Newham Voices
Community News and Views

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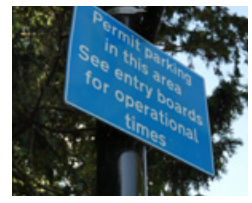
Issue 71 | November 2026

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Power sharing doubt after Council backlash

NEWHAM VOICES REPORTERS

A row over the political leadership of eight community neighbourhoods, which forced the Mayor of Newham Forhad Hussain to backtrack on his plan for Labour-only appointments, has cast a shadow over the Mayor's pledge to work with other parties.

The leader of Newham Independents, Mehmood Mirza, says that Forhad Hussain will have to change his approach if he wants to collaborate successfully with the Independents on Newham Council.

"The Mayor frequently talks about collaboration, but collaboration must be demonstrated through actions and decisions, not just words," he said in a social media post.

He said the Mayor should take responsibility for the time wasted over dealing with the issue. "So much energy and resources have been wasted," he said. "Council officers' time and, most importantly, residents have been left waiting.

"The Mayor must recognise that democracy means respecting all elected representatives, regardless of their political affiliation."

The May elections were a shock to Labour – more people voted for opposition parties – and for the first time in the history of the Borough, the Labour party fell short of an overall majority, becoming a borough with no single party in overall control.

The party won 26 seats, still the largest party, but the opposition – Newham Independents (24 seats) and the Green Party (16 seats) – denied them a clear majority. However, the opposition fell short of the two-thirds voting majority needed to block the Mayor's budget.

At the time Hussain told *Newham Voices* and the Local Democracy Reporting Service: "The lesson is quite clear, we need to improve our relationship with our residents."



Mayor Forhad Hussain (left) has made a concession to opposition leaders (right)

Newham is one of a record nine councils in London where no party won a majority of councillors, and Hussain said the ruling Labour group (still the largest party) would have to "do things in a different way now, in terms of the politics, in terms of working together".

At the time he hinted that his leadership group would reflect the mixed composition of the Council. "I've got to think about who I'm going to add to the team. I'll be making announcements in the next few months about those new positions," he said.

The Mayor has used his executive authority to appoint only Labour members to the nine Cabinet posts. At the same time Labour agreed with the political opponents to place the leadership of four Council committees which scrutinise Cabinet decisions in the hands of the opposition parties.

> At a hastily-arranged meeting of his leading Labour councillors yesterday, Hussain said he was "happy to partially accept that recommendation".

Labour also agreed to support the appointment of Nate Higgins, of the Green Party, to chair the Council.

But in October, the adversarial nature of these power-sharing arrangements was exposed when Hussain faced a political backlash from opposition councillors who strongly challenged his proposal to appoint only Labour members to lead the eight community neighbourhoods which are being established to advise on policy decisions.

The other parties were furious that Labour planned to take the lead in areas where voters had explicitly elected opposition councillors.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, led by the opposition, called in the decision by Labour leaders to appoint their own people to lead the community neighbourhoods.

On 21 October at a Council leaders' meeting to review the decision, Hussain said: "I want to show collaboration".

He said that opposition leaders would, in fact, be chosen to lead some neighbourhoods, but warning, as reported by *Newham Voices*, that they would be expected to "put politics aside and put residents first".

He said he made the decision after "reflecting on this quite a bit" and following "a huge debate".

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Community News and Views

By local people, for local people

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

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Council Notebook *By Peter Landman*

Two-year plan to keep local youngsters out of jail

Peter Landman *reports from the 5 October Council meeting*

The Council has adopted a two-year youth and justice plan. The plan is a requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The main objectives are to prevent young people in the justice system from offending or reoffending and getting themselves into custody.

At the same time Councillor Imam Haque, Labour, and the cabinet member for Community Safety, reported on the introduction of patrols with the police in "community safety hot spot areas".

There is also a strategic plan involving police and health staff with women who feel unsafe in public places, CCTV upgrade and appointment of eight further enforcement officers.

One popular section on the Council agenda concerns questions from councillors, when councillors who have asked questions have the opportunity to speak to them, comment on written answers, or ask a supplementary question.

However there were 35 questions, and the meeting could only allot time for 18.

Among them Councillor Sophia Naqvi, Independents, asked for more detail of lessons learned from the death of five year old Aalim Ahmed who fell from a 15th floor Council flat in Jacobs House near Upton Park, *Newham Voices* September 2026.

She asked how many young children were living in other Council high rise blocks. Councillor John Gray, Labour, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet member for Housing, undertook to get more information from senior officers and respond to the supplementary question.

Another Councillor, John Morris, Labour, asked a supplementary question on the escalating costs of freedom passes to the Council. This has risen from £12 million in 2025-2026 to a projected £18 million in 2030-2031. Has this been taken into account in the budget of the Council, he asked.

Councillor Zulfiqar Ali, Labour, Cabinet Member for Finance Resources, undertook to obtain more information from senior councillors and respond.

Councillor Mehmood Mirza, Independents, asked about the appointments of Lead Members to community neighbourhoods.

He objected to the way the Mayor had himself appointed Labour lead members in all eight neighbourhoods (see page one).

Because of this, the Independents would not be participating in the community neighbourhoods, he said. Councillor Kelly Drake, seconding the motion on behalf of the Green Party said that her party would not be participating either.


Image: Aedrian Salazar/Unsplash

Councillor Simon Rush, Labour argued that the Mayor had a mandate to make the appointments. The motion was passed with 34 votes for and 22 abstentions.

Motion on Celebrating Excellence in our Schools

Councillor Thelma Odoi, Labour, referred to the number of high grades Newham pupils had achieved in GCSEs and A-levels. She added that "behind each success there is a story of support" in particular, from teachers, support staff, parents, and teachers who gave free coaching.

She added that that there had also been success stories in vocational tests and examinations. She asked for a Council Celebration of Excellence.

Councillor Dr Jack Pickard, Green Party urged that the Council should not only concentrate on "those at the top of the class" but also of less fortunate special needs pupils.

He maintained they are not receiving the support they need. An example is the delay in preparing Education Health and Care Plans. He abstained from the vote on the motion.

Councillor Nasreen Shamima, Independents, suggested an annual Mayors award with the categories academic excellence, vocational skills, and personal challenges. The motion was passed.

Motion on Adapting to Climate Change

Councillor Rob Callender, Greens, gave a warning that too much fossil fuel was being burned.

He felt that Newham has a duty now to prevent children from living under the consequences of climate change. His motion called for the Council to reaffirm its commitment to tackling climate change and to encourage residents to adapt.

The motion was passed.

In his report before the meeting he listed planting trees, use of derelict land for growing home produced food, sustainable transport and local initiatives as ways to tackle climate change.

Due to the pressure of time, the remaining motions were passed without debate.

These included motions to protect migrants from immigration raids, on information as to how the £750,000 Council grant for burial places will be spent, and for mandatory criminal record checks (DBS checks) for Councillors.

For more information email Councillor John Gray at **John Gray @newham.gov.uk**

Once a month not enough?

Sign up for our newsletter so you get the biggest stories from Newham every second week!

Finally, we're on our way to Europe?



Image: Christian Lue/Unsplash; Inset: Stephen Timms

Will the Eurostar ever stop at Stratford 'International'? It's been a 40-year campaign for local **MP Sir Stephen Timms** *but now he has received powerful support from London Mayor Sir Sadiq Khan who has reopened negotiations. So the dream of direct access to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam may finally come true.*

In 1987, I was elected Chair of Newham Council's Planning Committee, and Diana Kershaw was appointed Head of Planning. Soon afterwards, she told me that British Rail – as it then was – wanted a second London terminus, in addition to the terminus already at Waterloo, on the planned high speed rail link to the Channel Tunnel.

Their shortlist was Willesden, Kings Cross, St Pancras and Stratford. I decided to start a campaign for Stratford International, and the Council quickly backed the idea. Local people backed it too. An opinion poll showed 80 percent support among people living around Stratford.

