

Welcome to the second issue of The Stratford Grapevine, a free newspaper by and about the people of Stratford, East London, which is distributed from Stratford station.

The Stratford Grapevine is the creation of artist Lucy Harrison, who has been working with communities and individuals to catch the essence of this fast-changing part of the capital. Commissioned by Art on the Underground, Lucy's project has seen her walking and talking with local people including allotment owners, pub-quiz teams, market traders, football teams and station staff.

This issue has been developed with the Discover Children's Forum and includes articles, stories and cartoons that reflect the children's experiences and ideas about their town. Spot the sports characters throughout these pages, drawn by members of the group. The Children's Forum produces its own newspaper Forum News, which is distributed to schools and libraries in Newham. The Forum has teamed up with The Stratford Grapevine to produce the first section of this issue.

The final edition will be issued on Thursday 6 November and will feature a pull-out section devised and produced by the Architecture Crew, a group of young people from Newham who meet regularly to develop projects that consider local regeneration.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of The Stratford Grapevine. If you have something that you would like to contribute to the third and final issue, whether it is a story, photograph or piece of writing about your life in Stratford, then we would love to hear from you by 1 October. Please email your contributions to art@tube.tfl.gov.uk, call 020 7027 8694, or leave a comment on the [website tfl.gov.uk/art](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/art).



By Hila



Discover Children's Forum

Structural Holes

Gordon Joly

The West Ham Allotment Society website has proved a useful resource for attracting new people to the allotments, like artist Ravinder Atwal (see page 18), who saw that we had some links with the Second World War, including an Anderson Shelter on the site of one of the plots. She wanted to find a place where teenagers from the Community Links project could learn about gardening and maybe something besides from the older people on the allotment.

Starting from near the allotments, I have been walking a lot in the area, in particular the Olympic Park site. John and Chris, of the Newham Striders (as featured in Issue 1) were my guides. They've been leading walks around the site for a year or two. After the Olympic Park site closed for construction in July 2007, the walks ceased and I started to lead a walk along a similar route, starting from Three Mills, which gave a view of the Olympic Park, and other places along the canals and footpath, as far as Carpenters Road.

I met Carole Myers (see pages 14-15) on one of the Newham Striders' walks over a year ago. She is a retired teacher who has started a second career as a freelance designer. Walking creates a good opportunity for talking and finding subjects of mutual interest. These links might last for the length of the walk, or might be the start of a friendship.

Carole has now joined us in the Grapevine pub quiz team at the King Eddie's. Other friends have joined the walks: the artists Lucy and Nina, colleagues from work, and people who connect from other areas of my life, such as tai chi.

Why is this all so important? Well, apart from being good fun, keeping up your links and forging new ones, it's important if you want to stay young at heart. People who join lots of clubs and are active are more likely to stay healthy and happy, as opposed to those who stay at home and watch the telly. The young people on the allotments learned a few tricks from the older crowd, who in turn learned from the teenagers.

So if you find yourself in a 'structural hole', that is, the gap between two groups, don't be shocked! You're on to a good thing. You'll find that you meet more and more people, and that you yourself may bring groups together, for the benefit of all.

Gordon Joly is a regular contributor to The Stratford Grapevine. Amongst other things, he manages the West Ham Allotment Society's website www.westhamallotments.org.uk

Discover

By Colm, Marcella and Hila

Discover is a fun place for kids to play and hang out. We like Discover because lots of children go there and there's stuff to do and kind staff. At Discover there are lots of imaginative stories to listen to and things to play with. You can also make your own funny videos and there's a big garden.



Here's a picture of the mascot of Discover. He's a baby space monster called Hootah.

The big garden is called the Story Garden. It's a great place to play. We especially like the pirate ship and the space shuttle. There's also a long dragon slide that feels like it never ends.



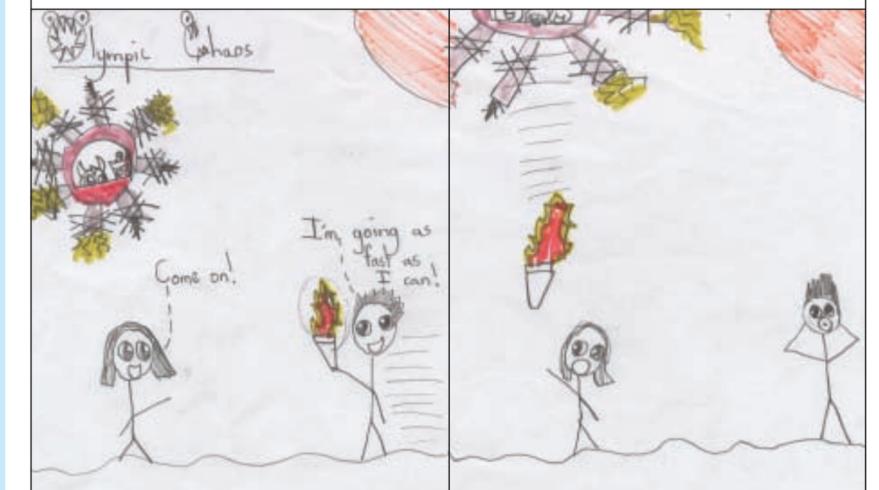
Story Trail

We're part of a group of children called the Discover Children's Forum who have meetings at Discover. The Children's Forum helps to make Stratford a better place. We also make a newspaper called Forum News that goes all around Stratford, giving people feedback on what we find out or what we think. Go Discover!

Discover

1 Bridge Terrace, Stratford, London, E15 4BG
www.discover.org.uk

Olympic Chaos by Can and Colm



It was 2012 and the Olympics were on. But the runners didn't see the alien.

Suddenly the aliens beamed up the Olympic flame. The aliens? Darkon, Roll Mo and Laserbeam.



Hooray, the good guys are here!

There was a huge battle. The good guys won. The Olympics carried on. Everyone was happy. Well, nearly everyone.

Discover Children's Forum presents a Photo Tour of Stratford

Stratford Library



"I like to play on the computer on internet car games and fighting games, boy games, shooting games and lastly, fire games. When I go to Stratford Library I go on the computer: I go on the internet and play games. If the computer screen isn't working I read a book. I think the library is a good place to read and go on the computer and to get information." *Abasin*

"I like going to Stratford Library, especially if I'm bored. I play on the computers. I like wrestling games. Sometimes I like reading a book. The people who work there sometimes help us do our work, especially in homework club. Homework club is fun. Sometimes you can do colouring or do some homework. I like all the books in the library because I really like reading." *Benyamin*

Picture House



"Going to the Picture House is fun. I've seen Chicken Little and Sea Monsters. They have a big screen for everybody to see the film. I go with my dad to the cinema. They have loud noises to make sure everybody can hear." *Benyamin*

"I like the Stratford Picture House because you watch all kinds of films. I go there with my family, friends and even my class. I've seen Enchanted and Shrek 2. At Stratford Picture House they show the best films and have the best food (I like popcorn and Coke). That's why I like it!" *Hila*



Stratford Centre



"Stratford Centre has lots of shops inside. I think the shopping centre is a good place for people who live in Stratford. However, I'm worried that when the Games come, the crowds will get too big and small children will get lost. There might also be too much litter." *Aishah*

Theatre Square



"In the Theatre Square there are different places to go. You have the Stratford Picture House, the Theatre Royal, Stratford Circus and Stratford shopping centre. They're all great places to go to, but my personal favourite is Stratford Shopping centre!" *Aysha*

Theatre Royal



"The Theatre Royal is a great place to go with your family and friends. You can see all types of plays. There's comedy, romance and a lot of other types. Inside the Theatre Royal is a really big stage where the great plays are performed. If you go and see a play, you'll want to see it again and again." *Aysha*

Stratford Station



"Stratford Station is very big and the trains are very long. Sometimes I go to the station to catch a train. One time I went on a train to go to the movies." *Benyamin*

Stratford Park



"In Stratford Park there's a fountain with water in it. In the water you can see your reflection. If people go near it they might fall asleep because the noise of the fountain is very relaxing." *Hila*



