

News

Local man, Majed Hassan is killed in Darfur, following militia attack

— Page 3

Focus

Covid-19: One year on. TCP looks at the local impact of coronavirus

— Page 6–9

Feature

The local cycling campaign with a far-reaching impact

— Page 13

Community

Community collaboration and food support: How working together to tackle food insecurity benefits the community

— Page 15

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Local news that matters to you



Homes for homeless halted

Council risks losing GLA funding to build modular homes for the homeless, as development plans are deferred

By Luchia Robinson

An application to provide 37 modular homes for the borough's homeless residents has been deferred by Haringey's Planning Sub Committee for the second time.

Apprehensions about the proposed site in Ermine Road N15 (Seven Sisters ward) include: overcrowding; limited amenity space; increased pollution; and feeling unsafe, with concerns about safeguarding local children.

The first deferral in January was to explore removing Block A of the three-block proposal. This was particularly contested because of fears the two-storey building would overlook the nearby residences, and that the extra residents would cause overcrowding.

The amended plan discussed at last month's planning meeting included keeping Block A, but adding louvered screens to the front, upper level.

Robbie Erbmman, Haringey Council's Assistant Director for Housing, denied overcrowding would be an

issue. He said: "The removal of Block A will involve the removal of homes and every single one of these homes is a life changing opportunity. For us not to maximise the number of these life changing opportunities would be us doing a disservice to the residents in our borough.

"We cannot delay this scheme any further, lives depend on it."

Haringey Council was awarded funding from the GLA's Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme to build 38 units (37 one-person supported living

homes at 24sqm, and one office). The proposed plan also includes 38 cycle parking spaces, one disabled car parking space, and one space for emergency deliveries.

Levels of homelessness in Haringey are high and the plans for modular homes at the Ermine Road site, although temporary (seven years because the plot is earmarked for Crossrail 2), have been hailed as a means of rapidly meeting the demand for homes.

However, some local residents are concerned that there will be an

increase in anti-social behaviour and crime as a result of the modular homes being built.

Seven Sisters ward councillor, Cllr Barbara Blake (Independent) said: "The redesign is wholly inadequate and does not address the concerns raised by this committee or by residents.

"In general, because Block A is remaining, there will be a lack of open space, along with these very small modular units, for the people who will be living in them.

"This is an area with high levels of crime, there are already problems with anti-social behaviour and street drinking in Ermine Road and the High Road in general. This site is totally unsuitable for this development."

Cllr Blake said the consultation process had been "inadequate and flawed," and that Ermine Road residents had been "maligned" and had not had their thoughts or views considered properly.

The Planning Committee's second deferral decision last month was for the applicant to consider removing Block A, or taking the top floor off to reduce the numbers of homes on the site. The decision saw five votes in favour of deferral (Labour), four votes against deferral (three Lib Dem, one Labour) and one abstention (Labour).

Continued on Page 2

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WELCOME

Steadfast In Difficulties

March 2021
Nº. 44

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.

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Birds in flight at The Garden of Peace, Tottenham Cemetery By Behlul Sulimani

To see more turn to pages 10–11

An introduction from the editor

Hello, welcome to issue 44. March marks a year since the nation went into its first Covid-19 lockdown. In this edition, TCP looks at the impact the virus has had in the community (p.6–9).

Changes to the local landscape sees Tottenham residents invited to take part in consultations for: low traffic neighbourhoods in Bruce Grove, St Ann's and part of West Green (p.3); housing improvements at Broadwater Farm (p.4); and development proposals for homes at the St Ann's Hospital site (p.4).

While plans to build modular homes for the homeless have been halted (front page), Karin Lock speaks to Verral Paul-Walcott from the c86erz Street Team about his campaign to help street sleepers, locally and across the capital (p.13).

Do you have a story to share? If so, get in touch: tcp@socialspider.com

Luchia Robinson, Editor

Clarification

The building shown on the front page of the February 2021 edition was not one of the buildings directly affected by the cladding related issues raised in the article.

Continued from Page-1

Molly Carter, a volunteer with homeless outreach group, Haringey Streets Kitchen, said: "To think about reducing the number of homes made available in the development feels like a real shame, and maybe it doesn't have the best interest of the rough sleepers at heart.

"Objectors have been talking about homeless people as inherently anti-social or inherently criminal [...], as if all rough sleepers are inherently engaged in that kind of behaviour.

"People keep citing residents' concerns, but who's thinking about the homeless people? Homeless people living in Haringey are also Haringey residents; just because they don't have the privilege of owning a home or being able to rent, they are still Haringey constituents – they are still members of our community."

Molly added: "To comment on the planning application for this development itself, you have to submit your address and your postcode, so rough sleepers have been excluded from the process of talking about the development. So, not

only are the lives and wellbeing of our rough sleepers at risk, there is also an issue of local democracy in ensuring that people are being represented and that their voices are being heard."

Cllr Luke Cawley-Harrison (Lib Dem, Crouch End), Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and a member of the planning sub-committee, moved for the proposals to go ahead. He said: "To have Haringey Council Labour councillors block proposals made by their own council to house 37 of our most vulnerable residents on the grounds of too many units is a decision I find difficult to comprehend.

"This application has now been deferred for a second time due to too many units on the site, despite the units being no taller than the two-storey terrace houses around it. Yet we see huge tower blocks, densely packed around areas like Tottenham Hale voted through by this committee time and time again.

Cllr Cawley-Harrison added: "The significant benefits of a managed, housing first scheme like this one, are well evidenced, and I hope that this deferral does not lead to Haringey missing out on the GLA funding for this project."

NEWS

Local man killed in Darfur

By Alastair Ball

Tottenham resident and Haringey Welcome supporter Majed Hassan was killed in Darfur, Sudan in January after being caught up in fighting between militias.

Majed, who was also known as Sharif Barko, was killed when an attack broke out on a displaced person camp. He had been attempting to help women and children escape the camp when he was found by armed men, beaten and shot dead.

The siege on the camp was a revenge attack for the killing of an Arab herdsman by a member of the Masalit tribe.

Lucy Nabijou, campaign co-ordinator for Haringey Welcome, said: "He was just a remarkable person. He was highly intelligent. He was highly compassionate and caring, he had enormous integrity."

Majed was born in Sendikoro, Darfur, but later fled the country following conflict in the region, which killed his first wife and two sons. He arrived in the UK in 2003 and was granted refugee status in 2005, settling in Tottenham.

