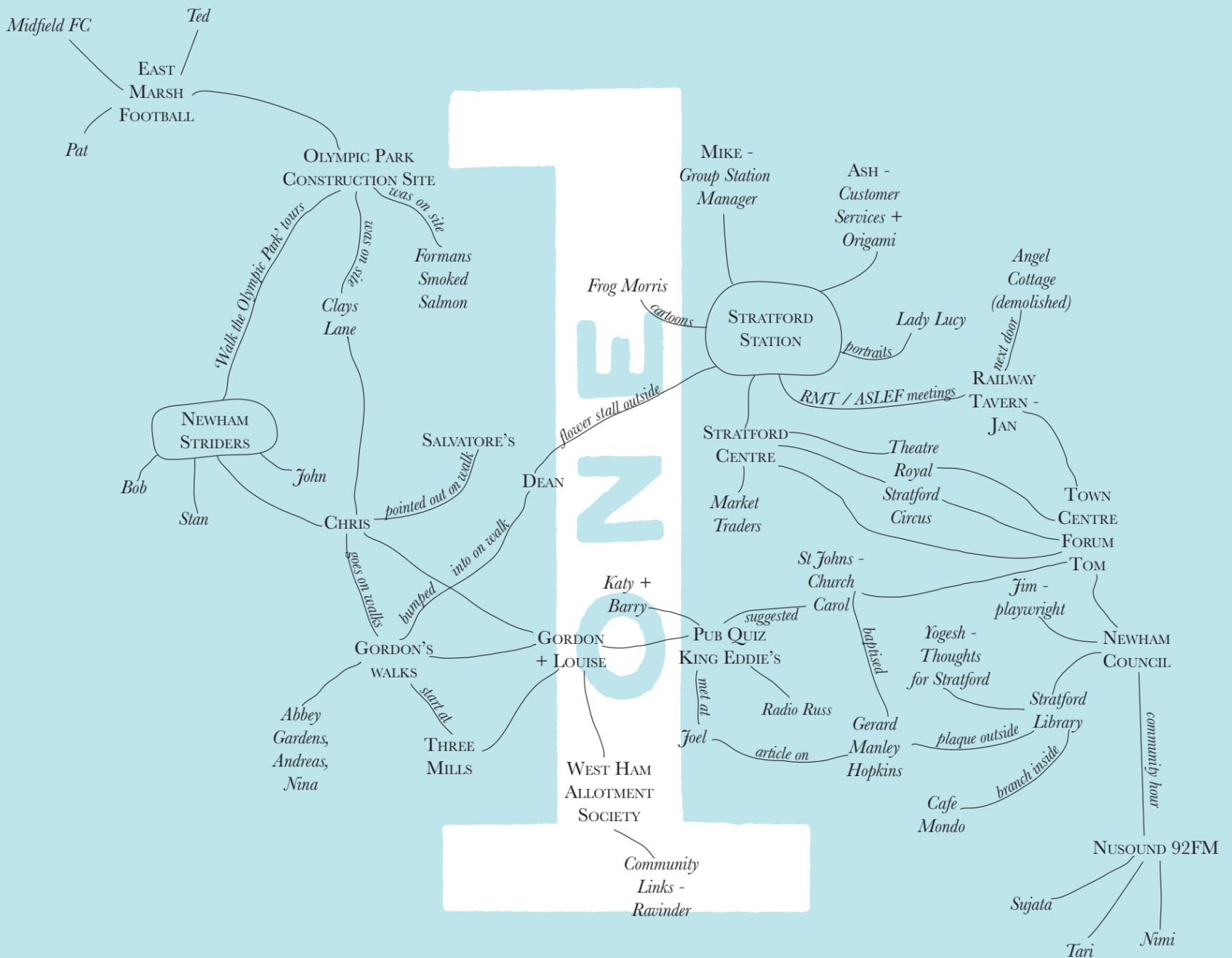


THE STRATFORD GRAPEVINE

READERS AND SPECTATORS: BECOME COLLABORATORS!



Welcome to the first 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 worked 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 traders and shoppers as well as sports teams, schoolchildren and station staff. She also spent time with the walking group Newham Striders, who have suggested the features for this edition of the newspaper.

There will be three issues of The Stratford Grapevine in total, with the second issue including stories and articles by the Discover Children's Forum. This will be distributed on Thursday 18 September and followed on Thursday 6 November by the final edition, which will feature the Architecture Crew, a group of young people who meet regularly to develop projects that consider local regeneration.

We hope that you enjoy this and future issues of The Stratford Grapevine. If you have something that you would like to contribute, whether it is a photograph, recipe or piece of writing about your life in Stratford, then we would love to hear from you. Please email contributions to art@tube.tfl.gov.uk, call 020 7027 8694, or leave a comment on the website www.tfl.gov.uk/art



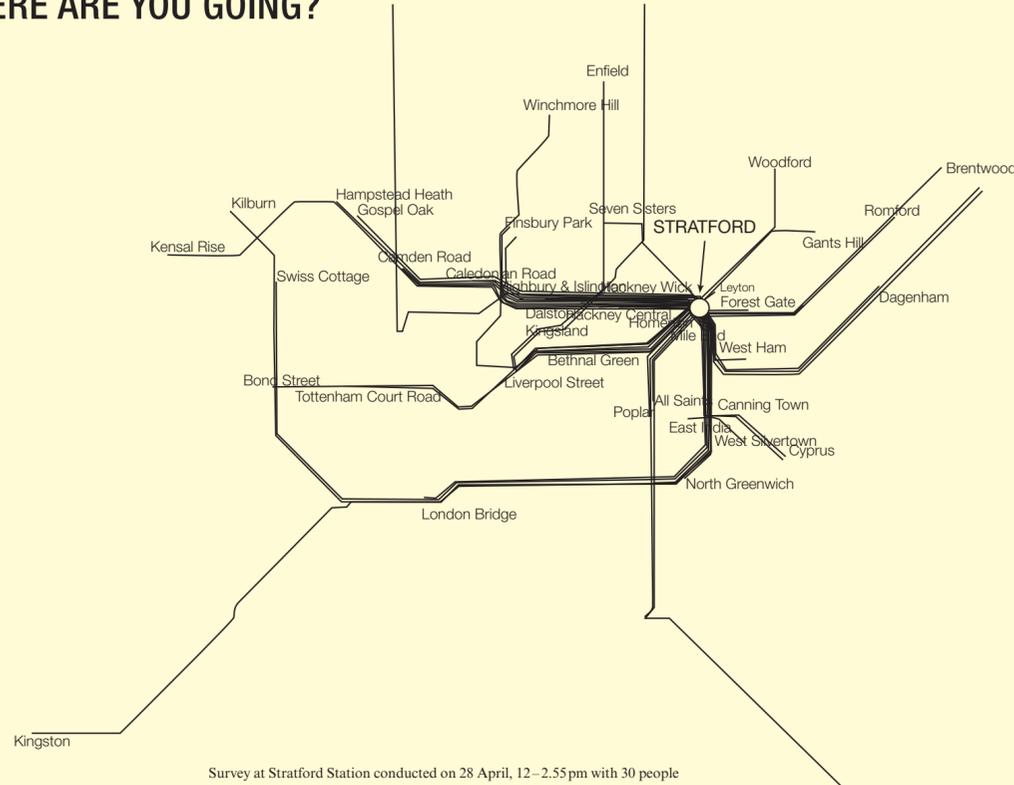
© TFL

Extract from *Johnny Song*, by Jim Kenworth

*O, City of London, mad, up for it, City of London;
Guide me through your twisting alleyways,
Winding streets, roaring traffic and
Mighty, pumping Clubs, Pubs and Bars.
When I am lost, falling down, and starless
In the dark, let me hear a beat calling me;
Let me hear a solid beat like the cavalry,
And, yeah, like the movies, let 'em arrive
In the nick of time.*

