

Thamesmead Newsletter

June 2020

Staying safe and supported



I hope everyone is staying safe and well, while the measures brought in to contain the spread of Coronavirus are beginning to be eased, we

know this is still a very stressful and trying experience for everyone.

Being forced to stay indoors most of the day can be tough and it's important we continue to do everything we can to provide any support you might need.

During this time Thamesmead's many parks, waterways and lakes have provided a welcome escape from being stuck at home and it's great that so many of you are enjoying these open spaces, which are being looked after by our hard-working Peabody team.

With government guidelines being relaxed the town centre has also become busier so it's even more important we respect social distancing rules. We're working with

businesses to ensure customers are kept safe at all times. We are also doing our best to manage the increased cases of fly-tipping and I hope now the local reuse and recycling centre has reopened there will be less illegal dumping of rubbish.

In this newsletter you'll see that despite the lockdown we have been able to continue a lot of work which we hope is helping to transform Thamesmead. You will also find details on how to get support from Peabody as well as details of the help available from our partners at Royal Borough of Greenwich and London Borough of Bexley Councils.

John Lewis,
Thamesmead Executive Director,
Peabody

Thamesmead on television

In the current situation it's crucial that Peabody does everything we can to make sure that the people of Thamesmead know exactly what's going on.

That's why we've launched the **ThamesmeadNow YouTube** channel, so we're using every form of communication to inform you and celebrate Thamesmead.

One video you can see on the channel is our Canals and Waterways Supervisor, **Chris Waite**, in his canoe keeping Thamesmead's waterways clear and tidy.

It even caught the eye of **BBC London News** who featured it in their evening bulletin.

Another of the programmes you can see on the channel is TEMO TV, which highlights Thamesmead talent and was launched by our local MP, **Abena Opong-Asare**.



TEMO TV is a brand new mini-series which we've created and commissioned **Emergency Exit Arts (EEA)** to produce. Our Trainee Producers are also involved and helping to produce some of the segments with support from EEA.

Adriana Marques, Head of Thamesmead Cultural Strategy at Peabody, said: "**TEMO TV is a great response to lockdown. The programme not only showcases local talent, but also helps keep a sense of community pride and connection during these difficult times.**"

You can find new **TEMO TV** episodes from 4pm every Friday on the **ThamesmeadNow YouTube** channel.

Lesnes votes yes to new future

Just before the Coronavirus outbreak residents on **South Thamesmead's Lesnes Estate** voted to support our plans for the regeneration of the estate.

A ballot was held in line with the Mayor of London's initiative to give residents a say about changes in their neighbourhood.

Of those eligible to vote, 65.4% took part in the ballot with 70.2% voting in favour of Peabody's plans to extend the regeneration of South Thamesmead.

Matthew Foulis, Project Director in Thamesmead for Peabody, said: "It is fantastic that local people have really backed our plans to redevelop the estate. Eligible residents will have the opportunity to move into one of the new homes we're building in South Thamesmead."

Bright idea for South Thamesmead

Residents around **Parkview** and **Portmeadow Walk** are set to see things more clearly thanks to improvement works being carried out on the public and street lighting in the area.

From now until August, Peabody's contractor **Fixatex**, will be replacing the existing lighting with new brighter and more energy efficient LED lights, designed to make the walkways easier to navigate and safer.

Fixatex needs access to some balconies and will be contacting residents over the next few weeks to arrange this.

The workers will be following government guidance, wearing protective gloves and maintaining social distancing from each other and the public.

If you have any questions about the work please contact Fixatex's site manager, **George Candler**, on **07860 506272** or **Gareth Plunkett**, Project Manager at Peabody, on **07903 102092**.



Become a part of the Thamesmead story

Last year artist **Bob and Roberta Smith** began talking to local people for the **Thamesmead Codex project**. The stories of ten residents were then turned into paintings.

Bob and Roberta is now looking for more stories to be displayed at the **Information Hub** on **Yarnton Way** and the **Clore Hub** at **Tate Modern**.

This will shine a light on how Thamesmead's tremendous community spirit is reacting to life under lockdown.

