

























Registered Charity No 293475 Company Limited by Guarantee No 1975481



Directors and Trustees

Dan Abel Secretary

Erin Baltes
Penny Bruce Vice Chair

James Easterbrook

Martine Fitt

Tom Henderson Chair

Shaida Hussain

Vicky Jenkins Hon Life President

Dan Jones Stewart Keep Andrew Ktenas Rowena Loverance Natalie Maderova Helen Moules Herman Ringer Alex Thomas Mike Thomas

Sarah Wallis

Hon President





Permanent Staff

Dan Cantwell Inclusion Co-ordinator
Jan Coughlin Centre Co-ordinator
Robyn Cuthbert Youth Referrals Co-ord

Robyn Cuthbert Youth Referrals Co-ordinator
Carl Greenslade Fundraising & Volunteer Co-ordinator

Myriam Guenem Activity Instructor

William Tytler Youth Activities Co-ordinator

Mike Wardle Centre Director

Part Time Staff and Volunteers

Julia Chepurna
Simone Dunkley
Richard Elkan
Richard Greenslade
Claire McNally
Asher Robinson
Channun Vitalis

Alexander Chepurnoy
Sophie Dunkley
Peter Fletcher
Gabriella Leoni
Dima Mostovyy
Alexandra Tribe
William Walker



Goodbye, Good Luck and Best Wishes to:

James Easterbrook, Shaida Hussain, Rowena Loverance and Alex Thomas

The Centre wishes to thank:

Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation BBC Children in Need Canary Wharf Ltd East End Community Foundation Fairland Catering Butchers GLA Young Londoners Fund Hands On London Hermitage River Projects Jack Petchey Foundation London Borough of Tower Hamlets London Dock Community Fund London Marathon Charitable Trust

Maitlands Fund Charitable Trust
Mayor of London
National Lottery
The North Face
Outward Bound Trust
St George
Sport England
Tideway
Tower Hill Trust
Turks Head Charity
Volunteering Matters

The Centre is fortunate to have many supporters and volunteers who assist it in providing challenging, exciting and worthwhile activities for the local community. We wish to thank everybody who has given their time, energy and enthusiasm.



















































Vice Chair's Report

The last financial year has probably been one of the most challenging in the history of the Centre. We started April 2020 in the first weeks of Lockdown 1. The gradual lifting of restrictions saw us finally re-open for outdoor activities in July with the Summer Project going ahead. Schools started to return in the autumn until Lockdowns 2 and 3 saw us shut for activities from early November until the very end of our financial year in March 2021.

So how does an Outdoor Activity Centre respond to its world being turned upside down and its activities being banned for two thirds of the year? The biggest challenge was to ensure we had the money to carry on. The furlough scheme was a lifesaver as staff costs are the Centre's main expenditure. Emergency funding from the National Lottery and Tower Hamlets and careful financial management has created an overall profit of £64,191.

On another upbeat note, two capital projects were completed in this financial year – the renovation of the climbing wall and flooring was funded by Sport England, the London Marathon Charitable Trust and Grange Farm Centre Trust. A new Canoe Polo pitch was paid for by the Turks Head charity as a first stage of the Wapping Lido development.

Apart from ensuring the Centre's continued financial viability, we also faced the challenge of maintaining contact and providing support to our regular users. Our main charitable objective is to provide outdoor activities for our community, in addition to promoting physical and mental wellbeing and the development of life skills. Here, Zoom came to the rescue and the youth programmes went online. This included quizzes, games, mentoring support and physical activity sessions. In addition, the Youth Club made a fantastic video that helped raise over £15,000 for the Shadwell Basin Emergency Fund.

The Youth Referrals post supported by the Young Londoners Fund was in its early months of operation when Lockdown 1 struck. This role supports young people "At Risk" and introduces outdoor activities and leadership skills as a way of developing strategies to address the situations they face. This work continued through a mixture of online sessions and 1 to 1 meetings at the Centre when permitted under the changing restrictions.

Meanwhile the adult clubs were able to adapt more easily to providing face to face activities for their members. However, they did see their normal trips and activities curtailed and a reduction in onboarding and training new members.

