

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Wishing all our readers a very pleasant day!

We hope you enjoyed a safe and steady entry into the Chinese Year of the Horse, a year traditionally associated with energy, resilience, and forward movement. This is the year to roll up our sleeves, step forward, and start turning ideas into action. As the weather begins to soften and the days grow warmer, we find ourselves slowly moving toward what promises to be a beautiful hot summer. Let us be grateful for these final days of cold as we gently make space for the sun to shine again.

This month we attended, hosted, and took part in many events. In community organising, there's a balance between networking and meaningful action. In community organising, there's a balance between networking and meaningful action, and life almost becomes a social experiment where you're living out the changes you want to bring through the work that you do, which is why we're especially excited about the launch of the Open University Community Research Project in Barking that's part of the Right to Community Infrastructure initiative.

This paid opportunity, run in partnership with us, invites local residents to connect, explore community needs, and take part in hands-on research that builds skills and understanding that genuinely benefit both the people involved and the environment they live in. The event is open to all and is designed to be friendly, interactive, and inspiring, whether you're curious about community issues or looking to meet new people and make a difference together. For more information, head to <https://www.thames-life.org.uk/open-university-research-network/>



Here's what else we've been part of recently:

Recent Community Actions

Community Networking event at Rivergate Centre

We hosted a fantastic Community Networking Event with Aspire Action on 16th February and it was truly something special.

We were joined by many small business owners from our local community who came together to share their stories, showcase their projects and explore ways to collaborate. It was a meaningful step toward building stronger partnerships and creating a bigger collective impact within our community.



Pancake Day Fun & Dagenham Choir Visits Hockley Mews

This beautiful project supports older people through activities that enhance their mental and physical wellbeing. A variety of activities is organised for the residents every week. 17th February was made extra special with Pancake Day being enjoyed by everyone and the uplifting harmonies of The Dagenham Rhythm

Choir being shared with the residents.

It is seen as both our pleasure and our duty to support older people, who are celebrated as the pillars of history and storytellers in our community. Do not forget to watch the sweet singing videos on our socials!



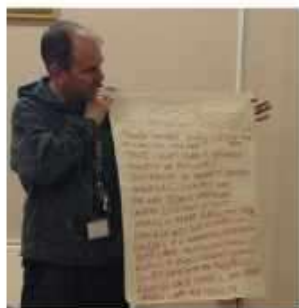
VCS Practitioner Forum Event Highlights

Vibes were impeccable, and the energy was nothing short of extraordinary.

It felt like the beginning of a revolution as small groups began forming new coalitions at the VCS Practitioner Forum, hosted by BD CVS at the Ripple Centre on 19 February 2026.

Community groups and voluntary sector practitioners came together with purpose, ready to connect, collaborate and build something meaningful.





Our CEO delivered a compelling presentation on the importance of voluntary and community sector organisations forming strong coalitions with one another in order to influence and transform entrenched institutional systems that hold power.

Thames Life at Queen Mary University of London as part of Climate Action Week

Along with tackling the rising housing, social, and environmental injustices affecting the Thames View and Barking Riverside communities in Barking, we work in partnership with respected universities and local residents to better the neighbourhood through a bottom-up approach. As a team of community organisers, we take networking, collaboration, and cross sector learning very seriously. Building strong relationships with educational institutions and championing fellow grassroots organisations is central to how we create lasting and meaningful change. This session brought together community organisations and university staff to share innovative work in environmental justice and climate action. When used effectively, these spaces do more than address challenges within our borough. They contribute to wider systems change across London and the UK.



Upcoming events

In a world where systems tend naturally toward disorder without care, community organising is our way of building order and collective energy instead of letting social entropy take over. Come join us at any of these events that champion green spaces, housing justice, and vibrant community places because it's through your active involvement that our community grows stronger, more resilient, and better able to protect and improve the spaces and systems we care about.



Friends of the Earth
presents
COORDINATION MEETING

A GATHERING FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND WANT TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE IT

**ALIGN RESOURCES.
PLAN TOGETHER.
ACT COLLECTIVELY**

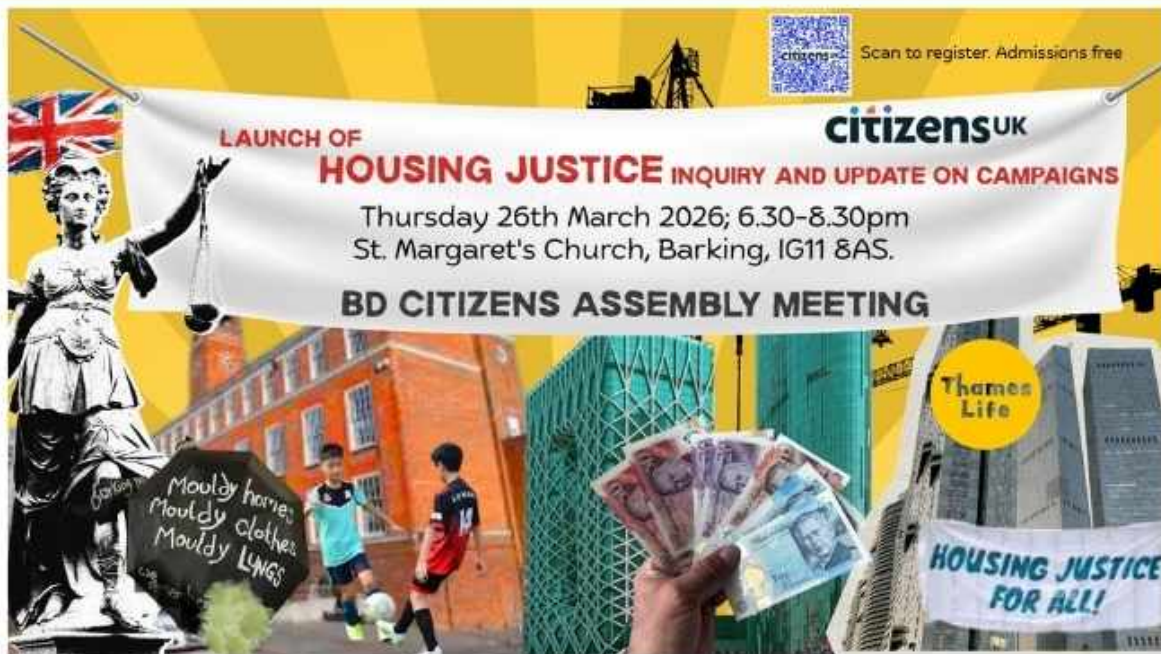
WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH
6.30-8.30PM
RIPPLE CENTRE, BARKING
IG11 7FN





