

STRATFORD & WEST HAM »» IN FOCUS

Covering Stratford and Newtown and West Ham

Hello from Councillor Richard Crawford

Welcome to this month's issue. Fun is top of the agenda with a new playground for children, and congratulations to Rokeby School, who got a glowing Ofsted report.

Get your football kit on for a footie competition and find out how you can get a grant if you've got an idea to help people stay healthy.

Enjoy the onset of summer with plenty of free fun activities in your local Summer Centre.

Unemployed? Read how Workplace can help.

And don't forget that a new Controlled Drinking Zone comes into force on 1 June.

Enjoy the read.

Community lead councillor, Richard Crawford



PLAYTIME STARTS AT CHANDOS



(l-r) Cllrs Jo Corbett, Richard Crawford, David Griffin, the Mayor Sir Robin Wales and Gareth Blacker join children in enjoying the new play area

Children and families in Stratford can enjoy a fun new playground officially opened by the council and the London Development Agency (LDA), just a stone's throw away from Chandos Community Centre on Chandos Road.

The playground, which was relocated as part of the Olympic Park development, includes a SpaceNet climbing frame, fully accessible roundabout, see-saws, a rocking horse, swings and climbing equipment.

The LDA worked in partnership with the council to ensure that the playground was relocated so that children could continue to enjoy the open space. A nearby local community centre is also in the process of being built and will open later on this year.

Community lead councillor, Richard Crawford, who visited the site, said: "It's important that children have a

fun area to play in outdoors. We are investing £5.5m in parks and facilities over the next three years to create safe and fun places for children and families to enjoy."

Director of Olympic Legacy Development at the LDA, Gareth Blacker, said: "The London Development Agency is delighted that the Chandos Road playground is now open for both children and families in Stratford to enjoy and that we were able to work in partnership with Newham Council and use our Olympic investment to create this new and improved local open space. We look forward to families enjoying the new playground."

GET YOUR KICKS

The third inter-community forum five-a-side football competition kicks off this month so get your shin pads out and take part.

Heats for Stratford will be at West Ham Park in Upton Lane with the grand final set for Saturday 13 June at Memorial Park in Canning Town.

The competition is open to men and women aged over 16 and school years four, five and six (mixed), seven to nine and ten to 11 boys and seven to 11 girls.

Registration closes 20 minutes before kick off. Contact Lisa Brivati or Abul Hussain for more details on 020 8430 2484 or email lisa.brivati@newham.gov.uk or abul.hussain@newham.gov.uk

West Ham Park, E7

Adults:

Tuesday 2 June
6-8pm

Young people:

Thursday 28 May
11am-3pm

NO GO ZONE FOR NUISANCE DRINKERS



PCSO Daniel Knox (l) and Inspector Trevor Sharpe (r) show Cllrs (centre) Freda Bourne and Ron Manley where the new controlled drinking zone will be

A Controlled Drinking Zone has been given the go-ahead in Stratford, making the town centre (shopping area) off-limits to people whose drinking in public is causing a nuisance.

A Designated Public Place Order gives police the power to confiscate and dispose of alcohol if people are annoying or intimidating others when drunk.

If people are asked to stop drinking in the area they must do so. If this instruction is ignored, they could face a maximum fine of £500.

"We're not trying to stop anyone from having a responsible quiet drink, but we are trying to tackle the anti-social and violent behaviour that is caused by alcohol," said West Ham ward councillor, Freda Bourne.

Signage will be placed around the area to clearly mark the zone, which will come into force on Monday 1 June.

HAVE A HEALTHY HEART



Stratford and West Ham residents can put their heart healthy projects into action by applying for funding as part of the Hearty Lives Newham programme.

Help a Heart grants, funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF), are available to groups with ideas to help prevent people from getting heart disease or to help those with a heart condition.

Support groups, cookery classes, befriending, swimming programmes or reflexology sessions are examples of projects that could receive funding.

With the incidence of heart disease in men and women in Stratford higher than the national average, Stratford ward councillor, Richard Crawford, left, welcomed the new grant scheme.

He said: "Anything that can help tackle this disease is welcome and these grants should make a big difference."

For more information on Help a Heart grants contact Michelle Booth at the BHF on 0207 554 0426 or visit www.bhf.org.uk/helpaheartgrant

Rokeby students stand proud with their headteacher (far right) Charlotte Robinson and Cllrs (r-l) Regina Williams, Ron Manley and school governor and councillor, Ted Sparrowhawk



Rokeby School gets glowing Ofsted report

A good report is winging its way to Rokeby School after inspectors were impressed with its work with pupils.

Rokeby's latest Ofsted inspection praised its excellent teaching, structured learning and "very good relationships between teachers and students".

Pupils are making good headway and the report especially highlighted that "the progress made by a significant number of students with multiple learning needs is outstanding".

The report also praised the quality of the curriculum, teaching and learning. Headteacher Charlotte Robinson was delighted with the result and said: "The report shows that, as a school, we have clearly made significant progress on our journey from good to outstanding. The English department is dynamic, creative and very hard working and the visit by Ofsted gave them the chance to shine."

Stratford ward councillor, Regina Williams, praised the school's achievements and said, "I want to congratulate the dedicated team of staff for their hard work in achieving this result."

Thames Water works

You might have noticed that Thames Water is carrying out works as part of a flood alleviation scheme, which will mean road closures in certain areas of Stratford.

