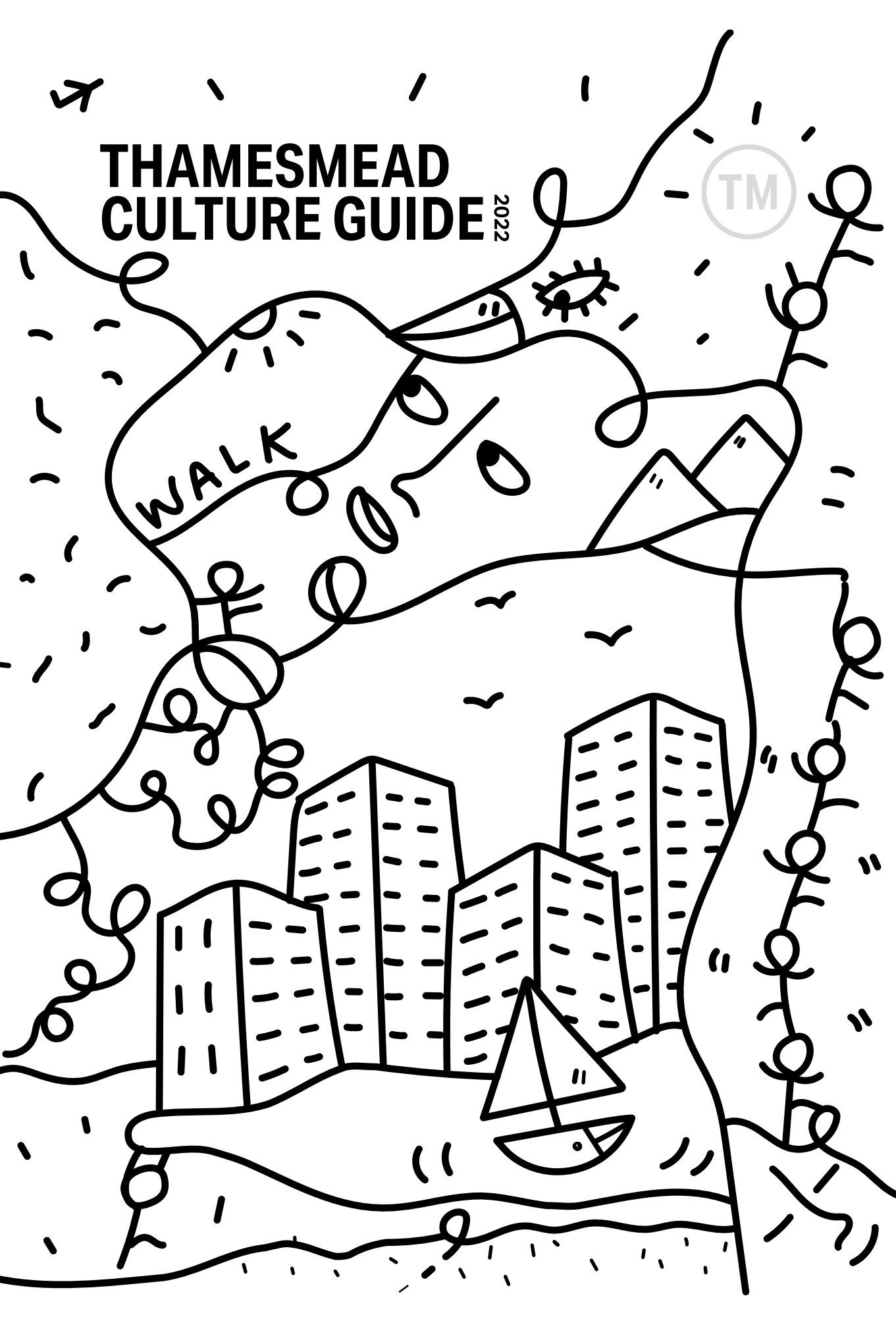


THAMESMEAD CULTURE GUIDE

2022



Cover image by Shantell Martin

Artist and philosopher Shantell grew up in Thamesmead. She lived on Coralline Walk, spent a lot of time on Binsey Walk, and would walk all around Thamesmead. The word 'walk' comes up a lot when Shantell thinks about her time here.

 shantellmartin.art



**A celebration of a
proud and pioneering
creative community**

Beautiful Thing, produced by Greenwich+Docklands International Festival for Thamesmead's 50th anniversary in 2018. Commissioned by Peabody.



Emerging among iconic Brutalist tower blocks, wildflower meadows, grazing horses and a network of canals, is a resounding creative force.

Rappers, poets, painters, dancers, filmmakers, artist studios, a community radio station, a travelling cinema, a contemporary art organisation, a flagship festival and street artists have all made Thamesmead their home.

This collective work is inspiring a groundswell of energy, where ambitious annual festivals and spectacular performances sit alongside nature walks, location film shoots and weekly life drawing classes.

Rising from a history of community leadership and diversity, this guide is a showcase and celebration of the town's growing cultural prowess.

Unconventional and non-conforming, this is Thamesmead's creative story.

