



Carnival farewell to Wenty



Wenty, Image courtesy Ricky Newland

WINSTON VAUGHAN

Wentworth Newland – known as Wenty to all the world – was one of London’s most successful small business owners. He came to the UK from Jamaica in 1967 as part of the Windrush generation.

In 1986 he opened Wenty’s tropical food in Forest Gate. In 1993 he opened a shop in Hackney’s Ridley Road market. From 1984 he operated a stall at the Notting Hill carnival.

Mourners from across London brought a carnival atmosphere to Upton Lane in Forest Gate on 12 July for Wenty’s funeral.

The horse and carriage carrying Wenty was adorned in Jamaican colours. The theme was a touch of green and many guests wore green. Some women even had green hair. There was a red van with bubbles. Jamaican flags were waved and Wenty’s beloved reggae music was booming to the delight of the crowd.

During the whole day about 2,000 guests attended this glorious celebration of Wenty’s life and his service to the community for over 40 years. Everywhere there were tributes and messages filled with love and kindness.

Summer events

see page 9

New government and new hope for Newham

The new government will make a big difference for people who live and work in Newham – particularly those hit by the housing crisis, says Newham Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz.

She says Newham will be able to turn the page on years of neglect and underfunding that has seen it become the worst place in the country for homelessness.

Welcoming the new government’s pledge to increase the number of affordable homes to be built, and the protection of rights of those who rent their homes, the Mayor said: “Newham is well placed to work at the vanguard of this change due to our existing track record.”

One model of partnership to combat the homes crisis is the development plan for West Ham

where this month the Mayor joined a ceremony for the first phase of the housing development in the area.

This is a joint project between Berkeley Homes, the Greater London Authority and Peabody, and will transform the area around West Ham station. Phase one will deliver over 1,000 affordable homes.

The Mayor says that the government’s new Planning and Infrastructure bill will streamline and speed up planning and infrastructure work to get more housing built.

“Newham is one of the fastest growing, youngest, and most diverse boroughs in the country,” said the Mayor. “We have more than 351,000 people living here and we are the third fastest growing borough in London. Our people need and

deserve high quality, genuinely affordable housing.”

She says the Borough is already delivering one of the most ambitious house building and acquisition programmes anywhere in London.

“We have delivered more than 1,000 genuinely affordable homes in the past two years as part of our Building a Fairer Newham programme.”

In July new developments were also launched in East Ham and Manor Park. “When they are completed together these two schemes will deliver more than 1,056 affordable homes and a further 25 low cost shared ownership homes, with residents expected to move into the first 110 of these by the end of this year,” she said.

However, building houses will not be enough to solve the

local homeless crisis. In the last year alone there was a 16 per cent increase in homelessness in Newham.

“The sheer scale of the housing crisis means that we can’t build our way out of the crisis – the homes simply won’t be delivered fast enough,” she said.

For that reason the government’s Renters’ Rights Bill is crucial, she says. This will abolish “no fault” evictions, and will have an immediate and dramatic effect on the number of families who are made homeless and will reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation.

Ten years ago Newham had just 2,877 households in temporary accommodation, today the number is 6,685. “This situation cannot be allowed to continue,” says Fiaz.



Victoria Ohuruogu
©British Athletics/
Getty Images

Going for gold

Information on local Olympic hopefuls see page 14



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Council Notebook

By Peter Landman

Theatre site comes back to life with new homes

Peter Landman reports from the 16 July Newham Cabinet meeting

The Cabinet has agreed separate developments for the Rex Theatre site and the island site on adjoining Bridge Road located off Stratford High Street which will help ease the housing crisis in the Borough.

The Council owns the freehold of the theatre site and the Cabinet agreed the Council could lease to an organisation to bring the theatre back into cultural use. But to do that the Council, which only owns 50 percent of the island site, will have to buy the other half which is owned by two property companies.

Cabinet agreed the Council can make the purchase and enter into a development services agreement with Populo, the council owned housing company, to provide new properties for the whole site.

Populo will provide 179 new homes. Of these 65 will be for social rent. Although this is below the 50 percent target set by the Council the officers point to the extra costs incurred buying from the property company. For information contact: rokhsana.fiaz@newham.gov.uk

More bike hangars and more electric charging for cars

Newham is to get more electric vehicle charging points and there is also good news for cyclists looking to park their bikes safely.

The Council Cabinet has agreed to start the contract process for a Charge Point Operator to install and maintain 160 Electric Vehicle Charging Points across Newham.

For cyclists, the Cabinet has agreed to start the contract process for 650 new cycle hangars. These will also be spread fairly across Borough and there will be consultation with those involved.

Replacement of Council street cleaning and maintenance vehicles

The Cabinet is to buy new street cleaning and maintenance vehicles. The existing vehicles are beyond their working life, and are more often out of action.

The Cabinet agreed the purchase of 49 replacement vehicles through a lease arrangement with Procurement Partnership Ltd.

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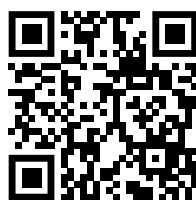
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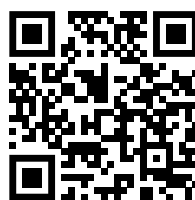
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Defector from Labour joins Green Party



DAISY MILES

A Councillor for Canning Town North has left the Labour Party to join the Greens.

Councillor Areeq Chowdhury was a member of the Labour Party for 13 years. Councillor Chowdhury made the announcement on X (formerly known as twitter) just days before the General Election on 4 July.

He cited three reasons behind his decision to leave the party.

First, he described Labour's support for a ceasefire in Gaza as "very belated".

He said: "I believe strongly, and have always believed strongly, in the need to oppose the collective punishment of civilians in Gaza. What has happened over the past year was predictable from the outset and should have been opposed forcefully."

He also reflected on remarks made by Keir Starmer about "sending back migrants to Bangladesh" during the election campaign.

His final key reason for leaving Labour focussed on "integrity".

He said: "As political representatives we should strive to improve, rather than risk, trust in democracy. An important part of this is being clear about our principles and staying true to them."

Councillor Chowdhury said he opted for the Green Party as they seem more aligned with his political beliefs.

He announced on General Election day that he voted for the Green Party for the first time in his life.

His defection increases the number of Green Party councillors in Newham Council to three, re-establishing them as the largest opposition party alongside the Newham Independents Group which also has three councillors.

The Council is yet to update their website with his defection.

Levelling Up funds create new arts hub for Plaistow

Create London and Newham Council have announced plans to transform 31-35 Stock Street, a disused 19th-century warehouse in Plaistow, into a thriving arts hub for creativity, culture and community wellbeing.

The new space is due to open in late 2025 and will provide affordable workspaces, a café and studios dedicated to design, art and architecture, learning and skills development. The project has a 25-year lease.

The Council has invested an initial £1,015,000 following their successful Levelling Up Fund bids. Create London has launched a capital fundraising campaign to raise the remaining £1.3m needed to cover part of the restoration costs. Donations and grants will be sought from public funding bodies, a number of trusts and foundations, individuals and corporates.

As well as affordable workspace, 31-35 Stock Street will



Before and after: Visualisation of proposed Stock Street creative hub.

provide flexible events space, a working yard and versatile maker spaces to fill a gap in art and architecture provision and vocational training in Newham. The building will also enable local community and grassroots groups to host their own programmes.

