

Labour faces historic election challenge

AIDAN WHITE, EDITOR

The month of May could produce a seismic shift in Newham politics. For the first time in decades, the ruling Labour Party faces a concerted challenge over its control of the Council.

With all 66 Council seats up for election, national polling body PollCheck predicts that opposition parties could take as many as 22 seats – a dramatic change and one that crushes the notion of Newham, which has been ruled by Labour since the Borough was created in 1965, as a “one-party state”.

Opinion polling is notoriously unreliable, but information from opposition parties and even from people working and canvassing for Labour, report there is increasing discontent on the doorsteps in the Borough.

The Council election on 7 May could see significant gains for the opposition, particularly the Green Party and the Newham Independent Party.

Newham Voices has over recent months carried major reports on the crisis in Newham – housing, poverty, the council budget – and in this pre-election issue we give details of all the candidates standing for election in the Borough (see Pages 8–9) who want to bring about change.

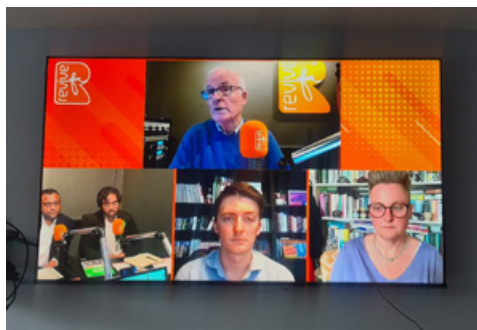
We have also encouraged major parties to put their plans to our readers and in this issue we include a statement from Newham Independents Party leader Mehmoud Mirza (See Page 5) and we publish highlights from the manifesto of the Green Party (Page 7).

We have also reached out to the Mayoral candidates. In co-operation with the local community radio Revive FM, on 18 April, a *Newham Voices* election debate brought together key people who hope to replace Labour’s Rokhsana Fiaz who is standing down.

Leading candidates, including Forhad Hussain (Labour), Areeq Chowdhury (Green Party), Laura Willoughby (Liberal Democrats) and Luke Black, representing Conservative candidate Terri Bloore, discussed their proposals for the future of Newham.



Hustings ins and outs. In the studio Hussain and Chowdhury with Aidan White. Image ©Neandra Etienne. Online (below) Luke Black speaking for Terri Bloore and Laura Willoughby. Image ©Shofa Miah



The discussion was feisty – with Forhad Hussain and Areeq Chowdhury trading blows over a personal housing issue (see page 3) – but all of them sketched out strategies for change.

All of them face massive challenges as the Borough continues to deal with a legacy from the last administration during which Newham’s reputation was damaged by critical reports of its housing services and the council administration.

A continuing cost of living crisis, and massive uncertainty over the Council finances which required extra govern-

Residents who listen to the arguments, open their minds to all points of view and who take the opportunity to vote can make a difference on 7 May.

ment support to avert bankruptcy, has led to cuts in services, increases in Council Tax and there are reports of a looming £2 billion debt crisis in the coming years.

It’s not all bad news – the election debate heard of Newham’s improving record on education, young people support, inclusion and the extraordinary achievements flowing from the Borough’s vibrant voluntary sector.

But with the highest levels of temporary accommodation in the country, millions being spent to help people living in poverty and widespread voter concern

over local issues such as parking, fly-tipping and policing, opposition parties see this as a golden opportunity to press for reform.

Not surprisingly, all of the political parties make grand promises, some convincing, others less realistic given the limited amount of money available.

But all of them agreed at the conclusion of the *Newham Voices* hustings session – that Newham residents and voters need to make their voices heard at the election.

Local democracy is meaningless unless people exercise their right to vote.

Newham Voices is urging its readers and everyone who lives and works in Newham to use their vote on 7 May.

That is why this issue is published a few days earlier than usual to give people an opportunity to see who is standing and to find out what their parties are standing for.

The Council website provides detailed information on where to vote and how to vote – don’t forget to bring a photo identification when attending the polling station – and there is a council-produced booklet in which the candidates for Mayor set out their manifesto pledges.

All opinions should be respected, even the ones we might disagree with, but divisive, racist or abusive electioneering should not be tolerated. We hope that all parties will avoid abusive communications such as that which spoiled the campaign in some Newham wards four years ago.

Residents who listen to the arguments, open their minds to all points of view and who take the opportunity to vote can make a difference on 7 May.

On the ball: Will the Hammers avoid the drop?

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Council Notebook

By Peter Landman

Council bows out after a troubled time in office

PETER LANDMAN

The final meeting of a turbulent period of council business before fresh elections in May that took place on 23 March had an end of term feel as the Labour leadership talked up the Council's achievements, but opposition councillors were not convinced.

There were questions from the public, specifically from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign who asked about action on the motion passed last October over fears that money from the Council's pension fund might be invested in war-mongering in the Middle East. Councillor John Gray, Labour, Chair of the Pensions Committee said the fund was not holding investments connected with Israel's occupation of Gaza. He said they were seeking external advice on ethical investments.

Councillor Areeq Chowdhury, Green Party, asked about the Council's position on the Home Secretary's plan for refugees only to be given temporary status.

He said this would cause high anxiety among migrants, and undermine the Council's role as a Borough of Sanctuary.

Councillor Rita Chadha, Labour, responding, referred to the wide ranging motion passed in December, which called for safe routes into the country, regard for human rights; and which affirmed the principles of the Borough of Sanctuary. The Council had made its positions known to MPs.

The Council welcomed the report on inclusion and belonging in Newham prepared by the charity British Future.

The Mayor outlined a series of recommendations including providing longer term more stable funding for community groups, particularly those which invited local decision making.

There are also calls for a Council welcoming message to newly-arrived immigrants and for more courses in English as a foreign language

£20 million from Pride of Place Fund to boost Little Ilford

The fund will pay for a Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board consisting of representatives from voluntary groups, local businesses, council officers and a ward councillor.

The Mayor said: "I am thrilled that we have secured the funding to sustain lasting improvements that will strengthen community pride and improve local spaces."

The Council also considered the final Build a Fairer Newham report, which gave majority Labour Party members an opportunity to highlight a list of perceived achievements.

Councillor Sarah Ruiz highlighted the outstanding Ofsted report for children's services, Councillor Rita Chadha referred to the 50 Steps to Health and Wellbeing Programme. Councillor Blossom Young spoke to the Voluntary Undertaking with the Regulator of Social Housing and Councillor John Whitworth told of a new 'Circular Construction Hub' that could take building waste.

Given the troubles of the administration over recent years, particularly on housing, opposition Councillors expressed a different view.

Councillor Danny Keeling, Green Party, pointed out how the Labour leadership had neglected to mention things that had not gone well, notably the low point for housing policy when the government housing regulator had strongly criticised the housing services and given Newham one of the lowest, the crisis of youth unemployment and the Government's action to issue a Best Value Notice highlighting Newham's poor performance. Councillor Mehmood Mirza, Independents, insisted that this had not been a fairly run meeting.

New legal advice centre for East Ham

Newham Community Law Project will launch its legal advice centre on 14 May at its new premises in the Trinity Centre, East Avenue, E12.

The charity aims to increase access to high-quality legal casework and representation for residents who cannot

afford to pay for legal advice.

Founded by volunteers, legal professionals, and community groups, the project will start with immigration, asylum and public law, then develop services in housing and other areas of legal need in the future.

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Flood risk to East Ham Gasworks housing plan

NICK CLARK

LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER

The former East Ham Gasworks could become the site of an 800-home development, according to details submitted to Newham Council.

Property developer St William Homes is considering applying for planning permission for the development despite the fact the site is at “high risk of flooding”. It is also Metropolitan Open Land – which holds equivalent legal status to green belt.

Berkeley – St William Homes’ parent company – told the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS) it is “delighted to be bringing forward proposals to open up the former East Ham Gasworks to deliver much-needed family homes”.

The former gasworks is also the site of the now-derelict Leigh Road Sports Ground. It sits between Leigh Road to the west and the North Circular to its east, and is just south of the East Ham train depot.

The Environment Agency says the site, close to the River Roding, is mostly in flood zone three – at “high risk” of flooding. This means there is at least a one-in-100 annual chance of flooding.

But the Council wants to earmark

the site for housing in an update to its Newham Local Plan, which shapes development across the Borough over the coming years.

A draft of the update says developers who want to build on the site “should ensure that flood risk is minimised”. St William Homes’ planning agents says flood defences along the Roding and the Thames give the site “significant protection”.

However, a response from the Environment Agency says the site still has “a high residual risk from potential breach or overtopping of the flood defences”.

It adds: “A breach of the flood defences could lead to rapid onset of fast-flowing and deep-water flooding, with little or no warning. The number of proposed dwellings on the site means a significant number of people could be at risk.”

The Environment Agency said St William Homes would need to show flood defences would provide “suitable protection” for 100 years.

Berkeley told the LDRS that any future planning application would include flood mitigation measures and sustainable urban drainage.

Some 21 of the site’s 23 acres are designated Metropolitan Open Land. This

means any development considered to harm the site’s openness can only be approved under “very special circumstances” according to planning law.

However, the Council’s draft update to the Local Plan would reduce the Metropolitan Open Land to 16 acres.

It says any development should make these remaining 16 acres publicly accessible, and bring disused sports pitches back into use.

Berkeley’s spokesperson said this change “would enable the entire gasworks site to be cleaned up and, for the first time, opened to the public, while ensuring that the majority of the land retains its metropolitan open land status”.

The draft update is awaiting comments from the government’s Planning Inspectorate following an examination in December last year.

This usually comes before a full planning application, but includes a description of the developer’s proposals.

A document submitted to the Council envisages “the redevelopment of the site to provide up to 800 homes”.

The application was submitted to the Council in March and was pending assessment as *Newham Voices* went to press.

Green Party leader heads to Newham as local campaign surges

The Newham Green Party will be standing candidates in every ward across the Borough, alongside a candidate for the Mayor of Newham – marking a major milestone for the local party.

Newham has become a major target for the party and Green Party Leader Zack Polanski visited Newham on 11 April as the headline to a ‘Big Day Out’ in Stratford, backing local candidates and the party’s growing movement in the Borough. The event, hosted at The Orange Room, attracted more than 100 people.