Photograph of Southmere towers and lake by Nina Manandhar as part of *Pride of Place* photography project, 2016

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Our key achievements since 2017:



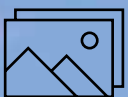
2
NEW CULTURAL
VENUES



4
THAMESMEAD
FESTIVALS



2
LIGHT FESTIVALS



481
ITEMS IN OUR
COMMUNITY ARCHIVE



11
LARGE SCALE
EVENTS



162
LOCAL PEOPLE AS
PAID EXTRAS IN FILM
AND TV SHOTS



1,500
PIGEONS WITH LED
LIGHTS FLYING ABOVE
THE THAMES



12
UNDERPASS MURALS



78,000
PEOPLE ATTENDING
EVENTS AND
ACTIVITIES



73
PROJECTS FUNDED
BY THE THAMESMEAD
COMMUNITY FUND



6
RESIDENT DECISION
MAKING GROUPS



75
COMMUNITY
BROADCASTERS
ON THE LOCAL
RADIO STATION

Windssocks by local artist Natalie Coste at the Thamesmead Festival 2021, produced by Serious



FOUNDED ON A DREAM

Thamesmead was founded on a dream. Hailed as the town of tomorrow, it was built in the late 1960s, following utopian ideals of modernist architecture and model towns.

More than 50 years on it is home to over 45,000 people and a growing creative community, drawn by the unique landscape of picturesque canals weaving through wild green spaces, Brutalist buildings and historic Royal Arsenal ammunition tumps.

From the Victorian engineering marvel of Crossness Pumping Station in the East to the brooding presence of Belmarsh Prison in the West, Thamesmead is atmospheric, distinctive, individual.

It is this unexpected mix that attracts new creatives to the area and continues to inspire those who have spent their lives here.

There's a genuine sense of opportunity. This is especially powerful given Thamesmead has one of the youngest populations in London, strong communities from Nigeria, Ghana, Nepal and Vietnam, and a long-standing Traveller community.

The principles of self-organisation and fairness that helped form the town's cultural landscape back in 1968 still influence the way it works today.

Early residents started a radio station, a newspaper, and one of the UK's first community trusts.

Today we have a grassroots network of organisations including textile and craft groups, a travelling cinema, artist studios and numerous performing arts and dance collectives. This is just the beginning.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations in South Thamesmead, 1977. Photograph by former resident and teacher George Plemper.

TIME FOR THAMESMEAD

The pandemic has shown us we need to love where we live. Culture can help us do that. It can make us feel connected, it can make us feel proud.

Thamesmead has the potential to be incredible. That means putting culture at its very heart, with things to do and places to go for everyone, all year round.

Peabody, London's oldest housing association, is leading the regeneration of Thamesmead – which sits on 7km of the River Thames and straddles the London boroughs of Bexley and Greenwich. Peabody aims to improve what is already here, grow the town and look after it for the long term.

Over the next two decades Peabody will build more than 20,000 new homes, create thousands of jobs, invest in shops, leisure and community facilities while at the same time enhancing and developing the many green spaces that make Thamesmead unique.

Billions of pounds are being invested in the town, which makes it one of the biggest regeneration projects in the UK. Culture is at the very foundation of it, and here you can see how.



Thamesmead Festival 2017. Produced by Emergency Exit Arts

WHAT WE'VE DONE



Since 2017, Peabody has made culture a key part of our long-term plans for Thamesmead. We have invested in local artists and groups, large scale events, community projects and cultural buildings.

These years have seen a groundswell of momentum from all corners of the town. Our work with creatives, groups and community leaders, as well as our partnerships with those from further afield, has developed into a diverse and energetic cultural programme for Thamesmead.

We have organised our work through four main strands:

Backing community leadership by supporting what already exists and enabling people to develop and deliver their own work.

Putting Thamesmead on the map with festivals and other large-scale projects that celebrate the area and expand its ambition and profile.

Making Thamesmead beautiful by commissioning public art to create a sense of place and show the town is cared for.

Investing in cultural spaces so that creativity can thrive in spaces that are easy to reach.

Thamesmead Festival 2018. Produced by Emergency Exit Arts



BACKING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP



THAMESMEAD FESTIVAL

The Thamesmead Festival is a unique cultural event in London, wholly led and programmed by a dedicated group of residents (pictured below).

It draws on the heritage of the Thamesmead Town Shows and Party in the Park and was revived as a large-scale event in 2017, complete with fireworks on Southmere Lake.

In 2018 a residents' procession celebrated 50 years of Thamesmead as part of the festival, and now this event has become an annual

expression of this creative community. In 2021 the festival was attended by more than 6,500 people.

The festival will be a flagship community event each summer, with homegrown Thamesmead talent placed front and centre.

Thamesmead Festival 2021 (pictured) was commissioned by Peabody and Three Rivers (see page 31) and produced by Serious. Thamesmead Festivals in 2017 – 2019 were produced by Emergency Exit Arts.



THAMESMEAD CULTURE FORUM

The Thamesmead Culture Forum is an informal and expansive network of local artists and residents. Hosted by Peabody's Culture team, it meets monthly to discuss everything and anything related to culture and heritage in Thamesmead. With more than 200 members, it has become a vital sharing and networking opportunity and has met every month since March 2017.

Join us on the first Wednesday of the month – all welcome. Email lisa.drew@peabody.org.uk to sign up.



BLACK CULTURE COLLECTIVE

Residents established the Black Culture Collective in 2020, and with support from Peabody have commissioned five projects that celebrate Black lives and heritage in Thamesmead.

These include a film from young local director Comfort Adeneye; The R.O.M.E.L. Foundation's programme of four exciting family-friendly events throughout Black History Month; and artist Holly Graham's project *ACTION!*, which aims to research anti-

racist community-led action in Thamesmead in the early 1990s.

