

> Jobs  
> Skills  
> Futures

Working to deliver  
the Olympic Park



Park people



**Name:** Paul Whelan  
**Lives:** Kent



# London 2012 – jobs, skills, futures



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## 30,000

workers will have worked on the Olympic Park alone between 2005 and 2012

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Building the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will give people in London and the UK access to thousands of construction jobs, training and career opportunities.

As the 'big build' accelerates in 2010, the workforce will grow to a peak of 11,000 on the Olympic Park and Olympic Village. Approximately 30,000 workers in total will have been employed on the Olympic Park alone from 2005 to 2012, with many more through the supply chain up and down the UK.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is working with partners at the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), London Development Agency (LDA), five Host Boroughs of Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest, Jobcentre Plus and our contractors to deliver a set of challenging targets to maximise the opportunity for sustainable employment.

This collection of case studies and portraits tells the story of building the stage for the London 2012 Games through the eyes of some of the workforce.

The ODA targets are to:

- promote sustainable employment opportunities and boost skills levels locally and across the UK;
- bring opportunities to under-represented groups in the industry including women, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people and disabled people;
- deliver a construction workforce of at least 15 per cent of residents of the five Host Boroughs;
- ensure at least seven per cent of the workforce is made up of people previously unemployed before working on London 2012;
- place at least 2,250 people into traineeships, apprenticeships and work placements (up to 2012); and
- encourage contractors to pay the London Living Wage.



**Name:** Lawrence Smith  
**Works:** IBC/MPC





**Name:** Melanie Mathews

**Lives:** Greenwich

**Works:** Utilities

Melanie Mathews has been working on the Olympic Park since October 2009 as a Health and Safety Manager with one of the companies responsible for the temporary electric and water supplies across the sites.

A London Borough of Greenwich resident, Melanie started her career in health and safety in construction including the Thames Link programme. Her last job was as a Health and Safety advisor for an Audit Commission project in Barking and Havering.

When that contract came to an end Melanie went back to see her advisor in the Greenwich Local Labour Scheme (GLLaB). Melanie was already registered at one of their outreach sessions in Deptford. During her interview the advisor mentioned that she thought she would relish the

idea of working on the Park. Shortly after this a vacancy arose for a Health and Safety Manager on the Park.

As a Health and Safety Manager Melanie's role is very varied. It involves inspection, advising on policies, as well as preparing risk assessments and method statements.

'It has been quite an experience working on the Park. I started my career in construction and I am now back in it, but it has never been on this sort of scale. Just having the chance to see it all progress,' said Melanie when asked what it is like to work on the Park. As for the future, she hopes to develop her role with her company both on the Park and on other sites that they have, as it is a new way of working for her.



**Name:** Philip Cockings  
**Works:** Aquatics Centre



# Olympic Park Enrolment and Pass Office



**Name:** Naz Hussain

**Lives:** Newham

**Works:** Olympic Park  
Enrolment and Pass Office

Naz Hussain has been employed by the Olympic Park's security contractor for the last seven years and has been working on the Park for one year. Naz previously worked at Heathrow Airport when he saw a job advertised for a role on the Park. As a resident in the London Borough of Newham he jumped at the chance as it would give him the chance to be involved in a big project with new challenges. After six years travelling across London on a daily basis it would be close to home.

This role gives Naz a chance to get involved in many different areas including having daily contact with people working on the Park plus all the security guards responsible for ensuring their safety as well as the many visitors who come to see how work is progressing. On a daily basis Naz can find himself making sure everyone's timesheets are completed

correctly, preparing weekly rosters and pulling together reports for his managers. He can still recall his first impressions when he got here and his amazement at the scale of the project.

Having just completed his first year on the Park, Naz has been witness to the developments of the Park which are happening on a daily basis and is proud to be able to say that he is playing his part in creating the London 2012 Games. Having memories of what the area looked like with its scrap yards and industrial estates before work started and watching as it become, in his words, 'the best thing in east London'.

