

London mayor told: 'Sell stadium to West Ham Utd'

NICK CLARK
Local Democracy Reporter

The London Stadium should be sold to West Ham United, a Labour London Assembly member has told Sir Sadiq Khan.

Bassam Mahfouz has urged the London mayor to consider selling the stadium to the football club as a way to avoid losing tens of millions of pounds a year.

He said the current arrangement, where West Ham pays rent to use the stadium as its home ground, had proved "disastrous" for London taxpayers.

London Stadium LLP – wholly owned by the Greater London Authority (GLA)

– revealed earlier this year that it loses around £19million annually.

After its relegation to the Championship, West Ham now pays up to £2.5m rent to London Stadium, under the terms of its 99-year contract signed with the GLA in 2013.

However under the same contract the club doesn't contribute towards costs such as stewarding, policing and pitch maintenance.

London Stadium now wants to host more concerts to boost income. But having questioned stadium boss Lyn Gardner at the London Assembly in July, Mahfouz who represents residents in Ealing and Hillingdon, believes the "onerous" contract puts too many "barriers" in the way.

He told the Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS) that West Ham had "very little incentive" to agree to more concerts during the football season, and a "veto" over naming rights.

In a letter to Khan, he said: "Whilst the onerous contract is not something that can be amended, a new way forward is possible if it were to be made redundant."

"That could be facilitated through a sale of the stadium to the club."

London Stadium has applied to Newham Council to lift planning restrictions limiting the number of concerts it can host from ten a year to 24.

However the club gets priority use over the stadium during the football season.

Speaking at the London Assembly in July, Gardner explained it can take two weeks to return the stadium to a football ground after its use for other events.

This means that if the stadium wanted to host concerts in September, West Ham would have to play all of its matches away that month.

The club also gets a say over the venue's naming rights, which Gardner said had scuppered stadium sponsorship deals in the past.

Mahfouz told the LDRS: "The deal cannot be renegotiated. There's very little incentive for the club to agree these things."

"It needs a refresh and a rethink – if you can't renegotiate the deal you need something new on the table and that has to be a sale."

However he said any deal should ensure athletics events can still take place at the stadium, which was built for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

"It's not a football stadium, it's an athletics track. Nothing like Upton Park."

– West Ham Supporter

Fans attending have told the LDRS they support a sale. One said: "It should happen – it's not fair on the taxpayers paying for it, we want the stadium and see what we can do with it, and actually build a better stadium."

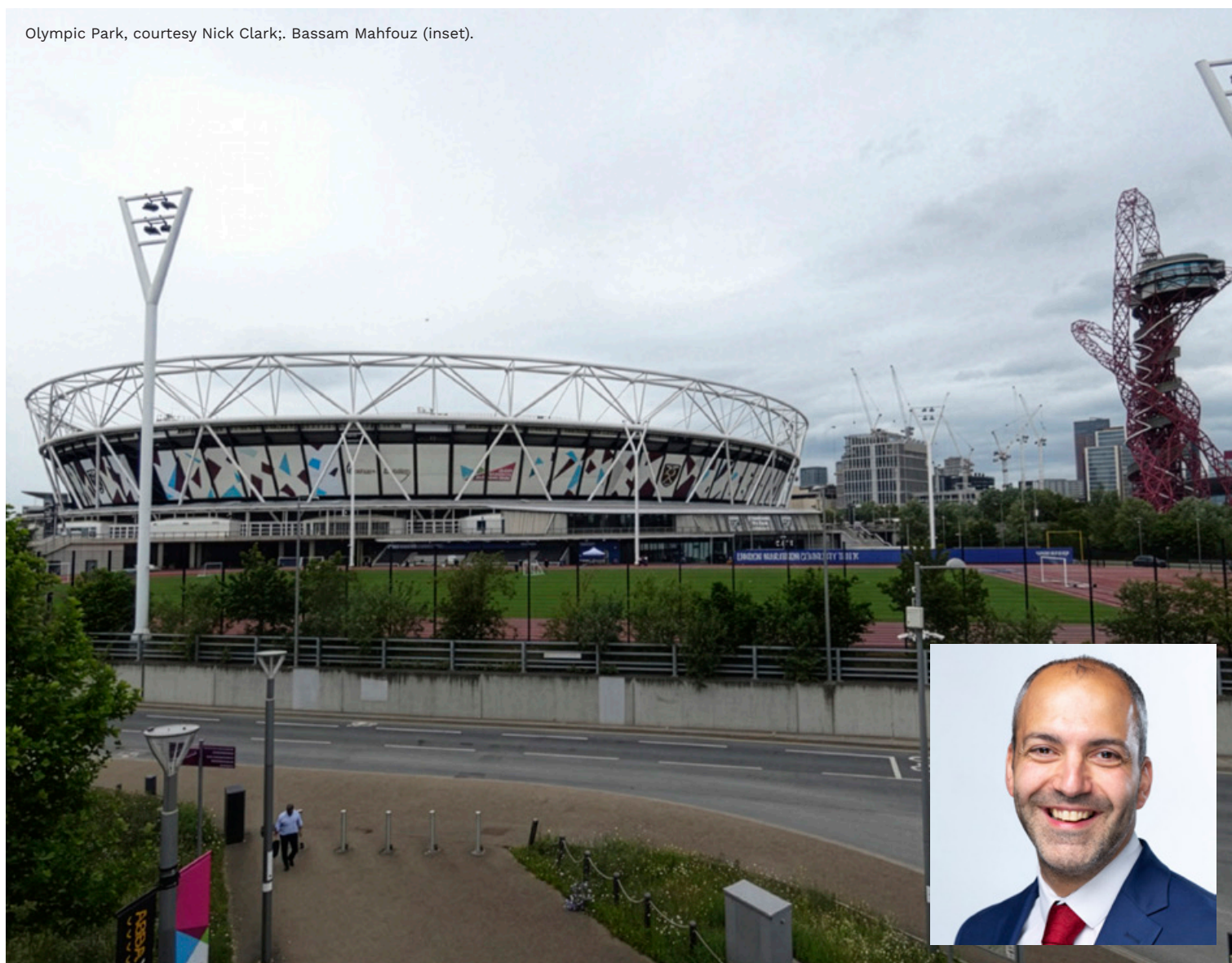
"It's not a football stadium, it's an athletics track. Nothing like Upton Park."

Another, Jamie, said: "I think they should sell it. I think it would be better for the club. They could do whatever they wanted with it, and I know a lot of taxpayers' money goes to the stadium."

A spokesperson for Khan did not rule out a sale. They told the LDRS: "The mayor has been clear that he would consider any credible proposal for the stadium, provided it offers value for taxpayers, protects the public interest and preserves the wider economic, social and sporting benefits the venue delivers for London."

West Ham United declined to comment, but the LDRS understands the club will consider proposals from London Stadium for hosting additional events.

Olympic Park, courtesy Nick Clark; Bassam Mahfouz (inset).





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Mayor adds four to Cabinet team – all Labour



L-R: Imam Haque, Salim Patel, Mayor Forhad Hussain, Tonii Wilson and Aleya Hussain

Mayor of Newham Forhad Hussain has boosted the Council's senior leadership team with the appointment of four new cabinet members, all of them Labour councillors.

They are:

- Councillor Tonii Wilson Cabinet Member for Inclusive Growth and Enterprise and Deputy Cabinet Member for Temporary Accommodation;
- Councillor Salim Patel Cabinet Member for Resident Experience and Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment;
- Councillor Imam Haque Cabinet Member for Community Safety; and

- Councillor Aleya Hussain Cabinet Member for Performance.

Mayor Hussain said: "The new Cabinet appointments will allow us to focus on the issues that matter most to our community.

"Residents wanted more of a focus on improving community safety, so I have appointed a dedicated cabinet member who will work with Council staff and partners, including the police, to ensure everyone feels safe and welcome in their neighbourhoods.

"I have also appointed a Cabinet member for inclusive growth who will fight for local businesses and entrepreneurs and push to create wealth in communities

across Newham.

