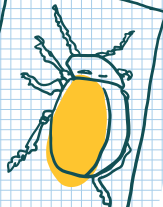
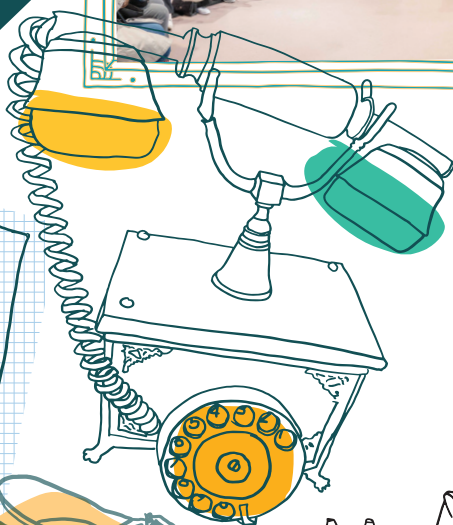


**Hello! Thank you for picking up this zine.**

# **It has been created to tell the story of Museum of Enfield's recent Object Stories project.**

Object Stories gave us the opportunity to include more items and stories into the Museum's collection that reflected Enfield's diverse communities. At the same time, we made the collection publicly available on a digital platform for the first time.

Keep reading to find out more...



# WHERE DID WE GO (AND WHO DID WE MEET)

We wanted to make sure that we spoke to as many different people from Enfield's diverse communities as possible.

To help us do this, our Black Culture Advisors Cellina Momodu Doswell and Lorna Graham were an invaluable resource. They connected us to new communities, encouraged people to get involved and shaped how the project progressed.

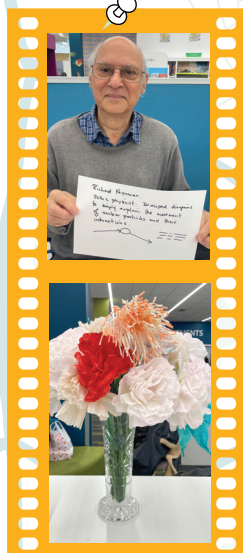
We made an effort to go to the spaces, events and places where the communities that we wanted to engage with were based. Thank you to everyone that we met during our travels who gave us such a warm welcome.

To everyone that we spoke to, who shared their personal stories, who donated or loaned an object, or who got involved in cataloguing the collection: thank you.

## We visited:

### TRINITY CHURCH

- MHA Communities (North London) hosted Niburu Podcast Session
- MHA Communities (North London) Lunch



### GREEN TOWERS

- Celebrating Congolese Rumba with CAYE (Central African Youth in Enfield)
- Pennine & Mendip Community Event by Community Impact (North London and Central)
- Enfield Caribbean Association Luncheon



### DUGDALE ARTS CENTRE

- REACT (Residents of Edmonton Angel Community Together) Object Collection Event II
- Home from Home Exhibition Celebration
- The Things We Keep Exhibition Celebration



### EDMONTON GREEN LIBRARY

- Somali Culture Celebration by Community Hubs and Samafal
- Community Connected Event by Community Hubs
- Festive Shindig Tea & Toast by Community Hubs
- Pop-up Cultural Celebration with Britanya Alevi, African Health Policy Network, Gypsy Roma Travellers and Pride of Romany



### FORE STREET LIBRARY

- REACT (Residents of Edmonton Angel Community Together) Object Collection Event
- Do You Mean Business? Workshop by BIPC and Enfield Libraries

## WHAT STORIES DID WE HEAR?

We learned so much from the engagement that took place as part of this project. Following on from these conversations, in total 91 objects were loaned or donated to the Museum's collection. Each one came with a unique and personal story.

To learn more, we asked people to fill in an Object Passport about their item, which brought some of these stories to the forefront. The Object Passport asked questions like:

What is the object?

How old is it?

Where and who is it from?

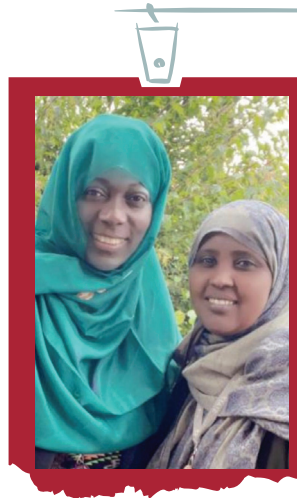
Does it contain a special memory?



