



Newham Voices

Community News and Views

FREE

Issue 25 | January 2023

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£300 million New Year vote for Custom House

AIDAN WHITE

The New Year begins with an agreement on a £300 million fresh start for the people of Custom House, one of London's poorest and most deprived neighbourhoods.

The Council announced just before Christmas that residents had voted in favour of a local masterplan for redevelopment that will transform the area with new homes, half of them affordable for local people, and investment in new jobs.

The margin of support was narrow, with 53 percent of local voters in favour of the Custom House masterplan, and highlights the fierce debates and controversy over the detail of plans to reshape Freemasons Road and the surrounding area.

The plans include a promise of 368 new homes at affordable social rent with additional shops and community facilities.

The news has been greeted with a mixture of uncertainty, relief and enthusiasm. Dean Armond, the founder of the Custom House Bookshop in Freemasons Road, says the result will bring about seismic change.

"The vote ends decades of uncertainty and regeneration blight," he said, "but the narrow result makes clear the need for the Council to improve its communications and engagement with residents and local businesses in order to ensure the effective implementation of the regeneration scheme."

The Council's regeneration proposals were developed in collaboration with local people and a vote of residents in favour was needed to secure vital funding from the Greater London Authority.



Above: Visualisation of Custom House redevelopment by Adam Khan Architects via adamkhan.co.uk; Above right: Custom House Steering Group from Newman Francis community support organisation. The Steering Group makes sure that residents have a voice in the process and that the community is listened to. The group is chaired by Councillor Sarah Ruiz



Denise Evans-Barr, who worked with the community to co-design the masterplan also welcomed the "yes" vote.

"The new regenerated area is one that I want to be a safe vibrant environment for everyone here," said Denise Evans-Barr. "It's especially important that with the improvements we provide opportunities for our young people."

The Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz, said the community had waited 20 years "too long" for this pivotal moment in the development of the area. She said the regeneration plans had been developed through a "people-powered co-production process."

"Step by step we will take this project forward with residents," she said. "In the same way we have since 2018, keeping them at the heart of our co-designed plans."

"As part of our promise to build homes our people can afford, 50 percent of the 734 new homes will be at social rent levels; with a brand new health centre and nursery, and a new high street on Freemasons Road that will benefit local residents and create jobs."

But campaign group PEACH E16 (Peoples Empowerment Alliance for Custom House) highlighted the concerns of opponents, including some of the 47 percent who voted against.

They say the masterplan will have a dramatic effect and could divide the community with evictions and rent rises which will pull the community apart.

In a press statement PEACH highlighted complaints over the ballot process and said that the plans mean "demolishing over 80 percent of homes."

They add: "The environmental impact of the plans that Newham Council will now proceed with will also be huge."

The co-chairs of the Custom House Steering Group, Terry Regan and

Fundraiser wanted

Newham Voices is looking for a volunteer who can help us ensure that we have the resources necessary to continue publishing our much loved print edition. We are looking for someone with a good track record in corporate fundraising to join our team and help ensure we can continue to provide a valuable service to local people.

For further details or to discuss how this new post might work, please contact: editor@newhamvoices.co.uk

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By local people, for local people

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

We are a non-profit Community Interest Company (number 12790786). Our journalism is based on core values of accuracy, fairness, independence, humanity, accountability and transparency with a strong commitment to citizen journalism. More information is available on our website:

www.newhamvoices.co.uk

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For more information, go to www.newhamvoices.co.uk/complaints-policy

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Newham Voices going strong after two years, but we need your support!

CATARINA JOELE

The cold weather and Christmas shopping chores did not stop more than 30 *Newham Voices* supporters from gathering at the Stratford Library on Saturday 17 December to celebrate the two-year run of the community publication and discuss our challenges for the future.

Newham Voices' pilot edition, which launched in September 2020, was produced in the teeth of the pandemic and many of its members back then have only ever met over Zoom. Two years later, contributors and readers met face-to-face over coffee, tea and biscuits to share feedback and discuss ideas of how to apply for grants and reach out to residents, businesses and potential partners.

Councillors John Gray and Jane Lofthouse, who are regular support-

ers, came along as did the Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz. The Mayor presented certificates to some of the recent participants of our free journalism training courses.

Over 26 months, we have grown from a bi-monthly output of 10,000 copies to a monthly publication with a circulation of 12,500 copies and an estimated readership of 37,500 people across the Borough.

This has only been possible due to the hard work and dedication of more

than 50 unpaid local volunteers, who give their time and skills to this community project, supporting with all the tasks from writing articles, taking pictures, and helping with the distribution of the newspaper.

Newham Voices is mainly funded by advertising revenues as well monthly donations from a few supporters but we need many many more to ensure we can continue to be an independent voice and platform for those who live, work and study in Newham.



Every contribution, even if you can only give £5 per month, can make a big difference. Scan the QR code below to donate and reach out to us on info@newhamvoices.co.uk with your suggestions and ideas.



The Mayor with participants including, centre, James Morgan with his *Newham Voices* training certificate. Images courtesy Neandra Etienne.

Council targets Romford Road kerb crawlers

AIDAN WHITE

Newham's plans to outlaw kerb crawlers who buy sex from local prostitutes have been criticised with warnings that they will put already vulnerable women at risk.

A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is proposed covering six wards in the Borough – Stratford, Forest Gate South, Green Street East, Green Street West, Little Ilford, Manor Park.

It will target sex work along the Romford Road, which runs through the six neighbourhoods and where sex workers are active. Anyone caught buying sex risks an on the spot £100 fine, and if taken to court could face a £1,000 penalty.

The order will prevent harassment, kerb crawling, the purchase of sex by individuals, and the unwelcome approaching of women on the street.

This activity is affecting nearby residents often at late hours of the night and early morning. Complaints have risen by 280 percent in four years.

But the English Collective of Prostitutes has said the council's plan will undermine the safety of sex workers.

Niki Adams, a spokesperson for the network, says sex workers are frightened that the police may abuse the new measures. "These are discretionary powers, so nobody will be monitoring how officers will be using them," she told the newspaper *Metro*.

She warns the threat is a real one given recent controversial reports on

"The order is about targeting those who exploit women – not the women themselves"

Image: Eric Ward/Unsplash

the institutional sexism and racism in the police force.

Her comments follow a report that uncovered systemic failings in the Metropolitan Police where too many 'abhorrent' officers remain on the frontline.

The Met insists that the majority of its officers are 'motivated by a desire to help the public and the most vulnerable' but it acknowledges that the actions of a minority of officers 'seriously damage' public trust and the trust of women in particular.

The English Collective of Prostitutes (ECP) says Newham has not learned from the experience of Redbridge Council which had imposed a PSPO for

Ilford, leading to the women affected by the order being displaced.

They say some of the women working along the Romford Road were displaced from Ilford and now more are likely to move to a more isolated area, where they could be vulnerable to abuse.

Newham Council argues the order is about targeting those who exploit women – not the women themselves and they say they have acted after many complaints about anti-social behaviour from residents.

However, the deepening cost of living crisis which has increased levels of poverty, sanctions of benefits, and homelessness is one of the reasons why women are turning to sex work in

the area. Many women are turning to prostitution because they cannot make ends meet says the ECP.

Ms Adams added: "From our help-line, we are hearing most from women who have had their benefits sanctioned or have been evicted from their landlords, or have gotten themselves into terrible debt.

"A PSPO would increase the risk of attack, target women for earning an income to survive at the time of a cost-of-living crisis, and divert time and resources away from addressing rape and other violence, and helping women leave prostitution if and when they want."

But Newham councillor Carleene Lee-Phakoe, Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety, defends the proposed PSPO arguing that the council wants to reduce 'stigmatisation and exploitation' of sex workers.

"The council is developing a strategy which sensitively acknowledges the complexity of prostitution and the diversity of people involved," she said.

"We know this kind of activity can cause alarm and distress – especially when women are harassed on the street – and residents experience the unpleasant impacts of this behaviour.

"The proposed PSPO is one action as part of our wider coordinated, partnership approach to reducing sex work within Newham, where women are safeguarded and supported to move away from sex work and action is taken against perpetrators of street harassment."

