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# TOTTENHAM COMMUNITY PRESS

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June 2021  
Nº.47, Free

Local news that matters to you



Noel Park pod extension unit  
Credit: Kirsten Lowe

The leaseholders have been issued works estimates and have not been quoted confirmed cost amounts, meaning eventual bills could be higher than the current quoted estimates if repair costs increase.

The council says it would be unfair for non-resident leasehold landlords to receive a subsidy, but claims discretion will be used in cases of extreme hardship, such as if a non-resident leaseholder is at risk of losing their principal home elsewhere as a result of financial losses because of the works.

***“We can’t sell the flats, no-one will buy them because of the work being needed and the bills hanging over our heads”***

Haringey Council has received criticism for the handling of the Noel Park essential works, most recently for withholding the results of asbestos surveys conducted on the homes in 2019 and 2020 which revealed that the homes have a ‘high risk’

Continued on Page 3

## Costly charges capped

### Noel Park Estate leaseholders offered major works reduction

By Luchia Robinson

**N**oel Park Estate leaseholders quoted estimates amounting to several thousands of pounds for major repair works to their homes are being offered a reduction by Haringey Council.

The 77 affected leasehold homeowners are expected to pay contributions to the repairs which include replacing old and dangerous prefabricated bathroom pod extensions, roofs, windows and doors.

Following council consultations with the leaseholders, these contributions have now been capped at £25,000 for the pod replacements. Leasehold residents are still expected to pay contributions for the remaining essential works.

£1.2 million is being made available from the Homes Revenue Account to cover the major works shortfall. However, the offer is only available to residents living on the Wood Green estate.

There are 38 non-resident leaseholders affected by the essential works costs that are not eligible for the capped rate because they are letting their flats, and considered private landlords.

The reduced charge has not been applied to homeowner Kirsten Lowe, a social worker who is letting out the property she bought on the estate in 2013.

Kirsten said: “We can’t sell the flats, no-one will buy them

because of the work being needed and the bills hanging over our heads. Several of us haven’t been able to sell or re-mortgage for some time. My flat was valued at £0 in 2019 because of the state of the pod.

“I couldn’t sell my flat when I moved in with my partner and had our child, so I’ve had to let it out. Haringey now see me as a ‘private landlord’ which I never was by choice. We’ve been trapped – I have an estimate for £108,000.”

As a not-for-profit organisation, we need your support to help produce Tottenham Community Press. Scan this code with your PayPal app to support our publishers Social Spider CIC with a one-off donation.





# WELCOME

## Steadfast In Difficulties

June 2021  
N°. 47

At Tottenham Community Press we believe that Tottenham deserves a newspaper that is written by and for local people, and which celebrates community in all its diversity. We believe that local news brings people together around the issues that matter most to them and ensures everyone can have a voice in local decision-making. Now more than ever we believe that the media should be responsive and accountable to the community it serves.

**Publisher**  
David Floyd

**Editor**  
Luchia Robinson

**Designer**  
Jonathan Duncan

**Head of Community News Operations**  
Paige Ballmi

**Head of Advertising and Membership**  
Klaudia Kiss

**Head of Engagement**  
Penny Dampier

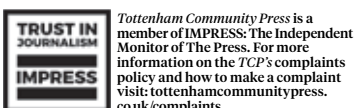
**Contributors**  
Christopher Lane, Simon Allin, James Cracknell, Quentin Given, Tottenham Photography Club, Stacey Onyido, Alex Fox, Rae Smith, Melissa De Melo, Karin Lock, C. Edwards, Christina Egan, Stephen Furner, Infinity Bunce



Tottenham Community Press  
Selby Centre, Selby Road,  
Tottenham N17 8JL

Email tcp@socialspider.com  
Phone 020 8521 7956/  
07762 689 995

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Cherry Blossom Tree by Christopher Lane

## An introduction from the editor

Hello, welcome to issue 47. Residents living in Noel Park Estate have been offered a capped reduction rate for the major improvement works required for their homes. Haringey Council's discounted offer means the replacement of deteriorating extension pod units will no longer exceed £25,000 (front page).

New data has revealed the high level of home care deaths during the pandemic (p.5), and Haringey's Covid-19 vaccination rollout reaches the 100,000-person milestone (p.6).

Historic England has awarded Tottenham High Road £100,000 funding for a cultural scheme set to revive the high street (p.8), while local photographers showcase their images of Tottenham in the *Tottenham Talking* exhibition. Turn to pages 10–11 to see some of the selected photographs and read about the work that

has gone into curating the pieces on p.17.

Alex Fox from Edible London Food Hub reflects on the past year of serving hot meals to the local community (p.12), and Rae Smith from Keep Pushing Co Ltd provides details of the sheltered skatepark set to open this month (p.15).

Student Melissa De Melo offers commentary on the Battle of Wood Green, highlighting the fight to tackle racism through art and activism (p.18), while artist Christopher Lane provides us with his Cherry Blossom Tree painting (above).

Get in touch if you'd like to feature an article, poem, photograph, painting or illustration in TCP. We welcome your contributions: tcp@socialspider.com.

**Luchia Robinson, Editor**

## LICENSING ACT 2003 Notice Of Application for a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Mr Muharrem Yuzudik has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Haringey for a Premises Licence to permit:

- The sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises as follows:  
08:00 to 23:00 Monday to Saturday  
10:00 to 22:30 Sunday  
08:00 to 22:30 Good Friday  
12:00 to 15:00 & 19:00 to 22:30 Christmas Day
- For the premises Haringay Food Centre situated at 450 to 452 St Ann's Road, Tottenham, London N15 3JH

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at by contacting Licensing Team at licensing@haringey.gov.uk.

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice in writing to licensing@haringey.gov.uk, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **14th June 2021**

Copies of all valid representations must include your name and address and will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee, these will therefore pass into the public domain.

Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

Dated: 18/05/2021



## NEWS



The Chad Gordon Autism Campus

# New autism campus opened in Tottenham

Adults with autism now have access to a range of services and support, thanks to the opening of The Chad Gordon Autism Campus last month.

The campus in Waltheof Gardens is named after Chad Gordon, a local adult with autism who was murdered in May 2020.

A tree was planted in Chad's memory along with a memorial plaque. The ceremony was attended by Chad's family, Cllr Sarah James, cabinet member for adults and health, and council officers.

Following the opening ceremony, the stakeholders and dignitaries in attendance were invited to view the campus buildings, and architect Helen Pedder

spoke about how the facilities had been designed in conjunction with autism carers to meet the specific requirements of adults with autism.

***"I hope the campus stands as a fitting tribute to Chad Gordon"***

The building designs have been influenced by the sensory needs of people with autism, including adaptable mood lighting to create a calm environment when needed, and a garden that service users can enjoy.

The campus will be home to two new services: the Haringey Opportunities Project which provides a day service for adults with complex learning difficulties and autism and the #ActuallyHaringey Autism Hub which is co-produced with autistic residents and community groups.

Cllr Sarah James said: "I was honoured to be a part of the opening of the Chad Gordon autism campus, which will do so much for adults with autism in Haringey. I'm glad that Haringey is leading the way in providing care and support for adults with autism and learning difficulties, and I hope the campus stands as a fitting tribute to Chad Gordon."

