

What's on Guide

Summer 2026

From beautiful parks and amazing heritage to family events and fun days out - it starts here!



See more events and activities
lbld.gov.uk/summer-whats-on



TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC
WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST
11AM TO 2PM



FREE

1 Eastbrookend Country Park

Come along to a family-friendly 'Teddy bear's picnic' and nature fun-day! Enjoy a range of activities including storyteller in the woods, face-painting and more! No need to book.



SPLASHY LAND
SEE WEBSITE FOR TICKET INFO



Get FREE tickets

2 Barking Park

Splashy Land in Barking Park brings together three major experiences: London's biggest splash park, the UK's only Unicorn Boating Lake, and Bounsea, a giant inflatable obstacle course. The perfect place for families searching for outdoor activities! splashyland.co.uk
Free tickets available for B&D residents, visit lbld.gov.uk/summer-whats-on



VALENCE HOUSE SUMMER MARKET
SATURDAY 22 AUGUST
10AM TO 4PM

FREE

3 Valence House Museum



The Valence House Summer Market is back! Pick up special treats and gifts for all the family, while supporting over 20 local community stallholders. Enjoy a range of inflatables with Fun Football Factory too! (£3 per wristband). valencehousecollections.co.uk/events



SUMMER STREETS MARKET
SUNDAY 23 AUGUST
12PM TO 8PM



FREE

4 Short Blue Place, Barking

Barking's Street Food Market is coming to Short Blue Place, bringing a fantastic selection of global flavours alongside a vibrant programme of live performances, creating a lively destination for food, music and entertainment. More dates to be added!
www.lbld.gov.uk/summer-streets



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**This summer, adventure
is closer than you think.
It Starts Here.**

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CHOOSE YOUR TUDOR, INTERACTIVE TRAIL 24 JULY TO 30 AUGUST

6 Eastbury Manor House

FREE

New for Summer 2026, young visitors can take on 'Choose Your Tudor', an interactive trail based around professions from the Tudor era. A fun and exciting way to learn about the Tudors whilst exploring the house and gardens.
eastburymanorhouse.org.uk/events

BLACKBERRY PICKING WALK WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 12PM TO 3PM

1 Eastbrookend Discovery Centre

FREE

Come along with Company Drinks for a delightful blackberry picking walk! Enjoy the beauty of nature together. It's a perfect way to connect with neighbours, enjoy fresh air, and gather the season's best berries! companydrinks.info

MEET A REPTILE DAY TUESDAY 11 AUGUST 11AM TO 2PM

7 Beam Parklands

FREE

Ever wondered if snakes really are slippery? It's time to find out! Gain a better understanding of these fascinating creatures, plus, enjoy reptile and bird themed interactive sessions!

barkinganddagenhamcountryparks.com/events-and-activities

APPLE PRESSING SATURDAY 15 AUGUST 12PM TO 3PM

3 Valence House Museum

FREE

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 12PM TO 3PM

6 Eastbury Manor House

FREE

Come along for a friendly afternoon of apple and pear pressing with Company Drinks! Get hands-on with the traditional process of pressing apples and pears into fresh juice.
companydrinks.info

SUMMER DISCO FRIDAY 21 AUGUST 7PM TO 10PM

8 Dagenham and Redbridge FC

£3

Get ready for an evening of music, dancing, and summer vibes at Ab Phab's annual Summer Disco. Enjoy raffle prizes, tombola, fun photo props and more! Open to families/all ages. RSVP to Info@abphabyouthclub.org.uk

ICONIC YOU: PORTRAIT WORKSHOP TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 11AM TO 12.30PM AND 1.30PM TO 3PM

5 Valence House Museum

£5

Explore the Fanshawe family portraits and discover how artists capture identity, expression, and character. Then create your own self-portrait! Book online, suitable for ages 5+.
valencehousecollections.co.uk/events

MUSEUM MINIS UNTIL WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 11AM TO 12PM

3 Valence House Museum

FREE

Bring your littlest Vikings along for a gentle, sensory introduction to the world of the North. Museum Minis sessions are designed to spark wonder through storytelling and singing. Suitable for under 5s.
valencehousecollections.co.uk/events

INTO THE WILD EVERY THURSDAY UNTIL 27 AUGUST 10.30AM TO 11.30AM

3 Valence House Museum

FREE

From bug hunts and mini beast spotting, and scavenger trails to picnics and outdoor story moments, pack a snack, grab your hats and sunscreen, and come and explore! Suitable for ages 0 to 4 years old.
valencehousecollections.co.uk/events

COMMUNITY OPEN DAY WITH COMPANY DRINKS SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 12PM TO 5PM

2 Outdoor Bowls Pavilion, Barking Park

FREE

Come along for an afternoon of art and well-being workshops, cooking and eating together, communal hop-picking, tours of the garden, singing and games, and delicious seasonal drinks! companydrinks.info

60 YEARS OF CELEBRATION: WHEN B&D WON THE WORLD CUP UNTIL 28 NOVEMBER

3 Valence House Museum

This brand-new exhibition celebrates our borough's footballing legacy and features objects on loan from the National Football Museum and the world's largest private football collection. valencehousecollections.co.uk/events

ARTY'S SCULPTURE TRAIL

1 Eastbrookend Country Park

FREE

Collect a map or activity pack from the Discovery Centre, and get ready to meet Arty and his many friends along the way!
www.booksbymile.co.uk/about-3

FAMILY HUBS FOR UNDER 5s

Discover free summer fun with Barking and Dagenham Family Hubs! Under 5s can enjoy fun activities and stay and play sessions, including Peep-a-Boo, Messy Play, and Musical Movements! See the full list of events and more at ourhubsbd.london/events-and-activities/

SUMMER HAF PROGRAMME

Enjoy a range of fun, enriching, and healthy activities from sports and dance, to arts and crafts at locations including Future Youth Zone and The Rising Generation youth centre. For ages 5 to 16 years old. Both free and fee-paying spaces are available. Find out more lbdd.gov.uk/free-holiday-activities

GET CREATIVE WITH PEN TO PRINT

Get inspired with Pen to Print's free summer programme of events. From author talks and storytelling events, to creative writing workshops and reading groups, there's something for everyone. Find out more at www.pentoprint.org

PLAYGROUND ADVENTURES

If you're looking for ways to keep the kids busy – you'll know play areas are just the thing! And, to keep things interesting there are 14 play areas to choose from in parks across the borough – so take your pick!
lbdd.gov.uk/love-your-parks

GET ACTIVE THIS SUMMER

From tennis and basketball courts to football pitches and outdoor gyms, – there's plenty you can do to get active this Summer. So, if you fancy trying your hand at something new, it starts here! lbdd.gov.uk/love-your-parks

Or, why not check out 'Much More This Summer' at Everyone Active, offering £2 activities over the summer holidays.
everyoneactive.com/promotion/much-more-this-summer

SUMMER SAVINGS ON YOUR FAMILY DAY OUT

The government has cut VAT from 20% to 5% on family days out – from cinema and theatre tickets, to attractions and children's meals out. Less to pay, more summer to enjoy! Runs until Tuesday 1 September. Pop in your postcode and see where you can save.
summersavings.gov.uk

KIDS EAT FREE OR £1 DEALS

Check out this round-up of major restaurant chains and supermarket cafés offering kids' meals for free or £1 including Ask Italian, Turtle Bay, The Real Greek and more!
moneysavingexpert.com/deals/kids-eat-free