



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 at Plaistow Library, North Street, E13 on March 25 from 10am-12noon and 2-4pm; March 31 from 3.30-7.30pm; and on April 1 from 10am-12noon and 2-4pm.



Tollgate pupils proudly display their seedlings they are nurturing for the living roof

Tollgate Primary sows seeds for an Olympic future

Tollgate Primary School has been chosen to take part in a competition to design a plan for the living roof of the International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre (IBC/MPC) in the Olympic Park.

Five schools from each of the host boroughs, which includes Newham, were chosen to take part a competition, run by The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the contractor building the IBC/MPC.

In a seed planting day with contractors pupils sowed and learned how to look after the flowers. Along with the other schools, they will help grow 1,000 plants for the living roof – a multilayered cover consisting of vegetation and plants.

A winner will be chosen from each of the five schools. The lucky pupil will be invited to the Olympic Park to see the site and plant the fruits of the pupils' labour.

Nursery teacher, Alexis Fry, said: "Everyone's excited to be involved in the project and pupils are brimming with ideas for the plan."

The IBC/MPC will be a 24-hour media hub for around 20,000 broadcasters, photographers and journalists - bringing the Games to an estimated four-billion people worldwide.

A day of play on the green called May

Make sure you don't miss a FREE mini playday and nature fun at May Green in Queens Road West on Tuesday 22 February.

There'll be bouncy castles, crazy bikes and a wrecking ball to keep young ones active. Nature enthusiasts can Go Wild and discover another side of May Green by going on bug hunts, learning what kind of birds live in the park and lots more.

Mini playdays are funded by the Big Lottery Fund and led by

Newham Council's early childhood services in partnership with Links Event Solutions. Other playdays are planned for this summer; keep reading your In Focus for updates.

**FREE mini playday and
Go Wild games
Tuesday 22 February
11am-3pm
May Green
Queens Road West, E13**



Cllr Laguda has a chat with folk at the launch of the new Winter Active Centre

friends and keep warm in the cold winter months.

Already, Des Blake, who is running the WAC programme at E13 Mix, has got tons of great activities lined-up, including sessions on how to navigate the internet, arts and crafts and Wii games.

Take a trip down memory lane in the intergenerational session and share memories and swap stories about the area with Cumberland School pupils as part of their social studies class.

Speaking about the intergenerational session, Plaistow North ward councillor, Joy Laguda, said: "It's a very important project – we want a balance where people can understand and respect each other."

A warm welcome at E13 Mix

A new Winter Active Centre (WAC) has opened in E13 Mix Centre in Cumberland Road, bringing the total number of WACs in Plaistow to seven.

The Winter Active Centre programme is run by Newham Councils for residents who are aged 50 and over to stay active, make new

Winter Active Centre and Intergeneration Club
Wednesdays, 12-3pm
E13 Mix
Cumberland Road, E13
Contact Des Blake on
balaamtra@hotmail.com or
telephone 07946 038 142 for
more information.



Cllrs Forhad Hussain (third left), Alan Griffiths and Charity Fibresima (far right) brave the cold with residents at First Avenue

First look at First Avenue

A hot spot for anti-social behaviour will be transformed into a play space with a community growing space following comments from residents who attended a public consultation.

The green space in First Avenue was attracting fly tipping and councillors were keen to develop the site for the community to enjoy. Councillors Forhad Hussain, Alan Griffiths and Charity Fibresima listened to residents' suggestions, with a play area and growing space being the most popular options.

As well as sharing ideas, charity Community Links provided free entertainment including a face painter, bouncy castle and a football activity. Councillor Forhad Hussain said: "The cold weather didn't stop people from turning up and sharing their ideas for the future of the open space. We'll now be drawing up plans and preparing for work to begin on transforming what is currently a derelict site into a space for everyone to enjoy."

GET CRAFTY

Mark Saturday 2 April in your diary and head to Newham Sixth Form College (NewVic) in Prince Regent Lane for an unmissable fun-packed spring festival.

To get you in the mood, Newham Council has organised eight weaving and appliqué patchwork workshops at the Newham African Caribbean Resource Centre, where you can learn the art of turning old textiles into masterpieces.

You will first learn how to weave textiles to create, for example, a cushion. You will then learn how to embellish your weaved textiles with detail using a patchwork and appliqué technique (putting one layer on top of another).

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

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

FREE weaving/appliqué/patchwork workshops
Monday 7, 14, 21 and 28 March
10.30am-12noon
and Wednesday 9, 16, 23 and 30 March
10.30am-12noon
Newham African Caribbean Resource Centre
627 Barking Road, E13
Call David Idiabana on 020 8471 2258 to book a place

SPOTLIGHT ON... ASTON-MANSFIELD

Look back in time to the late nineteenth century, when two different groups of people shared similar ideals and beliefs to help the poor of east London and you will find the humble beginnings of what is known today as Aston-Mansfield.



Mansfield College settlers

The charity has a rich and detailed history, and Mansfield House University Settlement (1890) and Aston Charities Trust (1884) have deep roots in tackling deprivation by providing much-needed community services in Newham and further afield.

Both charities campaigned for better conditions for the poor and even started the precursor to the Citizens Advice Bureau, known then as the 'poor man's lawyer' scheme.

Mansfield House in Avensons Road is a legacy of Mansfield House charity – it opened in 1889 and continues to provide the community with much needed support.

Fast forward to October 2000 when the two charities merged to form one charitable body. However, the ethos of the charity hasn't changed much since its origins in the 1800s. Briony Fleming, fundraising and communications manager, explains: "We aim to create a

diverse, inclusive society in which all are free to participate.

"Aston-Mansfield is seen as a community hub and plays a key role in tackling poverty, deprivation, disadvantage and powerlessness in east London."

The charity does this by running jam-packed programmes of activities that are tailored to the needs of the community.

For new groups starting up there's the Community Involvement Unit (CIU) which provides advice, information and support to small or start-up organisations and, through Aston-Mansfield's buildings, they provide space for local and religious groups to meet and worship.

To find out more visit www.aston-mansfield.org.uk or call Kevin Blowe on 020 8536 3825 or email Kevin.blowe@Aston-Mansfield.org.uk

WHAT'S ON PLAISTOW

Badminton competition heats – all abilities welcome

Monday 21 February
Junior competitions
(under 16s) 2-5pm
Adult competitions
(16+ males and females) 6-8pm
Lister School
St Mary's Road, E13
and Thursday 24 February
Newham Leisure Centre
281 Prince Regent Lane, E13

Competition finals - all age groups

Sunday 27 February
12.30-5pm
Newham Leisure Centre, E13
(main sports hall)

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



Alan Griffiths



Forhad Hussain



Joy Laguda

Plaistow North Ward

Alan Griffiths
1st and 3rd Saturday of the month 10.30-11.30am
Plaistow Library, North Street
Plaistow E13

Plaistow Library
North Street, Plaistow, E13

Joy Laguda
3rd Saturday of the month
10am-12.00noon
Curwen School, Atlas Road,
Plaistow, E13

Forhad Hussain
2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, 10.30-11.30am



Charity Fiberesima



Neil Wilson



Sheila Thomas

Plaistow South Ward

Charity Fiberesima, Neil Wilson and Sheila Thomas
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.