Darren Mackin, Director of Community Wealth Building, Newham Council said: "We are thrilled to be working alongside Create London on the

rejuvenation of 31-35 Stock Street, a stunning locally listed building, bringing it back into active use for the benefit of the local community. The project forms part of the Council's vision to transform vacant buildings within its portfolio into productive community and enterprise spaces that can contribute to a thriving range of civic activity within all of Newham's neighbourhoods."

Community in shock after three children die in house fire

Three children died in a house fire in Napier Road East Ham on 13 July sparking an outpouring of grief and concern with Newham Fire Service and Newham Council offering support to residents as the investigation into the cause of the fire continues.

Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz said: "On behalf of the entire Newham community, I extend my deepest condolences to the family, friends, and all those affected by this devastating incident."

Also expressing condolences, Assistant Commissioner Patrick Goulbourne of the London Fire Brigade, expressed gratitude for the swift response of

the emergency services.

Newham Council staff, working in partnership with the fire brigade, have been offering support and advice to anyone in need within the community.

"As we await the results of the ongoing investigation into the cause of the fire, let us come together as a community to support one another and extend a helping hand to those in grief," added Mayor Fiaz in a statement.

Following the fire Council staff visited local schools attended by the children to ensure staff and pupils have access to whatever support is required as well as providing support to the family.

Community rally against Pride hate

More than 100 people attended a public meeting outside Forest Gate railway station in response to attacks on Pride flags.

These flags, added to pavements around the station by Newham Council in 2022 as part of its Community Assemblies, now People Powered Places, scheme, have been vandalised six times.

Jeandré Coetser, organiser and Forest Gate resident said: "Last year I attended a protest in Clapham where a gay couple were physically attacked and stabbed. A week before that a similar attack took place in Brixton. I do not want to see the same happen in Forest Gate."

Using chalk, local residents of all ages drew on the flags and transformed their defacement into an image of love.

Members of the community took to the microphone telling the LGBTQIA+ communities "We stand with you."

The public meeting is the latest in a series of actions.

Immediately after the flags were vandalised for a sixth time, a group of concerned residents came together to organise a response. The group, known as Queers + Allies, have been encouraging businesses on Forest Gate's high street and local residents to display Pride flags to show solidarity with the

LGBTQIA+ communities.

"We set up a response group because we believe it's important to counter the recent attempts to cover up and deface our beautiful Pride flags. Our message is simple: Everyone is welcome - no hate in Forest Gate!"

The public meeting was supported by Waltham Forest, Redbridge and Tower Hamlets National Education Union branches, Palestine Solidarity Campaign Newham and Stand Up to Racism Newham.

Police have launched an appeal to help identify the "hate crime" suspect after the three painted Pride flags were vandalised recently, on 23 and 26 June and 19 July. The flags have previously been vandalised on three other occasions since they were launched in June 2022.



Forest Gate's plastic free business champion

LORRAINE TAPPER

Jeff Levy, owner of No 8 Forest Gate has become Plastic Free Forest Gate's first Business Champion. In recognition, Councillor Rachel Trip presented Jeff with an award on 20 July.

Customers purchasing heavy items are given paper bags with the expectation they will be returned for use by another customer.

No 8 has reduced its use of single use plastic items and follows the sustainable ethos of reuse and supporting local producers and crafts.

Businesses are key to developing a plastic free community. As No 8 is considered a hub in the Forest Gate community, it is a fitting example of an environmentally ethical model for other interested businesses who also want to become plastic free. Forest Gate currently needs 11 more Business Champions to achieve plastic free status.

Cathy Stack runs EcoE7, a voluntary group supporting sustainability in the Forest Gate area through various ini-



Plastic Free Forest Gate

tiatives and projects. One of the projects is the Plastic Free Forest Gate community scheme.

If you are a Forest Gate

business Interested in becoming a Plastic Free Business Champion contact Cathy at eco7.forestgate@gmail.co.uk

Labour win in Beckton and Little Ilford

The council by-elections in Beckton and Little Ilford on 18 July resulted in wins for Labour with Blossom Young taking over as a councillor for Beckton and Aktharul Alam elected as a Councillor for Little Ilford. Newham Independent candidates in both elections had a strong showing, but turnout was low - 18 percent in Little Ilford and just 13.5 percent in Beckton. The Green Party came third in Beckton while the Liberal Democrats were third in Little Ilford.

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Royal honour for local hero

Aidan White on a 'bloody hell' moment and recognition for Shirley Biro, a community champion for Newham

To those who know her well, Shirley Biro is a force of nature, Newham's champion of community champions, and more than worthy of Royal recognition.

Recently she was awarded the British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday Honours List for her exceptional years of service to community life in Newham.

Her reserved, quietly-spoken and bookish appearance may give the impression of someone who is shy and reticent, but decades of voluntary work and immersion in the life of her community tell another story.

Shirley is an East End girl through and through. Born in Plaistow and raised near Wanstead Flats in Forest Gate, she remembers fondly her grandfather's dairy and horse-drawn milk-float on land where the Westfield Shopping Centre now stands.

Her father ran a sweet shop in Stepney Way in Whitechapel, making friends across the community. "Groups of both Jewish and Bangladeshi people were outside the shop when his hearse passed by after his death," she recalls.

The teenage Shirley opted for early marriage, motherhood and a stay-at-home life. "In those days it was what was expected,"

she says, "I got married at 20!" A first child lost to spina bifida cast a shadow, but two healthy daughters followed.

Shirley knew she wanted more from life. She began her voluntary work early, at school, helping to organise a fundraising dance for Oxfam and later as a young mother she helped out in mums and tots groups.

Earlier, another door had opened. After taking a job as a 16-year-old lab assistant at the BacoFoil works in Silvertown (the first girl) she discovered her love for science.

"I joined the Open University in 1974 and then went to Queen Mary's University as a mature student, taking a BSc in genetics and bio-chemistry," she said. Her first marriage ended around this time and she later worked at King's College before she joined the London hospital immunology research team in Whitechapel where her career blossomed.

In 2003 she took early retirement and remarried. Shirley and her husband Andrew settled into a larger house in East Ham where she quickly established a reputation for community work.

Over the years she has become the "go to person" for work, advice and support for the voluntary and community groups



Shirley Biro ©Aidan White

scattered across Newham.

She was a Volunteer with Community Counselling – "I was always a listener" – and in 1988 she joined Conflict and

Change, the UK's first community mediation service, where she was three times the chair.

"I've always been inspired by people and I realise from my own experience how important it is to give people encouragement," she says. "I always think if I did it, anybody can do it!"

She is an advocate of social prescribing, helping to promote opportunities for community support in every aspect of people's

lives. Her weekly bulletin "News from the Voluntary Sector" is essential reading for anyone who wants to get involved in the life of the Borough.

Her commitment to health care stems from lived experience, with various family members who have faced depression. She has been a staunch fighter for patients' rights at the NHS East London Foundation Trust where she is a public governor.

At the same time, she has been a stalwart for the faith community and has recently stepped down as the Newham Deanery Lay Chair.

"I wouldn't think of myself as 'religious' but I have a very strong personal faith," she says. "I don't always agree with the way things are done. It's the maltreatment of others that I can't put up with."

This sense of solidarity with victims of injustice drives her commitment to supporting change and challenging institutions that neglect their responsibility to others.