## Continued from Page-1

of asbestos. Electrical surveys also conducted revealed electric systems failed safety standards – yet these results were only released by estate landlord, Homes for Haringey, in March this year, following requests from leaseholders.

Kirsten said: "The pods should have been replaced in the late 80s. They're made of wood, and they're crumbling. There are panels falling off the side, there's quite a few holes, and you can see where bits of the wood are peeling off – and because they contain asbes-

tos, there's a risk that that is exposed. It's posing a health and safety risk for the people that live there."

The leaseholders have raised concerns about the council's reduction offer coming with the stipulation that they agree not to take legal action over the essential works.

The council says that having a settlement agreement is commonplace when making an offer of this kind to avoid any litigation on the matter. It states that the recent cap proposals, offer the 'right balance between a fair settlement for leaseholder residents and to ensure the essential works are

completed for everyone living on the estate,' stating that the leaseholders are being offered a flat rate regardless of the size of the homes or the terms of the individual leases.

Although the reduction proposals have been offered to the leaseholders, they are still subject to cabinet approval. Council officers will be briefing the new borough leadership before the proposals come to cabinet for decision next month.

If approved, the council says, individual written settlement agreements will be reached with each leaseholder wanting to take up the reduction offer.

## Verral Paul-Walcott becomes a TCP ambassador

*Homelessness campaigner Verral Paul-Walcott supports TCP in producing local, community news*

Local graphic designer and founder of the 'Homeless Ride Out' initiative, Verral Paul-Walcott has become a *Tottenham Community Press* ambassador.

Verral joins music artist WondrWomN, charity founder Kaz Fontette, music producer Teriy Keys, and community organiser Cindy Singh in supporting and sharing news of TCP within the community.

Verral believes that helping others requires taking compassionate and urgent action, which he does as part of the c86erz street team – a group of cycling enthusiasts who provide food, toiletries and clothing to the street homeless via bike 'ride-outs' in Haringey and across London.

***"Every community needs a voice. TCP is the storyteller for Tottenham's multicultural community"***

Verral's online presence via Facebook Live and the YouTube channel *Big V on a Bike* allow him to network with similar action groups across the country and share his compassion.

When asked why he is supporting TCP by becoming an ambassador, Verral said: "The importance of local newspapers cannot be ignored. Unlike social media it's the only platform where a community of all generations can tangibly harvest information.

"Every community needs a voice. TCP is the storyteller for Tottenham's multicultural community."



For information about the TCP ambassadors: [tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/ambassadors](https://tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/ambassadors)



## NEWS

# A change in leadership

## Cllr Peray Ahmet confirmed as leader of Haringey Council

By Simon Allin,  
Local Democracy Reporter

**H**aringey Council has a new leader after Cllr Joseph Ejiofor was ousted by a rival councillor in an internal vote.

Labour councillor Peray Ahmet won the backing of her fellow members during a ballot that took place at the group's annual general meeting at the start of last month. This was then followed by the official confirmation at the annual council meeting a few weeks later.

Cllr Ahmet, who represents Noel Park, was formerly cabinet member for adults and health until she was sacked by Cllr Ejiofor on New Year's Eve in 2018. Her recent win brings Cllr Ejiofor's three-year spell as Labour leader to an end.

Under Cllr Ejiofor's administration, the council set out to build 1,000 council homes at council rents, provided more help for vulnerable residents through a council tax reduction scheme, and launched a long-

term plan to tackle youth crime.

It also saw the end of the Haringey Development Vehicle – a controversial deal with developer Lendlease that would have involved the demolition of several housing estates.

Regeneration projects that did go ahead continued to cause controversy. The council was criticised over its handling of a scheme that involves the demolition of a community market in Seven Sisters, while councillors have continued to raise concerns over the 2,600-home High Road West scheme in Tottenham.

The outgoing leader of Haringey Council said it had been an honour to lead the borough and wished his successor well.

Cllr Ejiofor said he was “immensely proud” of the council's achievements during his three years at the helm and claimed it had made “huge progress in tackling poverty and inequality.”

He added: “It has been the honour of my life to serve as the leader of our great borough for the past three years. I am immensely proud of all that we have

achieved during this time: building a fairer Haringey and tackling the issues that matter most to local people.

“Delivering change takes time, and I'm disappointed that I won't see the fruition of some of the ambitious changes we have made.

“From a standing start, work to deliver 1,000 new council homes at council rents is now well underway, and our housing delivery team is up for a nationally recognised award.

“We have made huge progress addressing poverty and inequality in the borough through expanding eligibility for free school meals, making council taxation fairer, becoming a Living Wage employer and helping residents access the benefits they're entitled to.

**“I am so proud to have the chance to move our community forward with fairness, decency and respect at the core of all we do”**

“We have brought public services back in house so that residents own what they pay for, made our council and our borough greener, invested in young people with youth hubs, a new university bursary scheme, apprenticeships and work experience opportunities.

“With the backdrop of austerity, Brexit, and Covid-19, these achievements have been hard won. I believe that my time as leader of Haringey Council is proof that progressive policies remain a necessity and can be implemented even in the most difficult circumstances.

“I know that Cllr Ahmet is keen to take on this role, and I wish her well.”

After winning the majority vote, Cllr Ahmet tweeted: “I am very grateful to have been elected leader of Haringey Labour – the first Muslim to hold this office. I was born and raised in Haringey and I am so proud to have the chance to move our community forward with fairness, decency and respect at the core of all we do.

“Thank you, Cllr Ejiofor, for your contribution to our borough and I look forward to working with all councillors in the interests of all those who live, learn and work here in Haringey.”

## Move to stop offices being converted into homes

### Council to force developers to win planning permission for conversions

By Simon Allin,  
Local Democracy Reporter

**D**evelopers will find it harder to turn offices into flats in some parts of Haringey thanks to a new power brought in by the council.

The power, known as an article 4 direction, means developers will need planning permission to go ahead with office-to-flat conversions in growth areas and district centres across the borough, including parts of Tottenham, Wood Green, Crouch End, Finsbury Park and Muswell Hill.

The power will only be valid for a year because of recent changes in legislation, after which the council will have to bring in a new article 4 direction – and there is “considerable uncertainty” over whether the government will approve it.

Permitted development rights brought in by the government in 2013 allowed developers to turn offices into flats without getting formal planning permission.

The legislation was aimed at boosting the housing supply – but it also means developers carrying out the conversions do not have to provide any affordable homes or follow national standards around the minimum size of rooms.

A council report states this has led to ‘the loss of valued office space and jobs’, as well as ‘poorly designed, unsuitable residential homes.’

Haringey's cabinet agreed to hold a consultation on the article 4 direction in March last year, but it was delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It received nine responses during a six-week consultation held last summer, with six in support and three “no comments”.

The council report states that while the direction will be in effect for just over one year, ‘it would still deliver considerable benefits during that time in terms of preventing loss of employment floorspace to the detriment of the office market and the borough's places more generally.’

