



**Exclusive: Questions to Met Police over canal death mystery**

# Shock and grief at loss of Daniela

**AIDAN WHITE**

Homeless and vulnerable people in one of Stratford's poorest areas are in mourning over the mysterious death of Daniela Terciu, a much-loved member of their community.

Daniela was found dead in the canal at Three Mills Lock Stratford on 18 September. Police arrested a man on suspicion of murder, but released him three days later without charge.

Police have not made any public appeal for information

or released any news about the case, which has dismayed her friends at the Carpenters and Docklands Community Centre in Stratford.

"People are very upset," said Samantha White, the manager of the Centre which provides food and support every day to

hundreds of local people.

"I don't know how to console them. How do we say goodbye when we don't know what really happened? This is all a mystery and people want answers to questions.

"We are devastated by her loss and troubled that no-one has come to learn about the life she lived among us."

A shrine to her memory has been set up in the Centre where Daniela was a regular visitor for the last four years. Her body was found the day after her final visit to the Centre.

Questions remain over the cause of her death and people at the Centre are concerned at the lack of public information over her death.

Daniela, aged 54, lived with Sorin in a tent on waste ground between Bow Canal and the Tesco supermarket in Bow.

Her partner Sorin Visan told Newham Voices that he was told that Daniela had been strangled, but police say the death remains "unexpected."

A spokesperson for the Met Police told Newham Voices that:

"The death is being treated as unexpected and remains under investigation. As part of enquiries, on 1 October officers arrested a man in his 50s on suspicion of murder. He was subsequently released under investigation pending further enquiries."

At some stage a formal inquest will be held but police have not confirmed which coroner's court will deal with the case and have not yet confirmed that Daniela was the victim.

Like others Samantha White is stunned by the incident. "Could we have a proper funeral," she

asks. "Daniela deserves respect and dignity. We are dealing with people's grief. I'm grief stricken myself and it's made worse because we don't know exactly what happened to her."

Others at the Centre expressed their shock and sadness. "The news was such a shock," said Daniel's friend Mariana Banita. "I will miss you very much and will always think of you with love."

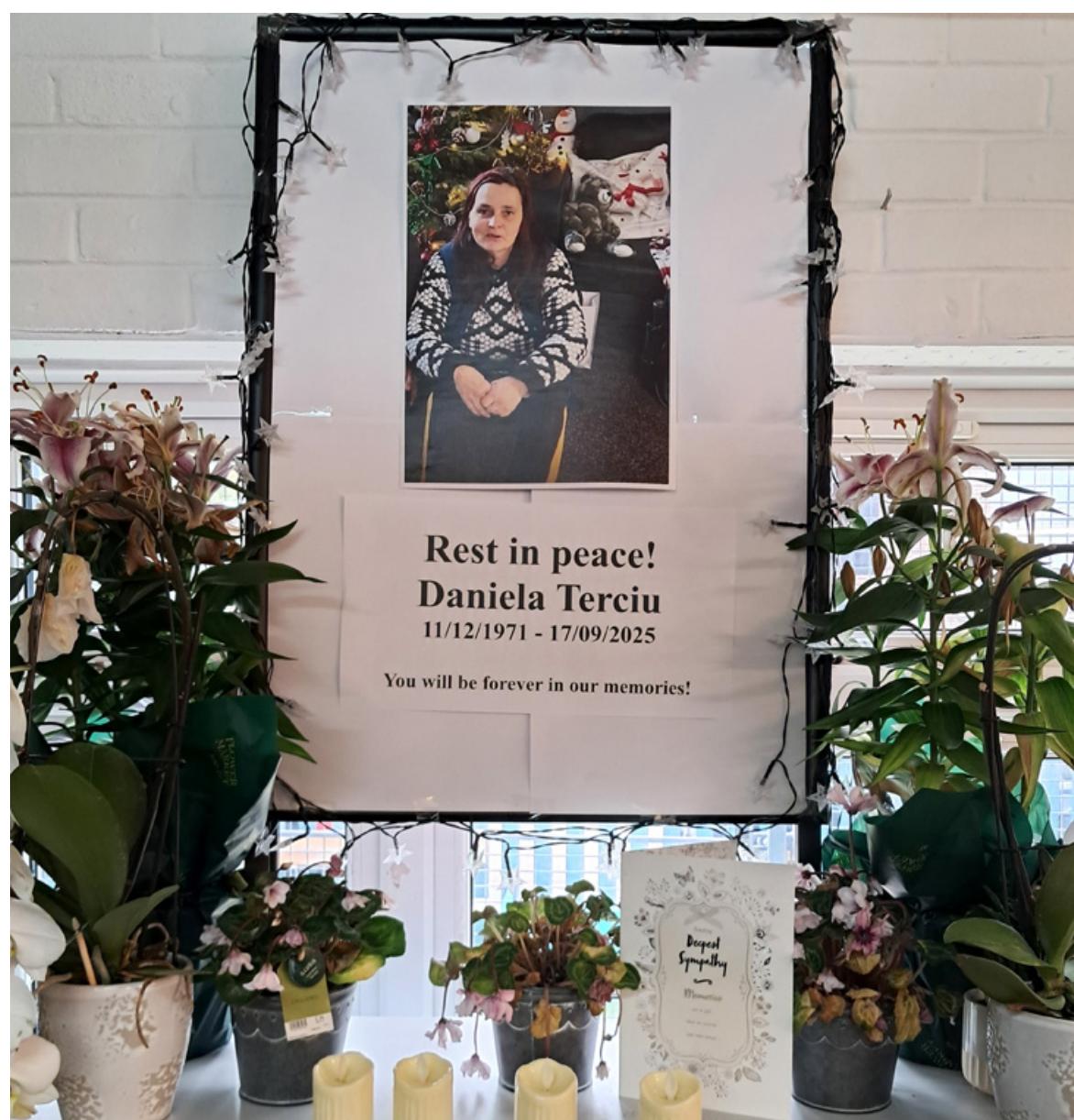
Richard said: "Daniela, you were strong and kind-hearted. You did not deserve to die like this."

"You left us in a cruel way, but you will always be in our thoughts," said Doina. Maxine Mitchell said "Daniela was an amazing woman with a heart of gold."

Dozens of similar tributes came from members of the Carpenters community.

"Daniela will never be forgotten," said Samantha, "she lives on in our memories, our stories and the love we continue to share in her name."

Although no formal appeal has been launched the police say anyone with information should ring **011** and quote the case number **CAD 5694/18SEP**.



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Publishing date: 31/10/2025

## Council Notebook

By Peter Landman

# Council row over pension funds “helping Israel”

Following a unified and dignified tribute to Councillor Neil Wilson, who has passed away after 30 years service the council meeting on 9 October sharply divided in a row over Council investments that might be helping Israel.

The meeting was split over a motion from Councillor Mehmood Mirza, Independents, calling for the council to pull out of pension fund investments linked to Israel, which is accused of human rights abuse and war crimes in the Gaza conflict.

The Newham Palestine Solidarity Campaign, which has highlighted genocide by the Israeli army and government in Gaza, made a statement declaring support for Councillor Mirza's motion.

But while there was all-party agreement on the need to improve ethical standards in pension fund investments, disagreement remained on the Government and Council's record of support to Palestine.

Four Labour majority Councillors denied that the Council had investments leading to help for Israel.

The majority of Labour councillors agreed a recommendation from Councillor John Gray, Chair of the Pensions Committee, to consult a pensions expert for advice on ethical standards in future investments; and to stop investments going to war zones where international law is being breached.

Nevertheless, opposition councillors voted against, insisting that divest-



ments are necessary, and that both the government and council have not given decisive support to the people of Palestine.

Several councillors took up again questions they had raised earlier. Councillor Thelma Odoi, Labour, asked again about the cost of period products which were not affordable to women in poverty; Councillor Sabia Kamali, Labour referred again to cases of landlord misconduct in accommodation let out to women fleeing domestic abuse; and Councillor Areeq

Chowdhury, Greens, raised objections to the use of facial recognition technology by police.

In a report on Gambling Licenses Councillors were told that although the Council is responsible for issuing individual gambling licences, it does not have the power to direct the location of gambling shops. The Council has established a gambling vulnerability area in East Ham, where the objective is to pool resources for safe gambling. For information contact: [amar.virdee@newham.gov.uk](mailto:amar.virdee@newham.gov.uk)

## Progress on Housing Strategy

*Peter Landman writes:*

The Council Cabinet meeting on 23 October heard that the Council is making further progress to meet the challenge of housing and the homeless crisis.

Council officers have been meeting with property developers to negotiate reduced acquisition costs for temporary accommodation and there have been increases in efforts to prevent residents becoming homeless.

