



# Talk of Thamesmead

The publication for Thamesmead residents

Issue 11  
Autumn  
2023



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## Find out what's happening

Do you want to find out more about what Peabody's team in Thamesmead is up to? There are a number of ways you can stay in touch.



### Keep an eye on our website

[www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk](http://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk)



### Connect with our social channels

Twitter, Facebook and TikTok @ThamesmeadLDN and Instagram @ThamesmeadNow



### Sign up to our monthly online newsletter

via the 'Contact Us' section at [www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk](http://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk)



### If you have a question

email [thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk](mailto:thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk) use the contact form on [www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk](http://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk) or ring us on 020 3828 3671.

### If you'd rather speak to someone in person

We can arrange to meet you at **The Nest Community Building and Library, 3 Cygnet Square, SE2 9FA.** Please email us at [thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk](mailto:thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk) to arrange a date and time.

### If you have a sales enquiry

you can visit our Sales Suite from Tuesday to Saturday between 10am-6pm or Thursday between 11am-7pm. Alternatively, please call 020 3930 8562 or register your interest at [peabodynewhomes.co.uk](http://peabodynewhomes.co.uk) and a member of the team will be in touch.

# Hello Thamesmead

Welcome to the autumn edition of Talk of Thamesmead. The publication designed to celebrate everything we all love about the town and focus on what is important to you.

In this edition you'll find stories about the great things going on in Thamesmead. You can also read about this summer's Thamesmead Festival, which was once again a real success (see pages 4-6).

Our flagship event showcases much of the tremendous talent in Thamesmead and beyond and is getting bigger and bigger each year. It was great to see so many visitors once again and to meet many of you at the Peabody zone.

There's great community spirit across Thamesmead. There are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved in community life, as this issue shows.

We want everyone in Thamesmead to feel proud to call it home. The festival is one way of doing this. But there are lots of other things we're doing too. In this issue you'll read more about our Neighbourhoods Team and the work they do to support Peabody residents across the town (see pages 12-14). You'll also learn why you'll start seeing them more often.

We hope you enjoy our latest issue. Remember there are lots of ways to keep up to date with what's happening across the town. You can sign up to our monthly newsletter and follow us on social media. We look forward to staying in touch.

There was also some sad news this summer when Peabody Chair, Lord Bob Kerslake, passed away following a short illness.

Bob was always a passionate and vocal supporter of Thamesmead and the work going on here. He never missed an opportunity to visit and see the latest developments for himself.

Bob dedicated his life to public service, firstly in local government and then running various public bodies before becoming Head of the Civil Service. After leaving government he took on a number of high-profile roles, including becoming Chair of Peabody in 2015.

His support, counsel and humour will be greatly missed by all of us at Peabody in Thamesmead who were fortunate enough to know him.



*John*

**John Lewis**  
Thamesmead  
Executive Director, Peabody

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## Get social

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## Painting the town

Thamesmead has been enjoying an explosion of creativity and colour over the past few months, with the creation of a new series of murals.

Artists Nadina Ali, duo Daisy Allen and Ellen Camilla Rose, Paige Denham, Lours, creative collective Trapped in Zone One (lead artist Alex Cullen) and Jeru Nomi were co-commissioned by Peabody and the Street Art Group, a collective consisting of residents, artists and industry experts.

Their eye-catching works form part of the Thamesmead Street Art Trail, building on the eight permanent murals created for the town's underpasses in 2020.

Artist Nadina Ali, who has created her dazzling design at the back of the Kale Road garages along Yarnton Way, said: "I'm really excited to have been commissioned to create a mural for the Thamesmead street art project.

I now live locally so it's a great way for me to give back to the community through my art.

"Thamesmead is changing, and my artwork is about encouraging all people living in the area – regardless of who they are, where they're from and what they believe in – to imagine the future they want to see in Thamesmead.

"I also wanted to add some well-needed colour to the road where the mural is located by creating a really colourful and welcoming artwork that can have an uplifting impact for passers-by. I hope the positive message of my artwork will inspire people to take ownership of what Thamesmead will look like in the upcoming years whilst brightening up the area."

You can see the other works at Southmere and the underpass near Birchmere Community Hub. When the remaining murals are completed by November, you'll be able to find their location at [www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk](http://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk) along with more information about the art trail.

## Shaping Thamesmead

Peabody has launched its Plan for Thamesmead (2023-28). We review the plan every five years, taking on board your feedback to ensure we're focusing on the things that matter most to the community.

Our latest plan outlines Peabody's approach to transforming Thamesmead's neighbourhoods and sets out the five goals we're working towards.