To begin with, the idea seemed far-fetched. The new railway was due to run south of the Thames, so taking it to Stratford involved persuading the Government to adopt a radically different route. But we thought it was worth a try, if only to highlight that there was a large area of unused brownfield land around Stratford, not far from Central London, with vast potential.

The campaign took 11 years! It was my top priority as Council Leader in 1990-94, and the theme of my maiden speech in Parliament in June 1994. In 1997, John Prescott – who backed the idea as Shadow Transport Secretary right from the start – became Deputy Prime Minister. In 1998, he decided that there should be a station at Stratford on the way to the terminus at St Pancras. That decision opened up the possibility of hosting the Olympic Games with the main stadium at Stratford. The International Olympic Committee decided in 2005 that the Games should be in London in 2012. Massive change around Stratford has been unleashed by that decision.

But, although we have had "Stratford International" station for almost 20 years, international trains have never stopped there. Eurostar was never interested, always claiming that the extra journey time couldn't be justified.

I hope things are about to change. Sadiq Khan has added his powerful voice to the campaign. New operators, like Virgin, will be competing with Eurostar. And, if traffic on the line grows as hoped, St Pancras will soon be full. Passengers for London will need the option of boarding and disembarking somewhere else – and that will be Stratford.

Although we have had "Stratford International" station for almost twenty years, international trains have never stopped there.

I'm hoping that next year – 40 years after the campaign started – we will finally get confirmation of our international services, providing a further boost to jobs and opportunities in East London, and another step in the economic centre of gravity of London moving east.

Power sharing doubt after Council backlash

– continued from page 1

Meanwhile, Peter Landman reporting on the meeting, writes:

The meeting adopted three recommendations. The first to seek appointments of members from the opposition parties for leadership in neighbourhoods where they had achieved an electoral majority. The Mayor agreed to make opposition council appointments "within a few weeks".

The meeting also agreed to establish governance rules for Lead Members and Ward Councillors in neighbourhoods to put in place procedures to settle disagreements. This and questions about the accountability of lead members will be agreed in January next year.

Public consultation strategy

There was also discussion on resident participation with plans to arrange public meetings. It was agreed that the executive will present arrangements for good resident participation to the Overview and Scrutiny committee by the end of January.

A spokesperson for Newham Council responding to a question over Labour control of the Council leadership told *Newham Voices*:

"The Executive Mayor of Newham was elected in May this year with a personal mandate and the responsibility to appoint his own cabinet, which is busy getting on with the job of delivering for local people.

"The Mayor values collaboration, with members from all political groups working together where appropriate".

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10 am - 1 pm

Newham Sixth Form
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10 am - 1 pm

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16-18



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Major transformation for Newham College at Stratford

Newham College London officially unveiled in October the new A Block development and upgraded skilled trades facilities at its Stratford Campus.

The opening marks the completion of a three-year project to strengthen specialist vocational training for 16-18s and adults across a range of industry sectors.

The formal opening ceremony was led by Jamie Purser, Principal and Chief Executive and Paul Jackson, Chair of Governors, Newham College London, and James Asser, MP for West Ham and Beckton (Pictured right).

Stratford Campus, located on Welfare Road, has undergone one of the most significant periods of investment in its history, with major improvements across teaching, learning and social spaces.

Formerly known as West Ham Technical Institute, a technical and vocational facility has existed since 1898, providing education to the local community for more nearly 130 years.

The redevelopment includes:

- Modern teaching classrooms
- Flexible learning and social spaces for students
- Improved accessibility throughout the building
- Sustainable design features
- A green energy roof incorporating solar panels



Alongside the A Block development, the College has also invested in skilled trades facilities. Major improvement works have created additional dedicated workshop covering painting and decorating, bricklaying as well as carpentry and joinery.

The new facilities complement existing specialist workshops and training spaces in plumbing, electrical installation and motor vehicle servicing.

Principal and Chief Executive, Jamie Purser, said the project "is about the re-imagining of Stratford Campus as a whole. We have strengthened and enhanced specialist training areas for construction and skilled trades, the green economy, automotive engineering and electric vehicle training. They speak to the jobs being created now and the skills that will be needed in the future."

Nelson students take stage at the Royal Albert Hall

Pupils from Nelson Primary School in Newham are preparing to take to the Royal Albert Hall stage on Monday 9 November.

They will form part of the *Music for Youth Schools Proms*, performing a highlight of this year's programme: the world premiere of *As I Rise*, a major new commission by composer James B. Wilson, with lyrics by poet and recent Children's Laureate Wales, Alex Wharton.

Inspired by space exploration and NASA's Artemis missions, the spectacular work brings together a massed children's choir and full orchestra to celebrate human ambition, innovation and the extraordinary possibilities of working together.

The performance is part of Music for Youth's *Accelerando* programme, which is supporting 12 primary schools across London to develop music-making in the classroom and help address the critical shortage of music teachers in schools.

Through specialist training and support, the programme equips teachers with the skills and confidence to inspire their pupils and nurture musical talent, widening access to high-quality music education.

The project offers Nelson Primary School pupils an opportunity to be part of an ambitious musical collaboration at one of the UK's most prestigious concert venues.

Over two evenings, the *Music For Youth Proms* will see more than 3,000 young performers from every corner of the UK take to the stage.


Image: Music for Youth Schools Proms

Down in the mouth: a dental crisis for children

Tooth decay among some of Newham's youngest children has created a dental crisis that ranks the Borough among the worst areas in the country.

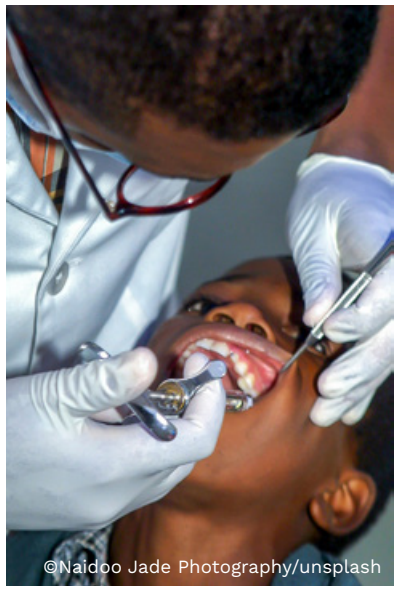
According to research from Practice Radar just over 40 percent of five-year-olds in Newham have had tooth decay, against 22.4 percent in the rest of England. That is the second highest of the 229 council areas in the survey.

And 51.5 percent of children in Newham saw an NHS dentist in the year to March 2026, significantly under England's 58.9 percent. That is up from two years earlier, so it is improving, but it is still behind.

Newham is one of 23 council areas in England where decay is significantly worse than the national rate and fewer children see an NHS dentist than across England.

The decay figures are from the national survey of five-year-olds (OHID, 2023/24). A child counts if any tooth is decayed, filled or taken out because of decay.

The NHS figures are from the NHS Business Services Authority. Every council is in the full study, with a lookup by area: **practiceradar.co.uk/blog/childrens-tooth-decay-nhs-dentistry-by-council**


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Foundation tribute to ‘amazing achievements’ of local youngsters

Young people from schools and colleges across Newham received prestigious Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Awards presented at two live events in October.

The awards recognise 147 winners aged 11–25 for their contributions to their school/college or club. Winners received medallions and framed certificates, along with a £300 grant for them to spend to benefit their school/college or youth group.

In addition, 19 adults received Leader Awards for demonstrating outstanding ability to motivate young people. They were presented with a medallion and a framed certificate.

The Foundation has invested more than £6m in Newham since funding started. It was set up by local businessman Sir Jack Petchey, a multi-millionaire property magnate, who came from working class origins to build one of Britain’s most successful businesses. The entrepreneur, visionary and philanthropist died in 2024 aged 98.

