

## PLAISTOW » IN FOCUS

Covering Plaistow North and South

### Hello from Councillor Neil Wilson

Hello and welcome to the last In Focus of the year. I want to take this early opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year! Christmas is not the only religious festival at this time of year; our Muslim residents will observe Eid-al-Adha around the time In Focus comes out. And our Jewish residents will celebrate Hannukah, the Jewish festival of lights, from 11 December.

Whatever your religion, have a fun, safe holiday and stay tuned to your In Focus for all your local community news in the New Year.

#### Community lead councillor, Neil Wilson



Curwen Primary School head teacher Paul Harris shows community lead councillor Joy Laguda where improvements are being made for the benefit of pupils

# Progress continues at Curwen

**Curwen Primary School is undergoing a transformation to bring its buildings bang up to date. Classrooms are being increased in size by one third to make them more comfortable and spacious for students as part of the Primary Capital Programme (PCP).**

Other innovations include specially designed spaces for community use, both for residents and professionals such as health visitors.

The £6.5m project to upgrade the school's facilities began in July and is due to be completed by January 2011. Head teacher, Paul Harris, said: "We are creating an environment to help and encourage our children to fulfil their potential while at the same time providing a hub for residents. And our dedicated creative classroom will allow children to excel in art, design and technology."

More than 80 per cent of pupils attend one or more out-of-school clubs. There are around 33 that take place at the school, such as cycling and breakfast clubs, but the new structural improvements will see that number climb

above 40. Tailor-made furniture along with new cupboards for coats and toys will also feature once the work is complete.

Plaistow North ward councillor and school governor, Joy Laguda, said: "It's fantastic to see the progress that has already been made. I know the community will be delighted with the new facilities and I hope children will encourage their parents to come along and see for themselves the exciting things that are happening."

The PCP is a Government drive to renew at least half of all primary school buildings by 2022/3 to help raise educational standards and provide services for the local community. Around £650m has been allocated across Newham for similar projects in other primary schools.

# DANGEROUS DOGS DESTROY TREES

Irresponsible dog owners who use tree barks and park swings as training equipment for their dogs are causing havoc in our parks.

The owners of mainly Pit Bull and Staffordshire Bull terrier dogs strengthen their animal's jaws and necks for fighting by breaking off pieces of bark and baiting their dog until it tears the strip from the trunk. The animal goes for another piece and another until the tree is left bare, leaving it open to disease and damage.

Around 50 trees have been damaged or partially destroyed in the borough over the past year and Newham's Safer Parks team – a dedicated Metropolitan Police unit – wants you to help put a stop to this vandalism.

If you see this happening or have any information please call the council's 24-hour anti-social behaviour hotline on 0800 731 3300. Alternatively, contact your local police Safer Neighbourhood Team or the non-emergency police number on 0300 123 1212.



# Entrepreneurs enter the Dragon's Den



(front second left) Councillor Neil Wilson sits alongside Newham's 'dragons', flanked by NewVic students who participated in the event

Budding Richard Bransons wowed a judges' panel of Newham-based entrepreneurs during Enterprise Week.

Students from Newham Sixth Form College (NewVic) worked together on pitches before presenting their ideas to the borough's 'dragons', copying the format made famous by the popular BBC2 programme.

Around 60 business, art, travel and tourism students and young enterprise hopefuls split up into

small groups. Members of Funky Boom team came out on top after demonstrating sound business acumen with their idea. They were awarded £100 retail vouchers, and runners-up claimed £50 worth of vouchers.

Community lead councillor Neil Wilson said: "This event illustrated the talent we have here in the borough. Though the outlook for business continues to be uncertain, students like these have very bright futures ahead of them."

# School's performance 'outstanding'

School inspectors have given a massive 'thumbs up' to Curwen Primary School after their visit. Ofsted described the school as 'outstanding' in many areas including leadership, pupils' safety and behaviour.

Head teacher Paul Harris said: "We are delighted that the school has been seen as outstanding. This shows all the hard work and effort of the Curwen team – pupils, parents,

staff, governors and the local community – have contributed to the school over the past three years.

"We are very proud of the work we do and are going to continue to work hard to make further developments for the school and our community."

Plaistow North ward councillor, Joy Laguda, said: "I am delighted that the school has been recognised for its excellent approach to learning. I'd like to thank everyone involved."



(l-r) Councillor Joy Laguda, Police Community Support Officers Rikki Summers, Pamela Khan, Pc Christine Fitzgerald and Cllr Jonathan Knott keep watch inside the dispersal zone

## COMPLAINTS PROMPT DISPERSAL ORDER

Newham Council and police have acted on residents' concerns about anti-social behaviour in Plaistow North.

A no-go zone has now been introduced on young people in the Lettsom Walk area.

It is designed to prevent groups of young people making life a misery for residents and businesses in the area.

The move follows complaints about youths congregating and drinking late at night and early morning.

Plaistow North ward councillor, Jonathan Knott, said: "We will never apologise for being tough on those who make lives of the hard-working majority a misery."

The dispersal order will run from December until March 2010. Police can disperse groups of more than two people and banish non-residents for up to 24 hours.

Roads covered include those within Valetta Grove, Stratford Road, Clegg Street, Upper Road from High Street to London Road and the rear of Plaistow Underground Station.

