

## FOREST GATE » IN FOCUS

Covering Forest Gate  
North and South

# Woodgrange businesses tackle anti- social behaviour

**A new project to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) has been launched by Newham Council and the police in conjunction with businesses in Woodgrange Road.**

Around 65 shops have signed up to use an AlertBox, which is a device with pre-programmed text messages that a shop owner can send at the press of a button, to alert neighbouring shop owners that he or she needs help. The initiative aims to increase security and safety for businesses on Woodgrange Road.

The system is simple to use and acts like an electronic Neighbourhood Watch, linking shops together for greater security, requiring close

co-operation between participating shops, while helping to tackle crime and ASB.

The scheme is funded by Newham Council and will be supervised by police officers from the Forest Gate Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT).

AlertBox has been running in Southwark, Hackney, Peckham and Ealing for some time and ASB has fallen in those boroughs as a result.

Irfan Ahmed of Sola Satellites recently had to use the AlertBox when a customer became aggressive in his shop.

"Within minutes of using AlertBox, four or five neighbours came into the shop and the situation calmed down,"

said Irfan. "It's a fantastic idea and we feel much safer."

Forest Gate South ward councillor, Akbar Chaudhary, said: "AlertBox allows the community to take control and promotes community engagement, while also allowing shopkeepers to feel safer and giving them peace of mind."

Chief Inspector De Souza Brady said: "The Forest Gate Safer Neighbourhoods Team and the council have worked very hard in ensuring each shop has the system up and running to its best capacity. I have every confidence that it will bring both the community and police closer together to continue to catch the criminals and unite businesses."



(second l) Sola Satellites manager Sonia McCarthy shows (l-r) Chief Inspector De Souza Brady, the council's community safety director Al Thomas and Sgt Alistair Hudson how the AlertBox works



## 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](http://www.newham.gov.uk/census)

Locally sessions are taking place on March 22 at The Gate, 4-20 Woodgrange Road, E7 from 3.30-7.30pm; on March 27 from 1-5pm; and April 5 from 3.30-7.30pm.



# MAN CHARGED FOR STARVING DOGS

A man in Forest Gate who left a dog and a puppy without any food, water or shelter in his back garden has been ordered to do 300 hours community service by Stratford Magistrates' Court.

Abdul Muhin, 19, of Clinton Road, was found guilty of four charges of causing unnecessary suffering and two of not meeting the two dogs' needs.

He was ordered to do 300 hours unpaid community service within 12 months, banned from owning any animal for five years and ordered to pay £250 towards costs.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) went to his home in Clinton Road and found an emaciated five month old Staffordshire bull terrier cross called Cookie and Honey, a 12- week old Staffordshire bull terrier puppy. Neither dog had food, water or shelter and both were skinny and dehydrated.

**To report a mistreated, neglected, injured or distressed animal call the 24-hour RSPCA hotline on 0300 1234 999.**

## The icing on the cake

Try your steady hand at new FREE two-hour cake decorating workshops at Field Community Centre in Station Road, where you can learn the art of creating decorated cake masterpieces.

The six-week course will cover everything from colouring icing and using edible decorations to piping skills. By the end of the course you will be able to produce your own cupcakes for any occasion.

Places are limited so make sure you phone to book in advance.



**FREE cake decorating workshops**

**Fridays – 18 March  
until 22 April**

**11.30am-1.30pm**

**Field Community Centre  
147 Station Road, E7**

**Call Farzana Amer on  
020 8536 2800 or email  
[farzana.amer@newham.gov.uk](mailto:farzana.amer@newham.gov.uk)  
to book your place**

(l-r) Cllrs Ellie Robinson, Akbar Chaudhary, Kay Scoresby, Winston Vaughan and David Christie shake a leg with the cyber coach dance sessions



Five a day keeps the doctor away



The rowing machines proved a hit

# Boost E7 a hit

Hundreds braved the elements to attend Forest Gate's Spring Festival, Boost E7, and enjoy a fun day out in Forest Gate Community School in Forest Lane.

More than 1,200 people picked up useful health and employment advice and got to try out new sports activities such as rowing, trampolining and

compu biking.

Festival-goers beat the cold with a bowl of hot homemade soup prepared by Abbey Gardens, a community gardening group in Stratford.

Competition was fierce on the football pitch for the five-a-side competition and six winners walked away with a medal each.

Community lead councillor, Kay Scoresby, said: "A big thanks to all those who helped make this event happen including; Forest Gate Community School, who gave us the venue for free, Forest Gate Youth Zone, who moved their exercise equipment to our event, and Newham Volunteers."

# Forest Gate Festival: mark it in your diary

Forget Glastonbury – the Forest Gate Festival is one event you should not miss this year and the good news is it doesn't cost you an arm and a leg because it's FREE.

Councillors will be working hard with Forest Gate Festival members to bring you a show-stopper on Saturday 9 July along Osborne Road.

If you would like to get involved and help with the organisation of this year's festival then get in touch with the Forest Gate Festival members by emailing [forestgatefestival@googlemail.com](mailto:forestgatefestival@googlemail.com)

For a third consecutive year, the festival will host Forest Gate's Got Talent. This is an opportunity for musicians, singers, dancers and entertainers to perform



Forest Gate Festival 2006  
Photo by Mike Smith

live on a stage at the festival. Auditions will be held in the run up to the event. If you're interested in performing at this year's festival start practising now.

Keep reading your In Focus for details or join The Forest Gate Festival group on Facebook for all the latest updates.

**For more information call Syed Haque on 020 3373 1540 or email [syed.haque@newham.gov.uk](mailto:syed.haque@newham.gov.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.newham.gov.uk/streetparty)**

## WHAT'S ON FOREST GATE

**FREE cake decorating classes**  
Fridays from 18 March until 22 April  
11.30am-1.30pm  
Field Community Centre  
147 Station Road, E7  
Call Farzana Amer on 020 8536 2800  
or email [farzana.amer@newham.gov.uk](mailto:farzana.amer@newham.gov.uk)  
to book your place. Read page 2  
for more information.

### Live music at St Edmund's Centre

Saturday 26 March  
8pm  
Cost: £6  
St Edmund's Centre  
464 Katherine Road, E7  
Tickets at the door or contact Audrie  
Page on 020 8471 0223

**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](http://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](mailto: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 1540 or email [syed.haque@newham.gov.uk](mailto:syed.haque@newham.gov.uk).

To email your local councillor write [firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk) e.g. [shama.ahmad@newham.gov.uk](mailto:shama.ahmad@newham.gov.uk)



Shama Ahmad



Paul Brickell



Ellie Robinson



Akbar Chaudhary



Leanora Cameron



Winston Vaughan

### Forest Gate North Ward

Every Saturday (alternating)  
10.30 - 11.30am  
Durning Hall  
Earlham Grove  
Forest Gate E7

### Forest Gate South Ward

Every Saturday, except bank holiday  
weekends (alternating)  
10.30 - 11.30am  
The Gate 4 - 20 Woodgrange Road  
Forest Gate E7

**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](http://www.newham.gov.uk/mayor) or call 020 3373 0437.