

Contact the mayor

To contact the mayor, call his office on 7364 4993 or email him at mayor@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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Busy summer in the borough's parks

There are loads of activities on offer in the borough's parks this summer organised by the council to help keep youngsters busy. For more information visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parks

SEE OUR FEATURE ON PAGES 18 & 19

News

Debt to WWI fallen

EARLY diagnosis of cancer can be crucial. So it is good news that a campaign to raise awareness in east London resulted in more people diagnosed early and getting life-saving treatment.

The 'small c' campaign contributed to a fall in the number of women with late stage breast cancer in Tower Hamlets. Local community organisations deserve thanks for helping raise awareness.

I experienced a poignant moment last Monday when I lit a single candle in the Town Hall in Mulberry Place in memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Great War. The whole country, including buildings in the borough, switched off lights to remember the moment 100 years ago when Britain declared war on Germany.

We owe those who gave their lives during World War I a great debt. Earlier I attended a memorial service in Bethnal Green. I joined rifleman Paul Jacobs, awarded the George Medal for bravery in Afghanistan, to lay a wreath at the war memorial to remember the sacrifices of earlier generations.

The escalation in violence and killing in Gaza has shocked



LUTFUR RAHMAN MAYOR OF TOWER HAMLETS

the world. Councillors at the full council meeting on July 30 voted to call for a swift diplomatic solution and an end to the conflict. The cost in civilian casualties has been tragic. As mayor, I am glad that together we took a stand against needless suffering.

We are launching an innovative scheme in Tower Hamlets this summer to build community cohesion and tackle crime. It involves free family events and activities such as barbecues, dance classes and graffiti projects during the holidays.

Finally, if you are looking for family activities during the holidays, the council has a great affordable summer programme.

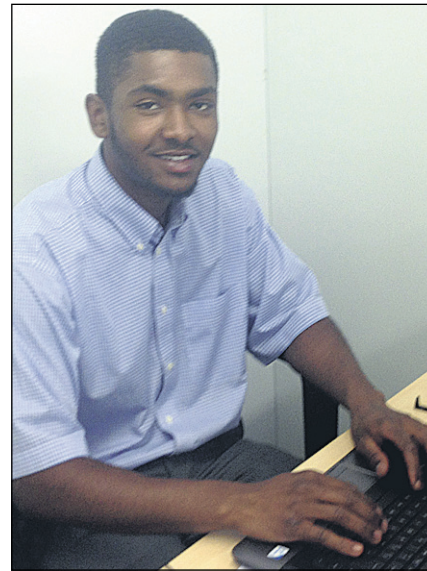
Mile End Park Leisure Centre offers fun for all ages, including Kids for a Quid swimming and a holiday club aimed at five- to 16-year-olds. Why not try out what is on offer in your area?

Mayor Lutfur Rahman

TWO young people have landed exciting new apprenticeships, thanks to the council's partnership agreement with the construction developer Guildmore.

Jerome Bertram, 19, and Sade Hall, 20, both from Tower Hamlets, are enrolled on business and administration apprenticeships, while working at Guildmore's site office in Poplar. Seven apprenticeships will be offered to young people in the borough over the two years it will take to see the Poplar Baths and Dame Colet developments completed.

Jerome said: "As I had zero experience within an office, I felt that this apprenticeship would not only enhance my skills within an office-based environment, but it would also give me an insight within the management side of construction." Sade said: "My apprenticeship provides a good learning opportunity while being able to earn a decent wage. It can pave a bright pathway for anyone, skilled or unskilled as I was, who is ambitious, coachable, eager to learn,



Jerome Bertram

and willing to undertake the necessary training to progress in their desired career. That being said though, this scheme is not for the faint-hearted." Deputy Mayor and cabinet member for economic development Cllr Oliur Rahman said: "Apprenticeships provide invaluable experience, which can open



Sade Hall

employment doors." Roma Muccio, project co-ordinator for Guildmore, said Jerome and Sade were being enrolled on to NVQ level 2 business administration college courses. To apply for an apprenticeship, call Skillsmatch on 7364 3727 or email skillsmatch@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Free fun events in the park or swim for a quid

BY SHALINA HUSSAIN

THE long summer break need not be a headache for parents as the council has put together a programme of fun activities for the whole family to enjoy for under a tenner.

There are plenty of things you can do to keep the children healthy and happy that won't break the bank.

With a mix of sporting activities, fun pastimes and the opportunity to make new friends, there's no better place to entertain children than Mile End Park Leisure Centre in Burdett Road.

The centre offers activities for all age groups and those with special needs, including Kids for a Quid swimming sessions.

The leisure centre, run by Better with the council, hosts a holiday club for five- to 16-year-olds, running on week-



days from 8.30am-5.30pm and offering **football, swimming, gymnastics and athletics.**

Cllr Shafiqul Haque, cabinet member for culture, said: "Don't forget we also have an excellent range of free events taking place in our parks and Idea Stores. Why not take advantage of the good weather and spend an afternoon in one of our parks?"

Children aged five to 16 can swim for £1 at Mile End, Tiller, St George's and York Hall leisure

centres. All centres in the borough will be offering junior fitness sessions for ages 11-16.

Whitechapel Sports Centre will be offering **basketball sessions for girls** aged 14-plus every Wednesday from 6pm for only £1.15.

At Tiller Leisure Centre there will be **Pilates classes** for ages 14-plus every Monday from 10am for £1.15.

Zahra Mirza, community sports officer for Better in Tower Hamlets, said: "Keeping the



kids entertained during the summer is easy if you know where to look and we offer a number of different activities to suit everyone's needs."

For more information, or to sign up to any of the summer holiday activities listed above, visit your local leisure centre or log on to www.better.org.uk

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