



On the slide – 18-month-old Lucia Allen Baker plays on a pirate boat

# PICK OF THE WICK

Sun shines as fun-filled festival gets off to a flier

by WILLIAM DAVIES

**REVELLERS** gathered in the autumn sunshine for fun and art at the first Hackney Wick Festival on Saturday.

The main focus of the festival was a village fete, which took place on the green at Eastway and included stalls, art work and activities for youngsters.

The festival was proclaimed a great success by SPACE galleries in Mare Street, Hackney, one of the organisers.

Fiona Fieber, head of collaborations at SPACE said: "Everyone was really pleased with how the festival went and people seemed to enjoy themselves."

"The theme of the event was local produce and this was reflected in the festival with a number of stalls and activities displaying this."

One of the more unusual attractions was the Wick Curiosity Shop, which displayed an eclectic collection of produce, memorabilia, oral history, songs and stories from or about Hackney Wick.

A variety of goodies, made



Boxing clever – eight-year-old Bishop Oudoutula learns how to jab

from fruit found on the edge of the 2012 Olympic park, including everything from gin to cakes, was available at the Pudding Mill River Shop.

Also on offer at the fete were henna tattoos, a children's play area and an appearance by the Hackney Playbus, a mobile play area contained in a double-decker bus.

A host of other attractions were spread across a total of six other venues in Hackney Wick. A number of art exhibitions

were staged at various locations including the SPACE studios in Eastway.

The Big Blue Fence project used the Olympic site's perimeter barrier to showcase the work of Penny Cliff, who created an interactive exhibition highlighting the concerns of residents.

They also got the chance to get a sweat on with a "boxercise" class organised by the Youth for Hackney and Malaika Youth Project.

A wide range of activities,

including dance, performing arts, music and a martial arts display, took place at the Hackney Wick Community Centre.

Members of the Trowbridge senior citizens' club did their bit by making teas and overseeing a tombola and jumble sale at St Mary of Eton church.

A play about the evil of knives, *Can I Go Out?*, was staged by the parents' group from Gainsborough Primary School at the school in Berkshire Road.



on the future of the Congestion Charge Western Extension.

Transport for London are consulting on the future of the Western Extension. We're interested in your opinion so visit [tfl.gov.uk/westernextension](http://tfl.gov.uk/westernextension) or call 0844 415 4425\* for a leaflet before 5 October 2008

