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ARCHANT

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85p

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» 28-page supplement

A look ahead to the new football season



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SEE P8-9

Hundreds pay tribute to Ron at 'exceptional' day

The son of a "fun" former publican paid tribute to him along with hundreds of well-wishers.

West Ham fanatic Ron Jude, well-known in the community for running a number of pubs, died recently aged 76.

Relatives, friends and former punters turned out to raise a glass to the much-loved landlord with a special West-Ham themed funeral last Tuesday at City of London Crematorium.

Son Ron Jude Jr, 53, called the day "exceptional".

"It was what dad would have wanted," he said. "That was dad, he was full of life and full of celebration. He was a really fun person."

Father-of-five Ron managed several pubs over the years in Manor

Kat Hopps and Mark Shales

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Park and East Ham.

"All five of us looked up to him. He did well juggling his home life with us and the pubs," said his proud son.

"They still have a picture of my dad in the White Horse pub so it shows how well liked he was."

Ron's ubiquitous popularity even saw West Ham supporters uniting with Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal fans to pay their respects.

"A friend of mine had a blue moustache and a claret beard, and he was a Tottenham fan," said Ron Jr, estimating that half of the attendees were from the north London club.

"Everyone said they had never

seen anything like it."

The warm wishes helped mourners through the poignant moments of the ceremony.

"When the [cremation] curtain closed, everyone started clapping and whooping," said Ron Jr.

"That was really good, it took that moment of sadness away."

Minister Derek Talbot, who led the service, said: "I sometimes see people who are good mates and buy everyone a drink but are not so good at home, but it's something special when his family loved and adored him and yet he still had time for his friends. This man knew how to do things properly, how to look after his wife and kids."

■ Turn to p6 for the full story.



■ The hearse and inset, Ron Jude and wife Mary

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ARCHANT

WALLBALL

Fast and furious new sport brings bounce to the borough

People in Newham can take up a new sport, after a "wallball" court was unveiled at Carpenter's Cage in Warton Road, near the Olympic Park's aquatics centre at the weekend.

The fast-paced game is very accessible: you don't need any special equipment, just a ball, a wall or two to bounce it off, and your hands.

The new court, which was funded by UCL, London Legacy Development Corporation and UK Wallball, and decorated by children from Carpenter's Primary School, was unveiled at a free festival on Saturday which saw Team GB play wallball.

"It's a great game for everyone," said Daniel Grant, president of UK Wallball. "At the last UK Open the youngest player was seven years old and the oldest 73."

There are free sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm.



■ Wallball has been heralded as a cheap, fun and accessible way to keep fit.

Tribute to carer who 'just wanted to improve lives'

Zoah Hedges-Stocks

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The mother of a former East Ham man who died following an alleged assault in an Essex seaside town has paid tribute to him.

Michael Beckwith, who was born in Barking and grew up in East Ham, was seriously injured in the incident in the Harwich on July 31, and died in hospital on August 2.

A woman, a man and a teenage boy have been charged with his murder.

Mr Beckwith moved to Harwich with his mum Iris in 2003, following the deaths of his dad and sister.

"Michael was only 44 when he passed away," Mrs Beckwith said. "His passing came far too soon for a young man who just wanted to make people's lives better."

"He will be very much missed by me and all who knew him."

Mr Beckwith worked at a poultry factory in Witham, and then at a care home in Weeley, near Clacton-on-Sea, for people with mental health problems.

"He enjoyed what he did and I believe he'd found his vocation in making people's lives better," his mum said.

"He had been working at the home for six years before he passed away and I've received many kind words from his work colleagues, which make me realise how well-thought of he was."

Mr Beckwith was a keen fisherman and was a member of Harwich



■ Three people have been charged with the murder of keen angler Michael Beckwith.
Picture: ESSEX POLICE

Angling Club.

He was also described as a fan of Elvis Presley and loved classic cars and animals.

Scott Swift, 27, of Station Road, Dovercourt, Rebecca Ryan, 21, of Hilltop Rise, Weeley, and a 17-year-old boy, from Harwich, all appeared at Colchester Magistrates' Court on

Friday. Swift and Ryan are next set to appear at Chelmsford Crown Court on Friday, September 2.

■ Did you know Michael Beckwith? If you would like to pay tribute to him, email zoah.hedges-stocks@archant.co.uk or call 020 8477 3981.

AWARD

Gong nomination for documentary

A short film about the lives of Muslim girls going to school in the borough has been nominated for a documentary award.

Forest Gate Girls, which follows Year 10 students from Quwwat-ul-Islam Girls' school in Chaucer Road, has been nominated for a Grierson award for the best student documentary.

Director Tariq Elmeri said: "It's one of those weird things you don't expect – you usually hear about it happening to someone else."

He explained that the motivation behind the film came from his interest in exploring communities which he feels are often misrepresented or overlooked in the media.

The award ceremony will take place on Monday, November 7, at The Mermaid, Blackfriars.

CLARIFICATION

London City Airport plan

The article on London City Airport on p4-5 of last week's newspaper included quotes wrongly attributed to Newham Council.

They should have instead been attributed to Cllr Ken Clark.

We apologise for any confusion this may have caused.