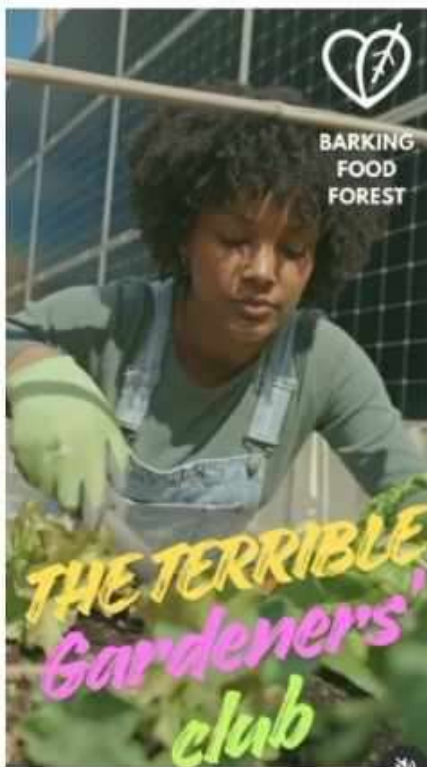
SCAN TO REGISTER. ADMISSIONS FREE.

Do you feel a calling to stand up for justice for our green spaces or to bring forward ideas that could improve air quality and local policies in Barking and Dagenham?



Or come along to this housing justice event, because frankly, who in London isn't feeling the squeeze right now? With more than 336,000 households (London Councils) on social housing waiting lists and councils spending millions each day on temporary accommodation, the pressure on housing in the capital is at a record high. This is your chance to raise your concerns, share your experiences, and start finding real solutions together.

The Trustees and Executive Team of the Barking & Dagenham Council for Voluntary Service warmly invite you to their Annual General Meeting on Monday, 23 March 2026 at 2:00 pm, with registration from 1:45 pm, at The Ripple Centre. This meeting is a great opportunity to look back on what the organisation has achieved over the past year, hear the financial reports, and learn about priorities for the year ahead. Your presence and contribution would be greatly appreciated as we continue to support and strengthen local voluntary and community action.



Get your fingers moving and lend a hand to the BFF team. They are doing an amazing job keeping a green space alive in what can feel like an dystopian reality of concrete. Join them at the Terrible Gardeners Club, every Saturday from 12 to 2pm at the Barking Food Forest.

In other news

People and Nature

Some socialist ideas about society, the earth and their interaction



Carbon capture project greenwashes waste incinerator expansion

Posted by [peoplenature123](#)

A carbon capture project is being used to greenwash the expansion of one of the UK's largest waste incinerators, at Belvedere, Kent.

Cory Topco, which owns one incinerator and is building another, says it will capture greenhouse gases from burning waste, liquefy them, and send them by ship to Yorkshire, to be piped under the

□ Cory promises to capture more than 90% of its incinerators' greenhouse gas emissions – but no carbon capture plant on earth ever got close to that.

□ Cory has an agreement with Viking CCS to to offtake its captured carbon in Yorkshire and bury it under the North Sea – but there are doubts about how, and whether, that could work. Competition authority officials, who say non-pipeline schemes should not get government funding, could cause problems.



Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, with the Cory incinerator in the background. Photo: Dudley Miles /

[Comment](#) [Reblog](#)

The article argues that the proposed carbon capture scheme tied to the expansion of Cory's Belvedere waste incinerator is arguably more greenwash than climate solution. It highlights that no existing carbon capture facility has achieved the claimed 90 % capture rate and that relying on CCS to justify burning millions of tonnes of waste entrenches an outdated "burn-and-bury" model rather than reducing waste generation or boosting recycling. Critics contend this diverts public funds away from more effective decarbonisation and circular-economy strategies and risks damaging local nature reserves while locking councils into high-emission infrastructure.

See, this is exactly why you should come along to any of these events this month. Participating in local activities helps reduce isolation, boosts your sense of belonging, and creates strong social connections with neighbours, friends, and fellow residents. Community events give you the chance to meet people, share ideas, and build pride in the place you live, while also supporting causes that matter, from green spaces to housing justice and vibrant local spaces. Being involved turns individual effort into collective progress and makes your neighbourhood a stronger, more connected place.

That's it from us!

**Hasta la vista till next month.
Until then, keep being the change
that you want to see in society.**