The honour came as a surprise if not a shock. "When I received the letter I thought bloody hell, what have I done? The first thing I saw when I opened it was that there was going to be a full investigation," she said.

In fact the letter was announcing a nomination to give her a gong and that would be confirmed after an investigation.

She insists: "I think this is something for everyone working in the voluntary sector."

She may be right, lots of others deserve recognition, but as anyone in the voluntary community will tell you, there's only one Shirley Biro.

A tree trail with a touch of magic

LUCIA RIOS STEELE

Fancy a walk down an enchanted trail full of tree spirits and magical fairy doors? Well, you might be surprised to find out you do not need to travel far!

Friends of West Ham Park has joined forces with children from Park Primary School and the West Ham Park learning team to create a tree trail in West Ham Park for all to enjoy this summer.

The trail comprises 16 different tree species which you can learn about by using the QR codes attached to each tree. So, if you do not know your Horse Chestnut from your Holm Oak, fear not – the trail will guide you! The trail begins near the Linden Gate,



fittingly with the Hawthorn – known as the tree of the fairies, and goes through parkland areas that are often less travelled, including the orchard and south meadow. You can also play I-Spy to try and spot the handmade fairy doors which are hidden within the boughs.

Keep your eyes peeled for ladders, swings, doorbells

and knockers. Enjoy the funky, other-worldly designs that are sure to transport you to the realm of pure imagination! But remember, move quietly and listen carefully, you may spot a door closing, hear a visitor knocking or maybe, just maybe hear the sound of fairies beating their wings.

The Tree Spirit Trail will be accessible in West Ham Park throughout the summer. Maps are available via the QR codes on the posters at each entrance gate or from the park office located opposite the playground.

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

West Ham Park celebrates 150th birthday and gets Green Flag

Crowds of residents flocked to West Ham Park over the weekend of 20-21 July to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the park.

The park which is managed by the City of London Corporation and with the support of local residents and the Friends of West Ham Park there were a number of celebration events, stalls and musical performances at the Park bandstand.

At the same time West Ham Park and Epping Forest are

among 15 of the City of London Corporation's open spaces that have been awarded a prestigious Green Flag.

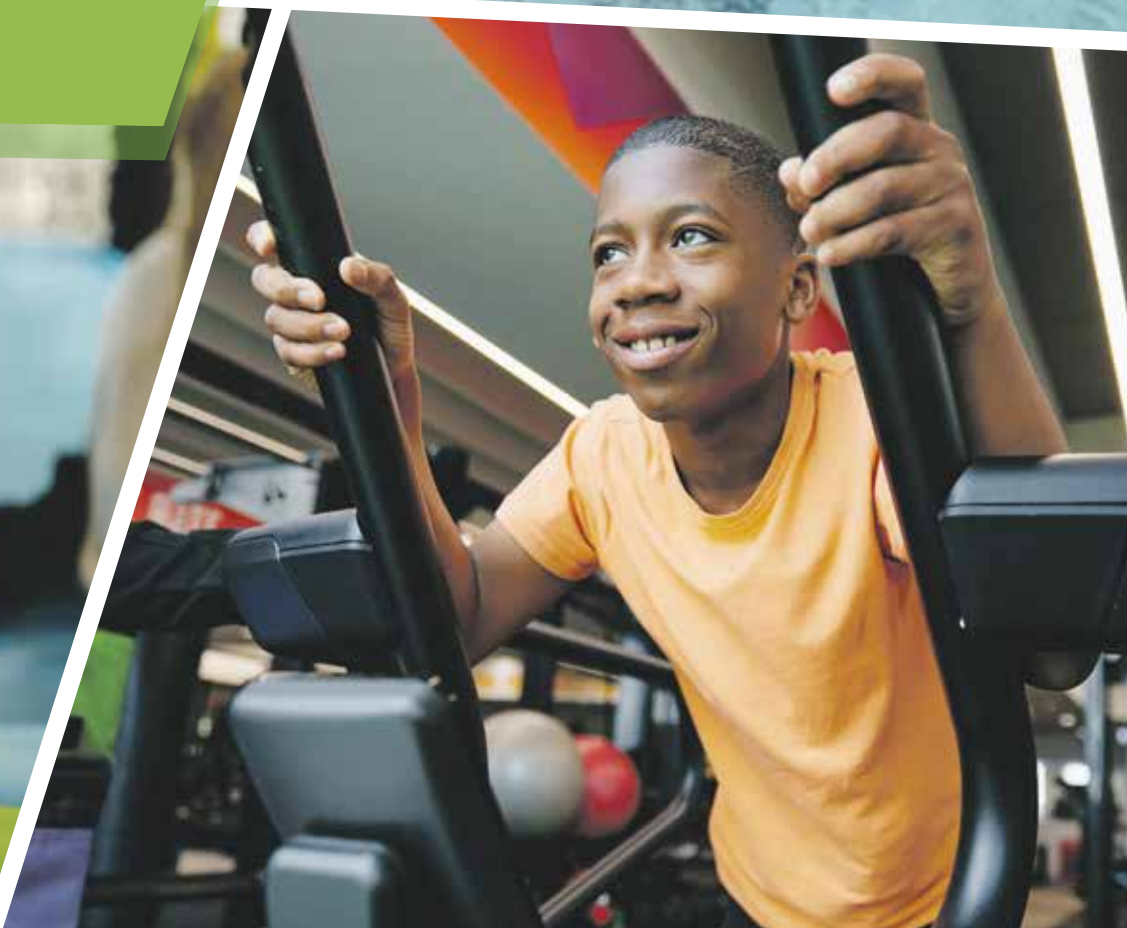
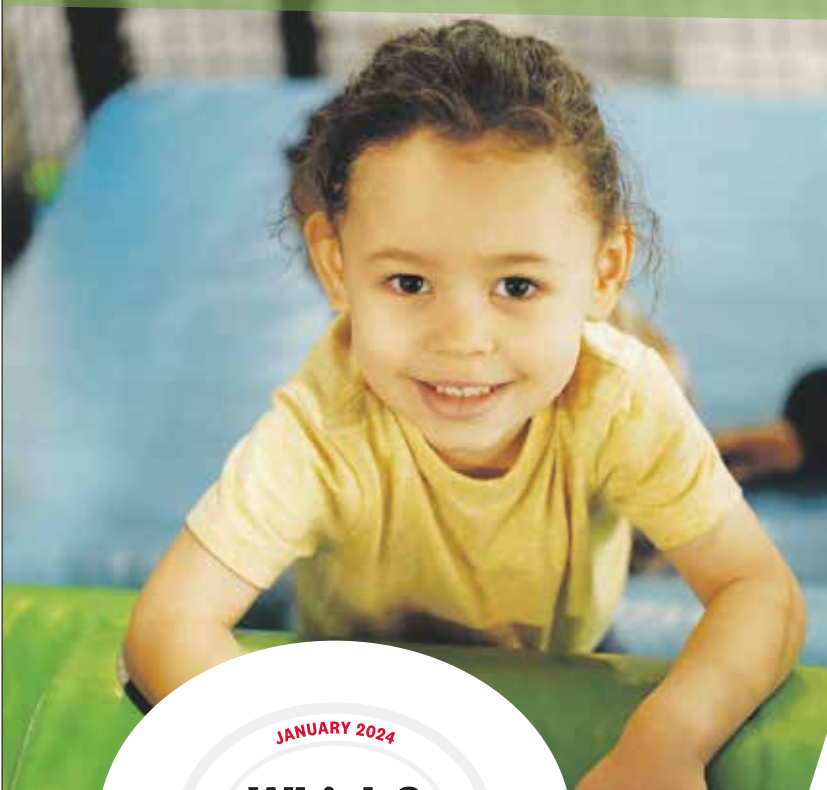
The Green Flag Award scheme recognises well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark for the management of outdoor spaces across the UK and around the world.

