

Park tragedy overshadows crime-busting strategy

DEAN ARMOND

The shocking killing of a 16-year-old boy in West Ham Park on July 9 just days before London's police chief issued a new strategy for public safety has highlighted Newham's continuing crisis of violent crime.

Newham is among the top 10 most dangerous boroughs in London according to the criminal activity data project CrimeRate and the latest tragedy underlines the need for a new approach in combating violence which have in recent years been the highest proportion of all crimes in the Borough.

The new Metropolitan Police strategy outlines a new approach and puts the focus on community-policing with more police officers to be deployed in local neighbourhoods.

The strategy aims to rebuild public confidence after the independent report by Louise Casey earlier this year condemned institutional sexism, racism and homophobia in the force.

The West Ham tragedy, which took place in broad daylight in the rose garden of one of Newham's most popular parks and for which another teenager has been charged with murder, underlines the need for a new approach.

Recent changes in the leadership of policing in Newham and across London may give grounds to hope for improvement.

The most significant change has been the appointment of Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley to replace Dame Cressida Dick who resigned in 2022 in the midst of controversy over shortcomings which had seen the Metropolitan Police Service placed in 'Special Measures' and

put under increased public scrutiny.

Last year the North East (NE) Basic Command Unit (BCU) which covers Newham and Waltham Forest also saw the appointment of Commander Simon Crick to replace Richard Tucker.

And, in Newham, the new Cabinet appointments in May this year saw Councillor Amar Virdee given the Community Safety and Crime portfolio.

Commissioner Rowley made his position clear with the publication on July 17 of the Metropolitan Police Service strategy *A New Met for London 2023-25* days after the West Ham killing with the emphasis on three priorities: "... community crime-fighting, culture change and fixing our foundations."

Rowley is recruiting an additional 500 Police Community Support Officers and assigning more officers and PCSOs to local neighbourhoods.

The local police chief BCU Commander Simon Crick started his police career in Newham and is a firm believer in neighbourhood policing. He outlined his plans at a 'Police Service' event to discuss the new strategy in June at the Excel Centre.

Recent changes in the leadership of policing in Newham give grounds to hope for improvement.

At council level, Councillor Virdee is working closely with Council officers in various departments including housing services to create a consistent and coherent Community Safety and Policing policy. He has also reached out to other organisations via the Newham Community Safety Partnership to ensure the council is aligned effectively with the police, probation, health, and fire services.

Central to the strategy for change are ward panels, a group of community members and partner agencies that meet with a representative of the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) at least every three months to set local ward priorities for policing within the community.

All three new appointments agree that ward panels are essential in public building trust and confidence. These panels – there are 24 of them in Newham – are will help the Met get community information about neighbourhood crime, and give the police an opportunity to inform residents about their activities.

In the shadow of a horrifying and brutal murder these new appointments, a fresh strategy to crackdown on crime and a commitment to focus on neighbourhood policing are timely.

www.met.police.uk/notices/met/a-new-met-for-london



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Your guide to what's on this summer

See page 7-10 >



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HAVE YOUR SAY: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@newhamvoices.co.uk

NewVic Principal responds to last month's story about strikes at the college

Let's get back to doing the job we do best

I was saddened by the article by Miriam Scharf in *Newham Voices* which revealed that the National Education Union (NEU) at NewVic plan to ballot members on whether or not to hold further strikes in the new academic term.

The article painted an untrue picture of the management team. She wrote "Strike days in the spring term calling for ACAS talks were unsuccessful, so the union group voted for further strike action."

However, the article failed to mention that ACAS talks were held and in a bid to minimise the impact on students, the College called on the NEU to suspend strikes. The NEU refused. However, the College proceeded with talks and hopes were raised when, following three days of talks an agreement was reached. The following day, the College was told that the members had rejected the agreement. On 12 June, after a fourth day of ACAS talks another agreement was drawn up.

The NEU reps had assured the College the agreement is what they wanted. The College was therefore devastated to learn the NEU had withdrawn the agreement and then balloted to take further strike action.

Ironically, with new representatives from the NEU taking over talks, the College has been asked to retable the 12 June agreement with nearly every point in the agreement being

accepted by the new NEU officials. Further talks are planned and we hope to be able to reach a resolution.

The article also claimed that "a group of students barricaded themselves into the Principal's office." which was totally untrue and misleading.

There is no escaping the harsh truth that those affected the most by the NEU strikes are the very people that we are here to support; our students.

In the 30 years that NewVic has existed it has helped to launch thousands of students' careers. We're proud to be a "fully inclusive sixth form" in Newham. We believe we have a duty to safeguard inclusive learning for our local community and we simply cannot afford for future strikes to affect our student's futures.

That is why the College took the difficult decision to undergo a Structure and Prospects Appraisal to - not, as the article states, "because the College is forging ahead with plans for a merger."

Put bluntly, strikes hurt our students. The majority of staff at NewVic want to do the job that they love and the job that we do best, teaching our students and working to improve their life outcomes.

– **Mandeep Gill**, Principal and Chief Executive, Newham Sixth Form College (NewVic)

Blue plaque for Mary the rebellious

On 3 August a blue plaque will be unveiled in Plaistow to honour Mary Renault a rebellious, open lesbian in a time when it was taboo in British society.

Her book *The Charioteer* impacted a wider population of the LGBTQ as



Image via www.curtisbrown.co.uk

well as contributing to a change in our society. She was born and lived at 49 Plashet Road in Dacre Lodge, E13.

However, she is not known in Newham, there is no record of her work and there is no celebration of her legacy. Newham Poetry Group has been running a weekly LGBTQ+ book club at Stratford Library since November 2022 inviting people to read and discuss her books.

Born in 1905, she wrote the first British novel to face homosexual love squarely. *The Charioteer* has come to stand as a landmark of gay literature. Mary Renault Commemorative Plaque unveiling will take place on Thursday 3 August, 6pm at Subco, 49 Plashet Rd, E13 OQA

newhampoetrygroup.com

Council Notebook: New look for Canning Town

Peter Landman reports on the Council's Cabinet discussion about Canning Town's regeneration

After public consultation, the Council has produced a Master Plan for the future of Canning Town, intended to be implemented in phases.

The main aims in the plan are:

- Construction of 1300 new higher standard homes - 50 percent to be affordable. Affordability means around 40 percent of market rent.
- A mix of maisonettes and flats.
- More green spaces to be sited away from roads for public safety.
- Set up of construction apprenticeships.
- Compliance with council targets to reduce carbon emissions in homes. The council will provide temporary accommodation for tenants whose original accommodation has been demolished to make way for a new development.

The next phase is for 147 new homes on vacant land in Vincent Street. Tenants who have lived on the estate for 12 months will be invited to vote for or against in a ballot, incorporating a Landlord Offer. This is a Greater London Authority requirement.

The Council is taking measures to promote this ballot by engaging Civic Election Services and door to door calls to remind of voter registration.

The Cabinet agreed to engage an independent organisation for residents enquiries and concerns.

Bringing more small council owned sites into use.

