

Woodberry Down **n**ews



Hackney Council is regenerating Woodberry Down in partnership with Berkeley Homes, Genesis Housing Group, Hackney Homes, the Homes and Communities Agency, the Manor House Development Trust and the Woodberry Down Community Organisation

Woodberry Down Regeneration Team

151 Woodberry Grove N4 2SB

Opening Times

Monday – Friday 9am-5pm

Freephone

0800 694 2109

Web address

**www.hackneyhomes.org.uk/
woodberrydown**

Email

wdr@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Independent Tenant and Leaseholders' Advisors

93 Woodberry Grove N4 2SB

Opening Times

**Tuesdays and Thursdays
between 3-7pm**

Telephone / Freephone

020 8809 7203 / 0800 169 8677

Useful numbers

Neighbourhood Housing Office

020 8356 1670 / 1706

Repairs Contact Centre

020 8356 3691

High Profile Security

07950 546 043

Re-housing Team

Freephone **0800 694 2109**

Robin Redmond Resource Centre

020 8802 7580

Manor House Development Trust

020 8356 1796

BBC star inspires residents

Around 100 residents attended the launch of a new programme, 'Four Steps to Starting Your Own Business', which is being funded by Genesis Housing Group.

The event at the new Skinners Academy took place on Thursday 3 March and was hosted by Genesis Housing Group and partners Beyond the Barn and Inbiz. The aim of this new programme is to encourage start-up of commercial and social enterprise in the area by helping residents to get their business ideas up and running and help them build on existing businesses.

The 'Four Steps to Starting Your Own Business' programme will provide advice, education, training and guidance for setting up and accessing financial support.

The launch event featured special guest Joanna Riley from BBC's The Apprentice 2010 and presentations by representatives from three organisations which have successfully started up their own businesses. Joanna Riley spoke about how she set up her cleaning company. She commented, "It's fantastic what Genesis are doing - it's a great kickstart for residents to start up their businesses. I wish I'd been given support like this."

Residents also learned about how to decide what kind of business to set up, what social enterprise is and how to make a profit.

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Joanna Riley meets Woodberry Down resident Veronica Mensah

Construction update from Berkeley Homes



New homes on the Old School Site

Old School Site

We have now completed all 33 homes and communal areas to the first of our blocks known as Reservoir Apartments. Our plan is to look after these homes for a couple of months to ensure any defects are rectified and the services run without complication in time for them to be occupied in May this year.

The next block to complete is Watersreach Apartments (Block G) and this is on schedule for early May 2011 with all homes now decorated with kitchens and bathrooms installed. We are busy installing the landscaping to the communal courtyard between Watersreach Block G and Reservoir Apartments Block F. The new community centre will open at the same time as the block is occupied.

We have been preparing to open our new Marketing Suite at the front of our nine storey block known as Riverside Apartments. You will have seen the landscaping going in and the new

pathway along Woodberry Grove. We apologise if this path closure has caused any inconvenience during this work.

The remainder of the New River path is on target to open the first week in May 2011. We have been carrying out a lot of earth moving to this area recently as this is required to form the 'Swales' which hold rain water and is part of the sustainable drainage system we are introducing.

The Tower has now reached half way, with another 13 floors to go.

Woodberry Grove North

We have completed all the foundation piling works to all three blocks now.

The first of the blocks, which is nearest to the north (river) is now at 2nd floor level heading up to its six storey height.

Block 2 has a basement car park and this has now been dug out and the basement construction is well developed.

The new sports pitch has now been relocated to its new position and is complete and residents will be notified as soon as it is available to use.

268 Green Lanes

We are up to 1st floor level with the rear block, known as Block B.

The front, block A, is still in the ground and we are preparing to complete the ground works here in March.

Our new Site Cabins have been installed in the compound where the old 'Grow Bag' scheme once was on the old Pewsham Site. The scheme has now relocated to Newton Close.

New sites

Horston & Sherwood: we are preparing to start works on the new social rented unit blocks.

Phase 2 (Pewsham): demolition of Peak and Petherton houses should begin at the end of March.