The article 4 direction was approved at a cabinet member signing last month. It will take effect on 26th June and run until 31st July 2022.

Cllr Peray Ahmet





NEWS

# Haringey’s high level of home care deaths during pandemic revealed

New data suggests only small proportion of additional deaths of people receiving home care during pandemic caused directly by Covid-19



*By James Cracknell*

Deaths of people being cared for at home in Haringey rose five-fold last year, new data shows.

According to figures obtained by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, there were 170 deaths of people receiving home care, also known as domiciliary care, in Haringey during the first year of the pandemic. This compares to 32 during the 2019 calendar year, which was the last year to be unaffected by coronavirus.

The 431% increase in the borough’s mortality for people in home care is one of the highest in the country. Across England as a whole, deaths of adults receiving home care increased by 49% during the same period.

Of the 170 deaths in Haringey in the last

year, 5.9% were people who died after testing positive for Covid-19, suggesting the pandemic has had wider impacts on those people receiving care at home.

Head of policy at Disability Rights UK, Fazilet Hadi, said: “The dramatic increase in deaths of people receiving domiciliary care during the pandemic, appears to be truly shocking.

“Whilst the deaths of people living in care homes has received attention, the deaths of those living at home and receiving domiciliary care have not previously been investigated or addressed. It is vital that these deaths are made visible and we understand what went on.”

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism’s data has been obtained from the Care Quality Commission, which collates deaths reported by care providers across the country.

Haringey Council has provided different figures in response to the Bureau’s investigation, covering different time spans, with the local authority stating 148 people died in the 2020 calendar year within a day of receiving domiciliary care, compared with 112 for the 2019 calendar year. These numbers come from “home care deaths registered with the council”.

When asked what some of the factors contributing to these deaths in Haringey might be, a council spokesperson responded: “The need for support is likely to be linked to an existing condition of either illness, disability or age and the lack of other available means of support.

“Some users have complex needs with associated long-term conditions which can make them more vulnerable to an early death. In addition, many users are over 65, which is the most at-risk group from Covid-19 complications and potentially death.

“There is increasing understanding of the disproportionate impacts of Covid-19 on some communities including those most likely to be in need of adult social care – such as disabled people, those with specific learning disabilities, those with long term conditions and those who are older.”

When asked how the pandemic had altered adult social care in Haringey, and how the council has coped with these pressures, they said: “It has brought together many agencies to support vulnerable residents in the community. There has clearly been a focus on supporting specific Covid-19 requirements including access to PPE, testing and vaccina-

tion across the system and increased levels of communication between all agencies.

“More widely, there has been a nationwide focus on the status and importance of adult social care – we have seen an increased interest with our local residents through our dedicated social care portal, Proud to Care, which has now become a partnership across all London authorities.

*“The need for support is likely to be linked to an existing condition of either illness, disability or age and the lack of other available means of support”*

“We have used our existing partnerships to ensure good communication, strong joint working and pooling of resources. This has involved agencies across statutory, community and private agencies to protect local residents.”

The spokesperson added that Haringey Council had introduced a new “locality model” for home care linking the service into local networks of provision to “ensure home care is not an isolated service but one as part of provider support in a local neighbourhood”.

Advertisement

### LICENSING ACT 2003

#### Notice Of Application for a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Wodka Company Ltd** has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Haringey for a Premises Licence to permit:

- **Supply Of Alcohol: off the premises only Monday to Sunday, 00:00–24:00 no public access**
- **Situated at: Unit G14, 28 Lawrence Road N15 4EG**

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at by contacting Licensing Team at [licensing@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@haringey.gov.uk)

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice in writing to [licensing@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@haringey.gov.uk), giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: **15/06/2021**

Copies of all valid representations must include your name and address and will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee, these will therefore pass into the public domain.

Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

**Dated: 13/05/2021**

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## HEALTH

## BHF fund run

## Tottenham woman is raising money for life saving research by running the London Marathon

A local woman from Tottenham Hale will be running the London Marathon in support of the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

Andrea Toth, 42, will be running in October's race to help raise vital funds for the charity, joining the fight against heart and circulatory disease.

Andrea said: "I wanted to get involved because my mum sadly passed away from a sudden heart attack three years ago."

Heart and circulatory diseases are responsible for one in four deaths in the UK every year, ranging from heart attacks to strokes, cardiac arrest to type 2 diabetes. Many people in Tottenham suffer from losing loved ones to these diseases and others are living with them every day.

More than seven million people in the UK are currently living with heart and circulatory diseases; 25% of the population pass away from them.

With the public's help, propelled by sponsored challenges such as Andrea's, the BHF can fund research that will bring down the statistic.

Andrea said: "I am hoping to raise £3000 for the BHF helping them to fund the research that is so urgently needed to fight heart and circulatory diseases. My sponsored challenge has been super easy to organise and the

BHF have given me a lot of support."

The BHF is calling on more people to organise their own fundraising events and challenges. Donna Spriggs-Elliott, head of community fundraising at the BHF said: "We never cease to be amazed by the extraordinary ways people fundraise for the BHF. Every contribution, big or small, plays a crucial part in the medical breakthroughs we make, so we are incredibly grateful for their support. "We urgently need more people to

join our fight to beat heartbreak forever and help power our life saving research. That's why we're calling on everyone across the UK to organise their own events and sponsored challenges to help support our vital work."

**To sponsor Andrea Toth:**

**Visit** [justgiving.com/fundraising-edit/andreatothmarathon](https://justgiving.com/fundraising-edit/andreatothmarathon)

**Find out about the British Heart Foundation and how you can organise your own event:**

**Visit** [bhf.org.uk](https://bhf.org.uk)



Andrea Toth Credit Paddy Cartwright



## 100,000 people vaccinated in Haringey

## Covid-19 vaccination rollout reaches significant milestone

Latest figures from the NHS show 100,600 people across Haringey have now had their first dose of the vaccine, and 40,220 people have now had both doses.

With the vaccination programme continuing to be rolled out at pace, the NHS is on track to offer all UK adults their first jab by the end of July.

The research reports that four weeks after having a single dose of either vaccine, your risk of becoming ill with Covid-19 is around 60% lower, while a single dose of either vaccine reduces your chances of being hospitalised with Covid-19 by 80%.

If you do catch Covid-19 more than three weeks after being vaccinated, the vaccine cuts your chance of passing the virus on to people you live with by up to 50%.

In Haringey, the vaccine programme is being administered by the Federation of GPs in partnership with the NHS, NCL CCG and supported by Haringey Council.

**"We are delighted to reach this significant milestone"**

Everyone aged 30 years old and over is currently being invited to book their Covid-19 vaccine appointment.

Dr Will Maimaris, director of public health at Haringey Council said: "We are delighted to reach this significant milestone in the delivery of our vaccine programme in Haringey. It is really important that, as the economy



opens up, and we look forward to getting back to a more normal life, everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated, does so.

"We know that coronavirus has affected many people in the borough, with residents in our Black and minority ethnic communities having been more severely impacted. This is why we will continue our efforts to reach all groups to achieve equity of vaccine take-up right across Haringey."

