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Local news that matters to you

Cladding calamity

Hale Village residents face financial ruin if costs for cladding removal aren't covered



The Hale village homes during construction Credit Stephen Furner

By Luchia Robinson

Leasehold residents at Hale Village are demanding funds be sought to cover the cost of remedial work to their homes in the Pavilions development.

The Pavilions Steering Group, acting on behalf of affected leaseholders on the 420-home development, seek protection from having to pay for urgent works as the result of non-compliant building materials used during construction.

The issue of unsafe cladding materials was brought to public attention following the Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017.

Six housing blocks in the Pavilions development are affected, and works include removing combustible materials used in the balconies of four of the blocks.

The remediations at the Hale Village homes are estimated to be an average of £25,000 per property, and this is subject to further increases. The leaseholders say, to date, they have had to pay for fire alarm installation costing £1,200, buildings insurance costing £1,500 and they are awaiting the bill for a fire marshal patrol Waking Watch which was put in place at the development.

Lawrence*, a resident living in Lapwing Heights said: "Originally, we found out that we couldn't sell our flat because it transpired that it failed the updated government regulations that came in after a review of the Grenfell Tower.

"Ultimately, we want someone to pay for the works because we bought these flats in good faith from Bellway, the developer. We don't think that we should be paying for the government rule change as a result of builders using cheaper materials which have then been found as combustible and therefore now non-compliant with regulations."

Tottenham MP David Lammy has

been supportive of the residents' demand of getting Bellway to take accountability, commit to rectifying the safety issues, and to stop 'continuing to profit at the expense of the safety and financial security of those who buy their homes.'

Mr Lammy tweeted: 'Three years after 72 died in Grenfell Tower, there are more than 1,000 residents living in Bellway Homes flats in Tottenham covered with combustible cladding. Bellway made £1 billion in profit in the past two years. It's time for the developer to cough up and sort this problem out.'

Raising the concerns in parliament last November, he said that Bellway had shown a "complete disregard for my constituents living in these buildings with combustible cladding."

The government announced a £1 billion budget in March 2020 to support the removal and replacement of unsafe non-ACM (Aluminium Composite Material) cladding systems on residential buildings 18 metres or over throughout 2020 and 2021, of which there are estimated to be 1,700 nationwide.

This Building Safety Fund is to ensure that leaseholders are protected from costs where building owners, managing agents or freeholders are not meeting the costs themselves.

Continued on Page 3

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WELCOME

Steadfast In Difficulties

February 2021
N°. 43

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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'The Fog Descends' by Tom Ferrie. Turn to p.8-9 for more photos from the Tottenham Lockdown series.

An introduction from the editor

Hello, welcome to issue 43.

Over the last year, lockdown and the self isolation that comes with it has become part of the everyday. The pandemic has greatly disrupted the education sector, making it one of the most affected areas of life. As a result, fundraising organisation, Haringey Giving has partnered with Haringey Council to support many students from low-income families to continue their studies remotely (p.4).

The national cladding scandal has left many residents in Hale Village at a financial and social disadvantage, trapping them in unsafe homes (front page).

Tom Ferrie captures the feeling of social isolation in his captivating photography series, *Tottenham Lockdown* (p.8-9), and Karin Lock explores the prison procedure of lockdown in her review of Chris Atkins' book, *A Bit of a Stretch* (p.13).

North Area Basic Command Unit Commander DCS Treena Fleming discusses how local officers are working to build relationships of trust within the community. Whilst Julia Tanska details Spurs' historic game against Marine FC (p.15).

Let us know your story ideas email: tcp@socialspider.com and join us for our editorial meeting on Friday, 5th February at 6.30pm. To attend, email: paige@socialspider.com.

Luchia Robinson

HM Government

NHS

LOOK HIM IN THE EYES

AND TELL HIM THE RISK ISN'T REAL.

Tony Covid-19 patient

STAY HOME PROTECT THE NHS SAVE LIVES

NEWS

Rapid test centres now open everyday

More rapid testing available for people without Covid signs

Haringey's rapid testing sites for people who do not show any of the Covid-19 symptoms are moving to a seven day a week operation from this month.

This move comes after listening to feedback from key and frontline workers. The decision to extend the opening hours has also been taken.

More than 5,000 tests have been carried out in Haringey since the start of the year – with 3.35% testing positive.

Dr Will Maimaris, Haringey's director of public health, said: "Around one in three people who have Covid-19 don't know they have it, but they can still pass it on to other people, who may fall very ill."

"Since the start of the new national lockdown we made frontline and critical workers a priority for lateral flow testing. It is one of the essential tools to help reduce the spread – which even though the numbers are falling now – will need to be maintained for the foreseeable future."

"So far more than 165 people



who unknowingly had Covid-19 have gone into isolation. That's 165 fewer people who are not spreading it in their communities.

