

THE LOCAL

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THE VOICE OF WORMHOLT & WHITE CITY



WORMHOLT'S SPORTING HERO

Acrobatic gymnast Rex Booth talks about his joy at winning bronze medal at the recent World Games in China

Full story on page 5 →



GET READY FOR W12 FESTIVAL!

The annual event in Wormholt Park takes place next weekend on Saturday, September 6

The W12 Health and Wellbeing Festival returns for its fifth year at Wormholt Park and once again entrance is free. The event will start at 12pm (midday) and will be a celebration of community featuring local artists, along with a kids' talent show. There will also plenty of other activities for kids, with football coaching from the QPR Community Trust, and the return of the phenomenally popular pony rides. We have a full preview inside this issue along with stories about some of the people who will be appearing on the day.

Scan this QR code to get your free ticket for the W12 Health and Wellbeing Festival





W12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING FESTIVAL PREVIEW

Our guide to what is happening and where in Wormholt Park on September 6



WHAT IS THE W12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING FESTIVAL?

This is the first time W12 Together has put on this day long community event in Wormholt Park. W12 Together is a resident-led organisation made up people living in and around Wormholt and White City who want to improve opportunities and health outcomes for people of all ages living in the area.

WHY HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

W12 Together believes that a healthy community is a successful one. You'll find stalls and information at the festival who will be supporting this message. We also want the festival to bring a smile to all the resident's faces, as happiness improves mental wellbeing and a happy community is an unstoppable force.

"Kids can sign up on the day to take part in the talent show"

WELCOME TO THE W12 FESTIVAL STAGE!

Here's your rundown of events from 12 noon to 5pm on Saturday, September 6

12pm-1pm

DJs Lito & Max da Cab Driver will be your hosts for a day of live performances, tunes, and entertainment from the Festival Stage.

At midday, there will be opening remarks from the organisers and key community leaders on the key messages behind the W12 Health & Wellbeing Festival.

Also, from 12noon to 2pm kids

can sign up for the talent show. Parents and children interested in participating should visit the Stage Manager to register.

1pm - 2pm

Local Performances

This hour-long showcase will feature a mix of...

Musical performances from emerging local bands and solo artists

Dance routines from community dance schools and groups

Spoken word poetry from local wordsmiths and storytellers



Cultural performances reflecting our community's heritage

14:00 - 14:30:

Audience Participation

Lito & Max will get the crowd on their feet with tunes and competitions to generate energy and community connection, including...

Dance Competitions

Separate categories for children and adults ensure everyone has a chance to showcase their best moves! Participants will be invited on stage to demonstrate their best dance skills. Winners will be determined by audience applause and receive special W12 Festival merchandise as prizes.

Raffle Giveaways

Throughout the festival, attendees can collect raffle tickets from various activity stations. Lito & Max will draw winning numbers for an exciting array of prizes donated by local businesses including restaurant vouchers, experience packages and hand-crafted items.

Open Mic Poetry

If suitable talent is available then we'll give over an open mic poetry slot to members of the audience who want to share their creativity with our supportive community.

How to Participate:

For dance competitions, approach the Stage Manager during the Local Performers showcase (1pm to 2pm) to register your interest.

For raffle entries, visit activity stations throughout the festival site to collect your tickets. To be considered for open mic poetry speak with the Stage Manager before 13:30.

Live Performance

2.30pm - 3pm
Inkra DaBelle

London born singer/songwriter Inkra caught the attention of music lovers across the UK and beyond with her debut single "NAH" which hit biggest radio stations in the UK. She has also performed live on BBC Radio London. Her mix of Pop, R&B and Dancehall influences, are delivered through her part-London-part-Jamaican twang and Inkra's lyrics tell of love stories that people can relate to.

3pm - 4pm

Kids Talent Show

This the time for your kids to shine. If they want to sing, do a dance routine (solo or group) tell jokes, do magic tricks or have an unusual talent then the stage is all theirs.

The winners will be announced at 3.55pm

4pm - 4.30pm

Hosts' Special DJs

Lito & Max da Cab Driver

4.30pm-4.55pm:

HEADLINE PERFORMANCE

Andreas Liberos

Andreas's music is a fusion of new and old, mixing soulful R&B & gospel, with tuneful indie pop, all informed by his experiences in

"The Festival will feature performances from local artists"

the modern world as well as his heritage as a Greek Cypriot. Based in West London, Andreas has spent the last decade traveling across UK, Europe & the United States.