Following last year's damning report from the Social Housing Regulator, Newham has created a new post of Director of Property and the housing team have gone some way to meet the standard on tenant and leaseholder participation, which was not fully met

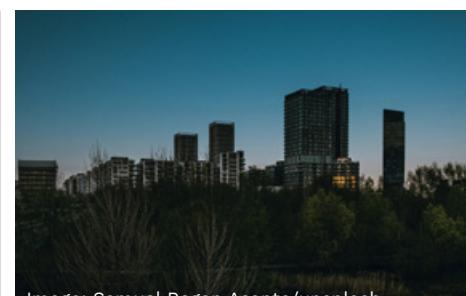


Image: Samuel Regan Asante/unsplash

in the regulator's visit.

A new Housing Resident Improvement Strategy is also being implemented and a Resident Challenge Board has been set up. The backlog of fire safety inspections has been substantially cleared.

**Magic Time Saver:** Cabinet was told that the Welfare Services Tech Company Bream have produced an

application “Magic Notes” that automatically generates standard forms after the user has recorded details of a meeting. Magic Notes has been piloted in Adult Social Care and Children's Services. A social worker has stated that this has been saving him a day a week, giving the opportunity to spend more direct contact time.

**Canning Town Enterprise Hub Strategy:** Cabinet agreed a strategy for “greening” the area North West of Canning Town reaching to West Ham underground station which will bring more local employment. Funding will be mainly from the Community Infrastructure Levy; and London Borough of Tower Hamlets will contribute. For more information contact: [mayor@newham.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@newham.gov.uk)

# Borough chief warns of backlash as Council plans new round of cuts

**NICK CLARK,**  
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

A nine percent council tax increase, children's centre closures, and job and pay cuts, are among measures being considered by Newham Council as it battles to find £53m to balance its budget next year.

In the coming months an extensive consultation with residents will take place over the plans.

But Newham Council interim chief executive Paul Martin warned councillors that new austerity measures in Newham will be "resisted" by residents and the Council's own workers. The latest round of cuts come on top of a similar strategy of council tax rise and cuts implemented earlier this year.

Martin told the Council Cabinet on 23 October that after 15 years of austerity, new savings proposals are "always going to be resisted".

He said most councils, including Newham, have done everything they can to find imaginative and creative ways to reduce spending.

"The point that we've reached is one where really many of the things that wouldn't be contentious have already been done," he said. "It's very difficult to identify measures that won't be resisted by a part of the population and indeed our own workforce".

The latest cuts were unpalatable, he said, but were needed because of the Council's responsibility to remain financially viable.



He added: "What we're identifying is always going to be resisted. I don't believe there will be a saving that we can identify that won't be resisted by somebody, somewhere, and often for very good reasons."

Newham Council Cabinet members scrutinised early budget proposals on 23 October and were told the Borough will have to find £53m to balance its budget next year.

Proposals include: seeking government permission to raise council tax by 8.99 percent; closing Stratford Youth Zone; reducing staff numbers, and; not agreeing a pay award.

Other possible measures include moving to fortnightly waste collections, cutting care packages, reducing council tax support for poorer residents, and housing homeless families further away.

Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz told the Cabinet that increased demand for



services and the cost of providing them pose "the biggest challenge facing local government in a generation if not more".

Councils are struggling in particular to cover the costs of providing social care services, and temporary accommodation for vulnerable people at risk of homelessness.

Newham has the highest number of people in temporary accommodation in England – more than 7,500 households – costing the council some £100m a year.

She said that Newham is "not unique in these challenges" but added that the Borough is also "at the sharp end of the housing crisis in the capital".

Fiaz said that the council is on course to spend £140m on temporary accommodation by 2028, and would be in a more "comfortable" position if this wasn't the case.

She added there had to be a "real

debate about what residents expect from their council and from any council and how much of that we can deliver from our current income."

Fiaz said: "The long term message has to be that we will do it less, but we will do it well."

The cabinet agreed unanimously to put the proposals to the public. This will include seven consultation events, online and in person, where people can share their views.

The Council will publish the first draft of its budget and proposed cuts in December, and the final budget will be voted in February 2026.

According to a survey by the property information site Property Buyers Today, based on an analysis of Band D properties, Newham is the eighth lowest council tax level in England.

Meanwhile, Newham Council will receive £880,266 from the Government's £84 million uplift to homelessness and rough-sleeping funding, announced to coincide with World Homelessness Day on 10 October.

The Borough's allocation includes:

- Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant top-up £418,075
- Supporting Children Experiencing Homelessness: £400,000
- Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant: £62,191

The funding will improve local support for people in temporary accommodation and give enhanced services for people sleeping rough or at risk of homelessness.

## COMMUNITY NEWS ROUNDUP

By Neandra Etienne

### Have say on Superloop

Transport for London (TfL) is inviting Londoners to have their say on the next proposed

Superloop SL14 express bus route, which will run between Stratford bus station and Chingford Hatch (Hatch Lane) via Walthamstow.



There is also a proposed change to the local D8 route to accommodate the SL14. The D8 would be re-routed in Stratford (Warton Road) to start/end at Stratford City bus station instead of Stratford bus station.

The consultation is open for feedback for until 5 November 2025.

[haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/  
sl14-superloop](http://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/sl14-superloop)

### Nominate your Newham Civic Stars!

Nominations for the Newham Civic Awards are now open.

The nominations close on 16 November. The awards ceremony takes place on 4 March 2026 at Old Stratford Town Hall.

[newham.gov.uk/get-in-  
volved-community/newham-  
civic-awards](http://newham.gov.uk/get-involved-community/newham-civic-awards)

### Cash grants on offer

Organisations and resident groups can apply for funding from the £50,000 Lyle's Local Fund 2025.

Grants of up to £5,000 will be awarded to support grassroots projects, with payments made before the end of 2025.

The grant closes on 9 November 2025 at 11.00pm [newham.gov.uk/community-parks-leisure/funding-community-projects-1/3](http://newham.gov.uk/community-parks-leisure/funding-community-projects-1/3)

### Newham Data in final

Newham Data has been named a finalist in the Tech Impact Awards 2025 for its work inspiring young people to explore careers in data and technology. Mayor of Newham Rokhsana Fiaz, who launched the initiative, said: "Being shortlisted



The Mayor and young people at the Tech Awards launch

for the Tech Impact Awards is powerful recognition of how we're driving inclusive growth through innovation."

Winners will be announced on 2 December 2025.

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# Durning Hall: a fresh consultation

AIDAN WHITE

The new owners of the Durning Hall site on Earlham Grove, Forest Gate, are holding a fresh consultation about the future of the site, reviving hopes that this treasured community hub will get a new lease of life.

The site was sold by Aston Mansfield last autumn and Newham Council has agreed detailed planning permission for new homes and a community space but this has not been implemented.

Now the owners are exploring proposals for a fresh start on the long-term future of the site, which include plans for affordable homes, a new community space and a hotel.

Lia Rees, a local writer and historian welcomed the news of a new consultation which coincides with the publication of her new booklet on the history of the area.

Lia, who lives in Earlham Grove, says the story of Durning Hall features in the local history booklet she is publishing in November –



Image: Aston Mansfield

*Radical E7: past and present.*

"I strongly recommend keeping it as a community space," she says.

"It was co-designed by local people in the '60s and was vital to many grassroots voluntary groups, including those later involved in housing co-ops, anti-racism and other important community

work. So that's an inspiring part of its history."

Her booklet also mentions the story of the "Save Durning Hall" campaign a few years ago, where local people battled to keep it as a community centre when the plan to sell up was announced by Aston Mansfield.

"The battle went against them, and the unpopular hous-

ing plans were approved," she says, "so it's excellent that different options are being explored. It honestly broke everyone's hearts when it happened. We need independent community space for the health and self-respect of this area.

"Forest Gate is full of creative talent and energy – we have jumble trails, community

gardens, every cultural group in existence, and a massive grassroots Festival (25 years and counting) put on by local people every July".

Lia would love to have a hopeful conclusion on this story because she says there's still immense sadness locally that people in the area lost a beloved community space.

"The loss inspired the creation of the UP Garden, an excellent place, but we still need indoor halls for those medium-to-large-scale community meetings and events. There's no substitute. We have a local writers' group spending too much money on hired space in Stratford, because there's nothing available in Forest Gate where many of their people are based."

*Radical E7* is available for £3.50 from Number 8 Forest Gate, at 8 Sebert Road, E7 from late November. People interested in commenting on the future of Durning Hall should contact Kanda Consulting on 0203 900 3676 or email [Alex.Sabin@kanda-consulting.co.uk](mailto:Alex.Sabin@kanda-consulting.co.uk)

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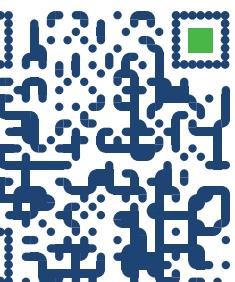
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# Timms pledge on jobs for disabled

SHAGUFTA NASREEN

Sir Stephen Timms (pictured), the East Ham MP and Government minister tasked with reform of the benefit system, says people with disabilities are to be given more job opportunities.

In an exclusive interview with *Newham Voices* he says current reviews of government policy will reshape Britain's benefits system and help employers connect with disabled people.

Timms is the longest serving Member of Parliament in Newham. Even if at national and local level more questions are being asked about the quality of Labour's leadership, Timms is optimistic.