"I'd like to urge anyone who has to leave home for work to take the test at least once, if not twice a week – it will make a big difference."

"And I hope employers encourage their staff to do the right thing, as this will help us get numbers down and start to get life back to normal."

There is up to £500 available from the self-isolation support payment package for workers on low-incomes who tests positive.

Site opening hours will be reviewed to suit those most in need of the rapid tests.

Haringey's rapid testing sites:

- Tottenham Community Sports Centre, 701-703 High Road N17 8AD
- 48 Station Road, Wood Green N22 7TY
- Alexandra Palace, Alexandra Palace Way N22 7AY

Opening times:

Monday 8am–4pm
Tuesday/Wednesday 8am–8pm
Thursday/Friday/Saturday 8am–4pm
Sunday 10am–2pm



551b in Morrison Yard, High Road

Shaping a community space

Young people are coordinating the shaping of a community space at 551b High Road

Haringey Council has secured £2m funding from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund to carry out a series of improvements throughout Bruce Grove.

This includes a pilot workspace project in Morrison Yard, N17, located just off the High Road.

Originally a brewery, it was converted into workspaces in 1983 and renamed after Bob Morrison, who was a Labour MP for Tottenham between 1922–1931 and 1935–1945.

551b High Road, the former gatehouse to the brewery, is a standalone single storey building in the curtilage of Morrison Yard. The vision for The Yard is to deliver a state of the art, flexible workspace for small and medium enterprises. The building will also include a cafe with exhibition space and meeting room facilities.

The project will retain the existing neo-classical façade, with a new contemporary extension rooted in the local historic character and the diverse culture of Bruce Grove.

The improvements form part of a wider package of investment on Tottenham High Road, delivering on the council's community wealth building agenda of having a more resilient local economy.

The council is working with IF DO Architects and Street Space, who specialise in community-led design. Street Space have recruited two young local producers to lead on a number of engagement activities with residents and businesses in Bruce Grove, exploring options for the future of The Yard.

The producers have designed and delivered a range of online engagement activities and a new brand identity for The Yard, since last November. Activities have included a cook-a-long with a local chef, two young designer workshops, and a storytelling session with Bruce Grove Primary School in collaboration with storyteller, Alim Kamara.

The Yard will launch next year.

Find out more on Instagram at: theyard_bg

Continued from Page-1

The Pavilions Steering Group, however, state that Bellway have not been transparent in making the materials used in the homes clear to them. As a result, they say that they are 'unable to fully confirm the extent of the remedial works required to make the development safe, and as such are unable to proceed with any avenue to undertake the works.' This, they say is blocking them from receiving funds from the government.

The Reverend Andrew Williams at St Francis at the Engine Room, Hale Village, has seen the impact the safety concerns are having on the residents' mental health, he said: "Some of the people here, in light of Covid-19 and losing jobs or working from home, have been trapped in buildings that are unsafe, and simply can't get out."

"They can't afford to get a mortgage on any of the properties, so they can't move out, the only option is to try and rent their properties to somebody, but that's difficult as well because the buildings are currently ranked as unsafe to visit, and that doesn't begin to cover the

costs they're already facing. Insurance has increased tenfold and with payments for installation and extra fire alarms throughout the buildings and suchlike – it really is a desperate situation for lots of residents here."

"Ultimately, we want someone to pay for the works because we bought these flats in good faith"

A spokesperson for Pinnacle Group, the managing agent of the Hale Village development said: "We have worked to support our residents throughout this challenging time. As the managing agent for these properties, Pinnacle has worked with the freeholders and developers to communicate the results of building surveys through face-to-face meetings along with more regular updates."

"Following the completion of the inspections in 2020, Pinnacle Group have participated in a series of lease-

holder working groups that focused on supporting residents to understand the options for remediation on their properties and engaging with the freeholder and developer around the next steps. We have also worked with the stakeholders involved with the Hale Village development to support an application to the government's Building Safety Fund to fund the remediation work."

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee recommends that the government remediates all residential buildings with ACM cladding defects by this December. It recommends that all other fire hazards, including unsafe non-ACM cladding be fixed before the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire in June 2022.

Bellway say that they are 'working with the freeholder, managing agent and the NHBC (National House Building Council) to develop a remediation plan for Hale Village, and will communicate directly with the residents as the plans progress.'

They did not state their position on whether they would be accepting any costs to ensure the completion of the works.

**Name changed to ensure privacy*

NEWS

Bridging the digital divide

Haringey Council and Haringey Giving partner to provide children with access to the internet

By Luchia Robinson

Haringey Council and the community fundraising platform, Haringey Giving have partnered to launch the Help Bridge the Digital Divide campaign, which supports young people and children without access to WiFi, laptops or any other technical support at home.

The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 has affected many families on low incomes within the borough.

The digital divide has been one of the existing inequalities exposed by the pandemic, which is hitting those who can least afford it the most.