Thames Water's main contractor, Costain, is upgrading the sewers and building a new underground tunnel set for completion in spring 2010, which will carry excess water away.

In the long term, this is great news for more than 700 homes and businesses because it will decrease the risk of flooding in the area. However, in the short term it will lead to some road closures to allow these works to be carried out.

Thames Water is working with the council to try to minimise disruption. For more information call the Thames Water customer care line on 08459 200 800 quoting your address and reference number BB734022.

GOLDEN GIRL GETS TOP AWARD FROM NEWHAM



Christine with her gold medal

Stratford's golden girl, Christine Ohuruogu MBE, was given the highest distinction a local authority can bestow on an individual at Newham Town Hall in East Ham: freedom of the borough.

Christine is one of eight people who have been awarded freedom of the borough, which is sparingly given to someone who has done something outstanding for Newham.

The council decided to give Christine the status of Honorary Freeman of the London Borough of Newham to recognise her distinguished service to sport in representing Great Britain internationally at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, achieving an Olympic Gold Medal and being a role model for young people in Newham.

Christine was given a scroll in a casket and a badge conferring her new status, which means that she will be invited to attend civic events to represent Newham.

SUMMER CENTRE FUN

Dancing, outings, games and afternoon tea are all on the menu at Newham Council's new scheme for residents aged 50 and over.

The Summer Centres scheme offers residents the chance to make the most of the summer, meet friends and get out and about in Newham.

There will be six centres in Stratford (listed below) hosting a range of activities, including dancing, walks, outings, bingo, dominoes, darts, swimming, afternoon tea and bowls in the park.

For further information visit www.newham.gov.uk

Grass Roots Community Centre

Memorial Avenue,
Memorial Park, E15
020 7474 6376
Thursday only
10.30am-12noon

Chandos Community Centre

(refreshments, bingo)
Colegrave Road, E15
020 8534 0140
Monday

Games, refreshments
10am-2pm

Community Road Centre

Community Road, E15
Wednesday 1-3pm

Bingo, refreshments

West Ham Bowls Club

Stratford Park
West Ham Lane
Stratford, E15

Hibiscus Community Centre

(multi-activity centre)
Buckingham Road, E15
020 8519 6159
Tuesdays and Thursdays
11am-3.30pm

Chatsworth Community Resource Centre

4 Chatsworth Road, E15
020 8555 4477
Friday 10am-2pm
Bingo, refreshments

SPOTLIGHT ON... WORKPLACE

In the current climate of doom and gloom and news of more job cuts, Workplace is a ray of hope in Stratford, helping thousands into jobs.

The ground-breaking free employment service was set up in 2007 as part of the Mayor's promise to ensure that local people get local jobs. Mayor Sir Robin Wales said: "Work on Stratford City and the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic sites are well under way. We recognise a good opportunity when we see it and want to make sure that local people get the best of what's coming."

Already, it has placed more than 2,000 people into jobs and the Mayor has promised a further 1,000 people will get work by March 2010.

If you've recently been affected by the downturn in the economy and are looking for work, then pop into Workplace for advice.

It's a free tailored recruitment and training service which works in partnership with Jobcentre Plus. Staff can help you with your CV and you can even take advantage of training

Workplace workcoach Paul Fletcher, Jane Sherwood, Sir Robin Wales and Sumera Khan join Minister for London, Tony McNulty, and Cllr Alec Kellaway in celebrating Workplace's success



to improve your existing skills or help you develop new ones.

Large or small businesses can advertise their vacancies with Workplace free of charge, and benefit from recruiting a pool of professional, trained work ready staff.

You need to call beforehand to make an appointment to register and you will also need a valid passport, a utility bill from the last three months and proof of your National Insurance number.

You can find Workplace at Boardman House, 64 Broadway, E15. It's open Monday to Friday from 10am-4pm. Phone 020 8430 4331 to book an appointment. Visit www.newhamworkplace.co.uk for more information.

WHAT'S ON STRATFORD AND WEST HAM

Newham's Futsal League, open to young people 16+
Starting Wednesday 10 June
Lister Community School
St Mary's Road, E13
Phone 020 8430 2489 for more information

Friends of Abbey Gardens
Planting season starts now
Friends of Abbey Gardens will provide seeds and planting trays
Germinate seeds at home and then plant in Abbey Gardens
Call Andreas to get seeds and trays on 07866 566 162
Visit www.abbeygardens.org

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 8430 3544 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 1270 or email john.wymanwhite@newham.gov.uk



Richard Crawford



David Griffin



Regina Williams

Stratford and Newtown Ward

Every Saturday (alternating)
10.30am
St John's Church
Stratford Broadway E15

First Saturday of the month, (alternating)
10.30am
Holden Point, Corner of
Waddington Road E15



Freda Bourne



Megan Harris Mitchell



Ron Manley

West Ham Ward

Surgery times for Cllrs Bourne, Harris and Manley take place weekly, every Saturday morning from 10 - 11am at the following alternating venues :

- Salvation Army Centre, Paul Street.
- Second Saturday of the month - Cllr Bourne
- Third Saturday of the month - Cllr Mitchell
- Rokeby Children's

- Centre, Rokeby Street.
- First Saturday of the month - Cllr Manley
- Fourth Saturday of the month - Cllr Bourne
- Leather Gardens TA, 1st Floor, Leather

- Gardens, Brassett Point, Abbey Road
- Second Saturday of the month - Cllr Mitchell
- Fourth Saturday of the month - Cllr Manley

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.