"Our Cabinet member for residents' experience will make sure that the Council is doing all it can to respond quickly to the needs of local people. I want people to feel that the Council is approachable and accessible, a place where you can go for support when you need it.

"Our new Cabinet member for Council performance will be focused on the wider improvement journey of the Council. This means making sure the results of our annual residents' survey feeds into decision making and ensuring we are a high-performing organisation in the long-term."

Palestinian ambassador joins flag-raising at Newham Town Hall

Ambassador Husam Zomlot said the Council's decision to fly the flag showed "the relationship between this unique and diverse part of London and my people", reports Nick Clark, *Local Democracy Reporter*.

The Palestinian ambassador joined councillors and campaigners to raise his nation's flag at Newham Town Hall.

The raising of the Palestinian flag comes as campaigners are calling on the Council to divest its pension fund from companies "complicit" with Israeli settlements.

In a statement issued after the event, the ambassador said: "The difficulties facing men, women and children in Palestine are well-documented, but for those living through the daily atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, it is always important to know there are people around the world who will never forget them."

Zomlot joined Newham's Labour mayor Forhad Hussain, opposition leader Mehmood Mirza of the Newham Independents, and Green group leader Arshan Baskaran for the flag-raising ceremony on 15 September.

Labour MP James Asser also attended. Hussain had promised to raise the Palestinian flag in July, following his election as mayor in May.

In a statement issued afterwards he said the ceremony "sent a clear message that

the Palestinian people are not forgotten".

The town hall's decision to raise the flag comes as the Newham Palestine Solidarity Campaign is calling on the Council to withdraw pension fund investments from "companies involved in the genocide of the Palestinian people".

Councillors voted in July to launch an audit of the authority's pension fund investments and to declare its intent to divest from companies "complicit in human rights abuses, war crimes or illegal settlements".

The move was proposed by the Newham Independents and the Greens.

Miriam Scharf, a long-standing Palestine campaigner who has presented petitions to the Council calling for divestment, said it was "brilliant" to see the flag raised at the town hall.

She said: "The residents of Newham in a vast majority have been wanting this and will celebrate that it has finally happened."

Scharf said campaigners would lobby the Council's next pensions committee meeting, on Wednesday, 21 October.

She added that she hoped Labour councillors would join the Palestine Solidarity Campaign's national march in central London on Saturday, 10 October.

Cllr Mirza said he had long been calling for the Council to raise the Palestinian flag.



The Palestinian flag outside Newham Town Hall (Image: Nick Clark/LDRS)

He said the Council should now "get their act together to move their investments to places with nothing to do with Israel or any conflict zones".

Cllr Baskaran also said he was "very happy that the flag has been flown at the town hall".

He said the Council must now divest to "stop that complicity in genocide".

The Council did not invite the media to the flag-raising ceremony. Scharf and Cllr Mirza and Cllr Baskaran said they were only notified shortly after 5pm the day before.

Scharf said with more notice campaigners could have brought "hundreds or thousands of people to celebrate and listen to the ambassador and cheer this achievement".

Council Notebook

By Peter Landman

Labour domination of neighbourhood plans sparks political row

The fragility of Newham's Council leadership, with no single party in overall control, is being tested in the debate over how to implement the Labour Party's flagship pledge to introduce community neighbourhoods across the Borough.

On 15 September the Council Cabinet – all Labour Councillors – met and discussed how to set up Community Neighbourhoods as promised by the Mayor Forhad Hussain in his election manifesto.

The Mayor has repeatedly stated his belief that Community Neighbourhoods will develop local participation, and shift power away from the Council.

But the minority parties, the Greens and Newham Independents, have threatened to boycott the process, because the Mayor has appointed the neighbourhood leaders only from the Labour party.

The Mayor says he will consult with the opposition parties after the initial set up process is complete. He has called on opposition councillors to end their boycott of his new 'community neighbourhood' meetings. He called on them to "have a go at this" for a trial period.

He said: "Let's collaborate with everyone for six months. After that, if you're still not comfortable, we'll have that conversation."

Labour cabinet councillors endorsed Hussain's plan to launch eight community neighbourhoods in Stratford and West Ham, Forest Gate, Manor Park, Green Street, Plaistow, East Ham, Beckton and Royal Docks, and Custom House and Canning Town.

The proposal will gather feedback from residents and improve co-opera-



Forhad Hussain

tion between the Council and community, voluntary and faith organisations, and other local services.

They will then feed recommendations and advice back to Hussain, through councillors he has appointed to lead them known as "lead members".

All eight lead members will be Labour councillors – even in neighbourhood areas predominantly represented by the Newham Independents or Greens. Opposition councillors have argued against this.

The report set out a wide range of participants and activities for the neighbourhoods lists, including Councillor Leads, Ward Councillors, members of Voluntary Groups, Safer Neighbourhood Panels, Housing Forums; and other statutory bodies.

The major benefits will be the possibility of more views from local area residents, more community coordination and better use of resources.

However, the neighbourhoods will not have formal powers to influence Council decisions, nor powers to raise their own funds; and the Mayor has selected neighbourhood leaders without any public vote.

The preliminary set up work involves the neighbourhoods settling on working arrangements and producing their own area profile and community plan.

The Council will review the work of the neighbourhood groups after six months. Meanwhile, the People Powered Places programme, which had granted more participation by residents in community projects across the Borough, will be phased out.

For more information contact Mayor enquiries@newham.gov.uk

Newham's divided Council

In the May elections this year Newham for the first time saw the Labour Party lose overall control of the Council. The 66 seats on the Council are currently

Labour Party: 26 seats; Newham Independents Party: 24 seats and the Green Party: 16 seats. Although the Council has a Labour Mayor – Forhad Hussain – the Council Chair, elected by the new Council, is Nate Higgins, a Green Party Councillor and on crucial issues the Labour majority must rely on support from the opposition parties.

Newham housing: getting back on track

Cabinet members were told that Newham is continuing to make progress in improving its housing service.

A quarterly report on the Housing Improvement Programme, which was introduced after the housing regulator slammed Newham's poor record in 2024, indicates that improvements are being made.

In April this year the Council's Housing Services entered into a Voluntary Undertaking, a contract, to remedy all the faults identified by the regulator.

The voluntary undertaking is in four parts and comprises lists of remedial actions to be completed.

Amongst the improvement work is: completion of 58 percent of stock condition surveys; the set-up of a Resident Challenge Board; a start on the issue of Electrical Installation Safety Certificates; and the issuing of special safety procedures for tenants with special needs.

For more information contact Councillor John Gray@newham.gov.uk

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£6 million deficit looms for Council

Newham is facing a deficit of more than £6 million at the end of the current financial year, Cabinet members were told. This could lead to government intervention.

The latest Budget Monitoring Report indicates that there will be a £6.168 million overspend on the general fund at the end of the financial year. The forecast breaks the rule that the Council has to balance its books at the end of the year.

A failure to do so could trigger government action to take over some Council

administration.

The breakdown of the figures shows that there is a £4.118 million overspend forecast in adult social care costs due to the demands of a growing elderly population, and nursing home provision in the Borough.

At the same time there is £5.1 million forecast to be overspent in Council support for children and young people. At the time of this report £3 million was forecast for spending on home to school transport. There are plans to save around £300,000

by reducing use of private taxis.

On the plus side, there is a forecast underspend of £7 million in the budget in reduced costs of overnight hotel accommodation for homeless people.

The Council has a three stage process to bring down overspending including action from the directorates, dipping into a corporate contingency budget and, finally, resorting to the Council's business risk reserve.

For more information contact Councillor Zulficar Ali @ newham.gov.uk

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Wall of Shame scheme gives £100 reward for catching fly-tippers

Newham Council has launched a Fly-tipping Wall of Shame to highlight offenders and provide a £100 reward for local people who help identify them.

It comes after persistent complaints of people illegally dumping waste, including furniture and electronic goods, on streets and at fly-tipping hotspots around the Borough.