"Discover is a fantastic place. It is very colourful and when you open your eyes inside it you will see many, many things and think you've just walked through an invisible portal! When you visit Discover you'll want to secretly plot stories to share with everyone!" *Farida*

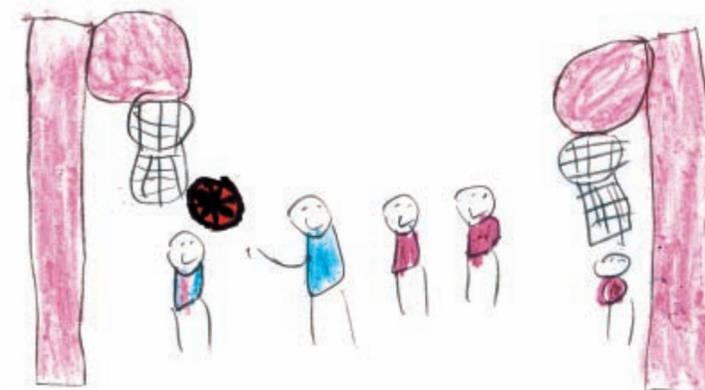
What people are saying about the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics

By Vanessa, Farida, Yasmin and Jemima

We asked people what they think about the 2012 Games. We talked to people in different age groups: 0-15, 15-25, 25-40 and 40 and over. Here are some of the results.



The Red Rocket By Shah
Once upon a time there were people in a red rocket and they were in Bangladesh. They didn't have enough room in Bangladesh so they had to move to England. It was good in England.



Most people said they're excited about the Games, but some said they're not. These are some reasons why:

"No, because I don't like sports very much and I don't really think it will make Stratford a better place to live or work in." (40 and over)
"Not excited because it will cost a lot of money." (25-40)

We asked people what their dream games would be:

Kite-surfing, skipping, cat-petting, kite-flying, world's highest bungee-jumping, hula-hooping, rugby, swimming and football.

We asked people what Stratford would gain:

"It would be good for Stratford to get a heart and have a sense of local community." (25-40)
"I'd like to see more butterflies." (0-15)
"Recognition, employment, respect for the East End of London." (40 and over)
"Lots of jobs will be generated in the short term and when the Games are over it should leave better sporting facilities and transport links." (25-40)

Finally we asked people what the 2012 Games mean to them:

"Meeting lots of people and bringing exciting visitors to London." (25-40)
"I like sports and I like people from all over the world." (25-40)
"Trying the best you can and bringing all the people of the world together." (25-40)

Thank you everyone who took part in these interviews. We didn't expect the funny ones, so thank you!!

WILDLIFE IN STRATFORD

By Colm and Can

Nearly all the wildlife in Stratford is birds, insects or mammals. Here's a short profile on urban foxes:

What do urban foxes eat?

They have a very varied diet. Urban foxes eat earthworms, insects, fruit and vegetables and both domestic and wild birds and mammals. Most of the birds they eat are feral pigeons and small garden birds, and the most frequently eaten mammals are generally field voles, abundant on allotments, railway lines and other grassy areas.

Will foxes kill my pet rabbit/guinea pig?

Yes, they might if you don't look after it properly. But it's easy to ensure it's safe. Don't leave it out at night, make sure that its hutch is securely bolted, and have weld mesh, not chicken wire (which foxes can break easily) on the front. If you take these precautions, there should be little risk.

Why do I find dead animals buried in my flowerbeds?

The foxes have been catching surplus food, and are likely to be back within a few days to eat it. Foxes are not at all fussy about sell-by dates, however, and some of the food they consume is more maggots than anything else, but is still eaten with relish.

Why do I keep losing things from my garden?

Foxes love to play, particularly with things that smell good - old shoes, dog chews, balls and gardening gloves are favourite items. The only solution is to ensure that you don't leave interesting playthings lying around your garden.

FACT:

Once my sister's sandal was destroyed by a fox and the other one got carried away! Here's a photo of her sandal!!!



Here's some information about otters:

The lower Lea Valley, where otters once lived in abundance, will be at the centre of the Olympic grounds. Authorities want to encourage the otters to set up home near Stratford before they start to build near the otters' territory.



China Trip

By Kayla

On 9 May 2008 I went to Beijing, China, on a language study trip with my school. When we got off the plane it was raining, but we were told that it was going to be hot and sunny!

On the first night we ate in a restaurant called The Nine Headed Bird and we had traditional Chinese food like rice, sweet-and-sour pork and much more. We visited a school called Changping Number 1 Middle School and all of the students were friendly and helpful and the majority of them could speak English so we didn't have to worry about not being able to speak and understand fluent Chinese.

On our first day in China a tragedy occurred in Sichuan, China. There was a powerful earthquake that killed thousands of people and injured many. Luckily for us, the earthquake wasn't in Beijing so none of us was harmed. I was very surprised at the time it took for aid to reach the affected area because it was very quick and many people were saved in a short space of time.

We visited many tourist attractions such as The Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, Yong He Gong (The Lama Temple) and many more. We also visited the Bird's Nest National stadium, the Water Cube, which is where they will do the swimming in the Olympics, and the Indoor Stadium. When we were walking on the Great Wall we saw the slogan for the Olympics which is "One World One Dream".

We also watched the practice rehearsal of the Olympic ceremony, which was incredible and I saw no mistakes. We went to a couple of shopping centres in China and brought many gifts. We bought items of clothing, shoes and much more because it's much cheaper in China than in England.

I really enjoyed China because it has wonderful people, wonderful food and the most spectacular views, but what I didn't like about China was the toilets because they were a hole in the floor. Besides that, I really loved China because it was a great cultural experience for me and I can't wait to go back and learn more.

Scary Story

an extract by Rebekah

In the heart of Northern Ireland, Gary Thompson was climbing the stairs in his dilapidated house. He breathed in its musty smell and sighed. He knew he would have to start his spring cleaning soon. He finished climbing the stairs and was just reaching for his door handle when he heard a noise behind him. Gary whipped around, only to see nothing. Muttering about "having the stairs replaced" Gary walked into his bedroom and lay on his four-poster bed. Within twenty seconds he was fast asleep. Gary awoke to the sound of footsteps on the landing. At first he put it down to his cat Sheeba, most probably coming to reclaim her favourite spot on the landing outside his bedroom door. Then Gary thought about it again. His cat Sheeba was outside hunting. There was no one in the house except him. Who could it be, making the noise? Gary had no time to consider the question that had just popped into his mind for the door suddenly opened and a gust of cold air hit him square in the face and knocked him unconscious.

Meanwhile, in South-East Ireland, Super Sue got up to have a midnight snack of hot chocolate and cream crackers. As she was walking down her cluttered hallway she stubbed her toe on a cook book she had received for her birthday that year. She walked into her kitchen where she was hit by a foul smell. But the smell was the least of her problems. Everything in the kitchen had been turned upside down and all of her possessions were on the floor! She started to walk over to sink but she stopped when she saw that the window was wide open ...

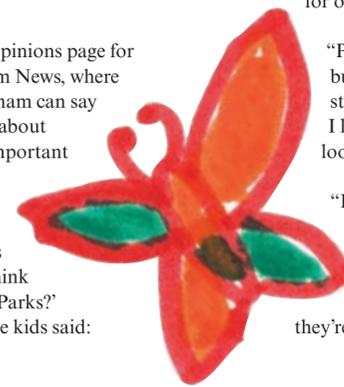


KIDSAY

By Stephanie and Kayla

KIDSAY is an opinions page for Discover's Forum News, where children in Newham can say what they think about issues that are important to them.

