

# MARKS GATE MATTERS

Spring 2022



Quarterly Newsletter for the residents of Marks Gate



## Everyone is welcome in Marks Gate!

If you live in Marks Gate, there's no doubt you've seen this face before. Asma Haq is the founder of the Marks Gate Relief Project (MGRP) and spends her days trying to bring the community together in any way she can – with the help of her husband and team.

The MGRP is there to help anyone and everyone, regardless of race, gender, or faith. The focus of this group is to facilitate community discussion, integration and helping those in need.

A few recent and up-and-coming projects of the MGRP include 'Kindness Diaries', which engaged the local community and encouraged people to commit a random act of kindness and film it; and 'Gratitude Diaries', where young people of Marks Gate were invited to make gratitude cards that explained what they are grateful for. In the future, the MGRP aims to boost interfaith harmony in the wider community, not just Marks Gate.

Asma and her husband previously ran an interfaith outreach program in December at St Marks Church on Rose Lane, in which residents of different faiths came



together and had an open conversation about the biblical similarities of Christmas between Islam and Christianity. It is work like this within Marks Gate that really helps to bring the community together.

The MGRP also run a community kitchen at Marks Gate Community Centre on Mondays from 5.30pm. This project started off small, with barely 20 people attending, but recently more than 100 people. It is open to anyone in the community; as organiser Asma Haq explained, "It's for people from different backgrounds, different cultures, different races, different religious beliefs, to congregate in one place and enjoy a meal together."

So, keep an eye out for Asma and her team in Marks Gate, because wherever they are, they are doing good in your community. And remember, you are always welcome at the Marks Gate Relief Project!

*Find out more and support the work of MGRP by visiting [www.mgrp.org.uk](http://www.mgrp.org.uk)*

**Padnall Lake public consultation is this month. See Page 2 for more details on how you can get involved.**



## The latest news from our projects in the area

### Get Involved In Padnall Lake Public Consultation

Come and see the latest designs for Padnall Lake phase 2, where we will be providing up to 219 affordable new homes surrounded by a biodiverse landscape on the eastern edge of Marks Gate next to the A12. You will be able to view the finer details of the homes, outdoor space and improved pedestrian access, and share your thoughts with our team of architects and landscape designers.

We will be at the Marks Gate Community Centre on:

**Thursday 10 March | 4 – 8pm**

**Saturday 12 March | 2 – 6pm**

You will also be able to view information online at [www.yourcall.befirst.london/marks-gate](http://www.yourcall.befirst.london/marks-gate)

If you are unable to attend these dates and would like to receive a copy of the public consultation questionnaire by post, please email your request to [communities@befirst.london](mailto:communities@befirst.london)

### Marks Gate Community Forum

Thank you to everyone who got in touch about joining the new Marks Gate Community Forum (MGCF). We managed to fill all 14 available places with a fantastic group of residents who met for the first time last week. Over the next couple of months, the MGCF will be taking part in a number of co-design workshops with our Padnall Lake phase 2 team to discuss ideas for the new landscape around the homes. Together we will develop plans to showcase to the wider community at the next public consultation later this year.

For more information and to request the consultation questionnaire by post please e-mail: [communities@befirst.london](mailto:communities@befirst.london)



Artists Impression looking west towards Padnall Lake and the Linear Park (Mae)

## Boxing Club Follow-up

On 4th February, Marks Gate Boxing Club celebrated their 10th week of being open by handing out club t-shirts to members who have attended every session. From now on, any member who completes ten sessions will also be awarded with a free t-shirt. This incentive encourages young people to pursue a disciplined sport and rewards them for sticking with it. And who doesn't want a free t-shirt!?

**Marksgateboxingclubcic@gmail.com**  
**@marksgateboxingclub**



## Local Business Highlight



"I specialise in supporting children's education by working with schools/nurseries to get new books into their libraries without using their budgets. I also offer bespoke gifts, book clubs, and recommendations for book lovers."

