



### The Park welcomes new residents!

Discover more about East Wick + Sweetwater **page 3**



### Library of Things comes to Hackney Wick

Borrow tools, gadgets and more by the day **page 2**



# PARK NEWS

January 2021



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### To say 2020 was an unusual year would be an understatement, and no doubt many of us will be looking forward to 2021 and the clean slate that comes with it.

However, while 2020 was difficult in many ways, it also demonstrated the strength of community we have here around the Park. Bikeworks, Badu Community and Barge East, among others, offered invaluable support to local families and vulnerable residents, while it was fantastic to see furloughed professionals in east London volunteer their time and expertise to support local businesses and charities through The Match scheme. Over at Here East, Hobs 3D and UCL put their innovation skills to amazing use, producing much-needed equipment and medical supplies for hospitals, medical centres and care homes in London and beyond. This year we welcomed new members of the community too, with local businesses moving into their spaces at Hackney Bridge, and East Wick + Sweetwater welcoming their very first residents.

We were proud to see how much the Park was valued as an asset by those who live around it during lockdown, providing a space for fresh air and exercise, as well as a meeting point for friends and family. To top it off, we received a Green Flag Award for the seventh year in a row and were voted one of the UK's top ten parks in the People's Choice category! This shows what we knew already, that the Park

is loved by people far beyond east London, so we made sure to bring the Park to them in 2020 with beautiful visitor photos on our social media channels.

Venues and local businesses around the Park adapted brilliantly to enable visitors to continue making the most of what was on offer, from new outdoor seating to socially distanced gym classes.

We hope to still see the Park forming part of the routine of local residents this year, even as we begin to move - albeit slowly - towards the return of some activities which seemed impossible during 2020. As well as the venues being open for you to enjoy exercise

or unwind, world-class athletes are back in training - ahead of the 2021 Tokyo Games - and events are returning to the Park, with British Swimming Championships, Road to Tokyo Boxing and the Rugby League World Cup all set to take place in 2021.

Construction continued safely during 2020 despite the challenges of social distancing across sites, and some incredible progress has been made. In this edition, find out more about East Wick + Sweetwater, the new neighbourhood in the north of the Park, and creative hub Hackney Bridge.

**We wish all of you living around the Park a happy New Year - and the very best of luck for 2021.**

## QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK CHOSEN FOR COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN



Winter weather might still be in full force, but it won't be long before spring comes along and we can enjoy the Park in full bloom once again. This will be made extra special with

the new memorial garden of blossom trees planted in the north of the Park to commemorate Londoners and the city's shared experience of the pandemic. The 33 trees - one for each London borough - will bloom in spring, coinciding with the start of the first lockdown in 2020.

The garden is being created in partnership with the Mayor of London, the National Trust and Bloomberg, and will be the first in a series of living memorials to the pandemic organised by the National Trust.

## PARK WORKS

- Work continues to complete the new highway linking London Stadium with the north of the Park. Once the full road is open, Clarnico Lane will close for a short period for modifications and then reopen as a route for pedestrians and cyclists until this area is eventually redeveloped for housing as part of Sweetwater.
- Hackney Wick Station's new temporary entrance/exit opened in December linking the station to Wallis Road and providing improved access for people heading north of the station. In due course, there will be a permanent northern entrance close to the Wallis Road bridge entrance to the Park, but in the meantime this temporary arrangement provides better flat level access into the station.

## UPDATES FROM AROUND THE PARK

For all the latest information about the Park's facilities and safety measures, visit [QueenElizabethOlympicPark.co.uk/Coronavirus](https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/Coronavirus)

- Football matches are taking place behind closed doors at London Stadium, with small numbers of spectators set to return in line with Government guidelines. On match days, Stadium island bridges and the West Ham United store will be closed at present.
- All of the Park's venues are now open and operating within Government safety guidelines. This includes: the pool and gym spaces at the London Aquatics Centre; gym spaces and certain gym classes at Copper Box Arena (including those taking place in the arena space); court hire at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre; and certain activities at Lee Valley VeloPark.
- The ArcelorMittal Orbit is open from Friday - Sunday and will be open throughout the week during February half-term for The Slide and Skyline Views. Don't forget to call 0333 800 8099 to use your local residents' discount!
- The Park's Info Point is open from 11am-4pm each day. Tours are not currently running, although you can contact [guidedtours@queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk](mailto:guidedtours@queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk)

*All information correct at the time of going to print.*

## LIBRARY OF THINGS ARRIVES IN HACKNEY WICK!

Why buy when you can borrow? Library of Things is a place where you can borrow the useful household items which you don't use often from as little as £1 per



day, before returning them for another neighbour to use. Borrowing is an affordable, convenient and environmentally sustainable alternative to buying.