Among the latest winners are:

Ava, 13, from the Deborah Day Theatre School Trust

Ava won the Jack Petchey Award for her outstanding dedication and determination in pursuing her passion for performing arts. After successfully navigating a highly competitive audition process that included four recalls, she secured a role in the West End production of Matilda, where she spent six months performing and inspiring others through her hard work, perseverance and belief in what can be achieved through commitment and self-confidence.

Ava decided to spend her £300 Award Grant on sweatshirts for fellow students, promoting TIRED (Trying to Improve Racial Equality in the Dance Industry), as well as a celebration event for her peer group.



Adelina, 12, from Brampton Manor Academy

Adelina won the award for her outstanding leadership, confidence and commitment to making a positive difference within her school and wider community. As an active contributor to assemblies and Year Representative meetings, she has been a strong voice for fellow students, while also leading a successful donation drive for the Newham Food Bank and demonstrating a dedication to both academic excellence and community action.

She decided to spend her £300 Award Grant on a pizza party for all Year 7 Form Representatives. The celebration brought together 32 students to recognise their contributions to the school community and thank them for their hard work and leadership.



Logan, 12, who attends Lister Community School

Logan won for being an exceptional role model who consistently strives for excellence in both his learning and his support for others. Through his confidence, creativity and leadership, he played a key role in a fundraising project for homelessness, helping his class raise more than £600 for Crisis, including through a musical performance.



He decided to spend his £300 award grant on initiatives designed to boost student wellbeing, engagement and participation in school life. His grant funded resources for a ‘Matcha Mornings’ initiative, sports equipment for lunchtime activities, and supplies for an ice cream station to support Mental Health Day.

Michelle, 13 who attends Kingsford Community School

Michelle won for her dedication, positive attitude and commitment to making a difference both within her school and the wider community. As a Global Ambassador, she uses her language skills to welcome visitors in Spanish, while also volunteering regularly at her local library, food bank and hair salon, demonstrating outstanding community spirit and a passion for lifelong learning.

Michelle decided to spend her £300 grant on an ice-skating trip for the school’s Global Ambassadors and pins for the Special Global Ambassadors to be worn on their blazers.



Norah, 14, attends Forest Gate Community School.

Norah won for her exceptional commitment and leadership as Community Outreach Officer on the Student Council. Through her dedication to the Alley Project she helped raise awareness, engage the mayor, and support fundraising efforts to transform the area next to the school into a safe and welcoming space for students, demonstrating a genuine determination to make a positive difference in her community.

Norah decided to spend her £300 on resources for the Student Council, including new badges and litter pickers to support students in their leadership and community roles. Part of the grant was also used to fund a celebration event, complete with prizes, games and a pizza party, recognising the hard work and dedication of Student Council members and their positive contribution to the school community.

Daniel, 16, attends London Design and Engineering UTC.

Daniel won for consistently demonstrating remarkable resilience, kindness and determination in overcoming challenges while building positive relationships with both his peers and staff. Through his inclusive attitude, strong work ethic and commitment to treating everyone with respect, he set an outstanding example of what it means to support and value others within the school community.

He decided to spend his £300 award grant on an iPad to support his learning and communication. The device will help him engage more effectively with his education, build independence and strengthen his ability to connect with others.



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Councillors vote against town hall support for immigration raids

Although a spokesperson pointed out the town hall has not supported raids "for many years" anyway, reports **Nick Clark,** *Local Democracy Reporter*

Council resources shouldn't be used to support immigration raids, Newham councillors have agreed unanimously.

Councillors voted at a meeting on Monday (5th) that the town hall should only co-operate with raids "where there is a clear legal obligation to do so".

A Council spokesperson told the Local Democracy Reporting Service it had not supported raids "for many years".

Members of the Newham Independents Party proposed that the Council refuses to take part in immigration raids at the meeting on Monday.

They said raids can deter people from accessing public services or seeking help when they are exploited.

Their proposal said: "Newham is one of the most diverse boroughs in the country and has a proud history of welcoming people who have come to the borough seeking safety, opportunity and a better life.

"The Council has a responsibility to ensure that its own resources, information and services are used to support the safety and wellbeing of Newham residents and are not unnecessarily used to facilitate immigration enforcement."

The proposal said the Council should not "actively assist" immigration raids with its staff, buildings or equipment.

It also said that Council staff should not "act as immigration enforcement officers" so that people can use services without fear of being reported.

Labour, Newham Independent and Green councillors voted to support the proposal unanimously.

However, a Council spokesperson said this was "unnecessary" because "Newham Council does not, and has not for many years, supported immigration raids by the Home Office or any other agency".

The motion comes after councillors backed Labour proposals for Newham to be a "borough of sanctuary" in both 2023 and 2025.

This means it should aim to make the borough a safe and welcoming place for refugees and asylum seekers.

It also comes after a survey of borough residents last year, by think-tank British Future, found the majority of people in Newham found its diversity to be "an asset to the area".

A Council spokesperson said: "Newham is proud to be a member of the Borough of Sanctuary network of local authorities which promises to offer welcome and support to refugees, asylum seekers and other people seeking sanctuary.

"We ensure this vulnerable group can access services, support and protection."

Introducing... the Pearly King and Queen of Stratford

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Stratford residents Sarah and Paul were invited to join the Pearly King and Queen Association in 2024 where they completed a probationary period as the Pearly Prides of Homerton overseen by the King and Queen of Homerton.

This gave them the opportunity to learn more about the role of Pearlies, the traditions, responsibilities involved, and the guidelines surrounding charitable work.

Following their time as Prides, they were loaned the title of Pearly King and Queen of Stratford by the Pearly Queen of the City of London.

Sarah and Paul said: "Stratford is one of the titles belonging to her family, and she kindly offered us the opportunity to represent it after being pleased with the work we had carried out during our probationary period. Knowing that we live in Stratford, she felt it was a fitting title for us to take on."

Sarah has a long line of ancestors born in Stratford and West Ham so the area and community has a strong meaning.



Pearly Kings and Queens James Asser MP ©Neandra Etienne

Recently appointed Pearly King and Queen of Stratford Sarah and Paul have participated in a variety of local events and charitable activities including the 10-mile walk 'The Great East End Walk' in support of St Joseph's Hospice; supporting local celebrations; collecting clothes and toiletries for a homeless shelter in Barking; and opening the West Ham Parkfest festival alongside the Pearly King and Queen of Forest Gate.

Sarah and Paul told *Newham Voices* how much it means to them to be Stratford's Pearly King and Queen: "We always welcome local community events to reach out if they want us to attend and if we are available, we will be there!"

@originalpearlies

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day in Newham

Online Remembrance Day

A service, hosted by the Greater London Authority, London Assembly and the London City Hall branch of the Royal British Legion.

- Date: Friday 06 November 2026
- Time: 10:40am to 11:40am
- Venue: Online

www.london.gov.uk/events

Newham Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day

Newham Council's Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day commemorations honour the service and sacrifice of those who lost their lives in the World Wars and subsequent conflicts.



Cenotaph, Newham Remembrance Day

East Ham Remembrance Sunday, 8 November

The Royal British Legion will lead the parade from Newham Town Hall to the Cenotaph in Central Park. The service led by the Reverend Canon Fred Ashford-Okai will include the observance of a two-minute silence and the laying of wreaths.

East Ham Cenotaph, Central Park, High Street South, East Ham, E6 6DY

- Parade assembly: From 10:15am at Newham Town Hall
- Parade departs: 10:30am
- Service begins at the Cenotaph: 10:55am

All Saints West Ham Parish Church, Church Street, West Ham, E15 3HU

- Service begins: 10:00am
- Guests to be seated by: 9:30am

St Luke's War Memorial, 89 Tarling Road, Canning Town, E16 1HN

- Service begins: 10:45am
- Guests to assemble by: 10:30am

St Mark's Memorial, Factory Road, North Woolwich, E16 2DA

Located within the grounds of Brick Lane Music Hall.

