

# REDBRIDGE **LIFE**

**PROTECTING  
VITAL SERVICES**

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**OUR  
REDBRIDGE  
HEROES**

**page 12**



**HAVE  
YOUR SAY**

**page 13**



## Community Groups: Making a difference in Redbridge



Transition Town Ilford in Valentines Park, Page 21.

# Is your home or rented property cold and difficult to keep warm?

The council are offering **Go Green Grants** to help homeowners and landlords improve the energy efficiency of their properties through the installation of low-carbon heating improvements. This

could help keep homes warmer and save money on energy bills.



**Please note** applications will be considered on a first come, first serve basis

## Eligibility

- Your property will need to have an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D, E, F or G. If you do not currently have an EPC certificate registered to your property this will be completed for you at the time of survey.
- Household income of £30,000 or under.
- Owner occupiers, landlords and tenants are eligible for funding. In the case of a rental property, the income eligibility applies to the existing tenant and not the landlord. The landlord must have an assured shorthold tenancy agreement in place with an existing tenant to be eligible for the grant.



## REDBRIDGE GO GREEN GRANTS

The scheme can offer the following measures.

- Cavity wall insulation
- Underfloor insulation
- Loft insulation
- Solar panels
- Heating and temperature controls
- Hot water cylinders (replacement or insulation)
- Glazing

This is not an exhaustive list and will depend on the recommendations made by our surveyors.

If measures selected are above the maximum threshold of £4,500 the difference will need paid for in advance of the works commencing.



To make an application please visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals/go-green](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals/go-green)

London Borough of  
**Redbridge**

## HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings will be held in person at the Town Hall, High Road, Ilford, IG1 1DD. Visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk) for information, agendas, and links to view online.

### Council Meetings

Thursday 21 March **7.15pm**

For information on how to ask a question at meetings, please email [councilquestions@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:councilquestions@redbridge.gov.uk) and for additional public meeting dates, visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/about-the-council/public-meetings/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/about-the-council/public-meetings/)

### Cabinet Meetings

Thursday 14 March **7.15pm**  
Thursday 18 April **7.15pm**

### Scrutiny and Overview Committees

#### Overview Committee

Thursday 7 March **7.15pm**  
Monday 15 April **7.15pm**

### Health Scrutiny Sub-committee

Monday 13 May **7.15pm**

### External Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 16 April **7.15pm**

### Committee Meetings

#### General Purposes Committee

Thursday 18 April **8pm**

#### Licensing Committee

Wednesday 13 March **7.15pm**

#### Planning Committee

Monday 25 March **7.15pm**  
Wednesday 24 April **7.15pm**

#### Health and Care Policy Development Committee

Tuesday 26 March **7.15pm**

### Strategy and Resources Policy Development Committee

Monday 22 April **7.15pm**

### Safe Redbridge Policy Development Committee

Wednesday 27 March **7.15pm**

### Homes and Neighbourhoods Policy Development Committee

Wednesday 6 March **7.15pm**

### Local Pension Board

Wednesday 6 March **8pm**

### Shareholder Reference Group

Wednesday 1 May **5pm**

### Health and Wellbeing Board

Monday 22 April **10.15am**

## Produced by Redbridge Council

The editor can be contacted via email, at [redbridge.life@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:redbridge.life@redbridge.gov.uk)

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### Next issue out in June



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# LEADER'S MESSAGE

## Welcome to the Spring edition of Redbridge Life

### Dear neighbour,

Spring is a time for renewal and growth – a time for fresh starts and enjoying the great outdoors as the weather warms up.

Our borough is a perfect place to enjoy the longer, lighter days, whether you want to visit our award-winning parks, get creative at our Hainault Forest craft workshops (p.5), or take in some local artwork at SPACE Studios (p.26) – this spring we've got lots of new and exciting things to do right on our doorstep (p.14).

Our council is investing in what matters most to local people. We're protecting vital services while ensuring our borough is a great way to live, work, and visit. Despite having lost over

55 per cent of our government funding since 2010, locally we have risen to the challenge of delivering more with less, and in February, we passed a balanced budget for 2024/25 (p.25).

Having lived in Ilford for over 53 years, I know how important it is to keep our streets safe, our town centres tidy, and our parks green and thriving. That's why despite being one of the lowest funded local authorities in London, we're investing in street cleansing, enforcement, and the maintenance of our green spaces.

It's important you have your say and make an impact on our local area, so don't forget to make sure you're registered to vote ahead of the Mayor of London and London Assembly Elections in May.

The deadline to register is Tuesday 16 April, and remember you will need to bring ID to the polling station when you vote (p.13).

Have a wonderful Spring.

**Councillor Jas Athwal**  
Leader of Redbridge Council



## Come along to our low-cost lunch clubs

Visit one of our local social lunch clubs for a hot meal and conversation.

Did you know that across Redbridge there are lunch clubs taking place every week that are open to everyone? Come along to enjoy a low-cost, hot, nutritious two-course meal and a friendly place to socialise.

### Where and when:

#### St Johns Church & Centre, IG2 7BB

Tuesdays 10am–2pm

#### Eat at Elderberries Day Opportunities, IG8 OAD

Wednesdays 12pm–1.30pm



#### Woodbine Lunch Club at Cherry Tree Café, E11 2RH

Thursdays 12.15pm–2.30pm

#### Link Place Day Opportunities, IG6 3DU

Fridays 12.15pm–1.30pm

#### Goodmayes Lunch Club, IG3 9SE

Fridays 12pm–2.30pm



### Surinder Johal, who runs the lunch clubs, said



"Through shared meals and conversation, local people can build meaningful connections with each other. If you're ever feeling a bit lonely, or like you need a little pick-me-up, coming along to one of our welcoming lunch clubs might just help give you a smile for the rest of the day.

"We've always got lots of information at hand, so if you need any local support services, we will happily point you in the right direction."

### Booking in advance is preferred.

Please contact Surinder:



Telephone number: 020 8708 3903



Mobile: 07946 197 811



Email: [surinder.johal@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:surinder.johal@redbridge.gov.uk)

Please visit our website for more details, at  
<https://costofliving.redbridge.gov.uk/lunch-clubs/> or  
<https://adultcare.redbridge.gov.uk/lunch-clubs-and-day-centres/>

We hope to see you soon!

# Redbridge is **Boxing Fit** at anniversary tournament

Earlier in the year, Redbridge played host to one of the largest boxing events in the history of the borough.

The GR8 1st anniversary boxing tournament, organised by local club, GC Boxing Academy, included over 30 bouts and was watched by more than 600 spectators, including Deputy Leader, Cllr Kam Rai and Ilford North MP, Wes Streeting.

The bouts were organised by age and sex, with children aged 6 and up competing.



Redbridge based GC Boxing Academy, run by President Jag Sahota and Head Coaches Gary Cooke and Pritpal Singh, is a grass roots club providing boxing classes for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Speaking about the successful tournament, GC Boxing Academy President Jag Sahota, said "Boxing is such a great way for people of all ages to build their fitness and gain confidence, skill and agility. Everyone is welcome to join us, get involved and see for themselves how boxing can transform lives."



◀ **Cllr Kam Rai and Wes Streeting MP join competitors at the GR8 1st anniversary boxing tournament**

**Cllr Kam Rai, Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, said**



"Keeping fit is not only good for your health, it also boosts your mental wellbeing and can have a hugely positive impact on your life."

"Local clubs like GC Boxing Academy offer people of all ages the chance to learn a new skill, improve their health and meet new friends."

To find out more, contact Jag Sahota on:



Mobile: 07956 967 253



Facebook: GC Boxing Academy

## Work underway to deliver new pool at Wanstead Leisure Centre

Both Wanstead High School and Leisure Centre will be transformed by new facilities.

After delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic, work is underway in Wanstead thanks to a £13.5 million investment from Redbridge Council to deliver updated facilities for Wanstead High School and a new swimming pool for local people.

Spanning over three blocks, a 4,200 square metre building will house four new classrooms, a dining hall, and a commercial kitchen at Wanstead High School.

The existing leisure centre building will be extended to accommodate a new state-of-the-art 25 metre swimming pool, dance studios, a new reception area, and accessible changing rooms.

External works will be undertaken to improve the appearance of the existing building.

To stay up-to-date with the work taking place on Wanstead High School and Leisure Centre, visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/wlc>

**Cllr Jas Athwal, Leader of Redbridge Council, said**



"Our new and improved Wanstead Leisure Centre will mean local people can swim, work out, and look after their health right on their doorstep. The Covid-19 pandemic unfortunately caused delays to the building programme, but our contractors are back at work and on track to deliver this brilliant new facility."



