

Wednesday, November 21, 2007



Kia Abdullah

Life through the eyes of a Docklands twenty-something

I STARTED the morning in a particularly exasperated mood. For a change this was not caused by train delays or rude commuters – it was caused by a close friend's admission that he was getting sucked back into an infatuation he had with a female friend of his.

Infatuation is rarely healthy but in this particular case, it is simply exasperating. You see, if this girl reciprocated his feelings, then great. If she didn't, then too bad – he could move on. But, being what I call a "puppy breeder", the girl strings him along with what he describes as "the usual hugs, 'I miss you's and affectionate holding of my hand".

I use the term "puppy breeder" because this kind of woman cultivates friendships with men who are interested in her to massage her own ego; to have someone she can use when she needs to; someone who will reside by her feet like a puppy, eagerly awaiting attention.

I know women do this because I am guilty of it myself. It is, frankly, despicable. Now that I have witnessed what it does to a man, I can honestly say that I am ashamed of myself.

Men can be jerks, yes, but at least they make it clear when they're not interested; they don't call, they stand you up, they choose their friends over you. Men give out signals that any self-respecting woman can interpret. Women, on the other hand, will keep men around to make them feel good about themselves.

I guess this is a call to all the "puppies" out there – I know it is difficult to break free from this sort of situation, especially when the breeder in question is so encouraging, but have some damn self respect. Break the cycle.

Kia Abdullah is a 24-year-old author from Limehouse.

Her first novel, Life, Love and Assimilation, was a huge success and she has already embarked on her second book, a crime thriller. Send your comments to

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Read Kia's columns online at www.docklands24.co.uk

£2bn for new wharf

By JOHN HYDE
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A MASTERPLAN has been unveiled for developing one of Docklands' few remaining undiscovered beauty spots.

Consultation began this week to discuss a new development – with homes, shops and community facilities included – at an Isle of Dogs site called Wood Wharf.

Planners want to improve access to the water space, additional moorings and a new canal.

There will also be a new high street with shops, cafes and restaurants running through the heart of Wood Wharf.

The additional homes are set to be a mix of affordable or family-based properties and luxury apartments.

Damian Wisniewski, chief operating officer of Wood Wharf Limited Partnership, said: "Wood Wharf has the potential to deliver thousands of new homes and jobs for the Isle of Dogs and London.

"It will create a fully-integrated mixed-use development which will enhance Canary Wharf's reputation as one of the world's most vibrant business centres."

The public are now being asked for their views, with consultation running from last Monday to December 1 at Canary Wharf's West Wintergarden and George Green's School in Manchester Road.

As well as exhibition boards and architectural models showcasing the proposals, the public event includes a series of work-



Masterplan: Site of the the new development at Wood Wharf

shops on the future development of the site, which local people are encouraged to attend.

Full details are available on the Wood Wharf website at www.woodwharf.com.

Mr Wisniewski added: "We hope that local people will take the opportunity to contribute to the future of Wood Wharf by visiting the exhibition or taking part in one of our workshops.

"We are particularly keen for input into the design of the new Community Park. The views of local people are an important consideration for us as we take our plans forward."

The Wood Wharf Partnership comprises British Waterways, Canary Wharf Group and Ballymore Properties, working with architects Roger Stirk Harbour and Partners and designers Martha Schwarz Partners.

Police to hear public's fears

POLICE will meet the public face-to-face in a bid to address their safety concerns.

The Millwall Safer Neighbourhood Team will discuss people's main crime concerns and what can be done about them.

The meeting follows a recent

spate of gang-related crime in Docklands areas, including the attack on two painters with nun chuck weapons.

It is being held on November 27 at 7pm, at the Docklands Sailing Club in Westferry Road. All are welcome to attend.

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Ms Michelle Carlile

IN a recent report on the Greenwich Millenium Village we reported that resident, Ms Michelle Carlile, was dissatisfied with the development.

We would like to point out that this is not the case.

Ms Carlile is very happy living in the Greenwich Millenium Village but is unhappy with the delays she has experienced with the development's management company in dealing with complaints.

We regret any confusion our report may have inadvertently created.

Should you be worried about osteoporosis?

Up to one in two women and one in five men over 50 in the UK will suffer from an osteoporosis related fracture*.



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