After the Games Naz wants to continue with his employer of the last seven years and hopes that the skills and experience he is gaining working here will help him progress within the company into more senior roles.



**Name:** Angela Armitage  
**Works:** Logistics Centre





# Structures, bridges, highways



**Name:** Ken Swaby

**Lives:** Hackney

**Works:** Structures, bridges, highways

London Borough of Hackney resident Ken Swaby has just completed a year on the Olympic Park. During this time Ken has moved from being a General Operative to Foreman working on the roads and bridges. Ken originally worked for a contractor on the enabling works project in the north of the Park and when this work was completed he was placed with a new contractor through the Employment and Skills team's sustainable employment initiative.

Before starting work on the Park, Ken worked as a satellite and aerial installer. After seeing information from his local labour scheme, On-site, in Hackney he applied for a job and has been here ever since.

As with most people working on the project, the first thing that struck

Ken was the size of the project and has enjoyed seeing it develop into a 'grand and impressive' site.

After starting off as a General Operative his natural skills were quickly acknowledged by his employer and he is now one of the supervisors working on the project to deliver new roads and bridges across the site, an area of work he is keen to continue in after the Games.

As for working on the Park, Ken says that one of the best things about working here is the Employment and Skills team, especially the manager who has helped him get where he is today and the fact that this initiative is delivering local jobs for local people: 'It is good to see something coming back into the community'.

**Name:** Abdullah Abdilahi

**Location:** Handball Arena







**Name:** Kathleen Drum

**Lives:** Tower Hamlets

**Works:** Utilities

London Borough of Tower Hamlets resident Kathleen has been working on the Olympic Park since March 2007 and previously had been working as PA to the Managing Director of a recruitment company. Kathleen heard about the job on the Park through a friend already working on the project. They were saying what a great project it is to work on and there were openings for local people. Kathleen wasted no time in applying and soon found herself being interviewed.

Kathleen's first impression when starting on site were 'busy, busy, busy'. In her role as Office Manager Kathleen finds herself running the site office, acting as PA to the Director of Infrastructure Delivery and managing two Assistants. With so many people working on the Park there are a lot of coordination meetings and safety briefings to be done.

Kathleen is proud to be working on the Games and as a Tower Hamlets resident she is really looking forward to 'the legacy aspect of the Games, where I can enjoy the Park, waterways and facilities as part of my local area'.

Kathleen feels this is the most challenging job she has had while at the same time being the most fun and an exciting environment to work in. Kathleen hopes to continue in construction and in the future would be very interested in carrying out a similar role on restoration projects. She says that the best thing about working on the Games 'is the opportunity to work with different people, from different backgrounds, who are all experts in their chosen field'.

**Name:** Steve Yoxall  
**Works:** South Plaza Security







**Name:** Jamie Norris  
**Lives:** Waltham Forest  
**Works:** IBC/MPC

Jamie Norris from Chingford had already completed his first year at college studying to become an electrician when he was offered the chance to work on the Olympic Park.

Jamie was approached by one of the Employment and Skills Managers working closely with the company providing electrical supplies for the International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre. Obviously, this was too good an opportunity to pass up and Jamie jumped at the chance, impressing both the Employment and Skills Manager and the employer at his interview and starting on site in August 2009.

Jamie was really happy to get the chance to work on such a major project as it is something that is a one-off opportunity and to be able to say in years to come that he helped it happen. He was not sure what to expect when he first came

to site and said that the scale of the project could have been daunting but the company have been really supportive and helped him settle in so he can make the most of the experience.

Jamie spends the majority of his days working alongside an experienced electrician who is showing him the ropes and giving him the opportunity to put what he has already learnt into practice. Once a week he goes back to college and is now half way through his second year.

Life on site is good, although cold at the moment. Jamie is looking forward to continuing in the industry, completing his studies and qualifying as an electrician so he can move up the ladder and maybe one day be running similar jobs. Wherever he ends up he says he will always be able to look back and say that he was involved.



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