

PRESS RELEASE

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Landmark Hackney community building open for Open House Festival Saturday 19th September 2026

The Old Fire Station Community Centre on Leswin Road, N16, Stoke Newington is opening its doors on Saturday 19th September as part of London's Open House Festival. Residents and visitors are invited to drop in to enjoy an afternoon of activities and some behind the scenes tours from 12pm to 4.30 pm.

Old Fire Station Trustee Natalie Silk said, *"We're delighted to be part of this year's Open House Festival – and looking forward to sharing with visitors the Old Fire Station's dramatic past and its vibrant future."*

Discover more about the Old Fire Station's history in the heart of the local community from being a working fire station from 1886 to the mid-1970s, through to its reincarnation as a local community centre in 1982. Jah Prophecies Soundsystem who first played here back in the 80's will provide the afternoon's soundtrack. There will be tasty seasonal food and drink on offer, and games for all ages in the yard – where the Fire Station's horses were stabled back in the 1900s as well as informal building tours to bring you up to date! Find out more about the Therapy Collective (a talking therapy practice run by trans and non-binary therapists) and sneak a peek at the Firestation Darkroom.

Jamboulay Carnival Arts (founded 1996) will be running workshops on upcycling and costume design, or learn some jewellery making with Suzanne from Creativity in our Hands that run a monthly Arts and Craft market here.



All ages are welcome and entry is free – although donations to support this charity are welcome.

Access: Most of the activities will take place on the ground floor, however tours cover different levels of the building; and there is no lift.

This event is part of a year of activity supported by the National Lottery Community Fund which includes opportunities for local people to learn new skills and get involved with the range of activities on offer at the OFS community centre

Contact details and how to get there.

The Old Fire Station Community Centre
61 Leswin Road
London
N16 7NX

Transport links: Walk from Overground stations Rectory Road, or Stoke Newington, or Dalston Junction, Seven Sisters (Tube) then buses 243, 149.

Buses 106, 149, 243, 476, 73, 76 to Brooke Road stop ,Stoke Newington High Street and short walk.

What 3 Words ///nurse.foil.dwell

For more information: **email:** projects@oldfirestationn16.org.uk

Insta @theoldfirestation_N16

website: <http://oldfirestation.org>

The Old Fire Station building is owned by the London Borough of Hackney and managed by the Old Fire Station CIO, (Registered Charity Number 1153643) which is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees.

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Editors' notes

For interviews or more details please contact **Natalie Silk 07595 355702 (OFS Trustee and Community Lead)**

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image credit Donna Travis



original poster of OFS opening



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