A further six Newham parks have also been awarded Green Flags.

Visit keepbritaintidy.org/green-flag-award

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Flexible study and the smell of fresh paint at Newham's Planet Education college

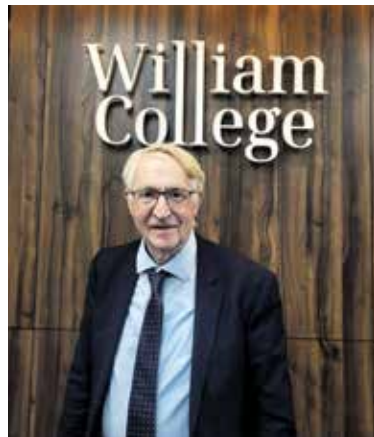
DAISY MILES

A new college offering undergraduate degrees has been established in Stratford, with courses starting this September.

William College, located close to Stratford Bus Station, officially opened its premises a month ago. The building still smells of fresh paint as they add the finishing touches before its first cohort of students arrives.

With four floors and a capacity for 2,000 students, William College currently offers two courses in partnership with Bath Spa University: LLB Law, and Business and Management Law. They hope to branch into criminology, psychology and policing with the support of other universities in future cohorts.

In the first two weeks of admissions, around 230 students have been accepted as the college works towards its target of 600 students in its first cohort.



William College is part of Planet Education Networks (PEN), originating in nearby Poplar. Their colleges aim to help students who do not have qualifying A-levels to access higher education.

Director of PEN Professor Cedric Bell, pictured, said: "A lot of the students who are likely to be attracted to William College will be a little bit nervous about going to a traditional university.

"They'll be more comfortable in an environment where

they feel they're getting particular support, but also that they'll be with like-minded people from similar backgrounds and experiences."

The course aims to be as flexible for their students as possible so they can fit lessons around their busy lifestyles, and encourage their students to work alongside their studies.

Professor Bell said: "We don't operate a timetable whereby we expect our students to study Monday to Friday, nine to five. That's not going to work for our student constituency, so it's a flexible timetable, and that's one of the attractions we'll be offering."

The decision to open the campus in Stratford makes it accessible for an East London catchment area consisting of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Dagenham and Redbridge.

He said: "We recognise that it's not enough just to offer traditional courses. You've got to put in place an infrastructure

that will best accommodate the needs of your particular student constituency.

"I have always felt that there is a great interest in law amongst BAME communities and some of the most successful lawyers come from these communities. Therefore we feel that it's a natural opportunity to harness their skills by giving them this chance."

The college is also considering cooperation with local sixth forms to attract students, as well as local law firms to help their students find work experience.

Professor Bell encourages local people who want to get in contact to check their website: williamcollege.com. "We're different," he says. "We pride ourselves on our uniqueness and our desire to help out young people to change lives and change communities. Seize the moment. Don't be put off by misconceived ideas about your own lack of confidence or lack of experience."

St Bon's celebrates trio of wins

Three students from St Bonaventure's School, have been recognised at the 2024 Brentwood Catholic Schools Citizenship Awards in St Helen's Cathedral by Bishop of Brentwood Alan Williams.

The three students displayed "outstanding awareness of good citizenship and contributions to the community".

Pictured below with head teacher Christopher McCormack are Nevin, a year eight student, Mohanant, a year ten student, and Manisha, year 12.



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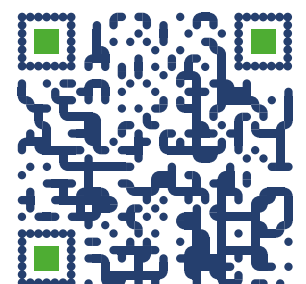
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OUT AND ABOUT WITH NEANDRA

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



Black Pride leads summer events



©Neandra Etienne

UK Black Pride, officially the world's largest LGBTQI+ celebration event, returns to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park for the third year.

UK Black Pride, for LGBTQI+ people of African, Asian, Caribbean, Latin America and Middle Eastern descent, will feature performances, talks, stalls and workshops.

This year's theme is *Freedom and Justice*, "a celebration of our right to love freely, live authentically, and be unapologetically ourselves".

11 August, 12pm-8pm, free entry, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Stratford

ukblackpride.org.uk

Academy Breakin' Convention free summer sessions will break down the basics of Breakin', DJing, Emceeing, Graffiti, Music Production, Popping and Hip Hop Social Dance. Suitable for ages 14 - 17

5-8 August, 10am-3pm, East London Dance, The Talent House, 3 Sugar House Ln, E15 2QS



Breakin Convention Park Jam. ©Paul Hampartsoumian

Forest Gate Community Garden free annual summer celebration, includes music, family activities and refreshments. Please bring your own cup.

3 August, 11.30am - 2pm, 136 Earlham Grove, E7 9AD

fgcommunitygarden.org

Sadler's Wells is hosting free Hip Hop games featuring eight East London dancers who will face off in a hip hop dance battle, with music from BBC 1Xtra DJs.

3 August, 12pm-7pm, Stratford Waterfront

sadlerswells.com

Celebrating Windrush: Newham Windrush events include: Caribbean Creole Culture Dressmaking Course with Sakafet London (5-9 August) Cold Islands Film Club - short films by local artists (6 August) Film and Feast - Black Joy film screening (9 August) REIN - film and feast cooking workshop (9 August)



Sakafet London ©Neandra Etienne

The *Rites of Passage* final event (30 August) features live performances: local schools, who received workshops throughout the summer from multidisciplinary artist Marilyn Fontaine, will have their artwork on display: designs created by Sakafet London fashion students during their week-long Caribbean Creole Fashion course; and artwork created by senior residents of Hamara Ghar, Holden Point and members of Newham African Caribbean Resource Centre and Hibiscus Centre.

newhamwindrushday.org

Royal Docks free Summer Splash, which includes deck chairs, giant sand pit, lido and entertainment, is suitable for families and all ages. Children under eight must be accompanied by an adult in the water. No Booking required. 27 July - 18 August, Royal Victoria Dock (next to City Hall Kamal Chunchie Way, E16 1ZE)

royaldocks.london

Make-Do Play free family play session includes fun-filled activities suitable for all ages.

30 August from 10:30am to 1:30pm, The Lighthouse Garden, Celebration Ave, E20

thelighthouseandgardens.com

West Silvertown Foundation's free Summer Fun Day includes face painting, bouncy castles, talent show and Iroko Drummers.

17 August, 1pm-5pm, Britannia Village Green, E16 1UA

wsfroyaldocks.org

Stratford Centre's summer kids clubs events:

• Ghostbusters and Slime Making Fun, 14 August

• Kung Fu Panda, 24 August

Each event runs from 10am - 4pm and is free

stratfordshopping.co.uk

Tower Gallery artist call out is an open theme. Artists with a strong connection to Newham are welcome to enter works. Information and submission forms are available from towergallerye13@gmail.com. There are no charges.

