

IN FOCUS **STRATFORD AND WEST HAM**

October 2011

REMEMBER, REMEMBER: FIREWORKS CAN DESTROY LIVES

A crackdown has been launched in Stratford and West Ham on fireworks that can potentially maim for life. Newham Council's Trading Standards officers are carrying out a series of raids on shops that illegally sell them to minors in the run-up to Bonfire Night.

Some of the fireworks are powerful enough to blow off fingers, officers say.

With 5 November fast approaching the council is warning shopkeepers they could face a £5,000 fine and/or six months' imprisonment.

Trading Standards officers are visiting licensed stores to make sure that safety is being maintained. They are reminding retailers that it is an offence to sell fireworks, including sparklers, to anyone aged under 18. Officers are also carrying out undercover test purchase operations.

Community lead councillor Richard Crawford said: "We want everyone to enjoy Guy Fawkes' Night safely. Fireworks are explosives and many people, mostly under the age of 16, are injured each year because they misuse them. We urge young people to follow advice and stay within the law."



Fireworks can not be sold to anyone aged under 18

Officers are urging revellers to follow the Fireworks Code in order to have a safe and enjoyable fireworks night. They will provide free, confidential guidance to any retailer who wishes to comply with

legal requirements.

Members of the public spotting fireworks being sold illegally should immediately contact Consumer Direct on 01622 626520.

CONTACT US

If your group has an activity to promote please contact us on: 020 3373 2684 or email infocus@newham.gov.uk

Newham London

Cash is no longer king



Newham Council is introducing less expensive, quicker and more convenient ways for people to interact with it. As part of this, the council is proposing to remove all council cash offices by the end of the year.

If you usually pay by cash, the council is providing guidance and support on alternative ways to pay. These include telephone and internet banking by debit or credit card or standing order. Free internet access is available in all Newham's libraries.

Customers who use Allpay cards will still be able to make cash payments for rent and Council Tax at any post office or retail outlet that displays the PayPoint symbol.

Easy to use self-serve kiosks which make payment transactions easier and quicker have been installed in the newly refurbished Canning Town Library, with Manor Park, North Woolwich, Green Street and The Gate Library next in line for the new technology later this year.

Visit <http://www.newham.gov.uk/cashless> for more information.

Holden Point residents with their charity cash



CAKES FOR CANCER SUPPORT

Scrumptious cakes were on the menu at a fundraising event run by Holden Point Sheltered Housing Scheme. More than £720 was raised at the sale and all cakes were made or donated by residents at the Newham Council scheme.

More than 60 residents and neighbours enjoyed the event in the Residents' Lounge at Holden Point, Waddington Road. A raffle, tombola and a guess-the-weight-of-a-cake contest, donated by Centenary House Sheltered Scheme, kept residents

entertained. Later, everyone tucked into a barbecue in the communal garden, kindly donated by the Holden Point Residents' Association.

The well-supported event also raised awareness of the benefits of sheltered housing amongst the local community.

All proceeds will go to MacMillan Cancer Support, a charity which provides help for patients living at home with cancer. The nearby Community Road Community Centre held a tea party also which raised more than £200 for the same charity.

GOOD NEWS FOR ABBEY LANE CHILDREN'S CENTRE



(l-r) Centre staff Nasim Ahmed, Maria Xavier, Helen Rufai, Charlotte Webb and Sara Davis

Abbey Lane Children's Centre in Stratford has been praised by Ofsted after a recent inspection. The Children's Centre was judged to be 'good' with 'outstanding' elements. Ofsted found that the centre was outstanding in meeting the needs of the local community and in their partnership working with other agencies.

Ofsted said in their report: "We found that the staff are very skilled and knowledgeable about the care and education of young children.

"The quality of work that the centre does is good and the centre makes sure that the outcomes for families that attend are good.

The news was welcomed by the centre's hard-working staff, who intend to take the advice on board and continue to make improvements.

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL BUILDS BRIDGES

Thousands flocked to Westfield Stratford City's first community festival set in the centre's Chestnut Plaza.

The highlight of the recent day was when Stratford community groups created models, including bridges, from everyday materials. Meanwhile, Rokeby Community Links Hub, created an edible brick and biscuit extravaganza with an artist called Miss Cakehead and served it to a delighted audience for afternoon tea.

Community groups and visitors alike came together to help to make a giant model of the Westfield bridge using 350,000 Lego bricks.