This brings me to the prospects for the future. There is clearly a great demand for the types of outdoor activities that the Centre provides which promote both physical and mental well-being after the challenges of the last couple of years. Meeting this demand will require careful management to ensure that the Centre also remains financially viable. In addition, the premises are in need of a revamp and sprucing up inside and out.

We also need to ensure that we have the right level of skills and knowledge available to support the trustees and the staff in maintaining and developing the Centre going forward. In the coming year the whole Shadwell community needs to review the existing 10 year plan which finishes in 2024. This is a good point in time to look again at what we do, how we do it and what can be done better. The trustees look forward to this challenge in the coming year.

Finally, I must thank:

- our dedicated staff team for all their fantastic commitment in the exceptional period that we have been through particularly, Mike who struggled with long Covid symptoms;
- my colleagues on the management committee for supporting the Centre in meeting the challenges of the past year – Tom Henderson, our Chair, has also suffered from long Covid symptoms which explains why I am covering this report as Vice Chair;
- our funders for making it all possible and working with us through a difficult year; and
- everyone in the Shadwell community for continuing to support us in providing a great community hub.

Centre Activities Report

2020-21, our 44th year engaged in outdoor and adventure activities, has been a year of struggle and difficulty for the Shadwell Basin community due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Circumstance determined that this year was predominantly about keeping the charity afloat financially and opening up to activity where it was safe and legal to do so.



Even so, the community banded together with staff and volunteers to donate, raise money and apply for emergency funding. This meant that by summer 2020 we were ready to open up to our clubs and young people again.

We were able to offer Covid secure adapted sessions at affordable prices once again focusing on creating opportunities for our users to challenge themselves physically, exploring their emotions and growing their values. The charity was also praised for its commitment by moving its activities online where needed.





Where face to face work was done between lockdowns it was clear to see the positive effect it had on people's emotional health and wellbeing. For these periods it meant each individual could once again find their own fulfilment from the structured learning 'Pathways' of the youth project and club training sessions to the freedom experienced through exploration and competition within the natural environment.

Club members, staff, volunteers and young trainees adapted quickly to new ways of working to help them cope with delivery and training within the unfamiliar operating environment. Although it was difficult to travel further afield to wild environments to push mental and physical boundaries the nearer venues of the River Thames and local parks as well as the site were used for activities.



Just as the charity has caught up with its all important activity delivery and operations again it is also important that we use this opportunity to come together as a whole community to evaluate our ten year development plan to remind ourselves of our vision and rework our direction and purpose.



This will help when looking forward, with the charity being sure of stabilising the gains towards normality it has achieved so that it can move into 2021-22 with an assurance that it will be fully operating once more giving people the holistic experience it has offered for so many years previously.

Youth Activities

In 2020-21 the youth club rose to the challenges of multiple lockdowns and rapidly created a programme of online sessions, as well as running activities onsite when restrictions allowed. 124 young people took part in 123 online sessions, with 15 sessions and 31 days of challenging and adventurous activities in person, with a total of 3,088 attendances in the youth project.



Our local communities have some of the highest child poverty rates in the UK. This meant that the 80% subsidy on activities became even more important when combating the mental health and wellbeing issues created by lockdown isolation.

On top of this the online sessions were run free of charge, with five sessions taking place each week. These were planned for different age groups and skill levels and included topics such as communication, scheduling / routines, healthy eating, staying active in lockdown and fun quizzes. Most importantly they gave young people much needed support and social interaction with their peers throughout a very difficult year.



The return to in person activities began with the 2020 Summer Project. Numbers were limited by the small group sizes necessitated by Covid-19 restrictions and places were allocated to regular members, those engaged in specific programmes and children of local key workers. It was joyful to see young people regaining their confidence and having fun with their peers. In total 79 participants attended over 20 days, obtaining 57 certificated or accredited awards and 144 recorded outcomes, with 1561 visits.



Both "Inspiring Futures", which works with 'At Risk' young people and the "Right to Explore" programme, which creates a much needed pathway to employment for black and ethnic minority coaches continued targeted youth provision this year. We also progressed with "Girls Can Adventure", the junior programme for 5 to 8's and the integrated youth club that offers innovative activities for disabled young people.

