



# Soaring costs and more delay add to Carpenters Estate woes

£1 bn masterplan delayed ● Single family holds out for more cash for home ● £24 million hike in costs ● “Ghost estate” fears as anti-social behaviour increases ● Council rejects independent financial review ● Call for more resident engagement

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## Coronation events in Newham

See Pages 4-5 >





By local people, for local people

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# Newham libraries become Warm Havens for 500,000 people

Half a million people have visited the Council's ten libraries since Newham's Warm Havens programme launched last November.

Warm Havens were created to provide inclusive, safe and warm spaces during the winter as energy costs soared, part of the cost of living crisis.

The Warm Havens initiative, which has now officially ended, benefitted from extended opening hours in all libraries, resulting in an additional 7,000 new library memberships.

Newham Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz said: "The ever growing cost of living crisis means that councils are providing more and more support to residents. Here in Newham, our Warm Havens

were a crucial part of our wider effort to ensure that everyone in our community had a safe, non-judgmental, and warm place to go to during the cold winter months.

"I am pleased that we have been able to help so many people with this initiative. Our brilliant library staff and volunteers have worked incredibly hard to provide a warm welcome and a hot cuppa along with valuable advice on where to get help with managing rising costs."

Libraries are now part of the National Databank to provide 500 free SIM cards in Newham every month. Anyone interested in this should pop into their local library for more information.



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

# The dancing barber of Stratford on a mission to help in hard times

AIDAN WHITE

Mojo Stewart is a man on a mission: to dance, entertain people and to make sure that everyone, even those struggling in hard times, get a decent haircut.

We meet outside the food bank on the Carpenters Estate in Stratford where he does a regular stint as a street-barber and which is a regular venue for his unique form of social support which he calls Groove, Groom and Grub.

He is one of life's natural entertainers. A dancer with a heavy-duty speaker that provides his backing sounds, he buzz cuts to the rhythms of disco and funk as he cuts people's hair for free.

In the chair is Daniel, a former Carpenters Estate resident who has



seen some hard times since he moved from Latvia almost 40 years ago.

"I just cut the hair of anybody who wants their hair cut," says Mojo. "I'm not a barber, but if you want me to cut your hair, I will cut your hair."

Mojo has been an entertainer for almost 40 years and now lives in West Ham and has been working with soup kitchens, food banks and support organisations providing help to the people that need it most.

His interactions with people are free and easy, his open manner disarmingly casual and he has been making friends through his voluntary work at a number of venues beyond Stratford including Wood Green and at the Angel tube station in Islington.

His love of entertainment has allowed him to gain insights into how people are feeling. He says that staying in touch and reaching out to people in need has reinforced his belief that "the only thing that's really important is people."

The energy he puts into his work – whether dancing or barbering – allows him to make people feel better about

themselves and about life in general.

Cutting people's hair on the street has introduced him to a vast array of people of all types and classes – rich, poor, tourists, homeless men and women, parents and children – his client list covers the full spectrum of people in the community.

He took up hair cutting in 2018. But now it will be coming to an end. He plans to stop next year. It seems about the right time to take a break and he will celebrate by organising a free festival for the homeless.

He appreciates the joy of living more than most. "I've been lucky and I feel its right to give something back," he says. "Being out, meeting and entertaining people it's like everyone is part of my family – it's like, for me, a home from home or family that I didn't have."

As the haircutting session ends Daniel stands up, dusts himself down and admires the cut – modern, and just what he wanted. Another satisfied customer for Mojo.

For more information on Mojo visit:

[@groovegroomgrub](https://www.instagram.com/groovegroomgrub)  
[f@getyourmojoworkin](https://www.facebook.com/getyourmojoworkin)

## Correction

Last month we reported on the controversy at the Council over the misgendering of Green Councillor Danny Keeling and in so doing we inadvertently caused yet more offence by the use of a pronoun that was not gender neutral. We apologise.

## A royal protest

There's lots of Royal news (see pages 4 and 5) but Newham people looking for an alternative might consider the protest rally planned for the morning of 6 May at Trafalgar Square where supporters of a republic for Britain will be holding a public protest over the coronation. See [www.republic.org.uk](http://www.republic.org.uk)

# Residents call for action over Carpenters crisis

Newham's flagship regeneration programme for the Carpenters Estate in Stratford faces a new delay with a single family in an empty tower block refusing the council's offer to buy them out of their home.

As a result a compulsory purchase order has been agreed which could delay for a year the first phase of the £1 billion masterplan to redevelop the estate.

At the same time a significant 42 per cent increase in the budget for the first phase – the refurbishment of the tower block James Riley Point and the creation of a new community centre – has seen the original budget increased by £24 million.

A *Newham Voices* investigation which has canvassed the opinions of local



“We have been waiting years to get a leaking roof fixed.”

– Ricky Holman

people has uncovered an overwhelming sense of apathy and despondency among residents, with some expressing concerns that the area is becoming a “ghost-estate” where the streets are increasingly unsafe and with more anti-social behaviour.

The optimism generated more than a year ago when residents were celebrating a vote in favour of the multi-million masterplan has been crushed.

For more than 20 years local residents have witnessed the decay of their estate while other parts of Stratford have been transformed, much of it thanks to the legacy of the 2012 Olympics.

That was planned to change when Populo Living, Newham's housing company, put forward a planning application for the Estate last August. The project is one of the biggest regen-

eration projects in London: 2,151 new homes will be built across the 23-acre site, with more than 50 percent available for social rent.

A residents' ballot in December last year voted in favour of this masterplan, but many questions were still unresolved, not least negotiations with a handful of leaseholders still in occupation of the largely empty tower blocks – James Riley Point, Dennison Point and Lund Point.

One of them June Benn, aged 78, lived alone on the 11th floor of Dennison Point, a block due for demolition. She told *Newham Voices* in July last year she would refuse to move out. Tragically she died last week in her apartment.

A final deadline for negotiations passed in December with four leaseholders still holding out in James Riley point. Now one family remains in place, still refusing to accept the council's offer of around £400,000 to leave their apartment.

Joe Alexandra, a resident who represents a group of freeholders, blames the crisis on mismanagement and says that every few days he personally is out cleaning up the streets of used condoms and laughing gas canisters. Like others he understands why the area has the feel of a “ghost-estate”.

Part of the problem says resident Warren Lubin is because so many of the low rise homes – more than 90 per cent he says – are now used for temporary accommodation.

Lubin, who has been on the estate for more than 20 years and is former chair of the Resident's Steering Group, summed up the despondent feelings that have overwhelmed residents.

“To be honest things have been badly mismanaged, lots of money has been wasted,” he said. “Every year that passes it becomes more and more expensive.”

“Rather than have compulsory purchase, there should be offers that mean people can reasonably get another property.”



“There's a feeling that the Council doesn't care about what's happening here.”

– Warren Lubin

Another long-term resident Tee Fabukin, who helps run the local food bank that provides a lifeline distributing food and supplies to more than 1,500 people on the estate and beyond says the Council needs to be more transparent. “There needs to be more engagement with the residents to keep them informed,” she said.

Raising morale may not be easy. One resident – Ricky Holman, who lives on the estate with his aunt who has been a resident for 55 years – feels frustrated that they have had to wait five years to get their leaking roof fixed.

The delays weigh heavily on people. “It all seems to be going very slowly and people are not happy about that,” said one. Another said there was a sense of powerlessness. Everyone agrees that whatever happens needs to be urgent and targeted at getting their lives back to normal.

The Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz insists costs are under control and the Council will deliver on all its promises.

She told *Newham Voices*: “The Carpenters Estate programme is one of the most significant restoration programmes anywhere in the UK. We'll be starting with the sustainable refurbishment of James Riley Point, which will offer 132 new genuinely affordable homes.”

continued on the following page



“There needs to be more engagement with the residents.”

– Tee Fabukin

## Council rejects calls for independent finance review

The Council has rejected a call from its Overview and Scrutiny Committee for an independent external review over rising costs on the Carpenters Estate.

The committee called for external accountants to be brought in after a dramatic £24 million rise in the budget for the James Riley Point work. The current budget of £54.1 million has been increased by more than 40 per cent, bringing the total budget for the project to £78.1million.

At the same time the committee noted that Mayor both chairs a num-

ber of governance bodies, and acts as lead Councillor on the administration of the Carpenters Estate masterplan.

The Committee asked for a special meeting of the Cabinet that was held on March 30 and the Mayor offered to not attend to avoid any conflict of interest, but this was decided not to be necessary.

She did step down as Chair and her deputy Councillor James Asser took over.

The Cabinet rejected the Committee's motion to bring in external accountants following a statement from council officers that the Council had already taken independent financial advice

and were monitoring finances closely,

However, the Cabinet agreed two of the Committee's other motions: – to review settlement payments to tenants and leaseholders affected by development programmes; and to reassess the risks in Compulsory Purchase Orders.

Cabinet also rejected a Committee call for another Cabinet member to replace the Mayor as lead Councillor on the regeneration work and a proposal to set up a Governance Body with an independent Chair saying they do not have powers to direct the Mayor, but the Cabinet noted the proposals.

## Carpenters crisis

continued from the previous page

“There will also be a brand new community centre, with state of the art sport and recreation facilities offering a vital space for residents to come together.

“We are ready to get going with works on James Riley Point and the community centre as soon we can. We have already secured planning permission and have the construction partner in place.”

She said the council agreed to increase the budget for this phase of the programme by a further £20 million, reflecting increased construction costs and design changes because of new building regulations introduced by the government. The £20 million includes an increased contingency budget, she says.

“In March 2021, an initial £4 million was approved for early enabling works for James Riley Point, such as stripping off external cladding. In July, a further £53.3 million was approved for main works to the high rise and the new community centre; meaning the revised cost for the entirety of phase one now stands at £78.1 million.”

She says that increased costs “are well within the benchmark of similar schemes across London; and all developers have experienced similar scenarios in light of changes in the market and brought in by national government.”

She is adamant that “any compulsory purchase will follow our good governance process and we always act in the interests of residents desperately waiting to move into new homes.

“That’s why we can’t wait to hit the ground running to deliver on our promises to residents living on the estate to transform Carpenters into a much loved and thriving neighbourhood once again.”

# Local composer gets a king’s commission

NEANDRA ETIENNE

The Coronation of King Charles III will be a special occasion for Professor Dr Shirley J. Thompson, not least because the King chose her personally to compose some of the Coronation music.

She said: “It is with the greatest honour and privilege that I am contributing to the Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III.

“Framed by the traditional with the modern, this ceremony will represent inclusivity and diversity in their varied manifestations.

“This event will also signify the promotion of peace, unity and understanding through the power of music and the arts from cultures across the globe.”

Professor Thompson was born in Stratford and still lives in Newham. She attended East Ham Girls Grammar School where she excelled academically leading to a place at a top UK University.

She developed her musical and artistic skills at school, the local church and the Newham Academy of Music gaining 100 percent for her Grade 8, Royal Associated Boards Music Theory Exams (the highest music theoretical qualification); she was leading the Newham Youth Symphony Orchestra as a violinist and performing with several other choral and instrumental groups in the Borough.

Professor Thompson worked as a

Composer-in-Residence at several primary schools in Newham and also taught at New Vic Sixth Form College. She served on the Newham Cultural Forum for several years and developed the ‘Every Child a Musician’ scheme for children in Newham.

Professor Thompson was introduced to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip when she was commissioned by Newham Council to compose and conduct the orchestral music for the Queen’s visit to east London in 2002.

Her symphony for the Queen, *New Nation Rising: A 21st Century London Symphony*, relates the history of London from 1066 to the present day

in orchestral music. This historical concept was assumed for the 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony.

She also composed the music for the opening of the Stratford Cultural Quarter that year and conducted the London Gala Orchestra at the launch event.

The music of Professor Thompson was regularly featured at the annual Under the Stars Festival held in Central Park, with performances of *Newham Symphony* and other orchestral works performed by The London Gala Orchestra and latterly, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

[www.shirleythompsonmusic.com](http://www.shirleythompsonmusic.com)



Professor Shirley J. Thompson

## My Newham

With royalty in the news Julia Omari interviews Forest Gate’s Pearly King Bob Paice

### How long have you been connected to Newham?

All my life, I was born in Plaistow in 1948 and have lived in Stratford ever since.

### What’s your favourite Newham moment?

I feel that the Olympics back in 2012 was a brilliant event, well organised and really brought Stratford to life.

### Most inspirational Newham person?

Going back to my younger days, I was inspired by how people helped each other, even though they did not have much themselves.

### Favourite place to eat in Newham?

This one is easy, it is definitely the Eastern Palace Chinese restaurant in Forest Gate. We are like family as we have been customers there since 1974. The food is fantastic and the staff are amazing, I would recommend

anyone who likes Chinese to give it a try, you won’t be disappointed.

### Favourite Newham outdoor space?

I would have to say West Ham park which isn’t far from me, it is a great outdoor space for all sorts of things. They have tennis courts, cricket areas to practise, outside gym, playground and a lovely peaceful garden area.

### How would you spend a free day in Newham?

When the weather is good, I usually go for a walk around the park. I also sometimes go to my local Wetherspoons and have a sneaky pint.

### You’re the Pearly King of Forest Gate, tell us what that is like.

It is an honour and privilege to be a member of the London Pearly Kings and Queens Society. This enables me

to fund raise for charities in London. You also get to meet some very interesting people.

### Finish this sentence

Newham is.... a diverse and upcoming borough.



Pearly King: Bob Paice

## Neighbourhood Parties:

Sun 7 May – Wed 10 May

- **Stratford and West Ham:** Sunday 7 May, 12pm–3pm, Stratford Park, West Ham Lane E15 4PT
- **Custom House and Canning Town:** Tuesday 9 May, 2.30–5.30pm, Canning Town Recreation Ground, Prince Regent Lane, E16 3PB
- **Plaistow:** Tuesday 9 May, 2pm–5pm, May Green, Opposite 63 Queen’s Rd West, E13 0PE
- **Manor Park:** Wednesday 10 May, 4pm–6pm, Warrior Square, Outside Jack Cornwall Community Centre, Jack Cornwell Street, E12 5NN
- **Forest Gate:** Monday 8 May, 10.30am–1.30pm, Eric Close laundry yard, Forest Gate, E7 0AY (Entrance is between 1–4 and 5–10 Eric Close)
- **Beckton and Royal Docks:** Wednesday 10 May, 3.30pm–6pm, Kingsford Square – outside Beckton library, 1 Kingsford Way, E6 5JQ
- **Green Street:** Wednesday 10 May, 2–5pm, Priory Park, Priory Rd, E6 1QA

# A Right Royal programme as Newham celebrates

NEANDRA ETIENNE

On 6 May the world will be watching as King Charles III and Queen Camilla are crowned at Westminster Abbey.