If you are eligible for the vaccine but have not yet been invited by the NHS to take it, book your appointment by visiting: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/) or calling 119 for free.



# ADVERTISE WITH US

Our newspapers are a growing and valued part of the local community – loved by readers who want to read about what matters to them. Be part of that and advertise with us!

Our publications **Tottenham Community Press**, **Waltham Forest Echo**, **Enfield Dispatch**, and **EC1 Echo** cover a wide area of North-East London and part of The City.

We distribute 45,000 free copies to readers via local newsstands, community venues, and door-to-door, with a total estimated readership of 135,000 people.



## Example full page advert

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Action on clean air**

Adding to several other measures, the Greater London Authority (GLA) has announced a new scheme to encourage people to cycle to work. The scheme will offer a 20% discount on the cost of a bicycle for those who cycle to work. The GLA will also offer a 20% discount on the cost of a bicycle for those who cycle to work.

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thesekforde.com

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- Beef Buttered Lamb & Chips

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  - Vegan Chocolate Brownie
  - English Artisan Cheeses, Chutney & Crackers (x2)

“We’ve been advertising in Enfield Dispatch and Tottenham Community Press for just over a year, and it’s been really helpful to share vital public information about Covid-19 safety measures, as well as useful details about pharmacy services and flu vaccinations in the winter period.

It’s not only about sharing important health messages with our local community, but also that we’re helping support the very same community that we’re proud to be part of, with a newspaper that gives a platform to community and voluntary groups and partners, and covers important local issues”

**Georgie Agass**

Head of communications and engagement  
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust

Call **Klaudia** 07732 000 430  
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## ENVIRONMENT

# Protecting our parks and green spaces

By Quentin Given, *convenor, Haringey Climate Forum*

**T**he coronavirus lockdown has shown how important our parks and open spaces are, especially for people with no garden of their own – and that's a lot of people living in Tottenham.

It is important to relax amongst trees and wildflowers and hear birdsong and buzzing bees; so, it's good news that Haringey Council is working on a new plan for local nature. The Biodiversity Action Plan will come out for consultation in a few months. It will give high priority to accessing nature, involving people in learning about, and looking after our local wildlife.

At a well-attended meeting last month convened by Haringey Climate Forum, we heard from the council about how their new plan will put big emphasis on getting benefits for nature from new developments, whether that be mini-parks, tree planting or green roofs.

We were told that protecting designated sites of nature importance in Tottenham, like the Marshes and the cemetery will be a high priority, and that there will also be focus on creating wildlife corridors between existing green spaces. This could mean working with residents to create passages for hedgehogs between gardens, as well as nest boxes and wildlife ponds in areas that sit between parks and other open

spaces. This should also mean support for things like the Cloud Garden project in Bruce Grove.

Trees and woodlands will have their own plan to protect the existing stock of trees on streets and in parks, involving local people in looking after them, especially if we have more long, hot, dry summers.

The council acknowledged that ten years of austerity has left Haringey like many other boroughs under-resourced to meet our expectations; as a result, community efforts are needed too.

At the meeting, Sally Haywill of Lordship Rec spoke about the fantastic work

they have done, planting trees, creating rich grassland meadows and involving a wide range of people in the project. Ferry Lane Estate was also highlighted for its tree planting and watering, wild-flower meadows and hedges.

We face both a climate emergency and an ecological emergency, with wildlife disappearing across the world, and this is reflected locally. This is why Haringey Climate Forum is inviting people who'd like to become part of a borough-wide nature network to get in touch.

**The be kept informed, and to get involved:**  
Email [info@haringeyclimatforum.org.uk](mailto:info@haringeyclimatforum.org.uk)



## Tottenham High Road awarded £100,000

### High Road awarded share of £6m cultural fund

**T**ottenham High Road has been awarded £100,000 as part of a national scheme to revive local high streets.

Last month, Historic England announced that more than 60 High Streets Heritage Action Zones (HSHAZ) would receive substantial grants totalling £6million going to local arts organisations to create and deliver community-led cultural activities on their high streets over the next three years.

Tottenham High Road is one of four London high streets that will benefit from a total of almost £390,000.

The HSHAZ cultural programme (funded by the local grants scheme), will take place in tandem with the national commissions organised by Historic

England. For the national commissions, artists will work with communities and co-produce artworks inspired by England's changing high streets.

Tottenham's cultural programme explores where migration and retail intersect; and the influence it has on Tottenham High Road today. It will explore how the skills, talents and knowledge that migrants possessed impacted and pioneered industries, which in turn helped to shape communities.

Emily Gee, Regional Director, Historic England in London and the South East, said: "The High Streets Cultural Programme is such an important and exciting way of bringing people back to their cherished high streets in need

of love. We are working together to regenerate historic high streets through conservation and building work, and this community-led cultural activity programme will draw people back to enliven and shape these special places for the future."

The three other London high streets awarded the cultural funding are Harlesden, South Norwood, and Wentworth Street, Tower Hamlets.

Culture Minister Caroline Dinenage MP, said: "High streets are often the heart of our communities and should be places we all want to engage with and enjoy. These grants will help transform high streets into thriving cultural hubs, encouraging us to embrace all the joys our town centres have to offer."

## What could green jobs mean for Haringey?

### Creating green jobs growth opportunities

**I**n mid-April, Haringey residents came together to discuss green jobs and their importance for the borough, in an online event organised by Green New Deal Haringey. The event welcomed expert speakers from across the local non-profit, business, community and trade union landscape.

Green jobs creation is a live issue for the borough. Haringey has experienced the fastest rate of unemployment of any area in the country, and places in the east of the borough has been hit particularly hard, with nearly half of the workforce in the area either unemployed or on furlough at the start of February.

Green jobs include any work that provides a good livelihood while supporting a low carbon future, such as teaching, health and social care as well as more traditional green jobs like retrofitting homes. Data collated by Green New Deal UK estimates that around 91,000 green jobs could be created in London over two years – a figure that is set to rise to 221,000 over ten years.

Speaker Yvonne Field, founder and CEO of The Ubele Initiative, underlined the heavy economic price being paid by young people in the wake of the pandemic, particularly Black and ethnically diverse communities, who are 58% more likely to be unemployed than their white counterparts and 47% more likely to be on zero hours contracts. Ubele's work in this area includes supporting Black Rootz, an incubation project to scale up food growing communities led by Black and ethnically diverse groups, and co-stewarding Wolves Lane Centre, a space for sustainable growing, education, social enterprise and community engagement.

Edward Harlow, District Secretary of Haringey National Education Union, discussed how inadequate our education system currently is in preparing children for a rapidly changing world. He emphasised the need to equip them for a green economy and the kind of industries and jobs that will be available when they are adults.

Denis Fernando, climate campaigner, Friends of the Earth and Greener Jobs Alliance, presented Friends of the Earth's Emergency Plan on Green Jobs for Young People, which found that half a million young people aged 16-24 are currently unemployed and that this could hit a million after furlough ends.

