

# YOUR WEST MINS TER



City of Westminster

**FREE**

Issue 001 | Summer 2022

The Westminster City Council Magazine

## MAS EFFECT

How Westminster residents are getting ready for Carnival

## MAIDA VALE - LITTLE VENICE

Get to know the hidden gems on your doorstep

# ART FOR THE SOUL

Exploring cultural roots with Westbourne's Jennifer Huie



# Your new food waste recycling service

The food waste recycling service is expanding across Westminster during 2022. You will soon receive your roll of liners, kitchen bin and outdoor food waste bin.

## Why are we doing this?

### Wasting less



Food waste generates harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Using this service will help reduce waste and tackle climate change.

### Renewable energy



Your food waste will be used to create renewable energy to generate electricity to power the national grid and heat for homes.

### Biofertiliser



Food waste will also be transformed into a biofertiliser, which will be used on farmland to grow more food.

## For further information



[foodwaste@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:foodwaste@westminster.gov.uk)



[www.westminster.gov.uk/food-waste-recycling](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/food-waste-recycling)



[www.westminster.gov.uk/climate-action-plan](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/climate-action-plan)



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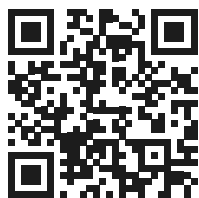
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## WESTMINSTER CELEBRATES

**T**he city has been in a buoyant mood recently, with a number of high-profile celebrations. From the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and West End LIVE, to the return of the Pride in London parade, our communities have been showing the best Westminster has to offer.

"I had an amazing weekend," says Yue Man (picture below), a Westminster Connects volunteer for the two-day West End LIVE festival in Trafalgar Square. "It was fantastic to see the event return after the pandemic. As well as the wonderful weather and the awesome atmosphere, it was volunteering with my friends that made it truly memorable."

Trafalgar Square was also the destination point for the momentous 50th anniversary Pride march that saw more than a million people gather in central London. "Today we march hand-in-hand with history while looking ahead, empowered, authentic and together," said Council Officer Caitlin Maggs who formed part of our Rainbow Network presence in the parade. "Love always wins," she added.

We also celebrated our service personnel for Armed Forces Day in late June, with Cllr Ellie Ormsby,



our Armed Forces Champion attending a flag-raising ceremony outside City Hall. "Westminster is at the operational heart of much of the UK armed forces' activities," she commented, "and this day commemorates the service of men and women in years gone by and across the world today."



## RESIDENT RESEARCH PANEL



## LISTENING TO YOU

We are committed to listening to the views of our residents and using your feedback to help shape the policies that will make up a fairer Westminster for the future. Our recently announced Future of Westminster Commission will take ideas and evidence from a range of organisations and individuals who display best practice in their areas of expertise, as well as engaging and consulting with residents. Our Resident Research Panel, meanwhile, helps us translate your views and experience into actionable feedback. Participants in the panel are often rewarded with vouchers for taking part and we're always looking for more residents to join.

Sign up for the panel at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WCCRRP](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WCCRRP)

## SAVING YOUR LOCAL BUS ROUTES

Transport for London has announced that changes to bus routes in central London are under consideration. The proposed change will potentially impact routes such as the 11, 14, 16, 24, 31 and 74. These routes could be withdrawn, changing the way you travel in Westminster.



Buses are vital forms of low-cost transport, connecting communities and making the city accessible to all. If you feel that these changes will impact you, make your concerns known by having your say **before 11.59pm on Sunday 7 August**.

Share your views at [haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/busreview](http://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/busreview)

# YOUR VIEWS

Got something to share about your neighbourhood, Westminster as a whole or any of the features in this magazine? We'd love to hear from you! Send us an email to

✉ [yourwestminster@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:yourwestminster@westminster.gov.uk)

or by post to **YourWestminster**  
**17th Floor Westminster City Hall**  
**64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP**

"I love Pimlico because this is where I grew up. I am now the third generation on my estate, and I hope this will carry on. I believe Pimlico has a great community and loads of beautiful green spaces and I love how easy it is to travel around Westminster on the 24 bus." – **Emma Green, resident**

"Pimlico may not be as diverse as other parts of the city, but it does have an interesting mix of people and sense of community that is reflected in the businesses, schools and community hubs in the area. I've lived here all my life and feel very lucky to still do so. It feels like the centre of world because I'm so close to other great neighbourhoods and is so easy to get to and from other places because of its location. I have seen it evolve and change over the years, but still maintain its charm and character and that makes Pimlico one of the best place in London to live." – **Trisha Husbands, resident**

## TACKLING RISING COSTS



The country is facing a cost-of-living crisis, which is having a significant impact on Westminster residents. To help, we've recently launched a new support hub on our website offering advice on energy costs, financial and tax support and pointers to local services that can provide assistance. Find out more at

[westminster.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support](https://westminster.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support)

# FROM THE LEADER

**W**elcome to your new council magazine. In the two months since becoming Leader of Westminster City Council, I have been reminded time and again what a special place Westminster is to live - and what diverse, welcoming and supportive communities of which we are a part.