The closing date to submit is 20 August. The exhibition opens with a preview on 5 September from 7-9 pm and will then be open Fridays-Sundays from 3-7 pm closing on 29 September.

@towergallery.e13



Tower Gallery stairwell

Forest Gate Community Garden's will celebrate the life of Benjamin Zephaniah on 18 August, 2pm, at 136 Earlham Grove, E7.

They are also organising a tribute book, and invite anyone who knew or loves Benjamin's work to send a contribution to info@fgcommunitygarden.org

Summer activities planned for children and young people across the Borough include: arts and crafts, fun day trips, rowing and music. Free events with food provided for young people eligible for free school

meals. For further information and to view the programme, visit: newham.gov.uk/haf

Curated by Rajesh Bhovan:

The exhibiting artists include Rajesh Bhovan, Nitesh Tailor, Zehra Marikar, Simran Kaur, Krishnan Ash, Sapna Patel, Umar Ahmed, Rachana Johal and Rushil Pandey.

Friday, 9 August - 14 September, 6 Sugar House Lane, E15 2QS

hyphastudios.com

Ripples curated by Jane Lee is a collection of installation, film, painting, photography, and mixed-media works by 20 emerging artists from the Royal College of Art.

107 High Street, Sugar House Island, Stratford, E15 2RB

9 August - 18 September 2024, Wed - Sun, 11am - 8pm

hyphastudios.com

****All events are subject to change. Please email any events to neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk**



You Wu ©Roger Dean

Work on show

London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London, celebrated their undergraduate class of 2024 with an exclusive show of designs from 128 students studying on the BA (Hons) Fashion Design Technology: Menswear and BA (Hons) and Fashion Design Technology: Womenswear courses.

www.arts.ac.uk



Jimi Hendrix at the Upper Cut Club

Sixties tribute

Jimi Hendrix at the Upper Cut Club is the first mural from the Colours of Forest Gate project to be installed on the wall of Mansons Pharmacy on Woodgrange Road. Jimi Hendrix's new Newham Heritage blue plaque, which was unveiled during Newham Heritage Month in 2021, is already installed on the wall.

The mural, which was

developed through a community co-design process, will include the musicians who performed at the club when it was open in the late 1960s. Newham Council has been working with Zabou, a selected artist via BUD Studio, the company commissioned to manage the co-design and installation of the mural.

newhamco-create.co.uk

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Newham schools support Hurricane Beryl relief

Maryland Primary School's Head teacher Lorna Jackson has appealed to Newham schools for donations to aid those affected by Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean. The relief drive is being coordinated by Seymour Mattis, Director of Education charity JET-UK.

Seymour regularly visits schools in Jamaica providing resources and training. Many of the schools he supports on the south coast of Jamaica have been decimated by the hurricane which reached Category 5. There is still no power and it will take months to repair buildings.

Seymour asked Jackson to spread the word requesting educational resources. Lorna



Lorna Jackson and Seymour Mattis emailed Newham schools who rose to the call and delivered unwanted stock to help the children in Jamaica. Families sent hygiene items, dental items and non-perishable food to support the relief.

Lorna said: "I was born in that area of Jamaica and I don't believe there was enough news

coverage of the devastation that the Caribbean is suffering, the UK general election knocked it out of the news, which is quite understandable, but we should make no mistake that all is well after the hurricane passed on. News teams need to highlight the aftermath including the trauma many children are suffering from after seeing their school blown away.

"I am so grateful to my colleagues for their kindness no matter how small. There is a Jamaican saying... Every mickle makes a muckle... which means even the tiniest thing like a bar of soap, will make a difference. Thank you also to JET-UK who will now need to organise shipping."

Cooking up connections: bread pudding makes a world of difference

DAPHNE STEDMAN

At the end of June the Swift Centre in Barking Road was the venue for a Jazanne Arts event launching a cookbook containing traditional recipes from around the world. The book, *Cooking Connections*, is dedicated to the memory of Elsie Stanley, a Newham resident, whose bread pudding recipe was the inspiration for the book.

The participants shared personal memories of where the recipes in the book originated from. Some stories were recited, and others were told through acting or cookery demonstration. Mary Richards showed how to make ackee and saltfish fried dumpling pattie, with other members of the cast.

The audience was encouraged to participate in regular singing interludes and afterwards there was the opportunity to try samples of some of the recipes in the book. Copies of the book were given out at the event.

The cookbook launch was organised by Jazanne Arts as part of *Cooking Connections*, a project commissioned by Culture Within Newham, funded by Arts Council England.

Risalamand

(Danish Rice Pudding)

This recipe from the book, submitted by Mona Torres, is a traditional Danish dessert served at Christmas.

Ingredients

- 200g arborio rice
- 800ml milk
- 50kg kaneel sugar (cinnamon sugar) or caster sugar
- 2tsp vanilla extract
- 25g almond flakes plus 1 whole almond
- 300ml double cream

Instructions

1. In a large saucepan, bring the milk and rice to the boil and boil slowly over a medium heat.
2. Simmer, until the rice is cooked through and not crunchy.
3. Add vanilla and sugar.
4. Allow to cool.
5. While cooling, whip the double cream until stiff peaks form.
6. When the rice has cooled, mix through the chopped almonds.
7. Gently fold the whipped cream through the rice pudding.

As is custom in Denmark, mix in a single whole almond. Serve the pudding cold and topped with fruit/cherry compote in small bowls.

A tribute to activist Paul

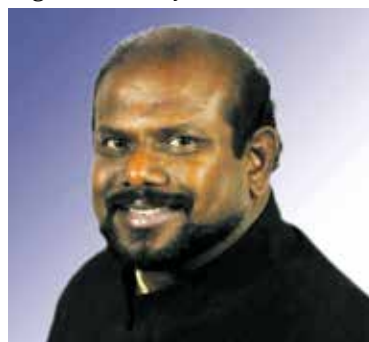
Tributes have been paid to former Newham Councillor Paul Sathianesan who died on 5 July after a short illness.

Mr Sathianesan served as councillor for the former East Ham North ward for 20 years, from 1998 to 2018, having arrived in Newham from Sri Lanka as a political refugee.

Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz said he would be remembered for his "boundless energy, love and dedication to local residents in East Ham and his commitment to equality and social justice".

She added: "He was a committed activist and willing to speak truth to power, and will be forever remembered for his warmth and kindness; as well as his honesty and ethics."

For years after his retirement he was the welcoming face of Newham for residents at their citizenship ceremonies. Paul was awarded the 'Taking A Stand Award' by the Home Office for his efforts in addressing community issues.



Police ignore Council call not to use facial recognition technology

Newham Council has been questioning the police use of facial recognition, but the police have ignored their concerns and are going ahead with the technology, according to a Council statement.

"I am committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our residents," said Councillor Amar Virdee, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Crime. However, he argues that use of this technology in public spaces infringes on the privacy of residents, subjecting them to surveillance without their consent. "This level of intrusion erodes the trust between the community and the law enforcement agencies tasked with protecting it," he said.

"Studies have demonstrated that facial recognition software is prone to bias and inaccuracies, disproportionately affecting those from minority ethnic backgrounds. The implications of these biases are profound and unacceptable, as they can lead to wrongful identifications, false accusations and undue harassment of innocent citizens."