One of the most popular topics is 'What do kids think about Newham Parks?' Here's what some kids said:



"Most parks in Newham are for small children. I think there should be more equipment in parks for older children like me." (KT aged 13)

"Parks in Newham are better than before, but I still don't like them because there's still quite a lot of litter around. However, I like flowers in parks; they make parks look more vibrant." (VMP aged 10)

"I like parks because they're fun, plus they give me something to do on the weekends." (TM aged 11)

"I love going to parks because they're great ways to keep fit and hang

out with my friends, plus I like colourful parks." (AN aged 9)

"I don't like most parks in Newham because they sometimes have drunken people, plus gangs hang around and make me feel unsafe." (CA aged 10)

The feelings about Newham's parks are mixed, but many people don't like litter and the type of people that loiter around some parks, which makes them feel scared and unsafe. But not all parks are like that. Some are vibrant, clean and exciting.



Discover Children's Forum

Stratford Park by Ayesha

Sunflowers blossom in the summer
 Trees give you shade when it's too hot
 Ride your bikes around the orange wall
 A playground for children to play in
 Take a picnic, if you want to
 Freedom is yours
 Only takes a few minutes to get there
 Run around and have some fun
 Daisies blowing in the wind

Please put your litter in the bins provided
 After a hard day at work or school, sit down and chill out
 Read a book or a newspaper
 Keep off the grass or you'll be in trouble

DISCOVER COMPETITION

WIN a free annual family pass to Discover!!!

Enjoy unlimited entry to Discover for a whole year with an amazing Story Trail, Story Garden, special events and exhibitions. Each visit is the start of a new story.

Discover, the children's story-making centre based in Stratford, E15, is a place where children aged 0-11 and their families can play and have fun together.

Please answer the following question for a chance to win this great prize:

What is the name of the baby space monster that lives at Discover?

- a) Scootah
- b) Lootah
- c) Hootah

To enter the draw, fill out the form below in block capital letters and send it in a stamped-addressed envelope to 'DISCOVER PRIZE DRAW', Art on the Underground, London Underground, 55 Broadway, London, SW1H 0BD

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

This information will be used by Art on the Underground and Discover to inform you of up and coming events and activities. Please tick this box if you do not wish Art on the Underground / Discover to contact you with further information.

Good Luck!

Terms and Conditions: No purchase necessary. Photocopies are not acceptable. Only completed forms will be considered. Prize draw start date 18 September 2008. Entries must be received by 3 October 2008 when only the correct answers will be entered into the prize draw. The prize draw will take place on 6 October at LU by an independent observer. Prize: 1 x free family pass for a family of up to 6 members. No cash alternative available. Prize winners will be contacted via telephone by a Discover employee. Art on the Underground will announce the prize winner in the 3rd edition of The Stratford Grapevine. See page 20 for further T&C.



LONDON TALES

David Edwards is an author and long-time resident of East London. His latest book of short stories, *London Tales* is published by Stratford-based publisher, Gadfly Entertainment.

“In great part, these stories sprang from a personal wish to see contemporary London more authentically portrayed in modern literary fiction,” explains David Edward, the author, and long-time resident of East London, in which many of the stories are set. He states that as someone who was born and schooled in London, “I find it lamentable that the language, the situations and the personalities that Londoners hear and experience daily are conspicuously absent from the pages of the fiction on the shelves of bookstores.”

While *London Tales* is not an autobiographical work, in some cases, the spark of a story came from real experience. For example, the idea for many of the scenes in ‘The Money Shot’, the second story in the collection, arose from an encounter in the nightclub Chinawhite, involving a first-team Chelsea football player. Another story, ‘Bitch Boy’ is a fictionalised version of a situation recounted by one of Edwards’s former private students, a 15-year-old who had been excluded from school.

The stories also fit in with an important ideal for Gadfly Entertainment, which is to produce socially relevant fiction that questions and challenges existing thinking on social practices. Valentina Paoloni, press and marketing spokesperson for Gadfly Entertainment, explains the logic behind the choice of the company name. “A Gadfly is a buzzing nuisance. But with a positive take on that description, the company aims to produce work intended to provoke thought on behalf of readers and institutions.” The ‘entertainment’ aspect of the company name is not accidental either. “We strongly believe that literary fiction ought

to be entertaining but without sacrificing seriousness and innovation,” adds Paoloni. “And given that all the stories are set in London, we’re happy they reflect the city’s multiculturalism and vibrancy.”

Extract from ‘Sprog’, from *London Tales*.

I was raised with Jack, my older brother, in Stratford, East London. The job was single-handedly achieved by my widowed father in between him working nights as a club singer and spending daylight hours sleeping or hunched over the piano, composing musicals that would never see the lights of a stage or reach ears beyond our own and those of his indomitably optimistic agent. When I dropped out of university, I worked in a nursery for a few years and then I moved to Mile End with my boyfriend, who, with some help from the East London Small Business Centre, had started up a computer repair business near the Bow flyover.

My upbringing was high on personal freedom but low on the frequency of common family intimacies. So, even now, nightly ‘I love you’s and emotional outbursts of the kind I see from people playing families on television, look and sound strange and fake to me. When my boyfriend challenges me about this, I joke that it’s a consequence of being raised with real blokes. This emotional reserve probably accounted for my discomfort with Jack’s needy tone when he called me up one Saturday afternoon and asked that I come down to visit him right away. He’d always been someone I looked up to as the cool, emotionally self-sufficient older brother. So he sounded like another person. As a sentiment, emotional desperation had had as much place in our household as uncooked rice in a cake recipe. I hadn’t seen him since last Christmas, when we’d visited Dad for lunch. But I agreed to meet him a hundred metres from the flat he shared with his partner, Diana, near the Queen Victoria pub in Maryland...

I got to the Queen Victoria late. I met Jack standing outside. He held a pint glass in his hand. It was half-full. He had flattened out a tabloid newspaper against the window ledge and I did not recognise him instantly. The new haircut was severe and it made him look much older than he did when I saw him at Christmas. I told him so and he admitted as much in an instant. But he shrugged as if he hardly cared. I’m a man in a crisis and barely holding myself together was so deeply etched across his unshaven face that I reckoned the impression his physical appearance would make on his younger sister had held as much interest for him as the weekend weather forecast for Borneo. Still, having taken the trouble to meet him, I was eager to hear what had got him so worked up.

London Tales is available at selected outlets including Newham Bookshop and London University Bookshop. For information visit www.gadflyentertainment.com



Open Street Mapping Stratford

Harry Wood



Photo montage of Stratford: Harry Wood

This summer, a group of people visited Stratford to make a map. Maybe you saw one of these suspicious-looking characters walking or cycling the streets, taking photos of street signs, or staring at a GPS. The ‘Stratford mapping party’ was arranged on the internet. Gathering data as they went, they approached the area from various directions and eventually converged on a pub for a few drinks, before returning home to upload their map data onto the central database. This work formed part of a global collaborative mapping initiative called openstreetmap.org

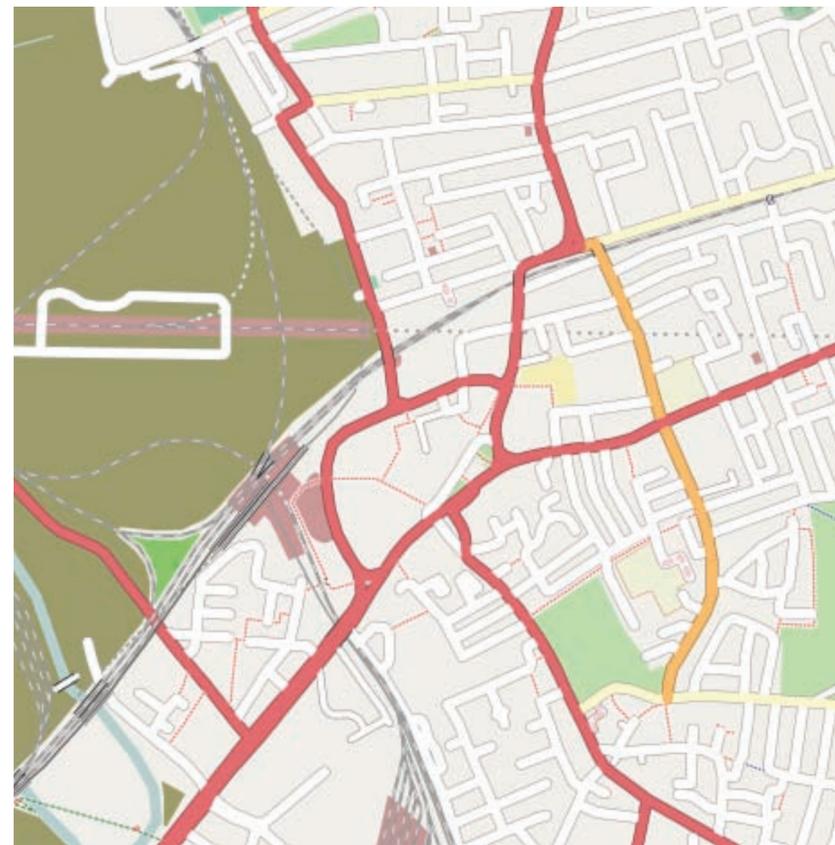
If you’re looking for a map of Stratford, you’ve got plenty of options. You can buy an A-Z of London or an Ordnance Survey map. You can find a map for free on websites, such as google maps, or you can refer to one of the maps pinned up at tube stations and bus stops to help