Also taking part in the lively discussion was Despina Johnson, CEO, North London Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise and Enterprise Enfield, who revealed that small and medium sized enterprises account for 99.9% of the business population, and 60% of employment in the UK. Their recovery, productivity and sustainability into the future are therefore crucial. Despina concluded that it is important that we invest in skills for all people, particularly digital skills.

Green growth opportunities can be found in renewable energy, construction, transport, waste management, clean tech and freelance fields such as commercial energy assessment and consultancy. The number of green businesses in and around the borough indicate that this is a growing area and one to be actively encouraged.



# DISTRIBUTION



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- 12** Tottenham Green Pools and Fitness
- 13** Marcus Garvey Library
- 14** Tottenham Town Hall
- 15** The Palm
- 16** Downhills Park Cafe
- 17** Hunters Estate Agents
- 18** The Garden House
- 19** Hammonds Eye Practice
- 20** The Engine Room
- 21** Unite Students
- 22** VIP Graffiti Paint
- 23** The High Cross Pub
- 24** Cafe Lemon
- 25** Blighty Cafe
-  **NEWS STAND:**  
People's World Community Hub

Tottenham Community Press is available to pick up from dozens of locations, including cafes, libraries, community centres, pubs and more. We distribute 10,000 copies in total. Distribution is usually complete by the end of the first week of each month. The map shows a selection of our regular stockists, but is not an exhaustive list.

**If you would like to become a stockist  
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**Email** [tcp@socialspider.com](mailto:tcp@socialspider.com)

\* Note: we cannot guarantee each location will always stock the paper





# TOTTENHAM TALKING

*Tottenham Talking* is a show of works by [unclear] in Tottenham Photography Club, produced in collaboration with Homes for Haringey. [unclear] is curated by Stephen Furner, Infinity Bur [unclear] Amery. Turn to page 17 to find out more

Left Miguel de Melo  
Right Mustafa Suleman



Left David Rickets  
Middle Issy Harvey  
Right Infinity Bunce



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Left Byron Delgado  
Middle Steart Dean  
Right Diane Dalli



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## COMMUNITY



# Twelve months later Reflecting upon the first year of Edible London Food Hub

By Alex Fox, food hub coordinator, Edible London

If you head right off Broad Lane at the Deli Co, past Bodyworks Gym, then turn left at the end, you will see a dark passage lined with shutters. Behind one of these shutters is Highway House – part homeless shelter, part Church.

Every Thursday for the past year, a group of dedicated volunteers from Edible London have brought joy and energy to this unusual space, handing out freshly prepared meals to anyone in the community. We do not ask questions, everyone is welcome.

We started off a year ago handing out 300 meals to passers-by. We serve all, from families to local artists, and in twelve months we have distributed over 18,000 meals. We've grown from beginning as an experiment, to managing queues of people waiting for freshly prepared food, cooked on site with our partner chef Jax from Island Flavours.

At Edible London Food Hub, we believe no matter who you are, you could benefit from an evening of not having to cook, using that time to spend with family, friends or by yourself. Being cooked for should not only be available to those who can afford it – we could all do with a free meal.

The solidarity, passion and love we have encountered has been staggering. Regular beneficiaries who began collecting a meal

for themselves, have become food activists, taking ten meals and giving them out to their friends and neighbours. Bringing inspirational people from across Haringey together and allowing them to lead the change they want to see, has been one of the highlights of the food hub.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of staff and volunteers at Edible London, from the distribution team working behind the scenes, to the committed volunteers welcoming the community. We have relied on the support of key partners, such as Food For All, People's Army and Island Flavours.

Our success handing out food tells a sad story, as we are seeing many people from a wide range of backgrounds relying on food support. The impact of the pandemic has been brutal; we are serving more people who have lost jobs and income, more people who are not eligible for official support, and more who are slipping further into poverty.

In our second year, we will carry on getting food to those who need it at Highway House. We advocate for creating a sustainable, local economy that works for the people of Tottenham because long term change is needed to tackle these issues.

**Edible London Food Hub operates on Thursdays, 12.30-15.30 at Highway House, Unit 8, 2-8 Fountayne Road, N15 4QL, and on the last Thursday of every month they will now be distributing food from St Ann's Library, Cissbury Road, N15 5PU, 14.30-17.30.**

**To volunteer or donate:**  
Visit [ediblelondon.org/support-us](http://ediblelondon.org/support-us)

## Walking in the air

By Stacey Onyido, active families coordinator, The Engine Room

It all started with my then boyfriend Obi Onyido suggesting we take part in Tough Mudder. At the end of which he proposed to me! Of course, I said yes and two years ago we were married.

At the same time, The Engine Room appointed me as active families coordinator and I took on the challenge of getting up to 100 local families more active as part of the Laureus Active Change Haringey programme... And then came the pandemic.

The original concept of bringing families together to set collective activity goals was tough to deliver because we simply weren't able to gather families in The Engine Room on a monthly basis, and give them grants to go and help achieve their 'active' goals, such as losing weight, walking more miles or taking part in a certain number of new activities.

The break between lockdowns two and three gave us the opportunity to run some activities in the October half term, including going on ice skating trips and climbing at Stronghold.

In January we got busy developing a resource website for local families with more than 40 different locations where local families can go and get more active, from Hyde Park in the west, to Epping Forest in the east, providing public transport directions to and from Tottenham High Road.

After lockdown three we were able to re-start our activities with a fabulous day taking 30 people



Obi and Stacey Onyido

to do the Spurs Dare Skywalk, scaling the roof of Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. This activity was subsidised by Spurs and we were very grateful to be able to get free photos of each participant sent to us after the fabulous experience! We highly recommend it.

We are planning further activities as the programme has now been extended to the summer. We are also hopeful that we will be able to develop the project in future, continuing to deliver exciting activities for families in the Tottenham Hale area.

Children and young people in particular have been much less active during the pandemic, so this project is an opportunity for the whole family to get active together this year and beyond.

**If your family would like to get involved, register at: [www.activefamilies.tottenham.co.uk](http://www.activefamilies.tottenham.co.uk)**

**For more information about programmes run by The Engine Room email: [info@engineroom.org.uk](mailto:info@engineroom.org.uk) or call 0208 808 5490.**

***“This project is an opportunity for the whole family to get active together”***



Scaling Tottenham Hotspur stadium



## NEWS

# Rising stars

## Tottenham bakers star in *Bake Off: The Professionals*

**A**rtisan bakers Geanina and George Ursache are taking part in the current series of *Bake Off: The Professionals*.

The duo, who run the award-winning Prestige Patisserie in Enterprise Row, Rangemoor Road, will be entering the competition in heat 2 on Tuesday 15th June, ready to share their passion for baking with viewing audiences.

Team captain Geanina has been working in patisserie for more than 20 years, having begun her training in Romania when she was 14.

George, who initially worked as an engineer began working in bakeries and patisseries when the pair moved to the UK – using his background in science to help approach the science of patisserie.

Geanina cites George as the one who gave her the encouragement and confidence to open her first venture. Initially they ran the business out of their one-bedroom flat before dedication and hard work paid off and they found permanent premises – the pair have never looked back.

Known for producing a range of hand-crafted savoury dishes and sweet treats that are freshly baked on site, the couple are prepared to take on the *Bake Off* challenge and impress the judges.

