

REDBRIDGE **LIFE**

ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS
FESTIVITIES BUT
PLEASE STAY SAFE



page 4

NOMINATE A
LOCAL HERO

page 10



CHRISTMAS BIN
COLLECTIONS

page 17



Wood Burning – Are you ready to burn?

The 'Ready to Burn' label shows logs are ready for use as wood fuel.

These logs burn more efficiently than unseasoned, green wood and reduce environmental impact. Ready to Burn firewood has a moisture content less or equal to 20 per cent; using it in place of wet wood fuel is proven to reduce the levels of emissions in the air we breathe.

Why dry, clean wood?

- dry, Ready to Burn wood/logs and briquettes make any appliance more efficient
- burning dry wood instead of wet wood is part of the solution to reducing the impact on our environment
- burning wet wood increases emissions and has a greater impact on air quality
- any appliance and chimney system will suffer from smoke produced from wet wood, which increases maintenance and repair costs
- burning waste and treated wood (e.g. old furniture) can emit harmful fumes



THE SIMPLE SOLUTION

Small retail bags of firewood logs often contain wet wood - this means they are not suitable for burning without further seasoning.

Look out for retail bags of wood-fuel clearly labelled as 'Ready to Burn' by a Woodsure Certified Supplier. This helps consumers to distinguish wood that is 'Ready to Burn'.

Ready to Burn wood produces fewer harmful emissions. Redbridge is designated a Smoke Control Area so you will still need to combine it with a DEFRA Exempt wood-burning stove. A list of approved appliances is available from the DEFRA web site <https://smokecontrol.defra.gov.uk/appliances.php>

More information on the scheme is available on the 'Ready to Burn' web site www.readytoburn.org/

Customer Service opening times over Christmas and New year

Call centre opening hours

20-24 December	8am to 6pm
25-28 December	Closed
29-30 December	9am to 6pm
31 December – 3 January 2022	Closed
4 January 2022	Opening times return as normal

The customer face to face centre is operating an emergency appointment service only between 9am to 4pm (booked appointments only – Lynton House)

HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings will be available to view online, and some meetings will be held at the Town Hall. Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk for information, agendas, and links to join online.

Council Meetings

Thursday 20 January 7.15pm
Thursday 24 February 7.15pm
Thursday 17 March 7.15pm

To ask a question at a council meeting, please send a written notice of your question to the council questions mailbox at councilquestions@redbridge.gov.uk, by midday on Thursday 20 January.

Cabinet Meetings

Thursday 13 January 7.15pm
Thursday 10 February 7.15pm
Tuesday 8 March 7.15pm
Tuesday 12 April 7.15pm

Overview and Scrutiny Bodies Overview Committee

Wednesday 12 January 7.15pm
Wednesday 9 February 7.15pm

Monday 7 March 7.15pm
Monday 11 April 7.15pm

People Scrutiny Committee
Monday 7 February 7.15pm
Tuesday 29 March 7.15pm

Place Scrutiny Committee
Monday 7 February 6.30pm
Monday 28 March 7.15pm

Health Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 11 January 7.15pm
Wednesday 9 March 7.15pm

Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday 8 February 7.15pm

External Scrutiny Panel
Thursday 6 January 7.15pm
Thursday 3 March 7.15pm

Education Scrutiny Panel
Monday 10 January 7.15pm
Tuesday 1 March 7.15pm

Committee Meetings

Planning Committee
Tuesday 25 January 7.15pm
Monday 21 February 7.15pm
Monday 21 March 7.15pm
Thursday 21 April 7.15pm

Licensing Committee
Thursday 3 February 7.15pm

Governance and Assurance Committee
Wednesday 26 January 7.15pm
Tuesday 22 March 7.15pm

General Purposes Committee
Thursday 10 February 8pm

Pension Fund Committee
Friday 25 February 11.30am

Health and Wellbeing Board
Monday 28 February 2.15pm

Local Pension Board
Thursday 3 March 5.30pm

Produced by Redbridge Council

The editor can be contacted via email at redbridge.life@redbridge.gov.uk

London Borough of Redbridge, PO BOX No.2, Town Hall, 128-142 High Road, Ilford, IG1 1DD.

Redbridge Life is published quarterly. Redbridge Council does not accept responsibility for any goods or services offered by advertisers. Publication of an advert does not imply endorsement of any goods or services offered.

Distribution problem?

Contact 020 8708 2282 or email redbridge.life@redbridge.gov.uk

To see advertisement rates visit: www.redbridge.gov.uk/redbridgelife or call 020 8708 2282

Next issue out in March



Contact: Jilly Szymanski/Antoinette Davis **Telephone:** 020 8708 2465 / 2352 or
Email: antoinette.davis@redbridge.gov.uk or jilly.szymanski@redbridge.gov.uk

LEADER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Winter edition of Redbridge Life



Leader and Deputy Leader with school children from Coppice School

Dear residents,

Christmas means different things to different people, with how we celebrate or mark the occasion shaped by faith, family, and tradition. However, we all agree that the holiday period is a time for coming together with our loved ones, celebrating with our communities and bringing warmth and joy to the cold dark winter days. As well as celebration, Christmas is also a time for charity and compassion, which we are fortunate to have in abundance in Redbridge.

As Leader of the Council and an Ilford resident of over 50 years, I've been overwhelmed to see community spirit in action over the past year as neighbours have come together to support one another through the pandemic. I have had the privilege of meeting many of the amazing volunteers who are the driving force behind local community groups and charities. I was particularly touched by the response of our neighbours to the launch of the council donation drop-off centre for refugees, which attracted so much support and kindness.

I am also proud of the work that we do as a council, the often-unseen work of council staff supporting those who find themselves without a home, especially at this time of year. In this edition of Redbridge Life, we look at how we have helped some of the most vulnerable in our borough this year, (see pages 5, 20 and 21).

One way we can all help our communities is to shop locally and support our high streets where and when we can. In doing so, we help the hundreds of entrepreneurs who have chosen to call Redbridge home. With regeneration and investment works underway across the borough, there is a buzz of energy as our high street shops prepare their winter displays and work hard to build-back from the effects of the pandemic.

Although it has been a tough 18 months for us all, and remains a difficult time for many, I hope that we can remember and reflect on all that is good. Especially all the kindness within our communities and the strength

and faith in our homes, our places of worship and our communities and look forward with anticipation to the promise of 2022.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.



Councillor Jas Athwal
Leader of Redbridge Council

Santa's Express Live comes to Redbridge

From Saturday 11 to Saturday 18 December 2021, Santa and his elves will be taking a break from all the making and packing to sprinkle seasonal happiness in Redbridge this Christmas time.



