

MEDIA RELEASE**25 May 2023****Thamesmead volunteer fair invites local residents to get involved in their community**

Residents in Thamesmead and the surrounding areas are invited to attend Peabody's community volunteer fair which is being held at The Moorings Sociable Club on Saturday 3 June.

The event is being held in celebration of Volunteers' Week which runs from 1 to 7 June, and will host various local organisations and community groups who are recruiting volunteers. There will be a range of volunteering opportunities available in health and wellbeing, sports and special educational needs, and community involvement.

Attendees will also be able to speak with existing volunteers about their experience and get advice on how to turn volunteering into employment from Peabody's economic inclusion team and the Greenwich Local Labour and Business (GLLaB) network. Free children's face painting will be available on the day for those who want to come along with their family, as well as light refreshments.

The event is organised by Peabody, which is leading the town's long-term regeneration. It forms part of Peabody's commitment provide local residents with access to new skills and networks.

Uzma Ali, Peabody's Community Development Project Officer for Greenwich and Bexley, said: "Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills and to give back to the community. The Volunteer Fair is a chance for people to find out what volunteering opportunities are available locally. They might be unsure where to start, or they may have already built up their volunteering experience and now want to transition into paid work.

"Volunteering in Thamesmead plays a really important role in allowing a diverse range of organisations to provide support and opportunities to the local community. We really want to celebrate this and to give organisations a chance to recruit new volunteers and shine a light on their invaluable contributions through the services they provide."

Denise Clarke (pictured right) works with Peabody as a digital champion volunteer at The Moorings Sociable Club where she provides one-to-one support to residents who need help to develop their

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digital skills. After working for BT for more than 40 years, she wanted to share her decades of expertise and experience with other Thamesmead residents. She's now helped more than 25 residents with everything from connecting to the internet to learning how to use programmes like PowerPoint and Zoom.

"Volunteering has meant I've retained my skills and my confidence, and I feel I'm giving back to the community," she says. "It's given me a great sense of achievement."

The Thamesmead Volunteer Fair is taking place at The Moorings Sociable Club from 12.30pm to 2.30pm on Saturday 3 June. You can find the full list of organisations who will be attending [here](#).

Find out more about Peabody's wider community work in Thamesmead [here](#).

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