Revealing their participation in the show on social media, the couple said: 'Our hearts are bursting with joy to finally share this news with you. We're looking forward to sharing this experience with you all.'

For more information: [prestigepatisserie.com](http://prestigepatisserie.com)

*"We're looking forward to sharing this experience with you all"*

Geanina and George Ursache



Advertisement



### Supporting independence at home for people with dementia

**Would you be interested in helping us?**

We would like to invite family or friends who support someone living with dementia to try out a new intervention (NIDUS-family) to help people living with dementia stay independent and remain at home.

#### What will happen if I take part?

- You will have the opportunity to discuss the study and ask questions.
- You will be asked to complete questionnaires with a researcher at the start of the study and then 6 & 12 months after the initial call.
- If you are offered NIDUS-family, a researcher will explore what is important to you and the person you support, help develop strategies with you and signpost you to services. This might include support with getting out and about, staying healthy and safe, improving sleep, help at home and making future plans.
- We will offer you £60 in vouchers to thank you for taking part.

**If you are interested in hearing more please contact...**

Jessica Budgett, UCL (University College London)

Email: [dop.nidus@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:dop.nidus@ucl.ac.uk)

Tel no: 07899 858 684

**NIDUS**  
Centre of Excellence for Independence at Home



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# BTEC VIP DAY

## 24 JUNE 2021 9.30AM-3PM

Attend our VIP Day and have an interview - a real chance for you to see why we are **#MoreThanACollege**  
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Open event, interview and offer all in one!

[www.haringey6.ac.uk](http://www.haringey6.ac.uk)



#MoreThanACollege



## FEATURE



Credit: Rosie Alice Wilson

# Kick, push, roll

## The skatepark bringing people together in the heart of Tottenham Hale

**Rae Smith, Founder and Chair, Keep Pushing Co Ltd**

Tottenham has a growing skate scene that has nowhere to skate during the winter months, and a huge community of skaters and artists lacking in opportunities.

I had been working as an events manager at Grow Tottenham in Ashley Road, but lost my job when events stopped because of Covid-19 restrictions. I'd been running inclusive beginner skate sessions for years and had already worked with Nike Sb, Vans, Young Hackney and more, but always had to stop teaching in the winter months because of bad weather, so, building a sheltered skatepark to teach in had been a long-time dream.

With nothing happening at Grow throughout lockdown, I asked Paul the owner if I could use the time to build a skatepark with space for teaching art too, and he agreed.

I started a go fund me to raise funds and began making plans for the section of site that I was allowed to build on. The momentum built as the money and support started to increase, the team grew bigger and bigger, and the project took on a life of its own. Eight months later, here we are – about to open this month!

Keep Growing is a project set up by creative collective Keep Pushing Co Ltd, working in partnership with Grow Tottenham and local co working space Tottenham Textiles (Tottex) to create a small, beginner friendly skatepark and art space for the whole community to come together and learn skateboarding, roller-skating, screen printing and more.

Our base in Grow Tottenham is a temporary site that is slated for redevelopment, but it is expected to remain until at least October 2022. Keep Pushing Co Ltd, however, is an ongoing company that aims to claim and build spaces in the area for years to come.

We're providing a sheltered space from the rain throughout winter months for skaters and roller-skaters of all levels

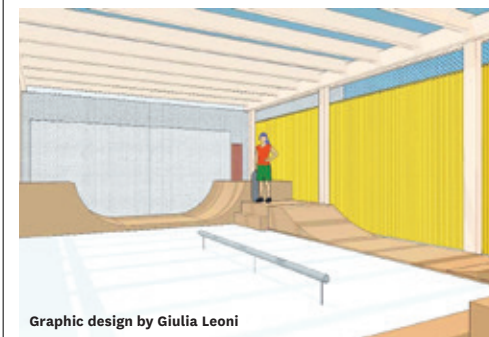


Credit: Callum Baker

to come together, progress and enjoy themselves as well as providing jobs and opportunities for members of these communities. It's only a small space, with two mini ramps and an area of concrete, but I hope we can connect with enough people to show the need for such a place in Tottenham and move on to a bigger, more permanent indoor space in the future.

We are focused on creating a safe space for members of the LGBTQIA+ community, people of colour, and minorities within the art and skateboarding scenes, largely because there is a lack of such spaces within London – however, we welcome everyone through our doors.

Keep Growing will bring segregated communities within Tottenham together, tackling both physical and mental health issues by getting people active, teaching new skills and most importantly providing a safe space for people from all walks of life to have fun.



Graphic design by Giulia Leoni

Skateboarding and roller-skating have seen explosive growth in popularity over the last five years as previous assumptions about who can participate in these activities have begun to falter. Women, members of the queer community, beginner adults, members of marginalised communities, young children and older men returning to an old hobby during lockdown are flooding local skateparks.

With skateboarding now an Olympic sport, and with one of the UK entrants being 13-year-old, Sky Brown, barriers to this activity are coming crashing down, and we are excited to be at the forefront of this new movement.

We currently have an opportunity to shape the redevelopment of the area and bring about positive changes resulting in good use of space for the community. We believe that the future development of the area must include safe, accessible, indoor spaces for skateboarding, roller-skating, music, events, and creative and artistic practices for the community as a whole.

Many organisations are supporting us by donating their time, money, and resources to help build the skatepark. Once we're open, people can come to our creative lessons, workshops, exhibitions, film screenings, and events, or just have a skate!

We hope you will join us on this journey into the future of Tottenham, sharing your own ideas for events and ways to use the space.

To find out more, support, or get involved, visit [www.keeppushingco.com](http://www.keeppushingco.com) and follow @keeppushingco on Instagram





## Sign up to the TCP newsletter

We have recently launched a weekly newsletter to keep readers up-to-date with the latest news, features and comment from the TCP website

**Sign up:** [tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk](https://tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk)

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## APPLE-Tree Study: Preventing dementia in people with memory problems



Economic and Social Research Council

SUPPORTED BY

**NIHR**

National Institute for Health Research

### Would you be interested in helping us?

We are looking for people with mild memory problems to try out our new wellbeing course!

### What will happen if I take part?

- The course involves 10 fun, interactive video- call group sessions over 6 months, aimed at helping people change their diet, activity levels, and wellbeing in ways that can improve memory.
- Half of participants are offered the wellbeing course; and all participants complete questionnaires with a researcher over the phone or video- call, and then again one and two years later. This is so we can compare people who do and don't receive the sessions to see if the wellbeing course helps memory.
- We will offer you £60 in vouchers to thank you for taking part.

### If you are interested in hearing more, please contact:

Janine Brierley or Noa Solomon

Email: [dop.apple-tree@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:dop.apple-tree@ucl.ac.uk)

Phone: 07823 685922/07823 685824





## ARTS &amp; CULTURE



Residents view the exhibition  
All images courtesy of Stephen Furner

# If these walls could talk

## Local photographers showcase work in Tottenham Talking exhibition

By Stephen Furner and Infinity Bunce, Tottenham Photography Club

It was another lockdown Zoom call. As always there was frustration. We did not want to spend time just chatting on Zoom about the few opportunities where someone had managed to get a couple of snaps while out exercising. We wanted to get out and do photography as a group.

