

REDBRIDGE **LIFE**

RETURN TO
SCHOOL
SUPPORT

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WHAT'S
ON THIS
AUTUMN

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HELP BOOST
LOCAL
BUSINESSES

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Stepping up support for children and young people



Mayespark Primary School Holiday Club

Empower a young child

Foster for Redbridge

Imagine having the power to change a young person's life for the better.

The power to re-shape a future.

There are over 300 children in Redbridge who are unable to stay with their families each year. You could be the one to transform a life and provide the change that they need.

If you would like to know more about fostering for Redbridge Council:

Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering

Call us on 020 8708 6068

Email us fostering@redbridge.gov.uk



HAVE YOUR SAY AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings will be available to view online, and some meetings will be held in person at the Town Hall, High Road, Ilford, IG1 1DD. Visit www.redbridge.gov.uk for information, agendas, and links to join online.

Council Meetings

Thursday 21 September **7.15pm**
Thursday 23 November **7.15pm**

To ask a question at the September council meeting, please send a written notice of your question to the council questions mailbox, at: councilquestions@redbridge.gov.uk by midday on Monday 18 September.

Cabinet Meetings

Thursday 14 September **7.15pm**
Thursday 19 October **7.15pm**
Thursday 30 November **7.15pm**

Scrutiny and Overview Committees

Overview Committee

Thursday 12 October **7.15pm**
Monday 27 November **7.15pm**

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Wednesday 20 September **7.15pm**
Monday 13 November **7.15pm**

External Scrutiny Committee

Monday 6 November **7.15pm**

Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Tuesday 14 November **7.15pm**

Committee Meetings

General Purposes Committee

Thursday 14 September **8pm**

Planning Committee

Tuesday 12 September **7.15pm**
Monday 30 October **7.15pm**
Monday 20 November **7.15pm**

Governance and Assurance Committee

Thursday 2 November **7.15pm**

Health and Wellbeing Board

Monday 18 September **2.15pm**
Monday 27 November **2.15pm**

Produced by Redbridge Council

The editor can be contacted via email, at: redbridge.life@redbridge.gov.uk

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Next issue out in December



LEADER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the autumn edition of Redbridge Life

Dear neighbour,

As the summer comes to a close and children return to school, lots of local Redbridge families are facing new challenges as the cost of living crisis continues to drive up the price of everything from school uniforms to food. Throughout these tough times, our council is here to help.

If you need support accessing free school meals for your family, or finding fun, affordable activities for children through the autumn months, help is available (p.12). Signing up for free school meals is not only a good way to save money, it also benefits your school by allowing them to access additional government funding.

You can also visit our cost of living website for more information on grants, support, and debt relief <https://costofliving.redbridge.gov.uk/>

If you are stocking up on back to school essentials this September, why not shop locally? Choose from any one of our buzzing local high streets, saving travel time, fuel costs, and supporting local business at the same time. We're fortunate Redbridge is home to so many small businesses, set up by local entrepreneurs, offering affordable goods and services right on our doorstep. If you know a superstar shopkeeper or a brilliant local business, why not show your appreciation and nominate them for an Ilford Business Award (p.17)?

As we head into autumn there are still plenty of exciting things to see and do across Redbridge, including all-weather activities for all the family. Our council has continued to invest in our parks and green spaces, and the next stage of renovation work at stunning Hainault Forest Country

Park is complete, so now is the perfect time to try a tasty treat at the 1856 Café, and meet the animals at the revamped Foxburrow Farm (p.5).

There are lots of free and affordable events taking place through the autumn, including interactive sessions to mark Libraries Week (p.13), Black History Month (p.4), A Day of the Dead Parade and Wanstead Festival (p.22).

Our council is investing in local parks, libraries and public spaces, and protecting vital services, so Redbridge remains the best place to live, work and visit.

Wishing you and your family well,

Jas

Councillor Jas Athwal

Leader of Redbridge Council



Nine Redbridge parks granted prestigious Green Flag Award

Redbridge has been officially recognised, once again, as having nine of the best parks in the UK.



Green Flag Awards are granted every year to parks and green spaces across the UK judged to be welcoming, well maintained, biodiverse and loved by the local community. The awards are presided over by a panel of experts and set the standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.



Cllr Kam Rai and parks staff in Valentines Park

Nine Redbridge Green Flag Parks:

-  Claybury Park
-  Clayhall Park
-  Elmhurst Gardens
-  Goodmayes Park
-  Hainault Forest
-  Ilford War Memorial
-  Seven Kings Park
-  South Park
-  Valentines Park



The Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Kam Rai, said:



"Our award-winning parks are a vital lifeline for local people who want to unwind and escape the stress of modern life.

"They offer the perfect sanctuary to enjoy a leisurely walk surrounded by nature, a picnic with family and friends, or a game of tennis at one of our newly refurbished tennis courts.

"To achieve Green Flag status for nine of our local parks once again is a testament to the hard work of our parks staff who brave all weathers to keep our beautiful parks in such pristine condition, and park visitors who respect our green spaces by not littering.

"Despite more than a decade of government austerity, we've continued to invest in our parks so that local people can have a great experience when they visit."

Celebrating **Black History Month** in Redbridge

Black History Month, beginning on Sunday 1 October, is a national celebration recognising the achievements of African and Caribbean people and their role helping to shape British culture, history, art, and economic development.

Redbridge is hosting a variety of celebratory events and discussions throughout the month.

Exhibition at SPACE Studios Wednesday 4 October – Wednesday 29 November

Redbridge resident, Jacqui Cooke's free exhibition 'Evidence of those not seen' highlights the contribution of individuals of African and First Nation Descent. Visit SPACE studios between 10.30am – 2pm.

Visit <https://spacestudios.org.uk/space-ilford/>



Food Fair Ilford Friday 13 October – Sunday 15 October

Join the inllford Food Fair by Redbridge Town Hall between 12pm and 6pm, to taste food from around the world, watch dance performances, buy crafts, and enjoy live music.

Visit <https://www.inilford.com/events/inilford-black-history-month-food-fair>

Discussion and celebration at Redbridge Central Library Saturday 21 October

Adanna Women's Support Group will be hosting a discussion on immigration and its impact on families, as well as celebrating women's migration to East London. Join in from 10.30am – 3pm. Gloucester room Redbridge Central Library.

Visit <https://adannawomensupportgroup.com/>



Redbridge Council's leisure partner, Vision, will also be hosting various events this October, including:

- Redbridge Community Cultural Day
- COBO: Comedy Shutdown at Kenneth More Theatre
- Windrush 75th Anniversary Tea Party
- Windrush Performance by The Black British Ballet
- The Black Exchange marketplace
- Explore Africa! with School of African Languages (half-term only)

For more information, visit <https://visionrcl.org.uk/blackhistorymonth>

COMING SOON: Redbridge Black History Month



Through a series of events and activities, we will explore the stories of individuals who have left an undeniable contribution to Black history and culture, shining a light on contributions to arts, culture, science, politics, and more. From exhibitions and performances, to community celebrations, informative talks and workshops, this year's program promises to be a reflection of the vibrant tapestry that is our community.

COBO: Comedy Shutdown @ Kenneth More Theatre

FEATURED EVENTS

- Cultural community day by The Association of Redbridge African Caribbean Communities & Redbridge Equalities and Community Council
- COBO: Comedy Shutdown@ Kenneth More Theatre
- Windrush 75th Anniversary Tea Party
- Performance by The Black British Ballet
- The Black Exchange marketplace
- Lots of children's workshops & activities during half term featuring: Explore Africa! with School of African Languages



For the full list of what's on visit

www.redbridge.gov.uk/blackhistorymonth



Explore Hainault Forest's renovated farm

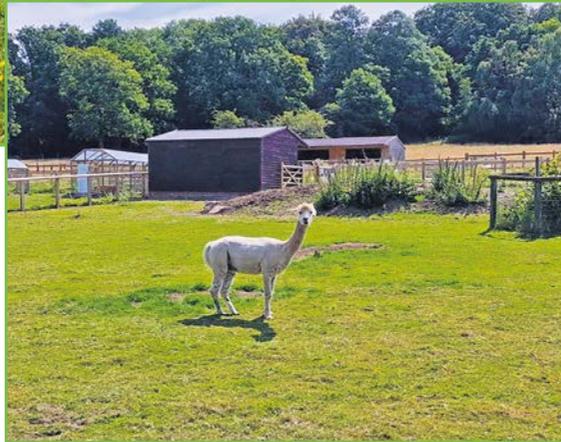
Meet our new farm animals



For opening times and more information visit <https://hainaultforest.org/discover-the-forest/foxburrows-farm/>

Interested in volunteering?

