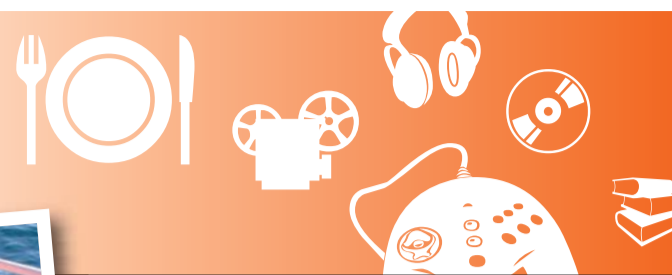


**IN THE SWIM**

Triumphant crossing the water to France



# Channelling their energy



The team during the various stages of the gruelling cross-Channel adventure

By **Karyn Michael**

**S**IX swimmers from Hackney have crossed the English Channel under their own steam.

Amazingly, the team are the third from Clissold Swimming Club to successfully complete

the challenge this year. A total of 18 swimmers, aged between 12 and 17, have now completed the gruelling relay.

Sean Glendinning, James Kinch, Alice Bedford, Alice Richardson, Abigail McNeill, and Ivan Spence set out on 12 September from Dover, arriving more than 13 hours later under an almost full moon in pitch darkness.

Cressida Sparrow, team manager, said: "They are a determined group of swimmers and a pleasure to work with. It was an honour to see how they dealt with the challenge."

The youngest swimmer, James Kinch, 12, said: "We were cheering each other on and helping each other do their best."

"The biggest challenge was swimming at night,

and the size of the waves."

The swimmers prepared throughout the winter at London Fields Lido. In the spring they also swam at Camden's Gospel Oak Lido in chilly temperatures. During the summer the swimmers travelled to Dover regularly to face the challenge of swimming on open seas.

The project was supported by the Jack Petchey

Foundation, charity Stoke Newington First, and the swimmers' families and friends.

**MORE INFO**

For details/membership visit: [www.clissoldswimmingclub.org.uk](http://www.clissoldswimmingclub.org.uk); e-mail: [mail@clissoldswimmingclub.org.uk](mailto:mail@clissoldswimmingclub.org.uk) or call: 07891 880 781, or 07789 005 652

**My opinion**

## A book for and by the borough's children

By **Rhasan Brunner, 13 & Ola Adeniran, 12**

**Rhasan:** Our Voice: Words From Hackney is a book filled with stories, poems and pictures written by young people. It celebrates the work generated through Words Unite, which is a community wide initiative to get Hackney to read more. The idea is for the book to encourage children and adults to be enthusiastic readers. I think it is very interesting and unique, because it's written by young people and they get to express their opinions on different subjects such as the Olympics, Hackney, Africa and how they feel. I admired the design of the book and how it is colourful and matches the

stories and poems inside. Even though the pictures weren't by professional artists I still enjoyed them because they expressed the talents and gifts of the young people. The writers showed a lot of imagination by the way they used descriptive phrases. Louise Drammeh from The Skinners' Company's School for Girls describes the sounds of Hackney: "I hear

screams, shouts, music, gossip, laughing, running, cars, trees swaying. It is love hidden under harsh words. It may be loud, but it makes me proud."

This book is like an inspiration to me because it shows there are young people who have talent in writing and drawing. I strongly recommend it.

**Ola:** The collection of writing set out in 'Our Voice' aims to give a flavour of what the Words Unite campaign is about and showcases some of the work produced by young people. When I picked up the book I was immediately intrigued to see what was inside because the cover was so bright, it was covered in rainbow stripes and so eye catching. Inside there were lots of pictures, one on every other page. The pictures accompanied poems, fictional

stories and true-life stories printed on the page opposite. The idea of getting children to work together to produce a piece of writing combined with a picture is a great one. The final product they produced was lovely and even though young people produced the content it was of a really high standard. It might sound like a cliché, but I thought the book was inspirational.

**YOUR OPINION**

What issue do you want to discuss on this page? Let us know at: [htnews@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:htnews@hackney.gov.uk)



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