

ACCELERATE EDUCATION



Great results for our young people in their exams

SEE PAGE 7

COUNCIL NEWS



Calls to make e-bike charging safer after house fires

SEE PAGE 37

A LISTENING COUNCIL



Improve your digital skills this Get Online Week

SEE PAGE 18

ISSUE THIRTY // SEPTEMBER 2023



# OUR EAST END



## Fuel for school

First borough offering free school meals to every pupil

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## Open Mornings

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 10am-11am

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 10am-11am

## Open Evenings

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 4pm-6pm

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm-5pm

**Mulberry Canon Barnett Primary**  
Gunthorpe Street, London, E1 7RQ

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✉ admin@mulberrycanonbarnett.org

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For more information about our amazing school follow the QR code or visit [www.mulberrycanonbarnett.org](http://www.mulberrycanonbarnett.org)

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MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL





Lollipop man Frank Smith was based on Manchester Road near Cubitt Town Primary School

# Frank, 93, retiring from lollipop duties

## CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

The country's oldest lollipop man has retired at 93 after helping people cross the road for 25 years.

Frank Smith was stationed on Manchester Road, helping pupils and their parents cross the road to get to Cubitt Town Primary School.

Frank said: "I have really enjoyed being a lollipop man, especially meeting everyone and talking to them all – the kids, the parents, the teachers and everyone else."

"Everyone stops for a chat and knows me."

"Sometimes someone will stop and they ask me if I remember them as I helped them cross the road when they were young and now they are 21."

"Sometimes I remember them and sometimes I don't, but I always say I do."

He added that it was a pleasure to

help people cross the road and that there were no accidents on the road while he was on duty.

Frank said: "It can be a very busy road, especially around school time when people come tearing down it."

"Most people were good at stopping, but one or two were impatient."

"The worst people were usually the cyclists, and they got stopped by the police a few times as they didn't know there was a police car waiting for them just after the crossing."

In recognition of his service, Frank was given a plaque and special commendation at the Tower Hamlets Council Staff Awards.

Frank said: "I was quite surprised to get the award."

"It was really nice and the Mayor was there with all the other council staff."

Mike Darby, Head of Parking, Mobility and Market Services, said: "We are all very sad to see Frank

retire after 25 years.

"He is a well-known member of the community and has stood out in all weathers to make sure everyone can cross the road safely."

"We'd like to say a massive thank you to Frank and wish him all the best for the future."

"Frank has been with us since the role of School Crossing Patrol was transferred over from the Metropolitan Police and his retirement is richly deserved."



**We'd like to say a massive thank you to Frank**

## A message from your Mayor

There has been so much to celebrate this quarter. In August, our young people collected their GCSE and A Level results, with some impressive



outcomes putting Tower Hamlets ahead of the curve.

It was, of course, a very difficult year for many young people, with the pandemic causing a lot of disruption to their learning and grade boundaries being made more challenging. We will continue to support all the young people in our borough to achieve their full potential, no matter their exam results.

We have now launched universal free school meals for all school children up to 16, which means that 38,000 youngsters will benefit from a hot, nutritious meal – shown to help with attention and attainment. By introducing free school meals up to 16, Tower Hamlets becomes the first local authority in England to do so. No child should be held back from learning because their family cannot afford food.

We have also had a fantastic Summer of Fun programme. It has been wonderful to see so many people enjoying our parks and green spaces as part of this programme.

And talking of our parks, we are all holding our breath as we wait for the results of the Britain in Bloom competition. Tower Hamlets is the only English finalist in the city category, which in itself is a fantastic achievement. Our teams have done a brilliant job of looking after our parks and green spaces and we will be really proud, no matter the result.

**Lutfur Rahman**  
Executive mayor

Our East End is produced by:  
Tower Hamlets Council

Editorial enquiries: 020 7364 4389

Email: [communications@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:communications@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

Advertising enquiries: 020 7364 6005

Printed by: Reach Printing Services

Distributed by: London Letterbox Marketing

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# Warning as crackdown on social housing fraud begins

## HOMES FOR THE FUTURE

TWO hundred and seventy-five reports of suspected social housing fraud were investigated by Tower Hamlets Council in the financial year 2021-2022.

Following these investigations, 33 social housing properties were recovered, seven Right to Buy applications were prevented, and one person was convicted of fraud.

The council is under ever increasing pressure to provide social housing, so it is essential that homes go to people who are

legally entitled to them. If you are on the waiting list, you will wait even longer if homes are allocated to people who have no right to be there. There are currently more than 24,000 households on the council's housing register and London is currently in a housing crisis.

Examples of tenancy fraud include when a person knowingly provides false information on their application; subletting fraud; or succession fraud, which is when a person moves into a property after the legal tenant dies or moves away, but they are eligible.

## Avoid housing scams

If anyone ever approaches you asking for money to secure a council home, it is a scam:

- Never hand over money if approached by someone claiming to be a council officer
- If you are approached in and around the town hall, report it to the council's Facilities Management staff immediately
- Council officers would never ask for money to deal with housing applications
- Report all approaches or requests for money to the police.

Call the fraud reporting hotline on 0800 528 0294 or email [socialhousingfraud@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:socialhousingfraud@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

## Landlord fined £8,000 for misleading tenants

A rogue landlord who admitted misleading tenants on their rights and threatening them to leave has been ordered to pay £8,000.

Four residents complained to Tower Hamlets Council's Environmental Health and Trading Standards Team about London Corporate Apartments Ltd in late 2017 to early 2018.

The company had issued licences to occupy, rather than assured short-hold tenancies, which meant the tenants were misled as to their rights to have their tenancy deposit protected, and their rights as to their

status as tenants, and were at risk of illegal eviction.

There were also complaints that aggressive tactics were used to intimidate two of the complainants into leaving their properties.

Khaled Abed-Alrazek, director of London Corporate Apartments Ltd, pleaded guilty to two counts of misleading actions and one of aggressive commercial practice relating to his tenants from February 2017 to May 2018.

He was fined £2,000 for the company's aggressive commercial practices and £1,800 for issuing

licences rather than tenancy agreements.

He also had to pay compensation for the two deposits that weren't returned, worth £1,255, and must pay a further £285 compensation to one victim in respect of the aggressive commercial practice, in what the judge described as "a terrifying experience at the hands of bullies acting in [Abed's] name".

He was also ordered to pay a contribution of £3,000 towards prosecution costs. The company has since been dissolved.

During the case, District Judge

Matthew Bone also commended Tower Hamlets Council for its work to get the case to court, which was significantly impacted by the Covid pandemic and other issues.

He said: "I take this opportunity to thank the local authority for the way they've gone about prosecuting this case. I've reviewed the history. I only see now how difficult it has been to bring them. The local authority has impressed me as being patient, diligent and professional."

## Block of 17 new affordable flats unveiled



The new block in Limehouse which comprises 17 flats for social rent

Families have started moving into their council homes in a new block of flats located in Limehouse.

Chris Braithwaite House ranges from five to eight storeys and comprises 17 one, two, three, and four-bedroom flats for social rent.

Kawsar Ahmad and family are one of the first to move in from an overcrowded flat in Shadwell.

Mr Ahmad said: "It's a very nice property.

"Before we had just two bedrooms and were very overcrowded.

"It was difficult for my children to study, but now they have the space to do so."



The free, healthy, nutritious meals will now be given to all secondary school-aged pupils

# Free school meals for every Tower Hamlets child

## INVESTING IN SERVICES

Nearly 38,000 young people across Tower Hamlets will benefit from free school meals after the council became the first in England to offer them to all school pupils up to the age of 16.

The council has funded free school meals for all primary school children since 2014, and the extension to

secondary schools will be rolled out in phases from September 2023.

Eating a healthy, nutritious meal supports pupils with their learning and has been shown to improve behaviour and academic achievements.

With nearly half of children in Tower Hamlets going into secondary school with excess weight, the scheme is also a positive step towards improving the physical health of young people and promoting a healthier borough.

It will also provide vital support during the cost-of-living crisis, saving families an average of £550 per year, per child. £5.7m was included in the council's 2023/24 budget to extend universal free school meals funding from all primary to all secondary school pupils.

Cllr Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong



The meals will help support pupils with their learning

Learning, said: "Providing a free, healthy lunch is part of the council's wider commitment to giving young

people the tools they need to be successful in whatever they choose to do."



**There are a number of financial, health and academic benefits**

# Welcome to Young Tower Hamlets

## ACCELERATE EDUCATION

A new youth service to help children reach their full potential will include a youth space in every ward.

The council has invested £13.7m to redesign the service in Tower Hamlets, which has the youngest population in the country and some of the highest child poverty rates.

It forms part of a wider £19m council investment in young people. The investment in Young Tower Hamlets (YTH) will provide free opportunities for young people to improve their skills and unleash their creativity, alongside safe spaces for those who need it.

During May, 400 young people took part in a series of four interactive 'Hackathon' events featuring workshops to design their future youth service, including the new YTH branding.

There will be ongoing opportunities for young people to shape the new service.

The launch event, hosted by 17-year-old Zaynah Alom, Chair of Tower Hamlets' Youth Council, featured a welcome from Tower Hamlets social media influencers Iksy and Char Avell, activities for young people including sports sessions from West Ham United Football Club and London Warriors, arts and crafts, music and drama, and the unveiling of the new brand.



400 young people were involved in designing the new youth service

Young Tower Hamlets kicked off with a packed, free summer programme as part of the council's Summer of Fun, which included careers workshops, performance arts, cooking classes, arts and crafts,

sports, trips out and more.

Tahmid Hussen, Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "Young people have been part of this journey.

"This new youth service will be

a legacy that will empower the youth and the upcoming generation.

"They are the ones that will benefit the most and will be building, shaping and structuring this new youth service."

## Could you be our next Young Mayor?

Young people in Tower Hamlets are being encouraged to stand for the Young Mayor's Team.

The team consists of a Young Mayor and five deputies, who are the voice of young people in the borough. They serve a two-year term, with the next election in December 2023.

The current Young Mayor, Tahmid Hussen, said: "I've considerably developed my confidence and self-esteem during my term. Interacting with different types of people from all ages has helped me become a much more outgoing individual in a professional setting."

Mohsen Ali, Deputy Young Mayor, said: "Being tasked to communicate with new people led

me to build up my confidence and boost my skills in public speaking.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working with the Young Mayor Team and youth council, and we have definitely created some memories which will not be forgotten.

"Applying for Young Mayor is an opportunity you would not want to miss."

Ablah Chazhiyattiri, Deputy Youth Mayor, said: "The Young Mayor really opened many doors of opportunities and helped me focus on growing into a young independent woman who can speak publicly.

"To all the young people who are faltering on whether or not to apply, if you ever doubt your own capability then this can really boost your self-confidence and help you understand



The next elections are in October

that your potential is unlimited."

Hafizur Rahman, Deputy Youth Mayor, said: "My experience in the Young Mayor Team has been a rollercoaster of ups and downs suffering both defeats

and successes. What's important, however, is that both the failures and success are integral to the journey and builds resilience."

• Apply at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/youngmayor](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/youngmayor)

# GCSE and A Level success

Students in Tower Hamlets have achieved great success in their A Levels and GCSEs.

Almost three-quarters (70.5 per cent) of students achieved an A\* to C grade in their A Levels.

Almost one-fifth (18.1 per cent) achieved an A\* or A grade, an increase of 1.6 per cent compared to 2019, which is the last year students sat exams.

Over half of those who entered BTECs in Tower Hamlets achieved all grades at Distinction and above, which is approximately 13 per cent above the England average.

In their GCSEs, Tower Hamlets' average score was 1.5 points above the 2019 average score of 49.8, showing that results have improved

despite the pandemic.

85 per cent of students achieved grades 9-4 in English (equivalent to the old A\* to C grades), a slight improvement of one per cent compared to 2019. In maths, 77 per cent of students achieved grades 9-4, up three per cent on the comparable figure in 2019.

Nationally, pass rates have fallen for a second year running.

The fall in passes is due to the plan to bring grades back down, after a spike in top results during the Covid pandemic, when students were given grades by their teachers, instead of sitting exams.

Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "Education is one of our top priorities and we are

investing heavily to ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

"These results demonstrate the excellence of our schools and I am very proud of all our young people for working so hard, and our education staff for helping them accomplish these excellent results."

Councillor Maium Talukdar, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning, pictured below with students, said: "We are committed to supporting all our young people which is why we have brought in the Mayor's Education Maintenance Allowance and University Bursary to ensure that they are not held back."



**Education is one of our top priorities and we are investing heavily to ensure that all young people can reach their full potential**



## "Really happy"



Nabihah Mosud achieved As in maths and chemistry and a B in biology.

She will be studying chemistry at Kings College.

She said: "I worked really hard, especially in the last two months before the exams, but because of my good concentration I was able to get good grades. I am really happy."

## "Surprised"



Nusaiba Sayed achieved A\*s in sociology and biology and an A in chemistry.

She will study medicine at Imperial.

She said: "I didn't expect these grades and I am really shocked.

"I was preparing for the worst so when I saw my grades I was really surprised.

"I have always wanted to do medicine."

## "I could cry"



Tasneen Siddiqka received A\*s in sociology, politics and film and an A in English literature. She is taking up an apprenticeship as a solicitor.

She said: "I put my heart and soul into my exams and revision.

"I felt like I could cry when I actually saw my results. I am really pleased."

## BBC Apprentice



Sadia Gani received As in drama and film and a B in sociology.

She will start an apprenticeship with the BBC.

She said: "I expected a lot better but I am not too disappointed.


"I am really looking forward to starting my apprenticeship."



# Mulberry

School for Girls

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We believe these attributes will enable our pupils to lead enriched, happy and fulfilled lives, making a contribution to their own community, to British society and to global well-being.