In the discussion we talked about how there hadn't been any opportunity for a physical gallery exhibition this year. A member pointed out that there were loads of empty walls in the supported housing complex for older people he had recently visited. Another commented that it must be really dull being stuck inside, unable to go out and with nothing interesting on the walls to look at. This was where two plus two became four.

As a photography club we had a ready supply of interesting photographs and here were local buildings with people in them who could benefit from

seeing them. It was in this tense and unlikely setting that the first seeds of a collaboration between the Tottenham Photography Club and housing organisation Homes for Haringey (HfH) emerged.

It's easy to identify an opportunity but the path to implementation was not always so straightforward. How on earth do we bring our photographs and their potential local audience together? We

needed to find a contact who could open the door to a local supported housing complex and be happy to let us in with an armful of photos to hang on the walls.

After several conversations and various email exchanges we found ourselves trying to explain our ideas to Jessica Amery, a projects and activities coordinator at HfH. She did not say 'no'. Working in close collaboration with HfH, we forged a vague bundle of ideas



and good will about hanging pictures, into the reality of the *Tottenham Talking* exhibition at Lowry House.

An open call was made to the photographers in the club for images in keeping with the theme of photos of Tottenham by people from Tottenham. There were more than 50 images submitted, with a final 20 selected for the exhibition. Not only did these images need to meet the usual high-quality criteria for an exhibition print but they also needed to be relevant to their primary audience (the residents of the housing complex), and the setting in which they were being placed.

***“The exhibition has been quite transformational for all those involved”***

Lowry House residents stopped and looked at the photos as they were being hung up on the walls of the lobby area, commenting on how nice they looked, telling Jessica they wanted to “keep them up forever”. The residents say the photos make the space feel more ‘homey’, and that they didn’t realise



there was so much around them to see in Tottenham.

It's not only the residents who like the photos, people working on site are also enjoying this colourful addition to the building complex. The exhibition has been quite transformational for all those involved.

The next steps currently planned are to host an open house photography event next month at Lowry House, when residents can invite their loved ones to see their photos and have a professional photo taken together.

**For more information:**  
[tottenhamphotographyclub.org](http://tottenhamphotographyclub.org)

**‘Tottenham Talking’ runs till Monday 2nd August. Lowry House hub and cluster residents are welcome to visit the exhibition. Viewings must be booked in advance. Covid-19 safety measures will be in place. Contact Jessica Amery if you’d like to attend:**  
Email [jessica@homesforharingey.org](mailto:jessica@homesforharingey.org)  
Call 07815 653 631



## YOUTH

# The Battle of Wood Green

## Fighting racism through art and activism



Students Ruth Reid (left) and Melissa De Melo (right) with their artwork

By Melissa De Melo, student at Commerce House, Haringey Learning Partnership

**T**he Battle of Wood Green took place on 23rd April 1977. It saw the National Front (NF) be confronted and stopped from marching through Haringey by 3000 demonstrators. The NF were a racist political party.

The community organised themselves to stand up to them and it was successful. Our art project helps to remind everyone about that moment in our history.

The battle against racism goes on today. We only need to think of George Floyd, Stephen Lawrence and Breonna Taylor. Our project reminds everyone that we can fight racism and we can win.

My artwork is a picture of how

my life is to me. It is a powerful image as it shows that on the inside I am going through stuff, but on the outside, I fake a smile and don't let anyone think anything other than that I smile a lot; but deep down I am not happy. I know I am not the only one who feels like that.

I am really proud that I created something with the help of my art teacher, Ms Robinson and artist, Carleen De Sozer. My friend Ruth Reid, who also took part in the project is proud of her painting too, saying: "I felt proud because I was representing my area and my countries."

It was great to see our artwork being unveiled: I would like to thank Sarah Jones and Tony Healey from Haringey Parks who made that really special for us.

What me and the other students made will stay on display in Ducketts Common for many years. I hope that any young women who walk past my painting see it and realise that it is not just them that feel that way. Maybe it will help them not to feel so alone.

Maybe all our paintings will remind everyone that Haringey is a great place to live and we are strong because we welcome everyone in our community.

**Head to Ducketts Common to see the outdoor art displayed on an electricity substation located in the south of the play area.**



# Total football

## Students excel in sports development programme

**L**ast month, 17 students from Tottenham had the opportunity to visit the University of Cambridge as part of Estudiantes London, a sport-for-development club that uses the power of sport to drive academic excellence.

The club draws most of its participants from Haringey Sixth Form College but is open to anyone aged 13–19 who is committed to their studies. Students must show an excellent attitude toward their education to be able to participate.

Matches such as the one against Cambridge serve two purposes. Firstly, their prestige helps drive the project forward and gives students an exhibition match to strive

for. Secondly, and more importantly they are there to remind students that their talent and excellence can see them gain outstanding opportunities if they show the necessary dedication.

This year, the Estudiantes team, who compete in the LNFS England league (futsal) have travelled across the UK to take on teams from varying levels of the football and futsal pyramid, including a tour and match at Loughborough University – one of the world's leading sports universities.

The students were reunited with their former teammates Fabio Teixeira and Tenzin Dhongak. Both are graduates from Estudiantes and Haringey Sixth Form College.

Athlete Owen Locke is a great example of the work of Estudiantes. In the last year, Owen has gained his FA Level 1 in football and futsal coaching qualification, refereeing licence, and is currently taking his FA Level in Talent ID. As one of the top young futsal goalkeepers in England, he has recently joined Genesis Futsal Club and been a standout performer in the Futsal Premier League.

Despite the complications of Covid-19, students have participated in over 200 training sessions across futsal, football and volleyball since September 2020, with regular trips and showcase matches organised to provide outstanding opportunities for the participants.

Projects like Estudiantes are relevant across the country as public services for all – but particularly the young – however, they continue to be decimated. Estudiantes aims to serve the young people of London, and particularly Tottenham, reminding them of their excellence.

Russ Lawrance, CEO Haringey Sixth Form Educational Trust said: "The work that Estudiantes has done at Haringey Sixth Form College has really boosted participation and opportunities for the college

students; it has strengthened relationships, and helped students cope in challenging times.

"The students now feel more comfortable communicating with their teammates, staff and other students. The added bonus is also the really-high quality experience this has generated for them – it's not only inspirational, it raises expectations: this is the 'can do/will do' attitude which is so important."

**In you're interested in joining contact the club on 07930 395 314 or info@estudiantes.co.uk**



The team at Loughborough University



## LITERATURE

# A strong sense of solidarity

Karin Lock reviews *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

One noticeable impact of the past year's lockdowns has been the disruption of land migration, particularly at the Mexican-US border. As a result of pandemic restrictions, asylum seekers from across the world have been stranded in Mexico. With migrant shelters closed (so no access to food or protection), these extra hardships worsen an already urgent situation.

Some are internal migrants, seeking safety from the casual and gruesome narco-violence engulfing the country. As warring cartels compete for territory, drug markets have mushroomed. Once touristy, Acapulco is no longer known for tequila sunrises and vibrant sunsets, it is the new epicentre of gang warfare. It has the highest murder rate in Mexico, and countless have 'disappeared'.

