

# youth news

an update for CBHA's young people and adults

summer 2007



## Survival skills are among exciting challenges in fun summer programme

A hugely varied summer programme is giving CBHA young people some exciting challenges this year. New on the agenda for 2007 are outdoor survival 'bush craft' skills, including how to make a fire and get clean water, plus a separate trip mountain biking across tough terrain.

About 29 people aged 11 and over will go on the **survival trip** from August 28 to 31 at Tile Barn Outdoor Centre in Hampshire. Youth leader Douglas Muhammed said: "It will be great for team building and encourage problem-solving skills – as well as being great fun."

The summer programme also includes chances to try: **go-karting; assault courses; ice skating and music tech.**

Then there are the regular vouchers for the **cinema, swimming** or for **food** outlets such as Pizza Hut and KFC. Any CBHA young person can give their name at their local office and pay £1 to receive one voucher per week over the summer.

In addition, the youth clubs will continue with **chill-out zones** and the usual activities. Youth workers Douglas, Judy Griffiths and Jade Armstrong have been very busy organizing the summer fun and ensuring there are enough staff and volunteers for all trips and activities.

Member of the

**Peabody  
group**



Volunteer Nadia (right) discusses the summer programme with head of community development Roz Gordon

### Nadia recommends volunteering

Volunteers are vital to the success of CBHA's youth activities, and particularly the summer programme. Many volunteers are helping out with days away, youth clubs and the residential outdoor adventure trip.

One volunteer, Nadia Slater, of Chingford, enjoys getting involved with the young people and says she would recommend it to anyone. She was also involved over the summer last year.

She has always wanted to work with children and had fun experiences with them in 2006, joining in with activities such as

paint balling and camping.

She said: "I have always been interested in youth work. And having studied sociology and participated in summer programme myself, the role comes very naturally." Nadia has also completed a 12-week course in youth work, organised by CBHA.

Nadia, who also volunteered for Defending da Hood, is offering her services during in this year's programme in which her siblings are participating.

She looks forward to developing more positive relationships with the young people.

## CBHA performers entertain at youth fest

Talented CBHA residents performed at the recent Youth Fest event in Leytonstone.

The day at Langthorne Park was organised jointly by residents, the council and other landlords. CBHA gave a donation towards the event. About 2,000

people attended during the afternoon and evening.

The CBHA entertainers started with artist Drizzle, from Walthamstow, who gave a solo performance. Then Kushfam, a group of singers, entertained the crowd. Young rap artist 'Batenate'

did a powerful rap about the journey today's young people have. Then Jordan Lee, from Leytonstone, sang a Michael Jackson number.

Youth worker Judy Griffiths, a steward on the day, said: "It was a real community event."

## They have done the time, now they will put you off crime

**Three men who have all served sentences in prison are now volunteering for CBHA. They all aim to tell young people the truth about what it is like inside and put them off getting involved in crime.**

One new volunteer is Mervin Caesar. He is doing outreach work, going on trips with the youth over the summer and getting involved in workshops.

He was paroled in 1999 after serving three and a half years of a seven year sentence. He wanted to give something back to the community so started working as a mentor for a drug project in Hackney. In July he began volunteering for CBHA.

"I want to be a positive male role model. Many of these youths are being brought up without a father and they find it hard to listen and respect adults. Then they see drug dealers with gold, flash cars, and see it as fast money. But they do not know what it is really like."

He said: "Inside you learn about a lot of things from everyone else about the whole prison system. People - including the officers - dig at you and it is hard to keep your cool."

He added: "I want to make a contribution. If I can help even one person, get them to take a different approach, then that would be a achievement."

In addition to Mervin, Amet and Memet are also volunteering. They are both out on licence and work with the Damilola Taylor Trust which aims to break the cycles that lead youths into crime. Through a partnership

scheme with CBHA, Amet and Memet are now mentoring CBHA young people.

They are chatting with them at the youth clubs and on the days away during the summer

programme. They aim to stop young people thinking crime is glamorous. Youth worker Douglas Muhammed said: "The young people are fascinated and ask them all so many questions."

Write in and tell us your views on...

gangs



Youth news invites young people to write something to be published in this newsletter about gangs. This might be about your own experiences, or your views on gangs. You can do this anonymously. We would love to hear your thoughts, whether in an article or poem/rap. Please give your contributions to Douglas, Judy or Jade.

## See Rollin G on TV

Rollin G are soon to appear on TV's London Tonight as part of a programme about gangs and crime.

Jason Dolphin and Aron Jervis were interviewed on July 31 about their work as positive role models who aim to show an alternative lifestyle to belonging to a gang. The programme will be shown on a Tuesday during August.

Rollin G have also joined in the Damilola Taylor Trust's Knife Campaign, 'I will not carry a knife', which has been running since January this year. Aron and Jason have already encouraged more than 600 young people in Waltham Forest to pledge with their signature not to carry a knife.