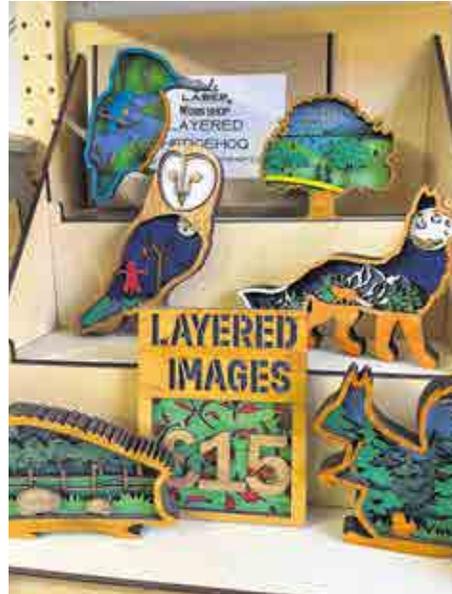
▶ **Artist impression of the new front entrance to Wanstead Leisure Centre**

# Even more on offer at historic Hainault Forest

Fancy some pottery in the park? Or woodworking in the woods? Come and visit our new artist workshops.



▲ Pottery in the Park in Hainault Forest



▲ Find one-of-a-kind gifts at Del's Laser Workshop



▲ Get blown away by the new glass forge



Since its £7 million renovation, Hainault Forest Country Park has become home to new artist workshops alongside its Woodland Trust Visitor Centre, scenic café and adventure playground.

Around the corner from the 1856 café, you will find Del's Laser Workshop, where you can commission your very own laser-made wood creations, including signs, cards, and one-of-a-kind artwork. Next door to Del's is Pottery in the Park where you and your little ones can paint your own stunning ceramics. Completing the set is Workinglass, which sells exquisite glass creations, made on-site at Hainault Forest's own glass forge.

So, whether you're looking to get creative, find the perfect gift, enjoy a delicious lunch, or try out the largest slide in Redbridge, there really is something for all the family to enjoy at Hainault Forest, whatever the weather.

Pottery in the Park is open 10am–4pm on weekends during term time, and 10am–4pm Tuesday–Sunday during school holidays. Visit the website to find out more, at <https://www.potteryinthepark71.com/>

Del's Laser Workshop is open 11am–3pm Wednesday–Sunday. You can find out more, at <https://www.delslaserworkshop.co.uk/>

Workinglass, a community glassblowing collective, is open on weekends 12pm–4pm.

Find our more via their social media channels [@workinglass](https://www.instagram.com/workinglass)

▶ Paint your own pottery in Hainault Forest

## Broadmead Road Update

Broadmead Road Bridge in Woodford remains closed to vehicles.

A section of Broadmead Road in Woodford was closed to traffic in July 2023 due to significant structural defects, reported following an inspection of the bridge. As soon as the defects were discovered, the road was closed immediately to prevent serious injury or potential loss of life.

Redbridge Council has written to the Secretary of State for Transport to request urgent funding to repair the bridge, at an estimated cost of over £25 million. Having lost around 55 per cent of government funding since 2010, councils across the country are in an incredibly difficult financial position.

Please support our campaign for government funding to repair Broadmead Road Bridge by signing our petition. We've had a great response so far, with hundreds of local people showing support.

In the meantime, our engineers are completing the final parts of structural surveys under the bridge and are putting additional measures in place to protect the structure.

Traffic is still diverted via the A406 to Chigwell Road or High Road, Woodford. The bridge is open for pedestrian use, while plans to extend access to cyclists and motorbike users are considered.

**Save Broadmead Road Bridge**

**JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN**  
Urgent funding  
required to repair  
**Broadmead Road Bridge**

To sign our petition, please visit <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/have-your-say/broadmead-road-bridge/>

# Protecting vital services despite funding challenges

Having lost around 54 per cent of Government funding since 2010, councils across the country are in an incredibly difficult financial position. Despite this, we are protecting the services that matter most to local people.

Government Grant Settlement Funding cuts mean we, in Redbridge, have over £160m less to spend on public services every year, in real terms. And that's before the impact of extra demand for social care, increasing homelessness, a growing population, and inflation.

Unfairly, we are the third-lowest funded borough in London. If we received the average across the capital, we would have £66m more each year to spend in Redbridge. The impact of this fairer funding would be significant on the services we could provide.

Costs have risen over the last year, in simply maintaining our current services – just to keep the street lights on we need to spend an additional £800k compared to last year. We have had to work incredibly hard to ensure our budget is balanced to keep Redbridge Council financially stable in the long-term. This means we have had to make difficult decisions about fees, charges and council tax, and ensure that every penny we spend, works as hard as it can for local people.

Local Government finances are on a knife-edge in many places across the UK, however Redbridge Council has again delivered a balanced budget that shores up its essential and most-valued services, and crucially ensures its long-term financial stability.

**Councillor Kam Rai,  
Deputy Leader of  
Redbridge Council, said**



“Despite reduced Government funding, we always rise to the challenge of keeping vital services running in Redbridge, and investing in what matters most to local people.

“We recently asked local people which council services mattered most to them. You told us you value weekly bin collections, fly-tipping prosecutions and having clean streets. You said you'd like us to protect the town centre enforcement teams who help keep us all safe, and continue investing in our wonderful local parks. We've listened and delivered a balanced budget which protects vital services including social care, and invests in the services you care about.”

Our spending plans for 2024/25 include:

**£5.9m**

on dealing with fly-tipping and keeping our streets swept and tidy



This includes an extra **£94k** for street cleansing



**£18.2m**

on maintaining and repairing our highways and street lighting



This includes an extra **£13.3m** on highways projects

**£15.2m**

on supporting homeless people



**£53m**

on new temporary accommodation

**£25.9m**

new investment to improve existing council homes



**£66.7m**

investment in new council homes for local people



**£6.8m**

to maintain a weekly bin collection



We will be maintaining the following spend this year:

**£1.8m**

on new schemes to prevent flooding



**£2m**

on maintaining our parks and green spaces



**£407k**

on maintaining our CCTV to help keep us safer



**£11.2m**

on school maintenance and improvements



**£191k**

on maintaining on our tree arboricultural service



**£1.6m**

on enforcement officers to patrol and keep our borough safe



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Redbridge Council provides over 400 services to communities across the borough? Let's introduce you to a few small teams that make a big difference locally



#### Did you know we bring health services direct to local people?

The Healthy Redbridge Bus visits communities and provides health services including blood pressure tests, vaccinations, cholesterol and blood sugar checks.

Local resident Daksha, said "Having the clinic on a Saturday made it easy and possible for my husband and I to get our booster and flu jabs, as we work weekdays. We really appreciate having this done locally and have also received information about local health services that we weren't aware of."

Since October, the team have provided 400 blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar checks; 31 vaccination clinics, and so much more.

The bus travels around Redbridge to make sure that everyone has access to health services, caring for local people.

Find out more by visiting [www.redbridge.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/healthy-redbridge-bus](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/healthy-redbridge-bus)



#### Did you know children in Redbridge can help make decisions around services that affect them?

We brought a group of young people aged 11-25+ to meet with Councillors in the Town Hall to discuss difficulties they and their peers may face if they need to seek support with their mental health.

The young people shared that social media pressures, anxiety around confidentiality, stigma from their families, friends or communities, and a lack of trusted peer support networks, all pose challenges.

After a very productive meeting, the young people's views were fed into the development of new policy proposals for Redbridge. In Redbridge, children are having more and more influence, and can help shape changes to policies and services. This is all part of us becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly Borough, where we are actively bringing children into the decision-making process.

Find out more by visiting [www.redbridge.gov.uk/childfriendly](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/childfriendly)



Did you know about these services? For more information on other teams from our council making a difference in the community, visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/did-you-know](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/did-you-know)

# Bin collection dates: Easter and Spring Bank Holidays



There will be a change to your normal household waste and recycling collection days over Easter and the May Bank Holiday periods, so don't forget to jot down your revised collection dates.

## Green Garden Waste Collection

Our free fortnightly Green Garden Waste Collection service resumes in April. Find out which week your collection falls on by checking [www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/garden-waste/](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/garden-waste/)

### Week 1 Garden Waste Collection

Monday 8 April to Friday 25 October

### Week 2 Garden Waste Collection

Monday 15 April to Friday 1 November

We will collect up to five sacks of your green garden waste on each collection. Please ensure the sacks are left open so that the garden waste is visible.