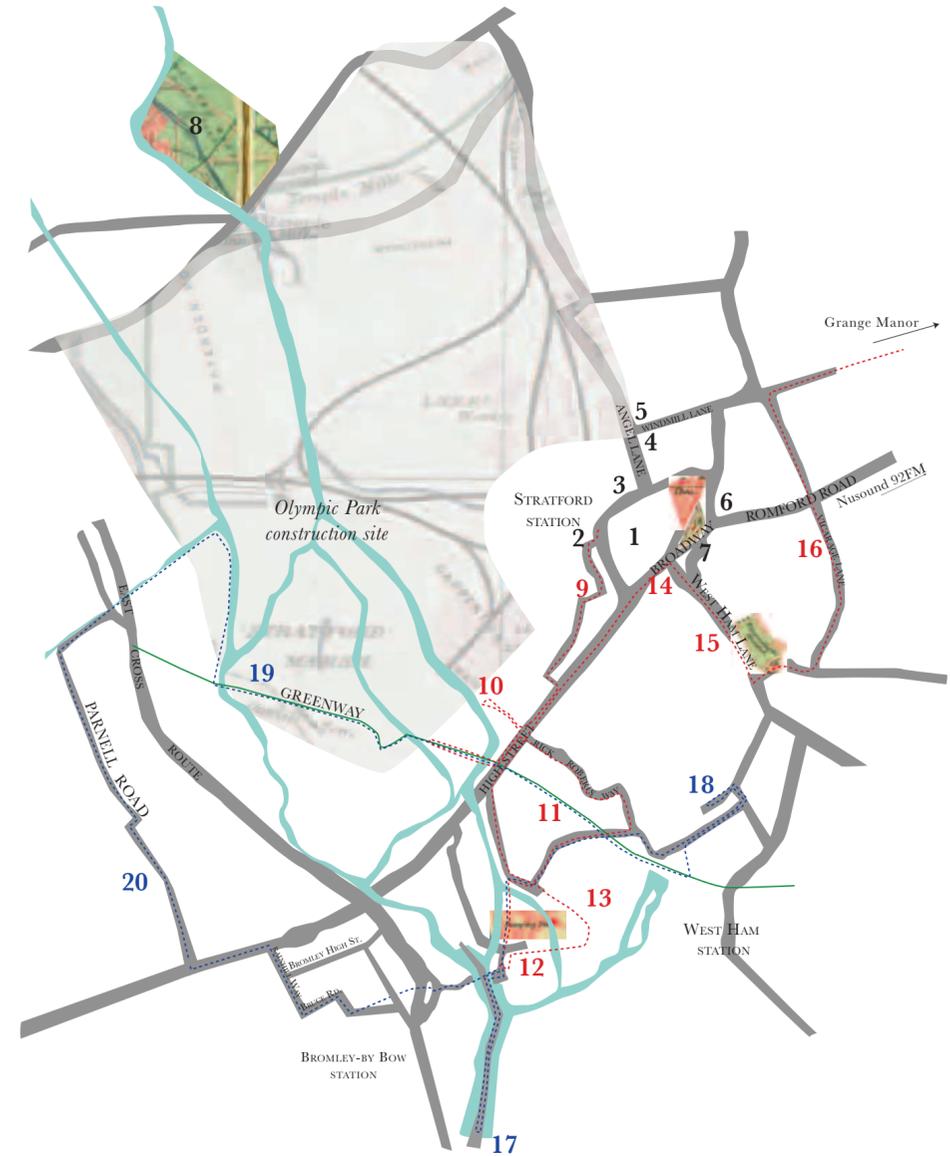
Jim Kenworth is an Events Directory Officer at Newham Council.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



THE NEWHAM STRIDERS ISSUE

Two walking routes to help you explore Stratford and visit the locations featured in this issue. The red route is a walk by Newham Strider Chris Crook (see pages 5–6). The blue route is a walk called Three Mills Loop by Gordon Joly from West Ham Allotments (page 7). Gordon leads the walk on the first Sunday of the month, starting at 1pm from House Mill, Three Mill Lane. It is free of charge and all welcome. For information visit www.networking-club.org.uk/index.php/Three_Mills_Loop



KEY TO POINTS OF INTEREST

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Stratford Centre & Market | Chris's walk starts from Stratford Station | Gordon's walk starts from House Mill, Three Mills Island |
| 2. Stratford Station & Dean's flower stall | 9. Railway bridge | 17. Bow Locks |
| 3. Former location of 'Robert' | 10. Blocked pathway | 18. Abbey Gardens |
| 4. The Railway Tavern | 11. Gasworks | 19. View of Olympic Park construction site |
| 5. Angel Cottage (demolished) | 12. House Mill, Three Mills Island | 20. Tom Thumb's Arch |
| 6. Stratford Library | 13. West Ham Allotments | |
| 7. King Eddie's pub | 14. Samuel Gurney monument | |
| 8. East Marsh football ground | 15. Emmanuel's shoe shop | |
| | 16. Salvatore's tailors | |

THE NEWHAM STRIDERS

Bob Bicheno

Newham Striders is a Newham-wide programme developing walking as exercise. It is based around giving accredited training to walk leaders and recruiting individuals for tested, supervised walks in the Borough. Newham Striders was originally funded by the Health Action Zone Cardiovascular Health Programme. Since April 2003, it has been funded by Newham Primary Care Trust and is part of the borough-wide strategy to reduce cardiovascular ill health through increased access to information, advice, diet and exercise.

I am the part-time walks co-ordinator for *Newham Striders*. I had worked in an office for 37 years before being made redundant in 1997. Since health and fitness was a hobby of mine, I decided to study for a Sports Science degree in this field at the University of East London. Little did I know that it would lead to the offer of a job in which I would meet so many people of different nationalities, religions and interests. The walks offer the chance to explore the area. Stratford has some fascinating sites of interest and river-path walks that many residents do not know exist. I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to have made so many new friends since starting my job.

The core message of *Newham Striders* is to let people know the benefits of walking as exercise and how they can become involved. The target audience is adults (over 16) who want to improve their general fitness levels, as well as mental and social well-being. It is a whole-population approach, promoting the benefits of walking as exercise. It is not just focused on high-risk groups such as older men, people with high blood pressure or obesity, although they are the major users of the programme.

There are two levels of recruitment to *Newham Striders*. We want to interest people in walking as exercise and to join a group. In addition, we wish to recruit new walk leaders. Two of the walk leaders who trained as volunteers found that this experience helped them to find full-time employment. Our oldest member currently walking twice per week is 87 years old and the oldest walk leader is 85. As far as we know, this gentleman is the oldest Walking the way to Health walk leader in England. If you would like to walk with a group of friendly and social people from a range of backgrounds, then *Newham Striders* is the group for you.

Newham Striders is an accredited member of Walking the way to Health, visit www.whi.org.uk

For information on how to become a *Newham Strider* and details of walks, please call 07950 186 137.

Bob Bicheno is *Newham Striders* Coordinator



Newham Striders Wanstead Group



Stan



A Stratford walk with Chris Crook of Newham Striders

Lucy Harrison

Stratford is changing. For the past few months, construction work has been taking over the area, with the bright blue construction hoardings encircling the Olympic Park site, new buildings springing up and the foundations of Stratford City beginning to take shape. Where once there were thoroughfares, there are now dead ends, with detours and deviations becoming the norm as residents are left to negotiate unfamiliar routes. Yet these enforced changes of direction are not always negative: new journeys can mean new ways of seeing, with altered routes uncovering previously hidden sights or snippets of local history that have been concealed up forgotten side streets that are now becoming well-worn pathways.



The people with the most direct experience of these topographical changes are those who walk around Stratford on a daily basis. Members of the local walking club *Newham Striders* are among the first to notice the changes to the landscape. The Striders meet every day of the week at various locations around Newham, offering nine walks that are open to all, as well as four walks for adults with learning disabilities.

Walking clubs are a great way of getting to know an area better, providing links with people who have a passion for local history, extensive knowledge of the geography and who can teach something surprising and interesting even to the most seasoned of locals. Wishing to learn about Stratford and the surrounding area, I contacted *Newham Striders*, initially meeting up with walk leader Chris Crook in November 2007.

The first walk that Chris takes me on overlooks the Olympic Park site. Naturally, this massive project is of interest to most locals, but the site holds a good deal of personal history for Chris, who is a former resident of Clays Lane. He was relocated to the Maryland area when the building work commenced. Chris has lived in Newham for 16 years and has been leading walks for the last 7 of those.

The walk took us up onto the Greenway, from where we could see the development in progress and signs of the buildings that had previously been on the site. One of these was Chris's house, which he would show people when he led Olympic Park walking tours in summer 2007, before the site was closed. This gave a unique, melancholic edge to the popular tours, which took groups around Clays Lane and the Eastway Cycle circuit.

I have spent a good deal of time with the Striders over the last few months and as I got

to know Chris better, he offered to take me on a walk through Stratford, showing me places that particularly interest him. These are mostly historical buildings, especially those related to important local figures like the philanthropist Samuel Gurney, whose former estate is now West Ham Park.