According to Councillor Danny Keeling, membership officer for Newham Green Party and candidate for Stratford, there has been a surge in Green party membership. “We’ve seen amazing growth, with more and more local people joining the Greens because they want real change.”



Home row background

Labour Mayoral candidate Forhad Hussain and Green Candidate Areeq Chowdhury got into a public row during the *Newham Voices* election hustings on 18 April.

Hussain accused Chowdhury of “gutter politics” for raising a question about the circumstances in which he bought a council flat in 2016. Chowdhury hit back and said he was only looking for clarity over the issue.

Chowdhury later told *Newham Voices* that he had seen a letter indicating that the issue was being investigated by the Council.

Although there has been media speculation on this question there is no suggestion of illegal or improper conduct by Forhad Hussain.

In a ‘confidential’ letter, dated 17 April, from external auditors Ernst and Young (EY) to complainants who originally raised the issue with the Council, seen by Chowdhury and *Newham Voices*, the auditors say they have been told that the Council’s monitoring officer is investigating and that EY will be kept informed of the outcome.

In response to *Newham Voices* after the meeting Forhad Hussain issued a robust denial of any wrongdoing.

He says: “In response to enquiries, the allegations are false and defamatory, and it is disappointing that they have been



repeated without proper scrutiny.

“The facts are straightforward. The property referenced, 28 Sycamore Close, was not a Right to Buy purchase. It was an empty council property offered on the open market through the Newham New Share scheme. My wife and I were registered for that scheme, expressed interest in the property, and were successful through the same process available to other eligible Newham residents.

“The property was independently valued by the council at £190,000 and we paid our agreed share of that full market price. There was no negotiation and no discount of the kind associated with Right to Buy. Comparable properties in the same location were sold at similar values at the time, which underlines that this was a standard market transaction. When we eventually paid off the Council’s

share in the property – as was envisaged by the scheme – we did so at the uplifted market rate of the property at that time.

“Any suggestion that I benefited from my position is categorically untrue. I did not receive preferential treatment at any stage.

“Claims that there is a current or “fresh” investigation are also incorrect. I have been informed that no new investigation is taking place, and any previous enquiries into this matter have already been concluded.

“It is also worth noting that earlier reporting on separate allegations was withdrawn after inaccuracies were identified. Novara Media removed an article on this basis, which should give pause to anyone repeating unverified claims.

“References to wording on the Land Registry have been used to imply wrongdoing, but that implication is unfounded. There is no evidence this had any bearing on the purchase and no benefit was derived from it.

“These are serious allegations about my personal integrity and they risk causing real damage, particularly in the context of an election. I have asked for the posts containing these claims to be removed and for a correction and apology to be issued.

“Newham residents deserve an honest campaign focused on the issues that matter, not the spread of misinformation.”

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MAYORAL ELECTION: SPECIAL FEATURE

Residents across Newham “clearly yearning for change”

In the last of our interviews with candidates for Newham Mayor, Newham Independents candidate Mehmood Mirza talks to Jean Gray about what motivates him in politics and the promises he is making to residents during the campaign.

Tell me a bit about your background, where you grew up, how you became political, how long you have lived in Newham.

I was born in Pakistan and have proudly called Newham home for over 30 years. This Borough has given me so much. It's where I've built my life, raised my family, and become part of a strong and diverse community.

I never set out to become a politician. My journey into politics came from something much more simple: a desire to serve. Over time, I could see that the needs of local people weren't always being properly understood or met by those in positions of power. That didn't sit right with me.

I got involved because I care deeply about this community. I wanted to play my part in making sure that people are heard, that services work for residents, and that Newham continues to be a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

For me, politics has never been about titles or positions, it's about doing what's right and helping our community be the very best it can be.

What response are you getting from voters on the doorstep?

The response has been overwhelming. Residents across Newham are clearly yearning for change.

For too long, the status quo has failed too many people whether that's on housing, services, or simply feeling that their voices are being heard. That frustration is real and it's coming through in conversations every single day.

What's been particularly encouraging is the breadth of support we're seeing. It's not limited to one group or one area, it's a genuine cross-section of Newham, all recognising that something needs to change.

People understand that the core mission of the Newham Independents is simply to put Newham's residents first, without compromise. And that message is resonating strongly on the ground.

What will the Council make-up look like after 7 May?

Of course, I'd love to be able to say 66 Newham Independent councillors and a Newham Independent Mayor.

In reality, it's likely to be more of a mixed picture with Newham Independents



providing a majority of councillors.

Our aim is simply to secure enough representation to take radical decisions and begin implementing our plan for real, substantive change in Newham.

This election is about shifting the balance and making sure residents finally have a stronger, independent voice at the heart of the Council.

What is your MAIN priority for Newham in the immediate future?

Our main priority is to ease the cost of living pressures.

Families are stretched to the limit, and the Council has a responsibility to step in and support where it can. That's why we are committed to freezing Council Tax, so residents can keep more of their own money.

We also want to introduce free school meals for all secondary school pupils, a practical step that will make a real difference to families across the Borough.

Alongside that, we will bring forward additional measures to support residents. For us, it's about taking immediate, tangible action that helps people now, not vague promises for the distant future.

You have made parking a major issue in the election, even though fewer than half of Newham residents own a car. Why do you think this is such a vote winner given that the Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England has claimed this would result in lost revenue of £5 million?

It's true that not every household owns a car, but for those who do, it's not a luxury, it's a necessity.

In Newham, many residents rely on their vehicles to earn a living. We're talking about cleaners, delivery drivers, carers, tradespeople, people who simply cannot do their jobs without a car. These are working people who have been hit hardest by Labour's anti-car policies.

There's also a real disconnect here. Many of those advocating against car use have the flexibility to work from home or rely on alternatives that just aren't practical for everyone. That's not the reality for a large portion of Newham's workforce.

So when we talk about parking, we're really talking about fairness. We're standing up for residents who depend on their vehicles to provide for their families.

On the question of revenue, councils shouldn't be balancing their books on the backs of working people who have no choice but to drive. Our priority is to support residents and protect livelihoods and we will take the action needed to do exactly that.

What would be your first move as Mayor?

My first move as Mayor would be to set the tone for a very different kind of administration, one that is truly focused on residents from day one.

That starts with an immediate review of council spending and priorities so we can redirect resources towards easing

the cost of living pressures on people. I would begin the process of freezing Council Tax and put in place the support measures we've committed to, including free school meals.

I would also initiate a full review of policies that are placing unnecessary pressure on working residents particularly around parking and enforcement to ensure we are backing, not penalising, people who are trying to earn a living.

We have some of the hardest-working, most resilient communities anywhere in the country. People from all over the world come here, build lives, raise families and contribute to making Newham what it is today.

Just as importantly, I would open up the Council. That means greater transparency, proper engagement with residents, and making sure decisions are made with people, not done to them.

From day one, it would be about action, fairness, and restoring trust in how Newham is run.

Many people talk down the Borough while others claim it is a great place to live. What's your view about that?

Newham is a brilliant Borough with incredible people, huge diversity and enormous potential.

We have some of the hardest-working, most resilient communities anywhere in the country. People from all over the world come here, build lives, raise families and contribute to making Newham what it is today.

Of course, we have challenges. Too many residents are struggling with the cost of living, housing pressures, crime and services that are not always delivering in the way they should. It would be wrong to pretend those issues do not exist.

But equally, it would be wrong to talk Newham down. I am proud of this Borough. I am proud of its people, its culture and its sense of community.

My view is simple: Newham is already a great place to live but it could and should be even better. That is what motivates me making sure the Council matches the ambition, energy and potential of the people who live here.



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Looking for a Mayor to deliver safe cycling

JONATHAN ROTHWELL

With Newham among London's most deprived boroughs, and with the most concern about climate change (*Newham Voices* April 2026), local members of the London Cycling Campaign argue that building TfL's four top-priority cycle routes should be a prime objective for Newham's next administration.

TfL data shows huge demand for cycling between Stratford and Ilford—where the new Romford Road cycleway is being built, albeit slowly. Completing this will let thousands of children cycle safely to school, get students safely to UEL Stratford, and allow families to reach the Atherton Leisure Centre while saving

time and money.

On Monday 4 May we'll mark 600 days since Thames Water's closure of the Newham Greenway, Newham's only safe north-south cycle route. The thousands who used it daily, including NHS workers at Newham Hospital, have been forced to contend with abject danger on Abbey Road or Plaistow New Road since January.

We've spoken to healthcare workers who have been injured, and one family that decided to move out of Newham. A safe, protected cycleway from Leyton to Silvertown would give NHS workers, NewVic students and schoolchildren back their safe route from Stratford to Plaistow and East Ham.

Connecting Canning Town to Barking would unlock cycling for thousands of

students at Rokeby School, Newham College, and Langdon Academy, and also welcome East Ham High Street to London's Cycleway network for the first time. It would also connect with a route from Manor Park to North Woolwich, in turn serving the new housing in Beckton.

The demand from Newham residents for a safe, connected cycle network—like our neighbours in Waltham Forest already benefit from—is clear. All Newham's next Mayor would need to do is build it. Whoever they are, let's hope they have a vision for transport in our borough beyond potholes and fiddling with car parking charges.

Jonathan Rothwell is the co-ordinator of Newham Cyclists

Older people quiz candidates



PETER LANDMAN

Five of the candidates to be Newham's next Mayor turned up for a grilling from elderly residents at a special hustings organised for older people in Newham.

About 40 people turned up at the Renewal Centre in Manor Park to hear the politicians put their case for election as Mayor when the vote takes place on 7 May.

In the chair was Mary-Ann Foxwell, Chief Executive of Age UK East London, who organised the questions and answer session in which candidates Terri Bloore (Conservative), Areeq Chowdhury (Green), Clive Furness (Reform), Forhad Hussain (Labour), and Laura Willoughby (Liberal Democrats) all took part.

The questions covered a wide range of topics – how older people adapt to the digital world, how to make public transport safer and better, what plans are there for improving the lives of Newham's older folk, particularly regarding health care and providing more support to those living in poverty and badly affected by the cost of living crisis.

