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# STREATHAM HUB

TOPPING OUT  
CEREMONY  
15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013



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# STREATHAM HUB

Streatham Hub will breathe new life into the area and provide outstanding leisure facilities for the whole community.

Due for completion in late 2013, the new, mixed use development will encompass a world class leisure centre, residential apartments and retail space.

In addition to a 1,000 seat ice arena, Streatham residents will benefit from a 25 metre swimming pool and fitness centre, plus a vastly improved transport interchange.

Many opportunities for employment and training have also been created throughout the construction process, including apprenticeships, educational visits, and site tours for disadvantaged children.

Chuka Umunna, Member of Parliament for Streatham and a long term supporter of the scheme, said on his last visit to the project:

**"This will make a huge difference to the Streatham area once complete. People have been waiting for this for a very long time; some have asked whether it would ever happen. Well, now I can tell them that it is very much happening."**

## WHAT IS TOPPING OUT?

The exact origin of the topping out celebration is obscure, but many believe it comes from Scandinavian folklore, protecting the building and users from angry or bad spirits.

Another school of thinking draws a connection between placing evergreen branches atop the building to symbolize growth and bring luck.

Topping out rituals vary from country to country:

- hanging laurel wreaths down the chimney
- a decorated fir tree hoisted onto the roof
- evergreen garlands are suspended from a pole
- a hole in the roof is filled or a yew tree is planted

Celebrating a building's completion has changed over time, from a yew branch to the owner's personal standard being placed at the highest point.

Other practices to ensure the safe completion of construction have included human sacrifice, but thankfully this has died out.

However diverse the ceremony, it is an opportunity to celebrate a key milestone in the building's construction and to thank the people whose hard work has created the new facility.

