

Abzorb yourself



Try water zorbing at the spring festival

Bungee running, zumba (dance) workshops and Muay Thai boxing workshops are just some of the many great activities you can try out at the Royal Docks Spring Festival on Saturday 19 March from 12noon-4pm at Britannia Village Hall.

Mark it in your diary now and miss it at your peril: the FREE festival, Believe in Better, is brought to you by Newham Council and Britannia Village Hall.

Adrenalin junkies can try something new with water zorbing – walking on water in a transparent plastic orb, have a tumble in a sumo suit or test their speed and strength on the bungee run.

There will be plenty in the way of entertainment from stilt walkers to face painters and portrait artists. Britannia

Village Hall youth worker, Steve Allgood, is organising a Royal Docks Got Talent competition, so be prepared to be dazzled by up and coming local talent.

On the craft front, bring your creativity with you and take part in the batik, cake decorating, jewellery making or mother's day card making workshops.

For the footie fanatics, there's a football tournament open to all ages from 3.30-5.30pm. Just turn up on the day with your trainers and register.

Relax and unwind with a mini manicure and facial and don't forget to bring your wallet to pick up bargain plants, herbs and honey from the Folkestone Road Allotment stall.

Young people involved in the Britannia Voices project at Britannia

Village Hall have been working together with councillors to plan and shape the event and are working with community groups to bring you tasty treats in their international food market.

If you would like to take part in the Royal Docks Got Talent competition, call Steve Allgood on 0207 511 6118.

**Believe in Better
Saturday 19 March
12noon-4pm
Britannia Village Hall
65 Evelyn Road
West Silvertown, E16
Call 0800 519 4015 or email
community.forums@newham.gov.uk
for more information**



2011 Census is counting on us all

On 27 March every household must complete a 2011 Census questionnaire so that a detailed count of the whole country's population can be taken.

The census enables the Government and organisations like councils and health authorities to plan essential services.

You must give information about the people living or staying with you on that day, whether you fill in your questionnaire before, on, or after 27 March. You need to complete it online, or fill in the paper questionnaire and send it back as soon as you have completed it. The closing date is 6 April.

The Newham Census team is offering help to residents in completing the questionnaire. For a full list of the completion events visit www.newham.gov.uk/census

Locally a session is taking place on March 24 at North Woolwich Library, 5 Pier Parade, E16 from 3.30-7.30pm.

Correction

In page two of last month's In Focus it stated that the beaded jewellery classes at the Royal Dock Learning and Activities Centre are on Tuesdays. The jewellery classes are on held on Wednesdays from 10-11.30am. We apologise for any inconvenience.



Fight for Peace launch education course

Fight for Peace is building on its education programme by launching a second course that's open to young people aged 16-25 years leading to a valuable work experience, placements and qualifications.

The Pathways Module two Programme is a 20-week course following on from Fight for Peace's first course – The Pathways Programme - at the Fight For Peace Academy in Woodman Street.

The course is free and young people will achieve level two and three in literacy and numeracy and a YMCA fitness instructor qualification. They will participate in Muay Thai kick boxing, personal development life

skills classes and mentoring sessions.

Young people will gain a recognised fitness qualification and valuable on-the-job experience through an eight-week work placement at various Nuffield Health Gyms in London.

Fight for Peace project manager, Marigold Ride, said: "The course provides pathways into employment for young people interested in a career in fitness and sport."

Students will be provided with breakfast and lunch. The course starts on Monday 21 March. To book a place or to find out more call Denise Carroll on 020 7474 0054.



Be in the know about Crossrail

You read in your last issue of In Focus that Crossrail is coming – now you have the chance to meet the experts to find out more at a drop-in session on Wednesday 9 March from 3-8pm at the Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre in Albert Road.

Crossrail staff and representatives from their contractor will be available to answer all your questions. If you can't make it visit www.crossrail.co.uk, email helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk or call 0345 602 3813 for more information.

Explore design for a new play landscape



A computer generated image of what the play landscape will look like when it's finished

Innovative ideas are being sought to help detail a new play landscape which will run underneath the Docklands Light Railway in North Woolwich Road.

Artists Ashley McCormick and Lottie Child have been commissioned by Newham Council, Barratt and Design for London/London Development Agency to work with residents and explore the design of the new play area.

The plan is to turn the space underneath the DLR that runs from

outside Thames Barrier Park (Pontoon Dock DLR) to the roundabout at Connaught Bridge into an urban play space, with a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), a table tennis table, art features, additional trees and greenery. It is anticipated that work on the play landscape will be completed by 2013.