Two key locations in the Borough, East Ham High Street and Stratford Broadway, will be decorated to celebrate the occasion. East Ham and Stratford Town Halls will also be lit up for the duration of the weekend.

"Newham has a proud history of celebrating Royal events," said Rokhsana Fiaz, Mayor of Newham. "We are delighted to be able to come together to mark the crowning of the new King."

The King's Coronation Grant supports residents and community groups who will be hosting big lunches, street parties and community events. Events are being planned across the Borough

to mark the occasion, from creative school competitions, community festivals and displays of archived coronation materials.

These include:

- A display showcasing coronation materials from the archives at East Ham library, 2 May to 12 May
- Special Newham libraries activities, 2 May to 13 May
- Public broadcasting of the coronation at libraries on May 6
- Community events and street parties with support from Newham Council via the King's Coronation Grant and the Eden Project, 7 May to 10 May (see page 4 for events)
- Neighbourhood parties to be held all around the Borough, 7 May to 10 May
- The Big Help Out Festival, 8 May,



Central Park, 1pm-5pm, which is part of Buckingham Palace's campaign to highlight the positive impact volunteering has on communities.

During this event, residents can find out about volunteering opportunities across the Borough.

Mayor Fiaz and Deputy Lieutenant Kim Bromley-Derry, will plant an oak tree at Central Park in recognition of volunteering in Newham.

- There will also be a Coronation Tea Party on Tuesday 9 May from 12.30 to 4.30 pm at Old Town Hall Stratford. Booking will be required to attend this event.

For information about all the events and activities for the King's Coronation, visit the Newham website: [www.newham.gov.uk/kingscoronation](http://www.newham.gov.uk/kingscoronation)

## Let's Party! Your guide to all the coronation events



Compiled by Neandra Etienne

**Here East** is hosting a Big Lunch on the Canalside. There will be live music, fun and games including children's archery, face painting and sporting activities, including a live screening of the Coronation.

Saturday 6 May, 11am-4pm, Here East, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, E15 2GW

[hereeast.com/events](http://hereeast.com/events)

**Maryland Events Group** is having a right royal afternoon tea event fit for a King.

There will also be music and dancing, face painters, glitter tattooist, children's colouring Royal Crowns together and more!!

The room will be decorated with balloons and celebratory flags as well as other decorations to welcome guests. People from the local area will join in the fun at the Cart and Horses Community Hub in Maryland.

Sunday 7 May 12.00 - 3.30pm, Cart and Horses Function room (Birthplace of Iron Maiden)

[facebook.com/groups/1653587501574980](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1653587501574980)

There will be a good old-fashioned knees up event by **Stratford Original** for the King's Coronation.

There will be music, bouncy slides, and giant garden games such as four in a row and chess, and delicious sweet

treats including candy floss, ice cream and popcorn.

There will be plenty to do to keep the whole family entertained on this historic occasion!

Monday 8 May, 11am - 1:30pm, St John's Church, Broadway, E15 1NG

[www.stratfordoriginal.com](http://www.stratfordoriginal.com)

**Manor Park Community Garden** is having a Great Big Get Together to celebrate. You can win prizes in their tombola, make a crown, take part in a children's fancy dress competition, join family games and show off baking skills in the fruit/veg themed bake off competition.

Sunday 7 May, 12pm-4pm, Manor Park Community Garden, Manor Park Rd, 2 minutes from Manor Park station

[@manorparkcommunitygarden](https://www.instagram.com/manorparkcommunitygarden)  
[manorparkcommunitygarden.co.uk](http://manorparkcommunitygarden.co.uk)

**Forest Gate Community Garden** is planning an event for the Big Help Out. They are looking for volunteers to help replant Earlham Grove Bridge which suffered badly from last year's drought. Everyone is invited to put in drought tolerant plants - bring a trowel if you can!

Free refreshments for those working for an hour or more, courtesy of Newham Council.

Monday 8 May, 10.30am until 2.30pm, Forest Gate Community Garden, 136 Earlham Grove, E7 9AS

[www.fgcommunitygarden.org](http://www.fgcommunitygarden.org)

Make Your Own 5-a-day Veg Crown at the **Friends of West Ham Park** Coronation event

Select five fruit or vegetable shapes, paint them and then stick them onto your Crown to wear with pride all day.

Afterwards children are offered a piece of real fruit/ vegetable to eat, or an edible plant to grow at home.

While the children are busy, there will be the chance for parents/carers to have a tour of the Community Vegetable Garden.

Monday 8 May, 2-4pm, Community Vegetable Garden, West Ham Park

[friendsofwesthampark.co.uk](http://friendsofwesthampark.co.uk)

**Ambition Aspire Achieve** is having a King's Coronation Family Fun Day, open to all ages.

Activities on the day include; face painter, balloonist, bouncy castles, arts and crafts, coronation themed activities, giant games, adventure play structure, workshops, information stalls and organised sports.

Contact [bookings@theaaazone.com](mailto:bookings@theaaazone.com) to book your place

Monday 8 May, 11am to 3pm, Terence Brown Arc, Hermit Road Park, Bethell Avenue E16 4JT

[www.theaaazone.com](http://www.theaaazone.com)

**Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre (RDLAC)** would like to invite everyone to their traditional afternoon tea and entertainment event.

There will be sandwiches, scones, jam and cream tea, coffee and cakes.

Wednesday 10 May, from 11am - Tea served at 12pm

<https://www.rdlac.org>

**West Silvertown Foundation** is having a family event with face painting, crafts and bake off competition.

Wednesday 10 May 3:15-5pm at Royal Wharf Community Dock, E16 2ZA

[www.wsfroyaldocks.org](http://www.wsfroyaldocks.org)

**Love E-Fifteen** community group Coronation Street Party is open to the local community. There will be music and workshops by local musicians Iroko African drummers and free plant and book swap.

Sunday 7 May, 3-6pm, Willis Road, E15

[@lovelondone15](https://www.instagram.com/lovelondone15)

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

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# OPEN EVENTS

17<sup>th</sup> May & 7<sup>th</sup> June, 4pm-7pm

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 [myfuture@waltham.ac.uk](mailto:myfuture@waltham.ac.uk)

 707 Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4JB



# Best of Britain: how nurse Nuru made Newham a champion for treating mums

SHEILA NURSIMHULU

Nurse Nuru Clark has been awarded the *British Journal of Nursing* 2023 Award for diabetes nursing.

Nurse Clark has been recognised for her work supporting women with diabetes from preconception, through their pregnancy and after they've had their baby. In her role, she supports all aspects of her patient's health and well-being by tailoring the management of their diabetes to each individual's needs, including addressing fertility issues and ensuring a healthy pregnancy.

The incidence of type 2 diabetes is among the highest in the country in Newham, but it is also one of the most deprived and most diverse communities in the country.

According to Bart's Health website, only 28 percent of babies born to women with diabetes under Nurse Clark's care were admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit, compared to 45 percent nationally.

