

STRATFORD & WEST HAM »» IN FOCUS

Covering Stratford and
Newtown and West Ham

The Story of Stratford

Colegrave Primary School pupil Arun (9) proudly displays some of the artwork created as part of the project
Photo by Helen Marshall



Schoolchildren have completed a two-year project telling the story of how Stratford's regeneration will change their lives and those of their families.

Westfield-commissioned artist Helen Marshall worked with seven-13 year-olds at Colegrave Primary School in Henniker Road and Stratford Secondary School students in Upton Lane to tell Stratford's story as seen through their eyes.

The project documents the progress of the Westfield Stratford City development, from a building site in 2009 to an operational retail centre opening this year. It explores how the history and subsequent regeneration of Stratford will change the lives of the students and their families.

Students used photos, drawings, sounds, text and video to represent Stratford's past, present and future, while tracking the changes to their immediate environment with the Westfield Stratford City development and the Olympic Park.

Alison, a year 5 Colegrave Primary School pupil, said: "I think the Story of Stratford is interesting and exciting because you get to go out and find out different histories

and information. It has helped me think about what I want to be in the future.'

Throughout the project, pupils forged links with residents who live in the sheltered housing in Holden Point, which houses an Olympic Park viewing gallery. Pupils wrote to the residents to learn about their experiences, their expectations of the new Westfield shopping centre and the arrival of the Olympic park.

Pupils uncovered some interesting facts about Newham as part of their research for the project through www.newhamstory.com.

Highlights include stories of when Charlie Chaplin and Mahatma Ghandi stayed in Newham and the rises to fame of champion boxer Lennox Lewis and war time actress Dame Anne Neagle.

This project is managed by New Directions and delivered in association with Newham Council, Newham City Learning Centre and Museum of London.

Visit www.storyofstratford.com to find out more.



Stay trim with NHS Newham

If you put getting fit and active at the top of your New Year's resolution list and are finding it hard to stick to – then you should head to the NHS Newham health fair for inspiration.

Put Saturday 5 February, 11am-4pm at the Old Town Hall Stratford in Broadway in your diary.

It's your opportunity to get a free health check-up (MOT) and get expert advice on how to live a healthier and more active life.

At the health fair you will find:

- free adult virtual cycling and information on local cycle training
- a taster session on Nordic Walking
- information on health services in your area
- lots of free fun for children
- ways to have your say on local health services
- free healthy food tasters and head massages.

For more information call Sabeena Subba on 020 7059 6789 or email Sabeena.Subba@newhampct.nhs.uk

NHS
Newham



Stratford councillors have a cuppa and a chat at the launch of the new Winter Active Centre

A warm welcome at Ranelagh

A new Winter Active Centre (WAC) has opened in Ranelagh Primary School in Ranelagh Road, bringing the total number of WACs in Stratford and West Ham to six.

The Winter Active Centre programme is run by Newham Council for residents who are aged 50 and over to stay active and keep warm in the cold winter months.

Stop by for a cuppa, a bowl of soup and some freshly made bread every Friday from 1-3pm.

WAC manager, Zena Smart, said: "We've got broadband, so we'll be hosting sessions about how to shop safely online and how to search the net.

"I'm also planning a recipe swap

and an intergenerational photography competition, with pupils from the school working together to track the history of Stratford."

West Ham ward councillor, Ron Manley said: "The new WAC is cosy and welcoming with lots of great activities planned. Being over 50 has never been better!"

**New Winter Active Centre
Fridays, 1-3pm
Napier Lodge
Ranelagh Primary School
Ranelagh Road, E15
Call Zena Smart 020 8534 4364
for more information**

ACT up and become a volunteer

If you're looking for ways to do something for your community then why not become an Active Community Team (ACT) volunteer.

ACT volunteers work with councillors to bring special events like last year's summer festival to Stratford residents and its visitors.

But becoming an ACT volunteer is not just about organising events, you will also be working with your councillors to solve local problems and run community projects such

as producing a mural or even starting a community garden, youth group or Neighbourhood Watch group.

Don't worry if that sounds daunting – you will receive induction training and lots of support to help you to play an active role in your community.