Majed had returned to Darfur in November 2020 to meet his newborn daughter, after the death of his second wife, who had died in childbirth. Majed's cousin paid tribute to him by saying: "He was a very kind and a lovely person."

Lucy said: "Despite everything he went through, he was always able to rise above feelings of bitterness. He had a way of trusting in the best in people, even though he'd been repeatedly let down and seriously traumatised."

Civil war has raged in Darfur since 2003 between rebel groups and the Sudanese

government, and between nomadic Arabs, the Masalit tribe and other settled farmers.

The UN estimates that 300,000 people have been killed and over 3 million displaced by the conflict.

Majed was a supporter of Haringey Welcome, an organisation that campaigns for "fairness, dignity and respect for migrants and refugees".

He was amongst a delegation that travelled to Brussels in 2019 to present a petition to the EU highlighting the impact a No Deal Brexit would have on refugees.

In a 2019 interview ahead of the trip, Majed said that he hoped sharing his story would make a difference for refugees. "[I have to go to Brussels because I have some experience of this, I have been through this myself.] Refugees really need help."

When discussing the conflict in Darfur, he said: "When I was there, there was a lot of problems – civil war. The government was always giving arms to other people who were coming to kill us. There was killing everywhere. Everywhere, you can see people dying."



Majed Hassan
Credit John Howard

"He was just a remarkable person"

Industrial warehouse complex to be built in Tottenham

Industrial developer SEGRO has secured planning permission from Haringey Council and the Greater London Authority to develop an industrial estate in Tottenham.



Computer generated image of SEGRO Park Tottenham

The 190,000 sq ft estate called SEGRO Park Tottenham will redevelop the former Safehouse Self Storage facility at 555 White Hart Lane, which has remained vacant since a fire in September 2017.

The development will be split over eight units and is expected to create 255 jobs.

Cllr Gideon Bull, cabinet member for local investment and economic growth, said: "SEGRO Park Tottenham will be a high quality sustainable industrial park that will attract business investment into the borough and create new job opportunities for the local community."

Alan Holland, SEGRO's Managing Director, Greater London, said: "SEGRO Park Tottenham will be a game changer for industrial development and will show what

can be done to meet our environmental responsibilities as property developers.

"The increasing demand from our customers and the wider market for space ever closer to the end consumer supports our decision

"SEGRO Park Tottenham will be a game changer for industrial development"

to build this estate speculatively and we're excited to bring forward this development and the positive impact it will bring to the local employment market and economy."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Residents engagement on Low Traffic Neighbourhoods scheme underway

Haringey Council is asking residents and businesses to provide their views on the borough's proposed Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN) scheme.

The scheme aims to increase active travel, promote the safety of residents and support a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic by slowing the pace of traffic.

In December, the council secured over £860,000 funding through Transport for London's (TfL) Streetspace Fund to start work on three new LTNs in the borough: St Ann's, Bruce Grove ward (and part of West Green), and Bounds Green.

An initial allocation of £145,000 has been made available to begin community engagement and design development.

Cllr Matt White, cabinet member for planning and strategic transport, said: "The launch of this engagement exercise around the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods is a step in the right direction for reducing carbon emissions in our borough, promoting the health and safety of our community and making our neighbourhoods more pleasant places to live.

"We're keen to hear residents' views because we want to shape any proposed works to suit the needs of local people – ultimately the people who will be most affected.

"I know responding to engagement opportunities right now might not be at the top of everyone's agenda, but I urge residents to get involved and have their say on these LTNs."

For more information about the low-traffic neighbourhood scheme:

Visit haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/travel/transport-strategy/low-traffic-neighbourhoods-haringey

For interactive maps of the Tottenham wards:

Visit stannstnmap.commonplace.is
Visit tottenhambrucegroveltn.commonplace.is

These maps will be live until Sunday, 7th March. Feedback can be sent via:

Email StAnnsLTN@Haringey.gov.uk / BruceGroveLTN@haringey.gov.uk
Call 020 8489 3433
Post: Transport Planning, Haringey Council, 40 Cumberland Road, Wood Green N22 7SG

NEWS

Haringey’s failure to deliver housing targets

Leader rejects claims that countil has lost control of housing after government test failure

By Simon Allin,
Local Democracy Reporter

The leader of Haringey Council has denied claims the local authority has “lost control of planning” after the borough failed to hit a key homes target.

Cllr Joseph Ejiofor blamed private developers for the under-delivery of housing after official figures revealed the number of homes built in the borough during the past three years was 2,636 – 60% of the target.

Haringey is one of eight London boroughs – including neighbouring Enfield – now placed in a category of “presumption in favour of sustainable development” after failing the government’s housing delivery test.

It means developers could find it easier to have housing schemes approved and be more likely to win planning appeals.

Cllr Dawn Barnes (Crouch End), Haringey Lib Dem spokesperson on housing, said: “With a council house waiting list of over 10,000 households and rising homelessness, Haringey is desperately in need of more housing. Now we see that Labour are not only failing on delivery of social homes, they are failing on delivery of any homes at all.

“If Labour had properly engaged with residents and developers, we would still be in full control of our planning processes. Now, thanks to their inaction, the council may be forced to approve totally unsuitable developments, which is something no-one in Haringey wants to see.”

The National Planning Policy Framework, which sets out government planning policies for England, states that the



Leader of Haringey Council,
Cllr Joseph Ejiofor
Credit: Luchia Robinson

presumption in favour of sustainable development “does not change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision-making.”

It adds that where an application conflicts with an up-to-date development plan, permission should not usually be granted.

Development plans, also known as local plans, are drawn up by the council in consultation with residents and include policies used by planning committees when making decisions.

Cllr Ejiofor (Labour, Bruce Grove) rejected claims by the Liberal Democrats that the council had “lost control of planning.”

The leader said: “I can assure residents that Haringey Council’s local plan still takes precedence in planning decisions. The council has not had its planning

powers curbed because it has failed to meet housing targets.

“Councils have power to grant planning permission for building housing. Once this is done, it is beholden on private developers to meet housing targets.

“I’m proud that, as of 2020, over 4,500 homes with planning permission are being built in our borough. Planning permission for a further 3,700 homes has been granted, but building work has not yet commenced.

“Haringey Council continues to do everything within its power to deliver housing for our residents. Blame for under-delivery can be laid solely at the feet of private developers, once again backing up Haringey Labour’s call to bring council services back in house to empower local authorities and local communities.”