We were delighted to have been able to arrange a site trip for the 5 year olds from the Beis Chinuch Lebonos Girls School to The Old School Site.

There have been some problems with TV receptions from some of the properties north of the Old School Site development because of the Tower construction. We have already installed some additional aerials on some blocks and are investigating other areas where this now seems to be a problem. We are fully committed to resolving this problem.

Community News



Built 2 Work graduates

Building better futures

Fourteen young people were presented with certificates for completing a course run by Woodberry Works and The Construction Youth Trust in partnership with Hackney Council, Hackney Homes, Lakehouse, Manor House Development Trust, Mullalley and Berkeley Homes. The event held on Thursday 17 February at the Robin Redmond Resource Centre proved once again how popular the course is with all 14 trainees completing the course and passing with flying colours.

Past trainees have continued training in specialist areas of construction.



To find out more please contact Woodberry Works on **020 8356 1625** or email woodberryworks@hackneyhomes.org.uk

News in brief

Club gets snapping

Local photographer Ian Kleinberg is inviting members of the Woodberry Down community with a keen interest in photography to join The Woodberry Down Camera Club. The club is open to people of all ages and will run regular workshops in the Spring. There will be visits to historic locations across London capturing the capital in all its glory. There are also plans to document the changing face of the estate through pictures.



If you are interested and want to learn more please contact Ian on **07947 639 222** or email thewoodberrydowncameraclub@gmail.com

Local children's centre supports national campaign

Children's centres offer a wide range of free fun activities for families with children under five. We offer easy access to services such as midwives, health visitors, speech therapists, dieticians and family support.



This year, to mark the National Year of Communication, the "Hello" campaign was launched to increase understanding of how important it is for children and young people to develop good communication skills.

In the UK today, it is estimated that over one million children have long term and persistent speech, language and communication issues.

They may have a smaller vocabulary, unclear speech, difficulty interacting with others or difficulty understanding and following instructions. For many of these children, their daily struggle to communicate means they are shut out of everyday life. Their barriers are often invisible to others.

If you are concerned about a child's speech language or communication skills, the Speech and Language Therapy Service at Woodberry Down Children's Centre runs Talking Walk-in drop-in assessment sessions for under fives. For children over five, parents are advised to contact the school Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator in the first instance.

Sessions are held at the John Scott Health Centre, on the first Monday of every month, 9.30am – 11am.



For more information, please contact Speech and Language Therapy on **020 7683 4587** or drop into the centre on Spring Park Drive, close to the John Scott Health Centre.

Community highlights

Develop your skills as a volunteer

The Woodberry Down library, based at the Robin Redmond Resource Centre, opened to the public in late February 2007.

Uniquely within London, the day-to-day running of the library is undertaken by volunteers, with support and assistance from Hackney's Libraries, Archives and Information Services staff.

The library has been a success from the start and is now open up to 36 hours a week. There are over 12,000 visits a year and the library is particularly popular with pupils, students, jobseekers and young parents.

There are over 2,000 books and DVDs on offer, and two free-of-

charge public PCs for use.

A number of volunteers give their time to build on skills and gain valuable work-experience and confidence building.

A number of volunteers have used their experience at Woodberry Down when applying for jobs, and to date a total of 22 volunteers have been successful in moving on to paid employment.



To find out more about volunteering opportunities at the Library contact Maria Bernal on **020 8356 7578** or email **maria.bernal@hackney.gov.uk**

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Presentations were made by Inbiz, Beyond the Barn and Genesis. Woodberry Down resident Veronica Mensah said: "Speaking to Jo really inspired me. I am now thinking much more seriously about starting a business making childrens' clothing, which has always been a passion of mine."

Other new business owners giving presentations were Renata, which is a social enterprise catering business set up by three single mums who employ vulnerable women and the long-term unemployed. Renata successfully completed the Beyond the Barn programme and was incorporated as a Social Enterprise Community Interest Company in 2010.

Paula Hines, Community Development Manager at Genesis' Woodberry Down Regeneration Team, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for residents to take their first step into the world of enterprise. The aim of this programme is to harness the local skills and talents of budding entrepreneurs. The aim is to help residents build a thriving local economy for the future."



