

Keeping history alive fo



Thousands of residents enjoyed a variety of events across the borough as they took part in activities for Newham Heritage Awareness week.

There were walks and talks, exhibitions and workshops – all with the theme of heritage running through them.

Children created heritage landmarks out of Lego at The Gate Library while grown-ups heard about the growth of Forest Gate, once considered a Victorian Suburb, from local historians Peter Williams and Mark Gorman.

As part of Newham Heritage Week, which ran from 24-30 October, Newham Council also launched a programme of replacing road signs that have a significant link with the borough's history. The new signs will feature the borough's crest and a short description about the people, place or event behind the names.

“Newham Council will be annotating road signs that have been named after people and erecting a number of plaques to commemorate people, places and events”

The heritage programme also includes the installation of blue plaques that highlight historical links with people and green plaques to commemorate links with places or events of historical value.

Nick Bracken, Newham Council's Chief Operating Officer joined Mayor Sir Robin Wales and Councillor Ken Clark, cabinet member for building communities, public affairs, regeneration and planning, for a visit to Howards Road in Plaistow for the inspection of a

green plaque in the street.

The street, which is named after pharmacist Luke Howard, dubbed “the father of meteorology” after naming three categories of clouds, has a green plaque to mark the existence of Plaistow Maternity Hospital, originally based in Howards Road but was closed down in the 1970s.

Nick Bracken said: “Newham Council will be annotating road signs that have been named after people and erecting a number of plaques to commemorate people, places and events connected to the rich heritage of Newham and it is fitting that the birthplace of thousands of local people has been chosen as the first.”

Young Road in Canning Town, which is named after John Young, speedway rider at West Ham Stadium in E16, now features both a new street sign and a green plaque commemorating the link with Speedway racing at West Ham.

Nick Bracken and Councillor Ken Clark attended the unveiling of the new street sign and the green plaque, an event witnessed by local residents. It is the first of several signs that will be replaced in the area, all of them named after people connected with speedway racing at the stadium that stood close by.

Councillors Ken Clark and Forhad Hussain, Cabinet Member for Crime & Anti Social Behaviour, also went to Portway Primary School in Plaistow where children spent the first week of their autumn term learning about the area's history. The week-long Project Portway culminated with a dress up day as children and staff wore historical clothes to reflect different

periods of history: Year 1 Victorians, Year 2 the Elizabethans, Year 3 1950's, Year 4 The world wars, Year 5 Medieval farmers and Year 6 the Georgians. They also took part in drama activities with the teacher acting as a person from that era for the children to interact with.

The project celebrated Plaistow's past with visits to help the children learn about different periods of history. These were followed by lessons at school where they created displays highlighting what they had learnt.

Cllr Hussain said: “I was so glad to see young people from Plaistow celebrating our borough's heritage – I believe understanding our local past helps bring communities together. I'm already looking forward to next year's heritage week.”

“Evidence of our past, our history and heritage is all around us if we just know where to look”

Cllr Clark said: “Evidence of our past, our history and heritage is all around us. If we just know where to look. Refreshing our street signs and installing the plaques makes that heritage accessible. Watching the children at Portway primary school shows just how inspiring that history can be when it is that easy to access.”

London Borough of Newham

COMMUNITY
NEIGHBOURHOODS

our residents

