



BACK TO SCHOOL, BACK TO CONNECTING

As summer comes to an end, September brings a familiar sense of fresh starts and new beginnings. Children are heading back to school, routines are returning, and families are getting back into the rhythm of the school year. For businesses, it is also a time when the pace picks up again, teams return from holidays, priorities are reset, and the focus shifts towards making the most of the final months of the year.

With everyone getting back into their routines, September is the perfect time to reconnect. It is a chance to catch up with familiar faces, meet new people, share ideas and strengthen the relationships that help our local business community thrive. After a quieter summer period, getting out, meeting people and having meaningful conversations can be a great way to kick-start the next chapter.

That is exactly why we are looking forward to Stratford Connects – End of Summer Networking Event. Taking place on 16 September 2026 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at Roof East, this exclusive members-only event is an opportunity to meet fellow Stratford Original members, build

valuable business connections and expand your professional network in a relaxed and vibrant setting.

Whether you are looking to reconnect with existing contacts, discover new opportunities or simply get back into the networking spirit, we would love for you to join us. Your ticket includes three complimentary drink vouchers and one food voucher, with the Stratford Original team also available throughout the evening to answer questions and share more about our member services.

So, as we wave goodbye to summer and welcome a new season of learning, growth and opportunity, why not make connection part of your September plans? Spaces are limited to 2–3 people per company, so secure your place and join us at Stratford Connects.

Scan the QR code and secure your place now:



WHATSAPP COMMUNITY CHANNEL

We encourage all members to stay connected with the Stratford Original community by keeping an eye on our website and joining our WhatsApp Community Channel (scan the QR code) for the latest news, local business updates, useful opportunities and upcoming events.

It's a great way to stay informed, connect with fellow businesses and be part of the conversations shaping our community. As we head into a busy new season, we look forward to continuing to champion Stratford, celebrate our local businesses and support our members every step of the way.

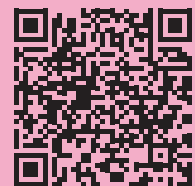


EXPERIENCE TURN #2: SOUND, PERFORMANCE, ARCHIVE

This Stratford Futures event will explore the intersections of sound, performance and archive through the stories, histories and cultural identity of Stratford and the wider East London and Newham groups and venues.

Opening talks introduce the Newham Jazz Archive and its search for a permanent home, alongside the host theatre's own work and its longstanding relationship with the local community. Refreshments will be served.

When: Wednesday 7 October 2026
Where: Theatre Royal Stratford East
Time: 10am-12pm



Register by scanning the QR code:

CLEANING IN AUGUST

We've been busy this August giving some of our street furniture a much-needed clean, removing stickers, graffiti and built-up grime. This work is helping to keep our public spaces looking cleaner, brighter and more welcoming for everyone.



3RD SEPTEMBER

**BI-WEEKLY
INTEL BRIEFING**

Stratford Centre
11.30am - 11.40am

17TH SEPTEMBER

**BI-WEEKLY
INTEL BRIEFING**

Stratford Centre
11.30am - 11.40am

18TH SEPTEMBER

**DR BIKE @ MARK
YOUR BIKE**

44-46 Broadway
16pm - 19pm

IN LOVING MEMORY OF AMIT KUMAR PATEL

6 May 1970 – 24 July 2026

It is with great sadness that we remember Amit Kumar Patel, a respected Post Office manager in Stratford, who passed away peacefully on 24 July 2026, aged 56.

Amit was known for his dedication to his work, his professionalism, and the kindness he showed to colleagues and members of the community. He will be remembered with affection and respect by all who knew him.

He leaves behind cherished memories and will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and the wider Stratford community.



AI LEADERSHIP APPRENTICESHIP UNITS

UEL's AI Leadership units give employers a direct route to building the capability they need to stay ahead in a rapidly changing digital economy.

These programmes are designed for organisations that want more than theory, they want measurable impact, stronger productivity, and leaders who can confidently drive AI adoption across the business.



Duration: 36 hours per unit + Assessment

Delivery: Weekly Session [In-person or Online]

Assessment: Provider assessed (no EPA)

Funding: £750 per unit paid through Skills & Growth Levy [free for qualifying SMEs]

Start: October 2026, January 2027, April 2027

To register or find out more, please scan the QR code:



JOIN THE BANKNOTE CHECKING SCHEME

The Bank of England's Banknote Checking Scheme is a free programme that helps business owners to reduce the financial loss and reputational risks caused by counterfeit banknotes, get support and up-to-date guidance, including training materials and support their communities by preventing the spread of counterfeits and associated crimes.

Find out more on www.stratfordoriginal.com/news.

SAFER STRATFORD

We recently hosted another successful Safer Stratford Nights meeting, bringing together more than 20 local businesses alongside key partners including the Metropolitan Police (MET), British Transport Police (BTP), LCRC, Stratford Original BID, and Council Community Safety and Licensing teams.

A key focus of the meeting was a recently released offender who had been discharged from prison on the same day as the event. MET and Safer Business Network (SBN) provided businesses with clear guidance on the new Community Behaviour Order (CBO) conditions, including what to look out for and how to report any potential breaches.

The value of this partnership was demonstrated almost immediately. Businesses that attended the meeting went on to report suspected breaches of the CBO later that same weekend. As a result of these reports and the subsequent police response, the offender was arrested and returned to prison just a few days later.



This is a brilliant example of effective partnership working and highlights the important role local businesses can play in sharing intelligence, reporting concerns and supporting efforts to keep Stratford safe.

The swift communication between businesses, SBN and enforcement partners helped ensure that the relevant information was acted upon quickly and effectively.

OUR AMBASSADOR STATS

59

MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC ENGAGED

126

MILES COVERED

66

ISSUES REPORTED
THROUGH THE LOVE
NEWHAM APP

**STRATFORD
ORIGINAL**
YOUR BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



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