The Council has also agreed on a programme to build more houses on small disused sites; and to consider modular construction. These sites are either around abandoned garages or small parcels of infill land.



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Shock for Labour in Boleyn by-election

JEAN GRAY

Newham's ruling Labour party faces increased opposition on the Council following a stunning victory by independent candidate Mehmood Mirza in one of two ward by-elections on 13 July.

Mr Mirza took Boleyn ward with 1153 votes, beating Labour's Sofia Patel into second place with 871. Green Party candidate Joe Hudson-Small was third with 572 votes.

Mr Mirza is a left wing supporter of former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. He resigned from Labour in 2022 after the party suspended both West Ham and East Ham constituencies while investigations into a number of alleged 'irregularities' were carried out. Two years later, the suspension remains; local parties are still not meeting, and election candidates are not chosen locally but by the party centrally.

"I am providing accommodation for people. I am not raising rents because I know everyone is struggling. I comply with all the regulations and there has been no complaint against me."

"People in Newham are waking up," Mr Mirza told *Newham Voices*. "They are not happy with Labour on a number of key issues such as council tax and parking charges. The local party has been suspended for two years and so candidates are not elected democratically and locally. I am very glad that people put their trust in me."

Mr Mirza's election attracted much social media attention from strong critics as well as ardent supporters. One criticism frequently levelled at him as a left wing politician is that he is also one of Newham's biggest private landlords. However, there have been no accusations that he is a 'bad landlord' and he says he provided a three-month rent break for tenants during the Covid lockdown. He argues that the number



Mehmood Mirza is pictured second left, taking part in a lobby outside East Ham town hall on behalf of Friends of Queens Market last month. The friends claim that Newham Council's plan to redevelop the site rules out the option to simply "retain and refurbish" the well known Green Street indoor market, although the Council claims it will make the market better for stallholders as well as local people.

of properties he owns is fewer than the ten his critics claim and that they are all mortgaged. He said: "I worked hard and invested in properties and as such I am providing accommodation for people. I am not raising rents because I know everyone is struggling. I comply with all the regulations and there has been no complaint against me."

While Labour's Sofia Patel also has strong local credentials - she was born in Forest Gate and lives in the Boleyn ward - she is closely associated with the Labour leadership as head of events and visits for Sir Keir Starmer. Speaking during *Newham Voices'* local hustings on 8 July, she rebuffed claims that she was chosen because of her connection to the Labour leader, arguing that having grown up in a single parent household and still living in the ward, she was well placed to represent local people's priorities.

The election means that Newham Council now has three opposition members - the Greens' Nate Higgins and Danny Keeling were both elected for Stratford Olympic Park at the full council elections last year.

Labour fared better in nearby Wall End ward where their candidate Stephanie Garfield, also chosen by Labour centrally, was elected with 1659 votes. Her closest competitor was Conservative Durai Kannan with 739 votes.

The by-elections were called following the resignation of Labour councillors Cecilia Welsh and Luke Charters earlier this year.

Labour agent Alan Griffiths said he was delighted that Stephanie Garfield had been elected in Wall End. "This shows the support Labour in Newham has with voters as we deliver on our Building a Fairer Newham plans, clean streets and safer neighbourhoods."

Fostering crisis: only three families come forward

Newham Council's Children's Services have entered into a contract with the organisation Now Foster to find more foster carers.

Newham needs more foster carers to keep children in the Borough.

The aims of the new partnership are to introduce more flexible fostering arrangements, offering choices beyond full day fostering and to encourage more people to foster bearing in mind that only three new families came forward last year.

Laurie Kilby Co Founder of Now Foster, makes herself available to meet informally anyone who might be interested, over coffee in any café in Newham.

www.nowfoster.org

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Research shows air pollution harms us at every stage of our lives – from before we are born through to old age. It impairs foetal development in the womb, increases children's risk of developing lifelong chronic illnesses like asthma, and increases the risk of cancer and other diseases later in life.¹

That's why the ULEZ is expanding to protect Newham.
Cleaner air means healthier lives.

Find out how clean the air is near you, visit:
london.gov.typeform.com/checkyourair

**LET'S CLEAR
THE AIR**

¹Evidence summarised in the report 'Impacts of air pollution across the life course - evidence highlight note' prepared by the Environmental Research Group, Imperial College London: london.gov.uk/pollution-across-lifecourse

Jailing highlights modern slavery on our doorstep

AIDAN WHITE

The scourge of modern slavery, which involves the exploitation of vulnerable people and children, was highlighted last month with the jailing of a man who cruelly used Newham children to sell drugs.

Dominic Francis, aged 31, was sentenced to five years and ten months' jail at Snaresbrook Crown Court for his part in a criminal network which involved the exploitation of more than 25 children between 14 and 17 years-old.

After a three-year investigation police reported that these young people were coerced into

working in conditions that are unsafe and inhumane. Another man from Newham was also jailed and a third woman was sentenced in the case brought by the Metropolitan Police Specialist Crime unit which rescued the children.

Victims of modern slavery are sometimes held against their will, forced to work long hours without pay, and subjected to physical or emotional abuse.

One of the major problems in combating the problem is that the victims, who can be of any age, gender, or nationality, may not always be easily visible and could be working in plain sight in local activities such as car-washing or the

delivery business.

Modern slavery may be behind a range of anti-social activities including sex work, domestic servitude, organ harvesting and human trafficking. People concerned about a child being exploited, can call the Modern Day Slavery Helpline on 0800 121 700. People can also call Newham Children's Services on 020 3373 4600 during office hours or 020 8430 2000 at any other time and if the referral is urgent.

The charity Hestia which provides support in the fight against modern slavery in London and the South East also has a response service.

Contact their Modern Slavery Response service/ And download Spot The Signs toolkit in the download section.

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Newham Hospital at 40

SHEILA NURSIMHULU

As the NHS marks its 75th Birthday, Newham Hospital is also celebrating. The hospital turns 40 this year.

Up until its opening the people of Newham had been served by the East Ham Memorial Hospital and Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End in Stratford.

A radiant Queen Elizabeth II was the star of the show on the day of the official opening.

Jacqui Seaton, a clinical nurse specialist on Rainbow ward, who was there the day the hospital opened its doors for the first time, has fond memories. "Throughout my nursing career, I have had many memorable moments to look back on," she told *Newham Voices*, "but one of the highlights has to be the Queen's visit. I remember lining up outside Rainbow ward, along the corridor where she was going to greet us all. It was an exciting yet nerve-wracking moment. It's not every day the Queen comes to visit and you get to meet her!"

Jacqui had a long nursing career, but after her retirement in 2016 at the Royal London Hospital, she chose to come back to Newham Hospital where she still works. She said: "I think what always kept me coming back was the community feel – that and the fact that I grew up in the local area and gave birth to my twins there!"



A fayre celebrating 75 years of NHS (above) was hosted by the East London NHS Foundation Trust at Toynbee Hall last month, writes **Farzana Rahman**.