House Mill, Three Mills Island

Setting off from Stratford station, we turn right and walk over the bridge, up around the side of the station. Heading through an estate and past the police station, we come to Three Mills Island, which is now best known as a home for film and television productions at 3 Mills Studios, but has been the site of tide-powered mills since at least the 11th century. From the 17th century, the mills were used to grind grain for the gin distillers nearby, supplying a good deal of the London gin consumed in the gin palaces of the day.

At Three Mills Island we bump into Gordon Joly from the West Ham Allotment Society, who takes us on a minor detour to the nearby allotments that contain his plot (page 7). The site has been used for allotments for over 100 years.



The snail

After this enjoyable distraction, we head off past the outlet pipe on the Greenway that locals have christened 'the snail' so that Chris can show me the impressive sewer works that go right through the area. There is a piece of graffiti on the bridge straddling the big sewage pipes that reads 'STRIDER'. Chris assures me it is not the handiwork of a proud **Newham Strider** trying to spread the word. He also shows me his 'favourite hole' in London, a former gas works now full of water that can be viewed from above. I love the fact that he has given it this name, as if he has a list of not-so-favourite voids around the city.

Chris also points out the back of the Bryant and May factory. "Students of feminist history are usually very interested in that", he says. The factory was the site of the 1888 match girls' strike in protest against poor conditions,

Channelsea River



low pay and the fines deducted from wages for dropping matches or using the toilet without permission.



Emmanuel's Fashion

We head back to Stratford Broadway and the monument to Samuel Gurney opposite the old town hall, then up West Ham Lane, where we are drawn to stop outside Emmanuel's shoe shop. "Ghanaian shoe shops are great, aren't they?", says Chris, as we gaze at the pointed snakeskin and crocodile creations. "You never see anything like it anywhere else." On Vicarage Lane we find the wonderful Salvatore's, an Italian tailor's shop that has been here for 23 years (page 16).



As we arrive back at the Broadway, Chris offers to show me Forest Lane Park. This is another Gurney-related location: the old site of Wood Grange Manor was donated by Gurney for the construction of Forest Gate Hospital Industrial School for poor children, which was built in 1854.

Not knowing the area even one-tenth as well as Chris, I assume it will be just around the corner. But we have to walk all the way along the railway line to reach it, past a pub called the Queen Vic, a disused Deaf School and an old butcher's shop, which Chris tells me is a listed building, yet it now stands derelict.



The park houses another of the area's intriguing monuments, this one relating to the tragic fire at the school in 1890, when 26 children are believed to have died. Darkness descends just as we reach it, so after a cursory look around we head back towards the start of our journey. I am a little weary, slightly tender of foot, but a whole lot more informed about this fascinating area.



West Ham Allotment Society

Lucy Harrison

Having taken up a West Ham Allotment Society plot 16 years ago, Gordon Joly and his wife Louise have become enthusiastic gardeners and growers. They are both advocates of the advantages of allotments, from the health-giving fruit and veg they provide to the health-giving exercises that growing requires.

"Having an allotment is great", says Louise. "It keeps you fit, and gets you outdoors; but be prepared to use it to its full potential. Most of our planting and sowing will be done by June, and by the end of the month we hope to see our first potatoes, chard, spring onions and, hopefully, some strawberries."

The couple are self-sufficient in organic vegetables for six months of the year, though their involvement with the allotment does not

stop once they put down their hoes. Gordon manages the society's website and Louise is the secretary. Both roles are time-consuming in changing times for the site, which has housed allotments since at least 1896.

West Ham Allotment Society Limited was registered in 1942 and the site is located on Millmeads, which lies in the Three Mills Conservation Area between the Abbey Mills pumping stations and the Prescott Channel. World War II was a catalyst for the establishment of the allotment society. Given the need to 'Dig for Victory', allotments were both popular and a necessity at the time.

Gordon and Louise grow all sorts of vegetables on their patch, as well as borders of nasturtiums. This year, they have, perhaps surprisingly to some, decided to grow three kinds of beetroot. Since these are not the most popular of vegetables, most of us wouldn't even know there were three varieties, but Gordon is a fan. "They'll all get eaten", he says. "We wouldn't grow anything we didn't like just for the sake of it."

2007 brought disruption to the allotments, with works on the Prescott Channel to allow access to the Olympic Park site by barge as well as the lock and water control system currently under construction. This has resulted in the reclamation of the land on which 10 of the 34 plots were located by British Waterways, who own the site. Allotment holders have negotiated to obtain replacement plots adjacent to their remaining land.

Standing on a mound of earth at the end of the allotments are the cranes that are preparing the river for the boats to come into the Olympic Park site. There is talk of the canals of this area becoming the 'Venice of East London'. Only time will tell, but whatever the case, the allotments look set to remain a haven for gardeners for years to come, as well as for the woodpeckers, wrens, kingfishers and foxes that are all seen regularly on the site.

For further information www.westhamallotments.org.uk

Photos: Gordon and Louise Joly



Origami Competition

If you're going through the ticket barrier to the Jubilee Line at Stratford station, keep an eye out for a London Underground employee with a secret talent. Ash Malik has been practising origami for 35 years and has been designing his own models for the past 15 years, including his versions of the *Starship Enterprise*. Ash can make a butterfly from a £10 note in 5 minutes. He demonstrated to us how to create a pyramid in under a minute.

Try Ash's instructions for making his origami snail, which can be fashioned from the pages of *The Stratford Grapevine*. Visit Ash's website for more instructions www.eagleorigami.co.uk

For a chance to win an origami book, send in your attempts to make the origami snail by 1 August (page 9 for instructions). Ash will judge the best entry, winner to be announced in the next issue.

Post to
Art on the Underground
London Underground
55 Broadway
London SW1H 0BD

See page 20 for Terms and Conditions.



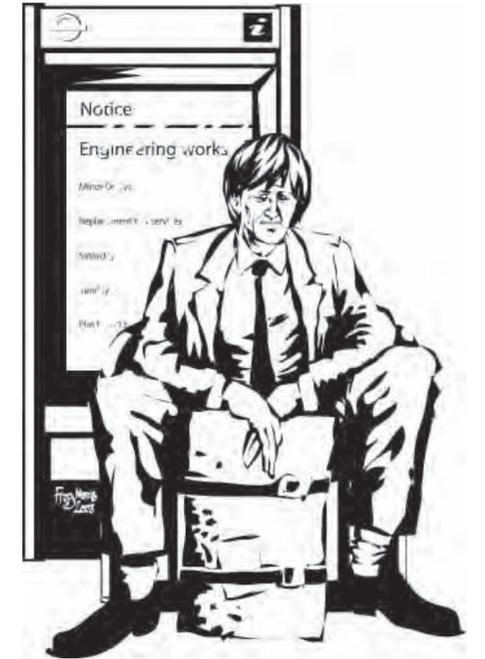
Thought for Stratford

Nations are many, but Earth is one;
Beings are many, but Breath is one;
Stars are many, but Sky is one;
Oceans are many, but Water is one;
Religions are many, but God is one;
Jewels are many, but Gold is one;
Appearances are many, but Reality is One.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Social Reformer and Educationalist, South India

“ I came across the above quote the other day and felt it could be applied to Stratford in the Borough of Newham with its diverse cultures. In fact, it could be applied to this great nation of ours. Sometimes we focus on the things that divide us rather than celebrating these and dwelling more on our unity. Well, what a great chance we have to make the 2012 Games a uniting force for our nation and the world at large, to compete against each other and celebrate our successes together. The important word here is 'together'. Yes, this is what Stratford represents for me.