Acapulco is where Jeanine Cummins' epic bestseller *American Dirt* commences. The opening chapter describes a brutal massacre at a barbecue where main character Lydia loses 16 members of her immediate family. She flees the crime scene with her son Luca, petrified that assassins will hunt them down and mindful that corrupt police and lookouts are everywhere.

Pre-bloodbath, Lydia was an independent bookshop owner who paid the monthly cartel tax. But now Lydia is in denial; she is one of those who "insulate themselves from the ugliness...because they couldn't handle it".

*American Dirt* is a frighteningly realistic story of a mother and son's flight cross-country to the frontier. Covering 1600 miles in 18 days,

the pair must ride The Beast. This is a freight train from which passengers jump on and off, whilst attempting to avoid immigration, crushed limbs, and criminals who thief or kidnap.

***"American Dirt is part of an ongoing conversation about the border crisis, migrants' rights, and the devastating drugs war"***



The trip is extremely dangerous warns a priest: "if it's possible for you to turn back, do so now...this path is only for people who have no choice, no other option." For women, the journey is even more perilous because sexual assault is "the price of getting to *el norte* (North America)". Or as one female puts it: "your body is an ATM machine".

This is a well-researched novel

that reveals the complexity of compulsory migration, which the most brutal cartel has infiltrated at every stage of the journey. They impersonate immigration agents to threaten and extort money. They bribe US

Border Patrol guards and control the guides who lead migrants through the desert. The terror felt by the characters is palpable.

The book is also an exploration of human compassion and generosity: the kindness of strangers. Women give out free food and chocolate when the train stops; well-wishers with garden hoses refill water bottles; one guy acts as a security guard in his neighbourhood. These moments of hope lift the anxiety permeating the main characters' internal dialogues.

Along the way, advice and tips are shared about where to get on and off; which routes are safer; what not to do or say. This is the knowledge that will help them survive. The strong sense of solidarity between travelling companions exists because misery and trauma are what they all share. The majority are desperately escaping violence, hunger, or climate change.

*American Dirt* is part of an ongoing conversation about the border crisis,

migrants' rights, and the devastating drugs war that has claimed 150,000 lives in the last decade. It is menacing that corruption is so deeply interwoven at state security level. However, the book's title also hints at several uncomfortable truths. It is the drug habits of US citizens that fuel this war and it is US manufacturers that provide the guns and ammunition.

## POETRY CORNER

Credit: Stephen Furner



### The Coot Bird

A low, low chain of plastic mark off this part of the River Lee, and on a ledge, formed by lichen and silt the Coot bird washes itself, dipping

its white spotted head in short rain dance movements, it curves around itself, pecking, rubbing its strong beak on tail, back, wings – deep beneath – while the Lee's liquid bounce down from feathers devoid of light.

Done,  
The fledgling bird hoists  
its cropped-like wings as if to fly,  
lower them, then begin to edge along  
the thin ledge, careful as on rope stretched tight  
one lobe foot after the other.

Up close it nudges another.  
Call a throaty "cut cut"  
and swims off.  
Frilled feet steering the way.

By C. Edwards

### Persephone

The blossom is bursting,  
light flows and light flits –  
The foliage's thirsty,  
it drinks and it drips –  
The clouds roll and curdle,  
ephemeral scripts –

From person to person  
leaps radiant mirth –  
When spring's effervescent  
and buoyant the earth –  
Life breathes and life blossoms,  
and then blossoms verse!

By Christina Egan

Send us your poetry

Email: [tcp@socialspider.com](mailto:tcp@socialspider.com)



# Support independent local journalism

## What we do

Here at *Tottenham Community Press* we do things differently. We combine professional journalism with voluntary contributions from people who live and work in the borough and create content which is responsive to and reflective of the community.

These are challenging times for print media with many newspapers closing and advertising revenue in decline, but our not-for-profit model offers a new approach to creating local journalism which is inclusive and accountable.

## How you can help

As a not-for-profit publication we rely on the generous support of our community. We look to our readers, who recognise the value of independent journalism, to help support us.

You can do this by becoming a member either as an individual or as an organisation. See the rewards opposite and once you've decided what package you would like, visit our website: [tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/join](http://tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/join)

## Individual rewards

### £3 per month upwards:

Name in print and online, pin badge

### £5 per month upwards:

Name in print and online, pin badge, tote bag, paper posted to you every month

## Organisational rewards

### £10 per month:

Name in print and online, 10% discount on advertising

### £20 per month:

Name and logo in print and online, 20% discount on advertising

### £50 per month:

Name and logo in print and online, 40% discount, six free small adverts per year



## Member Spotlight

Having lived in N17 for 17 years, and in north London for more than half my life, I now consider myself a Londoner, and more importantly, a Tottenhamite. I am so proud of my area and I am constantly amazed by the array of community organisations that nourish the most diverse population in Europe. My dad was also a Spurs supporter and I have fond childhood memories of watching Ardiles and Villa light up the pitch with their Argentinian flair, paving the way for international players in British clubs.

I picked up my first copy of *Tottenham Community Press* in November 2018 and was so impressed with the quality and layout that I wanted to be part of it. By becoming a member, I can sustain a free newspaper that is entirely homegrown, foregrounding local issues and achievements to showcase Tottenham in a positive and inclusive way. TCP is literally funded by its membership (and a small bit of advertising) and this is what makes it independent and relevant.

Now more than ever we need to support our local economy, community and culture, and TCP does just that. It also provides a platform for local people of all ages who enjoy writing and have something to say. Sharing our stories – past and present – can give us both pride of place and a sense of belonging in the ever-changing city landscape. Tottenham has always been at the cutting edge of politics and culture so it is fitting that we have our own paper to celebrate that uniqueness.

**Karin Lock**

## Current members

Lynda Jessopp, Michael Buchanan, Susie Fairweather, Peter Corley, Ole Hedemann, Andrew Leimdorfer, Amanda Lillywhite, Caesar Gordon, Susan Moyse, Cherry McAskill, Ed Anderton, Karin Lock, Sarah Moore, Robert Lindsay-Smith, Alice Kemp-Habib, Mark Adams, Neil & Julie Le Milliere, Emily Darko, Quentin Given, Adzowa Kwabla-Oklikah, Ann Walsh, Harshavardhan Bhat, Diana Shelley, Emmie Robson, Nasser Baston, Jean Gray, Nick Farrer, Rennah Satsuki Mills, Mick Egan, Adam Saltiel, Christina Egan, Joe Culleton, Peter Richards, Joe Reeve, Freddy Pitel, Alyson Bradley, Orla Falls, A Fairer Chance CIC, Fiona Brindle, Lila Wisbeach, Ben Rider, Carsten Jung, Andrew Johnston, Julian Giddings, Juliane Heider, Niv Hachlili, Cathy and Greg Abbott, Neville Collins, Sally Sturgeon, Narmada Thiranagama, Ruth Valentine.

**Visit** [tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/join](http://tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/join)