

TALK OF THAMESMEAD

THE PUBLICATION FOR THAMESMEAD RESIDENTS



**ISSUE THREE
AUTUMN
2021**



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**A FESTIVAL
FOR ALL**

HELLO THAMESMEAD!



John Lewis,
Executive Director,
Thamesmead. Peabody.

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Talk of Thamesmead – thanks for continuing to tell us what you think to help make this a publication that reflects what’s going on in the town.

It was great to go to the much-missed Thamesmead Festival and be able to meet so many residents face to face once again. On page 6 there’s a really interesting piece by one of our newer residents, HEND, about what she thought of her first Thamesmead Festival.

Our Southmere development has just been named Best Regeneration project in the Evening Standard New Homes Awards – you can find out more about it on page 19.

As this newspaper goes to all households in Thamesmead, not just to Peabody residents, we thought this would be a good opportunity to talk a bit more about what Peabody’s role in the town.

I know it isn’t always obvious what Peabody does and what comes under the Royal Borough of Greenwich Council or the London Borough of Bexley Council, hopefully the piece on pages 10 and 11 will make it clearer.

It also includes a look at our Environmental Services team who, along with many other responsibilities, make sure Thamesmead’s green spaces are well maintained for everyone to enjoy - we’ll be focusing on the other Peabody teams in future editions.

You’ll also find stories about the invaluable work residents are doing in the town to help make Thamesmead such a special place to live and details about more up-and-coming opportunities to come together as a community.

As always, this newspaper is about what’s important to you and celebrating your area, please get in touch at **thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk** if there’s something you’d like to tell us about.

We look forward to hearing from you.

John

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING

Do you want to find out more about what Peabody’s team in Thamesmead has been doing and what’s coming up? There are a number of ways you can stay in touch with developments:



Watch Talk of Thamesmead Live

Short Zoom updates with members of the Thamesmead team, giving updates on each of our upcoming and ongoing projects. The sessions take place on the first Tuesday every month. You can sign up by emailing thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk

You will also be able to watch these back whenever you like on the Thamesmead YouTube channel - ThamesmeadLDN.

Keep an eye on our website

www.ThamesmeadNow.org.uk where we publish regular updates about our plans.

Connect with our social channels

on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook to keep up to date with all things Thamesmead.

Sign up to our monthly online newsletter

via the 'Contact Us' section at www.ThamesmeadNow.org.uk

If you have a question

you can: email us thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk, message us via social media, use the contact form on www.ThamesmeadNow.org.uk or ring us on 0203 828 3671.

If you'd rather speak to someone in person

you'll find members of our Peabody team at the Marketing Suite and Discovery Centre on Harrow Manor Way every Monday.

You can come in, have a look around, ask questions or just have a chat. You need to have an appointment, but you can make one by contacting us at thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk

If you have a sales enquiry

you can visit our Marketing Suite and Discovery Centre from Tuesday to Saturday 10am-6pm and Thursday 11am-7pm by appointment only or you can register your interest at www.peabodysales.co.uk and someone will be in touch.

COMMUNITY FUND ON THE BALL



The Thamesmead Community Fund is continuing to support charities, groups and individuals in Thamesmead who deliver social and cultural activities that bring the community together.

More than 20 years ago Bernard Amankwah organised for a group of local friends to play football at Crossway Park.

This regular kick about led to him starting Football for All @ Thamesmead, and now more than 200 adults and children take part in football-based keep-fit activities every week.

To help develop and grow the scheme Bernard applied to the Thamesmead Community Fund. His application was very well received by Peabody's resident panel, and he was awarded £2,000.

This new funding is enabling Football for All to send suitable individuals within the group to attend referee training and First Aid courses.

Bernard said: "It's refreshing to know that part of the funds will be allocated to training individuals to be FA qualified referees. This will strongly enhance the quality of our football activities at Birchmere Park. Investing in people is certainly the way forward."

The funding will also be spent on purchasing new equipment, improving the experience of all those who attend the sessions.

The next Thamesmead Community Fund application round is running from Monday, 4 October and closes on Friday, 22 October. There will also be an online Q&A session at 5pm on Tuesday, October 12 to answer any questions you might have, email – lisa.drew@peabody.org.uk to attend.



SAVE MONEY ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS

Peabody is working with Agility Eco to offer free energy advice to Peabody residents. This can save you money on your energy and water bills, plus it's good for the environment too.

In 2019-20 Agility Eco helped over 115,000 households across the UK and can save households an average £140 a year on energy bills.

The service can advise you on issues such as: using your current heating system efficiently; switching your energy supplier; energy and water budgeting support and debt advice and checking eligibility and application of Warm Home Discount.

After you sign up, the Energy Advice Service will contact you within two working days of receiving your referral to arrange your energy advice telephone call.

They will send you a letter to confirm your appointment and the day before the appointment they will also send a reminder by text or call if you provide a landline number.

The call takes between 45 minutes and an hour depending on what help is needed. After your energy advice telephone call, you will receive a summary in the post with all your advisor's recommendations.

To find out how to sign up, go to www.peabody.org.uk and search 'Energy Advice' or please call our Customer Hub on 0300 123 3456 and ask to be referred to the Energy Advice Service. Lines open: 8am–8pm, Monday to Friday.

Even if you are not a Peabody resident search 'Household tips' at www.peabody.org.uk for useful energy saving information.

NEWS

Find out more about the Thamesmead Community Fund at www.londoncf.org.uk/grants/thamesmead-community-fund



IN THE DARK

Based at the Lakeside Centre in Southmere Lakeside Darkroom is a new low-priced, professional analogue photography darkroom and post-production space.

Lakeside Darkroom will offer a regular activity programme including talks; mentoring scheme; inductions; exhibitions and a part-time residency, all designed to create fine-art photography among a supportive and collaborative community.

