

COMMUNITY

Want to work in construction?

“Get on this scheme,” says first apprentice.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Time capsule buried on site
- King’s and Imperial join The Crick
- Improvements to local homes and the environment
- The Tree of Life
- Taking science into Camden’s schools

ABOUT THE CRICK

The Francis Crick Institute (formerly UKCMRI), is a new medical research institute being built at Brill Place, Somers Town.

It’s named after one of the UK’s greatest scientists, who co-discovered the structure of DNA.

The Institute is a partnership between the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust, UCL (University College London), Imperial College London and King’s College London.

Discoveries made in the laboratories will speed up the development of treatments for major diseases such as cancer, heart disease and stroke.

The Francis Crick Institute will bring new jobs, community facilities and other benefits to Somers Town.



Above: Apprentices on Laing O’Rourke’s construction scheme. © The Francis Crick Institute.

Laing O’Rourke has taken on the first of 40 apprentices to help build The Francis Crick Institute.

Camden resident Clark started his two-year paid apprenticeship in groundworks in October.

“Groundworks pretty much covers everything,” he says. “So far I’ve been working on drainage – putting in manholes and building a storm water tank. I’m picking up the practical stuff now but I’ll be doing a lot more over the coming months.”

Over the next two years Clark will combine on-the-job training with two-week blocks at college, where he will learn the basics of construction.

Before starting the apprenticeship Clark worked in a supermarket warehouse. “It wasn’t a great job – I wanted something more. I decided to do an apprenticeship to secure a better future for myself.”

He feels that a groundworks

apprenticeship is a good way to start out in the construction industry because it can lead to a range of jobs.

“It’s very flexible – once I’ve completed this apprenticeship I plan to move on to another area, maybe engineering. Ultimately I want a job as a foreman or supervisor working on a big site.”

Clark got his apprenticeship through King’s Cross Construction Skills Centre. “It took a few months; they make you jump through a few hoops – you have to do a maths and English test for example. But that’s fair enough – you have to show them you’re worthy of the job.

“They’re a good centre and I’ve been recommending them and the apprenticeship scheme to friends. I’d say to anyone who wants to work in construction they should get on this scheme.”

Clark is also positive about working on the Brill Place site. “You get a lot of

▶ Continued on page 2

► Continued from front page

support – you're not just left to get on with it. The supervisors are good too – they don't make you feel scared to ask if you don't know something.”

And he believes that being part of the team building The Crick is something to be proud of. “You're not just building somebody's house – it's a big centre for cancer research so you're doing something that's of benefit to lots of people,” he says.

CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICESHIPS AND OTHER JOBS ON THE CRICK SITE

If you live in Camden, are aged 18-24, and want to work in the construction industry, you might be interested in Laing O'Rourke's two-year apprenticeship scheme.

To find out more call the King's Cross Construction Skills Centre (KCCSC) on 020 7974 5161.

KCCSC also handle recruitment for other jobs on The Crick construction site, including the recent appointment of an assistant engineer. Give KCCSC a call for information on any jobs available now.

Crick to fund improvements to local homes and environment

In December 2010 The Crick and Camden Council agreed a package of benefits for Somers Town worth almost £10 million. This included £1.7 million to improve local council housing through Camden's Better Homes Programme, and £3.8 million towards a new district energy centre to supply cheaper heat and power to local homes.

Camden has now confirmed that it will spend the £1.7 million on the Ossulston Estate, to include improvements to kitchens and bathrooms, electrical work and heating, and replacement windows for Walker House.

The Council's Cabinet is to consider plans for a district heating scheme in December.

The Crick also committed £70,000 to help fund improvements to Purchase Street Open Space. Camden's Parks team will now look at priorities for Purchase Street and how to make best use of The Crick's funding.

KING'S AND IMPERIAL JOIN THE CRICK

Two more of the world's best universities have joined the partnership behind The Francis Crick Institute.

King's College London and Imperial College London formally joined the Institute in October. The chairman of The Francis Crick Institute, Sir David Cooksey said “King's College London and Imperial College London have extraordinary clinical and scientific skills which will help to foster new ideas and will bring enormous value to the partnership.”

“The Institute will become a national asset – working with universities, institutes and hospitals, connecting scientists from different disciplines with clinicians and industry to bring health and economic benefits to the UK and beyond.”