Forhad Hussain responded by highlighting his plan if elected, to set up local neighbourhood centres, for devolved decision making.

On Digital Inclusion, Clive Furness proposed a Council investigation into providing better channels of non-online communication, and Terri Bloore mentioned further simplification of the Council's online systems.

All the candidates agreed that the Council should not incur any more major spending, but they stressed the need for collaboration between Council services and voluntary groups. There were also calls for a review of finances.

Peter Laing, Chief Executive Officer of the Renewal Programme said that many organisations were in difficulties and asked if a voluntary organisation advice and support infrastructure could be re-established in the Borough.

Greens pledge town hall clean up, more toilets and low traffic scheme

The Green Party would establish a Value for Money and Anti-Corruption Unit at the town hall to ensure that every penny of residents' money is 'spent properly' on services that people need while delivering 'value for money', according to the party's manifesto, launched last month ahead of the local elections on 7 May.

The pledges are made on behalf of all the party's candidates in the Newham Council ward elections and its candidate for Mayor, Areeq Chowdhury.

As well as introducing an annual residents satisfaction survey that would inform staff performance indicators, action on social care, housing and education, the manifesto includes among its promises:

- Bringing back free bulky waste collections
- Increased fines for fly-tipping but with a litter awareness scheme similar to that used for speeding offences currently
- Funding for youth centres
- A strategy to tackle knife crimes

- Sufficient public toilets
- To lobby the Government to abolish the right to buy council homes

The Greens also say they would implement the Woodgrange and Capel Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme that caused con-

trovery when it was put forward by the Council last year, and to protect the West Ham Park scheme in light of concerns that Labour is about to scrap it.

To read the full 12-page manifesto, please visit: <https://newham.greenparty.org.uk/2026-manifesto/>

An old fashioned bun fight

SIMON SHAW

7 May will be an important day in Newham. Not only is it my wife's birthday, but—judging by the candidates who appeared on Revive FM's and *Newham Voices'* mayoral Question Time on 18 April—it could also mark a turning point in the Borough's politics.

Newham Independents failed to make it to the studio in the heart of E7. The Liberal Democrats did phone in, while the Conservatives also contributed by deploying a representative rather than their candidate. It is always revealing to see who makes the effort to engage directly with potential voters.

In the studio were Forhad Hussain, widely seen as the Labour frontrunner, and the Greens' Areeq Chowdhury. Both established their local credentials and demonstrated a clear commitment to the Borough. Hussain promised a new start from a Labour Party that has controlled Newham for sixty years, while Chowdhury aimed to smash the stereotype of "sandal-wearing Greens".

For ninety minutes, the candidates

sparred. Technical problems meant that those unable to attend the studio, namely the Liberal Democrats and the Conservative substitute, were somewhat skewered in terms of available time and audibility.

For the sake of balance, it should also be noted that Reform UK, the Communities United Party, and the Christian People's Alliance were all missing in action, although efforts had been made to invite them.

Before casting your vote, it would be a wise investment in local democracy—and in the future of our Borough—to watch or listen to the highlights package on ReviveFM's website. What is clear from the discussion is that Newham faces the most severe housing crisis in England: the highest rate of temporary accommodation usage and more than 27,000 applicants on the housing register. As a result, the Council is staring at a £175 million budget gap over the next three years, driven in large part by the cost of temporary accommodation.

As for me, I face a more personal challenge in the runup to 7 May: what on earth do I buy my wife for her birthday?

Image: Newham Green Party



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OUT AND ABOUT IN NEWHAM

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

SOCCKER AID

Dani Dyer spoke about her time as one of the new recruits on Channel 4's *Celebrity SAS: Who Dares Wins on Live* and *Let Dyers* podcast series.

Dani, who was born in Newham, told her social media followers: "This was honestly the hardest thing I've ever done, but I learnt so much along the way and really pushed myself out of my comfort zone. It's safe to say I'll never forget this experience."

Dani is supporting Soccer Aid for UNICEF which takes place at the London Stadium on 31 May. Adult tickets start from £20 and juniors from £10

Soccer Aid will be broadcast live on ITV1, STV, ITVM and STV Player socceraid.org.uk

FILM

Iron Maiden: Burning Ambition is a feature-length documentary about the band's 50-year journey. It will be released in cinemas worldwide from 7 May.

In April it was announced that **Iron Maiden** will be inducted into the 2026 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Iron Maiden are scheduled to tour Australia when the 2026 induction ceremony takes place in November in Los Angeles.

The Cart and Horses Pub in Maryland is recognised as the birthplace of the band.

Triple MOBO Award-winning rapper **Guvna B**'s album *This Bed I Made*, released on 24 April, is accompanied by a short film of the same title.

Guvna B, from Newham, made his acting debut in the short film directed by Christoph Davis and supported by The Forward Trust and Samaritans.

This Bed I Made, which is shaped by Guvna B's own story, offers an intimate portrayal of addiction and recovery as lived experience.

Guvna B told *Newham Voices*: "I think film does a great job of showing nuance, something that's quite tough to get across in a short music video so it felt necessary to explore the artistic extension."

AWARDS

BAFTA TV: *Amandaland* which was partly filmed in Forest Gate has been nominated in the scripted comedy category. *VE Day 80: A Celebration to Remember* which included musical tributes to Newham born Forces Sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn is nominated in the live event coverage category. Local actor and broadcaster Kelle Bryan stars in the nominated children's scripted series *Crongton*. The Awards take place on 10 May.

British Urban Film Festival Awards (BUFF): Local Actor Jo Martin will receive an Honorary Award for Outstanding British Contribution to Film and TV at the 2026 BUFF Awards on 9 May.

ART

Liminality is an upcoming exhibition at the **Tower Gallery** exploring in-between spaces – a place, an attitude of mind, or a stage in life. Opening event on 14 May from 6–9pm. Tower Gallery East Tower at 395 Barking Road, E13

The exhibition will then be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 3–7pm from 15 May to 7 June.

Schools and other groups can contact Tower Gallery to arrange visits outside these times.

@towergallery.e13

University of East London's (UEL) annual student-led art auction **Ork-shun**, held at UEL's Lightwell event space at its Dockland's campus, raised funds for a London knife crime prevention charity.

Led by Auctioneer filmmaker and UEL senior lecturer Julian Alexander,



145 donated works from students, staff, alumni and external artists were sold and £8,000 was raised with a donation of £1,000 going to the knife prevention charity Ben Kinsella Trust.

The remaining funds will go directly towards supporting students and future creative activity at the university.

uel.ac.uk

The *East London Imprint: Past, Present, Future* exhibition celebrates **University College London's** 200th anniversary, with reflections on East London identity and community space.

18 April – 11 May, UCL Marshgate Building, 7 Sidings Street E20
uel.ac.uk/ucl-east

MUSIC

Independent artist Bonnie Freechild's debut EP *Aftertaste* was released on 23 February. It was written over several years and is about desire, loss, and the imprint of connection long after it's gone.

Stratford-based artist Bonnie films many of her music videos in and around the Olympic Park and East Village. She has also been working with local audio and music producer Hotel October who produced *Therapy* on her EP.

bonniefreechild.com

EVENTS

V&A East Museum's new exhibition *The Music is Black: A British Story* takes place London College of Fashion, UAL 13 May
V&A East Museum 16 and 28 May
vam.ac.uk

The Drop in Bereavement Centre's Tea, Coffee and Chat takes place on 5 and 12 May, 11am – 1pm, 187 Grange Rd, E13
thedropinbereavementcentre.co.uk

YOKIMONO Japanese Market will take place 2 and 3 May, 11am – 6pm, Riverside East 5 Thornton Street Stratford, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

Free tickets are available from Eventbrite.

yokimono26stratford.eventbrite.co.uk

BOOKS

Michael Rosen's 80th birthday book signing took place on 11 April at Newham Bookshop

Michail Antonio will be signing copies of his book *Humans Not Robots: When Elite Sport and Real Life Collide* at Newham Bookshop on 31 May from 2pm – 4pm
newhambooks.co.uk

All events are subject to change. Please email your event details and news to neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk

Become a Cultural Producer

Applications will be open for Creative Newham's Cultural Producers programme from 4 May – 7 June. This is a six-month (part-time) in-depth training to help participants enter the arts, heritage, health or environment sectors as a producer.

Programme runs: August 2026 – February 2027 (3 days per week) and is open to Newham residents aged 18–30 who have some experience working or volunteering in any cultural or arts-related organisation.
creativenewham.com/cultural-producers-programme



UEL Ork-shun auction

Who's who in the race

Mayoral Candidates

- Terri Bloore, *Local Conservatives*
- Areeq Chowdhury, *Green Party*
- Clive Furness, *Reform UK*
- Forhad Hussain, *Labour Party*
- Kamran Malik, *Communities United Party*
- Mehmood Mirza, *Newham Independents Party*
- Bharath Swamy, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Laura Claire Willoughby, *Liberal Democrats*

- Heather Green, *Green Party*
- Angharad Hillier, *Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition*
- Lois Austin, *Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition*
- Aditya Krishnanand Kadle, *Local Conservatives*
- Mohammed Abdul Karim, *Local Conservatives*
- Sidy Ali Kounta, *Local Conservatives*
- Lazar Monu, *Reform*
- June Taylor, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Ramona-Lavinia Elvin, *Liberal Democrats*

Boleyn

- Muhammad Tarek Aziz, *Newham Independents Party*
- Mehmood Mirza, *Newham Independents Party*
- Moniba Khan, *Newham Independents Party*
- Md Halim Bepari, *Labour Party*
- Rabbir Hassain, *Labour Party*
- Sheila Carol Poleon, *Labour Party*
- Mark David John Bromley, *Local Conservatives*
- Silvia Troanta, *Local Conservatives*
- Charles Richard Patrick Gaitskell Meaby, *Local Conservatives*
- Kerena Fussell, *Green Party*
- Md Ariful Haque Molla, *Green Party*
- Helen Lynch, *Green Party*
- Karl Mcwilton, *Reform UK*
- Sheree Miller, *Liberal Democrats*
- Venkat Vabanagiri, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Leela Vitnam, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Simon Gibson, *Christian Peoples Alliance*