If you would like to take part please email lisa.drew@peabody.org.uk by 5pm on June 12 with:

- 10 key words that summarise your current situation or
- a short paragraph describing the view from your window and/or your new daily routine
- your postcode

Bob and Roberta will then select ten people to interview online. This project has been commissioned by Peabody with Tate Modern Community Partnerships.

Development update

The Coronavirus lockdown has meant building work stopping in the town, but since the change in government guidance sites have begun to reopen.

Contractor **Durkan** has restarted work on **Southmere Village**, in line with the new guidelines around social distancing.

Also, at **Southmere Lake** renovation work has continued with an island, reed bed and fishing jetties being installed for local people to enjoy alongside Thamesmead's many other green spaces.

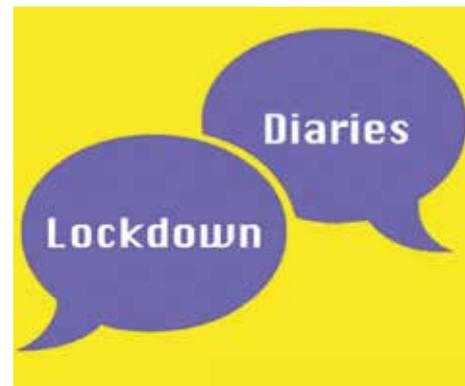
The demolition of **Binsey Walk** has been completed with outline planning for **329** new homes on the site.

Demolition work is also starting on the buildings at **Coralline Walk, Evenlode House, 1-7 (odds) Overton Road** and 100-106 (evens) **Harrow Manor Way**, to clear the way for hundreds of new homes.

Work will be done in stages to keep disruption to a minimum and local residents have been written to, letting them know exactly what is being done.



Improvement work underway at Southmere Lake



Help to write Thamesmead's history

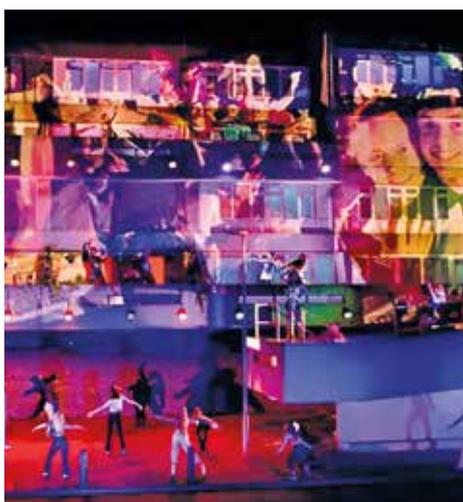
Thamesmead's artist-in-residence, **Dunya Kalantery**, has launched a new virtual art project, **Lockdown Diaries**, to encourage residents to share their experiences of life during the Coronavirus crisis.

These diaries will capture history in the making, becoming part of the **Thamesmead Community Archive** and inspire an artwork that will be displayed at the new Thamesmead Library in Southmere.

Residents can contribute through writing, video, photos, sound recordings or drawings. They can be as simple, as serious, or as wild as you want them to be.

For more information email: lockdowndiariestm@gmail.com

Alternatively, you can visit any of the following:
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lockdowndiariestm/lockdown
Instagram: [@lockdowndiariestm](https://www.instagram.com/lockdowndiariestm)
Padlet: www.padlet.com/lockdowndiariestm



Thamesmead Open for art

Despite Coronavirus denying us the chance to get together and enjoy the arts in all its forms, culture is still going to play a big part in Thamesmead's future.

Peabody has launched the **Thamesmead Open**, an ambitious, international art competition that will turn the town into a real cultural destination.

The brief is to create a bold piece of art that reflects the town's

unique landscape and heritage. The proposals should also explore how to engage with communities online or create virtual cultural experiences for large audiences to reflect the new realities of life during and after the Coronavirus outbreak.

The project will be completed by October 2022. A panel of judges, including **Thamesmead residents** and representatives from **Greenwich** and **Bexley Councils**, will select the winner in September.

Keeping business running



Caron receiving her business award

During lockdown the **Peabody Economic Inclusion team** is making sure local businesses are getting the support they need to help cope with these difficult times.