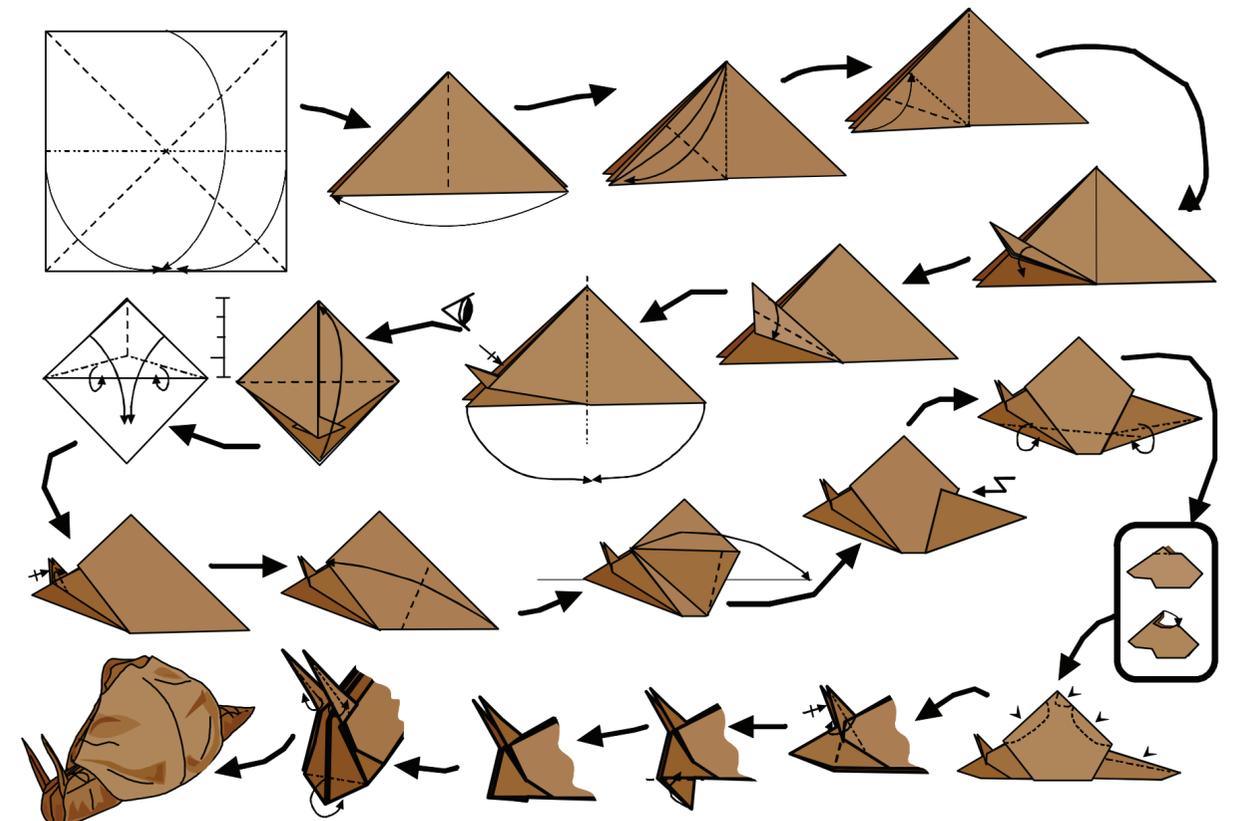
Yogesh Patel



He said he didn't want to be here for the 2012 Games. He said people won't want someone like him here. I asked him why not? He said he fixed the broken railway lines. Next week he was going to Beijing. If he did his job well he would miss their Olympics as well.

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.

Snail by Asghar Malik

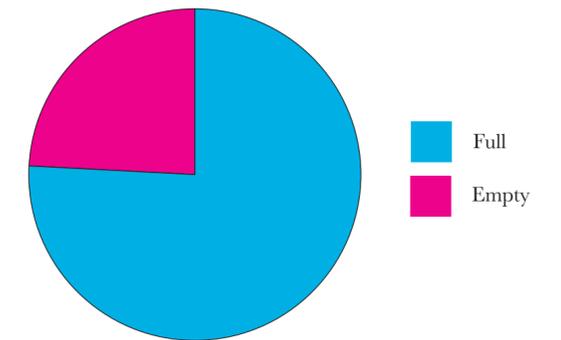




Portrait painting at Stratford station. Photo: Daisy Hutchison



IS YOUR GLASS HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY?



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

LADY LUCY'S STATION PORTRAITS

Lady Lucy is an artist/curator and illustrator who is renowned for carrying her sketchbook everywhere she goes. For one day in April, passengers waiting for Overground and Jubilee line trains at Stratford station could have their portraits painted by Lady Lucy.

Watercolour portraits by Lady Lucy

THE MANAGER

Interview with Mike Smith, former Group Station Manager for Stratford Group

How long have you worked at Stratford station?

5½ years, but I'm leaving in June.

So you worked here before the 2012 Games were actually announced?

Yes, in fact we did a lot of work in the lead-up to the 2012 bid because the evaluation committee came to London, and one of the groups came through Stratford station. We did a hell of a lot of work dressing the station. We also had a dressed train. We had an operational plan where we brought a train into the platform, then we walked the evaluation team into the station. We had the Royal Philharmonic orchestra – not all of them obviously – who played a specially commissioned fanfare for the Games. We had displays on the western mezzanine and one of the directors did a brief spiel on Stratford station. Then we took them out on the train and they all had a go in the front of the cab. After that they went to what was the Dome then, but is now the O2.

So how long have you worked for TfL?

22 years. I started off working at London Underground Head Office, 55 Broadway. I used to deal with private hires for buses and coaches.

What's the best thing about working at Stratford station?

I've got the normal day-to-day job of running a group of 4 stations with 160 staff; well, 5½ years of that could get a bit boring, doing the same thing day in day out, but

I've got all the extra things on top because so much is going on, with the Games. We have a multi-million pound station upgrade being undertaken here.

The last station upgrade doesn't seem that long ago, were you here then?

That would have been the Jubilee Line extension. Work started in 1996 here. I was working from 1997 on the Jubilee Line extension project, so I did work here for a while in 1999, re-opening the station for the Jubilee Line. We went along the whole line opening up all the stations.

Is there anything you don't like about working at Stratford?

[Long pause] There's nothing, I don't think... No, I can't think of anything to be honest.

What word or phrase do you use most often?

Nothing printable, probably. Well, if you hold down the shift key on the computer and press all the number keys along the top, I think you'll get it from that!

How many people work here?

On the station, 6 supervisors, 5 control-room operators, 14 station assistants and 11 in the ticket office, so that's 36. Then there's a pool of reserve staff that we can call on. But I manage 4 stations, from here to North Greenwich, so in total that's 160 staff.

So you have quite a lot of heavily used stations then, with the O2 Centre too?

Yes, and Canning Town is the station for Excel. All 4 of them are Olympic venues or paths into the Olympic venue.

Is it a bit daunting being in charge of stations with such a lot going on?

No, it's exciting! The job could get boring otherwise, because you're doing the same stuff. It's challenging. It's an interesting

construction plan. 31 December 2010 is the finishing date for all the work because in 2011 they're going to run a series of test events in all the venues.

What do you think about having Art on the Underground projects in the station?

I think it's brilliant!

So you've had projects here before?

[Ella Gibbs and Amy Plant produced an artwork with Carpenter's Primary School in 2006]

Yes, it started off when I worked at my previous group. My duty manager had done lots of stuff with Art on the Underground, and someone who used to work for them used to live near London Bridge and came through here, and kept on saying we should do something here. And I've seen artwork at Gloucester Road and other places, but I wanted something that involved the local community more and perhaps made people laugh, too. We've always had a good response to the work we've had here. Then the other thing is that we have a sunlight problem: the sun comes in and gets in the eyes of the people working down on the Jubilee Line, so the artworks solve that problem too, because they block the light. And they block the view to the building work. And also, the windows are a bit dirty, and you can't see that now, so really, everyone's a winner!

You also had the theatre production here last year. [Small Metal Objects, a Barbican production that took place in Stratford station in 2007]

That was the only place it happened in England.