As a minister for social security he has been working to reform the benefit system for people with disabilities including those on universal credit and receiving personal independent payment disability benefits.

This is a controversial issue following the rejection by Parliament of the plan to restrict the eligibility of the personal independent payment, but now he is leading a major review of policy.

"We will co-produce the review with disabled people and the organisations that deal with people with disabilities," he said. The review will



take a year and there will be no changes in the benefits system until it is completed.

He says there is already an historic change of direction in public policy with a real term increase in the headline rate of out of work benefits, the first since the 1970s.

"Regarding personal independent payments people should know that the government is listening," he says.

But there is a problem, he points out.

"Before the pandemic this was costing £11 billion a year and last year it cost £22 billion," he said "and it's going to be £30 billion by the end of 2025.

"We can't carry on like this. That's why we need this review."

Regarding jobs for people with disabilities or health problems he says: "We are determined to open up opportunities for disabled people to get into work and to earn a

decent living."

The Government is introducing connect to work, a policy currently being rolled out, to support people with complex barriers to work in order to get jobs.

"Currently, there are 2.8 million people out of work who are on health and disa-

bility benefits. Lots of people would like to go back to work if given the right opportunities and that's what the connect policy has started to do.

Additionally, he says that a current review by Sir Charlie Mayfield, the ex-chief executive of John Lewis, into what employers can do to provide

work opportunities will help people with health issues. The report will be available in the next few weeks. "I believe that he is going to have some good ideas as to improving flexibility in the workplace and ensuring fewer people are stuck out of work unnecessarily."

## Care for Calais – and for Newham

CHRIS EK

A few years ago, while working with the Care for Calais charity, Laura Glendinning became aware these children were not receiving any education. She decided to fill in the application forms to get them into various Newham schools and met with the Department of Public Health who supported her initiative.

I met her while teaching English voluntarily and was most impressed by her constant dedication to help others. Laura, a grandmother and retired nurse, has lived in Newham since 1982 when she moved here with friends.

She said: "I'm still here! I have lived here longer than anywhere else, brought my children up here. Newham is an accepting place".

Following nurse training at the Royal London, she worked all her life with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health team as a family therapist.

Laura was the first President of Forest Gate's Women's Institute, the WI being UK's largest women's organisation as a force of good in the community. Their fundraising cake sales inspired the idea to set up a local market. In 2011, Laura and her friend, Alicia Francis, set up the Woodgrange market, which also led to providing local employment and a community hub.

During Covid, she organised Chat Newham, a free support phone line for those liv-



Laura can be seen driving around Newham delivering goods to support the children and families who are seeking asylum. Photo © Andie Mercer of Emporium

ing alone. In two weeks, she had enough people to answer the phones in shifts, funded thanks to the help of the CEO of Manor Park's Renewal Programme, Peter Laing.

When I asked what motivated her, she said she developed a lifelong passion about children having the best chances given to them, and she enjoys working with people who want the same. Every year, at Christmas time, Laura helps deliver 270 hampers

for people with no recourse to public funds with children under five, who are supported by the Magpie Project.

Contributions are welcome. November is the time to start giving to be ready for a merry Christmas. Please send your wish to contribute as follows:

For Magpie hamper collection, please email [christ-mashampers2023@gmail.com](mailto:christ-mashampers2023@gmail.com) and for clothes for Care4Calais, please email [laura.glendinning@care4calais.org](mailto:laura.glendinning@care4calais.org)

## Fears for foodbank facing eviction

The Carpenters Estate Café and Foodbank in Stratford, which serves hundreds of people every week, is being forced to downsize, and there are fears that it may have to close.

Populo Living, the housing company wholly owned by Newham Council, plans to evict the foodbank from

its current space at the former Tenants Management Office on the estate in November, but Tee Fabikun (pictured), manager of the foodbank has asked for the move to be postponed to the end of the year.

The building currently occupied by the foodbank and café is to be renovated and extended, including creating office space and a new home for Populo Living staff.

The foodbank, including a training room with ten workstations, is being moved into portacabins less than half the size in nearby Gibbins Road.

Talks are ongoing about the final details of the move.



Tee Fabikun ©Neandra Etienne

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## Beckton ParkRun – the perfect start to the weekend

JAMES MORGAN

With the popularity of running seemingly at an all time high, I recently took part in the Beckton Parkrun, one of two such events that take place weekly in Newham.

This is a free community event where people of all ages and abilities run 5km in parks and open spaces. They take place every Saturday morning at 9am and are well organised as volunteers ensure runners are safe, oriented and, crucially, accurately timed!

Since the first Parkrun in 2004 in Bushy Park, west London, the network of events has grown nationally – there are currently 1,368 Parkrun events around the UK – and internationally.

What I love about these events is how they are open to everyone. Old or young, fast or slow, all are welcome and

you'll find yourself completing the 5k loop with parents pushing pushchairs, octogenarian runners, and everyone in between. There are helpful volunteers everywhere and even trail walkers bringing up the rear to ensure no one comes last or is ever left behind.

The runners met at the pavilion in Beckton Park, an excellent environment for the run. Volunteers in colourful branded vests welcomed us and talked us through the course, a two and a half perimeter loop of the park. After a quick safety briefing, 40 or so of us set off, some clearly eager for a personal best, others (me included!) content with being out in the fresh air and getting the heart pumping.

Setting off south you skirt around the football pitches before jerking to your right and heading through the wilderness areas at the bottom of the park. Looping back, you quickly find yourself on the

Beckton Corridor, an out and back stretch of the run before the final section through the trees and around the park's north perimeter. A second loop takes you to the finish line, to complete a spectacular sprint finish if you want!

It was a brilliant start to the weekend, a surging feeling of challenge, achievement and community. All Parkruns are officially timed with results emailed out to participants later that morning. I thoroughly recommend trying out the Beckton Parkrun for a big Saturday morning lift. You may, like me, find that you very quickly get hooked.

To participate go to [www.parkrun.org](http://www.parkrun.org). Once you sign up you can participate in any of their events anywhere in the country. For information on the Beckton Park run see [www.parkrun.org.uk/beckton](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/beckton) or email [beckton@parkrun.com](mailto:beckton@parkrun.com).

## Godwin Junior School gets UNICEF UK Rights Award

Godwin Junior school in Stratford has been awarded a Gold Rights Respecting School Award by UNICEF UK.

The Rights award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school. The Award recognises



achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's plan-

ning, policies and practice. A Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

Pupils and staff from Godwin Junior School were recently presented with their Award by UNICEF UK CEO Philip Goodwin at UNICEF's all-colleague away day held at the London Stadium.

## Programme helps to Elevate young people

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Elevate is a pioneering youth leadership programme based in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and created by young people, for young people.

James Kaguima (pictured), who was born and raised in Newham, has been a member of the Elevate Board since 2021.

From 2023 to 2024, he served as Chair of Elevate, representing the programme.

Most recently, he took on the role as Project lead for the Elevate Invest programme, working closely with the team responsible for designing and delivering the Elevate Fund.

The grant programme has distributed nearly £80,000 to young people and youth-invested organisations across East London.



James Kaguima

James told *Newham Voices*: "It's been one of the most meaningful projects I've had the chance to lead, as I secured my first grant in 2013, and a decade later we are giving that same opportunity to other young people."

For more information: [queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/community/opportunities-park/elevate](http://queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/community/opportunities-park/elevate)

## Unmesh awarded Freedom of the City of London

SHAGUFTA NASREEN

London Assembly member for City and East London Unmesh Desai was given the Freedom of the City of London at a ceremony at the Guildhall building, on 6 October.

The honour recognises his long service to the community, especially in East London.

Mr Desai is a veteran member of the Labour and Co-operative Party, with his political activism distinguished by its longevity, beginning with his role as an anti-racism campaigner in the 1970s, progressing through two decades of execu-

tive local government service in the Newham from 1998–2018, followed by three successful terms as an Assembly Member.



## Get involved! Third Newham Citizen Science Fair call

The organising group for next year's Fair is seeking to involve groups and individuals who are interested in contributing to the design and content of the 2026 event.

The Science Fair will take place in spring and is run for and by those who live, work or study in the Borough.

This free event will enable local people to showcase their discoveries and science projects, increase awareness and understanding of the benefits and risks of science and its applications and provide

opportunities for engagement in and outside the event. It will also enable people to meet and explore opportunities for creating new scientific and socially beneficial projects jointly.

Initial ideas include smart home technology, citizen social science, negotiating AI as a community, women and girls in science and technology and the use of technology to help care for vulnerable people in their homes. People with a topic to suggest should visit [newham-citizen-science-fair.uk](http://newham-citizen-science-fair.uk)



# OUT AND ABOUT IN NEWHAM

Our Chief reporter Neandra Etienne on events that reflect culture, history and heritage in Newham

## FAMILY

Learning Stages has partnered with the University of East London, Newham Youth Empowerment Services, and Culture Within Newham to present **Activoté**, a free, fully funded theatre production. **7 November, 5:30pm at The Source, Theatre Square, Stratford, E15 1BX** [uel.ac.uk/the-source](http://uel.ac.uk/the-source)



Local "Motivational Barber" Patrick Phipps and Newham Youth Empowerment present One in the Chamber, a viewing of a short film, produced by Patrick, in collaboration with Cut Above the Rest Production.

