

Leytonstone



Younger residents can have fun making colourful costumes at the Leytonstone Festival's Children's Carnival on Saturday 19 July

Leytonstone Festival

- **Annual Leytonstone Festival celebrates 21st year from 10 to 20 July**
- **With dozens of events to choose from, there's something for everyone**

E11 residents can enjoy a fun-filled July with friends and family when the Leytonstone Festival returns to celebrate its twenty first birthday in style.

The festival, which takes place from Thursday 10 to Sunday 20 July, is a celebration of community, music, art, history and culture, and this year the organisers promise it will be bigger and better than ever before.

Leytonstone Festival is organised by local charity the Leytonstone Festival Association, and all events take place at venues in Leytonstone.

At the time of Waltham Forest News going to press, the organisers were still finalising the programme of events. But there is sure to be the usual abundance of performances and activities, showcasing local talent and offering dance, film, talks, literature, drama, music, poetry and more.

Shah Ahmed, Chair of

Leytonstone Festival, told Waltham Forest News: "We're delighted to be celebrating our 21st festival with a fantastic programme of events that promises something for everyone.

"Our music line up offers everything from classical and jazz to R&B and rock and roll. We've got some exciting new food events this year, plus our popular Sustainable Suppers at Carlton House.

"Leytonstone Festival is a wonderful community event that brings everyone together and it's a great showcase for our local talent. Come and enjoy ten days of fabulous entertainment."

With dozens of events on offer there is sure to be something for the whole family to enjoy, and in true community spirit many events are free or cost just a few pounds.

The festival kicks off on Thursday 10 July with events including a free lunchtime concert at St John's Church (Church Lane, E11 1HH)

and a British beer and cheese tasting.

Other highlights will include a performance by Pete Skiv's Swingfellows – with their brilliant take on the jazz greats, R&B music from 'Big Chief', an Alfred Hitchcock workshop, Tower Tours of St John's Church, book clubs and plenty of performances from renowned amateur thespians The Woodhouse Players.

As the festival is a fun, family event there will also be plenty to keep the borough's youngest residents entertained. Why not take the little ones along to the colourful Children's Carnival, which will take place on Saturday 19 July. The event includes costume making, music, dancing and lots more.

Food will also play a big part in this year's celebrations. As well as the beer and cheese tasting on the opening day, there will also be a wine and cheese tasting event on

Thursday 17 July and the ever-popular Sustainable Supper returns to Carlton House (14 Aylmer Road, E11 3AD).

The Festival ends on Sunday 20 July with a fantastic finale – the annual What's Cookin' Leytonstone Festival Sunday Picnic in Henry Reynolds Gardens (Bush Road, E11 3AU). This popular event features an eclectic host of bands including Miraculous Mule, Dan Raza and The Shrouds, Yngve and The Innocent, Graham Larkbey and The Escape Committee and more to be confirmed.

Refreshments including real ales, Caribbean punch and tasty BBQ food will also be available to buy. The event is free to attend, but there will be a collection bucket in aid of charity. The fun starts at 12noon and finishes at 8pm. So make sure you bring the family, picnic blankets and plenty of sun cream – or a brolly!

A full programme of events will soon be available on the Leytonstone Festival website – so why not take a look and start planning what you want to see and do?

More info

For more information visit www.leytonstonefestival.org.uk. Free internet access is available at all libraries in the borough.

In brief

Community Library celebrates

Harrow Green Community Library marked its first birthday with a special celebration event last month. As well as taking a tour of the library, residents enjoyed performances from award-winning poet John Hegley and local professional dancer Theo Oloyade (aka Godson), a finalist on Sky One's 'Got to Dance'. The library is housed at The Epicentre (41 West Street, E11 4LJ). As well as offering books for lending, the library hosts activities including a creative writing group and art workshops for children aged eight to 11. The volunteer-run library is open Monday, 10am-3pm; Thursday, 3-7.30pm and Saturday, 11am-2pm. Joining the library is free. All you need to do is fill out an application form and provide one piece of identification that includes your name and address. The library is also keen to hear from residents who would like to volunteer or to join its friendly Planning Group.

• For more information visit www.harrowgreenlibrary.wordpress.com or phone 07460 800 229. If you are interested in volunteering, please email harrowgreenlibrary@gmx.co.uk and put 'Volunteer' in the subject line.

Paintables by Boris Born

A new exhibition by artist Boris Born has gone on display at Leytonstone's volunteer-led gallery the Stone Space (6 Church Lane, E11 1HG). 'Paintables' is a series of abstract paintings that use a brighter colour palette than the artist usually favours. Boris is an abstract painter who works with handmade or found pigments and unusual canvas materials instead of traditional artist's materials. His choice of pigment material includes tealeaves, beach sand from different shorelines, rusted iron filings and fire ash. His choice of surfaces includes industrial felt-pads, roofing slate, time-scarred floorboards, sackcloth and embossed wallpaper. The exhibition will run until Sunday 22 June. The Stone Space is open Thursdays and Fridays, 2-6pm; Saturdays 12-5pm and Sundays 12-4pm.

• For more information visit www.thestonespace.wordpress.com or email stonespace.enquiries@gmail.com. For more information on Boris Born visit www.borisborn.com. Free internet access is available at all libraries in the borough.