- Service begins: 10:45am
- Guests to assemble at Brick Lane Music Hall by: 10:30am

Armistice Day - Wednesday 11 November

St Joachim's Catholic School, with participation from local schools, will lead the Armistice Day service. The commemoration will include a two-minute silence at 11am and wreath-laying.

After the service, local historian Lee J. Skeggs will deliver an educational talk sharing historical material.

East Ham Cenotaph, Central Park, High Street South, East Ham, E6 6DY

- Guest assembly: 10:45am
- Service begins: 10:55am

– *Compiled by* **Neandra Etienne.**

All events are subject to change.

On the trail of the woman who runs the Town Hall

Our leaders are supposed to be accessible but **Simon Shaw** *has had no luck catching up with Newham's Chief Executive*

On 14 July Newham Council announced on its website Maria G. Christofi's appointment as its new permanent Chief Executive.

"Maria," we were told, "brings over 25 years of local government experience with a proven track record of leadership and transformation. She has already made significant contributions to Newham as interim chief executive and corporate director of resources."

All very good, and voices inside the Council tell *Newham Voices* that this appointment is a positive development.

So, in the interests of transparency we asked the Council if this newspaper, a major conduit of communication between the Council and residents, could organise an interview.

The press office came back to us asking a barrage of questions:

Who would be doing the interview?

Have you got any times or dates in mind? How long would you require?

Have you got a sample list of questions we can share with Maria? (I appreciate these can be developed and changed during the interview depending on answers)



Maria G. Christofi with Mayor Forhad Hussain ©Newham Council

Would you require a photographer to attend?

I assume this is for print not audio/video?'

Here is my response:

"I have previously interviewed James Asser and Uma Kumaran, so you can see the sort of pieces we do. Yes, it would be good to let our conversation flow, starting with her back story and affiliations with the Borough. The interview would be for our print and online editions and we can I am sure ask a passer-by to take a picture. Regards Simon Shaw'

This was their response: Hi Simon, 'It will not be possible for this interview to take place at this time.'

I had another go: "Further to your previous email could you kindly clarify why it is not possible to conduct an interview with *Newham Voices*.

"The interview would in no way be hostile but it would enable some transparency about what the future plans are for the Council.

"The paper has a print run of over 12,000 and we estimate is read by around 40,000 people in the Borough so it would be a good communication bridge. I look forward to hearing from you.

"Are you able to update me on the prospect of an interview in the near future?"

As we go to press for the November issue they have still not responded. Unless, of course, I have missed something in my in-box.

Flicks ain't what they used to be...

Our archivist at the *Newham Voices* library informs me that between the 1920s and the late 1940s there were between 25 and 30 cinemas in Newham. Look around and you can still see their outlines.

Famous among them was the Imperial (the 'Imp') in Canning Town and Sweetinghams in Silvertown. West Ham alone had between 17 and 20

When I arrived in the area in the early eighties there were none. We waited while Ceefax scrolled to see if a multiplex on the North Circular had anything worth making the journey for.

What joy when the Stratford Picture House opened in August 1997, well timed to get a babysitter and go and see The English Patient, only for a fire alarm to warrant an evacuation and a termination to our first night out.

NEWHAM IN NUMBERS

Despite a tease when it closed in July 2024 – that it would morph into the Prince Charles cinema in the east – it remains empty, a victim of increasingly sticky carpets and stroppy management over the last decade.

The Showcase in Beckton lasted from 1997 until 2020 – the carpets there were always sticky and the whole place, beside a desultory bowling alley, always had a rundown seventies vibe to it. Though, I do remember seeing, possibly the best documentary ever there, When we were kings, about the Mohammed Ali and George Foreman "Rumble in the Jungle" boxing match against the backdrop of the political situation in Zaire.

Like much else in our patch, entertainment is now centred in E20. Prices, though, have rocketed from threepence to six pence for a 'chicken run' seat in a 1930s fleapit, to 20 quid in the Stratford International Everyman today with slightly more luxury.

–Simon Shaw



Advertisement

Get Dance From Every Angle





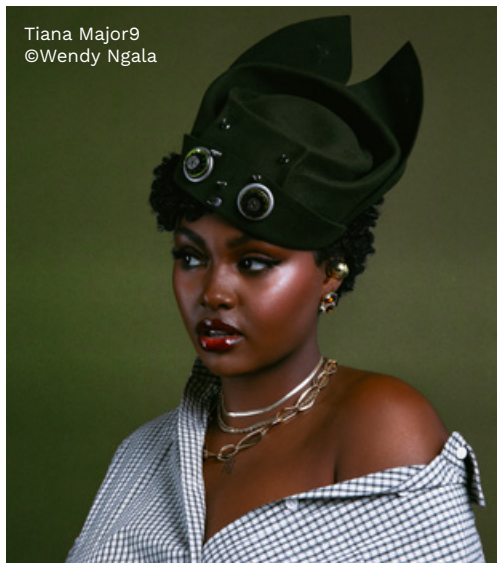


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Dance Pass



OUT AND ABOUT IN NEWHAM

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


Tiana Major9
©Wendy Ngala

AWARDS

Tiana Major9, from East Ham, has been nominated in the RNB X Award International Artist category at the BET Soul Train Awards. The winners will be announced during a ceremony on 27 November.

Tiana's *November Scorpio: Deluxe* has been submitted for Grammy consideration. The nominees are scheduled to be announced on 16 November. The awards take place on 7 February 2027 in Los Angeles.
tianamajor9.com

TELEVISION

Playtime Towers is a BBC pre-schoolers programme starring former St Bons student Darren Hart and Rose-Marie Christian who attended St Angela's school and lived in Forest Gate.

The second series is out now. All episodes are available to watch on BBC iPlayer and Cbeebies.

BAFTA award-winning actor **Danny Dyer**, born in Newham, hosted the British version of NBC's late night series *Saturday Night Live UK* (SNLUK) on 10 October.

Cynthia Erivo, the Emmy, Grammy and Tony award winning and three-time Oscar nominated actor and singer, hosted SNLUK on 24 October. Cynthia worked and performed at Stratford East and used to live in Upton Park.

POETRY

Newham Poetry Group is celebrating its tenth anniversary with the Newham Poetry Festival in November.

Advance booking is mandatory. Book your free ticket from their website
newhampoetrygroup.com

EXHIBITION

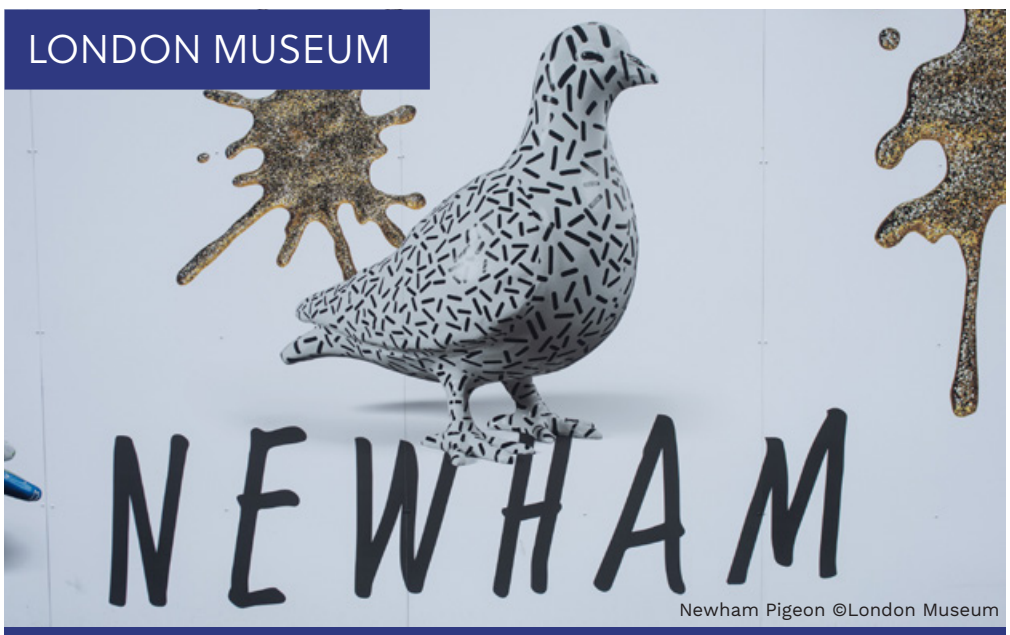
Maryland Primary School's upcoming children's rights art exhibition 'The Moral Compass: Young Voices. Powerful Change', features artwork created by children across the school.

