

IN FOCUS PLAISTOW



September 2011

CRACKING DOWN ON 'DODGY' TRADERS

Newham Council's Trading Standards are sending a tough warning to local businesses not to counterfeit goods or dupe the public by setting up sham organisations.

Thousands of fake goods with a street value of £500,000 have been seized by trading standards officers as part of a crack down on counterfeiters before the London 2012 Games next year.

Officers discovered counterfeit clothing, DVDs and watches claiming to be from leading brands, including retail store New Look and Disney, during two separate raids in Plaistow and Beckton.

The alleged counterfeiters are still being investigated.

The officers are also targeting bogus charities. Phoney leaflets and bags are being delivered to households in Newham asking for clothing donations, with claims that these clothes will help people in the UK or abroad. In reality there is no 'charity'; unscrupulous companies are profiting from these collections and the clothes do not help anyone but the swindlers who rely on the



goodwill of the donators.

The police along with council officers have raided the registered office of a phoney charity. Further investigations, including forensic examination of the computer seized and links with other bogus charities, are ongoing and a joint criminal investigation will be carried out nationwide.

Councillor Sheila Thomas, ward councillor for Plaistow South, said: "We are taking a tough stance on

those that flout laws and exploit our vulnerable residents. Our trading standards team has a strong track record of cracking down on counterfeit goods and illegal businesses.

"We ask our residents to continue to be vigilant and report anything suspicious to our ASB hotline on 0800 731 3300. We want to ensure that these illegitimate businesses do not con our residents."

CONTACT US

If your group has an activity to promote please contact us on: 020 3373 2684 or email infocus@newham.gov.uk



Community praise



Mayor Sir Robin Wales has praised Newham's community for the way residents have responded to appeals for information following the recent unrest.

A special edition of the Newham Mag, containing CCTV images of those involved in disturbances in Newham, has generated a number of arrests and numerous warrants. Around a third of the images have been identified thanks to information from residents.

Sir Robin said: "What we saw taking place in Newham and elsewhere across the country is completely and utterly unacceptable.

"Thankfully our borough was not as badly affected as others in London and elsewhere, because of the strength of togetherness and cohesion in our community."

If you can identify anyone involved in the disturbances call Newham Police on 020 8217 5481 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. More images can be seen on page 10 of the Mag and online at www.newham.gov.uk/cctv

MAKE THE SPACE A PLACE



Residents and councillors have been working together to create a community garden on a piece of derelict land on First Avenue.

Last month, Councillor Joy Laguda joined residents, Friends of First Avenue and users of First Avenue Resource Centre for a planting session. The groups planted green chillies, potatoes, tomatoes and flowers with help from the Hearty Lives Newham programme. The programme is a partnership between the NHS, Newham Council and the British Heart Foundation and aims to reduce the high rates of cardiovascular disease in the borough.

Design students from the University of East London are inviting local people to share how they'd like to see the space developed and what facilities it should have. A public consultation meeting will be held on Monday 19 September at First Avenue Resource Centre between 6pm-8pm. Following the meeting the students will develop a masterplan and work will begin on transforming the space.

To volunteer to help tend the green space, or to donate any unwanted garden tools, contact Shamilla Kumari on 020 3373 1804.

Stadium upgrade on the right track

Improvements being carried out to the Terrance McMillan Stadium in Plaistow will see the running track area closed until the end of the year.

The works will not only upgrade the stadium track but also the long jump and triple jump areas and throwing facilities.

The stadium, which forms part of the Newham Leisure Centre complex off Prince Regent Lane, will be closed during the works. The leisure centre and the indoor track are open as usual.

The improvements are fully funded by the Olympic Delivery Authority in preparation for the use of the stadium as a training facility for athletes during the 2012 Games.

An ODA spokesperson said: "As part of the London 2012 drive to leave a lasting legacy, the upgraded facilities will be available for public use and we hope that people will enjoy using them."

GET INVOLVED IN CLEANING-UP

As a direct response to residents' complaints about how unsightly their neighbourhood is becoming due to fly-tipping and littering, Plaistow ward councillors have organised a community clean-up day on Saturday 10 September, between 11am-1pm.

As well as mucking in with the clean up, residents can find out how to book a bulky waste collection, report graffiti and anti-social behaviour, as well as meet their local councillors and neighbours. The council's street scene enforcement and street cleansing officers will also be on hand to answer questions.

If you'd like to attend the community clean-up, meet at the front of Selwyn School, Cecil Road, at 11am. For more information call Shamilla Kumari on 020 3373 1804.



THANKS TO POPULAR HEAD TEACHER



Cllr Peppiatt, left, with Martin and Mayor Sir Robin Wales

Popular head teacher Martin Buck was thanked for all his hard work by Mayor Sir Robin Wales and Councillor Quintin Peppiatt, executive member for children and young people.

Mr Buck, of Lister Community School in St Mary's Road, Plaistow, is moving on. He received a pen inscribed with his years of service during a presentation at the council's Newham Dockside offices.

Martin, who has been head teacher since 2000, saw the school through its successful Building Schools for the Future improvements programme.

Councillor Peppiatt said: "We thank Martin for all he has done in helping young people achieve their potential. He has made a wonderful contribution to so many children's lives."

Spotlight on... Newham People's Panel

If you've got a lot of opinions on local issues, there is now an even easier way to have your voice heard. The Newham People's Panel is a new way for residents and visitors to make an impact on how the borough is run – and you won't even need to leave your sofa to get involved!

Visit www.newhampanel.com to find out more. Register as a member and the rest is plain sailing. We'll send you surveys on a range of topics; some surveys will include the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw.

Most surveys will take about ten minutes to complete. There will also be polls where you can log on and simply answer a quick question.

We want your thoughts on hot topics. This can be anything from employment to the cleanliness of your area, what leisure facilities you need, to what you want to see from the 2012 Games legacy.

Anyone aged over 16 can become a member of the panel

and you could be a resident or a visitor to Newham.

There may be some topics you're more interested in than others, so you can pick and choose which surveys you want to take part in. You will receive a summary of the results from each survey you complete and may be invited to give your opinion in future group interviews or focus groups – where you will probably be paid or receive vouchers for your help.

Become a member of the Newham People's Panel

To sign up to the panel, visit www.newhampanel.com and fill in a short registration form.



WHAT'S ON PLAISTOW

Under-fives groups open to children and their parent/ carer

Tuesday 11am - 12noon,
Plaistow Library,
North Street, E13 9HL.
Tel: 020 3373 0859

Homework club

All young people aged seven to 14 can get free study support at their local library.
Thursdays 4 - 6pm
Plaistow Library,
North Street, E13 9HL.
Tel: 020 3373 0859

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 1804 or email shamilla.kumari@newham.gov.uk
To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk e.g. alan.griffiths@newham.gov.uk



Alan Griffiths



Forhad Hussain



Joy Laguda

Plaistow North Ward

Cllr Griffiths
First and third Saturday of the month 10.30-11.30am
Plaistow Library, North Street, Plaistow E13
Cllr Hussain
Second and fourth Saturday of the month, 10.30-11.30am
Plaistow Library, North Street, Plaistow, E13
Cllr Laguda
Third Saturday of the month, 10am-12.00noon
Curwen School, Atlas Road, Plaistow, E13



Charity Fiberesima



Neil Wilson



Sheila Thomas

Plaistow South Ward

Every Monday and Wednesday (alternating)
6-7pm
Newham African Caribbean Resource Centre,
627 Barking Road, E13

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.