The high quality teaching continued to be recognised through achievement of the "Learning Outside the Classroom" Award. This is down to the unique and educational "Pathways" structure and the experience of a dedicated staff, which allows progress for all. The higher level of skill acquisition also allows members to develop talent through the Leadership programme. This has a positive effect on young people and what they can accomplish, and also what they can achieve in the future when it comes to competition, training for coaching awards and future employment opportunities.

The values of the Youth Project cut across all the activities, not just instilling worthwhile personal and social development with such concepts as respect and equality, but enshrining friendship which enables a fully inclusive unique approach to youth work through adventure.



Offsite Trips

One of the most valuable elements of the Centre's work is to provide young people with the chance to experience activities in the wild areas of the UK. These trips are vital in enabling young people to broaden their horizons and challenge themselves in adventurous and exciting situations. The shared experiences offer individuals a deep insight into themselves, their character and strengths, creating memories and friendships that last a lifetime.

The trips are mostly camping based and young people learn campcraft and how to look after themselves and their equipment, cooking for each other, living and working as part of a team. These group times are often the most valuable parts of the trip, with individuals developing in social and communication skills.



This was the first year in the history of the Centre that no residentials took place, however day trips on the Thames and to other local venues were planned when possible, giving a much needed opportunity to see the wider world.

Inclusion Programmes "Adventure for All" and "Adventure Together"

These important and innovative programmes for young people with disabilities are able to take place through the generous support of BBC Children in Need. Both programmes use outdoor and adventurous activities as a tool for growth, supporting and encouraging individuals to develop in confidence and independence. The quality of the programmes has been recognised by the achievement of both Sailability and Paddle-Ability Awards.

"Adventure for All"

This Project works with individuals, schools and groups. Specially adapted equipment, such as the Hansa Access sailing dinghies, are used to enable equality of access to the activities, with staff creating tailor made programmes that offer a balance of challenge and success for all participants.



"Adventure Together"

This pioneering Project integrates young people with disabilities into the wider programmes of the Centre and has had many successes, with eleven young people now regularly attending the mainstream youth sessions.



The past year has been particularly difficult for these projects, with many schools and groups unable to visit due to restrictions on offsite trips. Individuals have continued to attend where possible, both in person during holiday programmes and regular weekly sessions and also online in the "Virtual Youth Club" when Government guidelines forced the closure of the Centre.

The funding for these programmes concludes in December 2021 and it is hoped that this valuable work will be able to continue, with a further bid for support currently under consideration.

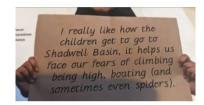
Schools Report

The Centre has a popular schools programme which is recognised for its high quality coaching, planning and safety through annual inspections and the award of the Learning Outside the Classroom Badge. The programme includes one off taster sessions, work with 5-8's and activities focused on accredited awards, GCSE and A Levels.



This year the programme was hugely affected by Covid-19 restrictions and the national lockdowns. All bookings for the summer term were cancelled and a limited programme only was run in the autumn term and again in March when restrictions eased. In total 525 students visited the Centre throughout the year, with over 1,100 attendances taking place.

Sessions enable students to take part in regular physical activity, have fun and learn new skills. The activities offer valuable opportunities to build confidence, independence and co-operation, and the Centre is much valued by our local schools.



"For over twenty years Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre has provided our Year Six students a much-needed opportunity to experience a multitude of varied fun and exciting outdoor activities they would otherwise not have the opportunity to undertake. This is especially true over the last twelve turbulent months. During this difficult period, when many of the children have spent a considerable amount of their time indoors, our students have gained cultural capital, confidence and have developed new and rewarding skills on the open water, climbing walls and on ropes. Thank you so much for providing our children with such rewarding, life changing opportunities." Blue Gate Fields Junior School

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The D of E programme has become an integral part of the activities with young people and proven to be very successful, instilling participants with a sense of self knowledge and achievement. This year the programme was postponed due to Covid restrictions, but young people are looking forward to participating in the award again in 2021.



Over the years our D of E groups have taken part in trips to the South Downs, Peak District, Snowdonia and the Lake District, but the award is about so much more than succeeding in an expedition. Participants make a commitment to also undertake the volunteering, physical and skills sections to complete the award.



