

Building a better future at Eastlea School



An artist's impression of what the new school will look like when it's completed next month

The sky's the limit for students at Eastlea Community School in Exning Road as a £13m redevelopment of the school moves a step closer to completion.

Work began last July to refurbish parts of the school, rebuild sections and carry out landscaping improvements. All works are part of the previous government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) scheme to improve secondary schools.

Improvements include:

- Construction of a new block that contains kitchen and dining facilities on the ground floor and state-of-the art teaching facilities for the visual arts on the first floor
- A new entrance to the school

– moving to Pretoria Road – with enhanced security

- Extension and remodelling of the science block to provide a range of modern and spacious teaching and learning environments
- Refurbishment of the design technology block
- Landscaping improvements including the removal of temporary buildings and the car park. A new amphitheatre will also be created to provide a venue for performances

Additional grant funding is coming from London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (LTGDC) to build a hospitality and catering suite and Enterprise Café.

The hospitality and catering suite will

feature a flexible hospitality area with a kitchen that will have a dual use teaching area to deliver the hospitality and catering level two vocational diploma and can be used for functions such as weddings.

The enterprise café will be open to small businesses and start-ups that don't have premises of their own. It will also provide an alternative workspace for staff and a venue for students to do their Business Studies course and to complete homework projects outside of school hours.

All works are expected to be completed by April next year. The new entrance block and Enterprise Café are due to be completed next month.



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 sessions are taking place on March 24 at Canning Town Library, Barking Road, E16 from 3.30-7.30pm; and on March 31 at Custom House Library, Prince Regent Lane, from 3.30-7.30pm.

An officer inspects a property on Beckton Road after a group of squatters is evicted



Council cracks down on squatters

Scores of squatters have been evicted from properties that had been emptied in preparation for demolition as part of the Canning Town regeneration programme.

An increasing number of squatters were making themselves at home in the empty houses in the regeneration area.

Residents alerted Newham Homes and Newham Council of the problem and both organisations teamed up with the police in a joint initiative to clear the squats.

Teams of officers from each organisation visited each property with bailiffs. Some of the squatters who were illegally occupying the buildings had already vacated prior to the action taking place. The locks were changed and security alarms fitted to prevent them from entering again.

Since July of last year 63 squats have been cleared and the council continues to monitor the situation.

If you think there may be a squatter occupying a property in your area call the council's 24-hour hotline on 0800 731 3300 or if it's an emergency call 999.



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 at a drop-in session on Thursday 10 March from 3-8pm at Cundy Community Centre in Hartington Road and find out more.

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.

Correction

In last month's Custom House and Canning Town In Focus on page 3, incorrect times were printed in the Canning Town regeneration: Have your say article. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



Get crafty

Mark it in your diary – on Saturday 30 April head to Rokeby School in Barking Road for an unmissable fun-packed spring festival.

To get you in the mood, Newham Council has organised four three-hour patchwork workshops in the run up to the event, where you can learn the art of creating patchwork designs.

Patchwork is a form of needlework that involves sewing together pieces of fabric into a larger design. The course will cover everything from creating a four

patch block using patchwork and quilting techniques to creating a cushion, a bag or a small throw.

You will use recycled textiles, as this was how fabrics were traditionally sourced, and there will be an emphasis on using patterns from around the globe to bring a multicultural element to your creations.

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

Places are limited so make sure you book your place in advance.

FREE patchwork workshops
Every Monday from 28 March to 18 April
1-3pm
The Hub
123 Star Lane, E16
Call Howard Mendick to book a place on 020 7473 5249

Take a trip down memory lane

Bring the history of Custom House and Canning Town to life by sharing your memories of what it was like in days gone by.

Your memories will be recorded and collected to create an oral history told through the eyes of the people who have lived, worked or played here.

Share your anecdotes, photos and memorabilia and swap stories over a cuppa and a slice of cake at Stanley Holloway Court in Coolfin Road.

The council-led initiative is the brainchild of Active Community Team (ACT) volunteers and will form part of a wider project which aims to record an oral history of Custom House and Canning Town.