Date	Time	Location
Saturday 11 December	11am – 12pm	Ilford Town Centre
	1pm – 2pm	Fairlop Waters
	3pm – 4pm	South Woodford Library
	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Wanstead Christ Church Green
Wednesday 15 December	4pm – 5pm	Barley Lane Recreation
	5.30pm – 6.30pm	Keith Axon Centre, Chadwell
Thursday 16 December	4pm – 5pm	Hainault Library & Community Centre, Manford Way
	5.30pm – 6.30pm	Ken Aston Square – Fullwell Cross
Saturday 18 December	11am – 12pm	Loxford Park Volley Ball Courts
	1pm – 2pm	Seven Kings Park Band Stand
	3pm – 4pm	Valentines Mansion
	4.30pm – 5pm	Ilford Town Centre



For full details please visit www.visionrcl.org.uk/event/santa2021

Christmas Concert comes to Woodford Green

Redbridge Music Service presents its annual Christmas Concert, this year held at the Sir James Hawkey Hall, Broomhill Road, Woodford Green on Friday 17 December at 7:30pm.

The festive music features the Redbridge Music School Ensembles and Youth Choir.

Tickets are available through Eventbrite.

Visit www.visionrcl.org.uk/events for booking details.

Christmas Market

Sunday 19 December, 11am – 5pm, South Woodford – George Lane (north west) E18 1AY

Featuring Santa's grotto, children's craft activities, festive stalls, delicious street food, and live music from local performers including the London Forest Choir, the Redbridge Music Lounge and Crescendo Music School.

Christmas Trees on sale at Christchurch Green, Wanstead

This Christmas the 'Tree Amigos' are bringing their unique brand of Christmas tree sale to Christchurch Green in Wanstead. Christmas tree enthusiasts offer a magical pop-up forest, with between 150-200 trees on display. Families and individuals can browse at their leisure until they find the perfect tree for their home. It will be a real family event, with complimentary mulled beverages and mince pies alongside fun games for the kids.

Redbridge Foodbank still need donations this Christmas

There are several ways you can donate food to help those in crisis this Christmas:

- check your local supermarket for a permanent collection point foodbank basket where your donations will be collected by Redbridge foodbank volunteers and taken to their foodbank centre in Ilford
- you can donate goods at Sainsbury's (Barkingside and Newbury Park), Tesco (Barkingside), Nationwide Building Society (Ilford), Waitrose (South Woodford) and the Co-op (Wanstead)
- you can donate at the foodbank centre itself, based at Jubilee Church, Granville Road, Ilford on Tuesdays between 11.30am – 1pm and Saturdays from 10am – 12.30pm.

All details about how and what to donate, as well as how to apply to access a foodbank, is available at www.redbridge.foodbank.org.uk

Foodbank Shopping List – items needed for Christmas

- ✓ Tinned ham/fish
- ✓ Tinned fruit/rice pudding/custard
- ✓ Spreads/jam/long life juice
- ✓ Christmas treats/biscuits
- ✓ Christmas crackers



Do you, or someone you know, need access to the Redbridge Foodbank? 

You can be referred by Citizens Advice, housing officers, children's centres, health visitors and social services, or through 'Help through Hardship' (freephone **0808 208 2138**). Explain your situation and they may refer you to the foodbank.

Local frontline care agencies can email the foodbank direct at info@redbridgefoodbank.org for further information on how to make referrals.

Ilford Town Centre visitors back improvements, as transformation continues to take shape

Almost two-thirds of visitors to Ilford believe the town centre is improving. In a recent survey of visitors conducted by the Ilford Business Improvement District (BID), 63% of respondents agreed the town centre had improved over the last year.

The increase in positive sentiment follows improvements to the public realm such as improved paved areas, planting, and new communal areas and event spaces. The new southern entrance to Ilford Station adds a welcoming feel for visitors and the new cultural quarter adds artistic elements to the visitor experience.

The council has also recently acquired the former Dorothy Perkins / Burtons shop unit in the High Street, with plans in place to convert the space into a business and creative space for local start-ups and small businesses. The fit out is expected to be completed during spring 2022.

Ilford
for you
for me
for all



Leader of Redbridge Council Cllr Jas Athwal, said:

We are continuing to work tirelessly alongside key partners such as the Greater London Authority and Ilford BID to ensure our residents have excellent services and facilities on their doorstep.

I have seen first hand just how much people are enjoying the new communal areas in the High road.



Find out more at:
www.redbridge.gov.uk/ilford-for-you

RideLondon is coming to Redbridge in 2022

We're really excited to be one of the host boroughs for RideLondon 2022, the world's greatest festival of cycling.

The proposed route for next year's edition of the Olympic legacy event from London 2012 includes parts of Wanstead, Woodford and Hainault.

The 100-mile challenge ride takes place Sunday 29 May 2022, and starts in the capital, passing through Redbridge on its way out to Essex and then back down through the borough again before finishing in central London.

RideLondon has grown into a record-breaking festival of cycling enjoyed by more than 460,000 participants, from beginners to the world's best professionals.

Cllr Jas Athwal, Leader of the London Borough of Redbridge, said:

"The news that RideLondon will be coming to Redbridge is fantastic. With the cycling event route due to travel through the borough, we have the chance to inspire people of all ages to get pedalling, and at the same give local businesses along the course a much-needed boost.

"We look forward to working closely with London's Cycling Commissioner and RideLondon to play our part in creating a truly exceptional celebration of cycling for everyone to enjoy, as part of our ongoing commitment to encouraging cycling, active lifestyles and reducing air pollution."



The ballot for a place in RideLondon-Essex 100 will be open until 5pm, Thursday 20 January 2022.
Find out more: www.ridelondon.co.uk

Cinderella returns to Ilford

The annual Redbridge Christmas pantomime is back.

Cinderella will be playing at the Kenneth More Theatre in Ilford from **Thursday 9 December 2021 until Sunday 9 January 2022.**

Poor Cinderella spends her days scrubbing the floors of Hardup Hall, but will an invitation to a Royal Ball change her life forever?

To book and for all the information visit:
vrcl.uk/cinderella



Protect yourself, your loved ones

With Christmas and the festive holiday season now upon us, it's vital that everyone in Redbridge eligible for vaccinations comes forward to protect themselves, their loved ones and the NHS.

Due to the colder weather and people being inside more, dangerous viruses like COVID-19 and the flu can be passed on to others more easily, experts are warning there could be a significant flu surge this winter alongside a local rise in COVID-19 cases.