### The five goals are:

- Improve people's day-to-day experiences of living in Thamesmead
- Build new homes, leisure and community spaces
- Improve the quality of the landscape and create more chances for people to use it
- Make culture a part of everyday life
- Support communities to be happier, healthier and wealthier

You can read the full plan at [www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk](http://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk)

We've also produced a handy booklet, *Shaping Thamesmead*. This highlights what's changing in Thamesmead and how you can work with us to make the most of the town.

You can download the booklet at [www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk](http://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk) or pick up a copy at The Nest Community Building and Library.

Cover photo: The new Wanderlust Hill stage at The Thamesmead Festival was programmed by The South East Way, a new collective of local young people, with artist Rosie Ridgeway, and performers Everything in Mono and Jabz. Supported by Three Rivers.



# Best Fest yet



Blue skies and brilliant sunshine, combined with the town's creative community, made this year's Thamesmead Festival the most successful and popular yet. More than 8,000 people came along to the town's biggest annual event.

Photography by Rosie Reed Gold

This year saw the introduction of the Wanderlust Hill Stage, showcasing Thamesmead's young stars of tomorrow. It joined the usual crowd favourites – the Park, Southmere and Unplugged Stages – all funded by Peabody and Arts Council England.

The stage was programmed and co-produced by local youth collective The South East Way, eleven 14–16-year-olds, brought together by community arts organisation, Three Rivers.

The festival also saw the launch of a project commissioned by Thamesmead's Black Culture Collective, Our Story Our Song. This eight-week music programme is giving 15 young people the opportunity to write, record and perform original songs and create a music video.

Highlights on the Park Stage included South London's uplifting House Gospel Choir, retro-style soul and rock n roll from Logan J Parker, and the return of festival favourite and local star J Cocoa with her sweet mix of jazz, soul and RnB.

Meanwhile on the chilled Unplugged Stage, crowds enjoyed the poetry of Sam Castell-Ward; South London singer, rapper and The Voice contestant Redrum; and were swept away by Midori Jaeger's mix of indie vocals and cello. The Southmere Stage was the place to witness Thamesmead's best dance moves

with hip hop from Afrobeat, and street dance from Dynamix; competitive cheerleading from Utopia Cheer; and Thamesmead-born TikTok dance sensation Dancer Ras.

Meanwhile the ever-popular Dog Show saw Thamesmead's most talented and cheeky pooches being put through their paces.

Stalls run by local groups and charities were a great attraction for those wanting to buy handmade goods, or enjoy free workshops and activities at The Play Zone. All fuelled with a globe-trotting mix of delicious locally produced food and drink.

Once again, the free, family-friendly showcase of local talent and creativity was co-produced by the Festival Production Group, consisting of 10 Thamesmead residents, in partnership with event producers Serious.

Festival Production Group member, Julia Hien, said: "I had a fantastic time at this year's festival and I'm sure many others did too!

"The new Wanderlust Hill stage was probably my favourite. It was amazing to see the hard work that the young producers put into it come to life and their energy, enthusiasm and encouragement for all the acts on that stage. It really made the experience even more enjoyable and electric."





Ting Yu (centre)

▲ **Southmere resident, Ting Yu, said:**

"I couldn't be more excited. My Maltese dog, Moka, came third in the best trick category in the dog show and I've been enjoying some great local food.

"It's my first time at the festival and I can't believe how much there is going on. I've seen some great music, especially the rap, and I'll be coming back next year and bringing all my friends with me."



▲ **Local MP, Abena Oppong-Asare, said:**

"It's great to have a free event like this in Thamesmead offering such a diverse programme that caters for everyone, and all age groups. There's lots of happy faces and I've been speaking to so many people.

"It's brilliant to see the festival getting bigger and bigger every year. I'm sure having the Elizabeth Line at Abbey Wood and the great word of mouth the festival gets has attracted people from outside the area. We hope there'll be even more people coming along in the future as transport links improve even more."

▼ **Dad, Darryl Fellows said:**

"The whole festival is so family-friendly, there are three generations of us down here, our three kids and grandparents. There's something for all of us to enjoy.

"It's 100% for the community and it's been great catching up with old friends while we're here listening to the music and watching the dance acts."



Thames Path Park Run

**Black Excellence Pop-up Festival**

A celebration of Black history, culture, food and music described as the ultimate shopping experience, displaying the vibrant works of African and Caribbean creatives and entrepreneurs featuring: shopping arena; live entertainment & DJ and food vendors.

**Location:** The Nest Community Building and Library, 3 Cygnet Square, SE2 9FA

**Date:** Saturday 7 October

**Time:** 12pm – 5pm

**Price:** Free

**More info:** blackexcellencecic@gmail.com

**Tump 53 Open Morning**

Come and explore Tump 53 Nature Reserve and take part in an outdoor learning session suitable for children and adults.