Children and young people have been particularly disadvantaged when accessing education, following school closures during lockdown.

To date, 500 children and young people throughout Haringey have been provided with laptops and 25 families have been supplied with mobile internet devices which includes unlimited data for six months.

More than 150 smart phones have been supplied for care leavers and other at-risk residents.

The majority of the laptop devices were funded by the DfE. The government has pledged to provide more than 1 million laptops and tablets to schools, colleges, local authorities and trusts by the end of the academic year to support children and families from disadvantaged backgrounds accessing remote education.

Park View pupil Mahmudul said: "During lockdown, I found my online learning very difficult as I had to share my laptop with my other sib-



Remote learning

lings and there were days when I couldn't use it and – on other days when I could – my WiFi was very unreliable and would crash on me."

The council is accessing available government funding whilst also raising funds for the digital divide appeal.

Cllr Kaushika Amin, the Deputy Leader of Haringey Council and cabinet member for children, education and families, said: "We're continuing to support our children and young people as best as we possibly can to ensure they're able to access remote learning during the ongoing lockdown. However,

"We're continuing to support our children and young people as best as we possibly can to ensure they're able to access remote learning during the ongoing lockdown"

despite the best efforts of the council and our schools, we know there are some pupils and students who – through no fault of their own – simply don't have regular access to laptops and WiFi at home.

"I'd urge our residents to give whatever they can readily afford, no matter how small, to the appeal. Your donations really could make a whole world of difference to the lives of children and young people in need of help and support in our borough."

To donate haringeygiving.org.uk/appeal/digital-divide-appeal

Haringey Council commemorates Chad Gordon

New autism campus named after murdered resident Chad Gordon

Haringey resident Chad Gordon, who was murdered last May, will be remembered by the council, with a new autism campus named after him.

Situated in Waltheof Gardens, The Chad Gordon Autism Campus will commemorate Chad, who was fatally wounded, in a case of mistaken identity.

The campus will be home to two new services for adults with autism.

Haringey Opportunities Project will provide day services for residents with complex learning disabilities and autism in a newly

refurbished building especially designed for this cohort.

The autism hub, #ActuallyHaringey is designed to deliver early help provision to address the needs of adults with autism, and those approaching adulthood and their support networks. The service was co-designed and developed with autistic residents and community groups.

Chad, who was himself autistic, was described as 'loving and caring', by his mother, Ann-Marie.

He lived in Haringey from birth, attending Moselle School and

sixth form before going on to Harington School, where he studied horticulture for two years.

He was a keen sports fan, particularly enjoying wrestling. He was chosen to take part in cycling events marking the 2007 Tour De France and in the local parade to mark the 2012 London Olympics. Chad was also involved with the Chickenshed Theatre. From the age of twelve, he regularly attended Bruce Grove Youth Centre, where he became a well-known and popular figure.

Cllr Sarah James, cabinet member for adults and health said:

"As a community we want to remember the life of Chad Gordon.

"Chad's family remember him as

"Chad's family remember him as a loving, protective person, who cared deeply for those around him"

a loving, protective person, who cared deeply for those around him. These are precisely the values that

we wish to see embedded in our new autism services. His family said that they thought Chad would have loved to attend the #ActuallyHaringey Autism Hub and I am pleased that they feel naming the new autism campus after him is a fitting tribute to Chad."

Renovation works at The Chad Gordon Autism Campus are due for completion early this year.

Haringey Council is also supporting the establishment of a public memorial garden at Wiltshire Gardens, N4, where Chad Gordon lived.

NEWS

Consultation to rename Black Boy Lane open to public

Residents to decide whether or not to change local street name



Credit Stephen Furner

By Luchia Robinson

Haringey Council is asking for residents' views on whether or not to rename Black Boy Lane to La Rose Lane after John La Rose, a former resident, essayist and founder of New Beacon Books, in Stroud Green Road, N4.

The consultation is part of a review that aims to address the renaming of streets, places, buildings, places and monuments within the borough that have racist, colonial or discriminatory links.

Leader of the council, Cllr Joseph Ejiofor said: "Words matter. Language can be a tool for inspirational change, or it can be a tool for oppression and ignorance.

"Nowadays the phrase 'Black boy' is most commonly used as a derogatory term aimed at African heritage men. If we were naming the street now, we would not be calling it Black Boy Lane. The question really is whether or not this is an appropriate name for a street here in Haringey.

"Haringey is a multicultural, multi-ethnic, very diverse borough and it's really important that everybody feels respected by

the society in which they live. I've been told by some people that they feel that the name itself doesn't respect them as individuals, it doesn't respect their ethnicity.

"Haringey has always respected all members of its communities and I think that where there's a clamour for change, that the response from the consultation will be positive."



John La Rose
by Toni Gorton

The renaming review follows on from questions concerning race and inequalities highlighted locally and worldwide by the Black Lives Matter movement.