Time capsule buried under The Crick's foundations

Mayor of London Boris Johnson joined science minister David Willetts MP and Francis Crick's daughter Gabrielle, to bury a time capsule 12 metres under The Crick's foundations.

The capsule contained more than a hundred items. These included letters from world-leading scientists, a letter from a 12 year-old boy who was successfully treated for a brain tumour, architects' sketchbooks, and biographies and photographs of Francis Crick.

The brass case also contained local children's artwork (from St Mary and St Pancras School), and a film about life in Somers Town made by young people from Somers Town Youth Club. The capsule won't be dug up for decades to come.

The event brought together local and national politicians, scientists, members of the design team, the local community, site workers, and the Institute's project team to celebrate. In her speech, Gabrielle Crick said her father would have been delighted and honoured that the Institute had been named after him.



Above: Science Minister David Willetts with pupils from St Mary and St Pancras School, Gabrielle Crick, Sir Paul Nurse, Mayor Boris Johnson, and youth workers Shofi Muhammad and Jamie King from Somers Town Youth Club. © The Francis Crick Institute.



An interview with Dr Simon Boulton

Dr Simon Boulton leads the DNA Damage Response laboratory at Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute. Damage to DNA – our genetic code – is at the heart of cancer development. Simon is investigating how cells normally sense DNA damage and repair it accurately. This cutting-edge work is providing valuable insights into what goes wrong in cancer cells.

Our DNA is constantly under assault from chemical reactions taking place in our bodies and from things we're exposed to in our everyday lives such as ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Most of the time, DNA damage is repaired successfully by the cell. But if the cell continues to grow whilst its DNA is already damaged, it can lead to cancer.

Simon and his team are using a number of techniques to study DNA damage repair. In particular, they are investigating this highly complex process by first studying it inside a microscopic worm called *C. elegans* and then extending these findings to human cells. Simon has won several awards for his outstanding work in this area. Most recently (April 2011) he received the European Molecular Biology Organization's Gold Medal Award.

What made you become a scientist?

I followed my gut instinct. I wasn't particularly academic at school – not a square-headed genius anyway – but I enjoyed science, so I pursued it. I was the first in my family to go to university and studied chemistry at Edinburgh. I then became really interested in molecular biology, and did a PhD at Cambridge.

I was also lucky enough to be exposed to certain environments and I think that's key. Being in a stimulating environment has pushed and challenged me as both a person and a scientist.

What have you and your team achieved?

In the past five years we've discovered a key regulator that plays a very important role in helping cells repair DNA damage. We've really nailed the molecular basis of what this regulator is doing, what it acts on and how it regulates certain functions in the cell. It's involved in a number of different cancers.

We've also discovered an enzyme that's present at raised levels in over 70% of liver cancers – a major killer. We believe our research in this area will help doctors provide the most appropriate treatment for each patient and are now doing further work with clinicians at the Hammersmith Hospital in west London.



How will The Crick benefit your research?

Often the major discoveries are made when there are very tenuous links between apparently very different areas, but they are fundamentally linked and can lead to real breakthroughs.

The Crick will bring together people with diverse interests from very different backgrounds, so we'll be exposed to new ways of thinking, new approaches and new technologies and will be able to approach our research questions in different ways. I think it will change the way we do science and I hope lead to some very innovative discoveries.

What advice would you give someone wanting a career in science?

Two things. The first is to follow your gut instinct. The second is to be proactive – if you're really interested in something then you must pursue it. I think The Crick will offer great opportunities for young people to do this through its education programme and connections with the local community.

To find out more about Simon's work go to www.london-research-institute.org.uk/research/77

WHY EATING YOUR GREENS IS GOOD FOR YOU

Scientists at one of The Crick's founding institutes, the MRC National Institute for Medical Research have discovered that vegetables such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cabbage help to maintain healthy skin and a healthy gut.

Broccoli and other similar vegetables contain nutrients that help the body to produce enough specialised immune cells whose job is to defend the skin and gut from bacteria and other tiny organisms that cause disease. At the same time the cells protect the organisms that keep the skin and gut healthy.

The cells which need nutrients from broccoli and sprouts also help to repair the skin or gut when it is wounded.

The work was carried out at Gitta Stockinger's lab at NIMR. She said: "This research provides a direct link between eating greens as part of a balanced diet and the health of a person's skin and gut. It demonstrates why eating your greens is good for you."