From the Queen's Jubilee to Pride and soon Notting Hill Carnival, there has been much to celebrate. Our residents – you – are the beating heart of our city and we want to make it the best possible place for you, whether that's to raise your children, grow your business, or even just to enjoy your free time.

Westminster is a city with so much to offer, but we understand that for many, the opportunities in the West End can feel like an entire world away. Over the next four years, we'll work to tackle some of the deep-rooted inequalities across the city by revamping your local high streets, improving active travel and increasing social and truly affordable housing. The Future of Westminster Commission is now underway, and by drawing on external expertise, it's there to make sure that we can get to where we want to go.

But ultimately, it's Westminster residents who must be at the core of our decision-making processes. We want your ideas, your experience, and your knowledge to help this Council become an organisation that works for you, and not against you. We won't always get it right – but we're committed to listening to you every step of the way.

Thank you again for placing your trust in us. It's time for a Fairer Westminster.

Cllr Adam Hug

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Hug".



# MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Following the local elections in May, the City of Westminster is now divided into 18 wards, each having three councillors.

For contact details for your councillors please visit [www.westminster.gov.uk/about-council/democracy/democracy-westminster](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/about-council/democracy/democracy-westminster)

For general enquiries about the council visit [www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk)

## ABBEY ROAD



**Amanda Langford**  
Conservative



**Alan Mendoza**  
Conservative



**Caroline Sargent**  
Conservative

## CHURCH STREET



**Aicha Less**  
Labour



**Matt Noble**  
Labour



**Aziz Toki**  
Labour

## HARROW ROAD



**Concia Albert**  
Labour



**Ruth Bush**  
Labour



**Tim Roca**  
Labour

## HYDE PARK



**Md Shamsed Chowdhury**  
Labour



**Paul Dimoldenberg**  
Labour



**Judith Southern**  
Labour

## LANCASTER GATE



**Laila Dupuy**  
Conservative



**Ryan Jude**  
Labour



**Ellie Ormsby**  
Labour and Co-operative

## LITTLE VENICE



**Melvyn Caplan**  
Conservative



**Lorraine Dean**  
Conservative



**Sara Hassan**  
Labour

## MAIDA VALE



**Geoff Barraclough**  
Labour



**Iman Less**  
Labour



**Nafsika Butler-Thalassis**  
Labour

## PIMLICO NORTH



**Ed Pitt Ford**  
Conservative



**Jim Glen**  
Conservative



**Jacqui Wilkinson**  
Conservative

## PIMLICO SOUTH



**Liza Begum**  
Labour



**Robert Eagleton**  
Labour



**Jason Williams**  
Labour

## QUEEN'S PARK



**Patricia McAllister**  
Labour



**Cara Sanquest**  
Labour



**Hamza Taouzzale**  
Labour

## ST JAMES'S



**Louise Hyams**  
Conservative



**Tim Mitchell**  
Conservative



**Mark Shearer**  
Conservative

## VINCENT SQUARE



**Gillian Arrindell**  
Labour



**David Harvey**  
Conservative



**Selina Short**  
Conservative

## WEST END



**Paul Fisher**  
Labour



**Patrick Lilley**  
Labour



**Jessica Toale**  
Labour

## BAYSWATER



**Maggie Carman**  
Labour



**James Small-Edwards**  
Labour and Co-operative



**Max Sullivan**  
Labour

## KNIGHTSBRIDGE AND BELGRAVIA



**Anthony Devenish**  
Conservative



**Elizabeth Hitchcock**  
Conservative



**Rachael Robathan**  
Conservative

## MARYLEBONE



**Barbara Arzymanow**  
Conservative



**Ian Rowley**  
Conservative



**Karen Scarborough**  
Conservative

## REGENT'S PARK



**Ralu Oteh-Osoka**  
Conservative



**Robert Rigby**  
Conservative



**Paul Swaddle OBE**  
Conservative

## WESTBOURNE



**David Boothroyd**  
Labour



**Adam Hug**  
Labour



**Angela Piddock**  
Labour



## LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS

**Leader of the Council** Cllr Adam Hug

**Young People, Learning and Leisure; Deputy Leader** Cllr Tim Roca

**Communities and Public Protection; Deputy Leader** Cllr Aicha Less

**Adult Social Care, Public Health and Voluntary Sector** Cllr Nafsika Butler-Thalassis

**Planning and Economic Development** Cllr Geoff Barraclough

**Finance and Council Reform** Cllr David Boothroyd

**City Management and Air Quality** Cllr Paul Dimoldenberg

**Housing Services** Cllr Liza Begum

**Climate Action, Regeneration and Renters** Cllr Matt Noble

## THE LORD MAYOR OF WESTMINSTER

Cllr Hamza Taouzzale of Queen's Park ward has been appointed to the position of Lord Mayor of Westminster. He will hold the position of the city's First Citizen for one year and is not only the youngest ever incumbent, but is also the first Muslim to be appointed to the role.