Residents encouraged to take part in the Census

By Luchia Robinson

Council leader, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor is encouraging residents to take part in the 2021 Census.

Decisions on the future of hospitals, schools, transport and other public services across England and Wales will be based on the information gathered from the once-in-a-decade survey, happening on Sunday, 21st March.

The census will record the size of communities, and any related health, social and economic changes, in addition to providing insight into the pandemic and EU exit.

Pete Benson, census director of oper-

ations said: “In light of the coronavirus pandemic, we need this up-to-date information to help shape vital services for the years to come more urgently than ever before and we are making sure everyone can be safely counted in line with all government guidance.”

First results will be available within twelve months.

Cllr Ejiofor said: “The census determines the share of national resources that the council gets because it puts our population in the national context.

“Typically, we get the situation where many people just don’t fill in the census form – I don’t want us to get into that cir-

cumstance now; I want people to actively go and fill in the census so we understand the residents that we are providing services for.

“I just need to reiterate to people that details of the census are not shared with the council, they are not shared with national government, the taxman, or the immigration department; it is simply for statistical purposes.

“It is important that people fill in the census form because that is one of the things that they can do to help Haringey get the share of national resources that we deserve.”

For more information: census.gov.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Broadwater Farm Estate consultation

Haringey Council and Homes for Haringey are holding a consultation on the improvements proposed for the Broadwater Farm Estate.

Housing blocks, Tangmere and Northolt will be replaced because of structural failures, the open spaces and recreation areas are set to be improved, and refurbishments are planned for existing homes on the estate.

Residents are urged to share their views on the regeneration proposal.

The consultation is until 21st March. Ways you can contribute:

- **By post using the free-post return envelope or sending a letter to:** Shelley Rahman, S105 Consultation, 639 High Road, Tottenham, London, N17 8AA
- **By completing an online feedback form at:** broadwaterfarmestate.commonplace.is
- **By emailing Shelley Rahman, Regeneration Manager at** [shelley.na.rahman@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:rahman@haringey.gov.uk)
- **Arranging a call on** 020 8489 1816

Zoom drop-in sessions are being held on: Saturday, 6th March: 11-12.30pm Tuesday, 16 March: 6-7.30pm

Register online at: broadwaterfarmestate.commonplace.is or call 020 8489 1816 and book your place!

Catalyst launches community engagement for St Ann’s hospital site

Housing association Catalyst has started community engagement for the major redevelopment at the St Ann’s Hospital site.

The first stage of this consultation will close on Friday, 12th March; Catalyst will then use the information gathered to draft an engagement strategy for comment.

Catalyst’s current plans for the site involve building 930 homes, including 50 that will be community-led.

Catalyst was announced by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan as the development partner for the GLA in December.

Steve Skuse, Land and Partnerships Director at Catalyst said: “We are really keen to start working with the local community in St Ann’s so we can understand what they want to see in this development.

“It’s an excellent opportunity for us to deliver hundreds of new affordable housing for local people and create an entirely new neighbourhood in this part of Haringey.”

To take part in the engagement process: consultation.chg.org.uk/st-anns-have-your-say

census 2021

The census is taking place on 21 March 2021.

It’s a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. It helps plan and fund public services, like transport, education and healthcare.



By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you’ll help make sure you and your community get the services you need.

Nearer the time, you’ll receive more information. There’ll be plenty of help to take part for people who need it.

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk

Follow the census



@census2021



Office for National Statistics

NHS to re-approach Londoners who refused vaccine first time around



The NHS will go back to Londoners who initially declined the vaccine to encourage them to rethink their decision.

These assurances came from Joint Chief Nurse for NHS England, Martin Machray, in response to questions on tackling vaccine hesitancy posed by Local London Assembly Member for Enfield and Haringey, Joanne McCartney AM, at a City Hall Plenary meeting, last month.

Ms McCartney also asked for an update on whether CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups) across the capital are keeping consistent records of where doses have been refused.

YouGov polling from November 2020 indicated that around 67–70% of Britons are willing to have the vaccine. The majority of those who said they were unwilling, reasoned that they wanted to wait to see if it was safe, rather than confirming that they would never take it.

The UK’s medicines regulator confirmed that severe reactions to the Pfizer and Oxford-Astra Zeneca vaccines are very rare, however, studies show that vaccine hesitancy is disproportionately high amongst those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

A poll commissioned by the Royal Society for Public Health in December, found that only 57% of respondents from BAME backgrounds were likely to accept the vaccine, compared to 79% of white respondents.

Last month, Haringey was one of seven London boroughs to receive a share of the government’s Covid-19 Community Champions Fund to tackle vaccine hesitancy, being given almost £300,000.

Ms McCartney is joining calls for further funding to be made available to cover all London boroughs, she said: “Vaccine hesitancy is one of the biggest obstacles in our way of getting ahead of the virus and containing the spread.

“I am encouraged by Martin Machray’s assurances that the NHS will be proactively following up on Londoners who initially refused the vaccine to give them the opportunity to reconsider their decision.

“Going forward, this will be especially important as trust towards the vaccine continues to grow – and we have just had further confirmation that severe side-effects are very rare.

“It is also positive to see that the government have recognised the vital role local authorities can play in building confidence around getting the vaccine in their communities, through the new Covid-19 Community Champions Fund. It is crucial that further rounds of this funding are urgently forthcoming, so other London boroughs can benefit.”



Mural by Zabou Lock Credit Karin Lock

Praise for hospital staff after pandemic hits new peak

By James Cracknell

Staff at North Middlesex University Hospital have been praised for their “incredible” effort during a period when they’ve treated more coronavirus patients than at any time in the pandemic.

North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust chief executive Maria Kane, admitted the second wave of Covid-19 had been bigger than feared, but that they’d still been able to cope – even while being forced to divert ambulances to other hospitals.

Cases surged in December after a more transmissible variant of Covid-19 discovered in Kent, quickly spread across London.

By early January, a new peak in cases led to a record 322 coronavirus patients being cared for at North Mid, compared with 270 in April last year.

Mercifully, the mortality rate has been lower, as 177 deaths were recorded between November and the end of January compared with 265 deaths at the hospital between March and June.

Maria said: “It has felt different to the first wave. We have had a lower proportion of deaths even though we’ve had more patients coming through.