Ashley said: "We are having conversations with groups to discuss how best to animate the space."

Ashley and Lottie have already hosted sessions with pupils in Drew

Primary School in Wythes Road and youngsters at Britannia Village Hall to discuss their ideas.

If you would like to work with the artists and find out more, come along to their next session on Sunday 13 March at the Thames Barrier Park Pavilion Café from 12noon-2pm, or meet them at the spring festival on Saturday 19 March (see p1 for more details).

For more information visit www.wilderplay.blogspot.com

No-go zone for troublemakers

Royal Docks Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) has joined forces with Newham Council to crack down on anti-social behaviour in North Woolwich by creating a dispersal zone.

The move follows complaints from members of the public who are being intimidated and harassed by troublemakers in the Pier Road area.

A dispersal zone can disperse groups of more than two people and tell those who do not live in the area to leave and not return for up to 24 hours.

If you are under 16 you may not be allowed in the area between the hours of 9pm and 6am, unless accompanied by a parent or responsible person over the age of 18.

Anyone who refuses or breaches the notice can be arrested and, if convicted, face up to three months in prison or pay a fine of up to £2,500.

The zone, which came into effect on 21 February, will last until 10 August. It covers Roebourne Way, Manwood Street, Grenadier Street, Brixham Street, King George V DLR Station, Claremont Close, Claremont Street and Albert Road.

To report anti-social behaviour call your Royal Docks Safer SNT on 020 8721 2582 or email royaldocks.SNT@met.police.uk. Alternatively call Newham Council's 24-hour anti-social behaviour hotline on 0800 731 3300.



Thames Barrier test closure

Come and see a test closure of the Thames Barrier and learn about the work being done to protect you from flooding.

As part of a national emergency flooding awareness campaign called Exercise Watermark, test closures, which you can view from Thames Barrier Park, North Woolwich Road, will take place on Thursday 10 March from approximately 9.30am-12noon

Visit www.newham.gov.uk for more information or www.exercisewatermark.co.uk

SPOTLIGHT ON... STREET PARTIES

It's party time – and it's coming to a street near you. The only catch is you have to organise it.

With Newham Council's new street party planning pack, organising one has never been easier so celebrate St George's Day and the royal wedding next month in style with your neighbours.

A street party is one that is organised by and for all residents in one or two small streets without external publicity. They are a great way to meet your neighbours and have a good knees-up.

The planning pack contains an application form, useful contacts and top tips to help you get started, including how to apply for a Go For It grant to help towards funding the event.

Organising small private street parties is very simple and generally does not require a licence. However, if you want to sell alcohol or intend to provide certain types of entertainment such as music, singing, or dancing you will need a Temporary Event Notice if you expect no more than 499 people to attend. This costs £21.

Larger public events attracting more people may require an application for a Premises Licence.



Maryland Primary School pupils throw a street party to entertain elderly residents on the Samuel Lewis Trust Estate

If you would like to hold a larger public event, please contact the Licensing Team by emailing Licensing@newham.gov.uk or by writing to the Licensing Team, 1st Floor Town Hall Annexe, 330-354 Barking Road, East Ham, London, E6 2RT.

If you would like to hold a street party you must email or write to the council to register it. If you plan on closing the road for your party you need to get your application in by Tuesday 15 March.

Email street.party@newham.gov.uk or write to street party, 1000 Dockside Road, E16 2QU. To find out more about how to organise your own street party visit www.newham.gov.uk/streetparty

WHAT'S ON ROYAL DOCKS

FREE Healthy Living Day – health advice, health MOTs, tai chi and much more

10am- 2pm
Wednesday 23 March
FREE

Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre
Albert Road, E16
Call Robbie Muriel on 020 7476 1666 to find out more

Positive parenting courses – a crèche will be provided for both courses

Raising confident and competent children
Thursday 10 March, 10am-12noon

Raising resilient children
Thursday 17 March, 10am-12noon
Both at the Royal Docks Learning and Activities Centre
Albert Road, E16

For more information or to book a place call Robbie Muriel on 020 7476 9922

For even more things to do check out the What's On calendar on the Newham website, where you'll find listings for more than 6,000 events:

www.newham.gov.uk/whatson

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 1705 or email nadine.ford@newham.gov.uk

To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk e.g. steve.brayshaw@newham.gov.uk



Steve Brayshaw



Patrick Murphy



Anthony McAlmont

Royal Docks Ward surgeries

First and third Thursday of the month (alternating)
7pm, Britannia Village Hall,
65 Evelyn Road, E16

Second and fourth Thursday of the month (alternating)
7pm, The Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre
Albert Road, E16

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.