

# AS EASY AS ONE, TWO, THREE! HOW TO BEAT BOWEL CANCER

A TV doctor is urging Newham residents to go behind the bathroom door as part a campaign to raise awareness of bowel cancer.

Chris Steele, resident GP on ITV's This Morning, is inviting folk to learn three simple steps that could save their life with the '1,2,3' campaign, writes **KAY ATWAL**.

NHS Newham is collaborating with the national charity Beating Bowel Cancer to launch the campaign in GP surgeries and health centres across the borough to encourage people over 60 to take part in the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme.

A short film, presented by Dr Steele, shows how to complete the screening kit in easy to follow steps. The '1, 2, 3' campaign film, accompanied by posters and leaflets, will be shown in GP surgeries.

Mark Flannagan, chief executive of Beating Bowel Cancer, said: "Bowel cancer screening kits are sent free of charge to everyone aged 60-75 in England, but cur-

rently only about half are being returned.

"We have launched the '1, 2, 3' campaign to give people the confidence to complete the screening kit when it arrives on their doorstep. I have no doubt that if everyone took up screening when given the chance, bowel cancer would no longer be the UK's second biggest cancer killer."

Rachel Flowers, director of public health in Newham, said: "We are supporting Beating Bowel Cancer's '1, 2, 3' campaign to help spread its important messages across our community; that screening saves lives.

"We hope that the campaign materials will help to relieve any concerns people may have about screening and encourage everyone eligible to take part - it's as easy as 1, 2, 3."

Bowel cancer is the UK's second biggest cancer killer because many patients are diagnosed too late. Screening can identify bowel cancer before symptoms begin, often at an early stage when it can be successfully treated.



CAMPAIGN: Dr Chris Steele

# Power failures apology

ELECTRICITY bosses have apologised after a series of power cuts left dozens of homes in the dark.

The blackouts affected several streets in Forest Gate, including Clifton Road and parts of Shrewsbury Road.

The most recent power cut took place last Wednesday when 95 customers were left without electricity for more than seven hours, writes **MATT NICHOLLS**.

There were also outages the previous day and in early January. Sue Dack, who is renovating a property in Clifton Road, said: "People here have been through absolute hell. Obviously the power cuts have knocked out the boiler and it's been freezing cold."

Sarinder Panesar runs East London Wines, at the junction of Bristol Road and Shrewsbury Road, and was forced to close his store early. He estimates he has lost up to £300 in takings.

"It was fine in the daytime," he said. "But I had to close when it got dark. If there's no light then people will come in and steal things."

UK Power Networks spokesman James Barber said: "This incident followed on from a similar one at the beginning of the month. After that some equipment on the network was replaced in the hope of solving the problems.

"Following the most recent fault, engineers carried out more investigations and have reconfigured the cable network to avoid further failures."

# Vow on hospital attack

AN internal inquiry into how a man managed to attack patients and staff at Newham General Hospital should take weeks rather than months.

Michaela Morris, interim chief executive of Newham University Hospital NHS Trust, told the Recorder that the probe could not

be rushed as chiefs need to establish exactly what happened in the early hours of January 15, writes **KAY ATWAL**.

Relatives of patients injured in the attack have demanded an inquiry into how it happened and the response by the hospital's security staff.

Ms Morris said she, the hospital's director of nursing and senior police officers have held meetings with the relatives to hear about their concerns and to reassure them that the incident is being thoroughly investigated. Police officers are also liaising with families on a regular basis, she said.

She said: "Their major concerns were surrounding security and timings. They want to understand when the Trust will be in a position to give them further information.

"It is difficult to give them information until we have completed our investigation internally."

Asked if the hospital had instituted

measures to ensure such an incident could not happen again, she said: "We can't establish other changes until we have the investigation results. We don't want a knee-jerk reaction that may not be the right solution."

She said the incident was an "extremely rare" occurrence and that people coming to the hospital do not need to have it foremost in their minds. She urged families affected by the incident to get in touch with her and meet, as some have already done.

The man attacked Consuelo Camacho, 75, hitting her about the head, face and body, before turning his attention to Margaret George, 80, after she pleaded with him to stop.

## Driver cut free after collision

A MAN was cut from his car after it was involved in a road accident in Forest Gate.

His vehicle was involved in an accident with another car in Romford Road at about 8am on Thursday, January 27.

Firefighters from Stratford cut the roof from the wrecked vehicle to free the driver.

Ambulance crews put a neck collar on him and placed him on a spinal board before he was taken to hospital.

He is believed to have suffered a broken arm.

The crash caused lengthy tailbacks on surrounding roads, including Woodgrange Road and Green Street.

In a separate incident about 20 minutes later, also in Romford Road, Forest Gate, a motorcyclist came off his bike, but was not seriously injured.

## HELPING THE HOMELESS IN NEWHAM

# Strictly star Ann and BBC man Jeremy back Anchor House

» BBC journalist Jeremy Paxman and former MP and Strictly Come Dancing star Ann Widdecombe have joined the growing list of celebrities rolling up their sleeves to combat homelessness in Newham.

They have agreed to be patrons of the award-winning Anchor House charity in Barking Road, Canning Town.

Anchor House director Keith Fernett said: "Jeremy and Ann are strong advocates of finding long-term solutions to homelessness and we are very pleased to have their support.

"They will be working with us to help raise £15.6million through our capital appeal to ensure our much-needed work in the Newham community continues."

More than 300 homeless people have been helped back on their feet over the past two years thanks to Anchor House but now the 50-year-old hostel and life skills centre is in dire need of a new facility.

"Our mission is to build a new



21st century building with a purpose-built block of 25 move-on studio flats, workshops, a new catering facility, leisure and recreational areas," Mr Fernett said.

"Full planning permission has already been secured and we have raised £6million so far but more support is needed."

For more information or to donate online, visit: [www.anchor-houseuk.org](http://www.anchor-houseuk.org).

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