“We understand much more about the disease and how to treat it and our staff absolutely under-

stand what is going on, using treatments such as dexamethasone and two or three other drugs which we didn’t have last time and have really made a difference.”

Maria also said that the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) was much improved and that there had been greater flexibility in the availability of both staff and critical care beds. At the busiest times, however, ambulances have been diverted to other hospitals.

“We were having upwards of 100 ambulances on some days. We were helped out by London Ambulance Service being able to divert some patients to hospitals with spare capacity.”

“We have coped, and that is a testament to both external colleagues and staff at North Mid”

To date about 100 patients going through their recovery from coronavirus have been transferred from North Mid to “community wards” established by other health providers. Extra capacity was also provided by repurposing wards such as paediatrics, with care for children provided instead at Great Ormond Street Hospital, as well as the provision of a “modular ward”.

Maria said: “We have coped,

and that is a testament to both external colleagues and staff at North Mid. We were able to scale up quickly and make sure we had enough beds and we felt very heartened that we had done the preparation work.”

Vaccinations are now well underway at local GP surgeries, having started in December, and Maria said 3,000 out of the hospital trust’s 3,500 staff had now received their first jab.

Last month, Tottenham Hotspur donated £100,000 to North Mid Charity, fully funding their ‘thank you’ initiative.

The money, which was ring-fenced from fines the club issued to Spurs players that breached

Covid-19 guidelines over the festive season, will go toward providing the hospital staff with gift vouchers as a ‘thank you’ for their hard work throughout the pandemic.

Thanking Spurs for the donation, Maria said: “I am incredibly proud of every single person who works at North Mid and I am reminded daily of their determination, compassion and commitment to our patients and local community.

“They continue to work tirelessly in incredibly difficult circumstances and I am so pleased that we can give them the recognition they deserve through this initiative.”

Excess death rates from Covid-19

By James Cracknell

The percentage of people who have died in Haringey in excess of the average death rate since the Covid-19 pandemic began a year ago is the joint third highest in the UK.

Research conducted by SkyNews and collated by website OnLondon, using data pulled together from the Office for National Statistics, ranked local areas based on their excess death rate between mid-March 2020 and mid-January 2021.

The data, which includes deaths from all causes above the average for that local area, show that boroughs in the east and north of London have been hardest hit. Ranking highest was Newham, where deaths have been 54% above the five-year average during the pandemic to date. Next was Redbridge (46%), Haringey (41%), Brent (41%), Hackney (40%) and Enfield (40%).

“Sadly we are seeing increasing numbers of deaths related to Covid-19”

All of the top ten worst-hit areas were in London and only three of these areas were not in the north or east of the capital.

There were 28 new Covid related deaths in Haringey in the week ending 4th February 2021. Haringey’s director of public health, Dr Will Maimaris said: “There continues to be a large number of people being admitted to hospital unwell with Covid-19 on a daily basis, and hospitals remain under immense pressure.

“Sadly, we are seeing increasing numbers of deaths related to Covid-19. We are likely to see higher numbers of hospitalisations and deaths for some time, as there is a lag between new cases and those becoming unwell from covid.”

It is believed that the variant of Covid-19 that originated from Kent and spread quickly through north-east London in December and January has contributed to the higher numbers, as well as the relative poverty levels of each borough.

Vaccine ethnicity data collected

By Joe Talora, Local Democracy Reporter

NHS England has now begun collecting data about ethnicity when people receive their Covid-19 vaccinations in a bid to tackle stigmas in certain ethnic groups.

Concerns had been mounting about hesitancy and poor take-up of the vaccine among some BAME communities, owing to several factors including historic racial injustices as well as the spread of misinformation.

There are hopes that by recording ethnicity data, authorities will be able to identify where there are gaps in vaccine take-up and any concerns can be addressed.

Dr Onkar Sahota, chairman of the London Assembly’s health committee, said: “This is a step in the right direction, but this should have been happening from the very start of the rollout. We know from recent studies that there is a disproportionately higher rate of vaccine hesitancy amongst BAME communities, who

are in turn more vulnerable to the very worst impacts of the virus.

“Having access to vaccine uptake data recorded by ethnicity will help the government, NHS and local authorities to discern where there might be gaps in the supply of doses, and where to target multi-lingual public health messaging campaigns to counteract misinformation and concerns towards the vaccine within the community.”

Some surveys had found that only 57% of respondents from BAME

backgrounds said they would accept a Covid-19 vaccine.

Many prominent Black and Asian politicians, including London Mayor Sadiq Khan, have taken to social media to ease concerns over the vaccine and reiterate the importance of receiving it.

Data from the London Assembly at the start of the year, revealed that there were higher rates of Covid-19 deaths in the most diverse boroughs of London, with poorer ratings of GP satisfaction and higher levels of poverty.

Spaced Apart; Rooted Together

Pavement mural aids social distancing at Holcombe Market

By Luchia Robinson

A pavement design highlighting the importance of social distancing has been created at Holcombe Market, Bruce Grove.

The street art: *Spaced Apart; Rooted Together*, runs the length of the market supporting safe movement and interactions at the site.

It was designed by local artists Hanna Benihoud and Lana Hughes who were commissioned by Haringey Council to create the project.

Hanna said: “The message of the art work celebrates the spirit and resilience of our community. The bold colours and placement aim to attract people into the market.

“This moment in time has highlighted how important a service local shops are to our community. This project gave us the opportunity to really celebrate the work of our local key workers.

“At a time where we have to keep apart, we wanted to remind people that we are still connected and being physically distanced does not mean you are alone.

“The bright colours lift your spirits as you walk down the street and make you smile. Public art has the ability to bring joy to our streets.

“We also wanted the social distance messaging to be playful rather than commanding. We are all doing our best and a friendly reminder is an approach we prefer.”

Hanna added: “We hope this demonstrates the ability for public art to help shape the



Credit The Drone Surveyor UK

way we use our city. Art has an important role to play in communities and it is great to see it being invested in.”

It is hoped the floor mural will encourage more visitors to the market; keeping shoppers and traders safe.

Andy Hall, owner and operator of Hall’s Greengrocers said: “The traders are delighted to see the positive impact that the programme has had at Holcombe Market.

“Collectively we spoke with the Council’s Town Centre and Regeneration teams about some of our concerns around a lack of space for safe social distancing and a lack of colour overall, and they listened.

“The new designs are very colourful and impactful, and our customers are now able to monitor their distance from one another in a creative way.”