The Council will now publish CCTV footage of people caught in the act. Local people can claim a £100 reward for helping to identify them.

neighbourhoods better than anyone. By working together, we can identify those responsible and keep Newham cleaner.”

Residents will be asked: Do you recognise them? Where officers have been unable to identify someone captured on camera, residents can view the footage and provide information directly to the Council.

Alongside the CCTV appeals, the Council is introducing a £100 fly-tipping witness reward for local people who help to identify those featured on the Wall of Shame.

To qualify for the £100 reward, res-

idents must provide information that identifies an individual featured in a Wall of Shame appeal, and that information must lead to the offender paying a Fixed Penalty Notice or a successful court prosecution.

The launch of the scheme follows the Council's recent announcement of free bulky waste collections, making it easier for residents to dispose of large unwanted items responsibly.

Plashet Grove, once ongoing roadworks are complete.

For more information go to: www.newham.gov.uk/WallofShame

The Council will now publish CCTV footage of people caught in the act – while local people can claim a £100 reward for helping to identify them.

Mayor Forhad Hussain said: “Fly-tipping has no place in Newham. Our residents have told us they want cleaner streets and stronger action against the people who illegally dump rubbish in our neighbourhoods – and that is exactly what we are doing.

“Our new Wall of Shame will make it harder for fly-tippers to hide. If you recognise someone we share, tell us. Residents know their streets and

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Image: The Blowup/Unsplash



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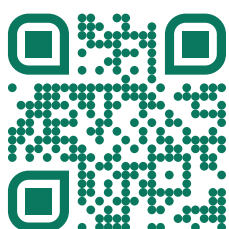
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New health resource for Borough

BY RICHARD STUBBS

The University of East London (UEL)'s new Health Campus and Neighbourhood Health Hub (NHH) represents one of the Borough's most significant recent investments in community health.

Designed not just for students but for residents across Newham, the development will bring together prevention, wellbeing, rehabilitation, education, research and digital innovation in a single, accessible space. Its ambition is simple: to make it easier for people to get support earlier, locally and in ways that feel welcoming rather than overwhelming.

UEL's Director of NHH, Alireza Monajati, said: "We are putting UEL's commitment to tackling health and economic inequalities into practice. Through free community services, earlier support and partnerships with local organisations, we aim to help families build healthier lives and support residents to remain active, independent and in work."

A key feature is the integration of care, education and research. "Residents benefit from accessible care, students learn through supervised practice, and research helps improve services," he explains. Digital tools will help connect these activities and make support easier to coordinate.

Over the next five years, Alireza expects residents to see clearer links between prevention, physical health, mental well-



being and rehabilitation. "Our ambition is for residents to access more support locally and earlier. We want to make the campus a trusted local resource."

For Ariana Din Mohammed, who works on community engagement for UEL, the focus is on making the NHH feel genuinely approachable.

"The Hub will help make health and wellbeing support more accessible by providing a welcoming, inclusive and community-focused environment," she said. Families, women and older residents—groups who often face barriers—should find it easier to ask questions, get information and be directed to the right support.

She expects residents to benefit most from drop-in sessions, wellbeing activities, workshops and informal spaces where people can talk directly to staff. "Clear communication, welcoming staff and opportunities to visit the Hub can help make the university environment feel less unfamiliar." She added that residents can be involved in shaping the services through providing feedback and sharing their experiences and suggestions with staff.

Ultimately, the NHH aims to offer something Newham has long needed: a single place where prevention, wellbeing and community support come together. If successful, it could become a model for how universities contribute directly to healthier, more resilient communities.

To access the services that are currently available see <https://www.uel.ac.uk/nhh>

Residents to have their say over parking controversy

Newham Council has launched what is claimed to be Newham's biggest ever consultation on the controversial issue of parking and kerbside spaces.

The Parking and Kerbside Space Review, which was revealed last month in *Newham Voices*, will tap into the views and experiences of local people, providing insight into how residents, visitors, businesses and customers want to use parking, kerbside and street spaces.

The Mayor says it will shape a long-term strategy covering how local people use their streets.

He said: "I was clear in our election winning manifesto that my ambition is to have a parking and kerbside system that supports a vibrant local economy, protects people against rising costs, and enables people to visit their local high street rather than being a barrier."

"That is why we are launching this consultation, so the changes we implement are driven by what the residents and businesses of Newham want to see."

The consultation will run for 12 weeks, until 10 December, and will give everyone who lives, works, visits or studies in Newham the opportunity to share their views.

It will cover topics including:

- The extent of car ownership and car use in the Borough;
- Cost of parking to understand the affordability of parking;
- Availability of parking, including whether there is enough space;
- Experiences of parking near homes and different destinations in Newham;
- Use of kerbside space, and how the space between roads and pavements are used;
- Neighbourhood priorities, recognising the different needs across Newham;
- Supporting local high streets and businesses;
- Future uses for kerbside space, including electrical vehicle options, outdoor seating and other community-focused uses;
- Fairness and accessibility, making sure our streets work for everyone.



Image: Newham Council

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Plans submitted for nearly 800 new homes in Stratford

The high-rise scheme would be the latest addition to the Stratford Cross development which currently includes offices, businesses and arts and culture venues, *reports Nick Clark, Local Democracy Reporter.*

Plans to build almost 800 homes near London Stadium have been submitted to Newham Council.

The proposals come as stadium bosses are seeking to increase the number of concerts it hosts, as well as their permitted noise levels.

Plans say the new 41-storey development could also include a pub, a takeaway and a “live music performance venue or cinema”.

Property developer Lendlease wants to build 782 homes across six towers on a currently vacant plot of land at Westfield Avenue, adjoining Redman Place. These could be a mix of student flats or shared living spaces.

If approved, they would be the latest addition to the Stratford Cross development, which currently includes offices for organisation including The British Council, Transport for London and the Financial Conduct Authority.

Lendlease originally intended Stratford Cross to be a commercial, rather than residential, development.

However, a planning statement submitted with its application suggests the developer now wants to change the total amount of office space it initially planned.

The planning statement said: “The commercial office market is challenging and has been challenging for some time.

“A significant amount of office floorspace has already been delivered at Stratford Cross, but the ability to deliver the remaining quantum of floorspace approved has been reviewed.”

Lendlease already has planning permission to build two residential buildings at the west of the site.

This was granted by the London Legacy Development Corporation in 2023, which was then the planning authority for the Olympic Park.

The new homes, if approved, would be some 600 metres from London Stadium.

The application comes as London Stadium is seeking permission from the Council to increase the number of non-



Aerial view of the proposed redevelopment at Stratford Cross (Image: AHMM Architects)

sports events it can host from ten to 24 a year.

London Stadium also wants the Council to approve a noise limit for these events of 75 decibels. Currently, noise is capped at 75 decibels for six of its permitted annual events, and 65 decibels for the remaining four.

Documents submitted with Lendlease’s application say it has measured noise levels at the site to help it decide how much sound insulation it needed.

However, while the measurement captured noise levels on two West Ham match days, it does not mention concert events.

Lendlease submitted its planning application on 29th July, and it became visible to the public on the Council’s website on 11th August.

The Council has received two public comments, both in support.

One, in the name of Sebastiaan and Otto from Hows Building in Westfield Avenue, welcomed the

plans for a new pub at the site.

They said: “The current distance between our front door and a decent pint is frankly incompatible with the kind of future we had imagined for ourselves.

“We cannot be expected to put down roots, grow old in this community and one day gaze fondly back upon lives well lived if there are no decent beverages within a reasonable distance.

“What kind of legacy would that even be? What are we building towards? Where is the continuity? Where is the hope?”

The pair added: “We would also ask the Council to consider the very real possibility that, on any given evening, someone might say ‘pint?’

“At present this can trigger an unnecessarily complex logistical operation involving maps, negotiations and the Elizabeth Line.

“No modern city should require this level of emergency preparedness simply to obtain a Guinness with the lads.”

The plans can be viewed and commented on at the Council’s planning website using reference number 26/01741/OUT.