**Location:** Tump 53 Nature Reserve, Water Lily Walk, SE28 8AS

**Date:** Tuesday 24 October

**Time:** 10am – 12pm

**Price:** Free

**More info:** msfn@peabody.org.uk

**Rising Phoenix Fight Academy**

Classes in Muay Thai, K1 and fitness

**Location:** Arch C, The Link, Bazalgette Way, SE2 9BS

**Date:** Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

**Time:** 5pm – 6pm: Juniors aged 6-10 years old, 6pm – 7pm: Seniors aged 11-16 years old, 7pm – 8:30pm: Adults aged 17+

**Prices:**

Juniors – £5 per lesson/£10 per week/£40 per month

Seniors – £8 per lesson/£15 per week/£45 per month

Adults – £10 per lesson/£20 per week/£55 per month

**More info:** Risingphoenixfightacademy@outlook.com

**Thamesmead Power Punch**

Learn how to box, get fit and have fun! Free boxing sessions for anyone aged 13 to 19 years-old.

**Location:** The Moorings Sociable Club, Arnott Close, SE28 8BG

**Date:** Every Friday

**Time:** 6pm – 7pm

**Price:** Free

**More info:** 07506 762 444

**Thames Path Park Run**

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5K community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you! Register at [www.parkrun.org.uk](http://www.parkrun.org.uk)

**Location:** Thames Path, James Clavell Square, Woolwich, SE18 6ST

**Date:** Every Saturday morning

**Time:** 9am

**Price:** Free

**More info:** [thamespathwoolwich@parkrun.com](mailto:thamespathwoolwich@parkrun.com)

**Thamesmead Volunteer Fair**

Want to give something back? Come along and talk to organisations and groups from across Thamesmead who are offering volunteering roles in areas such as health and well-being, sports, special educational needs and community involvement.

**Location:** The Moorings Sociable Club, Arnott Close, SE28 8BG

**Date:** Saturday 18 November

**Time:** 12.30pm – 2.30pm

**Price:** Free

**More info:** [uzma.ali@peabody.org.uk](mailto:uzma.ali@peabody.org.uk)

## In the zone

**Young people in Thamesmead are to set to get a health boost thanks to School Superzones, an initiative launched in 2017.**

School Superzones promote and protect children's health and encourage people to lead better lifestyles. The scheme will focus on four key areas – air quality/ tobacco control, community safety, active travel and healthy food.

If you have ideas about how to make Thamesmead a healthier place for children, please contact Aminat Olayinka at Aminat.olayinka@peabody.org.uk or 07901 366 139.

The scheme is being set up by the Royal Borough of Greenwich, London Borough of Bexley and Peabody with funding from the Mayor of London.



To find out more, please scan the QR code.



## Be a sport

**The Better Sports Development programme helps ensure everyone in the community can access sport and physical activity locally and at an affordable price.**

**Anyone of any age or capability can get involved. From chair-based exercise classes, to family swimming and parent and baby yoga, there really is something for everyone, all year round.**



To find out more, please scan the QR code.



**Erith Town Football Club, aka The Dockers, has been part of Thamesmead's sporting life since 1959. Michael Avery, Head of Youth & Community, reveals how the club puts itself at the heart of the town.**

It's been a busy period at Sporting Club Thamesmead on Bayliss Avenue since our recent move there from the Erith Leisure Centre.

We're excited about what's promising to be an electrifying season in the 2023/24 Southern Counties East League Premier Division at the Sporting Club Thamesmead.

But Erith Town is not just focused on performances on the pitch, we also look at what we can do for residents in our area.

We want to be seen as a club which helps young people and stars of the future achieve their goals and dreams.

This season the club has sent 2,000 season tickets to schools and projects, as well as setting up community partnerships with local organisations.

We continue to build on these strong community foundations by raising awareness of local groups such as grassroots clubs, gyms and open water swimming projects on our website and in the matchday programme.

The Dockers' games at the Sporting Club Thamesmead are fun for all the family. They'll leave you wanting to come back for more from the moment the final whistle blows.



For more information about the club and to find out when you can go along and cheer on The Dockers, visit [www.erithtown.com](http://www.erithtown.com)

## Pitch perfect



**Football players and fans can now enjoy top notch facilities all year round with the installation of a new state of the art 3G pitch at Sporting Club Thamesmead.**

The new artificial surface, funded by Peabody, replaces the original one created when the club opened nine years ago.

