



# REDBRIDGE LIFE



WE'RE KEEPING WEEKLY BIN COLLECTIONS



page 4

CELEBRATING WOODFORD



page 13

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS ILFORD LANE



page 19

## 33 years of love: Redbridge foster carer gets MBE



“She is an amazing person, and what she does changes lives. She makes me a better person and encourages me to be the best version of myself.” page 9

## Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre

# Courses

Check out our watersports, sailing, and boating courses at Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre. Build confidence, improve, and learn new skills on the water!

 **Watersports Camp**

 **RYA Dinghy Level 1 – Start Sailing!**

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 **RYA Level 2 – Powerboat Handling**

 **Paddleboarding**

 **Social Sailing**

 **Afterschool Club**

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Scan the QR code or visit [vrcl.uk/foac](http://vrcl.uk/foac) to learn more and book now!

*Vision*  
Redbridge Culture & Leisure

## 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

Thursday 20 March **7.15pm**

### Cabinet

Tuesday 11 March **7.15pm**

Tuesday 29 April **7.15pm**

### Planning Committee

Monday 24 March **7.15 pm**

Thursday 24 April **7.15pm**

Monday 12 May **7.15pm**

### General Purposes Committee

Tuesday 29 April **8pm**

### Licensing Committee

Tuesday 25 March **7.15pm**

### External Scrutiny Committee

Monday 17 March **7.15pm**

### Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Tuesday 1 April **7pm**

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 22 April **7.15pm**

Monday 19 May **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)

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## Produced by Redbridge Council

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Next issue out in June



# LEADER'S MESSAGE

## Welcome to the Spring edition of Redbridge Life

### Hi everyone,

Spring is here, and it's a great time to get outside and enjoy our parks, forests, lakes and town centres. This May marks the 80th anniversary of VE day. If you want to celebrate with your neighbours, you can apply to close your road for a street party on bank holiday, 5 May. You can apply by visiting [www.redbridge.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/street-parties](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/street-parties)

This spring we welcome Claire Hamilton, our new Chief Executive (an East London resident) and say a huge thank you to Adrian Loades who leaves us after eight years of service, who most recently stepped in as our Interim Chief Executive.

We have been independently recognised as being the most efficient council in London and the second most efficient in the country. This means we make every penny count across 400+ high-quality services. We're building 600 council homes,

have 9 Green Flag award-winning parks and 96% of our schools are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. Our children's services are rated outstanding across the board - one of only three councils in the country to achieve this.

I know there's still more to do, and I challenge teams across the council to deliver even more for local people every day. Redbridge is the fourth-lowest funded London borough per person. I know how this impacts us as a borough and I will keep pushing the government to get the funding we deserve.

Our achievements are a team effort, and we all play a part in keeping Redbridge clean, safe, and healthy. Being civic-minded - whether by recycling, volunteering, or helping a neighbour - strengthens our community. If we see fly-tipping, littering, or anti-social behaviour, we should report or challenge it. Small actions add up, and together we can build a better Redbridge.

In this edition of Redbridge Life, see how we're working together to support our community. Learn about the Reach Out service helping domestic violence survivors - and how you can help by donating essentials. Our public health teams are supporting older people to stay healthy, and there's advice on managing household finances and coping with the rising cost of living. You'll also find bin collection dates for the May bank holidays.

I want to thank everyone for doing their bit - and encourage you all to get out and make the most of the season in our fantastic outdoor spaces.

**Councillor Kam Rai**  
Leader of Redbridge Council



## Get your Redbridge merchandise today!

### Now available to order online

Redbridge was recently named, by Sunday Times, as one of the best places to live in the UK. And with our award-winning parks (two of which were listed in the UK's top 10), forests, lakes, our bustling local town centres, fantastic schools and an abundance of local businesses, we can see why.

So we're celebrating by launching the first designs of our merchandise, which can be yours at the click of a button. All proceeds will be reinvested back into the core Council services we all want and need.

There are currently two versions available, in a range of designs, so you can Love Ilford with its Marley the Mammoth mugs and bags, carry around a Redbridge tote, or enjoy a cup of tea from a mug that celebrates Redbridge, its parks and town centres.

Would you like us to expand this to merchandise to promote your local area? Let us know at [community@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:community@redbridge.gov.uk)

You can buy this merchandise online by visiting <https://loveilford.digipixilford.com> or in person at the Digipix shop located next to Ilford Station.



There is a variety of designs to choose from

# Budget 25/26: Keeping services going despite funding challenges

We're continuing to invest in services most valued by local people to help make the borough an even better place to live

Redbridge has shown remarkable resilience in the face of enormous funding cuts over the past year, and although our finances are challenging, we are sticking with our weekly bin collections and keeping our 11 libraries open. The services you value are here to stay.

Since 2010, Central Government has reduced our grant funding by more than 54p for every £1, which means we have £150 million less to spend on local services each year.

We've seen the demand for social care for our most vulnerable residents climb to an all-time high while the housing crisis shows no sign of easing anytime soon. 3000 households are living in temporary accommodation, and 8,000 are on a waiting list for council homes.

Deputy Leader of the Council, and Cabinet Member for Finance, Cllr Vanisha Solanki said:

"Despite these pressures, we have delivered a balanced budget that protects our most vulnerable people and continues to fund the services you care about. We are efficient with the budget we do have, and have been recognised for this by independent organisation, IMPOWER, who ranked us 2nd in the country for our spending efficiency. Moreover, we are committed to investing in new leisure facilities to serve people now and for future generations, and that will provide an income to the Council into the future, supporting our core services."



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

"Redbridge is the fourth lowest-funded council in London, yet we face the same issues as many inner London councils. Imagine the difference it could make if we received the average funding across London. We would have an additional £68m annually for local services, which could significantly improve the quality of life for our residents."

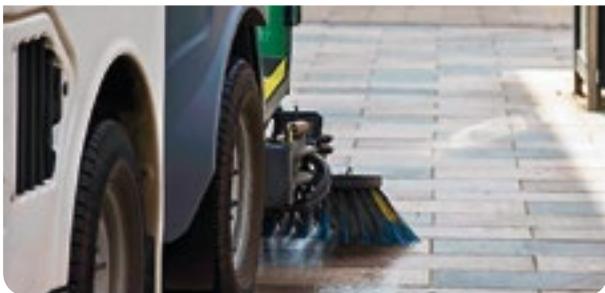
"In Redbridge, we get through together, and as a borough we're fortunate to have hundreds of volunteers who dedicate their time to making Redbridge a better place. We are supporting these fantastic volunteers and helping to inspire more local people to get involved to help keep our neighbourhoods clean and tidy and to look after each other. (page 18). By sharing responsibility and supporting each other in our communities, we can all help keep Redbridge a fantastic place in which to live."