Dee Lawrence  
 Independent Usborne Organiser

For more info, contact me via:  
**Email: [thebookhunt@hotmail.com](mailto:thebookhunt@hotmail.com)**  
**Facebook: The Book Hunt Store**

## Marks Gate Youth Club



Spark2Life are commissioned by North Meets South to work with young people in Marks Gate, where there is huge demand and need for youth activities.

Spark2Life and NMS officially launched our youth club at the Marks Gate Community Centre last Tuesday with over 60 young people attending, it was a fantastic turnout and great event! The Youth Club runs every Tuesday with the following timetable:

School Years 3-6	3:30-4:30 pm
School Years 7-9	4:30-5:30 pm
School Years 10-13	5:30-6:30 pm

We also run a programme on Thursdays called TFC (Thursdays Football and Chips), with the same times/ages as the Youth Club.

With so much local interest in our programmes, NMS are looking for volunteers to help support Spark2Life so that more young people can take part.

All training and a DBS check will be provided subject to a successful interview. If you would like to volunteer, please contact:

**Catherine Dainkeh (North Meets South Big Local)**  
**T: 0741 9285 839**  
**E: [nmsworker17@gmail.com](mailto:nmsworker17@gmail.com)**



# Rose Lane Primary School News



This has been our first full year without any interruption since becoming a primary school, and what a wonderful year it has been so far!

In October, we all came to school wearing yellow to support Young Minds, a charity working to benefit young people's mental health. The children spent the day engaging in activities such as calm breathing, exploring laughter, yoga and decorating worry rocks. It was also anti-bullying week, and we came to school wearing odd socks to celebrate the diversity in our community and demonstrate that we are all unique. Every pupil created an anti-bullying pledge.



November was a super busy month. It saw us recognising Remembrance Day by selling British Legion products, having lessons about the end of World War 1, participating in special assemblies and observing a 2 minutes silence which began and ended with a member of staff playing Reveille and the Last Post on the trumpet. Last year Diwali was on 4th November, and it was recognised across the school with special assemblies. Our Y6 pupils visited the Imperial War Museum as part of their study of World War 2, and Y5 took part in an interactive drama workshop preparing for an air raid! Y1 and Y2 had an exciting day out at Paradise Wildlife Park to enrich their science learning about animals. Y3 and Y4 were lucky enough to meet King Julius Caesar, even if it was through a Microsoft Teams meeting. The school Council organised a 'break the rules' day when pupils were allowed to come to school wearing non-uniform, bring in snacks that weren't fruit and colour

their hair. This raised £658 towards a new adventure trail for the playground.

December brought Christmas preparations. The pupils decorated their classrooms, came to school in Christmas jumpers, enjoyed a Christmas lunch cooked by our wonderful kitchen staff and visited Santa in his grotto. Rose Lane pupils were the designers of the head of the council's Christmas cards, and he came in to award certificates and prizes to the winners. The winning design was sent to Boris Johnson, Sir Keir Starmer and even the Queen!

February began with Mental Health Week with the theme 'Growing Together.' All of the activities explored the theme of personal growth through different media such as art, music, class discussion stories. Safer Internet day was also in February; it's a day when we celebrate all the great things about being online and remind ourselves how to stay safe. Our school council organised a bake sale which raised a whopping £315 bringing our fund-raising adventure trail total to almost £1,000!

Looking forward, we can't wait to move into our new building, which will join our two sites with a covered walkway between each of the new buildings. We are currently running a competition to rename our three main buildings, and ReGen have generously donated a family ticket to Legoland for the winning names.

