

The week in London

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Happy birthday to ewe (and cow, and pig, and hen...)

Tucked away behind Gospel Oak's sprawling council estates, on land that straddles a railway track and industrial wasteland, live the cows, sheep, horses and pigs that inhabit London's oldest city farm, Kentish Town, which was set up on a disused timber yard in 1972.

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of this lively and much-loved local facility, which also offers horse-riding, gardening, pottery and art workshops, Halloween and Christmas parties, and a crèche.

To mark the occasion, a special exhibition is planned to illustrate its history and that of the local communities. The exhibition, which will open later in the year, is being put together by local young people, with the help of a £23,600 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. 'It's very exciting. We want to collate

and record local stories, collect photographs of the area and start a farm archive,' says events coordinator Simone Uncle.

'I've been visiting the farm with my children since they were babies' says regular visitor Avigail Ochert. 'My seven-year-old girl loves the pony rides, while my three-year-old son loves "stickishing" – fishing the pondweed out with a big stick. We also go along for the holiday activities, such as the arts workshops.'

The farm was the first of its kind in the UK and played a pioneering role in the development of the 11 other London city farms. But the fondly regarded establishment's next 40 years look less certain. Last year, Camden Council announced it will drastically reduce funding for the site. The farm is now

anticipating a financial shortfall of around 50 per cent over the next three years, and staff and volunteers have begun fundraising in earnest, setting themselves a target this year of £40,000 (to represent their 40 years). Ideas for raising money include opening the farm building for hire in the evenings, developing a community café and offering training in aspects of its daily operations.

'My hope is that we will survive the next three years and maintain the involvement and pride that our local community has shown in the farm over the last few decades,' says Uncle. **Josie Gurney-Read** To find out more visit www.ktcityfarm.org.uk.



Boris shares the bike hire love with East End

On March 8, a new fleet of 'Boris bikes' is being rolled out to cover the whole of Tower Hamlets and parts of Hackney. Approximately 2,300 new bikes will be supported by 4,800 docking points throughout Bethnal Green, Mile End, Bow, Canary Wharf and Shoreditch. The scheme will also be expanded north, further into Camden Town, and west into Shepherd's Bush, with exact locations to be announced.

The move aims to connect the Olympic Park to central London ahead of the Games, expanding the scheme's total reach to 65 sq km. But don't expect to pedal the bikes right up to the stadium. The nearest docking station will be a 20-minute walk away near Victoria Park. A London 2012 Organising Committee spokesperson told Time Out that bikes will be barred from the Olympic Park for the duration of the Games to prevent injury to pedestrians, but also admitted that even without the ban, the Barclays-branded bicycles would be denied entry – Olympics sponsor Lloyds TSB has exclusive branding rights inside the park. Nick Aveling



Faders up

Eighty years after it was founded, the Abbey Road Studios in St John's Wood is opening its Studio Two to the public for six days from March 9 to 25. The recording studio was used by The Beatles and Pink Floyd among a host of other music luminaries; more recently it has seen sessions by Elbow, who recorded the 2012 Olympics theme tune there.

The studio is being opened to host a series of talks by Brian Kehew and Kevin Ryan, authors of 'Recording the Beatles', and the events will feature rare photographs, films and recordings from the Abbey Road archives, as well as displays of studio equipment and vintage instruments. At £75 a session it's not cheap, but we're sure diehard Beatles fans will be falling over themselves to secure a ticket. Be quick, though, as last time we looked places were filling up fast. **Josie Gurney-Read** Tickets are available from www.seetickets.com/tour/abbey-road-studios.

BEA ROWE / NICK AVELING

After St Paul's, Occupy London finds site in Moorfields

An abandoned primary school is poised to become the new focal point of Occupy London. Until February 22, Moorfields Primary School in Featherstone Street, EC1, was a distant satellite of Occupy. But after the Court of Appeal denied protestors permission to appeal their eviction from the main Occupy site at St Paul's, the school, which has been empty for three years, is suddenly at the forefront of the movement.

'We'll soon be the only ones left who are occupying,' David Sedgwick (pictured), 46, told Time Out. Sedgwick was one of the first activists to enter the school, at the beginning of February.



The Moorfields site (which occupiers dub the 'School of Ideas') counts around 20 full-time residents. 'We're up for the whole of St Paul's coming here: all the tents, all the kitchens, everything,' said Rick Maggs, 31, the site's kitchen coordinator and legal aid worker.

When Time Out visited last week, a workshop on self-generated electricity was taking place, and a cheer rose as music began to blare from a pair of speakers attached to a bike-powered generator. Cabarets, discussions and gigs are all planned. But the building's owner, Southern Housing Group, has other plans. 'There are serious safety risks to any occupation of the site buildings,' said the company, which has served a possession order to the squatters. 'The "establishment" has all the resources – all we've got is enthusiasm,' said Sedgwick. 'As long as we don't lose that we can go on and on.' Nick Aveling