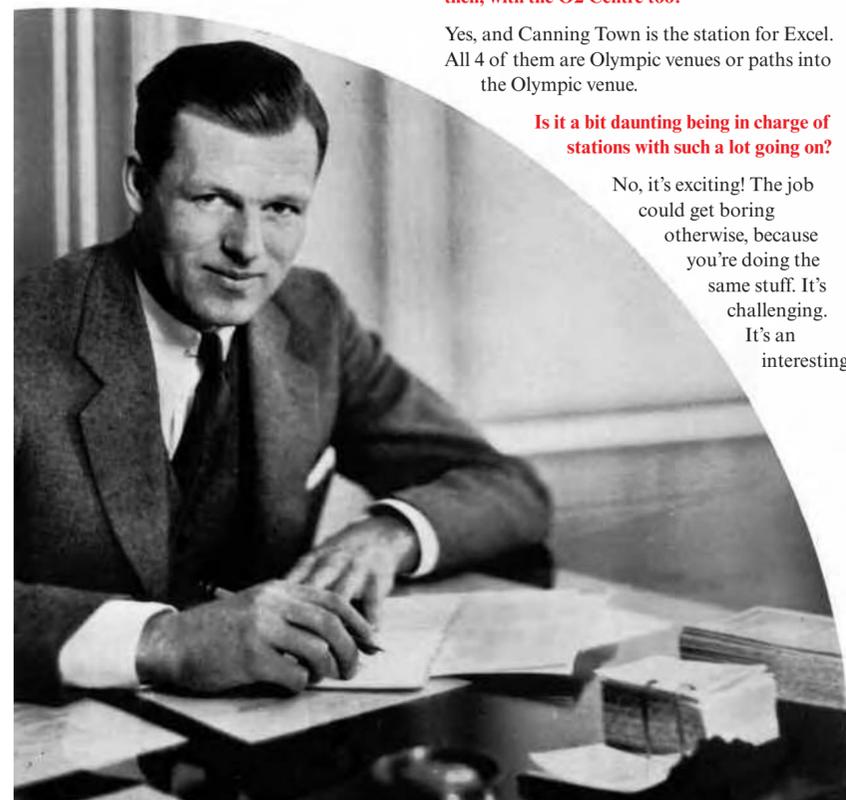
It was bizarre. When we went, it was a Friday night near Bonfire night, and so all these drunk people were coming through and shouting at us and trying to join in, but the actors just carried on. It was really good.

Myself and one of my duty managers were thinking of playing a joke on them at one point. I heard there was a bag involved in the play and we were going to go up and say "Is this your bag? You can't leave it here!", and just see the look of panic on the production team's faces. But seriously, it was really good. They toured the whole world, but the only place in England they did it was here.

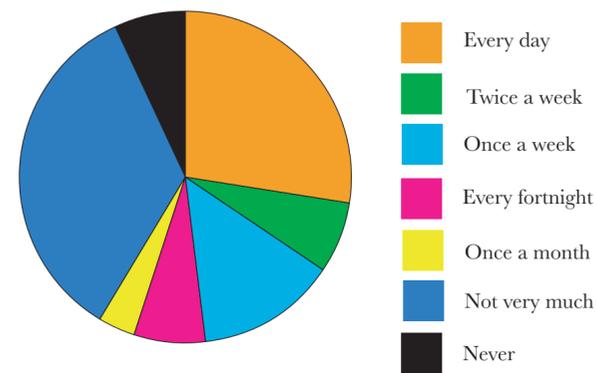
The mezzanine area was perfect for the audience.

We have used it for events though. When we won the bid to host the London 2012 Games, we had a big screen outside the station, when everyone was outside waiting for the announcement. The Mayor of Newham, Sir Robin Wales, held a party to thank everyone, and of course it turned into a celebration party, and we had 300 specially invited VIP guests and a big buffet on both of the mezzanines.

As Mike Smith is camera-shy we found an archive image which we thought suited him



HOW OFTEN DO YOU DANCE?



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

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ROBERT? HAS HE GONE OFF THE RAILS?

Gordon Joly

“Robert who?”, you may ask. Robert is an Avonside 0-6-0 steam locomotive, number 2068, built in 1933 by Staveley Iron & Chemical Co Ltd for use at their ironstone quarries in Lamport. (Ironstone is a fine-grained, heavy and compact sedimentary rock.) Whilst in Beckton, Robert was vandalised. He was later restored and moved to Stratford to mark the area's historic link with the railways: the shopping centre is built on the old railway marshalling yard.



Photo: Gordon Joly

For 8 years, Robert lived just outside Stratford station. But on 9 March, he disappeared! *The Newham Recorder* reported: 'Robert the steam engine has departed the station forecourt to make room for the enlarged ticket hall.' His new home is the East Anglian Railway Museum (EARM) at Chappel and Wakes Colne Station in Suffolk. But fortunately for Londoners, this is only temporary. In about 3 years time, when the new gateway to Stratford City is built near the

spot where Robert was originally stationed, he will return to pride of place. The marshalling yard will be a new gateway, allowing access through an area of Stratford that was previously off limits to all but railway traffic. The new station at Stratford for Eurostar provides a link for trains that can reach France and beyond within two hours. Could Robert even have reached the coast in two hours?

ROBERT COMPETITION

Mike Lamport at the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) tells us that Robert is enjoying all the attention he is getting from visitors at his current home, the East Anglian Railway Museum at Chappel & Wakes Colne station in Essex.

The ODA is offering the prize of a day trip by train to a 'family of four' to visit "Robert" at the Museum, rail tickets courtesy of National Express East Anglia. The trip can also be taken during the Museum's popular 'Thomas the Tank Engine Weekend' 22–25 August.

Mike also confirms Robert will indeed be returning to Stratford once the preparatory works for the Olympics are complete thanks to funding from the ODA.

To enter the competition, answer the following question:

What name has been given to the dedicated Olympic train service that will link St Pancras with Stratford International station in 2012?

- A) "Rocket"
- B) "Lightning"
- C) "Javelin"

Send your answer marked 'Robert Competition' by email to art@tube.tfl.gov.uk by 1 August 2008.

See page 20 for Terms and Conditions.

Views from

The Railway Tavern

Since 1985 Jan and Tom Dooner have run The Railway Tavern on Angel Lane. The pub has a strong connection to the railways and unions, the RMT and ASLEF used to hold their meetings there and it now stands opposite the site of the new Channel Tunnel rail link.

“The pub has been in my family for 42 years,” said Jan, “before that my dad was a docker and my mum was a seamstress, they were originally from Plaistow, but then they came here in 1966. Tom and I worked here in the pub with them and then when my dad died in 1985 we decided to take it over.” Jan and Tom are ideally placed to see the major physical changes taking place in Stratford. From an upstairs window they can see the Stratford City development, whilst another offers a view of the Olympic Park construction site.



Another window however offers up a different view. Behind a hoarding lies a pile of bricks on a small plot of waste land. This was the site of Angel Cottage, a listed building built in 1826 that used to stand next door to the pub, before it was illegally demolished in 2007 after being sold at auction.



Jan has several photograph of Angel Cottage which she displays behind the bar. “We were away on holiday and we arrived back to find the cottage had been knocked down over the weekend. I could have cried. The owners of the site said that it was a mistake and that they were supposed to knock down the building behind it. We'd like to make them rebuild it, but the longer it goes on the less likely it will be that all the bricks will be available.” Jan and Tom are still in touch with the family who used to live there, and are part of a continuing campaign to get the cottage rebuilt.

The Railway Tavern
131 Angel Lane, London E15 1DB
www.railwaytavernstratford.co.uk

What lies beneath ... Morrison's car-park?

Joel Lewis

Many things may lurk in car-parks – but in the Morrison's car-park in Stratford lurks something more interesting than most. For hanging in the air is the ethereal memory of a house where one of England's greatest poets was born. So if, as you load this week's shopping into your car, you feel a sudden chill, you might be sensing the lingering presence of the splendid Gerard Manley Hopkins. Despite his untimely demise at the age of only 45, he left behind him a legacy of works that have inspired and delighted thousands, if not millions, since. During his lifetime, many of his finest works were so ground-breaking that they were dismissed by critics, who simply didn't understand his lavish experimentation with language, ingeniously combining and creating words to evoke the intensity of his vision.

So if, as you load this week's shopping into your car, you feel a sudden chill, you might be sensing the lingering presence of the splendid Gerard Manley Hopkins

Despite being very much a man of his time, a Victorian through and through, Hopkins was no stuffy old moralist; his poetry deals with many issues that are deeply ingrained in modern society and thought: the joy of natural beauty and the tragedy of its destruction by relentless industrial advance, deep spiritual searching, the quest for meaning in tragedy. He also documented in agonising detail his battle with recurring depression. It would be hard to imagine a more vivid depiction of the depths of hopelessness than that in his work *No Worst*, where he writes:

*O the mind, mind has mountains; cliffs
of fallfrightful, sheer, no-man-fathomed.
Hold them cheap
May who ne'er hung there.*

Anyone who has been in that blackest pit themselves recognises in an instant the pointed jab at those who are prone to throw in 'helpful' remarks like "Why don't you just get over it?" or "It can't be that bad" – these people certainly never 'hung there' at the bottom of the mind's cliffs and mountains as Hopkins did. But Hopkins was not a misery-monger – in happier times, he wrote pieces that send heart and mind soaring, and he could cram so much exuberance into a single sentence that it seems to burst out at you as you read. You are overwhelmed by his ecstatic delight as he sings the praises of nature, of God and of life, such as in *The Starlight Night*:

*Look at the stars! Look, look up at the skies!
Oh look at all the fire-folk sitting in the air!
The bright boroughs, the circle-citadels there!
Down in dim woods the diamond delves!
The elves'-eyes!
The grey lawns cold where gold, where
quicksand lies!*

If Hopkins' poetry veered from the heights of ecstasy to the depths of depression, then it only mirrored the huge disparities in his life. Born an Anglican, and baptised in Stratford's own St John's church (to the construction of which his father had made a substantial contribution), he later shocked his family and friends – and indeed, put his Oxford education at peril – by converting to Roman Catholicism. Subsequently, he took this commitment further still by taking secret Jesuit vows – secret because to become a Jesuit in England was illegal at that time, with a penalty of lifetime exile from the country. Simultaneously, he struggled with his own homosexuality, which he would have perceived to be incompatible with his faith – both as an Anglican and as a Catholic.