you find your way around Stratford. So why are the crazy people at openstreetmap.org creating a new map, completely from scratch, without even looking at any existing maps? What is the point?

There’s a serious answer to this question. It relates to complicated issues of copyright, freedom of information, and freedom to re-use information. Leaving that aside, [openstreetmap](http://openstreetmap.org) is fun! Communities of volunteers are coming together on the internet to work on projects like this, which build free information resources. Wikipedia is an example of this. There’s no hidden corporate motive. There aren’t vast amounts of money to be made. It’s all about people (large numbers of them) getting involved for fun and for the thrill of helping to build something great.

Building [openstreetmap](http://openstreetmap.org) adds a particularly interesting local dimension to this kind of collaboration. It involves getting out there, walking the streets, visiting the places and the communities that a map represents. Maps are woven into the fabric of our daily lives. You really get a feel for that when you go out and gather the names of streets where people live, and record the positions of pubs and post-boxes. If you were ever looking for a constructive excuse to go out and explore new areas around Stratford, [openstreetmap](http://openstreetmap.org) is it!

The project can always benefit from more people getting involved, especially those who live and



openstreetmap.org of Stratford

work in the Stratford area (an area where we don’t have complete coverage). Contributions to [openstreetmap](http://openstreetmap.org) can be big or small. It’s all volunteer effort, so you can contribute as much or as little as you like. Some people just make a small correction to the map of their local neighbourhood, while other people regularly go out looking for new areas to map. Others organise ‘mapping parties’, an opportunity to meet up and socialise with other [openstreetmap](http://openstreetmap.org) contributors.

But where to start? First of all, go to openstreetmap.org and zoom in on Stratford and take a look at the map. You’ll see that some areas (especially to the east) have a whole bunch of streets without names. These are the main areas where we need to gather new data. So head out there! Take a print-out of the map, and start writing down street names and recording information.

We also want other important information such as one-way restrictions, classifications of streets, pedestrian routes and footpaths. We have ways of representing just about anything in the [openstreetmap](http://openstreetmap.org) database: pubs, post-boxes, shops, traffic lights, bus stops, telephone boxes, etc – all of the little details that make up the places where we live and work. The amount of information you gather just depends on how thorough you want to be. Street names are the most important thing, but remember, no looking at existing maps! That would be cheating!

Inputting the data is where it gets a little bit technical. [openstreetmap](http://openstreetmap.org) developers (also volunteers) have tried to make the ‘Editor’ software easy to use, but you’ll need to spend a bit of time to get the hang of it. First, you’ll need to create an account on openstreetmap.org (choose a password etc). The ‘help’ information on openstreetmap.org will guide you through the process. If all of this is a little bit beyond you, we now have an option called “OpenStreetBugs” <http://openstreetbugs.appspot.com>, which allows you simply to annotate the map, reporting information, which other people can then feed into the map.

For the more advanced [openstreetmap](http://openstreetmap.org) mapper, we have various techniques for efficient data capture. For example, many of us use GPS receivers to record a ‘track’ as we walk the streets, coupled with digital cameras to take photos of street signs and other features. We visited Stratford with all of our gadgetry on two separate evenings this summer.

The project is also a concerted effort to systematically map out large areas that are missing. As you can see, we’ve made some progress in Stratford, but did we miss a bit? Did we get something wrong? Well, you can help fix it! There’s still lots of work to be done here, so get involved!

Harry Wood is a contributor to [openstreetmap](http://openstreetmap.org). Visit www.openstreetmap.org



THE MARKET TRADERS

Stratford Market is unusual in that it is inside the Stratford Centre, and has been since the centre was built in 1973. Before that date, old maps show a network of small streets at the same location, with Angel Lane extending right through to meet the Broadway. "It's one of the only indoor ones that work – you need the shops around you to keep it going all week", says Norman Williams, who runs a clothes stall on the market, and who used to run a stall on Roman Road. Norman's father, who is 85, can sometimes also be seen on the stall. He has worked on the market since he was 14. The old Stratford Market used to be a wholesale market before it was moved to New Spitalfields, which is next to East Marsh football ground at Hackney Marshes.

The first licences were granted in 1926, and many of the traders can trace their family's stalls back to that date. Some traders ran shops on Angel Lane and others came from markets such as Rathbone Market. Many of them have worked on their stalls all their lives. "I serve people who I've known since I was a child", says Keith Lee, who runs a flower stall. Ronnie Harvey's family shop can be seen in the archive photo from 1964; Ronnie himself has worked on the stall and shop for 63 years. Keith Lee remembers the other shops in the photograph, including an Italian café, which was run by a man who was "as white as a sheet because he never left work." The market traders hope to retain their identity as an important part of Stratford's history when Stratford City opens nearby, and to continue to serve the local community.



Angel Lane, 1964. Photo courtesy of Newham Archives & Local Studies Library.



NAME: Ronnie Harvey
SELLS: Shellfish, eggs, pickles
TIME: 63 years on stall and in shop, which was opened in 1905
MOST USED PHRASE: "Please" and "thank you"



NAME: Darren Brooks
SELLS: Fruit and vegetables
TIME: 5 years on stall, which has been in family for 80 years
MOST USED PHRASE: "How are you?"



NAME: Norman Williams
SELLS: Clothes
TIME: 25 years on stall
MOST USED PHRASE: "Can I help you love?"



NAME: Trudi Thompson
SELLS: CDs
TIME: 7 years on stall
MOST USED PHRASE: "Thank you for your custom"



NAME: Anthony Spittle
SELLS: Pet food and accessories
TIME: 35 years on stall
MOST USED PHRASE: "Can I help you?"



NAME: John Crow
SELLS: Toiletries
TIME: 40 years on stall, which has been in family for 160 years
MOST USED PHRASE: "Wait for your change!"



NAME: Reggie Metcalf
SELLS: Fruit and vegetables
TIME: 17 years on stall
MOST USED PHRASE: "Who's next please?"



NAME: Les Barry
SELLS: Eggs and meat
TIME: 12 years on stall, which has been in the family since 1926
MOST USED PHRASE: "How are you?"



NAME: Darrell Crow
SELLS: Football merchandise and bed linen
TIME: 3 years on stall, which has been in family for 50 years
MOST USED PHRASE: "Next please"

LIVE MUSIC, JAZZ AND COMEDY AT THE GERRY RAFFLES BAR, STRATFORD THEATRE ROYAL EAST

By Nu-jazz artist Faye Patton

I perform regularly in the bar at Stratford Theatre Royal East and want to spread the word about how great it is. There are alternatives to the blandness of the current mainstream culture, and this is a fantastic example.