Our spending plans for 2025/26 include:

**£6.1m**

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



**£8.7m**

to maintain a weekly bin collection



**£12.3m**

on supporting homeless people



**£20.9m**

on maintaining and repairing our highways and street lighting



**£37.8m**

investment in new council homes for local people



**£19.8m**

investment in adult and children's social care, to protect our most vulnerable local people



Approximately 75% of our budget is used to support and protect vulnerable adults and children. This includes funding for residential homes, fostering, and caring for people in their homes



We will be maintaining the following spending this year:

**£1.1m**

on new schemes to prevent flooding



**£4.4m**

on improvements in maintaining our parks and green spaces



**£0.9m**

on maintaining our CCTV to help keep us safer



**£15.2m**

on school maintenance and £2m improvements



**£1.6m**

on enforcement officers to patrol and keep our borough safe



Funded and supported by Redbridge Council:

**TASTER SESSIONS**

**AGES 5 YRS+**

**REDBRIDGE HOLIDAY**

**MEGA MIX**



**CINEMA or SWIM for £1**




**7 APRIL to 18 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**



# Building a brilliant borough



## We're investing in fantastic new facilities for local people, that will give the Council a long-term income

We're building high quality leisure facilities, modern and affordable houses and are helping to make Redbridge a borough where businesses thrive. These exciting new attractions will not only give local people great places to visit, meet friends and family, and get active, they will bring in an income for the Council, for years to come. The income we receive from people using the new lido, will in the long-term, cover the cost of building it, and will then continue to be reinvested in the core Council services we all need. Here's how we're making it happen: a cost-effective, energy-efficient lido that is open year-round, the largest climbing centre in the South of England, new council homes for local people and supporting businesses thrive in our borough. We're building a vibrant and promising future for Redbridge.



Construction on Valentines Lido is currently expected to commence in February or March 2025

### Year-round water fun at Valentines lido

We're building a state-of-the-art lido in Valentines Park that will be open all year round – the first to be built in London in decades.

You'll be able to have a gentle swim, play in the splash area, or increase your stamina in the six-lane, 25 metre pool that will be open all year round. A café will offer warm drinks in winter and cool refreshments in summer, and there will be a dance and exercise studio for those who want to stay fit.

The lido will be cost-effective and energy-efficient, providing a great space for local people to stay active, connect with others, and enjoy a healthier lifestyle – no matter the season.

To keep up to date with the lido project, please visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/valentines-lido>



## The South's largest climbing centre

Adventure and fitness enthusiasts will soon have a new destination in Redbridge. We're building the largest climbing centre in the South of England in Ley Street, Ilford.

The centre will have several climbing walls, roped climbing lines and bouldering walls, as well as a cafe and gym. The walls will be regularly updated with new, enjoyable and challenging climbing scenarios.

The centre will create jobs for local people, give people a taster of a fast-growing sport, and offer people a place where they can develop new skills.

Want to find out more?

<https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/rcc>



Artist impression of Redbridge Climbing Centre

## New homes for local people

One of our top priorities is to ensure everyone has a warm, safe and secure home. That's why we've been building hundreds of new council homes in Redbridge since 2019.

These homes will help local people live in affordable, high-quality housing, close to their support networks. These homes will be rented to those most in need on our housing waiting list. We're building these homes so that we no longer have to rely on expensive temporary accommodation. Find out more on page 26.

More on our house-building programme

<https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/hub-page/affordable-homes-programme>



New homes in Shakespeare Square

## Supporting businesses in Redbridge

Redbridge is fast becoming a destination of choice for businesses looking to establish and grow their operations, with over 13,000 independent businesses contributing to the borough's thriving economy. From local entrepreneurs to well-known brands, businesses are choosing Redbridge as the ideal place to invest and expand.

We're also renovating Queen Victoria House, a former registry office. This beautiful period building is being transformed into modern office spaces, to support businesses of all sizes.

For more information on how we're transforming Queen Victoria House, please visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/qvh-business-hub>



Queen Victoria House is set to be converted into office space for businesses



Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said "Redbridge Council is innovating to create a better future for everyone who calls our borough home. I'm proud to see the homes we're building for local people who need them most. Projects like the lido, climbing centre and renovation of Queen Victoria House will not only give local people great new facilities, but will provide us an income that we can reinvest into the core Council services we all want and need.

The work we're doing will ensure Redbridge continues to be a borough that people take pride in, and continues to be a great place to live, work, and visit, long into the future."

# REDBRIDGE REWIND

Exploring the Rich History of our Borough

## Happy 60th birthday, Redbridge

Did you know that the London Borough of Redbridge was established 60 years ago on 1 April 1965? And did you know the origin of the name Redbridge?

Before this, Redbridge was made up of two separate boroughs in the County of Essex: the borough of Ilford and the borough of Wanstead and Woodford. Aside from being next to each other, the two areas had little to do with one another.

In 1961, the Government decided that London should be divided into 33 boroughs of similar population size. Each borough would have its own council, giving them more power and control of public spending for their residents.

After much discussion about which areas should join together, between Ilford, Dagenham, Chigwell, Wanstead, Woodford, Leyton and Walthamstow, it was decided for Wanstead and Woodford to form a new borough with Ilford and Hainault which was transferred from the former Chigwell Council.



**Redbridge Council's first meeting on 21 May 1964. The Council met for a year before being officially created on 1 April 1965**

A joint committee of Council members from Ilford, and Wanstead and Woodford, was set up in 1963 to oversee the smooth merger of the two boroughs. According to local newspapers, there were several disagreements, including what to call the new borough.



**George Lane, South Woodford, about 1964**

Eventually the name 'Redbridge' was chosen. The original Red Bridge (so-called because it was made of red bricks) joined Ilford to Wanstead and Woodford, across the River Roding. The new name therefore symbolised the unity of the two boroughs as it strived to become one new community.



**High Street, Wanstead, 1973**

**'Be proud of Redbridge, as you have been proud of Wanstead & Woodford and Ilford!'**

**Woodford Times, 8 May 1964**

In the 60 years since its creation, Redbridge has developed its own identity. We have a diverse and connected community who come together to celebrate and support one another.



**High Road, Ilford, about 1970**

We have outstanding schools, colleges and adult education facilities for children and adults to learn and grow. As a place where the city meets the country, we have award winning green spaces for our local community and visitors to enjoy.

Do you have photos of Redbridge from years gone by? Share your photographs and memories of Redbridge on social media on 1 April 2025, and tag us so we can share them with the wider community.

You can explore Redbridge's history at the newly refurbished Redbridge Museum. Visit [visionrcl.org.uk/redbridge-museum](http://visionrcl.org.uk/redbridge-museum)

**Pictures courtesy of Redbridge Heritage Centre**



## Let us know about YOUR LOCAL HERO!

Our borough is full of kind and wonderful people who do great things for their local community, 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.

Tell us about the heroes you know at [community@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:community@redbridge.gov.uk)

### Meet Shagufta Asam – the big-hearted mum who was awarded an MBE for fostering Redbridge children over three decades.



Over 33 years, Shagufta Asam has fostered hundreds of children, giving some of the borough's most vulnerable children a safe, supportive and loving home. Her dedication to fostering was thrust into the spotlight in a monumental way this year when she was honoured with an MBE from the King, in his New Year Honours list.

This inspiring, big-hearted mum from Ilford said **"My husband would go to the local mosque and there was always talk about the need for carers for children, so we decided to do something about it. That was in 1991 – and the rest is history! Although I had my own young family at the time, I felt I wouldn't be taking on more than what I was already doing anyway. We always knew we wanted to**

**open up our home to other children and my own children were very accepting of it and enjoy having an extended family."**



At the moment, she is foster mum to three teenage boys, but over the decades Shagufta has taken in and cared for children ranging from babies to late teens, some as emergency overnight placements, and many for longer-term stays.

**"My first ever foster child was a baby boy we collected straight from the hospital. We looked after him for a year and half before he was adopted, and we have stayed in touch with him to this day. He's all grown up now and living a good life in Australia – it makes me so proud that we could play a role in giving him a good start in life."** said Shagufta.