The unimposing plaque that commemorates him outside Stratford Library is easily missed, but this is perhaps how he would have liked it – he was

anxious throughout life not to seek glory for himself, and embodied values that were the very opposite of today's celebrity culture. He lived a life of genuine seclusion and practised a radical systematic selflessness and devotion to God and to others that would be even more alien in our society than it was in his own. It is therefore somehow fitting that he is commemorated not by some grand monument, but with a simple plate

fixed to rough-hewn rock that could easily fall into that category of 'all things counter, original, spare, strange' that he eulogises in *Pied Beauty*.

So how to sum up this finest of Stratford's sons? Perhaps his own words speak best. Voiced in his poems you will hear both 'the golden echo' of joy and hope, and 'the leaden echo' of despair. Whether on a gloomy Monday morning you 'wake and feel the fell of dark, not day' or on a wonderful walk along the Greenway you want to cry with him 'O let them be left, wildness and wet / Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet!', whether in triumph or in tragedy, whether in euphoria or in despond – listen! Gerard Manley Hopkins has something to say to you.

Joel Lewis is a PR and public-affairs consultant, who lives in Stratford.

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Gerard Manley Hopkins, *Hopkins*, Everyman's Library Pocket Poets, 2007

David Porter and Tricia Porter, *Over the Bent World: Poems and Images from Gerard Manley Hopkins*, Paternoster Press, 1999

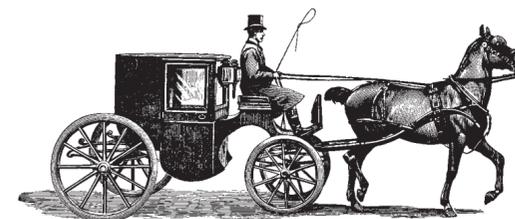


Plaque on the Broadway, Stratford



DREAMS OF STRATFORD

Dean Foley runs the flower stall outside Stratford station which has been in his family for 80 years. Dean's dream for Stratford is to start a business running horse-and-carriage rides from the station. The London European Horse-Drawn Vehicle Company would take tourists and local people for rides around E15 at the time of the London 2012 Games.



"I'm completely passionate about the idea. I'd have ten horses outside the station. I've already got one carriage. They would go to the Olympic Village and all over the streets of Newham, catering for tourists and the local community. It would be like they have in Blackpool and Great Yarmouth, and they used to have rides in Southend too. It's clean, it's green and it's friendly. It would be a focus for the community, the stables would be here and children could come and see the horses being looked after. It would become a tourist attraction.

Horses are in my family, my great-grandfather had 20 horses and used to run carriage rides in Dublin, now I've got five. I took a pony and trap out in the Broadway once and I had such a great reaction, there were crowds of people around it. I really want some support for the idea, I've got people helping me with the business plan and everything. It's called the London European Horse-Drawn Vehicle Company. I'm completely passionate about it!"

What can you imagine for the future of Stratford? Do you have an idea for something you want to happen there? Call 020 7027 8694 or email art@tube.tfl.gov.uk



Last chance to have your suit made by Salvatore

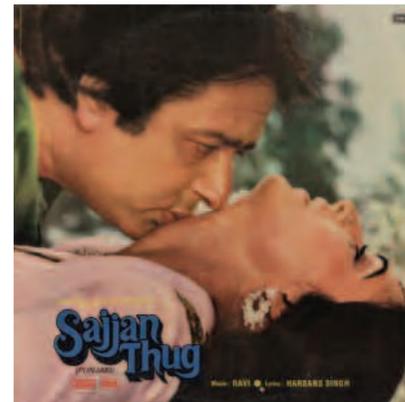
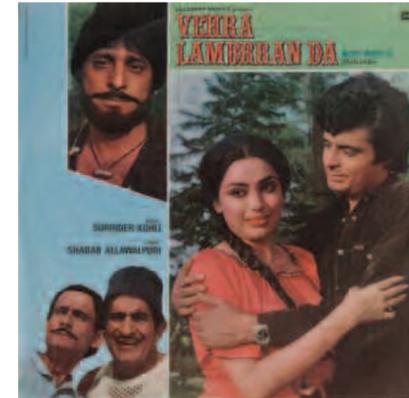
Salvatore Mastroianni has run the tailor's at 30 Vicarage Lane for 23 years, and before that was in Dalston for 20 years. He is retiring at the end of 2008.

"I was brought up in South of Italy, a small town called Caserta in the Campania region, just north of Naples. I learnt the art of tailoring from my cousin and two other people from my home town, I started at a young age. I decided to move to the UK because one of my Italian friends had lived in London for six months and really enjoyed it. After deciding to leave Italy I started working as a tailor almost immediately. My friend decided to move back to Italy but I stayed here and now I've lived here for over 40 years. Dalston was fantastic in the 1960s, I really enjoyed the calmness and tranquillity of the area.

I've mainly made suits for local businessmen. I have never advertised the shop, the business is just through word of mouth. Over the past 20 years Stratford has changed radically, for the better. Back then there weren't many shops, bars and restaurants. I'm really positive about the changes now coming to Stratford, but I am a bit worried about the competition since there are other tailor shops in the area as well. Unfortunately, nobody is willing to take over the shop when I retire, as more and more people are purchasing suits from High Street stores."

Nusound 92FM Presenter Number 1: Nimi Sagoo

Nusound 92FM is a community radio station that can also be heard online at www.nusoundradio.com. It has been running as Nusound for the past year from its premises in Forest Gate; before that, the station broadcast using temporary 'RSL' licenses from various different places such as a room above a pub in East Ham. It currently goes out in eight different languages: English, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Gujarati, Tamil, Bengali and Pashtu, and has 25 volunteers who present the different shows. At 11am Nusound broadcasts the 'Community Hour', which invites various different local organisations on to the show.



What kind of music do you play on your show?

Punjabi film music, some of it new but mostly old songs from the 1950s and 60s, as the audience likes them the best.

How many people listen to your show?

I don't know exactly, but it's very popular! The phone is always ringing when we're on air. People phone in to make requests for their favourite Punjabi songs.

How long have you been presenting the show on Nusound?

Since November last year, but my husband and I were involved in the campaign to have a community radio station since 1990, when there were no Asian radio stations in East London. I sometimes share programmes with my husband as well. He also presents Hindi and

Urdu programmes. We had a lot of records and CDs of film music and so we decided to start playing them on the radio.

Apart from the music, what else do you talk about on your show?

All different topics: people phone in with their problems to do with their family or kids and we talk about them on air and try to solve them. Also, if people have a messy street, they phone in and we ask for help from other people to clean the area. Listeners come to the street and help to clean it up.