In addition, the LPF Kiddies Club Access to Art Project has given a range of children and young people access to London museums, and the visual art exhibition *Black In Full Colour*, curated by The Collective Makers, was exhibited at Woolwich Works.

You can follow the Black Culture Collective on Instagram @bla.ckculturecollective

THAMESMEAD COMMUNITY FUND

More than 70 grants have been awarded for projects by the Thamesmead Community Fund since it started in 2018. The fund is overseen by a residents' panel, who make all grant decisions, and is open four times a year. Any resident can apply for up to £2,000 to deliver local culture or community projects.

The fund is made up of all the income generated by location filming in Thamesmead, and investment from Peabody Community Foundation. It is administered by the London Community Fund.

One of the many proposals the fund has supported is Almudena Romero's 2018 photography project, which saw her install a Camera Obscura in various locations around Thamesmead.

A Camera Obscura (meaning dark room in Latin) refers to the effect of an image being reflected inside a dark space. Audiences were invited to experience this immersive piece and make their own photographs of Thamesmead using Almudena's pinhole camera (pictured).

Visit ThamesmeadNow.org.uk for details of upcoming funding rounds.



THAMESMEAD COMMUNITY ARCHIVE

The Thamesmead Community Archive was established in 2018 to celebrate Thamesmead's 50th birthday and promote its rich history. The online archive holds hundreds of items from the town's past, including photos, videos, posters, brochures, architects' drawings, documents and audio interviews – spanning more than five decades.

The Community Archive is a long-term resource that will continue to grow over the years as more residents contribute material to it. It will also become an increasing source of inspiration for exhibitions, talks and artists' projects exploring Thamesmead's history.

The archive has been funded by National Heritage Lottery Fund and Peabody, and is supported by TACO!

 thamesmeadcommunityarchive.org.uk

Original image from 1973 contributed by Bexley Local Studies & Archive Centre

EXHIBITIONS

A programme of exhibitions at the former Thamesmead Information Hub has showcased the varied work of local artists for more than three years.

Recently, this programme was expanded into a pop-up space in the town centre.

Bits and Pieces – Odds and Sods by Thamesmead artists Scully and Scully was a multi-media exhibition

that captured the varied and diverse memories of people living in the area, including the Traveller, Nigerian and Nepalese communities.

It was commissioned by the Thamesmead Community Archive, and was staged over two floors in what used to be the Beaumont Bed store in the town centre in summer 2021.



THE CAGE™

The basketball court on Wolvercote Road in South Thamesmead has been a formative space for generations of young people who have used it for socialising, spraying artworks on its walls, dance and filming as well as playing sport.

A group of seven residents are now leading the commissioning of a new artwork for the space which will honour its importance to the local community. This artwork will be installed in late 2022.

 @the_cage_tm

TASTES OF THAMESMEAD

This community cookbook, largely developed during lockdown in 2020 by artists Hannah Ringman and Floro Azqueta, features the favourite family recipes of ten residents.

They wanted to create a beautiful book with stories and recipes that reflected the rich and diverse food heritage of Thamesmead.

Here we see Michelle Sanchez, originally from Mexico, alongside her version of tacos dorados de papa.

Now in its second edition, the book has been distributed to local schools and libraries, and can be purchased from TACO! with all proceeds going to a foodbank in the area. It can also be viewed online at the Thamesmead Community Archive.

 thamesmeadcommunityarchive.org.uk/explore/stories/taste-of-thamesmead



LOST LENDING LIBRARY

Punchdrunk Enrichment has been working with local schools, Linton Mead and Heronsgate, to deliver *The Lost Lending Library*, an immersive literacy project for the whole school. Its visit to Linton Mead in 2018 left both children and teachers spellbound, and the community is looking forward to its return in 2022, alongside other Punchdrunk Enrichment projects including *A Curious Quest: a teacher-led adventure*.

 punchdrunkenrichment.org.uk

Photographer: Paul Cochrane

YOUNG LONDON PRINT PRIZE

By Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair

This new competition was launched during the pandemic by Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair working with schools in Thamesmead and across London.

All the work showcased by the prize is created, judged and curated by young people themselves.

The competition is driven by the idea that all young people are artists in their own right. It aims to write a new

future for contemporary art in the capital that genuinely reflects the diversity of Londoners.

The 2021 prize focused on the issue of climate change. It was won by Thamesmead resident Meryl Basoa for her work *Climate Love*. Meryl, who is pictured in the centre of the image below, is a Year 6 pupil from Heronsgate Primary School.

 woolwichprintfair.com/young-london-print-prize



THREE RIVERS

Three Rivers is an alliance of local organisations who are using art to build community in the London Borough of Bexley. It collaborates with the people who live, work and study there to produce festivals, run radio stations, stitch quilts and become art critics. It's long-term aim is to create a new way of making culture in Bexley, by empowering local people to make it themselves.