His first major breakthrough came when he was featured on a tropical Soul remix of ABBA's Dancing Queen (feat. Eugenijs Musica & Andreas Liberos), which was played at Harry and Meghan's Royal Wedding Party.

4.55pm - 5pm

Closing Remarks



There will also a range of food stalls at the Festival



LOLA'S BRINGING THE LOVE BACK TO THE FESTIVAL

A West London success story returns to Wormholt Park next weekend

One of the stallholders at the first W12 Together Festival was Lola Ogundele who was displaying her range of Lola Love Dolls.

That was back in 2021 and since then she has been featured on BBC London and in stories published around the world.

She also now has her own store at the PODoBELLO pop up shops just off Portobello Road, which stocks the whole range of kids dolls but is looking to move to bigger premises to cope with the demand.

This year, Lola and her dolls are coming back to the W12 Festival.

What makes her company unique is that it is the only one producing dolls designed to represent black girls. She got the idea in 2018 when she took her daughter, Isabella, to different toy stores including Smyths.

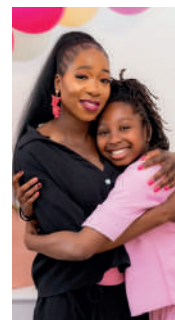
"Isabella was four at the time and I wanted to get her a new toy," Lola recalls. "We went looking for a black doll and couldn't find one. So, overnight I thought I'll start my own company making dolls."

I knew what I wanted them to look like, and hair texture was really important because obviously black people have different hair textures and skin tones to the ones being sold in the shops.

"People from different parts of the world were coming to my stall and purchasing a doll"



Lola and her daughter Isabella



"So, I got in touch with suppliers and got the ball rolling."

It is one thing having the right product, it is another thing having to go out and sell it. Eventually she was offered pitch on Portobello Road.

"At the time, I was working in a school with children that have been excluded. I had no experience of selling something to the public and it took me a while to build up the confidence. I would say to myself, 'this week I'm going to do it' but then another week would go by."

"Then, one morning, I woke up at 5am and I took Isabella with me to the market and put everything on the table."

"Oh my God! It was brilliant. I thought it would mainly be black people that would be buying them, and I was so surprised that people

from different parts of the world were coming to my stall and purchasing a doll."

Isabella was also there when Lola had a stall at the first W12 Festival as she was on stage performing.

"That was an amazing experience! Isabella got the crowd on their feet and dancing. Sadly, she won't be able to join me at this year's festival because of school commitments."

Following this year festival, Lola is looking to take her dolls to new territories.

"Hopefully, in November, we are going to Nigeria and I'm going to do some work out to promote the business. I'm also hoping that by the end of the year we'll have a new store!"

Follow Lola Loves Dolls on Instagram @lola_lovedolls_

CAN YOU SHAPE THE FUTURE OF W12?

W12 Together has vacancies for two important community roles

Since it was founded in 2019, W12 Together has been making a positive impact across Wormholt and White City through providing grants to community-led projects or helping to improve residents' wellbeing through partnerships with the NHS.

The resident-led partnership has two vacancies. There are as follows...

ROLE: SECRETARY

Purpose

Ensure effective administration of the board and compliance with statutory requirements.

Key Responsibilities

- Prepare and circulate agendas and minutes for board meetings.
 - Maintain statutory records (e.g. trustee register, minutes).
 - Ensure compliance with reporting deadlines.
 - Support communication between trustees and stakeholders.
 - Maintain governance documents and policies.
- #### Skills & Qualities
- Organisational and administrative skills.
 - Attention to detail & familiarity with charity governance.



ROLE: TREASURER

Purpose

Ensure the charity complies with legal and regulatory requirements.

Key Responsibilities

- File annual returns and accounts with the Charity Commission.
 - Maintain statutory registers and ensure legal compliance.
 - Advise the board on governance and legal matters.
 - Ensure proper conduct of board and general meetings.
- #### Skills & Qualities
- Knowledge of company and charity law.
 - Strong administrative and compliance skills.
 - Discretion and professionalism.

To apply for either of these roles visit <https://w12together.org/>

JUMPING (TUMBLING AND BALANCING) FOR JOY

Wormholt resident and acrobatic gymnast Rex Booth won a medal for GB at the recent World Games in China

It was a trip from his home in Wormholt to a gymnastics class in Hammersmith that would set the eight-year-old Rex Booth on the path towards becoming a world class gymnast and local hero.