**OPEN EVENING**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**4pm – 6pm**

We look forward to showing you what Mulberry has to offer.  
Open Mornings: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September  
9.30am – 10.30am

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SCAN ME





# Helping our care leavers get support not discrimination

A brave group of people who have been in care have called on Tower Hamlets Council to help other care leavers 'thrive and not just survive' during an emotional cabinet meeting.

The council has now agreed to protect those who have been in care from stigma and discrimination once they leave by making being in care a protected characteristic in all council decisions.

It is against the law to discriminate against someone because of a protected characteristic.

Care-experienced individuals often encounter significant barriers to employment, housing and socially, leading to mental health issues, a higher chance of being involved in crime and poverty, and social exclusion.

Three people who have left care

spoke about their own experiences at a Cabinet meeting.

Jade, who has since graduated with a first and now works for a large advertising company, said: "Being taken into care meant that my childhood was disrupted.

"I missed two of the most formative years of primary school and my SATs were never taken.

"As a result, my predicted GCSE grades were dishearteningly low and I found myself placed in the bottom set for all subjects. It took a lot of persuasion and many meetings between the school and my social workers and carers to get them to give me the chance in middle and upper sets so that I could achieve my full potential.

"Without that chance, I might not have secured the grades I needed for A Levels, attended university or



The young people speaking at Cabinet

obtained the job I hold today.

"Yet not all children in care have been as fortunate as I have been.

"Many lack advocates. This is why we must ensure care

experience becomes a protected characteristic.

"With this recognition, they can not just catch up, but excel in their education."

## Bursaries helping university aspirations

A total of 400 students have received financial support for their university study through the Mayor's University Bursary Award.

Eligible students can apply for a £1,500 payment to support with costs associated with their undergraduate studies, including accommodation, books and resources.

A total of £600k was on offer to support students in the first year.

Recipients of the funding have spoken of how helpful it has been.

Tawsiful Islam, who is going into his third and final year studying Economics at the University of Warwick, said: "Receiving a university bursary is a recognition of my intellectual promise and strength.

"I will feel more confident and motivated to excel in my studies and other interests as a result of this acknowledgment."

Nazifa Islam, a first-year medicine student at Oxford, who is aiming to become a doctor, said: "I looked into doing internships, but they weren't well paid, and you have to pay for travel, accommodation and food.

"I would not have been able to do internships without the university bursary - I also wouldn't have been able to afford some of the textbooks that I need for my course."



The Mayor at the launch of the University Bursary Award

Fatema, who has almost finished her degree in Health and Social Care at Anglia Ruskin University in London, said: "After Covid, the price of everything went up and

the bursary I received was really important for me.

"Going to university has helped my future prospects, I have got one module left on my course, but

I already have a job lined up."

• Applications for the 2024/25 funding will open in September. Details of how to apply will be on the council's website.

# School applications are now open



**Don't miss the deadlines for admission to secondary, primary and nursery schools.**

<b>Secondary admissions</b> For children born between 11 September 2012 and 31 August 2013	<b>31 October 2023</b>
<b>Primary admissions</b> For children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020	<b>15 January 2024</b>
<b>Nursery admissions</b> For children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021	<b>16 February 2024</b>

Complete your application online at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk)

For information about how to apply, scan the QR code or visit [towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

[school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
0207 364 5006



SCAN ME



# Secondary Transfer School Visiting Dates for Admission to Year 7 in 2024



We advise that you check the individual schools website for up to date information.

School	Open mornings	Open evenings
<b>Bishop Challoner Catholic School</b> www.bishopchallonerfederation.towerhamlets.sch.uk	Tuesday 19 & Tuesday 26 September, 9:30am	Tuesday 12 September, 6pm
<b>Bow School</b> www.bow-school.org.uk	Monday 11, Wednesday 13, Monday 25, Thursday 28 September & Tuesday 3, Thursday 5 October, at the following times: Tour 1: 9-9.45am, Tour 2: 11.15am-12pm, Tour 3: 4-4.45pm	Tuesday 19 September, 4.30pm <small>Tours 1 &amp; 2 must be booked in advance. Details of the booking arrangements can be found on the school website: www.bow-school.org.uk. Tour 3 is an after-school tour which does not need to be booked in advance but does require all visitors to be aware of any public health restrictions that may be in place at that time.</small>
<b>Canary Wharf College Crossharbour</b> www.canarywharfcollege.co.uk	Wednesday 4 October, 9am	Tuesday 3 October, 5pm
<b>Central Foundation Girls' School</b> www.central.towerhamlets.sch.uk	Wednesday 4, Thursday 5 & Friday 6 October, 9.30-10.30am	Tuesday 3 October, 4.30-6.30pm
<b>George Green's School</b> www.georgegreens.com	Monday 25 to Friday 29 September, 9.15-10.15am Meet the Principal and take a tour. Places are limited and must be booked in advance by emailing tmorgan@georgegreens.com	Wednesday 27 September, 4-6.30pm
<b>Langdon Park School</b> www.langdonparkschool.co.uk	Tuesday 12 to Friday 15 September, 9-10.30am	Thursday 28 September, 4.30-6.30pm
<b>London Enterprise Academy</b> www.londonenterpriseacademy.org	Monday 9 to Friday 13 October, 9-11am	Tuesday 26 September & Thursday 5 October, 4-6.30pm
<b>Morpeth School</b> www.morpethschool.org.uk	Tuesday 12, Thursday 14, Monday 18, Wednesday 27 September, Monday 9 & Friday 13 October, 9.30-11.15am	Wednesday 4 October, 4-7pm <small>Drop-in sessions: Wednesday 20, Friday 29 September, Wednesday 11 &amp; Tuesday 17 October, 9.30-10.30am Book online to attend a drop-in session: www.morpethschool.org.uk/2166/admissions-2023</small>
<b>Mulberry Academy London Dock</b> www.mulberrylondondock.org	See school website	See school website
<b>Mulberry Academy Shoreditch</b> www.mulberryacademysshoreditch.org	Monday 18 to Thursday 21, Monday 25 to Thursday 28 September, & Monday 2 to Thursday 5 October, 9.15-10.30am	Thursday 5 October, 4-6pm
<b>Mulberry School for Girls</b> www.mulberryschoolforgirls.org	Monday 18 to Wednesday 20 September, 9.30-10.30am	Tuesday 26 September, 4-6pm
<b>Mulberry Stepney Green</b> www.mulberrystepneygreen.org	Friday 8, Thursday 14, Tuesday 19, Thursday 28 September, Friday 6, Tuesday 10 & Thursday 19 October, 9-11am	Wednesday 20 September, 4-6pm
<b>Mulberry University Technical College (UTC)</b> www.mulberryutc.org		Thursday 19 October, Thursday 18 January & Thursday 14 March
<b>Oaklands School</b> www.oaklands.towerhamlets.sch.uk	Thursday 21, Tuesday 26 September, Monday 2, Friday 13 & Wednesday 18 October, 9.20-10.30am	Wednesday 27 September, 4-6.30pm
<b>Stepney All Saints CofE Secondary School</b> www.stepneyallsaints.school	Thursday 14, Wednesday 20 September & Tuesday 3 October, 9.30-11am	Monday 25 September, 4.30-6.30pm <small>Register online to attend at www.stepneyallsaints.school</small>
<b>St Paul's Way Trust School</b> www.spwt.net	Monday 18, Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 September, 9.15-11am	Thursday 21 September, 4-6.30pm
<b>Swanlea School</b> www.swanlea.co.uk	Wednesday 20, Friday 22, Monday 25 & Thursday 28 September, 9.15-10.15am	Wednesday 4 October, 4-6.30pm <small>Family Fun Day: Saturday 16 September, 11am-3pm</small>
<b>Wapping High School</b> www.wappinghigh.org	Wednesday 27 September & Wednesday 4 October, 9-10am	Wednesday 20 September, 4.30-6.30pm

# New mural in Bethnal Green

## COUNCIL NEWS

A new public art piece by artist Shiraz Bayjoo has been unveiled in Globe Town, Bethnal Green.

Installed on the side of Clynes House in July 2023, the work is a large colourful photographic collage.

Funded by Tower Hamlets Council and delivered in partnership with Whitechapel Gallery, the mural combines over twenty different images sourced from archives around London and internationally.

The images reflect a range of different historical themes that have been vital in the development of the local area, including protests and political movements; trade, industry and empire; and sporting, cultural and ecological references.

Shiraz Bayjoo's proposal for the site was selected by a public vote and the final design draws upon

discussions between Bayjoo and the Globe Town community.

Shiraz is a Mauritian artist living in London.

He said: "I wanted to highlight the area's history and far-reaching legacies - the refuge given to countless generations escaping political persecution, and the grassroots movements that have gone on to shape Britain and the world."

Cllr Abdul Wahid, Lead Member for Jobs, Skills and Growth, said: "Globe Town is a fantastic area with a rich history that is of great importance to our residents. This striking new mural is part of broader works that our High Streets Team is delivering to improve the Globe Town market square.

"To date, we've delivered shop-front improvements to seven units, two murals, CCTV in Meath Gardens, and public realm updates that include tree planting, seating, and new lighting."



The new mural on Clynes House

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The remains of an e-bike after it started a fire. Credit: Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

# Charge safe to prevent fires

The Mayor of Tower Hamlets has written to the Secretary of State to call for greater government support after a 60 per cent increase in e-bikes and e-scooter fires in London.

In February, two e-bike fires ripped through two flats in 37 hours and, since the start of 2023, there has been, on average, one e-bike or e-scooter battery-related fire a month in Tower Hamlets.

The letter calls for funding for local authorities to create safe charging spaces, improved legislation, more robust sampling and examination on importation of lithium batteries, including a national registration body for businesses providing them, and greater research into the issue.

The letter was sent alongside the

launch of a multi-channel marketing campaign, #ChargeSafe Tower Hamlets, which has been managed by Tower Hamlets Council and is supported by London Fire Brigade.

Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "It is evident that the rise in e-bike and e-scooter battery fires shows no signs of slowing down. These batteries present a major threat to not only our residents' lives, but people in neighbouring boroughs and across the UK.

"We are doing what we can as a local council, but we need greater government support to protect and save lives in Tower Hamlets and across the country. That is why I am calling on the Home Office to support local authorities in managing this emerging threat."

## London Fire Brigade's charging advice

Prevent fires and protect lives: keep yourself and others safe by following the London Fire Brigade's advice:

- Never leave your bike or scooter charging while you are asleep or not around
- Unplug your charger once it's finished charging
- Always use the correct charger for your batteries
- Buy any replacements from a reputable seller
- Never block your fire escape route with e-bikes or e-scooters
- In the event of a fire, call 999. Never try to fight the fire yourself

Read more about the campaign and see more fire saving tips at: [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/chargesafe](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/chargesafe)

Or visit the London Fire Brigade's website at [www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/e-scooters-and-e-bikes/](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/e-scooters-and-e-bikes/)

## Your views on Community Language Service

A new service will see free language classes for young people in Tower Hamlets.

The council is looking to introduce the Community Language Service for people aged between four and 18 in November 2023.

Community languages are the languages that are spoken by members of a minority community group within a majority language context.

In Tower Hamlets, English is the

main spoken language however other languages include Bengali, Italian and Spanish.

Language barriers can lead to challenges in areas such as literacy and language development in school.

As the council plans for this new Community Language Service, it is keen to hear your views to make sure this service meets your needs.

Languages can play an important role in child development.

Learning a language can help boost confidence, expand our world view and improve listening and observation skills.

It can also be beneficial for when children are ready to enter the world of work.

If you are a young person (11-18 years of age), work with young people (4-18 years of age), a parent of a young person (4-18 years of age), or have some connection with Community Language Services,

please complete this survey. It should take no more than ten minutes.

This survey is part of a range of activities that we are doing to gain feedback.

Other engagement will include workshops with young people and families.

- **Complete the survey by 30 September at [talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/tower-hamlets-language-services-2023](http://talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/tower-hamlets-language-services-2023)**

# Fines for unsafe masks and underage sales



Residents were encouraged to wear face masks during the pandemic

A Tower Hamlets company has been fined £34,000 and the company director handed a suspended sentence after it sold face masks and hand sanitiser during the pandemic which did not give enough protection against Covid.

Tower Hamlets Council's Trading Standards found in July 2020 that Posh Fashion Ltd, in Whitechurch Lane, E1, was selling hand sanitiser which only contained 35 per cent ethanol, nearly half of the required level of 60-80 per cent for effective germ killing. The labelling indicated it contained 75 per cent ethanol.

The face masks the shop was selling were also found to not meet the appropriate standards.

The company and its director, Khalil Ullah Zarguly, each pleaded guilty to three offences of misleading commercial practices, contrary to the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008,

and appeared at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 13 July for sentencing.

The company was fined £34,000 and Mr Zarguly was sentenced to 34 weeks' custody, suspended for 12 months, and he will have to complete 60 hours of community service within twelve months. He and the company were also jointly ordered to pay £21,000 in costs.

Non-compliant face masks purchased by the company had previously been seized at Heathrow, which had led to the visit by Trading Standards.

In addition, Mr. Zarguly had also previously received a warning from Trading Standards about the need to ensure that products he sold were legally compliant and given advice on the steps that could be taken.

• **To report concerns email [food.safety@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:food.safety@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or [trading.standards@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@towerhamlets.gov.uk)**

# Hundreds of weapons and knives taken off our streets

## FIGHT CRIME

610 knives and 79 other weapons have been taken off our streets in six months thanks to four new knife amnesty bins.

The bins, installed by charity Word4Weapons, allow people to dispose of knives and other weapons anonymously and safely. The knives are destroyed and are not investigated by the police.

The bins were unveiled in January in Barnet Grove, north of the Bethnal Green Road junction, E2 6AD; Vallance Road opposite Underwood Road, E1 5BQ; Burslem Street between the recycling bins, E1 2LL; and Brownfield Street next to number 107, E14 6ND.