Visit **Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure** <https://hainaultforest.org/volunteer/>



Animal lovers, get ready because Foxburrow Farm has reopened, and we have some new furry friends for you to meet.

We are excited to be welcoming sheep, pigs, and goats to our existing family of Shetland ponies, alpaca, geese, ducks, peafowl, and rabbits.

The new hay barn and display barn will provide educational activities for you to learn about our animals and how to handle them! This is a day out for the whole family to enjoy. After all the excitement, you can relax by taking in the scenery of our new landscaped areas.

There are accessible pathways and hand washing facilities across the farm, as well new family-friendly, accessible toilet facilities.

Head Ranger, Claire Oliverio, said "Vision staff and the resident animals at Hainault Forest are really excited to welcome back visitors to Foxburrow Farm. The path around the lake has been upgraded and now has an extension in the form of a brand new path that takes you via the skylark field and ghost pond to the new 1856 café and visitor centre."

Have fun at Hainault Forest's new playground

Hainault Forest is now home to the biggest slide in Redbridge!

Our newly built playground will keep kids entertained for hours, with installations that tell stories of the site, and provide children with a range of sensory experiences and spaces to play physically, imaginatively, and collaboratively.

All play equipment is made from natural wood, taking inspiration from the surrounding forest and its royal history. The outdoor play installations complement the story telling experience that children can discover at the indoor exhibitions in the neighbouring barns.

The new play area is located next to the Forest Centre. Parking, toilets, and refreshments are all nearby, along with the visitor centre and the family-friendly indoor interpretation space.

For more information, please visit the Hainault Forest website, at hainaultforest.org

Renovating the farm and creating the new playground are part of Hainault Restoration Project which is thanks to funding from the

National Lottery Heritage Fund, and grants from London Borough of Redbridge, the Garfield Weston Foundation and the GLA Good Growth Fund.



Deputy Leader Cllr Kam Rai and Leader Cllr Jas Athwal pictured alongside the team at Hainault Forest

Delivering for Redbridge through

Despite being one of the lowest funded London boroughs, Redbridge Council is investing in vital services and key infrastructure to make sure our borough remains the best place to live, work and visit.

Over the last year Redbridge Council has continued to deliver over 400 vital services, provided local families with support through the cost of living crisis, and invested in new and improved facilities for local people to enjoy.

This is despite Redbridge receiving £182.31 less government funding per person than the London average.

If we received fair funding we could provide an additional £57m worth of council services.

Over the last year we have:

Helped **4,472 low-income pensioner households** through winter by providing **£540,000 worth of targeted support**



Supported **1,800 local people** with fortnightly Cost of Living Outreach sessions



Launched our new Community Protection Taskforce to **keep our streets safe**



Achieved a **'Good' or 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating** for 95 per cent of our schools



Supported **455 local people** into work



Helped deliver the Ilford Community Grocery, providing affordable groceries to local people

Join today
<https://communitygrocery.org.uk/ilford/>



Provided **£230,000** to support local foodbanks



tough times

Helped **13,000 families** access the **£5m Household Support Fund**



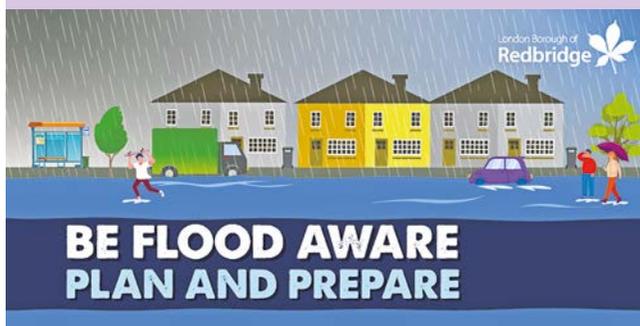
Transformed Hainault Forest Country Park with a **new playground, cafe, and visitor centre**



Begun building **212 new council homes**



Protected households from flash flooding by investing **£830,000**



Kept our streets clean by **clearing 100 per cent of reported fly tipping**



Secured **£1.4m in grants** to improve tennis and cricket facilities across the borough



Helped local families access **£1.1 million of unclaimed benefits**

Refurbished playgrounds in **Clayhall Park and Manford Way Park** so that families can spend more quality time together outside



We are proud that we have overcome budget challenges to make our borough cleaner, greener, healthier, and safer.

Redbridge School Streets

Delivering safer and healthier school journeys for over 9,000 local school children



Are you a resident or business in a school street zone?

Residents and businesses within a school street zone can apply for a FREE exemption permit enabling you to access your properties as usual. Have you got yours yet? For more information on Redbridge School Streets or to obtain an exemption permit go to: www.redbridge.gov.uk/school-streets

How do School Streets work?

Signs will be in place to notify drivers that school street zones can only be accessed by cyclists and pedestrians at the displayed times, unless vehicles have an exemption.

Non-exempt vehicles entering the school streets zones when restrictions are in force, will be identified by traffic enforcement cameras and issued with a fine.

More than 9,000 school children in the borough are enjoying healthier and safer school journeys after the Redbridge School Streets Programme was rolled out at a further four schools at the start of September.

Gearies Primary School, Redbridge Primary School, St Augustine's Catholic Primary School and Seven Kings School, Secondary Campus are the newest additions to the Redbridge School Street programme, increasing the total number of schools in the scheme to 15.

Under the initiative, motor vehicles are unable to enter school street zones surrounding the schools, for around an hour at the start and end of the school day during term time.

The vehicle restrictions help eliminate dangerous traffic hotspots near the schools, making children less vulnerable to road accidents by creating a safer journey to and from school.

Supported by head teachers and local families, the restrictions also help reduce children's exposure to harmful vehicle emissions, and encourage more walking, scooting, and cycling to school. Why not try leaving the car at home on your next trip to school?



Aaron, age 8, from Gearies Primary School said:

"I think Schools Streets is a very good idea because there are no more cars parked dangerously or blocking the road when we come to school. Everyone at my school can walk, cycle, scooter, or even skateboard to school now without worrying about cars coming near them. I'm mega excited about cycling more and think it will make going to school in the morning more fun, and healthy!"

Jane Waters, Executive Headteacher of Seven Kings School, added:

"We got involved with Redbridge School Streets because we were concerned about the safety of our young people, having witnessed some close calls, with cars mounting pavements when the road gets gridlocked. We fully support the initiative, and our children feel relieved they will be able to walk to and from school independently, in safety."

Child Friendly Redbridge



Our School Streets programme is just one of the ways we are working towards becoming a Child Friendly Redbridge, and delivering on the priorities of our borough's children and young people.

As part of UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities and Communities programme, children from across Redbridge have told the Council about the importance of clean air, tackling climate change, and improving road safety.

School Streets is an example of children shaping the Council's decision-making processes and shaping council policies, embodying the key principles of the Child Friendly Redbridge programme.

Find out more about Child Friendly Redbridge at www.redbridge.gov.uk/childfriendly

Recycle Week: Get top tips on how to reduce your waste and 'recycle right'

CLEANER
Redbridge

Reduce your household waste, recycle right and help save the planet

Two of the easiest ways we can all play our part to help tackle climate change, while also saving money, is to reduce the amount of household waste being produced in the borough, and recycling as much as we can of whatever waste is left. Learning to recycle right is also important because wrong items in the recycling can contaminate the whole load, making it all unrecyclable.