Bid to convert former Stratford bank branch into hotel rooms

The site’s owners say they have had “no viable interest” from potential shop tenants since February 2024, *reports Nick Clark, Local Democracy Reporter.*

A former high street bank in Stratford could be converted into hotel rooms if plans submitted to Newham Council are approved.

The former NatWest branch at Gredeley House in Broadway has been closed since early 2024. Property investor Unex Group says it hoped to keep it as a shop after converting the rest of the site into a Travelodge hotel.

However, the company says it’s had “no viable interest” from potential tenants since February 2024 – and now wants to convert it into 18 more rooms.

Newham councillors approved the conversion of Gredeley House into a 151-room hotel in July 2023.



The former NatWest bank branch in Stratford Broadway (Image: Google)

At that time, the NatWest was still open, and Unex’s proposals said this would remain.

Unex says that after the branch

closed, it had marketed the premises “to provide complementary retail or leisure uses” but with no success. A marketing

brochure advertised it for rent at £175,000 a year.

Planning documents state: “Unfortunately, despite marketing the space since February 2024 there has been no viable interest”.

The hotel opened as a Travelodge in January this year. New proposals say it would now like to expand into the former bank, increasing the size of the hotel to 169 rooms.

The proposals say the Travelodge “has proved extremely successful and achieves consistently high occupancy rates confirming the demand for rooms in this location”.

Unex submitted its planning application on 11th August, and it has been available for the public to view and comment on since Monday, 24th August, using reference number 26/01782/FUL.

East End pride in the battle of Cable Street

Simon Shaw on how anti-fascism united all of East London in the 1930s

What happened 90 years ago, on 4 October 1936, is not strictly a Newham story. However, we are part of the East End, and when Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists announced its march through Tower Hamlets, opposition came from across East London.

Workers, trade unionists, Labour supporters, communists and local residents travelled from neighbouring boroughs, including East Ham and West Ham, to join the demonstration.

Mosley's calculation was that Irish dockers would turn against Jewish furniture makers and shmutter (clothing) workers. This was also the fear of political and religious leaders, who urged their congregations to stay at home and allow Mosley to march through empty streets.

My parents, members of the Young Communist League, were instructed by their party to attend a demonstration in support of the Spanish Republic in Trafalgar

Square rather than defend their own area.

The community did not obey. A frenzy of activity ensued. My uncle, Harry Karnac, and Harold Rosen (Michael Rosen's father) were among those who organised the mobilisation. Leaflets were printed, and messages were chalked on walls to direct people to Gardiner's Corner. Rather than chanting slogans in support of Spain, the crowd – estimated at up to 200,000 people – rang out with cries of ¡No Pasarán! ("They shall not pass!").

The fighting was between the police and the demonstrators, a conflict vividly illustrated in the Cable Street mural, painted between 1979 and 1983 and repeatedly targeted by hate-mongers. My mother used to tell me how marbles were thrown beneath police horses, causing them to rear up in confusion and panic.

Mosley was humiliated. The police informed him that they could not clear the barricades, the hijacked tram, or the vast crowds blocking the route. Instead, he was forced to abandon the march and return west. The following

day he flew to Berlin to marry Diana Mitford, with Adolf Hitler as a guest and witness.

The message that echoes across the Borough boundary and down through those 90 years is that racism must be resisted collectively, and that we have far more in common than that which divides us. It is also a reminder that privileged men who claim to speak for ordinary people are usually charlatans whose real aim is division. They always have been and always will be.



World Mental Health Day: A moment for community action

SHEILA NURSIMHULU

World Mental Health Day on 10 October, provides an opportunity to talk openly about psychological illness and remind ourselves that seeking support is never a source of shame.

In Newham, the occasion is being marked with a World Mental Health Day Fair on Wednesday 7 October, from 10am–3pm at Stratford Town Hall under the theme "Community and Wellbeing".

The free event will bring together residents, volunteers and organisations from the statutory, voluntary and faith sectors. There will be presentations, activities and discussions, information stalls and opportunities to learn how people with mental health issues can get help across the Borough. People can reserve a spot at Eventbrite. co.uk/e/newham-world-mental-health-day-fair-2026-tickets

Throughout the year people

can also get help from Well Newham, a group that brings together local health and wellbeing services, including help with mental health, social isolation, financial difficulties, housing and other pressures that can affect wellbeing.

For people experiencing anxiety, depression or other common mental-health difficulties, Newham Talking Therapies provides NHS psychological therapies for adults, with self-referral available. Translators can also be provided where required.

Mental wellbeing is influenced by far more than illness alone. Employment, financial pressures, housing, relationships, discrimination, loneliness and physical health can all play a part.

World Mental Health Day is also a moment for everyone to remember the importance of community: noticing when someone is struggling, listening without judgement and knowing where to find help.

See page 18.

COMMUNITY NEWS ROUNDUP

By Neandra Etienne

Kitchen update

Clubs in Newham are eligible to apply for new or improved kitchen facilities through the FA Howdens Game Changer programme, which has returned for the 2026/27 season. Applications are open until 31 October. essexfa.com

Thanks to Dolly

The launch of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Newham took place at East Ham library on 21 September. The legendary country singer died on 25 August.

Thanks to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library children from birth to five can be sent a specially wrapped addressed

book for free each month.

Children can be registered at: <https://imaginationlibrary.com/uk/affiliate/NEWHAM/>

£5000 grants

Community groups, charities and not-for-profit organisations located along the Elizabeth line can apply for grants of up to £5,000 through the annual Elizabeth line Community Fund.

Projects must be located within a 15-minute walk of an Elizabeth line station and demonstrate a clear connection to the Elizabeth line. The application deadline is 9 October.

tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/improving-the-elizabeth-line



UK Black Pride takes a break

UK Black Pride will be "taking a strategic pause in 2026" as they prepare for a return in 2027. This is the world's largest free pride event for LGBTQIA+ Black and POC. The event usually takes place at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. ukblackpride.org.uk

Back on track

New DLR trains have been operating after the completion of modifications and a full programme of testing. The new trains were withdrawn from service in November 2025 after an issue affecting train performance in low adhesion conditions was identified on one train.

TfL said: "All trains were removed from service as a precaution while TfL and manufac-

turer CAF investigated the issue and developed a solution."

The phased reintroduction of the new DLR trains will begin

on the Stratford International to Woolwich Arsenal route. There will be 54 new DLR trains introduced across the network.

New library opens



Green Street Library ©Naeem Ahmed

The new Green Street Library, part of the Queen's Market improvement and funded by Newham Council, the Greater London Authority's Good Growth Fund and the Government's Levelling Up Fund, opened on 28 September.

The new library is double the size of the previous library and

will give residents access to flexible community rooms, public PC, WIFI, internet access and much more.

The opening of Green Street Library, led by Newham Council's Place Making team, is the final part of a six-year £6.5 million project to regenerate Queen's Market and the surrounding area.



Dolly Parton Imagination library launch ©Neandra Etienne

Get Dance From Every Angle

DEEPFAKE

Jess & Morgs



1- 3 Oct 26

Dance Umbrella presents

THE HERD/LESS

Mamela Nyamza



8 - 10 Oct 26

Alleyne Dance

Far From Home



15 - 17 Oct 26

21 - 24 Oct 26



TELLUS

Dickson Mbi Company



OUT AND ABOUT IN NEWHAM

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

DANCE

Far From Home by multi-award-winning company Alleyne Dance features an intergenerational community cast that includes eight members from Hibiscus, a local group of dancers over 60, and young dancers from hip-hop company Boy Blue aged seven to nine years old.

Far From Home explores immigration and the consequences that the search for a better life can have.

15 – 17 October, Sadler's Wells East
sadlerswells.com

Olivier Award-winning dancer, choreographer and composer **Dickson Mbi's** brand-new show **TELLUS** is opening at Sadler's Wells East.

It is about a young boy discounted from Mother Earth who is thrust into a village suffering a devastating drought.