Kay Deveney, Chairwoman of Erith Town Football Club, who have moved to Sporting Club this season, said: "We're delighted to have training slots for our senior team alongside our Under 23s and Under 18s using the new 3G pitch, in this top-class facility.

"It means we can put sessions on that our teams and the community can benefit from all year round."

To find out what's going on at Sporting Club Thamesmead, please visit [www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk](http://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk)

# Local talent



# My Thamesmead

Paige Denham, local artist



Paige has recently completed her latest Thamesmead mural in Southmere (see story on page 3) having previously won a competition to bring one of her designs to life at a canal underpass in the town. You can find out more about her work at [www.paigedenham.com](http://www.paigedenham.com). Here Paige shares what she loves most about Thamesmead.

#### How long have you lived in Thamesmead?

I've lived in Thamesmead for 27 years now, all my life. My grandparents moved to the area when it was first built and they had the opportunity to buy their first home, my Nan is still in the same house. Then, my mum grew up here and now I'm the third generation.

#### Where do you live in Thamesmead?

I live in the Crossways area of Thamesmead.

#### What's the best thing about Thamesmead?

For me there are a few great things about living here. I'm really grateful for the creative community that is here and has been grown through the support of Peabody and Bow Arts.

We have so much creative talent in the local area and that's really special. Then there is the landscape. I love the contrast between our lush green spaces and harsh concrete. That's been an inspiration for me throughout my creative career.

#### Where's your favourite place to walk?

Crossway Park backs onto my Nan's house and it has been the backdrop to so many nice family memories. My brother and I would spend every summer holiday in the park playing on the long metal slide or attempting to play tennis.

#### What's your favourite fact about Thamesmead?

In 2016 Selfridges created a short film by Southmere Lake. In 2019 I photographed my graduate collection in the same space with the tower blocks as a background.

#### Where's your favourite place to eat and drink?

I'm really enjoying more places to eat and drink opening up around the local area.

#### What's your favourite Thamesmead memory?

I can't really isolate and choose one memory, that's really hard as I've lived 27 happy years here with my family. But, one moment that sticks in my mind is when I finished my first mural — neon tower blocks on Claridge Way under Woodpecker Road — and I took my family to see what I'd been up to.

I'd kept it a surprise from my Nan that I was painting it and it was so nice to see the joy on her face when she realised it was my artwork on the wall.

#### What's the best kept secret?

I think Thamesmead as a whole is the best kept secret. It's a special little corner of London that's unlike any other. It has architecture, parks, lakes, creative hub and community spirit. It's a unique place.

## Community Champions

Community Champions are volunteers who work with the Royal Borough of Greenwich and London Borough of Bexley.

They share key information with friends, family and community networks about health and well-being issues, local activities and support. The initiative began as a partnership between the councils and the NHS to share information about COVID-19.

Resident and volunteer, Carla Ramos, tells us about being a Community Champion:

#### How did you find out about the volunteering role?

Through Divine Buzz; a local community group I am part of which supports residents with physical, social and educational activities.

#### What do you do in your role?

I share information with people, either by email or in person. I direct them to places where they can get support such as medical clinics, GP surgeries or mental health charities.

#### What do you enjoy about it?

I like helping people. You can give as much or as little time as you can spare each week. It all makes a difference.

#### Why would you encourage others to get involved?

You can help other people to help themselves, meet new people, share things and have new experiences.



If you are interested in becoming a Community Champion, please contact Patrick Gray at [Patrick.Gray@Bexley.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Gray@Bexley.gov.uk) or Rebecca Layng at [Rebecca.Layng@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Layng@royalgreenwich.gov.uk)

There is a Community Champions social event taking place on Thursday 19 October from 1pm to 3pm at The Moorings Sociable Club. Email Rachel Carder at [Rachel.Carder@peabody.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.Carder@peabody.org.uk) for details.

# Celebrating black culture



Left to right: Natalie Royer, Tricia Blake and Hazel Chawapiwa for the Black Excellence Pop-up Fest; Tracey Durrant for Our Story Our Song

## Three community projects celebrating Black culture in Thamesmead have received £30,000 in funding thanks to the Black Culture Collective's (BCC's) creative commission for 2023.

They are the Youth Artist Development Programme 'Our Story Our Song', The Black Excellence Pop-up Fest and Dad's Space: Bred in Thamesmead.

Thamesmead Youth Artist Development Programme is an immersive music production and artist development programme open to musicians, singers and rappers from Thamesmead aged 12-18. The programme begins on 23 September and will conclude with a live music performance and music video screening at The Moorings Sociable Club. It's being delivered by Everyone's A Singer CIC in collaboration with The Collective Makers.