OPINION

Forest Gate resident **Luke Hawksbee** says Newham Council's plan may add to troubles facing vulnerable women

Crackdown will do more harm than good

Newham council's proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) could see £1,000 fines and criminal records for those trying to purchase sexual services – making an otherwise legal activity a crime in six council wards.

The council suggests that this will help tackle harassment and exploitation, but the policy is linked to a wider draft 'strategy' to reduce sex work in Newham. This represents a failure to understand the realities facing sex workers.

Most sex workers are women, often mothers providing for children – Newham has a 50 percent child poverty rate. Some are pushed to sex work by welfare payment delays or sanctions. Others are university students,

or disabled people unable to find other suitable work.

Like all of us, sex workers are facing a cost of living crisis and need to pay the bills. If law-abiding clients are driven away, those left will be the most dangerous and exploitative. The council claims that sex workers would be safeguarded and supported, but failed to consult groups representing sex workers before drawing up its plans.

When Redbridge imposed a similar PSPO, sex workers moved into nearby areas (including Newham), ending their contact with local outreach groups.

It also pushed sex workers off the streets and indoors – this can be safer, but also heavily criminalised.

Newham council has ignored these lessons, as well as civil liberties ramifications. Another clause in the PSPO would criminalise behaviour 'likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress'.

This extends existing public order powers that normally cover only harm that actually causes these effects, with intent.

Even these more restricted powers are abused by the police: the Metropolitan police eventually apologised for threatening to arrest a woman over her 'Fuck Boris' t-shirt.

Despite this, both clauses will likely be enforced by council officers or private-sector contractors. Without even the inadequate training or account-

ability of the police, they could issue fixed penalty notices up to £100.

Real issues have been raised and must be addressed, ranging from litter to sexual exploitation. The council's approach to solving these, though, is at odds with sex workers' organisations, sexual health charities like STOPAIDS, and even human rights groups like Amnesty.

Meanwhile, experts like the East London Project academics conducting research in Newham are offering evidence-based alternatives to criminalisation and stigma. We should take a compassionate and pragmatic approach of harm reduction and meeting needs. Our sex-working neighbours must not be 'out of sight, out of mind'.

United in grief but pledged to action

REBEKAH SAMUEL

Families and friends of victims of domestic violence and other crimes of murder united in grief at the Table of Love and Loss event held at East Ham Town Hall.

In remembrance of 25 victims, around 270 people attended the event organised by Ayse Hussain in memory of her cousin Mary-Jane Mustafa, "Jan", murdered by Zahid Younis. Missing since May 2018, Jan's body was discovered in a freezer in Younis' Canning Town flat in April 2019, alongside that of Henrietta Szucs, a Hungarian national, missing since 2017.

Ayse said her family did not want Jan's life to become "invisible." She added: "She was taken away by a known narcissistic predator who had slipped through the net, missed by local authorities and the police during his spree of targeting vulnerable women." Before Jan, Younis had targeted Henrietta while she was in hospital recovering from domestic abuse by an ex-partner. Police only discovered the two women's bodies after another female Younis had befriended requested a 'welfare check' having not heard from him in over a week.

Organisations in attendance included:



Aafda, Ashiana Network, CGL, Hestia, London Black Womens Project, Magpie Project, Million Women Rise, Newham Council Safety Team, NIA, Protection Against Stalking, Public Health Outreach, RUF (Resident United Forum), Sann, Solace Women's Aid, The Metropolitan Police, and True Honour

Opening the event, Anjum Mouj, co-chair of London Black Women's Project and expert in domestic abuse and sexual violence, described living in a system that continually failed "our women, girls, young men, boys, our families, and communities. A system that cannot protect us, find us when we are missing, allows perpetrators to

remain on our streets, in our houses... and misses crucial bits of investigations. One in four women will experience some form of domestic violence at some stage in their life. Every week, two women in England die at the hands of their partner or exes. Progress can only be measured by counting the number of rapes, abused, battered and murdered. Only when these numbers decline, should we talk about progress."

Rokhsana Fiaz, Mayor of Newham, commended Ayse for her "commitment to building a national movement to deal with the epidemic and crisis of violence facing women and girls". She pledged this would not be a one-off event. "It

will be here next year, the year after, and every year after that for as long as I am mayor of Newham, that is my promise."

Senior Metropolitan Police Officer, Professor Simon Harding spoke of Ayse's sheer determination and valuable contribution to the case. Jess Phillips, Labour MP for Birmingham and Yardley, and Shadow Minister for Domestic Violence and Safeguarding, said she was utterly inspired by the event, describing the deaths of women and children as "a direct result of policy failures". Organisations needed to speak to each other more. She promised the Labour Party would work with mayors across the country to take necessary action. "Until the safety and security of women and children in our country becomes a political priority at every single layer of government, and women matter as much as cars, road policy, or aeroplane policy, women will continue to die at the hands of men."

The event closed with a heartfelt victim impact statement from Jan's 15 year-old daughter, who spoke of the trauma and difficulties she continues to face growing up without her mum, and families of victims expressed gratitude for the support and information, welcoming any opportunity for similar events in their area.

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LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of application for a Premises License

Notice is hereby given that **Kanagasbai Suthakaran** has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Newham for a full variation of Premises Licence to permit:

- **Late night licence for the sale of hot food take-away Sunday to Wednesday from 23:00-01:00 and Thursday to Saturday 23:00-02:00**
- **For the premises: Sams Chicken, 389 Barking Road, East Ham London E6 2JT**

Newham Council's Licensing Register is kept at the office of the Licensing Team, Grassroots, Memorial Avenue, London E15 3DB (open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday), 020 3373 1925, where details of the application may be inspected. Any representations against the application must be made in writing and received by the Licensing Team at the above address, by no later than the **19th January 2023**.

Individuals, businesses and other bodies may make representations in relation to the application. Representations must be relevant and can only be on the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance, and the protection of children from harm. Copies of all representations will be sent to the applicant. Persons making representations will have to appear at the Councils' Licensing Sub-Committee.

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

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Fund offers £1.5m to groups that improve mental health of young people

CATARINA JOELE

The East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT) is providing £1.5m to fund voluntary-led projects that tackle inequalities in access, outcomes and experiences in mental health support services for children and young people.

Grants of £5,000 to £50,000 are up for grabs for mental health charities and voluntary organisations from Newham and 13 other boroughs across North Central and East London.

Applications are open to groups that are at risk of losing their capacity to offer mental health support due to increasing demand as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and groups that offer support

to those who are on the waiting list to access mental health services.

The NHS is also encouraging applications that focus on supporting specific demographic groups and ethnic minorities as well as proposals for co-production initiatives that aim to shape and tailor how services are delivered to these groups.

Dr Mohit Venkataram, ELFT Director of Commercial Development, said:

“The NHS provides incredible support for children and young people, but VCS partners provide hope and help from the heart of the communities where we provide care. This fund is in place so we can continue to work together with these amazing people.”

Compass Wellbeing is managing



both the inequalities and the hospital admission avoidance funds.

If your organisation would like to

apply, you can contact funding@compasswellbeing.co.uk.

Applications close on Sunday 8 January.



Green councillors say MSG development ‘an assault on democracy’

Stratford Olympic Park’s Green Party councillors Nate Higgins and Danny Keeling have written to London Mayor Sadiq Khan calling on him to refuse planning permission for the Madison Square Gardens (MSG) Sphere development in Stratford.

Councillor Higgins said: “Local people are opposed to this development. Local councillors from all parties on the council are opposed to it, the council’s Planning Authority submitted detailed objections, Newham Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz is opposed to the development. Our London Assembly member Unmesh Desai also submitted objections, and West Ham MP Lyn Brown opposes the Sphere. This development, if it is allowed to go ahead, will seriously damage quality of life for residents in my ward and the surrounding Stratford area, and it would be an assault on our

democracy for the Sphere to go ahead, despite unanimous opposition from Stratford’s elected representatives.”