Areeq Chowdhury
Green Party Mayoral Candidate

Canning Town North

- Aleya Hussain, *Labour Party*
- Shaban Mohammed, *Labour Party*
- Larisa Zilickaja, *Labour Party*
- Zulfiqar Ahmed, *Newham Independents Party*
- Mohammed Delwar Hussain, *Newham Independents Party*
- Ibrahim Hussein, *Newham Independents Party*
- Imogen anderson, *Green Party*
- Nicolas Motte, *Green Party*
- Gowry Paraneeharan, *Green Party*
- Bryan Houston, *Local Conservatives*
- Redawanur Rahman, *Local Conservatives*
- Aminul Islam, *Local Conservatives*
- Goodness Nkire, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Precious Nkire, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Robert Claeson, *Liberal Democrats*
- Samir Raheem, *Reform UK*

Canning Town South

- Aderonke Florence Benson, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- John James Morris, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Rohit Kumar Dasgupta, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Syed Rafiz Hayder, *Newham Independents Party*
- MD Abdur Rahim, *Newham Independents Party*



Clive Furness
Reform UK Mayoral Candidate

- Feven Yohannes, *Newham Independents Party*
- Syed Uzaib Alam, *Liberal Democrats*
- Alex Cline, *Green Party*
- Abdul Aziz Saud, *Green Party*
- James Reilly, *Green Party*
- Luke Robert Black, *Local Conservatives*
- Ahmed Omar Sheikh Faqai, *Local Conservatives*
- Maria Khan, *Local Conservatives*
- Myrtle Verona Laing, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Prossy Namwanje, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Ahrash Dianat, *Reform UK*
- Belgica Guana, *Independent*
- Linda Ann Jordan, *Independent*
- Amir Ali, *Independent*

Custom House

- Wazed Ali, *Newham Independents Party*
- Chandrika Wijesinghe, *Newham Independents Party*
- Zafer Felek, *Newham Independents Party*
- Thelma Odoi, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Simon Rush, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Heather Lafferty, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Tony Mehegan, *Green Party*
- Ben Moss, *Green Party*
- Raphael Smith, *Green Party*
- Rustam Sikander Buck, *Local Conservatives*
- Rois Miah, *Local Conservatives*
- Tim Roll-Pickering, *Local Conservatives*
- Ben Tiley, *Reform*
- Alexander Tuppen, *Liberal Democrats*
- Suze Gurmeseva, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Idiat Lawal, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Badrul Islam, *Independent*
- James Matthew Mudd, *Independent*
- Mushtaq Hussain Mughal, *Independent*

East Ham

- Mukesh Patel, *Labour Party*
- Sofia Patel, *Labour Party*
- Aisha Siddiqah, *Labour Party*
- Abdul Halim, *Newham Independents Party*
- Begum Sahera, *Newham Independents Party*
- Syed Taqi Jawad Naqvi, *Newham Independents Party*
- Andrew Diver, *Green Party*
- Nuruzzaman Khan, *Green Party*
- Nina Schlautmann, *Green Party*
- Maria Aktar, *Local Conservatives*
- Ahamed Shabber, *Local Conservatives*
- Jahangir Alam Sikder, *Local Conservatives*
- Wasim Hussain, *Workers Party*
- Hiren Nakum, *Reform UK*

East Ham South

- Sanawar Hussain, *Labour Party*
- Susan Masters, *Labour Party*
- Lakmini Shah, *Labour Party*
- Abdul Faizal Abdulbari, *Newham Independents Party*
- Mohammad Arifur Rahman Bhuyan,

- Newham Independents Party*
- Asad Ali Shan, *Newham Independents Party*
- Tasnim Humayra Khan, *Green Party*
- Charan Namaia, *Green Party*
- Paula Reily, *Green Party*
- Royal Ahmed, *Local Conservatives*
- Udeswar Kumar Singh, *Local Conservatives*
- Abdus Sabur Talukder, *Local Conservatives*
- Danny Collingwood, *Reform UK*
- Noel Bernard McMahon, *Reform UK*
- Nigel Williams, *Reform UK*
- James David Shears, *Liberal Democrats*
- Kamal Hussain, *Independent*
- Suhel Rob, *Independent*

Forest Gate North

- Liz Cronin, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Rachel Elizabeth Tripp, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Matthew Carlile, *Green Party*
- Shofa Miah, *Green Party*
- Walid Rahman, *Newham Independents Party*
- Roy Charles Wenborne, *Newham Independents Party*
- Malcolm Bernard Madden, *Local Conservatives*
- Matthew Brendan Cresswell, *Local Conservatives*
- Rachel Evans, *Reform UK*
- Lesley Margaret Macdonald, *Reform UK*
- Jenny Chang, *Liberal Democrats*

Forest Gate South

- Aktharul Alam, *Labour Party*
- Robert Dale Carter-Lennox, *Labour Party*
- Helen Valentina Page, *Labour Party*
- Zakaria Esoof Bhariwala, *Newham Independents Party*
- Sabrin Ara Hoque, *Newham Independents Party*
- Kashif Raja, *Newham Independents Party*
- Arshan Baskaran, *Green Party*
- Jack Pickard, *Green Party*
- Zahra Kheyre, *Green Party*
- Ketema Worku Ayano, *Local Conservatives*
- Ellis Joseph Bartholomew Hudson, *Local Conservatives*
- Chabane Abdelmadjid Mahrane, *Local Conservatives*
- Mavin Patel, *Reform UK*
- David Graham Terrar, *Liberal Democrats*
- Jazmine Whomes, *Liberal Democrats*
- Muhammad Asim, *Independent*
- Sohail Jamal, *Independent*
- Mohammad Khalid Khan, *Independent*



Forhad Hussain
Labour Party Mayoral Candidate

Green Street East

- Miraj Patel, *Labour Party*
- Rohima Rahman, *Labour Party*
- Hafiz Abdul Rasool, *Labour Party*
- Sunny Chowdhury, *Newham Independents Party*
- Md Zakir Hossain, *Newham Independents*



Terri Bloore
Local Conservatives Mayoral Candidate

Vote for a new Newham

Party

- Parvez Akhter Sheikh, *Newham Independents Party*
- Hilary Hudson, *Green Party*
- Steven Braines, *Green Party*
- Awais Sikandar, *Green Party*
- Md Anwarul Islam, *Local Conservatives*
- Haroon Mohammed Khatun, *Local Conservatives*
- Kirankumar Ramanbhai Patel, *Local Conservatives*
- Ankita Kita, *Reform*

Green Street West

- Hanif Abdulmuhit, *Labour Party*
- Mohammed Osman Gani, *Labour Party*
- Sangeeta Slawson, *Labour Party*
- Idris Ibrahim, *Newham Independents Party*
- Rumana Salim Bhuiyan Liza, *Newham Independents Party*
- Qasim Yaseen, *Newham Independents Party*
- Huzayfa Patel, *Green Party*
- Rachel Humphrey, *Green Party*
- Ada Stone, *Green Party*
- Joerd Hysa, *Local Conservatives*
- Ravindra Reddy Nandivelugu, *Local Conservatives*
- Peter Williams Ujiagbe, *Local Conservatives*
- Nirali M Gor, *Reform UK*
- Slav Donev, *Reform*
- Dick Jones, *Reform*



Kamran Malik
Communities United Party Mayoral Candidate

Little Ilford

- Musawwar Alam, *Labour Party*
- Abul Bashar Syed, *Labour Party*
- Sharon Chawda, *Labour Party*
- Tahir Mirza, *Newham Independents Party*
- Oli Rahman, *Newham Independents Party*
- Nasreen Shamima, *Newham Independents Party*
- Freya Coakley, *Green Party*
- Francis Ho, *Green Party*
- Ian McClelland, *Green Party*
- Andy Dumitriuc, *Reform*
- Janet Hill, *Reform*
- Saverimuthu Joseph Mariadas, *Local Conservatives*
- Mahbu Bullah, *Local Conservatives*
- Showkat Osman, *Local Conservatives*
- Sinan Ozdemir, *Liberal Democrats*
- Samuel Kazibwe, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Peter Murengera, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Pauline Rose, *Christian Peoples Alliance*

Manor Park

- Imam Haque, *Labour Party*
- Salema Khatun, *Labour Party*
- Salim Patel, *Labour Party*
- Badol Ahman, *Newham Independents Party*



Mehmood Mirza
Newham Independents Party Mayoral Candidate

- Mujeebur Rehman, *Newham Independents Party*
- Sabir Banglawala, *Newham Independents Party*
- Sarah Burton, *Green Party*
- Rajeev Kumar, *Green Party*
- George Salomon, *Green Party*
- Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, *Local Conservatives*
- Vasuki Muruhathas, *Local Conservatives*
- Md Somra Saymon, *Local Conservatives*
- Lesley Ann Hopkins, *Reform*
- Marie Fenech, *Reform*
- Dean Munroe, *Reform*
- Derek Jackson, *Liberal Democrats*

Maryland

- Reece McMahan, *Labour Party*
- Melanie Onovo, *Labour Party*
- Kelly Drake, *Green Party*
- Ren Tilbury, *Green Party*
- Titus Kofi Essel, *Newham Independents Party*
- Mohammad Akbar Hossain, *Newham Independents Party*
- Tai Durojaiye, *Local Conservatives*
- John Michael Lovatt, *Local Conservatives*
- Neil Docking, *Reform*
- Betsie Lee, *Reform*
- James Jones, *Liberal Democrats*

Plaistow North

- Zulfiqar Ali, *Labour Party*
- Joy Laguda, *Labour Party*
- Pervez Qureshi, *Labour Party*
- Nizam Ali, *Newham Independents Party*
- Sophia Naqvi, *Newham Independents Party*
- Mohmed Iqbal Pathan, *Newham Independents Party*
- George Acquaaah, *Green Party*
- Zeshan Adil, *Green Party*
- Graham Taylor Burge, *Green Party*
- Terri Bloore, *Local Conservatives*
- Murad Chowdhury, *Local Conservatives*
- Amanjit Singh, *Local Conservatives*
- Faysel Alam, *Reform UK*
- Ella Monu, *Reform UK*
- Ahmad Saeed, *Communities United Party*
- Gulsun Zekai, *Liberal Democrats*
- Paul Martin Jobson, *Christian Peoples Alliance*