## Bank Holiday changes to bin collections

EASTER BANK HOLIDAY		MAY BANK HOLIDAY		OUR STREETS	
Due on	Collected on	Due on	Collected on	Due on	Collected on
Friday 29 March	no change	Monday 6 May	Tuesday 7 May	Monday 27 May	Tuesday 28 May
Monday 1 April	Tuesday 2 April	Tuesday 7 May	Wednesday 8 May	Tuesday 28 May	Wednesday 29 May
Tuesday 2 April	Wednesday 3 April	Wednesday 8 May	Thursday 9 May	Wednesday 29 May	Thursday 30 May
Wednesday 3 April	Thursday 4 April	Thursday 9 May	Friday 10 May	Thursday 30 May	Friday 31 May
Thursday 4 April	Friday 5 April	Friday 10 May	Saturday 11 May	Friday 31 May	Saturday 1 June
Friday 5 April	Saturday 6 April				

# Redbridge introduces tougher sanctions against grime crime offenders in the borough

Community support for tougher action against fly-tippers has triggered steeper penalties for those caught making a mess in Redbridge.

Anyone caught dumping their rubbish in the borough now faces a **£1,000** on-the-spot fine for fly-tipping.

The hard-hitting fine is being introduced following a change to legislation last year, and in response to community feedback.

A recent survey revealed that clean and tidy neighbourhoods, and tougher action on fly-tipping were among the top priorities for local people. The responses were collated from the Council's Budget Survey for 2024/25.

We are working closely with our local communities to send a strong message to fly-tippers that we won't tolerate their mess on our streets. Our Redbridge Wall of Shame regularly features CCTV footage and images of grime crime offenders, which local people have helped identify. We have secured successful court prosecutions for fly-tipping with evidence provided by the local community, and our

Report It page is a widely used community resource for reporting fly-tipping incidents in the borough – <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it/>

To view the latest episode of Redbridge Wall of Shame, go to <https://wallofshame.redbridge.gov.uk/>

If you are able to identify any of the culprits featured, contact us on [Cleansing.Services@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:Cleansing.Services@redbridge.gov.uk)



## Don't commit grime crime offences in our borough

£1,000

on-the-spot fine for fly-tipping

£200

on-the-spot fine for littering

£500

on-the-spot fine for graffiti or flyposting

£600

fine for householders who fail to use an authorised registered waste carrier when privately hiring someone to remove waste from their property, including building waste

# Grab your litter pickers for the Great British Spring Clean 2024

**CLEANER**  
Redbridge

Help keep Redbridge tidy and become one of this year's litter picking heroes.

Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean (GBSC) runs from 15 to 31 March and encourages families and communities to help keep their neighbourhoods clean, by picking up litter and filling as many bags as they can during the campaign.

There are lots of ways to take part. We're lending litter pickers to local people for free. Whether you choose to fill one bag during a litter pick, or even challenge yourself to fill a bag a day over a set period of time – it all counts!



## How to get involved in GBSC 2024:

- Organise a clean-up in your community. It's an excellent way to meet neighbours, and sends out a strong message that the community will not tolerate littering in your local area. For more information and to apply to borrow a litter picker, visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/spruce-up-your-neighbourhood/](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/spruce-up-your-neighbourhood/)
- Did you know there are several ways you can volunteer and help Redbridge's park rangers tackle litter in our parks. Find out more, by visiting <https://visionrcl.org.uk/parks-outdoor-spaces/volunteering-in-parks-and-open-spaces-2/>
- Join a community litter pick. The South Park Users Group regularly host litter picks. The next ones are 9 March, 23 March and 6 April. The group meet at 11am at the Wildlife Centre in South Park, Ilford. For more information or to join, go to <https://spug.org.uk/> or call **0208 599 9623**

**Chris Stone, Secretary of South Park Users Group, said**



"We litter pick regularly because we have a constant tide of litter in the park, despite efforts to make people use the bins. We use the litter picks as the cornerstone of our group, pairing them with gardening events. There are a variety of tasks to be done, and there is always tea and snacks, and a chance to meet your neighbours socially afterwards."

For more information about GBSC 2024, visit <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>

## Redbridge in Bloom '24

Free Entry!

### Amateur Gardening Competition

## Gardens for a greener tomorrow

Create a garden to nurture, planting today's gardens for nature to thrive.

### Categories

- Best Front Garden
- Best Container Garden
- Best Public House
- Best Sheltered Housing / Residential Care Home
- Best Community Display
- Best School Gardening Project
- Best Sustainable Planet-Friendly Garden



Submission end date: 31 May  
Judging start date: 7-14 June

Apply online:  
[vrcl.uk/RIB](https://vrcl.uk/RIB)



## REDBRIDGE OUTDOOR ARTS

Join us for **FREE** theatre, dance, music and performance on a high street near you.

Share the experience!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Saturday 22 - Sunday 23 June  
Barkingside and Ilford Town Centre

Follow us for updates:



[@redbridgearts](https://www.facebook.com/redbridgearts) [redbridgearts](https://www.instagram.com/redbridgearts)  
[visionrcl.org.uk/ROA](https://visionrcl.org.uk/ROA)

Scan with your phone



London Borough of Redbridge

# REDBRIDGE REWIND

## Exploring the Rich History of our Borough

### The evolution of our parks

Redbridge is home to 37 parks and outdoor spaces, but until the early 1900s, most of Redbridge was farmland. The farmland was bought by developers in the early 20th Century to build housing, while some areas were turned into parks to make the housing more desirable.

Hainault Forest's history dates to the early 1100s. It formed part of the ancient Forest of Essex, stretching to Epping and Hatfield and was used as a royal hunting ground. During the late 1700s, the Forest's oak trees were used to build ships for the Royal Navy.

By the mid 1800s, London had a hungry growing population and farmland was back in demand. In 1851, an Act of Parliament was passed to remove Hainault Forest's legal protection and make way for a large-scale clearing of most of the forest and trees so much of Hainault Forest could be turned into farmland.

Fortunately, in 1906, Hainault reopened to the public after Local MP, Edward North Buxton spearheaded a campaign that saved what was left of the forest.



▲ **Hainault Forest Country Park Opening ceremony in 1906**

Just as Hainault Forest has a fascinating history, Fairlop Waters, which used to be part of Hainault Forest, has an intriguing past of its own. Fairlop got its name from a famous old oak tree, the Fairlop Oak, that once stood in the forest.

#### Medal for a ploughing competition held on Fairlop plain, 1909 – Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre 1996.96



#### ▲ Fairlop Fair, 1815 – Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre

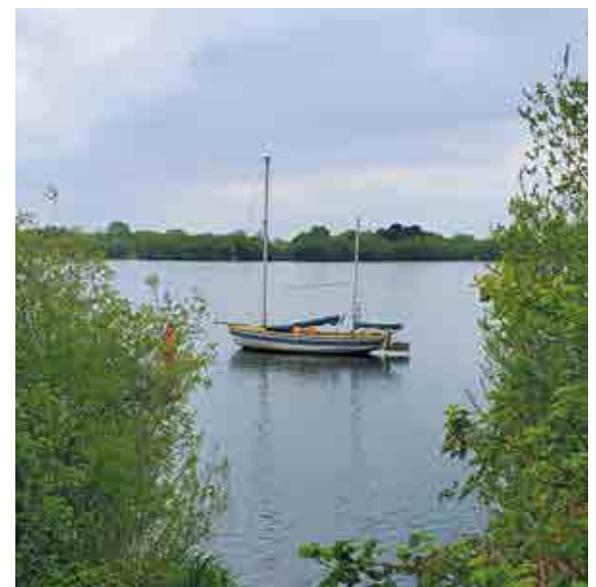
In 1937, the City of London purchased 1,000 acres of Fairlop Plain land, to turn it into a civil airport. However, plans for the airport were denied with the Second World War looming. Instead by July 1941, three extended runways were built on the land, for the Royal Air Force to use.

In 1955, Ilford Council, before Redbridge borough was formed in 1965, purchased the land and began the development of the area as a county park with a sailing lake and a golf course.



#### ▲ Royal Flying Corps, Fairlop, First World War – Redbridge Museum & Heritage Centre p152

With warmer weather on its way, now is the perfect time to discover the borough's many green spaces. Many of our parks have a long and fascinating history, which can be explored in the new Redbridge Museum which opens this spring. Find out more at <https://visionrcl.org.uk/centre/redbridge-museum/>



▲ Fairlop Waters boating lake

# Empower a young child **Foster for Redbridge**

Imagine having the power to change a young person's life for the better.

The power to re-shape a future.

There are over 300 children in Redbridge who are unable to stay with their families each year. You could be the one to transform a life and provide the change that they need.