The film is suitable for young people 12 and older. Tickets are available from Eventbrite. **5 November, 6pm - 9pm, Shipman Youth Centre 340 Prince Regent Lane, E16**

This year more than 550 University of East London students worked with local small businesses to help drive sustainable growth across East London.

The UEL Student Poster Day will showcase these projects and bring together local entrepreneurs, SMEs, councillors, MPs, and community stakeholders. People are welcome to join UEL at the Water Lane Campus.

**19 November, 10:00am - 1:30 pm, Great Hall, Water Lane Campus** [uel.ac.uk](http://uel.ac.uk)

Trinity Day Care Nursery is hosting an **Around the World event** to celebrate the diversity of cultures represented in the nursery. **7 November, 9:30am-11am, East Avenue, E12 6SG** [thetrinitycentre.org](http://thetrinitycentre.org)

**Lest We Forget** is a day in support of The Royal British Legion with live performances from the 282 (East Ham) and a bugle performance of *The Last Post* at 11:00 am. **8 November from 10am - 4pm at Stratford Centre** [stratfordshopping.co.uk](http://stratfordshopping.co.uk)

The Greater London Authority, London Assembly and the City Hall Branch of the Royal British Legion annual **Remembrance Day service** will be available to watch live online **10 November, 10am - 12pm** [london.gov.uk/events](http://london.gov.uk/events)

Newham Council has organised various **Remembrance and Armistice Day events**.

**Remembrance Day events** on Sunday 9 November:

- Assembly: 10:15am Newham Town Hall, Parade Departs: 10:30am, ceremony begins at 10:55am East Ham Cenotaph, Central Park, E6
- All Saints West Ham Parish Church, Church Street, West Ham, E15, guests to be seated by 9:30am, service starts at 10:00am
- St Luke's War Memorial, 89 Tarling Road, Canning Town, E16, guests to assemble 10:30am, service starts, 10:45am
- St Mark's Memorial, Factory Road (Brick Lane Music Hall Grounds), North Woolwich, E16, guests gather by 10:30am Brick Lane Music Hall, service starts 10:45am

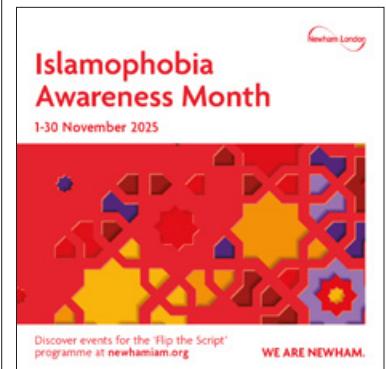
**Armistice Day event** on Tuesday 11 November:

- Assembly: 10:45am, Service Begins at 10:55am, East Ham Cenotaph, Central Park, E6 6DY

**Newham Festival of Stories** takes place online and at various venues in the Borough. **13 - 23 November** [newhamfestivalofstories.org](http://newhamfestivalofstories.org)

As part of **Islamophobia Awareness Month**, Newham Council presents *Flip the Script*, a programme of events and exhibitions that explore themes of identity and belonging.

**1 - 30 November** [newhamiam.org](http://newhamiam.org)



**SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2023**  
★ 11AM to 2PM ★  
ST. GEORGE & ST. ETHELBERT'S CHURCH  
Burford Road, East Ham, E6 3NQ

Central Park Events will host a **Winter Community Market**. **29 November, 11am - 2pm, St. George & St. Ethelbert's Church, Burford Road, East Ham E6** [@cpe\\_eventse6](http://cpe.eventse6)

**Celebrate World Kindness Day** at The Hill Group's Kindness Shop. **11 November, Grow Box, Vincent St E16**

**Fight for Peace Young Creatives** present *I Love My Newham, 'Still'* as part of Newham's Festival of Stories on 14 Nov at Beckton Globe.

## ART

The **Tower Gallery** will host the following exhibitions in November:

- **Stories in Transit** is a cross-cultural group exhibition exploring the complexity of identity and migration through the lens of South Asian diaspora artists currently based in London. Opening 6 November from 6-9pm then 7-9 November from 2-6pm.
- **Cornucopia of Expressions** is a small group exhibition, curated by Old Lady with a Paintbrush. Opening Thursday 13 November

from 6-9pm, then 14-16 November from 2-6pm.

**UEL MA Fine Art Group Show** is an interim exhibition by current students. Opening Thursday 27 November from 6-9pm, then 28-30 November from 2-6pm.

**Memorial Community Church, 395 Barking Road, Plaistow, E13 8AL** [@towergallery.e13](http://towergallery.e13)



Artwork by Old Lady with a Paintbrush  
©Neandra Etienne



## THEATRE

Hip hop dance theatre show *Ebony Scrooge* by ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company is an adaptation and retelling of A Christmas Carol. The show features original music from Sky Arts and Olivier Award-winning Boy Blue Co-Artistic Director Michael 'Mikey J' Asante MBE, who was born in Forest Gate and lived in Manor Park.

Dannielle 'Rhimes' Lecointe, choreographer and Associate Artistic Director of ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company, is basing the show on her personal experiences and she is also celebrating her Dominican Caribbean roots.

Dannielle, who attended school and started her dance career in Newham, told *Newham Voices* why the show was retold using hip-hop, "Hip hop is my voice - a way to connect, challenge, and break barriers through art. A Christmas Carol shaped my childhood Christmases, so fusing the two felt inevitable: tradition meets transformation, rhythm meets redemption. It's the story of connection told the way I know best - through movement."

*Ebony Scrooge* by ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company, 26 November - 4 January 2026, Sadler's Wells East, E20 [sadlerswells.com](http://sadlerswells.com)

## Garden mural gets a refresh

East London Filipino Social Club, based in Katherine Road Community Centre, was founded in 2018 by team leader Dellie Elsom. The majority of those involved are members of Newham Volunteers.

The group received funding from People Powered Places to upgrade the Centre's back garden and install a Filipino inspired mural.

People Powered Places' Big Vote for the current 2025/2027 cycle takes place from 1 - 22 November.

[tinyurl.com/yanc7jk](http://tinyurl.com/yanc7jk)



East London Filipino Social Club ©Neandra Etienne

## MUSIC

Stratford-based **Soul Mama**, an immersive dining and music experience, is included in the EFG London Jazz Festival programme which takes place from 14–23 November.

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

**Alfa Mist** will be playing at the Royal Albert Hall on 25 November with the Black Snow Orchestra. Alfa, who grew up in Newham, released the new album Roulette via his label Sekito Records.

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

## POETRY

Local resident, Newham Poetry Group member and *Newham Voices* reporter Peter Landman has released his poetry book *Comedy in Verse*.

Newham Poetry Group will be hosting *We Are A Tale*, with workshops, readings and a book launch. 22 November, 2pm – 6pm Stratford Library.

[newhampoetrygroup.com](http://newhampoetrygroup.com)

All events are subject to change. Please email your event details and news to [neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk](mailto:neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk)



Pamela Clarke, Victoria Fontaine and Marilyn Fontaine ©Neandra Etienne

## FILM

The short film *Windrush Voices*, produced by local artist Marilyn Fontaine, was shown at the Gate Library during Newham Black History Month.

The film captures the everyday lives, experiences and legacies of the Windrush Generation in Newham. Pamela Clarke, who was interviewed for *Windrush Voices*, set up the heritage website Museum Voyaj to collect stories and preserve the history and culture of Dominica.

Dominica's Independence Day is on 3 November. [museumvoyajdominica.org](http://museumvoyajdominica.org)

# Newham Poetry Prize returns with more events

After a summer celebrating creativity and community, the Newham Poetry Prize is back — with a new season of free poetry workshops and live showcases this winter.

Open to all Newham residents aged 18 and over, the sessions welcome writers of every level — from first-timers to experienced performers. Workshops will explore writing, recording, and performing poetry, with the selected participants invited to share their work both online and at live events.

Founded by award-winning poet Be Manzini, the Newham Poetry Prize was created to nurture local talent and strengthen the Borough's creative community and opportunities.

"There was such enthusiasm for our poetry competition that it was important to create more space for poetry and poetic expression," said

Be Manzini. "As a writer, I know how isolating the creative process can be, and this project helps bring people together."

"Thanks to renewed funding from Culture Within Newham from their development strand, we can continue offering high-quality workshops and expand our team of collaborators and what we offer. This year, we're adding opportunities for recording and archiving work, making the project even more inclusive. Whether you write poetry, lyrics, spoken word, or rap, you're welcome here."

Selected participants will have their work professionally recorded and showcased, giving them a lasting creative calling card that can be shared and enjoyed for years to come.