Her manager Anne Claydon, a diabetes nurse consultant who was awarded a BEM in the 2021 New Year Honours,



Nuru Clark. Image from [www.bartshealth.nhs.uk](http://www.bartshealth.nhs.uk)

described Nurse Clark as “a lynchpin between midwifery, obstetrics, perinatal mental health and primary care teams who has transformed the service beyond recognition”. Nurse Claydon added: “She cares deeply about the

women she supports, especially those who are marginalised or vulnerable, or who have experienced pregnancy loss or complications.”

Speaking about her achievement, Nurse Clark thanked her manager Nurse Claydon, other colleagues and

patients. She said: “I have never in my entire career worked with a team who make me feel so valuable. Working with all of these people has allowed me to be who I am and where I am today and I'm very grateful to them all, and for this award. Thank you.”

## Happy Nurses Day to all the Borough's nurses, May 12

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on 12 May, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.

The theme set by the International Council of Nurses for 2023 is Our Nurses. Our Future, which sets out the aims to address the global health challenges and to improve global health for all, calling for action and investments in nursing.



Advertisement

## LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of Application for New Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Sanjugo Fresh Ltd / Aji Mart (Yu Men)** has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Newham for a new Premises Licence to permit:

- **Licence for the sale/supply of alcohol (off site) and to play recorded music inside the premises during operating hours: Monday to Sunday from 10:00-21:00 Hrs**
- **For the premises: Aji Mart - Unit 1, Caxton Street Studios, Caxton St N, London E16 1JL**

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 **21<sup>st</sup> May 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.

## From tragedy to hope and mental wellbeing

BOBBY WAZZO

The tragic story of Ashok Ali will be told at the next meeting of the Monega Area Residents Association in Forest Gate.

From a happy childhood and teenage years full of life and spirit, to the tragedy of his untimely death, his story will be told in a photographic presentation given by his sister Shofa Miah.

It is a story rich in joy but tinged with sadness. Ashok's death was the spark in forming Ashok's Vision, a children and young people's charity. The follow up talk covers the work undertaken by Talking Therapies who have a unit based along Katherine Road.

The Newham based NHS service will cover what they do to support mental wellbeing, and the events and workshops planned during Mental Health Awareness week and beyond.

The meeting starts with the AGM of the Monega RA which will feature a run through of issues of the last year.

Bob Rush, Chair of the Association, says that resident associations have become the cinderellas of community involvement, but that organisations

such as Monega RA, the Plashet Park Neighbourhood RA and others deliver their responsibilities day in day out.

He said he welcomed as many people as possible to the event which will be at the Hope, 5-7 Stafford Road, E7 (off Katherine Rd) on Thursday 11 May, 7.30. Free entry.



Image courtesy Ashok's Vision

# The changing classroom

## Safety first in dealing with gender

As society becomes more aware of gender diversity and inclusivity, it is crucial for educators to address these issues in the classroom.

The roles we all play at home, at work and in the community are forever changing and teachers play an essential role in shaping the way young people think about gender norms and challenging them to think critically about what society expects of them.

The first step that teachers take is creating a safe and inclusive environment in the classroom.

This means that all students are welcome, respected, and valued, regardless of their gender identity.

Teachers work hard to create a safe space where students can express themselves freely without fear of judgement or discrimination.

They use inclusive language, avoid stereotypical assumptions, and encourage students to respect each other's differences.

One way that teachers address gender norms in the classroom is by incorporating gender-neutral language and activities. They use gender-neutral pronouns, avoid gendered stereotypes, and provide diverse examples.

This approach helps to break down traditional gender roles and encourages students to think beyond the binary.

**Rob DesRoches, a Newham teacher, writer and activist highlights two of the challenges facing educators dealing with changing attitudes in the modern world.**



Of course, teachers can provide education and resources for students to learn about gender diversity and inclusivity. They may bring in guest speak-

ers or provide readings that explore gender identity and expression.

By doing this, they create opportunities for students to learn and ask

questions, leading to a more nuanced understanding of gender diversity.

Another important aspect is providing support for students who may be questioning their gender identity.

By doing this, they create opportunities for students to learn and ask questions, leading to a more nuanced understanding of gender diversity.

Teachers offer a listening ear and create a safe space for students to express themselves. They may also, depending on the age of the student, connect them with resources such as school counsellors or outside support groups.

In all of these ways, teachers play a crucial role in addressing gender norms among students in the classroom. By creating a safe and inclusive environment, using gender-neutral language and activities, providing education and resources, and offering support to students who may be questioning their gender identity, teachers help to break down traditional gender roles and promote a more inclusive society.

## Tackling homophobia in education

As the world becomes more accepting of the LGBTQ+ community, it's essential that schools follow suit. However, homophobia still exists, and teachers need to know how to deal with it when it arises among parents and students.

Dealing with parents who exhibit homophobic behaviour is a significant challenge for teachers. There are cases where parents may not fully accept their child's sexual orientation or gender identity, leading to tensions with educators. In such situations, it is crucial for teachers to communicate unequivocally that they will not tolerate homophobia and that they are committed to supporting their LGBTQ+ students.

Educating parents is a potential

approach that teachers can take to tackle homophobia. Some parents may hold homophobic beliefs because of a lack of exposure to the LGBTQ+ community or inadequate instruction on acceptance and inclusivity. To help parents gain a better understanding of the challenges that their LGBTQ+ children face, teachers can offer them resources and information.

Establishing clear boundaries is another strategy that teachers can use to combat homophobia among parents. Teachers must make it evident that discriminatory conduct or hate speech will not be accepted and that they will take appropriate measures if required. These measures could include involving the school

administration or even law enforcement authorities in severe cases.

In terms of tackling homophobia among students, teachers must prioritise creating a safe and all-inclusive learning atmosphere. This includes having a zero-tolerance approach towards bullying, particularly when it is targeted at LGBTQ+ students. Additionally, teachers can establish safe spaces like LGBTQ+ support groups, where students can converse about their experiences and receive help from their peers.

It's important for teachers to be mindful of the language they use in class. Employing gender-neutral language and refraining from using gender stereotypes can assist in establishing a more all-encom-

passing environment. Furthermore, teachers should integrate LGBTQ+ representation into their course materials to enable students to feel acknowledged and respected.

Addressing homophobia among both parents and students is crucial in fostering a secure and all-encompassing learning setting. Teachers must be prepared to provide education, set boundaries, and create secure environments to offer full support to their LGBTQ+ students. Through these measures, they can help promote a more tolerant and empathetic society.

**Rob DesRoches** is also a founder and director of Forest Gayte Pride CIC in Forest Gate. [www.forestgaytepride.com](http://www.forestgaytepride.com)

## Council Notebook

# £7million in unpaid fines written off as Council plans new parking strategy

**Peter Landman reports on the April Council Cabinet meeting**

For years car drivers have been dodging parking tickets across the Borough and a whopping £7 million in unpaid fines has built up.

Now the council has decided to write off the debt and at the same time aims to strengthen its work to track down the offending drivers and ensure those who are breaking the parking rules pay up.

The Council Cabinet meeting in April was told that the £7.1 million in uncollected parking fines from bailiff warrants was money that either car owners could not pay or could not be found because the drivers responsible have disappeared.

The Council is now working on a fresh strategy and is considering involvement in the National Persistent Evaders Database set up by the British Parking Association to help deal with the problem in future. This would link the Borough to a national tracing service that could make it easier to track down offenders.

## Council backs Populo with £40 million loan.

The Council has provided a £40 million long term loan to Populo Living, its home building partner, as part of its business plan for the coming year. The money will be for start up costs on new buildings.