In the letter, Councillor Higgins reminds the London Mayor that he is now the only elected person with the power to intervene and stop the development. “We are calling for you to look past the mirage of a so-called economic boom for East London and consider the impact this will have on the community it will be imposed on.”

The Green Party says it will keep pushing to build a united response with Newham’s majority Labour councillors, in spite of a motion from the Green Party failing to be heard so far by a full Council meeting.

The letter is available at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jLJFBEigy-nWfL8B4UkOwAsokJYGkevb_q_tkF-BeFWJ8/edit?usp=sharing

Late start for biggest leaf pile

CHARLOTTE COOKE

In what are hopefully not too distant memories, the Friends of West Ham Park had a great start to the festive season.

We finally hosted Newham’s Biggest Leaf Pile, much delayed after the long hot summer which meant the trees were keen to keep hold of their leaves. And what fun it was! The colours were as amazing as ever.

December kicked off with Park in the Dark. Many, many thanks to the generosity of Morrison’s who kindly supplied a feast of mince pies and hot chocolate. Park Primary sang wonderfully, and entertained more than 200 residents. Glow sticks glowed

and cheeks were rosy in what was the long-awaited cold snap.

And Friends hosted a Christmas food bank collection, receiving donations of food and toiletries, which were handed to Stratford Food Bank who are based on The Grove (next to Foxtons). It was lovely to be able to give back to those who need our help and support.

We’ve a great series of events planned for 2023 – starting with our RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch practice run on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 January – we hope to see you there!

Charlotte Cooke is the Chair of Friends of West Ham Park



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Green spaces and young people are priorities for local neighbourhoods

In the last two issues of *Newham Voices* we presented projects being put forward by community assemblies area by area. Here **Peter Landman** looks at the topics covered by the projects.

After two years Newham's eight community assemblies have distributed a total of £1,600,000 to support neighbourhood projects proposed by residents and chosen and voted upon by local people.

This is the breakdown of issues covered by the projects agreed this year:

Greening of Empty Spaces (12 projects)

This group includes putting in flower beds along extended pavements by Henniker Point, along Katherine Road, and in Carlyle Road by the Greenway.

Further Development of existing green spaces (7 projects)

These projects include developments in Brampton Park, Plashet Park and Priory Park amongst other spaces, with a few nature trails and link up of green pathways, and set up of volunteer workshops.

Support for Vulnerable People (8 projects)

These projects cover support projects for hard of hearing people, for young people with mental health issues, women who feel safer with other women; and a special exercise programme for elderly people who have experienced falls.

Youth Activity (11 projects)

This group features an employment opportunity in a barber's shop,

and finding a home for the boat *The Thunderer* in the Royal Docks

Advice and Information Stalls at East Ham Library (1 project)

There was great interest at the big advice and information tents in the old town show in previous years. So maybe this could be a mini town show.

Arts and Creative Writing Projects (4 projects)

These projects include a five-week creative writing course for young children; a group mural to be presented at Stratford Town Hall; and following workshops, a big performance at Central Park.

Community Safety (4 projects)

One project involves going around schools presenting a Home Office Knife Prevention programme. The other is to break the silence from residents living close to incidents of drug abuse.

Development of Activities at Community Hubs (3 projects)

Provision of Clothing to the needy (2 projects)

One project features a workshop on how to make clothes from basic material.

Repairs...fixing items that are not working (2 projects)

Upgrade of Children's Play Equipment in Parks (2 projects)

End of refuse staff strikes as council agrees pay rise

CATARINA JOELE

Newham Council reached an agreement with trade union Unite in order to end the threat of more strike action by street cleaning, waste, and estate caretaking staff ahead of the festive period.

The package agreed will ensure a pay rise of 9.5 percent to frontline staff and 7.5 percent for drivers, as well as additional payments for out of hours working, which has ended staff's dispute over pay and conditions.

Beau Stanford-Francis, Director of Public Realm at Newham Council said: "We recognise the excellent work that frontline staff undertake for our community, and also recognise and understand the cost of living pressures that colleagues, especially the lower paid members



of the workforce, are faced with.

"I would like to thank everyone for working in a constructive and collaborative manner to end the dispute. Waste staff have worked extremely hard and with a consistently professional manner over this difficult period and my thanks go to them."

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The best of Newham – night to celebrate our p

2022 closed on a high note with awards for inspiring people who have made a difference to the life of the Borough in recent years.

After a turbulent time, including the health emergency, lockdowns and the onset of a cost of living crisis, the annual civic awards which were launched on December 7 at Stratford Town Hall were an opportunity to celebrate the lives and achievements of people who make Newham a better place.

The awards included Freedom of the Borough awards, a new alderperson and five civic awards. The winners were agreed by the council following nominations from a Civic Awards Panel made up of local people, councillors and officials which considered recommendations from residents after a Borough-wide public call for names of people who should be recognised for their contribution to the life of the community.

The winners who received their awards from the Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz and the council chair Winston Vaughan are:

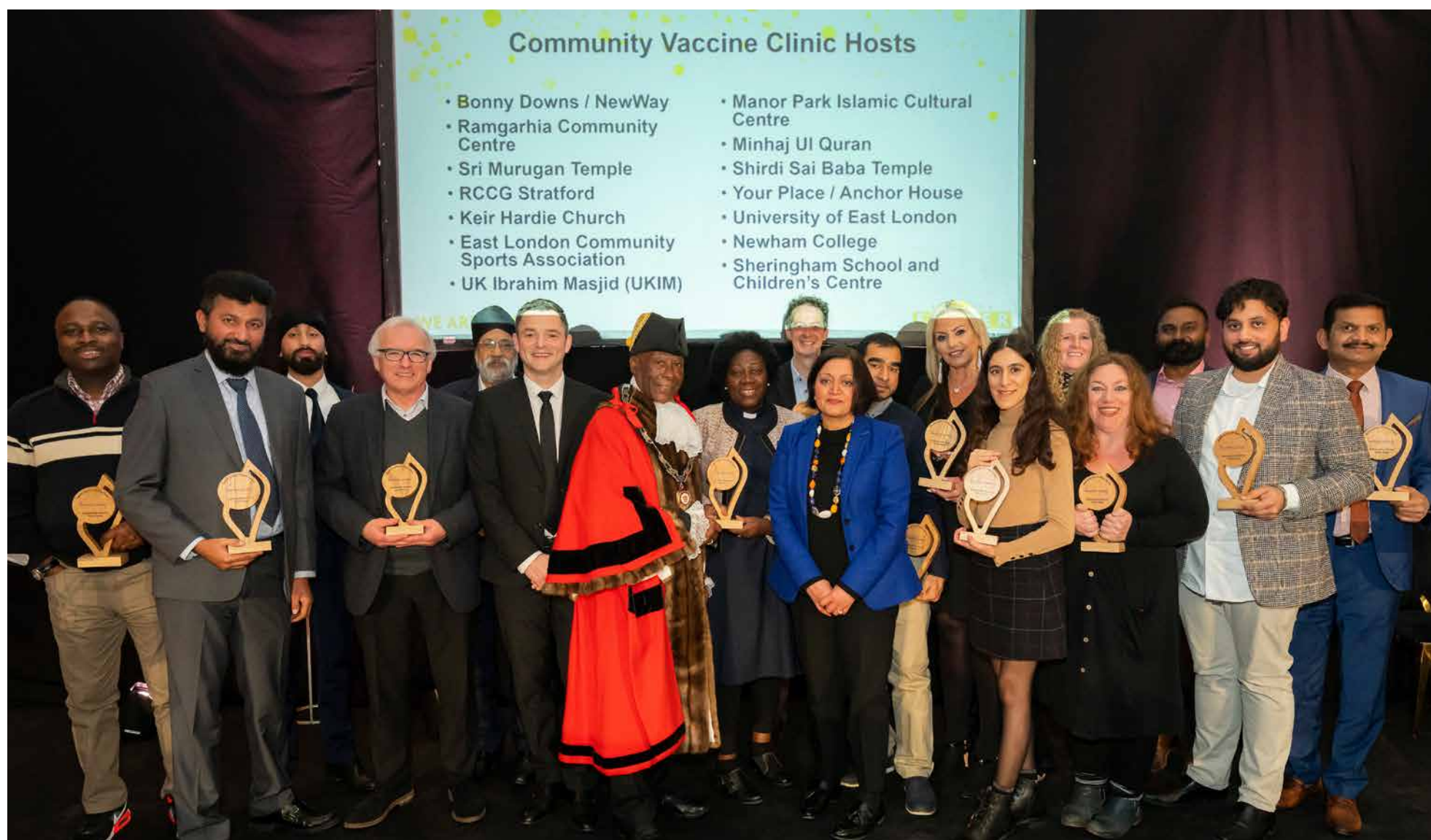
Freedom of the Borough was awarded to **John Barber DL, MRICS**, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Newham, to **Lorna Jackson MBE**, Head teacher of Maryland Primary School (see our story page 13), and to **Anthea Hare**, the founder of Richard House Children's hospice.