Founded by photographers, Emma Masciotti and Naroa Perez, it's for anyone interested in photography who can't afford their own studio as an affordable, welcoming space to learn and develop new skills while meeting new people. The team are currently working on getting it ready and hope to open in the next few months.

Keep an eye on their Instagram @lakeside_affordable_darkroom for opening times and programme announcements.

CAKE BY THE LAKE

The Y on the Lake, based in Bow Arts' Lakeside Centre, is Thamesmead's newest eatery, providing freshly made eat-in and takeaway food and drink... but with a difference. Part of the YMCA Thames Gateway group, every item purchased will be supporting people in your local community.

Whether it's a tasty flatbread, toasted English muffin, fresh salad, or delicious cakes and pastries, there's something for everyone at The Y on the Lake.

Open weekdays, between 8.30am and 4.00pm, the café can be found on the ground floor of the Lakeside Centre on Bazalgette Way. You can reach it from both sides of the building.



THAMESMEAD'S ENGINEERING MARVEL

Sitting proudly on the banks of the River Thames in Thamesmead, Crossness Pumping Station is a magnificent Grade 1 listed, industrial heritage site and unique visitor attraction.

Known as the 'Cathedral on the Marsh' and opened in 1865, Crossness was designed by the visionary engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette as part of the first sewerage system built right across London.

It is a masterpiece of Victorian engineering, design, and craftsmanship. Remarkably, Bazalgette's sewer network forms the backbone of the system Londoners still use today.

Over the past 30 years, The Crossness Engines Trust, a dedicated group of volunteers, has worked tirelessly to conserve and restore Crossness for future generations to enjoy. Visit us on one of our Open Days and see the four mighty beam engines and exemplary cast-ironwork.

Our Great Stink exhibition tells the fascinating story of Crossness, public health and the development of sanitation technologies. Take a ride on our train and join in the family craft activities inspired by the Crossness site and story.

In addition to Open Days, Crossness also provides a range of learning opportunities including on-site talks, guided tours and hands-on activities. We also welcome artists, designers, and students to use Crossness as the inspiration for their own creative projects and research.

We are always looking for volunteers and are keen for residents to join our team in a variety of roles. Whatever time you can spare, bring your skills, or learn new ones and be part of the Crossness story.

You can find out more at www.crossness.org.uk or contact us at 020 8311 371 or info@crossness.org.uk



TEAMWORK BRINGS NEW LIFE TO CLARIDGE WAY

Peabody, residents, local schools, and community groups have been working together to create ideas that have transformed the busy Claridge Way in the town.

Through conversations, hands-on workshops, a giant tea party and virtual reality design sessions, we captured a wide range of ambitions into a Common Plan for Claridge Way which included:

- new benches for seating and body weight exercises
- new fences, back gates and planters for adjoining residents
- a new gardening club at Hawksmoor primary School
- painted play route
- a woodland adventure walk
- a wildflower bee road

Peabody has collaborated with the local community, as well as Hawksmoor Youth Club, Wind Rush Primary School and nine residents, whose homes back onto Claridge Way, to create designs for the well-used path.

Contractors, specialists, fabricators, school children and their parents worked with Peabody to design, construct and install a series of temporary and permanent public realm equipment and activities.

It's part of wider investment in the area with Peabody providing £250,000 and the Greater London Authority contributing an additional £50,000 from their Greener Team programme.

Kate Batchelor, Peabody's Head of Landscape & Placemaking in Thamesmead, said: "Claridge Way is a vital route between the Moorings and local amenities. This has been a valuable opportunity to work with local people to make sure the path is used to its full potential.

"It's been great to see the enthusiasm of the local community in helping us improve the spaces they use every day."





MY FIRST THAMESMEAD FESTIVAL

BY RESIDENT HEND KHEIRALLA

Earlier this year, I was walking around and trying to explore this new town that I have recently moved to. It was green and surrounded by a stream, bringing a whiff of fresh air in the last hot days of summer in London.

I missed the rush and the energy of central London, where people wore colours and spoke different languages. As I was passing by a school, I saw an ad for a festival that would start the next day. I made a vow to attend and perhaps find something interesting.

When I reached the festival field, I saw a lot of people, and I wondered how this small area, that I rarely see people around during my walks, suddenly turned into a lively place! I smelled food, I saw colours, and I heard music from afar. I felt an urge to reach out to people and start conversations.

I started capturing photos with my small digital camera, it was then when I saw a stall with a sign that said, "Thamesmead Community Archive". I walked towards the stall and a man greeted me with a smile.

I saw a tag on his shirt indicating his name "Simon". Simon was fixing a collection of postcards in front of him. While talking to a couple. I asked him about the area, how it developed, and what is the role of the archive.

He told me about the first family that moved here in 1968, the Gooch family and how they moved from Peckham to Thamesmead.

He added: "These couple who I was talking to, have been living in Thamesmead for more than 20 years and they were telling me about their own stories."

"Our role at the archive is to collect these stories from Thamesmead, including pictures and everything about Thamesmead for the last fifty years."

He also mentioned the archive will be available for the public, to learn more about the history of Thamesmead.

Simon showed me colourful postcards of street art performances and photos of the previous festivals. He also shared how Thamesmead developed from being a grey industrial area to a residential one that celebrates arts and culture through events and an annual festival, which marks its fiftieth one this year.

Over the last sixty years, Thamesmead continued to attract more residents from diverse backgrounds, and a community of young artists started to develop.

I spoke to Jules, who identifies herself as a British-born Chinese rapper and singer who performed on the stage.

I asked her how she feels about the festival and being part of it, she said: "as part of the festival production group, it's amazing to bring people and talent together and feel a sense of community pride."

This festival comes at a time where London is finally opening up to public events post-pandemic. I asked

Jules about what she felt while preparing for the festival- especially after covid, she added: "I was really nervous about the turnout, but now seeing the atmosphere, the sun shining and the huge turnout, I feel so happy."