To launch the winter programme, Be Manzini will host an evening of poetry and lyricism at Beckton Library



Be Manzini

on 22 November from 6pm. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

Follow [@newhampoetryprize](https://www.instagram.com/newhampoetryprize) on Instagram, search Eventbrite, or email [newhampoetry-prize@gmail.com](mailto:newhampoetry-prize@gmail.com)

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## Next edition print deadlines

Newham Voices issue #60 December

Print date: 27th November

**Publication date:** 28th November

**Scan here to email our team for a quote.**



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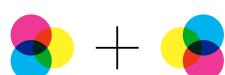
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# Safety concerns over rollerbladers at the mall



Image via Facebook

## SHEILA NURSIMHULU

A recent incident at Westfield Stratford City has raised serious concerns about shopper safety and the enforcement of shopping centre policies.

A midweek shopping trip recently ended in accident and emergency for one shopper after a group of boys on rollerblades crashed into her and her 85-year-old friend near TK Maxx. While the older woman escaped with bruises and an injured elbow, her companion sustained a fractured foot, spending hours in hospital and is now struggling with mobility.

"Not one security guard came to assist us," she said. "When I approached one myself, he simply said they would review CCTV. They refused to take my contact details."

The woman made her own way by cab to the Royal London Hospital, where she was treated until the early hours of the morning and diagnosed with a foot fracture.

When she emailed Westfield management two days later, she received a phone call confirming that rollerblading and skateboarding are banned on site, along with the wearing of balaclavas. However, reports from her friends a few days later suggested these rules were not being enforced.

Determined to see for herself, the woman visited Westfield again, despite her injury, and found the centre full of young people rollerblading in busy spaces amongst shoppers.

When she approached three different security staff, they said preventing accidents caused by rollerbladers was not their priority, with shoplifting cited as their main focus, even though data on crimes in the area for June 2025 rates anti-social behaviour higher than shoplifting.

This latest incident is not an isolated concern. Local shoppers have complained on social media and community forums about groups of young people rollerblading or skateboarding through crowded walkways,

often weaving between children, elderly people, and families with prams.

Comments about the incident on the community platform 'Nextdoor', include:

"I experience this a lot when out shopping at Stratford Westfield shopping centre. It deeply concerns me because I have osteoarthritis in my back and knees, so my bones are delicate."

Another person said: "We should boycott the shopping centre. I no longer want to go to Westfield."

Yet another said that when she was pregnant, a rollerblader almost fell onto her at the shopping centre, while another argued that after the Olympic games, Stratford was supposed to be one of the best shopping experiences, but 13 years on it is crime-ridden.

Retail safety experts warn that such high-speed activity in pedestrian shopping environments poses a danger.

The incident highlights a troubling gap between stated safety policies and on-the-

ground enforcement. The injured shopper fears that without a change in approach, Westfield Stratford could follow the decline of the once-thriving Croydon shopping centre, now described by many as uninviting and unsafe after years of antisocial behaviour and retail closures.

"My fear is that one day someone will be seriously injured," said the woman who has asked to remain anonymous.

With tens of millions of annual visitors, Westfield Stratford is not just a shopping hub but a public space where safety should be non-negotiable.

## Tate Institute's modern refit for the community

### DAPHNE STEDMAN

During the Open House Festival in September, *Newham Voices* visited the Tate Institute in Silvertown (pictured). Built in 1887, for decades it served as the Tate and Lyle Sports and Social Club, anchoring community life before later becoming a pool hall, bar and performance space, closing in the early 2000s.

In 2016 The Craftory, an artist collective, were using the building, clearing rubbish and doing temporary repairs using salvaged materials. In 2020, the collective dispersed and ownership of the building reverted to Newham Council. The building was empty again.



Fast forward to 2025 and a major retro-fit led by Office S&M Architects and carried out by Arbery Construction has transformed the building, in collaboration with the long-term operator, ReSpace Projects, which specialises in bringing derelict buildings back into the life of the community.

The retro-fit has improved the building's thermal performance, airtightness and breathability. Wood fibre

insulation and breathable lime plaster have been used. Installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps aims to make the building a net zero carbon operation.

Community involvement is key. Students from local design and engineering and interior design courses do work placements here. Local tradespeople and volunteers are also involved.

Funding for the project came from the Levelling Up Fund, the Greater London Assembly and Newham Council. The retro-fit has sustainability and circular economy principles at its core. Sourcing of building materials as well as furnishings and fittings that would otherwise go to waste is standard practice, keeping costs low.

The main hall of the building is a wonderful, light-filled space with high level windows.

There are also smaller rooms on the ground floor, plus a large area upstairs that, once refurbished, will become a business hub with workshop spaces. There will be a phased opening between 2025 and 2026, with completion of works planned for 2027.

Outbuildings can be repurposed into artist studios. Other plans include a garden, a cafe and community food resource. The building is a hive of activity and the project provides a model for a very different way of bringing an old building back to life, reusing wherever possible and drawing on local resources and people to deliver community benefits at an affordable cost.

## LOCAL NOTICES

Published 31st October 2025

**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
Application for a New Premises Licence

I Mr Afaq Faisal have applied to NEWHAM COUNCIL for a premises licences for **26 Wakefield Street, London E6 1NQ** so that the following licensable activities may be provided on the following days and hours:

- **Sale of Alcohol**  
7:00am – 11:00pm  
7 days a week

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, Town Hall, 328 Barking Road, East Ham, E6 2RT (open from 10.00am to 4.00pm 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 **21st November 2025**.

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.

**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
Application for a Variation of a Premises Licence

We East London Food Limited have applied to NEWHAM COUNCIL to Vary the premises licence for **Selva Store, 220 High Street North, Eastham, London, E6 2JA** so that the following licensable activities may be provided on the following days and hours:

- **Extend Licensable hours to 0800 to 0200 for the supply of alcohol & update conditions**

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, East Ham Town Hall, Barking Road, London E6 2RP. (open from 10am to 4pm 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 **14th November 2025**.

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.

**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
Application for a New Premises Licence

I/We CHOONDA LTD have applied to NEWHAM COUNCIL for a premises licences for **443-445 Barking Road, London E6 2JX** so that the following licensable activities may be provided on the following days and hours:

- **Late night refreshment from Monday-Sunday, 11:00pm to 2:00 am**

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, Town Hall, 328 Barking Road, East Ham, E6 2RT (open from 10.00am to 4.00pm 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 **14th November 2025**.

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.

**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
Application for a New Premises Licence

I/We Zip World Limited have applied to Newham Council for a premises licences for **ArcelorMittal Orbit, 3 Thornton Street, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, London E20 2AD** so that the following licensable activities may be provided on the following days and hours:

- **Provision of late night refreshment 11pm-2am 7 days a week.**
- **Supply of alcohol, provision of recorded and live music, performances of dance, plays and provision of film, indoor sporting events and boxing or wrestling entertainments, from 9:00am-2:00am, 7 days a week.**

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, Town Hall, 328 Barking Road, East Ham, E6 2RT (open from 10.00am to 4.00pm 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 **20th of November 2025**.

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.

**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
Application for a New Premises Licence

I/We JOY NEST LTD have applied to NEWHAM COUNCIL for a premises licences for **Unit 3 Gallions Point, Atlantis Avenue, Royal Docks, London, E16 2UB** so that the following licensable activities may be provided on the following days and hours:

- **Sale of alcohol Monday to Sunday, from 8:00 – 22:00**

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, Town Hall, 328 Barking Road, East Ham, E6 2RT (open from 10.00am to 4.00pm 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 **19th November 2025**.

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.

**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
Application for a New Premises Licence

I Michael Stampler, Nosferatu Ltd have applied to NEWHAM COUNCIL for a premises licences for **Railway Arch 382 Strode Road, London, E7 0DU** so that the following licensable activities may be provided on the following days and hours:

- **Supply of alcohol, provision of late night refreshment, and the playing of recorded music**
- **Monday 12:00 - 24:00**
- **Tuesday 12:00 - 24:00**
- **Wednesday 12:00 - 24:00**
- **Thursday 12:00 - 01:00**
- **Friday 12:00 - 01:00**
- **Saturday 12:00 - 01:00**
- **Sunday 12:00 - 22:00**

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, Town Hall, 328 Barking Road, East Ham, E6 2RT (open from 10.00am to 4.00pm 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 **25th November 2025**.

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.

**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
Application for a New Premises Licence

I Mr Shahed Miah have applied to NEWHAM COUNCIL for a premises licences for **34E Plashet Grove, London E6 1AE** so that the following licensable activities may be provided on the following days and hours:

- **Provision of Late night refreshment 11pm-5am 7 days a week.**

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, Town Hall, 328 Barking Road, East Ham, E6 2RT (open from 10.00am to 4.00pm 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 **Last Day of Representation 21st November 2025**.

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.