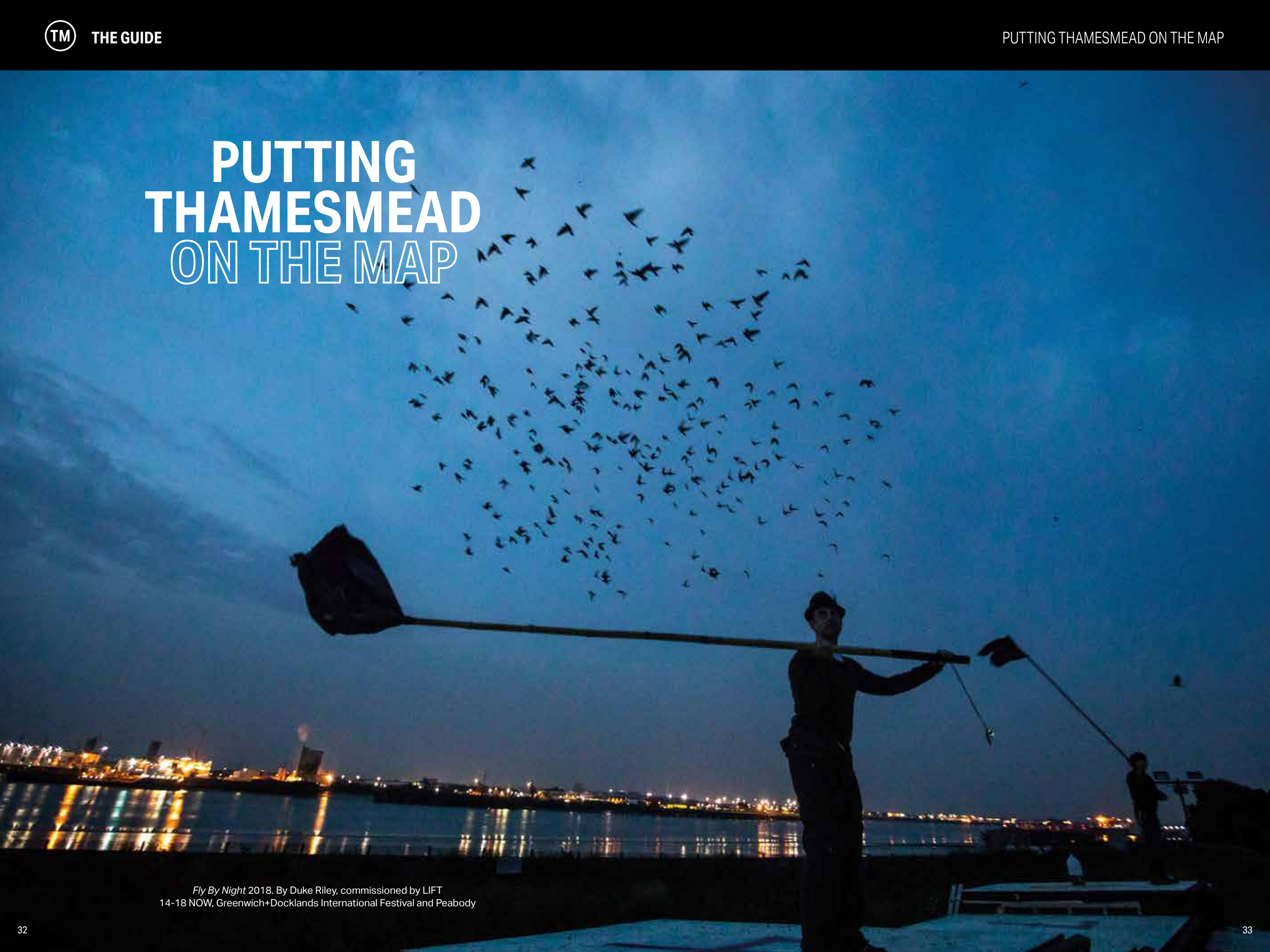
Pictured is The Hundred Club, an experimental creative space at Lesnes Abbey Lodge for 7-11 year-olds and their families.

It was commissioned by Three Rivers and the London Borough of Bexley and is produced by TACO!

Three Rivers is supported by Peabody, Orbit and the National Trust, and is part of Arts Council England's Creative People and Places programme.

