

IN FOCUS FOREST GATE

May 2011



FREE FAMILY FUN IN FOREST GATE

The Forest Gate Festival returns for its twelfth year, and is scheduled to be the best ever. Don't miss out on this extravaganza - put Saturday 9 July in your diary.

Back by popular demand will be entertainment from home-grown singers, musicians and dancers at the Forest Gate's Got Talent showcase. From 11am-6pm, there will also be plenty of activities for the kids including storytelling, face painting and a bouncy castle courtesy of Kay Rowe Nursery.

Family favourites including the Tea Lady on Stilts and Constance Irlke's hula hoop show will make a welcome



Come and be dazzled at the Forest Gate Festival

return, along with Egyptian dancers and a samba band. Forest Gap will host the entertainment stage with live music from local talent.

There will also be foods from around the world and an array of arts and crafts stalls.

Community lead councillor Kay Scoresby, said: "The festival is a great chance for local residents to contribute to a brilliant event. There is something for all of the family and I

urge everyone in Forest Gate to come along and enjoy the fun."

If you would like to have a stall at the festival pick up an application form from Durning Hall or The Gate Library. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 23 June. For further information or to be part of the festival call Syed Haque on 020 3373 1540 on email syed.haque@newham.gov.uk

Forest Gate Festival, Saturday 9 July, 11am-6pm, Osborne Road, E7.



CONTACT US

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



Don't be out for the count



Census collectors are going door-to-door in Forest Gate to offer help with completing the forms and ensuring the questionnaires are returned.

The census is important for Newham in making sure that the borough receives a fair allocation of funding from central Government. It means the council can deliver the essential services that residents say are important, such as cleaner streets, better healthcare, community protection and education.

Each census form is worth at least £6,000 from the Government over the next ten years. In previous years a census undercount of at least 20,000 has meant Newham has lost out on millions of pounds in funding.

The census collectors are warning people that they face the risk of a fine or prosecution should a form not be returned.

Posters are also going up around the borough explicitly warning that residents risk a £1,000 fine and a criminal record if the form is not completed.



Green-fingered residents have until Friday 24 June to enter the Forest Gate Front Garden competition and be in with a chance of winning top prizes.

The competition, now in its third year, includes all front gardens, whether in a house, bungalow or flat. Gardens will be judged on general layout, cleanliness, lack of weeds and how plants or vegetables are arranged.

Councillor Leanora Cameron said: "It is important to recognise the efforts residents make to brighten up their streets and estates by creating and maintaining lovely gardens around their homes. I am hoping this competition will inspire others to get

out in to their gardens this summer and become actively involved."

Judging will take place week commencing Monday 4 July. Entrants must be Forest Gate residents, and only one entry per household is allowed. The front garden must be maintained by the residents living in the accommodation. Entry forms are available at The Gate, Woodgrange Road, or at the reception desk in Durning Hall, Earlham Grove.

Winners will be announced at the Forest Gate Festival in Osborne Road on Saturday 9 July. For more information email syed.haque@newham.gov.uk or call Syed Haque on 020 3373 1540.

LEGAL THREAT OVER PLANS TO MAKE WANSTEAD FLATS AN OLYMPIC POLICE BASE

A decision to allow the Metropolitan Police to use Wanstead Flats as a base during the 2012 London Olympics has been referred to the House of Lords.

The Metropolitan Police plan to use the space as a Mustering Briefing and Deployment Centre (MBDC) during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Two other sites

are also proposed for West London and Greenwich.

Wanstead Flats has been chosen because of its close proximity to Stratford Station, the Olympic Park and Westfield area, as well as Victoria Park where supporting Olympic events are taking place.

A final decision on the MBDC is not expected until July.

Egg-cited pupils welcome ten new arrivals

Spring was in full swing at Maryland Primary School last week as pupils celebrated the hatching of ten chicks.

The children observed the eggs hatching in an incubator as part of the Living Eggs project, where pupils learn how chicks are born, grow and develop.

Deputy head teacher Lorraine Cooper said "All the pupils were fascinated and eager to pay a visit to the nursery to see our tiny, fluffy guests. All classes then spent some time observing the hatching process."



Maryland pupils Jediael and Abdul-Samad with the chicks

The school is looking forward to the arrival of butterfly caterpillars, which will join the chicks, and an ant farm. Lorraine added: "We're hoping the ants are going to become very active, so we can observe their fascinating social structure. A terrarium is being built in Year 5 and Year 6 are planning

a root growing window. Both of these projects will help the children learn about plant growth that usually happens unseen, below ground level."

"Books can teach children a lot of things but we thought this was a better way to learn about looking after new life."

Community celebrates at Odessa Park

The community came together in Odessa Park to celebrate the event of the year, the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

Music filled the air and youngsters had their faces painted. With help

from a Newham Council Go For It grant, hundreds turned out to enjoy arts and craft, a bouncy castle, and football and netball competitions. Food and drinks were provided by local shops and local residents.



Local children at Odessa Road Street Party



Bouncy castle at Odessa Street Party



Football competition at Odessa Road Street Party

Spotlight on... new look Newham.com

If you don't already know about Newham.com, it is worth a click – and now even more than before, as we've given it a makeover.

Newham.com is the website that's all about the borough, minus the council business. It's a handy hub for all things Newham, and now it's even handier.

No longer will you need to wade through loads of search results for things to do in your area, or remember individual web addresses for local hotspots – you can just add Newham.com to your favourites and it's all been done for you. If you've just moved to the borough it's a great way to get an overview of what's on.

The new-look site has been divided into easy-to-use sections: live, visit, work, invest and business. Under each of these you can find lots

of sub-sites, each of them packed with information about your area.

We've launched a new community page under the 'Live' section where local groups can

promote their activities. If you run a local group, get in touch using the details below.

We're also helping visitors out with information on the tourist offer in the borough, detailing where to stay, things to see, where to eat out and shop.

If you're looking for work we have some information on writing a good CV, job search dos and don'ts and how volunteering can help you.

Local businesses should also keep an eye on the site as we will be adding more and more to this section over the coming months.

If you've got something to add to Newham.com, get in touch by emailing info@newham.com or calling 020 3373 2752.



WHAT'S ON FOREST GATE

Playworkers in parks Forest Lane Lodge and Park Magpie Close

Thursday 2 June
10am-4.30pm
Free sports and activities for six-14-year-olds

Storytelling at The Gate Woodgrange Road, E7

For under fives and their parents or carers
Fridays, 11am-12noon
Free

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 1540 or email syed.haque@newham.gov.uk
To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk e.g. shama.ahmad@newham.gov.uk



Shama Ahmad



Paul Brickell



Ellie Robinson



Akbar Chaudhary



Leanora Cameron



Winston Vaughan

Forest Gate North Ward
Every Saturday (alternating)
10.30 - 11.30am
Durning Hall
Earlham Grove
Forest Gate, E7

Forest Gate South Ward
Every Saturday (alternating)
except Bank Holiday weekends
10.30 - 11.30am
The Gate, 4 - 20 Woodgrange Road
Forest Gate, E7

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.