**"I feel like I have children all over the world. It's an amazing feeling knowing how well they are all doing. Fostering is something I'm incredibly proud of – it brings so much happiness into our lives."**

In a heartfelt endorsement of her dedication to fostering, one of her current foster children touchingly added **"She's a kind and supportive foster mum, and always has good advice when I need it. When I first came to the family Shagufta knew I had a big interest in football and signed me up to local clubs to help me settle in and develop my interests. She is an amazing person, and what she does changes lives. She makes me a better person and encourages me to be the best version of myself."**

Encouraging others to start their own fostering journey Shagufta said **"If you're thinking about fostering – just go for it. It's an amazing thing to do and can be life-changing not just for the child, but for you too. All you need is a spare room, the heart to do it and time. It can feel hard at times, but that's just parenting in general! Being a foster carer brings so much joy and happiness to your life - seeing your foster kids thrive, stand on their own two feet and succeed in life brings meaning to everything you do."**



Find out more about fostering in Redbridge at [www.redbridge.gov.uk/adult-and-childrens-services/fostering](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/adult-and-childrens-services/fostering)

# Green Garden Waste collection

**CLEANER**  
Redbridge

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 7 April to Friday 24 October
- **Week 2 Garden Waste Collection** Monday 14 April to Friday 31 October

We will collect up to 5 sacks of your green garden waste on each collection.

Please ensure the sacks are left open so that the garden waste is visible.

## Chigwell Road Reuse and Recycling Centre:

If you're having a spring clear out, did you know many items can be recycled or reused via the Chigwell Road Reuse and Recycling Centre? Don't forget to check opening hours over the bank holiday period  
<https://eastlondonwaste.gov.uk/chigwell-road>



**OUR STREETS**  
Help us create great streets and neighbourhoods

## Bin collection dates

**Easter and May 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:

## BANK HOLIDAY changes to bin collections

### EASTER

Due on	Collected on
Friday 18 April <b>Good Friday</b>	no change
Monday 21 April	Tuesday 22 April
Tuesday 22 April	Wednesday 23 April
Wednesday 23 April	Thursday 24 April
Thursday 24 April	Friday 25 April
Friday 25 April	Saturday 26 April

### MAY BANK HOLIDAY

Due on	Collected on
Monday 5 May	Tuesday 5 May
Tuesday 6 May	Wednesday 6 May
Wednesday 7 May	Thursday 8 May
Thursday 8 May	Friday 9 May
Friday 9 April	Saturday 10 May

### END OF MAY BANK HOLIDAY

Due on	Collected on
Monday 26 May	Tuesday 27 May
Tuesday 27 May	Wednesday 28 May
Wednesday 28 May	Thursday 29 May
Thursday 29 May	Friday 30 May
Friday 30 April	Saturday 31 May



**OUR STREETS**  
Help us create great streets and neighbourhoods

# Faith, Festivities, and Togetherness - Spring 2025 in Redbridge

## How will you be joining the celebrations?

We're proud that Redbridge is a vibrant and diverse community where people come together to celebrate their faith. This spring many will be celebrating joyous religious festivals. Whether you are of any faith or none, you are welcome to join in!

### Holi



Holi, the Hindu festival of colours, celebrates spring and the triumph of good over evil. People throw colourful powders, sing, and dance in joyous festivities. Join the celebrations at

**Hainault Skate Park & Recreational Ground on Saturday, 15 March, from 12pm to 8pm.**

### Ramadan



Ramadan is set to begin on 28 February, depending on the sighting of the crescent moon. It is a time of reflection, kindness, and generosity. Many Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, aiming to become closer to god through reflection. Mosques hold special prayers throughout the month, with recitations from the Qur'an. Ramadan ends with Eid ul-Fitr, a joyful festival marked by feasts and gatherings.

### Vaisakhi



Vaisakhi marks the birth of the Khalsa in 1699 when Guru Gobind Singh Ji transformed Sikhs into a warrior-saint community. Sikhs celebrate with prayers, initiations, and Nagar Kirtan processions, featuring martial arts and community food distribution.

### Easter



Preparations often begin six weeks before, during the season of Lent (meaning lengthen, for the longer days of Spring) when Christians fast, help others and attend services. Easter Sunday on 20 April 2025, marks remembrance of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, is celebrated through church services, meals, and chocolate egg hunts.

### Passover



Passover is a celebration of the story of Exodus. During Passover, Jews remember how their ancestors left slavery behind them when they were led out of Egypt by Moses. On the evening before Passover starts, Jews have a special service called a Seder (Order). During the meal, the story of Exodus is told from a book called the Haggadah (Narration).



Councillor Kam Rai, Leader of Redbridge Council, said "I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone observing Ramadan a peaceful and beneficial month, and I hope you all enjoy your Eid celebrations. I also want to extend my best wishes to those celebrating Vaisakhi, Holi, Easter and Passover - I hope your observations of these festivities bring joy and hope. Please share your pictures celebrating these lovely events and tag our social media accounts, we'd love to see how you're all celebrating!"

## Empower a child Foster for Redbridge

LOCAL COMMUNITY  
**Fostering**  
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.

call 020 8708 6068  
visit [www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringlife](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringlife)



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# In Redbridge we care about our communities, each other, and our local places

Redbridge belongs to all of us. Let's work together to keep our borough clean and beautiful, and take care of ourselves and each other. Here are some fab local people doing great things to look after themselves, their neighbours and their local area. What could you do?



Roopal said "I enjoy it because it gets me out and keeps me active, and I can talk to people at the same time."

## Helping each other stay fit and well

Roopal is one of many people keeping active for their health. After experiencing a stroke, Roopal knew she wanted to be fit and active, and has been doing a one-hour health walk, every week, for nine years! She joins the Wellbeing Walk in Valentines Park on Thursdays. You can come along too, and walk at a gentle pace, staying active and making new friends.

To join the walk in Valentines Park or other parks visit <https://visionrcl.org.uk/event/wellbeing-walks-2>

Find other opportunities to get out and get active at <https://visionrcl.org.uk/sport-health-physical-fitness>

## Reporting local issues to get them resolved

Being community-minded isn't just about joining groups, or organising activities.



Reporting a fly-tip or pothole via the Love Clean Streets app means we can clear it and keep our neighbourhoods tidy.



Zuzana said "I want the shop to be a hub for the community, to start a conversation and see how we can make our area better; to see what we can achieve together."

## Helping each other reduce plastic

Redbridge local, Zuzana Ravasova, is passionate about waste reduction and started One Planet, a zero-waste refill shop in South Woodford. She helps people make small changes to reduce their use of plastic.

Zuzana's top tip "I found cleaning products were the easiest. When I used up a bottle, I set it aside and at the end of the week I took it to the refill shop and refilled it. You can't stop using all plastic immediately, it would be too hard, which is only because the convenience plays a big part in our life - but we can start making little changes that lead to bigger changes."

## What can you do?

Could you do a little more in your community?

Could you report issues, so we can fix them?

Could you set up a local walking group?

Could you volunteer?

Let us know at [community@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:community@redbridge.gov.uk)



# What's on our doorstep



Come with us as we explore Redbridge's town centres. **In this edition, we're heading to Woodford.**

Woodford is full of history, you can feel it as you walk through the area, and pass landmarks like the White House – originally built in 1906 but now home to Haven House hospice, and the Woodford Parish Church Memorial Hall, which opened in 1902. The Hall was opened in 1902 and continues to hold a wide variety of community events today.

On the land behind it was the childhood home of writer, William Morris, who lived there in the 1800s. Woodford has been home to other notable figures, including Winston Churchill, who served as MP for the area from 1924 to 1964, and suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst, who lived on Charteris Road near Woodford Station for over 30 years. A memorial of her still stands nearby.