The exhibition explores seven United Nations children's rights through contemporary artists and the stories of real child advocates.

Assistant Headteacher of Maryland Primary School Natasha St.Rose told *Newham Voices*: "This is more than an art exhibition. It showcases how we are embedding children's rights, pupil voice, equality, and identity, belonging and creative expression across our school."

2 November - 4 December
maryland.newham.sch.uk

LONDON MUSEUM



Newham Pigeon ©London Museum

The London Museum displayed 33 London borough pigeons on the building perimeter of their new home in Smithfield.

Each pigeon, which was designed by a local artist, tells a different story about the Borough. Newham's pigeon is designed by Melvin who lived in Newham when he first moved to London.

Melvin's idea for the artwork was inspired by Racing Pigeons with champion breeders M Connolly and Son based in Canning Town.

The London Museum in Smithfield will open its doors in November.
londonmuseum.org.uk

THEATRE

Award winning *Boy Blue* co-founders Michael 'Mikey J' Asante and Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy's new performance work ***25 Stories***, created with writer and curator Inua Ellams, marks the 25th anniversary of *Boy Blue*.

Theatre Royal Stratford East Artistic Director, Lisa Spirling, said: "We are delighted to welcome *Boy Blue* back to this historic building, where they first started some 25 years ago.

"This brilliant company continues to represent so much of what we stand for at Stratford East: community, innovation, celebration, and a hugely entertaining night out."


Boyblue ©Belinda Lawley

Boy Blue's 25 Stories podcast, *Boy Blue: 25 Years in Motion*, a companion to the live stage show, is available on YouTube, their website and streaming services.

5-7 November, tickets from £10, Stratford East.
stratfordeast.com

Ebony Scrooge, a retelling of Charles Dickens' novel *A Christmas Carol* that blends hip hop, comedy and physical theatre, returns to Sadler's Wells East with the show's creator, Dannielle 'Rhimes' Lecointe, taking on the title role.

Ebony Scrooge, Sadler's Wells East from 24 November 2026 - 3 January 2027
sadlerswells.com

MUSIC

V&A East Museum's upperground free Thursday-night DJ residency series every Thursday 6.30pm - 9.30pm
vam.ac.uk

Downstream Revival and Friends benefit gig in Aid of Alzheimer's Society

Band members Richard Woolfenden and his daughters, who are guest vocalists and keyboardists, are Newham residents.

21 November, 7pm (band on at 8pm), Forest Tavern, 173 Forest Lane, E7
justgiving.com/page/downstream-revival-2026



A programme of talks from Tharik Hussain, Taj Ali and Shahed Ezaydi will take place during Islamophobia Awareness Month.

The events, which explore themes of history, identity, community and social justice, offer powerful insights into heritage, anti-racism and contemporary experiences in Britain.
newham.gov.uk/events

EVENTS

V&A East Museum, in partnership with BBC Introducing Live and BBC Radio 1Xtra, is hosting ***New Black British Sound x BBC Introducing***, a free evening of performances, open mic sessions and conversations exploring the future of Black British music.

12 November, 6.30pm - 9.30pm. Free tickets are available from the V&A East Museum website.

Newham Festival of Stories takes place at Newham libraries from 12 -15 November.
newhamfestivalofstories.org

Cody Dock's Frost Fair annual winter celebration includes workshops, live music, exhibitions and makers market.

28 November, 12pm - 5pm, 11c South Crescent E16
codydock.org.uk

Newham u3a hold a monthly talk, tea and coffee afternoon at Clapton Community Football Clubhouse, Upton Lane.

Their November event, on 5 November at 1.30pm, will be a musical show, The Queen, Shakespeare and Me.

Non-members are welcome on a taster/one-off basis to meet and perhaps join.

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

Walkout led to future in music and film

CHRIS EK

Once my cat had travelled one mile to purr at the door of a lady who has always owned Persian cats. He recognised his own. This lady, Lois Froud, aka Halo-is, is a true Newham inspiration. She had finally walked out on an unethical boss after working as a PA for 20+ years.

One of her friends, Matt Casswell, took her on board in his video company. They met as neighbours in Newham Longlife Housing Co-op of which Lois is a member. He taught her all about video production, editing, and filming.

Lois started working as a videographer for the British Library, The Body Shop, and other independent clients. "Matt taught a group of us and we all set up companies," she said. "The work flowed in and we collaborated."


Lois Froud

Her biggest challenge was moving from an administrative background to a highly technical one, a whole different tool and skill set. And the challenge continues with ever-developing technology, including AI – especially in editing.

> "I was a big clubber. One night the music was so terrible, I decided I could do better. I asked my friend Ray to teach me and never looked back."

Alongside her video career, Lois became a DJ. "I was a big clubber. One night the music was so terrible, I decided I could do better. I asked my friend Ray to teach me and never looked back. My friends chipped in and bought me second-hand decks and a sound-mixer.'"

The first four years Lois practised at home, playing only vinyl, frustrations galore at trying to be perfect. One day, she realised she was good enough. House and techno are her genres. She has just returned from playing two events in Ibiza, but Lois loves coming home: "I'll always live in Newham. Community feel is important."

One Christmas day, she had the opportunity to play on interFACE radio station. Lois built up a following and now has her own slot on Fantasy FM on Mondays 20:00 until 22:00. It started as a pirate station and is now an internet station. www.fantasyfmlondon.co.uk. @halo_is

Lois is DJ at a monthly women's event called Flirrrt. On 6 November, the gig will be at Bar Social, 245 Lavender Hill, Clapham. Tickets/info via OutSavvy or Eventbrite.

Safe shopping: roadshow advice on how to protect staff and customers

Businesses and employers across Newham are invited to a free roadshow in Stratford on 24 November, offering practical advice and expert support to help protect staff, customers and visitors, recognise vulnerability, and improve safety in workplaces and public spaces.

Organised by the Safer Business Network, the Together for Safer Communities Roadshow will bring together local businesses, community groups, public sector organisations and safety specialists.

The half-day event is aimed at employers across all sectors, including retail, hospitality and other customer-facing businesses, as well as organisations responsible for public and community spaces.

Attendees will hear about the Women's Night Safety Charter gaining insight into the support, training and resources available to help them create safer environments.

Businesses will also learn about Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) training, which helps staff in licensed premises recognise signs of vulnerability and respond appropriately to potentially unsafe situations.


Daniel Reynaga/Pexels

The roadshow will also provide an opportunity to meet local policing teams, community safety specialists and fellow employers, helping organisations establish valuable contacts and understand where to turn for advice and support.

The event is part of the Safer Business Network's wider Together for Safer Communities Roadshow programme, which is visiting all London boroughs over the next three years, bringing businesses and local partners together to encourage collaboration and practical action on community safety.

The free event is open to businesses and employers in Newham, including those operating in Stratford, E15 and E20, as well as organisations working with local businesses and communities.

