

# News

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## **ECf brings first Rathbone Market festival to Canning Town**

An inaugural festival is set to bring the community in Canning Town closer together whilst relaunching one of London's most famous markets.

Rathbone Market Festival will take place in the revitalised Rathbone Market square on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 August, featuring music, sporting activities and arts, as well as food and drink.

The two-day festival is being led by English Cities Fund (ECf) - a joint venture between Muse Developments, Legal and General Property and the Homes and Communities Agency - which is responsible for the £180 million redevelopment of the area, and the new market operator, Community Links.

Duncan Cumberland, ECf development director and head of the Rathbone Market Festival, said: "Colourful, vibrant events are exactly what we envisaged for the market square upon its completion, so we're thrilled to be hosting this free community event this August. With new paving, seating and new market stalls, as well as improved subway links beneath Newham Way to Canning Town Station and DLR, the festival is our way to showcase the new-look Rathbone Market to its established and prospective customers, and celebrate its place at the heart of the community here in Canning Town."

Music and culture will be a key theme throughout the weekend and festival-goers will also be able to enjoy free sports activities such as mini tennis from Community Links' S-Team, new food and drinks stalls, as well as two shows from The Streets - East Stratford Theatre Royal's festival performers.

Councillor Ken Clark, cabinet member for building communities, public affairs, planning and regeneration, said: "We are pleased to be working with English Cities Fund and Community Links to re-establish Rathbone Market. The market is the heart of the local area and we hope this festival will give residents and visitors to the area a taste of life in Canning Town and keep them coming back."

Local artists from Newham Council's Rosetta Arts Centre, will also be creating a huge community mural which will be made a permanent fixture at the Rathbone Market development, currently in its third phase.

The £180 million Rathbone Market scheme is the flagship development within Newham Council's Canning Town and Custom House £3.7bn regeneration programme. The Rathbone Market redevelopment will deliver more than 650 new homes, 45,000 sq ft of retail floor space, 12,000 sq ft of new community facilities and two new public spaces, including the new Rathbone Market.

Duncan Cumberland, Development Director for ECf, added: "We want to put Canning Town firmly back on the map as a residential destination in East London. The redevelopment of Rathbone Market and events such as the Rathbone Market Festival, are set to breathe new life into this community. We hope local residents and those who want to see what Canning Town has to offer, join in the fun this summer!"