The **Thamesmead Business Forum** is still meeting every month but online via video conference until further notice (next on July 6).

For more details contact madeinthamesmead@peabody.org.uk and check the enterprise pages on the Thamesmead Portal for updates www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk/portal/enterprise/

The support provided by the team can really help to develop your business. Earlier this year a Peabody-

backed enterprise enjoyed success at the prestigious **Best of Greenwich Business Awards**, for the second year running.

First Choice Caribbean Hut Lunches was crowned the winner of the Food and Hospitality prize at the awards hosted by Journalist and TV Presenter **Steph McGovern**.

Owner, **Caron Schersmith-Meikle**, has been creating the very best in home-cooked Jamaican food since 2014 and was encouraged by **Peabody's Made in Thamesmead** enterprise programme to enter the awards.

Caron said: "Peabody's Thamesmead team has played a big factor in the last year, helping me to increase my business profile by attending networking events, the monthly Business Forum, mentoring and also catering for a Peabody away day for 600 people."

Support for residents

Peabody's Socio-Economic team has been pulling out all the stops to ensure the town's most vulnerable residents continue to be cared for.

As lockdown began, Peabody's Thamesmead Communities Facilities Manager, **Fiona Hamilton**, delivered **33 food parcels** to families in need in one day.

Fiona, with the help of **Felicity Feetham** and **Stephanie Torpey** from **Sporting Club Thamesmead**, arranged an emergency food delivery from their supplier, with help from the local **Aldi** store and bread donated by the **Hovis Bakery** in Erith.



Fiona and her team at work

She also ensured food and milk, that would have gone to waste due to the **Sporting Club** closing



because of Coronavirus, was donated to the **Emmanuel Church Foodbank**.

Please visit thamesmeadnow.org.uk for updates

Find out what's happening across Thamesmead

Sign up to the Thamesmead e-newsletter. Email us at thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk adding 'Sign me up' in the subject line.

Social media

For the latest news and information – please stay in touch by following us



ThamesmeadLDN

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Ready? Set. Grow!

To celebrate **National Growing for Wellbeing Week** (June 1- 7), the **Making Space for Nature** team is giving free food growing kits to **Thamesmead** residents.

In June, residents can register for a **Making Space for Nature Summer Salad Kit**, which will bring the magical world of food growing to your home, helping to save money, improve physical and mental health and increase wellbeing.

The kit will contain everything you need to get growing whether you're a first-timer or seasoned gardener.

In no time you'll be producing tomatoes, lettuce, beans and herbs, no matter how big or small your outdoor space is, whether you have a windowsill, garden or balcony, like **Kat**, our gardener in residence, pictured below.

Alongside the kits, which will be safely home delivered, you'll be supported with growing tips as well as an online community and gardening helpline.

Visit www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk/makingspacefornature or call **07738 738789** to register or find out more.



Local artist Joseph Griffiths



'Get Arty' with nature

Making Space for Nature is launching the **'Get Arty'** competition where residents get to explore the beauty of nature around them and express their creativity.

We're looking for residents of any age to create an art piece inspired by nature and your immediate surroundings.

It can be: a photo taken of a natural art piece (art or sculpture); a drawing of natural art (due to Coronavirus restrictions, photos will need to be taken of the drawing and uploaded, not the original drawing piece); a photo capturing natural art (as opposed to a photo of a piece of work or a poem (typed and uploaded, we can't accept hand-written pieces).

You might want to use natural materials such as leaves, petals, rocks, pebbles, twigs, bark, seeds or one or two items from your own home.

Local artist, **Joseph Griffiths**, will be holding online interactive workshops to share his expertise in natural art forms and participants will have the chance to win one of five £30 gift vouchers.

The competition closes on June 30 and for more details visit: www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk/inside-guide/get-arty or contact Rupal Shah at rupal.shah@groundwork.org.uk or on **07889 755119**.

Thamesmead is so tasty

Thamesmead has residents from a wide range of backgrounds from all over the world and to celebrate that we're looking for stories about food and recipes for simple dishes with different heritages.

We will be sharing the recipes and stories online, photographing some

professionally for a small cookbook and, when lockdown restrictions allow, have a **Taste of Thamesmead** food celebration event, which will include a photographic exhibition and the opportunity to try some of the dishes.