The awards panel also commended **Daniell Hambrook** and **Abdul Wadood Khan** under this category.

Patricia Holland, a former Newham Councillor was awarded the title of Alderperson.

Newham Civic Awards

- **Create and Thrive Award:** presented for an outstanding contribution to arts, culture or sport in the Borough.
Winner - Paul Archer, who is recognised for his work in providing chil-



a people

dren and young people with disabilities with opportunities to participate in a variety of sports. In addition, the awards panel commended **Sonia Quintero** founder of the Newham Poetry Group and the **Rosetta Arts** organisation.

- **Good Neighbour Award:** This recognises unsung heroes who have been caring for local people.

Winner - Violet White, who is a long term advocate of older people's rights, having joined the Age UK East London's Group for Older People 20 years ago. The group developed into the Newham Older People's Reference Group, which Violet co-chairs.

- **Health Equity 50 Steps Award:** To recognise residents, groups and organisations committed to tackling health inequalities in Newham.

Winner: Community Vaccine Clinic Hosts. During the Covid-19 pandemic community groups hosted vaccination sessions at their premises, helping the vaccination drive. Since February 2021, they helped deliver more than 10,250 vaccinations at pop-up clinics.

The groups were: Bonny Downs/NewWay, Ramgarhia Community Centre, Sri Murugan Temple, RCGG Stratford, Keir Hardie Church, East London Rugby Club, UKIM, Manor Park Islamic Cultural Centre, Minhaj Ul Quran, Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Anchor House, UEL, Newham College, Sheringham School.

- **Stronger & United Together Award:** This award recognises voluntary, faith and community groups which bring together cultures and communities to deepen understanding of diversity.

Winners - Born Everywhere: Made in Newham, a new community organisation promoting local environmental improvements to make a greener and more cohesive environment.

- **Youth Excellence Award:** This award recognises young people in Newham who have excelled in civic, volunteering or social change activities.

Winner - Haris Kiani

Top left: Youth Excellence Award Winner - Haris Kiani receives his award; Bottom left: representatives of health equity award Bonny Downs/NewWay, Ramgarhia Community Centre, Sri Murugan Temple, RCGG Stratford, Keir Hardie Church, East London Rugby Club, UKIM, Manor Park Islamic Cultural Centre, Minhaj Ul Quran, Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Anchor House, UEL, Newham College, Sheringham School, with the Mayor and chair of the council ©Newham Council / Andrew Baker

Stuttering start but now Haris is a rising star

It's been a stunning year of high-profile awards for East Ham student Haris Kiani who received the Youth Excellence Award at the Newham Civic Awards ceremony.

He is already established as one of Britain's rising stars in the field of promotion of social mobility. He is a second-year student in Business Management and Entrepreneurship at Pearson College in Holborn but he has already made his mark as a tech and social entrepreneur.

This year he has already won the students social mobility award, a Points Of Light Award from No 10 Downing Street, and he was awarded the 2021 Diana Award.

Much of this is in recognition of his successful social enterprise - Jaago - which has supported more than 500 Pakistani women from marginalised communities with the means and support to kick-start their own businesses. He has helped fundraise over £250,000 for charities tackling poverty and improving social mobility.

The Prime Minister Boris Johnson paid particular tribute to his dedication to championing social mobility opportunities for young people from low-income backgrounds.

Johnson told him: "I was inspired to learn about your work, both in

the UK and overseas. This award is a thank you on behalf of the whole country, in recognition of your exceptional service in giving young people the chance to grow."



Not bad for a first-generation immigrant from East Ham and the first in his family to attend university. He started his academic journey at Lister School and NewVic in Newham and is now a role model for young people from underrepresented communities.

But he was not always riding high. He told *Newham Voices* after receiving his award at Stratford Town Hall. As a youngster he was shy and found it difficult to express himself.

"My mum will tell you how I used

to be," he said, "I used to stutter but then I realised if I could focus on something, like helping others it gave me more confidence."

He made his focus to help his younger brother and his confidence grew. Now he is a smooth and confident activist for social mobility and is a trustee for multiple organisations, including Greater London Authority Young People's Recovery Mission, the EY Foundation, the V&A Museum, the Mayor's Fund for London, and Al Quds Foundation for Medical Schools.

He is only 23, but is keen to encourage young people to take every opportunity that presents itself.

"I know many young people find it difficult particularly when they come from low income backgrounds and find themselves competing with privileged people," he says. "They face big challenges and many don't have role models or mentors who can help them."

But he urges them to look at what they can do to help others around them and then they will gain confidence that will help them to succeed.

"This has been very important to me," he says. "Everyone needs to have the opportunity to work together."

15-minute neighbourhoods and action on the environment

Peter Landman reports from the December Newham Council Cabinet meeting

The Council's Annual Plan was the centrepiece of the Cabinet Report with a public consultation due on a draft plan. The plan deals with individual planning policies, and local area plans. Despite the huge number of items, three initiatives stand out:

- Creation of 15-minute neighbourhoods. (In any corner of Newham, key facilities and services should be available within a 15-minute walk);
- Creation of a Data Hub at East Ham Town Hall;
- Target of Zero Carbon Collection on new building developments.

The public consultation process looks comprehensive, and includes:

- Press releases to local media;
- Postcard drops to a sample of the population;

- Outside display on public advertisement boards;
 - Take up in Community Assemblies.
- For further information, email **Ellie.Kuperthomas@newham.gov.uk**

Council Orders to protect the environment

Action against car racers and road nuisance: Cabinet agreed to issue a Public Spaces Protection Order to take action against unauthorised car racing in Beckton, Custom House, Royal Albert, Royal Victoria and Custom House wards. This will include making preparations for racing, gathering to watch, doing stunts, excessive revving of cars and sounding horns.

The order has special provision against motorcycle nuisance in Beckton Parks.

Motor vehicle entry will only be allowed for maintenance of open spaces, and mobility traffic.

Smoke controls: Cabinet also agreed

to issue a Smoke Control Order designating Newham as a Smoke Control Area. This will make it an offence to sell, acquire or burn unauthorised solid fuels. This development reflects concern over a disturbing statistic for Newham: it is estimated that there are 115 deaths per year due to poor air quality and 4,500 children are hospitalised.





CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR COLLECTION DAYS

Your collection day for your waste and recycling changes over the Christmas and New Year Period – check your date!

Normal collection day	Revised collection day		
Monday 2 January 2023 (Bank Holiday)	Thursday 5 January 2023	Thursday 12 January 2023	Saturday 14 January 2023
Tuesday 3 January 2023	Friday 6 January 2023	Friday 13 January 2023	Monday 16 January 2023
Wednesday 4 January 2023	Saturday 7 January 2023	Monday 16 January 2023	Tuesday 17 January 2023
Thursday 5 January 2023	Monday 9 January 2023	Tuesday 17 January 2023	Wednesday 18 January 2023
Friday 6 January 2023	Tuesday 10 January 2023	Wednesday 18 January 2023	Thursday 19 January 2023
Monday 9 January 2023	Wednesday 11 January 2023	Thursday 19 January 2023	Friday 20 January 2023
Tuesday 10 January 2023	Thursday 12 January 2023	Friday 20 January 2023	Saturday 21 January 2023
Wednesday 11 January 2023	Friday 13 January 2023		



Christmas trees

After Christmas the best way to dispose of your real Christmas tree is to book a free green and garden waste collection.