## MAIDA VALE LITTLE VENICE



In each edition of **YourWestminster**, we'll bring you a guide to the hidden gems of the city. In this issue we take a trip around the watery delights of the 'Venice of London'...

### 1 ABBEY ROAD STUDIOS

3 Abbey Road, NW8 9AY

The most famous recording studio in the world! Opened in 1931, the studio made its name with big, orchestral recordings and, of course, The Beatles. Today, Abbey Road is probably the most technically advanced recording complex in the world.

[www.abbeyroad.com](http://www.abbeyroad.com)  
020 7266 7000

### 2 LAUDERDALE GALLERY

11 Lauderdale Rd, W9 1LU

This contemporary art gallery showcases vibrant and engaging work from some of London's most exciting emerging creatives, transforming Maida Vale into a neighbourhood filled with artistic inspiration.

[www.thelauderdale.co.uk](http://www.thelauderdale.co.uk)  
020 7289 9711

[Read more >>](#)

### 3 STREET ART @ DAY TRUE

128 Elgin Avenue, W9 2HD

When looking for street art, you would usually expect it to bedeck the trend-setting streets of Shoreditch or Camden Town. But surprisingly enough, Maida Vale has its very own gem, painted on the side of kitchen and bathroom shop, Day True.



### TELL US ABOUT YOUR HIDDEN GEMS!

Got a favourite café, a green space you'd love to share, or a secret spot that fills you with joy? We want to hear about the areas of your neighbourhood that make it your Westminster! Email us at [yourwestminster@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:yourwestminster@westminster.gov.uk) or **write to the council address on page 3** and your own hidden gem might feature in a future issue!





## 4 GRAND JUNCTION

Rowington Close, W2 5TF

Located within St Mary Magdalene's Church, Grand Junction has become a focal point for the local area. Aside from boasting some of the finest neo-Gothic architecture in the country, it hosts regular community events and has a gorgeous café serving delicious snacks to boot.  
grandjunction.org.uk  
020 7266 8258

## 5 REGENT CANAL WATERBUS

Blomfield Road, W9 2PD

Who wouldn't want to travel anywhere by boat? This relaxing mode of transport takes you from one end of Regent's Canal to the other. Along the way you can take in all the picturesque sights for a great price!  
www.londonwaterbus.com  
020 7482 2660

## 6 CLIFTON NURSERIES

5A Clifton Villas, W9 2PH

Clifton Nurseries is a hidden oasis in the heart of Maida Vale. Home to stunning glasshouses and packed with a rich profusion of plants, flowers, trees and accessories, this destination embodies garden style.  
www.clifton.co.uk  
020 7289 6851



## 7 CANAL CAFÉ THEATRE

The Bridge House  
Delamere Terrace, W2 6ND

Regarded as being the home of comedy in Little Venice since 1979, this intimate theatre is home to sketches, improv, stand-up and entire plays, hosting more than 14 shows per week. If you're looking for an evening filled with laughter, give this unique space a visit.  
www.canalcafetheatre.com  
020 7289 6054

## 8 THE BRIDGEHOUSE CAFÉ

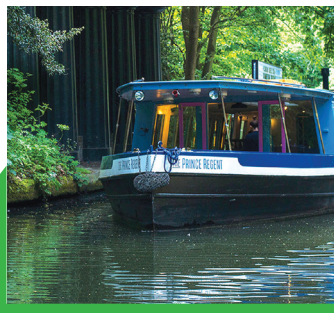
13 Westbourne Terrace Rd, W2 6NG

Ideal for pre- and post-show theatre drinks, The Bridge House is a charming little Westminster pub in an idyllic locale and is known for having the best in seasonal pub food, speciality beers and real ales on tap – all overlooking the picturesque Little Venice canal.  
www.thebridgehouselittlevenice.co.uk  
020 7266 4326

## 9 REMBRANDT GARDENS

Warwick Avenue, W2 1XB

You cannot go wrong with a nice walk around beautiful Rembrandt Park. In 1975, some 5,000 tulips were donated to mark the 700th anniversary of the foundation of the City of Amsterdam (hence the name) and in spring, when the flowers are blooming, this ornamental garden is a kaleidoscope of colours.