Book your free place at: **www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/together-for-safer-communities-roadshow-newham-tickets-2002531041251?aff=oddtdtcreator**

Tuesday 24 November from: 9.30am to 1pm at Centre Management Rooms, Stratford



Little Ilford Pride in Place meets to spearhead £20m improvements

A new board has met for the first time to draw up plans to spearhead a £20million transformation of Little Ilford through the Government's Pride in Place fund.

The first meeting took place at the Jack Cornwell Community Centre, in Manor Park, where local resident Mubeen Hussain chaired the inaugural meeting of the Pride in Place board.

Fourteen board members have been appointed, with the majority being local people chosen during the selection process this summer. The board also includes MP Stephen Timms and Little Ilford Councillor Nasreen Shamima.

The board will now work with local people to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan reflects local needs, priorities and aspirations. The plan, including projects earmarked for funding, will be published in early 2027.

The £20 million funding can support projects including improvements to parks and public spaces, community safety, culture, business support, skills and employment, housing, and health and wellbeing.

First 'borrow don't buy for DIY' Lending Hub opens

A Lending Hub, the first of its kind, has opened in Newham.

The hub gives residents a way to save money, reduce waste and access useful items without the need to buy them – and people can donate their own good-quality, unwanted tools and equipment.

The Abbey Hub Borrow Bank was created through a partnership supported by Newham Council and the East London Waste Authority (ELWA).

The new service allows residents to borrow a wide range of items including DIY and decorating tools, gardening equipment and household appliances.

Councillor Susan Masters, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Environment, said: "Households can spend hundreds of pounds on DIY tools and equipment that they only use a few times. By introducing lending hubs across the Borough, we can provide affordable access to these items keeping valuable resources in use for much longer.


Abbey Hub Borrow Bank

"I would encourage everyone to have a hunt around to see if there are good-quality, working items they don't use anymore that could be donated as part of the lending hub network.

"We are expanding the network over the next few months to ensure this innovative 'lend, don't buy' model can be accessed by as many of our communities as possible."

The Abbey Hub is the first of three planned lending hubs due to open in Newham over the coming months, with additional hubs planned in Stratford library, Forest Gate and the Royal Docks, in a partnership between One Newham and ReinsTate.

A Council spokesperson said the hubs will charge a small annual membership fee and modest borrowing charge that will support their long-term future.

Residents are being encouraged to donate good-quality items they no longer need. Requested items include folding tables and chairs, gazebos, carpet cleaners, step ladders, sanders, gardening equipment and outdoor games.

COMMUNITY NEWS ROUNDUP

By Neandra Etienne

Green Street Library open

Mayor Forhad Hussain, James Asser MP, Library Champion Bobby Seagull and local councilors joined residents in the official grand opening of Green Street library on 10 October.

Activities include storytelling, music, sensory crafts and badge making with the Newham Heritage Team.

Exercise and dance sessions took place outside along with stalls from Market Services, Metropolitan Police, Youth Zones and Culture within Newham.



Green Street Library opening ©Neandra Etienne

A Newham Council spokesperson gave *Newham Voices* an update on the opening of the new Plaistow library: "The ambition remains that the new Plaistow Library will open before the end of the year, but at the moment the old library is still in service."

Support for DLR extension

There was a strong show of support for the proposed plans to extend the DLR to Thamesmead and Beckton Riverside from more than 550 people and organisations.

The proposed extension includes plans for two new DLR stations at Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead.

Mayor of Newham, Forhad Hussain said: "Extending the DLR into Beckton Riverside and Thamesmead will mean more jobs, better public spaces and better access to other parts of London.

"I am looking forward to seeing proposals brought forward next year that take on board the views of local people and result in better homes, better connections and better prospects for thousands of people."

Fire closes library

Forest Gate library has been temporarily closed since August due to a fire incident that took place on a small part of the roof.

Four fire engines were called to attend to the fire. Members of staff and residents were evacuated. No injuries were reported.

A Newham Council Spokesperson told *Newham Voices*: "To ensure public safety the Council has to go through an extensive exercise to establish the full extent of the damage caused by the fire.

"This process can take some time. The Council is now ready to begin a procurement process, in accordance with the authority's legal requirement to follow open and transparent governance, to award a contract for the repair works.

"In the meantime, Forest Gate library users are encouraged to take advantage of the services offered by our other libraries (Stratford, Canning Town, Custom House, East Ham, Green Street, Manor Park, N Woolwich, and Plaistow)."

libraries.newham.gov.uk/home


Flotsam Orchestra at Rosetta Arts ©Ines Yearwood-Sanchez

Cash for migrant project

Rosetta Arts' *Seasons of Migration: Preserving Middle Eastern New Year Traditions in Newham* project, has been awarded a £158,454 grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The two-year project, delivered in partnership with Newham Council's Heritage Service, UAL's London College of Fashion, V&A East, and the Everyday Muslim Heritage and Archive Initiative, will document, safeguard, and celebrate the living textiles, culinary traditions, and oral histories of Middle Eastern communities across the Borough.

Jan De Schynkel, CEO of Rosetta Arts, said: "Thanks to National Lottery players, we can create a welcoming space where our communities come together, share their rich traditions, and safeguard a crucial snapshot of our shared cultural history."

Care home swaps coffee morning for bubbles and live music

Residents and staff at Westgate House Care Home in Forest Gate ditched the traditional coffee morning in favour of a sparkling afternoon of live entertainment to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The special event traded standard tea and coffee for fresh bubbles and baked treats as well as live entertainment provided by musical theatre singer Rebecca Jane who delivered some much appreciated classics. The afternoon raised £95.60.



Market place for local mental health services

FARZANA RAHMAN



I attended the World Mental Health Day Fair 2026 at Stratford Town Hall on 7 October, organised around the theme "community and wellbeing".

The event brought together Newham residents, volunteers, community groups and mental-health organisations to promote awareness, connection and access to support. It provided an excellent opportunity to explore a marketplace of local services and hear from organisations working to improve mental health and wellbeing across Newham.

The Community Case Study Gallery shared real experiences of how local organisations support people from different backgrounds and communities.

The programme also included presentations on mental health in Newham, lunchtime talks from organisations including Health Spot Newham, Newham IFD and Newham Community Research Network, followed by a mindfulness, breathing and movement session.

What stood out was the strong emphasis on community participation, lived experience and reducing isolation. The event demonstrated how residents can play an important role in shaping inclusive, culturally responsive mental health support.

The fair was not simply an awareness event—it was an opportunity to connect, listen, and strengthen community wellbeing.

LOCAL NOTICES

Published 30th October 2026

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application for a New Premises Licence

PRIMO PADEL CLUB LTD has applied to the London Borough of Newham for a premises licence in respect of **Primo Padel Club, Unit 4A3, Beckton Retail Park, Alpine Way, London E6 6LA**.

The licensable activity applied for is the sale by retail of alcohol
- Monday to Sunday, 06:00–23:00.

Details of the application may be inspected via the London Borough of Newham Licensing Team. Written representations concerning the application must be received by the Licensing Team, East Ham Town Hall, Barking Road, London E6 2RP, no later than 13 November 2026.

Representations must relate to one or more of the four licensing objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of public nuisance; and the protection of children from harm.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application under the Licensing Act 2003.

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application for a New Premises Licence

I Maliha Maheen have applied to NEWHAM COUNCIL for a premises licence for **The Chips Shack Ltd, Unit 3 274-276 Neville Road London E7 9QN** so that the following licensable activities may be provided on the following days and hours:

Late night refreshment (indoors and outdoors)
- Monday to Sunday (every day): 11:00 hours to 02:00 hours

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 or via email, by no later than the 13th November 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 New Premises Licence

I/We Laisio Oliveira Moreira have applied to NEWHAM COUNCIL for a premises licences for The **Brazilian Pastry Factory Limited, 335 Barking Road, London, E13 8EE** so that the following licensable activities may be provided on the following days and hours:

Cafeteria and bar operation, including sale by retail of alcohol
- Monday to Thursday: 11:00 – 22:30
- Friday and Saturday: 11:00 – 23:00
- Sunday: 12:00 – 22:00

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, Town Hall, 328 Barking Road, East Ham, E6 2RT (open from 10.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday), 020 3373 1925, where details of the application may be inspected.