For Recycle Week, 16 – 22 October, our Neighbourhood Education and Engagement Team will be hosting stands in the community offering information and tips on reducing waste, saving money and recycling right.

Keep an eye on the team's **'Our Streets'** webpage for a full list of locations.

Visit <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/>



Reduce



Reuse



Recycle

On our website you can find lots of information on how switching to reusable products and cutting waste can save you money and help the environment.

Our Neighbourhood Education and Engagement Team welcome opportunities to speak to community, faith or social groups about recycling and reducing waste. To request a session for your group, email the team at ourneighbourhood@redbridge.gov.uk

Shaheen from Barkingside is a keen recycler, along with her family. Speaking about the importance of recycling the mum-of-two, said



"Recycling is really important for the environment and tackling climate change. It's a way for us to help balance the ecosystem because recycling paper, for example, saves cutting down trees, and more trees in our environment means cleaner and better air quality around us. As a family we always recycle, and I think it's important to we set an example for our kids to see as they grow up."

Green Garden Waste collections

will stop for the year from autumn and will resume again next spring. Week one collections end on **Friday 20 October**, and week two collections end on **Friday 27 October**.

To check your collection week, go to www.redbridge.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/garden-waste

OUR STREETS
Help us create great streets and neighbourhoods



Redbridge trials largest fleet of solar power assisted vehicles in London

We're championing greener travel by trialling London's largest solar power-supported council fleet

Under the innovative green scheme 25 council vehicles, including refuse trucks, minibuses, and vans have been adapted to fit solar panels to use sunlight to help power the vehicles.

The use of solar panels on the council fleet is a first for Redbridge and works by harnessing sunlight to create the electrical energy needed to help power the vehicles' batteries.



Council fleet fitted with solar panels

On a normal vehicle, the alternator is the component generating the electricity needed to continuously power the vehicle's battery as the engine runs.

On a vehicle with solar panels the alternator does not have to create as much electricity because the solar panels are also charging the battery – and as the alternator has to work less it means it does not need as much power and energy from the engine, resulting in a fuel saving.

The solar panels also pave the way for council vehicles that aren't yet electric, to make greener journeys while the fleet transitions to EV.

Since the trial began in September 2022, council fleets fitted with solar panels have achieved a 9452kg reduction in CO₂, which is the equivalent CO₂ emissions of flying from the UK to Australia, and back. The eco-friendly fleet has also saved over 3,500 litres in fuel and used 2,131kwh less energy compared with non-solar panelled vehicles.



Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability Cllr Jo Blackman with some of the fleet fitted with solar panels

REDBRIDGE REWIND

Exploring the Rich History of our Borough

A history of education in Redbridge

Our borough is a hub of educational excellence, with 95 per cent of our schools achieving a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating, and the only 'Outstanding' Adult Education Institute in the country calling Redbridge home.

In the late 19th century, Ilford's population was growing rapidly. The Ilford School Board was formed in 1893 to provide a suitable education for the increasing number of children living in the area. Consequently, Park Higher Grade School in Balfour Road, Ilford was founded in 1901.

When responsibility for providing secondary education was transferred to county councils, the school was renamed Ilford County High School, and educated both boys and girls until 1929, when the girls moved to a new site in Cranbrook Road named Ilford County High School for Girls.



In 1935, the Ilford County High School for Boys moved to its current site in Fremantle Road Barkingside, and in 1977 the Ilford County High School for Girls was renamed Valentines High School and became a co-educational secondary school.

▼ Ilford County High 1935



During the Second World War, Londoners suddenly faced the threat of bombing, and many children were evacuated, mainly housed with individual families. However, in Redbridge, one school was entirely relocated. Beal High School for Boys was evacuated as one unit to Kennylands camp near Reading, with all the students living and studying together in their new home.

The boys slept in long wooden dormitories and had to help their teachers run their new camp school. Before long they were keeping chickens, growing vegetables, and cleaning out the pigs. The school stayed at the camp for five years, finally returning home in 1945.

To find out more about wartime evacuation visit the newly renovated Redbridge Museum at Redbridge Central Library, opening this winter.



▲ Beal students arrive at Kennylands Camp 1940

Not only do we have brilliant schools in Redbridge, but we also have excellent adult education. Redbridge Institute of Adult Education has been educating and transforming lives for over 120 years.

Redbridge Institute traces its history back to 1903, when the first formal adult education was delivered at the Higher-Grade School (later Dane Junior) in Ilford. 600 adults benefited from courses in millinery, dressmaking, cookery, shorthand, bookkeeping, arithmetic, art and french.

In the early 1930s, the Ilford Literary Institute opened, later re-named as the Ilford Evening Institute, before being integrated with other adult education courses in the borough to become Redbridge Institute of Adult Education in 1981.



▲ Students at Redbridge Institute, early 1900s

To this day Redbridge Institute enrolls thousands of adult learners each year onto part-time courses in Ilford, Gants Hill and Hainault. Courses run throughout the week and online to fit around busy schedules.

You can find out what courses are available on Redbridge Institute's website, at www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk

Printed course booklets are also available in libraries and other centres around the borough.



Redbridge
Institute
of Adult Education

Celebrating 120 years of adult education

London's only Ofsted 'outstanding' local authority adult education provider

Find out more about our range of qualifications, skills for life and personal development courses at Redbridge Institute of Adult Education. We have been offering courses to Redbridge residents for 120 years, and our current flexible courses in Ilford, Gants Hill, Hainault and online are designed to suit your lifestyle.

Transform your life through learning.

Phone: **020 8550 2398**

Email: enquiries@redbridge-iae.ac.uk



@rediae

@redbridgeinstitute

Find out more: www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk

Redbridge Institute of
Creative Arts

Creative and Visual Arts Courses

If you take pleasure in expressing yourself through creativity, you will love what we have to offer at Redbridge Institute of Creative Arts.

From jewellery making, painting and enamelling to glass making, pottery and Japanese ceramics, we have workshops for all curiosities and abilities, delivered by expert tutors.

Our courses include:

- Jewellery Making
- Clothes Making and Textiles
- Ceramic Pottery
- Art classes & workshops
- Mosaics and Glass Fusing
- Stained Glass

Email: rica@redbridge-iae.ac.uk

Visit: www.redbridge-iae.ac.uk/rica/

Phone: **020 8550 2398**



Back to School

Support for families during the cost of living crisis



As children return to school, costs can creep up, with new uniforms, school lunches and other expenses putting pressure on family finances. Redbridge Council is here to help.

With inflation rising, the cost of everyday essentials is increasing and many local families are struggling with finances. Childcare, schooling and food costs are presenting new challenges on top of rising bills. There is support available for you and your family.

Visit our cost of living website at <https://costofliving.redbridge.gov.uk/>

Save on your water bills

Families receiving universal credit, benefits or have household income of less than £21,000 a year may be able to access a water social tariff, which can reduce bills by up to 90 per cent.

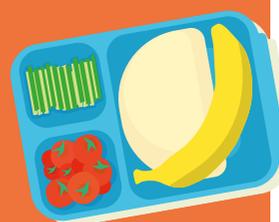
5.7 million eligible households are missing out on an estimated £160 a year!

Speak to your water company today to check if you're eligible.



Apply for Free School Meals

If you receive benefits like Universal Credit, you may be entitled to free school meals and further discounts on school trips and musical instruments.



Find out more <https://costofliving.redbridge.gov.uk/free-school-meals/>

School Uniform grants

If you're in an emergency situation, have had to move schools due to enforced re-housing, or have been through disaster, such as fire, you could get a grant for a new school uniform.

Apply at www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/uniform-and-travel-awards/

Get in touch with your child's school to see if they offer support with purchasing uniforms.



Help with childcare costs

Every family in the UK with children aged 4 and under is entitled to help with childcare costs.

Find out how much support you can access by visiting the government website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Support with Benefits

You may be missing out on support you're entitled to like Universal Credit, Pension Credit and Disability Benefits.



Find out more <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/benefits/>

NHS Healthy Start Scheme

If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to help buying healthy food and milk.