For more information about the artists:
www.hannabenihoud.com
www.thisislana.co.uk



Credit Lana Hughes

London reaches vaccine target

By Joe Talora & Luchia Robinson

As of the middle of February, almost 1.5 million people in London had received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, with the capital just shy of hitting its target.

The government had set the target of vaccinating the top four priority groups: the over 70s, those clinically extremely vulnerable, care home staff for older adults, and frontline health and social workers, by the middle of last month; with those groups comprising of around 1.5 million people in London.

However, North London had been lagging behind at the end of the first doses, with local take-up being well below average.

Responding to the figures, Labour’s London Assembly Health Spokesperson Dr Onkar Sahota said it is “a landmark moment” for London but admitted “many challenges still remain.”

Dr Sahota said: “Credit should go to the government, but this remarkable achievement has been driven by our heroic NHS workforce and volunteers across the capital.”

He added: “London [remained] at the bottom of the league compared to other regions when it comes to vaccine distribution, and this appears to be down to supply issues. If we are going to keep up the positive momentum, we need further assurances from the government that this is being resolved.”

Resident Susannah Fairweather, consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist, was part of the priority groups to receive the vaccine, she said: “The vaccine was very straight forward to receive, and the nurse was very professional.

By Ade Ogundimu

The *Interference* series creates awareness about the adverse effect of Covid-19, by capturing and documenting this moment in time.

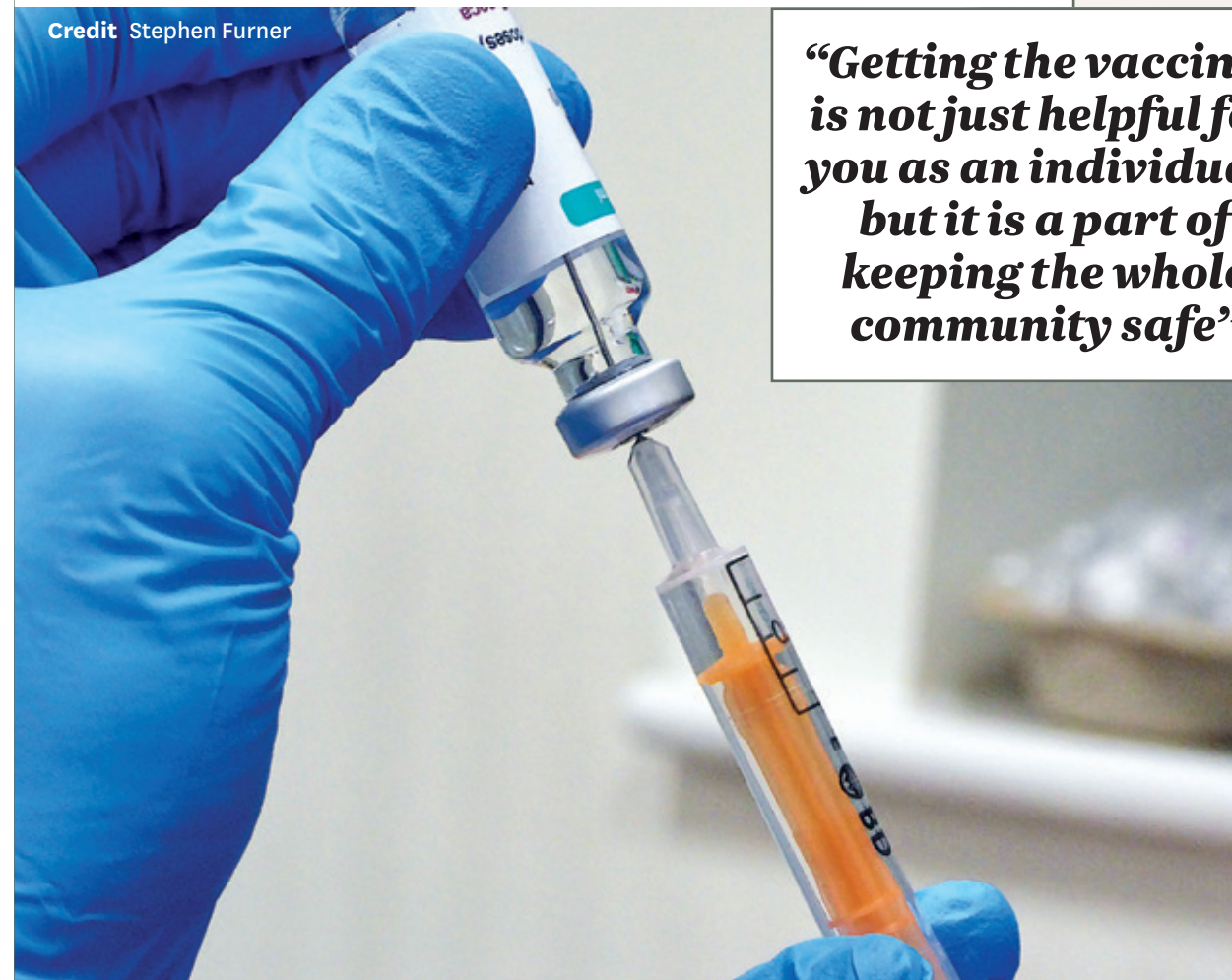
The works speak about what could be done to transmit the correct message of the times we live in.

From left to right: *The Fight Back*, *The Provider*, *Mutation*



Credit Stephen Furner

“Getting the vaccine is not just helpful for you as an individual, but it is a part of keeping the whole community safe”



PHOTOGRAPHY



**PHOTOS BY
BEHLUL SULIMANI**



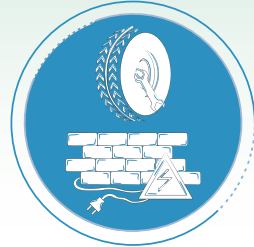
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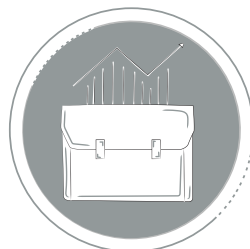
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FEATURE

The local cycling campaign with a far-reaching impact

Changing perceptions of street homelessness

By Karin Lock

Every night the c86erz Street Team go out looking for London's homeless to give them food, clothing, toiletries, and a smile.

The initiative is the brainchild of 34-year-old Verral Paul-Walcott, a local graphic designer and keen cyclist. Whilst preparing for Christmas 2020, he wanted to do more to help those most in need. The 'Homeless Ride Out' was born.