Some councillors raised concerns about the viability of this loan bearing in mind the financial difficulties encountered by Croydon and Lambeth



© The Stock Pot/shutterstock

Councils in their arrangements with property developers, but Newham Council officers provided reassurance that these problems will not arise as the council has an asset base of properties and are the owner and sole shareholder of Populo Homes.

In addition the Cabinet was told that the Council is conducting an overall review of housing delivery and that there are a number of review processes in place and particular agreement on a new development before Populo Living submits a planning application..

Under the housing business plan there are 300 homes built since 2018, with 475 of them being managed, and 392 now under construction. There is

a high energy efficiency rating system in these homes.

There are also social benefits with a scheme for employment of local labour through, a training scheme for young local people interested in a career in development, and support for tenants

having difficulty in paying rent.

For further information contact:  
**Darren.Macklin@newham.gov.uk**

## Acquisition of Wakeling Court as a supported care home for adults

The Council is to acquire the freehold and contract out provision of care and support to a care provider at Wakeling Court in Forest Gate.

This is badly needed as 50 percent of vulnerable adults are in supported accommodation outside of Newham. Wakeling Court is at the corner of Halley Road/ Katherine Road E7.

## Spiralling Cost of Ground Rents.

Councillors have been told of a spiralling cost to leaseholders of freehold ground rents.

Now the Council will try to persuade managing agents to stop levying high ground rents where the Council owns the freehold.

The Council has no legal powers but hopes that managing agents will value good relations and be mindful of the Competition and Markets Authority's opposition to excessive profits on rents.

## Advertisement

# LICENSING ACT 2003

## Notice of Application for New Premises Licence

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

- **Licence for the sale/supply of alcohol for extended hours: Monday to Sunday from 6:30-03:00 Hrs**
- **For the premises: Turkz Ltd - 531 Barking Road, Plaistow E13 9EZ**

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 **10<sup>th</sup> May 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.

# Funding available for mental health projects

Community organisations, the voluntary sector and faith groups are being invited to apply for grants under Newham Council's Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Grant scheme.

The aim of the scheme is to work with local organisations to help improve and support mental wellbeing among residents. It will also help develop and strengthen the number of champions and peer supporters in communities.

Target groups are community based organisations working with residents identified as being disproportionately affected in terms of mental health impacts during the pandemic.

The deadline for applications is 5pm, Wednesday 24 May.

For more information, visit: [www.newham.gov.uk/health-adult-social-care/covid-19-mental-health-well-being-community-recovery-grant](http://www.newham.gov.uk/health-adult-social-care/covid-19-mental-health-well-being-community-recovery-grant)



# New scheme to make Royal Docks London's 'cultural and creative engine'

**JAMES MORGAN**

The end of March saw the launch of the Royal Docks Creative Network, an exciting new opportunity for artists, writers, and creators of all kinds as well as organisations and residents in the south of Newham.

The Network aims to bring together a broad range of professional creatives – both individuals and organisations – who have a connection with the local area. Membership of the network is open to all creative professionals who live, work or study in the Royal Docks.

Through quarterly meetings held in locations across the community, and regular social events, network members will have the chance to share updates, discuss ideas for collaboration, find out about funding opportunities, and hear from guest speakers.

By alternating meeting locations, the Creative Network will also showcase the

diversity of creative organisations and projects operating in the Royal Docks.

The initiative is part of a wider Cultural Placemaking Strategy which was launched in 2021 by The Royal Docks team, an entity that brings together officers from across the Greater London Authority, the London Borough of Newham and the London Economic Action Partnership.

At the heart of this strategy is the ambitious vision of making the Royal Docks the cultural and creative engine of London.

“One of the ways we want to do this is to have a really robust cultural and creative ecosystem in the Docks, where freelance creatives through to big creative organisations can come and prosper,” explains Alex Jamieson, Creative Producer in the Royal Docks Team’s Culture and Activation Department.

“We are very well placed in the Docks to take advantage of the opportunities of the creative industries, and that feels very exciting,” Alex adds. “There are lots of big pieces in place but also lots of room around those big pieces for exciting things to happen, things that we haven’t foreseen yet.”

The Creatives Network launch, which was held at Social Convention in Canning Town on 28 March, featured talks by organisers, opportunities for exchange and connection among participants, and a chance to hear from members of the Network’s

eight-month pilot phase, which aims to ensure that the concept for the Network is robust and fit for purpose.

That initial phase saw several fruitful collaborations, including the University of East London and The Factory Project teaming up to stage an event showcasing UEL’s Creative Industries courses. The connection meant that this event, ordinarily held outside of the Borough, not only brought together two exciting organisations, but also spotlighted a new cultural venue in the Royal Docks to people nationally and locally.

“The Royal Docks is such a diverse, young community with a very particular mix of geography and residential communities and organisations,” says Alex Jamieson. “This makes it a unique and attractive neighbourhood that I don’t think you can really experience anywhere else in London.”

He is passionate about what the future holds for the Network and is keen for people and organisations to be part of its creative journey:

“There are so many interesting things to unpick and explore in exciting ways. We really encourage people



Alex Jamieson

to come and join us in the Network. The Docks has a really exciting future and we’d love to build it together!”

The People and Stories section of the Royal Docks website ([www.royaldocks.london](http://www.royaldocks.london)) has full information on the Royal Docks Creative Network, including sign up links for those individuals and organisations who want to be part of the initiative, and details of the Royal Docks Cultural Placemaking Strategy.



©Milo Robinson

## 60 years on Caritas Anchor House becomes Your Place

Your Place, a homelessness charity in Newham, is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. This is a significant milestone for an organisation that has been working towards providing support and resources to individuals who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless.

Until recently, Your Place was known as Caritas Anchor House. Over the years they have evolved from an east London charity with a specific maritime mission – providing temporary accommodation to out-of-work seafarers coming in and out of the nearby docks – into a growing organisation with an ambitious, far-reaching purpose: to solve homelessness, one person at a time.

Now, Your Place supports over 200 people every day. There, a person experiencing homelessness can get specialist help to feel supported on their journey.

They can heal their trauma, address their physical and mental health concerns, access financial help, education and job opportunities and a support network, and build the confidence, skills and self-belief to get to a better place.

Your Place has also been an advocate for the rights of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, working to raise awareness of the challenges and campaigning for policy changes.

To get involved in making a difference to people without a safe place to call home in the community, visit [www.your-place.org.uk](http://www.your-place.org.uk)



### ANNOUNCEMENT ON PUBLIC NOTICES

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Note: Our next issue goes to print on 25 May 2023

# Turning the page: a fresh start for Canning Town Old library

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Local residents, councillors and Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz attended the open day for Canning Town Old Library at Custom House and Canning Town Community Neighbourhood Centre and Library.

The design team working on the project and library staff were there to



Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz at Canning Town Old Library  
©Neandra Etienne

explain the information being presented and answer any questions. A model of the building was on display to help residents understand the spaces and proposals in more detail.

Newham Council plans to reinstate the Grade II listed as a valuable community asset that will celebrate Newham's heritage. The building has been vacant since the new library was opened in Rathbone market in 2017.

Once the renovation is complete, the Old Library will include: Newham's heritage collection; a new archive, reading room, digital media suite, teaching and learning space; café and exhibition space and community space to be leased to a third party operator.

The centre will also host cultural and educational programmes for the annual Newham Heritage Month events.

