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August 2020
No. 37, Free

Local news that matters to you



Stamford Hill Primary School, Berkeley Road, N15 Credit Stephen Furner

End of an era Staff and pupils say goodbye to Stamford Hill Primary School

By Luchia Robinson

Stamford Hill Primary School in Berkeley Road, N15 has now permanently closed following a decline in student numbers over the years.

The final decision to close the school and amalgamate it with nearby Tiverton Primary School in Pulford Road, N15, was made by Haringey Council's cabinet in February this year, following a

lengthy consultation process, and a conclusive four-week representation period.

The one-form primary school, which was founded in 1882 had become financially unviable, with projections suggesting that there would continue to be low numbers of student enrolments in the years ahead.

Andrew Bethell, chair of governors at Stamford Hill Primary School said: "We are in the situation where

Stamford Hill Primary School is right opposite Tiverton Primary School, and there frankly isn't enough children to fill both schools.

"We accepted the decision from the local authority, that a sensible thing was to amalgamate the two schools, and that essentially meant that the old Stamford Hill Primary School that had been going for almost 140 years, had to close down.

"Although we are sad, and there will be lots of people who have

attended the school, and have taught at the school who will also be sad, it was an inevitability given the demographic changes in the area."

Whereas London has experienced a greater increase in the total number of pupils compared to all other regions across the country, the total number of pupils at primary school level has declined in recent years.

This increase in surplus primary school places has partly been attributed to the declining

birth rates across the capital – a decrease of 10% between 2012/13 and 2018/19.

School amalgamations have become increasingly commonplace as local authorities seek to maintain the capacity and financial stability of affected schools such as Stamford Hill Primary, which

"The school has been an amazing place for children to learn [and] grow"

will see its current pupils starting at Tiverton in September, for the start of the new term.

Andrew said: We've always had a very good relationship with Tiverton, and obviously there was a moment when we first had to announce this, that parents were upset and concerned, because they had had great fondness for [Stamford Hill Primary] school.

"However, we went through a very detailed and elaborate consultation process, and by the time

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WELCOME

Steadfast In
DifficultiesAugust 2020
N°. 37

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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Published by Social Spider CIC



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Maya Angelou by street artist Zabou, in Stoneleigh Road Credit Karin Lock

An introduction
from the editor

Hello, welcome to issue 37.

This month's front-page article details the story of Stamford Hill Primary School closing its doors after 138 years. The fate of closure has also been that for Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre, but local members of the community are fighting to reverse this (p.6).

Haringey Council has secured grant funding to develop cycling and walking schemes within the borough, increasing the capacity to travel in more environmentally friendly ways (p.4).

Quentin Given, Coordinator of Tottenham & Wood Green Friends of the Earth, discusses the importance of building back better, informing us of what efforts to drastically tackle climate change means for Tottenham and the wider world (p.10).

Community projects, My Birthday Box (p.11), Operation Smiles (p.12) and the outdoor festival, 'We Are Still Here' (p.13) have all been bringing joy to local residents by offering positive opportunities, at a time when the weight of COVID-19 is still so heavily impacting individuals and families.

Lockdown has posed particularly hard for many families in Haringey with children with disabilities (p.5).

As always, if you'd like to tell us about Tottenham from your perspective, get in touch for more details: tcp@socialspider.com

Luchia Robinson, Editor

NEWS IN BRIEF

Concerns over increase in knife crime
Met police crime statistics show rise
in local knife crime and robbery

By Simon Allin,
Local Democracy Reporter

Knife crime, personal robbery and crimes in which guns were fired have all risen across Haringey and neighbouring borough Enfield, over the past year, according to recent data from the Met Police.

The statistics for the North Area Basic Command Unit (BCU), which covers both boroughs, shows several types of crime increased – despite dropping across the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) as a whole.

Knife crime is a “key concern” following a 16% rise in offences comparing the two rolling years to May. This contrasts with a 6% decline across the MPS.

Personal robbery offences – a key contributor to the knife crime – rose 17% year-on-year, compared to a 2% decline across the MPS.

Chris Jones, superintendent in charge of safer neighbourhood policing and schools policing in Haringey and Enfield, said: “Knife crime is a key concern in the BCU. The majority of knife crime offences were linked to knifepoint robberies, street robberies.

“Personal robberies are a key contributor to knife crime. We are kind of an outlier in terms

of the Met performance around robbery.

“There are comprehensive robbery plans in place, so we have a lot of central policing asset come to Enfield and Haringey, and there are a number of plans, including a schools policing plan around robbery.”

Lethal barrelled discharges – offences in which a lethal firearm was fired – climbed by 27% in the BCU year-on-year, against a decrease of 27% across the MPS.

Supt Jones said: “We are working heavily with specialist crime – we’ve been doing work with National Crime Agency and other serious law enforcement to target that high-end offending.