We will collect your tree and recycle it into compost. Don't forget to remove all the decorations! Book your collect at www.newham.gov.uk/greenwaste



Extra recycling

Collect some orange recycling sacks from your local library for all your extra Christmas recycling. Put the bag out with your recycling.

Forever West Ham!

In our regular series on memorials around the Borough, Julie Omari discovers a statue with a fitting but unusual addition to its foundation

Last month the world was full of football fever and while England did not reach the finals, Newham residents can keep their football spirit alive by taking a trip to see the recently unveiled European Cup Winners' Cup statue at London Stadium.

The permanent bronze sculpture, which stands outside the stadium near the J seating entrance, celebrates the match between West Ham United and TSV 1860 Munich in the final held at Wembley Stadium on 19 May 1965, with a 2 - 0 win in West Ham's favour.

The three part memorial features football legends Bobby Moore, Sir Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters fixed in a pose copied from a photo taken of the celebrations after their win, a plinth which holds the names of each match player and manager plus a stand that



highlights the match details, including a brief description of the game.

An unusual addition to the statue are the ashes of Martin Peters, which



were interred into the foundation as his family wished following his death in 2019. Peters was born in 1943 in Plaistow and joined West Ham as an apprentice aged 15. He went on to make 364 appearances for the club and continued a life-long relationship with West Ham which makes his final resting place a fitting one. ●

Photos courtesy Julia Omari

My Newham

Julia Omari meets Jackie Delventhal, a Docklands Light Railway Community Ambassador who was born and works in Stratford.

How long have you been connected to Newham?

All my life. I was born at Queen Mary's Hospital in Stratford in 1960 and started life living in a prefabricated building in Manor Park before moving to Lonsdale Ave in East Ham. I lived in Stepney for a short while. Moved back to East Ham in 1984 and have lived here ever since. My first school was Dersingham Primary in Manor Park then I transferred to Brampton Primary in East Ham. Having passed my 11 plus exam, I went to Sarah Bonnell Grammar in Forest Gate. A year later we joined with Stratford School and became Stratford Comprehensive.

On leaving school I went to West Ham Technical College and studied for a nursery nursing qualification and have studied various complementary therapy classes at Newham College. I have worked at Roman Road Primary School, Home Start Newham, St Bartholomew's Church and Centre, Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre, and North Woolwich Library. I have volunteered as Chairperson for the Friends of Central Park School, at The Women's Centre which was based at Stratford Advice Arcade and St Marks Church and Centre. I currently work for Docklands Light Railway (DLR) as a Community Ambassador.

What's your favourite Newham moment?

That has to be the Olympics in 2012. I was working in the Stratford area at the time. It was buzzing and everyone you came across had a smile on

their face. Living close to Central Park in East Ham I was able to watch the Olympics and Paralympics on the big screen.

Most inspirational Newham person?

I would say all the older people I have come across over the years who are out there volunteering and joining in. When working at St Bartholomew's Church and Centre I was lucky enough to work with an 87 year old female volunteer, and a paid cleaner who was 75 at the time. I hope I still have the energy to keep going after I retire.

Favourite place to eat in Newham?

Not sure about this one although my extended family and I enjoy a family meal out at any local Brewers Fayre especially on a Sunday for the roast.

Favourite Newham outdoor space?

I always enjoy a day out at the Olympic Park. It is such a lovely place to go with the family and also to relax and enjoy the outdoor space.

How would you spend a free day in Newham?

Most probably catching up with household chores (boring I know). Other than that meeting up with close friends and going for some nice food and a good chat.

Tell us about your job

I worked as a Community Ambassador from 2012-2015 and enjoyed my time engaging with the local commu-

nities around the Stratford area. I rejoined the company in July 2021 as a Community Ambassador and am currently covering the whole network (Newham, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich and Lewisham). I enjoy once again engaging with the local communities. Being out and about provides an opportunity to find out about all the wonderful activities and events that are on offer in each of the boroughs. I have started attending things that I would not have been aware of if I was not in this role.

Finish the sentence, Newham is...

diverse and has lots of opportunities to gain knowledge and have fun.



Jackie Delventhal. Photo by Anthony Delventhal

Poetry in Mind

JANUARY

January first; another year.

See in another year.

Constant blurring on TV, Radio and Online

How are you going to see in the New Year?

What resolutions are you going to make For the New year.

Me in my old age.

Must I be reminded, another year to add to old age?

Old age eats into you, stopping you from doing

What you enjoyed doing even a few years ago.

Oh dear:

Can no longer enrol for a study course
Fear no longer have the stamina.

Can no longer play football with my grandchildren.

Too slow I fear.

Can no longer even make a seniors walking eleven.

What happened to the cricket six hitter in the back garden?

How my little grandchildren laughed...

Six into my neighbour's compost corner.

No more holidays in the Caribbean, Caribbean sun too much for me,

My Doctor says

Danger for your heart beat in that heat.

I remember, I remember my younger days

How I thought the world would be a better place

How I thought I could do my bit,

How happy I was to be a Labour Party member

And Councillor.

Now what?

Putin in Ukraine. Back to World War Two.

Now what?

Marmot report twenty years ago

Still health inequality from social inequality.

And alone now. My wife Felicity deceased.

My son and daughter emigrated.

Oh the joyous festivity New Year used to be,

For me

Oh well, not so bad I am still healthy,

Can see in the New Year on TV.

Hello what's this in my emails?

All colour email Dad get into Zoom

See in the New Year on Zoom with us,

All of us in the family in Australia.

Hello what's this a knock on my door?
Why it's my neighbour?

Mr Landman. Don't be alone on New Years Eve.

Come along to our New Years Drinks and Buffet.

Be our guest of honour.

By Peter Landman



SOMETHING'S BREWING

If you ever find yourself in Canton, Ohio, you might just be reminded of home, as Phil Mellows discovered



Stumbling around the junk-filled attic they call the Internet the other day, I came across Royal Docks Brewing. Brilliant, I thought, a new brewery for Newham. But it turned out to be 3,750 miles away, in Ohio.

Was there perhaps a Royal Docks there, I wondered? But no. The Royal Docks represented by the cranes artfully turned into a crown to make the brewery's logo are indeed our Royal Docks, as John Bikis, its owner, was able to confirm on a trans-Atlantic Zoom call.

I'd always loved beer... But while living in Newham I also fell in love with a pub culture where people aren't just going for the drink, they're going for the conversation. There was nothing like that in the States.

It was almost a decade ago, while drinking a beer at the Oiler Bar, the floating pub on the Thames, and gazing at the Silvertown skyline pricked by cranes, that he had the idea to open a brewery back home in Canton, Ohio. It would be inspired by the pubs he visited while living in Alaska Apartments, Canning Town, on a work placement with his wife Adriana.

"I'd always loved beer," he said. "But while living in Newham I also fell in love with a pub culture where people aren't just going for the drink, they're going for the conversation. There was nothing like that in the States."

He found an experienced brewmaster, Dave Sutula, and opened his first brewery and tap room in 2015. The launch party attracted 5,000 guests and they ran out of beer. Brewing rapidly expanded and a second tap room, the Foeder House (named after a vessel used to age beer) followed.

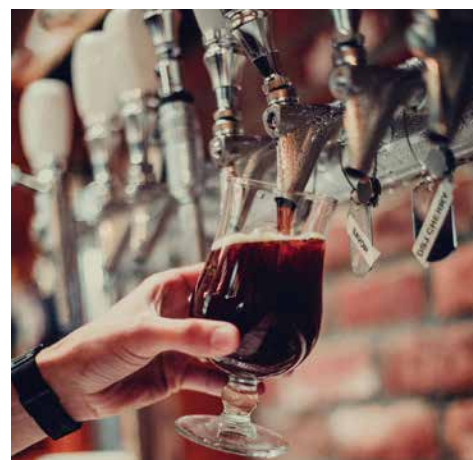
The tap rooms try to recreate the

atmosphere of a London pub – in a modern setting. Royal Docks focuses on hop-forward craft beers but, rare in America, one or two cask ales are poured from handpumps on busy Friday nights. You might even find an ESB or a porter alongside a light lager called DLR – after the Docklands Light Railway. And, yes, you can buy a whole pint, uniquely in this part of the world, according to John.