## 10 LONDON SHELL CO.

Union Canal, Sheldon Square, W2 6EP

London Shell Co. serves some of the finest British seafood aboard a luxurious canal boat. Guests enjoy a journey along the beautiful and historic Regent's Canal, taking in a perfect blend of scenic views and seafood galore. There's also an option at Paddington Basin once you've had your fill in Maida Vale!  
www.londonshellco.com  
07553 033636

## 11 GO BOAT PADDINGTON

Merchant Square, W2 1AS

Captain your own vessel and cruise through the heart of London in the city's first self-driving boat experience. Pick up your crew and chart your way across London's canals travelling past London Zoo, through Regent's Park and ending at Camden Lock.  
paddington@goboat.co.uk  
020 3887 6955

# FOCUS ON... THE LAUDERDALE GALLERY

**W**e spoke with Sara Lothian-McLean founder of Maida Vale's home for lovers of all things creative

## What motivated you to start an art gallery in Maida Vale?

Being a resident here for several years and taking daily jogging routes along Paddington Recreation Ground and through the street where our art gallery is now situated, we saw this space and thought it would be a perfect spot to open a gallery. We are planted next to local dining spots and residential neighbourhoods, and being the only gallery in the area is perfect for blending with our community.

## How has being a resident and creating your business in the heart of your community impacted how you run the gallery?

Because we are the only art gallery in the area, it is quite a welcome break and we feel that makes residents intrigued to stop by and find out about our latest installations. We try to keep our showcases unique and different to spark interesting conversations. For example, we had an installation of a car created by a local street artist outside the gallery. That really drew in a lot of curious residents. We strive to present exciting artwork that will spark thought-provoking conversations amongst our community.

## Do you work with local artists from Maida Vale often?

We do try to encourage residents to submit and display their artwork with us. Whenever we have a new artist showcasing their work, we invite locals to join us and get a first look.



# OUR CITY

WESTMINSTER // KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

OURCITY.ORG.UK

# THIS IS OUR CITY.



**IN WESTMINSTER OR KENSINGTON & CHELSEA?**

**DISCOVER WHAT'S ON FOR UNDER 25s**

- **SPORTS**
  - **ARTS & CULTURE**
  - **SKILLS & TRAINING**
  - **SPECIALIST SUPPORT**
- ...AND MUCH MORE**

**GET INVOLVED**



Young  
Westminster  
Foundation



## NORTH



**WESTMINSTER** city save

**Low-Impact Aerobics for the Over-50s:** Come along and join Open Age for this easy-paced aerobics class for a full body workout. You'll strengthen and aid flexibility and mobility. The first class is free to Westminster residents over 50 (normal price £1).

✓ 11am to 12pm, Wednesdays  
 📍 Juniper House, Droop Street  
 W10 4QX



[www.westminster.gov.uk/city-save/low-impact-aerobics-classes-over-50s](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/city-save/low-impact-aerobics-classes-over-50s)



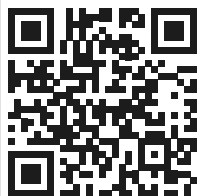
**Reading Group at Church Street Library:** Want to improve your reading skills as well as engage in reading for pleasure? Then this is the group for you. Lots of great discussions happen through the use of both modern and classical literature.

✓ Every Friday  
 9.30am to 11.30am

## CENTRAL



**YOUNG+FREE at Donmar Warehouse:** Aged 16 to 25? Want to come to the Donmar for free? 1,000s of tickets are available, offered by ballot to people signed up to the Donmar's YOUNG+FREE mailing list. Ballot winners will be notified at the end of each month. Visit the Donmar Warehouse website to sign up today!



[www.donmarwarehouse.com/visit/young-free](http://www.donmarwarehouse.com/visit/young-free)



**Craft Time at Marylebone Library:** Join us with your little ones at Marylebone library and enjoy a morning of arts and crafts. No need to book, just turn up and join the fun! These sessions are suitable for children aged 4 to 10 years old, although younger children may need some help from a grown up.

✓ Every Saturday  
 10.30am to 11.30am

## SOUTH



**Pimlico Road Farmer's Market:** You will find sellers showcasing their best produce. From freshly picked flowers, hand-made preserves, fresh pasta and artisan bread to fruit and vegetables, free range and organic meat, poultry and eggs, cheese, and dairy – Pimlico Road Farmer's Market has something for everyone that loves fresh food.

✓ Every Saturday  
 📍 Orange Square, Ebury Road



[www.lfm.org.uk/markets/pimlico-road](http://www.lfm.org.uk/markets/pimlico-road)



**Get Running and Marathon-ready in Belgravia:** If you're looking for a new way to keep fit, the Run Higher Collective running club is a great opportunity to train while taking in the beautiful sights of Belgravia and meeting new people! Just turn up and run!

✓ Every Wednesday evening  
 7pm to 8pm (Meet at 6.45pm)  
 📍 From Eccleston Yard to Hyde Park



Hosting a community event in Westminster? Send the details to the address on page 3 or to ✉ [yourwestminster@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:yourwestminster@westminster.gov.uk) and we'll look to include you on our website and in a future edition of YourWestminster!

