

mela

Newcastle 2026

Sunday 30th & Monday 31st August 2026
at Exhibition Park



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MELA IN THE CITY
Saturday 29th August 2026

FREE
TWO DAY
FAMILY EVENT
(12 noon till 8pm)

Activities
Funfair
Music
Food & Drink

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Newcastle Asian Arts & Music (NAAM) is a voluntary organisation formed in April 1993 which organises the Newcastle Mela. Its aim is to promote arts, music and culture within Newcastle and the North East region.

NAAM's committee consist of:

- **Taj Mohammed** **Chairperson**
- **Mumtaz Sanam** **Treasurer**
- **Farhana Ahmed** **Secretary**
- **Mohammed Yaqoob** **Member**
- **Yawar Hussain** **Member**

If you would like to be a member of NAAM please visit the website www.newcastlemela.co.uk

A special mention, as always, has to be made to Karen McKenna.

The committee would like to offer their thanks to Newcastle City Council, Freeman of Newcastle, Unison, Newcastle Building Society, Army, Sir James Knott Trust, NE1 & Arts Council England for their sponsorship and to the other partners and sponsors who have made this event possible.

What's On AT A GLANCE

This year, we have an enormous range of things to do, see and taste! On the Main Stage we have some amazing international acts that are huge on the south Asian music scene. We also have some incredible contemporary artistic performances that are guaranteed to entertain our audiences with their colour, daring and talent.

We also have our Community Stage, where anyone from the local and not so local area are being welcomed to show off their skills to the crowds.

Across the site, you will find a huge range of delicious food, clothes and jewellery stalls making the event an excellent place to buy gifts for loved ones or to treat yourself! Look out for William Clark's Fairground, which adds to the fun each year!

We are also presenting masses of free activities to keep the whole family entertained during the Bank Holiday, like henna tattoos, face painting, a Circus workshop and a British Army assault course.

Event Opens **12pm**

Food, Stalls & Free Activities **From 12pm**

Community Stage **From 12pm – 3.30pm**

Performances (Main Stage) **From 3.30pm**

Event Closes **8.30pm**



**LOOK
THROUGH OUR
PROGRAMME
TO FIND
OUT MORE!**

ABOUT THE



Newcastle Mela is a vibrant, multi-cultural and family-friendly event which takes place in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne, in Exhibition Park, during the August Bank Holiday weekend – in 2026 it takes place over two days on Sunday 30th and Monday 31st August. Newcastle Mela is a free event, based around Pakistani, Bengali, Indian and other South Asian cultures and is open to anyone who wants to learn more, be entertained and meet new people as well as enjoy different music, art and food in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The event is a long-standing cultural event in the city's calendar and possibly the longest running arts event within the North East. The event is significant for the cultural and community landscape of not only the city, but the region and across the UK, being one of a series of Mela's that takes place nationally in major UK cities each year. The Newcastle Mela is the only Mela that takes place during a Bank Holiday.

The programming includes contemporary Asian music acts, as well as traditional displays of music and dance, with a range of stalls selling food and crafts. Newcastle Mela appeals to all ages and races, with everyone welcome to come and enjoy the event in a relaxed atmosphere.

Sunday 30th - Exhibition Park

12:00pm	Spice FM Roadshow
1:00pm	Mela Got Talent
2:20pm	Kalakshetra Sing
2:45pm	Spice of the South
3:00pm	Punjabi Roots
3:20pm	Breeze
3:30pm	Lord Mayor - Lead on by Mi Mrathi
3:40pm	Mi Marathi
3:55pm	Madhura
4:15pm	Shah-e-Mardaan
5:05pm	Rising from the East
5:30pm	Baithak
6:25pm	Raxstar
7:00pm	Jassi Sidhu

Monday 31st - Exhibition Park

12:00pm	Spice FM Roadshow
12:55pm	Kalakshetra Dance
1:10pm	Spice of South
1:30pm	Newcastle Bangladeshi Cultural Society and Bithy Chowdhury
3:00pm	Mela Got Talent (Final)
3:50pm	RV Narang
4:15pm	Kurukshetra Sing
4:40pm	Rising from the East
5:05pm	Punjabi Roots
5:25pm	Mazhar Rahi
6:30pm	Sahara
7:15pm	Zack Knight

Hosted by: Spice FM



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FREE ACTIVITIES!



The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, British Army

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers will be at Newcastle Mela with their free climbing wall, paint ball alley and assault course! The Fusiliers will be on hand to show you the ropes and encourage your children – or your inner child – to give the activities a go!

Bhangra and dhol workshops



Workshops

Participate in Kabaddi and pittu (South Asian Sports)

Henna tattoos, arts and crafts

A range of free activities to keep everyone entertained for hours!



FREE ACTIVITIES



HENNA TATTOOS



ARTS & CRAFTS



FACE PAINTING

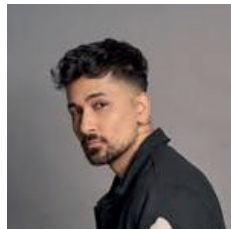


**THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS
CLIMBING WALL, ASSAULT COURSE,
PAINT BALL TARGET,
HANG ON THE BAR COMPETITION**

Artist 2026

Zack Knight

Zack Knight, a British singer-songwriter and producer, has solidified his place as one of the most successful independent artists in the global music scene.