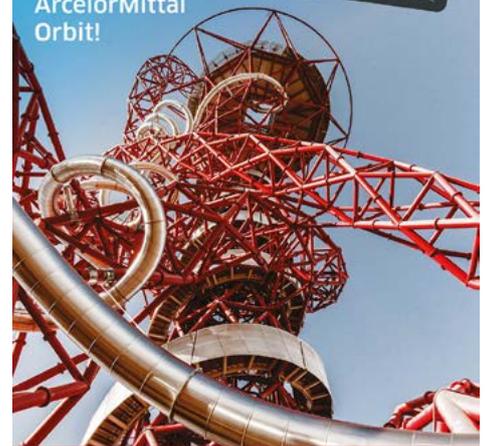
You'll be able to pop into creative community venue The Old Baths, 80 Eastway - a short walk from Hackney Wick Station - to borrow items like drills, carpet cleaners, projectors and even camping gear.

Hackney Wick Library of Things is launching in partnership with London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC), Stour Studios and Sustainable Hackney. Want to be one of the first to borrow? Find out more and tell them what things you'd find useful to borrow: [libraryofthings.co.uk/hackneywick](https://libraryofthings.co.uk/hackneywick)



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# WELCOMING THE PARK'S NEWEST NEIGHBOURHOOD!

**The Park's newest neighbourhood is set to welcome its first residents, with buildings at East Wick + Sweetwater beginning to complete.**

From day one, the neighbourhood has been carefully planned to offer homes to suit people from all walks of life, as well as bringing with it a range of amenities to create a sustainable community complementing Hackney Wick, Fish Island and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Eventually featuring more than 1,800 homes alongside offices, flexible workspaces, schools, new community spaces, open spaces and much more, East Wick + Sweetwater started coming to life with its first two buildings completing back in October last year, and first residents moving

in soon after. The first phase is set to be fully complete by the summer, bringing over 300 homes to the Park – available to rent or buy through a range of tenures – alongside commercial and retail spaces as well as a nursery and open spaces for all to enjoy.

New residents and locals have already been enjoying Clarnico Club, a multi-purpose social hub where people can find out more about the neighbourhood and homes, get a coffee and work flexibly. The café is the headquarters and training space for SEND, a social enterprise that provides barista training and employment opportunities for young

adults with special educational needs or disabilities. They're organising internships for young people from Hackney, Newham and City Colleges. In time, the space will also provide a range of independent events – but in the meantime, make sure you stop by for a coffee!

To find out more about the new neighbourhood, homes available and things happening, visit [EastWickandSweetwater.co.uk](https://EastWickandSweetwater.co.uk) or pop in to say hi at Clarnico Club on 1 Tandy Place (corner of Parkes Street and Waterden Road).



# BUSINESS AS USUAL AT HACKNEY BRIDGE

**Having reopened to the public in December following November's lockdown, Hackney Bridge is now becoming a hive of activity!**

Over the past few months, Hackney Bridge has welcomed lots of new local, independent businesses to the project as Members. The first of these is Ruff Sqwad Arts; founded by local Grime legends Prince Owusu-Agyekum (aka Rapid) and Ebenezer Ayerh (aka Slix), the foundation works to create meaningful cultural engagement opportunities for young people.

Another new Member is Dutchie Club, a talent management and content production company founded by Newham-based Nicole Logan. Dutchie Club focuses on representing womxn and the QTPOC community, working with artists that want to make a positive and lasting impact on their local communities.