There are three vaccinations available this winter:

- ☑ **first and second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine**
- ☑ **COVID-19 booster vaccination**
- ☑ **winter flu vaccination.**

Those aged 40 years and over, health and social care workers and younger people at risk who have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine can now receive their COVID-19 booster and winter flu vaccines.

If you are offered both the flu and COVID-19 booster vaccine, it's safe to have them at the same time.

Latest COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Redbridge are updated weekly at www.redbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus

COVID-19 Booster vaccine explained

Like some other vaccines, levels of protection may begin to decrease over time.

The COVID-19 booster dose will help extend the protection gained from the first two doses and give you longer term protection.

If you are eligible, you will be offered a booster dose at least three months after your last dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Eligible residents will be contacted by the NHS or you can book by emailing info@healthbridgedirect.co.uk or by calling **0204 506 8833**

Why we got our jabs this winter

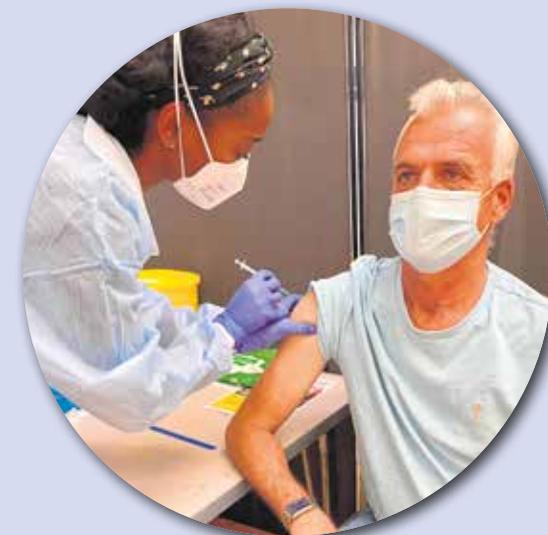


"I wanted to make sure I was fully vaccinated and protected. I'm also still following all the rules, such as wearing a mask."

Manju

"I like to travel and didn't want to face any restrictions because I wasn't vaccinated."

Osman



"The booster dose was an option given to me, and I decided it was important to take. My family were hit with the virus early in the pandemic and I saw what they went through."

David

and the NHS this winter

Winter flu vaccination explained

The winter flu vaccination is offered every year on the NHS to help protect people at risk of getting seriously ill from flu.

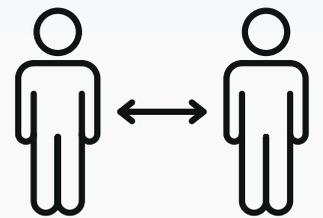
Those who are eligible for a free flu vaccine can book an appointment through their GP surgery or local pharmacy. Many local pharmacies also offer the jab to anyone, for a cost of under £15.

To find out if you're eligible and to book your winter vaccines visit: nhs.uk/wintervaccinations



Protect yourself and others now, and for the festive season ahead

- ☑ get vaccinated and take up your COVID-19 booster jab when offered
- ☑ social distance in crowded places
- ☑ wear a face covering in shops, crowded spaces and on public transport
- ☑ self-isolate when instructed to do so
- ☑ test yourself if attending an event or gathering
- ☑ if you feel unwell, stay at home
- ☑ let fresh air in if you meet indoors
- ☑ meeting outdoors is safer
- ☑ wash your hands regularly.



"I didn't want to put myself or my family at risk this winter, so I got the booster. I have a child and visit my elderly mum so it's about keeping them protected."

Lesley



"It's important for young people to take the vaccine. Even if we are less likely to be severely affected, we can still pass it on to other people like our friends and family."

Arun

"Everyone getting vaccinated is keeping themselves and vulnerable members of our community safe. Every vaccination makes a difference. Please do get yours if you haven't done so already."

Rawlann, Nurse at Redbridge Town Hall Vaccination Centre



Mayor's Community Awards: Nominations now open!



Do you know someone in Redbridge who has gone above and beyond to support their local community?

Nominations are now open for the annual Redbridge Mayor's Community Awards, which recognise individuals or groups who have made a real difference to the lives of our residents.

Mayor of Redbridge, Cllr Roy Emmett, said: "The awards are a fantastic opportunity to recognise the heroes in our communities who make such a big difference to the lives of others, but who might otherwise remain anonymous.

"Redbridge is full of kind, thoughtful and caring people and groups, who take enormous pride in their neighbourhoods and do their utmost to make the borough a great place to live for us all.

"I encourage everyone to nominate the groups and individuals who are so deserving of these awards."

Be inspired by previous winners

Examples of previous winners from 2019 include:

- an initiative by a local teacher to keep young people safe from exploitation and extremism
- a local residents' association that organised a successful community clear up campaign
- a neighbourhood campaigner who set up a residents group to successfully tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, while also creating a community garden.

Your local hero may have benefited residents in completely different ways. We would love to hear from you about them.



Neighbourhood campaigner Clare Patterson won a Mayor's Community Award in 2019

How to submit your nominations

Submit your nominations online in under 200 words at <https://eforms.redbridge.gov.uk/mayors-award-nomination-form/>

Nominees must live or work in Redbridge. Self-nominations will not be accepted. **The closing date is Friday 31 December.** Winners will be contacted and invited to attend a ceremony in March 2022.

Scan the QR code to submit your nomination



Art brings disabled support group together for a unique exhibition

SPACE Ilford, the art gallery part-funded by Redbridge Council, recently hosted an exhibition of artwork created by One Place East, a disabled persons support group based in Ilford.

The group took part in a six-month series of workshops starting in April, first by video and then in person after the lockdown ended, where they learnt a variety of art techniques and styles from creating small books (zines) to 3D abstract sculpture and dioramas.

The fantastic results were then put on display in SPACE Ilford for a one-off exhibition on Wednesday 20 October, before being moved for display in the Redbridge Central Library.

Saifur Valli, the Creative Project Facilitator at Space Ilford, said: "The past year of the pandemic has been difficult for everyone, so it's been an amazing project and great to see all the participants enjoying the workshops and learning new skills. The participants have all grown individually, their dedication has been amazing."

Indi, mother of One Place East participant Suraj, said: "One Place East doesn't judge you and being around others with similar difficulties feels supportive. Everyone is friends in this safe and friendly environment.

"Suraj always had a passion for art from a very young age, but a trauma meant he could not finish his exams. The workshops allowed Suraj to once again be creative, helped him to calm his anxiety and gave him a real sense of achievement."

SPACE Ilford hosts art exhibits throughout the year and open **Wednesdays 11am – 5pm** and **Saturdays 11am – 4pm**.

