## NO PLACE CAN BE DESCRIBED THROUGH A SINGLE STORY

Come and explore a variety of voices describing life in East London. Hear the unique perspectives of people of different experiences, ages and stages.

Visit magicme.co.uk/rooms-with-a-view-exhibition/ to discover audio and images to support this exhibition

A living archive of the stories and experiences of local people has been gathered over nine months, in a unique project, led by intergenerational arts organisation, Magic Me. This exhibition reveals a sample of the diverging and shared responses to life in East London.

'Rooms with a View' has involved more than 100 people of all ages from the East End. A core group, including local older women, and students from Mulberry School for Girls, collected and shared stories and personal histories relating to the experience of living in East London. Many of the stories formed the basis of an immersive theatre production, 'Speak as You Find', and this exhibition continues the sharing of the local voices.

'Rooms with a View' was led by Magic Me's
Associate artist Sue Mayo, and Raj Bhari from Talk
for a Change, with Sound artist Dan Scott, Designer
Amanda Mascarenhas, and Actor Tas Emiabata.
Exhibition designed by Sian Rance at D.R. ink.

Add your voice! Tweet #RoomswithaView with your experience of living in East London













Of recent years I have fallen out of
love with you. With growing numbers
and rudeness I feel I have lost the London
I once knew. You will always be my home,
with my family here, but I think I need a
break... I hope when I return you will have
re-gained some of the charm I know you
have – I look forward to that day...

Feeling young and invincible. Gazing out to Tower Bridge and feeling in awe of the life I had begun to forge. My childhood friend Tom (best friend since Reception class at school!) telling stories of his life as a tugboat captain bound for Amsterdam. Trying to spot police boats and inventing crimes of the water to solve. Those soft, warm moments where you catch yourself completely content and yourself.

## LIVING IN LONDON TO STAY OR GO?



Well they say now that they are going to move people off to the Southeast. I don't think there will be anything there at all, nothing.

"This is what your flats will look like, big beautiful new flats!" They give you free transport all the way there; dump you on some side of the road. What's there? Could be flats there, could be nothing. And they'll be certain to put you out of range of mobiles. That way they make certain it's hard to get back. And you may find it's impossible to carry on. The freedom pass is due to expire; 31st March 2019.

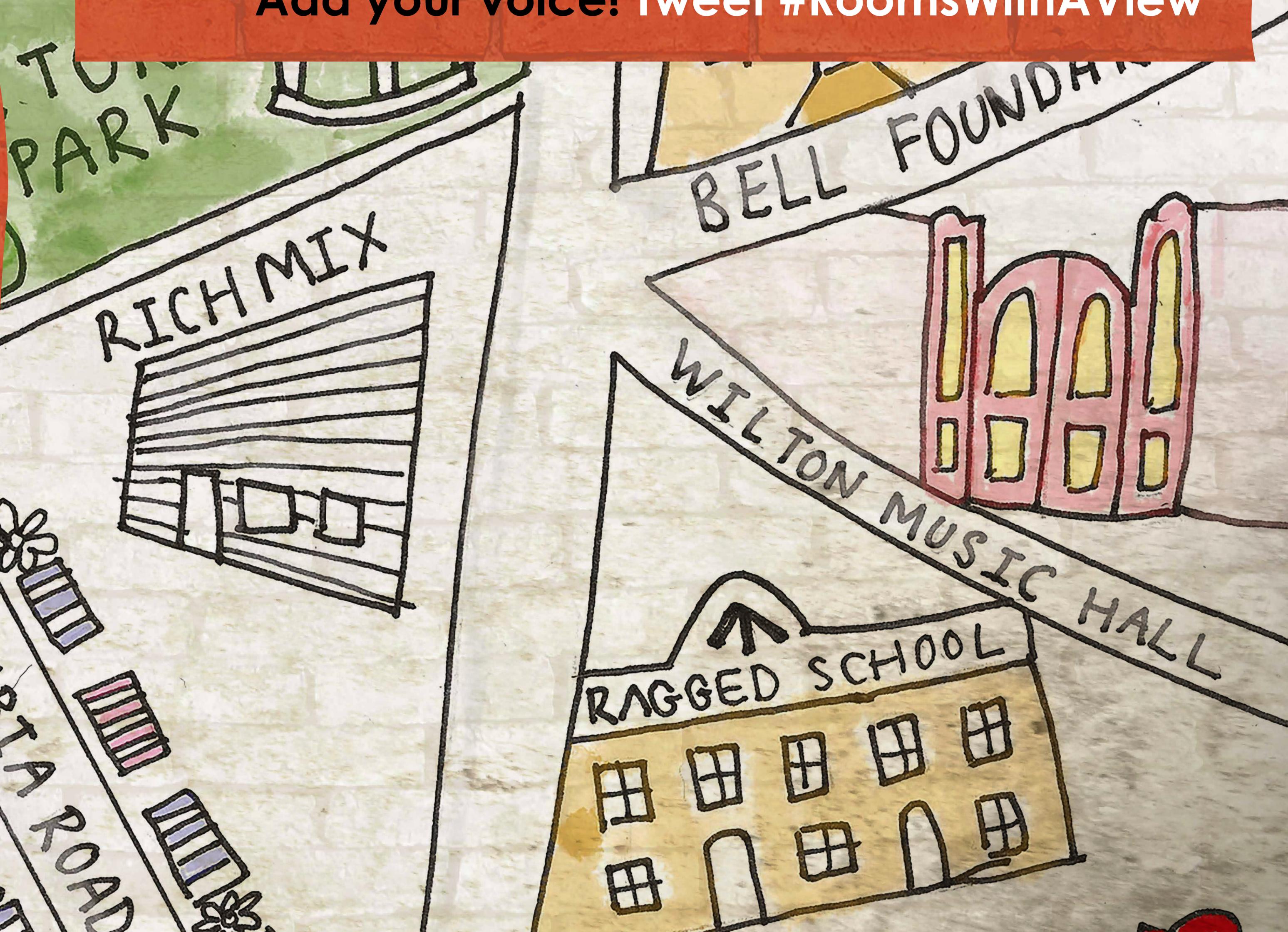
I remember staring at my family's faces at the airport; stopping myself from running back to hug them. I set off to follow the footsteps of others who came to London. Tower Hamlets, you are akin to an eternal mother who keeps on embracing. I read nursing, Psychology and Social work. I have volunteered full time for 4 years. Through you, I have achieved solace and a great sense of self worth. I feel loved and a worthy human being because of you.

I've sung in many choirs. We're very much a community, we're almost like a family and I think it's almost more so than where I live, because I don't think there's any community there, not now. We tend to look after each other and things like family do. If any of us is feeling a bit down or are ill we send each other cards and look after each other generally. I quite like it.

Fveryone around my area is really friendly, likes each other, knows each other. Mostly it's all like Bengalis but there's also some young Christian people. And they mix together with us and we talk with them and communicate really well. There's no awkwardness and no other doubt. We have like a little park and boys come and play football and the girls are chatty. When I first moved I didn't know anyone. But now I want to always stay in Stepney Green. Wherever you go you make friends instantly.

## IS THERE STILL A SENSE OF COMMUNITY?

Add your voice! Tweet #RoomsWithAView





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