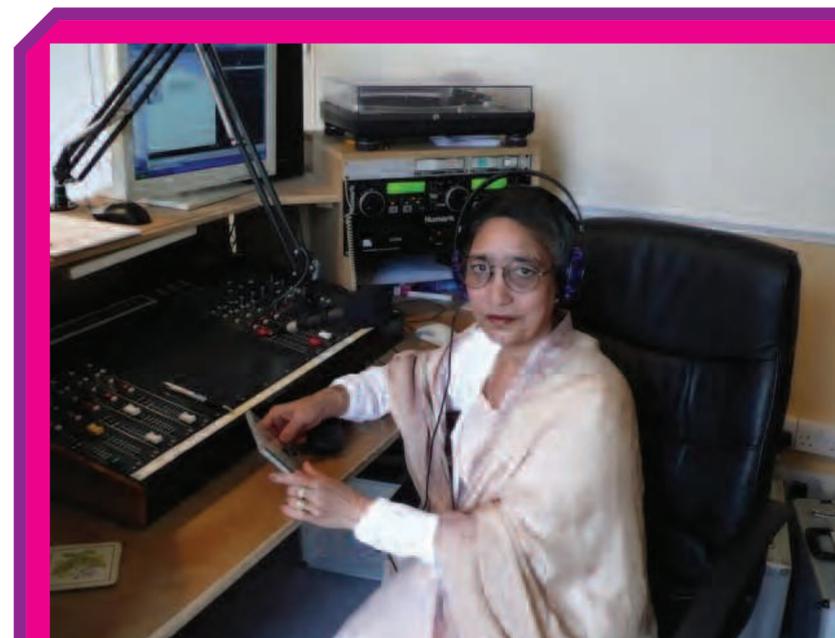
How long have you lived in the area and what do you think of it?

I've lived in Forest Gate since 1972, and my husband has been here since 1968. I love Forest Gate! It's a really good area with a strong community, who help each other a lot. The only thing that annoys me is when people leave litter or spit in the street, but apart from that, I really love it here.

How do you feel about the Olympic Games coming to Stratford?

I'm really happy. I'm very proud to see it in London.

We'll be running features on some of the volunteers at Nusound and their music. If you're involved with radio or want to nominate a local DJ to be profiled, please call 020 7027 8694, email art@tube.tfl.gov.uk



Nimi Sagoo in the Nusound studio

Nimi's playlist is made up of Punjabi film scores:

Ranjhan Mera Yaar
Music: Surinder Kohli
Lyrics: Ajaib Singh Grewal, Jagjit Singh Sidhu

Rano
Music: Mohd. Sadiq
Lyrics: Babu Singh Maan

Papi Tarcy Anck
Music: S. Mohinder

Sarpanch
Music: Karmalkant

Sajjan Thug
Music: Ravi
Lyrics: Harbans Singh

Vehra Lambran Da
Music: Surinder Kohli
Lyrics: Shabab Allawalpuri

JOIN THE STRATFORD GRAPEVINE TEAM!

Lucy Harrison

The Stratford Grapevine has formed a pub-quiz team at the King Edward VII, known to locals as the King Eddie's, on the Broadway. The quiz which takes place on Sunday evenings has been run by quizmaster Radio Russ for over three years. It is free to enter and the winning team receives a round of drinks. This honour, it appears, is frequently shared between two teams, DILLIGAF (an acronym, if you can work it out that we won't spell out here!) and LDLK2D. Radio Russ plays music in between the questions so that the teams can discuss their answers without being heard.



GIN'LL FIX IT
SCORE: 21.5

Given the network of people I'd met so far in Stratford, I was sure I could pull together a winning team, and the quiz would be a social fun way both of bringing people together and of finding further contributors for The Stratford Grapevine. With my team, which included Gordon and Louise from West Ham Allotments, I was confident that we could challenge the reigning champions.



THE MIGHTY SHIREHORSES
OF OLD LONDON TOWN
SCORE: 26

Radio Russ began with a picture round on the theme of 'Englishness'. We were presented with a selection of buildings, bridges and historical figures. Most were answered quickly (Agatha Christie, George and the Dragon...) but a picture of a cathedral was the cause of some confusion. Team member Katy was adamant that it was Hereford Cathedral, while Gordon and Louise thought it could be Worcester? or Norwich?.

Next question, "Which actor has only played James Bond once?" Straight away Gordon said, "Peter Sellers". He was referring to a spoof

not Peter Sellers, he was only ever Inspector Clouseau. It was Sean Connery." "Sorry Katy, he was in loads," replied Gordon. We eventually went with 'Peter Sellers' and moved on to the next question.

"Which two metals are used to make brass?" "Copper and tin," someone said. "But isn't tin a compound?," asked another. Returning from the bar, Katy said, in a voice loud enough for everyone to hear, "Copper and tin." "No", I said with authority, "tin is a compound."

Katy looked at us with disdain. "I have an A-level in Chemistry," she said, "and tin is not a compound". Somewhat chastened, we went with copper and tin.

"Which flower does the vanilla pod come from?" Louise was thinking hard. "Could it be the orchid?", she asked tentatively. We were unsure. Wouldn't it be commonly known if it was from an orchid?

After the quiz, Russ announced to the room that I would be coming round to talk to people about The Stratford Grapevine I went for a wander. I got into a conversation with the members of one of the other teams, who were quick to volunteer their team-mate Joel to write an article for the paper. "He's an expert on local poet Gerard Manley Hopkins."

I returned to my team in time to hear Russ announce the answers: 'York Minster'; 'George Lazenby'; 'Copper and tin' and finally, 'The orchid'! Why on earth didn't we listen to Louise, who is after all a keen gardener?

The scores were soon announced. We managed a respectable 23 points out of 30, but were beaten by a team of people seated at the bar, which included one man who was a little worse for wear. We hadn't even realise they were a team! We won the booby prize, which by a stroke of good fortune was a pair of gardening gloves – perfect for our green-fingered friends, Gordon and Louise.

The King Edward VII
47 Broadway, Stratford, London E15 4BQ

If you want to join The Stratford Grapevine's quiz team call 020 7027 8694 or email art@tube.tfl.gov.uk



THE ORGANIC
APPRECIATION SOCIETY
SCORE: 23.5

Bond film in which Sellers had appeared, making this a common trick question.

RADIO RUSS'S QUIZ CORNER



THE KING EDDIE'S QUIZMASTER SETS HIS QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

THIS MONTH: HAVE A GUESS

1. WHAT IS HYDROPHOBIA MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS?

- A.) B.O.
- B.) RABIES
- C.) WATER ON THE KNEE

2. HOW MANY NOBLE OR INERT GASES ARE THERE?

- A.) FOUR
- B.) FIVE
- C.) SIX

3. HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO BUILD NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL?

- A.) 182 YEARS
- B.) 131 YEARS
- C.) 104 YEARS

4. WHOSE FINGER IS ADAM'S POINTING TO ON THE CEILING OF THE SISTINE CHAPEL?

- A.) LUCIFER
- B.) GOD
- C.) EVE

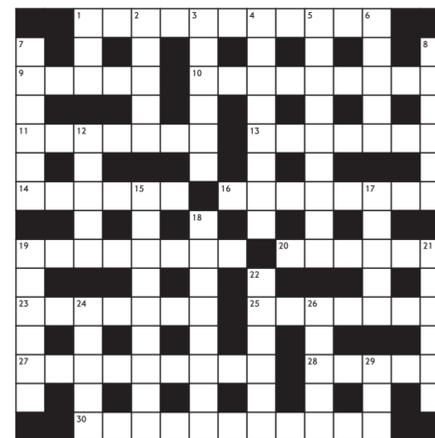
5. COCA-COLA ORIGINALLY CONTAINED EXTRACTS OF WHICH DRUG?

- A.) ASPIRIN
- B.) OPIUM
- C.) COCAINE

ANSWERS:
1. B.) RABIES
2. C.) SIX
3. A.) 182 YEARS
4. B.) GOD
5. C.) COCAINE

CROSSWORD

The Answer Lies at Stanmore!



Clues across

- 1 I sum up relic – strangely, it's a bird's eyebrow! (5,6)
- 9 Bird spotted in disrobing chamber (5)
- 10 Bird's feathers initially trapped in good old imperial measure (9)
- 11 Bird's unusual hormone (7)
- 13 Form of art new to the French (7)
- 14 Solo performance around church – a seat of learning (6)
- 16 Neither pen nor the Internet will reveal this small quantity (4,4)
- 19 A t-t-tiger? Could be a bird! (5,3)
- 20 Turning inward, he wrote about origins (6)
- 23 Bird food in strip cartoon (7)
- 25 Taught as tide ran out (7)
- 27 U-boats end badly, heading towards the dawn (9)
- 28 Flattens out golf clubs (5)
- 30 Like a bird prepared to defend its own piece of land and rile traitor, maybe (11)

Clues down

- 1 Cry when boss is cut short and turns tail (3)
- 2 Nip back to church to steal (5)
- 3 Concerning chap – one standing in for king (6)
- 4 I cast aspersions on Hebridean, for instance (8)
- 5 In fun, laze about – you don't want the avian variety! (9)
- 6 Rodents running round north for finely ground meat (5)
- 7 Crikey! It's bird food! (6)
- 8 Songbird's mouth infection (6)
- 12 Chore, mixing colour (5)
- 15 Be more than wild characters in mob. Untrue? (9)
- 17 No war around this tree (5)
- 18 Unfortunately, I miss our river (8)
- 19 One who runs errands, we're told, hides in a burrow (6)
- 21 One prepared to reveal all and stun Di in confusion ... (6)
- 22 ... outs Di, perhaps, in artist's place (6)
- 24 Idiot overrides alien for something of value (5)
- 26 I'm in Bali, very upset, so this is proof that I wasn't at the scene of the crime (5)
- 29 Bird's feeding dish losing top (3)

Picturesque parklands, melodic choral music and beautiful bowling greens are just a few reasons why you should visit Stanmore, at the end of the Jubilee line. The trip will also help you find the solutions to this crossword, which forms part of The Answer Lies at the End of the Line, a project by artist Serena Korda based on her encounters with people in Stanmore.