This historic theatre has hosted the London Jazz Festival, Lift theatre festival, a lively annual panto and an impressive menu of cutting-edge theatre writing and directing, including works by Rikki Beadle Blair, Bonnie Greer (a patron) and the smash hit *The Harder They Come*, in its original conception. I never know who I'm going to meet while performing in the bar. DJs, TV personalities, ex-members of Soul II Soul, directors, playwrights, pop divas and dancers ... I'll be sitting there playing the piano and suddenly Murray Melvin (veteran actor and patron of the Theatre Royal) will walk by, followed by half a dozen stars from 'The Bill'. Celebrities socialise and do business here, along with a lively clientele of local people, who come to relax after work, see a show, and enjoy the exemplary Caribbean food. It's a cross-generational, cross-cultural environment where the fusion of internationally acclaimed entertainment and street-level talent is relaxed and seamless (many of the bar and usher staff are also performers).

The vibe I experience here is love and knowledge of music, without worrying about categories. For instance, no-one questions whether what I do is 'jazz enough' to be called jazz, while original song-writing is celebrated and admired, as is gay lyrical content. As a social, sexual and musical misfit, it's a relief not to have to define my work, but just to do it, to celebrate and be celebrated.



Faye Patton

The squashing of music into categories is about profit: i.e., can this be sold to the same demographic that currently buys something similar? But artists do not create from this basis; nor do listeners and lovers of music care about such categories – we only know that what's good is good. What is 'jazz', for instance? Jazz is a category as large as music itself, including soul, folk, world, Latin, gospel, hip hop, tango, experimental, fusion, Touareg nomadic blues, kick-ass divas of the 1920s onwards, anything at the Jazz Café, anything improvised, Brazilian funk, 50s be-bop, doo-wop, boogie, rock, funk, trad, nu, neo, country and much more.

But as definitions have narrowed in mainstream culture, so has the live music scene in London. Between the unpaid open-mic circuit and the big success stories of the lucky few, there is a series of hurdles for those of us who are making it but not yet famous. Soho, which used to be a hub of street-level live jazz, is now quiet except for the big-name clubs, which tend to be unwilling to take risks on new acts.

A musician can gig for years and still be an 'unknown', the primary concern being not the quality/talent inherent in the music but the following the artist brings or fails to bring – and their drink-buying capacity (performers are held responsible if their fans drink water instead of alcohol). They are also responsible for the promotion of the gig, with no budget, no time and no support. These days the pressure is on the artist, not the venue promoter, to magic up a fan base. But frustratingly, without opportunities to perform, how can you build a following? This cannot be done through MySpace alone – which

is nevertheless useful as a means for musicians to network with other musicians. Music, like most crafts, involves learning on the job, in the field – especially where jazz and improvisation are concerned. This system of growing and making mistakes in public has largely been lost.

I think there is also a general apathy about live music. Once, the arts were not separate from life – they *were* life. Now, many people would rather stay home and watch TV and have the mass-media decide what they hear and see. It's almost as though people are embarrassed by live musicians and see them as an irritating rather than an enhancing presence. Why? Perhaps it's a self-consciousness about how to participate in this country. To anyone who has grown up in church singing gospel music, or to Irish people for whom the Ceilidh and pub session are part of community life, or all the other cultures around the world whose people sing and dance on a daily basis, the ritual of live performance is a basic human need. But the narrow mainstream in this country does not encourage this participation.

The forthcoming Olympics are exciting and will hopefully provide opportunities for youth and sport in East London. But I can't help wondering about the recent devastating Arts Council cuts and where that money has been redirected to. I'd like to see less money spent on war. Then there would be funding for both sport and music – ways to enhance, not destroy, life.

The industry continues to transform our experience of music. For consumers, there are many means of downloading, burning, listening to and buying tunes. For the artist, there are unprecedented ways to operate independently (if not grandiosely) without traditional record-label support. As technology changes, who knows how music will be created and experienced in the future? What will never change is the buzz of a live gig – a moment in time providing healing, joy, inspiration and communion. Getting people out to see live music is crucial. If it can be free, as it is at Stratford, then so much the better. Add original composition, community spirit and soulful, thoughtful content, and it is better still. So turn off your TV, put down your work, and head over to Gerry Raffles Bar. I guarantee you'll come away inspired.

FREE entertainment 7 days a week at
Gerry Raffles Bar
Theatre Royal Stratford East
Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford E15 1BN
www.stratfordeast.com

Check out when Faye is performing
www.fayepatton.com



Photo: Nina Pope



DREAMS OF STRATFORD

Abbey Gardens

Dasha French

I never thought I'd end up living in Stratford. Eight years ago, my husband and I were looking to buy a house. Having lived in North London for two years, we thought we'd stay in that area. However, we happened to come across an interesting railway cottage, located in Bakers Row, E15, right next to the Jubilee and the former Silverlink lines.

As soon as we moved into our new house, we noticed an overgrown site on the other side of the street. We made enquiries at Newham Council, who informed us that it had been designated an archaeological monument due to the underground remains of the Gatehouse to the former Stratford Langthorn Abbey. The site, which contained an apple tree, was completely inaccessible, covered with brambles and rubbish, which had twice been set on fire.

As the years went by, we met our neighbours and the more we talked about the site the more we thought that something should be done to make it accessible and more attractive. We named the site Abbey Gardens and formed the action group Friends of Abbey Gardens in November 2006. We started talking to Newham Council and the site was selected for regeneration. This was great news. The Council organised clearance of all the rubbish and overgrowth and levelled the ground. The Museum of London descended on the site to investigate the remains of the gatehouse. Members of the public were invited to take part in the archaeological work. It was a very interesting few weeks, which culminated in an 'Open Weekend', where the experts from the Museum talked about the history of the site and about what they had found under the ground.

Since the formation of the Friends group, our vision for Abbey Gardens has been that it should be more than just another green space. We thought

it would be nice to establish a community garden where local residents would be welcome to come and take part in various activities. We thought of picnics and barbeques, allotment-style fruit and vegetable production, perhaps even the running of a traditional wood-burning bread oven – communal bread-baking in Bakers Row! We'd like to create a space for people to meet and enjoy being part of the interesting history of the street.

To date, we've organised picnics (both on site and in the street), as well as a film screening, and we've taken part in a walk in order to establish links with nearby green spaces, mainly allotments. We've documented everything that has happened on the site in our blog at www.abbeygardens.org. Very soon, we'll have a webcam, which will enable us to capture future development of the garden. And that future should be really exciting because we're hoping to start building the first raised beds this autumn. We'd like to welcome everyone to Abbey Gardens!

For further information email mail@abbeygardens.org or visit www.abbeygardens.org

Artists Nina Pope & Karen Guthrie have been commissioned to work with the Friends group and Newham Council to develop the Abbey Gardens site over the next three years. Their project goes by the name What Will The Harvest Be? You can read more about their proposals at: www.somewhere.org.uk/abbeygardens

If you are interested in becoming involved with the project and contributing to its one-year productive 'Harvest Garden' for the 2009 season, you can contact Nina and Karen, email artists@somewhere.org.uk

Newham Know-How

Local residents Janice, Carole, Halima and Princess Maria present their treasured objects in a discussion about their individual backgrounds and reflections on the borough. Part one of a featured developed with Age Concern Newham.



Janice

I was born out in Essex and my father's family were agricultural labourers out there, growing food to send into London. I've lived in various places but I came back here in the 1950s.

I've brought photos that were taken in about 1990, of derelict buildings in the Gallions Reach area of Docklands. They're important to me because I first came to this part of London when I was about 5-years-old and I remember sitting in Island Gardens on the Isle of Dogs and watching the big liners coming up and down into the docks. After the war, the area was still recovering – there was lots of bomb damage and lots of big building sites. It was dirty, and in the winter it was really depressing, but to go down to Island Gardens and see the big liners coming in and knowing that they were going all over the world from there was really exciting.

I took these photographs because they're architecturally interesting, and they symbolised to me what was about to be lost. We had about 12 years of total chaos on the roads at that end of the borough and this symbolised to me that process of change and decay.

My uncle emigrated to Australia on the Five Pounds passage scheme. That must have been 1960. We went to Tilbury to see them off on the boat. And then I came back to college here and eventually I ended up working in Docklands. So it was that sort of coming and going in and out of the area over 40 years, rather than arriving and staying. It's coming and going, really, that I'm about.

