

Blackwall Reach

NEWSLETTER

Issue 47: August 2022

www.swan.org.uk

www.blackwallreachcommunity.co.uk

Hard hat visits



Resident Board Chair, Shamsur Choudhury

Customers moving into phase 2 of the Blackwall Reach project were given 'hard hat tours' of their new homes in June, to get a feel for the space, measure up for furniture, and see the views from balconies and windows.

Twenty-four visits took place in total, led by members of our Development and NU living Construction team so that customers could ask questions about their new homes.

Customers took photos and videos of their new homes.

To find out more, go to
blackwallreachcommunity.co.uk

Neil Baron, Project Director, said: **"The visits were a great opportunity for customers due to be rehoused in the next phase to physically see their new homes. Up to the time of their visits, customers had only seen them on plan, but the visits allowed them to get a real feel for the space and layouts and provided reassurance that good progress was being made. Feedback was positive, with customers appreciating the opportunity and telling us they are excited about moving into their new homes."**

Blackwall Reach development update

Good progress continues to be made on site with recent activities including the installation of the roof parapet and stonework. Landscaping works to the new planters are also in progress working from Poplar High Street along to Cotton Street and Woolmore Street.

In the coming months, works will start to rebuild the footpaths along Cotton Street and install the final façade brick panels on the blocks to the south of the development. Scaffolding on the two blocks to the north will be taken down.

Internal progress

Across all blocks, progress continues to be made on the electrical and plumbing installations as well as the installation of kitchens and laying down of floors. There is now heat into the buildings and commissioning of the underfloor heating to homes is ongoing. Preparations are underway for decorating to start.

Construction career opportunity for women

Swan has partnered with the New City College to offer local women an eight-week course to help them learn about various building trades, gain practical experience and get a job within the construction industry.

Participants who successfully complete the course will earn a City & Guilds qualification (Entry level 3) and get a CSCS card.

To find out more, contact **Abdullah Hossain, Employment and Training Manager at Swan** on ahossain@swan.org.uk or 01277 844242.



An action packed programme of summer activities

The council and partner organisations have an action-packed programme of summer activities for children and families. It includes sport, park activities, farm visits, cooking and baking, gardening sessions, nature activities, theatre and drama, skills training and more. Most of the activities are free and some include a free, healthy meal. Find out more at https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/News_events/Events/Summer_events.aspx



Taxonomy of Joy design update

We are excited to share new drawings and designs of the artwork for the Millennium Green following our workshops with the Blackwall community over the past year.

Please visit millenniumgreen.blackwallreachcommunity.co.uk to see the final designs.



Community Hub Food Store

Swan Housing Association in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council will be transforming Room 5 at The Reach Community Hub into a Food Store. This is a place you can go every week to pick up large amounts of food at a low cost.

There will also be help available to access support for your finances and wellbeing. The Food Store will be stocked with quality redistributed food that can help to top up your weekly shop with nutritious essentials including fresh fruit and vegetables, chilled and frozen foods and store cupboard staples. Dependent on stock, there will also be household items available like toiletries and cleaning products. The project is expected to launch on Tuesday 9 August, between 10am to 12pm.

To sign up or for more information, please email TheFoodStore@towerhamlets.gov.uk with your name, address, postcode and contact details.



Blackwall Reach Trust Meet our Trustees

Blackwall Reach Trust became a registered charity in 2020, with the aim of providing the Robin Hood Millennium Green as an open space for the Blackwall Reach community, to be used for recreation, community events, social welfare projects and the preservation of the local environment.

The Trust also provides grants to both charities and individuals with the purpose of benefitting the Blackwall Reach community at large.

Funding is specifically designed for individuals or organisations in the Blackwall Reach development area.

More than 120 people attended the launch of the new Blackwall Reach Trust in May and since then the collective, made up of Swan Housing Association, Tower Hamlets Council and Blackwall Reach residents, has invited the community to apply for a range of funding.

The Board of Trustees is made up of the following individuals:



Ian Haworth - Chair of Trustees

Ian has worked in social housing for nearly 30 years and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Housing. As well as working on front line services, he has also previously managed a number of programmes

with other providers to assist residents and their families to get back to work.



Caroline Richardson – Trustee

Caroline is Head of Customer Involvement and Community Development for Swan Housing Association. She has worked in the social housing sector for the last 17 years across a variety of roles,

but her passion remains in engagement and capacity building.



Karen Swift – Trustee

Karen has worked in local government for over 25 years with secondments to the Home Office and The Metropolitan Police. She is currently Divisional Director of Housing and Regeneration at Tower

Hamlets Council.



Dan Jones – Trustee

Dan joined the Board of Trustees in 2019 as a representative for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.



Nasima Bibi - Resident Trustee

Nasima has been a resident of Poplar for the past 24 years and is an active member of the community. She is a mother to three children and a working professional. Nasima has worked at Woolmore Primary

School for the past 17 years and is also a community worker.



Suraiya Akthar Khanham - Resident Trustee

Suraiya is a local Blackwall Reach resident and joined the Board of Trustees in April 2022.



Tracy Argent - Trustee and Woolmore School representative

Tracy is the Headteacher at Woolmore Primary School and joined the Board of Trustees in April 2022.



Sister Christine

Sister Christine worked in a mixed comprehensive school for over 10 years and has lived and worked in the local community for the past 50 years. She formed Neighbours in Poplar 52 years ago and SPLASH

(South Poplar & Limehouse Action for Secure Housing) over 30 years ago. Her main aim is to build an inclusive community.

Find out more at www.blackwallreachtrust.org.uk

Funding options with the Blackwall Reach Trust

Since the launch of the Trust the community has been invited to apply for a range of funding for projects to fund the cost of equipment so that children from low income families can take part in activities and sports.

For more information, application forms and guidance notes, contact The Trust Partnership Ltd on admin@blackwallreachtrust.org.uk or 01285 841900.



'Virtually There' anti-knife crime film sparks honest conversation at Blackwall Reach



A powerful film portraying a tragic knife attack from multiple perspectives was delivered to 16 young people at The Reach Community Hub as part of a Swan Housing Association education programme in partnership with the Osmani Trust.

The 15 to 20-year-olds got to experience 'Virtually There', an immersive 24-minute virtual reality film, recently. The film was the idea of Leon Oldstrong and is inspired by his younger brother, who was the victim of an unprovoked knife attack in 2017.

By showing young people 'Virtually There' Leon aims to create something that showcases an emotional understanding and the devastating impact knife crime has on young people.

After watching the 'Virtually There' film, the young people took part in an open forum with Leon. This gave them the opportunity to have an honest conversation about their thoughts and experiences and how they as a community can help tackle knife crime.

One young person said:

"I genuinely felt like this knife crime short film was a massive eye opener. Not only has it changed my mindset but has left me wanting to switch my ways up."

Read more at www.blackwallreachcommunity.co.uk

Get in touch



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(Swan out of office hours)

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(NU living out of office hours)
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All information correct at
time of publication.