Guided by an Old Lady/Goddess he understands a fundamental truth: humanity has forgotten how to worship and protect the land. His journey is a desperate struggle to heal a broken relationship, restore balance and to reconnect with nature.

Dickson said: "This means a lot to me because I am from East London and grew up in the Stratford area, so to be able to present this work at Sadler's Wells East at this moment in my company's journey is very special to me. It feels like I am returning home and hopefully I would have made a lot of people proud, or inspired the next generation of East Londoners."

Dickson Mbi Company, **TELLUS** 21 – 24 October Sadler's Wells East.



Dickson Mbi. Image ©Foteini Christofilopoulou

BOOKS

Newham Voices attended the launch of **Paul Talling's** new book *London Dead Pubs*. The book features the Royal Oak in Canning Town on the cover.

The Lost River Fleet walking tour with Paul Talling takes place on 25 October.
derelictlondon.com

Vaseem Khan's latest book *The Man with the Golden Compass* is the second book in the *Q Mysteries*, featuring Q from the James Bond franchise.

Vaseem, from Newham, described the

plot to *Newham Voices*: "Dismissed from MI6's Q Branch, where he developed weapons and field technology, Major Boothroyd (aka 'Q') has found a new lease of life as an amateur detective in his sleepy hometown of Wickstone-on-Water.

Q is now hired by the police to re-examine the unsolved killing of Lawrence Noble, a tech millionaire turned online antique dealer."

Signed copies are available at Newham Bookshop from 22 October.

vaseemkhan.com



Vaseem Khan

EXHIBITION

The launch of **Poet of the People**, George Triggs sculpture of Benjamin Zephaniah took place at TM Gallery on 7 September.

George Triggs' sculpture, is a celebration of Benjamin's life, legacy and influence, and includes lines from his poem *People Need People*.

The exhibition, curated by Ruth Millington and Hannah Payne, also featured a selection of Benjamin's poetry alongside a newly commissioned short film documenting the creation of the sculpture.

Benjamin's books are available from Newham Bookshop.

newhambooks.co.uk

THEATRE

Surinderella is a unique version of a classic pantomime story by Praveesh Kumar that will be on stage at Stratford East from 20 – 31 October.

Stratford East paid tribute on their social media accounts to **Bonnie Greer OBE** who passed away on 15 September. "We are saddened to hear of the passing of Bonnie Greer, playwright and former Stratford East Board Member. Our thoughts are with Bonnie's family, friends and all those who knew and worked with her."

FILM

Ghosts: The Possession of Button House, starring Newham actor Kiell Smith-Bynoe as Mike Cooper, will be released on 23 October.



VIP launch party ©P.F. Chang's

FOOD

Newham Voices was invited to the VIP launch party for an exclusive first look at the global Pan-Asian restaurant **P.F. Chang**, based in Westfield Stratford City, ahead of its opening on 21 September.

The evening celebrated the brand's Pan-Asian culinary heritage and included samples of signature dishes, traditional lion dancing and drumming, Chinese calligraphy and live music.

pfchang.co.uk

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month in Newham will offer a community-led events programme reflecting on the theme of *Honouring Our Communities* throughout October.

Events will include: poetry, creative writing, music, author talks and film screenings. For more information visit:

newham.gov.uk/events/event/387/black-history-month-2026

MUSIC

Grammy nominated Newham singer **Tiana Major9's** November Scorpio Tour London date is 9 October at Bush Hall.

tianamajor9.com

Stratford-based **Lloyd Garrett** is an independent artist who releases music through his own label HighVoo Media.

Lloyd's independent band LJ and the Ray Band single *Heels* went to No. 16 in the Music Week Commercial Pop Chart.

Lloyd described the concept behind the song to *Newham Voices*: "*Heels* is an uplifting blend of disco, funk and modern pop, written to encourage people to switch off from the pressures of everyday life, embrace confidence and simply enjoy themselves."

ljandtherayband.com



LJ and The Ray Band

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



ABBA Voyage Flashmob ©ABBA Voyage

ABBA Voyage celebrated the 50th anniversary of the song *Dancing Queen* with a public flashmob outside the ABBA Arena Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Stratford.

East London Dance facilitated over 50 local dancers and community mem-

bers for the public flashmob. They performed a new dance routine created in response to the track, with choreography that fused disco with the movement languages that make East London unique.

Local campaigners rap ‘double whammy’ health job cuts

Newham NHS campaigners have criticised plans to cut jobs in the local health service.

They say that plans to reduce the number of staff in local hospitals and care centres is a “double whammy” with up to 800 jobs at risk in Newham and surrounding areas.

The Newham Save our NHS (Newson) group has also accused Barts NHS Trust, which runs Newham University Hospital over secrecy regarding plans for cutbacks in staffing.

In a statement on 15 September the group said detailed plans for 500 staff cuts which had been verbally announced earlier were missing from the record in papers for the Board meetings of 9 September.

“Why the secrecy?” asked campaigner Rosamund Mykura who was at the Barts meetings, “the Barts Board papers make seemingly no mention of these 500 jobs losses, just mentioning that ‘The Trust plan for 26/27 is to reduce staffing levels.’”

“Newham Hospital will now lose the Fothergill Ward beds, which could be used for existing patients waiting to leave Newham Hospital for ‘step-down’ NHS care.”

She says the Barts cuts and plans reported by *Newham Voices* last month for job cuts in staffing planned by the East London Foundation Trust (ELFT) amount to a “double whammy” for the health service in Newham.

As reported last month the East Ham Care Centre NHS bed closure of Fothergill Ward in East Ham went ahead in September after an internal consultation.

Alan Cooper, the chair of Newham Save our NHS, says closing up to 26 NHS step-down beds at Fothergill Ward in East Ham Care Centre is “a foolish mistake and imposed on Newham patients only because the government forces under-funded ELFT to avoid a budget deficit”.

He added: “Newham Hospital will now lose the Fothergill Ward beds, which could be used for existing patients waiting to leave Newham Hospital for ‘step-down’ NHS care.”

Newham Voices raised a question about public consultation over the cuts plan.

Edwin Ndlovu, Deputy Chief Executive of ELFT, sent a memo to the Trust’s public governors setting out the decision to close the ward.

He said Fothergill Ward was an intermediate care ward with the objective to give care and support to patients waiting to go home, not for any long term bed stay.



Image: Newham Save our NHS

Recently the ward was under-occupied with only six beds of 26 taken up, he said. Besides this low occupancy, he insisted that this care and support is better given at the patient’s own home and that evidence showed this is what the majority

of patients want.

However, Cooper insists closure is a mistake. “Our people need Fothergill Ward beds because Newham has a huge and growing population of 370,000 people, the size of a city,” he said.

“Yet this NHS care is threatened to drain away from vulnerable patients. At the same time our huge Newham population is bigger than any other of the Barts boroughs, yet Barts runs their smallest acute hospital in Newham.”

My community journey in Newham

FARZANA RAHMAN

My community involvement in Newham has been one of learning, participation, professional development and, most importantly, contribution to a community to which I have developed a profound sense of professional and civic commitment.

My ongoing professional engagement with *Newham Voices* community news and views has become an integral part of my community contribution, particularly through citizen journalism and the sharing of local perspectives.

I am grateful to have been able to work in different areas of professional development, community events and local journalism, and each experience has taught me that a resident’s voice can become part of something much larger when people are given the opportunity

to participate.

Through Newham Recovery College and *Newham Voices*, I have had opportunities to contribute my lived experience, ideas and skills while learning from professionals, residents and community organisations.

Also, my involvement with Well Newham began through its co-production approach. I was able to participate in discussions and activities connected with the development of the programme, including its identity, community engagement and events.

For me, co-production is much more than attending meetings; it is about ensuring that residents’ experiences and perspectives are recognised as valuable contributions to the development of local services. This reflects Newham Council’s stated approach of valuing residents’ experience and expertise in shaping services.



On yer bike! Nick raises £10,000 for charity

GARY BIRD

An annual cycle ride arranged by Nick Bracken OBE, the Honorary President of East London Rugby Club based in Memorial Park, West Ham, has raised almost £10,000 for charity.