2021 is set to be an exciting year for Hackney Bridge, and they are currently seeking a local events provider to take on their impressive events space and run a diverse and inclusive programme. They are also looking for talented local restaurateurs and bar operators to transform three canalside spaces (with outdoor terraces for amazing sunset views) into foodie destinations. If this could be you – or anyone you know – please get in touch with the team at [joinus@hackneybridge.org](mailto:joinus@hackneybridge.org)

If you haven't been yet,



it's well worth a visit to Hackney Bridge's colourful courtyards and a locally roasted artisan coffee at The Roasting Shed. While you're there, look out for the mural by Hackney-based street artist BUSK and browse the Maker Retail spaces to support small local businesses (including a perfumer, vintage clothes store, inclusive hair and nail salon, skateboard shop and more). For more information about Hackney Bridge and its members, follow Hackney Bridge on social media at [@hackney\\_bridge](https://@hackney_bridge) or visit [HackneyBridge.org](https://HackneyBridge.org)



## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES



**After the success of East Summer School 2020, we were pleased to be able to offer a smaller East Autumn School programme for the first time with our East Bank partner UCL Institute of Making.**

Despite the challenges of moving the learning experience online, courses were carefully chosen to be as interactive – and accessible – as possible. This included a workshop on 3D digital design and craft sessions focusing on repurposing materials found around the house.

There are plenty more exciting opportunities for local young people coming up over the next few months! This includes

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG EAST LONDONERS

our first ever East Careers Week, taking place from 1 – 6 March. Open to 14 – 21 year olds living around the Park, it features workshops, talks and webinars on creative, digital, design and engineering careers. This week-long programme is being delivered in partnership with UCL, London College of Fashion, BBC, V&A, Sadler's Wells and more, and aims to expose young people to the range of jobs available to them in the future whilst providing an opportunity to enhance their skills.

This is in addition to hosting our second Youth Conference, as mentioned by Tasmia in the next story, to provide a space for young people to discuss and debate the issues that matter most to them. If you are interested in finding out more about our education and youth programmes please go to [QueenElizabethOlympicPark.co.uk/our-story/supporting-communities/education-and-young-people](https://QueenElizabethOlympicPark.co.uk/our-story/supporting-communities/education-and-young-people)

## REFLECTIONS ON 2020, BY OUR LEGACY YOUTH BOARD

**Tasmia, a member of our Legacy Youth Board, shares some of the work they've been doing across the past year and ways for other young east Londoners to get involved.**

"2020 has been a challenging year but also one full of new opportunities. The Legacy Youth Board embraced this challenge head on, connecting online to make the most of these opportunities. We forged new relationships with partners in the Park and in our communities, and continued to work together to achieve our aims of advocating for young east Londoners, making a sustainable impact and empowering local voices.

On November 20, we celebrated the anniversary of the inaugural Youth Conference on the Park. As the Youth Board, we are passionate about providing platforms for local young people to connect with leaders in their community. The Youth Conference enabled over 150 young people to share their hopes and questions for the future with a panel of decision-makers from across the boroughs, including local mayors and LLDC leaders. The feedback from the conference has also been instrumental in guiding our work as the Board.

While it is our ambition to deliver the conference annually, the challenges of lockdown and social distancing has prevented us from hosting an in-person event in winter 2020. Instead, we reached out to hundreds of local young people through our Youth Survey to not only document their hopes and expectations from the Park, but also the impacts of COVID on young people and their prospects. This year we also have exciting plans to host Youth Conference 2.0 in the spring, so watch this space for more details!"

## HELPING LOCAL PROJECTS THRIVE WITH EXTRA FUNDING

**2021 brings good news to east London for local people, groups, organisations, charities and businesses!**

After an incredible response to LLDC's Neighbourhood Priorities Fund opening for bids in July 2020, we've been proud to provide support to 25 local projects. This funding will support initiatives ranging from sport to community spaces to skills programmes.

There were also funding opportunities for projects focusing on art and cultural opportunities, skills growth, Covid-19 relief, employment, education, innovation and entrepreneurship through the Westfield East Bank Creative Futures Fund, powered by Westfield Stratford City and delivered by Stratford-based Foundation for Future London. In 2020, they awarded over £100k in small grant funding to Hackney, Newham Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

If you think your project could benefit from funding, make sure you keep an eye on their website [future.london](https://future.london) (where you can sign up to their newsletter) and social media channels for the latest updates on funding opportunities. This is all part of the foundation's ambitious five-year programme that aims to invest £10 million into the local communities of Newham, Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Waltham Forest.

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