Councillor Virdee urged the police to engage with the community in developing alternative methods that ensure both security and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

The police have argued that facial recognition, when used according to the College of Policing guidance, ensures fairness and proportionality.

Knife bins take deadly weapons off the streets



Knife Amnesty Bin

NEANDRA ETIENNE

Newham Council has installed Knife Amnesty Bins at Bonny Downs Community Association, Rights and Equalities in Newham and Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre.

The bins, which are part of a wider knife crime prevention programme, will reduce the risk of knife-related incidents.

Paul Leslie, Chief Executive, Rights and Equalities in Newham, told *Newham Voices*: "REIN is working in partnership with Newham Council and voluntary sector partners to provide opportunities for knives to be safely disposed of in a knife amnesty bin, one is located near our community

centre in Plaistow. We hope this initiative will help to reduce the number of knives on our streets and increase community safety. We encourage everyone who wants to dispose of an unwanted knife to do so in a knife amnesty bin."

The group plans to hold a community conversation about knife related incidents and what actions can be taken to improve community safety.

An existing knife bin at the Salvation Army in Stratford has seen almost 500 items removed in just over a year.

Residents in Newham troubled over this issue can get professional advice and report their concerns. More information from newham.gov.uk or call 020 3373 4600.



SOMETHING'S BREWING



Phil Mellows is blazing a trail for the beer connoisseurs of Forest Gate

I think I might have just invented the Forest Gate Beer Mile.

Beer miles have been springing up all over the country over the past decade or so, inspired by the first, the Bermondsey Beer Mile, which now comprises no fewer than 18 bars and taprooms in the railway arches under the tracks running out of London Bridge.

On a weekend it attracts thousands of people, craft beer drinkers, who sample their way along its length. Thirds are, of course, available.

The Forest Gate Beer Mile is an altogether more modest affair with just five stops, but it might just work, I reckon.

Starting at Forest Gate Station you simply cross the road to the **Forest Tavern**, which has developed into an impressive operation since it was taken over by Portobello Brewery.



It calls itself a 'gastropub' but don't let that put you off. It's a bright and airy comfortable space with a large garden – and, most importantly, a good range of beers.

On my last visit, there were a couple on cask, the house ale and the excellent Five Points Extra Pale from Hackney, plus 10 craft keg in various

styles from London brewers.

Next on the list is the **Holly Tree** on Dames Road, which has just as good a range, if less local, with cask ales that, when I was there, included Wye Valley HPA and a New Bristol pale alongside the likes of Floc Siren and Gravity Well on the taps.

Then you walk round the back to Winchelsea Road where the **Wanstead Tap** occupies a couple of railway arches and serves six craft beers on tap. I was especially pleased to see Blanche de Bruxelles, a refreshing Belgian wheat beer, among them.

Further along the track, **Pretty Decent Brewery** has now moved out to the Blackhorse Beer Mile (another one) but kept its cosy neighbourhood taproom on Sheridan Road where you can choose from a dozen of its fine brews on draught.

Finally, you can extend your walk to the full mile by crossing the border for the **Leytonstone Tavern**, formerly the Woodman, which has now expanded into a great pub with a terrace and a strong selection of craft beers on tap – including alcohol-free, if you've had enough.

They're all just waiting for the hordes of beer tourists to arrive once word gets out.



Good reads in Newham

The Newham Bookshop in Bark-ing Road tells us these are the top sellers this month:

- **Breathe: How to Win A Greener World**
By Sadiq Khan
- **Passiontide**
By Monique Roffey
- **The Architecture of Modern Empire**
By Arundhati Roy
- **Secrets of the Snakestone**
By Piu DasGupta
- **Mama's Sleeping Scarf** (Illustrated by Joelle Avelino)
By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- **The Last Zookeeper**
By Aaron Becker

– Compiled by David Ceen, Newham Bookshop

My Newham

To celebrate Jamaican Independence Day on 6 August, Julia Omari talks to Wayne Shahid who has lived in Newham for most of his adult life but spent his childhood years in Jamaica.

How long have you been connected to Newham? I was born in Ilford, left England when I was a year and a half, then came back to live in Newham in 1989.

What's your favourite Jamaican Newham moment? When I arrived in Forest Gate and started playing for a football team called 'Caribbeans'. It was good to know that the patron of that team was Tottenham Hotspur legend Chris Hughton who was born in Forest Gate.

Do you have a favourite Jamaican business to shop at in Newham or an organisation that supports Jamaicans in Newham? My hairdresser. It is symbolic of how resilient and innovative Jamaican people are. Because Black hair styles can take hours to do, people get hungry while we wait. This led to a food delivery service being established, specifically for my hairdressers. Because



Wayne Shahid

the business is so popular, people come through selling wigs, hair pieces, perfumes, lotions even tickets for parties or Jamaican concerts, so one business spawns and supports others. It feels like I walk into Jamaica when I go there, as some people just come to hang out and banter each other in true Jamaican style. Advice regarding the cheapest flights to Jamaica or how to ship goods to Jamaica is exchanged along with the latest news from the island.

How do you celebrate Jamaican Independence Day in Newham? If I am not actually in Jamaica at the time, I phone my mother who is there. I meet up with my family and talk about not only Jamaican Independence in 1962 but its origin in the struggle to end slavery and our national heroes who contributed to our liberation struggle.

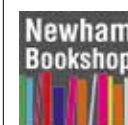
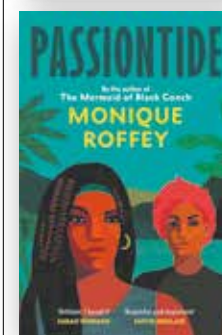
Most inspirational Jamaican Newham person? Because I love music, Rappers/Grime MCs Ghetts and Kano who are of Jamaican descent, are inspirational 'goal models' because they 'grew up in areas forgotten by the government' (a quote from Ghetts himself) but they are now global superstars. They exemplify the Jamaican ability to make something out of nothing.

Jamaica was recently hit by Hurricane Beryl. How can Newham support its Jamaican Newham citizens? St Elizabeth in Jamaica was hit the hardest by Hurricane Beryl, so I would suggest reaching out to the Mayor of Black River and Chairman of the St. Elizabeth

Municipal Corporation, Councillor Richard Solomon. He will be able to tell anyone who wants to support the recovery there exactly what is required. That way support can be direct, appropriate and targeted. Maybe Newham Council could then set up contribution locations so its citizens (Jamaican or not) can donate exactly what is required. This ongoing rapport with Jamaica should provide videos/pictures of the impact of the donation on the ground. This will alleviate the worry Jamaicans in Newham have regarding friends and relatives there.

How do you stay connected to Jamaica in Newham? Going into Wenty's shop in Forest Gate E7 9LN, to pick up authentic Jamaican food. Shopping there is not just a transaction, it is teleportation back to shopping in Spanish Town. The conversations, vibes and banter are uplifting. It also serves as an impromptu meeting place because I am always guaranteed to run into an old friend there. (See page 1)

Finish this sentence: Jamaicans in Newham are... resilient and resourceful because they persevere despite difficulties and provide for themselves where this society does not provide for them. Jamaicans in Newham exemplify the 'make a way when there is no way' spirit, which typifies Jamaicans at home and abroad.