In August Nick led a group that rode almost 90 miles between Harold Wood in Essex and Mundford in Norfolk in aid of the Atlas Foundation, which helps deprived children move from poverty towards a better future through the power of rugby.

Nick was joined on the ride by 26 of his colleagues from the Silver Hippos Rugby Club, a non-playing social and fundraising group he founded. Amongst the group were East London Rugby Club Honorary Life Vice-President Simon Crick; Club Captain and player Andy Davenport; management committee member

and East London Vixens women's team player Deepti Davenport; Vice-Presidents Kim Bromley-Derry and Mark Warwick; and club sponsors Roy Strickland, Paul Richards and Eugene Marais.

The cycling Hippos started at Harold Wood Park before cross-

ing parts of Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire towards their final stop in Norfolk. This year, as well as raising money for the Atlas Foundation, they dedicated the ride to fellow Hippo Dave Armond CBE, an East London Rugby Club Vice-President who

died in April. Dave's granddaughter Nina waved the riders off at the start together with Nick's granddaughters Juno and Evie.

The Atlas Foundation has benefited 278,000 children across 21 countries and raised more than £6million. The Silver Hippos visited one of the Foundation's projects in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2018 where they met the organisation's founder, England rugby legend Jason Leonard, as well as the national rugby team.

Nick, a former Borough Commander for Newham Police and chief operating officer at Newham Council, is also the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Havering. His role forms part of the Greater London Lieutenancy, supporting King Charles III and the Royal Family in their duties alongside promoting the work of uniformed and voluntary services, faith groups and charitable organisations.



Builder giving free repairs for elderly and veterans

The repairs company Prowler Construction, which holds council contracts, is taking its community commitment a step further by offering free repairs to anyone over 65.

Ryan Steward (pictured below, centre), who established the Prowler Foundation last year, said: "Older people are often taken advantage of by unscrupulous builders, and it is a real shame that vulnerable residents can face high costs for essential repairs."

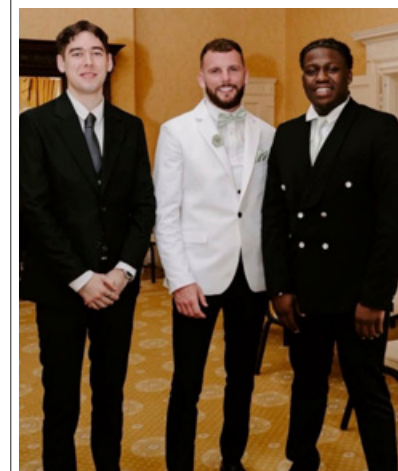
The elderly and veterans will be eligible for support. "Our veterans have served this country, and we believe they deserve our appreciation," said Ryan "We wanted to find a practical way to give something back."

The Foundation came up with the idea to ensure that the company, which has already helped hundreds of people, could combine construction expertise with its charitable work to create a lasting benefit for the community.

Prowler Construction holds council contracts and delivers services, operating a 24-hour service achieving more than an average 35 repairs each week, supporting residents who rely on fast and dependable assistance.

The free repair scheme will be part of Prowler's existing daily operations, with each of its seven teams aiming to complete one free repair per day. The company through its Foundation is rolling out this scheme across East London.

Eligible residents can register their interest by completing an online form. Call 07368 251852 or go to prowlerconstruction.com



From Sudan to Stratford: people matter, not places

Simon Shaw keeps the focus on humanity in the migration story

On a miserable evening last winter, it might have been raining, I was riding in the cycle lane near Stratford Library. Eager to end the journey I shouted at four men blocking my path. I turned ready for a row. I was so wrong.

'Uncle, uncle, we remember you – Calais jungle.' They were typical of the teenagers I regularly meet volunteering with Care4Calais.

I could recount scores of vignettes from my time across the Channel. It is always important to recount human stories, while humanity gets lost in hard data, we respond to tales of people and places.

This August I met a gentle giant, a 21-year-old from Sudan – he refused to distinguish Sudan from South Sudan. 'The same' he said. The first time we met was at the distribution site in Calais, where we regularly take donations, games, hot drinks and biscuits

and charging boards to facilitate haircuts and phone charging.

This brings people a few hours of respite from the tedium and dangers of living in this militarised border zone.

My friend is worried that his English learnt from YouTube will not be understood in the UK. He is also confused about the difference between the United Kingdom and Great Britain.

The next day I meet him in the 'Urgencies' department in the hospital, with a young friend who

is recovering from a broken leg as a result of being run over by a lorry; 'He is my brother, what we call everyone, not just our siblings, siblings is the right word?'

His 'brother' needs a blood thinning injection to prevent clots. After treatment they refuse a lift to their temporary respite accommodation at Secours Catholic.

But before they leave there is one more question: 'Simon who is your celebratory role model?' This flummoxed me, after some thought, I come up with Gary Lineker – but Gary has not yet reached his YouTube feed. They both put their right hands to their hearts and leave.

They are just a couple of the Sudanese (mostly children, the same age as the year ten to 13s I teach) festering in northern France, pushed out of their country which is ravaged by war, without their families, and waiting for a break to resume some kind of normality.

At the time of writing, two weeks into my stay, four people have died – victims of UK and EU border policy. Our policymakers, none of whom have been here, must understand that deterrents do not work. We should be flattered that my friend and his 'brothers' have chosen places like Newham, an area that has always been a destination for refugees. I look forward to meeting them here but not in the middle of my cycle lane.



CHRIS EK

Joe's twin sons became world fitness champions and now run their own gym.

Celebrities trained by Joe include footballer Jadon Sancho, *The Apprentice* winner Tim Campbell, and Sir Idris Elba,

instagram.com/mantiskbc



Joe Wharwood, Sabrina Mir and Sir Idris Elba ©Aaminah Mir and Zainab Mir

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Palestinian thank you to people who listened

Rani Khatib, a Gaza survivor, now resident of Newham, was inspired by a call to the Council

There are some moments in life you never forget.

For me, one of those moments was a phone call I made to Newham Council on 9 October 2023.

I was thousands of miles away from Gaza, but my heart was there. My family was there. Eight members of my family had been killed, and I was trying to process a level of grief and fear that is almost impossible to put into words.

I survived because I was here in London. I had come here as a refugee, I was the only lucky one who had made it here safely. On that day, I called Newham Council because I needed someone to listen. To stop this from happening.

A number that was given to me by the library of an official. I didn't know who she was. I didn't know her position or what she could do. I only knew that she was a Muslim woman. And somehow, I felt she would understand.

So I told her what had happened. I told her that eight members of my family had been killed in Gaza. I told her that I was only in London because, by some miracle, I had survived and was lucky enough to be here.

Then I put the phone down. I didn't know what would happen next. But she listened. Not everybody helped. Not everybody responded. But she did. And I never forgot her.

Almost three years later, I stood in East Ham and watched the Palestinian flag being raised at East Ham Town Hall for the first time. And suddenly, I was back in that moment.

I thought about that phone call. I thought about the years that followed the grief, the campaigning, the letters, the conversations and the people who continued to speak up for Palestine.

And I thought about the woman who had listened to me when I needed somebody to listen.

Councillor Sabia Kamali. I want to publicly say thank you. I remember her telling me, "I will do everything I can for Palestine."

She had heard me. She had seen my pain. She made a promise and, from my perspective as a Palestinian resident, she kept that promise.

When I saw the flag-raising that was deeply personal for me. To some, it may have looked like a simple civic ceremony. To me, it was something much bigger.

The Palestinian flag represents a people, a homeland, our families, our memories and our hope for a future where



Rani Khatib

Palestinians can live with dignity, freedom and security.

For Palestinian residents of Newham, it also carries another message: We are here. We have voices. Our families matter. Our pain matters. We should not have to be invisible.

The flag cannot bring my family members back. It cannot erase the suffering Palestinians have endured.

And it does not mean the struggle is over. But symbols, being recognised or

being heard matters.

