The Speaker (top) addressing the crowd that gathered in St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch; and colourful marchers throng the streets of central Hackney, including Ronan the dog

Taking pride

By
Marcel Reinard

THE borough sent out a message of community cohesion and took a stand against intolerance during the first Hackney Pride march.

Nearly 1,000 people across races, sexualities, genders, ages and religions turned out for the 4 September march, a positive event in response to homophobia, transphobia and all hate crimes. The march began outside Hackney Town Hall, followed Hackney Road,

and ended with speeches in St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch.

Groups including Out East, Unite, UNISON, and the Hackney Community Engagement Board (HCEB) jointly organised the event. Terry Stewart, from HCEB, said: "For me it was a huge success. I've also got to give credit to the Speaker of Hackney, Cllr

Sally Mulready, who brought her family to the march. She made such a warm speech and gave us confidence that she was committed to putting measures in place."

He added: "The Council's equality and diversity team also made a valuable contribution, along with the Hackney Employees forum."

Terry also praised Reverend Paul Turps for welcoming the rally to St Leonard's, and The Learning Trust for 'Schools Out', a project that he called 'a very important lifeline for young people as well as a great

educational tool within the borough'.

The Speaker said she was happy to see Hackney community groups take a stand against violence. Adding: "Hackney Pride shows how we can all work together to secure equality for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and I congratulate the organisers and everyone who took part making it a successful event."

> **"Hackney Pride shows how we can all work together to secure equality"**

NEWS IN BRIEF

An artist's impression of the new library and archive

A new chapter

DALSTON'S new flagship Library and Archive is taking shape, with internal fit-out works set to begin.

The state-of-the-art building, due to open in spring 2011, will be over twice as large as the current library in Dalston Lane, which it replaces.

It will have a cafe and education room, dedicated to writer and essayist CLR James. It is also set to feature separate adult and children's libraries, a teen zone and a 'quick picks' area for people in a hurry.

There will be a wide range of books, study materials, and online reference sources, as well as community and education facilities. The library will offer free study spaces, computers, and wi-fi throughout.

The borough's archives, some dating back to the 13th century, are also being relocated to the new site from their current home in De Beauvoir Road. They will be available for use by all, and include over 20,000 historic photographs and maps from throughout Hackney's history.

Cllr Jonathan McShane, Cabinet Member for Community Services, said: "Dalston Library and Archive will provide a much greater range of services for residents than currently available. Its location next to Dalston Junction station means it can also be used more easily by those from other parts of the borough."

Lap-dancing clubs: have your say

THE Council's licensing committee is inviting residents to take part in a public consultation looking at the way 'sex establishments' are licensed.

The committee is responsible for regulating sex shops, cinemas and entertainment venues, such as lap-dancing clubs and erotic dancing venues, and has drafted a new policy to determine whether to grant licences for these types of businesses in Hackney.

A policy is being proposed, which would mean no licences will normally be granted.

Hackney currently has one licensed sex shop in Hoxton and four premises that are 'licensed to provide live performances, or displays of nudity solely, or mainly, to sexually stimulate audience members'. The consultation runs until 13 December.

For a copy of the consultation document, call:
020 8356 2431, or go to:
www.hackney.gov.uk/licensing