Visitors to the festival were treated to a glimpse of Stratford's railway heritage as Albert the Signalman told stories from yesteryear and intrepid



The delicious biscuit bridge

tea ladies Flo and Mildred provided hot refreshments from their trolley. The Grand Union Orchestra came along to perform and Art Buskers, local illustrator Salvatore Rubbino and poet Joe Coelho helped members of the public

write poems on a massive blackboard.

Artists Dimitri Launder, Stephen Stockbridge, Miss Cakehead and Kally Laurence worked with the community groups prior to the festival to design and plan their bridge before the main event.



Winners are congratulated by Cllr McLean, centre, and Andrew Green at the Old Town Hall

WORDS ARE THE WRITE STUFF

Prizes were handed out to the winners of Right Here Write Now a Stratford and West Ham community forum competition to promote creative writing.

The competition was promoted across schools, libraries and community centres in the build-up to the Stratford Summer festival, held in August. The winning entries were decided by ACT Volunteer and writing enthusiast Andrew

Green, who was joined by Stratford and New Town councillor Charlene McLean at the prize giving ceremony at the Old Town Hall, Stratford.

The winners have been honoured with the role of ambassadors for the Spring 2012 competition and meet regularly to plan it - watch this space for more details and for how to get involved.

Spotlight on...Get ready to vote - Young Mayor elections 2011

There's been a record-breaking number of applicants competing for the chance to become Newham's next Young Mayor.

Fifty-one candidates are perfecting their public speaking and are canvassing their electorate to vote for them in elections taking place in secondary schools and colleges on Wednesday 2 November.

The hopefuls are out promoting what they stand for and, if elected, how they would improve the borough for young people.

Go online to meet this year's candidates and watch their video manifestoes by visiting www.newham.gov.uk/elections

This year's Young Mayor and Deputy Young Mayor will be announced



on Thursday 3 November; runners-up will become youth councillors. They represent all 11 to 18-year-olds who live or study in the borough voicing major issues and an opportunity to influence big decisions.

If you're aged 11 to 18 and live or study in Newham then vote in the election

on Wednesday 2 November. Polling stations will be located at secondary schools and colleges. Residents who study outside the borough can vote at Old Town Hall, Stratford, Broadway, E15, and Newham Town Hall, Barking Road, E6, by bringing proof of their name age and address.

Visit www.newham.gov.uk/elections to find out all you need to know about this year's campaign. Follow the Young Mayor on Twitter; [ym_newham](https://twitter.com/ym_newham)

WHAT'S ON STRATFORD AND WEST HAM

Vampirates

Come dressed as a Vampirate for a fancy dress competition as well as other treats
Vampirates performance Saturday 5 November, 3pm
Stratford Circus, Theatre Square, Stratford, London, E15 1BX
£7 for Newham residents (8 + years)
Family ticket £23
For more info visit www.stratford-circus.com or call 0844 357 2625

Literally learning

improve your written English at Hamilton Road Centre
Writing for fun
Tuesdays until 1-29 November, 7-9pm
Hamilton Road Centre,
1 Hamilton Road, E15
Cost £3 or free for benefit recipients
Call 020 3373 6508 or 020 373 9706 for details

For even more things to do check out the What's On in Newham calendar, where you'll find listings for more than 6,000 events visit www.newham.com

If your group has an activity to promote please contact us on: 020 3373 2684 or email: infocus@newham.gov.uk

MEET YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Councillors out and about: If you would like a councillor to visit your community organisation, school, place of worship, meeting or event please call 020 3373 6045 or email laura.beswick@newham.gov.uk
To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk e.g. richard.crawford@newham.gov.uk



Richard Crawford



Charlene McLean



Terry Paul



Freda Bourne



John Gray



Ron Manley

Stratford and Newtown Ward

Every Saturday
10.30am
St John's Church
Stratford Broadway, E15

West Ham Ward

Cllr Bourne
Second Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Rokeby Community Centre,
Rokeby Street, E15
Fourth Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Vicarage Lane Community Centre,
Vicarage Lane, E15

Cllr Gray
Third Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Rokeby Community Centre,

Rokeby Street, E15
Second Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Vicarage Lane Community Centre,
Vicarage Lane, E15

Cllr Manley
First Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Rokeby Children's Centre, Rokeby
Street, E15
Fourth Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Leather Gardens TA, 1st Floor,
Brassett Point, Abbey Road, Stratford, E15

Need to talk to Mayor Sir Robin Wales? Being an elected mayor, Sir Robin is directly accountable to you. Look out for Question Time times and dates in the Newham Mag, visit www.newham.gov.uk/mayor or call 020 3373 0437.