All of our pupils are excited to be making their educational visit before the Easter holidays. Our visits are always organised to support and enrich learning in the wider curriculum. We are very proud of our curriculum at Rose Lane Primary, which takes our children on an exciting journey: through the history of the UK and several ancient civilisations, around the geography of the UK and countries across the globe and across the development of music, art and design through the centuries. Our passion is to ensure that every single one of our pupils leaves us as a learner full of curiosity about the outside world, a person who is fascinated by the rich and varied history of our island and is proud of our local area, our people and our community. Please check out our website [roselanepriamry.org.uk](http://roselanepriamry.org.uk) to read our weekly newsletter, which details news updates, celebrates good work and recognises achievement.

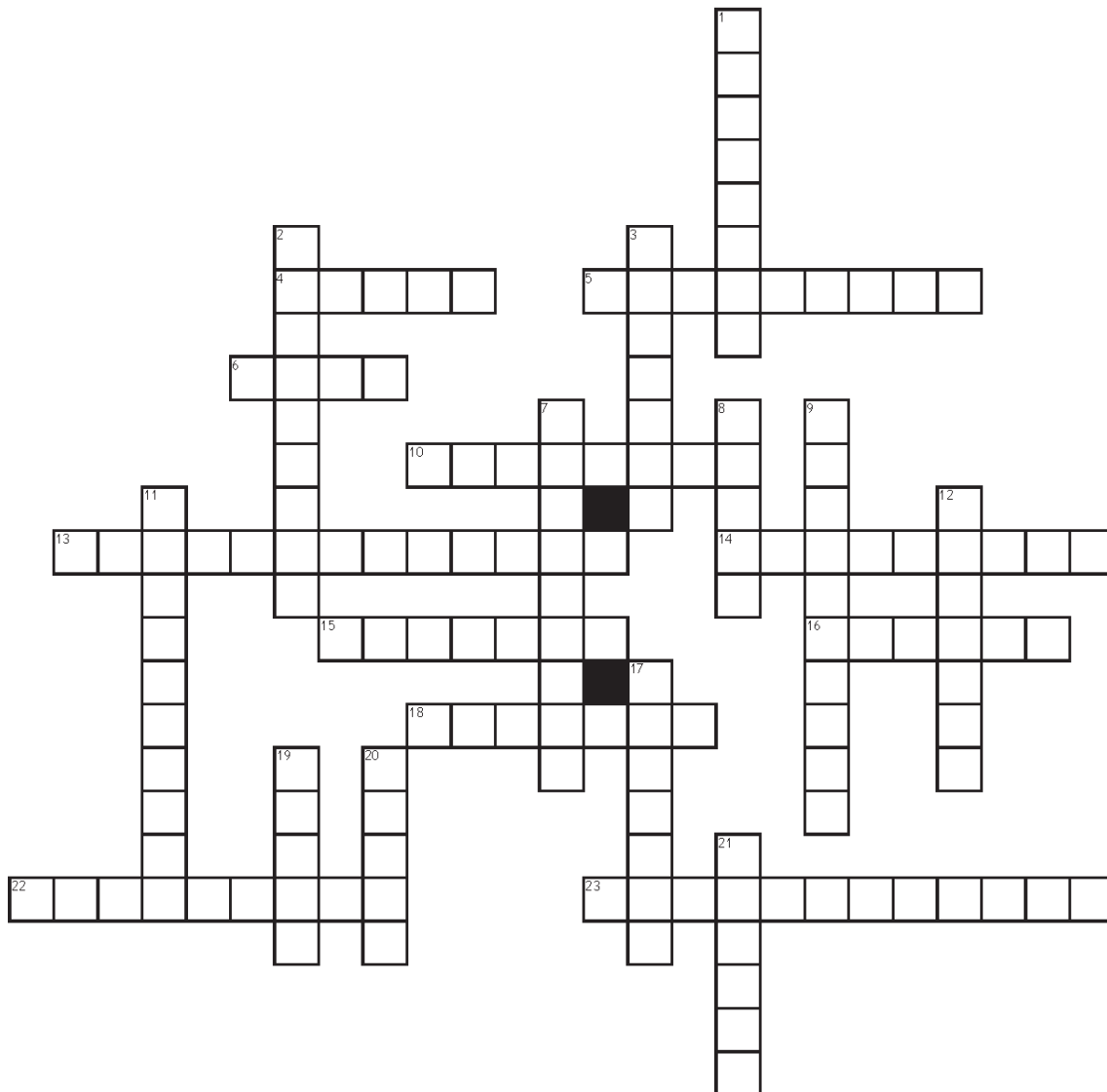
**Written by: Lara Marsh**  
**Assistant Deputy HeadTeacher**  
**Curriculum Manager**