When I was walking to see other stalls, my attention was drawn to a long piece of linen fabric on the table, covered with hand-printed designs, and a young lady sewing into the fabric.

I walked to get a closer look, and I was approached by Chloe - who handed me a brochure and told me about the story behind the linen.

She said that she was collecting stories from Thamesmead, which will be hand-printed into the linen fabric to create a hot air balloon, with the stories of Thamesmead.

I was impressed and glanced down at the illustration, thinking that I couldn't wait to see the real-life hot air balloon!

I wandered around and started to notice how colourful people were, and the sound of laughter warmed the place, while the kids rolled on the grass.

The festival closed in the late evening with an Afrobeat performance featuring young community artists. I sang along with the audience, and I finally felt connected to this place. And suddenly, it didn't feel boring at all.



LOCAL TALENT

The Black Culture Collective is collaborating with Peabody to pilot a new programme to promote and celebrate Black culture and heritage in Thamesmead.

In 2020 a group of residents started the Black Culture Collective (BCC) as a bridge between individuals, community groups and organisations who wish to share their experiences of African and Caribbean history and culture.

Earlier this year the BCC and Peabody's Culture team put out a call for ambitious and creative proposals to celebrate Thamesmead's diverse cultures. Five winning projects have been selected by the BCC panel for support from the £30,000 commissioning fund.

They are:

ACTION!, is an artist-led project that celebrates the history of anti-racism action and leadership by the Black community in Thamesmead. Artist, Holly Graham is working with TACO! (Thamesmead Arts and Culture Office), who will produce the project, and the Thamesmead Community Archive, to research anti-racist community-led action in Thamesmead in the early 1990s.

Caribbean Rhythms and Rhymes - 4 Circles by the R.O.M.E.L. Foundation is a series of four weekly events running throughout October celebrating Black History Month 2021. The events will celebrate and explore the rich and diverse culture and traditions of the Caribbean through performance, storytelling, singing, dub poetry and music.

It Takes a Town - a new film by Comfort Adeneye, a screenplay adaptation of the West African saying, 'it takes a village to raise a child'. Set in the 2009 recession the film follows Kwesi (14) and Mike (46) as their paths cross during an unlikely Sunday encounter. The 10-minute film will be shot in Thamesmead with the majority of cast and crew from the area.

LPF Kiddies Club Access to Art Project - local children will work with professional Black artists to explore the art and heritage of the wide range of African and Caribbean cultures represented by the residents of Thamesmead. The young people will create a range of art pieces and participate in a variety of visual and performing arts workshops culminating in an array of activities during Black History Month.

The Collective Makers present: Black in Full Colour exhibition - the Collective Makers have partnered with Woolwich Works, Arthub and Clothes for Causes to present the work of some of the best emerging black visual artists in Thamesmead and surrounding areas. The exhibition will run from October 1 -21 at Woolwich Works, as part of the venue's opening series of events and Black History Month programme.

Find out more at www.woolwich.works/black-in-full-colour





The Thamesmead Travelling Cinema will be hosting a season of World Cinema, consisting of a series of weekend screening events at Southmere Lake throughout the Autumn.

The season will be spotlighting ethnically diverse communities based in Thamesmead, from countries as far as Cape Verde, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, and Jamaica. Local artists, caterers, and filmmakers from these communities will be helping to programme a selection of representative films and cuisine.

Films will range from shorts to feature length double bills and the screenings will include special guest appearances and Q&A's:

23-24 October

India-East Africa film screening event weekend

20-21 November

Cape Verde film screening event weekend

11-12 December

Jamaica film screening event weekend

Bar opens from 5.30pm, with live music

Screening from 7.30pm – late

Lakeside Centre, Bazalgette Way, SE2 9AN

Tickets: £10 - Film, plus Q&A with filmmaker. £15 Film, plus meal voucher (meal usually £7).

Book here: www.buytickets.at/thamesmeadtexas/575385

Buying a ticket supports The Thamesmead Travelling Cinema in presenting affordable film programming and backing local entrepreneurs. Our screening events are unique experiences, each one like none other.

The Thamesmead Texas Travelling Cinema is a 25-seater mobile outdoor community cinema made from reused materials. It is a legacy project born from a Heritage Lottery Funded backed commission for the Thamesmead Community Archive awarded to Scully and Scully. Support us by becoming a member or patron today!

Nature Forum

The Thamesmead Nature Forum is a place for people who live, work or spend time in Thamesmead to talk about nature and the natural landscape.

Date: Last Thursday of the month

Time: 5.30pm to 6.45pm

Contact: msfn@peabody.org.uk for meeting details

Culture Forum

Join us for our monthly culture forum, where you can get involved in local culture and meet other creatives.

Date: First Wednesday of the month

Time: 5pm to 7pm

Contact: lisa.drew@peabody.org.uk for meeting details

Business Forum

Find out how your business can access the potential growth opportunities in Thamesmead.

Date: Second Monday of the month

Time: 4pm to 5.30pm

Contact: madeinthamesmead@peabody.org.uk for meeting details

Thamesmead Wonder Walks with JD Swann

Join Ornithological Investigator J D Swann for nature walks through the seasons where you'll be discussing and observing birds and wildlife in Thamesmead.

Date: 17 October and 27 November

Time: 11am - 1pm

Location: Southmere Square, Hartslock Drive, SE2 9XA

Thamesmead Cycle Hub

Find out about the different cycling opportunities available for different experience levels in Thamesmead.

Date: Every Saturday

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: Sporting Club Thamesmead, Bayliss Ave, SE28 8NJ

Light The Way

Light The Way is a stunning evening light festival which will feature beautiful light installations along a walking path from Lesnes Abbey, along Abbey Way to Southmere Lake and finish at the Lakeside Centre.