Last month, the pub company Greene King made the decision to change the name of four pubs in its estate; one called *The Black's Head* and three called *The Black Boy*.

"Haringey has always respected all members of its communities"

Cllr Ejiofor said: "I am very pleased that Greene King's inclusion and diversity strategy has led them to rename these pubs. Haringey is a proudly diverse borough, and I hope that Haringey residents will similarly agree to rename Black Boy Lane in Tottenham during our statutory consultation.

"While we appreciate this is a difficult time for everyone, and responding to consultations such as this may be more challenging, we believe that now, more

than ever we should seek to send out a clear message in support of the diversity in our borough."

If the name change goes ahead, the council has proposed a voluntary payment of £300 per household and organisation on Black Boy Lane, for any inconvenience the renaming may cause. These residents will also receive official notification of the road name change, and assistance dealing with administrative changes they'll need to make.

Cllr Ejiofor said: "Haringey as a borough has always been a place where people feel respected by their neighbours and by the community in general. I think that agreeing to change the name of Black Boy Lane will be very important to continue that legacy."

This consultation is open till Friday, 19th February.

Residents and organisations can respond to the consultation using one of the following methods:

- **Online using the survey at:** <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160812947171>
- **Email:** bb consultation@haringey.gov.uk
- **Telephone:** 0208 489 3797
- **By post:** Consultation Co-ordinator, The Communications Team, River Park House, 225 High Road, Wood Green N22 8HQ

NEWS

Council housing could be built at three more Haringey sites

By Simon Allin,
Local Democracy Reporter

Council homes could be built at three more sites as part of Haringey's house-building plan – which has been “significantly delayed” because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillors agreed to add sites in 251 Lordship Lane, Norman Close (Wood Green) and 505 Archway Road (Highgate), at a cabinet meeting last month.

The council will carry out feasibility studies and engage with the local communities before deciding whether to build homes on the land.

Cabinet member for housing and estate renewal Cllr Emine Ibrahim (Labour, Noel Park) said: “We have started a new era in council home building

in Haringey, with the delivery of high-quality council homes re-established as an integral part of the council's core business.”

Haringey Council set a target of delivering 1,000 council homes at council rents by 2022.

“We have started a new era in council home building in Haringey”

While construction is underway on 343 council homes, a report reveals the coronavirus pandemic has “significantly delayed” the building programme. Work was suspended completely at the start of the first lockdown and is now taking place at a reduced capacity because of social distancing requirements.

The report also warns Brexit will

cause labour shortages in the construction sector – and two of the council's sites are already reporting that visa issues are stopping their workers returning from European countries.

Work on all 1,000 homes is expected to have begun by March 2022. However, assistant director for housing Robbie Erbmann said only 220 of the homes are likely to be finished by that date.

The full quota of 1,000 new council homes is not expected to be built until May or June 2024, Robbie revealed.

Haringey Council expects to deliver 3,088 council homes by 2030, according to the report.

The update on the council's housing delivery programme was unanimously approved by cabinet members.



Credit: Stephen Furner



Cllr Kaushika Amin

School meals scheme approved by council Hundreds more children will get free school meals

By Simon Allin,
Local Democracy Reporter

Hundreds more children in Haringey will be able to receive free school meals after a council plan was approved.

Haringey Council's cabinet agreed to make up to 650 more primary school pupils aged seven to ten eligible for free school meals in a bid to reduce inequality and make up for a drop in the number receiving support from the government.

A further 140 children could get free school meals thanks to a separate fund designed to support families who find themselves in unexpected short-term financial hardship.

After the plan was approved at a cabinet meeting last month, the council's deputy leader and cabinet member for children, education and families, Cllr Kaushika Amin thanked footballer Marcus Rashford for his “tireless campaigning” on the issue of free school meals.

The England and Manchester United star has been lobbying the government to ensure children receive meals during school holidays.

Speaking during the cabinet

meeting, Cllr Amin said: “This is a bold and progressive change that will see almost 800 children on any given school day having a free meal that they would not have otherwise had.”

“While preventing hunger at school is right, it is also good for children's education and good for schools. This is an investment in our children's future and in our borough.”

The move comes after the number of children who can claim free school meals from the government fell dramatically in the past ten years,

according to a council report. Less than one fifth of Haringey pupils now receive them – down from a third in 2010.

Youngsters made eligible for free school meals will

be “from families who are structurally disadvantaged as a result of high housing costs, low incomes and gaps in the benefits system,” the report says.

It includes children in families living in temporary accommodation, council housing or social housing and claiming Universal Credit or legacy benefits, but who are not currently eligible for free school meals.

“This is an investment in our children's future and in our borough”

INTERVIEW

Building trust and confidence in the local police

BCU Commander DCS Treena Fleming tells TCP how her officers are building relationships of trust in the community



By Luchia Robinson

North Area Basic Command Unit (BCU) commander, Detective Chief Superintendent Treena Fleming says her team of officers are working hard to build the community's confidence in the police.

