

STRATFORD & WEST HAM »» IN FOCUS

Covering Stratford and
Newtown and West Ham

Stratford Town Centre facelift begins



An artist's impression of how
Meridian Square will look
when the works are complete

A £13.9m makeover to transform Stratford Town Centre, improving the area in and around the one-way traffic system, is in full swing.

Improvements include:

- **Meridian Square** will have new pavement laid, trees planted, benches introduced and kiosks installed. The bus waiting area will be de-cluttered and Robert the Tank Engine will return. The pedestrian crossing on Great Eastern Road will be widened.

- **Railway Tree** crossing will see the section of footpath from High Street to Meridian Square repaved and the railway tree will be re-lit. The railway tree is a piece of public art made from railway lines and acts as reminder of Stratford's railway past.

- **Broadway and The Grove** will have new pavement laid, trees planted and new benches and bins introduced. Feature lighting will be added around St John's Church, Martyrs Memorial and the Gurney Memorial. A relocation of the outdoor market from Broadway to The Grove has been proposed.

- **Cultural Quarter** will see a piece of public art created to commemorate theatre director, Joan Littlewood, who helped Theatre Royal Stratford East make its mark on the world stage; read p3 to find out more. The existing landscape will be refurbished and new lighting added.

In addition a new kinetic sculpture known as The Shoal, will be installed along Great Eastern Road. This eye

catching sculpture will be made up of approximately 100 titanium clad leaves mounted between 15 and 19 metres high on metal posts. The leaves will gently move in the breeze to create a natural motion.

Work on Meridian Square will be completed by July in time for the opening of Stratford City in September with the rest of the works expected to be finished by March 2012. Road works may cause disruption but Newham Council will ensure this is kept to a minimum.

The project is being funded by Section 106 money (where developers give something back to the community), Communities and Local Government, the London Development Agency and the Home Office.



We've bin on your street

Recycling has got a whole lot easier with the introduction of recycling bins with an orange lid across the borough.

We've almost finished delivering the bins to homes that we have determined have space following a door to door assessment.

If you haven't received your bin yet, don't worry, we're getting them to you as quickly as we can.

You should continue using orange recycling bags, placing them beside your rubbish bin, not inside, until you receive your recycling bin.

Please note that:

- you can recycle all cardboard in your new bin
- rubbish bins will be collected in the morning
- recycling bins will be collected in the afternoon/evening
- put your recyclables directly into your bin – you don't need to put them in a bag first
- if you live in a high or low rise flat you should continue using orange recycling bags as normal. We'll be consulting with residents in these properties to see what improvements they would like to see with their recycling service soon – look out for details.

For more details on what you can recycle visit www.newham.gov.uk/recycling

Spiral clock moves to Maryland

Stratford's iconic Time Spiral is being relocated to the northern end of Maryland island, outside Maryland Station, next month.

The clock was removed in 2008 from Meridian Square in Stratford Regional Station. The work of art created by artist Malcolm Robertson, was first unveiled in 1996 and has symbols for the signs of the Zodiac arranged around the base, emphasising the themes of travel, time and transport.



Easter delight

Celebrate the arrival of Easter this year at an eggstraordinary FREE event in the courtyard of the Old Town Hall, Broadway, Stratford.

The Easter Garden Party takes place on Thursday 21 April from 11am-7pm and there's something for all ages.

From 11am, they'll be arts and crafts activities, egg decorating, egg tasting and Easter egg hunts around Stratford and the Old Town Hall. If you follow the clues you

could win some top prizes donated by local businesses.

You can also pick up tips on how to grow your own fruit and makes friends with animals at the petting farm.

**Easter Garden Party
Thursday 21 April
11am-7pm
Courtyard in the Old Town Hall
Broadway
Stratford E15**



Pupils look on in horror as London burns



London burning



(l-r) Jack and Jada introduce the Great Fire of London

Ranelagh pupils relive the Great Fire of London

Pupils at Ranelagh Primary School in Corporation Street got to relive the Great Fire of London in a controlled mock fire of a model of London that pupils had made.

As part of history, art and literacy classes, Year 2 pupils learnt about how the Great Fire of London swept through the city in September 1666, devastating 13,200 houses and

many more iconic buildings including the original St Paul's Cathedral.

Pupils imagined what it was like to be a survivor and kept a diary of their feelings and wrote letters to imaginary family members who had survived, as part of their literacy class.

Over four weeks in art class, they created a huge cardboard model of London, which was completely

burnt down in the re-enactment.

Year 2 teacher, Aisha Sheikh, who helped organise the project, said: "Children were really amazed and found it fascinating. I don't think they will forget that story in history."

The controlled fire was thoroughly risk-assessed before it took place and pupils also learnt about fire safety.

Joan Littlewood



Joan Littlewood to be commemorated

An art competition to create a memorial to celebrate the 'mother of modern theatre,' Joan Littlewood has been launched by Newham Council as part of the Stratford Town Centre makeover (see p1).

Joan Littlewood and Gerry Raffles saved Theatre Royal Stratford East from demolition in the late 1960s by applying for Grade II* status. To this day, the theatre maintains Joan and Gerry's tradition of reflecting the culture and backgrounds of people in the surrounding community.

To commemorate this legacy, the council is looking for

artists to put forward their designs for a memorial. Judges will be looking for proposals which capture her spirit and character.

Community lead councillor, Richard Crawford, said: "The memorial will act as a reminder of how Joan helped to put Theatre Royal Stratford East on the world stage."

The deadline for entering the competition is 3 May, with a public exhibition of shortlisted entries from 23 May until 5 June. The winner will be announced on 24 June. For more information on how to enter visit www.newham.gov.uk/joan

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.

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 Thursday 31 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 STRATFORD AND WEST HAM

Abbey Gardens FREE gardening sessions

Every Saturday
10am-3pm
Abbey Gardens
Bakers Row, E15
For more information visit
www.abbeygardens.org

You be the judge – find out how our courts work (read more on p31 of the Newham Mag)

Saturday 9 April
9.30-1.30pm
Stratford Magistrates' Court
High Street, E15
For more information contact Jim Ludlam on 07960 954577

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



Richard Crawford



Charlene McLean



Terry Paul

Stratford and Newtown Ward

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



Freda Bourne



John Gray



Ron Manley

West Ham Ward

Freda 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

John 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

Ron 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.