

# hackneytoday

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## A very special house guest

A delighted Princess Anne visits Marcon Place, near Hackney Downs station, a new development of 28 one-bedroom 'starter homes'

**PRINCESS Anne** enjoyed a peek inside a 'starter home' during a tour around a new development in Hackney.

Her Royal Highness visited Marcon Place, near Hackney Downs station, to learn more about London's growing

housing crisis and new ideas to tackle the problem. She talked to first time buyers who had previously found

themselves priced out of the housing market but were ineligible for social housing. The 28 one-bedroom

apartments are designed for Londoners on a moderate income. **For more info and pics, see page 3.**

# LONDON WHEELS

**H**ACKNEY is set to trial one of the largest and most progressive traffic schemes of its kind in the capital, which will create a car free area in the borough.

Sixteen residential junctions around London Fields will be closed to motor vehicle through traffic in a bid to end 'rat-running' and improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.

The project, due to begin in January, will use large planters

filled with flowers, shrubs and trees, to act as a filter system for traffic and bring bursts of greenery to the roads.

They will be installed between Richmond Road in the north and Scriven Road in the south, and Lansdowne Drive in the east and Haggerston Road in the west, affecting an area of roughly one square kilometre.

Residents will still be able to drive into the area, which, according to the latest census

data, has some of the highest cycling rates in Hackney, particularly for commuting to work by bike.

The proposals are likely to reduce the high volumes of non-local motor traffic currently using these residential streets, with the aim of making the neighbourhoods quieter and less polluted places to live, as well as safer and more pleasant places to walk, cycle and play.

Nearly 40 per cent of all trips

made in Hackney are by foot.

Cllr Feryal Demirci, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Sustainability, said: "This exciting project will bring significant improvements for almost everyone living in the area. In Hackney, walking and cycling come first and we are committed to doing everything we can to make the borough a better place for these activities."

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## Fit for royalty

Princess Anne meets resident Mike Tsang at Marcon Place, a new development of starter homes, near Hackney Downs station

**T**HEY might not be palaces, but a new development of starter homes in Hackney proved themselves fit for royalty when Princess Anne visited on 27 October.

Her Royal Highness toured Marcon Place, near Hackney Downs station, to learn more about London's growing housing crisis and new ideas to tackle it.

She spent the morning talking to first time buyers who had previously found themselves priced out of the property market but ineligible for social housing.

Cllr Philip Glanville, who joined the Princess on the tour, said: "These new

**“ We were honoured that Her Royal Highness chose to pay a visit to one of our affordable developments ”**

homes at Marcon Place show the range of different home ownership options we work on together with partners. We need more

homes of all tenures to keep Hackney a borough where people of all backgrounds can continue to live and



Georgie Lister-Fell chats to Princess Anne and Marc Vlessing, Chief Executive of Pocket, which built the 28 one-bedroom apartments

work together.”

The 28 one-bedroom apartments at Marcon Place, built by Pocket property developers, are designed for Londoners on a moderate income and are sold at 30 per cent less than the local market rate. Subsequent buyers will also need to meet the same eligibility criteria so that the homes remain affordable.

Pocket Chief Executive, Marc Vlessing, said: "We were honoured that Her Royal Highness chose to pay a visit to one of our affordable developments.

"We are planning a second development in Hackney for next year, which will help more local people into housing."

## News in brief



### Remembrance Sunday parade will pay tribute to the fallen

A PROCESSION from Hackney Town Hall to the War Memorial at St John-at-Hackney Church and back will be held on 8 November to honour all those who have died serving their country.

The public are invited to gather at the Town Hall on Mare Street at 9.45am. The parade, accompanied by a band, will then progress to St John's, where wreaths will be laid and faith leaders will address the assembled crowd. There will be a minute's silence at 11am before a Service of Remembrance. At 12.30pm, the parade will head back to the Town Hall, accompanied by the Royal British Legion with other veterans, representatives of the Armed Forces Reserves, Cadets, Scouts, Guides, St John Ambulance, British Red Cross, police and fire brigade. Finally, at 12.40pm, the parade will come to a halt outside the Town Hall to take a salute from the Speaker of Hackney. Residents are invited to join and support the parade to remember all those who have given their lives.



Last year's Remembrance Sunday parade in Hackney

## Community joins forces to clean up streets and tackle anti-social behaviour



Youngsters gather around a stall at the Clean Up Clapton Day

CLAPTON residents rolled up their sleeves and donned their rubber gloves on 22 October for the annual Clean Up Clapton Day, which saw schoolchildren, voluntary groups, councillors and police working side by side to clear up the streets and reduce anti-social behaviour.

At the event, which

was the largest and most popular yet, stalls were erected to give out information about recycling. A number of anti-knife and anti-gun stands, staffed by police from Hackney Downs, also provided information and advice in the aftermath of the recent shooting on Chatsworth Road.

Also represented at the

event was Community Payback, a scheme in which offenders 'pay the community back' for their crimes with unpaid work. Staff explained their job to residents and local students, and committed to clearing overgrown foliage around disused toilets in Upper Clapton.

Sporting Hackney FC, the borough's leading

football team, also had a stall and pavements were jet cleaned by the commercial waste team from the Council's Millfields Road Depot.

Pupils from Millfields and Al-Falah primary schools also went litter picking and took part in a painting competition due to be judged by The Speaker of Hackney, Cllr Sade Etti.