“I think it’s fair to say that Enfield and Haringey have levels of criminality that is street-based, but also have levels of criminality which is high-end, more organised crime, and therefore will result in potentially more firearms being used from that higher sector of the criminal underworld.”

Homicides rose from eight to 13 comparing the two rolling years ending May 2020 – from four to six in Enfield and from four to seven in Haringey.

Burglaries declined over the same period, but the 1% fall in Enfield was much smaller than the 33% decrease in Haringey and lower than the 10% decline across the MPS.

NEWS



Continued from Page-1

they were well reassured, we introduced them to Tiverton – many of them knew Tiverton and were very happy in the end.

“It’s a complicated process and it takes time for people to get used to the idea, but actually [the amalgamation] has been remarkably smooth.”

The outbreak of coronavirus prevented the staff and pupils at Stamford Hill Primary School from having the closing celebration they would have wanted. However, the year 6 pupils undertook a special history project, compiling logbook entries and photographs of the school, which have been made into video clips, to preserve fond memories.

Year 6 pupil, Mercy Ikwueze-Okolo says she is well prepared for her new venture at secondary school, and that the teachers at Stamford Hill will be what she’ll miss most.

She said: “The school has been an amazing place for children to learn, grow and experience, and just thrive in their lives.”

The school will also be greatly

missed by acting headteacher, Rehana Ali, who began her career at Stamford Hill as an NQT (Newly Qualified Teacher). She said: “This has been the toughest year, knowing that it’s the end of Stamford Hill. Goodbyes are always hard but it’s harder because of this [pandemic] that we’re in now.

“My memories of Stamford Hill are just of the children and the families that I’ve been working with – I’m going to miss them.

“On the whole the majority of the children are joining Tiverton which is good, because they’ll be able to see their friends. There’s still that community, it just won’t be at Stamford Hill, and that’s a sad thing – but children are resilient and I am confident that they will pick up, and they will get on [well] with it.

“Stamford Hill has been a real big part of my life, and it always will be.”

To see the Discovering the History of Stamford Hill School video:
Visit vimeo.com/439892479

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NEWS

Council in support of adult social care reforms

Councillor Sarah James starts petition calling for adult social care funding commitments

By Luchia Robinson

Cllr Sarah James (Harringay), cabinet member for adults and health has begun a petition calling for the government to fulfil its promise of giving councils the required funding to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

The petition asks for the government to fully fund adult social care, and to ensure regular testing for staff and service users, the provision of secure supplies of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and to also guarantee that hospitals do not discharge patients with COVID-19 into care homes.

In response to the coronavirus health crisis, the government announced £3.2 billion in emergency funding for local social care departments to form partnerships with the NHS.

Haringey Council's emergency response has included: establishing services to care for vulnerable people whose carer is admitted to hospital with COVID-19; implementing the new COVID-19 hospital discharge arrangements; providing emergency stocks of

PPE for care homes and supporting them with infection management.

Care home deaths account for 40% of the UK COVID-19 fatalities. It is also estimated that local authorities nationally are facing a £10bn coronavirus funding shortfall.

Haringey Council says it has spent in excess of the funding it has received for social care, and guaranteed funding will minimise further risks to the vulnerable.

Cllr Sarah James said: "Social care is invaluable yet incredibly underfunded; the pandemic has only highlighted the importance of the role it plays in relation to the NHS.

"Now is the time for a National Care Service to give adult social care parity with the NHS and ensure that those who need care and support get the properly funded, reliable and high-quality service they deserve.

"As a result of the pandemic, councils face a £10bn funding shortfall putting disabled, frail and older people, and care workers at risk. That's why I have started this petition, calling for the government to provide full funding

Cllr Sarah James



of Adult Social Care, now and after the COVID-19 pandemic."

A recent survey conducted by Healthwatch Haringey asked care home managers in the borough how they are coping with COVID-19, and whether they feel supported in providing good quality care.

Of the 17 responses received, around one third of Haringey's care homes had had cases of COVID-19 amongst their residents and staff. There had been initial staffing problems because

of absences, and although the care homes had access to test kits for staff, they didn't have access to tests for their residents. As a result, 45% of care homes said that residents coming or returning to their care homes from hospital were not being tested for the virus before being discharged into their care. In addition, care home managers say hospitals need to do more work to ensure good planning and support is in place for those who are discharged.

Worries about PPE were also expressed. Although the care home managers have been able to

"Now is the time for a National Care Service to give adult social care parity with the NHS"

provide staff with equipment, they have concerns about future supplies of hand sanitisers and face masks, which have been in short supply.

40% of the managers were unsure whether their care homes would be financially viable beyond the next twelve months – their main concerns being staff retention, and rising costs.

The report findings will be fed-back to Haringey Council and its NHS partners in order to help inform the council's COVID-19 forward planning.