If you would like to know more about fostering for Redbridge Council:

Visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringlife](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringlife)

Call us on 020 8708 6068

Email us [fostering@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@redbridge.gov.uk)



Let us find the

# Perfect Venue for you...

Venues for every occasion at:

**Sir James Hawkey Hall | Town Hall | Hainault Forest  
Valentines Mansion | Fairlop Waters | Redbridge Libraries**



Scan the QR Code  
and enquire about  
our venues.

Visit us at:  
[visionrcl.org.uk](http://visionrcl.org.uk)

# Redbridge: Home to Everyday Heroes



Redbridge's biggest asset is its people. Whether we're celebrating or pulling together in tough times, we've always supported one another as one community.

Our borough is full of interesting and wonderful people who do some really great things, but we don't always get to hear about it. We think it's time to shine a spotlight on the everyday heroes that help make Redbridge a great place to call home.

Do you know someone quietly helping the community, carrying out acts of kindness, volunteering their time to help others, or helping keep Redbridge safe, clean, green, and healthy?

Drop us an email and let us know so we can give them a shout out in Redbridge Life! Email [community@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:community@redbridge.gov.uk) with the subject line, 'Everyday Hero'.

## Meet Redbridge's young eco-hero Inaaya Ijaz

**Inaaya, a local teenager from Isaac Newton Academy in Seven Kings, has been championing greener living as part of her campaigning work on environmental issues.**

From successfully pushing to get single use plastic banned at her school and hosting her own environment-themed radio show, to being Chief Voice Officer for youth-led charity Kids Against Plastic, Inaaya is one of the borough's most active young environmental campaigners.

At just 13, she became one of only ten people across the globe this year to be awarded a 'Wave Maker' title and grant

from Protect Blue – an agency dedicated to ocean conservation. Inaaya used the grant to create a music video to help raise awareness of ocean pollutants.

Her video, waxing lyrical about ocean conservation, was aired on public TV screens by 'The Wave' in Bristol for World Ocean Day 2023, and she even secured a primetime TV spot talking about ocean conservation on the BBC's The One Show.

The teen is also in touch with other young budding environmentalists from around the world, through her work with Kids Against Plastic, in a bid to raise awareness of issues close to her heart, including tackling plastic pollution, protecting marine life, and reducing waste.

Closer to home, Inaaya is a keen local litter picker; has been busy campaigning to minimise plastic pollution across the borough's schools, starting with her own; and was part of the borough's first ever Youth Climate and Sustainability Forum. You can catch her on local radio station, 24Hours Radio, where she regularly hosts her own show discussing environmental issues.

Encouraging others to get involved in green issues, Inaaya, said "We can all do our bit to help tackle plastic pollution and the climate crisis. It doesn't matter how big or small, every action has a positive impact in tackling the climate crisis."



Get tips on sustainable living, greener lifestyles choices and ways to reduce your waste, at <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/>

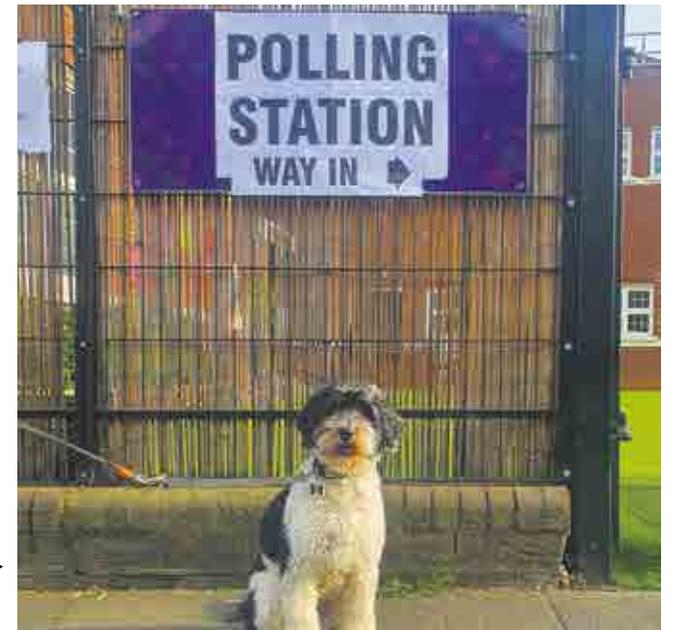
# Voting in 2024: Ten things you need to know

2024 could be a big year for elections, make sure you're prepared.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) elections will take place on Thursday 2 May, where local people will be able to elect the Mayor of London and London Assembly Members. In addition, a General Election, to choose our local MPs, will take place some time before January 2025.

Now is the time to make sure you're ready to vote. This means making sure you're registered and that you have the required photo ID to bring with you to your polling station.

**Local pooch, Aria, paws-es outside the polling station for a quick snap** ▶



## Here are ten things you need to know about elections in Redbridge this year:

**1** You need to be registered to vote, before 16 April to vote in the GLA elections. Please check that you're registered and that your details are correct, especially if you've moved house since you last voted. You can check online, at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

**2** Unlike previous elections, **you must now take photo ID with you** to the polling station, to be able to vote in any election.

**3** Accepted forms of photo ID are on the .Gov website, but include a passport, driving licence and a blue badge. You can check which ID documents will be accepted at [www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need](http://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need)

**4** If you don't have photo ID, don't worry. You can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate online or by post, at [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)

**5** You can **apply for a Voter Authority Certificate now**. It's better to get ready early if you can.

**6** If you would prefer a postal vote, you will need to apply for one online, at [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote)

**7** **When you arrive at the polling station, the polling staff will check your photo ID.** You will need to remove any face coverings for the ID check, but there will be a privacy screen so you can do this in private.

**8** **You cannot take photos once you're inside the polling station.**

**9** You can arrive with friends or family, but **you must all vote separately in your own booth, without speaking to each other while voting.**

**10** You can find your polling station by putting your postcode into the search, on <https://wheredoivote.co.uk/>

More information on all these points is available at [www.redbridge.gov.uk/voting-and-elections](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/voting-and-elections). Remember to get ready early, and make sure you have photo ID and know where you need to go to have your say.



# Happy voting!

# New Ilford Health Centre opening soon

The Centre, a partnership between the NHS and Redbridge Council, will offer GP services, blood testing, mental health support and more.

The new Ilford Exchange Health Centre is opening this spring, and will provide local people with easy access to a range of free health, social and community services in one location.

Two floors in the Ilford Exchange shopping centre have been dedicated to the modern health centre, which is within reach of Ilford train station and numerous bus routes.

It will serve as a one-stop-shop for healthcare, offering GP services, as well as mental health support, blood testing, podiatry services, support for people with long term conditions, children's services, and adult social care services. Appointments will be available to anyone registered with a GP practice in Redbridge.



**The centre will be open Monday to Friday 9am–7pm.**

For more information, visit [www.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk](http://www.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk)

Redbridge Council has worked alongside the NHS North East London, North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT), and other organisations, to ensure the centre meets the growing demand for more local healthcare services.

# Sail, soar, and stretch in Redbridge this Spring

Discover Fairlop Waters and Hainault Forest – where tranquillity meets adventure.



## Fairlop Sky Run

If you're looking for an adrenaline-fuelled day out on your doorstep, head to the Fairlop Sky Run.

You'll need to mind your footing on the Sky Run high ropes course; it's designed to challenge users with 44 different elements. You can also reach new heights on the 50-metre-high rock-climbing wall.

Find out more on the Fairlop Sky Run website, by visiting <https://www.fairlopsyrun.co.uk/>

## Hire a boat or bike

Water you doing this weekend? Well, canoe imagine anything better than pottering around Fairlop Waters on a pedal boat or a row boat? It'll give your legs or arms a workout whilst you enjoy a scenic view of Fairlop Waters. No experience is needed, but everyone will receive a safety brief and a life jacket before setting sail. How a-boat it?

If you prefer dry land, then our special four-wheeled bikes are the perfect way to cycle around with family or friends.

Visit the Fairlop Waters website for more information, at <https://visionrcl.org.uk/centre/fairlop-waters-country-park/>



## Try forest yoga and pilates

Sit comfortably. Close your eyes. Inhale. Imagine you're in a forest... make it a reality by heading to Hainault Forest for a 45-minute yoga or pilates session on the first Saturday of every month.

These exercises improve flexibility, strengthen muscles, help relieve stress and anxiety, and can lead to better sleep.

Find out more on the Vision website, at <https://visionrcl.org.uk/event/forest-yoga-pilates/>

# Women aged 50 to 71 invited for free breast cancer screening

**HEALTHY**  
Redbridge

Women in Redbridge are being invited for breast cancer screening to increase early detection and save lives.

Redbridge Council has partnered with the NHS and InHealth, to invite women in the borough aged 50 to 71 for a routine NHS breast screening.