The gallery hosts free, drop-in workshops for anyone wanting to learn new art skills. Latest sessions are published on Twitter **@SPACEstudios**



Find out more about the work of One Place East at www.oneplaceeast.org

Help to boost your business

Redbridge Council's Business Recovery and Growth programme is providing local businesses with free advice to help them overcome existing challenges.

Thanks to the programme, businesses across the borough can benefit from a wide range of free support, mentoring and assistance.

Highlights include:

Review and Recover: providing free support and training over the next 12 months, the service will help existing businesses to innovate, adapt and prepare for growth.

Ready to Supply: experts will work with Redbridge-based businesses to improve their competitiveness and help them win valuable contracts.

Click It Local: delivering a 'virtual high street' online that allows local independent shops to sell to residents from one collective website using a simple payment system and combined, same-day delivery.

Sign up now

Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/businessrecovery to sign up to the free business recovery programme.



Raise your profile with our online business directory

Advertise your business online for free with the It's Local online business directory.

it's local

It's Local Redbridge lets potential customers find business services by keyword or company name. Linking with Google maps, directions and Streetview, the service also links to business websites and their social media accounts.

www.redbridge.gov.uk/business/its-local-redbridge/

The Business and Recovery Growth programme: delivering opportunities

One of Redbridge Council's key priorities is supporting businesses and helping them to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. When the pandemic hit, our immediate response was to set up a business information, advice and support service. We responded to over 1,500 enquiries and have since assisted and provided one-to-one guidance to approximately 400 local businesses.



Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Kam Rai

Redbridge is a borough of enterprise and, over the past 18 months, we have seen clearly how businesses have innovated and adapted when faced by unique circumstances. We are also focusing on how we move forward: proving that Redbridge is a great place for people to work, shop and spend time, while creating a vibrant cultural offering and unique selling points to attract people to our town centres.



Help and advice for budding market traders

Made in Redbridge provides training, advice and guidance for start-up market traders.

The programme includes a series of workshops to teach the basics of business, and participants can also gain experience by selling their products at a live event.

Made in Redbridge is funded by the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy Fund (NCIL), designed to help local community projects.

Sign up for Made in Redbridge <https://eforms.redbridge.gov.uk/made-in-redbridge-registration-form/>

Contact the business team for details of live events in 2022 business.enterprise@redbridge.gov.uk

Online shopping platform Click It Local is coming to Redbridge

Click It Local is bringing your favourite local stores right to your doorstep from Tuesday 7 December.



Click It Local is a virtual high-street with a mission to support local, independent businesses. They want to level the playing field and enable local independents and retailers to be able to compete with the national online retailers.

Like us, they believe that supporting independent businesses is essential to the local economy. As more and more people buy from businesses online, they wanted to create an easy, convenient way for shoppers to get their essentials, treats, gifts and basics, and support independent retailers at the same time.

Click It Local is different from other platforms, as it allows you to purchase from multiple independent businesses in one place. Make one payment and have one consolidated delivery or collection – either on the same-day, next-day or choose whatever date you like!

Once you have accessed your area by inputting your postcode into their search bar, you can browse by switching the stores and product tab from left to right – then add the products to your basket, choose your preferred delivery date, and pay with one direct payment. For areas that we are not currently in you will be given the option to support local businesses in other areas with national next-day delivery.

Your order will contribute to the profit earnings of independent businesses, helping the local economy, unlike chain and large online stores.

With delivery prices as low as £3.50 and the lowest seller fees on the market, Click It Local not only offers you great local choices but also helps you support the borough's businesses and invest back into the community.



www.clickitlocal.co.uk

New Year, New Career with Work Redbridge



Finding the job, training, or career support you need can be tough, but Work Redbridge can help.

Our free service, which is only for borough residents, offers help, advice, and practical solutions to get you back into work in 2022.

We can even help school or college leavers get that first job or apprenticeship.

We have the latest vacancies, training courses, apprenticeship opportunities, events, and workshops to help you find a job.

Our next event is on Wednesday 15 December, from 10am – 11am via Microsoft Teams. This session is focused on using interview feedback to learn from both positive and negative experiences to support continuous improvement.

To book onto the session please call **020 8708 2298** or email: workredbridge@redbridge.gov.uk

Further events and workshops will be available in 2022. Please check www.redbridge.gov.uk/workredbridge for dates.



Supporting local businesses

What can Work Redbridge do to help local businesses?

We can help you:

- fill your vacancies with the best local people for your business
- recruit young people or apprentices
- with business grants for taking on an apprentice
- take on a Kickstart placement. This is where a person aged 18 to 25 can work for your businesses for 25 hours per week but their salary is paid by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), so there is no cost to your business.

For more information contact the Work Redbridge Recruitment Service on **020 8708 2366** or email wrfb@redbridge.gov.uk

For information on business support projects contact: business.enterprise@redbridge.gov.uk

Supporting our residents

What can Work Redbridge do to help residents? We can help you:

- explore a new career in 2022 with support from qualified careers advisors
- get back into work or a new job
- book onto one of our workshops where you can learn how to:
 - write a winning CV
 - use LinkedIn for job searching
 - succeed in online interviews.

Email: workredbridge@redbridge.gov.uk or call **020 8708 2298** for more information and help.

Another Work Redbridge success story

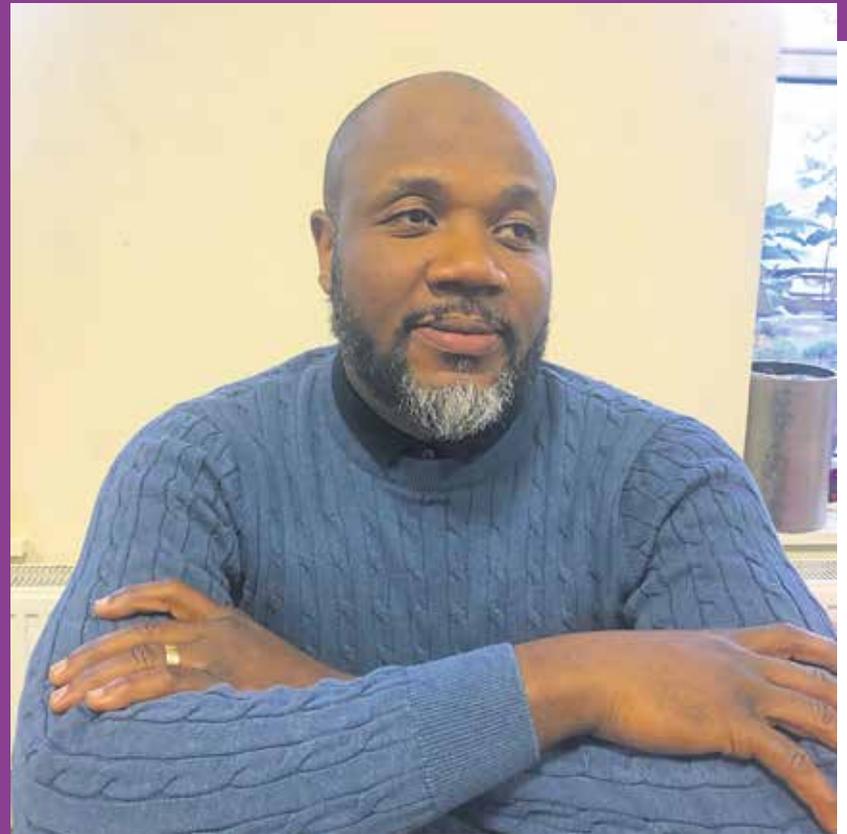
Ishmael had been unemployed for more than a year and was living with his family in temporary accommodation when he contacted Work Redbridge. After securing a job in retail through Work Redbridge, he soon progressed to become a supervisor and then entered management.