Any representations against the application must be made in writing and received by the Licensing Team at the above address, by no later than the **29th September 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.

ADVERTISE YOUR LICENCE HERE

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: **27th November** | Booking deadline: **25th November**

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THIS IS A LOCAL NEWSPAPER THAT PEOPLE ACTUALLY READ. WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY.

Next edition print deadlines

***Newham Voices* issue #72 December**
Print date: 26th November
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SOMETHING'S BREWING

Want a tipple that brings to mind the likes of Bobby Moore and Jarrod Bowen? Then look no further says **Phil Mellows**



Beer and football. They go together like, well, beer and football. But it isn't often that fans play their part in creating a beer brewed specially for them. And that's something supporters of West Ham United can now brag about.

The club has teamed up with Scottish craft brewer BrewDog to produce Boleyn Brew, an exclusive lager named after the old ground at Upton Park. But not before asking a group of dedicated Hammers fans, with the help of ex-striker Carlton Cole, what they thought the beer should be like.

They wanted a lager – but something with extra character to reflect the club. So, Boleyn Brew is brewed with oats as well as barley, which makes it creamier, and hopped with modern varieties, Chinook, Harlequin and Citra, which add a fruitier flavour.

The fans also came up with the name, in memory of West Ham's much-loved former home.

"From the start, it felt like supporters were genuinely part of creating something that belongs to us," said fan Simon Fell. "Boleyn Brew feels properly West Ham: light, easy drinking, full of character and rooted in our history through the Boleyn Gates on the can. It's a beer for West Ham people, and I'm proud to have played a small part in it."

Boleyn Brew will be available at the London Stadium's bars on match days and it's also for sale in cans through the BrewDog website. But you won't find it at the Boleyn Tavern, in case you're wondering.

> "Boleyn Brew feels properly West Ham: light, easy drinking, full of character and rooted in our history through the Boleyn Gates on the can.

Built around the same time around the turn of the 20th Century, the ground and the pub both happened to be named after Anne Boleyn who reputedly frequented the nearby stately home, Green Street House. And now a beer is helping keep the local legend alive.

It could hardly be brewed further away on British shores, though. The Brewdog Brewery is at Ellon in Aberdeenshire. When the controversial company collapsed into administration earlier this year, American beverage and cannabis firm Tilray picked up some of the pieces and is now in the process of rehabilitating a brand wracked by dubious marketing gimmicks and allegations of sexual harassment.

Part of the plan is to build closer relationships with local communities. Boleyn Brew should do just that.

Friends like us: How we started

LYNDSAY JONES
Friends of West Ham Park

In 2006, the Green Flag judge visiting West Ham Park expressed surprise that the park did not have a "Friends of.." Group. The park still fulfilled all the criteria to qualify for the prestigious quality award, and was clearly an important centre for the community.

Most "Friends of..." groups form in response to a threat or problem in their open space, and luckily none had arisen. The park is owned by the City of London Corporation and was well funded, staffed and managed.

However, a community group seemed like a nice extra, so the City set up a public meeting to start a group. This was well attended and there was a lot of discussion about how the group would fit into the park and the community. The then park manager had the foresight to "persuade" a friend of hers to volunteer to chair the group, and it was duly declared formed.



Image: Friends of West Ham Park

At the first meeting we all said "now what"? We had nothing to protest about and didn't need to help with the work of caring for the park.

So it was decided that our purpose should be to hold events and activities to bring the community together and encourage people to engage with nature and feel more involved with their park.

That is how we came to hold outdoor games, children's activities, a birds of prey display, events to celebrate the long history of the park, and, of course, the ever popular Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile and Park in the Dark, joined now by our successful ParkFest 25 and 26, and funding permitting, ParkFest 27!

If you enjoy our events, and can afford it, please consider donating to our GoFundMe page: gofund.me/fdc6038f



Good reads in Newham

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

- ***The Man with the Golden Compass*** *(signed copies available)*
  By Vaseem Khan
- ***In One Brief Moment All Eternity*** *(signed copies available)*
  By Elif Shafak
- ***Grand: The Autobiography of Gromit, as told to Nick Park*** *(signed copies available)*
  By Nick Park and Gromit
- ***The Rambler's Curse***
  By Mikey Please
- ***The Dictionary Story***
  By Sam Winston and Oliver Jeffers
- ***Stories from Bengal: An Exploration of Myths, Legends and Folk Tales***
  By Rumana Yasmin

– Compiled by David Ceen, Newham Bookshop



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

Helping young people to feel valued

Steven Ekpenyong *on helping young people overcome the challenges they face*

Over the years, I've played football semi-professionally, I've been around professional athletes, and got involved in youth work. Now, I have the privilege of blending both worlds together.

I'm working with fantastic athletes, creating development plans and, at the same time, setting goals to help young people reach the highest level they can and helping them recognise the challenges they face.

The narrative is too often that young people are not capable. I want to help more young people understand how capable they actually are, rather than seeing their environment, circumstances, or what they've been through as a hindrance.

They are in control of their own story. Part of this is learning to do things with young people rather than for them. It takes time, but this journey is one for the long haul.

At Fight for Peace, we've had some young people ask for the personal development sessions to happen every day, which shows that they've really valued them. They want to think ahead, recognise their goals, and consider what they want for their future.

Young people are coming up with different ideas about what sessions they would like at Fight for Peace. These creative learning sessions will take place on Mondays and use different themes, including Mental Health Day and Kindness Day, as a starting point for conversation.



Steven Photo ©Kayla Troy

On Fridays, we've got Homework Club starting back up again, with a qualified tutor and teacher coming in to lead. We're not creating something new; a lot of it has already been done. It's about reimagining the historic work that has happened within the organisation, thinking about how we keep it going and how we keep it alive.

Our biggest promotion isn't what we say we do. It's how young people talk to other young people about their experiences and how the community perceives us.

Ultimately, I want every young person who comes to Fight for Peace to feel valued, listened to and safe enough to be themselves, to be creative and to share their ideas. I want them to recognise how capable they are and understand that they have a role in shaping their own narrative and their own future."

> I want to help more young people understand how capable they actually are, rather than seeing their environment, circumstances, or what they've been through as a hindrance.

Fight for Peace is a youth sport organisation that has Youth Mentors on-site at their Academy in North Woolwich every day of the week. If you ever want to share an idea, get stuck into youth leadership or simply just need someone to listen, the doors are always open.

Steven Ekpenyong is the Fight for Peace Youth Work Manager

Parking policy survey under fire over 'bias'

The opposition Greens claim some of the survey questions are written in a way that make it hard to oppose the proposed new policies, reports **Nick Clark**, *Local Democracy Reporter*

A Council survey on parking in Newham has been accused of bias by using "leading questions".

Green Party councillors and some residents have said the survey seems weighted in favour of contentious plans for new free parking measures put forward by Newham Council's Labour administration.

Forest Gate resident James Jones said the survey contained questions that seemed designed to "back-fill public support" for Labour's plans.

But Susan Masters, a senior Labour councillor in charge of roads at the town hall, said the survey would help residents "feed into a wider debate about the future use of their streets".

Newham Council launched the survey – which is set to run until 10th December – last month.

It is part of a review of the Council's parking rules and policies, which will include pledges that Labour mayor Forhad Hussain made before his election in May.

These are to give every household one free permit in their own parking zone, and one hour's free parking a day in any other zone.

But Jones and Green opposition councillors say some of the survey questions are written in a way that encourage support or make it hard to oppose the policies.

One question asks residents to say "how much practical benefit" a free parking permit would give them.