The brand new mobile screening unit opened at Sainsbury's Ilford in January 2024. During the course of 2024, all eligible women will receive an invitation for a routine screening appointment at the female-only unit.

Breast screening saves around 1,300 lives each year in the UK. The new unit will increase access to breast screening for women across Redbridge, and help more people receive an early diagnosis. Regular screening is the best way to detect a cancer that is too small to feel or see.



▲ **Cllr Mark Santos, Cabinet Member for Public Health, at the launch of the mobile unit**

**Cllr Mark Santos, Cabinet Member for Public Health, said**



"Units like this save lives by making screening accessible for more women. Our new screening service will bring peace of mind, early detection, and better treatment for those who need it."

**Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, with around one in seven women diagnosed in their lifetime. More women are surviving breast cancer than ever before, due to better awareness, screening and treatments. Early detection is key.**

**TASTER SESSIONS**

**AGES 5 YRS+**

**REDBRIDGE HOLIDAY**

**MEGA MIX**



**CINEMA or SWIM for £1**



**1 APRIL TO 12 APRIL**

**Challenge yourself to try something new this spring!**

We have a variety of activities for you to come and get involved with:

- Inclusive & Adapted sessions
- dance & theatre
- digital workshops
- nature / bushcraft
- interactive library activities
- roller skating
- sports
- and much more!



Advanced booking required.  
**visionrcl.org.uk/megamix**  
Open to Redbridge Residents only

London Borough of  
**Redbridge**

working towards  
**child friendly**  
Redbridge

**Vision**  
Redbridge Culture & Leisure

# Spotlight on our superb local businesses

A diverse range of goods and services means you are sure to find something up your street.

Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy. With one of the most diverse communities in London, our local high streets continue to provide an astonishing array of delicious food, exquisite goods, and top-quality services – all right on our doorstep.



## Noori Halal

Noori Halal is based on Longwood Gardens, in Clayhall, and provides quality meat and South Indian food to the local community. Shop owner Farooq has been based in the borough for five years and enjoys the everyday interaction with his regular local customers.

Farooq, said "My customers are like family, they're all very friendly and have helped to grow my business either through recommendation or word of mouth. My advice to anyone setting up a business in Redbridge is to remain humble, put the customer first and work hard."

**Are you a local business owner?  
Do you want to promote your services and products to a wider audience?**

Sign up to our E-programme and gain access to a range of online tools to help you connect with new and existing customers. For more information, and to sign up, contact our team, at [business.enterprise@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:business.enterprise@redbridge.gov.uk)



◀ **Noori Halal owner Farooq**

## Singam Bay Restaurant

Singam Bay Restaurant on Cranbrook Road cooks up authentic Tamil cuisine, offering a diverse menu in a beautiful setting.

Based in the borough for over five years, giving back to the community is part of the restaurant's ethos. The majority of staff are local, and surplus food is donated to local charities, churches, and shelters.

Owner, Mr Balasingham Arudshankhor, said "The warmth and openness of the people in

Redbridge creates a welcoming atmosphere for businesses like ours. We believe that a successful business is built on the foundation of a thriving community. Redbridge is not just a place of residence; it is a community that actively supports local businesses. The heart of Redbridge beats with a strong sense of community. Building a network within the community not only fosters goodwill, but also opens doors to collaborative opportunities."



**Singam Bay Owner, Mr Arudshankhor ▶**

# Thinking about a career in health and social care? Come and see us

The health and social care industry is expected to continue growing, as increased demand for services results in more jobs being created.

We're holding a recruitment event, sponsored by the University of East London, at Redbridge Town Hall, for local people wishing to forge a career in health and social care.

## When

Thursday 21 March 2024

## Time

10am–2pm (drop in anytime)

Come and meet employers and training providers who will be there to advise you on how you can kickstart your career in the health and social care sector. The event is open to everyone, just drop in on the day.

For more information, tips, and ideas to help you find work, visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/workredbridge](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/workredbridge)



**Jolanta used the Work Redbridge service to find a new role. She said**

"I came into my new role with very little experience. Fast forward one year, and I've picked up new skills whilst gaining valuable experience."

There are over **350 different types of roles** within the health and social care sector, which **employs more than 1.48 million people**

Another **half a million extra jobs** are predicted to be **needed nationally, by 2030**

◀ **Redbridge Council hosts regular recruitment fairs**

## Become an apprentice

Earn while you learn with an apprenticeship at Redbridge Council.

Join our apprenticeship scheme where you can achieve a nationally recognised, professional qualification, whilst gaining valuable work experience and earning a salary.

Each apprenticeship has an equivalent education level. We offer apprenticeships from Level 3, the equivalent to A-Levels, to university degree at Level 6. We have apprenticeships in a range of council services including Business, Customer Service, Engineering, Finance, Digital & IT, Regulatory Services and Project Management.

Joshua Aptroot, our Software and Automation Process Developer apprentice, said "I chose an apprenticeship with the Council to contribute to a meaningful cause."



Apprenticeships offer the mix of study and practical application. The study element could be one day a week, or blended learning with activities spread throughout the week. Study can be in person, at college or university, or online with tutor sessions. Apprentices also receive support from a development coach on the job.

Zara Reid-McDonald, a Digital Apprentice at the Council, said "I appreciate the flexibility that Redbridge Council has demonstrated, enabling me to allocate sufficient time to focus on my studies. What stands out to me the most is their commitment to the development of my knowledge and skills."

**SKILLS  
FOR LIFE  
APPRENTICESHIPS**



▲ **During National Apprenticeship Week, we held an event to celebrate our apprentices. Council Leader, Jas Athwal, caught up with our apprentices**

When apprenticeship roles are available, they will be advertised online, at [www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs)

# Don't Stand By, Step in!



Don't Stand By, Step In! is the rallying call for people across Redbridge as the Council continues to address women's safety in the borough.

Catcalling, unwanted touching, or following can happen anywhere. For years, women have changed where they go and what they do to try and avoid these intimidating situations.

But sometimes, it can be hard to know what to do, which is what Don't Stand By, Step In! is all about. This advice comes from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, which they developed to help people support women who are being harassed in public places.

But now it's time for men to look at their own and each other's behaviour, and support women when they need it.

# THIS HAS TO STOP

## So, what should you do if you see a woman receiving unwanted comments or behaviour?

The first task is to consider everyone's safety, so take a few moments to assess what's happening. In an emergency, always dial 999.

If it doesn't look dangerous, but the person on the receiving end is clearly uncomfortable, follow these three steps to help de-escalate the situation:



ITV London recently interviewed Deputy Leader, Kam Rai, about the campaign

1

**Distract him** – depending on the situation, it could be something simple like asking the perpetrator for directions, a question about when the bus is due or giving a compliment about his jacket.

2

**Support her** – could you make eye contact with the affected woman to see if she is ok, or even ask someone else to assist? Maybe there is another passer-by who could help check she's ok? Just a gentle word to ask if she needs any help can be enough. She might also welcome an offer to walk alongside her to the tube or bus stop. Be led by what she says and never walk alongside her if she doesn't welcome the offer.

3

**Get help** – look around. Is there anyone else who can help ease the situation? Could you escort the woman to a shop to make a call? Is there a transport or council worker around that could help? Of course, if you're worried, it's essential to call 999.

**Male leaders across the borough have stepped up to support the campaign, recognising that men need to challenge other men in order to prevent violence, and to act as role models for younger boys.**

Dr Stephen Addison, CEO of Box Up Crime, and community leader Taiwo Ademola have been working closely to support other youth leaders in exploring and tackling sexist harassment amongst young people.

More information is available at [www.redbridge.gov.uk/dont-stand-by](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/dont-stand-by)

Follow them on TikTok @RealMenTalking to join the conversation.



Stephen Addison and Taiwo Ademola are helping stop the harassment of women and girls in Redbridge

# Keeping Redbridge safe

Redbridge Life recently caught up with Valerie Hills, one of our Community Protection Taskforce Officers.



Valerie Hills is part of the Council's Community Protection Taskforce (CPTF). The CPTF was launched last year to provide a visible enforcement presence across the borough, primarily tackling unlawful street activity such as aggressive begging, street drinking, prostitution, antisocial activity around licensed premises and noise nuisance.

Upon meeting Valerie, you're immediately struck by her calm and reassuring demeanour. She joined the Council two years ago and loves being part of the CPTF. Valerie, said "We've built trust and good working relationships with people and business owners in Ilford, and they will always approach us if they have concerns about antisocial behaviour. We're seen as the eyes and ears of the borough."

The CPTF is already delivering impressive results, explains Valerie. "Street begging was a big problem last year in Gants Hill. As a result of our proactive approach, we've reduced begging massively in the area."