For full details or to request a copy, visit: newhambooks.co.uk

Jamaica Land We Love

To mark Jamaican Independence Day on 6 August, **Zhenreenah Muhxinga** talked to Newham resident **Babs** who remembers that historic day in 1962

St. Thomas, Jamaica – 6 August 1962 – In a joyous and historic celebration, school children across St. Thomas were the recipients of special gifts marking Jamaica’s independence. The initiative, part of a nationwide effort to commemorate this momentous occasion, aimed to foster a sense of national pride and unity among the young citizens of the newly independent Jamaica.

Babs’ teachers at Bath Primary school, told the children that this is a day of great pride and joy for all Jamaicans. The children are the future of our nation, and it is vital they understand the significance of our independence. The gifts and celebrations help them connect with their heritage and feel a part of this historic moment.

Babs, aged eight from Castle Hill St. Thomas, remembers receiving a national cup and a plastic bag of milk powder.



She guarded her cup and hid it under the hibiscus flower tree until she was ready to go home.

The milk powder didn’t stand a chance, Babs was so hungry she pierced a hole with her finger and started licking the powder from the bag. By the time she got home it was almost finished. She lived with her grandmama (because her mother migrated to England in 1948 on the Windrush ship)

who asked Babs for the rest of the milk powder, she ran away because she knew there and then she was going to get a big telling off. But no Grandmama wasn’t going to tell her off this time, she wanted some herself!!!

Later on in the night the celebration of Jamaica’s independence was a landmark event that resonated deeply across the island. But in Bath district St. Thomas, the old school hall became the highlight of the night, playing games like dominoes, cards, ludo, spelling bee, best sketchers, speeches from the Parish councillors, story telling, folklore dancing, women’s skirts twirling around and around while the men march around the women, and the celebrations list went on and on, ending with a big party playing the latest music.

Babs and her friends were in their element, she remembered dancing to ska ska, thirty pieces of silver, 007 and many many more, but those stuck out in her mind up to this day at the age of 70.

As Jamaica continues to progress, the memories and lessons of 1962 remain a vital part of its national consciousness, inspiring pride and unity among its people. Singing the national anthem *Jamaica*

Land We Love every morning at school as well as every independence day.

Babs now at the age of 70, living in Newham reflected back, thinking of a cup and a bag of milk powder.

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SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Neandra Etienne



Plashet Park Bowls Club @Neandra Etienne

Plashet Park Bowls Club has had mixed fortunes since the outdoor bowling season started in May, but President and Captain Cliff Dye is confident of another successful season.

Last year, Plashet won six league and county group cups and with trophy winning years in the past, the Manor Park based club is a force to be reckoned with. Plashet Park prides itself on being a multi-cultural club which has paved the way for other bowls clubs to follow suit.

Cliff told *Newham Voices*: "Anyone can come in and watch. We are always looking for new members. We have home matches in August on Sunday 11, Tuesday 13, and Tuesday 20."

Clapton CFC Men's first team will play in the Southern Counties East Football League Division One next season after their appeal against a move was rejected. The season is scheduled to start 3 August. The men's first team will compete in the FA Vase tournament for the second time. The first qualifying round takes place on 24 August.

www.claptoncfc.co.uk

Bonny Downs Community Association free beginner Cricket Sessions are delivered in partnership with Essex Cricket for ages 12-19. Fridays 6.30pm - 7.30pm, Bobby Moore Pavilion, 118 Napier Road, East Ham, E6.

bonnydowns.org

Irons Supporting Foodbanks will be back at their usual collection point on Stratford Walk for the Aston Villa game. They will be taking donations from 2.30pm.

ironsfoodbanks.co.uk



Foodbank collection volunteers

West Ham United's new 2024/25 Umbro Home Kit is inspired by the club's 1960s era. The 2024/25 season marks the 60th anniversary of West Ham United's European Winners' Cup triumph. The film to launch the kit features cameos from 1965 Cup Winners' Cup-winning legend Brian Dear, Roberta Moore, daughter of Bobby Moore, and current players Jarrod Bowen and George Earthy.



West Ham new home kit

The Hammers are scheduled to play a friendly against Crystal Palace on 4 August and Celta Vigo on 10 August. Their opening Premier League game is at home against Aston Villa on 17 August. The club's game against Manchester City on 31 August is scheduled to be broadcast live by Sky Sports.

The club begin their Carabao Cup challenge at the second round stage in the week commencing 26 August.

whufc.com

Free Skateboarding, Roller Skating sessions for girls and gender non-conforming young people, in partnership with Melanin Skate Gals and Pals C.I.C. Skateboarding equipment will be provided on site (Please note they do not provide roller skates only skateboards, pads and helmets). Refreshments will be provided. Sessions are limited to 10 participants in order to get the most from their coaches.

All participants are required to read through and sign a waiver and image release form. 6, 13, 20 August, 3.30pm-5pm, City Mill, Skate Park, Pool Street, E20

skategalsnpals.com

JK Silvertown FC will play northern rivals Team North in Newcastle on 10 August. The club is raising money for Richard House Hospice, a local charity, close to the club's hearts. Each player from JK Silvertown will raise or donate a minimum of £30 in sponsorship which will go towards the Children's Hospice.

[@jksilvertownfc](https://www.instagram.com/jksilvertownfc)



Divin Mubama and Mr Bartlett

Ben Johnson and **Divin Mubama** are to leave West Ham United. Ben originally joined the club when he was seven and Newham born Divin was named Mark Noble Young Hammer of the Year.

whufc.com

Free **Self-Defence classes** for women and girls 11+. No booking required

7, 14, 21, 28 August, 12.30 - 1.30pm South Hall Memorial Community Church, E13

psbl.org.uk

Bonny Downs Community Association award-winning Over 65s Active and Connected project delivers a variety of sporting activities including: footy and friends, men's walking football and darts/indoor bowls. Contact: **0208 586 7070**

bonnydowns.org

Coach Deva of **Central Park Allstars FC Girls Team** has been awarded 'The Lioness Award category' by the Essex FA. The Allstars FC Girls Team train in Central Park, Sunday 9.30am - 12pm

[@cpafc.girls](https://www.instagram.com/cpafc.girls)

Double Olympic Decathlon Champion **Daley Thompson's** documentary *Daley: Olympic Superstar* features his time at Newham and Essex Beagles Athletic Club. On BBC iPlayer.



©BBC/Steve Powell/Allsport/Getty Images

The **Renewal Programme** is running sport sessions for Young Carers and children aged 8-11, on 5-23 August. Activities include skiing/snowboarding, bowling trip and mixed sports. Free healthy lunch provided.

renewalprogramme.org.uk

The Richard House Cup, 5-a-side football tournament for corporates, raises funds to support children with life-limiting conditions. 15 August, 5pm-8pm, free entry, Shoreditch Powerleague, Braithwaite Street, E1 6GJ

richardhouse.org.uk

Stratford Centre's free kids clubs sports day. 10 August, 10am - 4pm.

stratfordshopping.co.uk

Forest Gate Youth Zone summer Sports programme includes football, basketball, roller skating and indoor sky diving. 23 July - 30 August, 1pm-5pm.

[@forestgateyouthzone1bn](https://www.instagram.com/forestgateyouthzone1bn)

Paris Olympic Games

26 July - 11 August

Sadler's Wells is hosting free **Breakin' Olympic watch parties** with DJs from BBC 1Xtra.