Plaistow South

- Rubi Begum, *Labour Party*
- Jane Lofthouse, *Labour Party*
- Asheem Singh, *Labour Party*
- Obaid Khan, *Newham Independents Party*
- Tamzied Hossain Khan, *Newham Independents Party*
- Nazrul Islam MD, *Newham Independents Party*
- Pippa King, *Green Party*
- Herbert Leonelli, *Green Party*
- Alin Petcu, *Green Party*
- Frederik Kai Grunta, *Liberal Democrats*

- Akmol Hussain, *Local Conservatives*
- Mohammed Alam Begum, *Local Conservatives*
- Atiqur Rahman MD, *Local Conservatives*
- Kocotchy Tchesse, *Christian Peoples Alliance*
- Gabriel Constantin, *Reform UK*
- Ivaylo Kanev, *Reform UK*
- Shazia Anjum, *Independent*

Plaistow West and Canning Town East

- Shantu Ferdous, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Robert Gordon, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Madeleine Sarley Pontin, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Karen Flanagan, *Green Party*
- Ben Beeler, *Green Party*
- Susha Sooral, *Green Party*
- Saiful Islam MD, *Newham Independents Party*
- Abdul Hakeem Chaudhari, *Newham Independents Party*
- Syeda Fozia Tariq, *Newham Independents Party*
- Benedetto Litteri, *Local Conservatives*
- Rajan Miah, *Local Conservatives*
- Misrak Tefra, *Local Conservatives*
- Constantin Ladan, *Reform UK*
- Shavne Wiskin, *Independent*



Bharath Swamy
Christian Peoples Alliance Mayoral Candidate

Plashet

- Jennifer Marie Bailey, *Labour Party*
- Zakir Hussain Rahim, *Labour Party*
- Ilyas Sharif, *Newham Independents Party*
- Zuber Gulamussen, *Newham Independents Party*
- Katy Clarke, *Green Party*
- Tim Kiely, *Green Party*
- Ram Saravanan, *Local Conservatives*
- Khatija Suleman Badat Meaby, *Local Conservatives*
- Christian Moon, *Liberal Democrats*
- Kate Bettell, *Reform UK*

Royal Albert

- Anthony Mcalmont, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Ann Rosemarie Easter, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Poojitha Konkati, *Green Party*
- Kia Summers, *Green Party*
- Ziyen Pathan, *Newham Independents Party*
- Faruque Sikder, *Newham Independents Party*
- James Alan-Rumsby, *Liberal Democrats*
- Jason Wilkinson, *Liberal Democrats*
- Nadia Sukander, *Local Conservatives*

- Palmira Taran, *Local Conservatives*
- Daniel Oxley, *Reform UK*

Royal Victoria

- Steve Brayshaw, *Labour Party*
- Caroline Oladapo, *Labour Party*
- Tomek Zygarowski, *Newham Independents Party*
- Ehsan Mughal, *Newham Independents Party*
- Rob Callender, *Green Party*
- Shabd Pyari, *Green Party*
- Bradley James Fage, *Local Conservatives*
- George Joseph Benjamin Wright, *Local Conservatives*
- Richard East, *Liberal Democrats*
- Kevin Okparaeke, *Reform UK*

Stratford

- James Beckles, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Femi Falola, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Sabia Kamali, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Maksudul Haque MD, *Newham Independents Party*
- Shohel Alam, *Newham Independents Party*
- Naimul Islam, *Newham Independents Party*
- Chae Ho Hwang, *Green Party*
- Danny Keeling, *Green Party*
- Sonia Quintero, *Green Party*
- Jahangir Bhuiyan, *Local Conservatives*
- Miral Amin, *Local Conservatives*
- Nitin John Thomas, *Local Conservatives*
- Samie Dorgham, *Liberal Democrats*
- Lucrece Sainclair, *Independent*
- Alfie Mosely, *Reform UK*

West Ham

- John Gray, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Adjoa Kwarteng, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Sam Michael Mannion, *Labour and Co-Operative Party*
- Ibrahim Alom, *Green Party*
- Deb Scott, *Green Party*
- Kawsar Shirazul Mohammed, *Green Party*
- Attia Bano, *Newham Independents Party*
- Karib Mostafa, *Newham Independents Party*
- Mayra Crean, *Newham Independents Party*
- Fokoruddin Ahmed, *Local Conservatives*
- Armyn Hennessy, *Local Conservatives*
- Manir Uzzaman Khan, *Local Conservatives*
- Robert Constantin, *Reform UK*
- Andy Green, *Reform UK*
- Karina Celis Rangel, *Liberal Democrats*



Laura Claire Willoughby
Liberal Democrats Mayoral Candidate

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Roots of our Freedom 2025: How young people put community first

©Marysa Dowling



BOYA SUN AND ZARA FAROOQI

As youth leaders from Ashok's Vision International, a youth-led mental health charity in Newham, we have been empowering young people since 2019 through nature, biodiversity, empowerment, skill-building, and wellbeing workshops. We run weekly market stalls at Woodgrange Market Place in Forest Gate every Saturday, creating welcoming spaces where young people like ourselves volunteer, lead projects and build our confidence. Rooted in community and resilience, we demonstrate how youth empowerment can grow through collective action and improve our community.

Throughout autumn, we worked in partnership with Newham Council to deliver Roots of Our Freedom 2025, engaging over 300 people across indoor and outdoor spaces. It was a vibrant intergenerational arts project around culture, heritage, and identity. This project fostered a sense of belonging and created inclusive spaces for all ages across Newham to come together.

We captured different voices and connected residents through conversations about heritage.

We supported the project from planning through to delivery, and it meant so much to be part of something so meaningful. Through interviewing a diverse range of people, we came to understand that heritage lives in the stories we carry, the languages we protect, and the values we hope to pass on to the next generation. What felt especially powerful was seeing how creativity became a bridge between generations, bringing people together through memory, expression and shared understanding.

"It was a privilege to listen to and learn from the stories of senior citizens. I interviewed and recorded people from different backgrounds, capturing a range of perspectives and life experiences. Each conversation was purposeful, and the experience was impactful."

– Zara (Youth Leader)

Working alongside young people and senior citizens in our community allowed for intergenerational dialogue. Through mindfulness art, planting, and embroidery, we co-created pieces that reflected personal stories and shared histories. As youth leaders, we played an active role in delivering sessions, supporting participants, and helping to create an environment where everyone felt seen and heard.

"This project has helped me build a much deeper connection with the Borough, people from different age groups in the Borough and the stories that shape it. I really enjoyed leading the project through various hands-on activities. We were able to see a diverse skills range within Newham among talented young people and seniors, whose creativity came to life in beautiful works that everyone appreciated."

– Boya (Youth Leader)

The project culminated in a public exhibition at The Gate Library in Forest Gate with Southbank, an internationally renowned arts and cultural space with both national and global recognition. Special thanks went to Marysa Dowling

for beautifully capturing these moments through her photography skills.

"OUR FREEDOM: THEN AND NOW reflects on the legacy of VE Day and explores what 'freedom' means to us today—something that feels especially important right now, with so much division and oppression in the world. I'm proud to have worked on and contributed to this project, recognising and celebrating the power of community-led initiatives that bring people together, spark connections, and help us build stronger communities in our everyday lives."

– Marysa Dowling (Photographer)

For us, the Roots of Our Freedom 2025 project reflects the heart of what we do at Ashok's Vision International. It reflected how young people can lead with empathy, connect across generations, and build stronger communities. More importantly, it reinforced our belief that when young people are given the space to express themselves and engage with others, growth is rooted in care, creativity, and collective action.

©Marysa Dowling



COMMUNITY NEWS ROUNDUP

By Neandra Etienne

People Powered Places return

People Powered Places project decision announcement will take place in May.

The underspend from previous PPP cycles will be added to the new funding pot, making more resources available for community-led projects.

Any questions, contact peoplepoweredplaces@newham.gov.uk

Airport grants take off

London City Airport granted £36,000 to 13 charities and not-for-profit organisations across six boroughs: Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney, Waltham Forest, Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge.

Newham based NEWway Project, West Silvertown Foundation, Profit and Play CIC will receive a grant of up to £3,000 through the fund.

NEWway Project, set up in 2013, supports homeless people in Newham. They provide three core services: NEWdawn a winter night shelter, NEWday year-round daytime support services and NEWlife gardening workshops for local rough sleepers.

The deadline to apply for the next round of Community Fund grants is 26 June.

More information at www.london-cityairport.com/corporate/our-community/community-investment/community-fund

Sing along for care and comfort

Sing and Stretch for Joy sessions at Bonny Downs WELLcome Hub are free meet-ups for people living with dementia and their carers which offer dementia-friendly singing and chair-based yoga. Staff are Dementia Friends and can signpost to relevant support services.

19 May, 1.30pm – 3.30pm, 35 Vicarage Lane E6

Dementia Action Week takes place 18–24 May. For more information email Michelle.Farrell@bonnydowns.org

Fight for Peace new course

Fight for Peace has partnered with SCL Education Group to run a two-year full time course for young people aged 16 – 18 from their Academy in Newham.

The NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in

Sport and Physical Activity programme builds on the strengths in sport, mentoring, and youth development

Applications are open now with the course starting in September. Spaces are limited, so Fight for Peace encourages early applications by 24 May.

You can apply online through their website, or email education@fightforpeace.net for further information.

Get Involved in Citizen Science!

NEWHAM CITIZEN SCIENCE CIC

Hosted at the University of East London's Centre for Sustainability, our third free Newham Citizen Science Fair was a resounding success, with over 200 people in attendance. Our most popular event to date, attendees described the atmosphere as "family-friendly," "great for all ages," and "a positive and engaging environment for collaboration".

The fair explored many themes including negotiating AI as a community, a project aimed at using artificial intelligence to support local community-building.

But what is 'citizen science'? Citizen sci-



ence occurs when the public gets involved in inventing, co-producing, discovering and adopting new ideas and technologies. This grassroots approach to science is uniquely placed to understand local issues and develop meaningful solutions.