Valerie stresses a big part of her job is supporting those committing antisocial behaviour. "Ilford Lane has a vibrant night-time economy, and that can at times attract antisocial behaviour. We always try to engage with people and signpost them to services where they can get the right help. For rough sleepers, we do our best to divert them to our rough sleeping team so that they can shelter. If they have substance misuse problems, we will put them in touch with drug and alcohol services. Sometimes, we have little option but to go down the enforcement route. We must consider the impact of their behaviour on residents and local business owners. We want people to feel safe in our borough."

Valerie speaks candidly about the toughest challenge she has faced. "One night on patrol I noticed a woman in distress. We pulled over and I stayed with her and was able to provide some ease and comfort.

"I called her family to let them know what happened. As a mother, I found that difficult to deal with, but I'm glad I was there to help."



## TRANSFER TO ESSEX POLICE

OR JOIN US AS A NEW RECRUIT

“

Someone said to me that you've got to be in policing to influence it and make it better. That's exactly what we do in Essex

”

▶ SUPT TIM TUBBS

**Cllr Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety, said**



"Our Community Protection Taskforce help keep our streets safe and clean, stopping antisocial behaviour including street drinking.

"Thanks to hardworking Officers like Valerie, Redbridge continues to be one of the best places in London to live, work, and visit."

Apply now to join us: [www.essex.police.uk/fitthebill](http://www.essex.police.uk/fitthebill)

Find out more, at  
<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/crime-and-public-safety/community-protection-taskforce>

A CAREER THAT

## VALUES DIFFERENCE

Protecting and serving Essex

# Support to learn, upskill and find new employment during the Cost of Living Crisis

Make 2024 your year.

It can be challenging to find a new job, not knowing who else is applying, how their CVs compare, or how much experience or training they have. Support is at hand if you need it, to help you get ready for your next challenge.

More advice and information is available, at <https://costofliving.redbridge.gov.uk/help-finding-a-job>



## Financial support when finding a job



The Access to Work scheme is open to people living with a mental or physical disability, or a debilitating health condition. It can help pay for:

- Travel to and from the workplace if you are unable to use public transport
- Specialist equipment for your workstation
- Disability training for work colleagues
- A support worker or communicator to provide assistance at interviews

[www.gov.uk/access-to-work](https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work)

## Local people learning new skills in training courses at the Institute of Adult Education

### Training opportunities

Each year, thousands of local people learn new skills and gain qualifications at the Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' Redbridge Institute of Adult Education.

You could study for a GCSE in Maths or English, join an employability course, or choose to learn digital skills, how to manage your money, or any of the hundreds of courses on offer. Many of the courses are free for eligible residents.

[www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk/](http://www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk/)

### Finding vacancies

You can browse job vacancies:

- Via online job boards (you can do this at a library if you don't have computer access at home)
- At Job Centre Plus: 564-570 High Road, Ilford, IG3 8EJ
- Via Recruitment Agencies – you can find these online by searching for the kind of role you'd like

### Support for young people

The Redbridge Youth Hub is a one-stop virtual shop for young people aged 16–24 to find information and advice on employment opportunities, education, apprenticeships, training, managing money and wellbeing services in and around the borough.

<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/young-people/redbridge-youth-hub/>

### Advice on your CV and support with your interview technique

The helpful team at Work Redbridge can give you free advice on how to write your CV from scratch, or how to improve your current CV.



They can work with you to improve your interview technique, and offer in-person, online, or phone support to boost your skills and confidence.

[www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs/work-redbridge/](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs/work-redbridge/)



# Coming together to provide home comforts to those most in need

The Welcome Centre provides support, healthcare, a friendly face and hot meals to people who find themselves without a home.

Redbridge has a long tradition in coming together as a community, in supporting those in greatest need and those who are new to the area. Ilford's Welcome Centre, a shining example of kindness in the community, provides crucial access to home comforts for people who are sleeping rough. A warm shower, a hot meal and cups of tea all help, but friendship, advice and basic healthcare from staff and volunteers at the centre help to keep people going in uncertain times.

Volunteers like Ruth and Farah work hard to bring some cheer to those they serve. Both recently came to London as asylum seekers, and wanted to get involved in helping people in their host community. Ruth serves people lunch with a broad smile, and Farah takes great pride in keeping the shower queue in order, handing out fresh towels and toiletries.

Both women feel a kinship with those they serve. "We're all family" explains Ruth, "they take us as our sisters, we take them as our brothers or sons. If I don't come, I feel the absence of not coming, the absence of them." Farah also tries to encourage the men and women that visit the centre to connect with the staff and services on offer – from personal experience she knows how helpful that can be.

The Welcome Centre project was founded by a team from Ilford High Road Baptist Church in 2001, and now operates out of a purpose-built centre next to the church on St Marys Road. It receives funding from several sources, including Redbridge Council, and works closely with the Council to support rough sleepers and vulnerable adults every weekday from 10am–2pm.

You can find out more, at <https://www.healthylivingprojects.org.uk/projects/welcome-project-page.html>



▲ Farah and Ruth check how many people are still waiting in the shower queue

Staff at The Welcome Centre are keen to connect groups or individuals working with asylum seekers and refugees.

If you're involved in a project that could support people, please email Helen, at [Asylum@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:Asylum@redbridge.gov.uk) and we'll be in touch.

If you're concerned about someone sleeping rough, please call Street Link on **0300 500 0914**.

## Local Community Groups: making a difference in Redbridge

Transition Town Ilford volunteers take action on climate change.



▲ The Forest Garden in Valentines Park was designed and planted by volunteers

Redbridge is home to an array of fantastic community groups, set up to improve the local area, bring neighbours together, and provide support to those in need.

Transition Town Ilford is part of an international network of local groups which demonstrate what communities could look like in a greener world. The group organises a number of local projects run by local volunteers, including a regular Repair café in Redbridge Central Library, helping local people repair household items and clothes, and an Energy Café, offering advice on how to save energy at home.

Recently Council Leader, Jas Athwal, and Deputy Leader, Kam Rai joined Transition Town Ilford at the permaculture Forest Garden in Valentines Park, to find out more about their community gardening project.



The garden was designed and planted by its volunteers, who also run forest school activities for children. As part of the project, local volunteers are planting a range of plants from mulberry trees to wood sorrel and wild strawberries, to create a biodiverse oasis in the heart of Valentines Park.

Redbridge is our home, and we can all play our part to create a thriving community here, whether it be through action to improve the local environment, or by volunteering in other ways. Why not join a local group like Transition Town Ilford and help make a difference locally?

Find out more about Transition Town, by visiting <https://www.transitionilford.org/>

Find out about more volunteering opportunities by visiting our Discover Redbridge website, at <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/discover/get-involved/>

# CALLING ALL LANDLORDS!

## Selective Licensing Schemes

If you're a Landlord or Agent and you operate any rented property, you may need to apply for a property licence.

Redbridge Council has two selective licensing schemes in place. Selective Scheme 3 (2 wards) has been in operation since **1 November 2023** and applies to rented properties within Ilford Town and Valentines wards.

Selective Scheme 4 (15 wards) will come into force on **Monday 8 April 2024**. The wards affected are: Aldborough, Barkingside, Chadwell, Churchfields, Clementswood, Cranbrook, Fairlop, Goodmayes, Hainault, Loxford, Mayfield, Newbury, Seven Kings, South Woodford, and Wanstead Village.

These schemes require Landlords or Agents of most private rented properties in these areas to apply for a selective property licence. To apply, visit <https://propertylicensing.redbridge.gov.uk/>

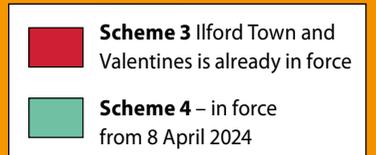
If you already have a selective licence for a property in these wards and it is still in date, the licence will remain in force until the expiry date shown on the licence.

These new schemes were introduced after a full public consultation and confirmation by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), who were satisfied that these schemes will contribute to an improvement in general housing conditions in the areas, and that private rented housing in the designated area is experiencing high levels of deprivation, high levels of migration, and significant and persistent anti social behaviour.

Failing to get a property licence can result in receiving a civil penalty of up to **£30,000** or prosecution in Court, where the fine is **UNLIMITED**. Additionally, not having a property licence may prevent you from evicting tenants using the 'Section 21' process. Tenants may also be able to claim back up to 12 months' rent from you, via a Rent Repayment Order (RRO). The Council will normally publish any prosecutions, enforcement, or legal action in the press and update the GLA's public Rogue Landlord and Agent Checker and government intelligence databases.

