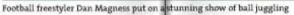
At the centre of the action

A community group for people of all ages has a new £5 million home. **Jessica Odubayo** reports, photos by **Kois Miah**









The centre hosts football tournaments and school-based coaching



African cultura

dancers

entertained

during the

opening week

terger of Elite Youth and Brick Lane Youth Development Association, two groups with a combined. track record of more than

30 years, working predominantly among young people, tackling racism, gang violence, drug misuse and other To mark the opening

of the four-storey centre.

the trust put on a week of events - including a health and wellbeing expo, a conference ex ploring issues of selfimage, a mental health awareness day and a conference targeting young people likely to be affected by gang

> Abu Hasanath, business develop ment manager, spoke to East End Life about the new building.

"It is world-class," he said. "There aren't many spaces like it. "The centre is equipped with games. studio, a multi-gym with specialist equipment for young peotraining room and IT suites it is filled with the age of as-

colour, but light and airy." greater part of the funding for the development of the centre, in Underwood Road, poration, paid for specific facilities.

*Osmani staff and volunteers raised a further £600,000 by holding sponsored said. fundraising events including a parachute jump, treks and collections," Abu said.

Mayor Lutfur Rahman, who unveiled a organisation, told East End Life that the de training and arts facilities, a plaque on Monday to officially declare the velopment of the centre had taken about four Osmani Centre open, pointed out that years from conception to completion. about 28 per cent of the population in Towple, a roof garden, outdoor play area. er Hamlets consists of young people under ed at the beginning of the year when we he

"It heartens me to see that so many en-Tower Hamlets Council provided the thusiastic youths will make use of the fa-try access to bigger and better facilities." cilities at the Osmani Centre," he said.

Whitechapel, while other stakeholders and of Canary Wharf Group, spoke of his com- one of the highlights of his term in office grant-making trusts, including Canary pany's delight at being involved in the Os was to see work on the centre progressing Wharf Group and the City of London Cor-mani Centre's development by sponsoring its training room.

Mayor Lutfur Rahman opens the centre with, from left: mayor's adviser Gulam Robbani, centre secretary Sati Abdur Rahman and Clir Rania Khan

He said: "Our opening celebrations start an employment fair.

"Osmani Centre will give the commu

Osmani Centre patron, Sir Michael Bea John Garwood, group company secretary who was Lord Mayor of London last year, sai

Speaking at the opening celebration, h urged young people to make use of the fa "It is a magnificent day for the centre," he cilities and realise their individual potentia

"We should make sure that London excel-Sati Abdur Rahman, a founding member especially during the year of the Queen of the Osmani Trust and secretary of the new - Jubilee and the Olympic Games," he said.



Two pals make use of the PlayStation 3

Realising ambitions

THE Osmani Centre runs a host of projects for young people.

These include Aasha gang mediation project, Amaal girl's group, Can Do community grants and engagement project, an education and employment project, football in the community, Healthy Futures, a healthy lifestyles scheme for children and adults, health trainers, Shaathi mentoring scheme and a school holiday club.

Mayor Rahman added: "The Osmani Trust does fantastic work in supporting young people to realise their ambitions.

"This new centre will not only enable them to continue and develop this work with teenagers locally, it will provide excellent facilities for the local community for generations to come." For more information, email

info@osmanitrust.org or call 7247 8080.

Football in the community project is hugely popular







Advice is offered on all sorts of matters



Diabetes testing at the health and wellbeing day

NEWS FROM YOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL AND YOUR COMMUNITY

20 = 26 FEBRUARY 20

2 20 - 26 PERRUARY 2012

NEWS FROM TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL AND YOUR COMMUNITY