It is an exciting area if you like change. Mind you, why would you want to hang onto dirty, grotty buildings? The tenement buildings were terrible. There was row on row of terraced houses. They built Canning Town to house the dock workers, but the Isle of Dogs was a lot older and as a place to live was quite derelict. I've enjoyed watching Docklands growing again. Because you couldn't actually see much water in the 1950s, apart from Island Gardens. You could only see the tops of the boats over the wall, and you couldn't see the people going to work and unloading. And now it's much more open. I didn't realise at the time what was actually happening on the other side of the wall, so it's the opening up of it that I find interesting.



Carole

My object is a theatre poster, and the reason it's important to me is that it has my name on the bottom because I designed it. We didn't have any computers then, so it was made with Letraset, each letter at a time, and it took me about three months. It was for a community play, a promenade performance, in about 1984. I was on the management committee of Theatre Venture and I did lots of backstage work for them and bits of artwork and things like that. We had a huge warehouse, with about 5 stages. We had thousands of these posters printed, and we went out one morning flyposting, which we knew was illegal. We were all very proper people, I have to say – I was a teacher at the time.

My parents are Jewish, and my grandparents were Polish and Russian, and I grew up within the Communist Party, so it's really interesting listening to Maria because our families are poles apart yet also parallel. We've both ended up coming here from the same place, really, but in completely divergent ways. One has to realise that because Newham was part of the London Docks, it has seen waves of immigration. Boats came in and people stayed, so we had Chinese laundries down at Wapping, we had Irish immigrants building the railways and the Blackwall Tunnel, and we've had Jewish

immigrants. My grandparents came in 1902, escaping whatever they were escaping from, and the area where they used to live is now very largely Bangladeshi. So it's an area full of diversity, and it always has been. It's just that there have been different reasons for coming here. I imagine it's very difficult to leave your country completely behind, as well as your language, coming from somewhere where you feel reasonably safe in the sense of community and understanding people, to somewhere where people might not be as inviting as you may have wanted them to have been. So I do find that really interesting. My family came as peasants at the turn of the century, and had a strong ethos, like I imagine the Asian community, and also the African and Caribbean communities have, about getting an education and improving ourselves. Me and my brother have certainly done that.

I think I'm more nostalgic than Jan. I don't find the new Docklands particularly exciting. I dislike it. I don't find the modernity nice to look at and I miss those dirty black cranes and the dock walls. That was exciting to me – seeing the sugar boats down at Tate & Lyle, and going up on a little Port of London Authority boat in the 1950s, and looking up at these huge ships. That excitement isn't there any more.



Princess Maria

I was born in Germany and I came to England in 1948. I've lived in Stratford for about 25 years. Our family were closely connected to Tsar Nicholas II, and one of my cousins was a lady-in-waiting to Tsarina Alexandra. My great aunt and uncle were diplomats and used to come to London to represent their country. To begin with, we lived in Earls Court, and then moved to Wales. Then we moved back to London and I've lived in Newham the longest time.

The Newham Recorder featured an article about me because of my family history. My family is the Sviatopolk-Mirsky dynasty, and they're Polish, Russian and Lithuanian. They were royalty in their own right, and are recognised in the Almanack de Geuter, a register of aristocratic families. They were known for generations, and their castle was built in the fifteenth century in Mir, in the Minsk region of Belarus. It's now been renovated, following the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was shown on television, and so I decided to investigate. I went

to a bookshop to see if our family name was included in this guidebook, and it wasn't, so I decided to do some more research for myself. A journalist suggested I contact the Ambassador of the Belarussian Embassy in London. He invited me for an interview and I took along some artefacts, including old photographs, documents and letters from my grandmother.

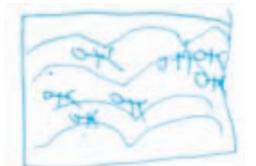
Now there's going to be a hall named after our family, and there will be an exhibition of our family memorabilia, at the castle. It's very pretty and is visited by people from all over the world. I'm very proud to think that I'm a representative of the family.



Halima

I was a schoolteacher for 8 years in Bangladesh. I came to this country 10 years ago and I used to take my granddaughter to Manor Primary school. I've brought with me a book that I've made to help children to learn English as their second language. The newcomers to this country whose first language is not English speak in Bengali, or Urdu, or Hindi at home, and when they join an English school they need to learn quickly. They can use this book to learn English. I composed a system for the children, with a picture for each letter of the alphabet, and with every letter they will learn four lines of English. So after they've gone through the 26 letters, they've learnt hundreds of words. It took me 6 months to make it, and you can see that with every letter, you have a series of other words: so G is for grapes, grapes are sweet and sometimes sour; H is for house; I is for ice cream, we all love ice cream, and so on.

See the next issue for the second part of this feature...



Café Mondo and The Brothers



Photo: Benedict Johnson



Photo: Lucy Harrison

As you walk up Tramway Avenue or West Ham Lane you may not know that they are connected through two businesses run by the same family.

In between Café Mondo and The Brothers fish-and-chip shop is a kitchen that connects the two, and if you look through it from one you will be able to see into the other. The reason for this is that they are both run by the Zeolla family, who are originally from near Naples.

Café Mondo was opened in 1997 by Tony Zeolla and his two cousins, when Stratford shopping centre was being upgraded. They serve traditional homemade Italian food as well as a wide range of sandwiches and snacks. Tony's parents came from Italy in 1966 and his

father still runs The Brothers. His uncle also runs the fish-and-chip shop on Water Lane. Recently, a second branch of Café Mondo has opened in Stratford library. Tony plans to redevelop the café and would like to see more nightlife in the area around West Ham Lane, with a greater number of restaurants attracting people in the evenings.

Café Mondo's special: sun dried tomatoes, mozzarella and fresh basil on olive focaccia, for £3.85.

Café Mondo, 3 West Ham Lane, London, E15



ALLIANCE by Leeanna Lazenby

On an ordinary night in October, a great sense of warmth and joy filled the air. Dairy carts travelled the street alongside the Shire horse pulling the butcher's daily produce. A retired soldier sat on an old wooden crate, roasting chestnuts for the passers-by. Children blissfully played hopscotch on the empty roadside.

That's the picture my imagination shows me when I try to visualise what it would have been like when my Grandmother was a child. She often tells me that although the times were exhausting, everyone tried to stick together. The poverty rate was at its peak in some areas, but there was still a community spirit and that's what made everything run smoothly.

Many argue that our sense of community was lost years ago, in the same way that our traditional crafts have become extinct, but this isn't exactly true. Living in the hustle and bustle of Newham may at first seem a bit intimidating (you can walk down the most hectic street and not recognise a single face) but all community spirit hasn't been forgotten. Take Stratford Station for instance: a labyrinth of busy networks where you can easily lose your way. There's always someone around to help you get back on track. Whether it's a fellow passenger, a member of staff or a builder, a friendly face will greet you ninety-nine percent of the time.

After all, that's the general purpose of the community (everyone lending a hand) and that's what you're likely to find in our well-populated borough of Newham. So, while I can't promise you the return of dairy carts, I can guarantee that you'll find happiness in numbers – especially in Newham!

Leeanna Lazenby is a student living in Newham.