To find out more information and check whether your rental property needs a Selective or any other type of licence, visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/privaterentals](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/privaterentals)

### The London Borough of Redbridge Selective Licensing Scheme Designations



Scan the QR code to see the Public Notice for Scheme 4

## Additional HMO Licensing Scheme

Redbridge Council approved a new five-year Additional Licensing Scheme for small houses in multiple occupation (HMO) across the whole borough. Additional HMO property licensing is now a legal requirement, as of **Monday 18 September 2023 until 17 September 2028**.

This means that any property which is rented to three or four occupiers, forming two or more households that share (or lack) a toilet, personal washing facilities or cooking facilities, needs to have an HMO Licence.



This includes certain converted blocks of flats (known as Section 257 HMOs), but only where all accommodation units are privately rented, and the building and accommodation units are in the same ownership or control. This includes buildings within mixed use developments or above non-residential premises.

The introduction of this new HMO Licensing Scheme comes after a full public consultation. Overall, it was found that there are significant issues such as poor housing conditions, ineffective management, crime, and anti social behaviour persisting within HMOs in the borough.

For more information on whether your rental property needs an Additional (HMO) Licence, visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals)



Scan the QR code to see the Public Notice

# Building affordable homes for local families to rent

Four new developments are due for completion this year as part of the affordable homes programme.

Ribbons will be cut and local families will unpack their belongings in four new developments in the borough this year.

Our affordable homes programme, funded using Greater London Authority grants, is providing 600 warm and safe council houses with one to four bedrooms.

Both Shakespeare Square and Healthcote and Glade developments in Ilford will soon be landscaped, with final touches being made to the insides of these one, two and three bedroom flats.

We're also improving communal space, including delivering a new playground in Shakespeare Square for local children to use.

**Internal final additions are now taking place on both sites, with landscaping work due to take place soon. This includes a new playground and green space**



▲ **Cllr Jas Athwal and Cllr Solanki, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness at Loxford Lane, where 159 homes are currently being built**



**Cllr Vanisha Solanki, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, said**



"Lack of affordable housing and rising demand across the capital means local families are being priced out. We're building affordable homes to tackle the housing crisis and support local families in need."

For more information about the Affordable Homes Programme, visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/hub-page/affordable-homes-programme>

## How are we tackling the housing crisis?

Building locally and buying in cheaper areas are the only ways we can meet housing demand.

Decades of Government underfunding has meant councils own very few homes that can be used for social housing. People who urgently need a place to live, often wait around 15 years for a long-term home. In the meantime, councils have to pay for temporary accommodation, which is expensive and in short supply.

The picture is very much the same in Redbridge. We're investing in building 600 affordable homes for local people to rent without the worry of large rent increases from their landlord. But even with these extra homes, we simply do not have enough to meet the demand we have locally.

However, we won't let local people who are most in need drop out of the system without support. We're finding properties in more affordable areas, to give stable and long-term homes to those who need them most. This will provide us with a long-term investment and remove the need for us to pay private landlords to house our residents. We will continue to support families who choose this option.

We recognise that it's initially not easy to move locations, but many people are happy to take a home in another place, knowing they will have a long-term, warm, safe and stable home for their family.



▲ **We're buying homes in more affordable areas to help ensure people have a long-term and stable home to live in**

# Rock Climbing Centre coming to Redbridge

Do you aspire to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, or want to try something a bit more extreme than your local gym?

Well, carabiner clips at the ready, we're proposing to build a climbing centre in Newbury Park, where you'll experience the adrenaline of scaling considerable heights, in complete safety.



Climbing is now an officially recognised Olympic sport and will feature prominently in this year's Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As a sport, climbing is growing increasingly popular across the world, as well as across the UK.

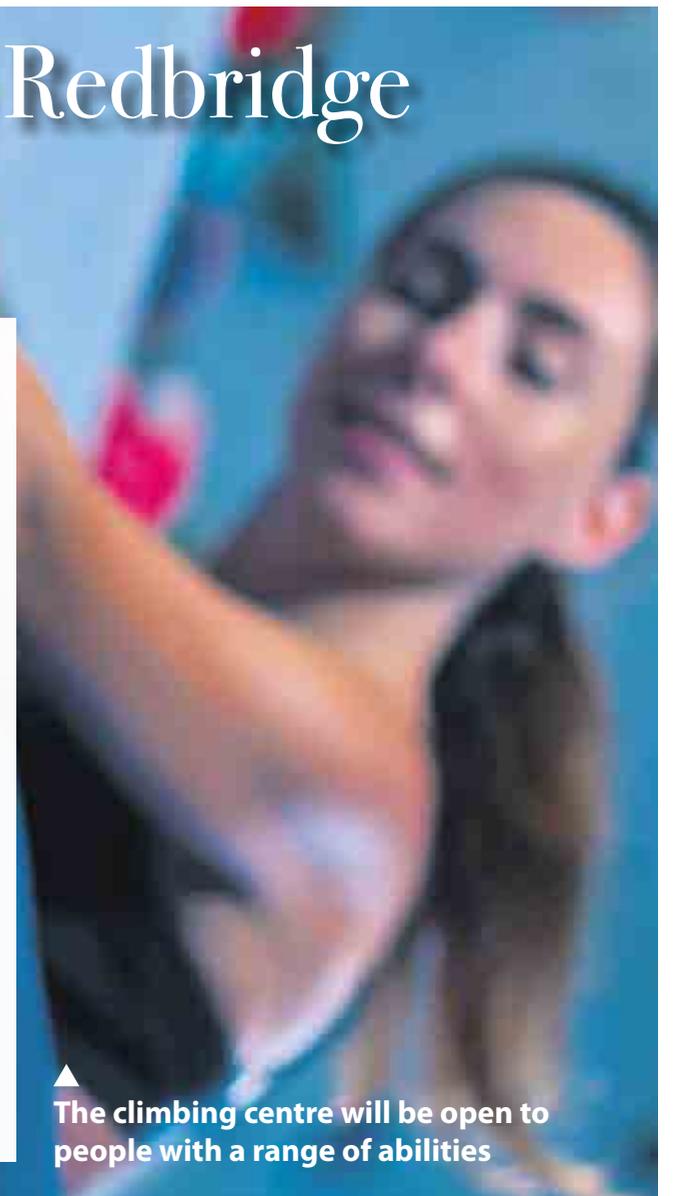
We want our centre to be one of the best in the country, and include beginner, intermediate and advanced climbing grades so that everyone can participate in this fun activity.

We're proposing to convert one of the existing buildings at the Ley Street depot into a climbing metropolis, with several climbing walls, roped climbing lines and bouldering walls.

The centre will cater to climbing enthusiasts and beginners alike, and the walls will be regularly updated to offer a wide range of enjoyable and challenging climbing scenarios.

We plan to award a construction contract in March. The winning contractor will then produce detailed designs for the centre and will apply for planning permission before building begins.

**We will update you on our exciting plans for this rock climbing centre in the heart of Redbridge. Watch this space!**



▲ The climbing centre will be open to people with a range of abilities

# Explore the new sculpture trail at Fairlop Waters

See local people's designs brought to life in a new sculpture trail.

Last autumn, Redbridge Council opened a competition asking local people to send in design ideas for a new sculpture trail that reflect the community's vision for the future of Fairlop Waters.

Local schools, disability groups, family groups and elderly community groups all submitted designs for sculptures they'd like to see on the trail.

The winners' drawings were brought to life by Fairlop Waters' onsite chainsaw artist Marshall Lambert, who sculpted animals, flowers, and even an aeroplane from tree trunks.

There are a total of eight sculptures for everyone to see. Six were designed by local people, and two were designed by Marshall himself.

**Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Communities, Cllr Namreen Chaudhry, said**



"We're doubling the size of Fairlop Waters, improving walking paths, and creating new attractions like this stunning sculpture trail. It's wonderful to see local people taking part and helping create incredible artwork, brought to life by sculptor, Marshall Lambert. Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas."

The finalists and two winners from Forest Academy School were invited to Fairlop Waters in the summer to see their designs being sculpted by Marshall.

The winners from across Redbridge and their families came to a special preview event in February to see their completed artwork with Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Communities, Cllr Namreen Chaudhry.



**Winning drawings from local school children were then turned into sculptures by artist, Marshall Lambert**

# Pet-friendly Redbridge

Redbridge is home to thousands of pets, and they are a big part of the family. We couldn't imagine a world without them, so let's keep our pets happy, healthy and safe.

## Microchipping

Give your pet the best chance of being identified and returned to you if they get lost by microchipping them. Many pets can be microchipped, but it's a legal requirement for dogs and soon will be for cats too.