Keith, pictured in front of Woodford Green's village pipe which was renovated in 1991 but dates back over 100 years, said **"It's a great place to live. There are lots of reasonably priced restaurants, a pharmacy and doctors' surgery all within a stone's throw from my house."**



Sophie (pictured left) said **"The people are nice and it's a very safe area. The schools here build good character and it's an amazing place to grow up, I wouldn't want to move out."**



Winston Churchill's statue looks on to pretty Woodford Green



This rich history is also reflected in the longstanding businesses that serve the area. W.D. Chapman butchers has been in Woodford since the 1920s, with its earlier location on Chingford Lane dating back to 1875.



Sue, who has been a cashier at W.D. Chapman butchers for 44 years, said **"My family have always lived here, but lots of families are now moving here. I can see why, as being so local to Epping Forest has such huge appeal."**



Kathleen said **"I love the sense of community here as I seldom walk down the street without bumping into someone I know. I'm part of quite a few WhatsApp community groups and it's great being able to keep in touch with those who live nearby. The proximity to the Central Line is also a big bonus."**



A plaque commemorating William Morris outside Woodford Parish Green Memorial Hall

# Transform your life, through adult education

Sarah Sea returned to the classroom after 25 years – and you could too!



Returning to work after a long break can feel like a daunting challenge. Whether it's due to personal circumstances or a long period away from the workforce, it can be difficult to regain confidence and skills. This was the position Sarah found herself in, after spending a considerable amount of time as a long-term carer for her son. However, after receiving the right support and resources from Redbridge Institute, she was able to overcome these obstacles and restart her journey from learning to employment.

Reflecting on her journey, Sarah said "Being a long-term carer for my disabled son was a full-time job. Over time, I lost my confidence and struggled with life. I desperately wanted to get back into work, but I found I had completely deskilled myself.

I finally plucked up the courage to enrol at Redbridge Institute of Adult Education on a bookkeeping course, followed by a series of employability workshops, including CV writing, how to complete an application form and digital skills.

I was extremely anxious and nervous returning back to the classroom after such a long time. The tutors were amazing and instantly put me at ease. I very quickly realised how much I loved to learn, which inspired me to do better, grow as an individual and get into the workplace.

I received support to help me find a job, which has helped me enormously to overcome my social and emotional challenges."



Watch Sarah's inspirational journey by visiting <https://youtu.be/ifriQeQS4dl>  
Or scan the QR code

Find out more about courses you could take at the Redbridge Institute for Adult Education at [www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk](http://www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk)



**YOUR DREAM STARTS HERE**  
**ENROL TODAY**

Careers | Qualifications | Skills for life

**REDBRIDGE-IAE.AC.UK**

**RIAE** Redbridge Institute of Adult Education  
*Transforming lives through adult education*



**MAYOR OF LONDON**

**SARAH SEA, ALUMNA**  
**BOOKKEEPING AND EMPLOYABILITY**  
**COURSES**



# 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) came 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.

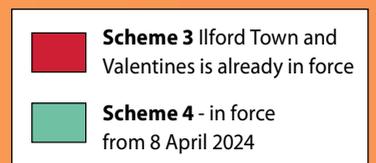
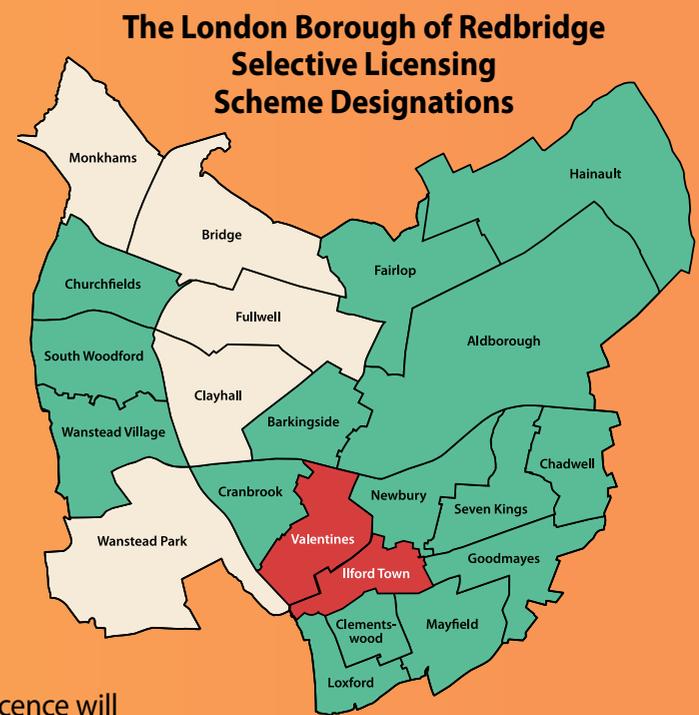
These schemes require landlords or agents of most private rented properties in these areas to apply for a selective property licence. To apply, visit <https://propertylicensing.redbridge.gov.uk/>

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 antisocial 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)



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



Join us for our next

**VIRTUAL**

## Redbridge Landlord Forum



**Thursday 3 April  
from 7pm to 9pm**



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?

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



To reserve your place visit Eventbrite at:  
<https://RedbridgeLandlordForumApril25.eventbrite.co.uk>

or scan the QR code here <



# We're helping our older population reduce falls and stay safe



## New technology, piloted by Redbridge Council, is leading the way nationally

Trips and falls can be unpleasant for anyone, but they can be especially harmful and dangerous for the elderly. Falls affect many people aged over 65 each year, often leading to reduced mobility, illness and loss of independence.

That's why we're proud to be leading an 18-month pilot project aimed at reducing falls among the elderly, by introducing exciting new technology.

The government-funded project will see us work with technology companies, who create products designed to make the lives of elderly people safer and more enjoyable. These technologies include balance aids and fall detection systems, and will

be used in care homes, private homes, and retirement homes. We will support older people to improve their digital skills, and discuss how they can make positive changes in their lives to work with the new technology so it can play a role in improving health. By the end of the project, we're aiming to help make elderly people safer, healthier and more independent, while reducing pressure on emergency services.

Cassandra Christie, Operational Manager at Oakfield Lodge retirement home said **"Informetis' InfoCare technology is amazing because it detects movement without cameras and sends information to a dashboard which carers and family can view. It gives residents their privacy, families peace of mind, and carers a better understanding of residents' movements. Some residents feel less lonely thanks to the Monica MiiCube's verbal check-ins and reminders."**



Michael Feldman, a local resident who is using MiiCare, said **"Monica is really useful. I have reminders set up to order my evening meals, my repeat medications and do my exercises so I don't forget them. I also like the watch as I can monitor my health and steps with it."**

## We are here for you

It can sometimes feel impossible to leave an abusive relationship, but Reach Out can support you to start again, if you need it

A local person had experienced years of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual and technological abuse from her partner. After trying to leave the relationship a few times, but without support to be able to live independently, she made the decision to contact Reach Out for help. Warm, friendly and dedicated to supporting local people who are being abused in their relationship, the team at Reach Out gave their help to this person, without adding any pressure, and always going at the pace they wanted.

The team helped this survivor clear significant rent and council tax arrears, which amounted to almost £60,000 debt. They arranged school placements in a new area and secured the family's electronic devices so they could no longer be tracked. They provided financial support for essentials like new furniture and the team worked with another borough to secure a property in a new area.