The ethos of the award is one of teamwork, determination, commitment and support and we see these elements growing within participants as they become more mature, independent and responsible individuals. This growth enables participants to use their skills, knowledge and experience to become leaders and mentors for newer members.

Fundraising and Volunteering

Financial support from individuals, companies and teams is vitally important to the continued survival and success of the Centre. The challenges of lockdowns and financial uncertainty for many people made this an extremely difficult year for fundraising, volunteering and events. All of the planned events were cancelled, which created a large hole in the finances of the Centre. To fill this void and ensure survival the charity applied for, and was successful in, a number of emergency support grants. We are also truly grateful to our present grant givers for maintaining their payments to us throughout the lockdowns when we took our provision online.



Youth Club Fundraising

At the start of the first Covid-19 lockdown, with the Centre closed and facing an uncertain time, youth members and parents swung into action, creating an Emergency Appeal to raise funds. Youth members made a film in support of the appeal whilst in lockdown at home, speaking about how much the Centre meant to them and raising £15,353 in total. Their confidence and inspiring comments reminded us all of why the Centre exists and how it creates positive change in the lives of young people. Thank you to everyone who helped make the film and donated to the appeal, it was invaluable in keeping the Centre running throughout a very difficult year.



Volunteering

The Centre is fortunate to have a large group of volunteers who enable it to meet its objectives. We would like to thank the members of our community who offer their time and expertise to help in so many ways, from coaching groups, updating the website and maintaining boats, to the Trustees who use their skills in the management of the Centre.





Partnerships have been developed with Hands On London and Volunteering Matters, who have both supported the Centre through facilitating volunteer impact days with corporate groups. Plans are underway to restart these days when restrictions allow.

Celebrating Achievement

Shadwell Pathways

This scheme, which was introduced in 2014, continues to be a positive way of working with young people. The scheme is an educational journey of exploration and discovery; which allows participants to gain experience and progressive skills as well as certificates and National Governing Body awards. The scheme includes a Leadership Award which gives a route into gaining coaching awards as young people develop their skills further. In this year the awards were adjusted to include online sessions and quizzes, covering many of the topics in the Pathways Scheme.



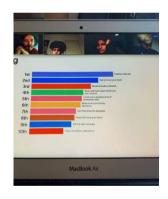


Jack Petchey Awards

The young people's endeavours are recognised by their peers and the staff through the Jack Petchey Awards. These awards are voted on by the young people and are an important opportunity for members to be celebrated for their achievements and for reaching individual milestones.

Adventure Coach Training Scheme

The Centre continues working with young leaders from the youth programme to develop new skills leading to training and employment. In this year a group of 12 young people were engaged in the Adventure Coach Training Scheme and worked on personal skill awards as well as taking part in workshops on leadership and communication. These young leaders will take their training further in the coming year to work towards their British Canoeing UKCC Paddlesport Instructor Award and will move into coaching roles at the Centre and further afield.





London Youth Games

This event, the largest youth competition in the UK, was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Youth members usually represent the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in Kayak Slalom and Sprint and the team are looking forward to hopefully competing again in 2021, going into the competition as reigning champions in Slalom and looking to improve on their 2019 team Silver in Sprint.

Shadwell Youth Challenge

This was the first year since 2001 that this friendly introduction to competition did not take place. The event, with categories for speed climbing, kayak slalom and sprint is often the first taste of competitive sport for many young people and is always well attended by members. We're looking forward to it returning in autumn 2021.



Special Projects and New Developments

Inspiring Futures

In a year when young people needed support more than ever the start of the "Inspiring Futures" programme was very timely. This programme has been funded by a grant from the Mayor of London's Young Londoners Fund and is designed to identify and engage young people who are "at risk" and inspire and support them to grow into the best person they can be. The newly appointed Youth Referrals Coordinator Robyn Cuthbert created a programme of online 1-2-1 support sessions and group workshops. These gave young people a regular opportunity to discuss issues affecting them, and were followed up with in person activities as soon as this was possible.



The Right to Explore

Our commitment to positive action on equality has continued through an innovative partnership with the Lindley Educational Trust and Outward Bound Trust, funded through The North Face and Sport England. The programme brings together young people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, providing pathways into employment in the outdoor activity sector. Young people from the Project have already moved into the world of work. Activities with the latest group of young people have taken place at the partner venues. As soon as guidance allows the groups will meet up again to further their training once more.