Well Newham: A programme to keep us all in good health

FAWN BESS LEITH

Residents of Newham have been reminded about the importance of keeping healthy with the launch of the Well Newham programme in a series of events across the Borough.

Newham Council, in partnership with the NHS and voluntary sector partners, launched Well Newham and its centrepiece standalone website to improve the way residents access health and wellbeing services.

Well Newham (www.well-newham.org.uk) has a directory of more than 400 local support services to support residents in all aspects of their health and wellbeing journey. The website is powered by Joy, a digital platform used by health and social care professionals to refer clients to high quality local support.

Well Newham was conceived four years ago as a result of extensive work spearheaded by Newham's Director of Public Health Jason Strelitz, now the Interim Corporate Director of Adults and Health, and his team. The programme sits within step 13 of the



Newham's 50 Steps health and wellbeing strategy.

In an interview with *Newham Voices* Councillor Neil Wilson, who has been the lead for the health and adult social care services in Newham since May 2022, said: "Well Newham, assembles building blocks to support residents' health and wellbeing goals and it's the place where they can get trusted, relevant information around the social determinants of health."

He speaks passionately about the programme's overall aim. He has served in different capacities within Newham's local government since 1994 and his interest has always been around health and social inequalities. He is currently

the vice chair of the Integrated Care Partnership Board.

Other stakeholders include residents who have keenly supported the co-production and co-design of the programme and website and there is now a community of practice for social prescribers and the community neighbourhood link workers.

Well Newham also operates

from in-person hubs currently located at libraries, staffed by four advisors offering residents personalised face-to-face support. Advisors are fully trained on a range of topics in health and wellbeing and basic finance and housing. The plan is to link the service with the council's wider delivery of support for families.

Hundreds of residents attended the launch events and currently the programme has received 1600 referrals from one directorate alone. Cllr Wilson's aim is that one year on, all residents of Newham will be equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to prioritise their health and wellbeing.

People can find out more by contacting the team at: **0208 4304841** or wellnewham@newham.gov.uk www.wellnewham.org.uk



Newham Hospital Specialist Diabetes Nurse Nuru Clark has won another award for her work with pregnant mothers with diabetes, writes **Sheila Nursimhulu**.

Nurse Clark was 'highly commended' in the Parliamentary Nursing and Midwifery Awards, having been nominated by Newham MP Sir Stephen Timms.

My Newham

Julia Omari talks to colour and crafts expert Momtaz Begum-Hossain

How long have you been connected to Newham? Six years. Before that I lived in Greenwich for eight years. I consider myself one of those rare Londoners who has lived all over – North, South, East and West of the capital – but when I got to Newham it instantly felt like home.

What's your favourite Newham moment? I really loved the positive atmosphere and good vibes of Newham Unlocked Festival in Beckton last year, it was so fun. The live immersive theatre show Arrival back in 2021 was amazing too.

Most inspirational Newham person? I really enjoyed the In Conversation with Ghetts event at last year's Black History Month. He shared so much wisdom I love seeing his music career continue to grow and inspire.

Favourite place to eat in Newham? A meal in East Ham. I'd start with a dosa and lassi at Shinde's Pure Veg,

followed by a thali and masala lemonade at a Taste of India Veg, then go for warm, gooey dessert hoppers and chai at Keralan joint Ananthapuram.

Favourite Newham outdoor space? The Royal Docks. I love the open space and I'm also a mermaid so I need to be near water. I love watching the sunrise and sunset over Royal Albert Dock and swimming in Royal Victoria Dock. I just wish they'd make the summer beach a permanent fixture.

How would you spend a free day in Newham? Breakfast at Chaiwalla (there are three branches in the Borough) followed by bangle-shopping in Green Street, a cycle ride along The Green Way, hot chocolate at Well Bean Café, watch an Indian movie at The Boleyn Cinema, have dinner on the pizza bus in the Royal Docks, finished with a late night Bat walk in Beckton Park.

Finish the sentence, Newham is... full of surprises.

You are a colour expert. Can you tell us more about your relationship with colour? Visually speaking the first thing people notice about me is my hair and clothes but colour isn't just an aesthetic, it's a way of life. I'm a trained Colour Therapist and I show people the healing, therapeutic benefits of colour and how they can use it to transform their lives. I share mood-boosting colourful content on my social media, have written a book about colour called Hello Rainbow and host a vibrant podcast called Hello Colour.



Good reads in Newham

The Newham Bookshop in Barking Road tells us these are the top sellers this month:

- **Newham in 50 Buildings**
By Malcolm Batten
- **Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow**
By Gabrielle Zevin
- **The Mercenary River***
By Nick Higham
- **The Skull**
By Jon Klassen
- **Luna and the Treasure of Tlalog**
By Joe Todd-Stanton
- **The Boy at the Back of the Class – Fifth Anniversary Edition** (local author, signed copies often available)
By Onjali Rauf

*We have an event with Nick Higham:
<https://tinyurl.com/4mh327dy>

Hammers support reading challenge

West Ham United Foundation in partnership with Newham Council and local libraries is supporting the Summer Reading Challenge.

The young reader who takes out the most books will be awarded a West Ham United ball signed by the first team. The school that manages to rally the most students will be rewarded with a tour of London Stadium.

www.whufc.com



WHUF's Premier League Primary Stars Programme Manager Nick Crickmar delivered a workshop guiding the eager young minds on the art of selecting the perfect book. Image © West Ham United Foundation



SOMETHING'S BREWING



Phil Mellows discovers that a loss for Silvertown is proving to be a gain for Canning Town's commuters

Commuters hurrying home from Canning Town station might be tempted to stick around a little longer these days. Husk Brewing opened its new tap room next door at the beginning of July – and it looks like becoming a brilliant hub for craft beer lovers.

Owners Chris and Marta van der Vyver are settling in happily following their move from Silvertown – even though a technical hitch means they're not yet able to brew their own beer.

They have a lot more room and, once the showroom for the Brunel Street Works development has been taken down, space for outdoor seating right on a path leading to the station platform.

Business is already going nicely as loyal regulars have followed them to Canning Town and young people have started moving into the new apartments across the road. With little competition around this could prove the perfect spot for a craft bar.

"People love what we do, and they support us," says Chris. "We're being discovered by the locals, too. There are queues at the weekend, and we've had them coming in here and describing us as 'the best place ever!'"

Now they're looking to recruit staff for both the bar and the kitchen as

trade picks up pace.

As a brewer by nature, though, Chris is understandably eager to get brewing again. Until he can, the tap room offers a small, well-chosen range of east London beers including from Walthamstow's Signature and Exale, and Hackney's Mammoth.

Meanwhile Marta is cooking up an extended burger menu based on Husk's famous freshly-made patties that blend bone marrow with dry-aged beef from British long horn cattle for extra flavour.

They're planning to install an American-style smoker, too, that will enable them to serve pork ribs and a brisket for an alternative Sunday roast.