The Black Excellence Pop-up Fest is a series of four pop-up festivals which will give emerging entrepreneurs and new Black businesses the opportunity to showcase their services and sell their products.

The first event takes place at the Nest on Saturday 7 October from 12pm – 5pm. It's being run by Hazel Chawapiwa of 2inspire Academy CIC, Tricia Blake of Diva Choice and Natalie Royer of NLPR Agency.

Dad's Space: Bred in Thamesmead is a curated event offering support for dads and dads-to-be alongside wider activities for the local community.

Carmel Britto, chair of the Black Culture Collective, said: "This year we were proud to commission three projects which collectively embody exactly what the BCC stands for. Projects that will engage and excite the local community whilst celebrating African and Caribbean arts, heritage and culture."

The BCC was launched with support from Peabody in 2020 to recognise the critical role Thamesmead's Black community has had in shaping the cultural, social and economic life of the town.

It is made up of residents who want to create a bridge between individuals, community groups and organisations.



You can find out more about the BCC and the projects it is supporting at [www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk](http://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk)



Follow @paigedenhamprints on Facebook and Instagram



# Getting to know your neighbourhood

**Peabody's Neighbourhoods Team provide a wide range of support and activities – from repairs, estate maintenance and dealing with anti-social behaviour to helping with rehousing and settling residents into new homes.**

To ensure the team give you the best service it can, some changes are being made to the way they work and how you can contact the department.

## More ways to get in touch

**One of the team's key priorities in Thamesmead is making it easier for residents to get in touch. By doing this, the team can address your concerns more efficiently and effectively.**

You can already contact the team by phoning the customer hub (0300 123 3456), going to the website ([www.peabody.org.uk/contact-us/](http://www.peabody.org.uk/contact-us/)) or booking a face-to-face appointment at home.

Team members will be more visible in local communities and regularly out in their neighbourhoods so they can develop closer links with local people.

The department has also started holding resident surgeries where you can meet Peabody staff to raise any issues you might be experiencing.

At the surgeries all Peabody teams who work in Thamesmead are in the room together, meaning residents who have problems, or any questions, can immediately speak to the right person to get things done.

As Pablo Cazar, Assistant Director for Resident Services for Peabody in Thamesmead, explains:

"Resident surgeries are proving very popular. All the teams are there together so residents can speak face to face with someone, whether it's raising a concern about something going on in their area or an issue with a repair."

**The next resident surgery will be at The Nest Community Building and Library in Southmere on Tuesday 24 October between 12pm to 3pm and 5pm to 7pm.**

There will also be local surgeries rolled out across Thamesmead throughout the year.



**Pablo Cazar**  
Assistant Director for Resident Services

## More neighbourhood roles

**Peabody is introducing more local managers as part of a plan to bring the team and residents closer together. The team members will be working in the local area every day.**

This means each team member will have smaller areas to look after so they can spend more time getting to know each neighbourhood and the local community. This will help them to better understand and respond to any issues people raise.

Community Safety Specialists are also being introduced to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and knife crime.

Ken Andrew, Peabody's Community Safety Manager in Thamesmead, outlines why this new approach is being introduced.

He said: "We appreciate the impact anti-social behaviour has on residents and their quality of life. This new team will liaise with other organisations such as local authorities, police and mental health support services to tackle it."

"The team consists of highly-trained and experienced officers who will provide a professional service to residents. They'll be visible in the community, so residents know exactly who to talk to."

Wells Chomutare is Peabody's Managing Director for South London and oversees the team in Thamesmead. He explains why this new approach is being taken.

Wells said: "We need to make sure that we deliver services that residents really want and that we are trusted and valued by them."



**Wells Chomutare**  
Managing Director for South London

### Going forward you will see:

"Having reviewed how we work; we want to develop a closer relationship with residents so we can deliver a more effective service."

"We can only do this by working together with residents, who can highlight local issues and concerns so we can address them. Being better connected also enables us to be aware when any opportunities come up that can help create better communities."

"It will also be easier for residents to make appointments and meet team members. We want residents to have a wider choice of how they connect with us."

This new more visible community-based approach is best summed up by Wells: "You will know who your local team are and who to contact."

"We'll work in partnership with you and our team will be key members of the community we serve."

## Repair days

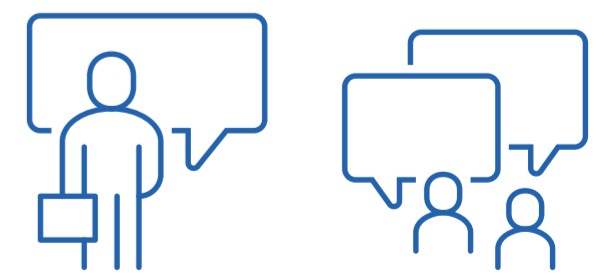
**We are also holding repair days where a particular block or neighbourhood will be the focus of an intense day of activity to tackle small repair jobs.**

Residents can book a 30-minute slot and a multi-skilled trades person will visit you to fix that dripping tap or creaking door.

