

Crossrail is coming



Custom House Station – a view
along Victoria Dock Road

Crossrail, the new high-frequency railway which will link Maidenhead and Heathrow in the west, through central London to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east, has been given the green light by the Government.

The 118km line will make your journey into central London much quicker; from the new Crossrail station at Custom House you will be able to travel to Liverpool Street in ten minutes and Heathrow in around 50 minutes.

The central section (from Paddington to Custom House) will be complete by the end of 2018, with work starting this month along the route of the old North London Line

between Royal Victoria Station and North Woolwich Station.

In order to make space below ground to allow for the construction of the main Crossrail tunnels, contractors will need to divert buried utilities along sections of Albert Road and Factory Road.

During the works, which will take place over 15 months, the contractors will be taking measures, such as the use of temporary traffic signals and local diversions, to minimise the disruption and to control traffic flows. Some bus stops may also need to be temporarily suspended.

Work to construct the North Woolwich portal, where the railway

will begin its descent to pass under the Thames in a 2.6km long tunnel en route to Abbey Wood, is scheduled to start in the spring of 2012.

It will also be necessary to refurbish the old Connaught Tunnel, which runs between Royal Victoria Dock and Royal Albert Dock. This work is due to begin in September 2011.

Crossrail will hold a drop-in session in March at the Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre. Read your next In Focus for more details and further updates.

**Visit www.crossrail.co.uk,
email helpdesk@crossrail.co.uk
or call 0345 602 3813 for more
information.**

ACT up and become a volunteer

If you're looking for ways to do something for your community then why not become an Active Community Team (ACT) volunteer.

ACT volunteers work with councillors to bring special events like this year's spring festival to Royal Docks residents and visitors on Saturday 19 March.

But becoming an ACT volunteer is not just about organising events; you will also be working with your councillors to solve local problems and run community projects such as producing a mural or even starting a community garden, youth group or Neighbourhood Watch group.

Don't worry if that sounds daunting – you will receive induction training and lots of support to help you to play an active role in your community.

To find out more about Royal Docks ACT call Nadine Ford on 020 3373 1705 or email Nadine.ford@newham.gov.uk



Try something new at Royal Docks Learning and Activities Centre

The New Year is a great time to start learning a new skill and the Royal Docks Learning and Activities Centre (RDLAC) is giving you the chance to do just that with two new classes.

Women can learn to make beaded jewellery every Tuesday from 10 – 11.30am. The class costs only £2 each week and you'll come away with some beautiful new accessories.

On Saturdays you can get fit and have fun for free with Latin Dance classes from 12.30 – 1.30pm.

The centre's managing director, Elahe Panahi, said: "We're always working hard to give residents the opportunity to try something new.

"There's lots of fun to be had at these two great new classes, so come along and join in before spaces run out."

To find out more call 020 7476 9922 or visit www.rdlac.org.uk

Council comes down hard on environment breach

A local business has been fined and ordered to pay costs after they failed to contain the high levels of dust created by their crushing yard.

Residents had complained that dust from Recycled Material Supplies Ltd on Bradfield Road in Silvertown was blowing into their homes and the local area.

After failing to comply with an enforcement notice served by the council in March last year, the firm

was taken to Stratford Magistrates Court. They pleaded guilty and were fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £769 costs to the council.

Community lead councillor, Steve Brayshaw, said: "It's pleasing to see this situation has been rectified.

"Businesses should be aware that if they are breaching council restrictions and making life hard for residents we will come down hard on them."





Young People at the Fight for Peace Academy are set to benefit from the legacy funding

FIGHT FOR PEACE WINS FUNDING

Local sporting and personal development group Fight for Peace has been awarded £150,000 in funding from the Olympic Legacy Fund.

Founded in Rio de Janeiro in 2000 by former English amateur boxer Luke Dowdney, the organisation later expanded to London with an academy in North Woolwich.

The organisation combines boxing and martial arts with education to help young people from

communities affected by crime.

This new boost will be used to continue their work providing practical alternatives to crime and violence.

Dowdney said: "Our work has demonstrated sport is a great unifier and a platform to develop the potential of young people in disadvantaged circumstances.

"We hope that this extra funding will help us contribute to London's social and sporting legacy in the lead up to London 2012 and thereafter."



Get crafty

Mark it in your diary and on Saturday 19 March head to Britannia Village Hall in Evelyn Road for an unmissable fun-packed spring festival.

To get you in the mood, Newham Council has organised four three-hour silk painting and batik workshops in the run up to the event, where you can learn the art of developing your own designs and transferring them to silk.

The course will cover everything

from working on your design to colouring it when it is transferred to silk.

Alongside the silk picture painting you will work on a sketch book containing samples of all the techniques you will learn on the course including batik.

With your new-found skills, if you fancy it, you can help your tutor run an art and crafts workshop at the Royal Docks spring festival.

FREE batik and silk painting workshops
Start: Fridays 11 and 18 February and 4 and 11 March
9am-12pm
Britannia Village Hall
65 Evelyn Road, E16
Call Dave Mann or Angie Allgood on 020 7511 6118 to book your place

SPOTLIGHT ON...

ADVANCE 2 DELIVER (A2D)



Aidan is a mine of information

If you've ever wanted to start up a community group but didn't know where to start, A2D can help you.

A2D is a three-year Big Lottery-funded project, now in its second year, which offers support to new and emerging community organisations in Newham.

Some of the many services A2D offers are help and advice and include:

- fundraising
- working with volunteers
- strategic planning
- charity registration.

A small team of three works with organisations across the borough but development officer Aidan Keightley has specific responsibility for working with community groups in the Royal Docks and Beckton area.

Aidan has a wealth of experience and knowledge, having run his own business, worked in a

local authority and worked as a fundraiser for many years.

"Ninety per cent of queries we get are about fundraising. Everyone can use Google to find the information but we can help them through the minefield to find grants that are suitable for them using a special database," says Aidan.

Beckton groups that Aidan has helped with fundraising include the women's football team, Women United FC.

He's also worked with Newham Council in creating pilot workshops, which focussed on problem solving, accessing funding and organising events.

Aidan also holds outreach sessions at St Mark's Community Centre. Call Aidan on 020 7473 9514 or email aidan.keightley@bemccf.org.uk to book an appointment.

WHAT'S ON ROYAL DOCKS

FREE batik and silk painting workshops

Start: Fridays 11 and 18 February and 4 and 11 March

9am-12pm

Britannia Village Hall

65 Evelyn Road, E16

Call Dave Mann or Angie Allgood on 020 7511 6118 to book your place

FREE Latin dancing classes

Saturdays, 12.30-1.30pm

Royal Docks Learning and

Activity Centre

Albert Road

North Woolwich, E16

(read p2 for more details)

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.