# Kirby Estate's flag feud tests England’s most patriotic community spirit



The Kirby Estate in Bermondsey has long been celebrated as one of England’s most patriotic communities, particularly renowned for its vibrant displays of support for the national football team. Since 2012, residents have eagerly adorned balconies, lampposts, and communal spaces with hundreds of St George’s flags during major international tournaments, creating an unmistakable atmosphere of unity and enthusiasm. This tradition, orchestrated by a dedicated community group known as the ‘Flag Ninjas,’ has grown into a powerful symbol of local pride, with over 700 flags displayed during peak events.

Recently, however, this spirited show of patriotism has met with internal conflict. One resident involved in the initiative expressed frustration after several flags were cut down in the middle of the night by a neighbour who claimed the decorations negatively affected his ability to sell his flat. Despite the fact his property has already been sold, the flags were removed from multiple balconies, sparking outrage across the estate. The man behind the flag display assured the Daily Express that the community would persist undeterred, with plans to restore the flags immediately if the England women’s team triumphed in their European Championship quarter-final match against Sweden.

Residents emphasise that this is not merely about football but about preserving a genuine sense of community – one that embraces diversity and togetherness. Many on the estate come from a range of ethnic backgrounds and nationalities, and the flags are simply a show of support for England rather than any political statement. One anonymous resident highlighted the unique camaraderie that the estate fosters, recalling how community spirit in London often feels fragmented today, making the Kirby Estate’s gatherings and celebrations especially significant. This spirit, they said, echoes the street parties of the 1980s and is something they are determined to protect.

The estate’s identity has recently been further cemented through a striking mural of England forward Fran Kirby, unveiled by street artists MurWalls. The mural not only pays homage to a local sporting hero who shares the estate’s name but also serves as a source of inspiration, particularly for young girls aspiring to engage with football. This addition highlights the deep-rooted connection between the estate and England’s national football culture.

Financially, the initiative to maintain this tradition has become more challenging due to the rising cost of flags. To ensure the displays continue, residents have turned to crowdfunding, launching a GoFundMe campaign to fund new flags and sustain the community-driven project. Despite these hurdles, the commitment to celebrating and supporting England’s football teams remains strong, with plans to further enhance the communal experience through organised events featuring food, music, and live screenings of matches.

The Kirby Estate’s long-standing dedication to its football displays is an extraordinary example of how sport can unite a community. Through hundreds of fluttering flags and collective celebrations, this Bermondsey neighbourhood offers a compelling reaffirmation of local identity and shared enthusiasm, even in the face of occasional neighbourly disputes.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2083373/englands-most-patriotic-estate-tells), [[2]](https://www.gofundme.com/f/kirby-estate-se16-englands-most-patriotic-estate), [[3]](https://www.laviezine.com/986764/englands-most-patriotic-estate-kirby-estate-south-london-football-england-travel/), [[5]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1913162/england-patriotic-estate-homes-st-georges-flags-euros), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-63703921)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2083373/englands-most-patriotic-estate-tells)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2083373/englands-most-patriotic-estate-tells)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2083373/englands-most-patriotic-estate-tells), [[4]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/fran-kirby-england-norway-bermondsey-london-b2120400.html), [[7]](https://bryan-jones.com/the-kirby-estate-supports-englands-footballers/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.gofundme.com/f/kirby-estate-se16-englands-most-patriotic-estate), [[5]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1913162/england-patriotic-estate-homes-st-georges-flags-euros), [[3]](https://www.laviezine.com/986764/englands-most-patriotic-estate-kirby-estate-south-london-football-england-travel/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2083373/englands-most-patriotic-estate-tells), [[3]](https://www.laviezine.com/986764/englands-most-patriotic-estate-kirby-estate-south-london-football-england-travel/), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-63703921)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2083373/englands-most-patriotic-estate-tells> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/kirby-estate-se16-englands-most-patriotic-estate> - Residents of the Kirby Estate in Bermondsey, London, have been displaying hundreds of St George's flags since 2012 to support England's football team. The initiative, known as the 'Flag Ninjas', has grown to over 700 flags adorning the estate. To fund the purchase of new flags, especially given the rising costs, a GoFundMe campaign has been launched, aiming to continue this patriotic tradition and foster community spirit during international tournaments.
3. <https://www.laviezine.com/986764/englands-most-patriotic-estate-kirby-estate-south-london-football-england-travel/> - The Kirby Estate in Bermondsey, London, has been renowned for its extensive display of St George's flags in support of England's football team since 2012. The community, known as the 'Flag Ninjas', has adorned the estate with over 700 flags, creating a vibrant atmosphere during international tournaments. The initiative has also led to the organisation of community events featuring food, music, and screenings of football matches, fostering a strong sense of unity among residents.
4. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/fran-kirby-england-norway-bermondsey-london-b2120400.html> - The Kirby Estate in Bermondsey, London, unveiled a mural of England forward Fran Kirby ahead of the Lionesses' game against Norway. The artwork, created by street artists MurWalls, features a portrait of Fran Kirby and aims to inspire young girls to play football. The estate is renowned for its support of England's football team, with residents displaying hundreds of flags during major tournaments, fostering a strong community spirit.
5. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1913162/england-patriotic-estate-homes-st-georges-flags-euros> - The Kirby Estate in Bermondsey, London, has been adorning homes with hundreds of St George's flags for over a decade to support England's football team. The initiative, which began in 2012, has seen the estate display up to 700 flags during international tournaments. Despite rising costs, residents continue to fund the decorations themselves, aiming to maintain this patriotic tradition and community spirit during major football events.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-63703921> - Residents of the Kirby Estate in Bermondsey, London, have decorated their estate with over 400 England flags ahead of the World Cup. The display, which has been a tradition since 2012, aims to build community spirit and support the national team. Organiser Chris Dowse mentioned that the flags help brighten the estate and bring people together, with plans to set up a screen for watching major matches if England reaches the final.
7. <https://bryan-jones.com/the-kirby-estate-supports-englands-footballers/> - The Kirby Estate in Bermondsey, London, is renowned for its extensive display of England flags during international football tournaments. Since 2012, the estate has been adorned with hundreds of flags, creating a vibrant atmosphere and fostering community spirit. In 2022, a mural of England forward Fran Kirby was added, further showcasing the estate's support for the national team and its commitment to celebrating football culture.