Who's ready for

# CARNIVAL

27 - 29 AUGUST



Blaire

**N**otting Hill Carnival is back, and we cannot wait! We caught up with a pair of Westminster residents (and best friends) who share such a passion for carnival they've formed their own groups for this year's celebrations.

**B**laire Bacchus is one of the brains behind Onturaj, performing at this year's spectacle...

"I have been attending Notting Hill Carnival since I was in nappies, and as far as I'm aware, I've been to almost every single one. My father is from Trinidad & Tobago where carnival is a huge part of the culture, and he has definitely passed his love for it on to me. Growing up with Carnival on my doorstep has honestly been amazing. I remember while I was still at Greycoats Secondary School, on carnival weekend all my friends' parents would drop their kids off to meet us in Pimlico and we would jump on the tube. That was an adventure just on its own – we would all be so excited, carrying our flags, enjoying the soca music, and being overly ecstatic to join in the celebrations.

"This is what made me want to create my own section for Notting Hill Carnival. Over the years many friends and family have joined me and so we formed our own entourage. Mix up the spelling, make it a bit more exciting, and that's how Onturaj was born! We are hoping to spread the love of carnival and want everyone to enjoy this brilliant weekend – regulars and visitors alike. This is Onturaj's first year and I am very excited!"

✉ [info@onturajmas.com](mailto:info@onturajmas.com)

[www.onturajmas.com](http://www.onturajmas.com)

📷 [@onturaj\\_mas](https://www.instagram.com/onturaj_mas)



Anna-Maria



**Anna-Maria Macaulay is a graphic designer and video blogger and is the creator of Limitless Mas.**

"My first memory of Carnival is lots of crowds, the smell of the jerk pans and being carried around on a family member's shoulders. I was reintroduced to it when I was 14 with my dad in a band called Bacchanal Mas in 2008 and it changed my life forever. My summers became full of fun, culture and hot glue gun burns from making costumes.

"I grew up near Harrow Road, literally on Carnival's doorstep and the energy runs all year long. Being so close to the route makes me feel so proud of the area I've grown up in, down the road from Steel pan bands, The Yaa Centre, Tabernacle, Portobello Road and Ladbroke Grove. Being of Nigerian heritage, it has been wonderful to learn about the Caribbean and Carnival culture and see elements of my own

culture still connected to them after so many years.

"Unfortunately, the band that first nurtured my love for Carnival is no longer around, but I wanted to keep their spirit alive. A few of us came together in 2018 to form a new Masquerade band called 'Limitless Mas' in hopes of keeping the joy and culture of what we grew up loving alive. We're a small team with big ambitions. It's been challenging but we hope to grow from strength to strength and the feeling from playing mas is indescribable.

"Everyone needs to experience carnival as a Masquerader – it is honestly life changing."

 @Carnivallimitless  
www.limitlessmas.com



www.westminster.gov.uk/  
notting-hill-carnival-2022



Get practical information about how Carnival will affect your area here

Share with us what Carnival means to you or how you are celebrating this year by tagging us on social media using the hashtag

**#WestminsterCelebrates**

## ART FOR THE SOUL

**T**o stay sane during the pandemic lockdown, Westbourne resident Jennifer Huie turned to art. Today, her home is a spectacle of colour and creativity and her art is a mainstay of the local community.



**W**alking into Jennifer Huie's flat in the Wessex Gardens Estate in Westbourne is a feast for the senses. Paintings and artwork adorn nearly every wall and each new room is a fresh burst of colour and creativity. Huie's artistic talent is well-known around the local area and was born from a twin need to fill her days during the pandemic lockdown and to honour her late-husband's Jamaican heritage.