The bins were emptied at the end of June. The other weapons alongside the knives included scissors, kitchen knives and utensils, knuckledusters, swords, and DIY tools.

Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, said: "Tower Hamlets is largely a safe place to live, work and visit,

but like all London boroughs, we do sadly see some knife crime.

"People carrying knives on our streets is illegal and will not be tolerated.

"These amnesty bins take dangerous weapons off our streets and prevent them being used to harm anyone.

"Each knife taken off our streets is potentially a life saved."

If you want to dispose of a knife or other sharp weapon, please wrap it in several layers of cardboard or newspaper and secure it with plenty of sticky tape so that the blade is completely protected and the knife cannot easily be removed, before placing it in a secure cardboard box.

It's an offence to have a knife in a public place and there aren't many reasonable excuses for having one.

If you are depositing a knife in one of the amnesty bins, please make sure that it is safely wrapped.

• **If you are worried about the safety of a child or young person, visit [towerhamlets.gov.uk/supportservicesyouth](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/supportservicesyouth) for support available.**



One of the knife amnesty bins, with cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury



Two Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers with a sign warning of the new fines

# £80 fines for those being anti-social in our parks

On-the-spot fines can now be given to those who break the byelaws in parks and open spaces in Tower Hamlets to make them safer and more inclusive.

Following a consultation to which more than 500 residents responded, the council's Tower Hamlets

Enforcement Officers (THEOs) can issue £80 fines to those behaving anti socially, including playing excessively loud music, having a barbecue, and breaking or tampering with any life-saving equipment.

Previously, those breaking the byelaws could only be prosecuted

through the court, which is an expensive procedure and can take a long time to be concluded.

These new fines will enable the police and council's enforcement teams to crack down more effectively on anti-social behaviour, making the parks more pleasant for everyone to

visit.

Persistent offenders can still be taken to court, where the maximum fine is £500.

• You can see the park byelaws and get more information on the council's website at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/byelaws](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/byelaws)

## More cars seized in blue badge crackdown

Seven cars were impounded during a day of action in which more than 100 blue badges were checked across Tower Hamlets.

Blue badges allow those with a disability or health condition to park closer to their destination. However, sadly, some people steal blue badges to sell on or use themselves, or they are sometimes used fraudulently.

The council's Parking and Mobility Services and Fraud Investigations

Unit, along with the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers (THEOs) and the Metropolitan Police, carried out a day of checking blue badges across the borough on 26 May.

During the operation, 12 badges were classed as stolen and seven vehicles were impounded.

Two badges were being used although the holders were shown as deceased.

The council's Fraud Investigation Unit is investigating and will

interview all those found to be misusing badges.

This follows on from previous days of action targeting blue badge misuse in November last year and March this year, which saw 130 blue badges checked and 13 cars impounded.

Further days of action are planned throughout the year.

• To report blue badge misuse, email [parking.fraud@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:parking.fraud@towerhamlets.gov.uk)



One of the seized cars



Ford Square playground has been refurbished, alongside Ropemaker's Fields receiving a Green Flag Award

# New Green Flag Award and improvements for our parks

## CULTURE

Ropemaker's Field in Limehouse has been given an award for being well-managed, safe and bio-diverse.

It is the latest park in Tower Hamlets to receive a Green Flag Award, taking the total of accredited parks and open spaces to 14.

Ropemaker's Field was created by

the London Docklands Development Corporation on derelict land, together with land above the new Limehouse Link Tunnel after the tunnel opened in 1993.

Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award Scheme Manager, Paul Todd MBE, said: "I would like to congratulate everyone involved at Tower Hamlets Council in achieving a Green Flag Award."

"Ropemaker's Fields is a vital green space for the community in Tower Hamlets, bringing people together and providing opportunities to lead healthy lifestyles. The staff and volunteers do so much to ensure that it maintains the high standards of the Green Flag Award and everyone involved should feel extremely proud of their achievement."

Tower Hamlets Council is dedicated to keeping all its parks and green spaces as places the whole family can enjoy. Ford Square playground has been refurbished and the northern side of the square has been re-landscaped.

The council has also made improvements to Cavell Street Gardens, with outdoor chess tables installed.

# Heritage panel for strikers



The new panel is one in a series found across our parks

A new heritage information panel telling the story of the Matchgirls has been unveiled in Grove Hall Park, Bow.

Cllr Iqbal Hossain, Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation, unveiled the panel which has been produced by the council in partnership with The Matchgirls Memorial organisation.

The Matchgirls were women and girls who worked at the nearby

Bryant and May Factory, now the Bow Quarter. They endured low pay, long hours and dangerous working conditions. In 1888 they took strike action.

Head down to the park to find out how they won their strike and went on to play an important role in the founding of British trade unions.

The panel is one of a series of heritage information panels you can find in the borough's parks.

# Judging completed for Britain in Bloom

Judges from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) visited locations in Tower Hamlets in August as part of this year's Britain in Bloom competition.

The judges went to areas

including Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Lady Mico's Almshouses, Stepney City Farm and Canary Wharf.

Tower Hamlets is the only English finalist in the 'city' category of the

Britain in Bloom awards

Groups compete in regional and national heats of the competition before being nominated for the Britain in Bloom finals.

Winners will be announced in

the autumn.

Keep an eye out on our social media, residents' newsletter and the next edition of Our East End to see how Tower Hamlets fared in the competition.



# Day of action after residents raise concerns



Vine Court, E1, where the day of action took place

More than 2,000 cigarettes have been seized, stolen motorbikes recovered and a number of fines and warnings issued during a day of action in Tower Hamlets.

Council teams, along with Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers, our Police Partnership Task Force and the Whitechapel neighbourhood Police, visited Vine Court, E1, after complaints from residents about drug dealing, anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, noise nuisance and poor parking.

The day, coordinated by the council's ASB and Community Safety Team, resulted in a number of shops being searched by Trading Standards and the seizure of 2,353 illicit non-UK or counterfeit cigarettes from one shop and smaller quantities from others.

The Environmental Services Team fined a business for fly tipping and

the Highways Team secured the removal of two bicycles which were left carelessly.

Three suspected stolen motorbikes were recovered by the Parking Enforcement Team and the Specialist Substance Misuse Investigations Team engaged with four vulnerable people.

Chief Inspector Claire Horgan said: "Officers from the Partnership Task Force and neighbourhood wards assisted the local authority in their day of action in Tower Hamlets.

"Officers provided assistance to all departments during the day while also reassuring the local community who have been affected by these criminal activities in Vine Court for too long."

The council will continue to act on reports of ASB and other issues.

• Report issues to the council at [towerhamlets.gov.uk/asb](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/asb)

## Anti-social behaviour tackled with events across borough

### FIGHT CRIME

Hundreds of residents, businesses and visitors were given crime prevention advice and helped with their anti-social behaviour concerns during a week of targeted activity

More than 40 hours of events were carried out by our Safer Neighbourhood Operations Team along with our partners including Met Police to mark Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week from 3-9 July.

Highlights from the activity included a responsible dog ownership event in Victoria Park, weapon sweeps, patrols in areas noted by residents as being ASB hotspots, and engagement events across the borough.

More than 1,000 residents and 186 businesses were engaged with during the week. 16 drug users were also approached, with ten being referred for further help.

The council is continuing to hold safety walkabouts and surgeries so residents can share their concerns.

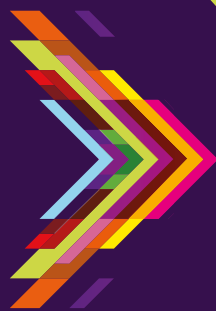
• Find out more at [towerhamlets.gov.uk/SaferCommunityDays](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/SaferCommunityDays)



Events included patrols, weapon sweeps and engagement sessions in all wards



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# OPEN EVENING

Thursday 19 October 2023  
4.30PM – 6.30PM



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[hill.co.uk](https://hill.co.uk)

# Get online with free help and support this October

Residents who don't have access or struggle to use the internet are being supported with a week of activities to help them get online.

In today's rapidly changing digital age, access to the online world has become a vital aspect of our daily lives, enabling us to stay connected with friends and family and access essential services.

However, many of our residents still face barriers to getting online, whether it's not knowing where to start or not having enough data.

Tower Hamlets Council has joined the Get Online Week campaign, taking place 18-24 October, to highlight the range of support available in our borough for those needing some extra help

to get online, from informal drop-in sessions to access to free data.

Get Online Week is a national campaign led by the charity Good Things Foundation with the aim of helping people explore the digital world.

As part of Get Online Week, the council has launched a new map of the local digital support available

and has organised special events to offer help to everyone.

The council has also partnered with the Good Things Foundation's National Databank to provide free, pre-loaded sim-cards for residents who are struggling with their mobile data.

• Visit one of our Idea Stores or Resident Hubs to learn more.

See all the ways you can reach the council face to face on the map below or visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/digitalsupport](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/digitalsupport)

## Tower Hamlets Digital support map

- 1 **Digital drop-in sessions and Databank**  
Whitechapel Idea Store, E1 1BU  
Wednesdays 2.15-3.45pm
- 2 **Digital drop-in sessions and Databank**  
Chrip Street Idea Store, E14 6BT  
Tuesdays 2.15-3.45pm
- 3 **Digital skills and ICT courses**  
Whitechapel and Chrip Street Idea Stores  
Visit your nearest Idea Store for details.  
Or contact 020 7364 5665 if you need extra support.  
<https://www.idealstore.co.uk/learning/skills-for-life/digital-skills>  
learnerservices@towerhamlets.gov.uk
- 4 **Digital skills support**  
Island House Community Centre, E14 3PG  
By appointment, call 020 7531 0312
- 5 **Digital drop-in sessions**  
SAMA Centre, 544 Roman Road, E3 5ES  
Thursdays 10.30am-12.30pm  
Contact: 07983803181
- 6 **Drop-in session (for residents known to the Community Learning Disability Service)**  
Create Community Hub, E1 0DT  
Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm  
Contact: 020 7364 6950
- 7 **IT suite and free 1-2-1 digital skills support**  
WorkPath Employment and Skills Centre,  
By appointment, call 020 7364 1122, 07759135049  
workpath.training@towerhamlets.gov.uk
- 8 **IT suite (for Universal Credit customers)**  
100 Leman Street, E1 8EU  
13-29 Settles Street, E1 1JW  
Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm
- 9 **Poplar Harca digital skills courses**  
St Pauls Way Centre, E3 4AJ  
Teviot Centre, E14 6OD  
Feldy, Aberfeldy Square, E14 0XA  
Contact: 0207 510 0500  
poplarharca.co.uk/get-involved/employment-training/
- 10 **Digital drop-in sessions**  
The Hive Employment & Training  
East India Dock Road, E14 0EA  
Contact: 0207 510 0500  
thehive.training@poplarharca.co.uk



- 11 **Digital drop-in sessions (LinkAge Plus 50+)**  
Sundial Centre, E2 7RU  
Wednesdays 11am-12noon  
Contact: 0203 828 3928
- 12 **Digital drop-in sessions (LinkAge Plus 50+)**  
St Hilda's, Sonali Gardens, E1 0AG  
Tuesdays 10-11am  
By appointment, call 020 7265 9292
- 13 **Digital drop-in sessions (LinkAge Plus 50+)**  
Neighbours in Poplar, St Matthias  
Community Centre, E14 0AE  
11:30am - 12:30pm  
Contact: 020 7531 0190
- 14 **Digital drop-in (LinkAge Plus 50+)**  
Age UK East London, Caxton Hall, E3 2EE  
Wednesdays 10am-1pm  
Contact: 0208 981 7124 (option 2)
- 15 **Digital drop-in (LinkAge Plus 50+)**  
Toynbee Hall, Community Centre,  
28 Commercial St, E1 6LS  
Tuesdays 5-6pm  
Contact: 020 7392 2913

**Free digital skills support and access to digital devices (for Clarion residents)**  
Clarion Futures Digital  
Contact: 0300 500 8000, [digital@clarionhg.com](mailto:digital@clarionhg.com)

**Free digital support helpline from Citizens Online:** 0808 196 5883

**Free online accessibility support helping from AbilityNet:** 0800 048 7642

**Vodafone Digital Skills Helpline (open to all):** 0800 987 4110

**Discounted refurbished devices**  
Get Online @ Home  
[getonlineathome.org](http://getonlineathome.org)  
0800 090 1297, 03719 100 100

**Cheaper broadband packages (social tariffs) from local providers** – Call to check eligibility  
Community Fibre: 0808 196 6262  
Hyperoptic: 0203 318 3209  
Virgin Media: [virginmedia.com/broadband/](http://virginmedia.com/broadband/)  
low-income-families (any queries call 0345 454 1111)



## Share your thoughts on leisure facilities

Residents are being asked for their views on the current leisure provision in the borough.

In August 2022, Cabinet approved plans to bring the management of seven leisure centres in-house when the current contract with leisure provider GLL expires in April 2024.

Insourcing the service presents an exciting opportunity to create facilities and a programme of activity that meets the needs and health and wellbeing of our residents.

The council will focus on:

- increasing participation of our residents with a focus on women

and girls

- making our services more inclusive and easier to access
- supporting residents' journeys to a healthier lifestyle

There will be opportunities for residents to share their experiences,

thoughts and ideas to help shape the future of the council's leisure, health and wellbeing service.

• To join in and for more information and updates visit: [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/LeisureInsourcing](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/LeisureInsourcing)



Staff in the hubs can give information on a wide range of issues, including parking, council tax and benefits, pictured with cllr Kabir Ahmed

# Residents' Hubs rollout

## LISTENING COUNCIL

Local people have welcomed the roll out of the council's Residents' Hubs, which offer face-to-face advice to those who are unable to access services online or by phone.

The council has opened four permanent Residents' Hub in the new town hall, Cubitt Town Library, and the Idea Stores in Crisp Street and Bow.

