

IN FOCUS **STRATFORD AND WEST HAM**

February 2012

ATHERTON LEISURE CENTRE - GYM OPEN AND CONSULTATION LIVE

In December Mayor Sir Robin Wales in consultation with Newham's Cabinet decided to keep parts of Atherton Leisure Centre open in 2012.

The gym and free weights area remain open, until at least the end of June, while the training pool, sports hall and studio have now closed. Closure of these parts of the centre will allow vital asbestos survey and removal works already under way in the main pool area to extend to other areas of the 1930s building.

The Mayor and Cabinet have also launched a 12-week consultation on options for the future of the centre.

Tell us your views

From now until 13 March, you can complete an online questionnaire available at www.newham.gov.uk/atherton to tell us your views. We want to hear what you like and dislike about the current centre and what services or facilities you would like to see in an improved centre.



The council has also commissioned an independent research organisation to undertake focus groups and a survey with a random sample of local residents and centre users.

A report into Atherton identifies three possible options for the centre: repair and maintain, a major facelift or a new centre. According to the report, a new purpose-built centre would be the cheapest option in

the long-term. Rebuilding also represents an opportunity to create an environmentally-friendly building that is fully accessible to disabled people.

Once the consultation closes, Cabinet will meet to decide the future of the centre.

To receive regular updates about the future of Atherton Leisure Centre email leisure@newham.gov.uk

CONTACT US

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



Education fair will be just the job

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Newham Council's Adult Learning Service are staging a further education, skills and employability fair.

CHOICES 2012 is a free event for adults to come along and find out more about further or higher education or how to improve their job opportunities.

There will be a range of taster workshops including wedding crafts, fashion and textiles and European and community languages.

The event aims to meet people's individual needs and will include information for adult learners interested in part-time courses, working professionals looking to develop their skills, job seekers and much more. They'll also be a careers village with expert advice on creating a CV and other helpful hints to get you into work.

Drop in and find out more from Tuesday 14 to Thursday 16 February at Hamilton Road Centre, 1 Hamilton Road, E15, 11am-7pm.

For more information call Sonia Lard on 020 3373 4023.



NEW WAYS TO PAY

Newham Council's Local Service Centre based cash offices at Stratford, Manor Park and East Ham will cease to operate on 2 March. From this point onwards, you will no longer be able to use a cash office to make a cash, cheque, debit or credit card payment. If you are a cash office user you will need to find alternative ways to pay.

Alternative safe, quick and easy payment methods include paying online via the council's website or over the telephone using a debit or credit card, setting up a direct debit or a standing order.

All Newham libraries have free internet access and a member of staff can offer you help with using self serve kiosks and making payments online.

Customers can also use a cash payment card (Allpay) to pay rent or Council Tax at a post office or outlet displaying the Paypoint logo.

Allpay outlets near you can be found at:

- < H & H stores, 186 The Grove, E15
- < Millennium Food & Wine, 176 The Grove, E15
- < Maryland Supermarket, 23-25 Leytonstone Road, E15
- < Thailander, 5-7 Leytonstone Road, E15
- < C K Off Licence, 111 Romford Road, E15
- < Stratford Post Office, 26-28 The Broadway, E15
- < Leytonstone Road Post Office, 187 Leytonstone Road, E15.



Free Italian classes

The Play Sow and Grow community centre is offering a free six-week programme for residents over 16 to learn everything you need to survive in Italy.

Come along and have some fun, whether you plan to visit Italy or make new friends.

The classes will teach a variety of things from the basics such as learning the alphabet, introducing yourself and ordering your meals to perfecting the Italian accent and how to move your hands to make Italian gestures and body language.

Sessions are held every Wednesday, 6-8pm, at Play Sow and Grow community centre, Gay Road, E15.

For more information call Candy 020 8522 7337 or email Candy. Buckler@community-links.org

STRATFORD'S MASSIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Put pen to paper and enter our community forum creative writing competition.