Now aged 19, Rex has just returned from the World Games in Chengdu, China with a bronze medal to add to the three golds he won at the European Championships in 2023.

The World Games brings together around 4,000 athletes to compete in events that don't tend to figure in the Olympics but include karate, lacrosse, parkour and drone racing.

Rex was a member of the four-man UK team that finished third in the Acrobatic Gymnastics Men's Group category.

"In terms of the result it is a lifelong dream finally achieved," he says.

"It's been an incredible journey with countless setbacks and challenges along the way but each time we bounced back and rose to the occasion. So to finally stand on the podium at the pinnacle of acrobatic gymnastics is amazing."

That journey began when his mum, Isabella, took Rex and his sisters to a gym class at Bute House in Brook Green. The son of a family friend spotted Rex and said he had the potential to excel at acrobatic gymnasts.

Rex's first international event was the European Junior Championships in 2019 where his four-man team won silver performing to Elton John's 'I'm Still Standing'.

"I remember before going out to compete I was in a sort of holding pen and the nerves began to kick in but it excited me as well.

"It has been an incredible journey with countless setbacks and challenges along with way."

Rex Booth enters the Bronze Age



"What happens in our sport is that you do your routine, you come off the floor, and you sit in an area known as the 'kiss and cry', where you wait, watch a replay of that routine and get your score.

"You can feel everything rushing through, the adrenaline and the nerves, while you're waiting for that score. When it appears, it's a good one, your ranking comes up and you realise you're in one of the medal spots, yeah it's just amazing.

"It's the moment when your hard work has paid off."

Being a top gymnast has given Rex the opportunity to compete and travel around the world.

"We've been to Vegas, Luxembourg, Belgium and now China. I am so proud of not only the result in China but also the type of person I've become along the way and the life lessons I've learned."

So what would be his advice to any kids who may be inspired to take up gymnastics?

"Things always seem scary before you start, whatever it is you're trying to do, no matter how difficult it is or challenging, you simply have to take that first step."

VOICES OF W12

Mohammed Zaid is currently in the UK studying at Imperial Business School. He brought together a group of international students to become volunteers and help out on local projects. He talks about why they have embraced the community across the road from Imperial's White City campus

"The feedback was amazing. Students told me much they enjoyed being involved...it didn't matter who you were or where you were from"

I'm currently doing a masters in marketing at the Imperial Business School. I'm also the vice president of the student body, in charge of all societal engagement activities.

I'm an international student, born in India. At the end of the first term some international students will go back home to see their families and friends but others will stay in London.

I had friends who had come to the UK to study and told me that it can be a difficult time because they had only been here for three months, and weren't used to cold and dark winters.

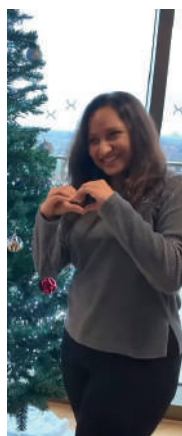
This is when I got in touch with W12 Together. The idea was to bring people who are far away home to spend Christmas with those who don't their own home.

They explained they would be hosting a dinner on Christmas Day for a group of foster care leavers at Ed City.

So, we brought together 30 volunteers who are students at Imperial over the course of two days go to help set up the dinner, spend time with the foster care leavers and just have a great day.

The feedback was amazing. Students told me how much they enjoyed it and it gave them such a warm feeling. What was also really

"Going forwards we will be setting up a new group, Imperial Business School Volunteering Association."



Wishing it could be Christmas every day



beautiful is that everyone got along and made friends. It didn't matter who you were or where you were from.

We also did a community outreach event at the Edward Woods Centre called What The Tech. Every Wednesday over the course of five weeks, a group of students from Imperial Business School would teach elderly local residents how to use tech products.

Sometimes those residents had been iPads or laptops as gifts from their loved ones, but didn't know how to use them. I worked with one woman who is in her 80s. She had been an activist and an independent woman but struggled to use a touchpad instead of a keyboard which was preventing her from staying in touch with friends and relatives.

Going forwards we'll be setting up a new group that will be called the Imperial Business School Volunteering Association. The group will be focused on creating more

links with the local community and we will also be at next week's W12 Festival, which we're very much looking forward to.

We want to meet and chat with people as many people as possible living in W12 and to get suggestions about ways we can help in the community.

Some students will live and study on campus and they end up effectively being siloed off but they get so much more from their experience through volunteering and getting to know the area around them.

Crucially when you bring together groups from different backgrounds and cultures you actually realise they have so many things in common but also so much they can learn from each other.