9 and 10 August, 1.30pm - 10pm, Riverside East, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

sadlerswells.com

Locals families and sporting fans are invited to the **Aquatics Centre** as it transforms into an official Aquatics GB fanzone for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Tom, Dive London Aquatics Club talent ID squad. ©Dive London

Live screenings of aquatic events featuring Team GB stars, £2 per child and £3 per adult.

Family-friendly activities taking place around the viewing sessions. Inflatable pool sessions, public swimming, and diving taster courses are available.

The events will take place on Friday 2 August, Friday 9 August and Saturday 10 August, with morning, afternoon, and evening sessions available.

The London Aquatics Centre hosted the London 2012 games.

londonaquaticscentre.org

World, Commonwealth and European Medalist **Victoria Ohuruogu**, sister of Christine Ohuruogu, has been selected for the Paris Olympic Games. Victoria took part in The London Athletics Meet at the London Stadium on 20 July.

[@vixxplay](https://www.instagram.com/vixxplay)

Heptathlete **Jade O'Dowda** (Newham and Essex Beagles Athletic Club) has been selected for the Paris Olympic Games.

[@jadeodowda](https://www.instagram.com/jadeodowda)

Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake
©British Athletics/Getty Images

Olympian **Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake** has been selected for the Paris Olympic Games.

Nethaneel took part in The London Athletics Meet at the London Stadium on 20 July.

[@nethaneel](https://www.instagram.com/nethaneel)

Lewis Davey (Newham & Essex Beagles Athletic Club) has also been selected for the Paris Olympic Games.

[@ld4hunna](https://www.instagram.com/ld4hunna)

Paris Paralympic Games

28 August - 8 September

East London Phoenix players Jodie Waite and Amy Conroy have been selected to play for the Paralympics GB Women's Wheelchair Basketball squad for the 2024 Paralympic Games.

Jodie is studying for a BSc (Hons) Sport, Physical Education and Development at UEL and Amy represented Team GB in London 2012 and Rio 2016.

[@eastldnphoenix](https://www.instagram.com/eastldnphoenix)



Gold Medal-winning Paralympian **Jonathan Broom-Edwards MBE** has been selected for the 2024 Paralympic Games. Jonathan (Newham and Essex Beagles Athletic Club) will be defending his Paralympic title.

Dates and times of all games and events are subject to change. Please email your news game fixtures to neandra.etienne@newhamvoices.co.uk

Managing expectations



Mickey Ambrose assesses the FA's wishlist for a new England manager

Thank you to Gareth Southgate and Steve Holland for putting a smile back on our faces and for making us believe once again that football could really be 'Coming Home' after all.

Thanks for getting us to the World Cup semi-finals for the first time in 28 years in July 2018 after much disappointment. That was the pick for me out of all that these guys have achieved along with of course two Euro finals.

The dramatic scenes during this year's Euros: Bellingham's bicycle kick; record goal scorer Kane's penalty; Ollie Watkins' winner against Netherlands; and Saka's equaliser against Switzerland and then being brave enough to take a penalty, which takes some guts, were all pure class. Despite much

criticism the record books will show SUCCESS under Gareth and Steve's eight year tenure.

And now comes the biggest task – to find a successor. The FA advert for the job gives a closing date for applications of 2 August, my birthday, and notes seven attributes needed for the new manager.

These include holding a Uefa Pro License and having significant experience of English football, with a strong track record as a winner in the Premier League and/or leading international competitions. (This alone would strictly rule out Frank Lampard, Eddie Howe and Graham Potter, although Potter might at a push be considered for the fantastic way he secured Brighton in the top ten in the Premier League before his

failure at Chelsea)

The new manager must be an exceptional leader who understands and will enjoy the international football environment. (Well, this is where I can throw my hat in the ring!)

There's also a vague demand that the new manager will be experienced in successfully identifying, managing and developing English qualified players and be highly resilient and comfortable in a very high-profile role with intense public scrutiny.

Above all the manager will have a track record of creating a high performing, positive team culture and environment. (Which is where HARRY REDKNAPP comes to mind) and, not least, they will have strong personal values and integrity and understand and embrace the role that the England Men's Senior Team Head Coach has inspiring the nation.

Phew! And, no pressure, in a bizarre step away from reality, the FA are also demanding that a new England manager MUST win a major trophy.

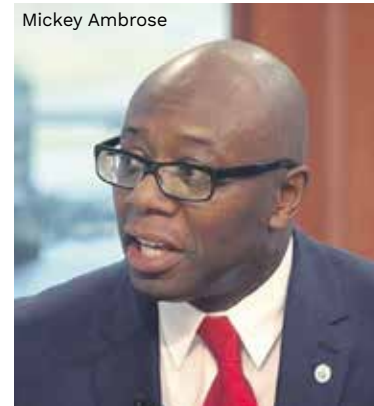
All managers do their best to win, but adding such pressure to a highly stressful job is extremely odd. The FA is forgetting that Gareth Southgate, in terms of competition results, was the most successful manager since Sir Alf Ramsey. So where is the continuity?

Why aren't the FA taking a leaf from the most successful of legacies, the Liverpool Boot Room and asking Steve Holland to stay on in an interim capacity to advise the new manager? He has worked with the best in the game in Liverpool and was Assistant Manager to six top class Chelsea managers.

Additionally, in 2013 Steve was appointed Assistant Manager to the new England under 21s Manager Gareth Southgate. It beats me how the FA don't use the knowledge, experience and skill set of decorated former players like Gary Lineker, John Barnes, Alan Shearer, Ian Wright and Les Ferdinand and get them involved in the national team?

One reason is that these big

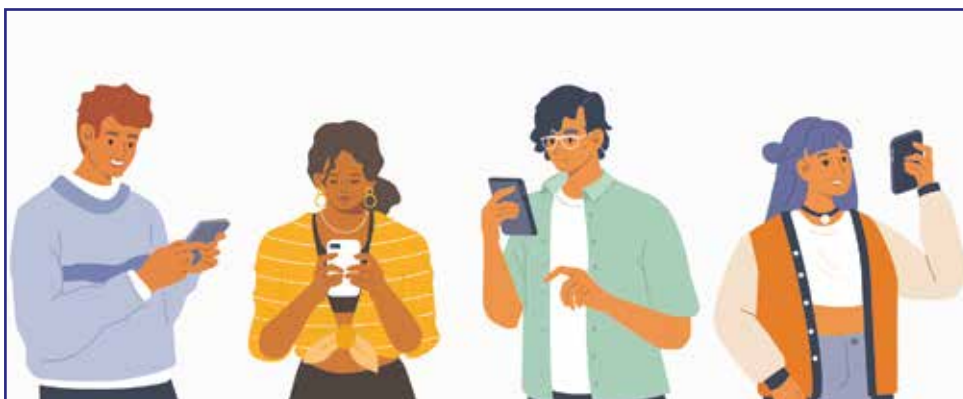
Mickey Ambrose



names don't like the current FA set up which is why the 161-year old FA needs reform. This is something I have included in The People's FA Reform Group Commission Blueprint to reform the oldest sporting governing body in the world.

Southgate and Holland achieved so much, and we salute them both. There is a lot of good to be retained but the FA is not listening. It's another example of how out of touch the FA is. But then look at plans by the FA to allow the Premier League to sell off future FA TV rights and to scrap FA Cup Replays, which has angered many in football, we shouldn't hold our breath for change any time soon!

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



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