Ismael said:

"Work Redbridge opened my eyes to the opportunities at my disposal.

"I am excited about this new adventure and I can't wait to explore the opportunities at hand. Getting this job has helped me in so many ways. I have even managed to secure permanent accommodation for me and my family.

"It was getting in touch with Work Redbridge that made all this happen and I encourage anyone in a situation like mine to get involved because they will help you to achieve your goals."



Upskill, retrain or gain a qualification with



Redbridge Institute



Free courses for eligible learners

Adult learning courses are enrolling now.

Choose from a range of courses including; Digital Skills, Maths, English and ESOL, and vocational training courses including Childcare and Counselling. Most of these courses are FREE* to Redbridge residents (*subject to eligibility criteria)

We also offer a range of creative and visual arts and a range of health and wellbeing courses.

Visit our website to see our full range of courses and book online now.

www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk

020 8550 2398 | enquiries@redbridge-iae.ac.uk

London Borough of

Redbridge



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

SUPPORTED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON



'Tis the season to recycle, reduce and reuse



With Christmas just around the corner, many of us will be looking forward to spending time with family and friends.

But wouldn't Christmas be even merrier if we could all reduce the amount of waste that we create this season? With a bit of planning you can save money, as well as cutting back on your waste and showing the environment some love this Christmas.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Plan for a waste free Christmas



The average family of four can save just over £60 per month by reducing their food waste.

Cut back on food waste by planning your festive meals carefully this Christmas:

- do a head count so you don't over cook
- write a shopping list to help you stick to buying only what you need
- serve portion sizes suitable for your family
- use leftovers to create a different meal the next day.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Civic Pride, Cllr Jo Blackman, said:

“Many of us will be looking forward to spending time with family and friends. But unfortunately, the festive season is also a time we see a rise in excessive household waste.

“Our waste reduction strategy is seeing the council take the lead in reducing waste across the borough from new initiatives including the introduction of wheelie bins and the expansion of items we accept for recycling, to educational workshops and resources to help every household and business reduce, recycle and re-use.

“But it takes everyone working together to make a difference. You can find lots of tips, information and resources on our website to help you reduce your waste and help the environment – just head over to www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/”



Discover tools for portion planning, recipes for leftovers and more, on: www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

Free online recycling workshop: Tuesday 14 December, 12.30pm – 1pm

Get top tips on recycling and reducing your waste this Christmas. To join the free session, register at: www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/

Proud to support
LOVE FOOD hate waste





Recycle to the max!

You can now recycle more items than ever before in Redbridge, including aerosols, kitchen foil, food pots, tubs and trays.

Use our recycling services this festive season for cards, cardboard boxes, paper wrapping (no glitter or wrapping foil please). Find out more on: www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/



Green Garden Waste Collections

Kerbside green garden waste collections have stopped for the winter.

Until the free fortnightly service resumes in the spring, you can take your garden waste to the **Chigwell Road Reuse and Recycling Centre**, or compost it at home.



Christmas tree collection is back

Once the festivities are over we'll collect real Christmas trees, for **FREE**, for recycling. To ensure collection:

- leave your tree at the boundary of your property by **6am on Monday 10 January**
- remove all decorations
- ensure your tree is clearly visible.

We'll be collecting between **Monday 10 – Friday 21 January**. Alternatively, you can take your Christmas tree to Chigwell Road Reuse and Recycling Centre:



www.eastlondonwaste.gov.uk/chigwell-road

No date changes for Christmas and New Year waste collection

Your household waste and recycling will be collected as normal on your usual collection day over the festive break.

And don't forget:

- you must present your waste by 6am at the boundary of your property
- ensure your waste fits inside your official Redbridge wheelie bin with the lid fully closed. Side waste will not be taken, and you could face enforcement action
- your recycling must be presented in the blue, and black/green recycling boxes.



Keeping Redbridge Safe

Increase in face-to-face policing will see more police officers on your streets, an additional Enforcement Hub and a new mobile CCTV vehicle.

New Enforcement Hub

Following a successful pilot of the York Road Enforcement Hub, a new Hub has been opened on Manford Way in Hainault.

The Hubs, which are staffed by police and council officers, give residents the opportunity to speak face to face with officers and highlight local issues. Our decision to install another Hub was made after the first Enforcement Hub on York Road led to a decrease in anti-social behaviour in the local area and received strong support from residents.

We hope to roll out further hubs in the new year, with Woodford being first on the list once we have consulted with local residents.

Extra police officers

More police officers will also soon be on patrol in Redbridge as part of a drive to engage more with residents on how to best tackle crime. The new team, which will be out on the beat in the first quarter of 2022, will be made up of 21 police constables, two sergeants and one inspector.

New mobile CCTV van

To support the new officers, we recently launched the 'Challenger' CCTV vehicle. Equipped with high definition cameras along its sides and on an elevated platform at the top, the vehicle can



Cllr Jas Athwal, Leader of Redbridge Council said:

We've listened to your views on how you want to see us work with the police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour across the borough. That's why we're now bringing more police and council enforcement officers to the streets, investing in more CCTV cameras and making improvements to individual neighbourhoods to ensure Redbridge is safe for everyone.



collect high quality video evidence and act as a deterrent. The ULEZ compliant Ford Ranger can support officers in their off-road work in parks and open spaces, as well as assisting in civil disasters such as flooding.