Date: Saturday, 27 November

Biodiversity Volunteering

Peabody is working with North West Kent Countryside Partnership to create a volunteering scheme which supports the Biodiversity Action Plan for Thamesmead. The volunteering programme is a great way for you to have a say in the work that goes on and a chance to be involved in a hands-on way. Final details may change so check www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk for the latest information

English Bluebell Planting in woodland habitat using plugs

What's happening? We will be planting English bluebells within the woodland at Southmere Park. The bluebells will provide food and shelter for a range of our native insects, from bees to butterflies.

Date: Wednesday, 6 October

Time: 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Southmere Park, Thamesmead, SE2 9XA

Meet: Southmere Woodland Trail

English Bluebell Planting in woodland habitat using plugs

We will be planting English bluebells within the woodland at Crossway Park. The bluebells will provide food and shelter for a range of our native insects, from bees to butterflies.

Date: Tuesday, 19 October

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Crossway Park, Thamesmead, SE28 8NG

Meet: Crossway Community Orchard (woodland behind basketball courts)

Maintenance and management of Crossway Community Orchard

We will be helping with the maintenance and management of Crossway Community Orchard. We will; harvest apples and pears from the fruit trees, leave windfallen fruit for wildlife, create hibernating areas for frogs and toads by creating leave piles and replenish the dead hedge boundary.

Date: Wednesday, 27 October

Time: 11:00am – 3:00pm

Location: Crossway Park, Thamesmead, SE28 8NG.

Meet: Crossway Community Orchard (woodland behind basketball courts)

Wildflower Plug Planting and Woodland Scrub Clearance

We will be wildflower plug planting within the woodland at Tump 53. The wildflowers will provide food and shelter for a range of our native insects, from bees to butterflies.

Date: Saturday, 6 November

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Tump 53 Nature Reserve, SE28 8AS

Meet: Entrance off Bentham Road

Wildflower Plug Planting

We will be plug planting wildflowers within the woodland at Southmere. The wildflowers will provide food and shelter for a range of our native insects, from bees to butterflies.

Date: Tuesday, 9 November

Time: 11:00am – 3:00pm

Location: Southmere Park, Thamesmead, SE2 9XA

Meet: Southmere Woodland Trail

Wildflower Plug Planting

We will be plug planting wildflowers within the woodland at Birchmere. The wildflowers will provide food and shelter for a range of our native insects, from bees to butterflies.

Date: Friday, 19 November

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Birchmere Park, Thamesmead, SE28 8GB

Meet: Playing Field opposite Southwood Road

Habitat Creation and Woodland Coppicing

We will be helping with the maintenance and management of Crossway Community Orchard. We will; survey the orchard for damaged and dead trees, winter pruning of apples and pear trees maintaining shape and growth, clear dead wood and create habitat piles and hedge cutting.

Date: Thursday, 25 November

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Crossway Park, Thamesmead, SE28 8NG

Meet: Crossway Community Orchard (woodland behind basketball courts)

Aquatic planting in Birchmere for the benefit of Tench and other fish

More details to follow

Date: Wednesday, 1 December

Time: 11:00am – 3:00pm

Location: Birchmere Park, Thamesmead, SE28 8GB

Meet: Playing Field opposite Southwood Road

Aquatic planting in Southmere for the benefit of Tench and other fish

More details to follow

Date: Tuesday, 7 December

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Southmere Park, Thamesmead, SE2 9XA

Meet: Southmere Woodland Trail

Woodland Coppicing

We will be helping with the maintenance and management of Crossway Community Orchard. We will be coppicing the surrounding woodland to allow more light in the area to increase woodland flora.

Date: Friday, 17 December

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Crossway Park, Thamesmead, SE28 8NG

Meet: Crossway Community Orchard (woodland behind basketball courts)

WHAT'S GOING ON





PEABODY & THAMESMEAD

Now Talk of Thamesmead is delivered to every household in Thamesmead we thought it would be the perfect time to tell you a bit more about Peabody and our role in the town.

We are London's oldest housing association having been set up by our founder George Peabody in 1864.

Today the Peabody Group is responsible for more than 67,000 homes in London and the South East and 155,000 residents.

Peabody became part of the Thamesmead story in 2014 when we took over from previous owners, Trust Thamesmead and Tilfen Land.

This meant much of the town's housing, community activities and more than 200 acres of land became owned by a single, well-resourced body for the first time in a generation.

In Thamesmead we own and are responsible for maintaining 5,200 homes. But did you know we also own some well-known local landmarks such as the historic lock and swing bridge, civic spaces and the clock tower in the town centre, the cannons in the centre and at the Moorings, and the Thames River wall?

As for things we're not responsible for, well we don't empty your bins every week, that comes under either Bexley or Greenwich Councils depending on where you live. But we do pick up and dispose of any rubbish on our land, including clearing away any fly tipping.

Making sure the town looks good and is a place residents can be proud of is part of our 'whole place approach' and our 30-year plan for Thamesmead.

In practical terms that means we are repairing existing homes while also building new ones, improving public spaces, looking after the parks and waterways, developing cultural activities, and supporting the community.

In future editions, we'll be looking at a different part of our Peabody team in Thamesmead to give you a better idea of what we do in the town and how we're working to make residents lives better.



THAMESMEAD HAS...
250 hectares
of greenspace



around 45,000 people or
16,000 households – of these
5,200 homes are owned and
managed by Peabody



FOCUS ON: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TEAM

If you've ever wondered who looks after Peabody properties in Thamesmead or keeps the town's green spaces, lakes and canals looking spick and span, well it's all thanks to the hard work of one department – the Environmental Services Team.

With more than 140 people in Thamesmead the team works 365 days a year covering tasks as varied as changing a light bulb in shared spaces to scrubbing graffiti off the walls.

Its responsibilities include: caretaking properties; looking after the grounds; maintenance of communal and open areas; getting rid of graffiti; jet washing; street cleaning; bulk rubbish collection; caring for the town's drains, trees, canals, lakes and parks.

