

# Providence Row GAZETTE

• COMMUNITY MAGAZINE •

## RESPECT

Over the centuries, Spitalfields has offered respect and hospitality to many communities. Liam charts the legacy of those cultures and their imprint on the district today. This industrious area and home to Providence Row turns out to be a most respectable neighbourhood

Who'd have thought crisp packets and plastic sheets could be made into space blankets for rough sleepers? We speak to the inspiring founders of the Crisp Packet Project and find how such a simple idea took off. Now groups around the country are collecting packets and plastic including in Bow E3.

As more people receive the Covid vaccine, we're starting to think haircuts - and parties. For now though, Jo's jokes will just have to substitute for that dreamy hairstyle.

Meanwhile, the lofty Luigi boasts about his classy taste in musicals. Grudgingly, he then turns his disdain for cat Leo's film picks into respect as they chillax over a box set together.

Lastly, after 15 minutes of brain play, Sam's crossword teaser drove us to our own cross words. Respect!

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# HISTORY OF SPITALFIELDS



By volunteer Liam!



Spitalfields takes its name from the hospital and priory, St. Mary's Spittel, which was founded in the East End of London in 1197. It was in a field next to the priory where the now famous market first started in the thirteenth century, thereafter the area became known as Spitalfields.

This part of London has always been known for its welcome and strong sense of identity, diversity and respect. However, as we shall see, the community that calls this place home has changed dramatically over the years. That said, it remains vibrant to this day and is periodically reinvented and rejuvenated by a turnover of population, primarily migrants, seeking new beginnings in England.

As we shall see, the area became popular owing to commerce. In 1682, King Charles II granted John Balch, a silk thrower, a Royal Charter to hold a market near Spital Square.

In 1685, Huguenots fleeing France brought their silk weaving skills to the area. In fact, their grand houses can still be seen around what is now the conservation area of Fournier Street.

Following problems in the Irish linen industry, the Huguenots were replaced by Irish weavers in the mid 1700s. Many of their descendants would later contribute to the construction of the London Docks and work and live in this area for years to come.

The Irish were succeeded by Jews escaping persecution at home, mainly from Eastern Europe. In fact, from the 1880s to the 1970s, Spitalfields was overwhelmingly Jewish and was one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe, with some 40 Synagogues.

In the late 20th century the Jewish presence started to diminish but was quickly replaced by people from Bangladesh, who primarily worked in the textile and catering industries. Fortunately for us, just around the corner, so conveniently near to Providence Row, they gave us the world famous Brick Lane, the curry centre of London and quite possibly the Universe!



# CRISPS PACKET PROJECT

By volunteer Frances!

TA-DA!



Crisp packets, a plastic sheet, an iron and baking paper are all it takes for Pen Huston's inspirational Crisp Packet Project (CPP) to conjure space blankets from items that would normally wind up in landfill.

Volunteering with East Sussex charity, Surviving the Streets UK, Pen Huston knew that bivvy bags and sleeping bags were always desperately needed. A sleepless night gave her the idea of using foil crisp packets fused together and sealed with reused or recycled plastic sheeting to make waterproof bivvy bags, sheets and carrier bags.

A Facebook shout for washed crisp packets brought in packets galore and offers of help. 'I can't believe how the project has grown,' says Pen. 'Now we have over 14000 followers and 40 local groups worldwide making life saving protective kit for street sleepers and others.'

Julie Naylor started a local Crisp Packet Project in 2020 in Bow East London. Julie had intended to raise funds for Shelter but says the pandemic halted her plans. 'Instead, I stumbled across Pen Huston's video about her vision for used crisp packets. I thought, I've time on my hands so I'll give it a go. So many people eat crisps and the packets cannot be recycled,' Julie says.

With Pen Huston's encouragement, Julie started CPP Bow E3 with friends collecting packets for her. Julie says she now has bags ready to be made into waterproof bivvy bags, space blankets and luggage bags.

I hope that eventually, people can work together to create many more items from crisp packets and plastic that would usually go to landfill,' says Julie. 'Because of this project, street sleepers can keep themselves warm and their belongings dry.'

Julie says, 'I urge people to take part in the project. It's so rewarding to help others in need.'



**Pen Huston**



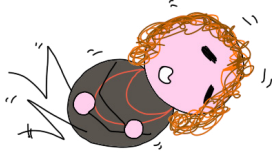
**Julie Naylor**

[crisppacketproject.com](http://crisppacketproject.com)

Crisp Packet Project Bow E3 on [Facebook](#)

# JOKES PAGE!

By volunteer Jo!



We all are needing a haircut I think. Feeling tired but so wanting a party. Here's some silly slightly topical jokes for the season.

**How did the barber win the race?**

- He knew a short cut.

**Why was the man running around his bed?**

- He wanted to catch up on his sleep.

**Why can't a bicycle stand up by itself?**

- Because it's two-tired.

**How do you organize a space party?**

- Planet early

**Where does Tarzan buy his clothes?**

- At a jungle sale.

**Where do library books like to sleep?**

- Under their covers!

# Tales from Tails

By Emma!



Here at Tails headquarters Leo and me are chilling. We love nothing more than a run and then settling down to a Netflix box set.

Obviously we argue about what to watch like an old married couple and I like to think my taste in what to watch is rather superior to Leo's.



It may shock you but I'm a huge fan of musicals. Any musical. My favourite is The Lion King - even it does have a massive cat in it. Leo is more of an action kind of guy and his favourite is anything with Jan Claude van Dam in it...ugh!

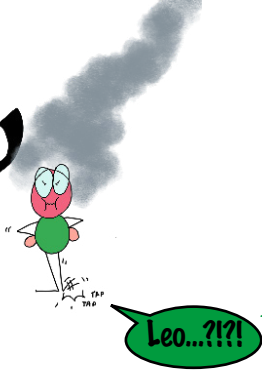
I did see he was watching Fast and Furious - the hundred and fiftieth one. I sort of enjoyed it, a little bit. Important to respect each other's differences even if you'd rather be hanging out with me and Frozen!



You know...  
I'm more into books...



# ART & FUN



H O N O R I M B A C O X K N S  
 H B O Y R U C R S J E L B Q R  
 J H A E M Y O Y H T A P M Y S  
 R V J P C K U P R O W S Z Y G  
 F L O H P Q R Z Z E V E L Y I  
 T V W S G R T O J J W B Y K K  
 C O N S I D E R A I I O N I D  
 M Q J L W T S C W D P C N J R  
 H E S Q G I Y V I A O D D W A  
 W A E Z C F D Q L A N R E J G  
 F V X T E M E R W E T R E T E  
 P X S U S B X S S C I I K I R  
 R X I V K E E S D M W J O H Z  
 V G R B G D Q P D O R T G N U  
 R E W O V L D A R S J B M C E

**Sympathy**  
**Regard**  
**Kindness**  
**Honor**  
**Esteem**  
**Courtesy**  
**Consideration**  
**Appreciation**  
**Adore**  
**Admire**

(ADMIRE: Last row, 8th A, diagonal, up right)  
 (ADORE: 7th row, 9th A, diagonal, down right)  
 (APPRECIATION: 3rd row, 3rd A, diagonal, down right)  
 (CONSIDERATION: 7th row)  
 (COURTESY: 2nd row, 7th C, downward)  
 (ESTEEM: 13th row, 6th E, diagonal, up left)  
 (HONOR: First row)  
 (KINDNESS: 6th row, last K, diagonal, down left)  
 (REGARD: 12th row, last R, upward)  
 (SYMPATHY: 3rd row, last S, to the left)