**Our wonderful Reach Out team are here to help**

The survivor said **"I had previously made attempts to leave but ended up returning as I did not have the right support. That all changed when I received the pivotal support from the Reach Out team. Their help has been an all-rounder, from dealing with my accommodation issues, debt solutions, financial support and our welfare in general. The adjustments have been a challenge, but manageable with the support of the involved professionals. We were made to feel comfortable, welcome, appreciated and without judgement. I want to say a big thank you to the Reach Out team."**

If you are experiencing domestic abuse and need support, please call 0800 145 6410, email [Reachout@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:Reachout@redbridge.gov.uk) or visit our webpage: <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/crime-and-public-safety/reach-out>

# Supporting families at the end of their lives

## We're increasing burial plots to support our communities in their time of need

It's never easy to talk about the end of life, but it's important. It helps ensure our families and friends are supported and that everything is in place when needed.

To help support this, Redbridge Council and its contractor, Westerleigh, has expanded the burial plots in the borough, helping more people to lay their loved ones to rest close to where they live.

In a population that's grown over the years we need more space, which would run out in the next decade if it's not expanded, and we need to ensure we have the right facilities for those who need them. That's why we're expanding burials in Redbridge for both religious and non-religious groups, and making sure each has the facilities they need. The Leader of the Council, Cllr Kam Rai, met with local representatives of the Muslim community where space for 500 dedicated burial plots are being provided.

We met with representatives from our Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths communities, so we could make sure everyone's needs could be met as we reviewed the bereavement service in Redbridge.

In Redbridge there are shared and faith-dedicated burial spaces, and we're also making woodland style cemetery space available, for those who choose a more natural environment. This will make sure Redbridge continues to be a borough where local people are supported to lay their loved ones to rest in peace as they wish.

Councillor Kam Rai with the faith leaders



If you need support after the loss of a loved one, please do reach out to the support available.

Samaritans **116123**

Redbridge Talking Therapies **0300 300 1554**, Monday to Friday



**Barley Bowls Club**

## Beginners Welcome

Why not give bowls a try? Whether you just want to 'roll up' and get some exercise or progress to a more competitive level, the choice is yours.

All ages welcome! Just turn up any Wednesday evening from 6:00pm to have a try and enjoy a cup of tea (from April-Sept). The only requirement is to wear flat shoes to protect the lawn.

We look forward to meeting you at the club.

**Barley Bowls Club,  
Barley Lane Recreation Ground,  
Thackeray Drive,  
Ilford,  
RM6 4QT**

Telephone: 01268 540 078  
Contact: Martin Chissim  
E-mail: martin.chissim@hotmail.co.uk  
Web: www.BarleyBowls.club



London Borough of  
**Redbridge**



## Have your say on our licensing rules for businesses

To keep Redbridge safe and lively at night, we're reviewing our licensing policy, which sets out the rules for business that sell alcohol, play music and serve late-night food.

This policy helps protect local people while supporting businesses. It's reviewed every five years.

Now's your chance to give your input. Share your thoughts by visiting <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/lc>

Or scan the QR code



# Do your bit for Redbridge

## Small changes can make a big difference to our community

Councillor Jo Blackman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability, said "Every year, we collect over 100,000 tonnes of rubbish, recycle over 30,000 tonnes and keep more than 1600 pavements clean. But we can't do everything. We need your help to keep our borough clean and running smoothly."



### Gas canisters

Inhaling gas from canisters is dangerous.

These canisters contain nitrous oxide (commonly known as laughing gas) and are often emptied into balloons before being inhaled. Nitrous oxide can affect both the spinal cord and the nerves in the arms and legs, resulting in loss of feeling, abnormal sensations, varying degrees of limb weakness, and even paralysis.



Parents can help protect their children by looking out for gas canisters like the one shown above. Please be vigilant about what arrives at your house in the post.

### Littering from cars

There is no excuse for throwing litter out of your car window. Our roads are not one giant litter bin.

If you're a vehicle owner, and someone in your car throws rubbish out the window, **YOU** will be fined **£100**.

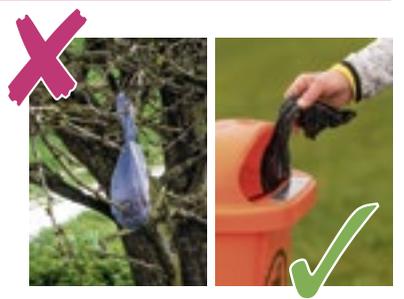
**Think of your local community - keep your borough clean and your fast-food rubbish in your car until you can dispose of it in a bin.**



### Dogpoo

If you are seen leaving your dog's mess behind, we will fine you. Even if you bag it, leaving it behind still counts as littering.

**You no longer need to look for designated dog waste bins; you can dispose of dog poo in any regular bin. Please pick up after your dog!**



Keep our borough clean and beautiful by reporting fly-tipping through the **Love Clean Streets App**. Scan the QR code to download the app.

Alternatively, you can report other issues online at [www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it)



Discover a wide range of musical opportunities with

# Redbridge Music Service

Lessons and activities for all musical tastes: classical, jazz, steelpan, gamelan, orchestras, bands, choirs, instrumental and vocal lessons and so much more!

From babies and toddlers to adult learners and everything in between, start your musical journey with RMS today!



For further information about Music Service activities, please visit [vrcl.uk/musicservice](http://vrcl.uk/musicservice).



Opportunities for everyone  
**APPLY NOW!**





# Blooming marvellous Ilford Lane!

Thank you to the local children who helped brighten up Ilford Lane with wonderful artwork and flowers

When local children were asked how they would like to contribute to brightening up the area in front of the engagement hub on Ilford Lane, it was clear they wanted to get creative. So, we launched a planter art competition. Over 600 entries were submitted by eager young people, which were whittled down to 64 finalists. These young people created fantastic designs showcasing the community in the area, and the love they have for where they live.

The winning eight entries are being printed on permanent signs, which will be fixed to the sides of the large planters we have installed.

But our wonderful local children didn't stop there... children from Cleveland Road Primary School, Uphall School, Woodlands School and our lovely local people from One Place East, came to see the planters, with lots of them getting their hands dirty by planting tulips and other bedding plants, which will bring a lovely splash of colour to the area.

Thank you to everyone who entered, and congratulations to those who created the winning designs. We can't wait to see the flowers in full bloom!

Art competition winner, Joanna, said "I drew robots because I see technology everywhere. I also used vibrant colours because these colours represent happiness. I was very excited when I found out I won because it is the first time I won a competition."



**We love your bright and colourful design, Joanna, well done!**



**Cleveland Road Primary School** pupils got busy despite the wet weather, and have planted tulips and other flowers, ready to bloom in the Spring.



Art competition winner, Sudishka, said "I really like nature so I drew the natural things that I see in Ilford Lane. When I won, I was so happy but at the same time I was embarrassed because everyone in my class was clapping."



**Well done, Sudishka, your design is superb!**

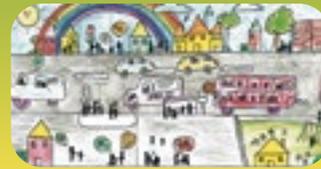
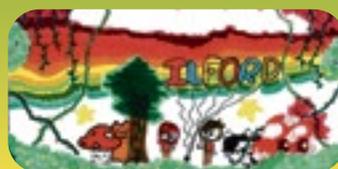
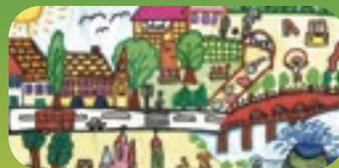


**Uphall School** pupils brought cheery grins to their planting day, as they helped brighten up their planters.



The designs for all 64 finalists can be seen in a digital exhibition at <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/hub-page/ilford-lane>

## More of our competition winners



## What is Child Friendly Redbridge?

We are working with UNICEF UK to help make Redbridge a child-friendly borough. This means we're bringing children's rights into the heart of our work as a council and in the community. We're enabling children to help design their local area, to give their

views on our Council services, to choose play equipment for their playgrounds, and more. We are really listening to children in Redbridge, so we can be sure to build a borough that is brilliant for all children.