Another hub, in the Professional Development Centre, Bethnal Green, is due to open soon.

The hubs have staff who are trained to deal with a range of services such as parking, council

tax, benefits, and employment skills, and can make referrals.

Langdon Park resident Ambia Awal was one of the first residents to check out the Crisp Street hub.

She said: "As a mum of young children it can be difficult to get around to other parts of the borough, so it's really handy to have this service so close by. My background is in education, and I was able to get some advice about getting back into employment.

"I'm also interested in taking part in some courses too, so it was good to be able to get some advice about those opportunities too."

- Visit [towerhamlets.gov.uk/residentshub](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/residentshub)



Residents will be able to visit five new hubs across the borough

# I Can Be... aims to inspire future leaders



One of the I Can Be... workshops

A new campaign is encouraging more people from Black, Asian and multi-ethnic backgrounds to take up senior and community leadership roles.

The 2021 census shows that 16.1 per cent of White British Tower Hamlets residents in employment are managers, directors or senior officials, compared with 10.4 per cent of Asian/Asian British residents and 8.1 per cent of Black/Black British residents.

Tower Hamlets Council is looking to change this, working with local residents to address this disparity through the I Can be... campaign.

The council has actively engaged the community through events

and workshops.

Humaira Begum, who attended one of the I Can Be... workshops at The Limehouse Project, said: "We need to see a diverse representation of faces in leadership roles as society is made up of so many different groups. Our diversity is a strength."

60-year-old Sultana Shireen added: "One of my daughters wants to be a scientist and she says it can be tough when she doesn't see many women from her background pursuing these types of jobs so anything that helps to address that balance is welcome."

The council will formally launch the I Can Be... campaign in the autumn after collating feedback from the public.

# Summer of Fun as youngster

## CELEBRATING OUR BOROUGH

Children, young people and families enjoyed more than 600 free activities during the school summer holidays.

Highlights of the Summer of Fun 2023 programme, organised by Tower Hamlets Council, included creative arts workshops, sport and physical activity sessions aimed at increasing female participation in sports and physical activity, family fun days, accredited courses, coaching and careers workshops for teenagers and young adults, and sport camps. Many of the activities offered a free meal.

Shafia, who went along to the family fun day at Whitehorse Adventure Playground with her niece Maria, said: "We really enjoyed it. There were so many activities - from bouncy castles to messy play and making a milkshake, which was Maria's favourite."



There were 600 free events for families and young people across Tower Hamlets as part of the council's Summer of Fun programme



# s enjoy host of free activities



Activities included sports sessions, family fun days and careers workshops



**I went to an office in Year 8 and learnt about skills  
Now I analyse data, create reports and lead presentations**



**Did you go to a school in Tower Hamlets?**

**Aged 18-35?**

**We need your story!**



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**We're looking for ex-Tower Hamlets students to feature in our Alumni campaign and inspire the next generation of young people.**

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No need to visit an Idea Store, you can book online through a click of a button from the comfort of your own home at [www.ideastore/learning](http://www.ideastore/learning)



## Enrol Now!





Alongside Young WorkPath, the council has held Careers Live sessions for young people in the borough

# School leavers helped to find their work path

If you've just received your exam results and you're not sure what to do next, Tower Hamlets Young WorkPath may be able to help.

Young WorkPath is a council service that works with young people aged between 13 and 19, or up to age 25 if they have special educational needs or a disability.

It provides careers information, advice and guidance about the next steps available to young people.

For young people no longer in education, the service can support you in making choices about your future, and will also help you to find jobs and apprenticeships, and

support with application forms, CVs and interview techniques.

Young person Maniul spoke to Young WorkPath in 2022 after receiving his results and is now doing a Data Analyst Degree Apprenticeship at Amazon. He said: "Working with Amin [from Young WorkPath] was of great benefit.

"He helped me make a really good CV that was catered to the career field I was applying for.

"He also helped me with my cover letter which I was able to use as a base for the interview questions."

Email: [youngworkpath@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:youngworkpath@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or call 0800

3581 2410 or 0207 364 1401.

The council has also delivered free careers sessions to more than 1,000 schoolchildren.

The series, Careers Live, delivered five events, each focused on a different industry.

Secondary schools across the borough attended and students were able to have face-to-face discussions with professionals about their career ambitions.

Kawtar El Ouaraini, Careers Education and Guidance Manager at St Paul's Way School, said: "Our students chose the industry theme they were most intrigued to

attend, making it a personalised and meaningful experience. They saw this opportunity as a unique way to explore and understand the range of career pathways available to them at their own pace."

The council hosted the events in partnership with the University of East London, Queen Mary University London, London Metropolitan University, New City College and Canary Wharf Group.

• **Join the council's newsletter to see future events** [towerhamlets.gov.uk/content\\_pages/online\\_services/Sign\\_up\\_to\\_our\\_newsletter.aspx](https://towerhamlets.gov.uk/content_pages/online_services/Sign_up_to_our_newsletter.aspx)

## Share your career path to inspire others

A Tower Hamlets-based education charity is launching a new campaign to showcase the diverse and successful career paths of former students from our borough.

Whether you are a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher, an artist, an entrepreneur or anything else, The Switch would love to share your story with the next generation of professionals.

The aim is to inspire and motivate young people in Tower Hamlets to pursue their dreams and ambitions, and to show them the range of opportunities available to them.

By getting involved, you can make a difference to someone's life and help them achieve their full potential.

Jamie, a data analyst from Bow, is taking part to inspire others. He said: "When I was growing up I had zero examples of who I wanted to be or what I could achieve or what I could do.

"It's just about creating an environment in Tower Hamlets that is of hope, vision and success and being able to show what all of us are capable of."

Abubakr, a Legal Fellow from Bethnal Green, added: "I don't think a lot of people have my [professional] background in our borough, so it's not fair that I should just keep it to myself."

If you would like to participate in the campaign, fill in the form on the charity's website at [theswitch.org/young-people-and-alumni/success-campaign/](https://theswitch.org/young-people-and-alumni/success-campaign/)

Anyone who the charity chooses to feature on its website, social media and newsletter will be given a £25 voucher.



Make a difference to someone's life

# Enrollment now open for more than 900 courses

## JOBS AND ECONOMY

Are you passionate about painting? Want to try Tai Chi? Or maybe you need English and Maths qualifications to improve your job prospects? Whatever your interests or needs, Idea Store Learning could have the course for you.

There are more than 900 courses to choose from at Idea Stores across Tower Hamlets, including fashion and textiles, learning to be a tour guide, belly dancing, salsa, woodwork, upholstery, Spanish, creative writing, pottery, and many more.

You can also study for qualifications in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), which is a requirement for some jobs, and Functional Skills in Maths and English.

98 per cent of past learners say they are highly satisfied with courses

and would recommend them to a friend.

The sessions start from just £1, and in some cases are free if you are on particular benefits or have a low income.

Morgan, a ballet student, said: "The course has positively impacted my health. It is a great physical and mental workout, and the other class members are lovely. The tutor is wonderful and makes the hard work we do fun."

Learner Rubena Begum said: "Before coming to the Idea Store I couldn't speak English, but now I have found a job because I learnt English at the Idea Store."

Bryan McLaughlin, a woodwork learner, added: "Being dyslexic I have very much enjoyed this practical style of learning and have appreciated the tutor's support and teaching skills throughout."

Councillor Abdul Wahid, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Growth,



You can also study English for Speakers of Other Languages

said: "These courses are a great way to get some new skills, make new friends, and boost your employability."

Enrolment is now open for the September adult and community learning classes and closes in

October. To join one of our ESOL, English, Maths or Digital Skills course, you will need to book an initial assessment session in September.

• To find out more and sign up, visit [ideastore.co.uk/learning](http://ideastore.co.uk/learning)

## No longer making a meal out of social media



Brian Boulter took over the business in 2010

A traditional East End pie and mash shop has successfully secured a spot on the council's business training programme.

Eastenders Pie and Mash has been serving customers since 1976, and the now owner, Brian Boulter, took over the business in 2010.

The shop is located on London's famous Crisp Street Market and uses local produce - the meat for the pies comes in directly from Smithfield Meat Market every day.

Brian said: "The pandemic was difficult but we're finding the cost-of-living crisis even more challenging. Our electricity bills have tripled, flour has doubled and a large tub of margarine that in 2019 was £10.50 is now £27. The area is more diversified now, and there is more competition, but it's clear that pie and mash remains important."

Brian applied for Tower Hamlets Council's free business training in March and was accepted onto the course in the same month. The programme delivers support to businesses looking to develop an existing or new income stream.

He said: "The team has given me training on social media. I'm not a social media person, I don't use it personally and I think if you have it and use it in your own life, you're more likely to use it for your business."

"The team come and see me every couple of weeks. We sit down and go through what I need to do, they make it really easy. They're great and they do convince me that social media is going to work for us. They're teaching me a lot and that's why it is so good, I wouldn't do it otherwise."

Brian's training includes learning how to harness Google My Business, Facebook, Instagram and using scheduling platforms such as Loomly to drive awareness for the shop.

Applications for the second cohort of the programme are now open. All the business training is bespoke and can be done one-to-one or online and at a time and pace that is suitable.

To read the full entry requirements and apply for the training programme, please visit: [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/THS4](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/THS4)



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Jesse Jackson



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### FOR 7 YEAR

#### OPEN MORNINGS

MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 9:00AM -11:00AM

#### OPEN EVENINGS

TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER & THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 4:00PM - 6:30PM

#### YEAR 6 FUNDAY:

SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 10:00AM - 1:00PM

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FROM 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 10:00AM - 1:00PM



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- Year 11 parents

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- Khadisa, Year 11

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



# Make sure you bring photo ID to

## COUNCIL NEWS

Significant changes affecting elections, electoral registration, voting systems and the borough's

parliamentary constituency boundaries are taking place, with further changes to be introduced over the next 18 months to two years.

Eligible residents should ensure

they are registered to vote correctly, have the appropriate approved photographic identification if they plan to vote in person in the polling station, and understand how these changes will affect them.

- You can find out more information at [towerhamlets.gov.uk/elections](https://towerhamlets.gov.uk/elections)

## You need to show approved photo ID at your polling station before voting

Voters are required to show approved photographic ID when voting in person at a polling station in some elections to verify their identity before voting.

This includes local elections and by-elections, UK parliamentary by-elections and recall petitions and, from October 2023, will also apply to UK general elections.

Accepted approved forms of photo ID include but are not limited to:

- A passport issued in the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state, or a Commonwealth country
- A driving licence issued in the UK, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state
- Some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a 'PASS' card).

Voters will not need to show photo ID to apply to vote by post or

proxy. Although anyone acting as a proxy to vote on someone's behalf will need to show their own photo ID at the polling station.

If you don't have any of the approved photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document known as a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) at [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)

To apply for a VAC, you must be registered to vote, provide a photograph, and may need to provide identification before a Voter Authority Certificate will be issued.

Extensive training of staff and preparatory work is taking place and includes additional measures being put in place such as providing privacy areas if anyone attending the polling place wishes to have their photographic ID checked in private.

- There is more information and a full list of accepted ID at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or you can call the Commission helpline on 0800 328 0280

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID  
Find out more at  
[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)  
or call 0800 328 0280

## Don't lose your right to vote

The council's Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is currently updating the electoral register which ensures the register has accurate information about the eligible electorate in the borough, so they don't lose their right to vote.

With the Mayor of London and London Assembly elections taking place on Thursday 2 May 2024, and a general election due no later than 28 January 2025, this is an important opportunity for those eligible to vote to make sure they can take part.

Recent home movers are urged to check their details are up to date.

The annual electoral register update will run until November 2023, with the revised electoral

register published no later than 1 December 2023.

The first stage of the process has concluded with the electoral register data uploaded to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to be matched against their records.

If all the people registered to vote at a property match the records held by DWP the property falls into a category known as Route 1 and the ERO will send an email, if the council holds an email address for someone in the household, to confirm that the details we hold for the property are correct.

If there isn't an email address, the ERO will send a form (CCA) to the property and if no changes are needed there is no need to reply.

If there are any people at the property that have not matched with the DWP records these fall into a different category Route 2 and a form CCB (or canvass form) will be sent which will require completion and a return made.

You must respond to this form even if there are no changes to make. If the ERO does not receive a response, further attempts will be made to get a response from you, including sending reminder forms or visiting your property.

The final category, Route 3, relates to care homes, student accommodation, Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and all other properties where the ERO has established a contact

such as a Duty Manager, who will be responsible for providing the correct and updated information.

Please look out for one of these forms and follow the instructions provided.

It is important that new electors are not automatically registered to vote even if you add anyone new to your canvass form. If that is the case the ERO will send out a separate voter registration application for the individual to complete or an application can be made on a secure government website here [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) to apply to register directly.

- Visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/annualcanvass](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/annualcanvass)

# Go to vote and know other changes

## Be prepared for the GLA elections on Thursday 2 May 2024

The Mayor of London and London Assembly Elections take place every four years and will take place on Thursday 2 May 2024.

The polls were last held in 2021 after a 12 month delay because of the Covid restrictions.

This means that eligible voters in Tower Hamlets must ensure

they have approved photographic ID with them when they go to the polling station to cast their votes.

The counting system for the Mayor of London, has also changed from a supplementary vote system to a simple majority voting system, known as first past the post.

First past the post means you

vote for one candidate only and the candidate with the most votes will win and become Mayor of London. This method is also used to elect local councillors and members of parliament.

Candidates do not have to secure a certain number of votes - they just win more votes than any other

candidate.

The revised system will also be in place for the election of local authority mayors in England, so will include the borough's next election for the Mayor of Tower Hamlets due to take place alongside the next council elections on Thursday 7 May 2026.



## Changes to the borough's parliamentary constituencies

The electoral map of England is being redrawn to reflect population change and that all Parliamentary constituencies contain roughly the same number of electors.