Soccer is screened, and customers were cheering on the US team in the football World Cup at the end of last year. There's also a red phone box and

regular charity events to raise dollars for the 'Phone Booth Fund' supporting local schools and other good causes.

"Our tap rooms don't look like traditional pubs, but the core atmosphere is the same," said John. "We've made it comfortable and very family-friendly. They are really community living rooms." ●



Mayann meets the Queen Consort

Seven-year-old Newham girl Mayann McNeil-Thompson was joined by mum Sophia at a special event for children living with life-long debilitating illnesses hosted by the Queen Consort at London's Clarence House.

In her former role as The Duchess of Cornwall, the Queen Consort was Royal Patron for Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity, who provide specialist nurses and support for seriously ill children with some of the most complex health conditions in the UK.

The charity helps establish Roald Dahl Nurse Specialists, two of which are based in Newham's Specialist Children's and Young Peoples Service, part of the East London NHS Foundation Trust.



New year, new Voice: meet E7 Blackbird

I'll begin with a quick announcement: the Forest Gate Festival is on Saturday 8 July, 2023! An "official" invitation is in the pipeline, but I'm sharing the date early so community groups can put it on the calendar.

I'm Lia Rees in Forest Gate, and I've been involved in local life for over ten years. My new column is "Bird's Eye View by E7 Blackbird": an events guide backed up with local knowledge. So many community announcements get stuck in a social media bubble, while other events happen at street level with barely a whisper online. "Bird's Eye View" is my attempt to strengthen the link between our virtual and physical neighbourhoods by sharing information from both.

It's also my chance to put Forest Gate Festival news in print at last. Our early announcements have been digital-only for budget reasons, and "Join our committee" is one of the earliest each year – so it mainly went out to social media followers, which didn't make me happy. This column in *Newham Voices* will bring it into print at the same time, so the whole community gets a fair chance to organise and shape our community Festival. It will be bigger, bolder, more diverse – and even more fun than it already is.

I also hope E7 Blackbird inspires a "Maryland Mouse" or "Plaistow Sparrow" to step forward and lead us through their patch of Newham.

Maryland School welcomes award winning illustrator and author

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Dapo Adeola visited the Maryland Primary School wall display dedicated to *Look Up*, his debut book as an illustrator.

Dapo signed a selection of his books for the school. One pupil was dressed as Rocket, a character from the book.

Look Up, which was written by Nathan Bryon and published by Puffin in 2019, won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize in 2020.

Dapo, who was born in Newham, was happy to take photos and answer questions from eager pupils who were excited to meet him.

Dapo told *Newham Voices*: "I was absolutely blown away by all the wonderful questions the children had for me about my books and my craft."

"What head Lorna Jackson and her team have done at the school is nothing short of amazing! They've managed to fuse global Black History with the creative arts as a teaching tool in a way I've never seen before. It's not only effective as a history teaching tool, but the children are also being given a creative outlet for what they've learned which for some will be an invaluable gateway into careers that would otherwise be difficult to envision."

Dapo Adeola and writer Tolá Okogwu will be creating 'The Box Rocket', a new



Dapo Adeola with Lorna Jackson MBE ©Neandra Etienne

space-themed exhibition, at Discover Children's Story Centre, Stratford.

Tickets for the exhibition will go on sale from 20 January 2023. 'The Box Rocket' exhibition opens 1 April 2023

www.discover.org.uk

[@DapsDraws](https://twitter.com/DapsDraws)

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

Newham Council interim Chief Executive Colin Ansell also visited Maryland Primary School last month for a tour of the art exhibition which was sponsored by the council.



The opening event included a carnival parade organised by The Maryland Performing Arts Club, during a special assembly on the Notting Hill Carnival.

The exhibition focused on how current significant individuals of colour are shaping the future. Each key figure was honoured by a piece of artwork which showcased a Black artist and their style of art.

The children explored key messages of equality, diversity and inclusion in Britain today, such as 'Belonging to a community', 'Africa and the World', 'True supporters, equality, diversity in British football' and 'Climate Justice'.

Part of the exhibition included a display of footballs that the children painted in the Pan-African flag colours.

maryland.newham.sch.uk

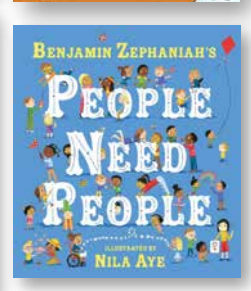
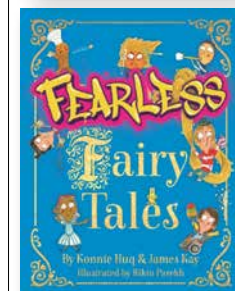
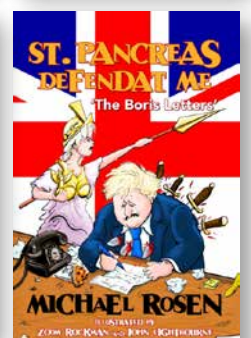
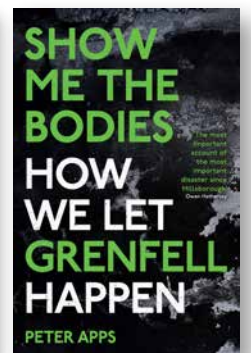
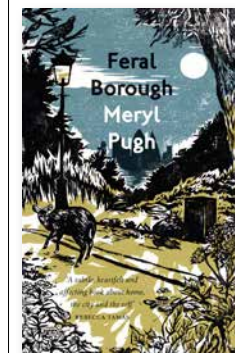
[@MarylandPrimary](https://twitter.com/MarylandPrimary)



Good reads in Newham

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

- **Show Me the Bodies: How We Let Grenfell Happen**
By Peter Apps
- **Feral Borough**
By Meryl Pugh
- **St Pancreas Defendat Me: The Boris Letters**
By Michael Rosen
- **Fearless Fairy Tales**
By Konnie Huq and James Kay
- **People Need People**
By Benjamin Zephaniah
- **Evil Emperor Penguin: Antics in Antarctica**
By Laura Ellen Anderson



Queens Market inspires an episode of award winning children's TV show

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Ashley Joseph, one of the writers and the voice actor on *JoJo and Gran Gran*, an animated TV show about a St Lucian British family living in London, was born in Newham.

When Ashley auditioned for a role he got the part of Jared and Pete the shop worker. However, the producers and director loved Jared so much that they made him run the shop and said goodbye to the character of Pete.

Ashley wrote an episode based on Queens Market mainly because going to the market, especially with his Mum or Nan, was a part of his



JoJo and Gran Gran

Caribbean culture and more specifically St Lucian heritage.

He said: "It only felt right to do it. Also I wanted to put Queens Market on the map! I can literally bring my family experiences to the show. Check out the Family BBQ episode I wrote...you'll see what I mean."

Ashley attended Theatre Royal Stratford East Youth Theatre and was one of the very first dance students in *Boy Blue*.

He told *Newham Voices* what made him want to go into the entertainment industry: "I always liked pretending to be different characters and acting things out, but it was when I was eight years old watching the awesome *Real McCoy* comedy show on TV, I saw Marcus Powell, a phenomenal actor, writer and comedian, do a sketch and I knew...that's what I'm supposed to do."

Ashley has been influenced and supported by many teachers: Mr McKellar and Mr Thomas his English and drama teachers at Cumberland Secondary school and Ms Shannen Owen, the

drama and theatre studies teacher at St Angela's and Bonaventure's 6th form.

Two mentors who inspired him and still continue to do so are Kenrick Sandy, Artistic Director and lead Choreographer of *Boy Blue* and "the wonderful talented (Aunty) Jo Melville, she will forever be in my heart" he said.