The team also features a number of specialists including: dealing with pest issues in homes and public spaces; a traveller and equine officer who works with the local traveller community and their horses and play inspectors who inspect and maintain the town's 30 plus play spaces.

As part of their responsibilities the team manages all land and ownership enquires and grants special events and licences in the town's

parks and open space. During lockdown they also delivered food to residents who needed support.

In addition, the department also works on special projects such as the sunflower meadows at Crossway Park that have been such a hit with local people.

Tom Broad, Peabody's Head of Environmental Services in Thamesmead, said: "The sheer variety of work we do as a department means we have a huge range of expertise in the team and every day is different.

"From looking after the many parks and lakes to making sure our properties are kept in good order, it's all about making sure Thamesmead looks the best it can and giving residents a real sense of pride in their town.

"The team aims to be the asset to the whole area, they have a real can do attitude and are all about getting the job done – I'm very proud of them all."

You can contact Peabody's Environmental Services team via www.thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk



EVERY YEAR
THE TEAM:



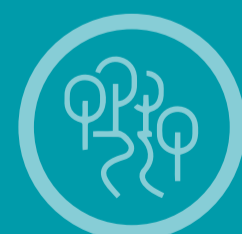
Clears 1,800 tonnes of waste and fly tipping



Cares for 53,000 trees



Removes 70 tonnes of rubbish and vegetation from five lakes and 7km of canals



Maintains 150 million square metres of landscape

LOOK INTO RESEARCH

A group of committed residents are helping to make sure Peabody is delivering what local people really want in Thamesmead.

In 2019, Peabody asked consultants Arup and The Social Innovation Partnership to carry out a five-year-long assessment of its work in Thamesmead.

This year the research has been done for the first time by the Community Research Team, which consists entirely of people who live in Thamesmead. The members were chosen because of their local knowledge and ability to connect with fellow residents.

The team spent November and December last year talking to more than 100 local people and community groups about how Thamesmead is changing, what Peabody is doing well and what it can do better.

The Community Research Team consists of: Joseph Griffiths; Bukola Joel; Sanaa Khan; Ellen Otchere; Ozge Ali and Thelma Obirai - as well as living in Thamesmead they are also involved in various local community organisations and projects.

Ellen Otchere said: "Being part of the team was an opportunity for me to find out more about the community where I work and live. I learned from the research there are many obstacles people can face, such as social, cultural, and economic barriers."

Fellow team member Ozge Ali added: "I believe the most effective way to find the answers is by observing, asking questions, and examining the answers. We can only move to the next level after properly analysing our current research."

Key findings from the latest research will be shared early next year and if you're interested in finding out more about the Community Research Team, please contact thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk

LATEST COVID INFORMATION



BEXLEY

Covid is still in the community, so let's stay safe and continue to protect our friends and family.

Get tested!

One in three people with Covid do not have symptoms and can still infect others. You should do a rapid test twice a week even if you have no symptoms. If you test positive and self-isolate, you will help stop the virus from spreading and protect your family and friends.

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still catch Covid and pass it on. Everyday across Bexley, thousands are testing to keep their communities safe. Testing is free, quick and easy.

There are sites across Bexley where you can get tested or pick up home testing kits.

Pick up a home test kit in Thamesmead at -

AF Browne Limited 208 Yarnton Way, DA18 4DR

AF Browne Limited, 16 Wilton Road, SE2 9RH

Thamesmead Library, Binsey Walk, SE2 9TR

You can find other sites or book a test online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

If you test positive on PCR or rapid test, you must self-isolate. A £500 Test and Trace Support Payment is available - www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment

There is also practical support to help you self-isolate at www.bexley.gov.uk/practical-support-to-isolate

Get vaccinated!

Vaccination against Covid is essential to help us get back to a normal life, and doing all the things we've missed, as soon as possible. It has saved tens of thousands of lives already.

A vaccine will reduce your chances of getting seriously unwell if you catch Covid. You need two doses to be fully protected.

It's OK if you have questions about the vaccine, please visit www.nhsvaccinefacts.com

You can book an appointment online or go to a walk-in/pop up clinic near you. For more details go to www.bexley.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccines

Other ways to keep safe

Wear face coverings in crowded places, such as public transport

Meet others outside or if indoors, in well ventilated areas

Keep your social contacts to a minimum

GREENWICH

Now larger events are happening, carry on testing regularly

Taking regular rapid tests for Covid is really important now that restrictions have lifted, and larger-scale events are allowed to happen. Increasingly, venues are asking you to show that you're fully vaccinated or have had a recent negative rapid flow test before allowing you in.

You should continue to test regularly even if you've had one or both doses of a Covid vaccine, as it's still possible to catch and spread the virus once you've been vaccinated.

Get your free tests by calling 119 or going to royalgreenwich.gov.uk/rapidtest

RESIDENTS EAT UP EDIBLE GARDEN



As part of the South Thamesmead Garden Estate programme, Southmere and Parkview residents came together this summer to share ideas and plan projects to create better outdoor spaces around homes.

With the help of Groundwork London, 100 growing kits were sent out earlier this year so they could create a community edible garden by germinating plant and herb seeds at home.

Residents brought their seedlings on Planting Day where Peabody's resident gardener, Georgiana Irimia, led the planting and installation of the climbers to create a new green wall.

The water pump was successfully used to fill up watering cans with ground and excess water also diverted to the planting bed via a stone trench.

Peabody's Public Realm and Landscape Manager, Desiree Shepherd, said: "It was a really successful day for generating awareness about the project and recruiting gardeners. We also celebrated in style with music and outdoor cooking!"

The new garden has already become a local hub of activity both as part of local people's daily routine and for weekend gatherings with residents forming an informal group and taking on the management, watering, and planting of the garden.

Residents are currently looking for more materials to extend the planting beds and add more seating of their own design. They are also applying for funding from the Making Space For Nature Community Fund to put in a shed.