I also want to thank the people of Newham. The residents who spoke up. The campaigners who kept going. The community organisations. The councillors and council officers who listened. And everyone who, in their own way, refused to allow Palestine to be forgotten in Newham.

Because this moment did not happen because of one person.

It happened because people kept talking, kept campaigning, kept writing, kept asking questions and kept believing that Palestinian residents deserved to be heard.

After the ceremony, I tried to call the same council number again. I was calling simply to say: Thank you.

Nobody answered.

Thank you to the woman who listened to me on that terrible day in October 2023. Thank you to the residents of Newham. Thank you to the campaigners.

Thank you to Newham Council and everyone who played a part. And thank you to every person who refused to let Palestine disappear from the conversation.

I watched the Palestinian flag fly over East Ham Town Hall. And I felt something I haven't felt for a very long time. I felt seen. So for me, it wasn't just a flag. It was a message. We had been heard.

Advertorial

EAST AUTUMN SCHOOL



Supported by

ABBA Voyage



Ready to level up your creative skills? Sign up to East Autumn School and go backstage at ABBA Voyage, make music with BBC Young Composer or plan your dream event with Hackney Empire - all for free.

Supported by ABBA Voyage and brought

to you by Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, East Autumn School is open to anyone aged 12 to 17 who lives or studies in Newham, as well as Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

The brand-new programme runs from Monday 26 October to Thursday 29

October and offers an exciting mix of hands-on workshops and industry insights. There are also opportunities to learn from professionals working across some of east London's leading cultural, creative and educational organisations.

Whether you're interested in technology, design, performance, events or crafting, you're sure to find something to inspire you. Choose from a range of free interactive courses, including an e-sports event planning programme, an exploration of lighting and audio production with ABBA Voyage and many more.

Alongside gaining experience in real-world settings, you'll build confidence, creativity and teamwork skills while learning more about the exciting career opportunities available on your doorstep.

East Autumn School is completely free to attend, but spaces on each course are limited and applications close on 5 October. Register now to secure your place for an unforgettable half term at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Scan to see the full course list and sign up now or visit
QueenElizabeth
OlympicPark.co.uk/
East-Autumn-School





SOMETHING'S BREWING



There's a new look to our old friend Eddie on Stratford High Street, as Phil Mellows discovers

Pub-goers of Stratford are welcoming back their old mate, Eddie. For a minute, we thought we'd lost him. But the doors of the King Edward VII are opening once more on to the High Street after the 300-year-old pub suddenly closed in January.

Stonegate Group, the owner, has spent a "six-figure" sum getting it back into shape, including some serious structural work. Indeed, when I called a few days into its new life, the roofers were still there.

Inside and out, it's been generally smartened up, especially the games area on the mezzanine at the back, which now has its own bar. The kitchen has been reinstated, and despite some new booth seating, the front bar has retained its rustic charm and many original features.

Most importantly, the Eddie has a new custodian with bags of experience and ideas.

Tenant Angela Farrell was born just down the road in Leytonstone and has been running pubs for 20 years, mostly in Essex. Before that, she remembers working behind the bar in the string of pubs that used to run up Stratford High Street.

"The Eddie is different to the other pubs that have survived around here," she says. "It's what I call a 'pub-pub', it's got character."

As people begin to rediscover it after the long break, Angela is beginning by establishing consistent opening hours, from midday to 11pm through the week, till midnight on Friday and Saturday and



Angela Farrell

till 10pm on Sunday.

She's aiming for a "real mix" of customers, attracting younger people with live bands and DJs, office workers with lunch-time food (from the middle of October) and sports fans with Sky TV and three big screens.

Quiz nights, comedy, karaoke, pool and darts teams and a Christmas party are also promised, along with cask ale – the Fuller's London Pride should be on the pumps by now – and a 'secret' courtyard beer garden.

It's early days, but Angela is quietly confident that with a good team behind her, she can make it all work.

"Don't worry, we'll get the Eddie back to what it was," she says, with just the hint of a wink.

Long march to end homeless crisis starts in East Ham

Homeless charity Crisis is organising a 13-mile walk to end homelessness – and it is starting in Newham.

The march will leave from St Barnabas Church, Browning Road, Manor Park, and end in Hyde Park, recreating an event held in 1967 when local politician Bill Shearman organised a Walk to End Homelessness. The walk raised £7,000 and some of those involved in organising it went on to form Crisis.

Pictured below are Bill Shearman, local resident Ron Wotherspoon, Iain MacLeod who later became Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Nick Beacock, a curate at St Barnabas who went on to be the first Chair of Crisis.

The event will take place on Saturday 10 October. Register to take part at: walk-toendhomelessness@crisis.org.uk



Good reads in Newham

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

• **Fascinating Forest Gate**
By Lia Rees

• **Vigilauntie**
(signed copies available)
By Meera Syal

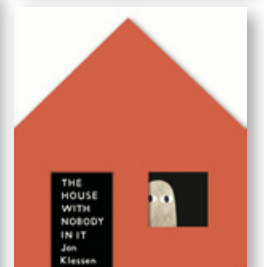
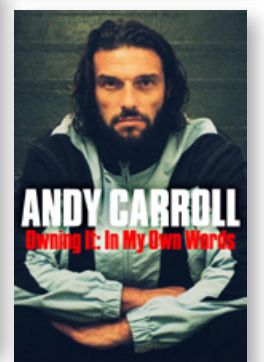
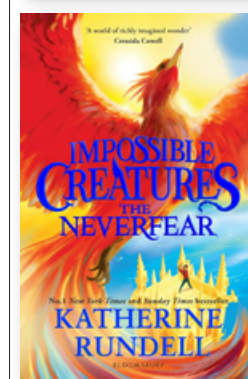
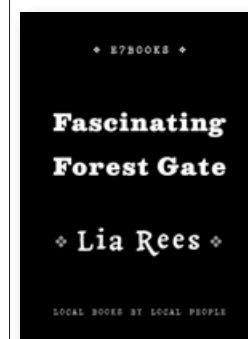
• **Owning It: In My Own Words**
(signed copies available)
By Andy Carroll

• **Gruffalo Granny**
By Julia Donaldson

• **Impossible Creatures: The Neverfear**
By Katherine Rundell

• **The House with Nobody in It**
By Jon Klassen

– Compiled by David Ceen, Newham Bookshop



Get ready to celebrate spooky autumn in West Ham Park

LUCIA RIOS STEELE

Friends of West Ham Park

Some might say it is getting harder to tell when the seasons are turning. Our summers are warmer and seem to extend beyond the boundaries of old, not as the one-off so-called 'Indian Summers' of my childhood but as the new normal.

I've started to wonder if this will have an impact on how we recognise and internalise the passage of time? Will the four seasons exist as distinctly for my children as they did for me? Will they have a favourite season? Mine is undoubtedly autumn. I long for leaves bursting with autumnal colours, brisk foggy mornings, evenings drawing in and warm woolly jumpers!

My internal clock knows that October is on the way and it is not just about the

weather or the daylight hours but about our traditions, our celebrations. These are the ties that bind us to our families and our communities, and to the land.

Harvest and Halloween are the quintessential autumn festivals and in this community, we are lucky enough to be able to come together to celebrate them both.

So start making your costumes of witches and goblins, heroes and villains, princesses and frogs because the annual West Ham Park Spooky Trail is just around the corner! I am feeling pirate vibes, so I'll be scouring the charity shops for anything that shines!

The West Ham Park Spooky Trail will take place on Friday, 30 October from 1:30 – 3:30pm. The trail is free of charge but if you are able, please support The Friends of West Ham Park Harvest Time Appeal to raise goods for our local foodbank. The best items are long-life



Image: Aaron Burden/Unsplash

non-perishable food, everyday household essentials and toiletries that help recipients maintain dignity.

I hope to see you in the pumpkin patch! The pumpkins are generously donated by our local Morrisons supermarket.

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

SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Neandra Etienne



Former St Bons student **Divin Mubama**, who has signed a season-long loan deal with Southampton FC, scored during the Club's game against Stoke. Divin had previously spent the 2025/6 campaign on loan at Stoke.