## Explore our award-winning parks with your furry friends

We have an abundance of award-winning parks, recognised for being the best in the UK.

Why not explore different parks across the borough with your pet pooch as we step into spring.

Find out more, by visiting <https://visionrcl.org.uk/parks-outdoor-spaces/>

## Redbridge local Lina on a walk with Brandy at South Park



▲ Redbridge local Suzy Mason enjoys walking her dog at Valentines Park

## Urvi Patel-Vasudevan, from Ilford, tells us why Valentines Park is her family's favourite place to walk their dog Mylo

"Mylo is a little explorer and Valentines Park is a lovely, big park for him to have his adventures in! He loves to run around, and when we're done, there's Valentines Mansion Café where I can grab a tea and cake before heading home."



Mylo loves exploring his local park with his owners



▲ Sandijs Sternbergs regularly walks dogs, including his own, in our parks



▲ Deputy Leader Kam Rai's dog Bailey enjoys walks in Fairlop Waters

## New laws

From 10 June this year, pet cats aged over 20 weeks must be microchipped by law. Make sure you get your feline friends microchipped by this date.

Find out more, by visiting [www.gov.uk/government/news/treasured-pets-now-safer-as-microchipping-for-cats-becomes-compulsory](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/treasured-pets-now-safer-as-microchipping-for-cats-becomes-compulsory)

The Government has added XL Bully types to the list of banned dangerous dogs. If you own an XL Bully, by law it must be registered and kept on a lead and muzzled when in public. It is also now illegal to breed, sell, advertise, gift, exchange, abandon or let XL Bully dogs stray. Owners must have their dog neutered by 30 June 2024, or the end of 2024, for dogs that were aged under one on 31 January 2024.

Find out more, by visiting [www.gov.uk/government/news/xl-bully-type-dogs-to-be-banned](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/xl-bully-type-dogs-to-be-banned)

## Council Leader Jas Athwal's dog Kosta loves South Park



▲ Urvi's daughter Amy Vasudevan walking Mylo at Valentines Park

# New exhibition opens at SPACE Studios Ilford

‘A seat at our table’ celebrates local communities’ food and culture.

Opening on Thursday 7 March, the new exhibition at SPACE Studios Ilford, features photographer Kenneth Lam, and invites audiences to explore the meals and memories of our cultural identities.

Through the exhibition, Kenneth has recreated a sense of heritage using the table as a powerful symbol of home – as somewhere where we connect and reflect, in addition to being a place of celebration and ceremony.

Local people supported Kenneth by sharing their stories and allowing him to explore their identity through his photography, capturing their portraits and personal artefacts, food and pastimes.

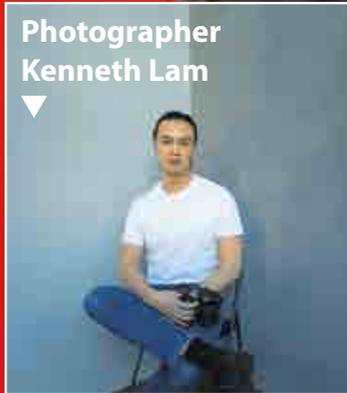
‘A seat at our table’ opens on Thursday 7 March 2024 with a special launch event from 4pm–7.30pm.

Following the launch, you can visit the free exhibition on Wednesdays from 11am–5pm and Saturdays from 11am–3pm, until Saturday 12 October 2024.

Kenneth, a photographer based in London and Hong Kong, began his career studying fashion photography at University of the Arts London.

When travelling back to Hong Kong in 2019, his work turned to portraiture and still life.

Photographer Kenneth Lam



Kenneth drew inspiration from various sources when creating ‘A seat at our table’. He said “An 87-year-old Irish woman who recalled the gatherings in the pubs of her childhood, finding sanctuary and familiarity in the sounds of instruments and games she played as a girl. An Indian boy who is learning to cook, watching his mother’s hands present dishes to his family and a group of Malaysian nurses and midwives, dreaming of the Chinese New Year dinner table they’d left behind.”

Khim Lee, a midwife originally from Malaysia, was photographed with her friend of 40 years, Mimi Tan. Khim said “I felt excited and emotionally nostalgic recalling childhood memories in my birth country.”

**John Parnham's**  
**SCHOOL HOLIDAY**  
**FAMILY FAIR**

**FREE ENTRY!**

**Easter Bunny**  
 Good Friday 29th March  
 2.00-5.00pm

**Come and Celebrate EID with us!**

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**HOTLINE 07956 245531**

**OPEN 12-6pm**

**Fri 29th MAR to Sun 14th APR**

**FAIRLOP WATERS**  
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**1 TOKEN £1.20 10 TOKENS £10**  
 TOKENS ON SALE AT BOOTH

**with Professor James**  
**9th & 10th APRIL**

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**179 296 364**  
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**679**

**WWW.KIDSWORLDILFORD.CO.UK**

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 • SESSION TIMES: 1.00-4.30pm and 4.00-7.45pm •

**new RIDES FOR 2024!**

**OPEN 1.00 - 7.45PM**

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**www.parnhamfunfairs.co.uk**  
**HOTLINE 07956 245531**

**\* GAMES AND ACTIVITIES NOT INCLUDED IN WRISTBAND**  
**\* ENTRY BY WRISTBAND ONLY: £2 Non-Riding Wristband.**  
**OAP'S & Under 1m FREE ENTRY. SESSION TIMES APPLY.**

Join us for our next **VIRTUAL** London Borough of Redbridge   
Redbridge Landlord Forum

Thursday 14 March  
from 7pm to 9pm

- increase awareness of legislation, policy and procedures
- come and discuss your concerns with experts
- access training and information



 Are you complying with your legal requirements for rented properties in Redbridge?  
Want to know more about housing enforcement?  
Unsure about your responsibilities as a landlord?

To reserve your place visit Eventbrite at:  
<https://RedbridgeLandlordForum.eventbrite.co.uk>  
or scan the QR code here >



## Property Licensing Application Support Sessions

London Borough of Redbridge 

Do you rent out property in Redbridge? You may need a property licence.

Join our online session to get support and guidance for your property licensing application!

Events will take place on **Tuesday 23 April 2024**, or **Thursday 25 April 2024** from 11am to 1pm via MS Teams.

Whether you're a landlord or property manager, this session is designed to provide you with valuable guidance and support throughout the application process.

During this session, our team will walk you through the entire application procedure, answering any questions you may have along the way. We'll cover all the necessary paperwork, legal requirements, and best practices to ensure a smooth licensing application.



**Book your space on Eventbrite**

scan the QR code or visit

[www.redbridge.gov.uk/privaterentals](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/privaterentals)

<https://propertyapplicationsupport.eventbrite.co.uk>



## Are you looking after a child who is not your own?

London Borough of Redbridge 



- is the child under 16 (or 18 if they have a disability)?
- are you NOT the child's step parent, sibling, aunt, uncle or grandparent? This also includes host families to overseas students
- do you plan to have the child with you for more than 28 days?
- this is called '**private fostering**' and we must be LEGALLY notified to ensure the child is safe

Please contact Redbridge Children's Services

020 8708 3885 [CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk)

or visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering) for more information



# *The Redbridge Music Lounge*

## *'Make Music , Enjoy Life '*

The Redbridge Music Lounge is a registered Charity (No: 1151132) whose charitable aims and objectives are to promote, maintain, improve and advance the education and appreciation of the public in the art of music.

We are based in the Cranbrook Centre (IG1 4SB) near the Melbourne Road entrance to Valentines Park.

We engage in a number of different music related activities. Twice a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays there is a drop-in networking session, open to anyone for a small fee. It starts at 12.30pm runs to 3.30pm

On the 2nd Sunday of every month starting 14 April through to 13 October, we start our annual season of concerts called **Best of the Music Fest**. Each concert takes place from 11am to 4pm in the Walled Garden, adjacent to Valentines Mansion inside Valentines Park, Emerson Road, Ilford IG1 4XA.

At each concert there are at least 7 acts presenting a diverse range of musical genre. The concerts are entirely free and seating is provided.



Come along with your instruments and play, or just sing, or just listen and enjoy the convivial company. Don't be put off if you think you are not good enough it really doesn't matter.



The building is available to rent as a rehearsal or recording space

**Come and join our  
drop in sessions\***  
every Wednesday & Thursday  
12.30pm-3.30pm

\*small fee required

To find out more about The Redbridge Music Lounge do visit our website on [www.rmluk.org](http://www.rmluk.org) or our facebook page [www.facebook.com/RedbridgeMusicLounge](http://www.facebook.com/RedbridgeMusicLounge) or give Chris Wyatt a ring on 07929 071155