Because the people we met were so generous, we received so many amazing things - from pineapple-shaped ice buckets and Nigerian wooden head carvings, through to bouquets of paper flowers and

precious photographs. Dionne John from the Black Heritage Hub even created an interactive installation based around a typical front room of an Enfield-based Afro-Caribbean family.

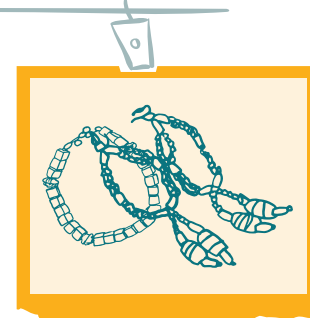
You can read about just a few of the incredible objects we encountered below. Thank you to everyone who shared their time, stories and treasured possessions with us.



"This scarf was gifted to me in 2022 by my good friend Sadiya who is from Somalia. She taught me how to put on the scarf and introduced me to Somali tea which I think is fantastic."  
*Dionne & Sadiya's story*



"This Garrard watch was given to me in 1992 for 25 years of service at [electronics company] Thorn at the company's annual presentation event by the Managing Director. I am very pleased to have contributed to the company and worked with my comrades in Enfield."  
*Wilfred's story*



"Feel the warmth of my memories as I share my story through my cherished cloth and earrings. As I braved the cold together with my now late husband, we found home in a community that embraced us... worn proudly by Ghanaian women during warmer seasons. Outside of our homeland."  
*Caroline's story*





# OUR EXHIBITIONS

Through conversations with members of the community, two potential themes for larger exhibitions started to appear, allowing us to showcase some of the brilliant new objects we had received and reconsider items from the collection in a new light.

The first one was titled Home from Home and explored what home means to the people of Enfield, told through residents' personal objects and stories of memories, journeys, working lives, social lives, and making home. Thank you to our project partners REACT and Black Heritage Hub.

The second exhibition was called The Things We Keep and it gave residents from Enfield's communities the opportunity to share the stories behind personal objects that hold deep meaning in their lives.

Thank you to Caroline & Emily, Cellina, Charlie & Henry, Diane, Dionne, Eda, Hilda, Hyacinth, Kaltun, Keith, Lorna, Marie, Maureen, Patsy, Pearline, Phil, Phillip, Rosey, Ruth & Margaret, Sylvia, Tania, Timea and Wilfred for loaning or donating your objects.



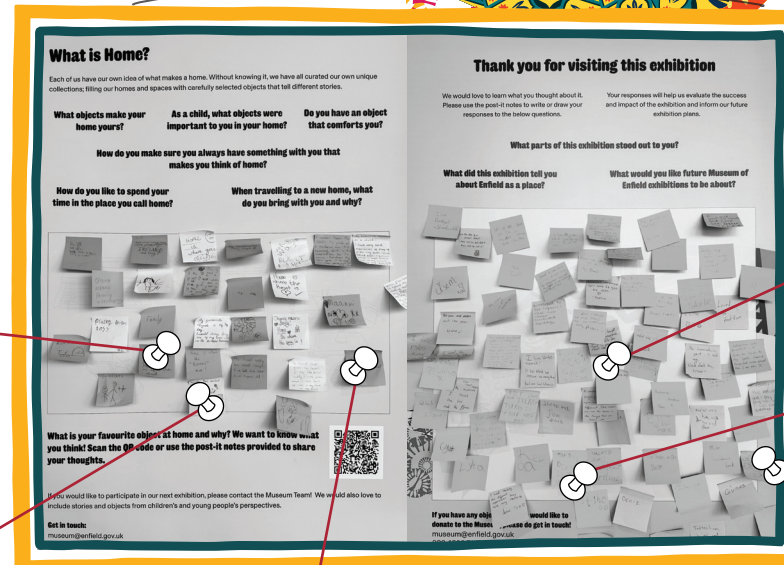


# WHAT DOES HOME MEAN TO YOU? WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT THE THINGS YOU KEEP?

During both the exhibitions and at the events that we attended, we asked people questions about their understanding of home and the importance of the things that we keep.

Through pictures, poems, comments and thoughts, you shared so many things with us! Some of which you can see over the next couple of pages. All of your contributions enriched our understanding of Enfield.

We learned that:



“Home can be a community centre, or a football stadium, or a school....”

“The things we keep give us a sense of comfort, of belonging, of safety....”