Pablo: "This is a great way of dealing with those niggling repair jobs in a quick and efficient manner."

"It also means we can meet and engage residents who we perhaps wouldn't normally get the opportunity to speak to because they don't get out and about or know how to contact us."

Turn over to find out more about lettings management



If you'd like to know more about upcoming resident surgeries and repair days, please look for updates at [www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk](http://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk)



You can also get in touch with the team via the Peabody Customer Hub on 0300 123 3456.



## Lettings management

The Neighbourhoods Team works with residents who want to move between Peabody homes in Thamesmead.

You may need a smaller or larger home because of changed circumstances. Or you might need a home on the ground floor because of mobility issues. If so, the team can help.

Sharon Leader, Allocations and Lettings Manager for Peabody in Thamesmead, leads the team responsible for letting properties and rehousing residents.

"There's a great sense of community in Thamesmead and on the whole if people's needs change, they want to stay in the area rather than move outside it," said Sharon.

One way of doing this is through the mutual exchange scheme. It's a free to use service where Peabody residents in Thamesmead can connect with others looking to swap their home for another that better suits their needs.

Sharon added: "We'll always do everything we can to help people get into the most suitable home for them."



You can email [Rehousing@peabody.org.uk](mailto:Rehousing@peabody.org.uk) to register and find out more.



## Get closer to nature

One of the best things about living in Thamesmead are the many parks and green areas to enjoy.

North West Kent Countryside Partnership runs an initiative on behalf of Peabody that brings volunteers together to enhance the town's landscape.

There are regular activities throughout the year where you can come along and get involved in the nature of Thamesmead – helping to protect it, improve it and learn more about it.

You'll need to bring suitable clothes and footwear for the weather, plus a packed lunch with plenty of water. You'll be supplied with gloves and safety equipment as well as hot drinks and biscuits throughout the day.

Each volunteer day is led by a North West Kent Countryside Partnership member of staff who will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

For more information about any of the free events below, and to confirm your attendance before volunteering, please email [msfn@peabody.org.uk](mailto:msfn@peabody.org.uk)

### Autumn Events

#### Compost Workshop

Join the Thamesmead Growers for a compost workshop, including a demonstration of getting started with composting. Followed by weeding and clearing.

**Location:** Titmuss Avenue Community Gardens, SE28 8BL.

**Date:** Saturday 7 October

**Time:** 10am – 2pm

#### Footpath Maintenance

Restoring small sections of the footpaths throughout Tump 53 and laying woodchip, carefully removing bramble and any overgrown scrub from walkways to improve the site.

**Location:** Tump 53 Nature Reserve, SE28 8AS

**Date:** Tuesday 24 October

**Time:** 10am – 2pm

#### Grass Cutting and Scrub Clearing

Mowing and raking, clearing the entrance and cutting back any encroaching bramble at Crossway Community Orchard. Meet at Sporting Club Thamesmead, SE28 8NJ.

**Location:** Crossway Community Orchard (woodland behind basketball courts), SE28 8NG

**Date:** Saturday 4 November

**Time:** 10am – 2pm

#### Hedgerow and Tree management

Helping with the maintenance of the new trees planted by the local community and neighbouring schools. Meet at Canons on Playing Field, opposite Southwood Road.

**Location:** Birchmere Park, SE28 8GB

**Date:** Tuesday 14 November

**Time:** 10am – 2pm



## Ridgeway goes wild

There are some exciting changes coming to the Ridgeway as part of a long-term plan to boost wildlife there.

Thames Water has received funding to improve and enhance biodiversity between White Hart Lane in Greenwich and Eastern Way in Bexley, by creating five hectares of new habitat over the next five years.

It will be doing this by removing denser areas of scrub and non-native species, while restoring and extending the areas of more open habitats such as grassland, wildflowers and bare ground. It's been shown that in London this approach is the best way to increase the numbers of insects such as the dingy skipper butterfly, shrill carder bee and other rare species.

Claudia Innes, Community Projects Lead at Thames Water, said: "We are delighted to be working on a project

that will bring such positive change to the Ridgeway.

"The new habitats created here over the next five years will provide a home for many more species and will be a vital link to other habitat improvement work underway in Thamesmead."

The project will be undertaken in two phases over the next five years. It has been funded through a biodiversity offsetting agreement with Cory Riverside Energy.