If you're eligible, you'll be sent a Healthy Start card with money on it that you can use in some UK shops, money is added onto your Healthy Start card every 4 weeks.

Apply online today <https://services.nhs.uk/apply-for-healthy-start/>

Work Redbridge

If you're looking for work or need careers advice, then Work Redbridge is here to help. The service is open to all local people aged 18+ in our borough.

The team can help you write a stand-out CV, prepare for a job interview, or advise on careers and jobs that suit your skill-set. They can also help you access training to boost your skills.

Find out more at <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs/work-redbridge>



Holiday, Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

The Redbridge HAF programme provides healthy food and enriching activities for children and young people over the school holidays, with free places for children receiving free school meals.

Book your place over the winter holidays by searching 'Redbridge HAF' online.



Discover Redbridge this autumn

There is so much to do and discover in Redbridge this autumn.

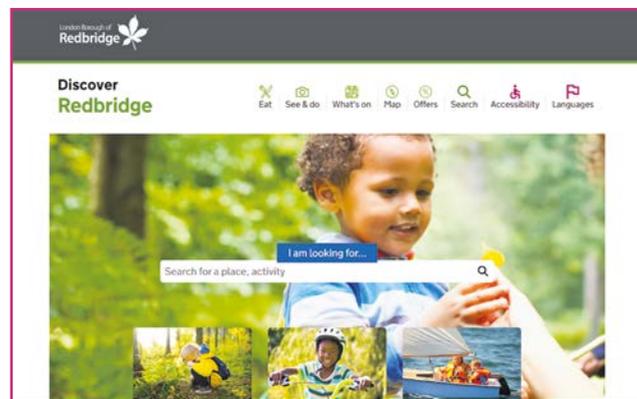
As the nights get darker and the days get colder, there are plenty of all-weather fun things to do this autumn. Make sure you visit the Discover Redbridge website <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/discover/> to find the best places to go and events to join in our borough through September, October, and November.

The Discover Redbridge website will tell you what's going on and where, signposting you to a whole local network of activities and places to visit. Whether you're interested in sports, keeping fit, swimming or cycling, there is something for everyone to do in Redbridge.

Our leisure partner, Vision, www.visionrcl.org.uk manages so many great places and facilities in our local area from parks and libraries to sports centres and gyms. So, whatever you are interested in, you'll find a place to go or an activity to join locally.

Remember to look out for events for up-coming celebrations like Bonfire Night, Diwali and Eid, plus things to do through the half term school holidays.

Lots of fun places to visit in Redbridge are completely free, like Valentines Mansion, Redbridge Museum and Hainault Forest Country Park. So, whatever your budget and whatever the weather, we've got you covered.



Have fun this autumn right on our doorstep
<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/discover/>

Celebrate Libraries Week in Redbridge

Learn more about living sustainably during Libraries Week.

Libraries Week takes place this year between Monday 2 October and Sunday 8 October, and we're celebrating in Redbridge with a jam-packed schedule full of fun activities for children and young people.

Libraries Week is an annual showcase and celebration of the best our libraries have to offer. Each year there's a different theme, chosen to explore the innovative and surprising things libraries do to support our communities.

This year, we are celebrating the work happening in libraries to promote sustainability and protect the planet from climate change.

Throughout the week, the green theme will be the main focus of children's activities, including; arts and crafts with recycled/recyclable materials, digital workshops, interactive storytelling and much more.

As part of Libraries Week we'll be sharing top tips on how to get the most out of our local libraries and save the planet at the same time.

Did you know you can borrow up to 20 books from your Redbridge Library rather than buying them, helping to create a shared economy that reduces consumption and waste?

If you find it difficult to visit your local library in person, why not discover our digital collections on Libby, BorrowBox, Kanopy and Press Reader? It's quick and easy to get started, and you don't even have to leave home! Download the apps to your devices to enjoy thousands of books, films, audio, newspapers, magazines and comics for children and for adults.



**Cllr Namreen Chaudhry
Cabinet Member for
Leisure, Culture and
Communities, said:**

"Libraries can transform lives, ensuring every child can access books, computers and educational materials.

"We know that people across the borough cherish our libraries, and that's why we have invested significantly so everyone can enjoy the best possible experience when they visit.

"During Libraries Week, we'll be showcasing how we are taking some simple yet effective steps in our libraries to tackle climate change and help to build a more sustainable future for younger generations."

For more information about Libraries Week and to join our libraries, visit <https://visionrcl.org.uk/>

◀ **Libraries Week is a great opportunity for children to learn about how to help save our planet**

Why not give rugby a try?

Redbridge is home to several rugby clubs that are always on the lookout for new players of all ages

With the Rugby World Cup in full swing, now is the perfect time to give rugby a go or get back into the game if you've not played for a while.

Redbridge is a real hotbed of rugby with several local clubs, some of which have been established in the borough for nearly 100 years.

Rugby is a great way to stay fit, meet new people, or simply have fun. So why not check out a local club and try your hand?

We have four family-friendly Rugby Clubs in Redbridge that will be delighted to open their doors to new recruits and supporters.

The beauty of rugby is that you are never too young or old to start playing. All the clubs have teams ranging from young children, teenagers, and adults to those who are that bit older and play veterans' rugby.

The clubs are particularly keen to welcome more girls and women to join their ranks. Whatever your age or experience, the clubs will advise on the most suitable team you or your children can join.

And there is always a warm welcome for those to want to come along and cheer on the teams.

What are you waiting for? Reach out to your local club now to see how you can get involved.

Eton Manor RFC
Nutter Lane E11 2JA

☎ 020 8532 2946

🌐 www.etonmanorrfc.com/information

Ilford Wanderers RFC
Forest Road IG6 3HJ

☎ 07523 868489

🌐 www.pitchero.com/clubs/ilfordwanderersrfc

Wanstead Rugby Club
Roding Lane North IG8 8JY

☎ 020 38271881

✉ secretary@wansteadrfc.com

🌐 www.wansteadrfc.com/

Woodford Rugby Club
High Road Woodford Green IG8 9LB

☎ 07928402793

🌐 www.pitchero.com/clubs/woodford



Ilford Wanderers FC locked horns recently with Wanstead Rugby Club



Air your views

Help improve air quality across Redbridge

Air pollution is a significant issue facing our capital and can lead to wide-ranging health concerns including asthma.

Our council recently launched We Care for Our Air in Redbridge, a new project to better understand both the levels of air pollution in our borough, and the views of local people on ways we can improve air quality locally.

We want to hear your views on air quality in your area. The feedback will help us deliver future work to tackle air pollution and protect the health and wellbeing of people of all ages across Redbridge. To take part in the survey please visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/our-air-redbridge>

As part of the project, Mapping for Change are creating a digital interactive map to show levels of air pollution in different areas. You can help create the map by spending just five minutes a month setting up an air pollution monitor. This could be in your backyard, at a bus stop you use, or in your child's play area. The monitoring is free and very simple. To sign up, contact air@mappingforchange.org.uk

- 1 Air pollution can worsen symptoms linked to respiratory conditions such as asthma
- 2 Air pollution affects our health from birth through to old age
- 3 Children and older people are most affected by air pollution, harming their lungs, hearts and brains

Empowering Parents Together: Support for families with SEND children

HEALTHY
Redbridge

If you're a parent or the carer of a child with Special Educational Needs and looking for support, help is at hand.

Empowering Parents Together (EPT) is a local independent group in Redbridge which provides comfort and support for parents and caregivers of children with Special Educational Needs.

EPT represents parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25 in Redbridge.

The group is made up of nine volunteers, all parents and carers of SEND children, driven by a belief in inclusivity and support for all disabilities. EPT works with Redbridge Council and other partners to ensure all voices are heard to shape future services for SEND children.

Parveen Mahal, Co-Chair of EPT said:

"We have an unwavering commitment to amplify the voices of parent carers and strive for both a better environment and better services for children with SEND.

"It's vital that we continue to work in close partnership with Redbridge Council and local health partners so we can all play a part in shaping future services for our children.