York Road Enforcement Hub is open every **Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4.30pm – 6.30pm.**

You can also report a crime to the police at **met.police.uk**, which helps the police to gather intelligence and allocate resources. In an emergency always call 999.



York Road – Enforcement Hub

Your views on the York Road Enforcement Hub

"I used to get a taxi home when I left the station. Now with Hub and Police Officers being in the area I feel safe enough to walk home." – **Hari**

"Since the Hub was installed my customers have told me they feel safer. I've noticed a change in the area too, and don't have to ask groups of people to move away from my shop anymore." – **York Road shop owner**

"The whole area is different. There are no more groups drinking on the street and people don't loiter around since the council got involved and put the hub in. I never used to feel comfortable walking to the station at night but the new CCTV makes me feel safer. I really appreciate what has been done and how quickly it has happened." – **Sheila**

Domestic Abuse services in Redbridge

If you, or someone you know is a victim or at risk of domestic abuse, help and support is available.

The Reach Out service in Redbridge provides emotional support, counselling or practical advice on issues such as housing, finance and benefit.

Get in touch

Call: 0800 145 6410

Email: reachout@redbridge.gov.uk

Opening hours: Monday to Friday,
9am – 5pm excluding bank holidays

For out of hours help

24 hour national domestic abuse helpline **0808 2000 247**

Visit www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk for a live webchat (Monday-Friday, 3pm – 10pm)

We have an extensive range of additional specialist advice and support services, including for LGBT+ people and men who are suffering domestic abuse.

Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/crime-and-public-safety/domestic-abuse/

If you are in immediate danger phone **999**, or ask someone else to phone. If you dial **999** but are unable to speak, press **55** to let the emergency services know.

Spotlight Programme

Our spotlight programme is a safe space, supporting people who have been abusive towards their partner and want to change – we will help you develop respectful and non-abusive relationships.

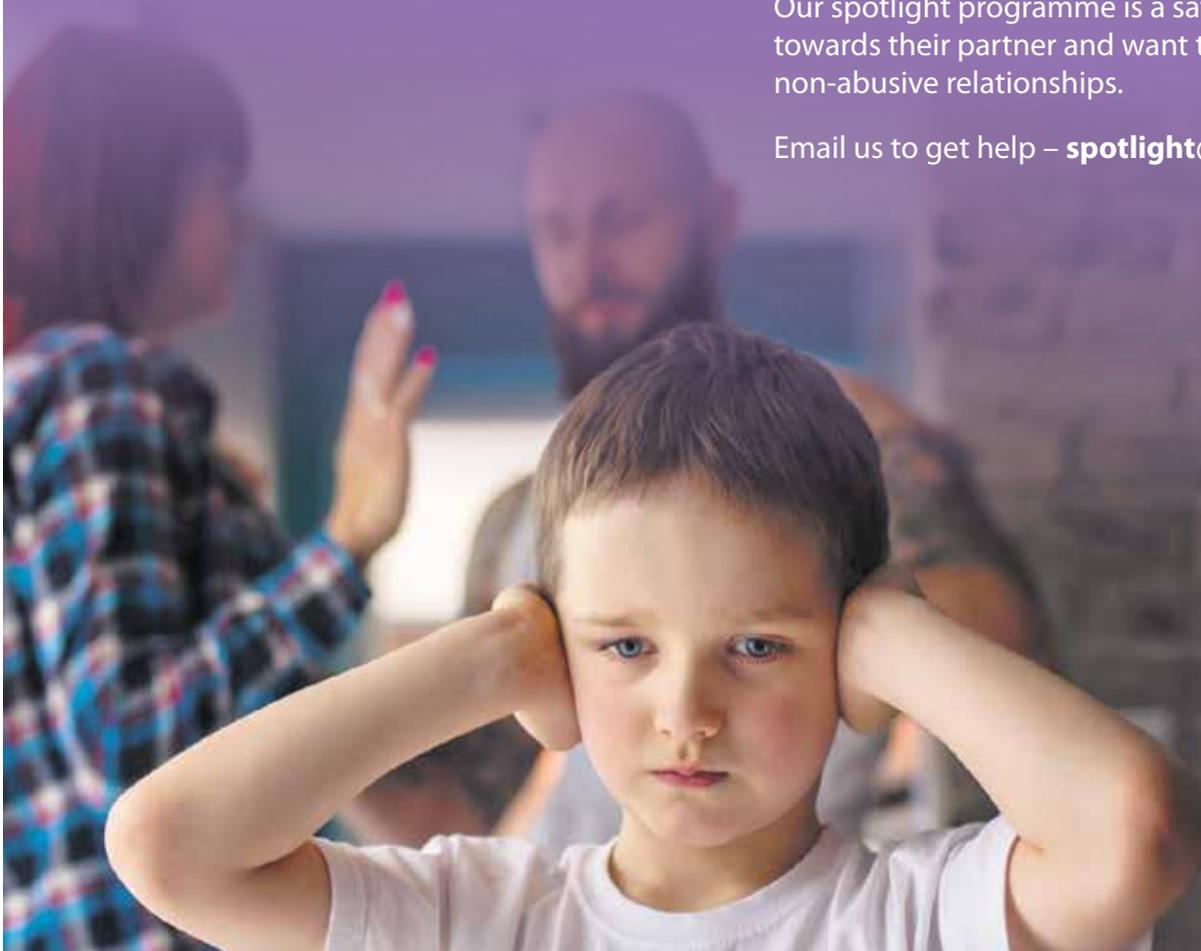
Email us to get help – spotlight@redbridge.gov.uk



Reach Out
0800 145 6410

Weekdays
9am-5pm

**If it's an
emergency
call 999**



Help us support rough sleepers this winter

Winter is a dangerous time for anyone who has to sleep rough. In Redbridge, the council works in partnership with local charities to tackle and prevent rough sleeping in the borough.

To stop people having to beg, alongside our partners we:

- provide people with emergency places to stay
- offer support with a wide range of health needs
- find people somewhere to live that's suitable for their longer-term needs
- help people move towards independence.

We understand that you might feel compelled to give money to someone begging on the street. However, many rough sleepers have complex issues around physical wellbeing, mental health and substance abuse.

By giving what you can spare directly to our partners, or volunteering, you can help people to make sustainable, life-changing steps that can end their rough sleeping for good.