DCS Fleming says incidents reported in the media over the last year "may have impacted on confidence in the police service," and that it is important that communities in Tottenham and within the wider North Area of Haringey and Enfield can trust them.

Last month, TCP reported on the case of a police officer caught on video using excessive force on a Black teenage boy.

In response to this incident, which is currently being investigated by the IOPC (Independent Office for Police Conduct), DCS Fleming said: "I do understand that that caused a lot of distress, I understand how that looked like, and I don't want to be in that position where youngsters or police officers are being injured.

"I would just urge people to remember that, distressing as some of these videos can appear, that it's a small snapshot in time of a much larger incident."

The goal for DCS Fleming is ensuring local communities feel safe when

engaging with the police as well as when in the community.

"Where someone is unhappy with use of force or with an interaction they have with a police officer, I want them to either talk to that police officer about it, tell a supervisor to make a complaint, or go to one of our independent monitoring groups, such as the Haringey Independent Stop and Search Monitoring Group. I want to know about it, because that gives me an opportunity as BCU commander to look into it.

"I need all of our communities to tell me what's going on so that I can keep them safe. If they don't feel confident in talking to us, then there's a problem, and that's the bit that I need overcome."

The local police say they are addressing mistrust, particularly within Black communities and amongst young people aged 18-24, via community discussions. This includes working with community partners to coordinate school and college visits, sports initiatives, safer neighbourhood panels and ward forums.

DCS Fleming said: "I think that we have moved on as a police service so much from 20, 30 or 40 years ago, but we need to have those conversations.

"Of course, we don't always get it right

on every occasion and where we don't get it right, we will always seek to learn."

The North Area police have commissioned a survey for Haringey and Enfield residents in order to understand how they feel about policing in their communities and their perceptions of local stop and search use.

Almost half of all stop and searches conducted between April and March 2019 in England and Wales took place



in London, with there being 22 searches for every 1,000 people. Black people had the highest stop rates by ethnicity.

Stop and searches increased by 52% in the year ending March 2020.

There were 18,081 stop and searches carried out under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act – an increase of 35%.

"I'm very mindful about how people feel about section 60, so we use it sparingly when we need to"

Section 60 powers (authorised within a defined area and time period) have been widely contested by some justice campaigners, as they allow for searches without grounds for suspicion; because of this, there can be more scope for abuses of power.

76% of the combined stops and searches in the year ending March 2020, resulted in no further action.

"I'm very mindful about how people feel about section 60, so we use it sparingly when we need to – when there's the intelligence and the grounds to do so, and we will only apply it to the wards where there might be violent crime happening.

"I think stop and search used correctly is an effective tactic. It is successful in that I've seen the results of it; I've seen machetes on the streets of Haringey seized – that's a potential murder weapon that could cause someone serious harm.

"I put my resources where my crime is, unfortunately when I look at my crime hotspots, Tottenham Hale, Tottenham Green, White Hart Lane – that's where a lot of my robbery offending overlaps my violent crime."

DCS Fleming says that there were less homicides in the North Area in 2020 than in 2019 and that violent crime has been significantly reduced. A combination of policing and Covid-19 restrictions seeing robberies down 51.4% compared to this time last year.

She added: "I hope this instils confidence in our residents, that we are deterring crime by arresting offenders, but we're also working in conjunction with partners to prevent crime in the first place."

To fill out the police confidence survey:
Visit smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NA_Confidence_Survey

For more information on the Haringey Independent Stop and Search Monitoring Group:
Visit haringeystopandsearch.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tottenham Lockdown



Self Isolation



The Daily Grind



Fragile State

Tottenham Lockdown chronicles the shifting human emotion throughout the pandemic.

The series captures the sense of fragility and claustrophobia, from the early months of self isolation when a chat with a neighbour through an open window would lift spirits, to the euphoria of the shops reopening in May 2020.

Any sense of normality returning with the return to school in September was short lived, as darker themes of unemployment and food poverty loomed on the horizon.

Lordship Rec and other green spaces in Tottenham became the embodiment for residents physical and mental well-being, and much to their frustration when outdoor gyms were taped up by the council.

Photographs and words by Tom Ferrie



Shopping Returns as Lockdown Ends



The Day Before Tier 3 Ends



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

Advertisement



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COMMUNITY

Community champions

Local volunteers provide award winning service at Tottenham Food Hub



By Jason Young, Junior Pastor,
Gospel Temple Apostolic Church

Working in the community is at the heart of everything we do at Tottenham Food Hub, and because of

this, last year we won the Mayor of London Volunteering Award 2020. This followed on from us having won the 2019 Haringey Voluntary and Community Organisation of the Year Award, and the Local Charity of the Year for Sainsbury's

Seven Sisters and Sainsbury's Wood Green Local in 2018.