During the open day residents were invited to leave comments and feedback on the individual information boards that outlined the design proposals, future uses and overall visioning of the Canning Town Old Library.

A resident expressed concern for the proposed new café because the café



©Haworth and Tompkins

in the new library didn't work. They questioned what lessons had been learnt from that.

Other ideas suggested by residents included green space, interaction or mentorship between the young and old, engagement with school children and history walks explaining how Canning Town has changed through the years.

Updates will be displayed in Canning Town Library (18 Rathbone Market, London, E16 1EH) in the near future.

[newhamco-create.co.uk](http://newhamco-create.co.uk)

# Dapo visits Discover Children's Story Centre

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Award-winning artist and illustrator Dapo Adeola visited the Discover Children's Story Centre for the events *Rocket Rules* and *Monster Hunt*.

Author Malorie Blackman made an on-screen appearance reading part of her picture book adventure *We're Going to Find the Monster*, illustrated by Dapo. The story is about two fearless explorers whose imaginations transform their house into a wild wonderland.

During the *Monster Hunt* event children and their parents/guardians and even I were encouraged to take part in a monster draw along with Dapo.

Dapo, who was born in Newham, also hosted a quiz based on the book *We're Going to Find the Monster*, and took part in a Q&A and book signing.

The Box Rocket interactive exhibition currently at Discover Children's Story Centre has been created with Dapo Adeola, and author Tolá Okogwu.

Visitors to the exhibition can explore the 'Grizzly Cave Store' relax beside the 'Bubbly Lake', play among the roots and flowerpots and help bees make honey in the 'Pot Plant Jungle' and take part in a word hunt adventure.

Discover Children's Story Centre, in Stratford, is a registered charity that works with schools, libraries and the local community.

Instagram: @dapsdraws

Twitter: @DapsDraws

Website: [www.discover.org.uk](http://www.discover.org.uk)

Rocket is back in *Speak Up!* the new book by Nathan Bryon (author) and illustrated by Dapo Adeola will be out from 18 May

You can get your copy of *Speak Up!* from the Newham Bookshop.

Website: [www.newhambooks.co.uk](http://www.newhambooks.co.uk)

# Covid memorial unveiled in Plaistow Park

In our regular series on monuments around the Borough, Julia Omari discovers a new place to find peace and reflection

Newham was hit hard by Covid-19, with 1,013 recorded residential deaths and many more falling sick as a result of the disease. While most people recovered, some heartbreakingly did not, leaving

many loved ones grieving and trying to cope.

While the community has happily moved past the toilet roll shortages, shopping restrictions and lockdown protocol, moving on from the loss of loved ones has not been as easy.

To help find peace in the pain a Covid Memorial Garden designed by locals was unveiled by Mayor of Newham Rokhsana Fiaz in Plaistow Park on Monday 3 April.



Covid Memorial Garden. Image ©Newham Council

The garden not only provides a peaceful location to sit and reflect on the Covid experience but also acts as a common spot for residents to remember loved ones and connect with each other and the wider Covid story. It also serves as a place to honor those key workers who bravely left the safety of their homes to keep the country moving.

The garden is an interactive space that focuses on the themes of regrowth, support and community, the three strengths that Newham residents continue to show and share with each other.



Covid Memorial Garden opening. Image ©Newham Council



Dapo Adeola



## SOMETHING'S BREWING

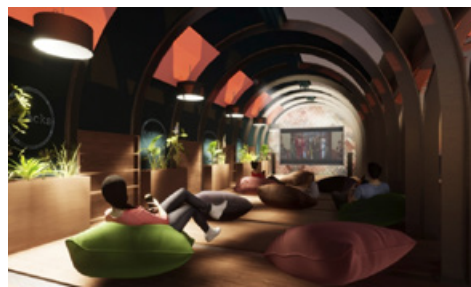


**Phil Mellows** has found a real community hub, but the question is, can it survive?

Mingling awkwardly with the car repair shops and MoT testing in the railway arches east of Wanstead Park station, a cluster of cafés and bars have created an unlikely, yet safe and sociable destination for people living in this corner of Forest Gate.

At the very end of Cranmer Road, in Arch 437, spilling out into a beer garden across the street, you'll find Tracks. Opened in 2018, it's a relaxed and rustic café-bar serving draught beers from local brewery Pretty Decent (which has recently relocated production to Walthamstow), natural wines from Europe and simple but interesting brunch and evening menus with plenty of vegan options.

More than that, it's become a true community hub, providing a welcoming space for local groups, and hosting events four nights a week, Thursday to Sunday, as well as pop-up kitchens, regular markets and festivals. Plans have been approved to develop the outdoor area into a sheltered space



under a dome (see picture).

But it may not happen. Rising costs and falling trade mean owner Aiden d'Araujo (pictured) isn't sure the business can survive beyond the summer, so he's launched a crowdfunding campaign "as a last resort", hoping to raise £50,000.

"We want to be culturally relevant and give people good reasons to visit. We're making a contribution to the economy. We employ ten staff here and nine of them live locally. But none of that can happen if we don't make money behind the bar.

"Our electricity bill has tripled, there's been no sustained recovery since the pandemic and consumer trends are working against us. People are simply going out less.

"If this was anywhere else, I'd give up, but Forest Gate is a unique eco-system, and we've found ourselves at the hub of it. I even launched a magazine, The Forest, to spotlight the amazing people who live here, and I don't want to lose the soul of the place."

You can find more information, and the Tracks fundraiser, at [www.fundraiser.trackse7.com](http://www.fundraiser.trackse7.com)



## Eat fish and greens says Aunty Lee, 104

**ZHENREENAH MUHXINGA**

Edna Lee Jones, or Aunty Lee as she is affectionately known, Jamaican born and Stratford resident since 1958, recently celebrated her 104th birthday with friends and family.

The former nurse is passionate about her borough and is a well-known member of the community, in particular when she used to dance the afternoon away at the Tea Dance at Stratford Town Hall.

I went to visit her a few weeks ago and she recalled my name and the last time I came visiting, which was about four months ago. True to form, she told me off for not coming often enough!

But she was ready to share her key to her long life. She keeps healthy, she says, by dancing, travelling and eating healthy – fish and greens.



Edna Lee Jones ©Newham Council

## Watch the birdies!

**LUCIA RIOS STEELE**

You only have to peek out of a curtain and crack a window open in the early hours to see and hear the glory of spring!

The early morning light floods in, sometimes into corners that reveal a spring clean is overdue, but mainly as a reminder that we have emerged from another winter and into a time of growth, a time of rebirth.

The Dawn Chorus is in full swing and the early morning calls of robins, great tits and blackbirds fill the air with music. May Day or Beltane, as celebrated by pagans, is upon us. It is a time to embrace all the hope that the long, warmer days have to offer.

I have begun my celebrations early, by spending time exploring the trees and gardens in West Ham Park, my local green space. The horse chestnuts' swelling buds, remind me of Philip Larkin's writing, 'The trees are coming into leaf. Like something almost being said...' (From 'The Trees', 1967).

I've been asking my children to listen to trees whispering in the breeze and even though they think I am silly, they humour me, and within moments suspend their imaginations, dreaming of the conversations taking place all around.

On a recent outing we were overjoyed to spot a grey heron at the pond in the Ornamental Gardens, surrounded by a host of golden daffodils covering the banks. We watched, in awe, as it took flight directly over our heads, marvelling at its size and grace.