Home is more than a roof over your head it's a place where you feel happy and safe.

I like to eat mummy home cooked food. my favourite toy is a barbie doll.  
leigh-ann

“The things we keep might not mean a lot to many people, but they can mean everything to us”

I spend time by socialising with my family and friends. I read my books and I enjoy arts and crafts. Home is the best!  
ocean

“The things we keep tell stories that other people can relate to”

Wonderful to see Enfield's vast and varied cultural heritage.

“Home is where we spend time together”

“Home is as much a feeling as it is a place”

Lovely trip down memory lane. Well curated!  
Thanks

## OPENING UP THE COLLECTION

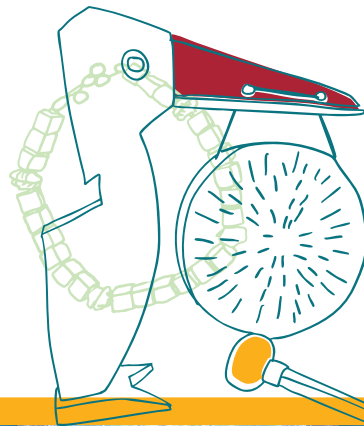
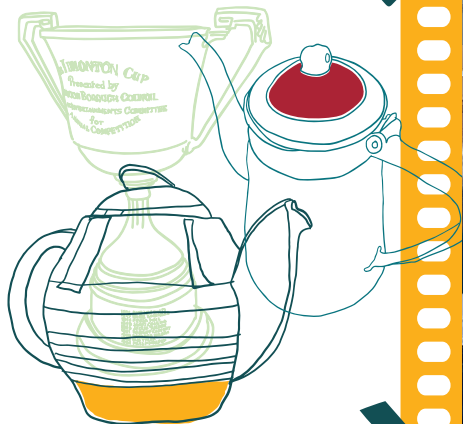
Alongside finding new objects, the Object Stories project also gave us the opportunity to develop a new digital Collection Management System (CMS).

In the past you could only search the Museum's collection by rummaging through index cards and spreadsheets. The new CMS means that the Museum's collection is now

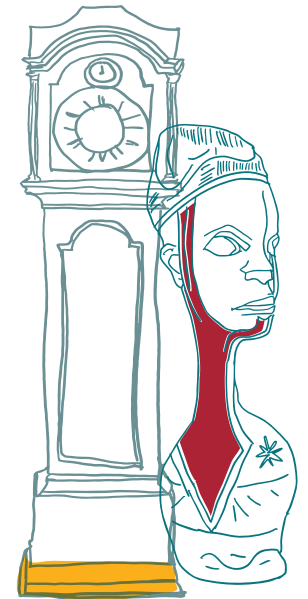
digital and available online, accessible to everyone and being added to all the time.

We couldn't have done this work without the tireless support of 16 volunteers, who helped us classify, interpret and photograph over 6,000 objects. Thank you Clare, Gabriella, Piers and Sofia among others.

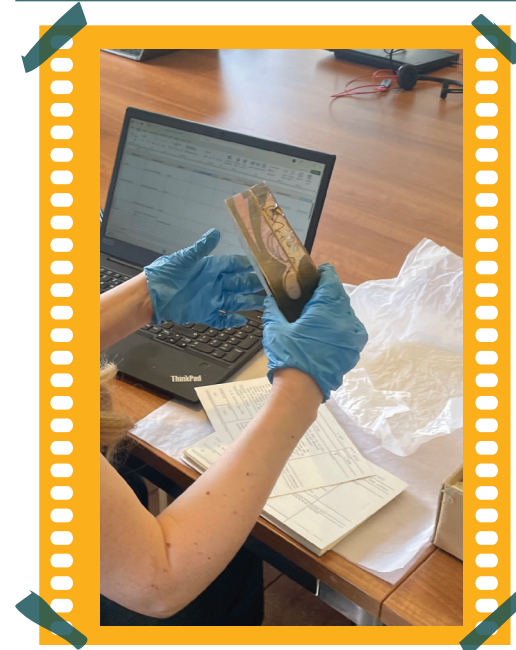
“When it comes to the collection, we haven't really scratched the surface. One object can have, like, six or seven different themes and narratives: it's so multi-layered.” - Volunteer



You can search the Museum collection right now by scanning the QR code below or by clicking the link on the Museum page on the Dugdale Arts Centre website.