Imperial College will have a stand at this year's W12 Health & Wellbeing Festival



W12 AS SEEN ON SCREEN



There was time when the UK used to win the Eurovision Song Contest. Honestly. We've done it five times, the fourth success coming way back in 1981 when pop group Bucks Fizz sang 'Making Your Mind Up'.

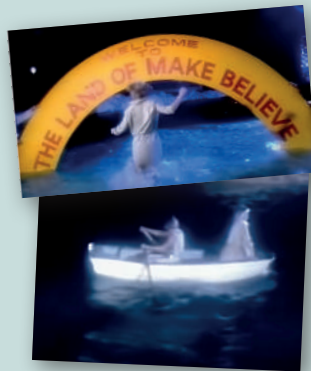
The song went to number one and they followed that up with 'The Land of Make Believe' which was released in December 1981, and reached the top of the charts in January 1982. It was also number 41 in the top selling singles of 1980s.

The video for 'The Land of Make Believe' was filmed in W12 at the Janet Adegoke Swimming Pool, which is part of the Phoenix Centre on Bloemfontein Road. Back then it was known as the White City Swimming Pools.

The video recreates various scenes from fairytales while the band perform on a stage behind the pool and jump into it.

It was featured in a recent BBC documentary series, 'Shifty', along with a story about Peter Sinfield, who wrote the lyrics and claimed it was a protest song against Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The chorus contains the line 'run for the sun' which is more or less what Sinfield did by emigrating to Spain to become a tax exile.



Bucks Fizz make a splash in W12



IT HAPPENED HERE...

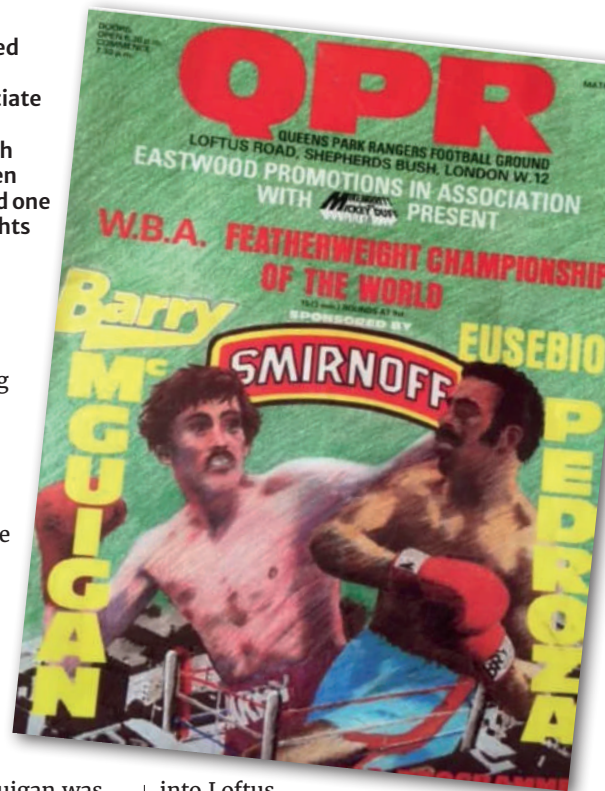
Barry McGuigan v Eusebio Pedroza,
June 8, 1985

Loftus Road isn't a ground anyone aged under 45 would immediately associate with pugilism, but this year is the 40th anniversary of when QPR's home hosted one of the greatest nights in British boxing history.

Irish challenger Barry McGuigan became world champion winning a unanimous points verdict to defeat Eusebio Pedroza who held the WBA World Featherweight title for 12 years. This was back when world title fights lasted 15 rounds.

It was one of those nights when a sporting event took on a greater significance. McGuigan was supported by people across Ireland irrespective of where they were from, their politics or religious faith. He came into the ring wearing shorts in the colours of the United Nations flag.

On the day of the fight, the Irish took over W12. A sell out crowd of 27,000 packed



into Loftus Road and the noise they created could be heard across Wormholt and White City. McGuigan recalled that "... we had 12,000 people come over from Ireland and they all got hammered that day and it was almost like they were in the ring with me by the time the first bell rang."

IN AT THE DEEP END

A programme co-founded by a local GP has won a national award

Chad Hockey is the GP at the Parkview Centre for Health and Wellbeing on Bloemfontein Road. He works across W12 and beyond with the goal of trying to improve health outcomes through collaborating with community groups.