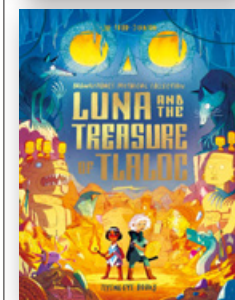
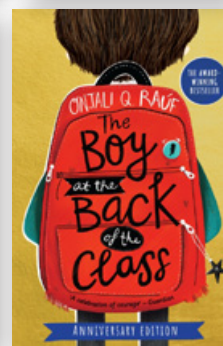
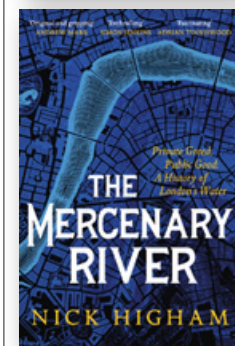
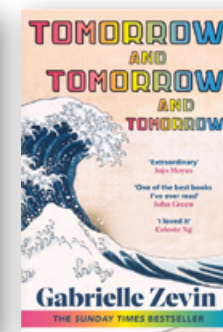
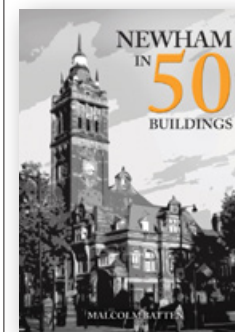
Eventually, Husk will also have a bigger brewing operation, with capacity more than doubling to 8,000 pints a week.

"Most of what we were able to brew before was sold through the old tap room, says Chris. "Now we'll be able to make our beers available elsewhere, and I'm aiming to make more one-off specials and sours, which sell well – a lot of people don't like them at first, but they grow on you."

The Husk tap room is currently open from 5pm Wednesdays to Fridays, and from 1pm at weekends.



Chris and Marta van der Vyver



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SUMMER 2023

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Summer is officially here, and there's a jam-packed line up of activities and events to help keep children and young people happy, healthy, safe and entertained over the school holiday.

Newham Council has worked with partners to develop a summer brochure that helps to highlight everything taking place across the borough. From pony riding and boxing to cake decorating and origami, there's something in there for everyone.

The brochure contains information about all the free activities on offer, the dates, the venues and any eligibility criteria. Whether you're interested in baking, singing, reading or outdoor pursuits, libraries, youth zones and parks are running a range of activities to suit different interests and ages over the holiday, with things designed for the whole family too.

This summer is a great opportunity for children, young people, and their families to create unforgettable memories, forge new friendships, try their hand at something new and – most importantly – have a lot of fun!

Printed copies of the summer brochure are being delivered to libraries and youth zones across the borough.

HAF PROGRAMME

For families in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, the Council is making a nutritious meal offer available during the school break.

The Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF), which is funded by the Department for Education, is filled with lots of exciting activities as well as a nutritious meal, and is taking place across the borough. To book a place you will need to contact the providers directly, so please check out page 7 of the brochure or visit our website above for more information. Please book slots as early as possible.



WE ARE NEWHAM.

Here is just a taster of some of the fantastic events taking place across Newham over the school holiday:

Build A Go-Kart Project

Date: 3 days per week | Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
(Runs until Friday 25th August)
Location: 7 Hillcroft Road Beckton London E6 6LW
To reserve a place:
Email: info@becktonskillscentre.co.uk
Website: www.becktonskillscentre.co.uk
Learn fantastic new skills, have fun and gain a City & Guilds Qualification. The project is free to attend and lunch is provided.

Ready, Set, Create - T-shirt customisation by Caramel Rock

Design and create your own unique T-Shirt with fashion charity Caramel Rock, who work with ASOS and Nike. Materials provided, all you need is your imagination.
How to book: <http://bit.ly/newhamsrc>

Date: 16th August
Time: 1 - 3 pm | Canning Town Library
Ages: 14-19

Date: 17th August
Time: 1 - 3 pm | Forest Gate Library
Ages: 14-19

Date: 22nd August
Time: 1 - 3 pm | Beckton Library
Ages: 14-19

Date: 23rd August
Time: 1 - 3 pm | Stratford Library
Ages: 14-20

Date: 24th August
Time: 1 - 3 pm | East Ham Library
Ages: 14-21



Newham Carers Community Fun in the Sun for Young Carers

Date: 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, 30th 31st August – every Wednesday and Thursday for 3 weeks
Time: 10am–2pm
Ages: 8-12
Location: The Renewal Programme, 395 High Street North, E12 6PG
Contact Info: youth@renewalprogramme.org.uk
Arts and Crafts & Mixed indoor sports, including: Table tennis, Non-contact boxing, Archery, Fencing First Aid course for young carers. Local trip for young carers-one trip per week. Free healthy lunch.
How to book: youth@renewalprogramme.org.uk leaving your contact details and a member of staff will call back within 72 hours to discuss requirements.
Contact Info: www.renewalprogramme.org.uk

Sand art, Jewellery making/bracelets and beads & Painting

Date: 18th July 2023 - 29th August
Every Tuesday
Time: 12 - 4pm
All Ages
Location: Custom House Regeneration Hub, 25 Freemasons Road E16 3AR
Contact Info: regeneration@newham.gov.uk | 020 3373 3906 | terri.facepaintingcompany@gmail.com
How to book: Free walk in sessions include split pin puppets, finger puppets, mudroc, sand art, jewellery making/ bracelets and beads and painting.

Academy Achievers Summer 2023 STEM Camp

Date: 21st-24th August
Time: 10am-12pm
Age: 6-10 Place: Hybrid – online and face to face (location will be shared once registration is complete)
Contact Info: admin@academyachievers.co.uk centremanager@academyachievers.co.uk
How to book: www.forms.gle/kGknDGBQr6GgaKK9
Our STEM camp is for students ages 6-10 on a hybrid learning platform. With this curated educational experience, students

participate in a combo of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This STEM camp will immerse your child in independent, curated online/in-person experiences that will give them access to STEM and will empower them to pursue STEM/STEAM careers.

Female Football Fridays

Dates: Friday 4th August
Friday 11th August
Friday 18th August
Friday 25th August
Times & Ages: 11 am - 12pm – 3-5 years | 12pm - 2pm – 5-11 years | 2pm - 4 pm – 12-16 years
Location: Newham Leisure Centre, Prince Regent Lane, E13 8SD
Contact Info: Sports@activenewham.org.uk
To celebrate the FIFA Women's World Cup this summer, we are hosting a number of female only football sessions for future lionesses to come down and play.
How to book: <https://tinyurl.com/NewhamSummeractivity2023>

Youth Together! Creative Writing & Spoken Word – Poetry zines

Date: Thursday 17th August
Time: 11am - 12pm
Ages: Disabled young people aged 18-25
Location: Zoom
Contact Info: kate@together2012.org.uk
We will make zines (mini magazines) to fill with poetry exploring colour. You will need a sheet of A4 paper, a pair of scissors, pens/pencils – the more colourful the better, but a writing pen/pencil will do.
How to book: Please email kate@together2012.org.uk to book.
Website: www.together2012.org.uk/activities-programme/youth-together

Newham's libraries have a range of activities on offer this summer – from arts and craft sessions and film clubs to rhyme time and the yearly Summer Reading Challenge. To find out more, visit newham.gov.uk/libraries





YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND

Since its launch in May 2021, the Youth Empowerment Fund has helped more than 200 Children & Young People, by providing financial support for them to pursue their dreams and realise their full potential. The fund can contribute to the cost of resources, travel, training or equipment that young people need to be able to learn and develop skills in the things they are passionate about.