During the pandemic the demand at the Tottenham Food Hub has increased and we have had to find new and alternative ways to deliver our service. This has included introducing a telephone befriending service to make sure that our service-users are catered for, and delivering food to the homes of people who are elderly, sick, or who are shielding because of Covid-19 restrictions.

“Working in the community is at the heart of everything we do”

The Hub provides excellent volunteering experience for staff workers and seasonal workers alike who are looking for a stop gap to get back onto their feet. Last year and also in 2019 we welcomed members of staff from



Nationwide Tottenham, Morrisons Wood Green, NatWest Wood Green and M&S Crouch End, who volunteered with us for a day as part of their annual charity day release. We partner with these businesses as community champions, collecting food that's donated at these branches and distributing it to people who attend the food hub.

Our work has led to the Tottenham Food Hub being recognised at the London Faith and Belief Community Awards in November 2020 and shortlisted for this year's National Diversity Awards. If 2018 was about being local in Tottenham, and 2019 was about being borough-wide, then following our recent Mayor of London Volunteering Award win, we'll be going national this year.

Local activists target the Mayoral elections

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

Climate activists in Haringey and Enfield are targeting the London Mayoral elections in hopes of getting the strongest possible policies that will cut carbon emissions, from the winning candidate.

The London Mayor has huge powers over transport and planning, as well as sway over housing and energy policies, therefore what they do – or don't do – affects us all. For example, the Ultra-Low Emission Zone that is to come into force in October will affect many drivers with older cars who live or drive inside the North Circular.

Friends of the Earth groups in Haringey, and Enfield Help the Climate, are asking all the GLA candidates for the Enfield and Haringey constituency to commit to pressing the Mayor to make climate a top priority.

This would mean speeding up the shift from driving to walking and cycling, increasing safe cycle lanes, and possibly using a Road User Charging Scheme to

discourage unnecessary car use. It would also mean opposing any expansion of airports, ramping up the installation of energy efficiency in older homes, and the installation of solar panels on many more roofs.

Beth McKinlay of Tottenham & Wood Green Friends of the Earth said: “Climate breakdown is still the biggest threat to our future.

“It is vital that we use every opportunity to cut emissions as fast as possible, and the Mayor has a crucial role in that”

It is vital that we use every opportunity to cut emissions as fast as possible, and the Mayor has a crucial role in that.

“We have already met Joanne McCartney, the sitting member for Enfield and Haringey, and Labour's candidate for May. We



Beth McKinlay with the London climate action plan

are now seeking meetings with the other candidates. We are determined to make climate an issue in these elections.”

Haringey Unison, the youth magazine *Exposure*, Muswell Hill Sustainability Group and others are supporting the campaign.

The elections are due in May. They were re-scheduled from May 2020 and could be postponed again if the Covid-19 pandemic makes it unsafe to go ahead.

To see the Friends of the Earth climate action manifesto:

Visit takeclimateaction.uk/download/climate-action-plan-mayor-london

For more information:

Email Quentin.given@btinternet.com

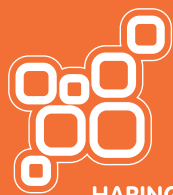
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LITERATURE

Prisoner diaries

Karin Lock reviews 'A Bit of a Stretch' by Chris Atkins

As we settle into our third national 'lockdown', it has not escaped attention that this word originates from the prison procedure of confining inmates to their cells following a riot. Spare a thought then for the many prisoners who have been on lockdown for twenty-three hours of every day since March 2020.

Reading Chris Atkins' debut *A Bit of a Stretch*, about doing time in the UK's crumbling dysfunctional penal system, is like stepping into a Dickensian time machine. Set in HMP Wandsworth (UK's most overcrowded jail), the book is a sobering and forensic account of an outdated institution plagued by rats, spice dealers and a chronic lack of staff.

Sentenced in 2016 to five years for a film tax-avoidance scheme, the author spends his first nine months in the Victorian penitentiary. Starting out on the notorious E wing (aka Beirut), it is a baptism by fire for this privately educated documentary filmmaker. E wing is "awash with the most terrifying individuals I've ever seen... either severely mentally ill, off their heads on drugs, or both."

Mental illness is a common theme throughout this incarceration story. Trained to be a Samaritan listener, Atkins witnesses horrific self-harm and trauma. He provides numerous statistics to support his claim that many prisoners are in dire need of specialist professional help. Prison officers receive little training in when to refer inmates for mental health assistance, and provision is scant.

A Bit of a Stretch is composed in diary form and maps the writer's journey from E wing to the Trinity subsection of the prison. Here Atkins achieves 'white collar club' status mixing

with the top echelon prisoner class – the banking fraudsters of financial crime – in the 'executive suite'. As with life outside, the most affluent and educated get the best jobs and accommodation inside.