"The Council and other partners have embraced this approach and always want to hear our views on how we can work better together, ensuring children and young people get the service provision best suited to their needs."



Members of Empowering Parents Together

Sharula Kangle, Co-Chair of EPT said:

"We host regular webinars and tailored training sessions to cater for the needs of all parent carers.

"Our coffee mornings offer a safe and welcoming space for networking, support and signposting to support services. EPT embraces families, ensuring no one is left behind."



EPT's impact continues to grow, reaching out to families about available services through word-of-mouth, social media, and school coffee mornings. In March 2023, EPT were honoured at the Mayor's Community Awards, receiving an award for making a difference in the local community.

EPT were nominated for the award by local parents and carers of SEND children for their exceptional support.

With EPT by your side, families are never alone on their journey of care and empowerment.

To find out more, visit www.empoweringparentstogether.org.uk or email info@empoweringparentstogether.org.uk

**CHRISTMAS
LIGHT UP
COMING SOON
TO...**

**Barkingside
Hainault
Ilford
Seven Kings
South Woodford
Wanstead**

For dates and times please visit:
visionrcl.org.uk/christmas

Vision
Redbridge Culture & Leisure

London Borough of
Redbridge

Support our superb local businesses

Redbridge is home to a multitude of successful small and medium-sized independent businesses.

High streets across Redbridge are buzzing with independent shops and restaurants serving everything you might want or need. These businesses help boost our local economy, offer employment opportunities for local people, and provide vital goods and services right on our doorstep.

By shopping in Redbridge we can all support local businesses and keep our high streets thriving. Whatever you're after there's sure to be a business in our borough with everything you need.

We caught up with three local entrepreneurs to find out more about what it takes to run a business in our borough.

Le Mahzen Chocolatier – South Woodford

Le Mahzen Chocolatier is truly a chocolate lover's dream. The new shop opened over the summer in South Woodford, after owners, Husband and Wife duo, Mr and Mrs Ulus decided to expand the business from Turkiye.

The shop offers a carefully selected menu of seven types of the finest melted Belgium chocolates (dark, milk, white, gold, ruby, dark vegan, milk vegan), and velvety, balanced Italian coffee beans for every taste and mood. They also serve chocolate desserts and hot and iced chocolate drinks, all in a cosy setting.

Mrs Ulus said

"We were living in South Woodford before moving to Woodford, so we know and love the area. For anyone thinking of setting up a business in Redbridge, hospitality and top class goes a long way, your customers deserve the best."



Le Mahzen Chocolatier provides customers with a warm friendly and cosy atmosphere

Paratha Junction (known as Seven Kings Café)

Located on Green Lane in Seven Kings, Paratha Junction is one of the most established family-run businesses in the borough. Managed more recently by Mrs Sandhu, the café serves up delicious English Breakfasts, teas, coffees, burgers, and sandwiches as well as a wide range of tasty Indian cuisine, including meat and vegetarian dishes and of course Paratha, a flat bread native to South Asia, for customers to eat in or takeaway.

With such a wide menu, Paratha Junction, known locally as Seven Kings Café, has its regular customers and is a firm favourite of those who live and work in and around the local area.

Mrs Sandhu said

"Redbridge is such a diverse borough, so naturally that diversity is reflected in the food we serve. There is something here for everyone to enjoy. I would like to think it is for this reason that we have so many returning customers."

"For anyone setting up or thinking of setting in Redbridge, just go for it. There is a lot happening locally, and now is as good a time as any to set up business in one of the best boroughs in London."



The Sandhu family run Paratha Junction

The Music Place – Wanstead

The Music Place, located in Wanstead, began operating in the early 2000s before the business was taken over by new management in September 2019.

Having undergone a significant transformation in September 2022, the shop evolved into a Community Interest Company, reinvesting profits into developing new courses, providing local people with affordable, high-quality music education.

The business rebranded as The Music Place, a hub for learning instruments and engaging with music through workshops and events that foster community involvement. Co-director, Liliana Dimovska, boasts two decades of experience as a string educator and musician.

The Music Place offers instrumental piano, guitar, violin, and music theory tuition.

Liliana said

"Redbridge provides an ideal environment for starting and growing businesses. With its large and diverse population, the communities in Redbridge are friendly and approachable, making it especially helpful for running a small business. You can also contact the friendly council business groups in Redbridge for support and advice."



The Music Place is based in Wanstead

Cast your vote for the **best business in Ilford**

Ilford Business Awards recognise the very best businesses in our borough

There's still time to cast your vote across 18 different categories for the prestigious Ilford Business Awards. This is your chance to have your say and recognise the exceptional contributions made by businesses in Ilford North and Ilford South.

Over 30 businesses are in the running for awards including local favourites like Aroma Baths, Beauty at Anju's, Golden Barbers, Barney Bear's Nursery and Exchange Ilford, alongside national brands such as Primark and Costa Coffee.

To vote for your favourite business simply scan the QR code or visit <https://www.inilford.com/ilford-business-awards-2023>



Voting closes at midnight Tuesday 31 October. Remember, only registered businesses can be nominated for an award.

Once you've voted dust off your glad rags and join us for the glittering Business Awards Dinner on Thursday 30 November at the magnificent Coliseum Suite in Ilford.

The night promises to be packed with entertainment, including a 3-course meal, afterparty and a The Greatest Showman tribute act.

Special guests include the Leader and Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Jas Athwal and Cllr Kam Rai.

Secure your tickets today by visiting the inilford website <https://www.inilford.com/events/ilford-business-awards-2023>



Ilford Business Awards Night 2022
Photo credit: Paul Fox

Redbridge Council gives **businesses a helping hand**

Thinking about setting up your business in Redbridge? You might be eligible to receive financial support as part of our Business Incentive Scheme

Redbridge Council is offering financial support to aspiring entrepreneurs as part of plans to promote local enterprise, strengthen the Redbridge economy, and diversify the range of goods and services available for local people.

Businesses that meet the new criteria could receive a grant of up to £5,000 as an incentive to open, relocate or expand an existing business in the borough.

To apply, businesses simply need to fill out an application form on the Council website.

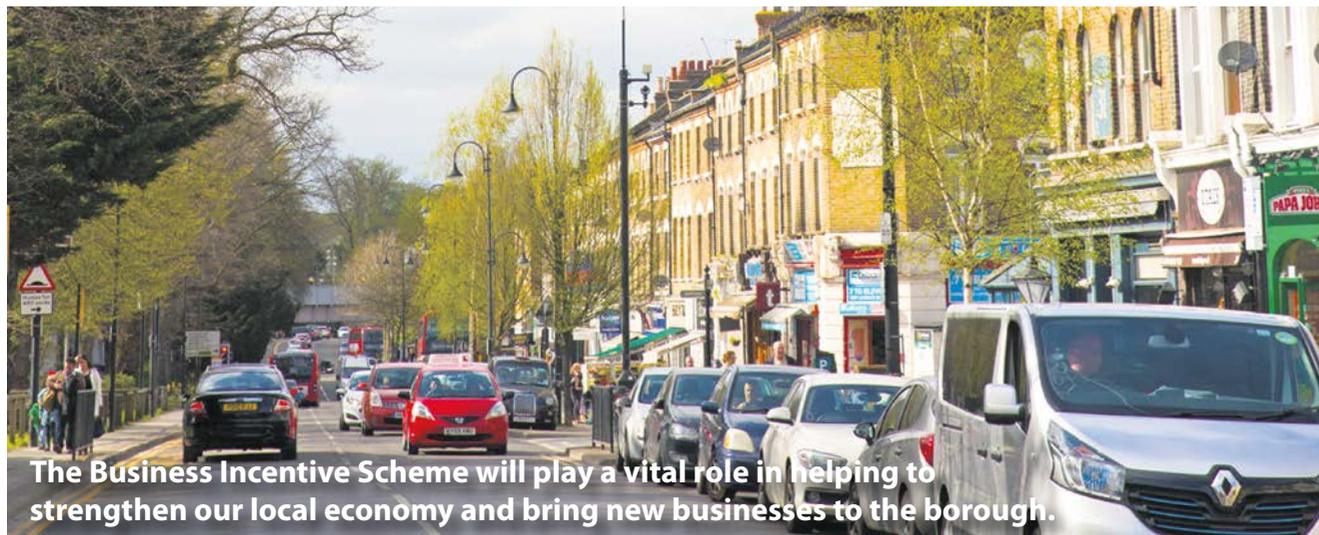
The Business Incentive scheme will play an important role in helping to attract and retain a diverse range of businesses on local highstreets and in town centres, making sure Redbridge remains the best place to live, work, and visit.