VOLUNTEER TO GO GREEN

Do you want to have a say in the green and natural environmental work that goes on in Thamesmead and get involved in a hands-on way?

Peabody is continuing to work with North West Kent Countryside Partnership to boost the amount of wildlife and habitat in Thamesmead through its volunteering programme.

It's all part of Peabody's Biodiversity Action Plan, which takes a long-term approach to make Thamesmead an even greener place with a richer range of flora and fauna.

The activity sessions between now and the end of the year will include bluebell and wildflower planting, maintenance of Crossway Community Orchard, woodland scrub clearance, habitat creation, woodland coppicing and aquatic planting in Birchmere.

You can find more details in the What's On section, at www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk or by emailing msfn@peabody.org.uk

That's also the way green fingered residents can find out when the next drop-in sessions with Peabody's gardener-in-residence are happening.



NATURE



CAREER READY!



Young people in Thamesmead are getting the opportunity to sample life in the workplace thanks to a new initiative from Peabody Community Foundation (PCF) in partnership with the Career Ready charity and local schools.

As part of the scheme local Year 12 Student Nhi Doan enjoyed a five-week placement, funded by Bupa, with Peabody Community Foundation, working alongside the team across various projects.

Nhi said of her experience: "I shadowed meetings, attended events and developed a presentation for the Thamesmead team on the best ways to engage young people in the local area.

"One of the main things I wished to get out of an internship was to expand my network. This was extremely valuable to me as it exposed me to individuals with a wide range of skillsets that I'm able to learn from.

"It has helped my self-confidence and in accessing information. I was so conscious whether a question was stupid that I didn't ask any. I now see the importance in asking questions and in developing my understanding of topics."

Career Ready will be running for Year 12 Students at Harris Garrard Academy and Woolwich Polytechnic school for Boys in the next academic year, so look out for ways to apply in school. Masterclasses will also be available at St Paul's Academy.

If you would like to find out more, contact Nadia.Kassab@peabody.org.uk



Peabody partnered with Access Sport and Waterways Children Centre this summer to deliver an inclusive programme for children with special education needs and disabilities, and their families in Thamesmead.

Activities included multi sports, yoga, dance and cycling and were delivered by Access Sport's partner clubs: Cray Wanderers, Tiptoes and Tappers, Bexley Bike Club and Inclusive Yoga with Kelly.

The programme gave children and their families an opportunity to try new sports together and keep active during the holidays. The sessions also encouraged families to meet one another and create new friendships.

Families told organisers how much their children enjoyed taking part and to "keep up all the really positive work".

Access Sport and its partner clubs will continue to provide inclusive sports and fun activities during term time and holidays in Thamesmead.

To find out more contact ignite@accesssport.org.uk

PEABODY'S EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING TEAM IS HERE TO HELP



We know this is a tough time and if you need it, we can help. Our Employment and Training team help Peabody residents find work. We work closely with a range of employers and local partners to access a range of job vacancies. Our support includes help with:

Writing CVs, personal statements, cover letters and job applications

Preparing you for interviews

Connecting you with different employers and training providers

Volunteering opportunities

Career's guidance and coaching

If you are a Peabody resident interested contact us at: Employment.Training@peabody.org.uk

DIVINE EATING

Local health and well-being company, Food for Purpose, has been awarded a grant by Peabody and the London Community Foundation to help black churches get healthier.

The funding has allowed six Black African/ Caribbean churches in the Moorings to become part of the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI).

It's a six-week healthy living programme, with all costs covered, that is Bible based, scientifically sound and culturally relevant to black people. The programme is being delivered in person as well as online.

If your church is interested in taking part, please contact Sandra.Thomas@foodforpurpose.org or call 07895 202 631.

DIGITAL CHAMPIONS



Digital Champions help others to improve their digital skills and benefit from using the internet safely.

Covid has demonstrated the importance of having access and being able to use the internet and online services, but we know that almost one in 10 adults in Bexley are not currently online for many reasons, including lack of confidence and lack of knowledge.

If you're struggling and want to learn how to feel confident online and using technology, you can get free support by visiting a digital champion based at one of our community facilities in Thamesmead.

Call 07815 734 080 for more information and to book your appointment with a Digital Champion.



KIDS ART CLUB

An exciting new activity from Bow Arts for budding young artists will start at the Lakeside Centre on Saturday, 9 October, giving children aged 5 - 11 the chance to develop their creative skills with professional artist educators.

Running from 10am until midday, alongside school term times, the workshops cost £3. Children will learn new skills whilst working on their very own artworks, ending each term with a fun open day for parents to see what their children have created.