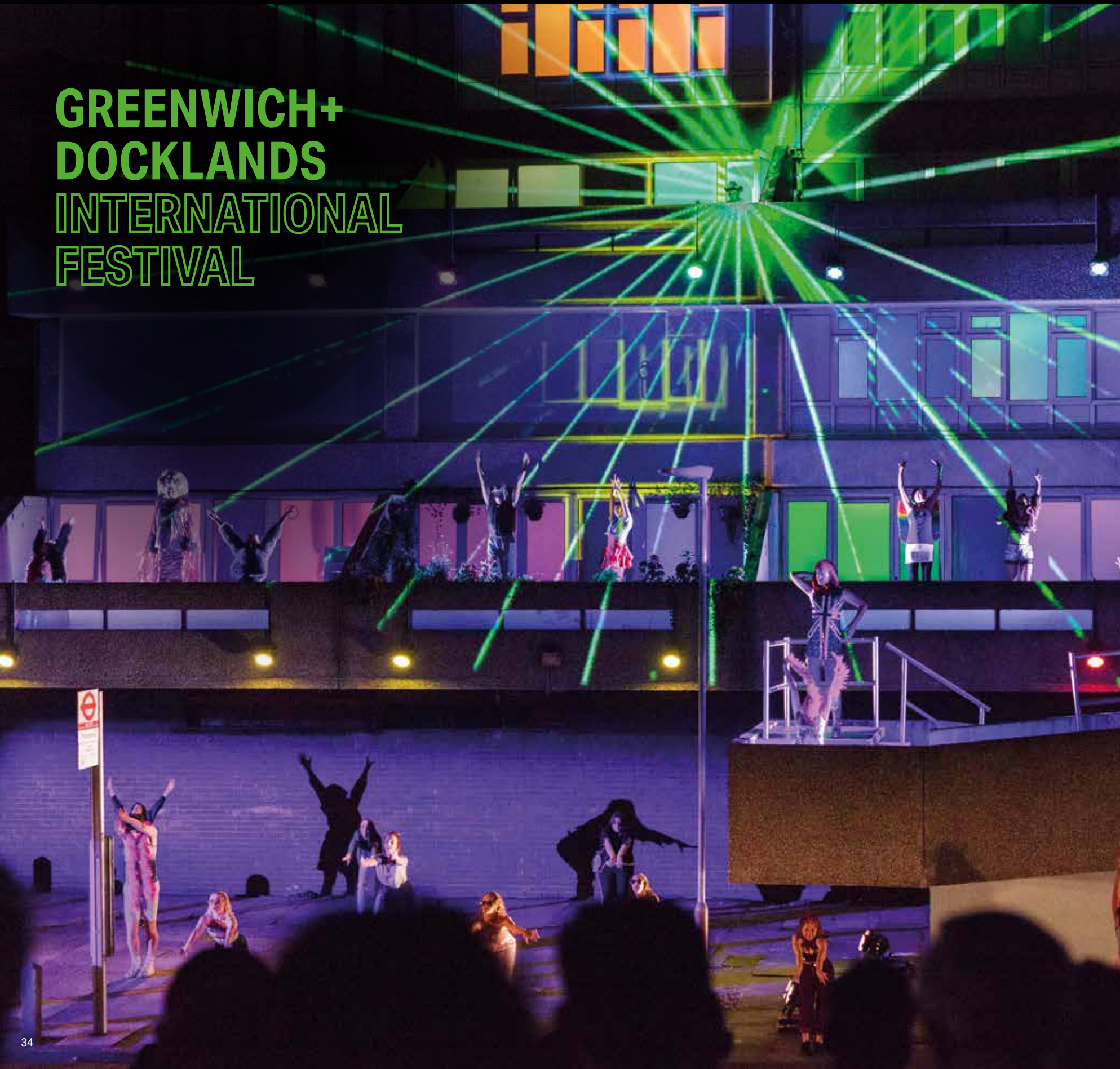
 threeriversbexley.org
 [@threeriversbexley](https://www.instagram.com/threeriversbexley)

PUTTING THAMESMEAD ON THE MAP



Fly By Night 2018. By Duke Riley, commissioned by LIFT
14-18 NOW, Greenwich+Docklands International Festival and Peabody

GREENWICH+ DOCKLANDS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL



BEAUTIFUL THING

July 2018

The annual partnership with the Greenwich+Docklands International Festival (GDIF) brings world renowned performers, delivering exceptional outdoor theatre with stories relevant to Thamesmead's history.

Beautiful Thing is an optimistic love story about teenage boys Jamie and Ste growing up in Thamesmead in the 1990s.

Written by playwright Jonathan Harvey, who was a teacher in Abbey Wood at the time, a screen adaptation of the play was released in 1996 by Film4. It has grown to become an iconic and uplifting story that celebrates inclusivity, diversity and love in the LGBTQ+ community.

Set wholly in Thamesmead, many residents were extras in the film and remember it being made. There is still a sense of local pride that Thamesmead inspired such a story.

In July 2018 it was given a homecoming on Binsey Walk as a reimagined dance-theatre production by Greenwich+Docklands International Festival. *Beautiful Thing* took place in and around the original South Thamesmead locations where Harvey's play was set, and marked the 50th anniversary of the first families moving here.

LES VOYAGES

June 2019

This one-of-a-kind event reinvented the idea of the circus coming to town. Over several days the people of The Moorings played host to the acclaimed French circus troupe Compagnie XY, sharing their stories and inviting this extraordinary group of acrobats into their community and homes.

In the ensuing performance the acrobats brought elements of flashmob and street party to their green spaces, roads and balconies.

They created a captivating experience that shone a light on humanity and our need to be nurtured and supported, through the exploration of familiar places and local stories.



BLUE REMEMBERED HILLS

September 2021

Performed on the Thamesmead Waterfront, a location officially closed to the public for more than 100 years, audiences were welcomed to Dennis Potter's drama about seven children playing in the shadow of the Second World War.

Staged by De Roovers, one of Flanders' most respected theatre companies, the production made links to the local history of the Royal Arsenal and Thamesmead Adventure Camps of the 1980s and 1990s.





FLY BY NIGHT

June 2018

Duke Riley's epic outdoor work saw more than 1,500 LED-lit pigeons soar into the skies above the River Thames in a glorious spectacle of unprecedented scale and beauty.

In its first international performance since premiering at New York City's Brooklyn Navy Yard in 2016, Riley's world-class airborne installation was reimagined for Thamesmead.

It paid beautiful homage to the First World War's carrier pigeons, the unsung heroes who played crucial roles delivering messages between personnel.

It was co-presented with LIFT, Greenwich+Docklands International Festival and was part of 14-18 NOW, the UK's arts programme marking the centenary of the First World War, and Thamesmead's 50th anniversary celebrations.