Kilimanjaro Youth Challenge

Our next international expedition aims to take young people to Tanzania to climb Kilimanjaro and work on a project with street children. In March 2020 the decision was taken to postpone the expedition due to the Covid-19 pandemic and it is hoped that it will now take place in 2022. The group continued training individually where possible and are planning future fundraising events for this challenge that will impact their futures in so many positive ways.



Canoe Polo Pitch

In between the lockdowns of the pandemic after much planning the new Canoe Polo pitch was developed on Shadwell Basin, this was the first phase of the new Wapping LIDO Project. It was sponsored by the Turks Head Charity, to whom we are eternally grateful, and provided all new pontoons as well which helped with other activities like sailing. It also attracted the East End Canoe Polo club to our venue who now use this site for training sessions.

Shadwell Sailing Club

Along with the rest of the world 2020 was a strange and unpredictable year for the sailing club. The cub did manage to sail when Government regulations allowed and we did manage to achieve a surprisingly successful season of sailing.

We attracted many new folk to come and try sailing, some for the first time, and several joined the club as full members. As ever, our core sailing was on the Thames between Canary Wharf and Tower Bridge on Tuesday evenings. The sessions proved very popular and we were often at full capacity. On a few evenings we arranged informal races, these always proved enjoyable and often amusing, with sailors sometimes trying a little too hard to win!





We also managed several offsite trips where we go further afield and these are always enjoyed by those who take part. Downriver trips took us to Greenwich Yacht Club, where we stop for lunch and a pint and on one trip we sailed through the Thames Barrier before returning to the Centre. It is always good to make a real voyage to a destination and a successful return to Shadwell, you get a real sense of achievement.

One special trip saw the Wayfarer dinghies being towed by the safety boat upriver to Putney. We had lunch while we waited for the tide to turn and then sailed back, with the tide, right through central London. This was probably the best trip of the year, seeing the dinghies sailing through London is quite a sight.







Our Wayfarers and our Drascombe Longboat continue to form the backbone of our fleet, but this year saw a new addition to our sailing craft, a Hawk 20 dayboat, named Tarifa. She is a fabulous and versatile boat at 20 feet long and is equipped with an outboard motor. She is capable of sailing as fast as the Wayfarers and handles just like a large dinghy. Being ballasted she will self right if she capsizes, which is always reassuring. She can carry six sailors, which means that with three Wayfarers and the Drascombe we can take 21 sailors out on a session. She certainly proved very popular with all at Shadwell Sailing Club.

All in all it was a very successful season, despite the obvious lockdown problems and set the club up very well for 2021.

Tower Hamlets Canoe Club

It has been an interesting year for Tower Hamlets Canoe Club. Despite Covid-19, our members' commitment to paddling has been tremendous.



We started the year in full lockdown due to Covid-19, and were only able to re-open thanks to the amazing efforts of the Covid-19 subcommittee in collaboration with SBOAC staff, navigating the often-confusing government guidance. Our first session was at the end of June, implemented with very strict restrictions, which were gradually relaxed until the end of the year, when a new lockdown was put in place until the end of March.

In total we ran only 21 Tuesday sessions this year, and no barbeques. Also we were unable to complete any of our usual beginner induction sessions.







Despite that, we did manage to do a number of socially-distanced Saturday daytrips on the Thames and further afield, hampered by the need to avoid car-sharing. Personal skills training also continued and we managed to get several members' Sea-Kayak Awards signed off, and several members' VHF licensing done.









Even during the times we had to stay away from the SBOAC site, we stayed in touch with Zoom (meeting for drinks in a virtual pub called "The Prospect of COVID"), and sharing pictures of our "lockdown paddling" (in gardens and apartments), and of the local trips we could legally do within our households and bubbles.



Planning for future activities and trips is underway and we are all looking forward to a more positive year of paddling as restrictions ease.