Some of that work was recently recognised at the HSJ (Health Service Journal) Partnership Awards.

Chad was one of the founders of the North West London Deep End Programme, a groundbreaking initiative addressing health inequities through education and grassroots leadership, which started in the borough of Ham-mersmith and Fulham. The programme won Most

Impactful Project Addressing Health Inequalities at the HSJ awards ceremony.

The judges noted that 'The programme equips healthcare professionals with the tools to address the root causes of deprivation and develop networks and confidence to lead change.

'With its clear impact on patient outcomes and service redesign, it is transforming how the NHS tackles this wicked problem.'

Chad is also working with W12 Together on an ambitious plan to improve the lives of people living across Wormholt and White City which will see the NHS working with local voluntary groups that

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W12
TOGETHER



COMMUNITY
FUND

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have pooled together their talent and resources.

"There's an opportunity for local groups to work in collaboration with the NHS to take more control and be more actively involved in the community-based approaches, which are the things that can actually deliver better health outcomes," says Chad.

DISCOUNTED STADIUM TOURS AT LOFTUS ROAD FOR W12 RESIDENTS

QPR in the Community Trust is delighted to offer discounted guided stadium tours at the iconic MATRADE Loftus Road Stadium exclusively for residents living in the W12 area.

Thanks to funding from the Premier League Fans Fund, this exciting initiative gives local residents the opportunity to go behind the scenes at the home of Queens Park Rangers Football Club, a stadium rich in history and at the heart of the Shepherd's Bush community for over 100 years.

During the tour, visitors will have the chance to:

- Walk through the players' tunnel
- Visit the home and away dressing rooms
- Sit in the dugout and experience the views pitchside
- Explore the hospitality areas and directors' box
- Hear stories and learn about the Club's past and present

Loftus Road has always been more than just a football stadium.

Nestled in the middle of a vibrant residential area, it has played an important role in bringing people together and creating a sense of pride throughout the local community.

"Loftus Road has always been more than a football stadium"



These tours are a fantastic opportunity for residents to learn more about the club's heritage and see first-hand the work being done through QPR in the Community Trust.

Whether you're a lifelong R's supporter or simply interested in discovering more about one of W12's iconic landmarks, we'd love

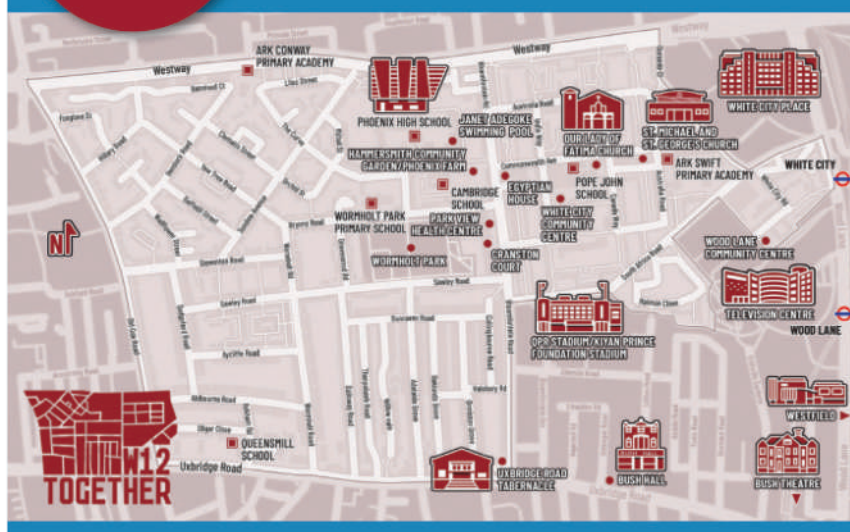
to welcome you into the stadium. Are you interested?

To book your discounted tour or request more information, please contact Justin Stone, Head of Events and Fundraising, at justins@qpr.co.uk.

Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis – so don't miss out!

ADVERTISE WITH US

Get your business directly into 6,000 homes across Wormholt and White City. The Local is distributed to the households shown in the map below. Contact us to find out more: Email: thelocal@w12together



Would You Like To Write For Us?



The Local is produced by local residents for local residents.

It is a platform for people to write stories, contribute ideas, showcase their work, voice their opinions and celebrate what makes Wormholt and White City a unique, diverse and vibrant community.

If it's a news article, an opinion piece, a photo story, a new project, or simply something you want to get off your chest, we want to hear from you. You can get in touch with our editor Ryan Herman.

How to contact The Local

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