After public consultations led by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE), the final recommendations have now been submitted to Government.

If the changes are agreed, the number of parliamentary constituencies in London will

increase from 73 to 75 and will directly affect Tower Hamlets.

If approved, the new constituencies will be used for the next general election, but any by-elections that may take place before then must use the existing constituencies.

Currently there are two parliamentary constituencies that encompass the entire borough:

- Poplar and Limehouse
- Bethnal Green and Bow.

The new recommendations set out three Parliamentary constituencies in Tower Hamlets:

- Poplar and Limehouse
- Bethnal Green and Stepney
- Stratford and Bow.

The new Stratford and Bow constituency will be created by adopting three Tower Hamlets Borough Wards (Bow East, Bow West, and Bromley North) which will be merged with four wards

from neighbouring Newham borough (Forest Gate North, Forest Gate South, Green Street & Stratford and New Town).

It will be the responsibility of the Newham Acting Returning Officer to administer this new constituency and not Tower Hamlets.

- **You can find out more and see an interactive map of the proposed changes at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk).**

# Stormzy in Victoria Park

THIS major events, with the borough hosting the London Marathon, the Big Half and festivals. This edition, we focus on the recent All Points East and In the Neighbourhood Festivals



Renowned music festival All Points East returned to Victoria Park this summer, with two weekends of music featuring headliners including Stormzy, The Strokes, Jungle, Dermot Kennedy, and HAIM.

In between the main festival weekends, In The Neighbourhood, the free, four-day programme of activities and entertainment, also made its welcome annual return to Victoria Park.

Run in collaboration with Tower Hamlets Council and local community groups and organisations, the programme gave visitors an opportunity to enjoy a host of free activities including live music, cinema, food workshops, creative workshops, dance and theatre, sports and wellbeing, and family activities, making the most of the last weeks of the summer holidays.

A free live screening of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Final, England v Spain took place in

Victoria Park on the first day of In the Neighbourhood. The historic moment in English football was watched by more than 12,000 people as Tower Hamlets Council, the Mayor of London and All Points East hosted the screening in support of the Lionesses.

Along with the free community festival, hosting All Points East provides much needed income which helps to support council services.

In addition, a minimum of £100,000 is invested into maintaining Victoria Park and funding activities within the park.

Hosting the festival also creates opportunities for local arts groups and performers to take part in the midweek events programme, offers local businesses opportunities to supply goods and services to the event, and provides an education and outreach programme for Tower Hamlets schools and colleges.

Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets, said: "I am delighted that this year's festival showcased more local talent than ever before, supported enterprise and provided families with a host of free events during the school summer



More than 12,000 people watched the Lioness in the World Cup final

holidays."

Jim King, CEO of European Festivals at AEG Presents, said: "We are very lucky to collaborate with Tower Hamlets, making In The Neighbourhood a real celebration of the local area. This year we had

so many fantastic local businesses and vendors joining us in Victoria Park for four days of free activities and entertainment. Whether it was a dance class, theatre or craft workshop, there really was something for everyone."







There was fun to be had for all the family, with acts including Stormzy, bottom left, and Dermott Kennedy, bottom right



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Academy London Dock

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\*Site currently under construction.



## OPEN EVENINGS

We are hosting Open Evening events for families interested in joining our school.

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We look forward to welcoming our first cohort of Year 7 students to our new school in September 2024.

SCAN ME



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“Leaders provide extensive opportunities for pupils’ personal development.”



# We're Outstanding!

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“Many pupils said that they enjoy learning about different people and that everyone is treated equally in school. Pupils are happy here.”

“Leaders ... provide opportunities for pupils to learn important life skills and learn about etiquette.”

Call 020 8980 2414  
Email [info@solebayacademy.org](mailto:info@solebayacademy.org)  
Check out our Facebook page.



# Free summer clubs for kids

## COST OF LIVING

Thousands of families benefited from free summer holiday schemes which kept youngsters entertained, fed and active.

The council worked with local organisations to offer the Department for Education-funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme, which included a variety of free activities along with a nutritious meal to children aged 5-16 who are eligible for free school meals.

The Canary Wharf Football Academy also ran three holiday clubs.

There was high praise from young people who attended the HAF club based at Bow Cross Community Centre.

Yaseen, eight, said: "I really look forward to the summer holidays now as my friends and I can meet and play. I came along last year and wanted to come again to improve my football skills. This year I played

FIFA on the computer too."

Instisar, 13, added: "Six weeks is a long time to have nothing to do so clubs like this are amazing. You get to make new friends and I like being creative so was able to draw and make bracelets."

Volunteer Rougie Khanom, a talented basketball player who has founded a basketball team in the borough to encourage more women to play, said: "It is so important to get children active from a young age so they develop good lifelong habits.

"So many parents dread the summer holidays as they don't know how they will keep their youngsters busy and feel guilty if they are left to watch TV and not play outside.

"That's why the HAF scheme is so important as it gives children a safe place to play, socialise and learn new skills. I am keen to get more young girls into sport and would love to see girls take up basketball."

By the end of the summer, the scheme will have reached more than 3,500 children across the borough



Children enjoyed free activities and lunch

and provided more than 50,000 meals.

- The council provides information on financial support as well as

help with issues around food, energy, employment, debt and health at [towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving](https://towerhamlets.gov.uk/costofliving)

## Do something amazing by becoming a foster carer

Local children need loving and supportive foster carers now.

Tower Hamlets Council offers carers lots of support including fantastic training opportunities and financial support of up to **£850 per week** (per child depending on age). Foster carers also receive 50% off their council tax bill and a generous referral scheme offering £1,000 for every carer who they refer on to be successfully approved to foster.

Call: 020 7364 1246  
[www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk](http://www.fosteringtowerhamlets.co.uk)



# Can I recycle this plastic?

## CLEAN AND GREEN

Residents are being reminded what types of plastic they can and can't recycle as part of a new campaign.

The council's campaign, Let's Rethink It, aims to improve the recycling rate across Tower Hamlets.

Currently, the recycling rate is just below 18 per cent - far below the average recycling rate of around 27 per cent for inner London boroughs.

Recycling means we don't need to get new raw materials from the earth, decreasing forestry and mining.

It also reduces the amount of waste and reduces the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere, which is damaging to the planet.

You can recycle bottles and caps, such as shampoo bottles, pots such as yoghurt pots, fruit punnets, and tubs such as for butter and ice cream. Make sure items are empty and give them a rinse before putting in the recycling.

You can't recycle film from pots or trays, crisp or sweet wrappers, polystyrene or carrier bags and wrapping film. These items need to go into your household waste.

- Find out more about what you can and can't recycle at [towerhamlets.gov.uk/letsrethinkit](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/letsrethinkit)

**Which plastics can't I recycle?**

- Film from pots or trays
- Crisps and sweet wrappers
- Polystyrene
- Carrier bags or wrapping film

**Which plastics can I recycle?**

- Bottles and caps
- Pots (e.g. yoghurt)
- Fruit punnets
- Tubs (e.g. butter or ice cream)

**Rinse it before you recycle it!**

Tower Hamlets rethink it!

The council is encouraging all residents to make sure they only recycle the correct types of plastic

## Trees for your streets

Get together with your neighbours and green up your street.

Trees for Streets is a national organisation that works to support residents and businesses to plant trees in their neighbourhood.

Since June 2021, residents and businesses have already planted more than 200 trees in Tower Hamlets.

There are so many benefits to planting trees.

Resident, Dominic, said: "This scheme is amazing, and I think that Tower Hamlets council deserves a lot of credit for getting involved. I'd recommend it to anyone.

"Trees are magic and there's never any downside to planting more of them!"

In addition to beautifying streets, they absorb carbon and they provide

much-needed shade.

You can support a local crowd-funder that already exists or you can start your own with your neighbours.

Areas will be checked for suitability before planting begins later this year.

Local businesses can participate in greening the area around their workplace too.

Residents can also help to water newly planted trees, especially during the warmer months, to help ensure they thrive.

All planted trees through Trees for Streets are in addition to the trees the council is already working hard to plant around the borough.

- For more information and to sign up, visit [www.treesforstreets.org/towerhamlets](http://www.treesforstreets.org/towerhamlets)



Dominic with one of the trees planted by Trees for Streets

# Mulberry

Stepney Green Maths,  
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A high performing  
specialist school

# YEAR 6

## OPEN MORNINGS 9AM - 11.00AM

FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup>, THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup>, TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AND THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023  
AND FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>, TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> AND THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023

## OPEN EVENING 4PM - 6PM

WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

“ The school has high ambitions for all pupils. It partners with prestigious businesses and universities to inspire them. Pupils are well-motivated and work hard to achieve success.

OFSTED

“ Pupils meet the school’s high expectations of them. They treat each other and adults with respect. Pupils are happy and feel safe at school.

OFSTED



“ I am really happy at Stepney Green School. My teachers expect the very best from me and in return I feel valued and respected as an individual.”

10 Student

“ Our parents, staff and governors have high expectations of all our students. We believe in building a school where the learning environment is fit for the 21st century, where all our students are valued and known.”

Chair of Governors

“ I like the school because we are inspired to be the best we can be in everything we do.”

Year 8 Student



Mulberry Stepney Green  
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understanding in students.”

Ofsted Inspection Report  
31st January 2022

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## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

SCAN ME



If you have any questions about our lovely school, contact us and our friendly staff will be happy to help you.

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# 'Standing up for equality'

## HISTORY

Standing up for fairness and social justice is part of the fabric of the history of the East End, extending back to and beyond the matchgirl and Dockworkers strikes of the 1880s.

1921 saw the actions of Poplar Borough Council hit the headlines in what has become known today as the Poplar Rates Rebellion.

As Pippa Catterall, Professor of History and Policy at the University of Westminster, explains: "At the time, poverty in Poplar was rife.

"Just 2.5 per cent of the population was deemed middle class and there were high rates of unemployment and overcrowding.

"Poplar had a population of 162,000, which is not much smaller than the whole of Tower Hamlets now."

The political landscape was also different, with Poplar having its own borough council rather than being part of Tower Hamlets. The Greater London Authority also didn't exist, but instead there was the London County Council (LCC).

Councillors on Poplar Borough Council became frustrated by an unfair system of rates, a forerunner of council tax.

In particular, the poorest borough in the capital objected to paying much more than its fair share towards London-wide bodies like the LCC.

In response, the Poplar councillors decided not to levy or pay the precept, the London-wide element of the rates. Thirty councillors, including six women, were sent to prison indefinitely for contempt of court for refusing a court order to pay the money.

Pippa continues: "There was a lot of support for the councillors. There is a famous photograph of one of them, Minnie Lansbury, with a suitcase and cheering crowds as she is taken to prison.

"The councillors started holding council meetings in Brixton Prison, taking the women over from Holloway Prison where they were being held.

"People had signs in their windows supporting the councillors, and they would sing to them through the prison windows to show their support.



Top, Minnie Lansbury on her way to prison, surrounded by cheering crowds. Credit: islandhistory.wordpress.com. And, below, the mural to the rebellion



"It looked ridiculous and was embarrassing for the county council. Stepney Borough Council was also considering following in Poplar's footsteps.

"The only way the LCC could get a resolution was to back down over this issue.

"After six weeks, the councillors were released, and an Irish band marched them home with pipes and drums playing."

A new law was also brought in

to make the system of rates fairer for poorer boroughs. However, as Pippa says, the impact of the rebellion is far wider than that.

She explains: "The councillors made themselves into martyrs and the LCC and government looked like bullies – it was political theatre at its best. Due to legal changes after this rebellion, councils can no longer take this action and so it does impact how they can fight against inequalities and unfairness

in political and tax systems.

"But this was a great example of David and Goliath: standing up for what is right – local people and social justice – and winning against the odds.

"It shows fighting for social justice isn't all about isms and complicated theories, it is about taking the right course of action, and using an appeal to fairness to win the argument and right a wrong."

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**Time: 9.15am**

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Mon 25th September - Thurs 28th September  
Mon 2nd October - Thurs 5th October

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- A fantastic House system where students enjoy a wide variety of regular, fun and exciting events each half-term
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SCAN ME



# Season of Bangla Drama

The idea of love conquering all despite adversity is the key theme of this year's Season of Bangla Drama festival, which returns to Tower Hamlets this November.

The borough will once again host the acclaimed Bangladeshi theatre festival which is in its 20th year and has the title '20 Acts of Love'.

A Season of Bangla Drama champions new writing and younger writers.

Mitali Arts Group tackle loneliness and neglect of the elderly in *Fhire Pawa Jouban* (Youthfulness Returns); and tragedy and survival are the issues faced in *The Final Trumpet* by Queen of Arts.

Trioarts tell a story that tests the limits of love in *Bandhan* (Everlasting Love).

Monchosholee unpick the many complex facets of love in *Biborno Krishnochura*. This play is all about passion, with cultural and generational baggage thrown in.

Real life comes to the fore in three unique productions.

Farha Bi's *Cycling Towards Freedom* is an autobiographical tale. It tells the true story of her physical, emotional and educational journey on two wheels.

Alana Jelinek presents the heartwarming tale of a 25-year friendship between Muslims and Jews who live and work in Tower Hamlets.

Purbanat CIC are also inspired by real life, and, in particular, the Egyptian revolution of 2011. They present a satire and critique of performers' rights based on a lived experience.

Bishwo Shahitto Kendro UK analyse the power of poetry as a vehicle for the theme of love in *Poems of Dropping Anchor*.

Further productions open up the artform through music, dance and movement. Daedalus Theatre Company use storytellers and musicians to explore love across boundaries in *Ten Years East*.

Dhanush Veena Giridhar celebrates the love of music as a force for connection in *Harmonium Melodies*.

Adity Roy uses dance to teach children universal lessons. The horrors of war are set against love and acceptance as the key to betterment in *Abinashi Anurag* (Eternal Love).