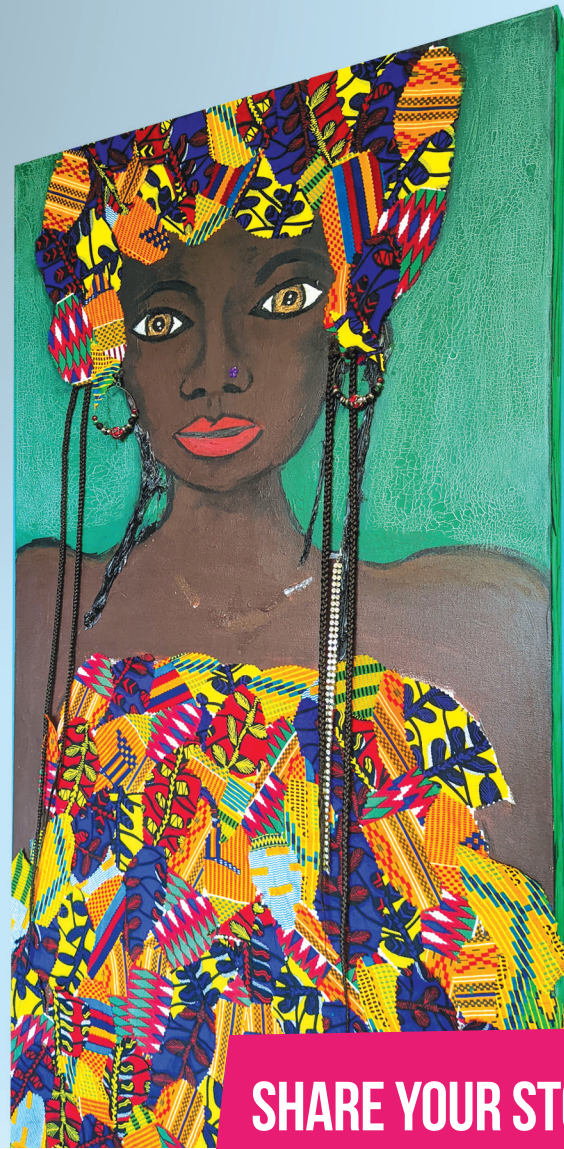
"I retired at 65 and my husband was diagnosed with lung cancer, so I had to look after him until he passed. My artwork kept me going," she says. "I've always drawn, but when my husband grew sick and I was trapped in the house, I started properly. Then after he passed and lockdown came in, I used it to keep me going for four months. It honestly kept me sane."

Being an unpaid carer to her husband, Huie joined Carer's Network, the organisation providing support to those looking after others. It was through there that her work started to get noticed. "The Network had an event at Paddington Rec that I went to with some of my artwork. One of the guys that worked for them was African and was blown away with my stuff – I use a lot of African fabric in my work including kente cloth I discovered while in Ghana with my daughter's ex-husband. He put them on Instagram and I got all these hits. I'd never had the confidence before to show them to people." Today her work can be seen in local shops and at markets from Portobello Road to Bethnal Green.

One big influence on her work was her husband's cousin, the Jamaican painter, Albert Huie. "He

was a very famous artist that used lots of colour, fabric and lots and lots of greenery," says Huie. Albert was regarded by many as "the father of Jamaican painting" and it's easy to see his influence on her work with many similarities in its use of colour and texture.

Representation and cultural understanding is clearly dear to Huie. She's witnessed first-hand the effect that a lack of knowledge can have on young people as a teaching assistant at nearby College Park School. "I used to love working with teenagers. A lot of them were mixed-race but had been brought up having no idea about their cultures, their heritage," she says. "That was a big problem. That's why it was important for me to study cultural history. My husband and I had black kids so when they were quite young, I went



## SHARE YOUR STORIES

back to college to study black history. I didn't want to be one of those white mums that doesn't know anything about their kids' heritage."

Next to her art, Huie's passion for cooking authentic Jamaican food is paramount. "When I first met my husband, he said that I needed to go to Jamaica, to see his culture. I'd never been anywhere further than the Isle of Wight," she remembers. "I went on my own and stayed with his mum. She taught me how to cook on old-style stoves, using different woods for different foods and using Caribbean spices. My daughter once brought her boyfriend home one time and he thought I'd sent out for takeaway. He didn't believe I'd cooked it!"

For Huie though, home is definitely Westbourne Park. "I've lived on this estate for 41 years

and I just love the area," she says. "I love the multicultural nature of it all. There's a fruit and veg stall down at the market that I've bought my fruit and veg from for 40 years. The stall's been passed down from generation to generation and the food's always fresh, never wrapped in plastic, plus you used to be able to buy all the Caribbean food down there."

Making a difference in your community continues in Huie's family even today. Her daughter, Jessica, made headlines recently, being awarded an MBE after founding a business specialising in greeting cards with greater levels of representation. "Jessica was trying to buy a birthday card for her child and couldn't find a single card with a black person on it," Huie recalls. "Even today, the shops have a limited amount of diversity. She brought out her

Is there someone in your community with a fascinating tale to tell? Know of a prominent Westminster resident who should feature in these pages? Let us know about your local figures by emailing

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64 Victoria Street  
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own card range called Colour Blind Cards and was awarded an MBE for it. She was the only black woman there that day. I'm very proud of her."



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City of Westminster

# FIVE YEARS YOUNG

**Y**oung Westminster Foundation turns five this year, bringing together youth organisations, young people, local businesses, Westminster City Council, schools and the wider community to create opportunities for our young people.

Some of the biggest challenges facing young people today are issues surrounding emotional health and wellbeing, serious youth violence and employability.

The Young Westminster Foundation, selected by Cllr Hamza Taouzzale as the Lord Mayor of Westminster's chosen charity, has been working for half a decade to find solutions to these problems, ensuring that all of Westminster's young people grow up healthy, safe and happy with the best opportunities for brighter futures.

