



**Thousands Visit the New Islington Festival, Manchester**  
**The urban folk festival for urban folk**  
**Saturday 06 September 08**

The New Islington Festival returned for its third year on Saturday 06 September and around 4000 people enjoyed the event which served up a fresh blend of Urban Folk in east Manchester.

The festival celebrates the creation of New Islington - Manchester's Millennium Community - by merging the latest urban arts, culture and entertainment with their traditional folk counterparts.

Highlights included a 21<sup>st</sup> century rendition of the Manchester Hornpipe, a collaboration between folk group The Boat Band and Manchester's Unity Radio MC, and a canalside art project titled Pimp My Barge.

On the Old Mill Street stage, some of Manchester's emerging musical acts showcased their talent. Twin sisters Abi and Sophie Wyles sang with their band The Mouse Outfit, who are already creating a stir in the city after just a handful of gigs. Also performing were The Jesse Rose Trip, Katie Ware, Tim and Sam's the Tim and Sam Band and Matt Stalker and the Fables.

The Unity Radio bus, complete with soundsystem and dancefloor, brought the latest urban sounds to the festival and Gulliver's Boombox – a larger than life ghetto blaster – pumped out soul funk filled 70s disco, 80s rap and modern classics. Bursting out of the Boombox performers with Company Fierce showed the impressed crowds the evolution of dance moves down the decades.

Old Mill Street also hosted Spectangular – an all day light show with short films and photography including specially commissioned premieres from Manchester film-makers.

Over on Cotton Field, Manchester's new waterside urban park, the traditional crafts of the canal community were brought right up to date by Art Yarn, Knot Krazy and the ladies of the Kings Arms Knitting Club who took part in Yarn Bombing, also known as graffiti knitting.

Urban Folk cocktails were mixed by Fluid Bar, real ales and cider provided by the Marble Brewery, while barbeques, entertainers and story telling rounded off an amazing day out.

Lisa Ashurst, chair, New Islington Festival Ltd said: "We couldn't have asked for a better day, the performances were all fantastic and even when the rain came in the late afternoon lots of people stayed to enjoy the bands.

"New Islington is about creating a brand new community and the festival really adds to what Urban Splash and its partners are achieving with the huge regeneration project at the site."

New Islington Festival 2008 was funded by Urban Splash, Manchester City Council, New East Manchester Ltd, English Partnerships, Manchester Methodist Housing Association, ISIS, Windmill Demolition, Adana, Simon Fenton Partnership and Price Waterhouse Coopers.

For more information on the New Islington Festival visit [www.urban-folk.com](http://www.urban-folk.com). The festival was free to attend.

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### **Note to Editors**

New Islington, Manchester's Millennium Community, is one of national regeneration agency English Partnerships' seven Millennium Communities, New Islington is a partnership between English Partnerships, Urban Splash and New East Manchester Ltd together with appointed social landlord, Manchester Methodist Housing Association. The 30 acre site, just east of Manchester city centre is being radically transformed to a strategic and ambitious vision created by Will Alsop. A new canal and water park, over 1700 new homes, office space, a school, a health clinic, shops, bars and restaurants are planned to be created, using the worlds best architecture.

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