseley Playing Fields, St Albans Ave, East Ham, E6 6HQ

www.cogcycling.co.uk



Cog Cycling

Free Badminton and Table Tennis sessions are available for all ages and abilities with free refreshments.

Sunday 30 April, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Victorious House Elim Church, The Well, 49 Vicarage Lane, East Ham, E6 6 DQ

Local footballer and former St Bon's pupil **Divin Mubama** said he was 'over the moon' to score his first professional goal for West Ham United, during the club's Europa Conference League game at the London Stadium (16 March). Divin was also named in the England U19 squad for the UEFA U19 Euro Elite Round Qualifiers, which took place at the end of March.

@divinmubama
@divinM8



Cycle Sisters founder Sarah Javaid accepts an award for diversity and inclusion at the Sport and Recreation Alliance Awards.

Charity organisation **Cycle Sisters** won the Diversity and Inclusion award at the Sport and Recreation Alliance awards (17 March). HRH The Duke of Edinburgh presented the trophy to the winning individuals and organisations. Cycle Sisters Newham are still running rides during Ramadan, but they will start a little later than their usual time. Booking is essential for all rides newham@cyclesisters.org.uk The Newham group was set up with the support of London Sport and Newham Council.

www.cyclesisters.org.uk/newham

David Anugo, aged 14, has signed for West Ham United. He was signed up within three weeks of an eight week trial.

David, who is a pupil at St Bon's, trained privately with Michael Pindy, Head Coach and Founder of MP Sports Academy.

He also played grassroots for Senrab FC who play their home matches at Wanstead Flats, Capel Road E7. St Bon's alumnus and ex West Ham player Jermain Defoe OBE, from Canning Town, started his football career at Senrab FC

www.mp-sports-academy.co.uk
www.senrab-fc-official-website.com
@IAMJermainDefoe



David Anugo

Upton Park Ladies FC have announced that they will be returning next season. They are looking for a new talented squad of experienced players who are highly committed and excited for the new season ahead

uptonparkladies@gmail.com
@uptonparkladies

Games and events are subject to change. Please email your news and game fixtures to neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk

When results aren't decided on the pitch



Mickey Ambrose predicts chaos and confusion if accusations against top teams are held up in court

As the English game approaches the final weeks of a remarkable season, including an unprecedented winter break for the World Cup in Qatar, our national sport is sleep-walking into a period of bureaucratic chaos, which will befuddle and infuriate football fans the length and breadth of the country.

Football supporters are faced with the spectacle of seeing the winners of the Premier League and a relegation place being decided, not by the most skilled of footballers on the pitch, but by the most talented of lawyers in the High Court.

I hasten to add, that both clubs strenuously deny the charges and any wrongdoing, regarding their perceived violations.

The money involved in the Premier League means that both clubs would be forced to take their point deductions to the High Court, which will invariably decide the fate of Everton, Manchester City and indeed our own West Ham, who may survive in football's top flight under the most controversial of circumstances.

The financial repercussions of Everton being relegated, for the first time in 72 years, could not be more

shadows, wearing their black robes and powdered wigs.

Sadly, this spectre is eclipsing a football record that is on the verge of being broken, which has been considered to be unassailable, for nearly 100 years.

The football historians among us would have heard of the Everton Legend Dixie Dean, arguably the greatest goal scorer ever to grace the English game. William Ralph Dean netted a staggering 60 goals in just 38 games for club and country in the 1927/28 season.

Now in 2023, regardless of our personal club affiliations, we have all been wowed by the prestigious talent of Erling Haaland who has scored 42 goals across all competitions for Manchester City, in just 37 games, with another 20 possible games to come. Could the oldest footballing record be on the verge of being broken?

Finally consider this, as we all take part in the never-ending debate of who is the greatest player of all time?

Dixie Dean scored 383 goals in just



Mickey Ambrose

433 appearances, for club and country, a ratio of 88.5 percent. Lionel Messi has 800 goals, in 1017 appearances, a ratio of 78.7 per cent, while his great rival, Cristiano Ronaldo has played 1156 games, scoring 830 goals to date, a ratio of 71.8 percent.

Naturally, my late departed buddy stands alone; Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pele, scored a staggering 757 goals in 831 games, a goal scoring ratio of 91 percent, miles ahead of Ronaldo and Messi, but just 2.5 percent ahead of Dixie Dean.

Nobody knows how great Haaland will be, he is just 22 and has nearly scored 200 career goals. One thing for sure is it will be fun watching him, while every manager in the country, especially our own David Moyes at West Ham, wishes that Erling was their player. ●

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



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Manchester City and Everton are on the verge of being accused of breaking Premiership rules which could see them both docked points if found guilty.

The Sky Blues are accused of overspending on both transfers and salaries, while the Dark Blues are charged with incurring too much debt.

We face the serious prospect of Manchester City winning the Premier League and Everton avoiding relegation, yet for both clubs to be docked a considerable number of points.

So even if Manchester City overhaul current leaders Arsenal it might make no difference. Arsenal could still win their first title for 19 years, while the impact on Everton, who could still climb clear of the relegation zone, would be to cast them adrift into the Championship.

dire, as they are just 18 months away from moving into their new Bramley Dock Stadium on the Mersey, which will hold 53,000 supporters.

Indeed the £500 million price tag is a debt the club cannot hope to service, if they are relegated to the Championship. This could put the future of one of the founders of the football league in real jeopardy.

There are between 10 and 12 games left in the Premier League, with only a very narrow four points dividing Crystal Palace in 12th place and Southampton holding up the foot of the table in 20th.

The Hammers hover in 18th place, in the bottom three by one point, with a game in hand over Leicester, we are facing a fascinating and exciting end to the season. Yet the limelight could be stolen by the other players in the

Advertisement

LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of Application for New Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Felicia Funmilayo Adenigba** has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Newham for a new Premises Licence to permit:

- **Licence for the Sale Of Alcohol (off site): Monday to Sunday from 08:00-23:00 Hrs**
- **For the premises: Abundant Grace 237 Barking Road, East Ham London E6 1LB**

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, Grassroots, Memorial Avenue, London E15 3DB (open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday), 020 3373 1925, where details of the application may be inspected. Any representations against the application must be made in writing and received by the Licensing Team at the above address, by no later than the **24th April 2023**.

Individuals, businesses and other bodies may make representations in relation to the application. Representations must be relevant and can only be on the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance, and the protection of children from harm. Copies of all representations will be sent to the applicant. Persons making representations will have to appear at the Councils' Licensing Sub-Committee.

Note: It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to £5,000 for a person to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

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