Statement of Financial Activities Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2021

	Unrestricted funds	2021 Restricted funds	Total funds	2020 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments	~	~	~	~
Donations and legacies	124,217	118,450	242,667	91,128
Charitable activities	37,779	21,446	59,225	131,342
Other trading activities	44,721	-	44,721	48,336
Investment income	8,189	9,885	18,074	22,565
Other Income				350
Total income	214,906	149,781	364,687	293,721
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities	172,280	128,216	300,496	324,135
Total expenditure	172,380	128,216	300,496	324,135
Net gains (losses) on investments	28,632	39,019	67,651	(83,514)
Net income / (expenditure)	71,258	60,584	131,842	(113,928)
Transfers between funds	(71,794)	71,794		
Net movement in funds	(500)	400.070	404.040	(440,000)
	(536)	132,378	131,842	(113,928)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	156,914	231,386	388,300	502,228
Total funds carried forward	156,378	363,764	520,142	388,300

This summary of income and expenditure and the balance sheet opposite are extracted from the full audited accounts, copies of which are available from the Centre.







Statement of Financial Position as at 31st March 2021

	2021		2020
	£	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets		9,897	10,689
Investments		439,698	372,047
		449,595	382,736
Current assets			
Debtors	63,166		24,774
Cash at bank and in hand	31,835		15,722
	95,001		40,496
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(24,454)		(34,932)
Net current assets		70,547	5,564
Total assets less current liabilities		520,142	388,300
Net assets		520,142	388,300
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		363,764	231,386
Unrestricted funds		156,378	156,914
Total charity funds		520,142	388,300

For the financial year to 31st March 2021, the Centre's incoming resources were £364,687, an increase on the previous year. There was a large loss of income related to charitable activities due to booking cancellations during lock down periods of closure. However, this was more than made up by donations and legacies, which included the government furlough payments, emergency and Covid recovery grants.

The Centre's expenditure was £300,496 giving the charity an operational profit of £64,191, which was an increase on the deficit from the previous year. The major component of the expenditure is represented by salaries and associated employers costs at £212,040 (see audited accounts). This was similar to the previous year through careful planning, timetabling and volunteer coaching.



In addition to the operational profit there were gains in the recovery of investment assets of £67,651, with an investment income of £9,885 in the restricted fund being allocated and expended to meet the undertakings of the lease and licence agreements.

The staff and volunteers have continued to provide high quality services during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Trustees and Directors have continued to work with staff and volunteers to manage the Centre's service within the resources available.

The Centre remains dependent on grants and donations from charitable trusts, businesses and individuals. In addition to this the income generated from bookings will need to recover post pandemic to replace Covid-19 related grants. The diversification of income sources over past years, careful management of funds and community fundraising have all played an important part in the re-establishment of financial security in the post pandemic environment. Looking further forward the challenge is to maintain this level of operation whilst continuing to honour our charitable objectives to provide affordable outdoor activity opportunities for the young people and community of Tower Hamlets.

Help us to change young people's lives

Many young people have told us how participating in the activities of the Centre has been a life changing experience. These changes are mainly either by going on to greater adventure and challenges in the world wilderness areas or by gaining the confidence, determination and inspiration to improve their expectations of what they can achieve. We will only be able to continue to do this with your help and support!

Shadwell Basin is a sparkling seven acres of water, the last remains of the great London Docks in Wapping, overlooked by St Pauls Church where Captain Cook was a parishioner. The Pierhead site, where the Centre buildings stand, is a small haven with amazing views across the Radcliffe Reach of the River Thames, where in the past famous mariners such as Sir William Burrough and Martin Frobisher left on voyages of adventure and discovery. In 1976 local parents and community leaders had the vision and determination to start the transformation from what was a derelict dock into a Outdoor Centre now providing the widest range of adventurous activities available in cental London.

How can you help?

If 150 people raised or donated £2 a week it would make a huge difference to our fundraising efforts. Donations can be made directly on our page at www.cafonline.org. We are also registered on the Charity Aid Foundation's "Give as you Earn" scheme with a registration number of 000456246. Many companies will also match what employees donate so why not check out how you can get your employer involved in making a contribution.

If you have any ideas on how to support the Centre or would like any further information please get in touch at info@shadwell-basin.org.uk or give us a call on 020 7481 4210. Thank you for your help.

How to find us:

Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre 3-4 Shadwell Pierhead Glamis Road London E1W 3TD

Nearest bus 100 or D3 Nearest station Shadwell DLR or Wapping East London Line Overground