Verral said: "In two days, we were ready to go. I messaged my WhatsApp group asking for a cargo bike. We got three cargo bikes, 38 riders, and fed 150 people in eight hours on that first night."

Born and raised in Tottenham, Verral set up c86erz, a mountain-bike street wear brand, in 2017. The cycling group evolved from a desire to get fit, connect with others and explore the city during the first lockdown. Having gained 168 members in ten months, the group now works together supporting the campaign, underpinned by its social media presence.

The Covid-19 lockdowns are devastating for rough sleepers as public footfall – offering friendly chats, a sandwich or cup of tea – has reduced to a trickle. Part of the c86erz campaign is to give street sleepers a voice whilst



c86erz Street Team
Credit: AK Monde/Tre Thomas

changing public perceptions about the issue.

Verral says: "I want to change mindsets. By sharing their stories anonymously, I can show it is not just those with alcohol or drug problems on the street. I have learned not to put a label on the vulnerable."

The ride-outs can be viewed on Facebook Live and YouTube channel Big V on a Bike. A Facebook page informs different locales in advance, enabling local supporters to pinpoint beneficiaries, bring donations and help with distribution. In one month,

c86erz contacted 247 homeless people across Haringey, Camden, Hackney, Islington, Waltham Forest and Enfield.

As homelessness increases, and food banks are inundated, organic mutual aid groups are responding rapidly at grassroots level. c86erz's charitable mission shows what is achievable collaboratively in a very short space of time.

To build his campaign, Verral launched an online Just Giving page raising £2,740 in three weeks. Public contributions include

jackets, jumpers, hats, gloves, scarves, tents and sleeping bags. Local providers the Selby Food Hub have gifted further supplies.

However, c86erz is neither food bank nor delivery service. The approach is solution-focused and personalised, based on need. Verral recalls one person crying upon receiving a pair of gloves; another requested colouring pencils to make drawings to sell. He now knows many by name as well as their pizza preference!

The movement's success comes from networking, strategic planning and kindness. News of c86erz has travelled and requests for help come from Manchester, Liverpool and Colchester. To extend his reach, Verral has designed waterproof 'give back' packs containing 14 essential items.

Future plans include national distribution of 3000 packs and creating a Kids Space locally to involve more young people in cycling.

Verral's own experiences of managing his mental health drives him on: "We need to give back to the community. I have suffered from anxiety and learned coping mechanisms, but not everyone can get through this."

Facebook /verralwalcott
Website c86erz.com
Instagram @c86erz
YouTube BIG V ON A BIKE
Just Giving c86erz Homeless Ride Out



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COMMUNITY

Mitigating unforeseen challenges

A new opportunity for young people in Haringey

By Jasmyrn Fraser,
*Business Development Officer,
4-22 Foundation*

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to fewer local employers hiring young people into paid roles or apprenticeships. In these very difficult times, it is particularly difficult for young people to gain the opportunities they need to prosper. Some of these 16–18-year-olds will be leaving school without having completed their GCSEs, and many will have

experienced the disruption of their A-levels, apprenticeships or other further education. This age group requires the support and guidance which they have been largely deprived of over the past year. 4-22 Foundation is a Tottenham-based Community Interest Company, that strives to support disadvantaged young people into employment. Our latest project ensures that 20 young people aged 16-18, who are currently unemployed and reside within Haringey, will receive this vital support.



A call for jobs to tackle climate, Covid-19 and care crises

Community campaigners seek investment for green jobs

By Haringey Green New Deal & Quentin Given, Co-ordinator,
Tottenham & Wood Green Friends of the Earth

Tottenham is facing a jobs crisis, with the borough of Haringey facing the fastest increase in unemployment in the country. In December over 8,600 people in Tottenham were on JobSeeker's Allowance, and in February at least 46,000 people – that's about one in five of all adults – were jobless or furloughed. We, at Friends of the Earth and Haringey Green New Deal are pressing for action to address unemployment by tackling the climate emergency. There are thousands of good, green jobs that can be created, and we are calling on the community to join us in campaigning for urgent investment. Just to carry out basic, energy efficiency work in Haringey's older private sector homes, would require over 1,000 long-term skilled jobs. All the other things we need to do – installing solar panels

on thousands of buildings, constructing high-quality cycle lanes, growing and processing more food locally – would generate many more. London Councils, the body that represents the 33 London boroughs, estimates that 76,000 jobs across London could be created by this agenda. We have already seen good examples. The 'smart homes' energy efficiency programme in Haringey from 2014 showed how much work could be created if the right incentives were available – homeowners and landlords would carry out works if it made financial sense, and there were trusted, well trained teams available to do the work. Last year, the government announced a Green Homes fund of £2billion to stimulate more home energy efficiency but so far it has performed poorly, with few grants awarded and both households and contractors complaining of bureaucracy and delays. An overhaul is needed. On a smaller scale, Tottenham-based organisation Living Under One Sun is work-

We are providing employability advice, one-to-one mentoring, and free professional counselling to mitigate the impact of Covid-19-related family bereavement and trauma. We have also recruited experienced mentors from the world of work who are sourcing apprenticeships, internships, work placements and shadowing opportunities. Many young people have left school only to enter into unforeseen unemployment in the face of the pandemic. With a high number of young people working in retail and hospitality, it follows that these young people have disproportionately faced unemployment in response to the national lockdown measures. We recognise the social inequalities which affect unemployment, and a key component of our mission is to work collaboratively with communities and individuals who are most at risk. This new project is being delivered online until 22nd June. If you know a young person that would benefit from taking part, please contact Gavin by: Email gavin.jackson@4-22foundation.org Phone 07765 428 318 For more information: Visit 4-22foundation.org.uk



In memory of Frank

Walking and raising funds for North Mid

By Lily Roberts

My husband Frank Roberts had his first stroke in July 2005. Over the years Frank suffered two more strokes and underwent vascular surgery at the Royal Free Hospital before being sent to North Mid to recuperate. My husband suffered various complications, and passed away last August. North Mid had always been his main hospital where he was an inpatient receiving care. North Mid has been my local hospital ever since I moved to Haringey in 1973, and it's where our two daughters, Michelle, 43, and Linda, 40, were born. Frank and I were married for almost 50 years. We lived in Tottenham for all of those years, and I cared for Frank for many of them. I am retired from working in customer service for Sainsbury's for 27 years, and I've decided that now is a good time to do a charity walk that will raise funds for North Mid. I aim to raise £800. I have arthritis of the spine, so the walk will be challenging, but as a regular visitor to the hospital, I have seen first-hand how the nurses struggle to look after their patients needs whenever there's a shortage of staff; and I am hoping for as many donations as anyone is willing to give. I will be doing the Lea Valley walk in honour of my late husband, starting at Cheshunt train station, and heading along the canal to Tottenham Hale Station. The walk will take place on Friday, 26th March, which would have been Frank's 87th birthday. My husband Frank worked as an engineer until he retired; fishing was a hobby he enjoyed in his spare time. Frank was a very kind man who would help anyone in need. He was very protective of his family and friends, and was very proud of his two daughters.