Cllr Kam Rai, Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration, said:



"Entrepreneurship is important to our local economy. We want to attract businesses that complement our aspirations for a green and healthy borough. Redbridge is a fantastic borough to do business, rich in diversity with busy high streets and first-class transportation links.

"Our Business Incentive Scheme will help local businesses with grants, enabling them to provide opportunities for employment, whilst improving the range of goods and services available for local people."



The Business Incentive Scheme will play a vital role in helping to strengthen our local economy and bring new businesses to the borough.

For more information on the scheme, including eligibility criteria and an application form visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/business-incentive-scheme

Applications must be submitted by **Friday 16 February 2024**

Meet our new Redbridge Community Protection Taskforce



Keeping our streets safe with regular local patrols

If you're out and about in the borough, please stop and say hi when you see members of our new Community Protection Taskforce.

The borough-wide taskforce patrol Redbridge, providing a visible deterrent and keeping our streets safe for local people.

In addition to launching the taskforce, Redbridge Council has created a new reporting tool, available on the council's website, making it far easier to report antisocial behaviour.

Report antisocial behaviour by scanning the QR code



Cllr Jas Athwal, Leader of Redbridge Council said:



"Redbridge is one of the safest outer London boroughs, and we're investing to keep crime down and ensure the borough remains the best place to live, work, and visit.

"We also need the help of local communities to prevent antisocial behaviour by regularly reporting any incidents witnessed. Officer patrols are targeted directly based on the number of reports, so the most effective thing you can do to stop antisocial behaviour is report it on our website."



Deputy Leader Cllr Kam Rai and Cllr Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety, pictured with Taskforce team members

Your Neighbourhood Policing Team is here to help you

Every ward in Redbridge has a dedicated neighbourhood policing team.

Your neighbourhood policing team tackle ward issues like antisocial behaviour, drug taking, motor vehicle crime, and other offences.

If there is a neighbourhood issue in your area, you should report it to the police and get in touch with your local officers.

As well as speaking to your officers about neighbourhood issues, you can also join your local Ward Panels which meet regularly to discuss and set local policing targets in individual areas. These panels are a great way to tackle local issues like antisocial behaviour and to hold the police to account.



Cllr Khayer Chowdhury with Barkingside's Neighbourhood Policing Team in Gants Hill



Cllr Khayer Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Enforcement and Community Safety:

"Your neighbourhood police officers are here to help you. No issue is too small or big for officers to deal with so please do get in touch with them if there are issues in your area.

I regularly attend the Valentines Ward panel, which allows me and other local people to set policing priorities. These panels are a great way to get involved and help keep Redbridge safe."



Contact your neighbourhood policing team by scanning the QR code or visiting URL <https://tinyurl.com/mypoliceteam>



From the classroom to the dinner table: how simple conversations create a safer borough

SAFER
Redbridge

Redbridge is developing new resources for schools and parents to empower young people to stay safe and challenge sexist harassment

Since launching this spring, ThisHasToStop, our initiative to stamp out sexual harassment, has attracted the attention of people across Redbridge and beyond.

Its clear message condemning sexist behaviours has drawn a positive reaction, as women and girls in the borough welcome our strong stand on the issue.

In the coming months, the campaign will use innovative approaches to fulfil the ambition to change behaviour long-term by engaging the next generation.

Our Community Safety Team have listened to the views and experiences of young people – talking with more than 1,500 sixth-form pupils over the last year.

Early teenage years are crucial in influencing young people's behaviours, so we're developing resources to assist schools and families to further support children to become confident young adults, who will challenge sexist harassment and contribute to a safer borough.

Top tips for discussing personal safety with your child:

- **Create a safe space** – ensure your child knows they can always share uncomfortable or scary experiences with you without fear of judgement or punishment.
- **Talk about real-life scenarios** – this makes it easier for children to recognise unsafe situations. Together, think about what your child can say or do in a similar situation and act it out.
- **Include the online world** – keep yourself informed on the apps your child is using, and talk through online safety together.
- **Discuss positive behaviours** – how can your child behave in a way that makes others around them feel safe? You can bring in examples from books or TV.

The innovative work developed with primary and secondary school staff, parents, and students will help reinforce Redbridge's leadership role in tackling this national problem.

We're developing two new resources to use at home and in school.

The first is designed to help parents support their children to move confidently from primary to secondary school. The step up to secondary school can feel like a big jump, and parents have told us they worry about their new year seven children travelling safely to and from school and about the challenges that come with increased independence.

Containing information about keeping safe and what to do if a situation doesn't seem right, it's a practical resource to reassure families about what steps to take.

Working with older pupils in secondary schools, we're producing bite-size modules for use in class time, that support teachers in educating young people on sexist harassment and being an active bystander.



THIS HAS TO STOP

These resources will be shaped by local teachers, parents, and young people, to reflect the issues they face, and will be rolled out further next year.

Talking to sixth-form students from the Future Leaders programme, we heard that young people are eager to learn more.

Emily, a Redbridge sixth-form student said "I think to stop harassment it should be talked about more often and from a younger age."

With our help, students will have the tools to make the change they want to see in the borough.

Get your table talker

Do you want to get the conversation started in your home or workplace? Our table talkers are currently in public venues across the borough. They reveal the impact of sexist harassment and feature easy conversation starters for you to use.

To order your table talker, email csp@redbridge.gov.uk with your details and receive it in the post.



Redbridge Council offers ground-breaking nursing placement scheme in partnership with UEL

A ground-breaking nursing placement scheme in Redbridge Council's public health team, has been completed by the first cohort of students from University of East London (UEL).



University of East London Stratford Campus where the nursing students study

Redbridge is one of the first councils in the country to work in partnership with a university to offer nursing placements within its public health service. Our experience demonstrates how successful and exciting working partnerships can be and we're looking forward to welcoming the next cohort of nursing students.

Ian Diley, Public Health Consultant said,

"We have been delighted to arrange this educational placement scheme. This will be an ongoing opportunity for student nurses to experience work within a council environment, and to learn more about what we can all do as individuals and communities to stay healthy."

The students spend six weeks based in the Council's public health team whilst working with other teams such as environmental health and local substance misuse services. They also work with our partners within the NHS, and community and voluntary services, which provides invaluable experience.

Ian continued, "This is the first of many future placements with us as we look to help many professions within the health and care sector learn about the work our Council does and build an innovative and effective partnership to promote and provide good health in Redbridge."

Students Millicent Boakyewah and Cristina Domingos said,

"The placement was extremely valuable with so many opportunities to develop skills, and knowledge that will benefit our management placements in hospital. We are more equipped to educate patients regarding health, diet, vaccinations and how a patient's wellbeing and the environment affects their health. Many thanks to Public Health Consultants Ian Diley and Sue Matthews, and Director of Public Health, Gladys Xavier, for facilitating this experience."



Leader of the Council, Cllr Jas Athwal, said,

"Redbridge is a pioneering council which continuously finds new ways of working with partners to ensure our borough is a hub of educational excellence. It's fantastic that we can provide opportunities for nursing students through our ongoing partnership with UEL."

One of Redbridge Council's priorities is to support local people to improve their health and wellbeing. The connection with UEL has enabled the Council to support and deliver training and build more efficient ways of working between professionals, organisations, and the community.

Senior Lecturer Kim O'Connor from UEL, said,

"This is the first collaboration between UEL Nursing Team and Redbridge Council for BSc Adult Nursing Programme Placement. It was a pleasure to offer BSc Nursing students Cristiana Domingos and Millicent Boakyewah the opportunity to attend this new placement and bring back all the learning to share with their colleagues from the March 2021 cohort.