To find out more about the Four Steps to Business programme, please contact Paula Hines on **020 3222 7000** or email **paula.hines@ghg.org.uk**

A big thank you to Louise

The Woodberry Down Elders Group would like to say a special thank you to Louise Owen, Health Trainer for Age Concern Hackney.

For almost two years Louise has supported the elders and their families to make positive changes to their lifestyles including getting involved with the community, and promoting numerous activities.

Louise will be moving on to pastures new and said of her time at Woodberry Down: "It's been a wonderful experience getting to know a great group of people and I'll miss them all."

Woodberry Down Elders is open to anyone aged 55 and over and meet every Tuesday for a coffee morning 10am - 12.30pm and Thursday 10am - 4pm for both at the Newnton Sheltered Block, Newnton Close, N4 2RF. For more info call **020 8802 9962**.



Louise Owen

Residents have their say



Residents and stakeholders meeting at RRRRC

On the 28 February 2010, Genesis Housing Group held an event to gather ideas from Woodberry Down residents on how best to bring the community together. The evening event was held at the Robin Redmond Resource Centre and gave residents the opportunity to share suggestions for projects and programmes that they felt would help to create a better sense of community spirit.

The purpose of this information is to contribute to a new Community and Economic

Development Framework for Woodberry Down. The focus for this first event was community cohesion, bringing the community together. Through numerous engagement and consultation activities feedback from residents and stakeholders highlighted community cohesion as one of seven priorities important to them.

Residents will be informed of future meetings and will be invited to have their say on what they would like for their community.

Well London leaves legacy in Woodberry Down

On 11 March residents came along to an event held at the Robin Redmond Resource Centre.

Well London has been supporting projects in Woodberry Down for over two years. Projects included personal support packages, Do It Yourself classes, and a walking club amongst others.

Together, the Manor House Development Trust and Shoreditch Spa ran a number of projects including a Cook and Eat programme for residents promoting healthy eating and cooking.

Residents spoke about what the programme meant to them. The Well London Delivery Team talked about achievements of the last two years and how Woodberry Down embraced a promising legacy.

Kevin Sheridan, the Director of Community Engagement for the University of East London, said: "The people on this estate have made Well London what it is"

Volunteer Programme Launch

Genesis Housing Group and the Volunteer Centre Hackney are hosting a volunteers fair at the Robin Redmond Resource Centre on Monday 11 April between 11am and 3pm. The Volunteer fair will mark the launch of a new Volunteering Programme for Woodberry Down residents. This is an opportunity for residents who wish to volunteer to sign up to the programme and find a placement. If you are an organisation looking for volunteers and would like a stall at this event, please call **020 7241 4443 ext 23** or email **vsc@vchackney.org** for more information.

Community highlights

Hackney Counts



The census takes place in March 2011 and all households in Hackney will have received a census questionnaire form.

We are asking residents to make sure they complete and return their form as soon as possible.

The questionnaire will ask you to complete information on everyone in your household as well as any visitors who are staying overnight in your house on the night of 27 March.



Ward councillors

New River



Clr Benzion Papier, 1st Sun each month, 11.30am – 12.30pm, TA Flat, 1 Wyersdale House, Woodberry Down, N4
2nd Mon each month, 4-5pm, Stamford Hill Library, Portland Ave, N16
Last Sun each month, 11.30am – 12.30pm, Ben Simons Community Hall, Bethune Rd, N16



Clr Michael Jones, 1st Sun each month, 3 – 4pm TA flat, 1 Wyersdale House, Woodberry Down, N4



Clr Sean Ned Mulready, 1st Sun each month, 10 – 11am, Bethune Social Club, Bethune Road, N16
Last Sat each month, 10 – 11am, St Thomas More RC Church, Henry Road, N4

Brownswood



Clrs Brian Bell, Feryal Demirci & Oli De Botton (on a rota basis) 1st Thurs each month, 6.30 – 7.30pm, Amwell Court Community Hall, Green Lanes, N4



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