## Mussel building

Peabody is working in partnership with environmental charity Thames21 which is launching a new scheme to improve the water quality in Gallions Lake and create exciting new features in the surrounding area.



A new wetland system will be installed in the lake. This will help to improve the water quality, manage the silt that spills into the lake, and create new habitats for wildlife.

Floating islands are also being put into position which will house mussels to act as a natural water pollution filter. A wildflower meadow will also be planted nearby in the park. This is all part of a wider project to improve and maintain the local waterways.



If you'd like to get involved in helping to deliver this exciting project, you can visit [www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk](http://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk) or email [msfn@peabody.org.uk](mailto:msfn@peabody.org.uk) to find out more.





## FRESH STREET FOOD

12 PM-8 PM  
EVERY MONDAY  
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

GET IN TOUCH.

Cygnat Square, Thamesmead, London SE2 9FA  
Email: [info@aceeventsLtd.co.uk](mailto:info@aceeventsLtd.co.uk)

[aceventsLtd](https://www.instagram.com/aceventsLtd) [aceventsLtd](https://www.facebook.com/aceventsLtd)

[aceventsLtd.co.uk/](https://www.aceventsLtd.co.uk/)

THAMESMEAD™ Peabody



GET YOUR SKATES READY!

## KIDS ROLLER-SKATING LESSONS

EVERY SATURDAY 10 -11:30AM

- Learn Awesome Skating Tricks and Moves
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Safety First!

- Bring Your Own Skates
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- Listen to Our Skating Pros
- Have Fun, Stay Safe!

Arch 16  
Byron Cl, London SE28 8AA

07484224983

AGE 7+ £7.50



# Cygnat Square Market



Cygnat Square Market, SE2 9FA

First Saturday of every month  
Time: 11am to 4pm

Arts and crafts | Food and drink

THAMESMEAD™ Peabody  



Food On Our Doorstep

## Volunteers Needed

at our Greenwich FOOD Clubs

A programme providing families with a range of good-quality food at a low cost, while also reducing food wastage.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Receive, sort and safely store deliveries
- Assist at clubs, organising food boxes, greeting families and provide excellent customer service

Benefits Include:

- Access to FOOD clubs
- Free Level 2 Food Hygiene and Allergy Awareness training
- Free Safeguarding Training and induction training from national charity Family Action



Contact [londonfoodclubs@family-action.org.uk](mailto:londonfoodclubs@family-action.org.uk) or chat to our staff at clubs

[www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk)

Family Action Registered as a Charity in England & Wales no. 234713. Family Action Registered as a Charity in the Isle of Man no. 1204

## Forums



### Peabody Business Forum

The Peabody Business Forum features business owners, local council representatives and entrepreneurs who can discuss opportunities, provide information and offer advice.

Second Monday of every month:  
online (4pm – 5pm), in person once a quarter (4pm – 6pm)

Next sessions: 9 October (online), 13 November (online), 11 December (in-person).

Email [businessready@peabody.org.uk](mailto:businessready@peabody.org.uk) for more information.

### Thamesmead Culture Forum

The Culture Forum is for all those interested in culture in and around Thamesmead.

The forum is now running every two months with the next meeting on Wednesday 4 October at 6pm.

Email [lisa.drew@peabody.org.uk](mailto:lisa.drew@peabody.org.uk) to join or be added to the Culture Forum mailing list.

### Thamesmead Nature Forum

The Thamesmead Nature Forum is for anyone who is passionate about nature and Thamesmead's green and blue spaces.

It usually runs on the last Thursday of every month at 5.30pm.

Email [msfn@peabody.org.uk](mailto:msfn@peabody.org.uk) for details about future sessions.

### Community Group Forum

Do you want to find out about local training and funding opportunities, network with other groups and share your ideas for how to improve things in your local community?

Join the Thamesmead Community Group Forum. Contact Uzma Ali at [uzma.ali@peabody.org.uk](mailto:uzma.ali@peabody.org.uk) for details.



# Boating is back

If you went along to this year's Thamesmead Festival, you probably noticed the lovely sight of people in sailing boats and paddling kayaks on Southmere Lake.

This free session and others during August were funded by Peabody, who is looking for a new operator to run regular boating sessions at Southmere and swimming at Birchmere Lake next year.

### What would you like to see on Southmere Lake in the future?

Do you know any organisations who might want to work on the water in Thamesmead? Are there any water activities you've seen elsewhere that we should try here?



