

MYLONDON

2019 CALENDAR



COVER 2019 MyLondon calendar Summer Style, TOWER BRIDGE

This dog was photographed by Goska Calik on Tower Bridge. Can you see the reflection of Tower Bridge in the sunglasses? Goska says the dog was with a Roma woman who was busking, playing music on an accordion.

Arriving in London eight years ago, Goska found herself homeless when she lost her job due to illness. After sofa-surfing for several months she was finally directed to Crisis where she was helped to find a place to live. Originally from Poland, she has been involved with the MyLondon Photo project since 2015.

Goska is now working as a support worker with people with mental health problems. She goes to Cardboard Citizens, a homelessness support organisation where she participated in photography and a dance workshop. She is a member of the Café Art RPS photography mentoring project and in early October 2018 had a photograph exhibited with Café Art's exhibition in Geneva at the United Nations. [154 words]



JANUARY in 2019 MYLONDON calendar STREET ART STRUT, PENGE

James Robson took this shot of a his friend “Small Money” posing in front of a mural by London artist Mr Cenz on Southey Street in Penge, south east London.

He was born in Camberwell, grew up in New Cross and is now living in Lewisham.

He is studying photography at Crisis with Jeff Hubbard, which is how he heard about the contest. He got into the top 20 finalists in 2015 - this is the first time he’s got a photo in the calendar. [103 words]



FEBRUARY in 2019 MY**LONDON** calendar CANAL SILHOUETTE, HACKNEY

This shot of a barge moving along Regent's Canal in Hackney, east London, was taken by Michelle Goldberg. "I liked the reflection. It was at dusk and the sun was going down. It's very nice silhouettes. Very graphic."

"I'm a Londoner. I was born here. My family have been here four generations, possibly five. My grandparents were in the markets." Michelle has a long term medical condition and lives in temporary accommodation. "They've got an eviction notice now, but fortunately Crisis are helping us."

Michelle's background is in the Arts: "I did my bachelors' at Kingston School of Art and then I worked for a year in the West End and then I went to the Royal College of Art in Kensington – Fashion Department... I grew up in the industry. London's a really wonderful, colourful, inspiring, creative place for people. This project is kind of bringing back some of that spirit of London, albeit in an ironic situation."



MARCH in 2019 MYLONDON calendar BRICK LANE OCTO-BRAIN,
WHITECHAPEL

Photographer Mc Ginlay says that street is tucked away behind Brick Lane. She says the monsters and aliens in it are vivid and colourful: "it's a little bit psychedelic!" She saw it a couple of days before I got the camera and thought "Right! When I get the camera I need to get a shot of this!"

She is a member of Crisis and Cardboard Citizens. "Crisis has been fantastic," adding that they diagnosed her dyslexia which wasn't detected in school, foster care and homeless hostels.

Mc Ginlay is a member of Cardboard Citizens and a volunteer journalist for the Pavement magazine, writing articles and poetry and doing illustrations for them. "I've come a long way since the days of being homeless. While I was doing this photo I came across a few homeless people. Part of me was thinking "how many people would have used this bridge as shelter?" [151 words]



APRIL in 2019 MYLONDON calendar
THE PAINTER, CAMDEN TOWN

This was taken by Husna Lohiya on Chalk Farm Road. “He said he was with a group of people who had just ‘opened’ that building [as a squat]. He was covered in paint because they had just had a giant paint fight.”

“They were opening it for people to come and do art projects, for people to come and say what they need, to become like a community centre.” Husna knows a lot of people in the London squatting community.

While it is illegal to take over empty residential houses, office buildings can be occupied by squatters. “Squats are made up of homeless people, so when one opens up it attracts people who have got nowhere else to stay. There are more than a million empty buildings across the UK and a fairer way needs to be found to use them to provide for housing for those in need.” Husna is currently sofa surfing and doing Henna body art to earn an income. [163 words]

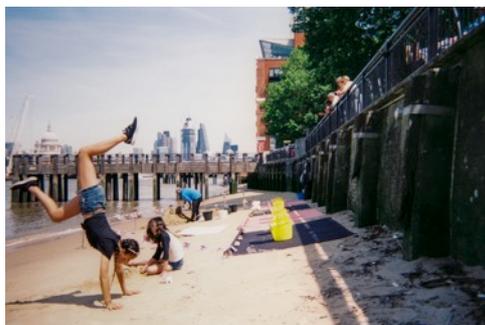


MAY in 2019 MYLONDON calendar MONSTER BUBBLES, SOUTH KENSINGTON

Dee Allison, who goes to the Passage Charity near Victoria Station, took this shot outside the V&A museum. "This man was making bubbles and amusing the children. I had to hide behind the building to get into the shade because I was taking it into direct sunlight. I like it. It's just flowing."

Dee arrived in London in 2009 to work as a carer after her husband retired in Durban, South Africa, but they still needed income. She came over for six months a year, until tragedy struck and she became homeless. "Three years ago one of my clients was falling and broke my hand. I'm having two operations. I never had accommodation because I was a live-in carer." Dee now rents privately in Raines Park."

"I'm trying to get my husband over from South Africa. He's 75. I've just applied for his passport and he should get it soon. We've been married 50 years." [155 words]



JUNE in 2019 MYLONDON calendar THAMES BEACH, SOUTHWARK

Paul McGrail, took this shot of a beach on the south bank of the Thames between the National and Globe Theatres. "As I was walking along I noticed the people. It was almost like a coastal beach in the sense that people were making sand castles. In a way it's a shame the river is not used more for that purpose."