“Digitising the collection is a big plus, helping us see what we have and where the gaps are.” - Black Culture Advisor





# BUILDING NEW SKILLS

Whenever you try something new, you are bound to learn new things. This project was no different.

We asked some of the people we met, who donated or loaned objects or who volunteered what they learned while taking part in this project:

Of course, the Museum of Enfield team also learned a lot from this project. We will take all of these lessons and use them to shape the future strategy of the Museum: what we do, how we do it, why we do it and who we do it with.

"We need to be confident that if any person from Enfield goes into the Museum or visits one of our off-site exhibitions, that they see something that they can relate to."

"Each community needs something unique and different. An important learning has been knowing when to ask for advice, guidance and help."

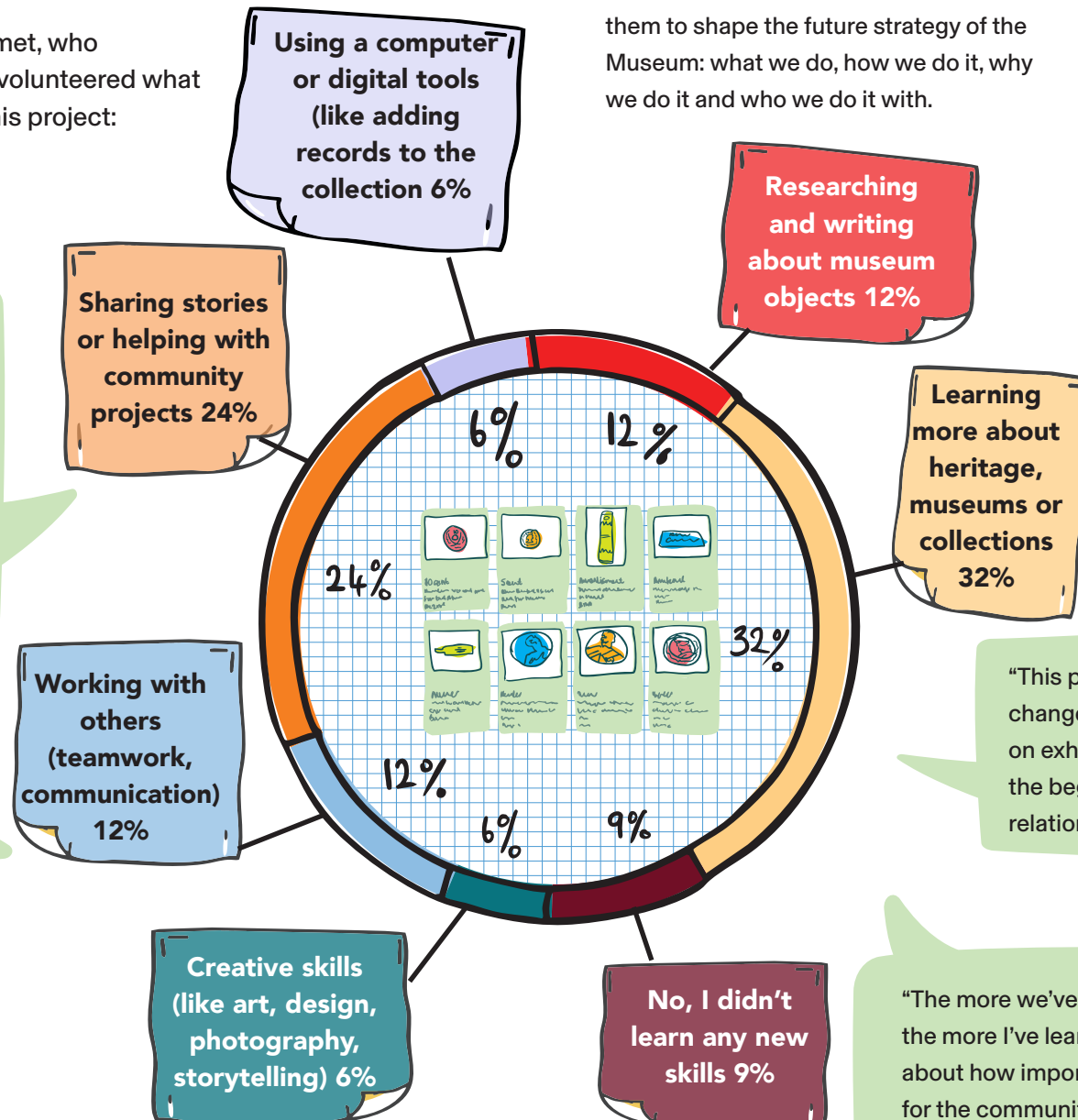
"This project has completely changed how we think about putting on exhibitions... I'm hoping this is just the beginning of a wonderful new relationship with our communities."