Nurture · Inspire · Flourish



# Barking and Dagenham Crossword



**Across**

- 4. Barking and Dagenham are often thought to be part of what county? (5)
- 5. What ward is directly South of Abbey? (9)
- 6. What motor company had a plant in Dagenham? (4)
- 10. .... Field Shopping Centre in Barking town centre (8)
- 13. What Barking and Dagenham ward was the final residence of Eva Hart, titanic survivor (8,5)
- 14. What borough is North of Barking and Dagenham (9)
- 15. What was Barking Abbey? (7)
- 16. What borough is directly west of Barking and Dagenham? (6)

- 18. Surname of Dagenham-born 'I'm a Celeb' 2010 winner (7)
- 22. What ward was originally seen as a gate into Hainault Forest (5,4)
- 23. Which legendary band performed in Barking in 1970? (9,3)

**Down**

- 1. What tube line runs through Barking station? (8)
- 2. What was the largest public housing estate in world during the interwar period? (9)
- 3. What is the stop before Barking on the Hammersmith & City line (4,3)
- 7. What is the name of the new film studio that will be built in Barking (9)
- 8. Surname of Barking-born professional footballer (5)

- 9. What is Barking's closest airport (6,4)
- 11. Name of Barking F.C.'s stadium (10)
- 12. What industry was Barking known for from the 14th-19th century? (7)
- 17. Leader of the Council's surname (7)
- 19. What type of artwork has recently been completed on the side of a McDonald's in Barking? (5)
- 20. Ruins of what type of building can be found in Barking? (5)
- 21. What colour is the Barking F.C. away shirt? (6)

Answers on page 7

## Murphy Report



Padnall Lake, Mark's Gate  
©Graham Wallis / Naturally Curious UK

Unfortunately, our “Meet the Contractors” day couldn’t happen on Thursday 20th January due to Covid, however we are planning to reschedule the date soon and will share details via promotional flyers and social media.

Earlier this month we had a visit from local nature enthusiast and amateur filmmaker, Graham Wallis, to see the progress of the lake works first-hand and learn more about what is to follow in the coming months. Graham has a strong attachment to the lake, which helped him hone his photography and videography skills, as well provide vital respite during lockdowns. You can view his Padnall Lake video playlist on his YouTube channel, Naturally Curious UK.

We are currently planning to carry out one of our “giving back” days in the community by helping with a list of maintenance and welfare jobs at Kallar Lodge residential care home. Our team will be cleaning paths, painting benches and fences, fixing flower planters and building additional bird feeders to attract birds for residents to spot. We are also looking into creating a small decked area with more planters and seating for residents to enjoy their outside space comfortably.

## Improving Padnall Lake

We have now completed the necessary tree removals across the lake based on the soft landscaping design. Two trees will remain on the island as a wildlife habitat, and new trees will be planted over the next few months. The vegetation of the area around the lake has been cleared, and new topsoil will be imported in the upcoming weeks to prepare areas for planting and seeding. Most of the planting will occur between March and June, and we will invite residents to get involved.

As part of the work to clean the lake, we have installed a dam system on the bridge’s east side and the west section dredged. An excessive amount of silt and rubbish (including motorbikes, bicycles and helmets) was found in the lake, which we have now removed and disposed of off-site.