As we ambled through the gardens we enjoyed the blossom of the magnolias and cherries, both soft to the touch with the sound of bees buzzing all around, the Hellebores with their shy flowers dropping down, the last of the Blackthorn blossom entwined with Hawthorn



Great tit. Photo © Friends of West Ham Park

in full leaf, blossom still to come.

Spring offers us the opportunity to renew our spirits through nature. As I write, I can hear the loud, consistent call of the great tit in my garden, 'teacher, teacher'. Yes, I am a teacher, so this call feels directly made for me and never fails to raise a smile!

In a 2022 study, researchers from King's College London found that everyday encounters with birds and birdsong boosts the mood, so make time for nature this spring. Take a 'long-cut' through a green space, turn off the podcast and tune in to the sounds and sights all around.

**Lucia Rios Steele** Primary school teacher, Forest School practitioner, Friend of West Ham Park

## People powered: the community assembly programme for 2023–2025

Newham launched its flagship community assembly programme, now running in a two-year cycle, at a celebration evening held at Stratford Library on April 27.

The Community Assemblies – now called People Powered Places – have brought together residents in eight neighbourhoods across the Borough to discuss, prepare and launch micro projects for their areas. Each assembly has had £100,000 to spend on range of projects which are chosen by and voted upon by local people.

For 2023–2025 £1.6 million has been allocated for the process. Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz, who launched the new cycle, says that this ground-breaking work has

taken community empowerment and local democracy to the next level.

After the launch the Mayor and local councillors joined residents for an "inclusive evening" with refreshments, performance art, and music.



©Newham Council

# Clothing Project gives a second chance to young ex-offenders

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Inside Out Clothing Project's pop-up store has returned to Westfield Stratford City for a limited period.

The street wear clothing collection is created, designed and hand-produced by young ex-offenders who are looking for a second chance in life.

The project launched successfully in 2022, in partnership with LinkedIn. Former Dragons' Den bidder, entrepreneur and the man behind the Reggae Reggae brand Levi Roots gave a talk during one of their events.

Founder Greg McKenzie has covered many stories about the lives of ex-offenders during his time as a BBC News Correspondent and Documentary filmmaker.

The training and mentoring in and around fashion, design, and business provided by Inside Out Project helps ex-inmates transition back into life outside of the justice system. Each person involved with the project is a brand ambassador with their own stories.

Disabled Minds is designed by Chris Baker, who is registered disabled after



losing a limb following a police pursuit. Chris wanted to show through his hoodie design that he might be registered disabled, but his mind and body are still able.

All proceeds from sales are put back

into the project to help the charity continue for another year

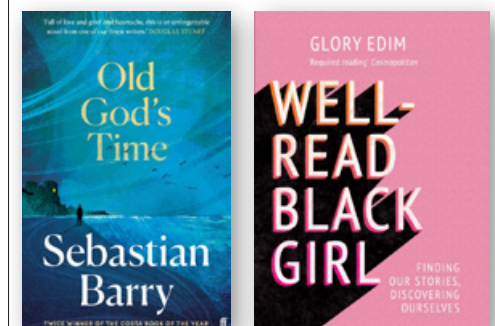
People with suggestions for young people who could join the project can contact [Hello@InsideOutPJT.com](mailto:Hello@InsideOutPJT.com) or visit [www.insideoutpjt.com](http://www.insideoutpjt.com)



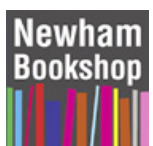
## Good reads in Newham

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

- **Old God's Time**  
By Sebastian Barry
- **Well-Read Black Girl: Finding Our Stories, Discovering Ourselves**  
By Glory Edim
- **The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida** (signed copies available)  
By Shehan Karunatilaka
- **Ivy Newt and the Storm Witch** (signed copies available)  
By Derek Keilty
- **Farah Loves Mangos**  
By Sarthak Sinha
- **The Boy Who Saved a Bear**  
By Nizrana Farook



Compiled by David Ceen,  
Newham Bookshop  
[newhambooks.co.uk](http://newhambooks.co.uk)  
[@NewhamBookshop](https://twitter.com/NewhamBookshop)



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Or simply scan the QR Code

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



## Anniversary discount for bookworms!

Newham Bookshop is celebrating its 45th anniversary by offering customers a 15 per cent discount until 13 May. When you visit the bookshop, just mention the keywords **YEARS45** to claim your discount.

Founded to provide a source of books, education and play materials as part of the service provided by the fledgling Newham Parents' Centre.

Since then, the Bookshop has become an important local landmark in its own right, with a full programme of events that attract a broad range of well known authors. They also work with schools and provide book stalls at many conferences.

## SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by **Neandra Etienne**

**SoleSistas** social walks and exercise is for pre and post-natal women

Sessions are free. All participants receive a free t-shirt and jumper

Every Friday 11am-12pm. Meeting point: Custom House Library, Prince Regent Lane, E16 3JJ

Book in advance

[lisa.brivati@activenewham.org.uk](mailto:lisa.brivati@activenewham.org.uk)

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

**Clapton CFC** unveiled their first new home shirt in five years.

Nick Davidson's design, inspired by the big red, black and white patterned flag seen at Clapton CFC games, was declared the winner with a 57 percent of the vote.

Photographer Barley Nimmo held a photo shoot with CCFC players and members at the Old Spotted Dog Ground to help launch the kit.

[www.claptoncfc.co.uk](http://www.claptoncfc.co.uk)



Clapton CFC Teju Callisto, Chelsie Osborne and Jack Francis.

**Ambition Aspire Achieve** free Cricket Clubs are back for ages 5-11 year olds across both of their hubs.

Booking is required in advance. Contact [marie@theaaazone.com](mailto:marie@theaaazone.com) to book your child's place

From Saturday 13 May, Glyn Hopkin Abbey Hub, 6 Gay Road, E15 and Terence Brown Arc, Hermit Road Park, Bethell Ave, E16

[www.theaaazone.com](http://www.theaaazone.com)

Free adult **Table Tennis** sessions take place at Royal Wharf Community Dock

All levels of experience are welcome. You don't need to register, just bring your own bats and balls. If you don't have any they will provide them for you

Tuesdays, 7.30-9pm

Thursdays, 6.15pm-7.30pm

Saturdays, 9am-10.30am

[wsfroyaldocks.org/whats-on](http://wsfroyaldocks.org/whats-on)

**Central Park Allstars Girls FC** and **Central Park Allstars** have become an England Football Accredited Club

Training takes place Sunday 9am-12pm at Central Park, East Ham, E6 3HW

[@cpafc.girls](https://twitter.com/cpafc.girls)



Community Unity Iftar ©Sylvie Belbouab

Local politicians, residents, West Ham United FC players and staff, faith leaders and Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz attended the **Community Unity Iftar**.

The event was hosted by West Ham United Foundation and UKIM Masjid Ibrahim on 17 April.

Unity Iftar is a community meal where people of the Muslim faith, other faith and no faith come together to take part in the breaking of the fast.

The community celebration provided an insight into the life of the mosque and an understanding of Islam.

[foundation.whufc.com](http://foundation.whufc.com)

Charity organisation **Capital Kids Cricket (CKC)** have weekly cricket sessions for anyone aged 6-15. It is open to both boys and girls.

