



mela

Newcastle 2025



**Sunday 24th &
Monday 25th August 2025**

FREE
TWO DAY
FAMILY EVENT
(12 noon till 8:30pm)

- Activities
- Funfair
- Music
- Food & Drink
- Artists

**EXHIBITION PARK,
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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 2025 it takes place over two days on Sunday 24th and Monday 25th 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.

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!**



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.

official map





Health & Safety

We always have health and safety at the heart of Newcastle Mela. Excel Medical Solutions will be in attendance, we have a site office where you can come and talk to us if you need some urgent help and our officials on standby across the site to help where needed.

Exhibition Park is accessible for wheelchairs on the paths and we have accessible toilets on site.

If you are coming to the event with a big group of people or young children, it's always best to make a rendezvous point where you can meet if you get lost from one another.



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PROGRAMME

Sunday

12 noon	Spice FM Roadshow / Community Stage
3.30 pm	Official Opening of Mela 2025
	Punjabi Roots
4.00 pm	Breeze George
4.30 pm	Abdullah Shahid/Hassan Javed
5.10 pm	Nooran Lal
5.55 pm	Rafaqat Ali Khan
6.50 pm	Harbhajan Talwar
7.25 pm	Hunterz

Monday

12 noon	Spice FM Roadshow / Community Stage
3.30 pm	Punjabi Roots
4.00 pm	Mi Marathi Dhol Tasha & Lezim Group
4.20 pm	Breeze George
4.30 pm	Iffi-k
5.10 pm	Sona Walia
5.50 pm	Sliime
6.20 pm	Juggy D
7.25 pm	Lembher Hussainpuri

Newcastle Mela Artists 2025



Nooran Lal is renowned for her popular Punjabi and folk songs. "Lookan do do yaar" is a huge hit for Nooran Lal. She has recorded with many Artists in Pakistan including Jugni with the legendary Arif Lohar. Several of her albums have achieved top 10 status on the Pakistani music charts.

Rafaqat needs no introduction. Belonging to one of the biggest musical families in the World Rafaqat has performed at some of the Worlds most prestigious venues for dignitaries including royalty. Rafaqat has many Bollywood songs to his credit in with superstars like Hritik Roshan and Amitabh Bachan. His coke studio number tu kuja man kuja has almost 200 million views. A true International artist with repertoire ranging from Bollywood to Folk to Sufi music to Qawwalis.



Juggy D needs no introduction. Juggy has been performing for 3 decades and is still one of the most popular mela acts in the country. Juggy Has managed to maintain his status as a true performer through his dedication to his craft. He brings any stage to life and is as popular today as ever.



Newcastle Mela Artists 2025



Lehmbur Hussainpuri is a legend of Punjabi music. With numerous hits to his credit Lehmbur is one of the most sought after artist for events. Combining powerful vocals with pure Punjabi lyrics and a distinct sound fusing Western beats with traditional bhangra Lehmbur is loved by audiences of all backgrounds. Performing with a live band Lehmbur is a joy to watch .

Hunterz is a British urban musician and has been responsible for some of the biggest hits in the Asian music Industry. "Rehle Rehle" and the "Streets of Bollywood" are still considered iconic works and commercial masterpieces as well as numerous other songs and album.



Sona Walia is considered to be the premier Punjabi female artist in Europe. Her performances are colourful energetic and full of entertainment. Sona has been an advocate of Punjabi music and culture and passionately and proudly displays this on stage through her performances.



Newcastle Mela Artists 2025

Harbhajan Talwar XLNC

Lead singer of XLNC Harbhajan Talwar has performed across the World with his band. He created history when XLNC became the first bhangra band to perform in Tokyo. A vibrant dynamic performer Harbhajan has carved a reputation and name for himself not just across the UK but across the globe.



Sliime has been instrumental in raising the profile of Bengali music in the modern UK music scene. He has become a household name amongst the younger South Asian generation. His viral hit Lehenga has received millions of views on social media.

A UK based Pakistani singer IFFI K has been a part of the UK music industry for over 2 decades. A dynamic performer on stage IFFI K wins hearts wherever he performs. His Pothwari songs have gained him much recognition and appreciation from his audience with "Sutta" becoming a huge hit.



Outdoor Performance Arena

A La Puppet Carte



A La Puppet Carte:

On the "A la Puppet Carte" menu is a duet or trio of pop up puppet stages built onto the back of electric tricycles. Each mobile stage has a show full of surprises, fun and a heart-warming story of friendship and a sense of home.

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.



The Peacock & The Princess



Come and see our proud and majestic peacock and our prim and pretty princess roam through the crowds, in Mughal Miniatures: The Peacock and the Princess. Watch them compete for attention from each other and the audience - both are elegant and beautiful so who will manage outdo the other?

Outdoor Performance Arena



Mi Marathi Dhol Tasha and Lezim group

Mi Marathi Dhol Tasha and Lezim group is an enthusiastic group of hobbyists who want to continue the tradition of authentic Maharashtrian Dhol and Tasha beats and rhythm.

In the sea of fusion and remixes in the music world, we stand out for staying true to our roots whilst making the music enjoyable across all ages and groups. Along with the love for music, we are passionate about introducing the world to our rich Indian culture.

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.

Let's Circus





Official Funder

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FREE ACTIVITIES



HENNA TATTOOS



ARTS & CRAFTS



FACE PAINTING



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PAINT BALL TARGET,
HANG ON THE BAR COMPETITION**

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

Various workshops throughout both days

Henna tattoos, arts and crafts

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



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The Mela is a free event, based around Pakistani, Bengali, Indian and other South Asian cultures. The event is open to everyone and encourages visitors of all ages and backgrounds to come and enjoy this grand annual festival over two days. The Mela is a true display of cultural diversity within our region. People come from far and wide to enjoy free family activities, incredible food, music, dancing and special performances.

All this for free and on your doorstep!

Thank You to Our Funders/ Sponsors & Partners



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