

# IN FOCUS **BECKTON**

February 2012

## IT'S A NEW CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF LIBRARY

Beckton Globe Library is re-opening later this month with a whole new range of services and activities available for local residents all under one roof.

Improvements at the library in Kingsford Way are part of Newham Council's drive to provide the best quality services for residents that also represent value for money.

As well as all the traditional library services on offer in the bright, modern refurbished facilities, people will now be able to use easy self-service kiosks to carry out a range of transactions. These include paying council bills online, checking rent and Council Tax balances, reporting abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour, missed bin collections and many more problems as well as checking library accounts to renew books, CDs and DVDs.

Beckton community forum lead councillor Ayesha Chowdhury said: "As well as improved library facilities at Beckton we are introducing new and better ways for residents to do business with the council, saving them time and improving the accessibility of our services."



As a result of the improvements to the library, services at the adjacent Local Service Centre will no longer operate from the end of March. People will be able to visit the refurbished library to find out about council services, including using

alternative ways to pay council bills through Direct Debit, standing order, online and by telephone. Customers can also pick up a leaflet in the library. People can also pay rent and Council Tax using Allpay cards at post offices as well as at many other shops.

### **CONTACT US**

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)





# Start of tunnel vision

Beckton ward councillor Alec Kellaway was on hand as a giant tunnelling machine was lowered into a shaft deeper than anything else in London before starting work on a sewage tunnel between Beckton and Stratford.

The £635m four-mile Lee Tunnel will prevent 16 million tonnes of

sewage entering the River Lee each year - a result of old Victorian sewers not being big enough to cope with heavy rain.

Busy Lizzie is eight metres in diameter - wider than three double-deck buses side-by-side - and 120 metres long. Thames Water expect tunnelling to progress at a rate of

17 metres per day. It is expected to finish in late 2013.

Councillor Kellaway said: "Combined with all the work being done to reduce emissions at Beckton Sewage Treatment Works, this is a major boost in dealing with the unacceptable problem of sewer discharges during heavy rain."

# ENFORCERS UNCORK SALES OF ILLEGAL BOOZE

Shops in the Beckton community forum area were raided by Newham Council's enforcement officers during a purge on the sale of illegal alcohol and cigarettes.

Off-licences, shops and supermarkets were among those checked. Alcohol believed to be fake, counterfeit, or illegal because no duty was paid, was confiscated from almost 80 premises across the borough - including two in Beckton.

Councillor Ian Corbett, Newham Council's executive member for environment, said: "Our job is to ensure shop keepers who sell illegal booze are brought to book."

Counterfeit alcohol tends to be rebottled wine where cheaper wine is poured into a more expensive bottle. Tell tale signs of illegality include spelling mistakes on labels, bottles of the same product looking different, bottles not filled to same level and labels not straight.

**People suspecting these items should contact Consumer Direct on 01622 626 520 or [www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk)**



A seized bottle of counterfeit Jacob's Creek wine

# UNIVERSITY UP FOR SPORTS CHALLENGE

Beckton's community forum councillors have visited the new £21m specialist sports complex at the University of East London which local residents will be able to enjoy from March.

Councillors Ayesha Chowdhury, Alec Kellaway and David Christie saw the new facilities at the Sports Dock that forms part of the Docklands campus in University Way.

The complex will provide a large 100-plus station fitness centre, two sports arenas that can host badminton, basketball, volleyball, cricket, football and netball, an aerobics and dance studio, a strength and conditioning room, two outdoor five a-side pitches as well as a sports café.



From left: Mr Cosford, Cllrs Chowdhury, Christie and Kellaway and Ms Bolingbroke

The facilities will be used by the USA Olympic Team during the 2012 Games. Accompanying the councillors were David Cosford, UEL's Director of Sport, and Selena Bolingbroke, Pro Vice Chancellor with

responsibility for strategic planning and external development.

Councillor Christie: "The facilities are impressive and I would hope as many people as possible are encouraged to use them."

# Donation drive is under way

A two-year partnership to promote blood and or organ donation is under way across Newham.

Beckton ward councillors Ayesha Chowdhury and Alec Kellaway joined NHS officials for the launch of the drive that aims to increase the number of donors in Newham.

Only 16 per cent of residents are in the organ donor register – the UK average is 30 per cent. Blood donation is even lower, with only 0.85 per cent of residents taking part in this life saving activity, which compares to an average of four per cent in England.



Cllr Kellaway (back third right) and Cllr Chowdhury (front third right) with NHS staff, volunteers and other Newham councillors

Councillor Kellaway said: "The number of blood and organ donors in Newham is low in comparison to the rest of the country. This partnership is about raising awareness about donation and promoting how simple it is to take part. Above all, blood and organ

donation can save the lives of others and there's not many other things that can be that rewarding."

The scheme will be delivered by volunteers who will receive special training to become local ambassadors to promote the scheme within the community.

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.newham.gov.uk/inspiringpeople) or turn to page 15 of the Newham Mag to read about our latest winner.

## WHAT'S ON BECKTON

**Inter-active storytelling session inspired by Aesop's fable The Hare and the Tortoise.**

St Mark's Community Centre,  
218 Tollgate Road,  
Beckton, E6 5YA.

Friday 17 February,  
10.30am-12.30pm, free admission. Children of all ages welcome, but young people under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. To reserve a place contact 020 7474 1687.

**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](http://www.newham.com)**

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## 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 2920 or email [chris.bennett@newham.gov.uk](mailto:chris.bennett@newham.gov.uk)  
To email your local councillor write [firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk) e.g. [marie.collier@newham.gov.uk](mailto:marie.collier@newham.gov.uk)



Ayesha Chowdhury



David Christie



Alec Kellaway

### Beckton Ward

Every Saturday, 10- 11am (alternating)  
Beckton Library  
Beckton Globe, 1 Kingsford Way Beckton, E6

**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 8430 2000.