We are hoping to become the first child friendly borough in England in 2025, with UNICEF UK recognition.

# Spotlight on our **superb local businesses**

Local businesses create jobs and make our borough a vibrant place to live. Here's how two businesses are helping their community, and how we're supporting others across Redbridge



We caught up with two local businesses to find out what it takes to run a business, what it is they enjoy most, and to garner words of advice for those thinking of starting a new business.

## Daisy

For the last ten years, Daisy and her husband Mark have run a florist shop, Daisy, on Wanstead High Street. They create floral arrangements for weddings, funerals and displays for special occasions. Having lived in Redbridge all her life, Daisy is passionate about her work and is closely connected to Wanstead's supportive, tight knit community.

Daisy said "I'm doing something I enjoy. We are lucky to have customers that are so supportive, and the independent shops along the High Street make it a lovely place to shop. Of course it can be exhausting, especially at busy times of the year, but it's my passion. My advice to anyone setting up a new business would be to carry out your research, find out which shops are needed in the community and work hard."

**Dave and Mark have been running their business for over ten years**



**Paul and his family host a wide range of community events for those who visit their café in Valentines Park**

## Valentines Park Café

Valentines Park Café, which first opened to the public in 1912, is located in the heart of an award-winning park. It's run by Paul and his family, who have served the local community for over 14 years. Having completely refurbished it before opening, he is extremely proud of the warm, welcoming environment he has created.

Paul said "We strive to provide a clean and hygienic environment for our customers to eat and drink in, and we host a variety of community events, including walking groups and new parent and baby workshops.

"Where possible we source our food locally. Our bread and rolls are from a local baker, most of our meat comes from a local butcher and our cakes are from a local patisserie.

"We are lucky to have probably the best view in Redbridge. Valentines Park offers some spectacular scenery, and we feel very fortunate to call this place work. As a business owner, my advice to anyone starting a business in Redbridge would be to offer a good service, be reasonable with your pricing, be kind and thoughtful to your customers and most of all, be patient."



**Our Business and Enterprise team is on hand to provide support and help for existing and new businesses in the borough**

## Sign up today to grow your business with our support

We're offering a series of workshops in the coming months to help local entrepreneurs grow their business. Led by experts, these workshops are part of a special programme designed to give business owners advice on becoming part of the supply chain for larger organisations and applying for work and contract opportunities.

For more information and to register, visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/ready-to-supply-accelerator> or contact the business team on [business.enterprise@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:business.enterprise@redbridge.gov.uk)

# Changes to how you bid for council homes in Redbridge

Are you on the waiting list for council homes in Redbridge?

Right now, you bid for homes using the East London Lettings Company (ELLC) website.

We're moving to a new system called Redbridge Homes 4 U, where you will place your bids in the future.

## Why are we doing this?

We have changed the IT system we use to advertise council and Housing Association homes in Redbridge that enables you to bid for social housing.

## What you need to do

Register on Redbridge Homes 4 U by 31 May 2025.

Please check the link below for access to Redbridge Homes 4 U and to get live updates on registration and changes to the bidding system.

## Need help?

For support and more information on how to register, visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/allocationpolicy>

## Key dates/things to remember

- You can keep bidding on the ELLC website until 31 May 2025
- We'll email and text you when bidding starts on Redbridge Homes 4 U
- After 01 June 2025, you must be registered on Redbridge Homes 4 U to place bids

## How to register

- Visit Let's talk Redbridge <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/allocationpolicy>
  - This page will update with all information about how to register once the new site is live
- Scan the QR code below



# DROP IN SESSIONS at Redbridge Music Lounge



**every**  
**Tuesday**  
**Wednesday**  
**& Thursday**  
**12.30pm-3.30pm**

Cranbrook Centre, IG1 4SB  
near the Melbourne Road  
entrance to Valentines Park



<https://www.rmluk.org>

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.



*Redbridge Music Lounge* 'Make Music , Enjoy Life '

# Stop dumping rubbish



We're calling time on those who show no respect for our borough

With our award-winning parks and green spaces, outstanding schools, and bustling high streets, Redbridge is a place we can all be proud of and should strive to protect.

However, a minority of selfish individuals and their antisocial behaviour are impacting the quality of life for our communities.

We're talking about the people who think it's acceptable to fly-tip old mattresses or furniture, the neighbours whose front gardens are a mess with rubbish and old junk, and those who dump rubbish on private land.

We've been working tirelessly behind the scenes to target these offenders.

## Cleared! Guildford Road

This property had rubbish overflowing onto the highway, (pictured top right). Our staff spoke with the resident and issued a Community Protection Notice. Upon their return visit, all rubbish had been cleared.



## Mayfair Avenue, Ilford

The landlord placed waste in the front garden next to the neighbouring property, who contacted us due to the foul smell. We worked with the landlord and ensured he disposed of the waste.



Council and police targeting fly-tippers



Fly-tipping halted

## Cracking down on fly-tipping

Fines of more than £1,000 were issued after several drivers failed to produce a valid waste carriers licence.

CLLr Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Enforcement, said



**"We will continue to crack down on those who think it's acceptable to fly-tip and dump rubbish wherever they like without punishment."**

**"We will do everything in our power to identify and prosecute those responsible, but we also need residents to play their part by keeping their neighbourhoods clean and tidy and reporting any issues. If you can send us photos or videos of fly-tippers in the act, it gives us a greater chance of identifying them."**

You can now face a **£1,000** on-the-spot fine for fly-tipping.

Over the last two years, we've taken nearly **600** people to court for environmental offences.



### Reporting fly-tips

Reporting fly-tips is easy. You can do it online through the Report It page <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/report-it> or via the Love Clean Streets App.

### Untidy front gardens

Report untidy gardens at <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets>

# Redbridge is getting safer

Redbridge Council has supported the Police to reduce crime across the borough

**SAFER**  
Redbridge



In 2024, our CCTV team helped Police arrest 315 offenders

Crime is **DOWN** in the following areas compared to last year

Personal robbery

↓ **DOWN 31%**

Theft from motor vehicle

↓ **DOWN 27.6%**

Violence with injury

↓ **DOWN 15.5%**

Burglary

↓ **DOWN 0.5%**

We are seeing big reductions in some crimes – and that's official.

Recent crime figures show a significant reduction in the number of offences compared to the previous 12 months. There are fewer cases of violence, drug crimes, and crimes against women and girls in Redbridge.

Robbery, including mobile phone theft, has also dropped. This reduction is a testament to the work our police partners have been doing with our support in crime hotspots across the borough.

We have been supporting the Police with our extensive CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera network, a highly effective tool in reducing and deterring crime.

CCTV recently played a key role in the arrest of five individuals involved in a violent incident at JD Sports on Ilford High Road. The CCTV team overheard a distress call about a gang steaming incident - a type of shoplifting where criminals threaten staff and steal high-value items. This gang had been linked to similar crimes across east London. The team quickly redirected cameras to cover escape routes while providing police with footage and suspect descriptions. Thanks to their swift coordination, the police were able to apprehend and arrest the gang.

The Council works closely with the police to further lower crime in the borough. The Leader of the Council meets regularly with the borough's police commander to discuss ongoing issues, provide support where possible, and ensure the police are held accountable for their work in tackling crime.