Paul used to go to Crisis regularly and now spends most of his time in a "house of hospitality" in Finsbury Park. "This community house 20 asylum seekers. People who are waiting for a decision by the Home Office whether or not they can stay or not... They're not allowed to work. They're not allowed to sign on. We have a church that's been given to us plus a house."



JULY 2019
COOLING OFF
WESTMINSTER

David Bastin took this shot of one of the fountains in Trafalgar Square after visiting the National Gallery on a very hot day. "I saw all those people there from the Hari Krisna Festival. I thought I'd move amongst the people and take a few photos. I was envious of the man who was soaking his feet! I thought what a good idea. I wished it was me."

He was born in Reading but says he spent a lot of time abroad. "I got into a bit of a scrape in 2013 and became homeless. Crisis helped me get a deposit and helped me find a flat in Golders Green."

"I'm an artist and love abstract art", says David who goes to the art group in Crisis Skylight. "I've just started attending a poetry group and I'm saving up money to go to India. I went there in 1998, to Kashmir, Nepal and Goa. I will probably go back to Goa. I really liked Goa."



AUGUST in 2019 MYLONDON calendar Street portrait, CAMDEN

Photographer Stephanie Griffiths asked her friend and neighbour Michael “if he’s up for being photographed and he flicked his finger and said ‘Yeah sure! Let’s do it!’ We grabbed this chair and little statue and headed to Camden High Street. The statue is from my living room - I call him my flatmate, he is always smiling. He cheers me up every day.”

Stephanie came to London from north Wales 40 years ago to study animation. She experienced homelessness when she split up with her ex partner. After finding a flat in Kentish Town her landlord evicted everyone. When One Housing offered a place in their Camden Town hostel she thought because she is transgender it could be difficult. However Stephanie says she has had no problems at all and has now lived there for four years.

Her passion is to work as a model and make live puppet shows for adults and teenagers. “I have written six scripts. Toilet humour. Dinner party entertainment, with shadow puppets.” [167 words]



SEPTEMBER 2019

Tate Britain pose

PIMLICO

Jane Donovan went to Tate Britain with her daughter Finn, 21, for this shot. “I got her to be my model for a few photos. That’s her sketchbook in her hand, not a device! She’s a really keen artist.”

Jane volunteers with the Passage and through them she got an invited to Cardboard Citizens. “I was homeless in 1986 and then from 1989 to 1991. I was couch surfing and then lived in a hostel. I got pregnant and then I was housed as a result. I was really lucky - that’s the girl I was homeless with.”

“I really enjoy doing the voluntary work I’m doing at the Passage. It’s different now [being homeless] as now you can’t even squat. We [squatted] a council block in Hackney. We built up whole communities.” Jane is currently looking for work. “I live in a council flat in Camden – I’m very lucky.” [150 words]



OCTOBER in 2019 MyLondon calendar CURIOSITY SHOP, PORTOBELLO ROAD

Michael Crosswaite took this shot in Alice's on Portobello Road, west London. "As soon as I saw that mirror, I had to take it," he says.

Michael lives in a Peabody Estate flat near Broadway Market, Hackney. He was sleeping rough for several years before getting into a hostel and then a flat. He goes to Providence Row's Dellow Centre and 240 Project and has paintings in Café Art's Art in Cafés programme.

He likes making music and over the years learned to play a few musical instruments, "sometimes busking up a few quid when necessary." He is now volunteering in community projects which use music in their programmes including Sing to Live which brings people together for group singing sessions. Michael says he finds this very rewarding. He also set up regular weekly jam sessions at the Providence Row Dellow Hostel in East London. "When I'm not doing that I'm painting, painting, painting."



NOVEMBER 2019
HOME MADE PIES
DEPTFORD

“That photo is of a father and son who own a wonderful meat shop at the top of the High Street in Deptford on Tanners Hill Road,” says José Bell. “They’ve been there since the 1800s. The same family.” The name of the shop is Well Beloved. They are home made pies by that family. They actually sell out quite quickly most days. They’re very well known in that neighbourhood.”

Was born in Argentina, went to school in Torquay, Devon, and grew up in Matagami, northern Quebec, Canada. He arrived in the UK in 2014.

“I was ‘urban camping’ for two years until the end of 2017,” says José. He now has his own room, living in shared accommodation with six other people. “Lewisham council finally came through – it’s a beautiful property, a large kitchen and living room.” He can’t work as still going through “medical stuff” so is on ESA (the disability benefit). [154 words]



DECEMBER in 2019 MYLONDON calendar St Paul's Flare, CITY OF LONDON

David Fussell says the sun was in the right location over St Paul's. "These plastic lens [in the disposable camera] give a perfect refraction of light."

David, who also had a photo of a phone box in the 2018 calendar, is still sleeping rough. A film maker, his is passion is to fund a full-length film Mystic Demon Killer. The film is now completed and he's asking for funding online from the public: "Things are progressing because of my Patreon website funding my film."

David is hopeful for the future. "One of my three photos that I chose for the main exhibition is of a cabin cruiser on the canal and that's my dream for where I want to live in London." [122 words]



[Inside Front Cover] Notting Hill colours by Saffron Saidi

Near Notting Hill. Terraced House where there's a lot of brightly coloured exteriors. I was looking for houses that were brightly painted in London and this was one of the locations. I liked the painted door and the shadows. Cooltan Arts has closed down and I'm hoping to be involved with a project called Photo Fussion starting in October. Member of RPS mentoring group.