In addition to cleaning the lake, we have installed new gabions with wildfowl fencing affixed and prepared ground ahead of new planting. Finally, the hard landscaping works around the lake, including repairs and improvements of footpaths, will start in March and continue until all works are completed, and the lake reopened to the public this Summer.



Padnall Lake, Mark's Gate  
©Graham Wallis / Naturally Curious UK



# Barking and Dagenham Crossword Answers

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- 1. DISTRICT
- 2. BESS
- 3. EAST
- 4. ESSSEX
- 5. GASCOIGNE
- 6. FORD
- 7. EARTH
- 8. TOWN
- 9. LONDON
- 10. VICARAGE
- 11. MATHS
- 12. FREDGEE
- 13. CHADWELLHEADH
- 14. REDBRIDGE
- 15. NUNNERY
- 16. NEWHAM
- 17. RISK
- 18. SOLOMON
- 19. MURDER
- 20. ABBEY
- 21. YLETTWOODMACE
- 22. MARKSGATE
- 23. FLEETWOODMACE

## Weekly Activities at Marks Gate Community Centre

### Monday

- BRIC Advice and brief intervention drug and alcohol sessions (bookings only) 11.00 – 3.00 | Training room
- Pennu Charity (themed sessions for over 60's) last Monday of each month | 12.00 – 2.00 | Hall
- Creative Arts | 1.00 – 4.00 | Lounge
- Soup Kitchen | 4.00 – 9.00 | Hall

### Tuesday

- Midwife clinic (bookings only)
- BRIC substance Misuse advice sessions 10.00 – 2.00 | Training room
- Knit and natter for the over 60's, weekly 10.30 – 12.30 | Lounge
- Youth Club | 3.30 – 6.30 | Hall

### Wednesday

- Midwife clinic (bookings only)
- Community Food Bank weekly | 11 – 1
- Arts and Craft | 2.00 – 4.00 | Lounge

### Thursday

- Stay and Play | 10 – 11.30 | Hall or Lounge
- Baby Bank | 10.30 – 2.00 | Training room
- Babbling Babes | 1 – 2 | Hall or Lounge
- Midwife (bookings only)

### Friday

- Substance Misuse advice sessions | 10.00. – 2.00 | Lounge
- Baby Bank | 10.30 – 2.00 | Training room
- Islamic Prayers (weekly) | 12.30 – 2.00 | Hall
- Boxing Club (weekly) | 5.30 – 7.30 | Hall

Sensory room available daily telephone Centre or walk in or book in advance.

Saturday Hall hire available by booking only contact Centre for more information.

**T: 020 8270 6091**

**W: [www.lbbd.gov.uk/services/marks-gate-hall](http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/services/marks-gate-hall)**

## Ward Councillors Corner



**Cllr Mohammed Khan • Cllr Sade Bright • Cllr Simon Perry**

It was great to hear so much positive feedback about the last edition of Marks Gate Matters.

This edition features the latest round of consultation on the next phase of building works alongside Padnall Lake and some exciting opportunities to get involved, particularly in the environmental improvements to that area.

We are pleased to see that the work to build these much-needed new homes for the local community is progressing, and we very much hope you can give up some time to speak to the architects, contractors and the Be First team who are making it happen.

As your ward councillors, we believe that it's vitally important that local people

can have a say about these kinds of developments.

**Get Involved In Padnall Lake Phase 2 Public Consultation.**

**Thursday 10 March | 4 – 8pm**

**Saturday 12 March | 2 – 6pm**

We've continued to be active locally especially meeting residents at the community catch-up on Mondays and the Chadwell Heath TRA meetings - responding to the community's needs. You can catch up with us at these events, or if you need our help, our surgeries are advertised on the council's website.

And, please keep your comments about Marks Gate Matters coming; we're always keen to hear what interests you.

**Would you like to feature in our next Marks Gate Matters?**

**If you are a local resident, business owner or community group, we want to hear from you!**

**Get in touch by emailing [communities@befirst.london](mailto:communities@befirst.london)**