Borough secures funding for cycling and walking schemes

By Simon Allin,
Local Democracy Reporter

Haringey and Enfield have secured more than £3m from a scheme to improve walking and cycling routes in the wake of the coronavirus lockdown.

The money, from Transport for London's (TfL) Streetspace for London fund, will be used to create dozens of infrastructure projects such as segregated cycles lanes and traffic reduction schemes.

Haringey Council secured £1.14 million of the available funding, and although the measures will initially be temporary, many of them could be made permanent at a later date.

The TfL funding scheme was

launched to create more space for people to walk and cycle safely as the city emerges from the coronavirus lockdown.

Projects that have won funding include the extension of the Cycle Superhighway 1 route to link Tottenham and Edmonton, designing a new cycle route which will connect Haringey to Islington via Crouch End, and various 'school streets' schemes to improve safety near schools.

The funding will also help local businesses to re-open by enabling safe social distancing for residents visiting them and providing space for them to effectively trade and operate.

Cllr Kirsten Hearn, cabinet member for climate change and sustainability at Haringey Council, said: "We are absolutely

delighted to receive this funding from TfL to support our walking and cycling infrastructure in Haringey.

"We are committed to promoting the safety of our residents, particularly as lockdown eases, providing more options for active travel in the borough while ensuring the necessary social distancing measures are in place.

"The planned works will help to reassure residents that cycling is a safe, clean and efficient way to get around. We have also identified low traffic neighbourhoods to discourage use of cars.

"Long term, we aim to completely transform the borough for active travel, to promote the health of our residents and the environment through a cleaner and greener Haringey."



Cllr Kirsten Hearn

Locked out in lockdown

Not all families in need of SEND services are being supported, says local resident

Zack Leveson Credit Wendy Charlton



By Luchia Robinson

Lockdown has posed many challenges, particularly for families in the borough with children with disabilities.

Brian Leveson, a training manager who lives in West Green ward, said: “We’ve not been managing. It’s been very, very different, there’s lots of extra pressure.”

Brian is the father of 15-year-old, Zack Leveson. Zack has cerebral palsy, which affects his limbs. He is unable to walk, talk or eat solid foods, and requires ongoing personal care. He also has a form of epilepsy and a condition called Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD).

During lockdown, Zack’s parents have been working full-time from home whilst looking after their son’s needs – and they have struggled to cope.

Physiotherapy and speech and language sessions, as well as many other activities, which would normally have been provided at Zack’s school, have to now be carried out at home, in addition to Zack’s many care requirements.

“We ensure all of Zack’s basic needs are met, but it has been difficult to balance those two areas – his school needs alongside our work, and our own needs as well,” said Brian.

Brian also says that his family has had no direct guidance or advice from the local authority’s Children with Disabilities Team (CWDT), especially since having limited

services available to them because of the coronavirus pandemic.

In May, the CWDT was severely criticised by the High Court for failing to adequately protect two vulnerable children in a case that was referred to as having ‘fundamental errors.’

Brian said: “The council say it was a one off, but the evidence of lockdown says it isn’t a one off – and the failings continue.”

A recent, independent survey of parents of children of special educational needs and disabilities in Haringey, conducted by Markfield SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs Information Advice and Support Service), which looked at parents’ experiences during lockdown, found that only one-in-ten respondents were ‘coping fine’. Many others had experienced high levels of anxiety and mental distress, as well as increased difficulties managing their children’s behaviour.

None of the respondents said they had received sufficient support from the council’s Special Education Needs services, and many said that they hadn’t received any short breaks or personal budgets for respite. Of those who had, the majority were unable to use the budget in the lockdown.

Haringey Council says that since lockdown, the CWDT has been contacting parents of children who have an allocated social worker in the CWDT, twice a week, offering them support. This support, it says has included provision of food, laptops and opportuni-

ties to access education.

The council also adds that a multi-agency forum that includes staff from health, education and adult services meet weekly to review the support offered to these children with allocated social workers, based on the assessment of need.

Zack doesn’t have an allocated social worker. After many years of trying to access one, in order to obtain ongoing care provisions, the Leveson family have only been able to access direct payments.

Brian said: “Zack has severe cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities. He is paraplegic. Most people are shocked that he is not allocated a social worker.

“That said, we believe that Haringey social services should have contacted all direct payment users and everyone in their care. They were given guidance to do so (by the Department of Health and Social Care) in May 2020.”

Brian feels that there has been a lack of effective communication between the council and local families in need of SEND services. He said: “Parents are the experts with their children, they know what’s going on and they need to be treated as those experts – not as a hindrance.”

Last month, a survey centred upon improving relationships between families and professionals in the local authority via co-production, was released. It found that there was ‘a lack of continuity in leadership, repeated movement of the SEND team between portfolios, staff

turnover and inconsistent practice, which have hampered Haringey’s attempts to deliver the systematic cultural changes that have been needed over the last six years.’