SPOT THE WORD by Hannah

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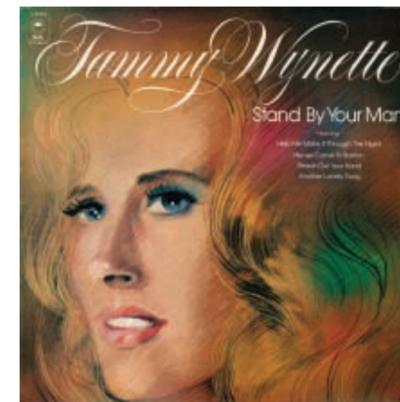
nusound 92FM Number 2:

Tari and Sujata Sian

Nusound 92FM is a 24-hour community radio station that is run by husband and wife team, Tari and Sujata Sian. Programmes go out in 8 different languages: English, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Gujarati, Tamil, Bengali and Pashtu and can also be heard online at www.nusoundradio.com

How long have you been involved with radio?
SS: We got our first Restricted Service Licence (RSL) in 1991 in Newham. We both had quite lucrative jobs: I used to work for Barclays Bank in Canary Wharf, and Tari worked for JP Morgan. But we just decided to give it all up and do some work in the community instead. You have to give it 100 percent, if you're going to make it a success. You can't just do it part time. I've always loved music, initially soul and reggae, but I've also developed my taste for Asian music too. My favourite radio stations are Heart and Magic, and there used to be a Country & Western one too, but it's not going any more. Of course, I listen to Nusound, but to have a break I listen to the other stations.

RSL licences are temporary, aren't they? Were they for special events?
SS: They were to gauge the response and to see if there was a demand for an Asian radio station. At that time, the Radio Authority said there wasn't a demand for an Asian radio station in East London, even though we had petitions and letters of support with 50,000 signatures. So we started off with the temporary licences, which were for 28 days, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We took time off work and broadcast in all the same languages that we broadcast in now as a permanent radio station. Some of the presenters are the same, some of them have left the area or the country, but the hard-core are still here. The same team runs the station as well. Because the licenses were temporary, we had to do a lot of leafleting to get a permanent one. We pounded the streets, and the response was very good because there was so little choice and we were in a very strong position. Of course, the internet wasn't around then, so you didn't have the range of stations that you have now. Also, people didn't have mobile phones. People listen to FM on them now too.



You present the daily Community Hour at 11am. What does that consist of?
SS: We invite people to talk about things that could benefit local people. So we've had MPs, councillors, doctors, a homeopath, the Army trying to recruit, HM Revenue & Customs talking about small businesses and which forms they need to fill in. We've had the tax people, accountants, chartered surveyors – all sorts really. I play songs in between the questions because sometimes when you talk for a whole hour you get very tired and the songs give you a break to collect your thoughts and perhaps chat to the guest. Some guests are nervous, which is understandable, and you have to calm them down. I usually play Asian music in between the questions, although you do tailor the show to the guest. There was one who had produced his own music, and that was English music, so we played that.

What kind of response to the station do you have these days?
SS: We've been established for a year now and it's become very popular, especially the community hour, which is nice; you know that people are listening to you. People phone in and ask questions, especially if it's someone like a doctor. It gives listeners a chance to ask anonymous questions related to their loved ones. We broadcast in 8 different languages so we have a captive audience for each particular programme; they might not listen to the rest of the shows, but they'll tune in for their language.

What's the most popular show?
SS: Drive Time with Chaz Singh, because it's on at that time when people are winding down after work or school. And because it's in English, it means that we get a bigger audience, because that's the common denominator. That's also why the Community Hour is in English – so we get a wider audience. I've had requests to do it in Punjabi or Urdu, but I think it's better to reach as many people as possible by having it in English.

Tari, when is your show?
TS: I'm doing all sorts at the moment, filling in the gaps. I start the shows if someone's running late or they're ill, a bit of multi-tasking! But from next week I'm doing from 7 until 11 at night, and that will be chat, taking people's viewpoints on life, poetry, singing, live music. It's a long show, and it will be packed full of stuff. It will be in English, Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi ... I can't speak Tamil or Bengali, but I can speak all the others, so they'll all be included. It's already sounding as if it's going to be very popular because people have been talking about it, so I thought it was about time to start it.

What do you think is the best thing about having a community radio station?
TS: The languages and also one source joining about 10 different communities together. It's only recently that we've found out we've got English, African, West Indian, Chinese listeners,



Sujata's playlist

The Bee Gees Saturday Night Fever
Bob Marley No Woman No Cry
Tammy Wynette Stand by Your Man

all sorts of people listening to certain programmes. And because of Bollywood being as popular as it is at the moment – sorry, they like to be called the 'Indian Film Industry' – you get lots of crossovers. And especially being local you get a lot of interest in what's happening locally.
SS: And it's an opportunity for smaller businesses like restaurants, builders, even sole traders, who couldn't afford to be on a larger radio or TV station, to get lower advertising rates. We encourage them to record their own adverts, which gives us a rest and offers some different voices, some more variety.

You often cover special events in the area.
TS: Yes, we covered the recent festival in Canary Wharf, Valentines Park – anywhere local really, we'll go out and do a live broadcast. There was recently a procession here and we're planning a big one for Diwali this year. Recently, we were involved with the Wood Green International Film Festival. But it's really anything people want us to get involved with.

Have you had any famous guests?
SS: Yes, we've had Anil Kapoor, a famous Indian actor who produced Ghandi, My Father. And we've had Akshay Kumar, and a few of my colleagues went to meet Amitabh Bachchan, who's known as the godfather of the Indian Film Industry.

What are your aims for the future?
SS: We're aiming to add 2 more languages: Malayalam and Sinhalese, from Sri Lanka. But the problem is trying to find slots and sponsorship. We already have the presenters – there's no shortage of wonderful volunteers. The borough is very rich in people willing to give up their time. And radio is very good for development – you indirectly learn other skills at the same time.

Gardening for all ages

By Louise and Gordon Joly of the West Ham Allotment Society, and Ravinder Atwal

In April 2008, a small group of teenagers, support workers and the artist Ravinder Atwal from the charity Community Links, an educational project working with excluded adolescents from East London, began a series of visits to West Ham Allotment Society. The aim was for the young people to learn more about gardening, and to interact and socialise with older people as part of a wider intergenerational project with other organisations in Newham. Ravinder's hopes for the project included breaking down the barriers between generations by building trust and respect, and providing an opportunity for younger and older people to learn and share knowledge and experiences together. She took photos of the project for an exhibition, which was first shown in June 2008 at the Elderly Resource Centre in Chargeable Lane, Plaistow, and is soon to be on display at the old Town Hall, Stratford.

When we at the allotment society first received the request to allow young people to come and help on our allotments, we were intrigued – but also a bit anxious. Louise said: "You see, I don't have any children – and contact with teenagers is limited, and probably my view of them is a bit biased, even though I don't like to admit it. When I met Ravinder at The Miller's House cafe at Three Mills on a chilly spring day, however, she sold me the project completely. I found myself bowled over by her enthusiasm and soon believed that we could make it work – even with only a few weeks to plan. Her enthusiasm was infectious and with the support of our committee, the project soon began."

Over a few weeks, the group worked on four allotments and got to know the members, who gave their time and commitment. The allotmenters taught the young people how to grow fruit and vegetables, and they all got a chance to dig, weed, sow, plant, water and learn other practical skills including making bean frames. Each week we made sure there were



Photo: Ravinder Atwal

enough different things for everyone to try out, and because it was spring, this wasn't a problem.

One worry was that having young people on the allotments, let alone those excluded from school, would be fraught with dangers, both to themselves and to the plots. However, our worries soon evaporated as we began to realise that the teenagers were happy to follow our safety guidance, and were in fact rather special. While some people in the group had yet to learn that a carrot or a potato comes out of the ground, covered in mud, others, like Chris and Luke, seemed to know a lot about gardening, and could identify plants. We realised that they just hadn't been given the opportunity to get their hands dirty and actually handle seeds and plants. Land is precious to us all in East London, so being able to share our personal space even for a short time to support other people's enthusiasm for plants was a great experience.

There were some noisy reactions to worms, slugs and other allotment wildlife. It was sometimes a bit of a challenge to get the young people to treat seedlings with care, and not be too rough. One or two plants didn't survive 'potting on' or being transplanted into the ground – but that's gardening for you!

Ravinder said: "Community Links is unique in that it provides the only educational project that encourages young people who are excluded from mainstream schools to continue with their

education in this way. These particular young people don't get the opportunity to be involved in projects like this. Both generations were apprehensive at first. However, once the project began, the process of engagement dissipated any fears and the older people really enjoyed engaging with the younger generation, making friends, and sharing their knowledge and experience. Further to this successful project, I'm now going to specialise in art therapy and more art projects of this nature in Newham."

