



QM STUDENT NEWSLETTER



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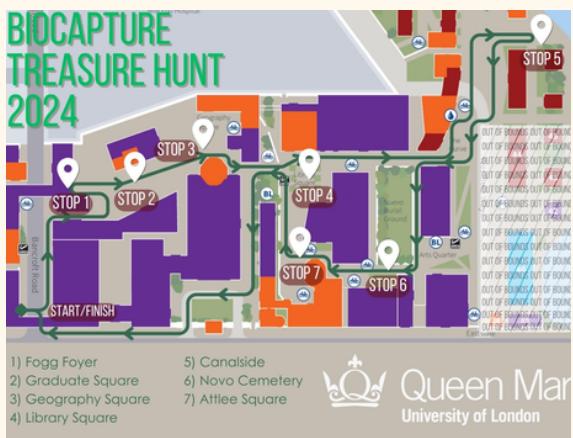
## Welcome to BioCapture!

WRITTEN BY KHAALI AHMED

We are pleased to present to you BioCapture, the student-run project with the mission to raise awareness of biodiversity in Tower Hamlets. An enthusiastic group of students from different academic backgrounds are putting a lot of effort into bridging our community's gap with the natural environment.

Thrilled to share an exciting initiative we recently organized as part of our science communication efforts through biocapture, our student-led public awareness project! As part of Freshers Week, we held a treasure hunt across campus, introducing new students to our platform. It was an engaging way to promote our biocapture website, and each of us shared insights into our individual projects, explaining the purpose behind this initiative. We gave out some awesome branded tote bags, and it was great fun watching the students tackle quizzes to earn points. Of course, the winners didn't leave empty-handed – we had some exciting prizes for them! Overall, was a fantastic opportunity to engage with students and build awareness about the work we're doing with biocapture.





## More on Welcome Week!

### Student Voices



*"I never realized how much biodiversity existed right here on campus! The treasure hunt opened my eyes to all the natural spaces we have access to."*

**Sarah, First Year Biology Student**



*"The way BioCapture combined learning about local wildlife with fun activities made the whole experience memorable. Plus, the sustainable tote bag is now my favorite accessory!"*

**James, First year Biology Student**



*"As someone interested in mental health, learning about the connection between green spaces and wellbeing during Welcome Week was fascinating."*

**Priyal, Psychology Student**

**During the treasure hunt teams made their way through a number of hotspots for biodiversity, such as:**

- ⇒ The Fogg Building foyer, where they spotted a flying fox and other live animals
- ⇒ Graduate Square, where they brainstormed ways to make the green space more study-friendly
- ⇒ Geography Square, where they listened to a piece of classical music about an insect
- ⇒ The Canalside area, where they identified items that could be upcycled or repurposed
- ⇒ The Novo Cemetery, where they learned about the religious and cultural background of those buried there
- ⇒ Attlee Square, where they tested their memory of the BioCapture team members and their projects

### Influence and Accomplishment

Our efforts throughout Welcome Week produced: Over 30 new student sign-ups for BioCapture initiatives, 10 new student volunteers joining our projects, Multiple biodiversity spots mapped and documented, and distribution of 115 sustainable biocapture badges and totes

### Looking Forward

The achievement of Welcome Week has established a solid basis for our next endeavours. We have already considered follow-up activities, such as:  
Walks for biodiversity every month,  
Gatherings for communal gardening  
Joint research initiatives with new participants for our third year projects

In terms of encouraging community involvement with local biodiversity, Welcome Week went above and beyond our expectations. Everyone on our team has been stimulated by the new students' enthusiasm, which has also generated new ideas for upcoming initiatives. Their opinions have already improved our understanding of how students desire to engage with nature in urban environments.

*A special thank you to all of the freshers who enthusiastically participated, as well as to our team of ten volunteers who made this week possible!*



# MEET THE TEAM

## **Evie Walker:**

Evie is creating an informative video about the biology of bees, promising an engaging and educational resource for our community.



## **Mehnaaz Khan:**

Mehnaaz is creating a mini-booklet for the BAME community on how biodiversity supports mental and neurological health, using survey insights and scientific research on the benefits of green spaces

## **Querene Lelo:**

Querene is putting together a wellness journal for students, packed with tips on local medicinal plants and activities for enjoying green spaces.

## **Sitasma Wagle:**

Sitasma is working on a project related to wildflowers, creating an activity book. This project aims to educate and engage people with the diverse world of wildflowers in our local ecosystems.

## **Ana Luiza Oliveira:**

Ana is creating a playlist with original sounds (e.g., animal noises, water sounds from the canal) that can help with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). She is investigating how different summer associated sounds influence feelings of relaxation and general well-being and has created a survey

## **COMPLETE HER SURVEY DOWN BELOW**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehmlji98Z1gr-pHT8uW45sJsHCWETBRH-Bd2hBANU1HYH4yA/viewform>



## **Shariqa Islam:**

Shariqa is producing a three-episode podcast series titled "Navigating Neurodiversity at University." The series will explore personal experiences, academic perspectives, and student experiences related to neurodiversity.

## **Hanan Ibrahim:**

Hanan is developing a section of the website focused on plants for health, providing valuable information on the medicinal properties of various plants.

## **Aliya Garraway:**

Aliya is focusing on increasing public engagement with BioCapture. She's researching social media strategies, generating content ideas, and creating a content calendar to keep our community informed and engaged.

## **Lenka Petrovic:**

Lenka is planning to create a blog post on the impact of biodiversity on mental health.

## **Alex Sparkes:**

Alex is exploring ways to engage the public with QM Canalside's wildlife. He's writing up entries for the website on the canal's history and biodiversity. Additionally he is partaking in a podcast with Dr Rose

## **Sara Awes:**

Sara is creating a video showcasing different plants found in parks that can be used for healing purposes.

## **Joshua McCarthy:**

Joshua is conducting research into how a healthy urban ecosystem has a noticeable positive impact on people.

# BIOCAPTURE WORDSEARCH

I	T	B	E	L	H	P	S	E	E	B	A	R	O	D
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C	B	L	G	N	V	I	L	L	G	B	A	R	V	S
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## KEY WORDS :

bees,  
community,  
mental,

Biocapture ,  
engagement ,  
plants,

Biodiversity ,  
green,  
public ,

canal,  
medicinal,  
wellness,



For more information go to  
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