

Thamesmead Newsletter

October 2020

Spirit of Thamesmead on show



John Lewis at Thamesmead Market

We continue to live in uncertain times with the advice about how to protect ourselves against Coronavirus constantly evolving.

The well-being of residents continues to be our highest priority but we're also supporting local businesses and finding ways of safely celebrating the best of Thamesmead.

Over the past few weeks there's been an outdoor family street performance on **Byron Close**, as part of the **Greenwich+Docklands International Festival**, the monthly **Thamesmead Market** at **Southmere Lake** and **The Big Picnic** in **Birchmere Park**.

At last month's Market it was great to meet and talk to stallholders and residents, all determined to maintain some sort of ordinary life in these most extraordinary circumstances.

It said so much about the fortitude, enterprise and optimism that is such a big part of Thamesmead's DNA.

We are also continuing to assist local entrepreneurship with the **Thamesmead Business Forum** online every month and the **Thamesmead Sessions 2.0** series for developing personal skills.

If you need extra help during this time, you'll find details about the support available from Peabody, as well as our partners at **Royal Borough of Greenwich** and **London Borough of Bexley** Councils, on page six.

Stay safe and well.

John Lewis,
Thamesmead Executive Director,
Peabody

Growing home

In July, the **Making Space for Nature** team sent more than **300 Summer Salad Kits** to Thamesmead residents. The kit included seeds, dry compost and a 'How to Guide'.

Now the team are about to distribute hundreds of **Spice and Season Boxes** to help even more local people experience the joy of growing food at home.

The **Summer Salad Kits** proved a great hit with residents like Kelly Jagger and Jamie Zubairi.

Kelly said: "I saw the kits advertised and wanted to try it. I thought, 'Right, I'm going to grow tomatoes', while really thinking, 'These aren't going to grow!' Within three days we had sprouts and it just got bigger and bigger. I couldn't believe it."



Jamie Zubairi with his summer crop

Jamie added: "I think growing has kept me a little bit sane during lockdown, it's been too easy to get caught up in keeping up with what's happening all the time. So, having plants doing their slow thing has been a reminder to sit

back and let things happen at their own pace."

If you want to find out about future growing kits sign up to the Making Space For Nature newsletter via www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk



Chris enjoying another day in the office



Swapping cabs for canals

Chris Burns is a member of **Peabody's Environmental Services** team in Thamesmead, helping to keep the town's waterways and green spaces in great shape for everyone to enjoy.

Here he reveals how he came to work in Thamesmead, after a diversion or two along the way:

"My dream job was to work on a canal. My family transported coal by barges along Regents Canal back in the day, and the canal and barges always fascinated me.

"I knew Thamesmead had canals, and thought how I would like to do that, and changed career after over

30 years of driving a London taxi... yet never thought it would happen.

"I chose to volunteer for the Thames 21 charity, which involved helping clean out the canals in Thamesmead. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and intended to make volunteering for them a regular thing.

"I was very lucky...after only one day volunteering, I was told I had done well, and later, that there was a permanent job coming up within Peabody for a Canal Operative.

I went for it, and luckily got the job, and have loved working here ever since.

"I love every day at work, rain or sun, it's so rewarding to sit back at the end of the day feeling that we have made a difference.

"We can be in the boat one day, in waders the next, rescuing injured swans, building islands for the wildlife, and litter picking the canals to keep them looking their best.

"It's nice too, when residents say thank you to us and see the hard work we put in. I feel a very lucky man!"

If you're interested in exploring job opportunities at Peabody check the Thamesmead Portal www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk/portal/

Young Prints charming

Peabody is helping nearly 500 students from schools in Thamesmead and the surrounding area to take part in a major new artistic project – the first **Young London Print Prize**.

This exciting initiative is part of the fifth **Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair**, running from November 12 to 15 at the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich.

With funding from Peabody, the students are learning how to make prints and break into the

world of contemporary art. All the submissions for the prize have been created, judged and curated by young people themselves.