**NOTICE OF MISSING LANDLORD**

**Missing landlord – Leasehold Reform Housing & Urban Development Act 1993 (as amended) ("the 1993 Act")**

Take notice that:

- Sam Milner and Mia Dobson as the leasehold owners of 177a Ham Park Road, London, E7 9LG registered under HM Land Registry EGL255535;
- Jekaterina Shulga and Barry Allard as the leasehold owners of 177b Ham Park Road, London, E7 9LG registered under HM Land Registry EGL262280; and
- Deyan Atanasov and Benjamin Beeler as the leasehold owners of 177c Ham Park Road, Forest Gate, London, E7 9LG registered under HM Land Registry EGL259870.

c/o Ronald Fletcher Baker LLP, 77 Baker Street, London, W1U 6RF requires that notice of their intention to apply to the County Court for a vesting order to acquire the Freehold premises known as 177 Ham Park Road, London, E7 9LG registered under HM Land Registry NGL56665 by way of collective enfranchisement, be served on the current landlord who cannot be found.

The above qualifying tenants intend to apply to the County Court under the provisions of the Leasehold Reform Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 (as amended) for a vesting order to acquire the Freehold premises known as 177 Ham Park Road, London, E7 9LG registered under HM Land Registry NGL56665, by way of collective enfranchisement, if they are unable to give notice to the landlord.

The Landlord registered as Freeholder of the aforementioned properties is FARMAN ALI whose last known address was 29 Falmer Road, London, E17 3BH and whose whereabouts cannot now be ascertained.

Would Farman Ali, or his personal representatives if applicable, or anyone with knowledge of the freehold owner of the property contact Ronald Fletcher Baker LLP, 77 Baker Street, London, W1U 6RF by telephone 0207 613 7126 or email f.raqeeb@rbflegal.co.uk or post to the address above, referencing FR/D3303/0001, within 14 days of the date of this notice."

**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
Application for a Variation of a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that ZEERA KEBABISH LTD have applied to the London Borough of Newham Council for a variation of the premises licence for **Baba Zeera Kebabish, 298 Barking Road, London E6 3BA** so that the following licensable activities may be provided on the following days and hours:

- **Extend the provision of late night refreshment to be from 23.00 to 03.00 the following day Sunday to Wednesday and from 23.00 to 05.00 the following day Thursday to Saturday**

The address of the Licensing Authority where the register is kept and the application may be inspected during normal business hours is the Licensing Team, East Ham Town Hall, Barking Road, London E6 2RP, or on the Council's website: www.newham.gov.uk Email: licensing@newham.gov.uk

Any representations by any other person or responsible authority must be received in writing by the Licensing Authority by **22nd November 2025** stating the nature and grounds for making such representation.

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction for this offence is an unlimited fine.

**Book your licence advert or notice with your local community newspaper**

Email for a quote to [licences@socialspider.com](mailto:licences@socialspider.com) or call Klaudia Kiss 07732 000 430 or Mark Brown 07728 520 116  
Next publication date: 28 November 2025

# Jazz Fusion at the Dialogue Cafe



Chris Bair/Unsplash

## RICHARD STUBBS

In October I reported on the launch of the Dialogue Express café in Stratford, run by the Dialogue Hub (DH) social enterprise, now they are launching their second café, this time in Docklands.

As in Stratford the launch is marked by Jazz and promises an unforgettable night filled with soulful jazz-fusion sounds, great coffee, and warm community spirit. Jazz is provided by KikiMiki, an all-female group that blends original vocal and instrumental compositions with lush harmonies and a joyful, reflective energy.

Whether you're a long-time jazz enthusiast or just love good music, this night promises to hit all the right notes. DH focuses on supporting the

social inclusion of people with disability such as blindness or deafness and in addition to jazz the event offers stories and multilingual poetry with British Sign Language interpretation. DH would be delighted if you could join them to celebrate this milestone and share the rhythm of the night!

Tickets are £5.99 and include a complimentary drink, it's on Thursday, 20 November, 6:00pm – 8:30pm at the Dialogue Cafe, Royal Docks Centre for Sustainability (RDCS), University of East London Docklands Campus (3 mins walk from Cyprus DLR). Tickets are from [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) but I found it easiest to enter "Eventbrite" and "Jazz Fusion Night" in my browser search bar to find the booking page rather than searching in Eventbrite.

# Residents Enjoy Visit to SoulFoods Farmacy and Café

## ZHENREENAH MUHXINGA

Two months ago, a group of local residents enjoyed a special visit to the Stratford SoulFoods Farmacy and Café, a community gem that blends delicious, healthy food with a welcoming atmosphere.

The owner Osiris Khnum said: "I remember the day I launched the store—I was filled with nerves, but also a deep sense of optimism. It wasn't just the start of a business venture, it was the moment a long-held dream finally came to life."

Friends, family, and members of the community gathered to show their support, eager to see what the store had to offer. Shelves were lined with carefully selected products, bringing a fresh experience to the neighbourhood.

The store offers more than just a chance to enjoy a cup of herbal tea. We were introduced to the café's theme of nourishing both body and soul through wholesome ingredients, thoughtful preparation, and a commitment to wellbeing.

The majority of us commented on the warm and friendly service, as well as the inviting space that encourages connection and conversation.

During the visit, residents sampled a variety of fresh squeezed smoothies and drinks, learning how the café sources ingredients. For some, it was their first time exploring plant-based and wellness-focused bush teas, and the experience sparked curiosity and enthusiasm to go

and tell their friends.

The day was also about togetherness. Beyond smoothies, the café provided a setting for neighbours to come together, share stories, and support one another—reminding everyone how important social connection is to community life.



# Diversity challenge over LTN debate

## SHOFA MIAH

Three consultation meetings over a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) for the Woodgrange and Capel area of Forest Gate have revealed how the plan has become a passionate and, at times, polarising proposal.

The first meeting on 23 September 2025 was over-subscribed, prompting two extra sessions on 1 and 2 October. Some residents and local businesses felt the process lacked transparency and communication.

At the first session, the Council announced that 1,175 people had signed a petition opposing the scheme, later this was corrected to 1,775 without any explanation.

Across the three invita-

tion-only meetings, some people noted limited diversity, with South Asian residents present in small numbers, and almost no representation from Black African and Caribbean communities.

One resident, of Black African and Caribbean heritage, said: "I was upset to see the lack of representation from my community. On 2 October – the start of Black History Month – not a single resident from my community was visible in the room of up to 40 residents who were mainly white. This is not the rich multi-cultural Newham I know."

Some residents said the presence of multiple security guards created an unwelcoming atmosphere and some attendees complained

that the handling of the discussion was heavy-handed. After a formal complaint, the Council says that staff training on diversity, inclusion, and accessibility will be reviewed for future events.

The proposed LTN aims to reduce through-traffic, improve road safety, and encourage walking and cycling.

Supporters, including the group *Safer Streets Woodgrange*, described the consultations as "real community in action," adding that "no scheme will ever be perfect," but the plans mark "a major step forward for safer streets."

Another resident who backed the LTN argues that such schemes "do not negatively impact businesses,

taxis, or emergency services," and points to other UK and European areas where they have proved to be of benefit.

However, others argue that LTNs restrict movement, increase journey times, and affect livelihoods – particularly for those who rely on their vehicles.

The Woodgrange and Capel LTN debate highlights a wider challenge: balancing environmental goals with fairness, accessibility, and trust. To move forward, Newham Council must ensure transparent, representative, and inclusive engagement so that all residents – drivers, cyclists, businesses, and people from the global majority alike – feel genuinely heard.

# Welcome to Movember!

## SHEILA NURSIMHULU

**G**row a mo. Save a bro. Newham stands with Movember.

Every November Newham residents join the global Movember movement. It's an initiative that encourages men to grow moustaches to spark conversations and raise awareness about men's health issues.

What started as a simple idea in Australia two decades ago has evolved into a powerful worldwide campaign tackling some of the biggest health challenges faced by men today: prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health, and suicide prevention.

For more information or to get involved, visit [www.movember.com](http://www.movember.com) or look out for local events across the borough this November.



# SOMETHING'S BREWING



*A local pub with something for everyone is hard to find these days, but Phil Mellows has hit the jackpot*

Beyond the bright multicultural bustle of East Ham High Street, heading south across Barking Road to the edge of Central Park, you'll find the Red Lion. It's a nice surprise, in these times of change, to find a reassuringly traditional-looking pub, tiled in a warm shade of red, and an ornate welcoming entrance.

It was built in 1841 and so quali-

fies as East Ham's oldest surviving pub having survived the Blitz – not to mention all the subsequent redevelopment around here. Some might know it better as The Hammers, a name it was given in 1960 when it was painted claret and blue to attract fans from the Boleyn Ground as West Ham United's football fortunes rose.

After a period of closure, it was



Image courtesy Phil Mellows

refurbished and reopened as the Red Lion once more. It's now owned by Stonegate, Britain's biggest pub company, and managed by Michele Foti.

Michele (the name is Italian and pronounced Me-kella) started working behind the bar when he moved to the area in 2020. It must have been quite a change from his previous job, at a private members club in Mayfair which closed down in the pandemic, but his experience meant he was quickly promoted to manager.

Under his stewardship, the Red Lion has thrived as a community hub. "It's a family pub," he says. "We're quite a way from the station so our customers tend to be people from the surrounding streets, and we are very busy with parties, especially in the summer."