Ashley likes to give back to the Newham community. He visited a primary school in East Ham to speak about being a local hero, and in 2022 hosted two Christmas lights switch-on events in Canning Town and East Ham.

Ashley was Co-Associate Director on the Bob Marley Musical and recently finished working on the production.

He is currently developing two new shows, one for TV and one for theatre. He will also be returning to the Rich Mix Theatre to host *Lovers and Friends*, a comedy show that celebrates and disrespects Valentine's Day.

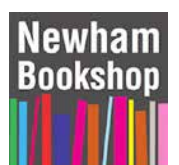
Lovers and Friends, Saturday 11 February, Rich Mix Theatre

[@sir_ashleyj](https://twitter.com/sir_ashleyj)

Compiled by David Ceen, Newham Bookshop

newhambooks.co.uk

[@NewhamBookshop](https://twitter.com/NewhamBookshop)



SPORTS SHORTS

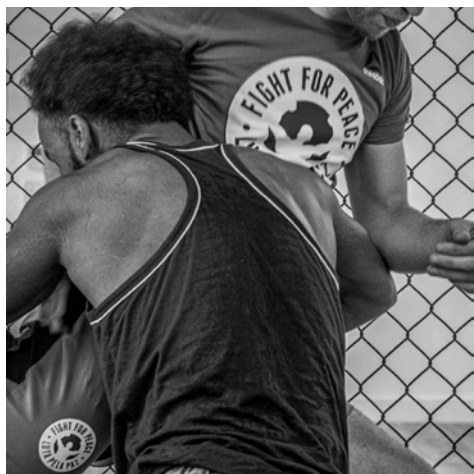
Compiled by Neandra Etienne

Fight for Peace is launching brand new free Mixed Martial Arts classes for anyone aged 14-25.

The classes are for all levels - and it's a great way of getting fit, meeting new people and building physical and mental skills and wellbeing.

To get involved attend the Fight for Peace Academy at the class times. You can also register to be a Fight for Peace member at fightforpeace.net

The classes run every Wednesday and Friday at 5.30pm, from 4 January, Fight for Peace Academy, Woodman Street, E16 2LS www.fightforpeace.net



Fight for Peace

After Team USA trained at the University of East London during the London Olympics in 2012, they donated their gym equipment to the University's **SportsDock**. Now that the gym has been refurbished the SportsDock have passed on some of that equipment to **Shannia Richardson Gordon**, a UEL Alumni, to help her community boxing training business.

Shannia, 22, has won Gold and Silver medals at the Amateur Boxing Association championships in the 65+kg category and is one of the youngest boxing coaches in the UK. She graduated from the University of East London with a BA (Hons) in Social Studies.

www.uel.ac.uk



Shannia Richardson Gordon

West Ham United Women will play Wolverhampton Wanderers in the fourth round of the Vitality Women's FA Cup. Last season, they made it to the semi-finals of the competition.

Their away game with Wolves is scheduled to be played on the weekend of 28-29 January 2023

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



Debee Steel, East London Phoenix

New players will join the **East London Phoenix** squad for the second season of the Women's Premier League - British Wheelchair Basketball.

- **Jude Hamer** joins East London Phoenix from last year's Champions the Loughborough Lightning and she has represented Team GB.
- **Chloe Fiveash** joins the Phoenix from the Southern Sharks.
- **Debee Steel** has represented Team GB
- **Sophie Cargill** is a Team GB player and a Paralympian who has won World and European Silver medals in wheelchair basketball.
- **Jodie Waite** represents Ireland U23.

Last year they were runners-up in the competition.

The first East London Phoenix fixture is at SportsDock/East London Sport 29 January against the Cardiff Met Archers. 'Tip off' 3pm

[@eastldnphoenix](https://www.instagram.com/eastldnphoenix)
[@EastLDNPhoenix](https://www.facebook.com/EastLDNPhoenix)

The Bikeworks drop-in all ability Cycling Clubs are designed for people with learning, physical and/or sensory disabilities. There are two Newham locations. Sessions are free.

- The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park - 10am-1.30pm
- Thursday 5 January, Tuesday 10 January, Thursday 19 January, Tuesday 24 January
- Central Park - 11am-1pm
- Friday 6 January, Friday 13 January, Friday 20 January, Friday 27 January

www.bikeworks.org.uk

HRH Princess Anne opened the first night of The London International Horse Show in December and met with some horses and riders backstage. She also presented The Raymond Brooks-Ward Memorial Trophy to the world champion Yasmin Ingham. The show took place at the ExCeL London exhibition centre.

www.excel.london



HRH Princess Royal. Image courtesy of the London International Horse Show

NewVic teachers **William Twigg** and **Charles Vuong** have been recognised by Basketball England with a London Teacher of the Year Award. They were nominated for their outstanding work supporting, encouraging and mentoring students at all levels.

The award recognises the selfless dedication and efforts made by staff across the Basketball community. Charles Vuong, Head Coach of NewVic Knights added: "Thank you to everyone that was involved in the nominations and putting me forward - it means a lot, thank you."

www.newvic.ac.uk



Will and NewVic team

Central Park Allstars Girls U13 are scheduled to play the following games: 14, 21 and 28 January

Central Park Allstars FC Girls team train in Central Park, East Ham, on Sundays 9.30am - 12pm

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

Newham's joint project with the **LTA** will see around £160,000 invested in three park tennis courts in Newham: Plashet Park, Little Ilford Park and Royal Victoria Gardens

www.plashetpark.co.uk



Sir Stephen Timms via Twitter

Chobham Friends PTA have teamed up with Run Kids Run to host the **Run Stratford Run** event on Sunday 22 January, from 2 - 4 pm at London Marathon Community Track in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Participants can find all the information on www.runkidsrun.org/stratford-race-day

West Ham striker and former St Ben's pupil **Divin Mubama** attended the West Ham United Foundation 'Moving on Up' career development programme.

Delivered in collaboration with East London Business Alliance, Newham Workplace, Newham College, NLP Sports and New Direction, Moving on Up is designed to support the work aspirations of young Black men.

[@whufoundation](https://www.instagram.com/whufoundation)
[@WHUFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/WHUFoundation)



West Ham Boys Boxing Club 100 year celebration

I Guests from the world of boxing including Michael Watson MBE and Colin McMillan attended **The West Ham Boys Boxing Club** 100 year celebration dinner.

Awards were given to the following people in recognition of their dedication to the club.

Terry Abbott from Silvertown has been at the club since 1989, **Chris Penny** has been at the club for over a decade, **Russell Gerard**, who was born and raised in Plaistow, has been at the club as a boxer and trainer for over 22 years, **Mickey May** sadly passed away in 2014 so his award was received by his daughters Danielle and Karen. Treasurer Ronnie, and Guy, a multiple time national champion for West Ham Boys Club and also club captain were also award winners.

The boxing club, formed in Newham 1922, achieved charity status in 1967 and moved to their Plaistow home in 2014. The club appointed a new secretary, Nadia Alves and Chair Dean Hollington.

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

Enamul Haque Jr is the Head of Performance and Development for the Cricket Academy at NewVic.

Having performed at a high level internationally, Enamul was fortunate to represent Bangladesh at the Cricket World Cup playing against India, and many other international games.

He said: "My very first cricket tournament at NewVic was the Association of Colleges (AoC) regional tournament which we won! We have now qualified for the AoC National Championships which is being held at Nottingham University in 2023, where we are representing not only NewVic but also London."

newvic.ac.uk/elite-sport-academies



Enamul Haque Jr. in Harare

It was a good first year for the **JK Silvertown FC** charity vets side. In 2022 they raised over £3k for charities in Essex and East London. If you are a vets team and would like to schedule a game for charity contact them via social media.

The club was set up in Memory Of James Kiely

[@jksilvertownfc](https://www.instagram.com/jksilvertownfc)
[@JKSILVERTOWNFC](https://www.facebook.com/JKSILVERTOWNFC)

Students aim to change the world with eco-friendly recycling bin

A new eco-friendly bin which will stop rubbish entering the river and the sea and protect marine life has been unveiled at the University of East London (UEL).