The Youth Empowerment Fund, an innovative fund that helps young people from low-income families achieve their ambitions by removing wherever possible, small financial barriers which may be impeding young people's success.

The Fund is unique from other funding streams or grants because young people are invited to apply directly on their own behalf or with support from a parent / carer or professional to secure assistance across a broad range of initiatives or opportunities to support them to begin to think about and shape their own future.

The aim of Youth Empowerment Fund is to:

- Support young people's aspirations
- Remove small financial barriers to success
- Make Newham the best place for a child/ young person to be young and grow up

With the Youth Empowerment Fund, young people can apply for up to £2,500 to help fund their ambitions. Whether it's buying sports equipment, pursuing higher education, this Fund is designed to give young people the financial support to reach their potential.

The impact of the Youth Empowerment Fund has been significant. For many young people from low-income families, financial barriers can be a major obstacle to achieving their ambitions. With the help of this Fund, they're able to overcome those barriers and pursue their dreams. Please see some examples below of young people who have benefited from the Youth Empowerment Fund:

"Anybody eligible for the Youth Empowerment Fund, try your luck. Everybody needs that one edge in life to help them. Despite my studies, the lack of accounting experience and practicality was stumping me from obtaining the accounting roles I wanted. This grant has enabled me to enrol on a training course that will allow me to be more employable. Nothing but respect to the team and the initiative." **J. A. Aged 23**

"I just wanted to thank you for the help you have given me to afford a laptop, I truly appreciate it as it will genuinely help me towards achieving goals a lot easier now. Much thanks and appreciation." **S.W. Aged 15 years**

"The Youth Empowerment Fund has helped me toward my ambition by enabling me to afford to pay for my tuition fees for university and focus on my studies without the burden of stress. This has enabled me to pass my first set of exams, and has allowed me to focus on applying for summer internships".

T.L. Aged, 22 years

"I am an 18-year-old martial artist and found out about Newham's Youth Empowerment Fund, which offers grants of up to £2500, to children and young people from age 9 to 25 who live in Newham, and decided to apply. The application form was easy to complete, all I had to do was to ensure that I met all their requirements and was able to describe my ambition. I was awarded £2500 which was enough to cover the costs and I was able to compete on the world stage".

M.A. Aged 18 years

"After I finish secondary school, I want to do anything to do with music, maybe teaching others and performing. The Fund helped me pay for music classes and also funded a guitar and music lessons online." **V.H. Aged 13 years**

For more information on the Youth Empowerment Fund, please go to: www.newham.gov.uk/children-families/youth-empowerment-fund or please contact the Youth Empowerment Fund Team: yefinfo@newham.gov.uk

SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Throughout August we are celebrating the diversity of South Asian people who have made Britain and Newham their home. Here we share some highlights from the free programme.

This year's theme is 'Stories to Tell,' celebrating the stories that make up our community, the moments that have shaped us, the experiences that have taught us lessons and more. For more information and to book, visit:

www.newhamsouthasianheritage.org

Kahaani Film Club Screening 'Double Discrimination'

Saturday 5 August, 12-2pm, Stratford Library

For adults, BSL event.

Watch a free screening of the South Asian Deaf documentary 'Double Discrimination' by Rinkoo Barpaga followed by a discussion on disability representation on screen.

Chai Tales: Living & Growing Up in Newham

Saturday 5 August, 1-2pm, Green Street Library. Talk. All ages.

Join a group of councillors of South Asian origin and residents as they take you down a memory lane of what it was like living and growing up in Newham.



Why Don't Things Fall Up? A Conversation with Alom Shaha

Wednesday 16 August, 6.30-8pm, Manor Park Library.

Talk. For adults.

Join science teacher, writer, and filmmaker Alom Shaha on a tour of the "big ideas" of science from his unique perspective.

South Asian Heritage Month Finale Concert

Friday 18 August, 7-10pm, Stratford Youth Zone. For all ages.

Finale concert featuring globally famous British music legend Apache Indian and Chahat Mahmood Ali Qawwali Group from Pakistan. The event will be hosted by Solar radio host DJ Lady G. The line-up also includes DJ Rajah and talented dhol maestro Gubzy.

People

Powered

Places

APPLY NOW: GRANTS OF UP TO £20,000 AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS

Newham Council are encouraging residents, voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to apply for up to £20k of funding as part of this year's People Powered Places programme.

The Council has made £1.6 million of funding available to support community projects across the borough.

With only a month until the application deadline of 3 September, residents can apply for a grant of up to £5,000 while

voluntary, community and faith sector groups can apply for a grant of up to £20,000.

"The People Powered Places programme is a wonderful opportunity for residents and voluntary, community and faith sector organisations alike to get involved and create transformative projects in their local areas.

"Building on the proven successes of the Community Assembly Programme 2021-2023, People Powered Places has conducted a series of events in the eight Community Neighbourhoods and online Support Clinics to make the application process easier and more straightforward, which will lead to greater civic participation and community engagement."

Dean Armond from the Custom House Bookshop, who received People Powered Places funding to establish the bookshop and run free community events.

Each of Newham's eight community neighbourhoods has been given £200,000 to fund successful projects that meet three local priorities that were chosen by residents in May.

Once applications have been received, the Council will work alongside 149 local people to shortlist proposals to put forward. Newham residents will then be able to vote for their favourite projects this autumn.

People Powered Places has supported 157 projects over the last two years while strengthening the partnership between the Council and residents. It is recognised as a best in class example of what can be achieved.

The £1.6 million of funding is sourced from the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL), which is a charge on new development to help fund strategic and neighbourhood infrastructure in Newham.

Project applications are open now until Sunday 3 September 2023, for more information visit:

www.newham.gov.uk/projectapplication

OUT AND ABOUT WITH NEANDRA

Our Chief reporter on events that reflect culture, history and heritage in Newham



Home truths that protect the legacy of Windrush

HOME: Remembering the Windrush Generation exhibition is an insight into a Caribbean front room of the Windrush era.

Author and Curator Tony Fairweather wanted to preserve the items and culture of the Windrush generation, because he discovered that the Caribbean community were throwing away their 1950s-1990s objects and items.

Tony explained to *Newham Voices* why he wanted the touring exhibition of artefacts to be included in the Newham Windrush events programme.

"Newham houses many of the Windrush generation, this is an opportunity in this 75th Windrush anniversary year to show the lifestyle of this pioneering generation. It is important to show the history of the Windrush people so the younger generation can understand what they went through to make England a better place for them to live in."



©Neandra Etienne

Newham-based Mixed Media artist Marilyn Fontaine was commissioned by Newham to create an exhibition alongside the "At Home" installation at Old Town Hall Stratford.