Another asks them how they would spend the money they would save, offering answers such as "reduced pressure on other household expenses", "I would be able to spend money on other things locally" and "I would be able to use public transport more often".

Similarly, a question invites residents to answer how they would use their one-hour-a-day free parking, with a choice of five options.

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SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by **Neandra Etienne**



West Ham United Women Breast Cancer Awareness Month

West Ham United women's players Katie Zelem and Laia Codina visited the West Ham United Foundation's Female Player Pathway players at the Club's Foundation Community Hub, The Foundry, to celebrate their achievements from last season.

Katie Zelem and Laia Codina also joined in with a training session and a question and answer session.

The U11s-U16s successful 2025/26 campaign included six Junior Premier League titles, as well as two national successes and two cup competitions.

Katie said: "The success they've had is amazing and the trophies they've won speak for themselves. The quality I saw from the players was really high!"

West Ham United women's November fixtures are available on the website **whufc.com/en/teams/womens-team**

West Ham United Women's team supported Barts Charity and its 'Here for it' campaign, which is helping to transform breast cancer care for people across East London, for Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

Ahead of their Barclays Women's Super League clash against Chelsea the women's first-team squad wore bespoke pink t-shirts in training featuring the pink ribbon alongside the Barts Charity logo.

Their November fixtures against Manchester City and Arsenal has been moved for TV coverage and their November fixture against Charlton has been selected for broadcast.
bartscharity.org.uk/here-for-it

In September **Eric Deli**, from Newham, made British gymnastics history when he qualified for the Senior Men's Individual Final and the Mixed Pair final, with his partner Lola Lawrence, at the 19th Aerobic Gymnastics World Championships in Spain.

Eric placed 5th in the Individual Men's final and 5th in the Mixed Pair with Lola.
british-gymnastics.org

Liverpool player **Rio Ngumoha**, from Newham, made his competitive debut during England's win against Czechia in the Nations League game on 29 September in Prague. He also came on as a substitute for England's win against Czechia on 6 October at Wembley.

Arsenal player Ezri Konsa, also from Newham, withdrew early from England squad's National League games due to injury.

England are scheduled to play Croatia at Wembley on 12 November and Spain in Madrid on 15 November.
englandfootball.com

England Young Lions U21 team are scheduled to play Portugal on 13 November and France on 16 November.

Southampton player and former St Bons student Divin Mubama plays for the England U19 squad.

England and Manchester United footballer **Gary Neville** spoke to children from Harris Academy Chobham in Stratford about the role of sports in building confidence, mental resilience, leadership and teamwork skills.

The conversation, followed by a range of sporting activities, was held to mark the launch of 'Sports With Us' in the UK, a world cup legacy programme that aims to reach over 10,000 children in 14 countries.



Gary Neville launches Bank of America's World Cup legacy programme, "Sports With Us". Photography by Alastair Fyfe ©Bank of America



Eric Deli ©British Gymnastics/Simone Ferraro

Fulham and Nigerian player **Alex Iwobi**, who grew up in Newham, will manage P17 in the Baller League. Idris Elba, who also grew up in Newham, managed Rukkas.

The Baller League is a six-a-side league with games lasting 30 minutes. There is a rule change which means in the final 3 minutes of each half anything can happen.

UK Season 4 started on 12 October.

Alex scored the winning goal for Fulham against Hull on 17 October.
ballerleague.uk

A **Female Coaches Network** event with the Essex FA and West Ham United Foundation took place at The Foundry on 8 October.

London Overground FC beat Jubilee Line FC 7 - 2. They are scheduled to play Northern Line FC on 17 November
instagram.com/over_fc

Clapton CFC Open Access women and non-binary sessions

7 & 21 November, 10.30am -12.30pm, Morpeth School, Portland Place, E2
openaccess@claptoncfc.co.uk

Newham-born West Ham United Foundation Trustee and award winning rapper and broadcaster **Isaac Borquaye**, also known as Guvna B, spoke to the club's website about priortising mental health and the role football plays in the community.

"West Ham's a real workingclass community with a lot of grit. Lots of people are going through stuff, but we show fighting spirit on the pitch, off the pitch and in the stands.," he said.

The charity Movember raises awareness on Men's Health during November.
whufc.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**

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It's all to play for despite setback

ON THE BALL

It was a cold wind that blew for West Ham against Southampton, and **Mickey Ambrose** *is not just thinking about Storm Boelo*



The Hammers' nine-match unbeaten run came to a sorry and soggy end against Southampton at storm-lashed London Stadium on Saturday 24 October.

On an afternoon when victory would have sent West Ham United to the top of the EFL Championship, it was the Saints who went marching in and promptly marched off with a 3-2 win and all three points to leave Nuno Espírito Santo's side in third-place.

"Overall, it's been a very frustrating day," admitted the Hammers head coach after early strikes from Kuryu Matsuki and James Bree had left his side reeling.

Although the recalled Kyle Walker-Peters pulled one back against his former club, Lewis Dobbin restored the visitors' two-goal advantage by the break, ahead of substitute Tomáš Souček netting in the final moments.

"There was not enough determination early on, we made a poor start and conceded twice."

West Ham fans have become increasingly frustrated in the opening minutes of recent home matches where it seems the Hammers are always second best to the ball and where teams take the game to them with 'direct' running and passing always looking a threat and always looking to score.

Nuno made two changes from the side that won at league-leaders Swansea City (1-0) previously with Walker-Peters and Taty Castellanos coming in for the injured Joël Veltman and substitute Pablo.

With Storm Boelo raging through Stratford High Street it was Southampton who got off to a whirlwind start as Matsuki pounced on the rebound after Léo Scienza's second-minute shot was parried by Mads Hermansen.

And, on 11 minutes, Caspar Jander's left-wing cross was tipped towards the back of his area by the Hammers 'keeper, who was then given no chance as James Bree strolled onto the loose ball before unleashing a spectacular, angled 18-yard volley that scorched under the right-hand angle.

'Oh When The Saints Go Marching In' rang out from the thousands of Saints fans who made the trip to East London from the South Coast.Indeed, on 24 minutes, Divine Mukasa threaded the ball to Walker-Peters who advanced into the Saints area ahead of letting fly with a sizzling 15-yarder that flew past 'keeper Daniel Peretz on its way under the left-hand angle.

> "Overall, it's been a very frustrating day. There was not enough determination early on, we made a poor start and conceded twice."

But 10 minutes before the break – totally against the run of play – Scienza saw another shot parried by Hermansen only for Lewis Dobbin to bundle the loose ball over the line.

"We'd created and had broken them but the defining moment was conceding that third goal before half time because that made our task even harder to reverse the result," observed Nuno, who endured a frustrating, free-flowing second period watching the Hammers being frequently held at bay by the outstanding Daniel Peretz and the Saints defiant defence marshalled by Captain Jack Stevens.

Newham-born Divin Mubama on loan to the Saints from Manchester City came on in the 88th minute before the recently-arrived Souček finally broke the visitors' resistance with an 18-yarder three minutes into stoppage-time.

"You have to credit their keeper because he did a fantastic job today. We tried hard and had more than 50 touches in the Southampton box which says a lot about our offensive game but – in the end – our second goal came too late."

With a quarter of the season now gone, the EFL Championship League has become very competitive. At the moment I can see no real trailblazer due to the inconsistency of results. With Queens Park Rangers thrashing 2nd place Swansea City 5-0 and top of the table Middlesbrough beating Bolton 5-1, its very tight at the top and at the moment first place is up for grabs.

I bumped into Hammers fan Lisa Godfrey who has been a supporter since her teens and Lily Jackson watching her first 'live' match a few weeks ago at Westfield.

COME ON YOU IRONSSSSSS! They shouted – lets hope the Hammers get the message and get back on the winning trail in their up and coming games.

There's a lot to play for....

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



Lisa Godfrey and Lily Jackson

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