The Answer Lies at the End of the Line commissioned by Art on the Underground is at Stanmore Underground station from 2 July 2008.

For information and further crosswords visit www.tfl.gov.uk/art



GRAPEVINE RECIPES

Yam Fritters

Olayinka Cole from Community Food Enterprise

The yam is a staple food for many cultures and has a slightly drier flavour than the potato.

- 1/2 a yam tuber
- 500ml semi-skimmed milk
- 2 small eggs, beaten
- 3 fresh plum tomatoes
- 2 finely chopped spring onions
- 2 green chillis, seeded and finely sliced
- 3/4 cup white breadcrumbs
- Oil for shallow frying
- 1/2 teaspoon salt and freshly ground pepper

1. Peel away the yam skin, cut the flesh into chunks and place in a saucepan of salted water; boil for 20-30 mins until tender.

2. Drain and mash with milk and half of the beaten egg.

3. Add chopped tomato, spring onions, chilli and seasoning and mix thoroughly.

4. Using floured hands, shape the yam and vegetable mixture into round fritters about 3 inches in diameter.

5. Dip each into the remaining egg and coat evenly with breadcrumbs. Heat a little oil in a large frying pan and fry the fritters for 5 mins until golden brown. Drain on kitchen paper, serve and enjoy!

The Community Food Enterprise promotes best practices in diet and nutrition through education, training and outreach. It works in partnership with the diverse communities of Newham and the East London region to safeguard and sustain their right to good food as a fundamental condition for their health and well-being.

For more information visit www.community-food-enterprise.org.uk

CONTRIBUTE:

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

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.

No. 1: 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.



Oyster card holder against blue hording

Cyan fact No. 1: 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

FEATURED FOOTBALL TEAM:

MIDFIELD FC



The badge pictured was made by Ted Gore's mother in 1964

Midfield was formed in 1964 by Chairman Ronald Gore. The club which was named after a racehorse joined the East London Sunday Football League in 1965. Now part of the Hackney and Leyton Sunday Football League the team is still going strong and have won the league five times and the Sportsmanship award twelve times.



Midfield FC, 1964 (Ted Gore, front row, third from right)

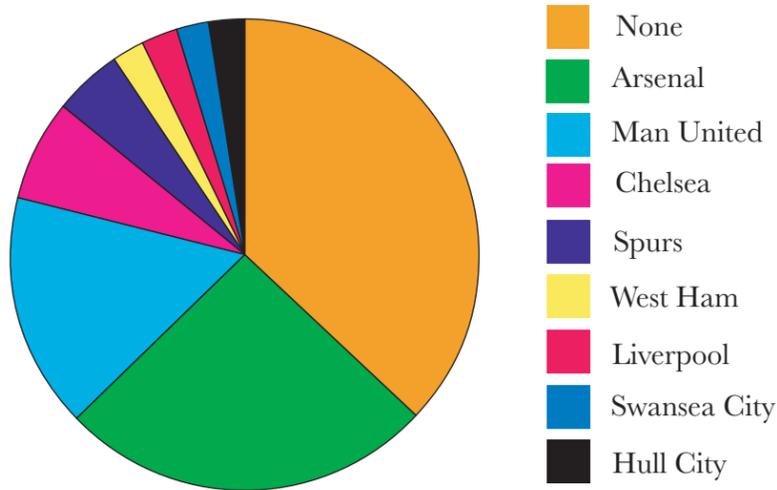


Midfield FC, 2008 (Ted Gore, far left)

The Club Manager is Stan Gittings, and the Club Secretary is Ted Gore who has held this position since the club formed and is the Secretary of the League.

**Are you part of a local football team?
To be featured in one of the future issues email
art@tube.tfl.gov.uk or call 020 7027 8694.**

WHICH FOOTBALL TEAM DO YOU SUPPORT?



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

Quiz and competition rules and regulations Quizzes and Competitions are open to all; No purchase is necessary; Entries must be the original work of the entrant; The prize and entry deadline is as stated on the quiz and is non-transferable, non-negotiable and non-refundable; The promoter reserves the right to offer alternative prizes of equal value, should the original prizes become unavailable in circumstances beyond their control; Only one entry and one prize is allowed per person; Art on the Underground (AOTU) does not accept any responsibility for entries delayed or lost for any reason. The date and time of receipt by AOTU will be taken as conclusive date of entry and proof of sending is not proof of receipt. Failure of any entry to be delivered by the closing date above, or in the manner specified, will make the entry invalid; Each participant will be deemed to have agreed to these rules by submitting his or her entry to the competition; Winners may be required to participate in publicity. By entering the competition, prize winners authorise AOTU to publish their name and photograph in any forthcoming publicity without further remuneration; The promoter of the competition is Art on the Underground, London Underground, 55 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD. The promoter's decision is final and binding in all matters and no correspondence will be entered into in respect of the competition; This agreement is governed by the laws of England & Wales.

HACKNEY MARSHES

In 1894 the Lammas/Common Land rights to Hackney Marshes were acquired for the recreational use of the people of Hackney 'in perpetuity'.

Patrick Corbett has been playing football on Hackney Marshes for over 35 years. "On Sundays on the East Marsh, we play football in the Hackney and Leyton League. There are roughly 40 teams in the league, with four divisions of about ten teams in each. When we meet up on a Sunday, there's always a little bit of banter, especially when the team that never loses rubs it in! The teams on East Marsh are mostly pub teams, although there's one team that doesn't quite fit the mould. They're all from Ghana, and they're brilliant. There are also Turkish leagues. You can just go and listen out for all the different languages."

The East Marsh will be temporarily affected by the 2012 Games. Hackney Council is leasing East Marsh to the London Development Agency (LDA). Between May 2011 to August 2013 which will be turned into the 'North Spectator Transport Mall' for the Games after which time it will be returned to playing fields.

The Stratford Grapevine
A project by Lucy Harrison

Lucy Harrison would like to thank the following people for their support, advice and contributions:

Newham Striders, especially Bob Bicheno, Chris Crook, Stanley Silburn and John Joyce; Gordon and Louise Joly from West Ham Allotments; Ted Gore and Midfield football team

Shabana Qadir and Age Concern Newham; Rachael Brasier and Daniele Duggan at Discover Children's Centre; Stratford Library staff, especially Elaine Abdullie and Richard Durack; Sujata and Tari Sian and the team at Nusound 92FM; Kendall Cordes and Radio Russ at King Edward VII public house; Mike Smith, Asghar Malik and the LU staff at Stratford station; Artists Leigh Clarke, Lady Lucy and Frog Morris for their contributions to the project

Olayinka Cole, Patrick Corbett, Jan Dooner, Dean Foley, Andreas Lang, Keith Lee, Joel Lewis, Salvatore Mastroianni, Yogesh Patel and Tony Zeolle for their contributions and interviews

James Jarrett, Joe Love, Sonsoles Marquez and Lauren Page for their help with station surveys

Katy Andrews (Lammas Lands Defence Committee), Charlie Charman (Manor Gardens Allotments), Julian Cheyne (Clays Lane), Silke Dettmers, Lance Forman (Formans Smoked Salmon), Paul Redden (Stratford Centre), Carol Richards (St Johns Church), Tom Stanworth (Tribal Consultants/Town Centre Management) and Johnny Walker (Hackney and Leyton Football League) for their advice and help with research

Commissioned and published by Art on the Underground, London Underground Limited 2008

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