How to support our partners:

The Welcome Project

A rough sleepers' day centre in Ilford offers informal training, education and help to access health services. Visit www.healthylivingprojects.org.uk

RAMFEL

A specialist immigration advice and legal representation charity supports non-UK nationals in Redbridge with advice to help them get off the streets. Visit www.ramfel.org.uk

The Salvation Army

Leads Project Malachi in Ilford, supporting people into work and longer-term accommodation. Visit www.popuphostel-ilfordsalvationarmy.nationbuilder.com/donate



While staff and volunteers have worked amazingly hard to support rough sleepers, the government rules for those considered to have no recourse to public funds means many will find themselves back on the streets.

Redbridge Council's Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, Cllr Vanisha Solanki



How we supported rough sleepers during the pandemic

Since March 2020 alongside our partners we have provided emergency accommodation for almost 400 rough sleepers, bringing everyone off the street at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many rough sleepers were offered help and support for the first time, and are now moving on to sustainable, longer-term homes.

The services we can offer alongside our partners have been transformed for the future, with out of hospital care, extra support with drug and alcohol addiction and greater support for individuals without entitlement to state benefits.

The enhanced support includes 18 newly converted self-contained studio flats at the Ryedale scheme in Ilford, now being let on two-year leases to support local rough sleepers towards independence.

We are so pleased with what we have been able to achieve, but its the government rules on no recall to public finance for many that means we cannot house them permanently, which sadly leaves people in limbo.

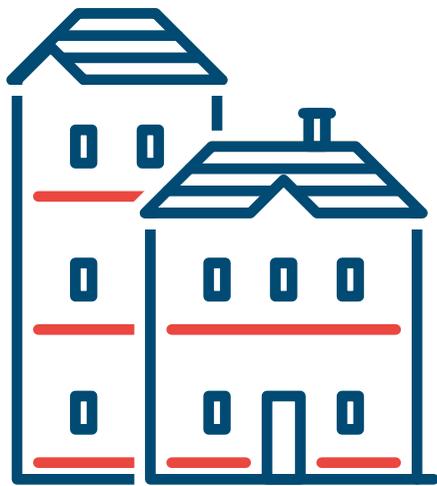


Project Malachi changing lives

Pop up hostel and workshop Project Malachi allows rough sleepers who are not entitled to state benefits to get the help and support they need.

Construction of the hostel was funded by Redbridge Council, who also made the land in Chadwick Road available to the Salvation Army while the regeneration of Ilford Town centre is ongoing.

Staffed by Salvation Army volunteers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the project offers a broad range of support, from therapeutic support for mental health and substance misuse to assistance with securing work and training opportunities.



"I'm now almost recovered from all my health issues. I've made some good friends here and feel like I'm part of a community again. My aim is now to get back to work and get my own place."

Stephen Serrant, Project Malachi resident



Get help for a rough sleeper

Call **Street Link** on **0300 500 0914** or visit **www.streetlink.org.uk** and Street Link will arrange for the rough sleeper to get access to local services and support.



Green fingered community dig deep to get Redbridge blooming



A big thank you to all our gardening enthusiasts who joined our 'Big Planting Weekend' to get the borough blooming for spring.

Earlier this year we gave away 50,000 spring flowering bulbs across the community under our Big Bulb Giveaway, culminating in our much-loved Big Planting Weekend.

We had a brilliant show of support, from budding young gardeners with blossoming skills to green fingered experts, all taking part and helping to grow community spirit as well as flowers.

In total, 140 community groups, schools, gardening groups, religious organisations and Scout/Guide groups planted bulbs from the giveaway in communal spaces around the borough – and we can't wait to see all the lovely splashes of colour the beautiful blooms will bring to our neighbourhoods.

St Paul's Church in Goodmayes was among those taking part.



The Vicar of St Paul's Church, Rev'd Janet Buchan, said: "We have a fairly uninspiring bit of space around the church and I thought this initiative is a wonderful way to brighten it up for the community, and bring some cheer.

"It's good for people to see things growing and flourishing, and will hopefully inspire younger children to also take an interest in growing things as they walk by and see it."

Funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the Big Bulb Giveaway and planting weekend forms part of the council's wider work taking place hand in hand with the local community to create a cleaner, greener and more biodiverse borough.



For more information about CIL and CIL funded projects go to: <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/community-infrastructure-levy/>

Help us improve safety standards in rented homes

The council are proposing to renew the Additional Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licensing Scheme. HMO's are shared homes that include flat and house shares, bedsits, and some buildings that are converted into flats.

The council wants to continue to improve HMO property conditions through licensing to make sure that they are safe, well managed and well maintained. Whether you are a landlord, private tenant, resident, business, voluntary/charitable organisation or other stakeholder in Redbridge please let us know your views.

You can tell us your thoughts by completing the **on-line questionnaire**.

Scan to complete the survey



Public consultation is starting in Dec 2021 and will run for 12 weeks
www.redbridge.gov.uk/hmoconsultation

Redbridge awarded £100K funding for Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES)

The government launched a new campaign to help councils clamp down on bad landlords to improve the energy efficiency of rented accommodation.

Redbridge has been awarded £100,000 by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The programme is designed to help councils engage or enforce against landlords with the worst performing properties.

New regulations introduced in April 2020 means privately rented homes must meet a minimum energy performance rating of EPC E, this makes it illegal to rent out properties below that unless landlords are exempt.

Poorly insulated properties impact private renters who struggle to keep homes warm and have higher energy bills.

The new rules are expected to ensure landlords improve energy efficiency with upgrades such as loft insulation, double glazing and cavity wall insulations. Landlords who fail their obligations may be fined of up to £5,000 per property and per breach.



Visit our website for more details: www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals/

Join us for our next **VIRTUAL** Redbridge Landlord Forum



Tuesday 25 January 2022
From 7pm to 8.30pm

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



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 please e-mail prslicensing@redbridge.gov.uk or visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals/

Hainault Forest's £7m restoration work under way

Redbridge Council's investment in the borough's parks and open spaces has taken a big step forward with work on restoring Hainault Forest to its former glory now underway.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has provided a grant of over £4million to the Hainault Forest project with support also received from the Greater London Authority and the Mayor's Fund. The works will improve the site's ecology and natural habitats, alongside a new visitor hub including a new café, visitor centre and spaces for community hire.

Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Kam Rai, said: "We are committed to investing in local parks and green spaces to protect and preserve them now and for generations to come. We are working closely with our partners, the Woodland Trust, to improve access and links across the forest while preserving wildlife habitats and improving biodiversity."



The Leader and Deputy Leader on-site at Hainault Forest to see the restoration's progress



New boats arrive at Fairlop Waters

Twenty-six new sailing boats have been added to the fleet at the Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre thanks to Redbridge Council's £30,000 investment, part of a wider redevelopment project that will see 250 acres of green space added to the borough's largest country park.