To make a donation justgiving.com/fundraising/lily-roberts5

COMMUNITY

Community collaboration and food support

How working together to tackle food insecurity benefits the community

By Conall Ó Brolcháin

Working as a volunteer with the Tottenham Foodbank and the Selby Food Hub for the past few months, I've seen first-hand the increase in demand for food support in Tottenham. It is unfortunate that this demand continues to rise but not surprising due in no small part to austerity many in Tottenham were struggling to make ends meet even before Covid-19. This pandemic has shone a light on the gaps that exist in our society. Unfortunately, it has manifested itself through food insecurity for many. This is a discouraging reality. It is also, however, a testament to the resilience of the area, highlighting the number of organisations that have come forward to address these issues during this period. Some have been around for a long time; others have been set up in response to the high levels of demand we are currently experiencing. Tottenham Foodbank has experienced a 300% increase in demand since March 2020. The Selby Food Hub opened in April 2020, initially with a relatively modest offering – some bottles of water, packets of crisps, and other bits and pieces. Now it is serving over 100 people twice a week, providing supply bags for breakfast and dinner, with fruit and vegetables as well as ready meals and toiletries. Other groups like The Community Cook Up and Impact Cuisine are integral parts of the community in Northumberland Park, collectively providing a huge amount for the area. All these organisations are working tirelessly to provide for those in need. It shows the enterprise and compassion that I consider to be synonymous with Tottenham. It is also encouraging to see how some of these organisations are working collaboratively. Tottenham Foodbank produced a leaflet detailing where and when food support could be accessed during half-term. Though it didn't include all the organisations in Tottenham offering free food, it was helpful in increasing the visibility and accessibility of food support for those who need it. (Tottenham Foodbank saw an approximate 100% increase in referrals at half term). The leaflet is one of many collaborative actions between community organisations; there are lots of others

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Selby Road N17 8JL
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Food parcels, fresh fruit and veg. All welcome, no referral needed.

HIGHWAY HOUSE COMMUNITY

Fountainey Road N15 4QL
Thursday 12pm-4pm
Hot meals, all welcome, no referral needed.



LORDSHIP FREE FOOD HUB

Lordship Hub at Lordship Rec N17 6NU
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IMPACT CUISINE

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HARINGEY PLAY ASSOCIATION FOOD ASSOCIATIONS

Somerford Grove Adventure Playground & Community Project, Park Lane Close N17 0HL
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Call 07807 100 189
Email sereena@haringey-play.org.uk

ANTWERP ARMS

168-170 Church Road N17 8AS
Tuesdays & Thursdays
Hot meals, delivery only.
To register, no referral/voucher needed:
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THE COMMUNITY COOK UP



Eric Allin Community Centre, Kenneth Robbins House, Northumberland Park N17 0QA
Thursday 1-3pm
Hot meals, groceries and other support – just ask. All welcome, no referral needed.

TOTTENHAM SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

255 West Green Road N15 5EG
Tuesday 12-3pm, Saturday 3-6pm
Food parcels, fresh fruit and veg. All welcome, no referral needed.

working together to improve services. In some ways the demand for food support feels like a secret hidden in plain sight within the community. This is something that needs to change. There is no shame in requiring food support. The more we can work together as a community, the stronger we will be. A collective voice will always be louder, particularly in these times that have proven so difficult for so many. With around 45% of Tottenham's working population currently unemployed or on furlough, this is a time of significant struggle but also a time that shows the strength that exists in this community. This strength will no doubt be drawn on for many months to come through the pandemic. As we come out the other side, we must ensure that we continue to band together, continue to support foodbanks and local community groups, continue to support local businesses, and most of all continue to support each other. As a Dubliner, who moved to London in 2019, I didn't think I would find somewhere that felt like home in the same way Dublin does. In Tottenham, through the many inspiring members of this community, I have found that.

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Travel money provided for those on low incomes

FEATURE



All photographs credited to Gerry Robinson

Alternative outcomes

Local students defy negative perceptions

By Gerry Robinson, Executive Headteacher, Haringey Learning Partnership

It was just an ordinary Friday afternoon a few weeks back when we posted a video on Haringey Learning Partnership's Twitter account of one of our Year 11 students performing William Blake's haunting 18th century poem, *London*, to a solemn backing track which he had heard for the first time just an hour earlier.

We regularly celebrate our students' work on social media so we didn't quite expect the response it inspired: over 22.4k views, and more than 200 positive comments and likes. Needless to say, the student was bemused but pleased to see so many people commending him for his excellent work.

As incredible as the reaction on Twitter was, it did remind me that perceptions of alternative provision do not typically encompass the idea that students, even in the midst of a pandemic, are committed, engaged, hard-working, bright young people with aspirations, just like any of their peers in mainstream education.

It is unsurprising that perceptions of alternative provision are so poor, however. Nationally, only 4% of students in alternative provision pass GCSE English and Maths, compared to 64% of students from mainstream schools. Meanwhile, the most recent pre-Covid attendance figures averaged 64.7%, compared to 94.5% in mainstream settings.

Then there are the various news headlines featuring young people involved in serious youth violence and the horror stories which are often shared of 'out of control' young people running amok in classrooms.

In reality, this simply isn't the case at Commerce House, just one school within Haringey Learning Partnership (HLP), or indeed, at any of the fantastic alternative provision schools we have been developing since we formed in September 2020.

Our approach at HLP is part of Haringey Council's 'Model for Change' strategy to redesign alternative provision in the borough and to reduce exclusions, particularly for pupils of Black Caribbean and Mixed Black Caribbean and White heritage, who are three times as likely to be permanently



excluded than their white peers.