So far we've discovered fantastic meals such as: delicious vegan peanut stew; a classic shepherd's pie; a spicy jollof rice full of herbs and peppers (pictured) and crispy golden 'Tacos Dorados de Papa' (Mexican tacos), which you can check out on **TEMO TV** along with other recipes.

We've collected a lot, but are missing voices from older residents who have been living in Thamesmead for a long time, so if you have a recipe that has been passed down from a family member or friend then please email it to hannahringham@hotmail.co.uk



Jollof rice cooked by Temitope Adeyemi

photo: Floro Azqueta

Local Support and Volunteering

While we are constantly monitoring the situation, we are continuing to follow government guidance so have closed all community spaces, **The Link**, the **Information Hub** and our office on **Joyce Dawson Way**, for the time being.

If you'd like to talk to us about anything or have any questions please call **Sarah-Jane** on **020 8921 3671** Monday to Friday from 10am-3pm. You can also email us at thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk

If you have an urgent repair or housing issue we are still here to help in any way we can.

If you need this sort of support, please call our customer service centre on **0300 123 1237**.

Both the **Royal Borough of Greenwich** and **London Borough of Bexley** are working with their partners to provide support to those residents who need it.

This is being co-ordinated by the boroughs through statutory services, charities and local community and voluntary sector organisations.

Many local people have come forward to help too and both local authorities have set up processes to match those in need with charities and volunteers who can assist.

Bexley residents:

If you need support call the **Bexley Coronavirus helpline** – **020 3045 5398**, between 8am to 6pm. If you would like to find out how different charities and voluntary groups can support your health and wellbeing, contact **Community Connect** - **0300 302 0041** (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) or communityconnect@bvsc.co.uk



Fun activities and learning for kids

If you are looking for creative activities and online learning for children and young people whilst you are at home, we have a number of online guides on the **Thamesmead Now** website. Visit www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk/inside-guide for more information.

Greenwich residents:

If you live in **Greenwich** and are feeling anxious or lonely due to Covid-19, **Live Well Greenwich** has launched **Live Well Connect** – please call **0800 470 4831** for a listening ear and a friendly voice to talk to.

Opening times: Mon-Thurs 8.30am-7.30pm, Fri 8.30am-5.30pm, Sat 9am-12 noon (a message can be left outside of these hours).

Thamesmead residents:

If you are a **Thamesmead** resident there are a number of local services which you can access.

Positive Steps Thamesmead can offer telephone advice and information on a range of issues including housing, benefits and immigration.

Please call **Positive Steps Thamesmead** on **07815 734080**.

Keeping parents in touch

The **Socio-Economic team** have been piloting new parent forums on virtual platforms such as Zoom.

This offers the chance for parents to share stories, tips and experiences on how they are managing during lockdown and feedback on how Peabody can assist families.

Some parents have been catching up separately online and are planning to do a cook-along session soon. If you're interested in taking part and sharing your suggestions, contact **Christine Carrasco** on Christine.carrasco@peabody.org.uk or **07802 717514**.

Volunteering

If you are interested in offering to help as a volunteer there are a number of roles available, including befriending.

To register your interest please contact **Thamesmead communities@peabody.org.uk** or text "THAMESMEAD" to **07595 288177**.

Stay fit and healthy while you're at home

If you're looking for ways to help you and your family keep fit whilst you are at home, you can try a number of local online fitness sessions.

You can join **Firefly fitness** every Monday at 7pm for body conditioning and every Saturday at 9am for circuits. On Tuesday's, you can join **Rosanna** from 7:30pm for **Pilates with Rosanna**.

Visit www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk/inside-guide for more information.

Stay up to date on social media

You may have noticed that we're sharing more of our day-to-day news and updates on our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts. If you'd like to stay up to date you can follow us on Twitter: [@ThamesmeadLDN](https://twitter.com/ThamesmeadLDN), on Facebook: [@ThamesmeadNow](https://www.facebook.com/ThamesmeadNow) and on Instagram [@Thamesmeadnow](https://www.instagram.com/Thamesmeadnow)