Cllr Jas Athwal, Leader of Redbridge Council said: "There was a huge surge in visitors to Fairlop Waters during the pandemic and these new boats which arrived just before the October half-term, are also part of our wider planned investment in the leisure, culture and environmental facilities at the country park."

The new boats at Fairlop Waters include 15 Hartley 10's and a brand new generation of rotar-moulded boats, which are acknowledged as one of the easiest boats in which to learn how to sail.

For further information about the water sports programme and bookings at Fairlop Waters visit: www.visionrcl.org.uk/water-sport-sessions/

Queen's Green Canopy to mark Platinum Jubilee

Thousands of trees will be planted across Redbridge as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, an initiative created to mark Her Majesty's 70 years of Service to the Nation in 2022.

Everyone from individuals, community groups, schools and businesses are being encouraged to **'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'** up until March 2022, which is the official planting season.



For further information and to register your tree, go to www.queensgreencanopy.org

Tree planting project lays down roots in Redbridge for National Tree Week

As part of our National Tree Week celebrations in November, we kick started our Schools Tree Planting initiative at Coppice Primary School in Hainault, and Woodbridge High School in Woodford Green.



Nearly 500 school children took part in the council led planting event which saw 45 trees, including fruit trees, planted across the two school sites.

During the event green fingered pupils learnt about the importance of trees and nature, and were taught how to look after the trees they planted.

Financed through our Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy fund, the Schools Tree Planting initiative is part of our on-going work with local communities to tackle climate change, improve air quality and create a greener, more biodiverse borough.

The tree planting sessions at the two schools will also be registered under the Queen's Green Canopy project, which is inviting everyone across the UK to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 by planting a tree.



HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) could be on the rise

Get tested



Rates of HIV and TB are at risk of rising in Redbridge, due to restricted access to health services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HIV and the latent form of TB, which lives in the body but is not active, are both typically symptomless meaning they can be passed on easily.

If left undiagnosed, both can lead to serious health complications.

Who should get tested?

Everyone should get tested for HIV. However, some groups are disproportionately affected such as Black people of African descent.

TB can affect anyone. However, certain populations are at greater risk. They include newly arrived communities, people with reduced immunity and the BAME population.

People experiencing homelessness, drug or alcohol dependency, or with a prison history are also at greater risk.

How to get tested

Free and confidential HIV and TB testing is available from:

- East London-based HIV charity Positive East. Book online at www.positiveeast.org.uk/hivtest/
- The Redbridge TB team. Call **020 8970 8123**

If you have TB symptoms such as a cough that lasts for more than three weeks, fever, or heavy night sweats, contact your GP as soon as possible.



Redbridge Health Buddies



For the last eight years a team of Health Buddies has been going the extra mile to deliver health advice to communities across the borough.

Health Buddies are local residents who have been trained and recruited by Redbridge CVS to raise awareness of local health issues within their community, faith or educational groups.

They speak a wide range of languages including English, Bengali, Swahili, Gujarati and Hindi, to cater to the linguistic needs of the diverse communities they serve.

Health Buddy Safaa Sayid, from Hainault, said: "Being a Health Buddy gives me an opportunity to build awareness on health issues that matter to me and make an impact in my community. I enjoy seeing attitudes change towards health issues that are often stigmatised."

Find out more and learn about future vacancies at www.redbridgecvs.net



Free health awareness sessions

Redbridge CVS also offer free health awareness sessions focused on HIV, TB and COVID-19 for individuals and groups.

For more information email info@redbridgecvs.net



NEW GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES COMING SOON!

Do you fancy getting fit and healthy whilst having fun?

Classes include:

- ZUMBA
- YOGA
- CLUBBERCISE
- PILATES

plus everything else in between!



PAY AS YOU GO OR MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Coming soon to your local areas, for more information visit visionrcl.org.uk/groupexercise



TAXCARE ACCOUNTANCY

ACCOUNTANTS | TAX | BUSINESS ADVICE



Member Firm

A COMPLETE SOLUTION FOR ALL YOUR ACCOUNTANCY NEEDS



Highly professional, always prompt in responding to all our queries. Mr Roy really understands our business and his strategic tax advice has been really helpful.



Excellent and knowledgeable team, seriously prepared to meet our accountancy needs and beyond. Highly recommend them to anyone in need of professional accountants.



Taxcare has made life easy for me. With their all-round knowledge, I don't need to worry with complex tax issues, I can focus more on growing my business.

103 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 4PU

T: 020 8478 3383 M: 07860 224 506 E: info@taxcareaccountancy.co.uk

www.taxcareaccountancy.co.uk

Tax Advice That Helps Your Business Grow



★ **FEATURING OUTDOOR REAL ICE RINK!** ★

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

★ **FAIRLOP** ★

Winter Village



Opening from 11 December

fairlopwintervillage.co.uk



Top up your immunity this winter

Vaccinations are the best protection we have against dangerous viruses like flu and COVID-19.

Vaccinations available this winter:

- First or second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
- COVID-19 Booster vaccination
- Seasonal flu vaccination



Scan for more information

Vaccination	Who can get it	Where	How to book
First or second dose of COVID-19 vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone aged 16+ • 12-15 year olds with parental consent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local vaccination clinics • Through your GP Surgery 	<p>Book via nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or visit a local vaccination clinic.</p> <p>Latest clinics can be found at www.redbridge.gov.uk/vaccinations</p> <p>Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds require parental consent and will take place in schools. Parents can also book by emailing info@healthbridgedirect.gov.uk or calling 020 4506 8833</p>
COVID-19 Booster vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone aged 18+ will be contacted the NHS when they become eligible • People who live or work in care homes • Health and social care workers • People aged 16+ at risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19 • Carers aged 16+ • People aged 16+ who live with someone more likely to get infections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through your GP surgery or Healthbridge Direct 	<p>If eligible, you will be contacted by the NHS.</p> <p>You can also book by emailing info@healthbridgedirect.co.uk or calling 020 4506 8833</p>
Seasonal flu vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People aged 50+ • People clinically at risk • Pregnant women • Health and Social Care workers • Children and young people • People who live or work in care homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through your local pharmacy • Through your GP surgery • In schools 	<p>To find your local pharmacy, visit nhs.uk/find-a-pharmacy</p> <p>Vaccinations for 4-15 year olds will take place in schools and require parental consent.</p> <p>If your child is aged 2-4 and not attending school, you can contact your GP to book.</p>

All information is correct as of 30 November 2021.

For latest updates visit redbridge.gov.uk/vaccinations and nhs.uk/wintervaccinations