FIELDS OF EVERYWHEN

2020 – 2022

Using embroidery and textiles, artists M+R (Neil Musson and Jono Retallick) are creating a flying gallery of local stories in the form of a 23-metre-high balloon.

This will soar above Thamesmead, tethered in different locations during the summer of 2022, and will be visible across London.

The proposal for *Fields of EveryWhen* won Peabody's inaugural Thamesmead Open art competition in 2020. It was selected from 69 entries from across the world by a judging panel which included residents.

In addition to tethered flights, the balloon will also be inflated on its side and illuminated from outside, like a stained-glass window, so visitors can go inside to see the stories up close.

Celebrating the diverse local heritage and stories of Thamesmead, the balloon will capture these as a lasting legacy, and also become a symbol of the growing textile talent in the area.

To submit your story, or respond to stories already submitted, visit g-foew.art

THAMESMEAD CODEX

Summer 2021

Renowned artist Bob and Roberta Smith interviewed 19 residents over two years, from some of Thamesmead's first occupants to shop keepers, musicians, religious leaders, healthcare workers, local entrepreneurs, students and artists.

He recorded first-hand tales and experiences, which together weave a picture of how the area has transformed over the decades.

Bob's signature placard paintings reveal the often-hidden stories behind the community: fascinating pasts, surprising presents and hopeful futures.

Alongside illustrative transcripts of these conversations, Bob has painted images of the historic estate as it might appear in a dream, perhaps the one imagined by the first architects for Thamesmead?

The paintings will be exhibited at Tate Modern from January to October 2022.



FILMING IN THAMESMEAD

Ongoing

Fifty years after the arthouse classic *A Clockwork Orange* put Thamesmead on the map, its concrete tower blocks, man-made lakes and elevated walkways are still a popular backdrop for films, TV series, music videos and fashion photoshoots.

In recent years the likes of Sam Smith, Jude Law, BBC drama *Informer* and fashion brands from adidas to Stella McCartney have been filmed in the town.

All location filming is managed by our partners Film Fixer to raise Thamesmead's profile and provide work experience for people who live here. The fees generated are invested in the Thamesmead Community Fund (see page 24).



Shantell Martin's 2018 Puma collection - photo by Shurgji Rice



MAKING THAMESMEAD BEAUTIFUL

Mural by Curtis Hylton as part of a street art programme featuring 12 wildlife inspired artworks along Thamesmead's canal network. Produced by Moniker Projects.



CYGNET SQUARE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

Following a widespread open call, five local young people have been appointed to create Thamesmead's first Creative Studio.

Shalini Panchal, Comfort Adeneye, Gozeem Lawal, Gonzalo Fuentes and Whitney Manassian, all from Thamesmead, will oversee Southmere's first permanent public art commission in the newly built Cygnet Square.

Facilitated by Yinka Danmole, Vickie Hayward and Joseph Gray – a creative team with extensive experience in public art commissioning – this long-term, paid work experience will prepare the Thamesmead Creative Studio to lead the selection process.

It is scheduled to be unveiled in the Autumn of 2022 and will lead the direction for future art commissions across the town.

CANAL MURALS

Thamesmead has more than 7km of canals connecting five man-made lakes that balance the water table from the River Thames.

These canals are home to a wide variety of wildlife and plants, including freshwater eels and the carver bee.

A series of 12 murals and artworks connect the main underpasses along the canal and reflect Thamesmead's favourite buildings, wildlife and landscape.

Combining nationally renowned street artists with local ones including Jo Peel, Louis Masai, Hixxy, Curtis Hylton, Paige Denham, Keith Hau, Cieron Peel and Astek, the artworks create a continuous walking trail across north Thamesmead, curated and produced by street art specialists Moniker Projects.



CREATIVE KNOWLEDGE PROJECT

Local design studio Rima & McRae, and artist-in-residence Dunya Kalantery, have been collaborating with pupils from Willowbank and Harris Garrard primary schools to create *The Brightness of JuJu*, a new artwork for the library at The Nest in Southmere.

The work is set 50 years in the future, on an island of Thamesmead on which there are no adults.

120 children collected 'artefacts' of their lost ancestors during local walks. These were then developed into colour pigments by Rima's studio, creating a sculpture of transparent resin discs using moulds made by the children.

It will be suspended in the main library space accompanied by a book of poetry about colours written by the children.

Complementing this permanent artwork is a long-term engagement project led by Dunya, who has been based at the Lakeside Centre and working with local young people for more than two years, exploring the concepts of care and knowledge through storytelling.

The group has also been working with radio station RTM.FM, creating stories for broadcast, and it is developing a programme of activities for the new library when it opens in spring 2022.

The project was commissioned by London Borough of Bexley, supported by Bow Arts, Peabody, TACO! and funded by Arts Council England.

LUMINARY

July 2019

Luminary was a unique and spectacular multi-media art installation by renowned artists Heinrich and Palmer, commissioned for Crossness Pumping Station to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sir Joseph Bazalgette, the great engineer who built London's sewers.

It combined 3D laser scanning technology, video projection, sound and lighting effects to create an ethereal and immersive exploration of this iconic heritage building.





LIGHT FESTIVALS

February 2020 and November 2021

Our first Light Festival was staged in 2020 after local people requested a winter event.

Art installations brought light and intrigue to little known spaces such as Butts Wood and Tump 53.