As well as the function room upstairs, the pub can accommodate 800 people in the garden out the back with its terrace of stagecoach-style cabins. The main bar has a DJ area, screens for Sky Sports, a pool table and a 'dog bar' with water and snacks for canine companions.

Alongside a fairly standard offering on the taps, and a lively list of cocktails and shots, there's a surprisingly extensive food menu that includes pub classics, as well as pizzas, burgers and wings, plus a new Asian menu at the weekends, and Sunday roasts, of course.

In short, it's the kind of place that has something for everyone. And that's exactly what a local pub should be.

## Amazing autumn – 2025 top year for leaves

### LUCIA RIOS STEELE

Friends of West Ham Park

Autumn is undeniably my favourite time of the year, the crisp morning air, the nights beginning to draw in and of course the brilliance of the leaves changing colours.

This year is set to be nothing short of spectacular! Forestry England has reported that the colours will be more vibrant and last longer than normal due to the hot summer weather and rainy September.

Many tree species took that summer sun and produced more sugar in their leaves which is now being transformed into the brightest reds, coppers and oranges. It is the perfect time to get out and take a stroll through one of our neighborhood green spaces. We are spoiled for choice in Newham with the Olympic Park, West Ham Park, Wanstead Flats and more, directly on our doorstep.

I went out for an autumn walk with my ten-year-old daughter to

wonder at the colours, collect conkers and spot scampering squirrels. It was just what we both needed at this busy point in the school term where everything seems to relentlessly chug along at pace; a moment to breath, time to linger and space to have a chat.

She wandered through the grass collecting a beautiful posy of carefully selected leaves for their size, shape and of course colours.

She looked up at me with a sharp, sudden realisation and practically shouted, 'It's going to be the leaf pile soon!' My heart leapt with joy, she may be growing up fast but West Ham Park's annual 'Biggest Leaf Pile' is still top of her list! Who doesn't like to rake up the leaves, run with a wheelbarrow and flop in a pile of crunchy leaves? I know where we'll be on Sunday, 16 November, why not come and join us!

Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile, West Ham Park, on 16 November is from 1.30-3pm, but be aware the date may change because a decent

amount of leaf fall is needed for this event to be successful, so there is a possibility the date could be earlier in November. Keep an eye on the social pages – [facebook.com/FriendsOfWestHamPark](http://facebook.com/FriendsOfWestHamPark) and [instagram.com/fwhp\\_e9](http://instagram.com/fwhp_e9)

Image courtesy Lucia Rios Steele

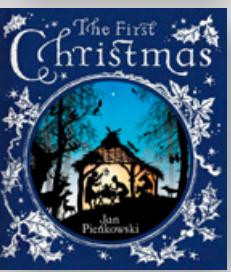
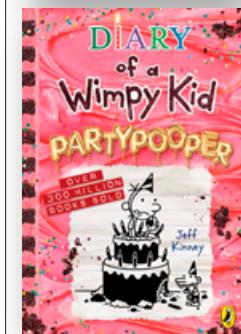
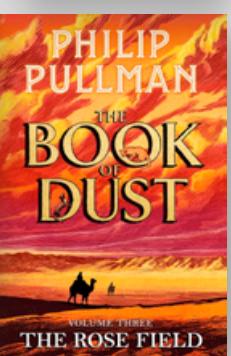
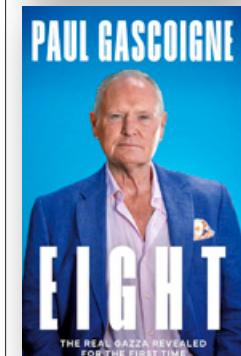
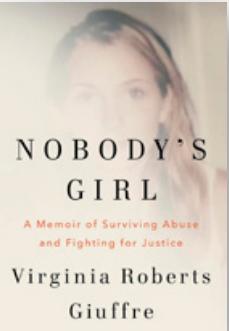
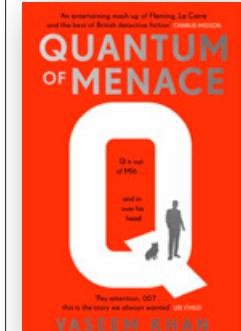


## Good reads in Newham

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

- **Quantum of Menace** (local author, signed copies available)  
By Vaseem Khan
- **Eight: The Real Gazza Revealed for the First Time** (signed copies available)  
By Paul Gascoigne
- **Nobody's Girl**  
By Virginia Roberts Giuffre
- **The Rose Field (The Book of Dust Volume Three)**  
By Philip Pullman
- **The First Christmas**  
By Jan Pienkowski
- **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Partypooper** (signed copies available)  
By Jeff Kinney

– Compiled by David Ceen, Newham Bookshop



For full details or to request a copy, visit: [newhambooks.co.uk](http://newhambooks.co.uk)

# Beyond Impossible



This month **Mickey Ambrose** steps away from the crisis at West Ham United to celebrate the success of a man who is taking the boxing world by storm



**S**omething just happened in professional boxing that is totally sensational. It is so crazy that if a successful writer took Fabio Wardley's story to Hollywood, they would have laughed and told them to chuck a couple of aliens into the script to make it more believable!

but inside the ring he is a skilled fighter that has seen him become a world champion and defeat legends of the sport such as Deontay Wilder, who many believe had the hardest single punch in boxing history.

One of the reasons that Fabio has progressed so quickly in boxing, is both bizarre and

teur fights with just four White Collar fights before turning professional. Boxing likes contenders, it doesn't like pretenders.

Quite simply Fabio, with his four White Collar victories was an embarrassment, so every time he was matched, he was matched to lose. "Nice guy, but shouldn't be here. Let's get rid of Wardley and we can focus on real boxers and contenders".

The problem was that nobody ever explained this properly to Fabio and he kept winning when he was always supposed to lose. He has literally knocked out every man he has ever stepped into the ring with!



Fabio Wardley defeated Joseph Parker inside 11 rounds after a furious battle at the O2 Arena in London on Saturday 25 October and has now earned the right to fight undisputed heavyweight champion Oleksandr Usyk next as the mandatory challenger for the WBO belt.

Fabio must have felt it was an impossible dream when he woke up the following morning. He knows that boxing is the hardest discipline and the heavyweight division is the hardest of them all. Each time you climb into the ring you are literally taking your life into your own hands.

You 'play' football, tennis, rugby, cricket and hockey, but nobody plays boxing.

What happens inside the ropes is skilled combat and far too often these brave warriors pay the ultimate price, ask my friends Chris Eubank and Nigel Benn senior, who both faced difficult personal challenges at the end of their careers.

But on Saturday 25 October at the O2 Arena in London, Fabio Wardley climbed into the ring to fight Joseph Parker, a seasoned professional and amateur fighter from New Zealand. Joe is one of the nicest men that you could ever meet, a perfect gentleman,

irrefutable. Boxing is a serious sport. Ninety nine per cent of all young fighters travel the tried and tested routes, of lacing up their first gloves around 5-7 years of age, going to a junior boxing club and if they are really-good, they reach the ABA Finals. I know because I'm one of them.

The best become amateur fighters just like my late 'mentor', relative Paul Dawson, a lovely man who I miss dearly. We would train in his makeshift gym at the bottom of his garden in Kent and he would ask which gloves I wanted – the big black ones or standard red ones.

I would choose black thinking they were better and to the tune of Rocky we would begin sparring until he winded me!

Young boxers dream of amateur glory and reaching an Olympic Finals, after which they turn professional. Take Oleksandr Usyk, the undefeated undisputed Heavyweight Champion of the World, and Fabio Wardley's mandatory opponent. He had 350 amateur fights, winning 335 and losing just 15. He achieved major victories including gold at the 2012 London Olympics, the 2011 World Championships, and the 2008 European Championships.

By contrast Fabio started boxing at 21 and had no ama-

teur fights with just four White Collar fights before turning professional. Boxing likes contenders, it doesn't like pretenders.

Quite simply Fabio, with his four White Collar victories was an embarrassment, so every time he was matched, he was matched to lose. "Nice guy, but shouldn't be here. Let's get rid of Wardley and we can focus on real boxers and contenders".

The problem was that nobody ever explained this properly to Fabio and he kept winning when he was always supposed to lose. He has literally knocked out every man he has ever stepped into the ring with!

ions are hunger and tears.

They will be urging Wardley to take the final step to the very pinnacle of the podium, for there is no greater individual accolade in professional sport than the undisputed Heavyweight Champion of the World.

Should he pull off this seemingly incredible feat, then he will light the fires in the bellies of an entire generation. Who will begin to believe that they can also dream their own impossible dreams.

Wardley, aged 30 years, can cause a major upset against Usyk and become the WBO Champion of the World. By the time the build-up is completed, this could quite simply become the most watched sporting event in history, not bad for a young man from Suffolk, but dreams can come true – I know because it happened to me when I met Pele, the football genius who became my friend.