The exhibition, which includes images and videos from all of the organisations for the elderly that participated, will move on from The Old Stratford Town Hall later this year to other London venues.

www.westhamallotments.org.uk
www.community-links.org
www.housemill.org.uk

Thought for Stratford

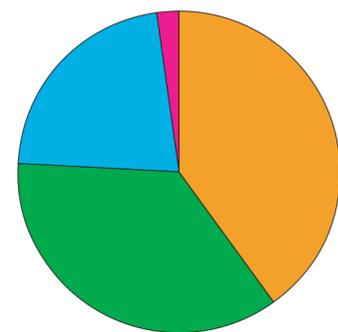
Everybody today seems to be in such a terrible rush, anxious for greater developments and greater riches and so on, so that children have very little time for their parents, parents have very little time for each other, and in the home begins the disruption of peace of the world.

Mother Teresa

"Ever noticed how everyone seems to be in a hurry? I become particularly aware of this each time I pass through Stratford Station. Yesterday I thought, "Are people at Stratford Station really in such a hurry or is it something inside of me?" I made a conscious decision to slow down internally when travelling and this has had a clear effect on my experiences. When I am calm, so is the world around me. It's made me more aware that peace is inside of me and this is where it all begins. The quote from Mother Teresa above shows the consequences of ignoring this, and that the power to change these things lies with us as individuals."

Yogesh Patel

WHAT ARE YOU READING?



Nothing 43%
Books 27%
Newspapers 20%
Maps 10%

Survey at Stratford Station conducted on 28 April, 12–2.55pm with 30 people

There was a suspicious sports bag left on platform 13. It is the job of the station staff to investigate any suspect packages and try to ascertain what they might be. "Oh my gosh!", said the lady station assistant and moved away quickly. "What is it?", I asked her. "Is it ticking?", someone else asked. "No", she said. "It's not a clock." "What is it?", I asked again. "I can't say", she said. "Why?", I asked. "I can't say", she said.



"It wouldn't be a good reflection on the station", she said. And then she told me. I said she was right not to say. It was not a very nice thing to find in a sports bag. We all decided to wait until the bag was gone. And that it was best not to tell anyone else what was in it.

Frog Morris is an artist, poet and performer based in London. Frog has created a series of cartoons inspired by conversations and stories about Stratford with London Underground staff.



VISITING ROBERT

Congratulations to Anita Lewis who won the competition to visit Stratford's steam train Robert in his temporary home at the East Anglian Railway Museum.

MATCH THE BLUE OF THE CONSTRUCTION HOARDINGS

One of the most noticeable changes to the area so far has been the blue fence surrounding the Olympic Park site. In each issue we'll be trying to match the colour that runs all around Stratford and Hackney Wick.



Corner shop carrier bag against blue hoarding.

No. 2: Oyster card holder
Results: Although a similar shade of cyan/ turquoise, the Oyster card holder is a little lighter and not quite so vibrant. We'll keep trying.

Cyan fact No.2: It is said that in Catholic Christianity, cyan represents the deadly sin Sloth.

This feature was suggested through conversations between Lucy Harrison and Silke Dettmers, an artist who had to move her studio because of London 2012 Games construction.

Do you have a better match? Email your photos of construction hoardings blue matches to art@tube.tfl.gov.uk



West Ham Allotment produce. Photo: Louise Joly.

Aubergine Delight

From Shalini Sharma of Nusound Radio

1 large aubergine
1 tbsp oil for frying
1/2 tsp onion seeds
2 tsp fennel seeds
3 sliced onions
1 tbsp chopped ginger
1 tbsp chopped garlic
250 gm chopped tomatoes
1 tsp coriander powder
1/4 tsp ground turmeric
pinch chilli powder
salt to taste

1. Cut the aubergine into 3/4 inch thick wedges and deep fry in hot oil until they colour.

2. Heat a little oil in a pan and toss in the onion seeds and fennel seeds. After a few seconds, add the onions and cook until tender.

3. Add the ginger, garlic and tomato, along with the remaining ingredients, except the aubergine. Cook until the mixture is well reduced.

4. Add the aubergine and cook until tender. Season well and garnish with chopped coriander.

CONTRIBUTE:

Send us your favourite recipes – one will be chosen for the final issue
Email art@tube.tfl.gov.uk

Gob

Extract from a play by Jim Kenworth

THE LIBERATOR: Do I not impart whirlwinds of passion and fire out my gob, storms of fury and a strength of volume second only to the sound of Motorhead at Hammersmith Palais? Or deftly changing gear as the mood demands, do I not let nightingales of romance fly freely from my lips conjuring up magic, tenderness and heart-stopping moments when I sing the sweetest song in all the world: love? We're poets, Les. Poets of the old school. Up front, totally disciplined and straight from the heart.

Jim Kenworth is an Events Directory Officer at Newham Council.



NEWHAM WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CLUB

Laura Bryant, Club Secretary, Newham Women's Football Club



Newham Women's Football Club was formed in April 1990 by Liz Champion, with the help and support of Newham Leisure Centre and Newham Sports Development. Liz was well known because she had been a lieutenant in the army, but ended her career in 1995 when she admitted that she was gay. She recruited players by putting notices in Newham's various leisure centres and adverts in the local papers.

At first there was just one women's team, but as word spread and more players joined, a second team was formed. As the years went on, Liz left and other people took over. The club finally got into the premiership, where we played the likes of Arsenal Ladies. However, a few years down the line, with the people running the club leaving and the older members of the squad settling down, we ended up with just one team.

I took over running the club in the summer of 2004. Since then, we've been trying very hard to get ourselves re-established. Ideally, I'd love to form an under-18s team, so that we could help develop young players. This is something I'm aiming to set up in the forthcoming years.

I myself joined the club when I was 11-years-old, as did one of the other women in the team, Denise Wiffin. We attended different schools, but joined Newham WFC at the same time and have been playing ever since. We played twice for Newham Borough during the London Youth Games, winning the Most Improved Team award in the second year.

At the moment, we play in the Greater London Women's Football League, Division 2, North. Each season, we compete in the League Russell Cup and the League Cup. The club also takes part in a number of 5- 6- and 7-a-side tournaments during the summer. Two seasons ago, we finished third and narrowly missed out on promotion. Last year, we finished fifth. This season has been a mixed one so far. Our coach left due to family circumstances and although I placed adverts, we didn't find a proper coach until three months ago. At the beginning of the season, we also lost our brilliant goalkeeper, who got scouted for Fulham Ladies! So this season, one of the girls has been filling in as goalie, even though she'd never played the position before.

Thankfully, although we'll still be called Newham Women's FC, we're now linked with a team called Prostar, who provide us with coaches for each training session, so our future looks healthy. We currently train at Brampton Manor School and play our home games at Brampton Park in East Ham on Sunday afternoons. Sometimes we play against the comedian Rhona Cameron, who's in Camden Ladies FC. She's a very funny woman!

Many of our squad are lesbian or bi-sexual and we socialise on a regular basis at the Angel Public House, the local gay pub in Newham. One evening, I put it to the owner that since at least 50 percent of the team socialised there, would he be interested in sponsoring us? In return, we'd hold our presentation night and yearly fundraisers there. He kindly agreed and we got our lovely new kit last summer.

I use the various internet advertising sites to recruit new players. This summer, I'd like to advertise in the local papers and contact a few schools in order to find some young talent. I'm hoping to get Newham Council involved again, because it seems they've deserted us in recent years, and with the 2012 Olympic Games coming up, I think it would be good to get the girls and women of Newham back into football.

The Stratford Grapevine

A project by Lucy Harrison

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Art on the Underground
London Underground
55 Broadway
London SW1H 0BD
020 7027 8694
art@tube.tfl.gov.uk
www.tfl.gov.uk/art

Copy editor: Melissa Lerner

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Call 020 7027 8694 Email art@tube.tfl.gov.uk or visit www.tfl.gov.uk/art

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