*The Two Headed Bird* (Dou Martha Pakhi) by Tamarind Theatre



The festival takes place for three weeks in November

Co provides joy and colour with music, movement and puppetry. They narrate a couple's struggle to find love against danger and conflict in a fishing town.

The festival will run from 1-26

November. It will incorporate a fringe programme of events including exhibitions, talks and walks.

• Visit [towerhamlets.gov.uk/seasonbangladrama](https://towerhamlets.gov.uk/seasonbangladrama)

## Get involved in Black History Month



October is Black History Month

A full programme of events and activities for people of all ages and interests will soon be announced to mark Black History Month in October.

Projects will offer residents the opportunity to engage with the richness of Black arts, culture and history, including film strands from Genesis Cinema and Raindance Film Festival.

Young creatives can learn new skills with Purple Moon Drama's performing arts sessions, and Spotlight has a youth-led

programme titled 'Celebrating our Sisters'

Somali female journalists will also be exploring the challenges faced by Muslim black woman in the media in an evening called 'Creating space for the Next Generation Creatives'.

Grand Union Orchestra, The Works Cafe, and Poplar Union will offer a programme of performance of music from across Africa.

A community-based party will take place at St Paul's Church, and Newham African Caribbean

Resource Centre will be holding a family celebration of culture heritage including reminiscence, storytelling, drumming and more.

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives is holding a free, day-long event including talks and an interactive 'Collections Care' workshop to look at African and Caribbean collections and how they have contributed to highlighting the histories of Black people in the East End.

• Full listings at [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth)

## Explore the Brady Centre at open house

The Brady Arts and Community Centre in Whitechapel is joining other venues for this year's Open House Festival, an annual celebration of London's buildings, architecture and neighbourhoods.

The building was specifically

designed as a youth club for Jewish girls when it opened in 1935 and it later incorporated the Brady Boys Jewish Club.

Not only does it maintain many original architectural features, it still retains its important status

at the heart of the community, offering spaces and facilities for local residents and, in particular, young people to enjoy.

There will be a range of free activities including arts workshops, screenings, exhibitions and more

to provide a taste of what's on offer.

The centre will be open on Saturday 16 September from 12noon to 4pm.

It is free and no booking is required. Space is limited. First come, first served.

## GDIF

### Pan Catwalk

Two performers, one catwalk and a never-ending row of outfits. Through a fusion of fashion, choreography, live music and theatre, this 40-minute performance challenges the urge to label or judge others based on how they appear

**6, 7, 9 & 10 September, 1.30pm & 4pm**

Canary Wharf Estate  
[festival.org/gdif/whats-on/pan-catwalk/](http://festival.org/gdif/whats-on/pan-catwalk/)



Challenge the urge to label

### Dancing City

Outdoor dance will transform the piazzas, parks and waterfronts of Canary Wharf. Every performance is free and unticketed – just show up.

**9-10 September**

Canary Wharf Estate  
[festival.org/gdif/whats-on/dancing-city-2023](http://festival.org/gdif/whats-on/dancing-city-2023)

## Classes and workshops

### Art4U2 classes

Hone your skills or learn how to use a variety of media.

Selected dates through Sep, Oct and Nov.

Brady Arts & Community Centre  
**£8 per session. Drop-in or sign-up.** Email [ginnyhawke5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ginnyhawke5@hotmail.co.uk).



Hone your skills

### Autumn Half Term workshops

A series of free creative craft workshops during October half term for young people aged 11-19.

**24-27 October (11am-4pm)**

Brady Arts and Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU  
Email [ateamartseducation@gmail.com](mailto:ateamartseducation@gmail.com)

## Exhibitions

### Rhythm of Images

This free exhibition of painted textiles celebrates Indian classical dance heritage and culminates in a performance on 30 September.

**7-30 September (Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 10am-4pm)**

Brady Arts and Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU

### Black History Month Photography Exhibition

A diverse collection of work by black photographers.

**6-27 October (Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm)**

Brady Arts and Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU

### ELP Festival of Print

Embrace the magic of printmaking at East London Printmakers' annual Festival of Print exhibition, as it celebrates 25 years.

The exhibition will showcase an array of prints, featuring traditional and contemporary artworks.

**30 November-10 December**

Free  
The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY  
[www.eastlondonprintmakers.com](http://www.eastlondonprintmakers.com).



East London Printmakers  
[co.uk](http://www.eastlondonprintmakers.com)

### Fashion City - How Jewish Londoners shaped global style

Discover the stories behind the Jewish fashion makers who became leaders in their industries, founded retail chains still on the high street today, and dressed the rich and famous.

**13 October 2023-14 April 2024**  
Museum of London Docklands  
Adults from £12, children from

£6  
[museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands](http://museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands)

### Festival of Spice War Stories

This exhibition is part of the East India Company Spice War Stories Project (1600-1625) which looks at the English East India Company and its aggressive competition with the Dutch East India Company to secure highly valuable eastern spices.

**24 October to 4 November**

The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY

Free admission  
[bricklanecircle.org](http://bricklanecircle.org).

### 20 Seasons of Bangla Drama

These striking photographs show the important role played by A Season of Bangla Drama over the past two decades, particularly amongst East London's British Bangladeshi community.

**1-26 November**

Brady Arts and Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, Whitechapel E1 5HU

### Glasgow Girls - 'Nourish'

This is an exhibition of three painters Rosemary Beaton, Lesley Burr and Alison Harper, who all graduated from Glasgow School of Art in the 1980s.

Known as the 'Glasgow Girls', they were part of a resurgence in expressive figurative painting. The exhibition curates artwork from over three decades.

**18-27 November, 11am-6pm**

Free entry  
The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park  
[towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts)

## Markets and fairs

### Book Fair, Literary and Cultural Festival

The weekend includes literary discussions, children's performances, drawing workshops, book launches, book stalls, dance performances, poetry recitations and more.

**10 and 11 September, 1.30pm-11pm.**

The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY

Free admission  
[sommilito.blogspot.com](http://sommilito.blogspot.com)

## Urban Makers

Now in its eighth year, Urban Makers returns to host its annual festive makers' market. 50 different designers each day will be selling everything from Christmas gifts to art. All sustainable and ethical. Urban Makers Feast will be selling festive food and drink.

There will also be a range of craft workshops.

**Free entry.**

**November 25 & 26 and December 9 & 10. (11am-5pm)**  
Ecology Pavilion, Mile End Park, Grove Road, E3 5TW  
[www.urbanmakers.co.uk](http://www.urbanmakers.co.uk)

## Judy's Vintage



Sustainable and ethical

## Furniture Flea

Voted 'Best Fair' by the Vintage Guide to London. The event features top vintage traders, all offering furniture and homewares without costing the earth.

**Sunday 17 September, 10.30am-4pm**

The Art Pavilion, Mile End Park, Clinton Road, E3 4QY

General entry £4, Kids under 16 free.

[Visitjudysvintagefair.com/furniture-flea/](http://Visitjudysvintagefair.com/furniture-flea/)

## Theatre

### The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Young hopefuls take part in the spelling championship of a lifetime. Six spellers enter - one speller leaves a champion! Come along to find out who...

**19-24 September**

Brady Arts & Community Centre, Whitechapel, E1 5HU  
[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)



Who will win the spelling bee?



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Tower Hamlets Council has a system of governance in which the elected mayor, **Lutfur Rahman** (Aspire, right), has personal responsibility and executive powers. Mayor Rahman is responsible for determining and delivering a wide range of policies and priorities. He is advised by his cabinet of councillors and by council officers.



**The members of the Cabinet are:**

**Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor) - Cllr Maium Talukdar**

- Resources and the Cost of Living - Cllr Saied Ahmed**
- Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding - Cllr Kabir Ahmed**
- Safer Communities - Cllr Abu Talha Choudhury**
- Environment and the Climate Emergency - Cllr Kabir Hussain**
- Health, Wellbeing and Social Care - Cllr Gulam Kibria Choudhury**
- Jobs, Skills and Growth - Cllr Abdul Wahid**
- Equalities and Social Inclusion - Cllr Suluk Ahmed**
- Culture and Recreation - Cllr Iqbal Hossain**

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# সোশ্যাল হাউজিং নিয়ে জালিয়াতির বিরুদ্ধে অভিযান শুরু, সতর্ক হোন

Warning as crackdown on social housing fraud begins –page 4

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিল ২০২১-২০২২ অর্থবছরে সন্দেহজনক সোশ্যাল হাউজিং ফ্রড অর্থাৎ কাউন্সিলের বাড়ি-ঘর নিয়ে জালিয়াতি বা প্রতারণার দুইশত পঁচাত্তরটি অভিযোগ তদন্ত করেছে। এই তদন্তের পর, ৩৩টি সামাজিক আবাসন সম্পত্তি পুনরুদ্ধার করা হয়, সাতটি রাইট টু বাই অ্যাপ্রিকেশন প্রতিরোধ করা হয় এবং একজনকে জালিয়াতির জন্য দোষী সাব্যস্ত করা হয়।

কাউন্সিল তার বাসিন্দাদের সোশ্যাল হাউজিং সরবরাহের জন্য ক্রমবর্ধমান চাপের মধ্যে রয়েছে, তাই আমাদের অবশ্যই নিশ্চিত করতে হবে যে আমাদের বাড়িগুলি এমন লোকদের কাছে যায় যারা এগুলো পাওয়ার আইনত অধিকারী। কিন্তু যদি বাড়িগুলি পাওয়ার আইনগত অধিকার না থাকা লোকদের কাছে চলে যায়, তাহলে অপেক্ষমাণ তালিকায় থাকা আপনাকে আরও বেশি অপেক্ষা করতে হতে পারে। হাউজিং জালিয়াতির উদাহরণগুলির মধ্যে

রয়েছে, যখন একজন ব্যক্তি জেনেশুনে তাদের আবেদনে মিথ্যা তথ্য প্রদান করে; সাবলেটিং জালিয়াতি হল যখন একজন ভাড়াটে তাদের সম্পত্তির পুরোটা বা অংশ বিশেষ বাড়িওয়ালার অনুমতি ছাড়া অন্য কাউকে ভাড়া দেয়; বা উত্তরাধিকার জালিয়াতি হল যখন কোন বৈধ ভাড়াটে মারা যাওয়ার পরে বা অন্যত্র চলে যাওয়ার পরে, উক্ত ব্যক্তির পরিবারের একজন যোগ্য সদস্য নয় এমন কেউ ঐ প্রোপার্টিতে চলে আসে।

## বাড়ি-ঘর নিয়ে জালিয়াতি এড়িয়ে চলুন

কাউন্সিল শুধুমাত্র তার বরাদ্দ নীতি অনুযায়ী বাড়ি-ঘর বরাদ্দ করে থাকে। প্রতিটি আবেদনপত্র বৈধ এবং সঠিকভাবে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হয়েছে - তা নিশ্চিত করতে একাধিক পরীক্ষা-নিরীক্ষা করা হয়। কাউন্সিলের বাড়ি সুরক্ষিত করার জন্য কেউ যদি কখনও আপনার কাছে অর্থ চায়, তবে তা নিঃসন্দেহে একটি প্রতারণাঃ

- কাউন্সিল অফিসার বলে দাবি করে কেউ যদি আপনার কাছে আসে তাহলে কখনই তাকে কোন অর্থ দিবেন না

- যদি টাউন হলের অভ্যন্তরে এবং আশেপাশে কেউ আপনার সাথে যোগাযোগ করে, তাহলে অবিলম্বে কাউন্সিলের ফ্যাসিলিটি ম্যানেজমেন্ট টিমের কাছে রিপোর্ট করুন
- কাউন্সিল অফিসাররা কখনই বাড়ির আবেদনগুলি বিবেচনা করার জন্য অর্থ চাইবেন না
- এ ধরনের যোগাযোগ বা অর্থের অনুরোধ পুলিশের কাছে রিপোর্ট করুন।

জালিয়াতি রিপোর্টিং হটলাইন ০৮০০ ৫২৮ ০২৯৪ এ কল করুনঃ বা ইমেইল করুনঃ [socialhousingfraud@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:socialhousingfraud@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

## বিনামূল্যে স্কুলের খাবার সরবরাহ

Free school meals launch – Page 15

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের প্রায় ৩৮ হাজার স্কুল শিক্ষার্থী ফ্রি স্কুল মিলস অর্থাৎ স্কুলে বিনামূল্যে খাবার থেকে উপকৃত হবে। ইংল্যান্ডের মধ্যে প্রথম কাউন্সিল হিসেবে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস ১৬ বছর বয়স পর্যন্ত সকল শিক্ষার্থীকে স্কুলে ফ্রি খাবার সরবরাহের উদ্যোগ নিয়ে অনুকরণীয় দৃষ্টান্ত স্থাপন করলো। কাউন্সিল ২০১৪ সাল থেকে প্রাথমিক



বিদ্যালয়ের সকল শিশুর জন্য বিনামূল্যে স্কুলের খাবারের জন্য অর্থায়ন করেছে, এবং ২০২৩ সালের সেপ্টেম্বর থেকে মাধ্যমিক পর্যায়ের স্কুলগুলোতে এই উদ্যোগ তিনটি ধাপে চালু করা হচ্ছে।

## ভাড়াটিয়াদের বিভ্রান্ত করায় ল্যান্ডলর্ডের ৮ হাজার পাউন্ড জরিমানা

Landlord fined £8,000 for misleading tenants – page 4

ভাড়াটিয়াদেরকে তাদের অধিকার সম্পর্কে বিভ্রান্ত করায় এবং ঘর থেকে বের করে দেয়ার হুমকি দেয়ার অপরাধে একজন ল্যান্ডলর্ড অর্থাৎ বাড়ির মালিককে ৮,০০০ পাউন্ড প্রদানের আদেশ দিয়েছেন আদালত। টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের এনভায়রনমেন্টাল হেলথ অ্যান্ড ট্রেডিং স্ট্যান্ডার্ডস টিমের কাছে ২০১৭ সালের শেষের দিকে থেকে ২০১৮ সালের শুরুর দিকে লন্ডন কর্পোরেট অ্যাপার্টমেন্ট লিমিটেড নামের একটি কোম্পানী সম্পর্কে চার বাসিন্দা তাদের