This year's Fair has attracted a record response to the global call for entries, with more than 600 printmakers competing to exhibit from local artists to international award-winning printmakers.

Come and see the best of their work and many famous artists – www.woolwichprintfair.com



Keeping Southmere safe together



The local community and Peabody have come together at **Southmere Lake** because of a rise in anti-social behaviour after major improvements to the lake and surrounding area over the summer.

There have been increased incidents of vandalism, such as damage to safety equipment, littering and people ignoring warning signs about swimming in the lake.



Following a meeting with concerned residents Peabody has brought in a raft of new measures. These include increased warden patrols; improved, more durable signage and more rubbish bins, as well as working closely with the **'Tidy South Thamesmead'** litter-picking group.

Phil Askew, Peabody's Director of Landscape and Placemaking, said: **"We've spent the summer introducing these improvements to**

the lake and it's disappointing a small minority have chosen to try and spoil it for everyone else.

"Southmere Lake is a fantastic asset for Thamesmead, and we will continue working with the local community to make sure it's a place which everyone can enjoy."

During lockdown Peabody undertook major renovation work at the lake with an island, reed bed and viewing platforms being installed, new seating by the lakeside and the introduction of a fountain.

Anyone who witnesses anti-social behaviour at the lake or has any concerns should contact thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk. If you're interested in getting involved with the 'Tidy South Thamesmead' group you find them on Facebook.

image credit: Paul Elliot @respectedphotographylondon

Reedy great

As part of Peabody's drive to improve Thamesmead's waterways and green spaces another **reedbed** has been installed to enhance the local area and encourage wildlife.

The Installation at the Crossway/Harrow Canal Junction was done in collaboration with the **Thames 21** charity and **London Wildlife Trust**.

Because of Covid it wasn't possible to invite volunteers to participate but Peabody is planning another reedbed for February next year when it's hoped volunteers will be involved.





A YouthBuild learner on site

Building for success

YouthBuild, the joint initiative between **Peabody** and **YouthBuild Ventures UK**, is looking for more young people to take part in the programme which enables them to learn construction skills and develop leadership abilities.

Many of the group of youngsters who did the first four-week scheme earlier this year have secured employment since graduating, despite the difficulties of doing so during the Coronavirus lockdown.

Among the roles that graduates have found are: labourer with construction company Mace; a warehouse operative; a construction multi-skilled operative and a site operative for a small building company, while another is pursuing a career as a bricklayer.

Peabody's Economic Inclusion Manager, **Christofi Christou**, said: "Improving the social mobility of learners is a principle goal of YouthBuild Ventures UK and we are pleased to see that since graduation so many students have found meaningful employment."

Anyone interested in talking part in the YouthBuild programme should contact our Socio-Economic Team at Thamesmead.portal@peabody.org.uk or check the Thamesmead Portal for training opportunities www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk/portal/

CHOOSE A CAREER IN CONSTRUCTION

WITH AN EARNING POTENTIAL OF £150 – £250 PER DAY

BOOTCAMP STARTS @ SE2
Tues 27th October 2020
REGISTER NOW – Places are limited



Are you....

- Living within a London Borough ✓
- Aged 18 – 29 years old ✓
- Eligible to work in the UK ✓
- Unemployed but looking to work ✓

Do you want some help to take this next step...

We can offer you personalised support, practical hands on training, industry certification and access into employment or apprenticeships?

(Course material, protective clothing, breakfast and lunch provided)

ALL FOR FREE

Use these skills to improve a building in your community



The programme gives you:

Multi-trade Construction Skills:

- Painting and Decorating
- Plastering
- Tiling

Dry-lining Upskilling Course

CSCS Card

Health & Safety Awareness

Work Skills

One to one support and progression planning

YouthBuild develops young leaders and gives you the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the communities that matter most to you!

Black History Month

October is **Black History Month** and Peabody is working with the community to mark this annual recognition of the important contribution made by people of African and Caribbean descent.