In 2021 *Light the Way* created a magical route of installations from Lesnes Abbey down to Southmere Lake. It was delivered by Emergency Exit Arts in partnership with London Borough of Bexley, and featured new commissions from local artists inspired by Thamesmead's wild landscapes.

INVESTING IN CULTURAL SPACES



Renovation of Lakeside Centre completed in 2019 by Bow Arts with support from the Mayor of London and the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), Peabody and Arts Council England.

CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Peabody's commitment to building long-term spaces for making and experiencing culture was published in the 2020 Thamesmead Cultural Infrastructure Plan, *A Home for Culture*; the first local plan of its kind in London.

www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk/media/3318/thamesmead-cultural-infrastructure-plan_a-home-for-culture.pdf

This sets out Peabody's vision for creating more cultural spaces so culture and creativity can be part of everyday life. Our investment has begun with the support of the Lakeside Centre and TACO!



LAKESIDE CENTRE

Bow Arts has brought the iconic Lakeside Centre back to life, investing in its future as a cultural centre at the heart of Thamesmead.

An original GLC community building constructed in the early 1970s, it was home to a restaurant, nightclub, and bar, and then the setting for the Channel 4 teen drama *Misfits* in the 2000s.

It is now home to studios for 35 local artists and hosts a series of cultural and education projects. The Centre also houses a community café and children's nursery run by the YMCA, a community garden, and has plans for an enterprise kitchen.

Funded by the Mayor of London and the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP), Peabody and Arts Council England – Bow Arts completed the significant renovation of the building in 2019.

Working in partnership with Peabody in Thamesmead since 2017, Bow Arts is also managing a series of guardian residential properties that would otherwise have been empty.

This provides low-cost housing for artists, which has resulted in over 35 creatives relocating to Thamesmead and informally working with residents and communities in the development of grassroots projects.


bowarts.org/lakeside-centre/whats-on

TACO!

Thamesmead Arts and Culture Office (TACO!) is a contemporary arts organisation borne out of the town which works with local and visiting artists to develop projects and research.

It presents this work through an ambitious exhibition and publishing programme, as well as events, workshops, training and discussions. It has become a place for people to meet, socialise and discuss creativity.

From 2022, TACO! will be moving to a long-term home in Cygnet Square, providing a year-round cultural, social and broadcasting offer for everyone, putting culture at the heart of our civic spaces.

 taco.org.uk
 [@tracey_aint_coming_out](https://www.instagram.com/tracey_aint_coming_out)

RTM.FM

RTM.FM is a community radio station developed and run by TACO! with a team of 15 volunteer producers. It works with more than 75 local broadcasters from across Thamesmead and South East London.

Inspired by the original Radio Thamesmead, the town's first local radio station in the 1970s, RTM.FM is a platform for community produced culture, debate, art and music.

The station provides opportunities for people to produce and distribute their own content and learn skills in broadcasting, production and presenting.

 RTM.FM
 [@rtm_fm](https://www.instagram.com/rtm_fm)



WHAT'S TO COME IN 2022



Culture and creativity are never finished. There is always more to explore, more to express, more to communicate.

What's next for you? Are you a local creative with an idea to realise, or want to get involved?

Look out for the paid opportunities for local creatives that we promote throughout the year or join our monthly Culture Forum to talk about new ideas we might be able to support.

Are you a partner looking for a new home or collaborator? There is space for opportunity in Thamesmead, and new possibilities to be explored.

Get in touch!

Here are some of the things to come in 2022:

First permanent public artwork to be unveiled, commissioned by the Thamesmead Creative Studio – a collective of local young people

Thamesmead Festival – our flagship community event showcasing local talent

TACO's opening of long-term home in Cygnet Square

Fields of EveryWhen hot air balloon flights over Thamesmead

Return of Greenwich+Docklands International Festival with outdoor theatre performances in Thamesmead

The Cage artwork commissioned by residents

Open City monthly tours of Thamesmead's film history

Development of Thamesmead's Black Culture Collective

Development of the Thamesmead Community Archive

Ongoing Three Rivers programme in Bexley

Workshop from *Fields of EveryWhen* at the Thamesmead Festival 2021



GET IN TOUCH

Culture is not a solo pursuit. Many hands have shaped the creative work in Thamesmead over the past five years, enabling all this activity to happen.

Peabody's cultural programme for Thamesmead is led by a two-person team, Adriana Marques, Head of Cultural Strategy, and Lisa Drew, Cultural Programme Manager.

They have worked with an incredible cast of delivery partners over the years, including: Bow Arts; TACO!; Greenwich+Docklands International Festival; Emergency Exit Arts; Serious; LIFT; Global Fusion Music and Arts; 14-18 NOW and Moniker Projects among others.

None of this could be delivered without the support from our partners at Royal Borough of Greenwich, London Borough of Bexley and Greater London Authority.

GET INVOLVED

Join the monthly Culture Forum to be part of the conversation. This takes place on the first Wednesday of every month at 5pm, alternating on Zoom and in person.