"Growing up in Westminster, I saw first-hand the role that our youth clubs and other organisations played in helping young people, from providing a safe place to hang out to giving them opportunities," says the Lord Mayor. "Today's young children – especially those from poorer households – are the victims of global problems such as but the solutions can be found locally, that's why the Young Westminster Foundation is my charity for the year. It does great work offering grants, training and networking opportunities, which benefits not only individuals, and organisations but the whole city."

The YWF oversees a network

of more than 120 organisations, from large youth clubs to local grassroots charities to specialist groups that support young carers, young people facing homelessness and young people with disabilities. It provides training, information sharing, funding, advice, networks, research and advocacy.

It has also fundraised over £1million, awarding grants through its annual Westminster Brighter Futures Fund. These go to local projects such as 'Skills for Life' at Westbourne Park Family Centre, cooking-led programmes with Eat Club, and supporting mental health youth workers in local youth hubs.



**Young Westminster Foundation**



If you want to find out more about making a difference for young people in Westminster, visit:  
[www.youngwestminster.com](http://www.youngwestminster.com)





**D**id you know that in Westminster there are 16 libraries, plus an archive centre? They're amazing places to get together with your community, learn new skills, access digital resources and so much more.

Westminster has some of the most beautiful libraries in London, as well as some of the most unique. The Westminster Music Library, for instance, is considered by many to be the best in the UK, and our Business Library is a co-working space perfect for independent businesses and freelancers to connect in a state-of-the-art setting.

But more than their visual appeal, our libraries are often focal points for our communities to gather and make connections that can last a lifetime. "Libraries are community hubs," says Mayfair Library Officer, Andrew Geddes (pictured above right). "They're not just places to come and borrow books. People come here to meet others. I always say wherever you are in the world, if you're stuck or lost – go to a library."

"Libraries are safe, non-judgmental communities, accessible to everyone from cradle to grave," says Mahbuba Khan (pictured above left), a Community Outreach Officer at

Church Street Library. "We welcome anyone and everyone regardless of background, economic status, political views." Our libraries are

also fantastic places to learn new skills, both on and offline, serving as digital hubs and running in-person events and courses for people of all ages in everything from literacy to writing workshops to a tree identification tour of Hyde Park. Check out

[www.westminster.gov.uk/events](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/events)

For those who prefer to access media from home, our libraries can supply a range of online events and courses, and digital publications such as books and magazine via the Libby app and access over 600 newspapers in 60 languages through PressReader, all free for members.

## WESTMINSTER LIBRARIES A WORLD OF STORIES



### HOW CAN I STAY UP TO DATE?

There are loads of ways to stay up to date with the latest from your local library. You can keep an eye on

[www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries)

or subscribe to our regular newsletter. You can also follow us on

@WCCLibraries

wcclibraries

wcclibrariesandarchives

Or just pop in and ask!



# SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

**T**he Summer Reading Challenge is back for 2022, inspiring children to use their curiosity and creativity to discover the science behind the everyday and celebrate the role of the imagination.

**Y**oung people aged 4 to 12 are invited to libraries in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea to sign up and read six or more books over the summer holidays. This is the perfect summer activity to build young readers' skills and confidence during the long break from school. Eager readers who complete the challenge will receive a medal, certificate, and other exciting rewards.

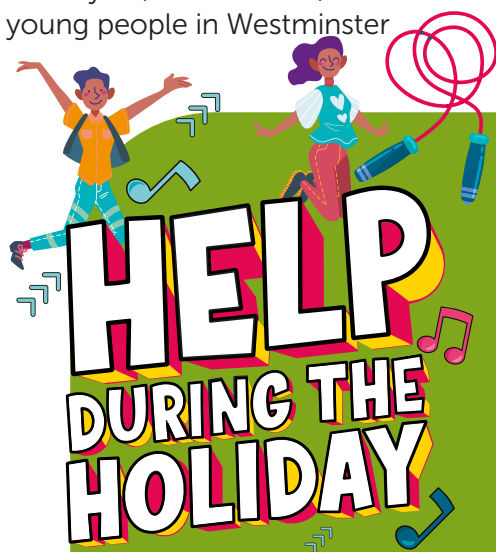
Last year, more than 2,000 young people in Westminster

took part in the challenge. "The Summer Reading Challenge is a wonderful time in the year as we get to see the joy on children's faces when they tell us about the books they've read and the glee when they get their reward," says Michaela, a Library Officer at Church Street Library.

The challenge gives our staff a chance to talk in more depth with children, find out what they like to read, see whether old favourites from our childhood are still popular. "Reading is fundamental,"

says Michaela. "This is a big chance to influence children to love books and promote lifelong reading for fun and to escape to new worlds and have a chance to switch off from real life."

Encourage your child to join the challenge for free at your local Westminster library. And keep an eye on our website and social media for all the latest Summer Reading Challenge events and activities happening in your local library throughout the long summer holiday.