You can just turn up on the day - they charge £2 per session. Thursday evenings, 5pm to 7pm, West Ham Park. From now until the penultimate week in July

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

Congratulations to Newham-born TV presenter, paralympic medalist and children's author **Ade Adepitan** who was awarded the Sports Presenter, commentator or pundit at the Royal Television Society Programme Awards 2023 (28 March)

[www.adeadepitan.com](http://www.adeadepitan.com)

Well done St **Bon's u15 Handball** team! They are now the South Eastern Regional Champions after defeating Christs College 8-5 in the final.

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



St Bon's u15 Handball team

**Ged Wells**, a local artist who competed in skateboarding in the 80s-90s and represented England at the 1988 European skateboarding championships, is part of **Skate Newham**.

Skate Newham is helping to create a skate facility within Brampton Park's Rainbow community garden, created by East Architects and in partnership with Newham Assembly.

There are plans for a concrete mini ramp and flexible skate sculptures within a multi-generational space.

The project has been met with great enthusiasm by the local community, which understands youth needs and the welcoming nature of skateboard culture.

The voluntary group also met with Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz who understands the benefits that skate parks will bring to the Borough.

Skate Newham told *Newham Voices*: "Newham has somehow been left behind other areas of the country for skate park provision. Other towns and cities with a similar population have at least ten skate parks, there is a lot more which can be done for our youth"

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

[@rainbowgardene6](https://twitter.com/rainbowgardene6)



Ged Wells, Rainbow community garden site in Brampton Park

I met **Bryan Payne** at the West Ham United home game against Arsenal. He has supported West Ham United since 1965.

Bryan became a Hammer's fan because he had just moved out of London and West Ham United was the closest team, plus many of his friends also supported the club.

He had a connection to Newham because he previously worked in the Borough a few times over the years.

Bryan's favourite players are Bobby Moore and more recently Mark Noble. Ron Greenwood is his favourite manager. His described his favourite memory of watching Bobby Moore play at the Boleyn Ground:

"One that springs to mind is his testimonial in 1970 v Celtic that ended in a thrilling 3-3 draw"

Bryan has fond memories of watching West Ham United games at the Boleyn Ground, but has adjusted to life at the London Stadium.

"I loved the atmosphere and as a child we used to run on the pitch at full time to collect autographs.



Bryan Payne ©Neandra Etienne

The London Stadium is growing on me. The atmosphere is definitely getting better and it's very easy to get to."

Bryan is positive that West Ham United will stay in the Premier League and also win the Europa Conference League Cup.

West Ham United are scheduled to play the Dutch side AZ Alkmaar in the semi-final 11 May (Home) and 18 May (Away). COYI, Come on You Irons!

[www.whufc.com](http://www.whufc.com) University of East London (UEL) alumnus **Jona Efokolu** is hoping to add to his medal collection at this summer's World Championship in Budapest.

Jona won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games as part of the Team England 100m relay team.

**East London Sport** is based at the UEL campus in Docklands and provides multi-sport access for its students, staff and the wider community.

It hosts a wide range of sports from basketball, volleyball and judo. The gym was recently refurbished at a cost of £500,000.

SportsDock was a training base for Team USA at the 2012 London Olympics.

[@eastldn\\_sport](https://twitter.com/eastldn_sport)

Congratulations to the **West Ham United U18s**. They have been crowned the 2022/23 U18 Premier League South champions

[www.whufc.com/news](http://www.whufc.com/news)



West Ham United Under 18s

**Newham College Cricket** team has won the London Further Education indoor cricket league!

This makes the team back-to-back competition winners. They are looking to carry this momentum into the outdoor season, which started in April.

Well done to Ahmed, Niaz, Rakib, Darshan, Zamer, Hassan and the coaches involved.

[www.newham.ac.uk](http://www.newham.ac.uk)

Games and events are subject to change. Please email your news and game fixtures to [neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk](mailto:neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk)

# Staying up? It's amazing what winning can do!



Despite the slip up against Liverpool West Ham Captain Declan Rice has turned around the Hammer's fortunes says Mickey Ambrose

West Ham came from behind to draw 2-2 with league leaders Arsenal in the Premier League London derby to gain a much needed point to ease their relegation fears.

Then the Hammers ran riot at Bournemouth, giving the Cherries a thrashing - 4-0 and effectively securing their place in the Premier League for next season.

quarter finals of the Europa League Conference.

Rice picked up a loose ball deep in his own half. He ran, and ran and kept running, clinically finishing to send the Hammers into the semi finals of the Europa Conference League in a 4-1 victory in front of the home fans with incredible scenes at the London stadium.



West Ham captain Declan Rice. Photo courtesy West Ham United Facebook

This run of form owes much to Captain Declan Rice who, after the morale-boosting performance against Arsenal, then scored a superb stunning solo goal against Gent in the quarter finals of the Europa League Conference.

This run of form owes much to Captain Declan Rice who, after the morale-boosting performance against Arsenal, then scored a superb stunning solo goal against Gent in the

It's amazing what winning does to a team. Next up, on Thursday 11 May West Ham take on Az Alkmaar in the semi - final of the Europa. But having gone so close last year the ques-

tion is can they now go on and win, and more importantly secure their Premiership status? Well we will have to wait and see.

On another but related subject I was shocked to see that another ex footballer has gone bankrupt. It raised some questions which I have looked into and here is what I found out. which may surprise our readers.

Ex-Manchester United Player, Wes Brown, was declared bankrupt at just 43 years of age. Having earned a reported £50,000-a-week during his time at United, and after working as a football pundit, he has now dissolved his company and has been left in a precarious place. As with many player bankruptcies, it all begins with divorce.

Few people realise that the courts refuse to accept that the earning potential of Professional Players ends when they reach around 35. Meanwhile, the earnings of all other top male professions, such as bankers and doctors continues to rise until their late 50s.

The courts calculate the alimony he owes his ex-wife which is taken out of his 50 percent stake in the marriage. Therefore, the Player often finds that he owes his ex-wife over 200 percent of the combined family assets, with limited earning potential for the future.

This inevitably leads to the player declaring bankruptcy. Don't get me wrong, every player/husband should rightly pay their dues in a divorce settlement, but while wives rightly have



Mickey Ambrose

the protection of the courts to look after their interests sometimes the players find themselves cut adrift, left with nothing and sofa-surfing with friends.

This has now happened to Paul Gascoigne, Ray Parlour, John Barnes, David James ...the list goes on and on.

It's never easy to speak of the hardships that potentially face multi-millionaires in football, but with the divorce rate in the UK now standing at 42 percent of all marriages, clubs and agents might begin to advise players of the need to be aware of fiscal consequences if marriages break down.

In next month's edition my own views on what has happened to my old club Chelsea! And an update on West Ham's fortunes.

I hope all my friends had a Eid Mubarak - blessings.

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

## Jack Leslie gets his England cap at last

The Football Association presented Jack Leslie's family with a posthumous honorary England cap for Jack Leslie in a ceremony before the England Euro qualifier game against Ukraine at Wembley Stadium.

Jack, from Canning Town, should have been the first Black footballer to play for England in 1925. However his name was deselected when his Black heritage was discovered.

The Jack Leslie Campaign unveiled the Jack Leslie statue outside Plymouth Argyle stadium in October 2022. Jack Leslie is remembered in Newham with a Newham

Heritage plaque outside his home address in Canning Town.

[www.jackleslie.co.uk](http://www.jackleslie.co.uk)



Jack Leslie's family with honorary England cap

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