To help keep our borough safe, it's important to report crime or suspicious activity to the police.



**The Council and Redbridge Police are driving down crime**



**Clr Khayer Chowdhury (middle), Superintendent Clare McCarthy (left)**

Clr Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Enforcement & Community Safety, said "We want people to feel safe and secure in our borough, so we're pleased that we've seen a notable reduction in some crimes. Every ward in Redbridge has a dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Team. Please get in touch with your local police team, who can address anti-social behaviour and other crimes in your neighbourhood."



Did you know each area of Redbridge has its own local police team, called a Safer Neighbourhood Team? Find out who your Safer Neighbourhood Team is by visiting [www.met.police.uk/yourarea](http://www.met.police.uk/yourarea) or scanning the QR code

# We're here to help you gain control of your money

## Budgeting courses and useful tips

Managing household finances is essential, especially in challenging times. It's important to make sure you're receiving all entitled benefits, avoiding overspending, and saving where possible.

We know this isn't easy - but we're here to help.. Our cost-of-living website has in-person and online courses, tools, videos, and podcasts to help you improve how you manage your money.

The cost-of-living directory contains useful contacts for local and national organisations who can help with money, energy and bills, food and clothing, and work.

 <https://costofliving.redbridge.gov.uk>



**Our Benefits Service can help you claim the benefits you're entitled to**



**Come and speak to one of our helpful team members for support**



**There are a variety of workshops to help with employability**

## Work Redbridge

The Work Redbridge service offers free support for people seeking employment, returning to work, or exploring new career opportunities.

This friendly team can help you write your CV, with job applications, improve your interview technique, and they also run employability workshops. They can support you to find local training and job opportunities in a range of sectors.

Our employment advisors offer personalised advice and provide support with benefits, childcare, and starting a business. If you're over 18 years old, live in Redbridge, have recourse to public funds and have the right to live and work in the UK, you can sign up to Work Redbridge.

 [www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs/work-redbridge](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs/work-redbridge) or call 020 8708 2298



Redbridge resident, Amrita Zachariah said **"My employment advisor helped me to tailor my CV and held mock interviews. This gave me the confidence to search and apply for jobs and I was successful in finding a role which I really enjoy."**

## Benefits

We can help local people check they're receiving everything they're entitled to. They hold drop-in sessions and offer home visits.

The team can identify unclaimed benefits from central government, helping to reduce financial stress for local people, and increase their income. In 2024, they secured £513K in additional income for local people.

## Pension Credit

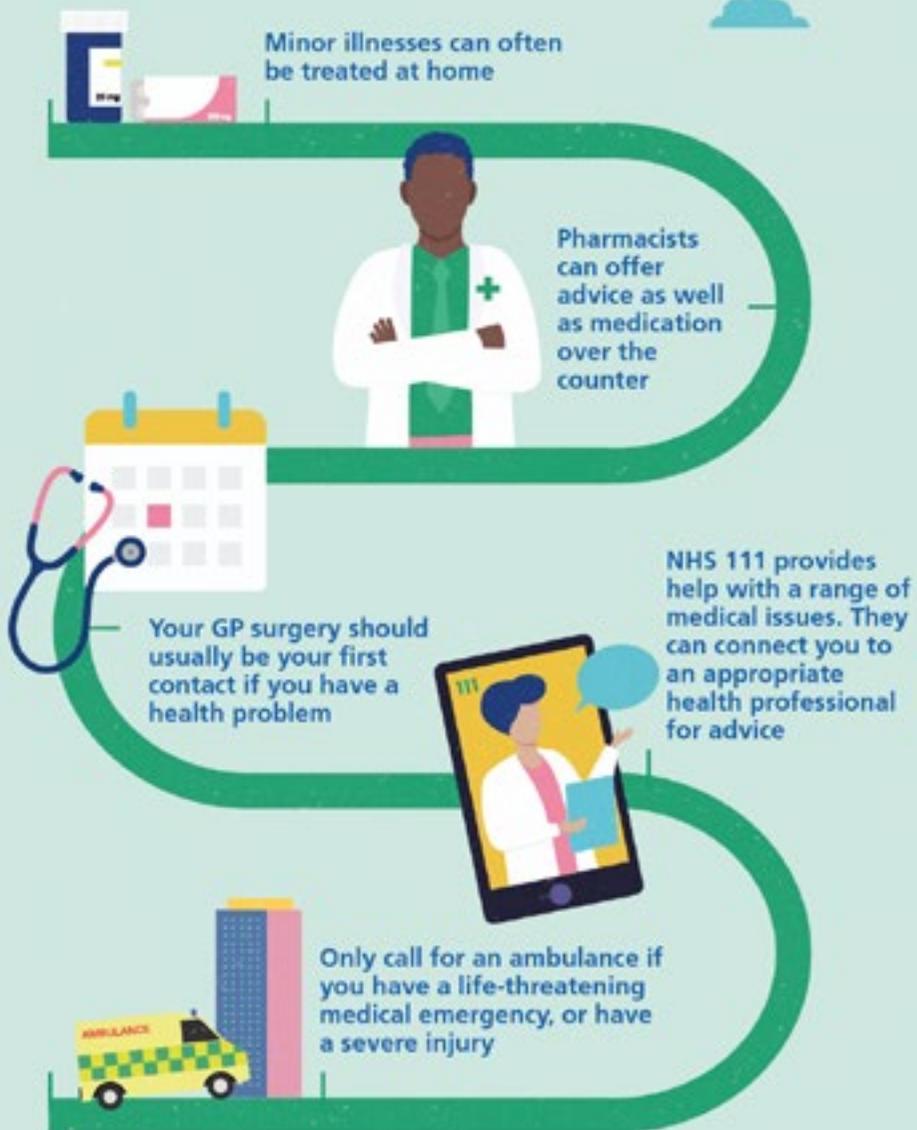
If you're eligible for Pension Credit, we can support you to claim it. Last year, we helped local people claim an additional £252,000. Pension Credit unlocks further benefits, such as Council Tax Reduction and free TV licenses for

people over 75, so it's important to claim it if you're eligible.

We want to ensure you're accessing everything that's available to you, to help improve your financial stability and wellbeing.

 [www.redbridge.benefits.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.benefits.gov.uk) or call 0208 708 4180

# Your route to urgent help



# NHS



If you are overwhelmed and feel you can't cope, you can contact your local mental health crisis line.

Call NHS 111,  
select option 2.

24 hours a day,  
365 days a year.

## Not registered with a GP?

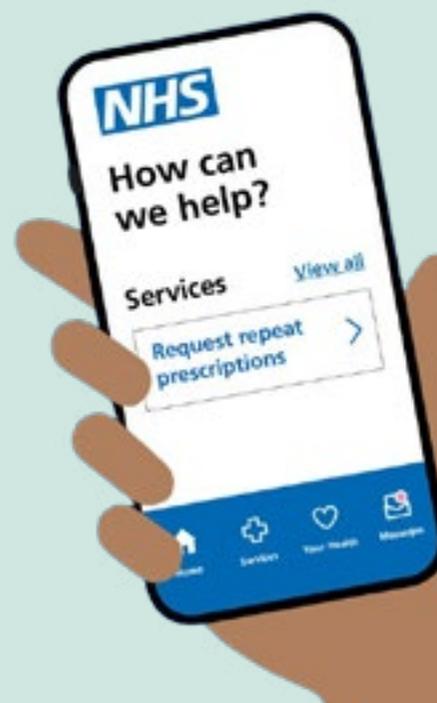
GPs are family doctors and should usually be your first contact if you have a health problem.