The field covers everything from increasing awareness, training, and

research participation to developing and improving useful new applications. It focuses on science that benefits society and individuals making it accessible through speech, the written word, and the arts.

As a collective of local citizens, we have now established the Newham Citizen Science Community Interest Company (CIC). Our goal is to support and generate projects that foster invention, skill-sharing, and participation across the Borough.

People who live, work, or study in Newham and would like to get involved, or simply stay connected, please visit the "Get Involved" section on our website – www.newham-citizen-science-fair.uk

LOCAL NOTICES

Published 24th April 2026

LICENSING ACT 2003

Application for a Variation of a Premises licence

BUTCHERS ROAD NEWSAGENTS (08/00587/LAPRE)

We Bharat Desai & Indravadan Patel have applied to Newham Council for a Variation of the Premises licence at **83 Butchers Road, Canning Town, London E16 1NE** so that the following licensable activities may be provided:

- The sale and supply of alcohol
- Monday to Saturdays 0600 hrs to 2200 hrs and
- Sundays 0700 hrs to 1900 hrs.

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, East Ham Town Hall, Barking Road, London E6 2RP (open 1pm to 4.45pm Monday to Friday), 02033731925 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 14th May, 2026.

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 or 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 an applicant to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

LICENSING ACT 2003

Application for a New Premises Licence

We Arabian kitchen Ltd have applied to NEWHAM COUNCIL for a premises licences for **Unit 11 34 Plashet Road, London E6 1AE** 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.

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 **08 May 2026**.

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 C. UN have applied to the London Borough of Newham for a premises licence to permit the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises at **43a Water Lane, Stratford, Newham, London, E15 4NL, United Kingdom** so that the licensable activities for the supply of alcohol for consumption Off Premises may be provided on the following days and hours:

- 08:00 TO 23:00 MONDAY - SATURDAY AND
- 08:00 TO 22:30 SUNDAY

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, East Ham Town Hall, Barking Road, East Ham, E6 2RP, (open 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday), 020 3373 1925, where details of the application may be inspected, any queries should be sent to licensing@newham.gov.uk

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 May 2026**.

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 an applicant to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

LICENSING ACT 2003

Application for a Variation of a Premises licence

I Mr Rajah Sounthararajah have applied to NEWHAM COUNCIL to vary the premises licence for **Food & Wine – Costcutter,169 High Street North, East Ham, London, E6 1JB** so that the following licensable activities may be provided on the following days and hours:

- Sale of Alcohol Mon-Sun 8am- 11pm.
- Amend condition 2 on current licence.

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 queries should be sent to licensing@newham.gov.uk.

Any representations against the application must be made in writing and received by the Licensing Team at the above address or via email, by no later than the **20.05.2026**.

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.

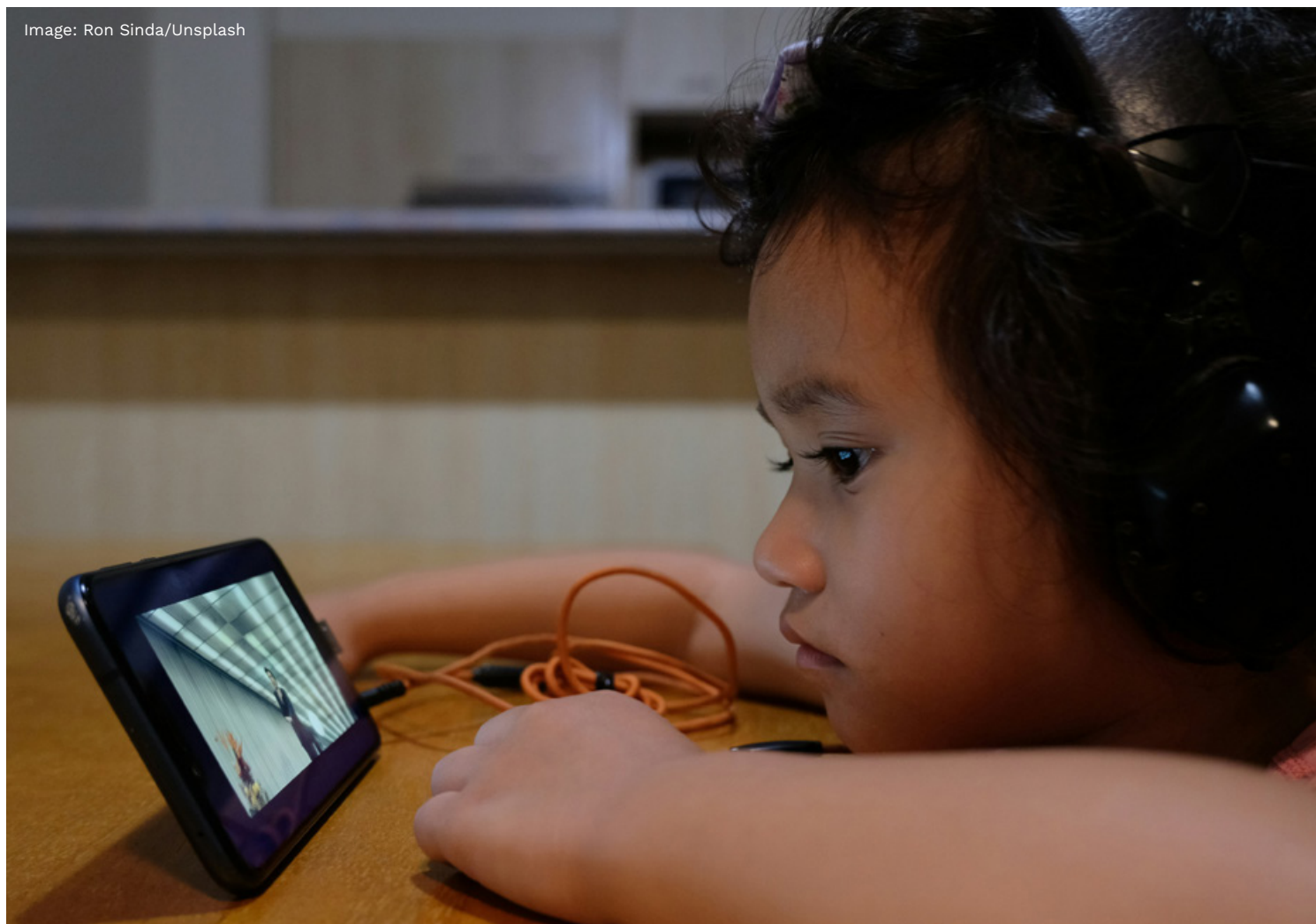
Note: It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to £5,000 for a person to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with the application.

Book your licence advert or notice with your local community newspaper

Email for a quote to licences@socialspider.com or call Klaudia Kiss 07732 000 430 or Mark Brown 07728 520 116
Next publication date: 29th May | Booking deadline: 27th May

TikTok boosts UEL work on creating safe online space for youngsters

Image: Ron Sinda/Unsplash



Researchers at the University of East London (UEL) are investigating how to empower parents to use the parental control tools offered by social media platforms effectively to provide safer online spaces for young people.

Professor Julia Davidson and the UEL team have been awarded \$50,000 (approximately £37,000) from TikTok to research how to better engage parents with online safety tools to support young people online.

Managed by Alexandra Deac, the project will investigate how features such as parental control dashboards, supervised accounts and usage limits are used by

the families they are designed to support.

The funding from TikTok is the first donation secured by the Child Online Harms Policy Think Tank, an independent academic initiative launched by UEL. It is led by Professor Davidson, focusing on developing evidence-based strategies and regulatory frameworks to protect young people from online risks, while balancing their rights to online participation.

Professor Davidson, a professor of Criminal Justice and Cybercrime at UEL said: "While major platforms have provided parents and carers with technical tools for online safety, research suggests that engagement with the tools is not as

consistent as it could be. Our research will look to understand the way in which families engage with these tools and to develop solutions with parents themselves, aiming to build a foundation for trust and collaboration within families."

The initial phase will analyse existing research on parental engagement in youth online safety, highlighting the barriers that families might face when using digital safety tools.

In the second phase, the research team will develop and pilot resources and solutions designed to empower parents and caregivers in navigating online safety. The findings and impact of these tools will be then widely shared by the Think Tank.

Friday is danger day for drivers

If you're planning on driving in Newham on a Friday between 6-7pm, you may want to use extra caution. Recent research completed by Whites Traffic Management revealed that this was statistically the most likely time for road traffic accidents across the Borough.

And September is the worst month for accidents.

The figures, based on over ten years of the Department for Transport's road safety statistics, indicate that drivers are more likely to experience collisions in Newham during the weekdays, with the highest number of collisions occurring on a Friday.

In contrast, the least likely day across Newham for crashes is a Sunday, and fewest collisions happened between 4-5am, compared to the rest of the day.

Newham is 3rd riskiest area for outdoor play

Outdoor play equipment specialists outdoortoy analysed UK government data to create an overall child safety score, revealing where families can feel most and least confident letting children play outside.

Newham came third after Stoke on Trent and Blackpool.

Researchers looked at factors such as road safety and anti social behaviour.

You can find the research in full here: outdoortoy.com/blogs/campaigns/safest-areas-for-outdoor-play

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*a selection of our regular stockists, but it is not an exhaustive list

New academic building will train healthcare workforce of the future

Construction has begun on a new University of East London (UEL) academic building at the Stratford Health Campus. The £45 million development, located on Water Lane, will play a central role in training the healthcare workforce of the future while supporting a new, integrated model of education, research and community healthcare.



It will include cutting-edge clinical skills centres, a prototype University Primary Care facility, and flexible teaching and learning environments designed to reflect the realities of modern healthcare. The building will also expand placement opportunities for students preparing to enter the NHS and wider health and social care workforce. It is scheduled to open in July 2027.



SOMETHING'S BREWING



Phil Mellows' fancy is turning to a summer pint – and plenty of goals

Spring, and a drinker's fancy lightly turns to lager. And cider. And other bright, refreshing concoctions. Something switches in our heads as the days grow longer and warmer – though, in the British style, hesitantly in a two steps forward, one step back kind of way.

Publicans at this time of year can be especially anxious, peering out their windows for signs of the sun. Having survived the dreaded months of January and February, the future of their business might hang precariously on the weather. Probably not a sensible long-term strategy, but it's the way things are.