You can find out more at www.crick.ac.uk/news



Taking science into Camden's schools

Students from South Camden Community School (SCCS) got to hear first-hand about life as a scientist when young graduate scientists from Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute and the National Institute for Medical Research took part in the school's first careers fair in November.

The scientists were joined by staff from The Crick and Laing O'Rourke (the firm building the Institute), who provided information on other careers, including construction.

Pete Bains, Deputy Headteacher at SCCS, said: "The feedback from students has been extremely positive and encouraging. Many students have indicated a preference for a particular career, while others now have a wide selection of options that they hadn't previously considered."

The Crick aims to get more young people interested in science and will develop an education programme to support students of all ages. The Institute has already appointed an education officer, who will work closely with Camden schools to make sure they can take advantage of The Crick's education programme.

The Crick's building will include a teaching laboratory where young people will get the chance to meet the Institute's scientists and learn more about the research they do to tackle illnesses that affect families throughout the world, such as cancer, heart disease and stroke, infections, and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's.



Above: Pupils from SCCS meet staff from The Crick.
© The Francis Crick Institute.

The Tree of Life project



Top: A sculpture inspired by life under the microscope. Bottom: Pupils from Edith Neville School get creative. © The Francis Crick Institute.

These beautiful sculptures were created by local schoolchildren and their parents as part of The Crick's Tree of Life project.

Inspired by images of life under the microscope (such as cells, viruses and bacteria), the pupils worked with artist and scientist Dr Lizzie Burns to make decorations for 'trees of life'.

Trees of life have been celebrated for thousands of years by communities across the world including the Ancient Egyptians, the Ba-Shu Chinese, pre-Columbian Mesoamerican culture and in Judaism. A tree represents the interconnection of life on our planet.

"The workshop was lots of fun and we really enjoyed it," the parent of a child at St Aloysius Junior School said. "Art and science is so fun and I like this kind of thing" added a Year 5 pupil from Edith Neville School.

More than 200 people took part in the project, with workshops at St Aloysius Infants and Junior Schools, St Mary and St Pancras School, Edith Neville School, Somers Town Community Centre and St Pancras Church.

FOLLOW US ON 

You can now keep up with the latest news about The Francis Crick Institute on Twitter. Follow us at @thecrick.

Living Centre update

Members of the Living Centre community working group and staff from The Crick visited the Bromley by Bow Centre in east London recently, to find out more about healthy living centres and the challenges involved in setting one up.

Established in a local church in 1984, the Bromley by Bow Centre supports families, young people and adults, enabling them to learn new skills, improve their health and wellbeing, and find employment.

The centre has supported thousands of local people over the past 25 years. Projects include health programmes (such as Pollen – a gardening scheme designed to improve people’s mental health), adult education and training, and help for those wanting to set up their own business.

The Crick’s Community Engagement Manager, Katie Matthews, said: “It was very interesting to visit the Bromley by Bow Centre and learn about the ground-breaking work they are doing and their approach to working with the community. Their experience will help inform plans for our Living Centre here in Somers Town.”

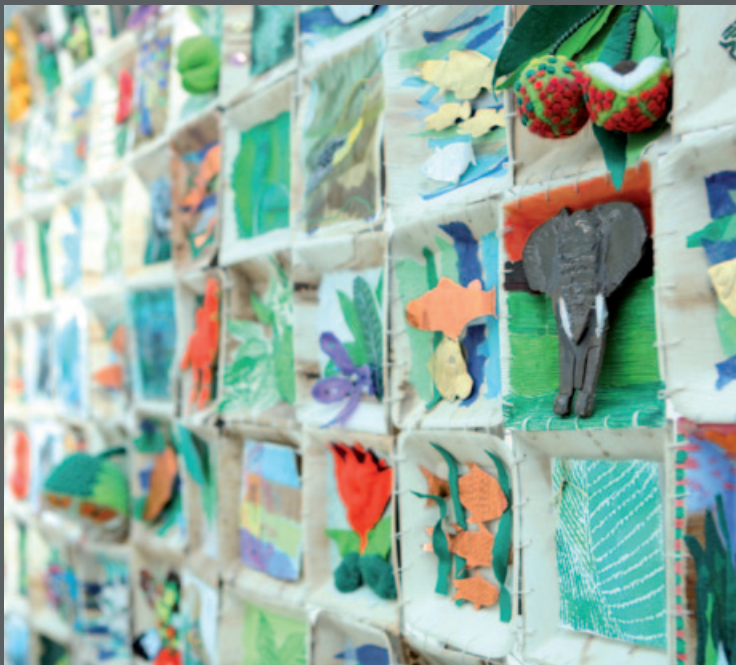
The 450m² Living Centre will form part of the Institute’s building. Run in partnership with the community, the Living Centre will offer services and facilities to improve health and wellbeing locally. These could include health checks and health information, sports and exercise classes, advice services, and adult and community education.