The exhibition, *A Proud Inheritance*, includes a Community "Giant" Photo album. The album will be given to Newham archives so that more images can be added in the future.

HOME: Remembering the Windrush Generation, 1-12 August

Proud Inheritance - Keeping Stories Alive, Old Town Hall Stratford, 9 August.

newhamwindrushday.org

Newham to host UK Black Pride

UK Black Pride will commemorate its 18th year as the UK's most inclusive Pride event, with the theme of LEGACY. Black Pride, the world's largest celebration of Black and POC LGBTQIA+ people returns to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, after a successful record breaking 2022 event.

UK Black Pride co-founder and Executive Director Lady Phyll Opoku-Gyimah said: "UK Black Pride has gone from strength to strength over the

last 18 years and we are so proud to have continuously given the community a space and platform to live and love unapologetically.

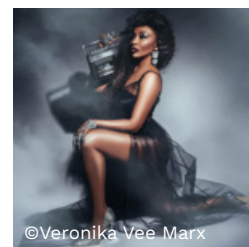
"We want our communities, on a collective and also an individual level, to think about what they want to leave behind and how we can continue to move to a more inclusive future".

UK Black Pride will be free to attend on Saturday, 19 August. www.ukblackpride.org.uk

Kele Le Roc pays homage to Prince

Singer, songwriter Kele Le Roc, who grew up in East Ham and Forest Gate, is dedicating her new single *I wanna Be UR Lover* to the late artist Prince.

Kele, who has won two MOBO awards during her career, credits Newham and east London in general as having "A plethora of talent", many of whom she grew up with and knows personally like



©Veronika Vee Marx

Jammer, Jme and Masterstepz. "There was definitely something in the water," she said.

Kele's new single is a cover version that pays homage to Prince, her favourite artist of all time. It is part of a trilogy of his songs that she is covering. She said: "I'm really happy with my rendition. I think Prince would have liked it."

www.keleleroc.com

Trees for Mandela Day

Pupils from Bobby Moore Academy, South Africa's High Commissioner Jeremiah Nyamane Mamabolo, local councillors and horticultural apprentices from the Future Gardeners programme, planted six trees along the River Lee Naviga-



BMA Academy © LLDC

tion at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to mark Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation's theme for 2023, ten years after he died, emphasises collective and individual action to make a long-term, sustainable change for good. The Mandela Day campaign was set up at the request of Nelson Mandela in 2009 to honour him by working in communities rather than celebrating his birthday.

www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk

McQueen blue plaque unveiled

A Newham Heritage blue plaque honouring the late fashion designer Lee Alexander McQueen CBE was unveiled at a ceremony on the Carpenters Estate, Stratford to mark the end of Newham Heritage Month. Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz OBE was joined by local

residents and councillors. I attended as Creative Director for McQueen's Heritage Month events. Sanaz Amidi, Rosetta Arts Chief Executive, also represented the family of Yvonne Humble, founder of Rosetta Arts, who mentored the young McQueen.

Student artwork showcased

St Bonaventure's Creative Arts Summer Festival featured an art exhibition with work produced by their A-Level Fine Art, Graphics and GCSE Art students. The students used various materials that explored a variety of subject matters.

Nawailah Makardam, who has just finished year 13, studied A Level Art, Geography and Graphics Communication. He sold four pieces at the festival. The festival also included an art auction, readings, music and a performance from the Yr10 drama club. Proceeds from the event will go to St Joseph's Hospice in Hackney.

[@stbons_art](https://twitter.com/stbons_art)



Nawailah Makardam ©Neandra Etienne



©Monika Szolte

New inspiration from the people's plan

DEAN ARMOND

Forty years ago, the People's Plan for the Royal Docks was a radical, innovative and community-led proposal for the future of the area. It was created by an alliance of trade unions, tenants' associations, voluntary groups and residents and was supported by the Greater London Council.

This year's anniversary was

celebrated by a walking tour which revisited key sites that tell the story of the People's Plan and its continuing legacy. Talks by key participants such as Hillary Wainwright, Bob Colenutt, Marj Mayo and Alberto Duman recounted the origins of the Plan.

An exhibition and a panel discussion about the Plan is being planned for September.

The Royal Docks had finally ceased operations in 1982. It

was the largest enclosed docks in the world. The site covered over 1,000 acres.

The government of Margaret Thatcher created the London Docklands Development Corporation in 1981 to redevelop the London Docks. This quango took control of all planning and related powers from the local authorities.

The politicians, LDDC planners and companies created a plan for the Royal Docks

based on the perceived needs of business. Central to their vision was the creation of an airport.

Working with existing residents, the goal of the Plan was to present an alternative that reflected the wishes of the local people for employment, amenities, better transport links, better quality social housing and the infrastructure necessary to create a genuine local community.

Although the People's Plan was never implemented, it did provide hope because it showed that it is possible to create a genuine, grassroots, coherent and viable alternative to state-or business-imposed development.

But the debate about regeneration, gentrification and social cleansing continues in Newham, especially with regard to large-scale development on the post-industrial sites in the west and south of the Borough, the issues raised forty years ago are just as relevant today.



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City Airport plans up in the air after Council veto

SHEILA NURSIMHULU

Newham councillors have unanimously rejected the bid for City Airport Expansion.

Councillors on Newham's Strategic Development Committee voted to reject an application by the airport to increase annual passenger numbers from 6.5 million to 9 million due to concerns over noise pollution.

The airport had also sought to extend its operation on Saturdays to allow take-offs and landing up until 6.30 pm, to include three additional flights earlier in the morning.

Speaking on behalf of the Green party, Councillor Nate Higgins described the airport as a "blight" on residents and "an inexcusable misuse of land in such a densely populated London borough".

A spokesperson for Newham Council said: "The refusal reflects the council's continued concerns over the noise

and environmental impact of the airport on those living nearby. These concerns were shared by a number of other boroughs who also submitted objections to the proposals."

For campaigners who feel a sense of relief regarding the block of the airport expansion, this is not the end of the story. The matter will now be referred to the GLA for a final decision.

And the City Airport has launched a formal appeal against the Council decision. Robert Sinclair, London City's chief executive, said: "With demand for air travel now returning strongly, we need to plan ahead for the future and the main aspect of our proposals is to increase the current annual passenger cap from 5 million to 9 million."

Homelessness award for local charity

The Canning Town charity Your Place has been Highly Commended in the Homeless Link Excellence Awards 2023, for 'Excellence in supported housing'.

The award recognises 'high quality, safe accommodation' for people experiencing rough sleeping or homelessness and is a testament to the resilience

of those the charity is there to help, and the dedicated teams who support them.

The award highlights also how the homelessness crisis is worsening, with more people than ever losing their homes. In Newham, 1 in 21 people do not have a safe place to call home – the highest in the country.