"The placement offered a great insight into other areas and specialties available for Registered Nurses once they complete their BSc Adult Nursing at UEL. We look forward to offering other students this amazing opportunity."

Redbridge Council is also working with Queen Mary University of London which opened a Medical School campus in the heart of Ilford earlier this summer.



Left to right: Students Millicent Boakyewah and Cristina Domingos

Apply now to join award-winning Future Leaders Programme

If you're in Year 12 and want to make a difference, apply to become a future leader today.

The Future Leaders programme is a free, accredited, and award-winning leadership programme for Year 12 students from underrepresented backgrounds.

The programme helps transform the lives of young people who may be at high risk of social exclusion, by empowering them with a range of opportunities to put them on a path of future success through education and employment opportunities.

An independent report published in 2022 confirmed that 97 per cent of the young people enrolled on the programme felt much more positive and ambitious about their future and felt they had a pathway they could work towards. 95 per cent said they felt the programme improved their mental health and resilience.



Future Leader's programme on a trip to 10 Downing Street

Becca, former King Solomon High School student and Future Leader's Programme Alumni

"The Future Leaders programme is unlike any other. It tackles injustices like racism, sexism and homophobia. Not only do the speakers and workshops teach you how to fight against injustice but they also give you the opportunity to stand up for what you believe in. I was encouraged to dare to dream and to try, and it has led to so many other amazing opportunities."



Bartosz, Chadwell Heath Academy student

"Before joining Future Leaders I didn't have any aspirations. I come from a really small town in Poland, with only about 30,000 people, so it was a great opportunity to improve my skills and it gave me the knowledge and understanding of society. It made me realise I can do many great things in life."



Lord Woolley of Woodford giving a talk at a Future Leaders session

The Future Leaders Programme has grown significantly since it began as a grassroots project in Redbridge in 2019, and now supports 800 young people, from 200 different schools across 20 London boroughs.

The six-month accredited leadership programme includes weekly workshops, university and apprenticeship visits, career insight days and ends with the young people establishing Social Action Projects that benefit the local community. Upon completion of the programme, students receive 5 UCAS points.

In June, the Future Leaders programme won the Transforming Lives category award at the MJ Awards, the biggest awards ceremony in Local Government.

Applications for academic year 23/24 are currently open and close on 25 September 2023.

The programme is open to any Year 12 student. Apply online at www.futureleaders.uk

If you'd like to support the work of Future Leaders, please email contact@futureleaders.uk

Instagram [@futureleadersuk](https://www.instagram.com/futureleadersuk)



Future Leaders programme on trips to Oxford University and West Ham Stadium

There's lots to do in Redbridge this autumn

As the weather gets colder and the days get shorter there's lots you can do locally to keep that summer feeling

Join a gym with your buddy

Grab your buddy and embark on a fitness journey with someone special. Redbridge Council's leisure partner Vision have introduced an exclusive annual Gym Buddy Offer which will save you £200!



For just under £33 each per month, you and your friend can enjoy a full year of unlimited access to our state-of-the-art fitness facilities, including modern cardio and strength equipment, invigorating group exercise classes, access to three swimming pools, and much more. Imagine the excitement of achieving your fitness goals side by side, encouraging each other during challenging workouts, and celebrating your progress together.

This exclusive offer is part of our DoMoreFitness campaign and is only valid in September, so act fast! Let's make this autumn your most active and inspiring one yet! Sign up online now and make a one-off payment of £790 for this amazing membership: visionrcl.org.uk/join

Enjoy fireworks and festivities responsibly

Whether you're celebrating Diwali, Bandi Chhor Divas, or marking Bonfire Night, this autumn please consider your neighbours and the local environment.

Fireworks can upset local wildlife and pets and must be handled responsibly.

For more information visit www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/fireworks/



Don't forget to secure your home

With the clocks due to go back an hour on Sunday 29 October, the nights will become longer, making security lighting more important.

Darkness provides more opportunity for intruders, but lighting is an effective deterrent and improves CCTV footage, so make sure you check the security lights that surround your house. Forget struggling with your keys at the door – lighting can help you get into your house quickly and safely.

Timer switches are a great way to make people think you're home when you're not. If you're going to be home late from work or have weekend plans, set a light timer to come on in the evening.



Celebrate the Day of the Dead and other local events

On Saturday 4 November, Redbridge Central Library will be celebrating the Day of the Dead with a range of activities for children and their families, which will finish with a Grand Parade!

The festival is a joyful time that helps people remember their loved ones and celebrate their memory.

Most activities are free and don't require reservations, however, some activities will have a small charge and will need to be booked in advance. Come celebrate with us from 1 – 6pm.

For more information visit <https://visionrcl.org.uk/dayofthedead>



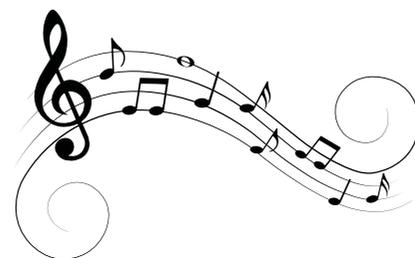
Wanstead Festival is back this September

Get ready for the largest annual event in Redbridge! On Sunday 17 September, Wanstead Festival will return to Christchurch Green between 11am – 6pm for one day only.



This free family festival guarantees a fun day out for everyone. Enjoy an exciting mix of music and performances across two main stages plus an array of family-friendly attractions, including a dog competition, craft fair hub, pop-up pub, children's rides, sports demonstrations and more. Don't miss out!

For more information please visit: visionrcl.org.uk/wanstead-festival



New Council Homes for local families at Little Gearies

Redbridge Council is building 103 new affordable council homes for local families in Barkingside

The Little Gearies development in Barkingside will provide 103 additional homes for local people to move into, alongside improvements to green space and a children's play area for residents.

The development is being delivered as part of the Council's Affordable Homes Programme, which will combat the capital's housing crisis and reduce waiting lists by delivering 600 new affordable council homes for local families across the borough.



Council Leader Cllr Jas Athwal, Cllr Vanisha Solanki and Cllr Mark Santos at Little Gearies



Cllr Vanisha Solanki, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness said

"Everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. Unfortunately the capital is in the grip of a housing crisis and local families are having to wait years for a permanent place to live.

"Our council is building homes and transforming lives by giving local families the opportunity to settle in their own new home."



The Leader of Redbridge Council, Cllr Jas Athwal said

"Our borough is home to buzzing high streets and excellent schools, and benefits from great transport links but we suffer from a lack of high-quality affordable housing – our council is working hard to resolve this issue and make sure all local people have access to a comfortable place to live."

Six new homes delivered at Norman Road

Families ready to move into their new homes in Ilford

Redbridge Council has completed work on six new homes on Norman Road and local families, many of whom have been on waiting lists for years, have begun moving in.

The Norman Road development is part of Redbridge Council's commitment to providing high-quality, affordable council homes for local people.

The development includes six new properties, three flats and three maisonettes.

James moved into his new property on Norman Road in July and said

"I remember walking past this development about a year ago and thought it would be nice to have a place like that to live, not thinking I would eventually end up living here myself. It's a dream come true; I couldn't be happier".



To find out more about more our Affordable Homes Programme, please visit our engagement hub at <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/>

Have your say on plans to deliver a new lido in Valentines Park

Redbridge Council is consulting on plans to deliver a new outdoor swimming pool in the heart of Redbridge.

Following Redbridge Council's announcement of plans to build a new lido in Valentines Park, a consultation has been launched to hear the views of local people.

The beautiful historic Valentines Park has been earmarked for the brand-new facility, in a spot close to the borough's original outdoor pool, which was enjoyed by families from 1923 to 1995.

Redbridge Council plans to utilise the latest technology to ensure the lido is sustainable and cost efficient to run, and anticipates that, once open, the lido will generate income to cover its costs.