To find out more about Stratford ACT call Laura Beswick on 020 3373 6045 or email laura.beswick@newham.gov.uk



A sketch of the proposed designs

Abbey Lane Open Space gets a revamp

A green space in Abbey Lane is set to be revamped as part of Newham Council's commitment to improve parks and open spaces for residents.

Abbey Lane Open Space was formerly a marshland until the nineteenth century when windmills were built to power the drainage. The

new design will incorporate elements of windmills to retain the site's history.

Community lead councillor, Richard Crawford, said: "We have spoken to various community groups about the design and I'm looking forward to seeing the finished result in May, which everyone can enjoy."

Improvements include:

- open green space for football and other ball games
- adventure play using the Greenway to create slides and rope courses
- new play equipment, such as climbing structures, swings and slides
- new seating, a table tennis table and outdoor gym equipment
- improved access to the Sure Start Centre
- landscaping improvements, such as new footpaths.

Money for the project is coming from a section 106 agreement, where developers give something back to the community. Newham Council is working in partnership with the Olympic Delivery Authority to deliver the project.

Works are due to begin at the end of February and should be completed by May.

Get your teeth into cake decorating workshops



Mark Saturday 12 March in your diary now for an unmissable fun-packed spring festival.

To get you in the mood, Newham Council have organised four three-hour cake decorating workshops in the run up to the event, where you can learn the art of turning cakes into edible masterpieces.

With your new-found skills, if you fancy it, you can help your tutor run a cake decorating workshop at the Stratford spring festival on Saturday 12 March, location and time to be confirmed. Read your next In Focus for more information.

FREE Cake decorating workshops

Saturday 12 February and every Saturday until 5 March

10am-1pm

**Chandos Community Centre
Colegrave Road, E15**

SPOTLIGHT ON... NEWTEC DEANERY ROAD CHILDREN'S CENTRE



It's playtime at Newtec Deanery Children's Centre with Karen

If you're looking for a one-stop shop that offers childcare, training, and advice, Newtec Deanery Road Children's Centre is where it's at.

Simply register with the centre and you can bring your child to any of the free activities (see list below). The centre also runs a nursery that has 61 places for children aged three months to five years.

Outreach worker, Karen Bhikary, is part of a team of five core staff that run the busy children's centre. "It's not just drop-ins: parents can apply for free home safety assessments and equipment to prevent little ones from getting into things they shouldn't, such as safety gates and locks for kitchen cupboards." explains Karen.

Mondays

- Parent and carer coffee mornings, 9.30-11.30am

- Sing-a-long for children and their parents/carers, 2.30-3pm

Tuesdays

- Childminders and carers network drop-in, 10am-12pm
- Baby club (0-1yrs), 1.15-3.15 pm for babies and their parent/carers to get together and have some fun
- Story time, 4-4.45pm

Wednesdays

- Baby massage (0-9months), 10-11am
- Parent workshops, 1-3pm
- Football crazy (2-5yrs), 11.30am-12.30pm

Thursday

- Stay and play for parents and their children, 10am-12pm

Friday

- ESOL classes, 9.30am-11.30am and 1-3pm
- Jobcentre advisor, 10am-2pm – help with your CV, going back to work etc.

Saturdays

- Family play and craft, 10am-12noon
- Coming soon is an advice session on how to dump the dummy and bin the bottle on Thursday 10 February from 10am-12noon. Call to book your place.

Call Karen or Courtney for more information on 020 8519 5843 ext 3200 / 3180.

WHAT'S ON STRATFORD AND WEST HAM

New Winter Active Centre

Fridays, 1-3pm
Napier Lodge
Ranelagh Primary School
Ranelagh Road, E15
Call Zena Smart 020 8534 4364 for more information or read p2 for more information

FREE cake decorating workshops

Start date Saturday 12 February and every Saturday until 5 March 10am-1pm
Chandos Community Centre
Colegrave Road, E15
Read p3 for more information

For even more things to do check out the What's On in NewWham 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



Richard Crawford



Charlene McLean



Terry Paul

Stratford and Newtown Ward

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



Freda Bourne



John Gray



Ron Manley

West Ham Ward

Freda 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

John 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

Ron 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 3373 0437.