## COOL SCIENCE TEACHER TO BRAVE THE ANTARCTIC



Teacher Lisa Wood and Ricky the puppet surrounded by her pupils

A fearless teacher from Kaizen Primary School is set to tackle one of humankind's greatest challenges when she follows in Scott's footsteps to Antarctica.

The plucky science teacher will brave -40C temperatures as part of a team of four participating in a Fuchs Foundation expedition, named after Sir Vivian Fuchs, the famous polar geologist and explorer.

Her pupils are designing, producing and testing clothing and equipment for a cuddly puppet called Ricky, which she'll be taking with her. Lisa will then report his progress via a blog.

She said: "I'm really excited because I'm the first primary school teacher to be invited."

Lisa has been preparing for the gruelling two-month trip through a combination of kayaking and rock-climbing.

**Lisa leaves in November 2010 and needs to raise £15,000 for her trip. You can sponsor her by visiting [www.freezingteachers.com](http://www.freezingteachers.com)**

## Warm Centres return

It's that time of year again, when the days get shorter and the temperature drops – but not to worry, because Warm Centres are back with an even bigger, better programme of events to keep you active and, more importantly, warm!

With even more community centres signed up this winter and everything from bingo (bingo and chair-based exercises) to Wii leagues (a wireless games console), there's something to suit all tastes for residents aged over-50. Call your local community centre to find out what they've got on offer. **For more information on warm centres call 020 3373 0625.**

### Jeyes Community Centre

Mondays, 12noon-4pm  
Tuesdays, 12.30-4.30pm  
Wednesdays, 1.30-6pm  
James Close, E13  
020 8471 5856

### Newham African Caribbean Resource Centre

Mondays, 10am-12noon  
Wednesday and  
Thursdays, 10am-3pm  
627-633 Barking Road,  
E13  
020 8471 2258

### Upton Centre

Wednesday, Thursday and  
Fridays  
11am-2pm

Claude Road, E13  
020 8552 8647

### Plaistow Park Community Centre

Monday and Tuesdays,  
1-4pm  
63 Queens Road West,  
E13

020 8552 1334

### Granwell Community Centre

Thursdays, 12.30-3pm  
97 Whitwell Road, E13  
020 7474 5930

### Newham Leisure Centre

Wednesdays,  
9am-12noon  
281 Prince Regent Lane,  
E13  
020 7511 4477

# SPOTLIGHT ON... E13 LEARNING COMMUNITY

**Extracurricular activities used to mean sport after school. Nowadays things have changed.**

Rather than running about a freezing school playground, primary school children in Plaistow and beyond recently spent an afternoon presenting policies that may be adopted by their schools.

Pupils from eight schools that comprise the E13 Learning Community decided upon 'tackling germs' as their focus for the future.

Schools working together enables staff and pupils to learn from each other. The community acts as an umbrella group to share best practice between its member schools, and has two key functions, which are to:

- raise student achievement
- promote community cohesion.

These aims are linked to the Government's Every Child Matters agenda, which encourages an environment where children feel safe, are healthy, learn and have a positive impact upon their communities.

The group began in 2007 but the model will be followed across the borough and the country.



(l-r) E13 Learning Community members Adil, Sylvia, Viktoria, teacher Tina Dobbs, Racharne, Hafsah, and Aaron, in front, present their plans for the future

Its Community Business and Learning Manager, Simon Vincent, said: "The important thing to remember is that this is just the beginning. Already eight schools have decided how to focus their energies for the next year, which is a fantastic achievement.

"By working together so much more can be achieved, which benefits staff as well as students."

**An interactive exhibition about Plaistow's history will be open at the school on Friday 4 December from 9.30am-3.30pm and there will be a series of short talks from 4.30-7pm. Call 020 8548 5620 for details.**

## WHAT'S ON PLAISTOW

**Mayor's Question Time for Monday 30 November at Newham Sixth Form College has been cancelled. It will be rearranged for a future date**

**Over 60s club - Tea, bingo, raffle, dance, outings and social evenings**

Fridays, 1-3.30pm  
Harold Road Centre  
170 Harold Road, E13  
Phone 020 8472 2805  
for more information

**For even more things to do check out the What's On in Newham calendar at [www.newham.gov.uk/whatson](http://www.newham.gov.uk/whatson)**

**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)**

## 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](mailto:shamilla.kumari@newham.gov.uk)



Zulfiqar Ali



Jonathan Knott



Joy Laguda

### Plaistow North Ward

Fourth Saturday of every month  
10.30 - 11.30am  
Islamic Centre  
72 - 74 Selwyn Road  
E13  
Councillor Ali

Every Saturday  
10.30 - 11.30am  
Plaistow Library  
North Street  
E13  
Alternating between  
Councillors Ali and Knott

Third Saturday of the month  
10am - 12noon  
Curwen School  
Atlas Road E13  
Councillor Laguda



Maureen Jones



Graham Lane



Neil Wilson

### Plaistow South Ward

Every Monday and Wednesday (alternating) from 6pm  
Newham Sixth Form College (NewVIC)  
Prince Regent Lane  
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](http://www.newham.gov.uk/mayor) or call 020 3373 0437.