Liverpool player **Rio Ngumoha**, from Newham, started in the Champions League game against Atlético Madrid at Anfield on 10 September. During his Sky Sports interview he said: "I'm pleased that the gaffer put faith in me and I just wanted to prove to him and prove to myself that I could play at this level." Rio and Arsenal player Ezri Konsa, also from Newham, were named in the England National squad to play in the Nations League games in October.

London Lions were crowned champions of the London Lions Invitational after defeating Paris Basketball 84-75 at the pre-season tournament final on 11 September at Copper Box Arena. The London Lion's game against the Portland Trail Blazers, on 12 October in Portland, Oregon, will be historic because they will become the first British club to face an NBA team. thelondonlions.com



Phoenix Bowling Club, based in Royal Victoria Gardens, North Woolwich, became Ilford and District League Champions 2026 after beating Plashet BC. Secretary and Green keeper Keith told *Newham Voices*: "It's our first title since 2019. Also Mark Bywater won the Group 5 Waur Trophy and Gary Burke became runner up in the Group 5 Veterans Trophy." He added: "We are always on the lookout for new members." Phoenix Bowling Club results roundup: 29 July - Poplar 59 v Phoenix 38 16 August - Phoenix 54 v Plashet 53 6 September - Phoenix 48 v Plashet 43

Newham Cricket Club's Richard Henchley annual memorial match was against Redbridge Cricket Club on 12 September at Flanders Playing Fields. Newham won by 21 runs. newhamcc.com

During this year's outdoor bowls season, **Plashet Park Bowling Club** won the Redbridge Afternoon League and the Tarbard Shield. Bowls goes indoors from 1 October.



Half term activities for children aged 4-17, which are a mix of different sports, take place at Newham Leisure Centre, Atherton Leisure Centre and East Ham Leisure Centre. www.better.org.uk



NUEL club swimmer **Jeremiah Carnegie's** idea gave 780 children from the Borough the opportunity to take part in free swimming lessons at the London Aquatics Centre. Jeremiah said: "The London Aquatics Centre is a fantastic venue, and the whole point of the Olympics was to boost the Newham area and Borough. I wanted to find a way to make sure more children from Newham could benefit from having such a fantastic facility on their doorstep. "I wanted to help break down some of the barriers that can prevent children from accessing swimming, particularly primary school children who have never been in a pool before." Newham Future Swimmers' two-week programme was delivered through a part-

nership between NUEL Swim Club and Everyone Active. everyoneactive.com **Dockland Light Railway FC** got promoted to Division 1 of the Transport for London and LU Football League. <https://x.com/LULeagueLondon>

Get in touch with **Canning Town FC**, via their social media accounts, if you want to join their current squad. [instagram.com/canningtownfc](https://www.instagram.com/canningtownfc) *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*

Good sport for good mental health

West Ham United Foundation hosted a joint football tournament, at the Foundry, to support Ripple Suicide Prevention Charity and the Foundation on World Suicide Prevent Day in September. Alice Hendy founded Ripple Suicide Prevention Charity after the death of her brother, Josh, to suicide. ripplesuicideprevention.com

Rob Shotton, co-founder of rugby's mental health charity LooseHeadz, visited 56 rugby clubs during the 'Of-flood Challenge'. On the 260km journey he visited Newham based clubs East London RFC, and Kings Cross Steelers RFC to score



tries on their pitches on 24 September. looseheadz.co.uk

A peace of drama at the Dockers' Derby



Mickey Ambrose enjoys the first Millwall v West Ham match in 14 years, but this time all the excitement was on the pitch



Following West Ham's 2-1 home defeat at the hands of Charlton Athletic, West Ham Manager Nuño Espirito Santo's message to me, *Newham Voices* readers and his West Ham players in the dressing room was: "We need to do much better in the final third".

The West Ham boss was referring to the fact that during that game the final pass was not there in their forward play and that on the training pitch they would work to get it right. "Repeat, repeat, repeat". Practice makes perfect right?

The message has got through. Since the Charlton game the Hammers have scored 23 goals in the League and Cup including six past Wrexham that put them top of the EFL table.

Next up came *The Dockers Derby* against Millwall, so called due to the rivalry between the two sets of fans. The history is more than 100 years old and lies in the rivalry of two shipbuilding and dock-working communities from East and South East London. In those days Millwall Rovers, founded in 1885, were in the Isle of Dogs, and Thames Ironworks (the Hammers), formed in 1895, were at Leamouth Wharf/Canning Town.

The terrace tradition among West Ham

supporters holds that Millwall dockers acted as strike-breakers during historic industrial disputes, a narrative that deeply intensified hostility between the two fan bases and survives to this day.

West Ham travelled to Millwall, a club I know very well indeed. The late Millwall legend and cult hero was Harry Cripps who made 450 appearances for the Lions. He was the Assistant Manager at Charlton Athletic and helped me in my own career.

"Repeat, repeat, repeat"
Nuño's training message for the killer pass.

He knew my PE Teacher at St Bernard's School in Bethnal Green, Les Burns. Les, who passed recently, formerly played for Dartford FC. After much begging from me, as a confident 14-year-old, Harry arranged for the late Charlton Scout, Les Gore to watch me at Hackney Marshes, and so my football career began.

Ironically, Harry began his career at West Ham playing alongside the great

Bobby Moore in their youth team of the 1950s.

West Ham vs Millwall is one of Europe's most intense and indeed notorious derbies, returning for the first time in 14 years. It did NOT disappoint. Even before a ball was kicked West Ham knew they were in for a rough ride as their coach slowly made its way through a crowd of chanting Millwall supporters who were in high spirits outside the ground.

The police took no chances and deployed more than 400 officers and introduced a Section 60 Order giving the Officers enhanced power to stop and search people and vehicles without the usual requirement of reasonable suspicion.

The atmosphere on the pitch was electric, so intense as the fans were so close. Millwall showed their intent straight away with high pressing, and on occasions their tackling was ruthless and over the top, with Bowen being their target.

Their determination paid off and with 16 minutes gone Millwall took the lead with a goal that came in stages, more akin to a pinball machine.

In a first half dominated by Millwall, they doubled their lead in extra time, 2-0 when Camiel Neghli pulled the ball

from under his feet and smashed it into the net.

The West Ham players knew they must improve. Pride was at stake. And they showed why football is known as a game of two halves. In the 74th minute they pulled a goal back, with Kanté's powerful low drive. West Ham were now on the hunt. Bowen, although being booed each time he touched the ball, showed great character and seemed to be running every element of the game.

A series of corners were bundled away, until finally Konstantinos Mavropanos headed the equaliser in front of thousands of ecstatic West Ham fans who made the trip to South London.

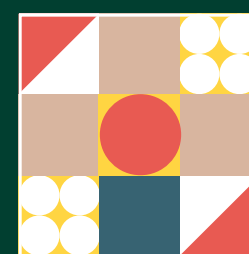
The boot was now on the other foot in this pulsating game and electrifying atmosphere. An extra five minutes time was added to the match with West Ham sensing a weakness in their opponents. For once the Millwall fans fell silent. It was now Millwall who were holding on, until West Ham goalscorer Kante took one for the team and was red carded for bringing down Kyrell Lisbie with a last-man foul after he had been caught in possession.

Once again, the tide turned, with West Ham down to ten men, it was the Hammers who were desperately holding on. In the final seconds Millwall's Lyndon Dykes squandered a chance to become a Lions legend when he blasted the ball over the top. The fans had to settle for a fair 2-2 draw and left peacefully for home.

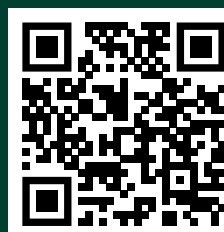
There was relief all round, not least for the Metropolitan Police who had a quiet afternoon with all the memorable drama taking place on the pitch.

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

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West Ham United and Millwall at kick-off at the Boleyn Ground, 2012.
By Egghead06, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

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