

IN FOCUS FOREST GATE

January 2012

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES INVITED TO TAKE PART IN NEW MARKET

The opening of a new market set up by local residents was a huge success with more than a thousand people checking out the treats on offer.

Woodgrange Market, located on Sebert and Woodgrange roads, was organised by local residents Laura Glendinning and Alicia Frances working closely with community lead councillor Kay Scoresby.

A variety of items were sold including cakes, jewellery, artisan bread and olives, with many stalls run by Forest Gate residents. A raffle organised by Forest Gate Active Community Team volunteers raised more than £100 for Beckton's Richard House Children's Hospice, with prizes donated by local businesses.



The market proved popular

Due to its success, Woodgrange Market will now be open for a trial period on the second Saturday of every month until May.

Cllr Scoresby said: "Woodgrange Market was a fantastic success and it would be great to see it as a regular feature in Forest Gate.

"However, for the market to be sustainable, we need people with time and enthusiasm to take part. We want more residents and local businesses to help decide how the market should be run and managed in the future."

A meeting on how the market should be run will be held on Wednesday 25 January at Forest Gate Youth Zone, 1 Woodford Road between 7 and 8.30pm. Anyone interested in taking part is welcome.

For further information or to apply for a stall, please email woodgrangemarketplace@gmail.com or contact Syed Haque at syedhaque@newham.gov.uk or call 020 3373 1540.

Market dates during the trial period are 11 February, 12 April and 12 May between 10am and 4pm.



Cakes sold well

CONTACT US

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



LIFEGUARD COACHING

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Female residents aged 16 to 19 that can swim at least 50-metres are being offered the opportunity to get a free National Pool Lifeguard Qualification.

The course, which usually costs £270 has been funded by Newham Council and the Mayor's Legacy Trust Fund.

Anyone who meets the minimum criteria will be invited to a short interview and pool test on Monday 30 January, from 4-6pm at Newham Leisure Centre, E13, where you can also get a taste of what the course entails. Booking is essential.

The course will take place during half term week (13-18 February). Places are available on a first come, first served basis. To book a place at the open evening email Sarah Ridgway at sarah.ridgway@gll.org. For more information visit www.newham.gov.uk/swimming



SCORES OF PUPILS OPEN SAVING ACCOUNTS AT NEW SCHOOL BANK

Financial education came to life when Forest Gate Community School threw open the doors of its own bank to 1,000 of its pupils.

Students were queuing up to open accounts and apply for interest-free enterprise loans of up to £40 - even the head teacher signed up!

Opening once a week, Newham's MyBnk-in-a-Box will give students the opportunity to run their own online accounts and incentivised saving drives whilst managing and approving loans.

The scheme aims to help young people forge positive saving and enterprise habits by learning about money and doing it for real.

In addition, 15 MyBnkers will file accounts and manage everything from joint-ventures with local firms and handling media.

Forest Gate South ward councillor Ellie Robinson, said: "Initiatives like this will help our young people leave school with more than just GCSEs but also a firm understanding of how money works and entrepreneurial skills."

DIGGING UP PAST ONLINE

You will soon be able to track down details of deceased relatives buried at West Ham Cemetery thanks to a new digital records service.

The cemetery's records were digitised some years ago. Now a company called Deceased Online (DO) will be making them available through their website from February. Simple searches by residents will be free but more complex family histories searches will be subject to a small fee.

West Ham Cemetery in Cemetery Road, Forest Gate, opened in 1857. The 22-acre site, which is open daily during daylight hours, is divided into Consecrated, Unconsecrated and Muslim areas.

DO specialises in publishing such historic records that are used for family history tracing. This is becoming more popular with hit shows such as the BBC's 'Who Do You Think You Are'. Visit www.deceasedonline.com for more information.

MASSIVE CRACKDOWN ON CRIME AND ASB

Following complaints from local residents, Newham Council and partners launched a massive crackdown on crime and anti-social behaviour in Forest Gate.

In one of the largest multi-agency operations in the borough, almost 140 council enforcement officers, police, immigration officers and other agencies, swooped on Sprowston Mews, off Romford Road. Dubbed Operation Idaho, it was a co-ordinated operation led by the council's enforcement team.

Major successes included:

- 14 arrests in relation to alleged immigration offences
- 13 tonnes of fly-tipped commercial and domestic waste removed
- Three untaxed vehicles taken away
- Six planning enforcement cases opened
- Ten premises subject to tax investigations
- More than 35 notices served by the council's street scene enforcement team.



In addition, almost 200 information leaflets were distributed to residents and passersby by during the operation.

Forest Gate South ward councillor, Leonora Cameron, said: "This

raid shows our commitment to responding to residents' concerns on crime and antisocial behaviour. I am pleased to see that this corner of Forest Gate has been cleaned up."



Forest Gate resident Stuart Bamforth beside the Aldersbrook stream

'YOUR PLACE OR MINE'

A web-based, audio-visual project in Forest Gate is the latest recipient of a Go For It grant from Newham Council.

The Your Place or Mine project founded by Rayna Nadeem encourages local residents to look again and re-engage with their immediate environment, and describe their relationship with their own special places.

Ten participants have already explored and re-examined locations that they usually take for granted such as Forest Gate Station, Wanstead Flats, Manor Park Cemetery and the Aldersbrook stream. Their stories can be heard by visiting www.dekkoproductions.co.uk/placeormine

If you have any suggestions about your own 'special place' or want to get involved in the project contact: info@dekkoproductions.co.uk

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 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 or turn to page 15 of the Newham Mag to read about our latest winner.

WHAT'S ON FOREST GATE

Land Art Spectacular - come along and get creative with living willow sculpture in the park and other arts and crafts

Saturday 25 February,
11am-3pm
Forest Lane Park

Volunteering mentor - become a volunteering mentor and give something back to your community, make new friends and gain new skills

Saturday, 10am-12noon
Durning Hall Centre,
Earlham Grove, E7
For more info call Hailu on
020 8555 5125

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 8430 2000.