অধিকার সম্পর্কে বিভ্রান্ত করায় এবং দুই জন ভাড়াটিয়াকে উচ্ছেদের হুমকি দেয়ার অভিযোগ করেছিলেন। লন্ডন কর্পোরেট অ্যাপার্টমেন্টস লিমিটেডের পরিচালক খালেদ আবেদ - আলরাজেক তার ভাড়াটীদের সাথে সম্পর্কিত দুটি বিভ্রান্তিকর ও আক্রমণাত্মক বাণিজ্যিক কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য দোষী সাব্যস্ত হন। আক্রমণাত্মক বাণিজ্যিক চর্চার জন্য তাকে ২,০০০ পাউন্ড এবং ভাড়াটে চুক্তির পরিবর্তে লাইসেন্স প্রদানের জন্য ১,৮০০ পাউন্ড জরিমানা করা হয়।

তাকে ফেরত না পাওয়া দুটি আমানতের জন্যও ১,২৫৫ পাউন্ড ক্ষতিপূরণ দিতে হয়েছিল এবং আক্রমণাত্মক বাণিজ্যিক অনুশীলনের ক্ষেত্রে একজন ভিকটিমকে আরো ২৮৫ পাউন্ড ক্ষতিপূরণ দেয়ার নির্দেশ দেন। মামলার খরচের জন্য ল্যান্ডলর্ডকে ৩,০০০ পাউন্ড প্রদানেরও আদেশ দেওয়া হয়। কেবিনেট মেম্বার ফর রিজেনারেশন, ইনফ্রাস্ট্রাকচার ডেভেলপমেন্ট এন্ড হাউজিংবিডিং, কাউন্সিলর কবির আহমেদ বলেছেন, “এটি একটি কঠিন মামলা ছিল এবং আমি সাক্ষীদের এবং আমাদের কাউন্সিল টিমকে তাদের কঠোর পরিশ্রম এবং অধ্যবসায়ের জন্য ধন্যবাদ জানাতে চাই।”



আপনি কি গ্যারান্টিড  
রেন্ট অর্থাৎ নিশ্চিত  
ভাড়া পেতে চান?

তবে কেন টাওয়ার  
হ্যামলেটস কাউন্সিলের  
কাছেই ভাড়া দেয়া নয়?

আমাদের সাথে কাজ করার মানে হলো কোনো এজেন্ট নাই, কোন ফি নাই এবং রয়েছে নিশ্চিত ভাড়ার গ্যারান্টি।  
আগ্রহী? আপনার যাবতীয় তথ্য রেজিস্ট্রি করতে ভিজিট করুন [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/RentToUs](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/RentToUs)



# এ-লেভেল ও জিসিএসই-তে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের শিক্ষার্থীদের দারুণ সাফল্য

## Students in Tower Hamlets have achieved great success in their A Levels and GCSEs - Page 7

**HARMONY**  
BANGLA NEWS

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস বারার শিক্ষার্থীরা তাদের এ-লেভেল এবং জিসিএসই তে দারুণ সাফল্য অর্জন করেছে। প্রায় তিন-চতুর্থাংশ (৭০.৫ শতাংশ) শিক্ষার্থী তাদের এ লেভেলে এ\* থেকে সি গ্রেড লাভ করে। পরীক্ষার্থীদের প্রায় এক পঞ্চমাংশ (১৮.১ শতাংশ) একটি এ\* বা এ গ্রেড পেয়েছে, যা ২০১৯ সালের তুলনায় ১.৬ শতাংশ বেশি।

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে যারা জিসিএসই পরীক্ষা দিয়েছিলেন তাদের অর্ধেকেরও বেশি ডিস্টিনশন এবং তার উপরের

সকল গ্রেড অর্জন করেছে, যা ইংল্যান্ডের জাতীয় গড় থেকে প্রায় ১৩ শতাংশ পর্যন্ত বেশি।

এবারের জিসিএসই-তে, টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের গড় স্কোর ২০১৯ এর গড় স্কোর ৪৯.৮ থেকে ১.৫ পর্যন্ত বেশি। এই উপাত্ত এটাই দেখায় যে মহামারী সত্ত্বেও ফলাফলের ক্ষেত্রে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে উন্নতির ধারা অব্যাহত রয়েছে।

৮৫ শতাংশ শিক্ষার্থী ইংরেজিতে ৯ থেকে ৪ গ্রেড অর্জন করেছে (পূর্বকার এ\* থেকে সি গ্রেডের সমতুল্য), যা ২০১৯ সালের তুলনায় এক শতাংশের মত উন্নতি হয়েছে।

গণিতে, ৭৭ শতাংশ শিক্ষার্থী ৯ থেকে ৪ গ্রেড অর্জন করেছে, ২০১৯ সালের তুলনামূলক চিত্রের তুলনায় তিন শতাংশ বেশি।

উল্লেখ্য, টানা দ্বিতীয় বছর জাতীয়ভাবে পাসের হার কমেছে। কোভিড মহামারী চলাকালীন সময়ে শিক্ষকরা তাদের ছাত্রছাত্রীদের গ্রেড প্রদান করায় পাশের হার সর্বোচ্চ বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছিলো। এরপর গ্রেডিং এর ক্ষেত্রে কঠোরতা অবলম্বন করার পরিকল্পনার কারণে পাসের হারে পতন হয়েছে।

মেয়র লুৎফুর রহমান বলেন, “শিক্ষা আমাদের শীর্ষ অগ্রাধিকারের একটি এবং বারার সকল তরুণরা



Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Cllr Maium Talukdar with Preston, his mum Charlotte, grandma Michelle, and fellow student Arifa (far left)

যাতে তাদের পূর্ণ সম্ভাবনায় পৌঁছাতে পারে তা নিশ্চিত করতে আমরা প্রচুর বিনিয়োগ করছি। এই ফলাফল আমাদের স্কুলগুলোর শ্রেষ্ঠত্ব প্রদর্শন করে। আমাদের তরুণ বয়সীরা ভালো ফলাফলের জন্য কঠোর পরিশ্রম করায় এবং আমাদের শিক্ষা কর্মীরা এই চমৎকার ফলাফল অর্জনে সহায়তা করায় আমি খুব গর্বিত।”

ডেপুটি মেয়র এবং শিক্ষা, যুব ও আজীবনশিক্ষা বিষয়ক কেবিনেট মেম্বর, কাউন্সিলর মাইয়ুম তালুকদার বলেছেন, “আমাদের তরুণ সম্প্রদায়কে প্রয়োজনীয় সহযোগিতা দিতে আমরা প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ। তাই আমরা মেয়রের শিক্ষা রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ভাতা এবং বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বার্ষিক পুণরায় চালু করেছি, যাতে তারা পিছিয়ে না পড়ে।”

## পার্কের উপবিধি লঙ্ঘন করলে ৮০ পাউন্ড জরিমানা

### £80 fines for those being anti-social in our parks – page 13

বারার পার্কসমূহ সবার জন্য আরো নিরাপদ ও ব্যবহার বাধক করতে এখন থেকে পার্ক ও উন্মুক্ত স্থানগুলোর বাইলোজ বা উপ-বিধি লঙ্ঘকারীদেরকে অন-দ্যু-স্পট জরিমানা করা হতে পারে। ৫০০ জনেরও বেশি বাসিন্দার কাছ থেকে অভিযোগ পাওয়ার প্রেক্ষিতে, পার্কের মধ্যে অত্যধিক উচ্চস্বরে গান বাজানো, বারবিকিউ করা, এবং যে কোনও লাইফ সেভিং ইকুইপমেন্ট ভাঙা বা বিকৃত করা সহ সমাজবিরোধী আচরণকারী যে কাউকে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস এনফোর্সমেন্ট অফিসাররা (থিও) তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে ৮০ পাউন্ড



Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, with two THEOs

জরিমানা করতে পারবেন। এর আগে, বাইলোজ লঙ্ঘনকারীদের বিরুদ্ধে শুধুমাত্র আদালতের মাধ্যমে বিচার করা যেত, যা একটি ব্যয়বহুল প্রক্রিয়া এবং শেষ হতে অনেক সময় লাগতো। এই নতুন জরিমানা বিধি পুলিশ এবং কাউন্সিলের আইন প্রয়োগকারী দলগুলিকে

অসামাজিক আচরণের বিরুদ্ধে আরও কার্যকর পদক্ষেপ নিতে সক্ষম করবে। একই ধরনের অপরাধ যারা বারবার করে, তাদেরকে আগের মতই আদালতে নিয়ে যাওয়া যেতে পারে, যেখানে সর্বোচ্চ জরিমানা হতে পারে ৫০০ পাউন্ড।

## আত্মহত্যা প্রবণতা রোধে স্থানীয়ভাবে রয়েছে অনেক সহায়তামূলক সার্ভিস

### Many services available locally to help prevent suicide

আত্মহত্যা হল কঠিন পরিস্থিতি ও অনুভূতির জন্য একটি দুঃখজনক প্রতিক্রিয়া এবং এটি বন্ধু, পরিবার এবং বৃহত্তর কমিউনিটির উপর নেতিবাচক প্রভাব ফেলে। গত ১০ বছরে টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে ২০০ জনেরও বেশি বাসিন্দা আত্মহত্যার পথ বেছে নিয়ে প্রাণ হারিয়েছেন। ১০ সেপ্টেম্বর বিশ্ব আত্মহত্যা প্রতিরোধ দিবস। এই দিবসের লক্ষ্য হল আত্মহত্যার বিষয়ে সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি করা এবং যারা আত্মহত্যার চিন্তার সাথে সংগ্রাম করছেন তাদেরকে আশার বার্তা প্রদান করা।

পূর্ব লন্ডনে, আত্মহত্যা প্রতিরোধ করার জন্য ১৮ বছর বা তার বেশি বয়সী ব্যক্তিদের জন্য বিভিন্ন সার্ভিস বিনামূল্যে পাওয়া যায়। এই সার্ভিসগুলোর মধ্যে রয়েছেঃ

মেন্টাল হেলথ ক্রাইসিস লাইনস্ (Mental Health Crisis Lines) - মানসিক কষ্টের মধ্যে থাকা টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের যেকোন বাসিন্দা সপ্তাহের ৭ দিনই যেকোন সময় ০৮০০

০৭৩ ০০০৩ নম্বরে কল করতে পারেন।

টুগেদার ক্যাফে (Together Café) - টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস-এর যেসকল প্রাপ্তবয়স্ক লোকের মানসিক স্বাস্থ্যের সঙ্কট রয়েছে, তারা দিনের কাজের সময়ের বাইরে অর্থাৎ সোমবার থেকে শুক্রবার বিকাল ৫টা - রাত ৯টা পর্যন্ত এবং শনিবার ও রবিবার বেলা ১২টা - রাত ৯টা পর্যন্ত সময়ে চলে আসতে পারেন এই ক্যাফেতে। ওসমানী ট্রাস্টে পরিচালিত এই টুগেদার ক্যাফে Osmani Centre, 58 Underwood Road E1 5AW ঠিকানায় অবস্থিত।

গুড থিংকিং (Good Thinking) হচ্ছে একটা ওয়েবসাইট যেখানে মানসিক স্বাস্থ্য সম্পর্কিত অনেক সাহায্যকারী তথ্য আছে। এই ওয়েবসাইটে ইসলাম ধর্মে মানসিক স্বাস্থ্য ও কল্যাণ সম্পর্কিত একটা পৃষ্ঠা রয়েছে যা বাংলা ভাষাভাষীদের হয়ত কাজে লাগতে পারেঃ [www.good-thinking.uk/faith-and-belief-communities/islam](http://www.good-thinking.uk/faith-and-belief-communities/islam)

## কমিউনিটি ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ সার্ভিস সম্পর্কে মতামত দিন

### Your views on Community Language Service – page 37

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসে বিনামূল্যে ভাষা শিক্ষার ক্লাস চালুর লক্ষ্যে কাউন্সিল ২০২৩ সালের নভেম্বরে ৪ থেকে ১৮ বছর বয়সীদের জন্য কমিউনিটি ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ সার্ভিস চালু করতে চাইছে।

সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্রদায়ের সদস্যরা সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ ভাষার প্রেক্ষাপটে নিজেদের মধ্যে যে ভাষায় কথা বলেন, সেগুলোই হলো কমিউনিটি ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ অর্থাৎ সম্প্রদায়গুলোর নিজস্ব ভাষা।

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটস-এ ইংরেজি হল প্রধান কথ্য ভাষা। তবে এখানে প্রচলিত অন্যান্য ভাষার মধ্যে রয়েছে বাংলা, ইতালীয় এবং স্প্যানিশ।

নতুন এই কমিউনিটি ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজ সার্ভিসের আপনার চাহিদা

পূরণ করছে - তা নিশ্চিত করতে কাউন্সিল আপনার মতামত শুনতে আগ্রহী।

শিশুর বিকাশে ভাষা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করতে পারে। একটি ভাষা শেখা আত্মবিশ্বাস বাড়াতো, আমাদের বিশ্ব দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি প্রসারিত করতে এবং শ্রবণ ও পর্যবেক্ষণ দক্ষতা উন্নত করতে সাহায্য করতে পারে।