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

## Lutapod – giving voice to women in sport

**KAYLA TROY**

**L**utaPod, a women-led podcast supported by Newham-based charity Fight for Peace, is back for its second season, shining a light on what it means to be a woman in sport.

Powered by young people and backed by Sport England, the podcast is a platform for straight-talking about lived experience and telling the untold stories of women navigating male-dominated sporting spaces like boxing and martial arts.

Launched in 2024 and produced in partnership with Fight for Peace's Young Creative, Aladdin, the podcast amplifies the voices of women and girls, and aims to influence the wider perception of women in sport by helping break down barriers that prevent young women from getting and staying active.

It's no secret that the playing field isn't level, with just 45 per cent of girls aged five-16 meeting the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity, compared to 51 per cent of boys. Despite progress in recent years, this gender



LutaPod hosts Szilvia and Aniqa ©Kayla Troy

gap shows we still have a long way to go, and reinforces why representation and visibility matter.

Leading the way are new podcast hosts Szilvia and Aniqa. Season Two builds on season one, continuing to highlight not just the problems, but providing women-led solutions. Catch up on LutaPod via the Fight for Peace YouTube channel, and follow @fightforpeace for

updates on Instagram and LinkedIn.

Fight for Peace uses the power of combat sport combined with education and personal development to inspire young people to be champions in the ring, and in life. The Young Creatives project provides young people with production experience by creating high-quality content for Fight for Peace. [fightforpeace.net](http://fightforpeace.net)

# SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Neandra Etienne



**Divin Mubama** made his debut for the England national U21 football team during a UEFA Euro U21 qualification game on 8 September. Divin, who is a former St Bons student, scored twice and was named Player of the Match during the U21 qualification game on 10 October. England U21s are scheduled to play UEFA U21 Euro 2027 group qualifiers on 14 and 18 November. [englandfootball.com](http://englandfootball.com)

West Ham United player **Airidas Golambeckis** and Liverpool player **Rio Ngumoha**, who are both from Newham, play for the England U19 team. The team are scheduled to play UEFA U19 Euro 2026 qualifiers on 12 and 15 November. [englandfootball.com](http://englandfootball.com)

**West Ham United's** Beckton-based redeveloped community hub, The Foundry, officially opened on 14 October with a host of distinguished guests.

West Ham United Vice-Chair Baroness Karren Brady was joined by Foundation CEO Joseph Lyons and 100-plus invited guests, MPs, political leaders, community partners, representatives from the football world, club ambassadors, the men's first team Head Coach Nuno Espírito Santo and the women's team Head Coach Rehanne Skinner. [whufc.com](http://whufc.com)

Every **London Lions** EuroCup basketball home game in the 25/26 season will be broadcast live on their YouTube channel.

[@LDNLions](https://www.youtube.com/@LDNLions)

**Free Dance classes** take place on The Dance Floor at Sadler's Wells East Stratford on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1pm-2pm. Register at the Welcome Desk on arrival. [sadlerswells.com](http://sadlerswells.com)

Sports

**London Pulse Netball** welcomed 25 teams to the 2025 London Pulse Corporate Cup at the Copper Box Arena in October. Imperial Corporate Events are the Mixed Teams Cup winners and Barclays are the Female Teams Cup winners.

London Pulse Netball has announced their 2026 fixtures which will also all take place at the Copper Box Arena. [londonpulsenetball.com](http://londonpulsenetball.com)

Dates and times of all games and events are subject to change. Please email your sports news, games and fixtures to [neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk](mailto:neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk)



## Champion! Everyone's a winner at SEN Sports

**B**elief in the idea that sport is for everyone is the key to the success of SEN Sports, a club that creates inclusive, accessible sports opportunities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

West Ham and Beckton MP James Asper visited SEN Sports in October and met with children, parents, and coaches. He saw firsthand how the club helps build confidence, social skills, and wellbeing through sport.

SEN Sports Ltd runs weekly sessions at Forest Gate Community School where every child, regardless of ability, has the chance to be active, learn new skills, and belong to a positive community.

Mr Asper said the activity is funded by Access Sport. "I'm keen to see more options like this across Newham," he said. As demand continues to grow, SEN Sports is now seeking longer-term funding to ensure these opportunities remain accessible to local families.

There's also a special event in the November calendar when there will be an inclusive competition day for the SEN sports community on the 22nd, from 11am to 4pm at the Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Centre, Lee Valley Athletics Centre, N9 0AR

Visit [www.sen-sports.com](http://www.sen-sports.com) or follow [@sensportsclub](https://www.instagram.com/sensportsclub) on Instagram.

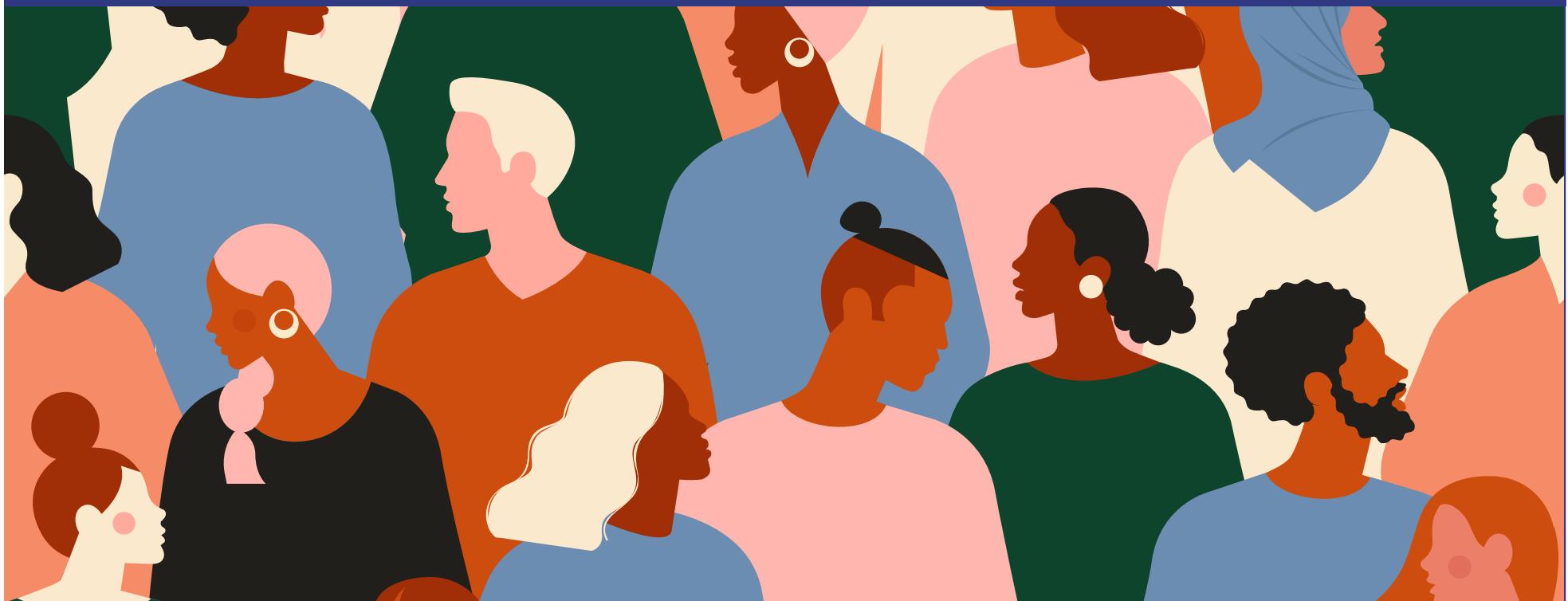


**Black Girls Do Run** is an England Athletics affiliated grassroots community running club founded by runner Tasha Thompson in 1999. The dates for the Stratford run are 10 and 24 November, more details can be found on their website. [blackgirlsdorun.co.uk](http://blackgirlsdorun.co.uk)

### Clarification

In last month's issue the Sally Tully photo should have been correctly credited to Sarah Tully.

# WE NEED YOUR HELP



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- We have NO shareholders
- We have NO wealthy backers
- We are run by a small but dedicated team as part of a not-for-profit community interest company
- We hold authority to account, expose scandals, highlight inequality, promote good causes, and provide a platform for local people
- Every penny of income from *Newham Voices* helps us deliver more journalism in Newham
- Currently, we are just about able to cover the paper's costs (design, printing and distribution).
- Our editorial team is entirely voluntary and in future, we would like to create paid jobs for aspiring local journalists.
- We currently have 36 supporters who contribute regularly, but we need more!

Can you help us? Our membership scheme has many different options depending on your ability to contribute. Rewards include having a copy of the paper posted to you every month. Local businesses and charities can also sign up and access discounts on advertising.

**Find out more at: [newhamvoices.co.uk/membership](https://newhamvoices.co.uk/membership)**



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FROM DANCE POWERHOUSE  
**ZOONATION**

# EBONY SCROOGE



DICKENS GETS  
A HIP HOP  
MAKEOVER

BY  
**DANNIELLE 'RHIMES' LECOINTE**

SADL  
ERSW  
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# East

ZooNation

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