What is fascinating about *A Bit of a Stretch* are the many hoops the author has to jump through to get enhanced status (so he can get one visit a week). The administration system is a surreal

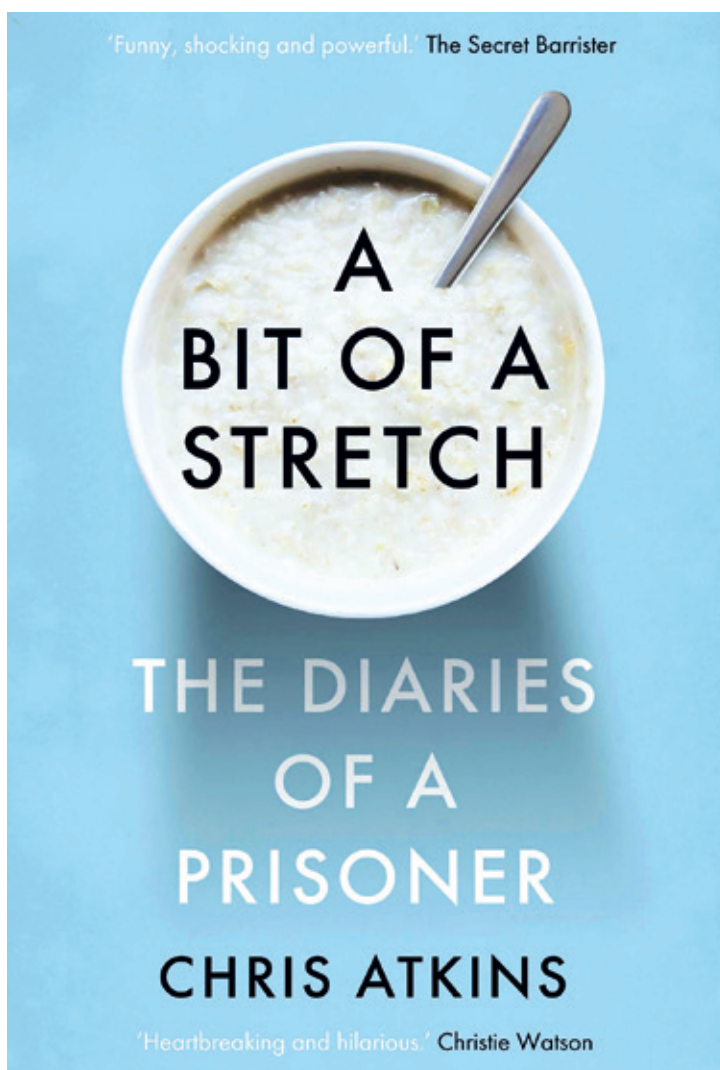
paper mountain of ineffective "apps" and lists with no inherent logic. As a result, corruption is rampant as prisoners try to influence their status within the system.

Prison life revolves around devising schemes to keep out of your cell for as long as possible. For example, Alcoholics Anonymous and church services are chock full of teetotal Muslims. Atkins takes on numerous jobs: delivering 'canteen'; delivering 'visit slips'; inducting new prisoners. Prisoners seem to do all the jobs staff have no time or inclination to do.

Like Gregory David Robert's *Shantaram* and Rusty Young's *Marching Powder*, this is an autobiographical jail narrative that exposes the inhumane and farcical nature of the prison estate. Yet *A Bit of a Stretch* is also very entertaining, full of darkly comic moments, wry observations and fascinating characters. Comedy is a tactic for survival.

The book's main argument is that prisons operate in a vacuum and are "extraordinarily badly run" by private corporations who have no interest in rehabilitation or reform. Peter Clarke, the outgoing Chief Inspector of Prisons, sums up the sorry state of UK prisons thus: "If prisoners don't have human rights, none of us do."

As Britain feels the psychological impact of another containment (with curbs on exercise, education and family contact), it might change our view about the effectiveness of custodial punishment. A government report recently confirmed that ten times more people die from the effects of lockdown than from the flu virus. Locking people up for months on end is not the way to ensure a civilised society on any grounds.



"This is an autobiographical jail narrative that exposes the inhumane and farcical nature of the prison estate"

POETRY CORNER

Watcher of the Skies

You were distracted by Mars,
so I kissed you under the stars...
It was 40 million miles away,
but its passion burned like ours.

I was enchanted by Venus;
such heavenly bodies mean us -
both you and I - being led astray
from everything that's been us.

Isn't it all of space,
no less than each bright place -
with all its sparks and glints that play -
that shines upon my face?

Ah, but what is it worth?
God knows, I've loved you from birth.
I kissed you's all that I can say,
and you dragged me down to Earth.

By Terry Egan

Speaking through a mask

I am writing on the wall
in lurid colours

painting mouthless faces
naming faceless fears

the hydra of the mutating germ
the wheel of the rotating power

filling the space by the street
with the sunflower yellow of hope

one day it will be overwritten
by times to come and poets to come

By Christina Egan

Send us your poetry
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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 37,500 free copies to readers via local newsstands, community venues, and door-to-door, with a total estimated readership of 120,000 people.