63% of respondents to the survey felt that they did not feel involved, in any way, in shaping local services.

“We know the problems, we’ve known the problems for years – the judge knew the problems, Ofsted, and the Care Quality Commission know the problems – they’re not new problems. COVID-19 hasn’t changed the situation [the problems] are pre-existing,” said Brian.

Following May’s damning High Court ruling, which brought many of the problems to public attention, the council has said there will be a peer review of the CWDT, and of cases in the service. There’ll also be a learning review focused on that particular court case.

Cllr Kaushika Amin, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families, said: “Haringey children’s services continues to work to improve standards across the whole department including children with disabilities.

“A full programme of work has been put in place to ensure that this happens for this case and to ensure that this is not a systemic issue in the CWDT.

“We were very disappointed with the outcome of the court case and as a service it is important that we listen, consider and reflect on the criticisms.”

NEWS

Saving the Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre



Popular community venue has gone into liquidation

By Luchia Robinson

The Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre (HICC) in Pretoria Road, N17 has gone into liquidation, and an online petition has begun to try and save it.

The petition, which seeks 5,000 signatories to help secure the centre's future, was started by local resident, Tamzin Clifford who is calling for critical help from local people and the Irish government. She said: "Please support us in saving [the community centre] as it will impact us greatly, as we will lose many people and connections without this building to reunite us all."

Advice and support services were available at the centre, as well as a day care and lunch club which were part funded by the Irish government's Emigrant Support

Programme (ESP) grant.

Other sources of income included monies gained on Spurs match days from bar sales and car parking charges. These particular activities, however, have not been possible during lockdown as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and the HICC has now gone into voluntary liquidation because of a significant loss of income streams.

Since it was established in 1987,



the cultural centre has been a space for local Irish residents and other members of the community to engage and partake in many clubs and activities.

Emily Lewis, gave her reason for signing the petition, stating: "I'm signing because I have lupus and I am a member/co-chair of the Enfield Lupus Support Group. We hold our monthly meetings in the centre and we also hold our fundraising events there.

"It is local for many of our members which enables them to attend without having to travel too much of a distance. We are a small charity and the centre provides us with a space at very competitive prices, which helps us financially. Closing the centre would definitely impede on our charity and have a damaging effect."

Upon hearing the news of the closure, a spokesperson from the

charity and national membership network, Irish in Britain said: "We are saddened to hear that our member organisation Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre, has made the decision to initiate liquidation.

"As a membership body, Irish in Britain has worked closely with the HICC Board of Trustees to support the organisation and to explore sustainability options in what is a very challenging operating environment.

"Following this decision by HICC Trustees, our priority is to ensure that the needs of the Haringey Irish community are met.

"In the coming weeks, we will be liaising with community members and stakeholders. We will also be happy to support discussions with Haringey Council that enable a positive future for this important community asset."

Haringey Council has said it is committed to exploring different options to maintain the services that were delivered at the Irish Centre and to supporting the other tenants in the building.

Cllr Mark Blake, Cabinet Member for Communities and Equalities, said: "Sadly, the Haringey Irish Centre has gone into liquidation, and we fully appreciate the distress the closure has caused to the staff who worked at the centre and the residents who relied on it for support.

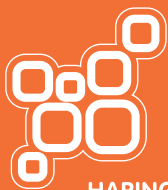
"Work was undertaken to explore a merger with other organisations, this was, however, unsuccessful owing to current circumstances.

"We recognise the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our local community infrastructure, which can be reliant on income from activities which have not been possible during lockdown and which appears to be the case here.

"The council had no representatives on the trustee board. However, since being informed of the liquidation we are seeking to support residents who have been receiving support, information and advice from the centre and to keep the other tenants in the building, to ensure that residents continue to have access to the services that they need."

Petition details can be found here:
change.org/p/irish-government-save-the-haringey-irish-cultural-community-centre

"We will lose many people and connections without this building to reunite us all"



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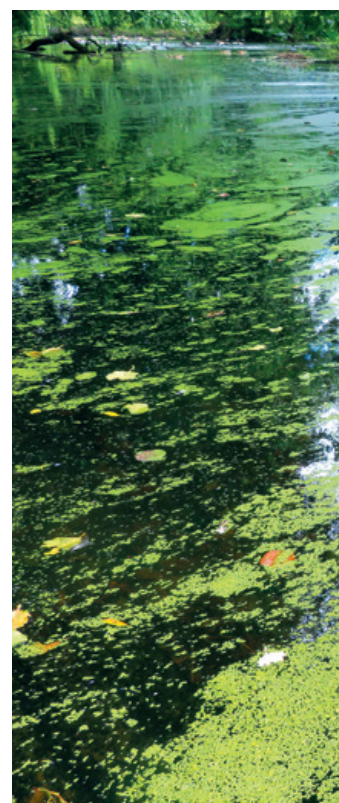


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PHOTOGRAPHY



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Club taken at Tottenham Cemetery
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Clockwise from top right
Stephen Furner, Stephen Furner,
Joan Curtis, Diane Dalli, Diane Dalli.