A good summer, for many pubs, is the key to a successful year. Combine that with the coming men's football World Cup and the trade's woes may briefly be forgotten.

Starting 11 June, and continuing for six weeks, the games will be played across



Image: Donovan Kelly/Pexels

the whole of north and central America meaning that they'll be kicking off in the UK between 5pm, perfect accompaniment to an after-work pint, and 5am, which could be more challenging, even for breakfast.

West Ham Park goes to London Archives

ALAN COOPER

Friends of West Ham Park

A group of 13 West Ham Parkers – Friends, employees, volunteers – met at 9.30 outside Stratford station one Thursday morning in early April for a visit to the London Archives at Clerkenwell.

So easy to get to now – ten minutes on the Elizabeth Line to Farringdon, then a 10 minute walk up through a historic part of London.

We had an arranged group visit and tour with a charming guide named Jack, who happens to live near West Ham Park, and who gave us a fascinating tour of the archives as well as getting out many documents related to the history and current developments of the park.

The London Archives welcomes all visitors, and their staff could not be



Image: Cristina Gottardi/Pexels

more friendly! There is currently a free exhibition of Londoners on Trial and a Spotlight on The Africa Centre.

You can discover your family history. Do you think you might have cockney ancestors? If so, The London Archives may hold the records that unlock the secrets of your past. There are many family history records, although mainly for those further into London as East and West Ham were part of Essex.

The digital documents are digital copies of items in the collections which are available to view and contain nearly 1000 digital documents, including the oldest document, a charter from William the Conqueror dating from 1067!

There is one of the finest collections of historical images and film of London in the world, dating from the 15th century to the present day (London Picture Archive, londonpicturearchive.org.uk). You'll find photographs, prints, drawings, watercolours, maps, videos, audio and films which illustrate a wide variety of aspects of life in the capital. The London Picture Archive is the website for image collections – start there if you're looking for old London photos, maps or prints. And just now there is this exhibition: *Switching the Lens – Rediscovering Londoners of African, Caribbean, Asian and Indigenous Heritage 1561 to 1840.*

thelondonarchives.org

For England fans, though, the timings aren't bad, at least at the beginning, with two group stage matches at 9pm and one at 10pm. Pubs should be able to get extensions to allow customers to stay until the final whistle.

Of course, you can watch on the settee at home, but it's not quite the same. If the pub gets everything right – the big screen, the sound, good service so there's no queue at the bar, and perhaps snacks and hand-held food to sustain your energy into the second half, with an excited crowd around you, it's the next best thing to being at the ground.

A good summer, for many pubs, is the key to a successful year. Combine that with the coming men's football World Cup and the trade's woes may briefly be forgotten.

The opportunity is such that it's not just specialist sports bars that will be welcoming fans. Unless they make the brave decision to be a football-free zone (and there's certainly an audience for that) coverage on BBC and ITV will allow every pub to simply set up a screen and miss none of the action – in the tills as well as on the pitch.

The biggest win may come, though, if the sun and the sport entice people back into the habit of popping into their local to enjoy the conviviality on a regular basis. A pub, after all, is not just for summer.

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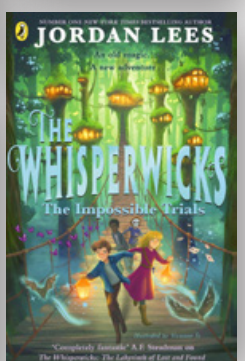
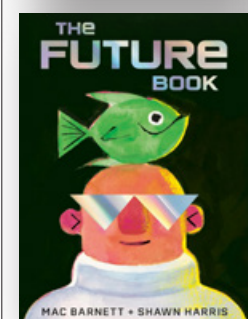
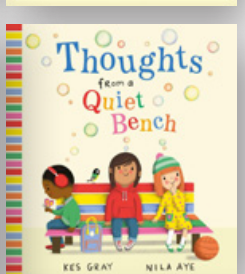
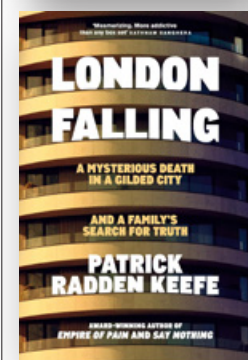


Good reads in Newham

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

- **London Falling: A Mysterious Death in a Gilded City and a Family's Search for Truth**
By Patrick Radden Keefe
- **The Edge of Revolution: The General Strike that Shook Britain**
By David Torrance
- **Bread and War: A Ukrainian Story of Food, Bravery and Hope**
By Felicity Spector
- **The Future Book**
(Illustrated by Shawn Harris)
By Mac Barnett
- **Thoughts from a Quiet Bench**
(Illustrated by Nila Aye)
By Kes Gray
- **The Whisperwicks: The Impossible Trials**
(Illustrated by Vivienne To)
By Jordan Lees

– Compiled by David Ceen, Newham Bookshop



For full details or to request a copy, visit: newhambooks.co.uk

Reverend Sally builds a cool and caring vision of community

CHRIS EK

One brisk February morning, I met Sally - The Reverend Dr. Sally Mann - probably the coolest, most caring vicar I've met.

A fourth generation East Ham resident, our vicar also has two generations to follow...so six generations of Newhammers.

Her great-grandmother was a non-practising Jewish migrant of very, very poor background who had sixteen children. The fourth child was Sally's gran, Rose, who was saved from abuse and desperate poverty by Pastor Howe and his wife.

Rescued as a young teenager, Nana Rose converted to Christianity. All the women of Sally's family are now involved in the church. Who would have believed that little girl, Nana Rose, would cultivate generations of strong women?

Dr. Sally was the first of them to go to university. Already a mother of three, she completed a theology and philosophy degree, loved academia, and received funding for an MPhil at the Oxford Whitefield Institute, followed by a PhD - seven years postgraduate studies - in philosophy. She has been lecturing in sociology at Greenwich University since 2007.

"What I am most proud of is youth work, it pushed me to my edge. Kids can be very challenging if there is early child-

hood trauma,' she said, 'no one should be defined by the worst they've done.'

As a sociologist, Dr. Sally learned that deviance can help society become better. When asked about the many homeless people who have lived with her family over the years, she said: "My purpose in life is hospitality. People of all faiths are welcome, including atheists. Twelve years ago, our Bonny Downs church set up NEWway homeless charity."

Last year, Dr. Sally and her husband of 37 years got permission to convert their old church hall into an Urban Abbey. They sold their own home to help fund this project, which will include a community space, a chapel and supported housing for vulnerable individuals. In old abbeys, people used to share work, eat and sleep together. Dr. Sally said: "For homelessness the answer is community, not accommodation."

She added: "Thanks to Yvette Cooper's Act of Parliament sandwiching Palestine Action in between two death cult groups as a terrorist organisation, I was arrested by twelve policemen as I sat on the square outside Houses of Parliament - for protesting against genocide, against drones being built on UK territory used to bomb children in Palestine." Whether to her parishioners or from a stage at the Together Alliance last month, the Reverend Dr. Sally Mann likes to remind us, 'Jesus was a refugee.'



Sally Mann image by Philippa King

Artists welcome at the 'Cockney Guggenheim'

LORRAINE TAPPER

An amazing opportunity has recently become available for new and established artists in Newham. This new initiative which is called Artist In Residence is being offered by The Tower Gallery. The Memorial Community Church, based in Plaistow, and Rosetta Art Centre In Stratford have jointly created an exhibition space in the East Tower.

Three exhibitions a year have been held in this space since 2013, and the gallery has been affectionately called "The Cockney Guggenheim".

If you are unfamiliar with the term Artist in Residence (Air) it is a structured opportunity where artists, writers, or creatives are hosted by an organisation to produce new work, research, or engage with a community.

The Air Programme is a new offering from the Tower Gallery. Each Artist In Residence is time limited to three months, and there will be three artists in each three-month slot. One of the main benefits of the Air Programme is the use of free studio space which is located at the top of the East Tower.

The programme grew out of the opportunities for local Newham artists, or those with a connection to Newham, to exhibit their work in the gallery. Exhibition opportunities are for artists at any level and present excellent networking opportunities.

The programme has been several years in the making.

Activities included in the programme ensure each artist gets a full experi-

ence as well as having access to studio space. Some of these activities include being involved in the preparations for an upcoming exhibition such as selection and curation of the art.

Artists will be encouraged to run their own workshops and have an open studio for people to spend time with them.

If this is something you might be interested in, email: towergallerye13@gmail.com



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SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Neandra Etienne



©West Ham United

West Ham United Women's **Riko Ueki** was part of the Japan International team that won the Asia Cup 2026. Riko was awarded the Golden Boot, scoring six goals in four games and averaging a goal every 37 minutes.

Katie Zelem, who is supporting Soccer Aid for UNICEF, told *Newham Voices*: "Riko is one of the most humble people you will meet. We fired some cannons and all showed her our love and support."

For the first time West Ham United women's team will take part in World Sevens Football (W7F) when the tournament comes to London between 28 - 30 May.

whufc.com/en/teams/womens-team

West Ham United Foundation staff and participants attended a Downing Street reception hosted by the Prime Minister to celebrate 25 years of the Football Foundation, a charity set up by the Government, The FA and the Premier League.

CEO of the West Ham United Foundation, Joseph Lyons who attended the event said: "Their support has made a huge difference to us as a Foundation - from our 3G pitch to our community hub at The Foundry. Having some of our young people from Premier League Kicks there to experience it as well made it even more special."

whufc.com



©West Ham United

Plasnet Park Bowls Club has 15 matches from 30 April to the end of May. The notable May home games are against North Greenwich, in the WEEL Cribbs league on 27 at 5:30pm, and Wanstead in the Ilford and District League on 31 May at 2:30pm.

Full Cycle community bike ride through Forest Gate's cycling history will be led by trained marshalls.

- 17 May 11am West Ham Park (Margery Gate)
- 23 May 12pm Etty and Tyler (Upton Lane)

framesofmind.uk

Congratulations to Liverpool FC player **Rio Ngumoha** who scored a goal against Fulham FC and was awarded the Player of the Match on 11 April.