You can find out more about The Crick’s Living Centre at www.crick.ac.uk/community/local-community/living-centre. For more information about the Bromley by Bow Centre go to www.bbbc.org.uk.



FOLLOW US ON
twitter 

You can now keep up with the latest news about The Francis Crick Institute on Twitter. Follow us at @thecrick.



BANGLADESH FAMILY DAY

Two thousand people took part in Camden Mela’s Bangladesh Family Day, held at the British Museum in September, with funding from The Francis Crick Institute.

This year’s Mela (the word means ‘gathering’ or ‘village fair’ in Sanskrit,) celebrated the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh’s independence. Activities included storytelling in the Museum’s Asia Gallery, a display of contemporary art and rickshaw panels, dance performances, and arts and crafts activities.

“The Bangladesh Family Day was an exciting way of celebrating Bangladeshi culture in Camden on this special anniversary. The event was the focus of a successful partnership between the Bangladesh High Commission, Camden Council, Camden Bangladesh Mela Committee and the British Museum, with valuable support from sponsors such as The Francis Crick Institute”, said Mela organiser Harun Khaji.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Building work on the Institute is progressing well. Since June, Laing O'Rourke has removed over 100,000 tonnes of soil in around 5,000 trips from site, and worked over 170,000 man hours.

The Institute's basement wall is now complete and over 170 of the 365 concrete piles that hold the structure together have been laid. Piling is due to finish in March 2012.

In November, the Crick site had its second Considerate Constructors Scheme inspection. Once again the site was rated 'exceptionally good', scoring highly on all categories including safety, cleanliness and respect for neighbours.

Also in November Laing O'Rourke met over 20 local suppliers (ranging from catering to translators and printers), at an event organised by Camden Council to help smaller local companies win business with bigger firms. Laing O'Rourke is committed to using local services and suppliers where possible, and as building work on The Crick gathers pace Laing O'Rourke hopes to work with a range of local firms.



OUTLINE TIMETABLE

Early Summer 2011

Building work started.

Spring 2013

External work completed, internal fit-out starts.

Spring 2015

Internal works completed.

The building is ready for use and staff move in.

Construction questions? Call the construction hotline free on 0808 165 0180, or email projectinfo@laingorourke.com

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Email: info@crick.ac.uk

Web: www.crick.ac.uk

Phone: 0800 028 6731

Post: The Francis
Crick Institute
Gibbs Building
215 Euston Road
London, NW1 2BE

Visit: The Crick Visitor Centre
Ossulston Street
(opposite Hadstock
House), NW1 1HG

Staff will be on hand to answer your questions and you will be able to see the latest designs and plans for the building.

OPENING TIMES

(From January 2012)

Thursdays: 14.00-18.30

We can also open the Visitor Centre for groups on request. Please contact us to arrange a visit.

This newsletter tells you about The Francis Crick Institute and its plans to build a medical research centre on Brill Place, Somers Town. If you would like a copy in Bengali, please send your name and address to The Francis Crick Institute, Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE or email info@crick.ac.uk.

এই সংবাদপত্রিকাটি আপনাদের দ্য ফ্রান্সিস ক্রিক ইন্সটিটিউট এবং ব্রিল প্লেস, সমারস টাউনে তাদের দ্বারা একটি মেডিকাল গবেষণা কেন্দ্র তৈরি করার পরিকল্পনার বিষয়ে আপনাকে জানায়। যদি আপনি বাংলায় একটি অনুলিপি চান, অনুগ্রহ করে The Francis Crick Institute, Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE ঠিকানায় বা info@crick.ac.uk-তে ইমেইল করে আপনার নাম আর ঠিকানা পাঠান।