COMMUNITY



Tottenham & Wood Green Friends of the Earth on a climate demonstration
Credit: Quentin Given

Building back better by tackling climate change

By Quentin Given, Coordinator,
Tottenham & Wood Green
Friends of the Earth

The COVID-19 pandemic is – literally, with our masks – in our face, but the greater threat of climate breakdown has sadly not gone away, and the unprecedented heatwave in the Arctic is only more evidence of this.

At the same time, the pandemic has shown us that nations can take drastic action in the face of emergencies, ripping up spending rules and restricting many activities. People can change their habits – witness the explosion of cycling during lockdown.

So, as part of the wider Build Back Better campaign, our local Friends of the Earth group sought to lobby David Lammy MP to pursue a greener, fairer route to recovery. At the end of June, eleven of us met him on Zoom to express our concerns.

Half of the climate-wrecking CO2 emissions in Haringey come from energy use in our homes, many of which are old and energy inefficient.

The biggest job locally is to improve our homes. The government has announced some funding for this but we will need much more. This would create hundreds of thousands of jobs nationally, with well over 1,000

drive in larger numbers. As David Lammy has emphasised, this is an equalities issue – COVID-19 hits poor people and those from ethnic minorities more.

Globally BAME people are suffering more from climate-related droughts, floods and hurricanes. We need everyone to be pushing the government to act faster.

David Lammy thanked us for the meeting, and responded quickly, writing to the Prime Minister the same day, urging a green and fair recovery. He said in the letter: “There can be no racial justice without climate justice.”

We have had success in persuading Haringey Council to adopt its climate action plan and move its billion plus pension funds away from fossil-fuel companies. We will continue to press the council and MPs for stronger climate action.

For more information:
Visit friendsoftheearth.uk/groups/tottenhamwoodgreen

“There can be no racial justice without climate justice”

workers required in Haringey.

We also need to reduce air pollution and carbon dioxide emissions from traffic – reducing space for motor vehicles and encouraging walking and cycling.

There is a real danger that we will go back to planet-wrecking business-as-usual, or even worse if people avoid public transport and

COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN

Cllr Sarah Williams focuses on one aspect of life in West Green

I'm very pleased to highlight West Green ward here in Tottenham. I live here and raised my family in our community. I'm proud to be living in the ward where I represent my neighbours.

It's hard to pick just one aspect of life in West Green, but one of my favourite places, Lordship Rec is right in the middle of the ward – connecting Broadwater Farm to Downhills Park.

Just about every day I walk, run or cycle there – and over the years I've watched its transformation from a rather desolate, neglected place to become the vibrant centre of our neighbourhood. Now, more than ever, our community is using this vast open space to play, exercise, appreciate nature and meet neighbours. The park has never been busier and I was privileged to join the thousands who attended the Black Lives Matter events in July.

Lordship Rec (and its neighbour Downhills Park) is fortunate to have an active friends group. Launched in 2001, the group is still determinedly community-led. They have worked tirelessly to secure funds and restore the lake area, cycling facilities, and the Shell Theatre, as well as install a permanent memorial to the victims of the Second World War Downhills shelter tragedy.

The Friends work closely with the Broadwater Farm Community Centre, which is home to Harmony Gardens, Back2Earth and numerous health and fitness classes. Other park users include Broadwater United FC and Rockstone Cycling.

We also have the Hub café, a community run co-operative, that is now open again after lockdown, offering takeaways, hot and cold drinks, and nutritious home-made food. I've been known to grab an ice cream there too, when the weather's right. And because the Hub is right next to the lake, they've got food for the ducks.

The Hub is looking forward to re-opening fully, providing a friendly place to meet, and offering classes for all ages – from Tiny Time Music to Silver Fit.

As a local councillor I'm glad that Haringey Council's parks team is able to support Lordship Rec by offering a low rent for the Hub.

Cllr Sarah Williams
Email sarah.williams@haringey.gov.uk
For more information about Lordship Rec:
Visit lordshiprec.org.uk



Cllr Sarah Williams (right) with Joan Curtis, secretary of Friends of Lordship Rec (left) Credit: Dadzoola

COMMUNITY

Community

Local youth project brings positivity amid the pandemic

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Happiness unboxed

Birthday box project brings joy to local families

Andreena (left) with daughter Renée
Credit Andreena Leeanne Bogle-Walton



By Andreena Leeanne Bogle-Walton
& Renée Walton, *My Birthday Box*

Almost a month into lockdown, I was talking to my daughter Renée about how she felt about not being

able to celebrate her milestone 18th birthday with her friends.