"The more we've done, the more I've learned about how important it is for the community to feel fully represented."

"Venturing out and explaining the project in community-led spaces built trust and interest in the Museum."

"I've really felt like I have remembered how to feel useful outside of being a Mum, which I think is a common thing for women who've been out of the job market for a while. I had these skills that I had forgotten about - it's been great rediscovering them!"  
Volunteer

"[This project] has changed how I look at other Museum's collections and exhibitions. I'm now thinking about how I can be inspired, and looking at them with a critical eye." - Volunteer



# SOME BIG NUMBERS

## So what happened, in a nutshell?

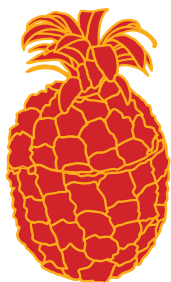
Objects that were  
loaned or donated  
through this  
project: 01

91



Related exhibitions  
of objects and  
stories that took  
place at Dugdale  
Arts Centre:

2

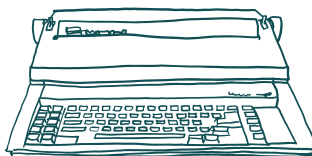


The Things We Keep  
exhibition - **53**  
objects

53

Home from Home  
exhibition - **38**  
objects

38



Community  
events Museum  
of Enfield  
participated in  
for this project:

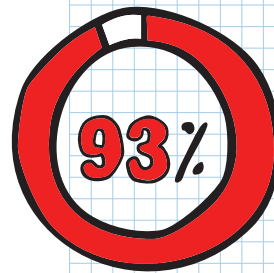
18

Percentage of people surveyed who felt this project was “meaningful for myself and my community”

Approximate conversations  
with members of the  
community about this  
project:

471

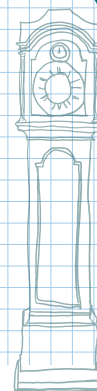
87%



Percent of people surveyed who felt they “made a difference” by taking part in this project

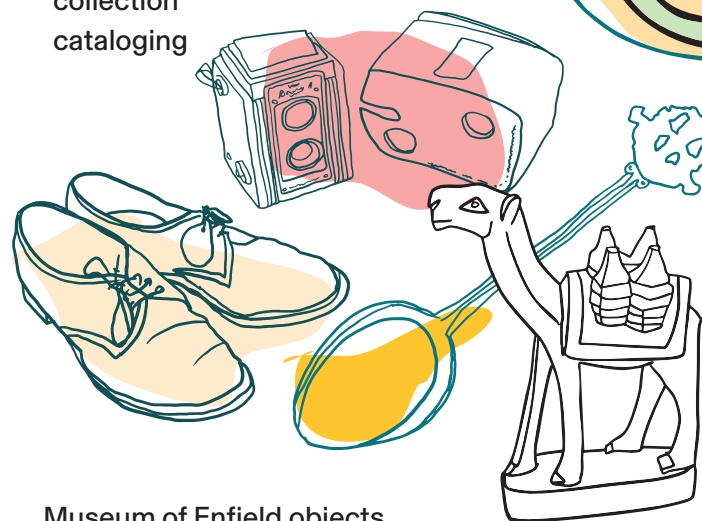
Newly recruited  
volunteers  
involved in  
Museum  
collection  
cataloging

15



Percentage of people surveyed who felt “proud” to share their story, skills or heritage:

(76%



Exhibition  
feedback post-it  
notes received

133

Museum of Enfield objects  
catalogued:

6092





# AN INVITATION...

We're always on the lookout for new stories, new objects and passionate people who would like to get involved with the Museum of Enfield.

If you have an object to donate, or you'd like to volunteer, get in touch by emailing [museum@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:museum@enfield.gov.uk), ringing 020 4526 7117 or scanning the below QR code.

We can't wait to hear from you!



## **Museum Team**

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Marina Arbelbide

## **Zine Design**

[www.blossomcarrasco.com](http://www.blossomcarrasco.com)

## **Photographs taken by**

Natalie Gee,  
Marina Arbelbide and  
Jamie Reece