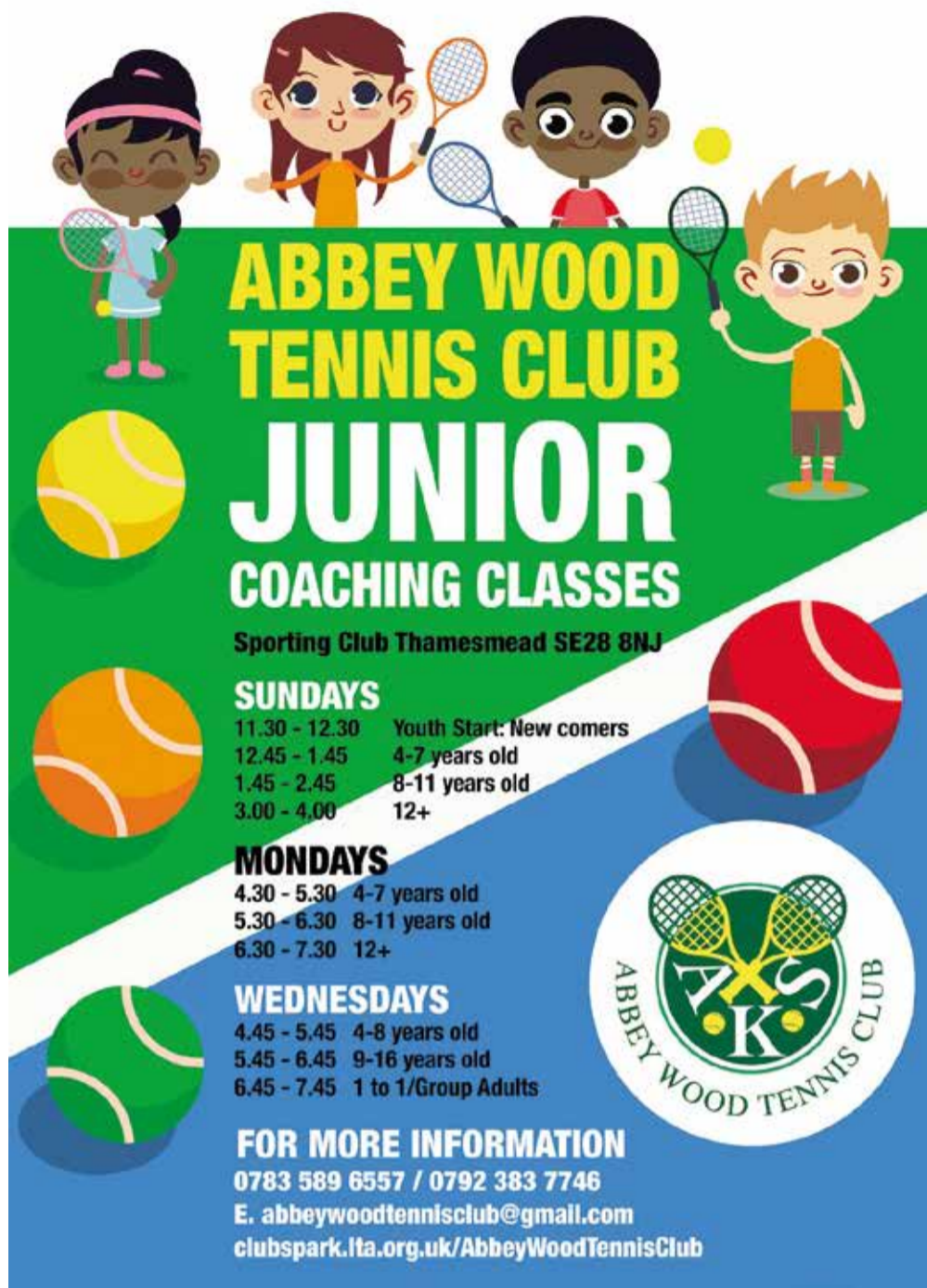
Visit www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk to book your weekly place.

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Sign up to our fortnightly jobs bulletin for new jobs 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

SUPPORT & OPPORTUNITIES





ABBEY WOOD TENNIS CLUB JUNIOR COACHING CLASSES

Sporting Club Thamesmead SE28 8NJ

SUNDAYS

11.30 - 12.30	Youth Start: New comers
12.45 - 1.45	4-7 years old
1.45 - 2.45	8-11 years old
3.00 - 4.00	12+


MONDAYS

4.30 - 5.30	4-7 years old
5.30 - 6.30	8-11 years old
6.30 - 7.30	12+

WEDNESDAYS

4.45 - 5.45	4-8 years old
5.45 - 6.45	9-16 years old
6.45 - 7.45	1 to 1/Group Adults

FOR MORE INFORMATION
 0783 589 6557 / 0792 383 7746
 E. abbeywoodtennisclub@gmail.com
clubspark.lfa.org.uk/AbbeyWoodTennisClub



THAMESMEAD WATERFRONT

Festival of Ideas

The Thamesmead Waterfront Joint Venture, a partnership between Peabody and Lendlease, is working to bring forward plans for a new Thameside neighbourhood at Thamesmead Waterfront. The Joint Venture has appointed a masterplanning team, led by Prior + Partners, to develop a Vision working with local communities.

As part of our Festival of Ideas we would like to invite you to our Place Labs in the Old Bed Shop in Thamesmead East, 4 Joyce Dawson Way, SE2 on 9th October and 13th November, with a range of events running from 10am – 4.30pm. Please save the dates.

At the Place Labs you will be able to view some of the thoughts collected so far, meet the design team and chip in your ideas for the future covering business, environmental improvements and cultural ambitions.