We spoke about all the previous birthday celebrations she had had and spared a thought for all of those families out there who couldn't afford to celebrate even if they wanted to because of

a lack of funds.

My Birthday Box was created after this conversation, just a week before Renée's birthday.

The birthday boxes are white on the outside, lined with coloured tissue paper, and include crayons for the family to decorate the boxes if they choose to do so. We have thoughtfully included other things like happy birthday balloons, a banner, party blowouts, bubbles, vegan sweets and a blank card – all of the items are individually packed for hygiene reasons. It was important for us to make sure the boxes were gender neutral and that the products were safe for any child.

We have chosen to do this from a place of love, kindness and compassion, and we feel it is important for us to be transparent, especially as these boxes are being funded by members of the public via the Just Giving crowd-funder we set up to start our idea. People from all walks of life including television personality, Vanessa Feltz, have generously donated their hard-earned cash in these challenging times.

In the grand scheme of things although a birthday is an important occasion to many, it is down on the list of priorities when you don't have much money and have to be careful to budget in order to focus on buying food and paying bills, especially during a global pandemic.

It is important to note that this birthday in a box concept is not new, but our version is our way of bringing joy to families living in Haringey, Waltham Forest, and Hackney, who are facing hardship.

To date we have made provisions via deliveries to food hubs and food banks across these boroughs, including: North London Community Consortium, Selby Food Hub and Tottenham Food Bank.

We decided to end the birthday box initiative once we achieved our target of preparing 200 boxes, but I am so pleased we decided to do it – we raised £1,568. Each day we realise more and more just how important these boxes are to the people who donated, and to

“Each day we realise more and more just how important these boxes are to the people who donated, and to the families who received them”

the families who received them. Birthdays are special, children are special, and we think it's important for children to mark their special occasion even in these uncertain times.

We hope to pass on what we have learnt so that others who have been inspired and want to continue this initiative in our absence can do so, as there will always be children having birthdays in households where a lack of money is an issue, even after the pandemic.

For more details, head to @my.birthday.box on Instagram

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The birthday boxes at the North London Community Consortium



COMMUNITY



Jessie Stephens receives flowers from Operation Smiles

Making Tottenham smile

Local youth project bringing positivity amid the pandemic

By Tobi Mary Aina,
Voyage Youth

Elderly people and carers are at risk during this difficult time of a health pandemic, and more than ever they need to feel the support from those in their community.

As young people, we have taken it upon ourselves to ensure that they are appreciated.

Operation Smiles is a six-week project that was set up in July as a way for young people to give back to their community, whilst learning vital skills that are required to become young leaders of the future.

We are delivering flowers to people, and collecting photographs of happy recipients smiling. This is our way to bring positivity during this challenging period of lockdown.

Our project focuses on people

who might not have necessarily gotten the support they require because they are not being focused on. It is helping them to feel appreciated, as sometimes their work and effort can go unrecognised. A project like this ensures that this does not happen.

Voyage Youth has been in contact

extremely difficult time.

Our young leaders have graduated from the Voyage Youth programme: YLFSC (Young Leaders For Safer Cities), and in addition to working alongside ACLC, we are also collaborating with Arena Flowers, Up Cycle, HIP (Hackney Independent Forum for Parents/

Carers of Children with Disabilities), City and Hackney Carers Centre, and Hackney Caribbean Elderly Organisation, to

deliver this project.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected people within our community in different ways, and this project aims to bring positivity and light during a very dark period. It also, allows young people to feel better connected with their community, helping them to understand the importance of giving back.

For more information:
Visit voyageyouth.com

“This project aims to bring positivity and light during a very dark period”

with a variety of Haringey-based care facilities, and we have been reaching back to our Caribbean elders who were a part of last year’s ‘Windrush elders: Our Memories Project’ via the African Caribbean Leadership Company (ACLC).

Some of our elders live in Bruce Grove and Noel Park, where we have been delivering to over the weekends. We want to use this opportunity to ensure they are doing okay during this

LETTERS

Improved cycling and walking infrastructure in Seven Sisters

Dear TCP

I have written to the Seven Sisters councillors demanding better cycling and walking infrastructure, safer streets and healthier air for Seven Sisters ward, urging them to support their residents, including myself and my neighbours in this call.

Looking at a map of local accidents involving cyclists or pedestrians, Seven Sisters ward is ripe for improvements. Haringey has now been awarded millions of pounds for improvements, especially in sight of coming out of lockdown but it seems that no improvements are planned in our local area. Most money has been allocated to St Ann’s, Bruce Grove and other wards. What a shame – this is clearly a missed opportunity and I wonder if the Seven Sisters councillors were either not heard or not vocal enough when money was allocated.