Following on from last year's success the popular competition gives you the chance to get creative in no more than 500 words. Your work can be a play, a short story, a poem, a newspaper article or a letter but must be based on one of these themes: news flash, Stratford in the spotlight, my first memory of Stratford or when the 2012 Games come to Stratford.

If you're struggling for inspiration the winners of last year's competition Victoria Adeleke, Ayeshia Ali, Khadeja Ali, Ahmina Ali, Malachi Dolly-McLean and Angela Owusu-Boachie will be



Last year's competition winners with Cllr Charlene McLean and ACT volunteer Andrew Green

on hand to help you on Saturday 17 March between 12noon-4pm at the writer's corner at Stratford Spring festival, Sarah Bonnell School, Deanery Road, E15. Closing date for entries is Monday 19 March.

There are two categories: under tens and ten plus. The under tens winner will receive an annual pass to Discover

Story Centre in Stratford and the ten plus category will win an electric reader. Book vouchers will be awarded to all runners-up and the overall winner of the competition will be awarded the Stratford Massive writing trophy.

For more information call Laura Beswick on 020 3373 6045 or email laura.beswick@newham.gov.uk



PITCHFORD STREET PLANTING

Residents huddle around the new addition

Pupils of John F Kennedy School got to work at a special street tree planting ceremony. The planting was held on Pitchford Street and was one of 52 new trees sown in the area.

The project began in August last

year with the aim to improve the environment, make the streets greener, reduce the amount of pollution and provide homes for wildlife.

Twenty-seven residents including pupils and staff from the school came together with the support of

Newham Council and funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Big Tree Plant. They helped plant an Indian Bean Tree and enjoyed a workshop making their own leaf collages to tie to the tree displaying their art.

Spotlight on... Let's get the Party Started!

Make 2012 a year to remember with your chance to nominate someone for an Inspiring People Reward or celebrate by holding a community event - and it's all FREE!

If you want to celebrate the London 2012 Games or the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with your families, friends and neighbours we'll show you how easy it is to make it happen.

Newham Council is giving residents the opportunity to apply for grants of up to £250 to organise their own community event. This could be anything from a street party to a cake making competition, a talent show to a craft session. The sky's the limit so get your thinking caps on and contact 2012party@newham.gov.uk with your ideas.

And it doesn't stop there. Do you know someone who you believe deserves FREE tickets to the London 2012 Games?



This is your chance to make that special someone feel really special. Have they done something really outstanding, have they made just a little difference to someone else's life, do they need a little boost to their own life, are they housebound and would benefit from this 'once in a lifetime' opportunity? Nominate them and turn a dream into reality. You can find out more by visiting www.newham.gov.uk/inspiringpeople or turn to page 15 of the Newham Mag to read about our latest winner.

WHAT'S ON STRATFORD AND WEST HAM

Cake decorating courses

Course for residents aged over 50 £60 (concessionary rate of £10 for those over 60 or in receipt of benefits)
Holden Point, Waddington Road, Stratford, E15
Beginners: Sat, 10.30am-12.30pm, Intermediate: Wed, 2-4pm
For more info call 020 8519 6603

Community planting event

Add your finishing touch – plant with your community
Thurs 16 Feb, 3pm, Chandos open space, Chandos Road, E15
For more info Laura on 020 3373 6045 or email laura.beswick@newham.gov.uk

2012 residents meeting

Come along to discuss traffic plans and updates for Games time
Mon 20 Feb, 6.30-8pm, Chandos East Centre, Chandos Road, E15
Thurs 23 Feb, 6.30-8pm, Carpenters School, Carpenters Road, E15

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 e.g. richard.crawford@newham.gov.uk



Richard Crawford



Charlene McLean



Terry Paul



Freda Bourne



John Gray



Ron Manley

Stratford and Newtown Ward

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

West Ham Ward

Cllr 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

Cllr 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

Cllr 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 8430 2000.