Jassi Sidhu

Jassi Sidhu is the former lead singer of British Asian bhangra band B21. He has a blossoming solo career having toured many countries since going solo from the US to the Far East.



Mazhar Rahi

Mazhar Rahi is a celebrated Pakistani singer and musician known for Punjabi folk, bhangra, and pop music. Rising to fame with hit tracks like "Duniya Mere Piche Hai", he blends traditional regional melodies with modern pop and rock elements.



Sahara

Sahara, a pioneering British-Punjabi Bhangra and fusion music group famous for smash hits like "Lal Ghagra," "Soniye Ni Soniyeh," and "Billo Hai".



Artist 2026

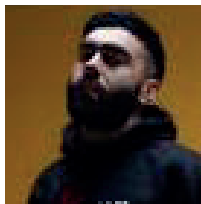
Bithy Chowdhury

Bithy Chowdhury's musical voyage is not just a career; it is the fulfillment of a prophecy whispered by her mother. The journey began in 2014, ignited by a family deeply rooted in culture and a mother whose lifelong wish was to see her daughter rise as a true artist.



Raxstar

Raxstar is a British rapper and singer from Luton. Raxstar came into popularity after the release of "Keep It Undercover" in 2005.



Shah-e-Mardan

The Shah-e-Mardan Qawwali Group is a UK-based Sufi music ensemble with members from Sheffield and Bradford. Their lead singer and harmonium player, Mohamed Zubair, previously accompanied the legendary Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. The late Sufi master Sheikh Nazim gave the group their name, which means "King of Men".



Punjabi Roots

Punjabi Roots are a Bradford-based cultural organization. They specialize in Bhangra dance, Dhol drumming, folk arts, and community educational workshops, frequently performing at regional festivals, public celebrations, and collaborative musical events across the UK. Their dhol players bring any event to life with their energetic and colourful performances



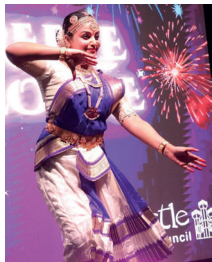
Newcastle Mela Commission for 2026

RIISING FROM THE EAST

Rising From The East is commissioned by NAAM for Newcastle Mela 2026. For Rising From The East, Deluxe Entertainment has brought together a diverse collective of North East-based artists, each representing different regions, traditions and contemporary influences from across India. The production has been specially curated to take audiences on "A Journey Across India in Music and Dance", weaving classical dance, regional culture, Telugu cinema, contemporary Indian dance and the powerful rhythms of Maharashtrian Dhol & Tasha into one continuous showcase.

BREEZE GEORGE

Breeze George is a Newcastle-based dancer, choreographer and teacher whose work brings together Indian classical traditions and the energy of contemporary and Bollywood dance.



MADHURA GODBOLE

Madhura Godbole is a North East-based Indian classical dancer specialising in Kathak, one of India's major classical dance traditions.

MI MARATHI – DHOL & TASHA

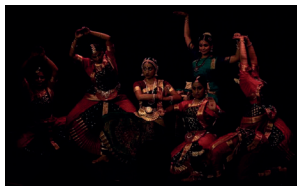
Mi Marathi Dhol & Tasha Newcastle is a community organisation dedicated to celebrating and preserving the rich cultural heritage of Maharashtra while sharing it with the wider communities of Newcastle and the North East.



Newcastle Mela Commission for 2026

KALAKSHETRA

Kalakshetra celebrates the beauty, discipline and storytelling traditions of Indian dance through colourful and expressive performance.



SPICE OF SOUTH

Spice of South brings the colour, energy and cinematic spectacle of Telugu culture to the stage, specialising in vibrant dance performances inspired by the music and choreography of Telugu cinema.



Chalo Baithak

Shrutvid, Robin & Rakesh are the Glasgow-based musicians who started Baithak, later joined by Ridhima and Nachiket as the collective grew. Together, they bring a community-driven live music experience blending Bollywood, indie, and acoustic sounds through soulful vocals, percussion, live instrumentation, and interactive performances.

RV Narang

Urban Punjabi singer and song writer, with over 20 years' experience, RV will be performing his latest track 'Twisted' – Newcastle get ready!



Outdoor Performance Arena

Master Rope-Walking Violinist

A unique international performer, Kwabana Lindsay has performed all over the world. In true circus fashion, he suspends the audience's disbelief with his incredible talents using slack-rope, fire, stilts, acrobatics, corde lisse, aerial skills, juggling, mime, music and comedy to create an unforgettable show.



Let's Circus



Let's Circus are the international circus from the West End of Newcastle. Hosting aerial circus, street theatre, outdoor arts and great family entertainment at this year's Newcastle Mela on Sunday 24 and bank holiday Monday 25 August, you can expect something for everybody.

Circus Skills workshops



Participation is not a sideline to Let's Circus' artistic activities, it is a core motivational factor behind their work. Their teachers welcome all ages and abilities.



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Sort Code: **20-49-17**

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KORT Sadaqah Account Details

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DELUXE ENTERTAINMENT — CURATOR

Deluxe Entertainment specialises in arts, entertainment and live event production, with more than 20 years of experience creating and delivering performances, productions, private events, festivals and cultural events.