আপনি যদি ১১ - ১৮ বছর বয়সী হন, কিংবা তরুণদের সাথে কাজ করেন (৪ - ১৮ বছর বয়সী), কম বয়সী ছেলেমেয়েদের পিতামাতা (৪-১৮ বছর বয়সী), অথবা কমিউনিটি ভাষার সাথে কোন না কোনভাবে সংযোগ থাকে, তাহলে এই সার্ভে (সমীক্ষা)

পূরণ করুন। এজন্য দশ মিনিটের বেশি সময় লাগবে না। এই সার্ভিস সম্পর্কে বাসিন্দাদের মতামত পাওয়ার জন্য আমরা আরো যেসকল কর্মসূচি নিয়েছি, এই সমীক্ষাটি তারই একটি অংশ। অন্যান্য কর্মসূচির মধ্যে রয়েছে তরুণদের এবং পরিবারের সাথে কর্মশালায় আয়োজন।

৩০ সেপ্টেম্বরের মধ্যে [talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/towerhamlets-language-services-2023](http://talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/towerhamlets-language-services-2023) - এই ওয়েবসাইটে গিয়ে সমীক্ষাটিতে অংশ নিয়ে আপনার মতামত আমাদের জানান।

## মাসব্যাপি বাংলা নাট্যোৎসব

### ১-২৬ নভেম্বর

### Season of Bangla Drama – page 44

টাওয়ার হ্যামলেটসের বার্ষিক বাংলা নাট্যোৎসব ‘এ সিজন অব বাংলা ড্রামা’ এবার ‘প্রতিকূলতার মধ্যেও ভালোবাসায় সব কিছুকে জয় করার’ চেতনাকে ধারণ করে ফিরে আসছে বারার মঞ্চে। ১ নভেম্বর থেকে শুরু হবে এই উৎসব, চলবে ২৬ নভেম্বর পর্যন্ত। এই উৎসব এবার পা দিচ্ছে ২০ তম বছরে।

বাংলা নাটকের এই বার্ষিক উৎসব তরুণ নাট্যকার ও শিল্পী কলাকুশলীদের প্রতিভা বিকাশের অনন্য প্ল্যাটফর্মে পরিণত হয়েছে।



# Daahfurka Cunnada Dugsiga ee Bilaashka ah



## HARMONY SOMALI NEWS

Ku dhawaad 38,000 oo dhalinyaro ah oo ku nool Tower Hamlets ayaa ka faa'iidayaan doona cunnooyinka dugsiga ee bilaashka ah ka dib markii koonsalku noqday kii ugu horeeyay ee Ingriiska ah ee bixiya cunto dugsiyeedka bilaashka ah dhammaan ardayda dugsiga ilaa da'da 16.

Koonsilku waxa uu ilaa 2014-kii ku deeqay cunto dugsiyeed bilaash

ah dhamaan ardada dugsiyada hoose dhexe, iyo kordhinta dugsiyada sare waxa la daabici doonaa sadex waji laga bilaabo Sebtembar 2023

Cunista cunto caafimaad leh, nafaqo leh ayaa ka taageerta ardayda waxbarashadooda waxaana la tusay inay horumariyaan habdhaqanka iyo guulaha waxbarasho.

Iyada oo ku dhawaad kala badh carruurta Tower Hamlets ay ku galayaan dugsiga sare miisaan xad dhaaf ah, nidaamku sidoo kale waa tallaabo togan oo lagu wanaajinayo

caafimaadka jidheed ee da'yarta iyo horumarinta xaafad ka caafimaad badan.

Waxa kale oo ay bixin doontaa taageero muhiim ah inta lagu jiro dhibaataada qiimaha-nololeed, badbaadinta qoysaska celcelis ahaan £550 sanadkii, ilmo kasta.

£5.7m ayaa lagu daray miisaaniyada golaha 2023/24 si loo kordhiyo maalgelinta cuntada dugsiga ee bilaashka ah ee dhamaan ardayda dugsiyada hoose dhexe ilaa ardayda dugsiga sare.

Cllr Maium Talukdar, Ku-Xigeenka Maayar-ku-xigeenka ahna Xubin ka tirsan Golaha Wasiirrada ee Waxbarashada, Dhallinyarada iyo Waxbarashada Cimriga ah, ayaa yidhi: "In la bixiyo qado bilaash ah oo caafimaad qabta waa qayb ka mid ah ballan-qaadka ballaaran ee golaha deegaanka ee ah in dhallinyarada la siiyo qalabka ay u baahan yihiin si ay ugu guuleystaan wax kasta oo ay doortaan inay qabtaan."

## Guulashada imtixaanada Heer A iyo GCSE

Ardayda Tower Hamlets waxay guul weyn ka gaareen Heerarkooda A iyo GCSE-da.

Ku dhawaad saddex meelood meel (70.5 boqolkiiba) ee ardaydu waxay gaadheen darajada A\* ilaa C ee Heerarkooda A.

Ku dhawaad shan meelood meel (18.1 boqolkiiba) ayaa gaaray

darajada A\* ama A, koror ah 1.6 boqolkiiba marka loo eego 2019, oo ah sanadkii ugu dambeeyay ee ardaydu ay imtixaanada fariistaan.

In ka badan kala badh kuwa galay BTEC-yada Tower Hamlets waxa ay ku gaadheen dhammaan darajooyinkii Farqiga iyo wixii ka sareeya, taas oo qiyaastii boqolkiiba

13 ka sarraysa celceliska England.

GCSE-yadooda, celceliska buundooyinka Tower Hamlets waxa ay 1.5 dhibcood ka sarreeyeen celceliska dhibcaha 2019 ee 49.8, taas oo muujinaysa in natiijadu ay soo hagaagtay inkasta oo aafada.

Boqolkiiba 85 ardaydu waxay ku gaadheen darajooyinka 9-4

ee Ingiriisiga (oo u dhiganta darajooyinkii hore ee A\* ilaa C), waxoogaa horumar ah oo boqolkiiba hal ah marka la barbar dhigo 2019.

Xisaabta, 77 boqolkiiba ardaydu waxay gaadheen darajooyinka 9-4, kor u kaca boqolkiiba saddex marka la barbar dhigo 2019.

## USEFUL INFORMATION SERVICES AND CONTACTS

### Advice

#### **Account 3 (welfare and debt advice)**

3 Birkbeck Street, E2.  
020 7739 7720  
www.account3.org.uk

#### **Age UK East London**

82 Russia Lane, E2.  
Caxton Hall, Caxton  
Grove, E3.  
Royal London Hospital  
14F Wards.  
info@ageukeastlondon.  
org.uk  
www.ageuk.org.uk/  
eastlondon  
020 8981 7124

#### **Bromley by Bow Centre**

St Leonard's Street, E3.  
020 8709 9700

#### **Carers Centre Tower Hamlets**

21 Brayford Square, E1  
OSG  
enquiries@ccth.org.uk  
www.ccth.org.uk  
020 7790 1765

#### **Citizens Advice Bureau**

32 Greatorex Street, E1.  
020 7247 1050  
towerhamlets@eastend-  
cab.org.uk  
www.eastendcab.org.uk

#### **Island Advice Centre**

Island House, Roserton  
Street, Isle of Dogs, E14.  
020 7987 9379  
www.island-advice.org.uk

#### **Legal Advice Centre**

University House,  
104 Roman Road, E2.  
020 8980 4205  
www.legaladvicecentre.  
london

#### **Limehouse Project**

789 Commercial Road,  
Unit 2, St Anne Street, E14.  
020 7538 0075  
www.limehouseproject.  
org.uk

#### **Praxis (New Residents) Immigration, benefits and general advice**

Pott Street, E2.  
General Helpline:  
020 7729 7985  
Immigration advice:  
020 7749 7608  
www.praxis.org.uk

#### **Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network**

thcan@island-advice.org.  
uk  
www.thcan.org.uk

#### **Tower Hamlets Law Centre**

Unit 1, St Anne's Street,  
E14. 020 7538 4909  
www.thlc.co.uk

### Careers

#### **Adult education services**

Shadwell Centre,  
455 The Highway, E1.  
020 7364 5665

#### **WorkPath**

Employment and Skills  
Centre, 55 Upper Bank  
Street, E14. 020 7364 3727  
workpath@towerhamlets.  
gov.uk

#### **Young WorkPath/Tower Hamlets Careers Service**

Employment and Skills  
Centre, 55 Upper Bank  
Street, E14.  
youngworkpath@  
towerhamlets.gov.uk

### Council

#### **Town Hall**

Mulberry Place,  
5 Clove Crescent, E14 2BG.  
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk  
General enquiries  
020 7364 5000

### Debt

#### **Fair Money Advice**

18 Ashwin Street, E8.  
020 3475 8811  
www.fairfinance.org.uk

#### **Island Advice Centre**

Island House, Roserton  
Street Isle of Dogs, E14.  
020 7987 9379  
www.island-advice.org.uk

#### **Toynbee Hall Advice Service**

28 Commercial Street, E1.  
020 7392 2953  
advice@toynbeehall.org.  
uk  
www.toynbeehall.org.uk

### Health & wellbeing

#### **Alzheimer's Society**

Robinson Centre, Mile  
End Hospital, Bancroft  
Road, E1.  
020 8121 5626

#### **BYM Bangladesh Youth Movement Women's Centre of Excellence**

Whitechapel Centre, Units  
1 & 2, Myrdle Street, E1.  
020 7377 8668  
www.bym.org.uk

#### **Covid vaccine helpline**

Tower Hamlets Council  
has launched a Covid-19  
vaccine helpline, on  
020 7464 3030, to support  
residents who are eligible  
for vaccination to book  
their appointment.

#### **East London Parkinson's Support Group**

hello@parkinsons.org.uk  
0808 800 0303

#### **Free home fire safety advice**

08000 284428

#### **Health hotline**

020 7364 5016

#### **Healthwatch Tower Hamlets**

Mile End Hospital, Ban-  
croft Road, E1.  
0800 145 5343  
info@healthwatchtower  
hamlets.co.uk  
www.healthwatchtower  
hamlets.co.uk

#### **LinkAge Plus**

Toynbee Hall, Commercial  
Street, E1.  
020 7392 2913

#### **Reset**

Tower Hamlets Drug and  
Alcohol Service  
183 Whitechapel Road, E1.  
020 3889 9510  
reset.towerhamlets@  
cgl.org.uk

#### **Safe East (under-19s)**

compass.towerhamlets  
yphws@nhs.net  
020 3954 0091

#### **Stop Smoking services**

www.quitrightth.org  
020 7882 8230

#### **Tower Hamlets Advocacy Real**

020 7001 2170  
hello@real.org.uk

### Housing

#### **Choice-based lettings**

020 7364 2826

#### **Homeless service**

020 7364 7474  
Out of hours  
020 7364 4079

#### **Homeseekers**

www.thhs.org.uk

#### **Housing advice**

020 7364 3558

#### **Repairs**

0800 376 1637 ext 1

#### **Tower Hamlets Homes**

020 7364 5015

### Idea Stores and libraries

#### **Bow**

Gladstone Place, E3.

#### **Canary Wharf**

Churchill Place, E14.

#### **Chrisp Street**

Vesey Path, E14.

#### **Whitechapel**

321 Whitechapel Road, E1.

#### **Local History Library and Archives**

277 Bancroft Road, E1  
localhistory@  
towerhamlets.gov.uk  
Visit www.ideastore.  
co.uk/home

### Leisure centres

#### **John Orwell Sports Centre**

Tench Street, Wapping, E1.  
020 7488 9421

#### **Mile End Park Leisure**

**Centre and Stadium**  
190 Burdett Road, E3.  
020 8709 4420

#### **Poplar Baths**

170 East India Dock Road,  
E14. 020 3795 0599

#### **St George's Leisure Centre**

221 The Highway, Wap-  
ping E1. 020 7709 9714

#### **Tiller Leisure Centre**

Tiller Road, Isle of Dogs  
E14. 020 7987 5211

#### **Whitechapel Sports Centre**

55 Durward Street, E1.  
020 7247 7538

#### **York Hall Leisure Centre**

5-15 Old Ford Road, E2.  
020 8980 2243

For the latest information  
and updates, including  
details of opening hours or  
temporary closures, visit  
[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
or [www.better.org.uk](http://www.better.org.uk)

### Parent & child

#### **Family Information Service**

30 Greatorex Street, E1.  
fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk  
020 7364 6495

#### **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

If a child is at risk of harm:  
020 7364 5006 (option  
3, open Mon to Fri, 9am -  
5pm)  
020 7364 4079 (out of  
hours emergency duty  
team)

#### **Tower Hamlets National Childbirth Trust**

0300 330 0700  
www.nct.org.uk

### Report it

#### **Anti-fraud (housing and tenancy related fraud)**

0800 528 0294

#### **Black Women's Health and Family Support**

020 8980 3503

#### **Childline**

0800 1111

#### **Domestic Violence Team**

0800 279 5434

#### **Environmental**

#### **Protection (Noise) Team**

020 7364 5000

#### **Haven Whitechapel (sexual assault referral centre)**

020 3299 6900 /  
020 3299 1599

#### **Karma Nirvana (honour-based abuse helpline)**

0800 5999 247

#### **Men's Advice Helpline**

0808 8010 327

#### **National LGBT domestic abuse helpline (Galop)**

0800 999 5428 /  
0300 999 5428

#### **Non-emergency crimes 101 Textphone**

18001 101

#### **NSPCC Child Protection Helpline**

0800 800 5000

#### **Respect (for perpetrators)**

0808 802 4040

#### **Rights of Women**

020 7251 6577

#### **Samaritans**

116 123

#### **Shelter**

0808 800 4444

#### **Tower Hamlets Mediation Service (free service for council tenants and leaseholders)**

020 7364 7474

#### **Victim Support Tower Hamlets**

0808 168 9291 /  
0808 168 9111

## Sign-up to Tower Hamlets news

Find out what's on,  
get Tower Hamlets  
news, take part in  
competitions and  
receive local offers  
straight into your  
inbox!

Visit [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/signup)

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