Example full page advert

N°5
AUG/SEP 2020

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Jonathan Lucas

Head of Operations
Pete Jones

Engagement Manager
Pete Jones

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NEWS

Streets ahead

The coronavirus has brought anti-car measures forward

On a recent evening, the streets of Enfield were transformed. The usual sight of cars parked along the roads was replaced by a sea of bicycles. This was the result of a new initiative by the Enfield Council, aimed at encouraging more people to cycle to work and school. The council has introduced a new scheme, which allows residents to park their bikes for free on the streets. This is a first for Enfield, and it is hoped that it will encourage more people to cycle, reducing traffic and pollution. The council has also introduced a new scheme, which allows residents to park their bikes for free on the streets. This is a first for Enfield, and it is hoped that it will encourage more people to cycle, reducing traffic and pollution.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Action on clean air

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EC1 Echo moves forward

"This place is something of a gem in an unassuming part of town"

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Quoted from Evening Standard's 50 Best Pubs in London

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Starters

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- Fish Cakes with Tartar Sauce
- Scotch Egg
- Crab Mince with Gremolata
- Spiced Butternut
- Tomato & Basil Soup
- Pigeon Farm Duck Leg Terrine with Grape Duck Skin & Peach Confit

Mains

- Beef Burger, Bacon, Cheese, Tomato, Gremolata with Chips
- Thousand's Apple, Beef, Ricotta, Spinach, Breadcrumbs & Eggs
- Burrata, Heirloom Tomato and Summer Flowers
- Free Range Roast Chicken with Root Vegetables & Sweetcorn
- House Burger, Bacon, Cheese, Tomato, Gremolata with Chips
- "Beyond Meat" Burger, Spicy Coleslaw, Vegan Cheese with Chipotle Aioli

Desserts

- Savory Toffee Pudding with Ice Cream
- Raspberry Pavlova with Lime Cord & Vanilla Cream
- Vegan Chocolate Brownie
- English Artisan Cheesecake, Clammy & Crispy

FOR TWO COURSES MON-WED

"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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SPORT

Credit: Tottenham Hotspur/Getty Images



FA Cup third round tie made history for having greatest league gap between two teams

By Julia Tanska

Jose Mourinho's team kicked off their FA Cup campaign with a win that made cup history – facing a club 161 places below them in the football pyramid.

Mourinho emphasised that naming a strong starting eleven would show respect to Marine FC, a club competing in the Northern Premier League Division One North West – the eighth tier of the football league system.

Marine players were up against some of Tottenham's star players with Lucas Moura, Toby Alderweireld, Dele Alli and Moussa Sissoko on the pitch from the first minute. Welsh legend Gareth Bale would also come on in the second half.

But despite the star-studded line-up, it was Marine who came closest to opening the scoring when a fantastic left-footed shot by Neil Kengni, in the 18th minute, smashed off the crossbar of Joe Hart's goal.

This was the closest Marine would get to scoring, with Spurs forward Carlos Vinicius putting Spurs in front in the 24th minute, followed by another goal in the 30th minute, and topped off with a third in the 37th. Moura joined Vinicius on the list of goalscorers with his impressive free-kick in the 32nd minute.

Early in the second half, in another

history-making moment, 16-year-old Alfie Devine received a back-heel pass from Moura and sent the ball into the back of the net, making him Tottenham's youngest-ever goalscorer.

The game finished 5-0, but the scoreline did not tell the whole story. Merseyside-based club Marine FC, playing against a high-ranking Premier League team, was an exciting and valuable experience for their team of semi-professional and amateur players; a memory they will hold on to forever.

It was disappointing for local fans who, because of the pandemic restrictions, were not allowed to watch from the stands. But this did not stop some locals who were still able to support their players at Rossett Park by watching from their own back gardens and bedroom windows!

The beauty of the FA Cup is defined by

“The beauty of the FA Cup is defined by matches like this one, and the magic was certainly present in this game”

matches like this one, and the magic was certainly present in this game. After the match, Marine confirmed that they had sold over 30,000 virtual tickets (essentially donations), thanking their fans and Spurs supporters for all the contributions.

In an interview with TalkSport, Marine striker Niall Cummins said the money raised would go towards “setting the club up for the next

decade...probably even two decades.”

Under Covid-19 protocols, footballers are not allowed to swap shirts, but after the match Spurs confirmed that they had provided Marine with fresh match shirts instead. The gesture was widely appreciated by the Merseyside players as many shared photos with the shirts on social media, and players from both teams thanked each other for the historic match.



Credit: Tottenham Hotspur/Getty Images

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

Individual rewards

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£5 per month upwards:

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

Organisational rewards

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