At **Thamesmead Market** on October 11, there will be screenings of films centred around or from black culture as part of a wider programme.

For more details about what's happening during **Black History Month** visit www.thamesmeadnow.org.uk and follow our social media.

To **REGISTER NOW** or for further information

Call: 0203 828 4749 or 07771 305 971 Email: msaif@youthbuild.org

@YouthBuildVUK @YouthBuildVUK YB Ventures UK

Street life

You may have noticed some familiar faces brightening different spots around Thamesmead's walls, with Charlie Brown and the Mario Brothers making surprise appearances, among other new artworks.

These amazing images have been created by Thamesmead's very own renowned street artist – **TRUST. iCON**, who was supported by Peabody's Culture team to create a new trail of artworks. A map of their locations will be published soon.

Trust iCON, whose identity is a secret, says "If growing up in Thamesmead taught me anything...it was to never grow up."

Active on the streets of London, Berlin and Los Angeles his unique style has gained him critical acclaim. See more of his work on his Instagram



page – [@trusticon](#). Trust Icon has generously donated his fee to the Refugee Community Kitchen.

Tell us what you think

We hope you feel this newsletter is helpful and informative when it comes to finding out what Peabody is doing in Thamesmead and what's going on in the town generally.

But is there anything else we could be doing to make it more useful to you or are we missing things in the area that it would be good to let more local people know about?

If you've got any thoughts, suggestions or details about existing events we should be covering then please drop us a line at thamesmeadnow@peabody.org.uk, we'd love to hear from you.

Football fun for everyone

The **Charlton Challenge** is **Charlton Athletic Community Trust's (CACT's)** own award-winning scheme for 4-12 years boys and girls, delivered by qualified coaches.

Charlton Challenge is a structured and progressive scheme aimed at developing children's core movement and football skills. It is designed to create maximum enjoyment and involvement, while

also helping young footballers to realise their full potential.

At **Sporting Club Thamesmead** sessions run on Monday and Wednesday evenings, as well as this there will also be a football holiday course in October half-term from 9am-3pm each day.

To book please call **0208 850 2866** or email bradley.marshall@cact.org.uk



Murals to transform canals

The local community is helping to transform Thamesmead's network of canals this Autumn with a series of colourful murals.

Peabody has commissioned **Moniker Projects** to develop and deliver a programme of high-quality murals on eight underpasses as part of its ongoing commitment to improving the town's pathways and public spaces.

Moniker Projects spoke to residents at the Thamesmead Market events, community groups and ran a local school project to get ideas for how the murals should look. They will celebrate native wildlife and nature, local landmarks and the town's cultural heritage.

Four artists have already been selected with the fifth being chosen via an open call competition for local artists. The judging panel will include representatives from the Nature Forum, Youth Eco Development Council, Peabody and Moniker Projects.

Local support during Coronavirus

We are constantly monitoring the situation and continuing to follow government guidance around community spaces. The **Joyce Dawson Way** office is open again but **The Link** and **Information Hub** will remain closed for now.

If you'd like to talk to us about anything or have any questions please 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.

Please call our customer service centre on **0300 123 1237** if you need this sort of support.

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)

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**.

Do you need help with any of the following?

- **Benefits advice**
- **Debt and money management**
- **Looking for a job**
- **Immigration**
- **Housing issues**

If you need support, we're here to help.

Call **07815 734 080**

Positive.steps
Thamesmead



COVID-19 National Testing Portal:

Anyone who has symptoms of **coronavirus (COVID-19)** can get a free test to check if they have the virus. You can get a test for yourself or for someone you live with if you/they have coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste). Some people without symptoms can have the test too.

You need to get the test done in the first 5 days of having symptoms. If you do not have symptoms, you can only get a test if your hospital has told you to.

Apply for the test as soon as you have symptoms. You can do it online. For more information go to www.nhs.uk and click on 'Find out about coronavirus'.