At aged 17 Rio, who is from Newham, is Liverpool's youngest ever Premier League goalscorer at Anfield.

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

Support **Central Park FC** in their League Cup 3rd Place Play Off and League Cup Finals Day matches on 9 May, Heybridge Swifts FC Stadium, Maldon, CM9 8FJ

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

Newham Swords are offering free children and adults taster sessions alongside their May Training Camp. All equipment provided.

25 May, 10am - 12pm, Sportsdock, UEL (Docklands Campus) E16
newhamswords.org.uk

London APSA Youth Project (LAYP) football sessions for girls aged 9-12 aim to increase participation, enjoyment, and confidence among young girls in the local community.

Sessions are delivered by qualified coaches every Tuesday, from 5 May, 7pm - 8pm at Little Ilford School.

Any parents wishing to enroll their child can contact LAYP through their website: layp.org

West Ham United's Premier League home game against Arsenal has been changed to 10 May, with a kick off time of 4.30pm

The London derby will be broadcast by Sky Sports.
whufc.com

Aston Villa player **Ezri Konsa** scored in both legs of the Europa League Quarter final. Ezri, who is from Newham, was given the captain's armband during the second half of the 2nd leg.

The Europa League semi-final 2nd leg and final take place in May.

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

Jermain Defoe will be putting on his England shirt to play in the Soccer Aid for UNICEF event.

Jermain, who is from Newham, said: "I love taking part in Soccer Aid for UNICEF. Playing for your country is always a privilege. This year I want to add to my five goals and become the all-time top goal scorer at Soccer Aid, for England to get the win and to raise as much money as we can."



©A1 Judo Club

A special 20th anniversary extended half-time show will also take place.

Soccer Aid for UNICEF, 31 May, London Stadium, adult tickets start from £20 and juniors from £10.

socceraid.org.uk

A1 Judo Club is offering a free lesson for adults at the club. Adults can try judo anytime in May for free for their first session, any Wednesday or Friday 6-7pm at East Ham leisure centre. No experience needed - all levels welcome.

To register email info@ajjudo.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

Make your health a priority this May

SHEILA NURSINHULU

Personal health and wellbeing is the focus for Newham this month with Mental Health Awareness Week (11-17 May) arguably the most significant week in the monthly calendar.

Well Newham and Healthwatch Newham are launching the *Healthy Mind* initiative with workshops at the Stratford Library and community hubs in Canning Town. Organisations like Mind in Tower Hamlets and Newham also provide advocacy and support services for residents experiencing mental health challenges.

The issue of coping with death is a focus of Dying Matters Awareness Week (4-10 May) with the theme *Let's Talk About Death and Dying*, encouraging everyone to break the taboos surrounding end-of-life care, loss and bereavement. Newham Council will host an information stall on 6 May, at the Stratford Shopping Centre from 10am to 3pm, where people can get bereavement support and advice on planning ahead.

May also gives us an opportunity to celebrate our nursing community

on International Nurses Day (12 May) which is a moment to thank the staff at Newham University Hospital and our local GP surgeries.

With that in mind the newly formed Health Workers For Equity, based in Newham, is campaigning for better working conditions for health staff, many of whom face harassment or discrimination.

There is also Deaf Awareness Week (4-10 May) which will raise awareness of the communication needs of the 12 million deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the UK. Look out for local "Sign and Dine" style events or workshops hosted by community groups aimed at making Newham's public spaces more accessible.

Meanwhile, May is also National Walking Month. People can explore the Line (London's art walk) or the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and Newham Council often promotes "Active Newham" walking groups during this month.

Finally, this is also Local and Community History Month and a chance to celebrate Newham's rich heritage. Try out, for example, the Archives and Local Studies search room at Stratford Library to discover the stories that shaped our streets.

Are the Hammers on a roll?



Mickey Ambrose has hopes for West Ham, but not so much for the wounded Spurs



These are turbulent times for the North London teams with Arsenal facing a race to the finishing line for Premier League glory, while West Ham and Tottenham Hotspurs jostle at the bottom to avoid the drop to the Championship.

I took time to meet with former England, Newcastle United and Queens Park Rangers striker Les Ferdinand who played for both Spurs and West Ham United to get his take on the plight of both clubs as they battle to avoid relegation from the Premier League.

In an exclusive interview for *Newham Voices*, Les said of West Ham: "They have bounced more than most in the last 20 years so they have experience of it and they have shown a bit of momentum following their 4-0 win against Wolves which should stand them in good stead for the remaining games."

On the other hand, looking at Tottenham, the former forward said: "Tottenham have not been relegated for nearly 50 years, It would hit Tottenham harder."



Mickey and Les Ferdinand

Even more so following their 2-2 draw against Brighton when Xavi Simons hit a stunning screamer which curled into the top right hand corner and sent the Spurs fans wild and sparked incredible scenes of happiness, joy, delight and relief by the near 63,000 crowd. But French interna-

tional Georginio Rutter had other ideas and came off the bench to break Spurs' hearts in the 95th minute with a sweet left foot finish that left Spurs rooted in the bottom three on 31 points.

The Hammers on the other hand continue to fight. A hard fought draw at Crystal Palace was important, but the Wolves game was the moment when West Ham really felt their survival bid picking up pace. The key moment was when the jab from Taty Castellanos which rolled beyond the reach of José Sá and crawled towards the Wolves goal. Manager Nuno Espírito Santo's side looked unrecognisable from the doomed bunch who dropped seven points off 17th place in early January.

This is a different West Ham. This is a team with a punch in attack and, if this daring escape act does end with Premier League football secured for another season, a key part of the story will be how Nuno strengthened his squad in the January window.

While Axel Disasi has brought order in defence, both Castellanos and Pablo Felipe have combined to create the modern equivalent of John Hartson and Paul Kitson.

West Ham, after all, have form in this department. They were rescued and inspired in 1997 after signing Hartson and Kitson halfway through a difficult campaign and, 29 years on, they have given themselves a fighting chance

thanks to the mid-season arrivals of Pablo and Castellanos.

They are a messy but effective duo. Pablo is yet to open his account since joining from Gil Vicente but he offers work rate and also provided a flash of quality in this thrashing of Wolves.

Castellanos's fourth goal since joining from Lazio played its part, and he had another 66 seconds later. Wolves, bottom of the league, folded. They had no response when Jarrod Bowen and Crysencio Summerville raised the tempo on the flanks. As their resistance faded, they were unable to stop Konstantinos Mavropanos scoring a fourth as West Ham rejoiced while plunging Tottenham into the bottom three for the first time this season.

West Ham's form has taken a positive turn: they have only lost three of their last 11 games.

Nevertheless, Nuno was typically circumspect after beating his old side. "It doesn't change anything," he said. "Today we did the job."

The clock is ticking for both of these famous London clubs.

In next month's edition I will be speaking exclusively to Harry Redknapp on his return from the jungle of *I'm A Celebrity South Africa*.

Come On You Irons!

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

Film tribute to West Ham legend Clyde

MICKEY AMBROSE

Transforming The Beautiful Game: The Clyde Best Story a Pioneer In The English First Division 1968 - 1976

Just two years after England won the world cup in 1966, a 17-year-old Bermudian-born Clyde Best arrived in England for a trial with West Ham United. No one actually met him at the airport but Clyde managed to make his way to West Ham station mistakenly thinking that was where the Upton Park/Boleyn Ground was situated.

While wandering around the streets of East London with his suitcase an elderly gentleman, an angel in disguise, led him to the mother of John and Clive Charles who just happened to play for West Ham.

Little did Clyde know that he would be living with the first black player to play for West Ham, John Charles. Tell your children and grandchildren because on one Easter weekend in 1972, West Ham United became the first team ever to start with three Black players in one game, making English League history. Clive Charles, Ade Coker, and Clyde Best, the original Three Degrees, the nick-

name given to them after the successful American female vocal group.

Clyde Best was the most high profile Black player of his generation. Manager Ron Greenwood, his mentor, gave him his debut on 25 August 1969 aged just 18 against Arsenal. He played alongside the GREAT Bobby Moore, Captain of both West Ham and England, Geoff Hurst, Martin Peters the '66 World Cup winners. Also on that teamsheet were West Ham legends the late Billy Bonds and Sir Trevor Brooking.

Clyde scored 58 goals in 218 appearances between 1969 and 1976 helping pave the way for future generations of Black footballers in England such as Viv Anderson, John Barnes, Garth Crooks Ian Wright, Les Ferdinand, Bukayo Saka and Marcus Rashford and many more.

At the premiere of the tribute film, *Transforming the Beautiful Game The Clyde Best Story* at Sadler's Wells in March, I asked Clyde about his debut game, scoring his first goal against Halifax in the League Cup nine days later and his time at West Ham - how he felt running out in front of the West Ham faithful back in the day. He said: "I was nervous but the more times I touched the ball I gained in confidence and my



Mickey, Clyde and my Dad John (92 years old)

teammates were fantastic, so supportive." Clyde credits Poplar born Harry Redknapp for protecting him against racism. "Harry and others in the team stood shoulder to shoulder with me, we are all one," Clyde said.

Redknapp recalls: "Clyde was a pioneer but it came at a price. Almost everywhere we played he took terrible racist abuse. He was such a special fellow, a gentle giant and so it was hard

for the rest of us to witness. The special thing about Clyde was that he truly believed it was his job, his vocation to pave the way for future black players," said Redknapp.

Take a look at this video: <https://share.google/aUuGJ7WxqwbvbhLwW>

On a personal note I tricked my 92-year-old dad John by telling him to meet me outside Stratford Station at 5pm. 'Wear your best suit and trilby hat.' He didn't have a clue where he was going or that he would be meeting Clyde Best and Ade Coker.

Thank you Clyde for all the fantastic memories.

Back on the air

Tune into the May CommuniTEA Chat shows on ReviveFM, hosted by Chief Reporter and Arts and Culture Editor Neandra Etienne, and keep an eye on our social media platforms for details on how to win tickets to Soccer Aid for UNICEF at the London Stadium on 31 May.

WE NEED YOUR HELP



Give us a break! To support *Newham Voices*, use this paypal link: bit.ly/giveNVabreak. Contact us for bank details.

- 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.

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