How can this be rectified? The Vale Road/Hermitage Road/Moreton Road triangle of doom is a known rat-run that attracts high-speed traffic and puts local residents at risk. No parent in their right mind will let their children cycle or walk to any of the local schools. No one will take up cycling and do their bit to help the NHS.

It is disappointing to see that yet again no long-term or at least short-term improvements will be made. Other councils are way ahead of Haringey and I can see low-traffic neighbourhoods popping up all across neighbouring boroughs such as Islington and Hackney.

So far the excuse has been ‘there

is no money’. Well, now there is money on the table, so where are the improvements? We need them now!

I would like to know the views of my councillors as to why they have failed to secure money to make improvements in Seven Sisters ward.

Alfred Jahn
Seven Sisters resident

Homes for people or piggy banks for the super-rich?

Dear TCP

Anyone walking around Tottenham Hale can’t fail to notice the massive towers going up. More flats to buy or rent is surely a good thing. With all these developments the council have only secured a minority of flats as ‘affordable’, the majority being destined for the open market. Surely private flats can be bought for owner occupation?

Campaigners with Action on Empty Homes say up to 125,000 homes in London have been bought as wealth investment. Ultra-high-worth investors are in no hurry. If you are that rich, keeping a property empty for two or three years is no problem.

The big bucks are being deployed to Hoover up bargains according to the *Financial Times*, while housing researchers at Molior say sales of newly built flats have slowed down. Currently it would take three years to sell all the completed flats in central London. How many private flats in Tottenham Hale will stay unsold, or be purchased and then left empty as ‘speculative vacancies?’

Nasser Baston
Tottenham Hale resident

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YOUTH

Literature

Karin Lock reviews 'Talking to My Daughter: A brief History of Capitalism'

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We are still here

Outdoor community initiative highlighting local children's creativity



Children set up camp, displaying their outdoor art for 'Out The Front' Credit Nora Mulready

By Angeline Conaghan,
Director of Groundswell Arts

Throughout June and July, we presented our second socially distanced festival. The first festival: 'We Are Here', took place in May and included a big chalk day, a children's photograph trail and a family jam, where musicians and families played music in their doorways across eight local streets.

We set these events up initially in response to lockdown as much of the work we were doing with schools and families was cancelled indefinitely, but we wanted to find a way to try and make a difference to people's wellbeing without offering another online event or workshops.

The second socially distanced festival, 'We Are Still Here' included a word trail whereby a post box was installed for postcards on Conway Rd N15, an art trail encouraging people to decorate and put art in their front yard, and some door-

step films about children's experiences of lockdown.

Lots of this work has been about trying to keep a sense of connection and optimism in the community and raising the profile of children's experiences and voices, as they have experienced unprecedented disruption to life as they know it. As the response to the initial events had been so positive, we felt it was important to extend the invitation to all members of our community to take part.

"We wanted to find safe ways of continuing to connect with people in our own neighbourhood"

Locals have responded particularly well to our initiatives, and almost 200 postcards were deposited in our special walking with words post box, in the first fortnight of July. The postcards provided a way for people to share humour, reflections, ideas, and even sadness with the world, as many people had

remained at home in this time. They were mostly from children, but there were also a nice range of postcards from adult members of the community.

As a community arts organisation we wanted to find safe ways of continuing to connect with people in our own neighbourhood through art, music, language and play. Activities that were socially distanced, but outside and in the world rather than online – especially when we began in May when the weather was so

great! This was important to raise spirits, and to encourage families to play and create together, expressing whatever they wanted to.

It has been nice to see people stopping to look at things or reading the postcards or photographs we have attached to signs when I've been out and about.

For us, it was about doing something manageable in the area we live in, where we could create small impact that would hopefully spread some positivity and optimism

locally, at a time when people are experiencing many difficulties.

I like the idea of physical distancing, not social distancing, and We Are (Still) Here was our very small response for our neighbours and local community. We sought direct engagement with families through this initiative at a time when schools and childcare settings were dealing with many other things.

The festivals have given a voice to children, making their hopes, fears, their right to play, and an education, visible during this time of crisis.

We hope that by putting some of this work up outside where it can be seen, changes how other people may feel about their neighbourhood, as it brings about beauty, optimism, strength and community participation.