The proposed new lido would include the following facilities:

- 25 metre six-lane swimming pool
- Changing facilities
- Children's splash pad
- Cafe
- Gym
- Dance / exercise studio
- Meeting room
- Outdoor recreation / picnic area
- Car parking

To share your views and find out more about the lido, visit <https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/valentines-lido>

Artist impression of the new lido



Cllr Kam Rai, Deputy Leader of Redbridge Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration said



"Our borough is a great place to live, work, and visit, and we're continuing to invest in leisure facilities so local families and visitors can access everything they need right on our doorstep.

The new lido will provide a sustainable, fun, and social place for people to exercise in the great outdoors, while boosting our local economy and restoring the heritage of Valentines Park.

As well as a new swimming pool, we're proposing to create a splashpad for children, a café, a gym, and studio space so Valentines Park can become a hub for our local communities to meet, exercise and enjoy."

Arts Festival



DAY OF THE DEAD



THE DEAD

A family friendly arts festival celebrating life & remembering loved ones! Join Redbridge Libraries for art, music, dance, face painting, storytelling and so much more!

Saturday 4 November, 1-6pm
Redbridge Central Library, Clements Road, Ilford, IG1 1EA
Free admission (There will be a small charge for some activities)

Further information:
www.visionrcl.org.uk/dayofthedead







Redbridge Home Improvement and Disability Adaptation Grants

Different grants and assistance are available from the Home Improvement Team to support residents in achieving safe and dignified living. A new grant policy was agreed by Cabinet in July 2023, which brings about improved grant conditions and an increase in the maximum grant amount for number of grants.

Whether it is essential modifications to properties, accessibility improvements or safety enhancements, the grants aim to make a substantial difference to the independence and quality of life of qualifying individuals and families.



SUMMARY OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE:

1. Mandatory Disability Grant:

- Funding Maximum: Up to £30,000
- Strict referral criteria apply
- Means tested for adults; non-means test for children

Objective: Assist disabled individuals in remaining independent in their own homes

2. Independent Living Grant (Discretionary):

- Funding Maximum: Up to £19,000
- Non-means tested
- Strict referral criteria apply

Objective: Provide a streamlined process for adaptations posing health and safety risks, enabling disabled individuals to continue living at home with assistive technology

3. Relocation Grant (Discretionary):

- Funding Maximum: Up to £10,000
- Non-means tested

Objective: Support disabled individuals in promptly moving from unsuitable or costly homes for necessary work

4. Home Renovation Grant (Discretionary):

- Funding Maximum: Up to £15,000
- Available for owner occupiers
- Means tested

Objective: Offer financial assistance for essential repairs in properties posing significant health and safety risks

5. Safe and Secure Grant (Discretionary):

- Funding Maximum: Up to £5,000
- Non-means tested
- Additional terms and conditions apply

Objective: Improve home security for victims of crime, ensuring safety and enabling them to stay in their homes

6. Empty Property Grant (Discretionary):

- Funding Maximum: Up to 50% of eligible works (maximum limit based on bedrooms)
- Property must be empty for over six months
- Additional terms and conditions apply

Objective: Restore and bring vacant properties back into use

More information on grants and application process, please visit our website www.redbridge.gov.uk and search 'home improvement grants' or email us at: HomeImprovementTeam@redbridge.gov.uk
For enquiries about Empty Property Grant, please email at empty.homes@redbridge.gov.uk



Looking for local work that makes a difference?

Join our Redbridge Council team

As well as providing essential services to local people, Redbridge Council is also one of the largest local employers, employing over 2,000 staff in a wide range of jobs from social workers to drivers, and administrators to Cyber Security experts, and everything in between.

Our council also offers apprentice opportunities for people looking to earn while they learn.

If you would like to work for a supportive and inclusive local employer where you can make a real difference to your local community, we might have just the job for you. We offer great benefits including flexible working options, an attractive pension scheme, generous holiday allowance and much more.

Find out more at www.redbridge.gov.uk/jobs



Join us for our next **VIRTUAL** Redbridge Landlord Forum

Thursday 5 October from 7pm to 9pm

- increase awareness of legislation, policy and procedures
- come and discuss your concerns with experts
- access training and information



? Are you complying with your legal requirements for rented properties in Redbridge?
Want to know more about housing enforcement?
Unsure about your responsibilities as a landlord?

To reserve your place visit Eventbrite at:
<https://RedbridgeLandlordForum.eventbrite.co.uk>
or scan the QR code here >



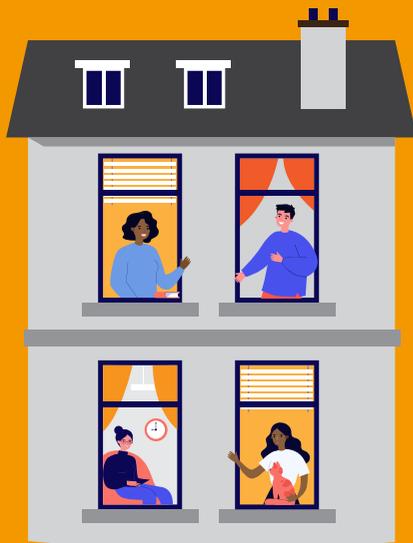
CALLING ALL LANDLORDS!

New Additional HMO Licensing Scheme approved

On **30 May 2023**, Redbridge Council approved a new five-year Additional Licensing scheme for small Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) boroughwide. Additional licensing will be a legal requirement from **Monday 18 September 2023** until **17 September 2028**.

This means that any property which is rented to three or four occupiers forming two or more households that share (or lack) a toilet, personal washing facilities or cooking facilities needs to have an HMO Licence.

This includes certain converted blocks of flats (known as Section 257 HMOs), but only where all accommodation units are privately rented, and the building and accommodation units are in the same ownership or control, or considered by the housing authority to be effectively under the same ownership or control. This includes buildings within mixed use developments or above non-residential premises.



The introduction of this new HMO licensing scheme comes after a full consultation. It was found that there are significant issues such as poor housing conditions, ineffective management, crime, and anti-social behaviour persisting within HMOs in the borough.

Additional HMO licences granted by the council remain in force until the expiry date printed on the licence. It is important you continue to comply with all the licence conditions.

For more information on whether your rental property needs an Additional (HMO) Licence visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals

Please note online applications can only be made when the scheme comes in to force on **Monday 18 September 2023**.



Scan the QR code to see the Public Notice



Selective Licensing Scheme approved

On **26 June 2023** Redbridge Council approved a new five-year Selective Property Licensing Scheme to be known as Scheme 3. Scheme 3 will be a legal requirement from **Wednesday 1 November 2023** until the **31 October 2028** and applies to most rental properties in Ilford Town and Valentines.

APPENDIX A - The London Borough of Redbridge Selective Licensing Scheme (Ilford Town and Valentines Wards) 2023



If you already have a selective licence for a property in these wards and it is still in date, these licences remain in force until the expiry date printed on the licence.

To find out more information and check whether your rental property needs a selective licence visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/housing/private-rentals

The introduction of this new scheme comes after a full consultation. It was found that there are significant issues with poor housing conditions and anti-social behaviour persisting within private rented properties in the borough.

Those who do not get the correct property licence may result in receiving a civil penalty of up to **£30,000** or they could be prosecuted in Court, where the fine is **UNLIMITED**. Not having a licence may prevent you from evicting tenants using the 'section 21' process and the tenant may be able to claim back up to 12 months' rent via a rent repayment order (RRO). The Council will normally seek to publish any prosecutions, enforcement, or legal action in the press and within publicly accessible government intelligence databases. It may also result in an order banning a person or company from operating as a landlord or agent.



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Are you looking after a child
who is not your own?



- is the child under 16 (or 18 if they have a disability)?
- are you NOT the child's step parent, sibling, aunt, uncle or grandparent? This also includes host families to overseas students
- do you plan to have the child with you for more than 28 days?
- this is called '**private fostering**' and we must be LEGALLY notified to ensure the child is safe

Please contact Redbridge Children's Services

020 8708 3885 CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk

or visit www.redbridge.gov.uk/private-fostering for more information

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