For more information & to join in-email: festival@soundingsoffice.com



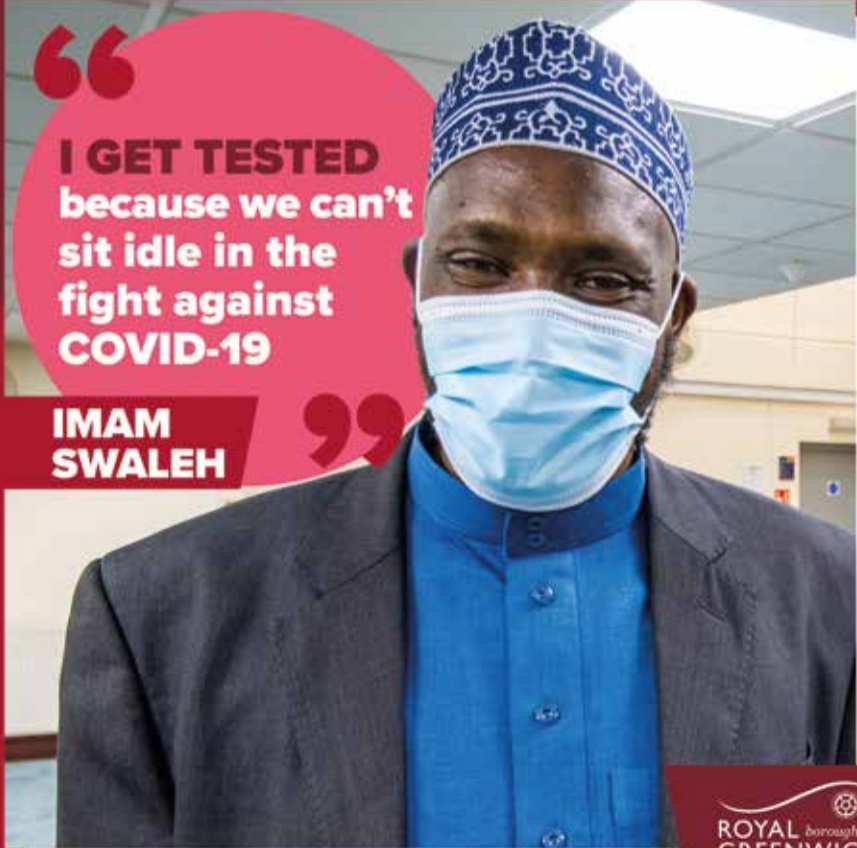

18-25?
Need support with your mental health?

FRESH MINDS
18-25 can offer you **FREE**

Counselling
CBT
Life Coaching
Group Therapy
Life Coach Course
Mentoring



Find out more!
0800 047 2600
sarah@counsellingmattersbexley.org



“ I GET TESTED because we can't sit idle in the fight against COVID-19 ”

IMAM SWALEH



ALL CHANGE



A group of residents are working with the Moorings Neighbourhood Forum, Peabody and the Moorings Ward councillors to develop the changing rooms in Birchmere Park.

We are keen to hear your views on what should be included. The intention is for the building to be fully functioning for the benefit of the whole community.

Current ideas include:

Café with toilet facilities

Upgrade toilets and shower rooms for the football and fishing group, including accessible toilets

Artwork on the building walls – we need suggestions!

Outdoor picnic area with table and benches, improved seating area

Outdoor tables tennis and gym area

New lighting along the lakeside path

Please submit your ideas to Sue Pollock at info@mooringsnf.org.uk

MOORINGS FAMILY FUN

Moorings Residents Group will be delivering a free Halloween Family Fun event on Saturday, 30 October between 12-3pm at Hawksmoor Youth Hub, funded by Peabody and supported by Young Greenwich.

Activities will include pumpkin carving, an inflatable assault course, Halloween creative art workshops, design your own mask, colouring-in and cake decorating. There will also be a raffle, face painting, massage, and lots more.



BRIGHT IDEA



Thamesmead is set to be a brighter place this winter thanks to Peabody's electrical team who have been replacing a large number of old fluorescent streetlights with a more modern LED design.

The improvements have come after the team completed an audit of all street lighting in the town to identify lights that were out-dated or not working properly.

Peabody's Director of Landscape and Placemaking in Thamesmead, Phil Askew, said: "We know from speaking to local people that proper effective street lighting makes them feel safer. We've already got very positive feedback from residents about the new lights."

As well as making residents feel safe the new lights are also more energy efficient, reducing running costs and carbon footprint.

THAMESMEAD BUSINESS FORUM

Meetings held on the
Second Monday
of every month 4-5.30pm

2021

11th Oct / 8th Nov / 13th Dec

Find Out How Your **BUSINESS**

Can Access The Potential Growth
Opportunities in Thamesmead.

Open to all individuals, SMEs or corporate
partners looking to start,
develop or grow in Thamesmead.

The Thamesmead Business Forum will
be facilitated online via video conference.

For joining instructions contact:
madeinthamesmead@peabody.org.uk
or check the What's On section
of the Thamesmead Portal.

[www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk/
portal/get-involved/whats-on](http://www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk/portal/get-involved/whats-on)



Made in Thamesmead



THAMESMEAD TM

 Peabody

NEW HOMES FOR SOUTH THAMESMEAD

NEWS



Photo credit: Paul Upward Photography

Peabody has completed the building of 130 new homes in South Thamesmead, with thousands more to follow.

The Southmere development has already been named Best Regeneration Project in the Evening Standard New Homes Awards and is also shortlisted in the Regeneration Scheme category of the British Homes Awards.

Alongside the homes there's the new library, cultural space and civic centre – The NEST, a public square and a commercial area, all part of Peabody's long-term plans for Thamesmead.

The new homes are 45% affordable (affordable rent, Shared Ownership, Shared Equity). All will have access to podium gardens, a children's playground, and Southmere Lake, which Peabody has invested £2.5 million on improving.

The development, built by Durkan, is centred around a new public square – Cygnet Square. This stunning area will have shops, restaurants, cafés, and community amenities for residents on their doorstep and host cultural events.

Many residents, such as Helen Snape, will be transferring from nearby Lesnes Estate.

Helen, who is moving into a new four-bed town house, said: "I've lived in Thamesmead for 11 years and brought my five children up here. I'm so pleased to be staying in the area which I love and still be part of the community my family has grown up in."

David Llewellyn, Peabody's Project Director for Delivery, said: "We worked closely with Durkan to make sure the local community saw real social benefits alongside the regeneration.

"We recruited 10 apprentices, who include Edward Afolabi, a local resident who is now part of our site management team. We also worked with environmental charity, Groundwork London, to help nine long-term jobseekers achieve sustainable employment.

"And we partnered with the Bexley Council's specialist employment support team to employ a local resident with a learning disability."

Leader of the London Borough of Bexley, Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE added: "This is great news for Thamesmead. This may be just the first phase in the longer regeneration plan but already the transformation is amazing."



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GET IN TOUCH

If you want to tell us what you think about 'Talk of Thamesmead', sign up for the monthly digital newsletter or get more involved in the work we're doing then please drop us a line at thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk

LET THERE BE LIGHT

The hugely popular Thamesmead Light Festival is returning. Light the Way will take place on the evening of Saturday, 27 November and connect Lesnes Abbey with Southmere Lake, along Abbey Way with a series of eye-catching light installations.

Keep an eye www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk for more details.