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)

THAMESMEAD SESSIONS 2.0



Interested in developing personal skills, learning about growth sectors or achieving goals, there's a **Thamesmead Session** for that

"What I learned and benefited from the sessions is to come up with a vision that gets me going every day"
Enoch

- 06 October **How to kick start your career in Gaming**
- 20 October **Explore the Creative Industries**
- 03 November **Understanding the Fashion Industry**
- 17 November **An introduction into Social media for businesses and influencers**
- 01 December **Young People Services**

Sessions delivered via zoom
11am - 12:30pm

Book your place with
thamesmead.portal@peabody.org.uk
or call 07880101223

THAMESMEAD TM



Opportunity knocks

The **Thamesmead Sessions 2.0** are aimed at opening up the growth sectors to Thamesmead residents and give them an insight into how they can get into the industry.

Each of the sessions is based on a different growth sector and will feature experienced speakers discussing how local people can get into the industry through through the training, employment or procurement opportunities available.

They will take place via Zoom from 11am - 12:30pm. If you would like to sign up, please email Thamesmead.Portal@Peabody.org.uk

Joyce Dawson Way reopens

Peabody's office on **Joyce Dawson Way** is open once again so residents can come in to discuss any concerns they might have.

Measures have been put in place to keep visitors safe and opening hours have been reduced to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am until 2pm.

If you do visit **Joyce Dawson Way** please ensure you are wearing a face covering and wash/sanitise your hands as you enter to help us keep this vital office open. This is especially important now as guidance is subject to change at short notice.

We are continuing to follow government guidance so all other community spaces, The Link, and the Information Hub will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

Also, as part of extending Peabody's service to residents Neighbourhood Managers are restarting block inspections once more. In line with lockdown guidance face-to-face meetings are limited for the time being.

THAMESMEAD BUSINESS FORUM TM

Meetings held 4-5.30pm first Monday of every month

5 October **20**
2 November **20**
7 December **20**



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's 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

- > Support
- > Mentoring
- > Training
- > Tender Opportunities
- > News
- > Covid-19 Business Support



THAMESMEAD TM Peabody



Become a Community Champion

The London Borough of Bexley is developing a network of local people to become **Community Champions**.

These local champions will work with the council to share information by talking to family, friends and others in their community, helping to keep people safe, reassured and supported in these uncertain times.

No experience is needed, just willingness to support other people locally.

If you are interested in helping with this vital work, please visit www.bexley.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/community-champions for more information and to register your interest.

OPEN FROM 9AM TO 9PM WEEKDAYS
AND
9AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS AND
BANK HOLIDAYS.

TALKLINE

If you're feeling lonely, isolated, stressed or anxious in these difficult times. Phone our talk line and talk to a counsellor free of charge. We won't give you advice or judge you, but we will listen and can also give you information about other services. You're not alone in these times, we are here to support you.

freephone
0800 047 2600

email
mail@cmbtalk.org

Counselling Matters Bexley

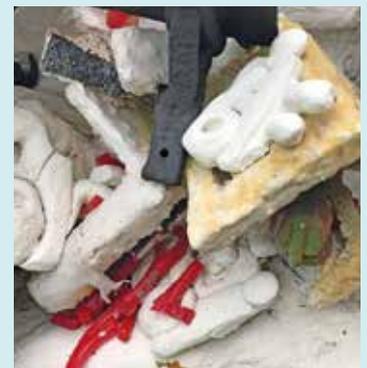
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

TACO! is back-o!

TACO! (Thamesmead Arts and Culture Office) is hosting "**Born of Lexical Bort**", an exhibition of new sculptural works by British artist **Luke McCreadie**, from October 2 until November 8.

TACO! is at 30 Poplar Place, Thamesmead, SE28 8BA, and open Thursday to Sunday from 12pm to 6pm during exhibitions.

There is a handmade fence (or a cage), and a spring with fossils. Some graphemes, drawings of body parts, and objects made from materials that behave like they come from the body, and some words that behave like objects.



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