Scan the QR code to find out more.



## Download the NHS App



GET IT ON  
Google Play

Download on the  
App Store



Make sure your notifications are turned on.

# Brick by brick, we're building for the future

We're almost there! Our goal of building 600 new homes for local people who need them most, is nearly a reality

In Redbridge, over 3,000 people are living in temporary housing, and 8,000 are waiting for a council home. We're committed to changing that by building more homes for the local people who need them the most. By the end of 2025, we will have built 600 new council homes across the borough. These will include one, two, three and four-bedroom properties, which will be available for people on our housing waiting list to rent.

**Last year, we made great progress towards our goal. Here's how we're providing local people with a home.**



Last year **283 new homes** were built across the borough

Mossford Mews	<b>6 properties</b>
Shakespeare Square	<b>20 properties</b>
Heathcote & Glade	<b>33 properties</b>
Little Gearies	<b>103 properties</b>
Partnership providers	<b>121 properties</b>



Having secured funding from the Greater London Authority we spent approximately **£57m** building new homes in 2024



Last year we helped people move out of temporary accommodation into homes they could live in, in the long-term.

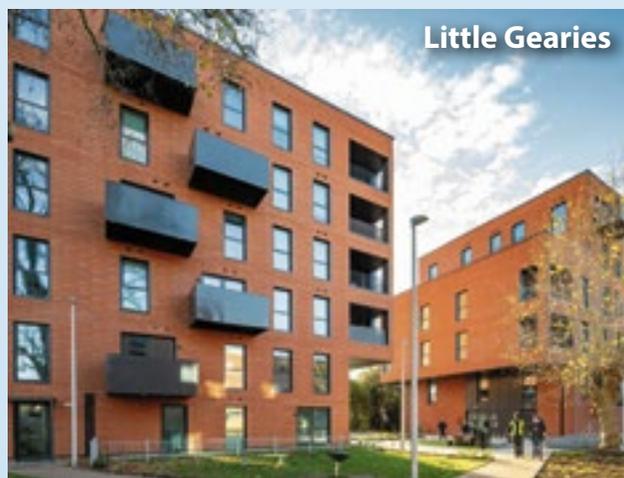
To do this, we bought homes for local people to rent from us, in areas they can afford. This means sometimes these homes are outside the borough, and although the move can feel daunting, most people we've helped have been happy to have a stable home for their family.

Another 121 homes were built by partnership providers in Seven Kings and Manford Way, which will also be rented to people on our Council house waiting list.

**We have completed housing developments, including Mossford Mews, Little Gearies and Heathcote.**



Mossford Mews

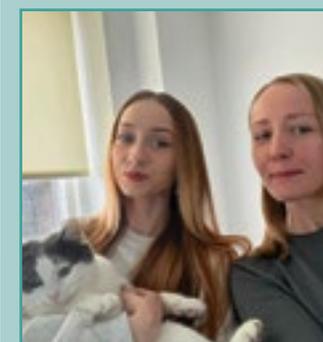


Little Gearies



Heathcote

For Dace and her daughter Jasmine, it's been a long journey to finding permanent accommodation. Dace said: "We have been living in temporary accommodation since May 2017, and this is our third, but hopefully last, move. Our previous accommodation was okay. We had space, and even a small garden. But then in October 2023 we received another eviction letter from our landlord. It can be worrying not knowing where you're going to end up. We got the offer of a flat at Little Gearies in October 2024 and moved in at the end of the month. The flat is very spacious and warm with a balcony, and the rent is affordable. The surrounding area is pleasant and peaceful. Our new place offers us stability without having to worry about eviction letters from landlords. Both myself and my daughter finally have a place we can call home."



**Dace and her daughter Jasmine moved into a new home at Little Gearies after a long spell in temporary accommodation**

## Looking ahead to 2025

This year promises to be a busy year with over **400** properties scheduled for completion, which include:

Little Gearies	<b>11 additional properties</b>
Budoch Court	<b>8 additional properties</b>
Ilford High Road	<b>96 additional properties</b>
Barkingside Yard	<b>98 additional properties</b>
Suffolk Court	<b>40 additional properties</b>
Loxford Lane	<b>159 additional properties</b>



For the latest information on the homes we're building across the borough visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/hub-page/affordable-homes-programme>

# Avoiding getting behind on your rent

If you are worried and are struggling to pay your rent, please do not ignore the problem. Support is there for you



**The rent service team**

Managing rent and other expenses can be hard, especially during tough times. It's easy to ignore the problem, but this can make things worse, and you can risk owing more money, or even losing your home.

Our rent service team can help you if you need it, by providing personalised, non-judgmental help, based on your individual needs and situation.

When we know of our tenants who are at risk of falling behind on payments, our staff help by checking if they have applied for the correct benefits, offer help with applications, and address property issues.

They help tenants prevent and solve rent problems, by building financial stability so people can manage rent payments whilst paying off arrears. They do this by making sure tenants are getting all the income and benefits they're entitled to and help to agree on a reasonable

monthly payment to clear any debts.

They work closely with tenants to identify any extra support they may need and can connect them with other council services or volunteer and advice organisations.

If you live in council housing and owe rent, or feel like you are getting close to falling behind, please contact the Council's rent service team.

Telephone

**020 8518 2400**

**Option 2, then option 3**

Email

**rent.earlyinterventionteam@**

**redbridge.gov.uk**



## What we do

- we offer advice to residents and businesses about how to get rid of insects or rodents
- we have effective treatments for certain types of pests and can help with identifying pests and information about what to do

## Officers will

- investigate the cause of infestations and recommend a treatment
- give you safety information, offer proofing advice and tell you roughly how long the treatment may take

## Pests we treat and cost

Rats	£170
Mice	£170
Cockroaches	£209
Bedbugs* up to three rooms Each additional room £40	£291
Garden Ants	£130
Pharaoh Ants	£237
Fleas	£180
Wasps*	£81

\*Our wasp treatment service runs from 1 June to 31 October every year

Book an appointment at:

**[www.redbridge.gov.uk/book-it](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/book-it)  
or call us on 020 8554 5000**

(Monday to Friday 8.30am-6pm)

The charges for these services are reduced by 50% for Residential Owner Occupiers who are in receipt of 85% or more Council Tax Reduction

These prices may be subject to change at the time of booking

## THE DANGERS OF WOOD BURNING STOVES

**Did you know that lighting fires in our homes is the largest source of harmful small particle air pollution in the UK?**



These tiny particles, once inhaled, can cause serious health risks, including asthma, heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and even dementia.

The best way to protect your health and reduce pollution is to avoid burning wood, coal, or solid fuels altogether. Switch to cleaner energy options like gas or electricity and improve your home's energy efficiency to cut emissions and keep everyone safe.



**Let's breathe cleaner air together**

For more information, please visit  
**<https://woodburning.london>**  
Or scan this QR code

The reality is

**you've already got  
what it takes.**

Fostering needs people like you.

It might feel like a big step, but when you foster with your local council, you're never in it alone.

You will have a dedicated supervising social worker to guide you every step of the way, you'll receive bespoke training and financial support and you'll become part of a welcoming local community of foster carers.

Local Community Fostering is a partnership between local authorities in north-east London, working together to inspire more people from all walks of life to become foster carers for their local council.

**Foster with us. You're more ready than you think.**

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

📞 020 8496 3437

✉ [hello@localcommunityfostering.co.uk](mailto:hello@localcommunityfostering.co.uk)



LOCAL COMMUNITY  
**Fostering**  
GREATER LONDON EAST



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