Rathbone Market

To find out more call Laura Beswick on 0203 373 6045 or email laura.beswick@newham.gov.uk

Reminisce over a FREE slice of cake and cuppa
Monday 7 March, 1 - 4pm
Stanley Holloway Court
2 Coolfin Road
Custom House, E16

CANNING TOWN & CUSTOM HOUSE NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETINGS

If you live or work near any of these meetings and you want to hear about what's going on in the area or have a concern you want to raise, please come along:

- **Freemasons Road Neighbourhood Meeting**
 Wednesday 30 March, 6.30-8pm
 The Cundy Community Centre,
 Hartington Road, E16
- **Fife Road Neighbourhood Meeting**
 Tuesday 5 April, 6.30-8pm
 Keir Hardie Church, Fife Road, E16
- **Keir Hardie Neighbourhood Meeting**
 Tuesday 12 April, 6.30-8pm
 River Christian Centre, Vincent Street, E16
- **Canning Town Centre Neighbourhood Meeting**
 Tuesday 19 April, 6.30-8pm
 The Hub, Star Lane, E16

SPOTLIGHT ON... EAST LONDON EYE

East London Eye is a unique photography exhibition that will take you back to days gone by in Canning Town and further afield.

Thanks to the roving eye of a then trainee photographer at the Newham Recorder, Steve Lewis, life in Newham in the 1960s and 1970s has been captured through Steve's lens.

His images became a popular feature, The Lewis View, in the Newham Recorder, where Steve captured vignettes of a disappearing street life, from the rag-and-bone man plodding the streets on horse-drawn cart to milkmen with their Edwardian barrows.

Fifty years on and Steve discovered boxes of unpublished photos in his attic and, with the help of a Go For It grant from Newham Council and supported by the Hub history club and Newham New Deal Partnership, (NDP) Steve is exhibiting his photos.

The exhibition graphically illustrates the gritty reality of life in Newham in



Steve Lewis captures the essence of Newham in the 1960's

the 1960s and will take you on a trip down memory lane.

Steve's photos have also been published in a book entitled London's East End: A 1960s Album. You can win a copy of his book by entering a Newham Mag competition. Turn to p13 of the Mag to find out more.

The East London Eye exhibition opens on Friday 11 March from 5-9pm and Steve will be signing copies of his book. The exhibition runs until Friday 20 May at the Hub, 123 Star Lane, E16.

For further information about the East London Eye exhibition contact Newham NDP on 020 7474 6376 or howard@newhamndp.co.uk

WHAT'S ON CUSTOM HOUSE AND CANNING TOWN

Friends of Memorial Park and Grassroots meeting –

if you would like to get more involved with the park or Grassroots come along to this meeting

Wednesday 16 March, 6.30-8pm
Grassroots

Memorial Avenue, E16

For more information call the parks team on 020 8430 2000 or email yourparks@newham.gov.uk

Renshinkai Karate classes – all ages welcome

Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-7pm

Keir Hardie Methodist Church

14 Plymouth Road, E16

Cost: £3

For more information call Sensei Stuart Fray on 07917 820 409 or email rensinkaitigers@yahoo.co.uk

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 ifocus@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 4008 or email stella.hales@newham.gov.uk

To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk e.g. marie.collier@newham.gov.uk



Marie Collier



Clive Furness



Paul Schafer



Bryan Collier



Michael Nicholas



Alan Taylor



Patricia Holland



Gavin Pearson



Conor McAuley

Canning Town North Ward

Cllr Collier and

Cllr Schafer

Every Monday
(alternating)

10am

7a Avondale Court

Avondale Road

Canning Town, E16

Cllr Furness

First and third

Friday of the month

6-7pm

Helping Hands

42 Balaam Street, E13

Canning Town South Ward

Cllr Collier

Second and fourth Monday
of the month

10am-12pm Canning Town

Local Service Centre

3 Beckton Road, E16

Cllr Nicholas

First and third Thursday

of the month

10.30am-12.30pm

Keir Hardie Methodist Church

14 Plymouth Road, E16

Cllr Taylor

First and third Thursday

of the month

6-7.30pm

Trinity Community Centre

Bothwell Close, E16

Custom House Ward

First Saturday of the month

Cllr Holland

Second Saturday of the month

Cllr Pearson

Third Saturday of the month

Cllr McAuley

10-11am

St Joachim's Catholic School

Shipman Road

Custom House, 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.