If you have any suggestions, please email [thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk](mailto:thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk)

Support & opportunities





# Care together

**Are you a carer for a friend, relative or neighbour? Would you like to relax and meet new people?**

If so, then come and join a new weekly carers' get-together for a bit of 'you time', a hot drink, and to find out more about the support available through Greenwich Carers Centre. The group runs on Thursdays from 10am to 11.30am at The Moorings Sociable Club.

**If you would like some support from Greenwich Carers, please call 0300 300 2233 or email [info@greenwichcarers.org](mailto:info@greenwichcarers.org)**



**Greenwich Carers also provide volunteering roles for unpaid carers of adults living in the borough. If you would like to find out more about the project, please call 0300 300 2233 or email [activities@greenwichcarers.org](mailto:activities@greenwichcarers.org)**

## Help the hospice

**Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice provides care and support to anyone with a terminal illness in the Royal Borough of Greenwich or London Borough of Bexley. It also supports their families.**

The hospice is currently looking for volunteers to help them with their valuable work. There are two ways you can get involved.

**You could volunteer in one of the hospice's 16 shops throughout the two boroughs** – including one on Station Road in Belvedere on the border of Thamesmead. If you are interested, please contact [volunteersdept@gbch.org.uk](mailto:volunteersdept@gbch.org.uk) to find out more.

**Or you could join Compassionate Neighbours.** These volunteers act as befrienders, visiting someone for around an hour each week to provide company, a listening ear and friendship.

**Please contact the Compassionate Neighbours team at [cn@gbch.org.uk](mailto:cn@gbch.org.uk) for details.**

## 100 not out



**The Hundred Club is an experimental creative space that uses arts and play for children to explore social justice issues.**

Free and open to five-to-twelve-year-olds and their siblings, parents and carers, the club meets monthly in and around Thamesmead, and for special workshops in the school holidays.

As a family club, it asks parents and carers to stay for the sessions and get involved. The club was started by Ruth Beale and is produced by TACO!, the Thamesmead-based arts organisation.

These sessions are supported by Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Peabody Community Foundation.

# Get Online



**Get Online Week 2023, running from 16 – 22 October, is the UK's largest and longest running digital inclusion campaign.**

Started by the Good Things Foundation, Get Online Week features hundreds of free digital skills events to help people get online safely, confidently and affordably.

Now in its 16th year, it has helped hundreds of thousands to get online for the first time and improve their digital skills.

The week is also a chance to highlight brilliant local initiatives such as the Bexley Digital Champions Network. The Network was established in 2020 and works with local partners to recruit and support a team of Digital Champions. Digital Champions are volunteers who give up their time to help local people use their phones, laptops and tablets.

They can help people to learn new online skills such as sending and receiving emails, ordering prescriptions online or just staying connected with friends or family.

As part of Get Online Week 2023, the Digital Champions Network will be launching a new quarterly Peer Group Online Drop-in. This is for anyone interested in becoming a Digital Champion. The first session will take place on Tuesday 17 October at 2pm.

**To register for the first Digital Champions Peer Group Drop-in, or for more information about local #GetOnlineWeek events, please email the Digital Inclusion Officer [brett@bvsc.co.uk](mailto:brett@bvsc.co.uk) or call 01322 524 682 and select Option 2.**



Scan the QR code to find out more about the Bexley Voluntary Service Council.

## Looking for a job?



**Sign up to our fortnightly jobs bulletin and get new jobs sent straight to your inbox. If you spot something you want to apply for, one of our expert employment case workers can provide one-to-one support to help you apply.**

**Sign up here: [www.peabody.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.peabody.org.uk/newsletter)**

## Peabody jobs in Thamesmead

Looking for a new job or a career change?

**The Peabody Economic Inclusion Team can support you to access local jobs and apprenticeship opportunities available with Peabody and our partner organisations.**

**You can sign up to our fortnightly jobs bulletin to get new jobs and training offers sent straight to your inbox!**



Volunteering opportunities

Connecting you with different employers and training providers

Help writing CVs, personal statements, cover letters and job applications

Careers guidance and coaching

Preparing you for interviews



Please contact us by emailing [employment.training@peabody.org.uk](mailto:employment.training@peabody.org.uk)



# Get connected

## Do you want to meet new people, learn new skills and improve life in your community?

Connecting Thamesmead is a new programme aiming to bring residents together to improve health and well-being in the town.

Local people are now needed to join a new group, Thamesmead Connectors, to help shape the programme and think about the kinds of activities they would like to see in the area.

This could involve highlighting gaps in current services and suggesting new kinds of activities, reviewing and deciding on grant applications, commissioning new services or leading small social groups.



Training will be provided and participants will be reimbursed for their time. If you'd like to apply, please contact Rachel Carder at [Rachel.Carder@peabody.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.Carder@peabody.org.uk) or 07721 621 211.