If a young person is involved in alternative provision – whether that be our outreach services, a respite placement or attending one of our schools, it should be clear from the outset that this is a step in their educational journey and not a final destination; our aim is always for students to be supported to return to mainstream education, wherever possible.

In addition to social media, something which we have found to be particularly useful for changing perceptions of alternative provision in Haringey, is engaging with the community on a variety of projects and programmes. With the support and guidance of incredible local organisations such as Hope in Tottenham, Bridge Renewal Trust, Tottenham Grammar School Foundation, Bernie Grant Trust, Visual Marvelry, Haringey Play Association, Deep Black, and Collage Arts (to name but a few!), our students have taken pride this year in being part of, and contributing to, our local community.

HLP students have so much to offer and are among the most inspiring, conscientious, community-minded young people I have ever worked with. Though we don't know

what form GCSE exams will take this year, our Year 11 students still spend their lunchtimes voluntarily catching up on revision and homework. Attendance at Commerce House, which has historically had the poorest reputation in the borough, currently stands at 94%, with the vast majority of students attending school on site every day, even throughout lockdown. Not only this, but there have been no fixed term exclusions across the whole of HLP since the start of the academic year, and in the first half term alone, 13 of our students were reintegrated back into mainstream education.

Despite incredibly challenging and unsettling circumstances because of the coronavirus pandemic, all but one of these students has successfully completed their reintegration period and are now permanently enrolled in their mainstream schools.

It is important to us that we continue to build our partnerships within the borough so that our students are given the opportunity to show everyone who they really are and what they're capable of.

For more information:
Twitter @HaringeyLP



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Example full page advert

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NEWS

Streets ahead

The coronavirus has brought anti-car measures forward

On a recent morning, the streets of Tottenham were eerily quiet. The usual hum of traffic and the sight of cars parked along the kerbs were replaced by a sense of stillness. This was due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has led to a significant reduction in car use across the city. As a result, many of the measures that were once considered radical or even impossible are now being implemented. These include one-way streets, pedestrian zones, and the closure of certain roads to traffic. While these measures are necessary to reduce the spread of the virus, they also have the potential to improve the quality of life in the city. For example, one-way streets can reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Pedestrian zones can encourage people to walk and cycle, which is good for their health and the environment. The closure of certain roads can also help to reduce traffic and improve the safety of the city. As the pandemic continues, it is likely that more measures will be implemented. It is important that we all do our part to keep the city safe and healthy.

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Beef Burger with Cheddar & Onion
Beef Burger with Cheddar & Onion
Beef Burger with Cheddar & Onion

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Raspberry Pudding with Cream & Vanilla Caramel
Spiced Chocolate Brownie
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Georgie Agass
Head of communications and engagement
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust

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LITERATURE

Such a fun age to learn from one another

Karin Lock reviews *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid

Last month saw the introduction of Britain's first ever race equality week. This long-overdue initiative was devised as a response to the Black Lives Matter movement. Book lists were drawn up to educate readers about structural racism, explaining concepts such as unconscious bias, white privilege and racial blindness. One notable newcomer to those lists is *Such a Fun Age*, one of the most successful debut novels of 2020, both UK and stateside. African American author Kiley Reid has captured the mood of this time with her page-turning domestic satire about political correctness.

The story opens in an upmarket Philadelphia grocery store. Emira Tucker, a 25-year-old Black female graduate, is accused by store security, of kidnapping the white child she is babysitting. A customer videos the confrontation and offers to post it online. Meanwhile, the child's mother Alix Chamberlain, is at home dealing with the fallout from her husband's racially biased comments on TV. Alix Chamberlain is a self-absorbed, publicity-hungry feminist influencer who wants free-time to write. Anxious that Emira may now leave (and that her husband's slip-up will ruin her career), Alix realises she has never really spoken to her employee: "she had no idea if her babysitter was the type of person to cry, sue or do nothing at all."

This book is an entertaining look at white saviour syndrome and liberal guilt. Now that Emira is no longer 'invisible', Alix becomes obsessed with



Kiley Reid

getting her babysitter to like her so that she can 'help' her. Oblivious to her deluded employer's interventions, Emira is pre-occupied with looking for a new job that will pay her health insurance. Like a Jonathan Franzen novel, *Such a Fun Age* exquisitely dissects white middle-class hypocrisy. Scorning the unfashionable provincial white folk of Philadelphia, Alix feels affinity with Emira because: "one of Alix's closest friends was also Black... [and] Alix had read everything that Toni Morrison had ever written." Inspired by the writer's childminding experiences as a student, this thought-provoking narrative contrasts the two main characters by using alternating mini chapters. The fast-paced action moves the tale along through ingenious plot twists and turns. A posse of hilarious supporting characters offer social commentary to the main action.

Such a Fun Age advocates the view that people are not the sum basis of their career achievements or daily productivity. Everyone has an inherent self-worth that transcends another person's approval, opinion or judgement of them. We also have the right to privacy, freedom of expression, and to say 'no'. Invisibility leaves people feeling invalidated and tokenism is not change. *Such a Fun Age* shares these uncomfortable stories – of daily micro-aggressions – and forces readers to be honest about themselves and their behaviours. The author is saying we can learn from each other, but we have to be willing to learn.

"Such a Fun Age forces readers to be honest about themselves and their behaviours"



POETRY CORNER

Weather-vane (Bruce Castle)

The weather-vane is turning,
the sinking sun is burning
and burnishing its gold.
The slender birch is swaying,
its golden veil is fraying...
The year is getting old.

The weather-vane is creaking,
the cold and damp are seeping
into the window-frames.
The golden flag is flashing,
the elements are splashing
their vigour into space!

By Christina Egan

Always Be Socially Closing

Wasted faces paste their nascent hate
on pages of the day; I trace their pacing
with screen-shape scrap-tapes meant to
replicate the passage of them, and their
slow displacing...

Here I peer for fear at one too near,
her cheek so neat, unspeakably
distracted: there I stare at his fair hair – and
peer to see if it's not me I seek unsought.

Tottenham's got them – lots. They're
zombies, gonelooking for some
apocalypse, a clock to stop the shock
of. Night's high noon – or one – they'll
rant back at you, your tick to their
tock. Man, it's some pandemic of the
damned when, even clocking lockdown,
Tottenham's rammed.

By Terry Egan

Send us your poetry
Email: tcp@socialspider.com

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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.

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