Poetry in Mind

JAMAICA LAND WE LOVE

Zhenreenah Muhxinga celebrates Independence Day (6 August)

1962-2023- 61 years of independence
We are not sitting on the fence
We are flying high like a bird
in the sky to be free
As Bob says – from captivity

Our Independence is a great pride
Our rich culture and history will never die
Our hard work over the years – we are building a nation
Always time for reflection
New infrastructure a time for celebration,
Our people, our seas, our rivers, our land
Our greatness it's an honour to be a Jamaican
Our little country impacts the world in so many ways
Remembering the film – "Cool running" – Yeah, Bobsleigh
We are well known for our fruits and food,

Lick your finger and feel goood!
Our love for Reggae music – our dance
Nuff music mek we jump and prance
Our Patios, Our beautiful sunshine
Our vibrant ways – We always inna de headline
Out of many one people – it reflects our rich heritage
Our great people – Bolt, Bob, Paul Bogle, Nanny of the Maroons
Just to name a few
They paved the way for our younger generation to shine
Encourage them to get off their behind
To fight the nasty war call crime
Eternal Father blesses our hand
We pray for wisdom, prosperity for our land
And so it is!

Advertorial

Past and Present: NewVlc's Rising Stars

In the 30 years we've been around, we've helped the careers of thousands of students to take off; from Data analysts, Programmers and Animators to Teachers, Health/Social workers and Scientists and more.

Here are just two of our many brilliant former NewVlc students who have gone on to realise their ambitions:

Kinnari has forged a successful career in Data and Analytics. She completed a BTEC in IT and an A Level in Further Maths with us over 20 years ago. Her ca-



Kinnari Ladha, former NewVlc student

reer has been an exciting journey within the field of data and analytics, working globally across a range of industries, including retail, automotive, insurance, healthcare and travel! We're delighted she has also been recognised as one of the UK's top twenty Women in Data and Tech for 2023 for her success, innovation, leadership and courage. She says of her time at NewVlc: "Meeting new people and making friends from different backgrounds. My confidence grew from a shy girl into someone who had ambition, and drive to experience and try new things."

On arrival from Poland, **Dorota** initially joined our intensive GCSE programme (Progress to Advanced) aimed at helping students who have studied overseas to get the qualifications they need to progress. She went on to study A Levels in Maths, Biology and Chemistry at NewVlc and she is currently studying for a degree in Biochemistry at UCL. She says



NewVlc students socialising at the college

of her time at NewVlc "I was amazed by NewVlc's diversity and inclusivity. I knew it was going to be a place where I would feel comfortable and supported."

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ence, exciting clubs and societies, elite sports and volunteering activities where you can develop your skills and talents and make new friends alongside your studies.

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Award nomination for apprentice who helped 30,000 residents

Newham council apprentice Adam Mohammed has been shortlisted for an award for his work in managing a project that helped more than 30,000 residents get access to more than £200,000 worth of food vouchers.

Adam has been shortlisted to receive the award for best contribution by a new apprentice in the annual London Borough Apprenticeship awards which will be announced in September.

His dedication to improving Newham residents' financial wellbeing has been well recognised through the partnership he set up with community groups to distribute the Household Support Fund which has been a vital support for residents during the cost of living crisis.

As a project manager, he successfully distributed £200k worth of food vouchers, benefiting over 30,000 resi-

dents and his creativity shone through engaging videos and inspiring workshops. In announcing his nomination for an award, London Councils said: "Adam's proactive engagement and practical support make him an exceptional apprentice, contributing to the community."



Adam is one of 26 apprentices and the only one from Newham who has been nominated for this year's awards. The Mayor of Newham, Rokhsana Fiaz, who is also London Councils' Executive

Member for Skills and Employment, said: "Across London we see apprenticeships open up amazing opportunities to Londoners from our diverse communities. Boroughs are a driving force in championing apprenticeships as a fantastic way for people to gain new skills as well as boosting industries with recruitment challenges – including London boroughs themselves."

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Reaching for the sky in Silvertown

In our regular series on monuments around the Borough, Julia Omari highlights a statue that brightens up our lives.

Whether driving along Silvertown's Connaught Bridge Road or flying into Newham's London City Airport, your eyes will quickly notice the impressive 12 metre statue called Athena, as she shines beautifully in the sun.

Athena was created by Pakistani-born contemporary artist Nasser Azam, as a way of giving something back to the Borough that became his childhood home. Azam's parents moved to England when he was seven years old and once the family settled in their new home he attended Hartley Primary School and Langdon Secondary School.

The artist started to paint in 1980 and he continues to develop and deliver meaningful works. Azam became the official painter of the portrait of Malala Yousafzai in 2015.

Malala gained worldwide recognition for her courageous defence of the rights of girls to go to school. She was targeted by the Taliban for her activism and survived an assassination attempt. She was the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize laureate at the age of 17 – the world's youngest Nobel Prize winner.

At the time of Athena's unveiling on 5 July 2012 the artwork was the tallest bronze sculpture in the United Kingdom.



Photo ©Julia Omari

Summer, the season of rubbish?

We are now in the full tilt of summer. Many of us have taken to our local green spaces to bask in the sun's rays or to enjoy the shade of a mature tree.

It's a time for meeting up with friends and family, reconnecting, while longer days bless us with time late into the evenings.

Everywhere you turn there are picnics and games; a jolly time being had by all. However, it's the aftermath of these days out that troubles me.

As a frequent user of West Ham Park and Wanstead Flats, I'm shocked by the recent increase in litter across our community.

Monday morning after a weekend of outdoor revels is a stark reminder of how much work still needs to be done to shift attitudes around what is acceptable behaviour, for both the young and the old.

We need to educate ourselves and others to fully appreciate the impact that our stream of continuous waste has on the planet.

As a teacher, I am passionate about asking children questions like: Is it enough to recycle? Where does all the

rubbish go and do we need to care?

Is it okay to waste good food? These are all questions which spark passionate debate in the classroom, always leading to more questions and inevitably new learning.

The hard part is moving this learning from inside the classroom into action in the community. All too often we absolve ourselves by thinking that the problem is too big or simply someone else's to solve.

I hope that the citizens of Forest Gate can face this problem head on. Why not get together and go for a litter pick, talk to your children or listen to your children about reducing waste, be the change you want to see. As for me, I'll be in the park, with my children, litter pickers in hand!

In West Ham Park we will be holding some public litter picking events through the summer – check out our website for the latest news

friendsofwesthampark.co.uk

Lucia Rios Steele is a primary school teacher, Forest School practitioner and Friend of West Ham Park

Arise Sir Ian! Football needs the Wright stuff



ON THE BALL

Mickey Ambrose is launching a campaign to honour a giant of anti-racism in football



Ian Wright, was a remarkable footballer whose passion for goals on the pitch has only ever been matched by his unwavering stoicism and fight against racism off the pitch.

Ian came late to professional football, born Ian Edward Wright, on the 3 November 1963, he was trained as a bricklayer and was working on building sites and playing amateur football for Greenwich Borough, when he was scouted by Crystal Palace at the age of 22, forming a formidable strike partnership with another young black player, Mark Bright, under the guidance of manager Steve Coppell.



