

Man punched in the face in station assault

A man has been punched in the face in a seemingly unprovoked attack at West Ham station.

The 36-year-old was waiting for a westbound District line train shortly after 10pm on Saturday, May 16, when he was approached by three men, according to British Transport Police.

They accused him of staring at them before one of the group, who had a belt wrapped around his fist, punched him in the face, said police.

Detectives are appealing for any witnesses to the assault, which left the man with "nasty injuries", to come forward.

■ Anyone with information should contact British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40, or text 61016, quoting reference TSUB/B8 of 20/05/2015. You can also call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Nepal disaster funds raised

More than £5,000 has been raised for families in Nepal where recent earthquakes have left upwards of 8,500 dead and many others without a home.

The charity dinner was held at the Nakhon Thai restaurant in the Royal Docks. It was organised by Nepalese staff member Raj Aryal and backed by the firm's director, Shah Choudhary, who agreed to cover all costs.

"I feel very proud," said Mr Aryal. "Every penny collected from the night is going to charity to help the cause."

Supporters enjoyed a three course meal and took part in an auction to raise funds.



■ Edwin Liu performs the ancient ritual on Windy Pandas dragon boat club's new vessel at the London Regatta Centre

Dragon boat club's Chinese ceremony makes a splash

An ancient Chinese tradition was carried out at the Royal Docks on Saturday.

Members of the Windy Pandas dragon boat club performed an "eye dotting ceremony" to ready their new vessel before taking it on the water for the first time.

Team coach Paul Coster said: "You can't just put a new dragon boat in the water.

"You have to dot the eyes first and make offers to the Chinese water gods for safety."

The colourful ceremony took place at the London Regatta Centre, where the team train.

Despite stretching back more than 2,000 years, the sport of dragon boat racing only came to British shores in 1989.

Paul, who has represented the

country as a paddler, said the sport was accessible to all.

"You have to be in time with each other," he said. "Anyone can take part, regardless of age, gender or disability."

"We've had a group of Scouts beat a group of muscular, fully-grown men because the Scouts were more in time."

The Windy Pandas originally

started eight years ago as a competition team. Its members now travel all over the world to compete.

Next month, scores of dragon boats will be coming to the London Regatta Centre as it hosts the London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival. Forty teams will battle it out for four trophies on Sunday, June 28.

Rise in number of houses built sees target exceeded

But calls for government to do more to provide affordable homes

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Newham was the only borough to exceed its home building target last year, but there are calls for more to be done to help families.

Government figures released on Friday showed that between April 2014 and March 2015, Newham was the only borough to actually exceed their target.

Some 1,560 homes were built during that period, 50 more than the target – including 410 social homes.

The new figures follow statistics from housing charity London First, which is campaigning

for a capital-wide increase in the number of homes built each year.

They show that only 18 out of 33 local authorities met their annual targets between 2010 and 2013.

During the three year period, Newham built 3,170 homes – just 42.3 per cent of the 7,500 target.

The figures show that east London authorities struggled in particular to reach the targets, with Havering, Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham and Tower Hamlets joining Newham in the ten worst performing boroughs.

The charity believes that a new financial incentive would encourage boroughs to build new

homes, with London First's chief executive, Baroness Jo Valentine, saying it would "help close the yawning gap between political rhetoric about getting homes built and the reality of how many are actually completed".

A Newham Council spokeswoman said the borough's target was much higher than other parts of London.

She said: "We are doing all we can to increase the supply of good quality housing throughout the borough."

"We're one of the only local authorities in London to have a substantial building programme and we were building at a time

when even housing associations are failing to get developments off the ground.

She added the council was committed to increasing the number of affordable homes in Newham but called on the government needs to do more to help local authorities meet their targets."

Keith Fennett, CEO of not-for-profit group Caritas Anchor House, said the building of affordable homes was in a "dire state", adding: "It is also vitally important that social housing for those who are on low incomes is considered as these types of homes are also desperately required."

UEL hosts event to find the next NHS uniform designer

A fashion competition has seen a student win the unique chance to see her design transformed into 4,000 NHS uniforms.

Winner Alanah Smitten from South Essex College, will soon see her designs for a sleek white uniform with navy trim worn by staff at the North East London NHS Foundation (NELFT).

Alanah's creation was one of

almost a dozen designs that were created by fashion students and alumni from the University of East London (UEL) and South Essex College.

The fashion showcase was hosted at the university's Stratford campus and followed a six-month long project.

Nearly 100 NHS Trust staff voted for their favourite design

on Tuesday last week and a panel of judges selected a winner from the top few finalists.

Runner up was UEL alumnus Aimee Ward whose design included a collar that was inspired by First World War Red Cross nursing uniforms.

"Knowing I was designing for such a good cause and people working for such a good cause

made it that extra bit special," Aimee said.

Stephanie Dawe, NELFT chief nurse and executive director of Integrated Care (London) said: "We fundamentally believe as an organisation that we work with people from the cradle to the grave and this is a group of people that really are the future for us."

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