CONTACT

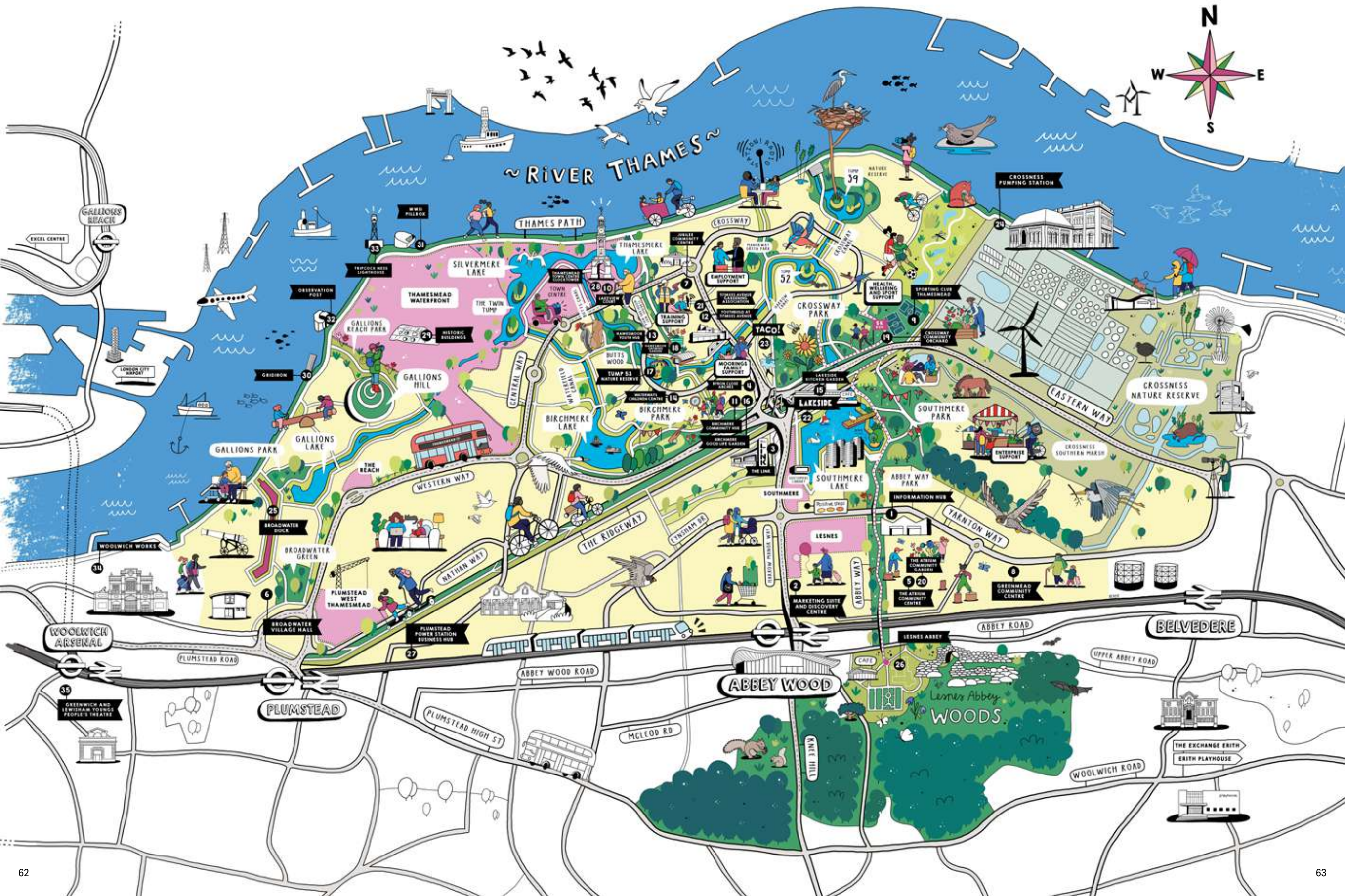
Adriana Marques

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Lisa Drew

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email to sign up for the Culture Forum



Peabody in Thamesmead

Peabody has been creating opportunities for Londoners since 1862, when it was established by the American banker and philanthropist, George Peabody. It is the capital's oldest housing association. It owns and manages around 66,000 homes, providing affordable housing for more than 130,000 people. This is set to grow through new housing developments across London. As well as bricks and mortar, Peabody provides a wide range of community programmes for its residents and neighbourhoods, including help with employment and training, health and wellbeing projects and family support programmes.



Thamesmead is a town in South-East London and is the same size as central London with a population of 45,000 people. Its rich landscape includes 240 hectares of parks and green space; 7km of canals; five lakes; 7km of river frontage and 30,000 trees. It is a remarkable place. Fifty years after the first homes were completed in 1968, Peabody's vision is that Thamesmead will finally realise its potential as London's new town with 20,000 homes built over thirty years, along with thousands of new jobs, leisure, cultural and commercial facilities. The area's green spaces, waterways and lakes will be at the heart of everyday life and thanks to the coming transport improvements it will be just 20 minutes away from the West End.

Peabody's long-term regeneration of Thamesmead has set five goals for five years. These are:

Lived Experience:

Sort out the basics. Make Thamesmead feel well-managed and cared for.

Growth & Regeneration:

Revitalise the built environment. Build new homes, leisure, and commercial spaces to broaden the town's offer.

Landscape:

Improve the quality and use of the natural spaces.

Culture:

Make great culture part of everyday life and use it to put Thamesmead on the map.

Community:

Help people be happier, healthier and wealthier.

The Thamesmead Culture Guide 2022 is a Peabody publication.

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Designed by Moyo Creative

 [moyocreative.com](https://www.moyocreative.com)

For more information visit

 thamesmeadnow.org.uk

 [ThamesmeadLDN](https://www.facebook.com/ThamesmeadLDN)

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

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

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