For more information:
Visit groundswellarts.com/wearehere



The blooming rosette of lockdown by artist, Giles Leaman, Cranleigh Rd, N15
Credit Giles Leaman

POETRY CORNER

Quarantine

Coronavirus appeared out of thin air
Leading to panic and despair
Fear spread all over the earth
Made us all think about how much life is worth

Countries are currently on lockdown
Making many of us frown
Kids wanted to get out of school
Now they regret thinking it at all

We have never known such boredom
Negative news reports, some ignore them
One hour of exercise every day
People being active, or so they say

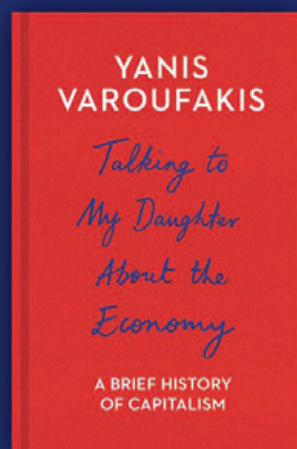
When will this crisis end
It's shown us how much we can miss that one friend
The Coronavirus appeared, it seems, from out of thin air
And now life is just not fair

by Iyla-Jean Francis

LITERATURE

Imagining a different future of economic justice

Karin Lock reviews *Talking to My Daughter: A Brief History of Capitalism*



Back in April a YouGov survey declared nine in ten UK residents did not want a complete return to ‘normal’ after lockdown. They cited personal, social or environmental factors: cleaner air, family time and stronger community connections. The implication was a desire for change; a questioning of how beneficial ‘normal’ actually might be.

Pre-corona the British economy was already in recession. Now lockdown has reinforced the gaping inequalities in a country where a fifth of families live close to the breadline, many now reliant on food banks. So how did we get into this mess in the first place?

The elephant in the room, according to *Talking to My Daughter*, is capitalism. Our entire economy thrives off debt, doing us more harm than good. Over the last four decades, capitalism’s inherent boom-bust cycle has only exacerbated social issues, income precarity and household costs.

Written in response to his fifteen-year-old daughter’s questions, Yanis Varoufakis’ compact fourth work explores in simple, accessible language how the global free market economy came into being. In his trademark candid style, the author debunks the idea that economists are experts and invites readers to take control because “the economy is too important to leave to the economists.”

For many Varoufakis is a legend;

for many Greek people, he is a divisive figure. As finance minister during the 2015 Greek crisis, he challenged the European Central Bank by refusing the largest loan in history (which an already bankrupt Greece could never payback anyway). Varoufakis lost the fight and returned to his previous career as an economics university professor.

Talking to My Daughter begins twelve thousand years ago when tenant farmers received IOU payments in inscribed seashells for the surplus food they produced. To prevent the population from rising up, ideology (religion) gave legitimacy to the ruler’s ‘divine right to rule’. Wool soon dominated international trade, and sheep replaced

A well-argued critique of capitalism, *Talking to My Daughter* is refreshingly jargon-free and can be enjoyed by all ages. It contains helpful analogies and mythical references making complex ideas comprehensible. The banker is portrayed as a time traveller, creating money from thin air by borrowing from the future, but “he will have disturbed the timeline [and] as any sci-fi buff will tell you, this is a big no-no.”

The author cleverly uses sci-fi movies to posit the question: will our future look like *The Matrix*, *Star Trek* or *Blade Runner*? Will we be controlled by the machines; control them for our benefit; or will we become androids ourselves,

driven to work faster and more efficiently? The digital revolution creates machines that are replacing jobs at

breakneck speed, yet herein lies a positive loophole: without wages how can we continue the cycle of spending that drives our economy?

Similar to Paul Mason’s *Melt-down*, *Talking to My Daughter* ends by asking readers to imagine a different future of economic justice, authentic democracy, co-operative working and energy sustainability for the collective good. In 2008, the deregulated banking system brought the global economy to the brink; in 2020 a pandemic has offered us a way out. As Morpheus asks in the film *The Matrix*, do we take the red pill or the blue pill?

“A well-argued critique of capitalism”

farmers on the land. The homeless farmers ended up wandering the country looking for work; and the ‘labour market’ was born.

Over eight short chapters, the book chronicles how societies with markets evolved into a ‘market society’. It is a fascinating insight into the relationship between profit, debt, interest and value. Money is no longer a means but has become the end goal itself. Wombs, seeds, the rocks on the moon; everything is commodified. The writer asks the reader to consider what has real value today. The answer is irrefutably those things that do not have a price tag.

POETRY CORNER

A Mile and a Mile

A mile and a mile
through deserted quarters,
the haphazard maze
of suburban roads;
a while and a while
by the silent river,
the colourful beads
of the motionless boats.

A mile and a mile
down meandering lanes,
past gardens and yards,
through drizzle and draught;
a while and a while
through blossoming leas,
under rainbow and hail
and a tunnel of boughs.

A mile and a mile
and the ways weave together,
space is expanding
until it must shrink;
a while and a while
you belong to the river,
time is suspended –
then gone in a wink.

by Christina Egan

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LICENSING ACT 2003

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Notice is hereby given that **PJ North London Ltd T/A Papa John's Pizza** has applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Haringey for a Premises Licence to permit:

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Signed: Raheel Choudhary

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