**T**hroughout July and August, activities and events for five- to 16-year-olds will be taking place across Westminster as part of our Holiday Activities and Food Programme, funded by the Department for Education. The programme includes summer camps, sports, arts, cooking, mentoring and leadership, and a wide range of activities for children

and young people with SEND.

Free places and food will be provided to those who are eligible for free school meals. Families can also access nutritional information through the programme. There's something for everyone to enjoy and to find out more and book a child's place, visit

[ourcity.org.uk/haf-programme](http://ourcity.org.uk/haf-programme)

Residential buildings are currently responsible for 15% of Westminster's carbon emissions.



# HOME IMPROVEMENTS

**N**ew energy-efficient show home unveiled to help reduce energy bills and carbon emissions.

We are committed to improving energy efficiency in Westminster homes and switching to cleaner heat and energy sources is an effective way of helping to do this. As part of our efforts, we have collaborated with housing contractor Morgan Sindall to open the doors to a 'retrofitted show home'. This one-bedroom terraced flat in Queen's Park showcases what is available and to offers advice and information to residents on how to make homes more energy efficient.

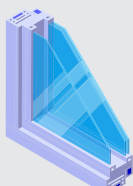
The house is open to the public, with tours guided by contractors. Westminster homeowners, landlords and residents are invited to attend to learn about retrofit and understand what support is available. Council tenants who are eligible for retrofitting will be invited directly to visit the show home.

For more information and to book a tour, visit: [westminster.gov.uk/energy-saving-show-home](http://westminster.gov.uk/energy-saving-show-home)

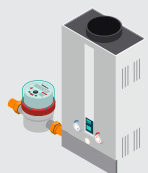
## Energy-saving measures on display include:



Internal wall and underfloor insulation



Thermally-efficient windows and doors



Replacing gas boilers with energy-efficient air source heat pumps



Changing gas cookers to induction hobs, eliminating gas use at the property



Powering the home with solar panels on the roof

**Queen's Park resident Mrs Narcis, whose home was retrofitted last year, said:**

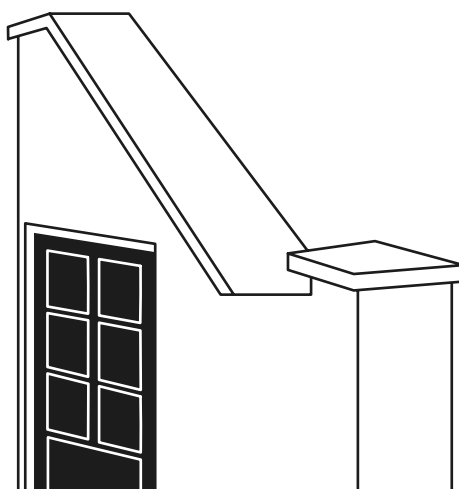
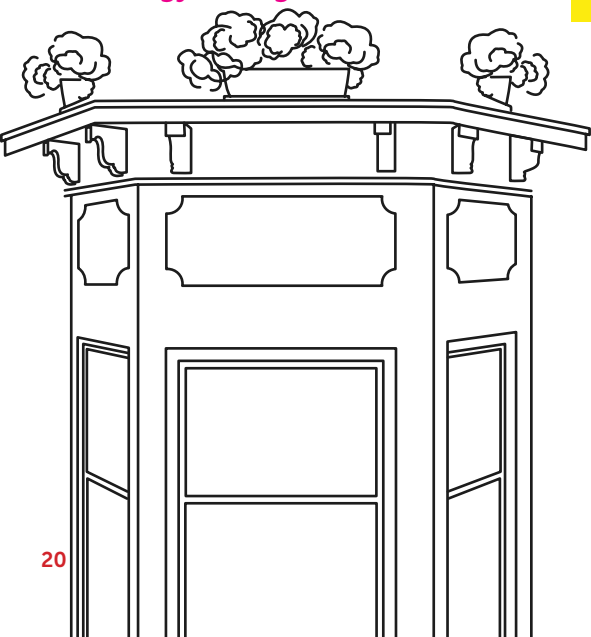
*"I am so pleased with the insulation and secondary glazing in my home. I'm looking forward to a warmer winter and savings on my energy bills. The team was helpful, friendly and very polite. They made the work as easy as possible. It was lot of work and some disruption, but it was definitely worthwhile."*



## MORE HELP FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES

As well as helping to reduce energy bills (above) and our summer HAF programme (see page 19), we are also providing Free School Meal (FSM) vouchers to all eligible children over the six-week school holiday. The funding will be distributed to eligible families in the form of supermarket vouchers and equates to £15 per child per week. Families of children in Reception and Year Six who are in receipt of FSM can also get support with the cost of school uniforms thanks to an £85,000 investment in schools across the city.

Find out more at [www.westminster.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support)



# Want to know the facts about Smart Meters?



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