Wright with Paul Gascoigne (R) and Paul Ince (L)

Wrighty transferred to Arsenal after six years at Selhurst Park. He enjoyed considerable success with the Gunners, winning the Premier League title and both domestic cup competitions and the European Cup Winners Cup. Known for his speed, agility, finishing and aggression, Ian played 581 league games, scoring 287 goals for six professional clubs including West Ham, Celtic, Burnley and Nottingham Forest, while also earning 33 caps for the England team, scoring nine international goals.

He retired in 2000 and as of 2023, he remains Arsenal's second highest scorer of all time and Crystal Palace's third-highest.

When finally selected for England, Ian wore the shirt as proudly as any English footballer ever has, but one thing is for sure, although not having the most dulcet of tones, nobody ever sung the national anthem more loudly than Ian Wright. Quite simply, he was not going to allow the racists to claim the England Jersey, our Flag, the Union Jack and definitely-not the National Anthem!

Ian would have no hesitation, in challenging a police officer in the middle of the match to arrest a fan who was hurling around racist expletives. Before Ian Wright, players such

as myself, Viv Anderson, John Barnes and many others were told to simply ignore the abuse from the terraces and let our football do the talking on the pitch. However, this did not apply after Ian Wright who believed no player should be expected to suffer the indignation of racist abuse. He showed the world that some things in life are more important than football, especially facing down racism head-on in the middle of a football match.

Although Ian Wright is a proud recipient of an MBE, it is astounding that he does not have a knighthood to recognise how he has faced down racism in a way that few have ever dared.

In some ways, it shows how lowly the Football Association and the British establishment view this most courageous of football pioneers. Have a look at the photograph in the bottom right corner, how many people would have the fortitude to walk-up to a baying mob and to tell them that their racist conduct was wrong?

This sort of blindness is not unique in the history of football, indeed it was a shock to people in football, that the establishment constantly refused to give the late great Sir Bobby Robson a Knighthood, so the entire football community referred to Robson as 'Sir Bobby', even though he had never been knighted!

Eventually, the establishment succumbed and Bobby Robson received the knighthood he so richly deserved.

Once, the honours system is under the microscope because of the abuse of the system by the shameless Prime Minister Boris Johnson. We see an endless stream of faceless civil servants and MPs who have never faced anything more challenging or dangerous than a paper-cut, being honoured with the letters KBE.

So today as a friend and admirer of both the player and the man, I am officially launching the Sir Ian Wright Campaign. I will no-longer refer to him as Wrighty, but as Sir Ian, I have no doubt that if the campaign takes-off as it should do, that this remarkable man and beacon of equality, will one-day kneel before King Charles III, for the Royal Sword of State to be placed upon his noble shoulders.

Arise Sir Ian!

Mickey Ambrose is a former Chelsea and Charlton player who lives in Stratford

SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Neandra Etienne

Free **Active Newham** sport activity for children and young people will take place across several parks. Sessions include Cricket, Boxing, Judo, Baseball and Flag Football. *Until Friday 25 August* [@AN_sport_team](#)

Social Organisation for Unity and Leisure (SOUL) free summer multi-sports events. Lunch provided. *Ends 24 August, Monday to Thursday, 10am-2pm, West Ham Park, Upton Lane, E7* [www.souluk.co.uk](#)

Bonny Downs Sports and Fitness Programme includes women only Zumba, Family Yoga, Footy and Friends and Men's Walking Football. *24th July - 11th August, various locations. Please visit* [www.bonnydowns.org](#) for details.

West Silvertown Foundation's summer scheme includes sports and boxing. Free lunch included. 5-7 year olds, 8-14 year olds HAF (who receive benefits-related free school meals) 8-14 year olds Non-HAF (do not receive benefits-related free school meals). *Ends 10 August, Mon-Thurs, From 10.30am, Britannia Village Hall.* [wsfroyaldocks.org](#)

Fight For Peace's summer programme includes boxing and martial arts that is free for 7-14 year olds. *Until 1 Sept, Woodman St, E16* [www.fightforpeace.net](#)

Rights and Equalities in Newham summer holiday activities for ages 9-19 include, multi sports at Lister Playing Fields in Plaistow, Table Tennis, Pool, Lee Valley Ice Skating, Non-Contact Boxing and Sports Day competition. *Until 25 August, Mondays 12pm-5pm, Tuesday - Friday 10am-3pm, The Mix, 1A Cumberland Road, E13*

For more info contact [info@rein.uk.com](#) or **020 7473 5349**.

Player/manager Geoff Ocran has strengthened the **Clapton CFC** coaching team with the appointment of Ridhwaan Yusuf. Their new season kicks off on Saturday 29 July [www.claptoncfc.co.uk](#)



Ridhwaan Yusuf © CCFC

Skateboard workshops in partnership with **Skate Gals and Pals** for children aged 8+. *Every Wednesday, 2, 9, 16 August, The Dovetail Community Centre, 22 Doran Walk, E15* [@thedovetail_](#)



Royal Docks Summer Splash ©Nicky Sims

Dive into family fun this summer as Royal Docks **Summer Splash** returns! A lido will be built out onto Royal Victoria Dock, complete with shallow end for younger children. It is free and open to all ages. Presented as part of At The Docks. *Until 20 August, Open daily from 10am until 6pm, Royal Victoria Docks* [www.royaldocks.london](#)

A variety of free taster sessions in a range of **sports and activities** is on offer for children and young people with disabilities this summer. *SEND, 8+, 31 July - 22 August, Stratford Park, West Ham Lane, Stratford E15* [sports@activenewham.org.uk](#)

Canning Town Football Club currently runs two adult teams on a Saturday and a veterans team on Sundays.

- 3 Aug Underdogs v Canning Town FC 7pm KO
- 5 August Canning Town FC v CSM League fixtures start 12 Aug

Training 7pm Tuesdays at West Ham Foundation, Albatross Close, Beckton E6 5NX. Home grounds 1st team-West Ham Foundation E6 5NX and 2nd Team-Bobby Moore Pavillion Flanders playing fields, E6 2SG.

[@Canning_town_fc](#)

The Kings Cross Steelers and **East London Vixens** have teamed up to offer a taster session of rugby. No experience needed, you don't even need to be very fit - just bring enthusiasm and a sense of humour! *Memorial Park, 2pm on 13 August. Nearest tube is West Ham.* [www.eastlondonrhc.com](#)

At the invitation of the Football Supporters Association, **Clapton CFC** hosted a celebration of fan-owned football in front of a record breaking 1153 crowd at The Old Spotted Dog Ground.

The first game finished with Clapton CFC 3-1 FC United of Manchester, winning CCFC The Supporters Direct Women's Shield. Clapton CFC women's first team 2023/2024 season begins at home on 20 August [www.claptoncfc.co.uk](#)

Newham Youth Sensory Tennis Complex Needs activities for ages 8-24. *Saturdays, 12.15pm-1.15pm, East Ham Leisure Centre. Register to attend at* [sports@activenewham.org.uk](#) [@AN_sport_team](#)

All games and events are subject to change. Please email your news and game fixtures to [neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk](#)