The bin, designed in 2019 by product design students Emily Hodgkinson and George Davis in partnership with GreenSeas Trust, will raise awareness of marine plastic pollution and encourage staff, students and visitors to be mindful of their litter.

It was unveiled at an event at the university's Docklands campus. Councillor James Asser, Deputy Mayor of Newham and Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainable Transport, said: "We are working to increase recycling in Newham and this interesting, eye-catching bin is a great way to grab someone's attention and encourage them to do more recycling. There are a few of them around the country and we're delighted to have

one here in our borough and hopefully we can introduce more.

"Ensuring that our rivers and waterways are clean from pollution is as important as the work we do in our neighbourhoods; and hopefully this will make people think and will help keep the docks and the Thames clean."

The students won a BinForGreenSeas prize in a competition which challenged students across the country to design an eye-catching recycling bin.

It is 1.5 metres high, made from fibre glass and material from approximately 450 recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles.

Ten bins have been manufactured so far and this will be the second London location after Canary Wharf. UEL will be the first university in the country to host one.

Dean Curtis, UEL Deputy Vice-Chancellor, said: "We're so proud to be the first university in the UK to



Eco-friendly recycling bin designed by Emily Hodgkinson and George Davis

receive and host a BinForGreenSeas which was designed by our impressive and outstanding alumni. It goes to show that the work our students do can really make a positive impact and change the world."

Illegal tobacco seized

Illegal tobacco products were seized by trading standards officers in a series of raids across Newham last month. The operation resulted in 10,360 cigarettes being taken off the streets as well as other tobacco and illicit products with a value of £20,000.00.

Officers raided a total of 16 businesses, with five found to have illicit and non-compliant products. The action is part of a joint operation with Wagtails – the specialist detection dogs.

The majority of the tobacco was suspected to have been smuggled into the country with a proportion was believed to be counterfeit of popular brands, containing harmful substances and may not self-extinguish.

Aid for groups providing refuge

London Councils' Grants Programme is to provide special grants to fund refuge for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. Around £2,500,000 will be available over the next three years to help groups with refuge provision.

Survivors need immediate access to find safety from their abusers, and despite changes thanks to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 there is a gap in funding. A recent survey by London Councils found that a quarter of Londoners have been affected by the issue of domestic abuse.

Some survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence need special support including disabled, black or global majority and LGBT+ survivors, as well as people with children or no access to public funds. Details on how to apply for grants can be found at London Councils pan-London Grants Programme 2022

Five-year scheme keeps watch on landlords

Newham's war on rogue landlords who maintain substandard property will continue thanks to government support for a new five-year term of the Borough's Selective Licensing Scheme.

The scheme, which safeguards and improves housing standards for tenants, has been backed by the Secretary of State for Department for Levelling Up and puts Newham at the forefront of championing renters rights.

The scheme will operate in 22 out of 24 wards in the Borough with the exception of Stratford Olympic Park and Royal Victoria. It requires all private rented properties to be licensed and tackles poor property conditions, high levels of deprivation and antisocial behaviour. Newham Council can force landlords to meet certain minimum conditions and ensure that each landlord is a 'fit and proper person'.

Newham grime pioneers are winners at the MOBO Awards

NEANDRA ETIENNE

D Double E from Forest Gate and Kane Robinson (Kano) from East Ham were presented with MOBO Awards during a show at OVO Arena Wembley which was live-streamed on the MOBO YouTube channel.

D Double E won the award for Best Grime Act and Kane Robinson picked up the award for Best Performance in a TV show for his role as Sully in *Top Boy*.

Kane previously won Best Newcomer in 2005 and in 2016 *Made in the Manor* won him the Best Album award.

Kane and D Double E have collaborated on projects and events which have benefited the Newham community.

Kane presented *Newham Talks* to raise money via GoFundMe for Newham organisations and charities in 2020. Charities included Your Place, previously known as Caritas Anchor House.

The YouTube series featured conversations with D Double E, previous MOBO Award winner Ghetts, from Plaistow and other well-known Newham musicians, actors, academics and sports people.

In 2021, D Double E collaborated on

the song *Realize* with Year 6 pupils from St Antony's Catholic Primary School.

The song captured the daily frustrations suffered by working people and the injustice of low pay experienced by many families within their school community.

D Double E also performed during St Antony's school Monday morning Christmas assembly last month. He told *Newham Voices*:

"At the end of the year it's all about Christmas and end of term achieve-

ments. There are children who have made big improvements and they should be rewarded for their effort and encouraged to keep it up!

"It was a vibe! Remember it's all about the kids at Christmas time! Let's make it more magical and special for them." #givemorethanyourecieve

@StAntsE7
@therealkano
@therealkano
@DDoubleE7
@omygoshitsddoublee



D Double E (left) and Kane Robinson (right). Images via Twitter

England's World Cup exit: 'nul points' for the referee!



ON THE BALL

Mickey Ambrose *boycotted the early rounds of the World Cup in Qatar but nonetheless has plenty to say about England's fortunes....*

The FIFA World Cup 2022 should never have taken place in Qatar, that is my opinion and here are my reasons: the way they treated migrant workers and their families, and gay people denied human rights..

I was wrestling with my conscience whether to watch the World Cup this year due to the huge number of migrant workers who lost their lives in the country's building sector over the past ten years, including some who died building the four World Cup sta-

Look mate, I would have given you my glasses! Even if I wasn't wearing them I would have seen that, that was a penalty all day long when Mason Mount was shoved in the back and, readers, I am minus in both eyes.

Following the defeat I was asked by shoppers in my local Sainsbury's in the old Stratford Shopping Mall: "Mickey how difficult is it to score a penalty from 12 yards?" and to be honest they have a point. Unfortunately, Harry Kane pointed his effort over the bar.



England and West Ham star Declan Rice, © Vlad1988/Shutterstock

diums and surrounding infrastructure. So I refused to watch the opening ceremony and any of the opening games.

I know though that England lost but before I explain why we lost, I have to mention the referee who reminded me of those countries that always seem to have it in for the United Kingdom in the Eurovision Song Contest - until Sam Ryder came along.

Newham Voices readers will remember the times when we would always come last, receiving "nul points". I am officially using the Borda Counting Voting System which is what they use in the Eurovision Song Contest, to judge this referee, giving him "nul points" for his performance. He was a disgrace.

Actually, I would go further and give him an Oscar nomination even though he gave us a late penalty but failed to see the incident in open play, having to rely on VAR.

This is how you should take a penalty: In your mind before you step up you know where you are going to put it.

When you strike the ball the speed at which it travels gives the goalkeeper no chance to save it from 12 yards out because by the time he has to move - and remember he doesn't have a clue where it's going, or its trajectory. It should be in the back of the net, the law of averages says so. The bit that Harry Kane got wrong was that he lent back, which meant the ball would rise up, and it did.

Sounds all very simple until you're actually standing there and the goal looks smaller than you think it is and the noise is deafening.

Okay, now to why we lost. We didn't take our chances that's it and, by the way, we did create many more chances than France.

There are many positives from the

tournament. Bukayo Saka for me was probably man-of-the-match against France and he was brilliant throughout the tournament, scoring three goals and creating many more.

What next for England? Firstly, the players can be proud of their performances during a tournament dogged in controversy in its build up. So can Gareth Southgate and his assistant Steve Holland, and all those involved behind the scenes - Well Done!

(Oh, and by the way Harry Kane was the most abused England player on Twitter since the World Cup started. Anger that he was not allowed to wear the OneLove armband was a frequent theme in the abuse content directed at him during the 6-2 win over Iran.)

Next up, Euro 24 in Germany! What a chance we have there, too, but with England's luck who knows what will happen? One thing we do know - Gareth will still be the Manager



Mickey Ambrose

because his 'Contract' is until then and the Eurovision will take place a year earlier, so hopefully we won't receive "nul points"

Thank you for following my column each month, wishing you, all the readers of *Newham Voices*, a safe New Year. ●

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

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