

Celebrating life of tragic teen Ezekiel

By **JOE CURTIS**

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Hundreds of people turned out to celebrate the life and legacy of a boy tragically killed when he fell in front of a bus while being chased.

Family, friends and teachers paid tribute to Ezekiel Amosu, 17, who died in Forest Road, Walthamstow, in January 2011.

The 'Celebrating Ezekiel Concert' took place at Frederick Bremer School in Siddeley Road on Thursday evening, with people dedicating their own music and dance performances to the memory of the talented musician and ex-pupil, who dreamed of studying music at Oxford.

Pupil Sam Smith began the night by playing the bagpipes, before a picture montage of Ezekiel's life was played to music he had created.

Other highlights included solo performances from *The Voice* singer Barbara Kelly, of Sunnyside Road, Epping, and dance group Youth Wave.

Ezekiel's mum Jean Amosu was with her family at the event, which was organised by her daughter, Michelle.

Mrs Amosu, 60, said: "It's a celebration of Ezekiel's life and everything that he meant to people. It was such a tragic event what happened. I felt the children wanted to say something."

She said the night was chosen because teenagers were approaching their exams and would soon be leaving school.

The evening also served to highlight the talents young people have to offer, emphasising the need to stamp down on youth crime and violent crime.

Mrs Amosu added: "I hope children take note and put their guns down and their knives down and create areas where children can have something positive to do, using their talents."

A fundraising campaign has been launched at Frederick Bremer to set up a studio in Ezekiel's memory and a regular talent show.

Ezekiel's brother Michael, 30, said: "It was a brilliant night. I'm really happy. The turnout shows how much he influenced people's lives. For them to come back for this is amazing."

Waltham Forest mayor Richard Sweden



Above and top, Agudze dancers at the memorial service for Ezekiel Amosu. Above centre, guitarist Nigel Bell and, right, Ezekiel Amosu

was in attendance, as well as Walthamstow MP Stella Creasy and school governor Paul Braham.

Police superintendent Leroy Logan MBE also gave a speech, and said the evening was evidence that people are tired of violent crime on their streets.

He said: "Ezekiel's life has inspired young people to put on this show today. He's leaving such a positive legacy. I hope he continues to inspire young people to

change their community for the better."

● **Trae Hudson, 16, of Cherry Road in Enfield Wash, and Cliff Perreira, 16, of Billet Road in Walthamstow, were each sentenced to four years in prison last September for Ezekiel's manslaughter. See a video of the concert at www.guardian-series.co.uk**

'Future is bright' for community library

An activist has said the future is bright for a newly-opened community library.

The Harrow Green Community Library, in Leytonstone's Epicentre facility in West Street, opened on Saturday with people dropping by to congratulate the volunteer team, borrow books and take a look around.

The idea of a community library in the area was first mooted in December 2011 and now books are finally going out of the doors to be enjoyed by keen bookworms.

Library activist Danny Asmoah said: "The future is bright. It looks like we've filled a niche in the local community."

"The library is a hub that's beginning to look like more of a meeting place."

Mr Asmoah said traffic to the library was steady and that staff registered about 15 new library card holders. He added that the large foyer in front of the library draws people in who would usually just pass by.

The library was able to enjoy longer than usual opening hours, as it works around the Epicentre's opening and closing times, but Saturday saw a function in the building that kept people coming in.

One issue remains for the library's staff. They have been running a manual system due to there being no internet access.

Mr Asmoah said having internet access would make the work a lot easier for the group of core volunteers who have been putting in regular hours to



Angie McDonald, Nadia Perkins, Molly Webster, Rachelle Gordon-Allen, Sandra Gordon and Yasr Mahmood at the library, which is now open to the public

help out, including a published author and a librarian.

He also said more volunteers would be helpful.

Sections in the library include children's fiction, teenage fiction, general fiction, autobiography, philosophy and religion.

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